



Honors student DeGuzman beats the odds

MCCC student who was once homeless received full scholarship to Smith College

By **Elijah Parkman-Williams**
Senior Reporter

Amelia DeGuzman graduated from MCCC as an Honors student and received a full scholarship to one of the highest ranked liberal arts colleges in the nation, Smith College where she started this spring, but there was plenty of reason to think this could never happen.

"It's kind of a crazy story," DeGuzman says.

At the age of 10, DeGuzman and her family were displaced from their home, pushing them into homelessness and then public housing.

School provided some sense of stability.

"I loved learning, and I discovered that people thought this made me a good person. But I was also discovering that people thought things like addiction and poverty made you a bad person," DeGuzman says. Poetry and literature were things that kept her going.

She was ranked second in her high school class, but she dropped out at 17. While still working to get back on track, at the age of 19 DeGuzman's mother suffered a sudden heart

attack and died.

"I was able to stay in the public housing system, so I had a place to live," she says, "but other than that I was at the lowest point in my life. So it was from there that I started building up. I spent almost ten years working really hard and investing in my wellness."

After taking time off to regroup and heal, DeGuzman decided to go back to college and hoped to study as a dialectical behavioral therapy practitioner and therapist as DBT was something she had found helpful during her journey.

Once back in college, DeGuzman found that her artistic passions for poetry and literature had been stirred up again.

In pursuit of her passion for poetry and literature DeGuzman met several professors at MCCC who she says were key to her success.

Nicole Homer, a Professor of English, had DeGuzman in her Creative Writing class, Introduction to Literature class, and African-American literature classes.

Prof. Homer says, "Amelia was a passionate creative writing student and that included going above and be-

yond what was asked in class."

Professor Homer is also the co-advisor for *Soul*, a creative writing club at MCCC, where DeGuzman was inspired to create a literary magazine called *Your Stories*.

"I had this idea and then [Professor Homer] has professional publishing experience," DeGuzman says, "And so I met with her every single week."

The project took shape and came to fruition.

"She was genuinely excited about literature and poetry," Prof. Homer says.

DeGuzman also contributed a performance of one of her poems, "After the Burning of the 3rd Precinct" to The VOICE's online edition and won a New Jersey Press Foundation first place award for Best Online Video.

Another professor who had a direct influence on her success, DeGuzman says, is Diane Rizzo, who she had for American Political Systems.

Prof. Rizzo says, "Amelia has this real ability to adapt to her circumstances and has a



COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

Amelia DeGuzman performing her poem "After the Burning of the 3rd Precinct" on mcccvoice.org



"I think [Amelia's] enthusiasm for learning was so infectious that everyone she encountered in the class gained something from her presence there."

-Professor Diane Rizzo

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

Search for next MCCC president is on

By **Madhavi Steinert**
Reporter

The hunt for MCCC's seventh president is well underway as semifinalists were interviewed by the search committee on February 10 and 11 and they will now select three to five finalists.

The firm RH Perry & Associates has been engaged to help the college in the search process. The Executive Search Profile packet on their website says, "The next President will be a visionary leader and advocate who is aware of trends and needs locally and nationally, to prepare the College for the changing landscape of the future."

The initial applications for the position were submitted through their website.

Specific qualifications

for the job, according to the packet, include a master's degree, though a doctorate or terminal is preferred, leadership success within an institution, teaching experience in higher education though college is preferred, and traits like excellent communication and initiative to benefit students and staff.

When asked what the main qualities the next president will need are, outgoing President Dr. Jianping Wang said, "This person must be passionate about students and student success. Do the right thing when it's difficult."

Nina May, the Director of Institutional Research and union representative for the Professional Staff Federation on the search committee said, "They reviewed all the resumes initially. I believe there were

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COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

Dr. Jianping Wang in 2015 when she first started at MCCC. She is set to retire in July.

Contact us at mcccvoice@gmail.com
We keep your information confidential!

Amelia Deguzman a MCCC success story

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joy of learning that was not confounded by any obstacles. That's the first thing I remember about Amelia." She adds, "I think her enthusiasm for learning was so infectious that everyone she encountered in the class gained something from her presence there."

One of DeGuzman's greatest achievements while at MCCC was winning first place in the Beacon Conference, an annual scholastic competition where two-year college students write about the topics of their choice and present on them to panelists and other students.

DeGuzman wrote a paper titled "Illusion Is Time Travel" where she explores Terrence Hayes' book of poetry, American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin.

"It felt like a conversation with people who were as equally passionate about the nerdy, poetry stuff that I am passionate about," DeGuzman says.

Professor Rizzo was DeGuzman's mentor for the Beacon conference and then helped her with her college application process, which like everything else in her life, didn't go quite as expected.

"I did apply to some schools in the fall and didn't get into any of them," DeGuzman says. But she reached out to Prof. Rizzo and tried again.

"She's motivated, she's intelligent, she's hardworking, she's creative, she's collaborative. I'm really glad that Smith recognized those qualities in her," Prof. Rizzo said.



COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

ABOVE: Amelia DeGuzman



COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

The Lanning Fountain at Smith College is located in the botanic garden.

"There is a real sense of care and sisterhood that is just part of Smith culture, and that same kind of camaraderie and encouragement is also part of why I did so well at Mercer."

- Amelia DeGuzman

DeGuzman was accepted as part of the Ada Comstock Program at Smith that offers scholarships and support to nontraditional aged students who have displayed notable leadership.

Student Micaela Lyons, an Engineering Science major, who met DeGuzman in Professor Rizzo's class says, "I know that she is going to do great things. She's a doer. She's always going to be one of those people who's making something. That's what I really respect and appreciate about her."

DeGuzman says, "I'm thinking about my peers at Mer-

cer who are so hard on themselves and just really striving for perfectionism...[You have to] redefine your notion of success according to your own values."

Prof. Homer says, "She was excellent at helping establish and maintain communities inside the classroom and in our extra-curricular activities."

When asked what she is excited about at Smith, DeGuzman says, "There is a real sense of care and sisterhood that is just part of Smith culture, and that same kind of camaraderie and encouragement is also part of why I did so well at Mercer."

What is the Ada Comstock Program at Smith?

According to Smith College's informational site, "The Ada Comstock Scholars Program enables women of nontraditional college age to complete a bachelor of arts degree...Ada students attend the same classes and fulfill the same requirements as all other Smith undergraduates."

LAURIE'S CORNER



By Laurie Gallagher

With support from
the Staff of The College VOICE

There's more to Valentine's Day than you may think

February is here and Valentine's Day gives us a chance to show our appreciation and love towards each other.

Flowers, chocolate and greeting cards are the most common gifts and are often given to romantic partners but may be for family and friends, too.

But the origin of the holiday isn't quite so rosy. According to History.com the love-filled holiday is likely named after St. Valentine of Rome, even though there were other saints named Valentine, and St. Valentine of Rome is believed to have been executed on February 14.

The article says, "One account from the 1400s describes Valentine as a temple priest who was beheaded near Rome by the emperor Claudius II for helping Christian couples wed."

If you aren't afraid of seeing a saint in pieces, the History.com article says, "The flower-adorned skull of St. Valentine is on display in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Cosmedin, Rome."

Saint Valentine of Rome is the patron saint of beekeepers and epilepsy, and also "the patron saint of engaged couples and happy marriages."

One MCCC student named Tione Campbell Jr., who is known for having a loving heart because he volunteers all the time in his community, says that he celebrates Valentine's Day by just relaxing and eating chocolate. He also gives his mother flowers and talks to his girlfriend about what they did in the past year and what he looks forward to in the year ahead. He says that in a long-term relationship you really get to know a person and so you know what gift they would appreciate like money, candy or a teddy bear.

Saying "I love you" is powerful and shows deep feelings. In addition to gifts we also show love by hugs and kisses or even by our eyes and body language. Even if we are not talking about romantic love we can say these words every day to the people who matter in our lives to express how we feel.

