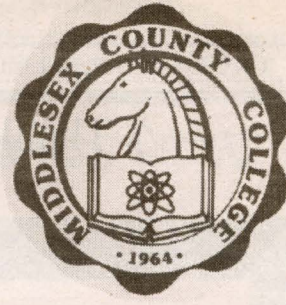


# Quo Vadis MIDDLESEX County College



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## MCC Enforces Smoking Ban

**Joseph Lisnow**  
*C&C Editor*

It's nearly impossible to spend a day on campus and not spot someone smoking in a no smoking area despite there being signs all over the school stating that this is a smoke free campus.

Effective Dec. 1, Middlesex County College (MCC) will be fining students, staff and visitors \$25 each time they violate the smoking policy.

The policy was approved by the College Assembly and will affect the Edison campus as the New Brunswick and Perth Amboy campuses are surrounded by public streets.

Smoking will still be permitted in personal vehicles and in the two campus gazebos. One gazebo is located next to L'Hommedieu Hall and the other by Edison Hall. There are currently no plans to build extra gazebos, said Marketing and Public Information Director Thomas Peterson.

"We're not doing this to fine people or to make money," said Peterson.

This marks the third time there has been a change in the school's smoking policy and the second in the past two years. First New Jersey banned smoking inside school

buildings in the 1980s. During the spring '09 semester, after being voted upon by the college assembly and signed by MCC President Joann La Perla-Morales, the two gazebos were placed on campus, which also came along with a smoking policy. The old policy and the new one are similar. The old policy only issued warnings out, but now fines will be given instead.

When the original smoking policy started in during the fall '08 semester, it had a strong response, said Peterson. He said that since then, there has been a decline in the policy being followed and this current semester has been the worst. People don't want to walk through smoke to get into the building.

Some are allergic and others don't like getting that smell on their clothes. Cigarette butts have also become a major litter issue on the campus grounds.

A repeat offender can be in violation of the schools code of student conduct. Smoking has been known to cause heart problems, high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes and cancer, according to American Heart Association.

Peterson said, "You have the right to smoke. The right for nonsmokers takes precedence too."

The policy has been met with remixed reaction from the students.

Matt Olson, a physical education major, said, "I don't smoke, but I don't really care where people smoke."

Sam Caliendo, liberal arts major, said, "It seems a bit excessive to me."

"I think if they just had everyone smoke 50 feet away from all buildings that would work out just fine. This seems like it's going too far," he said.

Kate Lyman, business management major, said, "I think it may work."

"Twenty five dollars is a lot of money to any college student. We'll have to wait and see I guess," she said.

There has also been talk of creating a no smoking policy campus-wide, said Peterson.

