Inside the Lock Down

by Mike Krewina & Corinthea Harris

Security

Atlantic Cape Community College received orders from the Hamilton Township Police Department to lock down at approximately 12:10PM on Feb 1.

One day prior, 38-year-old Shane Hopkins escaped from the Atlantic County Justice Facility.

Security sent out text and web alerts notifying the students of the escaped prisoner and of the ongoing search led by the HTPD, so the lockdown came as no surprise to most of the students and employees on campus.

Many students failed to take it seriously and opted to leave before the lockdown was lifted. This has raised questions about whether the security cared for the safety of its students.

“If the school was in a lockdown, how was it easy for students to leave?” said Marissa Miller, criminal justice major. “If the school cared about our safety, they would have made sure everyone was safely locked inside until the lockdown was lifted. The school misled students about their safety on campus that day.”

Campus Security had a different opinion.

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Students Are “Made”

by Nanette Lobiondo

Galloway

Staff Writer

Got dream? Bring it.

That was the message MTV brought to Atlantic Cape students on Jan. 24 when it auditioned more than 20 aspiring models, singers, soldiers and fashion designers from across South Jersey for a chance to be on MTV’s three-time Emmy Award-winning reality series, MADE.

The show helps young adults, ages 18-26, live the dreams they thought were impossible. Whether it’s starting a business, finding true love, or breaking into show business; Hard work and dedication are required.

The poster in front of the Walter E. Edge Theater caught the eye of Lennirra Mason, 18, of Galloway Township, who watches the show and “loves how they transform dreams into reality.”

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There was nothing to suggest the prisoner was close to our campus,” said Bill Keener, director of security at Atlantic Cape, “The police department ordered a lockdown because they were searching the woodlands close to the campus and they didn’t want him to run into a crowded area if they found him near the school.”

Security allowed people to leave after searching their cars for that reason, although Keener agreed that people should have stayed where they were safe.

“Students were provided shelter and emergency communications. Unfortunately, some students chose to leave,” said Keener. “Those observed outside were informed that the lockdown was still in effect and they were to leave the campus immediately.”

Many teachers did not fight with students who wanted to leave after a certain time, which led to many students simply walking out.

“My professor displayed the Press of Atlantic City website and was getting information off of it,” said Kenneth Kin, communications member and SGA representative who was on campus during the lockdown, “At approximately 2:00PM, the professor told the students that we could leave but we would be unable to get back into any other building. I guess police had searched the campus and verified that he wasn’t on the grounds.”

Students and staff alike put Campus Security under heavy scrutiny because they felt that with the prisoner on the loose, school should not have opened in the first place and everyone would have been safer if they had stayed home.

“The college monitored the situation throughout the night, and was not advised by law enforcement officials of any compelling reason to close campus,” said Chelsea Pizzi, public relations and social media specialist at Atlantic Cape, “All local schools and businesses opened for business that day.”

Because the lockdown happened, outsiders have disagreed with that decision.

In light of the standoff between angry students and staff and the colleges governing body, the precision in which the lockdown was carried out has been a strong reminder that the well-being of everyone on campus is a top priority.

“We kept all of our important audiences in mind when communicating about the lockdown,” said Kathy Corbalis, executive director of college relations at Atlantic Cape, “Updates were given via text alerts, the college Web page, Facebook and Twitter. We responded in real time to questions from students and parents about the ongoing situation and information was shared with Atlantic County leaders.”

With this event now in the past, the college has first-hand experience on how to deal with this type of dangerous situation, even if the necessity of the event will continue to be questioned.