Who will be MCCC's seventh president



Dr. Richard Greenfield

1966-1975



John Hanley

1976-1992



Dr. Thomas Sepe

1992-2000



Dr. Robert Rose

2001-2005



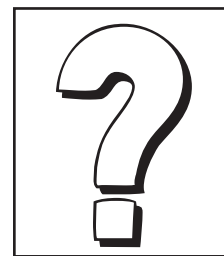
Dr. Patricia Donohue

2006-2015



Dr. Jianping Wang

2015-2022



2022-????

Continued from page 1

about forty-one applicants. We made our choices and forwarded them to the consulting company."

The committee chair is Kevin Drennan, the current Treasurer for the Board of Trustees who worked as Executive Director of the New Jersey Senate Majority Office for five years before moving to the private sector.

Drennan confirmed that RH Perry & Associates interviewed the committee's eighteen choices of the initial forty-one via Zoom. The com-

mittee then reviewed recordings of those interviews and selected nine semifinalists.

Once the finalists are selected, the Board of Trustees will host open forums for students and faculty to attend in addition to conducting final interviews to determine who will assume the position.

The presidential search committee is composed of nineteen people, mainly administrators, trustees, and community partners. One student sits on the committee, SGA President Christian Perez, and two professors, adjunct union

leader Leonard Winogora, and sociology professor Dr. Edward Avery-Natale.

Dr. Avery-Natale says he thinks two faculty members are not enough staff representation on the presidential search committee, and there should be more.

"A college, when you get down to it, its purpose is for faculty to educate students. The whole rest of the school doesn't exist without that. I think that's the primary function of a college," Dr. Avery-Natale said.

One student said in an anonymous survey of student

views on the college presidential search, "It is inevitable that students will face issues that can be rectified by the college. Having people who can present these problems to school administrators on behalf of other students is essential in solving any problems that arise."

SGA President Christian Perez declined to comment.

Drennan verified the order of events and said "The committee must speak as one voice. We are not individual voices."

Stuck in the middle with you



COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTOS

Who they ended up with in lockdown had a major impact on students

By Kyle Goldware
Senior Reporter

During the COVID-19 lockdown, Kendrick Barrera, a first-year Liberal Arts major, was stuck in the house with his younger sisters and brother, who disturbed him frequently, while he did his college work online.

"[My siblings] have to get up early for classes. When I had a night class they would be too noisy or come in and out of my room," Barrera says.

His siblings bothered him during classes from the start of his first year in Fall 2020 into the start of his second year in Fall 2021.

"It made me want to hide more in my room and lock my door

so that I could escape and forget everyone in order to prioritize my school work," says Barrera.

According to a study done in 2021 by the Pew Research Center about the psychological impact on relationships from the COVID-19 lockdown, 89% of Americans said they had at least one negative change in their lives, while 73% said they experienced an unexpected uprising.

One person from the Pew study said, "Even for an introvert there's such a thing as too much isolation." Another said, "Life has slowed down and brought family and friends closer."

A VOICE survey of 30 students showed how these statistics fit

"My aunty taught me how to cook some African foods and I love that because now I know how to make them." She added, "I think everyone started talking more about their feelings and watching tv together and connecting with one another."

-Francess Kumagutu, Nursing Student

with our own MCCC community.

When students were asked if the people they were living with during lockdown made them anxious and made their work stressful, 23% said they strongly agree, 27% were neutral, and 23% said they disagree.

The Pew study didn't focus specifically on the education impact of lockdown, but students reported that it did.

Barrera says, "My grades were better the first semester over the second semester...I didn't get any bad grades, it was just more like being burned out because you're always stuck at home."

Elizabeth Baur, first-year Nursing major, however had different academic consequences.

"My grades plummeted. They were bad. I had no motivation, not a care in the world

and I'm now currently trying to fix my GPA because of my previous bad grades."

But the personal outcomes weren't entirely bad.

In the same survey of MCCC students, 68% said they had a positive experience despite being stressed about work and family during the lockdown.

Sierra Azara, first-year nursing student, said "Being stuck in a house without the ability to work and get a place of my own really motivated me to go back to school and chase my dreams."

Similarly, Francess Kumagutu, a second-year nursing major said lockdown had a positive impact on her. She spent the time living with two aunts and four cousins.

She said, "My aunty taught me how to cook some African foods and I love that because now I know how to make them." She added, "I think everyone started talking more about their feelings and watching tv together and connecting with one another."

Her experiences during the lockdown allowed her family to create a deeper connection.

Kumagutu said, "I feel like during the lockdown it brought my family closer where we talk things out and engage more in having conversations instead of being on our electronics all the time. Lockdown was a good experience and bad experience but I wouldn't trade the experiences or lesson lockdown taught me."

Murphy signs law to protect student journalists

By Ashley Jackson
Senior Reporter

A law known as "New Voices" that supports the freedom of press for public high school and college journalists in New Jersey, was signed into law by Governor Phil Murphy on December 21, 2021.

The legislation, also known as Bill S108, was first introduced in New Jersey in 2015. In its seven year journey to unanimous passing in the NJ Assembly this summer there were repeated setbacks as sponsors of the bill lost their state house and senate seats and were replaced with new incoming lawmakers.

The two central figures in bringing the bill to fruition are director of Garden State Scholastic (GSSPA) Press Association John Tagliareni and board member Tom McHale.

McHale, an



COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signing a bill into law.

English and Journalism teacher at Hunterdon Central High School, resigned from his position as newspaper advisor in 2013 when the school passed a policy requiring that administration review the student publication prior to publication.

"It's about students having editorial control," says McHale. "Back in the 80s when Hazelwood was first put

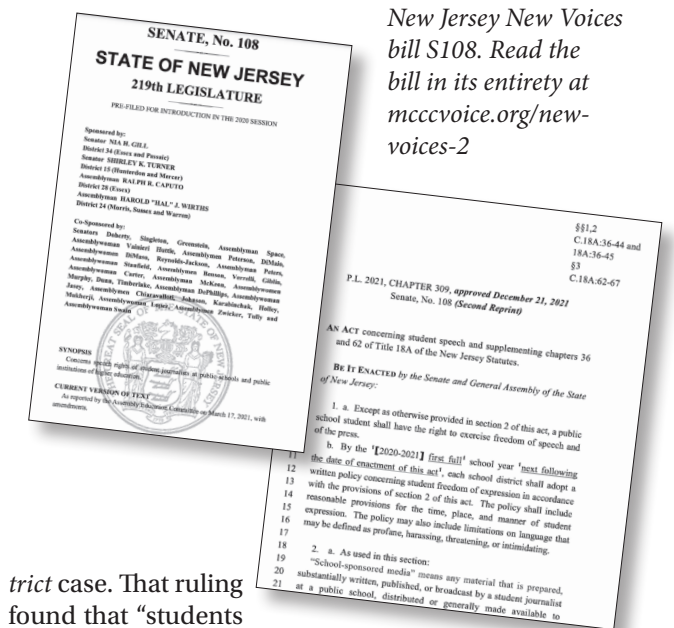
in place, [administrators] controlled the publications. Now every kid is a publisher. So you either lock them out of the whole process, and they're doing this on their own anyway, or you bring them into the process and teach them how to do it responsibly and ethically."

Katy Temple, previous Editor-in-Chief of the Torch newspaper at Bergen County College

was a student leader who helped move New Voices forward. She initially became involved when she won the Miss Liberty beauty pageant, and as part of her community service work dedicated herself to promoting student press freedom.

Temple says "Students want to write about things that are relevant to them," says Temple. "Whether that be pop culture, or national politics, or local politics, or things that are going on in school. Students want to write about what's important to them and what they're passionate about. Not necessarily about things just to get attention or cause a scene."

New Voices does not give students free rein to write anything under any circumstances but simply returns to the Supreme Court precedent set in 1969 in the *Tinker v. Des Moines School Dis-*



New Jersey New Voices bill S108. Read the bill in its entirety at mcccvoice.org/new-voices-2

trict case. That ruling found that "students do not shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech at the schoolhouse gate."

The *Tinker* standard was followed successfully for 20 years before a second Supreme Court case, *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*, determined that school administrators could censor public school publications on any matter "reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical con-

cerns," a broad category that in many cases led to total silencing of student voices.