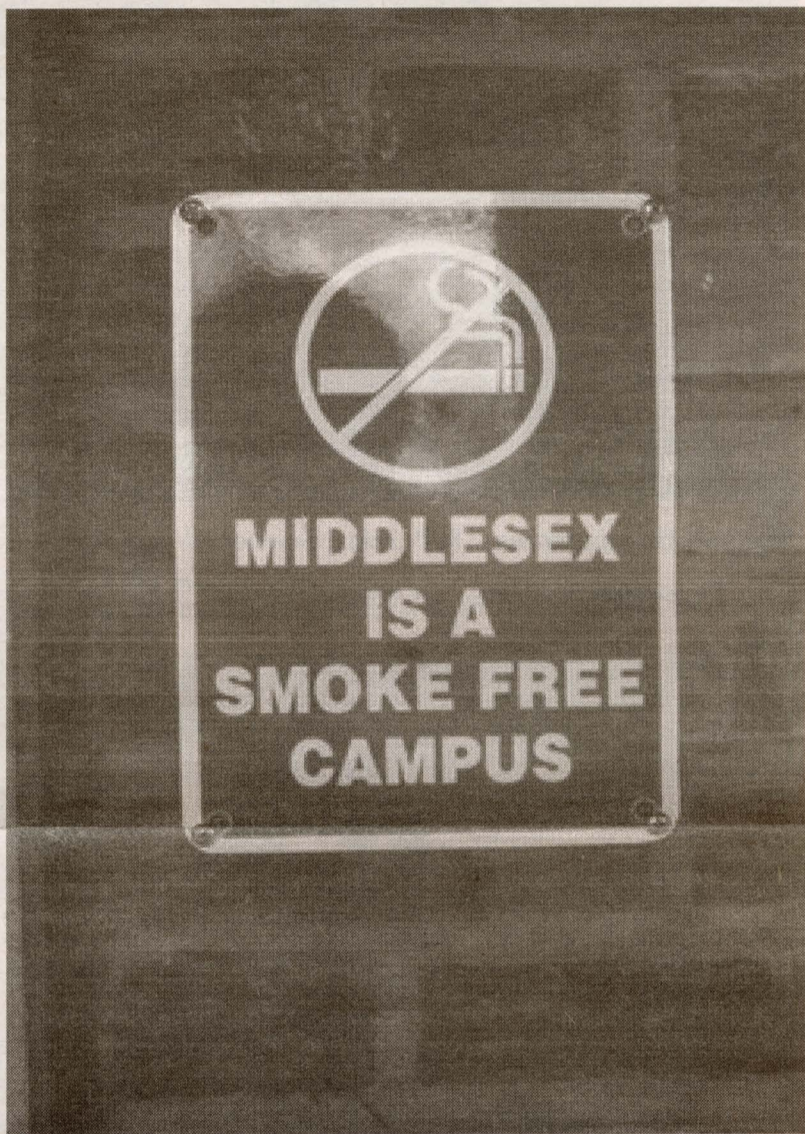
An email will be sent out to all students through Campus Cruiser advising them of the new policy and the campus police will be handing out notices to students leading

up to Dec. 1. There has been no resentment from anyone to date, Peterson said, but some is expected.

Money collected from tickets will go into the general fund of the school.

Fines can be paid at the Gateway Police Station or the cashier's office.

If the fines are not paid the student will not be able to make a class schedule or receive their diploma.



## MCC Reduces Carbon Footprint

**Kate Garrihy**  
*Staff Writer*

On October 1, the Campus Life Task Force held its first meeting of the year during which it discussed the ways Middlesex County College is reducing its carbon footprint. According to the minutes from this meeting, the task force investigated the steps that the College is taking to "go green" and make the campus environmentally friendly.

Answering these charges is Facilities Management, the division of the campus that is responsible for the maintenance of and engineering on campus.

"We remain on the forefront, leading the way to energy efficiency and

sustainability," said Daniel Fuchs, assistant director of buildings and systems.

Facilities Management has implemented a number of changes to reduce its carbon footprint. Among them is the use of less cleaning products and the shift to low VOC products, Fuchs said. VOCs are, according to the EPA website, volatile organic compounds that include a variety of chemicals that may have adverse health effects. Facilities management has also reduced the level of green house gas emissions by 17 percent between 1993 and 2000, Fuchs said.

A number of campus buildings have undergone improvements to make them energy efficient. The electric heat and water heaters in Col-

lege Center, Chambers Hall and Johnson Learning Center, L'Hommedieu Hall were replaced with natural gas fired high efficiency units, Fuchs said.

Fuchs also said that the interior lighting in all buildings were retrofitted with interior lighting with lower wattage energy efficient bulbs and electronic ballasts under the Standard Offer Rebate program in 1996.

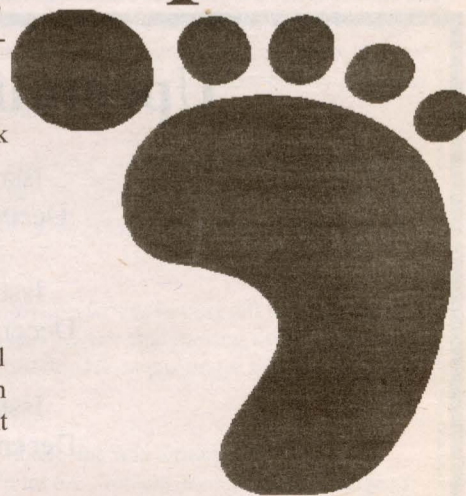
A new lighting survey is currently being conducted that will identify opportunities for even further reductions, Fuchs said.

