



THE OUTLOOK

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Board Approval Enables MAC to Proceed

SAMANTHA YOUNG
CO EDITOR IN CHIEF

Almost five hours of deliberation led to the final approval of the Multipurpose Activity Center (MAC) on Thursday, Feb. 8 at the West Long Branch Municipal Building. With a 5 to 2 vote, the University can now take the first steps to construct the complex on campus.

Monmouth supporters, all donned in "Go Hawks" pins, and construction opponents filled the audience, eager to hear the much awaited verdict. At its peak, the town meeting was played out in front of 75 spectators including city residents, University staff and students.

Looking Back

In December 2006, the University went before the zoning board to receive approval for the MAC. The motion was rejected with a 4 to 3 vote. In cases of variance, five affirmative votes are necessary.

The University's motion to reconsider was brought about by a miscommunication between West Long Branch Police Chief Arthur Cosentino and board member Douglas Bostwick. Although Cosentino had numerous conversations with the MUPD about traffic and parking procedures during MAC events, he was unaware a tangible form of the plan existed. While the MUPD was in possession of the plan, it was waiting to formally submit it to the zoning board.

In January, the University once again met in front of the board to discuss their proposed plan. Originally, the MAC was to have 4,842 seats and 16 capacity events, which consists of a minimum of 4,000 spectators. At the end of the meeting the move to reconsider was granted with the stipulation that 720 seats would be removed from the floor plan and four capacity events would be eliminated from the University's proposal.

The Plan

Last Thursday's meeting was the last step for the University in a successful acquisition of MAC approval. The job of the board was to question the thoroughness of the University's traffic and parking plans and to make sure the project would be in the city's best interest. The board members included Rocco W. Christopher, Irven Miller, Samuel Guidetti, James Meola, John Aria, Douglas Bostwick, Ellen Anfuso, and Thomas Klein.

In preparation for the meeting, WLBPD Captain Lawrence Mihlon met with Patricia Swannack, Vice President for Administrative Services, and MUPD Chief William McElrath to devise a plan capable of directing and monitoring traffic surrounding MAC events. This plan was then presented in front of the board.

Titled, "Joint Traffic and Parking Plan," the slideshow, outlined the following key points:

- The plan will be implemented for all events in excess of 3,000 spectators.
- The University will give a minimum of seven days notice to the WLBPD.
- In an effort to efficiently direct traffic during these events, "No Parking" signs will be placed on applicable borough streets.
 - The signs and any subsequent needs in this capacity will be paid for by the University.
- MUPD officers will assist the WLBPD in the patrolling of surrounding streets during events.
- Police officers will be stationed along the various exits routes planned in an effort to disband crowds in a timely, efficient manner.
 - If more officers are needed than available, off duty officers from West Long Branch or officers from neighboring towns will be called to assist.
 - The expenses for their service hours will be reimbursed by

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PHOTOS COURTESY of Samantha Young

(Left) Irven Miller, Thomas Klein and Rocco Christopher during deliberations (Right) Patricia Swannack, Wendell Smith and Marc Policastro presenting the new seating design for the MAC at the town meeting February 8 at the WLB Municipal Building.

Latest Credit Card Thefts Resemble Previous Robberies

MUPD Believe Burglaries May Be Related

WESLEY CHIN
NEWS EDITOR

NICHOLAS SGROI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Two university employees were victims of credit card theft late last month, in a case that mirrored last February's reported robberies, according to the Monmouth University Police Department.

Although the alleged thieves are not thought to be connected to last year's incident, the MUPD have not ruled out the possibility of the two groups working together.

An initial report of the burglary was made on January 22, detailing the theft of two credit cards out of an employee's pocketbook in Wilson Hall. Several days later, the MUPD received a second report that took place in McAllen Hall, with a total of four credit cards being stolen.

The identities of the theft victims were not released due to school policy. According to Det. Sgt. Kenneth Kennedy of the MUPD, the thieves charged thousands of dollars to the cards

in many of the area's surrounding businesses that were hit in last year's incident including Staples, Circuit City, and a gasoline station in Wall Township.

"[They purchase] mostly electronic items, such as lap tops, cameras, and games," said Kennedy. "Unfortunately, in most of these cases, the criminals have used the cards to the maximum, and they are out of the state before the owner even realizes the cards are not in their wallet."

Currently, no arrests have been made despite video footage capturing the thieves entering Staples. Images show that the latest thieves are not the same from the February 2006 theft. However, police believe that similar methods of operation, spending locations, and items purchased in both incidents indicate a potential connection between the groups.

Kennedy stated that no witnesses were present to the actual theft, due to the thieves working in groups with lookouts, maintaining constant communication with each through cell phones.

"These individuals are professionals, and appear to fit in," he

commented. "If confronted in an office, they will simply say they are looking for Mr. Smith, Financial Aid or some other location."

James Brown, the assistant store director of Circuit City in Eatontown, claims that fraudulent credit card purchases are not uncommon in retail stores. He stated that their cashiers check credit cards for a signature and validate it by checking a second form of identification. If a customer is caught with a fraudulent card, the store will decline the transaction, then ask the person to leave and is banned.

"It comes with the territory," said Brown. "Every retailer gets hit. Only defensive measures can be taken. No accusations are allowed to be made: it's a store policy."

Eatontown, Shrewsbury, and other local police departments involved have reported no progress in the cases.

According to Kennedy, recently received information reported that several eastern state universities have been hit by these same

Thefts continued on pg. 2

	Wednesday 35°/15° Freezing Rain/ Wind
	Thursday 25°/15° Scattered Flurries/ Wind
	Friday 27°/17° Flurries/ Wind
	Saturday 35°/25° Partly Cloudy
	Sunday 34°/18° Few Snow Showers
	Monday 33°/27° Partly Cloudy
	Tuesday 41°/31° Cloudy

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY weather.com

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Accelerated MBA Program Begins in Fall

New program allows students to complete masters in business in one year

JACQUELINE KOLOSKI
CO EDITOR IN CHIEF

Beginning next fall semester, the accelerated MBA program will be implemented at Monmouth University. Frederick Kelly, dean of the school of business administration, explained that the current MBA program has a preliminary core and an advanced core.

“We have decided that for those students who have a recent undergrad business degree from an AACSB accredited school that we can waive that prelim core and by putting together a mixture of regular courses and hybrid courses... that we can construct a schedule that would allow those students to complete the MBA in one calendar year as a cohort group,” said Kelly.

By combining regular courses with hybrid courses, which are taught half in the classroom and half on the Internet, graduate business students will be able to finish ahead of schedule as opposed to the two years it generally takes to complete an MBA.

The program has been in the planning stages since last September. In order to determine students’ interest, a survey was conducted.

“We did a survey of graduate students and graduate applicants back in the fall to see how many

people might be interested in it and see if there was a market for it,” said Kelly. He added that the results showed that students favored the new program. They then went ahead and began developing the hybrid courses, decided who would teach the courses and establish a schedule.

“There were also background materials that needed to be worked out,” said Kelly. “We also had to get budgetary approval to make an additional faculty line.”

The accelerated MBA program will consist of courses that are in the current program but the only difference is that some courses will be offered in hybrid, according to Kelly.

Some courses included in the curriculum are managerial accounting, business finance, ethics, law and social responsibility, and logistics management.

“Strategic management is the capstone course students will have to take in the second summer session,” added Kelly.

Dr. Min Lu, associate professor of marketing, will be teaching the International Marketing Management and Marketing Management.

“I hope that this program will provide more opportunities for potential students to seek a fast paced program that will help them land a job they want and/or speed up their career development pace,”

said Lu.

Dr. Joseph Mosca, the associate professor of management and marketing, will be teaching the accelerated Human Resource Management course. This course will be taught in hybrid. “What is going to be neat about it is that I am going to be teaming up with Dr. Christensen who is going to be teaching the MIS course,” he said.

This combination will allow students to complete two courses in a compressed amount of time, according to Mosca.

“Dr. Christensen will be in the classroom on Mondays with his students and on Wednesdays they can retrieve the information [online] for this course. On Wednesdays they will be in the classroom with me and then on Mondays they can retrieve the information,” explained Mosca. He refers to this as an on-site course.

He noted that the biggest advantage to this is that students have more time to access the information needed for these classes and in a timeframe that is better equipped for students who have jobs.

“Human Resource Management...gives them a complete understanding about what compliance is,” said Mosca. “So what they have to do is teach managers how to maintain an environment that is not put in the position where people can sue you.”

In addition to that, Mosca said that they learn about employee rights, a deeper definition of diversity from a human resource standpoint, job analysis, job design, and job description.

When teaching the class, Mosca said that he teaches by cases. Those cases include topics like labor

relations, motivation and discipline, orientation and training, and international human resource management.

“I think the university will benefit because it allows students to not only obtain a degree in less time, it allows them to go through it at their pace,” said Mosca. “It will not interfere with the student’s profession...The way the program is designed means that we can fit into the student’s life easier.”

Dr. Guy Oakes, a professor of

and production of distribution of ethics within an organization.

Oakes mentioned several benefits of having this program at the University. The first is that students will have the ability to complete the master’s degree quicker.

“It’s probably at the advantage of the university to have a larger MBA program. This is a way of recruiting more students and making the MBA program more visible than it would otherwise be. This is to everybody’s advantage

“This is a way of recruiting more students and making the MBA program more visible than it would otherwise be.”

DR. GUY OAKES
Professor of Management and Marketing

management and marketing, is teaching the Ethics, Law, and Social Responsibility course for the accelerated MBA program. This course is only offered as a regular course as opposed to the new hybrid method being created for the program.

“It considers the bearing on managerial strategy and organizations. Bearing more on the managerial strategy of two variables [which are] the U.S. legal system and the options available for managers to make use of. The other variable is what is called organizational ethics,” said Oakes. He added that the focus of the course is to examine what happens with the factors of strategy, litigation,

because as the university becomes more visible it benefits you and me,” said Oakes.

Oakes said another benefit is the hybrid courses. “The hybrid courses will encourage professors to experiment in how they teach.” He hopes that these benefits take affect within the program.

“Basically we are hoping to bring into the program a group of highly motivated individuals who...will be able to build a really strong cohesiveness that will last beyond their graduate degree program here, build friendships, and business networks that will carry on into the future...,” said Dean Kelly of his hopes for the accelerated MBA program.

TO OUR READERS:

Due to illness within the staff, The Outlook, which is normally published on Wednesdays, was printed a day later. This was a one-time occurrence. We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

New Jersey Water Watch Fights Pollution

PAUL BAKER
STAFF WRITER

Environmentalists of all backgrounds gathered at the Magill Commons Club Room 109 at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 7, for the New Jersey Water Watch’s spring semester kickoff meeting.

The meeting opened with a warm welcome and brief explanation about the New Jersey Water Watch (NJWW) Monmouth Chapter. The first speaker was Professor John Tiedemann, Assistant Director of the Urban Coast Institute. Tiedemann teaches courses in marine science and environmental biology at Monmouth and also teaches at Brookdale Community College. He talked about the importance of educating people about the water in New Jersey and said the group offers a fun environment for students of all majors to get involved and help out their community.

Another key speaker was Matt Elliot, Director of the Water Watch program in New Jersey. Elliot explained that the program is statewide, and many different colleges are joining together to reach a common goal through Water Watch. He talked about the start of the funding 13 years ago, and mentioned the 8,000 to 13,000 volunteers NJWW works with each year.

“It was great to see so many Monmouth students out and active, showing that they care about the environment,” said Elliot, who goes from school to school to speak with students.

After the speakers finished, each of the group leaders introduced themselves and gave an explanation on their individual group’s goals and interests. Groups included stream monitoring, community forum, and education.

The stream monitoring group used pictures and maps to show their interests, which included go-

recruiting boy and girl-scout groups, facebook events, radio announcements, and tables with students handing out flyers.

The community forum group focused on gathering the important speakers for the community forum, which is being held on March 28 on campus. The group also chooses speakers for bulk meetings, which are held every Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. in the Magill Commons Club Room 109.

“It’s very rewarding seeing the difference you make at the end,” said Jill Roberts, a biology major and member of the community forum group.

Though the meeting was split into several groups, each with different meeting times during the week, the NJWW Monmouth Chapter still acts as one. It acts as a friendly, open median for students to get involved and serve a better cause while having fun and meeting new people.

“It’s a great opportunity to meet people outside of the classroom,” said member Christina Pisanello. “Even students you have class with, a lot of the time you don’t get to really meet them.”

The element of friendship was strong at the kickoff meeting. Many students were excited to see their friends and meet new ones, sharing conversations about the

Water Watch or campus life. The NJWW has many impressive accomplishments in the past, leaving shoes that need filling. In the past the group has taught children and families about water cleanliness and awareness, and collected over two tons of garbage last semester alone.