The Student Press Law Center (SPLC) helped initiate the New Voices movement. New Jersey is the fifteenth state to pass such legislation.

The SPLC along with GSSPA and the Journalism Education Asso-

See JOURNALISTS page 7

CRASH

Tow truck drivers are there when you need them, but also in danger

By Maya Chell
Reporter

According to AAA, the auto club that offers roadside assistance, a tow truck driver is killed every 6 days. There are laws, specifically the “slow down and move over” law to prevent this, but it is often ignored.

Connecticut tow truck driver Corey Iodice was struck by an intoxicated driver on the Merritt Parkway while loading a broken-down car onto his truck. The car hit him at approximately 96 mph, according to police, killing him instantly, which happened on April 22, 2020.

Corey was a part of the Iodice Family transport towing company and was a third-generation tow operator in Fairfield, Connecticut. He often worked alongside his brother, Chris Iodice.

“My brother was a huge safety guy,” Chris says. Corey was never seen without reflective



PHOTO | MAYA CHELL

Chuck Mason works to load a car onto his tow truck outside Hamilton West high school at 9 PM on January 25.

gear and always warned those around him to stay off the side of the road. But even taking all those precautions himself wasn't enough. “He always used to tell me I guarantee you if I get run over and killed I'll be wearing my vest,” Chris said over the phone.

In 1991 Corey was awarded a Civilian Service Medal for saving a crash victim's life. His name is engraved on “the wall of the fallen” in Chattanooga, Tennessee,

which is a museum dedicated to memorializing tow truck operators who were killed in accidents on the job.

According to court documents, the man responsible for the crash was intoxicated after spending a day at the local golf course. Although he was charged with a DUI and manslaughter, the case is still pending in court and he is not in jail.

Closer to home in Hamilton Township, Chuck Mason, who owns Chuck's Towing and has been on the job for 32 years says, “You see the results of people being stupid and not caring.”

Mason's first fatal accident was on Route 130. He says he had to ask the cop where the driver was to which he replied, “He's under the car.”

He has seen many fatal accidents since then.

Mason says the fatal accident he remembers best was on Father's Day 2013. A drunk man going down the wrong end of the highway crashed head-on into a father, daughter, and son driving home from a family function. The father died instantly, while the daughter was taken off life support the next day.

“My worst fear is getting out and seeing it's somebody I know,” Mason says.

So what can motorists do to protect themselves from a fatal accident?

Gary Conover, a retired police officer from Mercer County, shared some advice about being safe on the roads. He says, “You gotta keep your head on the swivel. Even though you might be the safest person in the world you gotta watch out for the other person driving.”

In order to protect first responders, New Jersey has the “slow down and move over law”.

The law means

that vehicles should slow down and move away from authorized vehicles displaying emergency lights.

According to state.nj.us, the law was passed in 2009 and in 2020 was advocated for by governor Phil Murphy. The fine for not following the law is between \$100-500 per rule break.

During a survey conducted by AAA, about 90% of first responders said they have had a near-death experience while on the job. The reason for this is that vehicles did not slow down and move over.

According to NJ.com, in 2021 alone 690 people were killed in traffic crashes. This is the highest it has been since 2007, with the numbers on the rise for the past 3 years.

To be safer on the roads, always be on high alert. When there are authorized vehicles with emergency lights on, slow down and move over.

Why all the weird weather?

NJ climatologists say we can expect more serious storms

By McKenna Miller
Reporter

In September of 2021, Dr. David Robinson, New Jersey State Climatologist and Distinguished Professor at the Department of Geography for Rutgers University, observed Hurricane Ida produce one of the largest floods in New Jersey.

“This was an exceptional event across central and northeastern New Jersey. I mean it just, it was off the charts. I mean it had return periods of 100, 500, 1000 years in terms of hourly, three hourly, six hour rainfall totals,” says Dr. Robinson.

Flooding from Ida caused the deaths of 30 people in New Jersey and wiped out many homes and businesses.

According to New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection, Ida is just a step in a long term trajectory. The DEP estimates that New Jersey's precipitation rates will increase 4% to 11% by 2050.

People in New Jersey can expect the severe weather to get more frequent, as there is an increased amount of energy into the atmosphere and in the ocean because the weather is

warming.

The warmer the coast gets, the higher the potential is for stronger hurricanes that move slower as they travel across land. These hurricanes in turn result in larger amounts of rainfall and flooding.

“With climate change, of course the foundation on which day to day weather occurs is being raised. Its warming, its changing circulation patterns and ocean temperatures. So, you are still having day to day weather but it's on a different foundation because that foundation is changed,” Dr. Robinson says.

Climate change is the long term variation in temperature and weather patterns due to harmful human practices that emit large amounts of greenhouse gasses and carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The increased amount of absorbed heat being emitted into the atmosphere by these gasses has caused increased and rising temperatures globally and shifted weather patterns over time.

New Jersey experiences all four seasons and has witnessed a variety of weather but usually never encounters the worst of the worst. Now the



PHOTO | MCKENNA MILLER

Banks of fog, which are the result of repeated freezing and thawing temperature swings, can cause safety and road hazards.

seasonal changes are unpredictable and temperatures fluctuate widely.

“First of all January was actually below the long term normal, it was colder than the last 30 year average. But, December was much warmer than the 30 degree average,” Dr. Robinson says.

Seasonal activities that were once common, such as skating on frozen lakes in winter, and fishing and swimming in those lakes in summer have already seen major disruptions in New Jersey.

According to a 2019

article in the New York Times that looked at how Lake Hopatcong in Sussex county had to be closed for summer swimming and boating due to severe algae blooms, “The biggest challenge is in places with older sewer and stormwater systems that have been overwhelmed by fast-moving storms...The Environmental Protection Agency has put the cost of upgrading New Jersey's stormwater system at \$16 billion.”

Joseph Martucci, meteorologist for the Press of Atlantic City, says “In a climate changing world, [you see]

Staying Safe During A Flood

Communication is the best way to protect everyone during floods. Paying close attention to flood emergencies and warnings on the radio, TV or a phone is the best way to stay prepared.

If you are in a house or a building, try and reach the highest point inside the building. Unlike tornadoes it is not safe to stay in a basement.

Do not attempt to drive home during a flood. If you are near a building, get to that building. If you are already in the car during the flood emergency, try to reach high ground on land.

L. ILM. SPONVELL

these extremes, specifically the snowier and hotter extremes... Climate change tips the scale for some of these more extreme events to happen.” Martucci adds, “Climate change is a real problem that should have been addressed decades ago. And needs to be addressed more importantly now for the future.”

Robinson says, “The willpower of the public to go green or cleaner is far enough down the road that we are going to have to deal with a change in climate for decades to come.”

Freedom skate park in Trenton is open til Feb. 24

The indoor skate park offers a safe place for skaters when the weather gets cold and wet



PHOTO | BEN LEVITT

Annalise Geist (8) hits the ramps at Freedom skate park in Trenton.

By Ben Levitt
Senior Reporter

A local initiative in Trenton is helping keep kids active and out of the cold weather on the weekends. Freedom NJ Skate Park is located in the old Roebling Machine Shop building on South Clinton Avenue. It is a joint initiative between the City of Trenton and Freedom Skate Park, a NJ Nonprofit Corporation.

Founder and Executive Director Jake McNichol said “There used to be a number of indoor skate parks in and around New Jersey because when it rains, when it’s cold, when it’s dark outside, you really can’t skate outside at all.”

After doing a success-

ful pilot program in 2018 to 2019 with Trenton Circus Squad, which, according to McNichol, had “dozens of people coming into the park each week,” they decided to establish their own program so that they could have more freedom to make it their own.

The Freedom team went to the Department of Recreation and showed them the results, and after seeing the success the department “agreed to let us use the space during the winter. And our side of the agreement is that we bring all the equipment, we administer all the programs,” McNichol says.

Unlike the indoor skate parks that he grew up with, McNichol says he wanted this one to not worry about profits, as

that is why they went under.

“We have always been, since day one, 100% volunteer run. Everything we raise, all the money we bring in, goes straight back into new and better ramps, board giveaways for under-served kids, [and] programming,” McNichol says.