Facilities Management plans to continue improvements in the future.

Among the advancements the department plans to make are solar energy.

"Should we move to solar energy on campus, we could then involve the students by having them track our energy costs compared to buying power off the grid."

The students can have a hands-on approach to solar panel technology and learn how convert sunlight to electricity," Fuchs said.

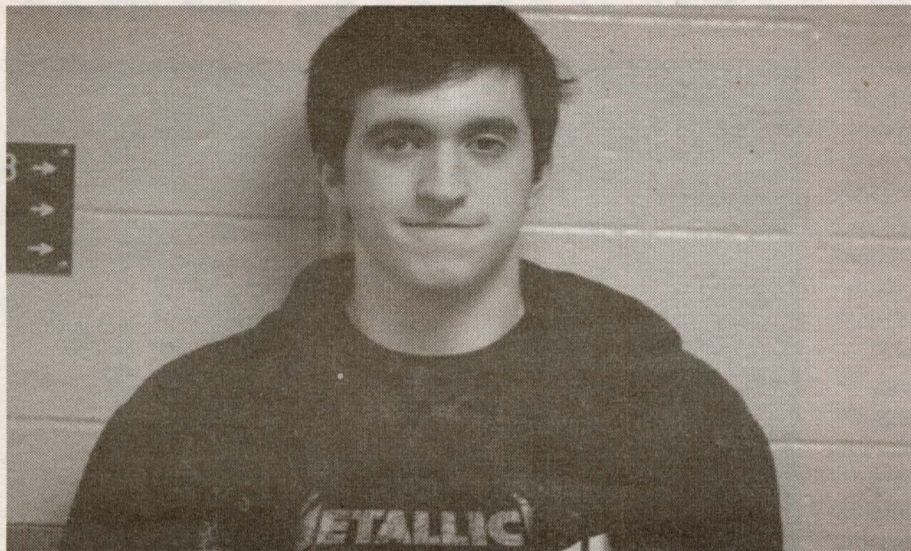


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Thanksgiving is known as a time for giving thanks, spending time with family, and just relaxing while eating.

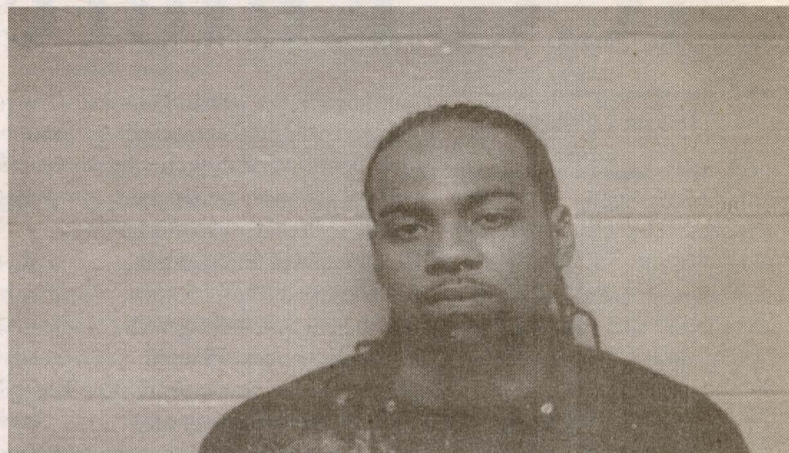
## *What are you most looking forward to this Thanksgiving?*