“I’m really, really excited to see a group of Monmouth students being actively involved with environmental issues,” said Liz Glynn, campus organizer for Water Watch at the university. The group hopes to greatly expand their numbers and feats in the future, inviting all to join their quest for clean water.

Any students with interest are encouraged to join the weekly meetings to receive informational packets, talk to individuals who have experience, and get to know their peers who share the interest of maintaining clean water for the environment. They pull students in with statistics such as “75 percent of NJ waterways are too polluted for fishing and swimming” or “450 community cleanups removed more than 1,000,000 tons of trash from New Jersey’s waterways.”

Upcoming events include stream monitoring training, K-12 education on issues, community cleanups, community education promotions, and the Hurricane Katrina Relief Alternative Spring Break ’07 project.

For additional information, visit www.water-watchonline.org, by phone at 732-263-5753 or email at Monmouth@waterwatchonline.org.

Credit Card Theft

Thefts continued from pg. 1

thefts. He said that local police departments deal with these crimes as well, as thieves target office buildings where secretaries maintain open work areas.

MUPD only has jurisdiction over the actual theft of the credit cards themselves, and has no control over investigations regarding the fraudulent charges committed off campus.

“These are difficult cases to solve,” said Kennedy. “The best hope for an arrest in this type of case is either with the help of an alert employee who observes the theft or with the help of a store employee at the time the cards are used.”

Kennedy believes that the individuals involved in the crime will return to the university when they feel it is safe. Although a new Hawk Alert has not been issued, MUPD have e-mailed university employees the original notice sent last year, and advise the campus community to exercise caution with their belongings. They recommend safeguarding all belongings to remove the opportunity for a crime to be committed.

“Our best defense in preventing this type of crime is a well informed public,” Kennedy said. “It’s important to understand the theory of crime prevention: make it as difficult as possible for someone to commit the crime, in the hopes that they will move on in search of an easier target – hopefully away from Monmouth .

Wilson Hall Transforms into a Night in Paris

JACQUELYN BODMER
STAFF WRITER

Saturday night proved to be a night in Paris for more than 380 Monmouth University students and guests. The 34th annual Winter Ball, sponsored by the Residents Hall Association, was held in Wilson Hall from 7 p.m. to midnight. It is the second longest standing tradition besides Ebony Night at Monmouth University.

Co-chairs for the Winter Ball included seniors Stacey Ciprich and Caitlin Carroll, who were in charge of the committee and the planning. The committee planned months in advance for the night, coordinating every last detail. “The committee was the best we’ve had so far. Everyone involved was more than willing to do anything that was needed in order for the night to be a success,” said Carroll.

Guests started arriving in their evening attire around 7 p.m. Students were encouraged to attend with their friends, dates, or solo. The night was for everyone to enjoy, no matter who people went with.

“I had so much fun at the Winter Ball. It was the kind of event where you didn’t have to bring a date to have fun, but you could just hang out with your friends, eat a good meal, and dance to some good music. My friends and I will definitely be attending next year,” said MU freshman Vanessa Vernile.

There was a simple cocktail hour that gave everyone the chance to mingle and meet new people. Attendees munched on mini chicken cordon blue bites, coconut shrimp, and mozzarella sticks, all while proceeding to their tables.



PHOTO COURTESY of Jacquelyn Bodmer

The Winter Ball Committee stands by a replica of the Arch de Triumph, one of the backdrops at this year’s event.

All 40 tables graciously dazzled Wilson Hall, spreading throughout the Conservatory, Versailles Room, and the Great Hall. Dinner was served once everyone was settled. The dinner consisted of a buffet that filled one of the Wilson Hall rooms with an array of delicious foods. Items such as salad, mash potatoes, pasta, vegetables, chicken franchise, and rolls were offered to suit most people’s tastes.

After dinner, the dance floor was jammed. If you ever wondered what over 300 people looked like dancing in Wilson Hall, Saturday was the night to find out. The DJ played hits, slow songs, and even took requests.

The music at the Ball brought life and amusement to the already energetic crowd. “Everyone looked wonderful and the music was great! The decorations also came out beautiful,” said sophomore Kimberli Gerechoff.

With the night’s J’adore Paris theme, no detail was left out. The theme colors were black, red and silver, being displayed in the table cloths, napkins, balloons, and decorations. Paris was represented in the Eiffel Tower confetti on the tables to the French dressing for the salad.

But nothing completed the feel like the giant 18-foot Eiffel Tower on display and the giant Arch de triumph over the staircase. “This year’s Winterball turned out like a dream. As a graduating senior, it was a little sad to see it all end, but knowing I was a part of it all made me feel incredible,” said Anthony Esposito, a committee member.

“It’s a lot of fun and gives people a night of dinner and dancing in one of the most beautiful buildings,” said Carroll.

“I would definitely recommend it for anyone who has not gone before to consider going next year,” said Gerechoff.

Get Involved: Support Model UN

DAVID KRATZ
BRIAN KIM
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

“Order, order! Do you kids wanna be like the real UN, or do you just wanna squabble and waste time?” an annoyed Seymour Skinner announced. Unlike the simulation taken place in Springfield Elementary where the Japanese representative (Nelson Muntz) decides to take advantage of his diplomatic immunity to shove chopsticks up a fellow delegates’ nose, the model UN offered here in Monmouth University is much more orderly, where even Principal Skinner may be amazed at the progress shown in this year’s class. In case you have no idea what Model UN even is, it puts students in a realistic simulation of the actual United Nations and other international crisis management bodies, with MU representing the Republic of Chad this year. In the end, the course assists students in preparing for their roles as distinguished diplomats at the National Model United Nations conference held in New York City. This conference is the largest and oldest Model UN conference in the world. It brings together over 3,000 students from more than 25 countries, part of which takes place within the actual United Nations building. Be-

fore you turn the next page because you think this sounds way out of your league, think about this: students in Model UN learn research, problem solving, consensus building, conflict resolution, writing, and public speaking skills that will be beneficial in any professional career they pursue. These are invaluable tools to develop to be successful in your undergraduate experience and beyond. Even if, for some strange reason you still seem disinterested, at least give the Model UN class your support, because it needs it desperately. The Model UN course will no longer be offered as a class after this year, but students can experience the Model UN next year through the Global Service Project Club.

The group will be hosting “Bingo Night,” on February 20th at 8pm in Anacon Hall. There will also be a silent auction for Comedy Club and 6 Flags Great Adventure tickets. Take notice in that this group needs you, the students, to survive.

Please come support your Monmouth University Model UN team by attending this event and the Political Science department for their continued effort in building students with great character and esteem.

True Fitness

PRESS RELEASE

There’s a new reason to exercise at the North end of the Long Branch Promenade. Nestled in front of the beach off Cooper Avenue, a gem awaits. Thanks to TRUE Fitness, a friendly, health oriented fitness center located adjacent to Promenade Beach Club, members feel a buzz of excitement. As you approach the front desk greeted by a smiling and knowledgeable staff member, you notice that “feeling,” a welcoming, clean, completely non-intimidating atmosphere leads to a mix of cardio, free weight and machine stations and a desire to get and stay healthy.

Owners Allison Hajek and Teresa Ryan combine their health care, fitness and business experience to offer a unique take on the concept of a gym. Teresa, a physical therapist and certified sports conditioning specialist whose practice TRUE Physical Therapy is housed within the fitness center has a vision of teaching members preventative health and fitness, safe exercise and sound nutritional awareness in a low key environment. As patients already know and members will soon learn, the care, personalized treatment, level of humor and expert guidance in the physical therapy office overflows onto the gym floor. Blending the fields of fitness with rehabilitation makes perfect sense. Core stability, proper form, strengthening and flexibility allow for improving

posture, enhancing fitness levels, preventing injury and increasing energy. Experienced exercisers can consult for advice or different ideas, or continue with independence. Novices will be instructed, guided and monitored. Allison expands her business background with the realization that not everyone *loves* working out, so approaching the fitness center with attainable goals in mind helps to stay focused. She offers those who need it support for their workouts and attendance, putting members’ individual desires at the foreground. Look for her to offer some gourmet tips towards TRUE, healthful and incredibly flavorful cooking (and perhaps sampling) to complement improving fitness levels.

Services offered with membership include a TRUE, scheduled orientation so new and experienced exercisers become familiar with their workouts. Goal setting assistance and progress monitoring help booster motivation and track success. Early next year, instructional classes on form, stretching and stability will be offered. Additional services available by appointment are physical therapy, personal training, sports specific training and massage therapy. Members note the family-like, cheery atmosphere and state that even on those tough days, the good feelings before, during and after workouts lead them back to TRUE Fitness... *and you never even new we were here!*

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Danielle Ellement: One of a Kind

Student Finds Love While Inspiring Those Around Her

DANIEL ROTH
EDITOR AT LARGE

Born and raised in Thousand Oaks, California, senior Danielle Ellement was raised in a family that supported her. They never treated her differently even though she was born deaf. "I really never emphasized the idea that she was facing adversity. We just raised her the same way we raised our other children, and to deal with each issue accordingly." Her mother went on to explain, "She had a normal childhood, and being the youngest of three, her siblings learned sign at a very young age, so they had the usual sibling rivalries."

While her family was greatly supportive, not everyone was as understanding. Danielle's high school softball coach refused to put her on the varsity team. Danielle and her family felt that her being deaf was the main reason, as her stats alone should have garnered her a permanent spot in the varsity rotation. It got so bad that before her senior year, Danielle's parents decided it was time for her to transfer to another school so she would be able to showcase her talents.

For her new team, Danielle fulfilled all expectations. In her first season with her new team, Danielle got the ultimate satisfaction when she faced her old team. In what was a nail biting 18-inning thriller (normal softball games last 7 innings), Danielle pitched them all striking out 29 batters. By the end of her senior season, Danielle had amassed an outstanding .82 era, made the all-county team, and had received scholarships to a wide variety of colleges.

One of these colleges happened to be Monmouth. Even though it was on the other side of the country, Monmouth offered what many others could not. In addition to a full scholarship, Monmouth was able to give Danielle a full-time interpreter for all her classes, practices, and any campus event she wished to attend. "It's great, many schools don't have the kind of service Monmouth does. It's hard to find a school that will offer a full scholarship and good service for

me. It also has the perfect class size and a beautiful campus. After all it was education that I wanted, so it was perfect," she expressed.

Despite all the positives, Danielle realized she would be the only deaf student on campus. "Most deaf students would not go to college being the only deaf student in the whole school," said Danielle, a communication and psychology major. "I grew up with a hearing family, and went to regular middle and high schools. It's different for me; I can do it and have experienced it already."

However, Danielle still found it difficult to connect with people on campus. At first, she was pretty much relegated to her interpreters, notepads, and lip-reading skills for communication. The first place she turned to was the Catholic Center. Growing up in a very religious and spiritual family, this was where Danielle felt the most comfortable it is also the place she met her future fiancé, Andrew Bowler.

During the fall 2003 semester, Andrew was a senior majoring in elementary and secondary education, and mathematics, while working on a minor in psychology. He was also one of the leaders of the Catholic Center over the last four years. When Danielle arrived at the center, Andrew had never known anyone who was deaf and had no clue how to sign. However, as soon as she walked in, that all changed. Andrew recalled their first encounter, "It was very much like a movie, everything slowed down, stars sparkled around her, she was the most beautiful girl I had ever seen; from the first moment I was sure I was going to marry her," he said.

A difficult journey was still ahead. When he first saw her with the interpreter he became fearful, but tried learning about Danielle through her interpreter.

Andrew recalled the first conversation between them when he asked for her name. He carries in his wallet a little piece of paper which consists of Danielle's name written in pen.

After that first conversation things

slowed down and the two stopped talking. Realizing how tough it was going to be, Andrew tried to forget about her but to no avail. He went to Barnes & Noble and purchased his first sign language book. At this point, Danielle had stopped going to the Catholic Center and it had been a while since the two had seen each other.

to chase, he then went to his car and pulled out a white ball that he had written, "I Love you. Will you marry me?" When she threw the ball back Andrew slyly switched the balls and threw her the one with the writing. When she caught the ball she read it over and over stunned. As she stood there Andrew walked up and got down on one knee. After asking if

freshman, we started the club so students can have more conversations with her. As she started teaching the ASL class weekly I fell in love with both Dani and the language and now I am in an interpreting program," she said.

When Danielle graduates this May, she doesn't expect anyone to take over the club. Sophomore biology major and ASL class attendee Emy Rothenberger remarked, "I will absolutely miss the great times that I have had in sign class over the past year and a half. Dani is one of the greatest friends I could ask for, and she has made the sign class one of the highlights of my week. Not having the program next year will be a very hard thing for me, and I will miss both the class and Dani terribly."