When asked how it was funded, McNichol said “It’s funded almost exclusively through donations from supporters. And that’s a mix of supporters who are companies, like Vans has been a great supporter, Red Bull has been a great supporter, and then a lot of smaller local businesses.”

Freedom has also tried to adapt to the ever changing world of COVID. They require masks while skating, and everyone who enters has to sign



PHOTO | BEN LEVITT

Skateboarder Annalise Geist.

a COVID sheet that affirms you do not have COVID or COVID symptoms. It also works as contact tracing in the event someone does test positive.

“We were very careful to make sure all our events took place in a way that kept all of our volunteers and participants safe,” McNichol said, adding, “It was challenging. It was stressful. It was a lot of work to make sure that we kept everybody safe. But we wanted to continue to provide this resource for Trenton while also ensuring that everyone was safe during the pandemic.”

At Freedom, you see people of all different skating abilities. There are some people skating ramps and practicing grinding on a ledge, and those trying to master a new trick. There are also kids who are just getting started with the sport.

One of these kids is 8 year old Annalise Geist, who has been skating since she was five.

Geist got into skate-

boarding after her older brother introduced her to it.

When asked what she was doing inside, she said she was having a lot of fun “going up and down ramps.”

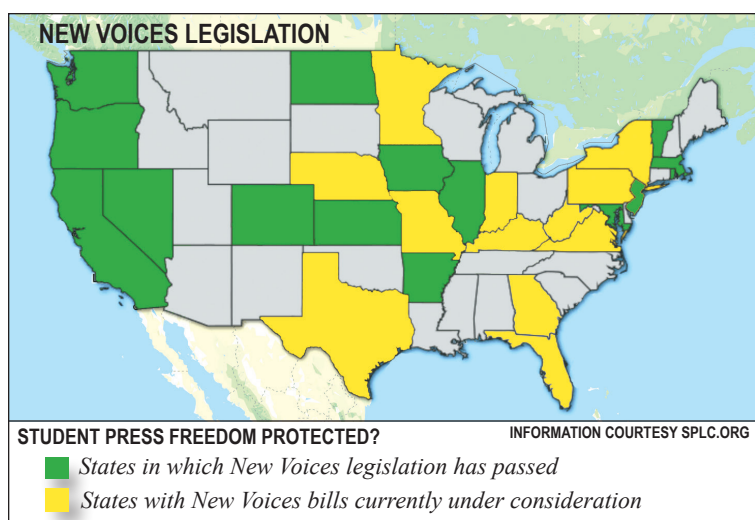
Annalise’s mom, Amanda Geist says that they try to come every week.

When asked if she was worried about her daughter skateboarding, she said “Sometimes when she tries new things, but she’s pretty comfortable on the board.”

Amanda added, “This is like the best place to come to skate...People are supportive here being that she’s young and you know, she’s not as fast and crazy as everybody else. It’s been a really good experience here.”

Freedom NJ Skate Park is located at 675 South Clinton Avenue in Trenton. It will be open until February 26, Saturdays from 12PM to 6PM. More information at freedomnj.org.

New legislation passed to protect student journalists



Continued from page 1

ciation addressed the undue influence of *Hazelwood* in a joint statement released after the New Jersey bill signing saying, “*Hazelwood* is commonly used by school administrators to censor student journalists for subjective reasons often related more to the reaction of adults to student media rather than the quality of the media itself.”

After the New Jersey bill’s unanimous passing in the assembly last summer it still didn’t have a smooth path to being passed into law. Governor Murphy sent it back seeking changes to the law including a ban on profanity.

Of the 15 states that have passed New Voices legislation, New Jersey is the only one with this clause.

“It’s important that people who are not involved in student journalism understand what student journalists are trying to do” says Hillary Davis,

the New Voices Advocacy and Campaign Organizer at the Student Press Law Center.

“There is a stereotype, or a perception, or a fear that student journalists really just want to write about sex, and drugs, and gossip about their teachers, and that’s not at all true,” continues Davis. “These are students who are learning ethics, how to balance newsworthiness against a whole host of things, and they want to write about stories that are critical to their communities.”

Keeping student presses free from undo censorship not only ensures students can write about topics of interest to their community, it has tangible benefits that extend long after student reporters hang up their press badges.

A study by the National Postsecondary Education Cooperative shows that students who engage in educationally purposeful extracurriculars are

more likely to progress with their education. It says, “Writing for the student newspaper can be a life-changing experience. When students are required to take responsibility for activities that require daily decisions and tasks, they become invested in the activity and more committed to the college and their studies.”

For activists like Temple, now a student at Columbia University, working on legislation like New Voices has shaped the course of their career.

Temple says, “This bill is what put me on the path that I am now.” She continues, “The most important thing to take away is that even if you think you can’t do something, you can. Even if people tell you that you can’t do it, you can. And don’t limit yourself to what you can do based on what other people think you’re capable of.”



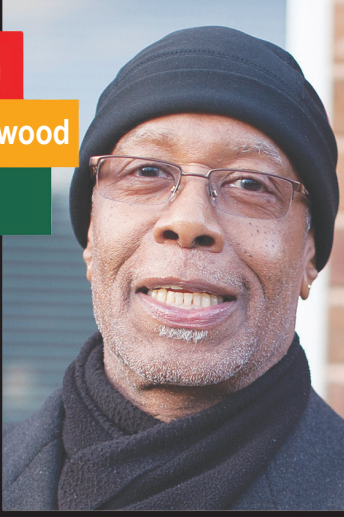
BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPECIAL: A CONVER

Communication

Prof. Alwyn Haywood

36 years

"I've been so unabashedly straightforward about this thing of being one race. I don't limit myself to this polarity of white and Black."



English

Prof. Nicole Homer

10 years

"I do find that often Black students seek out Black faculty members to just have conversations with, because there are life experiences that we have access to that perhaps other faculty members don't..."



14 ye

Dr. Terry

Busin

"When students see some particular career, they ca



HOW DO YOU THINK BEING BLACK HAS AFFECTED YOUR TEACHING EXPERIENCE?

DR. LYNCH: I AM A COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROFESSOR. PERIOD. THERE ARE MANY ASPECTS OF ME THAT AFFECT MY TEACHING EXPERIENCE, NOT RACE ALONE. HOWEVER, I WOULD NOT BE PRIVILEGED TO HAVE THIS JOB HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR OTHER BLACK FACULTY AND STAFF WHO CAME BEFORE ME AND PAVED THE WAY. I APPRECIATE THAT I STAND ON THE SHOULDERS OF MANY FACULTY, STAFF, AND ADMINISTRATORS, WHO ENDURED A DIFFERENT WORLD, WITH GREATER SACRIFICES THAN I DO TODAY.

DR. MADDOX: "AS AN AFRICAN AMERICAN, I FIND IT CHALLENGING FROM ONE STANDPOINT OF STUDENTS COMING IN THE ROOM WHO DON'T THINK I BELONG THERE. I FIND IT CHALLENGING FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF ADMINISTRATION, IN SOME CASES, THAT DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENS IN THIS UNIQUE CLASSROOM."

DR. VOLDASE: "I WOULD SAY WHEN SOMEONE SEES A BLACK FEMALE PROFESSOR IN A COMPUTER PROGRAMMING COURSE, AND THEY AUTOMATICALLY ASSUME THAT I HAVE NO IDEA OF TECHNOLOGY, WHEN I'VE BEEN DEALING WITH COMPUTERS SINCE I WAS A SENIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL. YOU HAVE TO BE ON YOUR A GAME ESPECIALLY BEING BLACK AND A FEMALE."

IF YOU COULD ENVISION A PARTICULAR CHANGE THAT WOULD TRULY HELP STUDENTS OF COLOR AT MCCC, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

DR. VOLDASE: "IF WE WERE TO LOOK AT DATA IN TERMS OF FULL-TIME FACULTY, BROKEN DOWN INTO DIVISIONS, AS FAR AS PEOPLE OF COLOR, THERE IS A HUGE DISPARITY AMONGST IT. I THINK THE COLLEGE RECOGNIZES THAT, AND WE'RE TAKING BABY STEPS."