**Joseph Lisnow**  
C&C Editor



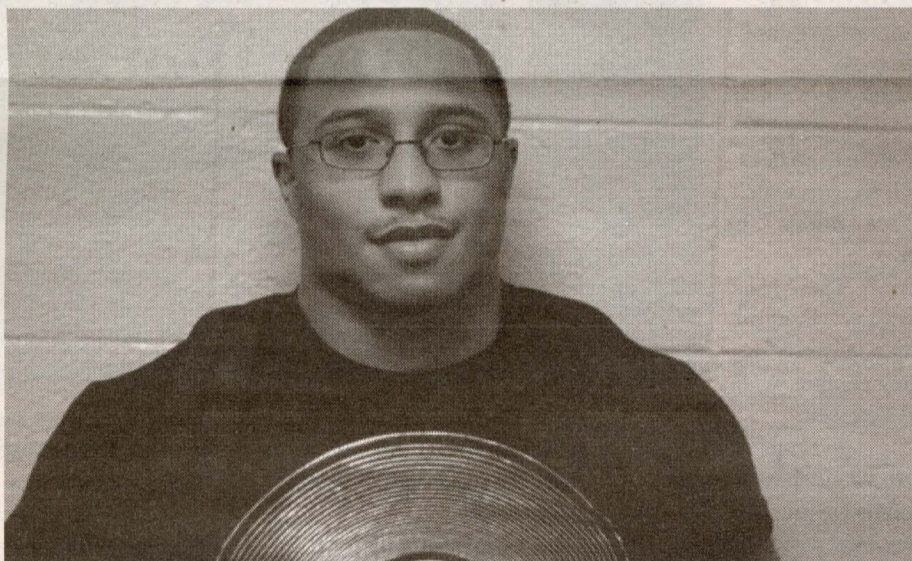
Matthew Bayumgartner, 18, Political Science, Woodbridge

"I'm most looking forward to spending Thanksgiving dinner with my family and girlfriend's family."



Wesley Gordon, 23, Biology, New Brunswick

"I'm relaxing with the family. I'm getting a break from class and at the same time enjoying Thanksgiving dinner."



Gardui Banks, 18, Pre-Biology, Perth Amboy

"It's definitely all the food."

### Bazaars Offer Holiday Gifts at a Fair Price

*Edison YMCA to Hold One During November*

**Dan Taylor**  
Staff Writer

It's that time of year again. As November quickly flies by, the holiday shopping season is upon us.

As a result of our country's economy, department stores are offering even better Black Friday deals this year, as people search for the best prices in order to save money.

In addition to these sales, holiday bazaars are a great place to purchase gifts for family and friends without emptying your wallets. On Nov. 29, the Edison Branch YMCA will hold its second annual holiday bazaar from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be a large selection of gift items such as personalized photo cards, gift baskets, sports memorabilia,

crafts, cosmetics, jewelry and baked goods. Raffles will also take place and refreshments will be available.

Admission is free and open to the public. If you'd like to be a vendor and earn some extra cash by selling merchandise, please contact the Edison Branch YMCA at 732-494-3232 or email [laura.margeotes@metuchen-edisonymca.org](mailto:laura.margeotes@metuchen-edisonymca.org).

The cost is \$30 per space for vendors who bring their own table and \$40 per space with a table rental. YMCA representative Laura Margeotes expresses enthusiasm by saying, "I encourage everyone to come out and take a look at the variety of items we have this year."

The Edison YMCA is located at 1775 Oak Tree Road. This is a great way to get into the holiday spirit.

### Upcoming Issues

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December 2

Issue 14  
December 09

Issue 15  
December 16

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## Happy Turkey Day!



## Testing Center Opens in Johnson Learning Center

**Kate Garrihy**  
Staff Writer

On October 26, the Testing Center reopened in its original location in the Johnson Learning Center. For over a year, beginning in April of 2008, it was located in the Bunker Lounge of the College Center building.

In its new location the testing center has taken over one of the former math labs and incorporated the space into new testing rooms, said testing coordinator Glenys Biloholowski.

All of the testing rooms have new computers and there are now two adaptive testing rooms for students who require a quiet environment to take an exam, Biloholowski said.