Whether it is on the softball field, in the classroom, running the ASL program, working in the Catholic Center, or spending time with her fiancée, Danielle has a moving affect on people wherever she goes. "I had Danielle in class. She is an amazing, amazing student. She raises the level of dialogue within the class room and gets everyone to keep up," said Beverly Peterson, a communication professor and head of the Two River Film Festival.

After graduation, Danielle and Andrew will be moving back to California where she hopes to become a counselor for deaf people in the field of mental health, and a sign language teacher at the high school level.

Even though people may say Danielle has had it rough, she takes something away from every experience. She learned never to let anyone tell her what she can or cannot do from her high school days, and to follow her dreams. Anyone that has ever spent time with her comes away with admiration for how she chooses to live life, not because she is deaf, but because of the type of heart-warming, sweet, and caring person she is. She has touched the life of so many and is a role model for all ages. Danielle has left a lasting impression that will carry on long after she's back in California.



PHOTO COURTESY OF Danielle Ellement

Danielle Ellement and fiancé Andrew Bowler met at the Catholic Center. Ellement even taught him sign language.

One day while sitting in the student center Andrew spotted Danielle and using his newly acquired knowledge of sign language went and asked her how she was doing. Danielle remembers being impressed, commenting that many people say they want to learn sign language but very few take the time to actually follow through.

This was the beginning of a romance that began with dates to basketball games where she taught Andrew how to sign, moved on to talking until 2 to 4 a.m., and eventually led to Andrew popping the question one day while the two were throwing around a softball. As they were doing pop-up drills Andrew purposely threw the ball way up into the air where Danielle would have

he was serious, Danielle finally gave a resounding "yes."

During the course of this romance Danielle founded the American Sign Language class that takes place every Thursday evening in the Catholic Center. The idea was for Danielle, who is now vice president of the center, to be able to talk to more people on campus. Over the last three years it has done just that. With an average of 10 people every week, Danielle teaches everything from how to order food, how to tell your valentine that you love them, and different ways to talk during class.

Danielle has inspired many people including Catholic Center administrator and ASL group sponsor Diana Zambrano. "When I met Dani as a

Daytona Beach students try class-action suit over book prices

PEDRO RUZ GUTIERREZ
KRT ARCHIVES

In a first-of-its-kind lawsuit that could affect thousands of college students who think they are overcharged for textbooks, two Daytona Beach Community College students have sued the nation's largest collegiate-bookstore chain and their school.

The class-action suit, filed in Orlando's federal court, alleges unfair and illegal pricing practices and seeks to recover at least \$5 million in damages. It accuses the Follett Higher Education Group and DBCC of overcharging students pennies on each used-book sale and underpaying them when buying books back.

Though that may amount to only a few bucks each semester, the students argue that, when multiplied by thousands of students at each of the company's more than 750 bookstores, it adds up to millions.

Co-plaintiffs Thomas Rebman and Danny Brandner also say the college is "complicit" in the textbook company's actions because through DBCC's contract with Follett, it receives up to 10.5 percent of all bookstore revenues annually. In a recent 12-month period, the college reported collecting at least \$400,000 in commissions from Follett's operations on the school's five campuses.

"This isn't about me or Mr. Brand-

ner," Rebman said. "It's that still to this day, students are overcharged . . . , and they (DBCC administrators) refuse to enforce the contract."

The suit filed in late September is unique, according to attorneys and industry experts, and may have implications for thousands of students nationwide if a judge allows it to go forward as a class action.

Textbook prices have rankled college students for years. Student-government coalitions and advocacy groups in 14 states launched a campaign in 2003 that included a push to persuade colleges to negotiate better prices with book publishers.

A Government Accountability Office report in 2005 found college-book prices have increased at twice the rate of inflation in the past two decades. A congressional advisory committee is undertaking a yearlong study to find ways to rein in prices.

National Association of College Stores figures show used books accounted for \$1.9 billion in sales during the 2004-05 academic year. New books accounted for \$4.4 billion during that same time period.

"Mr. Rebman and our law firm are seeking to recover for every student who was overcharged . . . or was underpaid when they sold back their books," said Marc Wites, a South Florida attorney who specializes in class-action suits.

"WE ARE IN COMPLIANCE"

Pam Goodman, a Follett Corp. spokeswoman, would not address the lawsuit's allegations.

"Follett believes this suit is without legal basis," said Goodman, reading a company statement.

Goodman said she couldn't discuss specific store operations, but the company has "different pricing" at hundreds of stores nationwide. The Oak Brook, Ill., company does more than \$2 billion in annual sales through its five education-related divisions.

"Follett's pricing is governed by the agreements we have with the individual institutions we serve," Goodman said. "And we take great care to ensure we are in compliance with the terms."

DBCC officials would not comment, referring all questions to Goodman.

The five-count complaint alleges breach of the contract between Follett and the college, violations of the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act and a civil conspiracy.

Before the fall semester began in August, Rebman and Brandner say, their college bookstore illegally rounded up the prices of used books to the next 25-cent increment. Used books that should have cost \$88.69 and \$85.31 were sold to them for \$88.75 and \$85.50, respectively, they argue.

And when they sold books back to the store, they say the store paid

them less than 50 percent of the new retail price as required by the contract. Examples cited in the suit include the return of a college-algebra book that cost \$118.25 new but was bought back by the store for \$56.25, or less than half its new price. In that transaction, the student should have received \$59.12, the suit says.

An online check of Follett's DBCC bookstores in late November showed that used books required for next semester's classes are still being marked up to the nearest quarter. Prices for used-book buybacks were not available.

In 2006, DBCC and Follett in response to student complaints each conducted audits of the campus bookstore. College officials refused to discuss the results with the Sentinel. A joint statement released by Goodman, Follett and DBCC said "audits confirmed that Follett is abiding by the terms of its agreement."

A legal expert said the lawsuit may impact Follett's operations at its more than 750 college bookstores in the U.S. and Canada. In Florida, Follett has a presence on at least 60 campuses.

'A PRETTY GOOD HURDLE'

Stanley Talcott, a professor and former dean of Barry University's law school, said the challenge facing the students and their attorneys is to prove they can represent peers beyond their campus.

"They've got a pretty good hurdle getting this certified as a class-action suit," he said. "If they can expand it beyond the Daytona Beach Community College students, they'll certainly get Follett's attention."

Rebman, 45, briefly worked at a Follett bookstore in 2004 and will transfer to the University of Central Florida next semester to continue his pursuit of becoming an elementary-school teacher.

Brandner, an Edgewater resident who Rebman said is in his 20s, could not be reached for comment.

Albert Greco, a business professor at Fordham University who follows the college-textbook industry, said bookstores are "hardly price gouging" and instead provide high-quality books at low prices.

"We live in the age of litigation, so the lawsuit doesn't surprise me," Greco said. He said Follett is a reputable company and found the students' legal claims "interesting."

Holland & Knight LLP attorneys, who are representing Follett and the college, have filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit, saying the students are not parties to the contract and are attempting to paint "themselves as third-party beneficiaries" of the contract.

A federal judge next will decide whether the student's claims should apply to a larger student body and can be certified as a class action.

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Editorial

SAMANTHA YOUNG
CO EDITOR IN CHIEF

The editorial this week is a way for me to lay out all my cards on the table. Before going any further, I will say that this is going to be about the one, the only, the Multipurpose Activity Center (MAC). So, if you don't want to read, feel free to skip to another section.

I know it feels, at least to me, as if this debate has been beaten to death with no end in sight. But I am asking you to trust me.

I haven't exactly hidden my disdain for the MAC – the idea of yet another gymnasium. From my point of view, I saw it as an intrusion. It would be great for the school and would most likely have a lot to offer, but just never seemed like it would fit in our cozy atmosphere here on campus – a stadium overshadowing the rest of our campus.

And, as is my job here at *The Outlook*, I wrote about my feelings in my last editorial. While trying to explain the latest series of hoops the University has put itself through to satisfy all conditions of the town, I put in my two cents as well.

Most notably, I claimed that the University should take more time and worry about the students and buildings they already have. Then, once that has been completed, work on the MAC. In no way can the University do, or be expected to do, everything. So my thinking was, "Why try?"

It's been two weeks and a series of events has occurred through which I have tweaked my position a bit. On the first page you can clearly see the big news this week - the MAC has been approved. The day has finally come. Those of you who pay close attention to detail might also have noticed who wrote the article. That's right, me.

Now, most would say I have just committed an ethical mistake – a conflict of interest, if you will.

When I found out about the hearing, to be quite honest, I didn't want to go. I thought it would be another onslaught of concerns and complaints, interrupted by the claps and boos of those in attendance. Rest assured, it was all those things. But, underneath the surface, another issue lay bare. That is what I discovered.

Four and a half hours sitting in a chair will do some crazy things to the human body; not to mention your bladder. Nevertheless, the journalist inside me remained seated, taking notes on the town meeting madness unfolding in front of my eyes. Approaching it with as open a mind as I could muster, I realized two things about the situation known at the MAC debate.

The first is that the University is growing. I know anyone who looked at the latest enrollment numbers could tell that, but it's not necessarily what I mean. When I was in high school and told my guidance counselor I was going to Monmouth, her response was something along the lines of "Really?"

After I got over the immense amount of support thrust upon me, I started to doubt my choice. Go figure.

It is now three years later and, more often than not, the responses I get when I say I go to Monmouth are positive, even at times bordering on jealous. To quote one girl, "I wanted to go there."

From this, I am trying to convey nothing more than the school has changed. Is it a small school? Yes. Referring to Jacqueline's editorial last week, small schools can accomplish big things, too.

I once thought of the MAC as a place only to be used by the athletes, to make sure they get attention, while the academic elements get overlooked.

In essence, I suppose the MAC would benefit everyone in that, if

people see how we can develop, more money would come to the school in the form of donations and alumni contributions. Having worked at the phonathon, I can attest to the fact that a large majority of that money does indeed go toward scholarships for students. If it didn't, I don't think I would be here at all.

The second thing I learned through the last MAC-filled week was a lesson more suited to everyday life. People are just never satisfied. They want to live in a nice, family-oriented town, but they love having the University atmosphere as well. To most, the collegiate atmosphere is a welcome one. But when our events infringe on any aspect of their social lives, tempers flare.

Education is deemed as a top priority. Yet, when a university attempts to educate and train in facilities befitting of the times, the past is yearned for.

Have I completely changed my opinion? No. But, seeing firsthand the lengths Monmouth and its administration went through to appease the zoning board and the residents surrounding the University, my feelings have changed. I have become a little more tolerant and less quick to judge the school's motives.

For years, Monmouth has tried to place students' best interests above all else in deciding the future of this institution.

Should we still question their actions? Of course. That is our job as students – to act as a system of checks and balances. For me, however, I have chosen to ride out this later adventure.

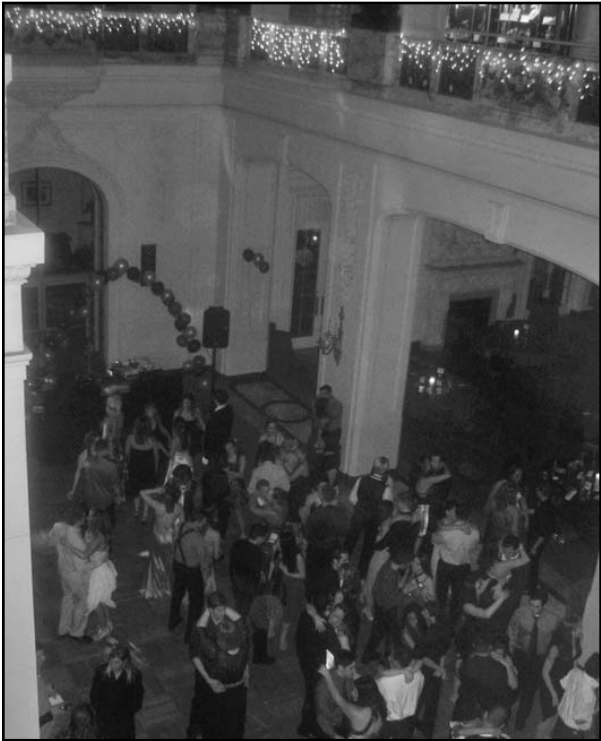
Hopefully, I will come back when the MAC is built and be proven right, that its presence will only make those future graduates from Monmouth stare their guidance counselors in the face and say, "Yeah, I went to Monmouth!"