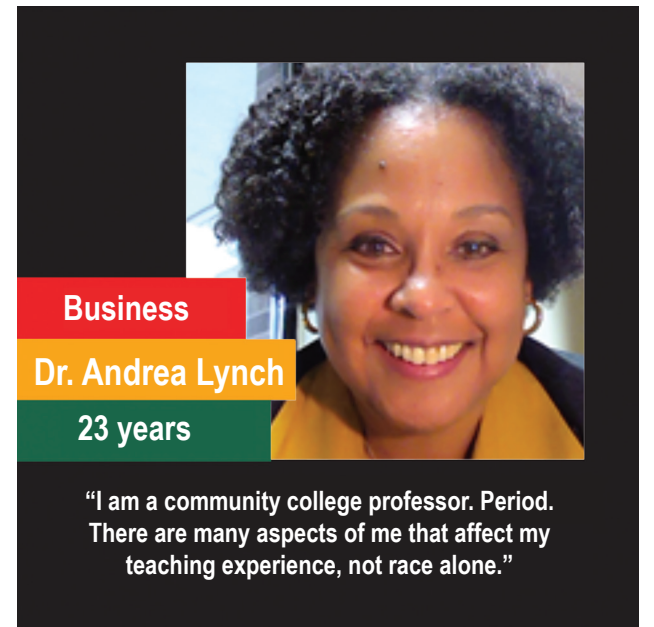
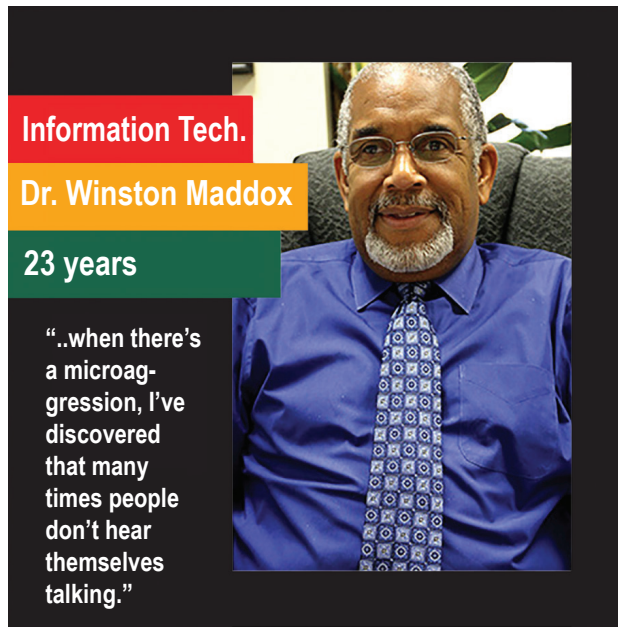
PROF. HOMER: "I THINK THAT IT'S VERY HELPFUL FOR US TO HAVE STUDENT ADVOCATES THAT REFLECT OUR STUDENTS' IDENTITIES, TO HAVE SUCCESS COACHES THAT REFLECT OUR STUDENTS' IDENTITIES, TO HAVE ALL OUR SUPPORT THAT'S BUILT IN THE SCAFFOLDING THAT WE OFFER STUDENTS TO BE MORE REFLECTIVE OF THEIR IDENTITIES JUST THAT THEY FEEL COMFORTABLE ASKING THE QUESTIONS, THE QUESTIONS THEY NEED TO ASK TO SUCCEED."

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A SITUATION WHERE YOU FELT UNSAFE AS A PERSON OF COLOR AT MCCC?

PROF. HAYWOOD: "NO, I THINK IT'S QUITE THE REVERSE. I'VE MADE PEOPLE FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE BECAUSE I'VE BEEN SO UNABASHEDLY STRAIGHTFORWARD ABOUT THIS THING OF BEING ONE RACE. I DON'T LIMIT MYSELF TO THIS POLARITY OF WHITE AND BLACK. MY MOTTO IS ONE RACE, ONE EARTH. GENETICS SPEAKS TO A DEEPER REALITY IN TERMS OF HOW IT IS THAT WE'RE GOING TO LIVE, AND I SEE MERCER COUNTY AS A KIND OF MICROCOSM OF OUR SOCIETY."

DR. LYNCH: "NO. BUT THAT IS ME. I DON'T FRIGHTEN EASILY AND I GIVE IT AS WELL AS I TAKE IT."

CONVERSATION WITH BLACK PROFESSORS AT MCCC



IN YOUR CLASSES HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO MODERATE A DISCUSSION WHERE A STUDENT EXPRESSED STRONGLY RACIST VIEWS? HOW DID YOU HANDLE THAT?

DR. MADDOX: "SOMETIMES THE PERSON BEING RACIST, WHEN THERE'S A MICROAGGRESSION, I'VE DISCOVERED THAT MANY TIMES PEOPLE DON'T HEAR THEMSELVES TALKING. THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH EXPOSURE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY SAID. EVEN THOUGH IT STINGS TO US, WE HAVE TO SLOW THE PROCESS DOWN LONG ENOUGH SO IT DOESN'T TURN INTO AN UGLY SITUATION, SO YOU CAN EDUCATE THE OTHER PERSON."

WHY DO YOU THINK BIPOC REPRESENTATION IS SO IMPORTANT IN THE CLASSROOM?

PROF. HOMER: "BECAUSE OF THE THE POPULATION THAT WE SERVE AT MERCER AND BECAUSE OF THE POPULATION THAT MAKES UP THE FACULTY, I DO FIND THAT OFTEN BLACK STUDENTS SEEK OUT BLACK FACULTY MEMBERS TO JUST HAVE CONVERSATIONS WITH, BECAUSE THERE ARE LIFE EXPERIENCES THAT WE HAVE ACCESS TO THAT PERHAPS OTHER FACULTY MEMBERS DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO."

WHAT ARE YOUR OPINIONS ON MCCC'S NEW DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE?

PROF. HAYWOOD: "WHEN I WAS ASKED IF I WANTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMITTEE, I SAID NO. I DID NOT WANT TO BE A PART OF MAKING PEOPLE FEEL GOOD. I DID NOT WANT TO BE A PARTY TO WINDOW DRESSING. I'M NOT A PART OF A DOG AND PONY SHOW."

DR. LYNCH: "I ALSO CO-CHAIR THE DEI COMMITTEE WITH OUR INAUGURAL DEI DIRECTOR, MR. MARVIN CARTER. WE ARE DOING OUR PART TO FOSTER A CAMPUS CULTURE THAT CELEBRATES DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVENESS AND RESPECT AND SUPPORT THE PERSONAL AND INTELLECTUAL GROWTH OF ALL STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF"

PROF. HOMER: "I FEEL GOOD ABOUT IT. I THINK IT'S A LONG OVERDUE CONVERSATION AND I THINK THAT IF WE ARE GOING TO HAVE EDUCATIONAL EQUITY THEN WE AS INSTITUTIONS AND THE PEOPLE WHO PARTICIPATE IN THOSE INSTITUTIONS, STUDENTS, STAFF, ADMIN, FACULTY, ALL OF US NEED TO BE ENGAGED IN THOSE CONVERSATIONS SO THAT WE CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT WE ARE DOING THAT EITHER INCREASES OR DECREASES EQUITY AND ACCESS."

DR. MADDOX: "A BABY STEP IS GIVING THE DEI COMMITTEE MORE CREDIT THAN I WOULD, BUT I'LL LEAVE IT AT THAT."

DR. VOLDASE: "WHEN STUDENTS SEE SOMEONE LIKE THEMSELVES IN THIS PARTICULAR CAREER, THEY CAN RELATE TO THEM MORE, WHICH IS WONDERFUL. I'VE HAD STUDENTS OF COLOR THAT HAVE ASKED ME TO MENTOR THEM. TO ME THAT'S POSITIVE."

Our Town at Kelsey looks at timely themes of life and death

By Bruna Camara
Reporter

"Our Town" is a classic play written by Thornton Wilder that earned him a Pulitzer Prize for best playwright in fiction and drama. It was first performed on January 22, 1938, at McCarter Theatre in Princeton.