There will eventually be lockers so that students no longer need to bring their belongings into the testing rooms. "The lighting is also a lot nicer here, so it's a better testing environment for the students," Biloholowski said.

The testing center offers the college placement test, which according to the Admissions Web site is designed to provide the college with information about a student's skills in English and Mathematics. Among

the other services offered at the testing center are the ESL placement test, challenge exams, the KLEP exams and credit by exam testing, said Biloholowski.

"We are a staff of four, our director is Robert Kim and we invite anyone who to come in and see our facilities and what we have to offer," Biloholowski said.

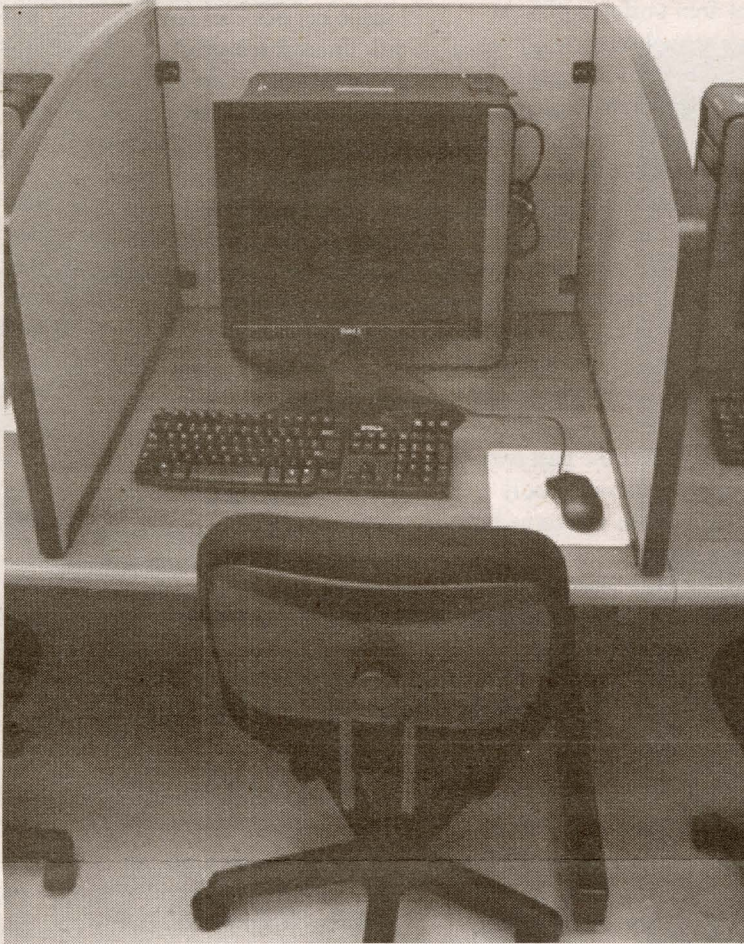


Photo by: Joseph Lisnow

After being closed since April 2008 for renovation, the testing center reopened its doors on October 26. Pictured above is one of the new computers inside.