FROM THE EDITOR
As some of you may have noticed, our last Winter Issue went mysteriously missing the day after its publication. Unfortunately, this was the malicious act of a few students who were displeased with an article we published, (see page 7). However, SGA, Security, The Dean and The President were called into this matter and the situation has been rectified. Atlantic Cape Review is an open, public forum and exists as the watch dog for our campus. Our sole purpose is to provide accurate, unbiased news that is important for the student body. Neither we nor Atlantic Cape accept any form of censorship of the press. As a courtesy for what we publish, we extend all students and faculty the opportunity to write to the editor personally if they feel that they have been misrepresented in one way. Although this situation was unfortunate for many involved, SGA was gracious enough to reprint our previous issue, we extend our thanks to our SGA as well as, Security, the judicial board, Dean of Students and President of our college for protecting our rights as well as our staff.

Madison Russ, Editor.

Retraction: In last month’s article “Pizza Lures Crowd, SGA doesn’t hold them,” a comment was made that Lisa Givens and Cynthia Correa were in charge of ordering pizza which they were not.
Mason is currently finishing general studies at Atlantic Cape and will attend McAllister Institute of Mortuary Science in September.

“I always wanted to be a mortician since I was little. I went to a lot of funerals and always wanted to know how they got into that peaceful position.”

She’s hoping MTV can help her achieve her dream of “helping families alleviate their pain in their greatest time of loss.”

Danielle Williams, 22, of Mays Landing brought a portfolio of her T-shirt designs to the video-recorded audition, which was held in private behind the stage curtain. Although she is a criminal justice major, her real ambition is to start a screen-tee business. “I can never find t-shirts with slogans I really like, so I started designing my own,” the future owner of “Say It” tees, said.

Williams has had a talent for sales since the first grade and sold everything from pogs and candy to dollar store goo and television sets at Sears. “I was great at it, so I might as well sell my own stuff,” she said.

Hoping to achieve stardom like his idols Mia, Usher and R. Kelly, Ken Granger, 20, of Ocean City didn’t fall to pieces when he sang The Script’s “Breakeven.” The performing arts major said, “I love performing and would love to go on Broadway someday.”

The producer told him the video of his performance would be sent to MTV studios in New York City. If selected, he could expect a call in a week to three months. MTV has been making the rounds at area colleges to audition candidates for the series.

Jennifer Tatar, 21, of Villas, who attends the Cape May County campus, is hoping MTV will help her become the “picture perfect” bride, which will require losing about 50 pounds. Although she spent much of her teen years trying to concentrate on school while caring for her cancer-stricken father, she is hoping that a fairy tale wedding will allow her to finally have her own day. “I’m at a point in my life that I want to find myself and feel good about myself.”

It has been difficult to even start planning a wedding because she goes to school full-time, works full-time and her future husband, a union welder, spends much of his time away on jobs. “I’ve always had a fast-paced lifestyle, especially helping out with my dad’s doctor appointments. He said I was the strongest of his three daughters. That’s kind of heavy to hold onto.”

Identical twins Anastasia and Anabella Tran, 19 of Galloway Township, were apart for a year when at age 17 they emigrated from Vietnam as exchange students living with different families. Both are biology majors and hope to be pediatric doctors, but their secret love is fashion design. Although they agree on practically everything, they would like MTV to help them find their independence. “We want people to know us individuals, not just ‘the twins,’” Anastasia said.

They designed their own clothing – feminine and glamorous – when they were in high school in Vietnam. “Being in fashion is our dream job, but it might not be realistic. We want them to give us some training so we can experience the field. If we like it, we can change our career goal,” Anabella said.

Charlie Sheen might not be the finest role model for an aspiring actor, but Julian Anderson, 18, of Mays Landing said he admires Sheen’s talent for situation comedy and drama. Nevertheless, the communication major would rather emulate his parents to achieve success. “They have always told me to strive for my dreams, and my dream is to be an actor,” he said.

He watched his dad become successful with Mo’s Chicken, which has expanded from a small store in Atlantic City to shops in English Creek and Galloway’s town center. “We’re motivated people and we have electric personalities. My grandma, who passed away recently, always said I’d be a good actor.”