Eighty-four years later the show is again being performed in Central New Jersey but this time eight miles down the road from McCarter at Kelsey Theatre on the MCCC West Windsor campus. The production company is Shakespeare 70.

The play is in three acts and follows the life events of inhabitants of Grover's Corners in New Hampshire that happened between 1901 and 1913. The two main characters of it are the couple Emily Webb and George Gibbs. They are neighbors, close in age and they grew up together as friends until they fell in love and got married.

One of the most impactful moments in the play was after the couple get married at the end of the second act and then Emily passes away when she is giving birth at the beginning of the third act. In this second dimension world's afterlife, she decides to go back to live for one day, the happiest day of her life.

Kate Augustin, who portrayed Emily said this was the most challenging scene in the play because she needed to live the experience of death that she never lived, "Having to convey that emotion was tricky".

According to Bud Kliment, a reporter and Deputy Administrator for the Pulitzer Prize,



PHOTO | BRUNA CAMARA

The cast of "Our Town" from the Shakespeare 70 company following January run at Kelsey Theatre at MCCC.

the three-act American classic drama had a long journey starting in Rome in 1920 when Wilder was only 23 years old and was studying at the American Academy. He finally finished it in 1937, with the support of a producer Jed Harris who had to sequester him away at his home on Long Island in New York so Wilder could finish the third act.

The heart of the play focuses on life, love, and death, experiences that are universal.

Wilder lost his twin brother at birth, and Penelope Niven who wrote his biography, says, "Like many twinless twins, this was a death event which haunted him for most of his life."

During the time Wilder was in Rome he had the chance to go on an archeological dig where he saw a tomb that was over one

"Do any human beings ever realize life while they live it? — every, every minute?"

- Emily Webb, *Our Town*

hundred years old. He found himself thinking about how the people in the tomb were not that different from the people living at the time.

The Kelsey Theatre production that ran from January 21 to 29 was produced by the company Shakespeare 70 and directed by Jake Burbage and Frank Falisi, and produced by Janet Quartarone.

Burbage started his career in theater when he was still a child, as he says, "I was six years old when I got into acting."

In 2014 he got involved in Shakespeare 70, and in 2019 he joined the executive board of the

company, from there he explains how they make decisions related to the shows they choose. Burbage says "We pick our plays first based on what we want to do, but also the primary consideration is how they're going to serve the community."

The decision of playing "Our Town" goes back to the spring of 2021. When asked about the greatest challenges directing the show he said, "When we did this show at TCNJ, for further safety and health we had to perform in masks." The second challenge was that they lost a lead actor and he had to step in to play the role of George Gibbs in the Kelsey performance

Kliment says original audiences for the play were disconcerted by how spare it was. He

writes, "For some audience members, the show's lack of scenery and episodic narrative may have seemed odd or puzzling." The simplistic scenery includes just wooden chairs, and it would be easy to think the producers had simply run out of time to put it together.

In the beginning, the Stage Manager played by Curt Foxworth links his announcements to the play. In a moment he is an "announcer" and a minute later he is the "storyteller" but we barely realized that he was running a play within a play. He made the audience connect right at the beginning of the story just like we were part of the humble Grover's Corners in New Hampshire.

It's impossible not to get invested watching George and Emily growing together, building a relationship, imagining a happily ever after. When instead she dies young and that she realizes how people don't appreciate the simple things in life, the simple moments, it is heartbreaking.

Emily says at the end "Goodbye, to clocks ticking... and my butternut tree! And Mama's sunflowers. And food and coffee. And new-ironed dresses and hot baths... and sleeping and waking up. Oh, earth, you're too wonderful for anyone to realize you! Do any human beings ever realize life while they live it? — every, every minute?"

Looking around in the theater after the final monologue, people were sniffing and wiping away tears.

Black History Month Healthy Meal Prep

February 24, 2022 at 6:00pm on Zoom
Zoom Meeting ID: 850 7037 8251

Join Clarrissa from Perfectly Portioned Meals to learn some tips & tricks for a healthy meal prep!
This is "Where Healthy Meets Tasty!"



Monday, February 14th
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
SC104

Come to our photo booth for fun, or professional, photos!

Get your picture taken solo, with friends or even a significant other!



Papa's

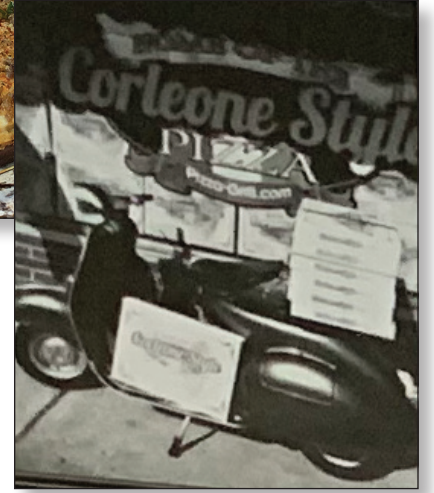
By Christopher Patti
Reporter



A special heirloom on prominent display at Papa's in Robbinsville is founder Nick Azzaro's spoon that made over 750,000 tomato pies between 1965 and 1995.



Marcello's



The special Corleone style pizza with its extremely light crust and special sauce is the hallmark of Marcello's pizza in Hamilton Square. Marcello Mandreucci got the recipe from a traveling man he met in Sicily as a boy.

Family and tradition are at the heart of NJ pizza

Everyone loves pizza but there is never a shortage of controversy about who has the best pie and what is the "authentic" recipe. Especially in New Jersey with its rich Italian heritage, people don't just go out for pizza, they have their favorite spot and they are extremely loyal.

Two of the most famous local pizza places are Papa's Tomato Pies and Marcello's Pizza-Grill. According to general manager Michael Azzaro of Papa's in Robbinsville, "We still have three and fourth generation customers that still come. That is pretty amazing."

Papa's, family owned and operated since 1912, has the warmth of visiting your grandparents after many years. They're known for their famous Trenton tomato pie: a lighter version of a regular pizza where cheese is added to the dough before the sauce. While it's thinner, Papa's crust is still wonderfully doughy and the sauce and cheese taste bright and more refreshing than your average pie.

"You can go to 100 pizzerias and get a plain slice of pizza," says Azzaro. "You can have your favorite five in that mix and not be able to tell them apart. The tomato pie is different from pizza, so it does have a distinctive taste, flavor, texture. Papa's is successful because the pie itself is made and constructed differently."

Marcello Mandreucci, owner of Marcello's Pizza-Grill in Hamilton, has big success with a different style of pizza; a hybrid of regular and Sicilian called the Corleone. As a boy in Sicily, Mandreucci was fascinated by a traveling man from the town of Corleone who sold pizza. In recent years, Mandreucci was given the blessing to use the recipe by the old man after his passing.

"I want everybody to try it because it's a very, very unique experience," says Mandreucci. "This is the best pizza you can ever have. Ever."

The dough is like a cloud. You can really taste the freshness of the ingredients and the secret sauce is especially good. It's hard to believe this pie is so light.

"That's why people love it," explains Mandreucci. "When you bite in, it's like eating air. Then there's a special sauce that's better than pizza sauce. It's a long procedure and that's what makes the Corleone the best."

While the Corleone remains a tough contender, the tomato pie's reputation is tough to beat, and DeLorenzo's is arguably the best know tomato pie purveyor.

"Sometimes on a Friday I see like the wait is like an hour, hour and a half," says owner Rick DeLorenzo, Jr., adding

"Trenton Tomato Pie is known throughout the country as being something spe-

cial, like a Philly Cheesesteak or Sourdough bread from San Francisco."

His family has been serving customers since the mid 1930s in Trenton. His uncle Joe DeLorenzo started the restaurant but World War II called him and his brothers to battle. Americho "Rick" DeLorenzo Sr. stepped up with his younger brothers to keep the pizzeria in business.

Visiting DeLorenzo's Pizza is relaxed and friendly like dining at your best friend's house. Their pie features a sauce that's a little sweeter and tastes especially good with their delicious crust, which is an excellent balance between soft and crispy.

"I love making the people happy," says DeLorenzo. "We've been making pies the same way for probably around 80 years. We never skimp on quality."