Photo of the Week

by: Suzanne Guarino

The Winter Ball



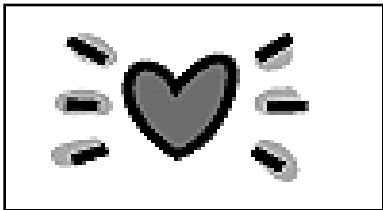
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From the Heart of a Mother



The world is full of people who capture the public with their brilliancy, celebrity and endless popularity. The culture is perplexed with the monetary awards given as a constant reward for their prowess. Society is absorbed with reports from the media who formulate the words to spread and circulate the success of a culture. Many are jaded by the paradoxical behavior of those who represent the powers that be. Some realize the manipulation of cultural bias. Others see the show and accept the world as it has become due to diverse cause and action.

This letter solely represents the unseen heroes. These are the people who pay it forward with pure goodness, the will of God in an instant and gone in a heart beat, but never forgotten. This type of honest purity never needs recognition, for it is the act that lives on.

This letter solely represents the unseen heroes... Thank you, young men, for displaying humankind.

However, I feel these individuals deserve a moment of time for the sake of the people. They are the heroes who teach the real lessons of life. These people can truly change the voice of the ignorant, the heart of the empty, the mind of the bias, and the evil that daunts the goodness that lives. Our society is desperate for purity and I feel spreading the acts of those unseen is a route one must take to begin the spread of... God is...

My daughter dorms in Oakwood Hall at Monmouth University. She is an independent young woman who faces daily challenges of a severe physical disability. Her determination and will to seek her goal allows the persistence she needs to proceed. This is never easy for any college student, but Lindsay must overcome various obstacles due to her paraplegia that presents its own consistent demands.

One day in the life, she needed to visit the campus library. She usually has her cell phone, however, this day she did not. While exiting the facility, she realized some rough terrain on the sidewalk but approached it, as usual to move on in her persistence. The obstacle prevented her from proceeding and she fell out of her wheelchair. Her wheelchair continued without her and she was left ten feet from it. This is not only a chair, this acts as her legs and the only way she

can transport herself throughout campus.

Without a phone, she looked around and no one was in sight at this time. She did not have a chance to panic.

"It happened so fast," she explained. She looked up and saw a car drive around the bend and out of it came four young men. They approached her, grabbed her wheelchair, carried her to it and placed her in it. As quickly as the act began it ended and they were gone. She wasn't sure if she had time to thank them. Who are they, and where did they come from. Why do they feel they had to be as fast as they were, it doesn't matter. What matters and needs my personal recognition is that it did happen. Without hesitation, they helped. They did more than lend a helping hand, they made a difference. Any one who makes a differ-

ence is a hero. When she called me and told me the story she said she never saw them before. I told her they must be the angels I pray for every day to watch over her.

From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank them. I'm sure their actions were rewarded within their hearts and never escaped from the power of God. I have prayed for them in my silence. No one knew who they were and I hope they can read this in print. They are truly the unseen heroes that touch a life, without recognition, help and move on. In a world of distress, distrust, and uncertainty, comes the sight of goodness. This reminds us of hope, humanity and truth. The unseen heroes who spread God's will are the forces of light to diminish the darkness. You have not just helped a handicapped person, you have reminded a culture that the simplest gesture is the grandest, and does not go unnoticed. Our society is in need of these acts much more than it needs grandiose achievement and recognition.

In a world of materialistic gain, let us never forget the power that exists, never seen, never heard, but there, nonetheless. When it becomes the will of all people, change will come. Thank you, young men for displaying humankind, and acting on the will...

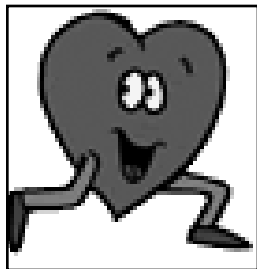
--Mother of M.U. Student

Heart to Heart

Hello M.U., this is your friendly Opinion Editor, Suzanne Guarino. Opinion Editors are generally opinionated people (surprisingly) and so I feel it is time that I share my opinions and thoughts with you. So here are a few things that have been on my mind this week:

It's that time of year again for Valentine's Day in case you didn't notice with all the love in the air. I hope that you can enjoy it. There will always be those bitter people who dread V-Day. You will often hear these people grumbling something about how they hate Valentines Day and that it's just a Hall-mark holiday that makes you feel as though you have to spend money on someone in order to prove your love or a day to make single people miserable. Why can't we just use this day as a reminder that we need to show love to people in our lives? That would be nice, wouldn't it? I find it hard to think of a day when love is the theme as anything less than wonderful, except of course, that we should have more days like this. If you do not have a valentine, spend the day nurturing your relationship with friends, family, or, perhaps even yourself. Romantic love is not the only form of love.

I was inspired by Lindsay's story in the article "From the Heart of a Mother" which appears below. This is precisely what I'm talking about. Showing warmth, care, and human kindness for the people around us is priceless and the most meaningful gift you can ever give someone.

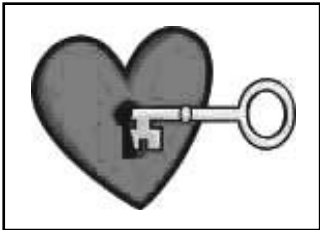


With Valentine's Day and hearts on our mind in February, I think it's a good month for heart health. So, do some extra walking, eat more vegetables and less fatty foods, sleep more, and reduce stress in your life, but also, express any negative emotions you feel and be open to love in your life. This will keep your heart happy and healthy.

Okay, so on a completely different note, The Grammys were on on Sunday and something about that show gets me pumped up and very inspired. The Grammy's are definitely classier than other music awards such as the VMA's. What I found interesting was that The Grammys have been on longer than the Superbowl. Next year will be the 50th annual Grammy Awards. Personally, I was very excited that it was a big night for Mary J. Blige and her Breakthrough album. However, I wasn't so delighted to see the Dixie Chicks win the most awards. How did that happen? Anyway, The Grammys are amazing and seeing such talent and passion the artists embody is what makes the show shine.

So, let's keep the Valentines vibe going for a while and focus on love.

"We must love one another or perish". -- Morrie Schwartz



"That Crazy Screaming Music"

CHRIS AUSTRA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In my 18 years, I have sampled many different kinds of music, from the classical wonders of Bach and Mozart, to the traditional Okinawan folk music of artist Ikue Asazaki, and almost everything in between. Some of my personal musical favorites include such hits as "Reflections", by Mariah Carey, "Mannequin", by Cradle of Filth, "The Flower Duet", by composer Leo Delibes, and of course, "Elysium", by DJ Scott Brown. While being the music connoisseur that I am, it is not often that I expose others to my music, mainly my friends, family, and those close enough to me to hear my ever-playing iPod through my large, Bose brand headphones.

My focus in this piece goes toward metal, a very misunderstood style of music. While I am not here to justify the lyrics, or the supposed controversy of its corre-

lation with violent behavior, I am going to address a personal phenomenon. Many times, by many different people, I am proposed the question, "How on Earth do you listen to that crazy screaming music?" I could say, "Because I like it," but that really wouldn't support the "how" part of the question. It would explain why I listen to it. How I can listen to a particular genre of music, as with anyone, is quite simple. It pleases my ears, as well as my mind. I believe that music, as large of an entity as it is, is completely subjective. There is absolutely no guarantee that what one person likes is what the person sitting next to him or her likes. I could respond to the question at hand by saying, "The guttural sound of someone growling to a cataclysmic guitar riff with a staccato of double bass drumming pleases me, much like the sound of classic rock pleases many of our parents." That could be a feasible answer.

The point I am trying to make is

that music affects different people in different ways. Plain and simple. What one person interprets as horrible noise, the other may interpret as beautiful, meaningful sound. So maybe it is plausible to state that when someone asks, "How do you listen to that?" they are actually stating something along the lines of, "That doesn't please me, so why should it please you?"

In conclusion, music is something that is different to everyone. A person's individuality is based much upon the music that he or she listens to, and the fact that people, in general are "anti-idiosyncrasy" are two very common reasons why many people are labeled, one way or another. Music, while contributing to stereotypes, is something that is sacred to every individual, and should be respected as such.

In a nutshell, take the time to understand the person and how this music affects him or her before you ask, "My God, How do you listen to that?"

Letter to the Editor

A Response to the MAC

JOHN KNOX
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

My name is John Knox. I am currently of sophomore status at Monmouth University in West Long Branch. I am writing in response to the editorial printed on January 31, 2007. The author of this editorial expresses her thoughts and states all the possible negative effects the construction of the MAC (Multipurpose Athletic Center) would generate. The author fails to address all of the positive aspects the construction of the MAC would create. I find it extremely important to express my opposing thoughts on this matter and address reasons on how the construction of the MAC would immensely improve and benefit the students of Monmouth University.

The author of the editorial first talked about how the MAC would attack family-oriented neighborhoods and increase noise pollution, disturbing surrounding neighbors “residential bliss.” I find this to be an extreme exaggeration. During my past two years attending Monmouth, I am unaware of any residential complaints about the noise level coming from within Boylan Gymnasium, our current and only indoor athletic facility. I am frequently found at this facility, whether it be attending school sporting events, working out in the weight room, or playing intramural sports with friends and colleagues rather than participation in underage drinking like most typical college students would do. Never have I heard any excessive noise upon entering and exiting the gym, let alone any noise at all. I find it impossible to believe noise would be any kind of problem to surrounding neighbors if the MAC was built. If anything, this would help the overall noise level, for giving students a place to participate in Monmouth activities rather than attend off-campus underage al-

cohol parties, which is the number one cause of noise disturbance in the West Long Branch area.

Another opposing thought I have derives from reading a paragraph from the editorial in which the author claims Monmouth wants to construct the MAC to attract more students to be more like Rutgers or Villanova. She says, “Why can’t we just be happy the way things are.” Now, it doesn’t take large amounts of school spirit to know our slogan reads “Where leaders look forward.” The construction of the MAC is a perfect op-

The construction of the MAC would immensely improve and benefit the students of Monmouth University.

portunity for Monmouth to move forward. We may not be Rutgers or Villanova but our men’s basketball team sure does play like them despite our limited athletic facilities, as proven when we qualified for the NCAA tournament last year. With another indoor athletic facility, opportunities would be endless. Each one of our sports organizations would have a place to practice during bad weather and during that sports off-season. I can not stress enough how much this would improve Monmouth University’s athletics program. Not only would this benefit student athletes, but it would greatly benefit student’s participating in intramurals.

For some students, being an athlete may not always be in the cards. There would be no need for sports tryouts if everyone was able to be a member of the team. For these students, intramural sports

play a great role. As a participant of seven intramural sports, flag football, volleyball, soccer, softball, basketball, dodge ball and the newly introduced Texas Hold’em, I find it very difficult to fully enjoy intramural sports because of such limited space. For example, last night I did not leave the gym until after midnight, because my volleyball game was scheduled for 11:15pm. Having a class the next day at 8:30 a.m. does not help this cause either, especially for the students like me who need an adequate amount of sleep to fully function the following day.

Unfortunately, playing during late night hours is not the only problem for intramural participants. Because of such limited space, and so many students signed up for intramural volleyball, we’re lucky to have a game once a week. I’m sure I speak for the majority of students participating in intramural sports by saying the construction of the MAC would be overwhelming. Not only would we be able to play earlier, but we’d also be able to play more than once a week. Like I said before, this would also attract many more students to Monmouth intramural activities rather than attending off campus parties.

I’d like to conclude by restating once again that the construction of the MAC would immensely improve and benefit the students of Monmouth University. It would vastly progress our athletic programs by providing more training facilities and space to fully function and improve. It would finally provide intramural participants with a place to compete without having games scheduled up until late night hours and would keep more students out of trouble because of an increase in space to engage in these intramural activities. The MAC would be a tremendous addition to Monmouth University and would greatly improve not only the athletic program, but the overall experience for students and staff.

Beads That Will Change Someone’s Life

LESLIE WEINBERG
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Want an easy simple way to change someone’s life? A way that is so simplistic it only costs a buck and is in a place you most likely will visit at least once a day? Next Tuesday, February 20, 2007, in the Dining hall, Waterwatch will be selling Mardi Gra beads from 9am-8pm. Now you may be thinking to yourself, “Gee, self, what makes these beads so special and what would this money even go toward?” Well, each set of beads sold puts us closer to our goal of helping repair people of the Gulf Coast’s lives. The NJ Waterwatch program at Monmouth will be sending 13 students and the campus Waterwatch coordinator down to New Orleans to rebuild Hurri-

rants, hotels and shops and cruise lines are all up and running in New Orleans. Yet there are still people in trailers and numerous human beings without a home to return to at night. There even have been permanent facilities set up for volunteers in the gulf coast area and it is expected to take up to seven years to fully restore everything.