## Transfer Fair

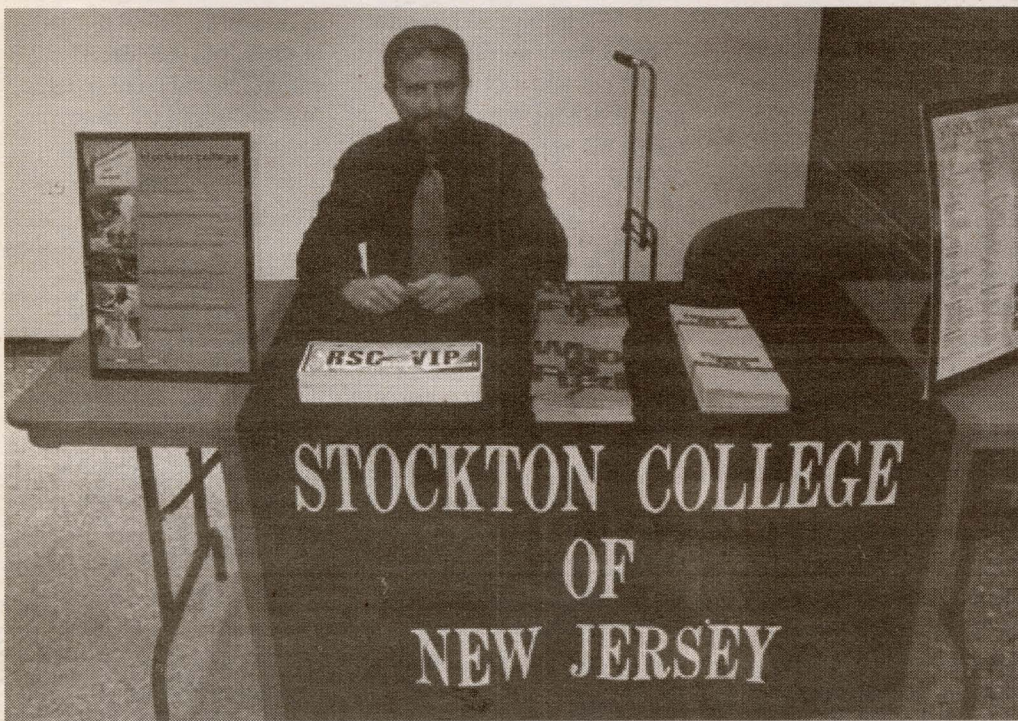


Photo by: Joseph Lisnow

The 41st transfer fair was held November 16, 17, and 18 in the College Center. Stockton College visited the college on the last day being represented by transfer counselor Steve Phillips.

## Democracy House Toy Drive

Raritan Hall 003

Bring a brand new unwrapped gift to the Democracy House office (Raritan Hall 003) by December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The gifts can't be any food item or stuffed animal. They must be an appropriate gift for a newborn to an 18 year old. The gifts will be taken to St. Peters Hospital in New Brunswick.

## Police Blotter

**Joseph Lisnow**  
C&C Editor

On Nov. 9 at 10:03 p.m., a fire alarm was activated in the library by an individual who panicked when he attempted to leave the building and realized the doors had been secured. Police responded and opened the door so the individual could exit. Edison Fire arrived on the scene and was apprised of the situation. After resetting the alarm, the scene was cleared.

On Nov. 6 at 11:12 a.m., an individual was experiencing stomach pain and a headache at the library. The patient appeared to be passing out and had difficulty communicating. EMS was called and the patient was transported to a local hospital.

On Nov. 6 at 6 p.m., an individual was approached in the Instructional Resource Center by someone looking for the labs. The victim directed the suspect to the lab, and then she herself went in to retake her seat. The suspect sat across from her and began asking her personal questions, which made her feel uncomfortable. Upon leaving, the suspect offered to go with the victim, but she declined the offer.

On Nov. at 3:50 p.m., an individual stated that she fell in lot one due to wet grounds on Oct. 27. The patient did not contact the college nurse or the police department at the time of the fall. She was subsequently diagnosed with a fractured foot. Signs are clearly posted in the area to use the sidewalk.

On Nov. 4 at 8:07 a.m., writings and drawings, possibly in blue ink, were found on the partitions located in the upstairs men's restroom in Raritan Hall. Facilities Maintenance removed the drawings after pictures were obtained.

On Nov. 3 at 11 a.m., vehicle one was turning left and came in contact with vehicle two's rear driver's side causing dents and scratches in lot 6A. Vehicle one sustained front passenger side bumper and quarter panel damage.

On Nov. 2 at 10 a.m., vehicle one was turning left when it was struck by vehicle two in lot 6A. Vehicle one sustained damage to the front passenger side headlight, fender and front bumper. Vehicle two sustained significant damage to the front driver's side fender, headlight and bumper.