Quality and integrity runs in the DeLorenzo family. In 1947, Alexander "Chick" DeLorenzo returned home from war and opened a pizzeria on Hudson Street in Trenton known as DeLorenzo's Tomato Pies.

The business was passed down to daughter, Eileen DeLorenzo, and her husband, Gary Amico. Gary and Eileen ran the business in Trenton until their retirement in 2012 and son, Sam Amico, added a location in Robbinsville in 2007. The branch in Yardley, Pennsylvania, followed in 2018.

"Chick was the recipe, Gary was the style, Eileen was the discipline, Sam was the vision and I was the machine," says Matthew Longo, owner and operator of DeLorenzo's Tomato Pies in Yardley. "I was lucky enough to walk in and start with a family like the DeLorenzo's because they took me in as their own child."

Dining it at DeLorenzo's Tomato Pies in Yardley feels like you're at a huge family reunion. Their pizza has vibrant tomatoes that are strategically placed to pop in certain moments of each bite of this light and crispy pizza. It's cut into square pieces using a clam knife to honor the signature style of Alexander "Chick" DeLorenzo.

"I just think this is our style and we stick to our style," says Longo. "I feel like we are Trenton style tomato pie. A good recipe, good ingredients, good style... and it's carried us through."

Travel to any of these famous pizzerias and you'll discover it's not just about the recipe. Each family's approach gives a distinct uniqueness to their dishes; a secret ingredient that can never be replicated. Regardless of who you visit, you'll always be welcomed as a member of the family.

DeLorenzo's

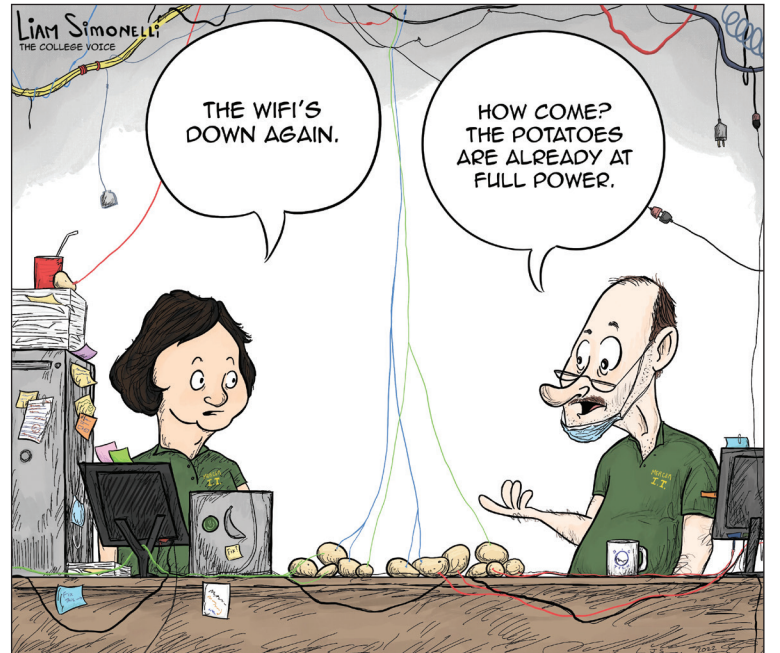


DeLorenzo's originally was founded in Trenton in the 1930s. They make the traditional "tomato pie" in which the sauce is applied on top of the cheese.



EDITORIAL CARTOONS

GIVING STUDENTS A VOICE



New toons each month from the VOICE's editorial cartoonist

Editorial Policy:

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

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

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As a former M&M I'm weighing in

A debate is raging about the M&M characters revamp; I have thoughts

VIEWPOINTS



Ashley Jackson

I never knew so many people had a crush on the Green M&M's.

I *did* know that some people had one, a hazard of the job when your first gig out of theater school is as a dancing chocolate candy in the heart of Times Square. I was once an M&M.

It's a thankless task that involves taking pictures with tourists, doing "the wobble," and fighting off kids who try to gnaw through your suit during their class field trips. All this for the deliciously low cost of your soul and minimum wage.

There's more training than you'd think to be an M&M; you don't just roll in one day and throw on a shell. There is choreography to learn and consistent movements to perfect. What is "Mellow Yellow" without his dazed and confused hand shaking? Or "Cool Blue" without his finger guns?

Each character requires their own emotional development. A certain *je ne sais quoi* that makes each one so marketable, so family-friendly.

And then of course there are Green and Brown. The ladies.

Green is "flirty," and Brown is "sassy." You were encouraged to play it up. You couldn't get too sexual, and you should never touch anyone, but there was a lot of hip shaking, bashful cheek touches, and blowing of kisses.

And this is where things



PHOTO USED WITH PERMISSION

The author in the Mellow Yellow shell, with her future husband, in the Times Square M&M's flagship store circa 2014.

get sticky.

The Mars company has decided to give the M&M's characters an overhaul. The redesign includes swapping out Green's go-go boots for sneakers, and increasing her face time with Ms. Brown - the only other female on the squad.

The new emphasis on female friendships and sensible footwear has tipped some chocolate lovers over the edge.

Tucker Carlson rallied his viewers on Fox News saying: "M&M's will not be satisfied until every last cartoon character is deeply unappealing and totally androgynous. Until the moment you wouldn't want to have a drink

with any one of them. That's the goal. When you are totally turned off, we've achieved equity."

Tucker Carlson can suck my peanut M&M's.

Playing a dancing piece of candy is mostly fun and games. I mean yes, the suits were gross, but it was delightful getting to dance along with customers and make a kid's day with a high five.

But the tone would shift quickly when some random dad decided he was really into the meet-and-greets. All of the sudden he would want a one-on-one photo, would literally throw his kid back to his wife and wrap his arms around the character suit. That's when things got uncomfort-

able.

Now, if you had a good handler, they would get them off you asap, or never let it happen to begin with. But sometimes your handler is an 18 year old kid who just wants to be on their phone, which means you are on your own, with limited mobility and vision. You could only move as fast as your flimsy little go-go boots could take you. It could be scary in those moments.

While wearing my foam go-go boots and shimmying in my Green shell I heard a steady stream of skeezy quips "You can melt in my hand *and* my mouth!" or the ever charming "I like the green ones--they're supposed to make you horny!"

It would not shock me if Carlson is out on 42nd Street right now pawing some former coworker of mine trying to get one last grope in before it's too late.

Carlson is a proponent of sex-driven marketing where women exist to please. They should be hyper-feminine and alluring, as easy to look at as it would be to wrinkle up your candy wrapper and enjoy a few extra bites.

I know from experience that this pursuit of lip-licking goodness projects itself off of the ads and out into the world where the social dynamics regarding female behavior are shaped by what is marketed to us. That's exactly why this new redesign is such a good thing.

Let Ms. Green wear the damn sneakers.

The actors will appreciate it. They will appreciate fewer purring innuendos being made into their foam covered ears.

And your daughters will appreciate it. After all, Ms. Green will have a friend and your daughters will see friendship reflected back into their own social spheres.

And, most importantly, you will appreciate it because somewhere in your heart you know it was insane to sexualize candy in the first place.

Why journalists are misunderstood

We're sunk if your main source of news is random links on social media

MY PERSPECTIVE



KEN FANTRY

I began drafting this opinion ready to argue that journalism's portrayal in fiction reflects and worsens a national delusion that journalists are either virtuous heroes, or opportunistic liars. I still intend to do that; however, in surveying MCCC students I may also have stumbled onto a cause of this prob-

lem. Journalism relies on trust, and that trust depends on understanding who journalists actually are. As more of us get our news from social media, we are losing that understanding.

Part of this absolutely is a problem with the way journalists are portrayed in fiction, and this problem arises from one fact: fictional media exists to make money. Media's producers are motivated to be concerned with eyeballs on screens, not to care particularly about what is on those screens.

Based on box office returns and relative budget, arguably the most profitable fictional journalist in the US is the Scream franchises' Gale Weathers, who fits both ends of the problematic fictional spectrum. She can be aggressive, manipu-

lative, and violate journalistic ethics, but she also helps free a wrongly convicted man from jail with dogged reporting and some gunplay. Frankly she is more an action hero than a journalist. But from the studio's perspective, she has helped maintain a multimedia franchise for literal decades, and that's what matters.