Rather than picking up a drink and laying down on a beach this spring break, we will be picking up a hammer and laying down the foundations for a house and for someone’s future. We will be driving down to New Orleans (40 hours in total) and staying in a Lutheran-based camp called Camp Restore devoted especially for gulf coast repair volunteers.

All proceeds from the fundraiser will go directly towards the trip

Tuesday, February 20, in the Dining hall, Waterwatch will be selling Mardi Gras beads...to help repair [the lives of people living in the Gulf Coast].

cane Katrina damaged homes during this spring break.

Just in case you forgot about this catastrophic event, here is some background. A year and a half ago there was a catastrophic event that affected 15 million Americans in 7 states, 400,000 jobs were lost, 1 million people were without power in Florida, 600,000 pets were killed, 705 people are still missing, 275,000 homes were destroyed, there was \$110 billion dollars in damages (making it the costliest storm in history) and 1,836 people were killed due to Hurricane Katrina.

Currently, gambling, the Superdome, the Aquarium, Convention Center, and French Quarter shopping districts including restaura-

costs including van rental, gas and donations to Camp Restore. A dollar can buy you a soda, bagel, pencil, cookie, hair clip, a newspaper, allow you to make a collect call, or could help improve the lives of victims devastated by such an enormous catastrophic event. So please, next Tuesday when you go to the dining hall give up that extra dollar.

If you are interested in making an additional donation either e-mail: s0603942@monmouth.edu, go to the following site: <http://www.waterwatchonline.org/nj/njwww.asp?id2=28348> and put in donation for Monmouth University or visit our table in the dining hall. No act of kindness is too small.

Groundhog Sees Shadow, Future Forecast Gets Gloomier

ANDREW TUFTS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I remember a winter four years ago that allowed me to work landscape the entire season. Despite a few days where it was *just* colder than we were accustomed in that unseasonably warm winter, there was nary a day that necessitated insulated work gloves. Some said global warming was the cause for concern; others said the climatic culprit was El Niño.

Although scientists and Al Gore had been warning us for years (dare I say decades) about the effects of global warming, El Niño was the easier cause to accept. He was alleged to only come around approximately every four years – like the Winter Olympics or a Rob Lowe Christmas special – so accepting the odd winter wasn’t difficult because the following year would be better. Sure enough, the winter of ’03 brought Honda-Civic levels of snow that engulfed my roommate’s car, which, coincidentally, was a Honda Civic.

All was right again. The seasons as we thought we knew them had returned.

Or had they?

Did we notice the snowfalls that we received were a little wetter than usual? Did we recognize that instead of two or three days where the summer temperature reached 100° we had nearly a week where the temp threatened that perilous mark? Did we notice these gentle slaps in the face Mom Nature was dishing out?

Hardly, and it’s beyond concerning. We forgot that unseasonably warm winter after only five years had passed! And this is important why, Andy? Because this year El Niño eluded border patrol again, and yet weather discussions have undoubtedly been introduced with, “Oh, that silly global warming.” Let’s get something straight. While this winter has been predictably warm – until the past week – because of the El Niño trend, it has been ominously *warmer* than our most recent El

Niño winter *because of global warming*. I make this distinction, not just to be a stickler for detail, but because when El Niño is deported this year and the following few winters return to a form we’re relatively familiar with – “Psst, this is my thesis” – we’re going to forget, again, that GLOBAL WARMING IS STILL HAPPENING!

Carbon dioxide is still piling up in our atmosphere, the ice caps are still melting, polar bears are still drowning, the rainforests are still disappearing, and we’re still simultaneously causing and ignoring the problem. We’ve continued to make and purchase ridiculously oversized autos. We’ve continued to strip-mine every tract of land we could get our hands on. We’ve continued to build (and not even sell) nature-free homesteads large enough to hold traveling circuses. And we’ve continued to dimly comment, “Weather’s weird, huh?”

Bennies beware: The Jersey

****NEWS FLASH****
Polynesia, Pacific Ocean
Homes evacuated as rising
seas make habitation impos-
sible
Residents fail to grow flip-
pers, gills

Question: Yo, Mickey!
Where’s da beach?
Answer: Freehold.

Shore is endangered. It is a burgeoning Polynesia. Beautiful beach homes will feature living rooms that are only livable during low tides. The lake homes that were flooded in that freak rain event two years ago apparently do not float like their Dutch counterparts; soon the postman will require a submarine to make his rounds. The dunes, even if we had protected them properly, will not be able to resist the rising ocean.

This is the meteor/heat wave/freeze that ended the dinosaurs reign on our planet; and we’re

staring it in the face, completely aware of its consequences and yet seemingly accepting of its fate. (Does Bausch & Lomb make SPF 350?) This is the suitcase nuke; and we’re all content watching the terrorist place his finger on the trigger and press, press, press it without objection while Jack Bauer tearfully hugs a tree. We are staring at the fate of the planet and tempting – no, encouraging – it with open arms and a welcome mat, to come in and have its way with us (cream with your coffee, Mr. Eminent Doom?).

This directly affects YOU. You are the beach community. You are the ones who are going to lose your homes. And it’s no longer your children’s, children’s children who will be affected. It is YOU and your children. It is US. We have to, we have the ability to, and we have the moral duty to do something now.

Question: Will we?
Answer:

Views On Iraq

DANIEL J. WISNIEWSKI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Throughout the past few years in this country the Republican Party has constantly been blamed for the invasion of Iraq. This makes total sense, because of course, the Republican Party has comprised the majority in government ever since President Bush's election in 2000 and before. However, there are more factors than their simple majority which must be considered before placing a complete blame on the Republican Party.

Let's take our brief overview of the conflict in Iraq to the beginning of the war and the political decisions and reasoning's for invasion. It was initially believed by the Bush administration and NATO that weapons of mass destruction were being constructed and stockpiled by Saddam Hussein's regime. The United States, after the invasion, has roved this guess to be more or less false. No substantial evidence has been procured, to this point, which leads us to believe that chemical weapons of any kind remain in Iraq.

The lack of finding WMD's in Iraq has lead many to accuse the Bush administration, particularly President Bush himself, of outright *lying* to the American public. This allegation makes sense on its surface, being as no weapons of mass destruction have been found in Iraq.

However, before we reduce ourselves to finger pointing, let's review why the United States would have probable cause to believe Iraq held WMD's. On March 16th, 1988, only three years prior to the Gulf War, Saddam Hussein's regime bombed a small Iraqi town called Halabja. These bombs contained mustard and nerve gas. According to a BBC article, this bombing lead to the deaths of over, at least, three thousand people.

In another article entitled "Danes show suspect Iraqi shells" the BBC stated that "The former regime of Saddam Hussein used blister agents against Iranian soldiers during the Iran-Iraq war." Blister agents are chemical weapons, similar to mustard gas, which cause blistering of the skin, eyes and lungs as they are absorbed and usually lead to suffocation.

What do these facts tell us? These facts show that the Iraqi government, at one time, not only had weapons of mass destruction but was willing to use them, and did. They used them against rival Iran and against their own people.

Further, following the victory of the coalition during the Gulf War in 1991, the United Nations ordered weapon inspectors to Iraq in order to ensure the country no longer had WMD's or the capability to manufacture them. You may remember, via the news, these inspections occurring throughout the 1990's. However, the inspections did not make the news due to their success. They made the news because of Saddam Hussein's failure to cooperate. Weapons inspectors were turned away from *certain* areas, and not allowed into *certain* buildings and *certain* complexes for over a decade. If the Iraqi's weren't hiding anything, they sure made it look like it.

President Bush did not *lie* to the American public as so many would like to gleefully claim. Even if he did, there is little way of proving it, so for anyone to outright publicly accuse him, they are exercising their freedom of speech but achieving very little.

If anything, President Bush was concurring with the American public. Please consider these facts. At the onset of the war 79% of the country, according to CNN, supported the war in Iraq *regardless of whether or not*

the United States found weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. So even if the President did 'lie', it is/was a mute issue. A Washington Post-ABC poll also found that 72% of the country felt the same sentiments.

Many people in this country point fingers at the Republican leaders of this nation as being the reason for invading Iraq and shed all responsibility. I will never hear the end of the famous 'I didn't vote for Bush' line. I do not understand why, but the user of that phrase typically has believed that all responsibility is removed from the person saying it. In light of the statistics stated earlier, this seems quite hypocritical, also considering he was re-elected in 2004 by an American majority.

Looking back, we were wrong about Iraq having chemical weapons, but we can't go back in time and change things. We must make the best of a bad situation.

Where did the wars supporters vanish off to? Ok, so they may not have voted for President Bush pre 9/11 (controversial election), but following 9/11 they supported his plans for the war (70%)? And once again now they don't?

As a nation, not only have we repetitively flip-flopped on our government and then blamed the majority party, but we are also turning our backs on the millions of people in Iraq who our soldiers are currently dying for to liberate.

Now, as a nation, we tell our government that they must listen to the people and withdraw from Iraq when only three years ago the same population had comparatively little objection to the conflict (30%). Wars are not to be instituted and withdrawn from with ease.

Popular support was by no means lacking at the onset of the war and the reason for its reversal is the media.

Fact, when the going gets tough, the media makes money. They are trying to sell a story, boost ratings, and make a buck. Of course they would play on the emotions of our country. Of course we never like to hear about our brave soldiers dying, which by no means am I trying to play down. It is unfortunate that we, as a university, have had to experience first hand the loss of a brave soldier. But have you not noticed that they, the media, report on murder, robbery, fire and little on positive events in the community, other than sports and celebrities?

The truth is this; in a different direction, politicians want to win elections and will play on any emotion necessary to do so, Democrat or Republican.

For example, in contrast to her parties own 'supposed' platform, the new Speaker of the House, Democrat Nancy Pelosi, recently stated from an MSNBC article, "Let me remove all doubt in anyone's mind; as long as our troops are in harm's way, Democrats will be there to support them." This doesn't sound earth-shattering to me. As a matter of fact, Pelosi actually kind of sounds like she is proposing nothing. Weren't the Republicans funding the soldiers, then blamed for the great national deficit? Were not the Democrats pushing for change in Iraq? Was the recent election in November supposed to be an example of this? I have seen no

change in congress yet other than bills pertaining to the house rules committee and minimum wage, a far cry from change in Iraq.

Please do not get the wrong image of these words, I do not intend on 'bashing' Democrats. The Democrats are no better than the Republicans and vice-versa; we are all Americans and let no one tell you different. However, I felt obligated to share my opinion being as all aspects of the issue are not being detailed by the media.

Of course my stance isn't the happy one, or the side that will get the highest ratings, but it is the side of straightforward reality. Saddam was a murderer; he killed thousands of his own people with chemical weapons.

He was punished for a lesser crime, met justice, hastily but with reason. He used chemical weapons against the Iranians, clearly violated international law (no-fly zone infractions, chemical weapons, food-for-oil program), and denied weapon inspectors to search critical areas of his country throughout the 90's. So, as a nation, we *did* have reason to pacify this radical Middle East dictator. From our countries point of view; he was an unstable dictator in a region of the world already in chaos.

Looking back, we were wrong about Iraq having chemical weapons, but we can't go back in time and change things. We must make the best of a bad situation.

We no doubt have people dieing in Iraq, but eventually we will leave that country, it is a given, but while we are there it is necessary to give that fledgling government enough time to maintain itself or conditions will digress.

Exert your own opinion derived from your own thought process. Don't give in to popularity just because it is. I'm not asking you to change your opinion, but please consider all of the facts and be a free thinker.

Democrats and Republicans are equally responsible for the conflict in Iraq, as one entity, The United States of America.

Thinking about the future...



ATTENTION: Monmouth University Graduating Seniors!

The State of New Jersey Department of the Treasury Division of Taxation is recruiting for the following positions to begin employment in July:

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- TEST CENTERS**
- Toms River Intermediate School East, 1519 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, NJ
 - Hammonton Middle School, 75 North Liberty Street, Hammonton, NJ
 - N.J. Training/Conference Center, 200 Woolverton Avenue, Building 20, Trenton, NJ
 - Bloomfield Middle School, 60 Huck Road, Bloomfield, NJ 07003
 - Paramus Catholic High School, 425 Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ

Requirements: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree. Must have completed classes required for your Bachelor's degree by May 30th; with degree awarded no later than June 30th. Degrees obtained outside of the US must be evaluated. A listing of evaluation services is provided at www.state.nj.us/personnel. Must be a NJ resident as of announcement closing date. A valid NJ driver's license and reliable transportation may be necessary for certain field positions. Must have authorization to work in the United States. In accordance with NJ Merit System rules, these positions are subject to examination procedures. Positions are subject to passing a background investigation.