He’s hoping MTV can help him make connections to achieve his first role. “If they can turn a Caucasian kid into a rapper, then they can turn me into a real actor. I promise to work my behind off if they just give me the opportunity.”
Atlantic Cape LGBT Still has Pride

by Madison Russ

Born as a man, 24-year-old art major, Devin Thurlow, has always known she was a woman.

“I’ve never had to come out of the closet,” Thurlow said. “I’ve known since birth.”

An open transgender, Thurlow said that she is biologically inter-sex. Although she has male genitalia, she still exhibits an abundance of female characteristics.

“My hormone levels are too high,” said Thurlow. “They basically have to boost one and lower the other.”

At age 14, she developed breasts and at 16, received her first menstrual cycle.

“The doctors basically said ‘we don’t know why this is happening but it’s happening,’” said Thurlow, “They think that I have a reproductive system the size of a pea.”

Despite being one of the few transgenders at Atlantic Cape’s campus, Thurlow admits she has been met with more acceptance in college than at Mainland Regional High School where she graduated in 2006.

“A lot of the students who weren’t okay with it, were by the end,” said Thurlow. “It was mostly administration that had a problem.”

Thurlow said the administration tried to make her life as difficult as possible.

“If I was wearing a skirt, no matter how long it was, they’d pull me out of class to measure it,” said Thurlow. “They told me I could only use a gender neutral bathroom and they would lock it so I couldn’t get in.”

Mark Marrone, who served for five years as vice principal of Mainland Regional High School before stepping up as principal, said that the dress code dictates that students can wear skirts to at least their mid-thigh.

“We celebrate diversity,” said Marrone. “I’d be hard press to believe someone would be pigeon-holed for their attire. We’re more focused on education.”

Marrone also said that Mainland has active LGBT students.

Although Marrone says historically he’s never witnessed someone having their skirt measured, he said, “If that was the case, I feel horrible for the student.”

Thurlow said although she has found more acceptance in college, the resources for lesbian, gay, transgender, and bisexual (LGBT) students are limited.

Atlantic Cape’s own LGBT alliance, the Pride Club, has been inactive for over 2 years.

Cynthia Correa, Student Government Association (SGA) advisor, said the club stopped functioning after the advisor stepped down but students have still shown an interest in restarting the alliance.

“A lot factors into advisors being hard to find,” said Correa. “It’s time consuming and it’s volunteer work. Many of them are faculty members and step down for money reasons or because they don’t have the time.”

Some students such as Geno Cantell, a 19-year-old general studies major, are uncomfortable with the idea of an LGBT alliance.

“I would never go to a rally against homosexuality,” said Cantell. “But I could never go to one for them.”

Cantell teaches Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) at his church and his beliefs are based on his Roman Catholic background.

“The Catholic religion says that you’re suppose to marry someone of the opposite sex,” said Cantell. “According to the Bible, it’s not a sin to be gay but to perform sexual acts of misconduct.”

Stephen Hegeman, a 21-year-old Atlantic Cape alumnus, said even though he is gay he wouldn’t have joined the Pride club when he attended.

“I’m proud to be gay, but I’m not screaming it at the top of my lungs. It has a lot to do with the area,” said Hegeman. “I feel it would have brought me more negative attention.”

Carolyn Coulter, assistant professor of social science, explains that geographical areas can affect attitudes towards homosexuality.

“I think more rural types of areas have traditions and don’t go with change as much,” said Coulter. “Change means fear to them, and they are afraid of what they don’t know.”

Coulter said many people are committed to their religious beliefs.

“It’s understandable they think it’s [homosexuality] wrong because that’s what they were taught,” said Coulter. “I can’t fault them for that.”

Although religion is often cited as the primary cause for homophobia, some websites such as Gaychurch.org, provide a database of Christian churches that are LGBT friendly. Currently, New Jersey has 231, including some that are catholic.

Hegeman believes that homophobia is not always based in religion, but in ignorance.

“Being gay isn’t a choice. I would have never chosen this for myself. No one I know would have,” said Hegeman. “Why would we choose to be ridiculed, not marry or have children? It’s definitely a harder life.”
SGA Spring Elections
by Bobby Speirs
Student Government

March is here and with it comes Spring elections for Student Government Association officer positions and faculty of the year.