On Nov. 2 at 2:25 a.m., an accident occurred in lot six when vehicle one was parked and struck by vehicle two sustaining rear passenger side bumper damage.

## Student Shreds Light on the Home-school Life

**Joanna Rutter**  
Staff Writer

All home-schoolers come from different ways of home-schooling – there isn't one particular label that could brand any homeschooler.

Some people are the home-schoolers, who take the "home" part rather literally, teaching their children from their own homes for religious reasons, health issues, or an obscene fondness for their couches. Some people take online classes through a bigger school or organization. Some, like me (and most of my friends), are hybrids, with a foot in the public schools and a foot in our own home-schooling community.

I saw that raised eyebrow – you're wondering how on earth I can go to a school if I'm home-schooled.

Well, have our way. In my case, my local community college, Middlesex County College, has a program that allows high school students to take classes to supplement their curriculum.

I've taken classes here ever since I was 13, when I took a basic chemistry course with some other home-schooled friends (which is not an experience I'd recommend to any other 13-year-old out there). Since then, I've taken four semesters of French, a pottery class, summer Algebra II boot camp and some amazing English courses.

Tally all of those up, and I've got some elective and humanities credits to save me some money when I finally go to what I call "real college."

This semester, I'm taking physics, pre-calculus and journalism. It's a challenge to stay on top of assign-

ments when they come at me with the vicious speed of a semester-long college course, but somehow I manage all the news stories and lab reports and logarithm problem sets without developing a nervous tic. Yet.

So in one side of my life, I get to take cool classes that aren't offered to most high school seniors.

But I also get to be part of a vibrant home-school community. I'm in a Shakespeare class made up of 13- to 18-year-old home-schoolers from all over New Jersey.

We meet once a week to do crazy improvisation and group activities, like creating giant animals with our bodies or turning sonnets into mini-plays.

Over the past two years, I've become really close to all the awesome kids in the class.

Other than courses

taken at home and isolated classes, there are home-school co-ops (short for co-operatives), which are groups of families that meet, usually weekly, to take one or several classes together.

There are co-ops for everything from biology lab to a home-schooler orchestra. I teach beginner's French to 3rd- through 6th-graders at a co-op that my mother founded three years ago. I have eight amazing students, and they are all très fun.

I'm also a student leader of sorts in my local Institute for Cultural Communicators speech chapter, part of a different co-op.

I help organize and edit things, and critique and train kids to be better public speakers. I have so many different vibrant social circles I get to be part of -- my church friends, my friends at my job at Chik-Fil-A, my homeschool

co-op friends, and my MCC friends. When people ask if I go to school, I jokingly say that I actually go to five different schools because of all their different places I go and people I see during my week.

Lots of people think that homeschooling is all about being trapped in a house, and that home-schoolers never get to see the light of day.

But for me and most other home-schoolers, homeschooling is freeing -- I've been able to speed ahead with the classes I want to spend time on and slow down on grasping harder subjects. I've been able to make friends with old and young people from different countries and walks of life, and I've been able to spend a lot of time with my family.

I wouldn't trade it for anything!

## Sports

### Globe hands Colts Worst Loss in Lowery's Tenure

**Matt Kardos**  
Staff Writer

The Middlesex County College (MCC) men's basketball team opened their 2009 season at home on Nov. 17 against The Globe Institute of Technology.

Heading into the game, Globe, a Division I opponent, was already 2-0 and stacked with size and scoring talent at every position. Middlesex looked to ease their minds of last seasons heart-breaking defeat to Sussex in the Region 19 semifinals with a victory against a formidable non-conference opponent.

For a second consecutive season though, the Colts were defeated on opening night as they were crushed by Globe 104-73 in what arguably may have been the worst loss in the illustrious tenure of Head Coach Corey Lowery.

MCC won the opening tip and began the game with a turnover on their initial possession, and it proved to be the ultimate theme for the remainder of the evening. Just ten minutes into the game, the Colts found themselves down 15 points at 26-11. From that point on, Middlesex would never get closer than 10 points for the rest of the contest.