The examination will be administered by the NJ Dept. of Personnel & will be a two-part examination. Candidates who pass a walk-in written examination will be scheduled for an oral examination at a later date at the Division of Taxation headquarters in Trenton or Newark. Visit the Dept. of Personnel's website at www.state.nj.us/personnel February 25, 2007 for more information. You may also obtain Veteran's preference information at this site, or by calling the Dept. of Military & Veteran's Affairs at 1-800-624-0508. Note: Veteran's preference must be established before the test date.

For ADA special assistance, call the Dept. of Personnel Information Center at (609) 292-4158 by February 26, 2007. You will be required to provide specific documentation from your physician or Child Study Team. Without this documentation, we will not be able to provide reasonable accommodations.

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Just Another Chick Flick

CLIFFORD BUGLE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Chick flicks typically are movies which girls like and guys can't stand. *Because I Said So* is a chick flick. Not only is most of the humor directed towards a female audience, the entire plot is. There's nothing wrong with this; it simply is what it is. It's a movie that a guy will agree to take a girl to in order to make her happy and earn points for being nice. Guys,



PHOTO COURTESY of rottentomatoes.com
Mandy Moore steals the show as her acting skills continue to improve with time.

pay attention: if you take a date to this movie, those will be very hard-fought points. As a guy, I found it incredibly excruciating to watch this film. But, as with all movies like this, my date ended up happy and I looked like a nice guy for taking her. That, in the end, is what it's all about.

The plot for this movie is so thin that I shall describe it in little more than a single sentence. Daphne (Diane Keaton) is the mother of Milly (Mandy Moore) whom has had many guy issues. Being the concerned mother that she is, she takes it upon herself to remedy them by fixing her daughter up with a man she interviews through a personal ad, only to have her end up falling for another guy. That is it. There are absolutely no surprising plot twists, and no doubts whatsoever about who the girl will end up with in the end.

Movies this predictable are not a joy to watch for most people, but instead are a waiting game. Step one, mom sets up her unknowing daughter with a guy: check. Daughter gets caught in a love triangle with the guy she stereotypically should go for and the rebellious artsy guy she truly loves but doesn't know it yet: check. Fights between the mother and daughter about how the

mom is controlling the daughter's life: check. Lastly, everyone ends up happy in the end: check.

There is a tiresome formula to all movies like this that needs to be changed at least slightly in order to provide loyal audiences with at least the illusion of unpredictability.

I've seen Diane Keaton perform far better in films such as *The Godfather*, *Father of the Bride*, and *Annie Hall*, and because of this it is Mandy Moore who steals the show. Though she was better in *Saved* by far, she still demonstrates an acting ability that will only get better with time. The chemistry between the two on screen is good to say the least, which is a credit to Eyde Belasco for casting them together. "Maybe you ought to button those top buttons, you look like you're asking for it." "I am asking for it!" These lines alone epitomize the relationship between the mother and daughter. Tom Everett Scott (*That Thing You Do*, *An American Werewolf in Paris*, *Dead Man on Campus*) puts forth an adequate performance but is only worth mentioning because he's a familiar face.

Directorially, Michael Lehmann does absolutely nothing special, and has really fallen in his work since *Airheads* back in 1994. "PG-13" is a pretty liberal rating for the film, considering that it's filled with a lot of sexual dialogue and innuendos



PHOTO COURTESY of rottentomatoes.com

The chemistry between Diane Keaton, Mandy Moore, Lauren Graham, and Piper Perabo is undeniable in *Because I Said So*.

that could have easily pushed it to an "R" rating. It only runs about 104 minutes long. With the story as light as it is, though, it could have easily been cut down to 90 or even 80 minutes. A lot of scenes seem to only act as fillers in order to lengthen the film so that the producers get their money's worth out of hiring Diane Keaton.

Girls, I have no doubt that if you are a lover of other chick flicks such as *The First Wives Club* and *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, that

you will enjoy this movie (not to say that this film is as good as those). Guys, if you can somehow avoid this movie, then not only will you not endure a migraine brought on by stupidity, cuteness, and cheesiness, but I'm confident that you'll live longer as well. However if you cannot escape its grasp, then at least you'll be able to say you saw Mandy Moore, Piper Perabo, and Lauren Graham in their underwear while you earned brownie points with a girl.

Life After Idol

PAIGE SODANO
STAFF WRITER

Yes, he is the guy with the gray hair and whacky dance moves. Continuing my biweekly *American Idol* album review, I have chosen Taylor Hicks for this week's article. After winning last year's *Idol*, Taylor Hicks released his self-titled album on December 12, 2006. Hicks gives a little bit of everything on his album, including blues, rock, pop, and soul.



PHOTO COURTESY of google.com
Taylor Hicks, last year's *Idol*, released his self-titled album with much success.

The album kicks off with "The Runaround." Its catchy beat would make absolutely anyone want to get out of their seat and dance. The vocals are spirited and the keyboard keeps your attention throughout the song.

On the track "Heaven Knows," Hicks uses both horns and hand-claps in the background, along with instrumental snippets of Marvin Gaye's "Ain't That Peculiar" and Ray Charles' "What'd I Say."

Included on the album is Hicks' cover of "Whereever I Lay My Hat (That's My Home)," which was originally recorded by Marvin Gaye in 1964.

Hicks' soulful voice is elicited in "Give Me Tonight," which is a funky number that brings to mind the 80s. This is probably my favorite song on the album, because of the catchy beat and the female background singers, which definitely adds appeal to the song.

"Places I've Been" is a beautiful ballad on which Hicks really shows how his skill and how he can hold out notes. "The Right Place" is a little bit more calm and relaxed than the other songs on the album.

With a little bit of everything, there are definitely some great songs that will get you on your feet.

Hot DVD of the Week

KRISTEN RENDA
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon, Mark Wahlberg, Jack Nicholson, and Jersey's own Vera Farmiga star in Martin Scorsese's Academy Award nominated film *The Departed*. With an all-star cast like that, you can't go wrong.

The film is about an undercover cop in Boston trying to catch a huge mobster. Sounds pretty easy, right? Not when there is an undercover mobster portraying a cop to protect the one the cops are after.

Filled with tons of twists and turns, *The Departed* has a different take on the typical "cops and robbers" film. And of course, being a typical Scorsese film, it is filled with lots of violence, blood and gore, and the acting is great. DiCaprio, Nicholson, and Wahlberg were all nominated for Golden Globes, and Wahlberg is even nominated for an Oscar.

Like many Scorsese films, it is rather long, running at roughly

two and a half hours. Don't let that deter you though, because it goes by very quickly.

The Departed is suspenseful. Not only that, the film manages to keep you on the edge of your seat from beginning to end. Besides, who would not want to stare at either Leonardo DiCaprio or Matt Damon for that long?

The Departed, first released in theaters on October 6, 2006, has now been made available on DVD. The DVD is filled with a number of cool extras. Some of these features include nine deleted scenes, a couple specials on Scorsese, and a look at the inspiration behind Nicholson's character.



PHOTO COURTESY of www.movieweb.com

Matt Damon and Leonardo DiCaprio discuss their next scene. *The Departed* Warner Brothers Pictures
Rating: R Running time: 151 minutes

Where Has All The Music Gone?

WESLEY CHIN
NEWS EDITOR

Mid 1960's: the Beatles play their last show at Candlestick Park, San Francisco. Their decision to end touring came from a desire to grow as musicians and improve the overall quality and sound of their work. Paul McCartney stated that there would be no way that they could become better artists, who release better music, while touring on the road. So, they become dedicated studio artists, and the rest is history: Sgt. Peppers, White Album, and Abbey Road.

Early 2007: a reversal of roles, it would seem, where the overnight celebrity mentality becomes common place. Bands are run through the mechanical music factory in a manufacturing for tomorrow's obscurity (hopefully). Bands such as Panic! At The Disco, who's humble start as Apple GarageBand idiot-savants are transformed into international pop-impresarios. Their tracks, soaked in studio overdubs and computerized instrumentation, drip everywhere, leaving messes all over the music mainstream.

structive nature of never-ending touring, Panic seem to embrace the limelight, and not in the most modest of ways either. In comes the point: some musicians today are less driven to become timeless for their work, and more attracted to timely recognition for their digitized toils.

Bands like Panic, My Chemical Romance, and Fall Out Boy (notice a pattern?) have pigeon-hole themselves into binds they cannot escape from: internet fan bases, comprised younger majority audience, these bands are part of the digital forefront in music, where their fans primarily will get their fix from MySpace, iTunes, or other digital music services. Rather than write albums, they're writing singles, purchasable at a dollar a pop. What's worse is that bands associating themselves with their influences, such as the Black Parade vs. Sgt. Peppers' Lonely Hearts Club Band, are doing poor emulations which soil the very history and value that surrounded these concepts in the first place.

Over-ambitious producers and artists are recording the kitchen-sink method, resulting in misrepresentation what these bands can actually pull off live. The proof is in a Fall Out Boy or Panic performance, who share the rank at public enemy number 1 in this. Apple laptops are now a common feature to a band's live performance, filling in the blanks where the inevitable voids are present. New-school bands will call that "programming", while the rest of us call it cheating. However, fans of this class of music cast a blind eye and deaf ear to this. Perhaps on some levels, they are subcon-



PHOTO COURTESY of Artistdirect.com
The Beatles

sciously unaware of it, thanks to sound technicians mixing down the guitars to play slightly louder than the vocals, or the parading of a pseudo-cabaret that acts as a distraction to the (dare I say it) musical performance.

Fortunately for the bands of this particular school of music, their fans don't care, so long as they continue to marionette themselves up and down the stage. For the rest who indeed listen to music for audible quality, and not for visual theatrics or choreography, we're stuck having to continually flip past pages in Rolling Stone or SPIN, because these bands, and other aspiring bands, will not wise up.

It's clear that these bands are trying to set themselves apart from the pack, but in doing so detract from even coming close to creating a solid foundation of reputable musical talent. But maybe that's not what they want. Some acts are perfectly fine with achieving sub-notoriety for their music, just so long as they continue to hold on to the spotlight for a bit longer. If no Beatles, Nirvana, or U2 are not over the next musical horizon, why must the down time to discover the next be so annoyingly-poppy?



PHOTO COURTESY of NME.com

Las Vegas' Panic! At the Disco

The comparison, though completely incomparable on levels of artistry and songwriting, is not completely far off base. While The Beatles realized the self-de-

Grammy Happenings

JACQUELINE KOLOSKI
CO EDITOR IN CHIEF

The biggest night for the music industry, The Grammy Awards, were held on Sunday February 11 in Los Angeles. Many surprises unfolded during the 3 ½ hour broadcast. The legendary group, The Police, opened the night's festivities and treated the audience with some renditions of their classics like "Roxanne".

The Dixie Chicks who performed their song "Not Ready to Make Nice", received much praise from the Academy that night. The Dixie Chicks walked out of the Staples Center that night with five Grammy Awards. The Dixie Chicks picked up awards for Record of the Year, Song of the Year, Best Country Performance by a Duo or Group, Best Country Album, and the coveted award of the evening Album of the Year. Not too shabby of a comeback after causing such an uproar with their previous political statements.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers, who closed the evening's show with their new song "Snow (Hey Oh)", racked up four awards Sunday night. They included Best Rock Performance by a duo or group and Best Rock Song for "Dani California" and Best Rock Album for *Stadium Arcadium*.

Mary J. Blige, who had a big night in that she won her first Grammy's, being recognized for Best Female R&B Vocal Performance, Best R&B song for "Be Without You", and Best R&B album for *The Breakthrough*.

John Mayer and American Idol alum Carrie Underwood both earned two Grammy's that evening as well. Underwood walked

away with the Best New Artist award.

Justin Timberlake, whose latest effort *FutureSex/Love Sounds* earned him two Grammy's for Best Dance Recording for Sexyback and probably an award most didn't think Timberlake would win was Best Rap/Sung Collaboration for "My Love" featuring T.I. Timberlake performed his latest song "What Goes Around Comes Around..." Though he always delivers a quality performance the oddest part was when in the bridge of his song he took a video camera and began filming himself. The only thing I could gather from that is what was the point?

Ludacris, who is now being known for his acting ability, showed he is also a big name in the music industry by earning a Grammy for Best Rap Song for "Money Maker" as well as Best Rap Album for *Release Therapy*.

Sunday night marked a first in the Grammy Awards. They created the first ever My Grammy Moment. The winner performed two songs with Justin Timberlake, one being his hit "My Love". I thought this was a cute idea but something that should be kept for a different show.

There weren't any parts of the show that particularly caught my interest but I thought those performers who did renditions honoring those nominated for the Lifetime Achievement Award were cool to watch. It was interesting to see artists of today putting their own spin on classic songs. As far as award shows go, this one was just average. There were no bells and whistles, but maybe there will be for next year. After all, it will be the 50th.