Students can vote from Mar. 5-6 by visiting the SGA website at atlantic.edu/sga

Voting terminals will be set up in front of the student life center on the Mays Landing campus, on the second floor near the student life center in the Atlantic City building, and near the cafeteria of the Cape May campus.

To vote, students need to enter their first name, last name, date of birth and the last four digits of their social security number.

Students will vote for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Club Coordinator, Program Chairperson, and two Sophomore Senators. Each position is a one-year commitment.

One issue SGA had with their October Freshman Senator elections was a low voter turnout. About 1.5 percent of the student body voted.

"[We will advertise] elections for SGA and faculty of the year at all three campuses," SGA Advisor Cynthia Correa said. "Facebook, club announcements, posters are the methods used to alert students."

Students who signed up for text alerts for events and athletics received election notifications.

If voter turnout increases this election cycle, SGA will know their efforts were successful.

Students interested in running for positions in SGA next year can find applications online or in the student life center. Requirements include a 2.5 gpa or better, no judicial misconduct and there are credit requirements for each position. Applicants must also be available on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Visit the SGA website at atlantic.edu/sga for more information on elections and club activities.
GET IN SHAPE THIS SPRING ON CAMPUS

by Lizette Salomon
Sports reporter

‘There’s a fitness center on campus?’

Atlantic Cape Community College offers a small but convenient and functional fitness center in the Jonathan Pitney Gymnasium (E Building) on the Mays Landing Campus. Although the fitness center is free and open to all students, faculty and staff, not many people use it much less know about it.

The fitness center is open on Monday and Tuesdays from 9am-7pm, Wednesdays from 11am-7pm, Thursdays from 9am-4pm, and Fridays from 9am-1pm. The fitness center is not open on weekends or when the college is closed. Like other facilities on campus, getting access to the fitness center requires the person to present a college ID.

Marco de la Cruz, 18, of Mullica Township works at the front desk of the fitness center through the work-study program. As an active employee and member of the fitness center, he rarely sees people getting use of the gym.

“The fitness center isn’t well promoted as it should be,” said de la Cruz. “The equipment we have is brand new and is pretty decent. People can get good use out of them if more students knew we even had a gym.”

With the smell of fresh rubber and steel, the fitness center looks untouched and seems as if barely any bodies have broken a sweat on the gym floor. The fitness center consists of an array of weight lifting machines, a few cardio contraptions, and a wide set of dumbbell weights. In the middle of the day, only the front desk manager and two Atlantic Cape fitness center regulars occupy the gym.

“I don’t have a gym membership so I work out here twice a week before or after class,” said Garrett Garcia, Psychology major. “It’s really convenient and it saves me money by not having to pay for a pricey gym, when there’s a perfectly decent one on campus.”

Local gym memberships such as Island Gym Fitness Center, Tilton Fitness, and Oceanside Wellness & Sport, can cost an average of $40 a month.

“We try our best to try and promote the fitness center whether it’s through the athletes or the website,” said Michael Rennick, senior manager of Athletics. “The next step is to encourage more health and nutrition on campus and get students educated about their health. If students are aware of their health, they’d probably want to make use of the fitness center.”

According to data from the National Health and Examination Survey (NHANES), about one-third of U.S. adults (33.8%) are obese. This is equivalent to four times the population of Texas.

Whether it’s walking on campus, running on the treadmill, pumping iron or just having fun with friends outdoors, an hour a day can help lead to a better and healthier lifestyle.

Next time you have a one or two hour gap in between classes, head over to the Pitney gym and get a quick workout in. There’s a good chance you’ll feel more energized and focused for class.

WORK OUT TIP

1. Start in a plank position and lower down into a modified push up then return to plank

2. Still in plank, kick right leg back and up to perform a glute kickback

3. As you lower leg back down, bring right knee to right elbow to perform an oblique crunch. Return to plank position, and complete one rep. Repeat steps one to three on opposite side.