So, I set out to see how fiction was shaping Mercer Students' views of journalism, and I believe I found a cause for this distorted picture instead. In a Survey of 30 Mercer Students, 73% answered yes to the statement "In general I find professional journalists trustworthy," though just under half added that context was important to them.

Next each was asked to

name one fictional and one real journalist. Most could not name one of either. Only nine journalists were named, six of them fictional, and Tucker Carlson was two of the three answered for non-fictional.

This baffled me. I expected a lot of "Clark Kents" and local anchors like Jim Gardener, but instead found essentially nothing.

My last question offered an answer. Asked, "what is your primary news source" 16 of 30 answered social media. Only 3 students mentioned a specific app. 13 of the 16 simply said, "Social Media." A majority of students were unaware not only who their news was coming from, but even which organization.

Personally, I am old enough

to remember a time when most would have answered Tucker Carlson or a local TV anchor. I am not saying that news was better then. In fact, social media has advanced and improved communication tremendously in many ways. But journalism, so fundamental that it is in the First Amendment of the Constitution, is built on trust. A trust that is impossible without understanding who that news is coming from.

Fortunately, there are solutions, and you are holding it in your hands. Or more likely viewing it on your screen. Question what I wrote. See what other journalists say. Decide if you agree. Better yet, come to a VOICE meeting, and see the hard work and intense discussion in person.

ADVICE - ASK THE VOICE

HELP IS HERE!



Dear VOICE, I feel like a robot in my winter jacket while everyone else looks stunning. How do I avoid wearing a winter jacket?
-Summer Person

Dear Summer Person, Jackets are for the weak. You may die of hypothermia, but you'll look damn good doing it.
-The VOICE

Dear VOICE, My car died and I don't know what kind of memorial service to have. How should I honor her?
-Dead Wheels

Dear Dead, Depends on the make of the car. If it's American, you'll have to sit chevy.
-The VOICE

Dear VOICE, I think my professor is onto me and knows I'm at work at McDonald's during class Zoom even though I have my camera off. He may have heard my boss yelling "Hurry up with the nuggets!" in the background the one time I wasn't on mute. How do I keep the prof off my track-
-McMercer Student

Dear McMercer, Bribe him with the nugs.
-The VOICE.

Dear VOICE, The MCCC parking lots are more dangerous than an active construction site. Survival advice?
-Mowed Down

Dear Mowed Down, The bus.
-The VOICE

Dear VOICE, Due to Mercer recently changing up the room numbers, I can't find my class! It's the fourth week of the semester and I already have 8 absences. What should I do?
-Lost

Dear Lost, There are 10 week classes. Time to get drop and add. Save your GPA and get a map.
-The VOICE

NOTE: THIS FEATURE IS FOR ENTERTAINMENT ONLY. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ACTUAL ADVICE IS ACCIDENTAL.

HOROSCOPES



Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

What's love got to do with it? A lot! You need all the love and support you can get in your life right now, and one way to get it is to give it. It's okay to say the actual words when they are accurate.



Taurus
Apr. 20 - May 20

Patience is the name of the game for you right now. There are a lot of things you are looking forward to and they can't come soon enough. Do everything you can to distract yourself so you don't go mad.



Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

It's hard to do anything right now because you keep getting interrupted by errands, texts, other people's drama. It's ear plugs and turn off the phone time. Lay low.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

On paper it may look like your schedule isn't as bad as it has been in the past, but we all know better. You are tired and you need your rest. Try to get naps if you can't get a full 7 hours per night.



Gemini
May 21 - Jun. 20

Who ever said you couldn't balance all the things you are dealing with didn't know you very well. Don't let other people's doubts get in your head. You are doing what you set out to do.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

Sometimes you need to build something, a desk, an engine, a playlist, a family. This is a good time to get started. What you start now will yield happiness in the future.



Pisces
Feb. 19 - Mar. 20

The last time someone told you they were really proud of you for something you did, you weren't able to take it in. The next time it happens soak it in to your core. Feel confident and proud too.



Cancer
Jun. 21 - Jul. 22

When it's cold and gray outside it can be hard not to feel the same way on the inside. Time to get creative to beat the blues. Try making up a story about how you are secretly hiding in a magic fort that is dim but full of treasure.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You just reached your peak period of the year, and you're coming down from a serious high. Keep the momentum, but don't let your head fall. Ride your optimism!



Aries
Mar. 21 - Apr. 19

People want help and you are always happy to give it, but sometimes you need to set boundaries when helping others means neglecting yourself. Don't be afraid to speak up.



Leo
Jul. 23 - Aug. 22

If you feel like you haven't laughed in a while, bundle up and go to the park to see people walking dogs wearing sweaters. Dog fashion is always funny. If dogs aren't your thing try silly animal videos online. Search for "dog dancing".



Sagittarius
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Where is your safe space? Even if it's just a closet or bathroom, don't be afraid to camp out there right now. Take comfort where you need it and where you can find it. It will keep you going.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

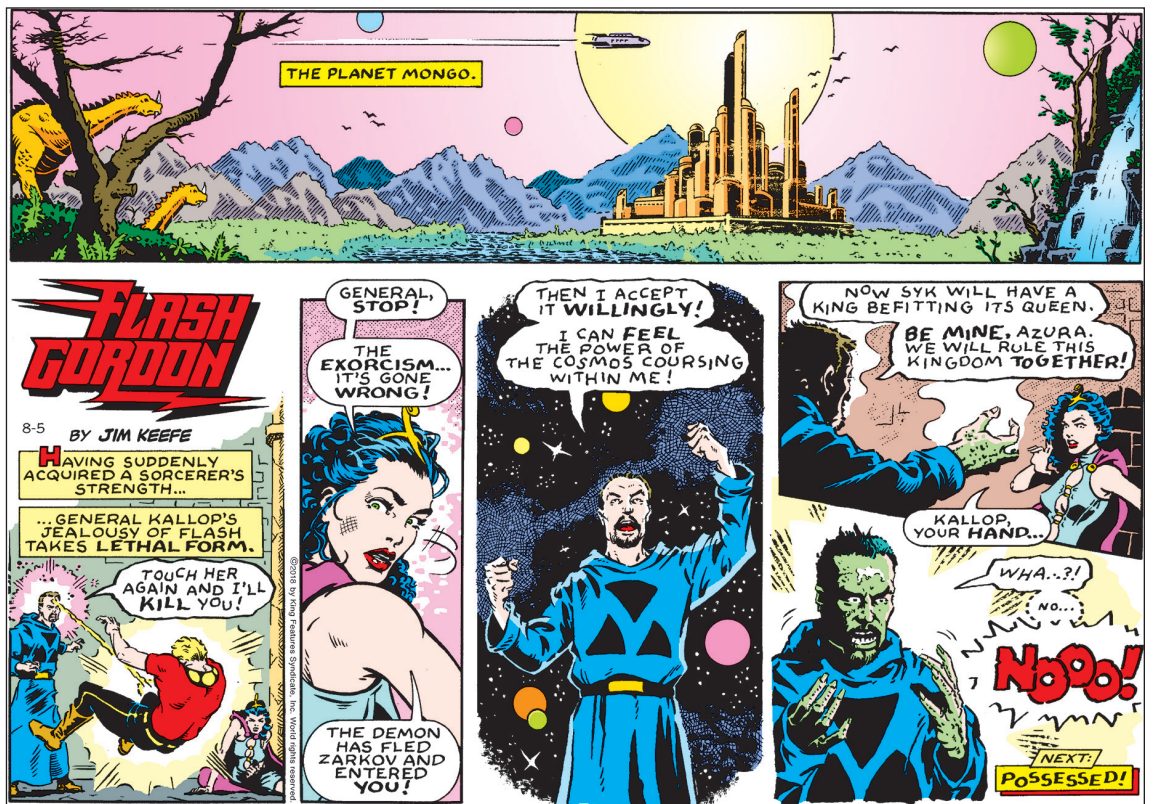
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

Answer

FLASH GORDON



GET FUZZY