HANNIBAL RISING FALLS FLAT

MATTHEW SMITH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Hannibal Rising is the back-story of how the notorious Hannibal Lecter becomes the insane killer in *Silence of the Lambs*. This movie was a poor attempt by filmmakers to cash in on what is left in the *Silence of the Lambs* franchise, which should have died outright after the first movie was released.

The movie begins with 8-year-old Hannibal Lecter and his younger sister, Mischa, who are living in Lithuania. They are

terrorized by looters during World War II after their parents are brutally murdered by soldiers. As a teenager, Hannibal lives in an orphanage where he has vivid nightmares of the predators killing his baby sister.

He leaves the orphanage for Paris in search for his uncle, but finds his uncle's Japanese widow who Hannibal ends up living with for some time.

The widow, who feels sorry for Hannibal, teaches him the ways of the samurai, which he uses later on in the movie to kill his victims. He then decides to take revenge on the murderers who killed his sister by going after each one of them and their families.

Hannibal Rising starts out good, but ends up being extremely boring by the middle of the movie. This movie tries to be scary, but fails at every attempt. The film is very predictable at times, which makes it not scary and less interesting.

The movie contains just a couple of gory scenes, but it definitely



PHOTO COURTESY of rottentomatoes.com

The much anticipated *Hannibal Rising* fails to impress audiences.
Hannibal Rising MGM Studios
Rating: R Running time: 117

does not compare to many other popular horror movies that have been released in this past year or in the years before.

Hannibal Rising's ending seems to me to be a lot more like a *James Bond* film, laced with big explosions and, of course, the good guy saving the girl from extreme danger (very un-Hannibal Lecter) than like the other films about Hannibal Lecter.

The movie also ends very abruptly making viewers wonder what else happens with Hannibal, not that they really cared anyway. This movie should not even be considered part of the Hannibal series.

Tragedy Strikes

KRISTEN RENDA
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

A few months ago, I reported that Anna Nicole Smith had both a blessing and a horror occur in her life at the same time. She gave birth to a baby girl, and her 20-year-old son passed away. Now I am sad to report that last Thursday, February 8, Anna Nicole herself has passed away at the age of 39.



PHOTO COURTESY of google.com

In the midst of a battle over her newborn daughter, Anna Nicole Smith died suddenly.

How Anna Nicole Smith died is still being investigated, but many people believe the cause of death was a drug overdose.

Interestingly enough, no illegal drugs were found in her stomach or in her room. Some people think that Howard K. Stern may have killed her, but that seems unlikely.

It all started at 2 p.m. EST when Anna Nicole passed out in the Hard Rock Seminole Hotel and Casino, and had to be rushed to the hospital. Witnesses said that paramedics had to put tubes down her throat, and they were pumping her chest immediately. Anna Nicole, however, was unresponsive. She was pronounced dead at the hospital.

An employee of the Hard Rock Hotel disclosed to *Us Weekly*, "Anna looked extremely bloated when she vomited out something white before having a seizure. The reaction was so violent that people in the hotel thought she had some tragic food poisoning. But we were told it was a drug overdose by the people who saw it." Apparently she was taking medication due to recent plastic surgery. That medication, possibly mixed with other drugs, is another potential cause for Smith's death.

Smith was best known for her Trimsa advertisements later on in her career, but had previously been a Guess Girl, as well as a Playboy Bunny. Her idol was Marilyn Monroe, and just like Marilyn, it appears as though Anna Nicole will be immortalized in her death.



PHOTO COURTESY of rottentomatoes.com

Hannibal Rising attempts to follow the successes of the *Silence of the Lambs*.

Construction to Start in Coming Months

MAC continued from pg. 1

the University.

- Five days after any event, the WLBDP and MUPD will meet to discuss the overall success of the plan and determine possible improvements for future events.
- The WLBDP and MUPD are required to file an annual report of their progress and submit it to the WLB Borough Council and the University President.

The Issues

Traffic

When it comes to appeasing city residents, many feel this new plan should have been developed before to alleviate traffic. For example, the Gridiron Classic, a December event which boasted an estimated 5,000 people, caused congestion on the streets surrounding Cedar Ave., forcing WLB police to intervene.

“If the [new] plan would have been in effect [for the Gridiron Classic], [traffic] would have been different,” said Klein.

Once construction of the MAC is completed, Mihlon anticipates the time for all vehicles to exit the University and township to be reduced from two or three hours to about one hour. As a safety precaution, however, the officers working within the confines of the proposed plan would stay at their traffic posts for a two-hour service block, patrolling the streets and clearing away excess signs and possible stragglers.

Non-MU Events

While not in use by the University, the MAC will be available to other schools and organizations for community and educational pur-

poses (i.e. high school basketball tournaments, graduations, etc.). Should a non-Monmouth event be hosted by the MAC, it must first be approved by the Borough Council. The University is to receive no monetary compensation from this action, but to serve “strictly as a community service,” said Wendell Smith, Monmouth’s attorney.

Zahava Sher, a resident of West Long Branch, expressed confusion as to how the University will adhere to the stipulations agreed upon when the MAC is being used by a third party.

In response, Klein commented, “[The plan] applies to all aspects. [The University] has to comply with conditions or be in violation of the condition of the variance.” To this effect, should the University not follow any or all parts of the aforementioned plan, they will be held accountable by the Borough Police Department or Zoning Officer.

Residential Zone

A contention finally addressed in detail at the meeting was the University’s permitted zoning. Thus far, the public has been concerned with building the MAC on property deemed R-22, or single family home zoning. Smith addressed both the board and the audience stating the majority of the MAC will be built in the proper institutional zone and that the residential zone will, in fact, be used to construct a parking lot. Moreover, the zone marked R-22 is located in the middle of campus.

Public Concern

Midway through the meeting, tensions were high and patience was running out among Monmouth supporters.

“[This meeting] is an embarrassment to West Long Branch with inane questions coming from the zoning board,” said Mary Lynch, a lifelong resident. “Any qualms I had about [the MAC] were resolved with the captain’s presentation. I wish the zoning board would spend one-tenth of the time they spent on these questions on other issues.”

Sher, who supports the University but not the plan to build the MAC, said she was concerned about the future of her neighborhood.

“Today we have 19 [Division 1] sports... [Boylan] doesn’t work for 18 of those sports. It also doesn’t work for the general student.”

MARILYN MCNEIL
Athletic Director

“It’s not that the residents don’t like the University,” said Sher. “It is an institution of higher learning, a quality institution. We are proud of the teams when they win [but it] has to expand elsewhere. It is constantly [encroaching] on the neighborhood. I need to protect my home.”

Other residents believe the restrictions being placed on the University are unfair.

“[Monmouth] has been more than generous answering all the questions the residents have asked,” said Russell Olsen, 11 year resident and Class of ’90

alum. “People don’t ask us to shut down our street when [community events like] parades come around. We do it because it’s for the betterment of the community.”

Closing Remarks

At the close of the evening, Monmouth President Paul Gaffney II, who had remained quiet throughout the night, rose to address a weary board and thinned audience.

“I asked to speak tonight because I alone asked that we come back to ask for your reconsideration,” he said. “It behooves us to take a step to have trust between the two...[We’ve] done our best to address your concerns...allow me to bring in better and better students. I implore you to vote favorably. You’ll be proud of it.”

The Vote

Five of the seven board members voted favorably, citing that the University met the requirement for the variance. Ellen Anfuso and Douglas Bostwick dissented.

Anfuso claimed she could find no justification for a building with the girth of the proposed 152,400 square foot MAC. Bostwick did not like the freedoms given to the University as it pertained to non-Monmouth events.

“[I’m] still stuck with the problem of the burden on the police department [and] the strain on the council and community,” he said. “[I also] have a hard time with the amount of events that could take place.”

The Future

Despite residual reservations, the motion was passed and the MAC is tentatively set for construction in July or August. The project should take approximately

two years.

Monmouth Athletic Director Marilyn McNeil was pleased with the board’s decision. Boylan Gymnasium’s facilities are antiquated, which prevents student athletes from performing at an optimal level.

“Today we have 19 [Division 1] sports, 10 of which are for women...” said McNeil, who is also in charge of intramurals and recreation. “[Boylan] doesn’t work for 18 of those sports. It also doesn’t work for the general student.”

In addition to recruiting better athletes, providing an up-to-date atmosphere to work out and practice, and attracting better competition, it also stands to become a destination for the general student body as well, said McNeil.

“A place where students can meet, perhaps have a class, participate in better spaces for physical education classes, and have pride in coming to games,” she added.

Once finished, the MAC will house the bookstore and several additional classrooms as well.

Boylan will remain in its current location and will be used for intramurals and recreational activities, as well as an off-season training facility for the athletic teams.

According to Swannack, the process still has a ways to go. Remodeling the parking lot to accommodate the new structure is first on the docket. This will be followed by the approval by the Board of Trustees, applying for permits, approval of the budget, and finally, bidding to construction companies. Architectural services are currently said to be in the care of Ewing Cole Cherry Brott of Philadelphia, Pa.

Thursday Night Alternative Presents:



Open Mic Night

February 15, 2007



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Comedy

The Underground

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Music
Dance

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Following ASL class

Craft Night
Monday, Feb. 12 @
7:30 p.m.

Why Believe Series
Tuesdays @ 7:30 p.m. start
in Catholic Centre

American Sign Language
Thursdays, @ 7:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday
Services
Wed., 2/21 @ 12:05 p.m.
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HOROSCOPES

By Linda C. Black,
 Tribune Media Services

Today's Birthday (Feb. 15)

Your assignment this year is to finish the projects and gather up money that's owed you. This may not sound like much fun at first, but it can be quite rewarding.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

♈ Aries • (Mar. 21 - April 19) - Today is a 7
Talk to your team about what they've done well, and what they could have done better. They look to you for encouragement and approval, as well as direction.

♉ Taurus • (April 20 - May 20) - Today is an 8
A group you've known and loved for years does you a world of good. Discuss your joy, your hopes and your fears. Allow friends to help you heal.

♊ Gemini • (May 21 - June 21) - Today is an 8
Take the opportunity to upgrade your public presence. A new power suit could very effectively communicate your new status

♋ Cancer • (June 22 - July 22) - Today is a 7
Reach out and take advantage of new opportunities. Don't do it in person, however. Have somebody else do it for you.

♌ Leo • (July 23- Aug. 22) - Today is an 8
Some days are all talk and no action. This day, it's the other way around. You'll catch up with all the chores you'd been putting off, and then some.

♍ Virgo • (Aug 23 - Sept. 22) - Today is a 7
You'd rather be in a secluded spot, expressing your affection. If normal chores interfere with that, jot down a few notes for later.

♎ Libra • (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23) - Today is a 6
Don't hurry into anything, or out of anything, either. Your opinion will change at least once before you make the right decision.

♏ Scorpio • (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) - Today is a 5
A cozy, comfortable feeling alternates with bouts of anxiety. One minute everything's fine, and the next minute you wonder. Better lie low for a couple of days.

♐ Sagittarius • (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Today is a 7
Life is about education, as you may have noticed. Some things, you learn the hard way. Doesn't matter, a lesson is a lesson, and you're getting wiser all the time.

♑ Capricorn • (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) - Today is an 8
Temporary frustration gives way to something more like sheer delight. Don't give up when you run into a wall, there's a secret door.

♒ Aquarius • (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Today is a 7
You have many valuable items hidden around your premises. Show the folks who see them as clutter that they're really cold, hard cash. Sell something.

♓ Pisces • (Feb. 19 - Mar. 20) Today is a 7
New friends clue you in on the easiest ways to accomplish your objectives. You've been doing some things the hard way, as you may have suspected.