Enjoy, sweat, achieve!
Stolen Newspaper Issues: SGA members resign

by Bobby Speirs
Student Government

One Student Government Association officer resigned after her alleged involvement in the disappearance of the latest issue of Atlantic Cape Review.

Two additional SGA officers resigned after alleged involvement in cyber harassment that was also in connection with the missing issues.

More than 300 copies of the student newspaper disappeared from the Mays Landing campus after they were distributed on Wed, Jan. 25.

ACR business manager Corinthea Harris first noticed the papers were missing.

“That couldn’t be right,” Harris said. “When I checked, the racks were full. Twenty minutes later they were all gone.”

The papers went missing after SGA members privately voiced negative opinions about an article Harris wrote. The article referenced an SGA meet-and-greet.

“I think ACR is finally doing real journalism,” said Keith Forrest, communication professor. "Part of being in the government is expecting criticism from the media.”

Harris immediately notified ACR advisor Mary McWilliams.

“I don’t think any of us wanted to believe there was malicious intent with the idea of censoring the school newspaper,” said McWilliams.

McWilliams notified SGA Advisor Cynthia Correa, who notified Dean of Students Carmen Royal and security. The Judicial Affairs office was also brought into the investigation.

“College is an area where students can voice their opinion through the appropriate channels,” Chief Judicial Officer Nancy Porfido said. “I can’t tolerate censorship.”

Former student Samantha Grosso allegedly committed the theft with an SGA officer present. The SGA officer later resigned.

The stolen issues were recycled by Grosso and is expected to reimburse SGA who paid for the reprints.

In a related incident, on Feb. 2, an threat allegedly directed at Corinthea Harris appeared on Facebook. Two SGA officers allegedly “liked” the post.

“We have a policy that protects students from being harassed. Our goal is to create a safe environment.”

According to the school website, this incident falls under cyber harassment. The incident remains under investigation and disciplinary actions were not disclosed.

“I am proud to say that I go to a school that doesn’t look at bullying lightly,” Harris said. “They take any form of threat seriously. They are doing their job.”

First year student coping with tragic loss

by Nanette Lobiondo Galloway
Staff Writer

A first-year student is determined to succeed in her studies following the tragic loss of her two younger brothers in a horrific traffic accident in Atlantic City last August.

“I still can’t believe it to this day,” said Emily Ivelisse Bilboat, 19, of Galloway Township.

Her brothers 13-year-old Joaquin DeJesus and 11-year-old Julian, both of Pomona, died in a violent crash at 3:15 p.m. on Aug. 20, 2011. The crash also claimed the life of their friend Samara Ramos, 7, of Williamstown, and injured a 9-year-old, 5-year-old, and four adults.

A Hummer rear-ended a Ford Taurus wagon near the West Atlantic City border on the Black Horse Pike, causing the wagon to overturn on the highway, trapping three adults and five children inside. Joaquin and Samara died at the scene; Julian was transported to Cooper Hospital where he died the next day.

“I was at a friend’s house when my sister called me to say the boys were in a car accident. At first I just asked if they were okay, then she told me how bad it was,” Bilboat said. “They were on their way to go fishing. They loved to fish.”

The accident occurred just hours after another rollover accident on the Garden State Parkway claimed the lives of four members of the Mainland High School football team.

Less than a month after losing her precious siblings, Bilboat began her first year as a general studies student. Although she tries not to dwell on the often-overwhelming loss, she has instead used it as her motivation to succeed.

“I try to block it out or I won’t be able to deal with it. I just try to keep myself busy,” she said.

Nevertheless, it’s the little things that jolt her back to reality, such as seeing a boy on a bicycle or thinking about the unique way Julian would eat his cereal.

The tragedy, which she said is “like a bad dream,” has brought her family closer and she has learned to appreciate life more now.