Standing on the baseline in disgust, Lowery was visibly aggravated with his teams' lackadaisical

play; he took his team into the locker room at halftime trailing 49-30. In the first half, the team looked very raw and uninspired.

The Colts are definitely lacking a veteran leader on the floor to keep everyone under control, a role that was occupied by Marc Tracy last season.

Aside from sophomores Arman Wilson, Shamai Santiago and Ramadan Shabazz, the rest of the team is essentially inexperienced role players and freshmen. With sophomore sixth man Quinton Crawford sidelined with a leg injury, freshmen like Deryk Lockett (4 points), Edwin Guerra (6 points) and James D'Amico (2points) were pressed into playing big minutes and struggled mightily.

Middlesex was never really given an opportunity to find an offensive rhythm due to their sloppy ball movement and putrid passing which enabled Globe to generate easy turnovers that they ultimately turned into quick transition buckets.

Globe did a stellar job of containing MCC down low in the post. Sophomore center Jeff Ashamole (9 points), who missed all of last season, was ineffective on the offensive end and held to just two points in the first half and found himself in early foul trouble.

Because of the lacking presence in the paint, the Colts were forced into becoming a one-dimensional jump shooting team, an area in which they are not strong in, which is why they found themselves down at the half.

Coming out of the break, the second half brought nothing but more pain and anguish for Lowery's squad. After two botched uncontested layups in the opening moments of the half, the Colts found themselves down 68-38.

The remainder of the game was essentially a battle to keep the deficit under 40 points. Globe turned the last 10 minutes of the game into a track meet by utilizing an impressive fast break surge that was fueled by foolish Colts mistakes.

There is no denying that Globe is a very talented team, but Middlesex lost this game for themselves.

If the Colts could take one positive from their opening night defeat, it is the emergence of freshman guard David Mofunanya, who got the starting nod at shooting guard in his first collegiate game and led the Colts scoring efforts with 22 points.

Mofunanya appeared to be relaxed and collected on the offensive end and did not hesitate to take shots when he had good opportunities, something that freshmen are typical afraid to do early on in their career.

For the Colts to

be victorious, they need consistent scoring to come from their sophomore core of, Santiago, Wilson, and Shabazz. The trio combined to score just 25 points against Globe.

Santiago did very well at setting his opponents up to score but did not try to score enough himself. After scoring a mere three points in the first half, he finished the game with only 12.

The biggest element of his game is quickness and he did not take full advantage of driving the lane or taking his opponents off the dribble.

The number one priority of a point guard is to set your teammates up for their best possible scoring chance. On this team however, Santiago is their most potent offensive weapon and is relied on heavily to both score and pass.

Wilson was never able to find a groove, much of which could be credited to the double team defense that Globe threw at him seemingly every time he touched the ball.

As the Colts most versatile player on the offensive end, Wilson has the ability to quickly score in bunches by driving or shooting from both mid and long range.

Last year as a freshman, it became evident that Wilson is a player who gets

stronger as the game grows older. Much like Santiago, Wilson needs to score at a high rate for the Colts to find success, the 11 points he scored against Globe certainly are not going to be enough to win consistently.

As for Shabazz, he was surprisingly left out of the starting lineup in favor of Lockett.

It didn't take long for him to see action though, as Ashamole found himself in early foul trouble. After coming in and committing two bad turnovers, he gave Lowery no reason to second guess his decision to start a freshman over him.

The forward finished the game with only two points after having a very promising preseason.

The bottom-line is that the Colts got thoroughly embarrassed by a very good Division I opponent. You can live with the loss and move on from it.

The fact is though, the loss is not so much a credit to how well Globe played but rather how awful Middlesex played. For a team looking to win a national title, they played like it was the first day of training camp, and that is alarming.

The veterans have to step up and take charge and the freshman have to mature very quickly or else the Colts may be in for a disappointing season.