“Everything changed in an instant. I look at things differently and don’t take life for granted.”
Child Sex Abuse: More than just a Penn State Story

by Mike Krewina

Child sexual abuse has been brought to national attention in light of the allegations held against Gerald Sandusky at Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Peter L. Mora, president of Atlantic Cape, released an e-mail to all staff and faculty members on Dec. 7th. This message stated that the recent national issues at Penn State and Syracuse remind us of our need to be vigilant.

Eileen Curristine, dean of human resources and compliance at Atlantic Cape Community College, recognizes child sexual abuse as more than a local issue.

“When a problem is present, society needs to change it,” said Curristine, “We need to reinforce the fact that we do not tolerate criminal activity.”

Curristine knows that all colleges around the nation are under a spotlight with the emergence of this crime, and Syracuse University was the next school to have allegations of child sexual abuse surface with an assistant basketball coach.

With all the publicity surrounding the issue, the effects sexual abuse has on a child has been overlooked.

Helping the public to understand is a student at Atlantic Cape who says she was raped by an acquaintance at 13 years old.

“I never said no, but I never said yes, I was rendered speechless,” said the Atlantic Cape student who spoke under the conditions of anonymity, “People think rape has to come with a stranger and kicking and screaming, but it doesn’t.”

According to the National Center for Victims of Crime, 77% of completed rapes are committed by non-strangers. Only 2% of these rapes are reported to the police.

The student never reported the incident or told anyone what happened.

“I felt like damaged goods,” She said, “But I knew no one would believe me.”

After a suicide attempt, she tried to move on hoping one day she would forget what happened.

Anita Polanco, assistant director of counseling and support services at Atlantic Cape, said that children often try to block a traumatizing event from memory because they blame themselves. This is the reason why many victims do not come out until their college years or later.

“These young people carry long-time emotional trauma,” Polanco said, “Stressful college life sometimes provides a catalyst for resurfacing the emotional difficulties.”

After the alleged rape, the Atlantic Cape student said that the emotional toll taken on her life lingered through high school.

“I jumped from awful relationship to awful relationship,” She said, “I didn’t think I deserved anything better. Who would ever love [me]?"

She still had trouble admitting her problem to herself.

“It took me almost nine years to realize he [the rapist] was the adult and I was the child,” She said, “It wasn’t my fault.”

She is still apprehensive about relationships, saying it is hard to believe people can be genuine, but she says it is getting better.

“I’ll never forgive him,” She said, “But it doesn’t hurt me anymore.”

She also said that she has no desire to pursue justice now, saying it would be like opening a wound that is well healed, but she wishes she had the courage to do so in the past.

“You don’t want to look back and wonder if he is doing it to other people,” She said, “I’m always haunted by the sense that I could have done something.”

The student said that she understands why the victims of the Sandusky case have taken so long to surface, saying that as a child, you can’t articulate rape. When you become an adult, it crystallizes and makes sense.

She never had help, but for some, protection is a way of life.

William J. Beyers and Janice Barbarito are founders of Barbarito & Beyers Preschools, Inc. One of their preschools is located inside the J Building at Atlantic Cape.

Barbarito & Beyers Preschools has not come under fire from the parents of its enrolled children after the Sandusky case surfaced. There have been no sexual abuse accounts since its establishment in 1979.

Beyers said that their staff is always in pairs and that there is never a time when one adult is alone with a child.

“A child should not have to protect itself from the outside world,” Beyers said, “That’s our job.”

They also perform an extensive background check for potential employees. They try to stay local and do not hire people who move from state to state, saying that sexual predators often have this habit.

“If there is something wrong with a staff member,” Barbarito said, “We pick it up.”

Beyers and Barbarito both acknowledged that the children they care for are in a critical stage of life. Building self-esteem and confidence will help children avoid becoming targets when they get older.

“We try to teach the kids to like themselves,” Beyers said, “Then they acquire the ability to like and love other people.”

Although the preschool seems to be safe, child sexual abuse will not go away.