MU Students:

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E	T	P	A	S	S	G	S	R	A	G	S	R	E	N	E	R	N
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Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

ACROSS

- 1

Gracie or Woody
- 6

Pith
- 10

Liner, e.g.
- 14

Nine Inch __
- 15

Asian sea
- 16

"Damn Yankees" role
- 17

Quit the spa?
- 20

Baghdad's land
- 21

Derek and Jackson
- 22

Beepers
- 23

Title role for Peter Fonda
- 25

Mint family member
- 26

Do over again
- 29

One half of a dance?
- 30

Amateur sports org.
- 34

Happening
- 35

Solo
- 37

Start-up buttons
- 38

Quit standup comedy?
- 41

Sale-tag abbr.
- 42

Embody
- 43

"__ Hall"
- 44

Subway station
- 46

"__ Kapital"
- 47

Virginia and Georgia
- 48

Small vipers
- 50

Guitarist Atkins
- 51

Greek city-state
- 54

B'way theater sign
- 55

Old sound system
- 59

Quit the chess club?
- 62

About
- 63

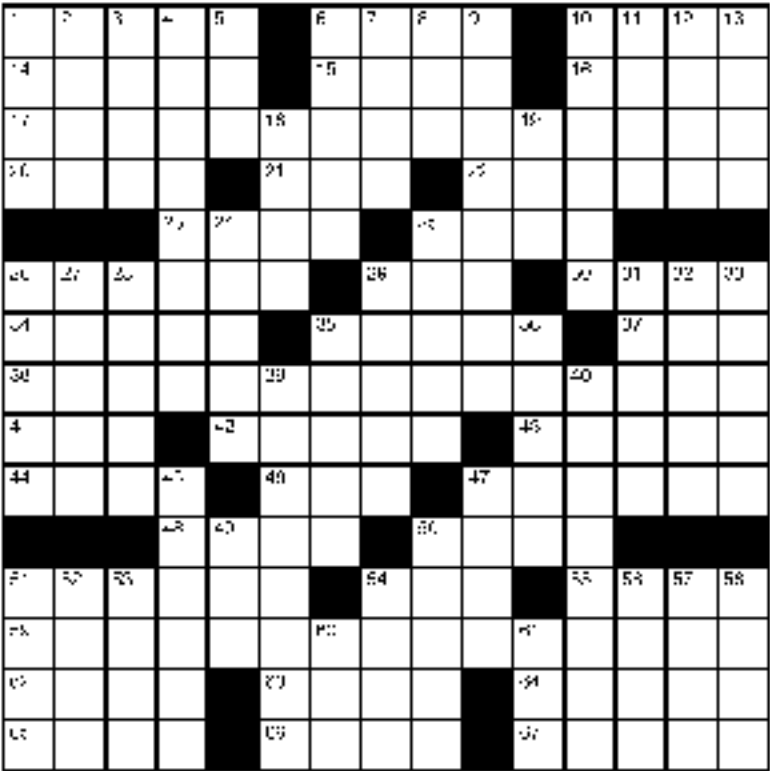
Le Gallienne and Gabor
- 64

Stink
- 65

Not e'en once
- 66

Cloth scraps
- 67

Sticking stuff



- 8

Yay, team!
- 9

Dumbo, for one
- 10

Catch phrase
- 11

Inventor Elias
- 12

Robert of "The Sopranos"
- 13

Best friends
- 18

Skeptic's retort
- 19

Mai __ cocktail
- 24

Shaping machine
- 25

Picked out
- 26

Host Philbin
- 27

Chris of tennis
- 28

Oil: pref.
- 29

Santa __
- 31

Total number
- 32

Actress Dickinson
- 33

Frank McCourt's "Angela's __"
- 35

Robert and Alan
- 36

Put on cloud nine
- 39

First or last page of a book
- 40

Bete noire
- 45

Clyde's Bonnie
- 47

Haberdashery or boutique
- 49

R-V hookup
- 50

Pungent salad ingredient
- 51

Pirouette
- 52

Evergreen
- 53

Pasture piece
- 54

Uneven hairdo
- 56

Clinches
- 57

Fingered
- 58

Wight or Skye
- 60

New Deal agcy.
- 61

AOL, for one

Two Dudes

A College Girl Named Joe

HAD NOCKS

PAUL

BY BILLY O'KEEFE [WWW.MRBILLY.COM](http://www.mrbilly.com)

CLUB and GREEK

Phi Sigma Kappa

Brotherss! Its been a busy week, but let’s start with Squeaks...Congrats on being the Launchpad of a new generation. Launchpad cries about Jihad ruining his shirt that cost a whopping 30 dollars, that he got for 15 in the half off bin. Donkey wants to get ready for Greek Week Swim Competition, but can’t find a swimsuit to fit in. Sorry Jeff but a sloth cant keep up with Miles Austin. So I found out what happened to Phillips, Barf ate Tweak and Fival to give his stomach a fill-up. Who can beat up Pugsley more? A Drunk Olmec or Brittney. Skeeter don’t worry that your nose is fat, its much easier to get rid of that stupid hat.. man everybody already knows that Forget about Waldo, what happened to Queefhead? I hope he’s not dead. Whats the only thing that can keep Krusty from drinking? When “Outbreak” is on HBO. Hansel, if you thought cheese was bad, narcolepsy is the biggest block, Flamer, you got a enormous bed to move on, but why do girls just love your futon? Hey Hoovs, bye Gump. Hurley, I thought those extras on Law & Order were ballin out, how you gonna keep your bank account from fallin out? Gaston, you didn’t get the votes to be in this week’s article. Sorry. This is Yoda signing off...Damn Proud!

Delta Phi Epsilon

I <3 Alpha O’s! Congrats girls! xoxo Dazzle + Cali. Congrats babies! I <3 you! TriniDy. AO! So hot – Riley P.S. – Happy 2 yr Sweethearts <3 D Phi E needs to meet in the jungle! Love, Starlet. Congrats Alpha Omicron, you girls are a perfect fit! DESTINi, you will find out who I am. Happy 2 yr Sweethearts! Congrats Alpha Omicrons! You girls are so awesome! Alpha Xi’s, I can’t believe it’s been a year! Love you all – dolce. *essence jj lobe’s you. He told me he left you presents <3 p.s. – congrats Alpha Omicron. DaZZle, this weekend LIT’s? 17 more days til Cancun! Ahh! Johnsen! – HOLLYWOOD. Alpha Omicron too cute! xoxo – Roxie. I love my Diamonds...we’re old but were still hott! Congrats AyOoOh! Love my family tree...still smoking hott! <3 Riggs! Luckie, thank you 4 everything, secret I heart you. Congrats Alpha O’s. Twinny, we’re back! xoxo Sunset. You all suck <3 ExtrREME. Congrats AO’s! So oroud of you girls! xoxo calypso. Dazzle, thank god Recruitment is over. I love spending late nights with you xox <3 sParkles. She don’t even know she ENfuego?! Wifey, where would I be w/o you! – Caliente.

Phi Sigma Sigma

Phi Sigma Sigma would like to congratulate all the Greek chapters on their new members and wish the best of luck this semester! Things got a little wet and wild for us this weekend and we loved every minute of it.... Happy Birthday to all of the Phi Sigs in February and Congratulations Alpha Iotas!!

Alpha Xi Delta

Hey everyone! First and foremost, the women of Alpha Xi Delta would like to say congratulations to our five new members and welcome them into our family. On that note, we will be holding a continuous open bidding event on Thursday, February 15 at 10:15 pm in Oakwood lounge for all women who are interested in joining our sorority or who would like to have some hot chocolate and learn a bit more about our organization. We hope to see you there! We will be holding more interest meetings as well; for all girls interested, join our facebook group, “Interested in Joining Alpha Xi Delta,” and check The Outlook weekly for the latest updates and information. We hope everyone has a great week. Much Xi love to all!



Alpha Xi Delta

PHOTO COURTESY of Lisa Pikaard



PHOTO COURTESY of Facebook.com

(Left) Brandon Bosque (Right) Andrew Sierra of PSK

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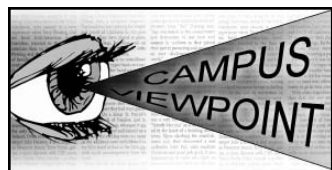
3:00PM	Issues & Insights
3:30PM	M – You
4:00PM	M Squared
5:00PM	M Squared Live
6:00PM	Hawk TV News
6:30PM	Extra Point

MOVIES AT 12 ON 12

The Notebook	Men in Black
Hotel Rwanda	Gridiron Gang
Must Love Dogs	Saw III
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Employee of the Month	

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What are your Valentine's Day plans? ... or what would your dream Valentine's Day be like?



BY: SUZANNE GUARINO



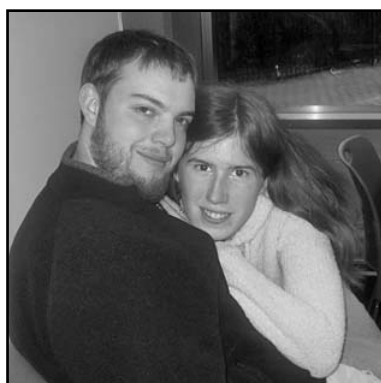
Kelly
freshman

"My dream would be a date with James Franco from *Fly Boys*."



Joe
sophomore

"I'm going to the John Legend show at Abyss."



Bryan & Suzanne
seniors

"We're celebrating over the weekend with a dinner and a movie."



Katie
senior

"I'm going out to dinner with my favorite man in the world- my best guy friend Tony Cammarata."



Cassie
freshman

"I wish my secret admirer would come visit me."



Paul
senior

"I am taking my girlfriend out to dinner at a nice restaurant where I will give her the necklace I bought her."



Kelly
junior

"A lovely brunch with my boyfriend, a relaxing afternoon, and spending the night with my loves in the school play."



Angela
freshman

"My dream Valentine's Day would be someone surprising me by leaving clues around throughout the day that lead up to a candlelit dinner."



Brett
junior

"My dream Valentine's Day would involve going out to dinner and then bringing the dimepiece home to a trail of rose petals, lead her to a big room full of fluffy pillows, and play patty cake all night before acting as the big spoon and going to sleep."



Jermaine
junior

"A quiet evening alone watching ESPN. I hate Valentine's Day."

Office of Student Activities and Student Center Operations

732-571-3586 • 2nd Floor, Rebecca Stafford Student Center • activities@monmouth.edu

This Weeks Campus Events

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2007
Chocolate Factory
RSSC Lobby, 12:00 - 4:00 PM

Tough Break: Navigating Spring Break
Young Auditorium, 2:30 PM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2007
Bone Marrow Drive (tentative)
Anacon Hall, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Men's Basketball vs. CCSU
Boylan Gym, 7:00 PM

Valentine's Day Party
Catholic Centre, 8:30 PM

Thursday Night Alternative
The Underground, 10:00 PM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2007
Leadership Conference
Anacon Hall, 3:30 PM

Texas Hold'em Tournament
RSSC Cafeteria, 5:00 PM

Movie - Casino Royale
Young Auditorium, 8:00 PM
(repeats Saturday @ 3:00 PM)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2007
Performing Arts: Harlem Gospel Choir
Pollak Theatre, 8:00 PM

Movie - Stranger than Fiction
Young Auditorium, 9:00 PM
(Repeats Sunday @ 3:00 PM)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2007
Avenue Q Broadway Trip
(\$40 MU Students, \$45 All Others)
Departs Student Center @ 10:00 AM

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2007
Women's Basketball vs. CCSU
Boylan Gym, 7:00 PM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2007
L'ora del caffè Carnevale
Magill Club, 6:00 PM

Yewande
The Underground, 7:30 PM

LIST YOUR EVENTS HERE. E-MAIL US AT
ACTIVITIES@MONMOUTH.EDU

Events must be open to all students. We do not publish
club meeting times.

ATTENTION STUDENT CLUBS:

LOOKING FOR STUDENT OFFICE SPACE IN THE STUDENT CENTER?

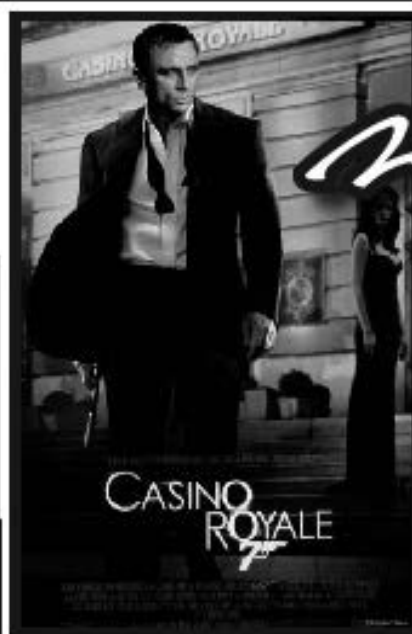
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Life Across the Pond

Sick in London, England

DANIELLE DECARLO
STAFF WRITER

Hello everyone at Monmouth University! I hope the weather is starting to warm up. My mom tells me it gets colder there every day. Unfortunately, I do not have very much to write about this week as I was sick in bed with the flu and I actually didn't even leave my room until Friday night when I went down to watch a movie in Reid Hall Lobby. I did a few little things this weekend which I can tell you about.

On Saturday night, we went out to the Planet Hollywood that is in Piccadilly Circus for my friend's birthday. It was a very cool place. The stairwell that led up to the actual restaurant was wallpapered with pictures of "paparazzi" and had flashing lights everywhere to make you feel like you were actually walking down a red carpet! The restaurant was very cool, much like any Planet Hollywood you would visit in the U.S. After that, we went to the Sports Café, which was just a short walk away. The Sports Café is pretty much an American Bar located in the heart of London. They play football and hockey games on TVs, have cheap drinks, pool tables, a dance floor, and anything else you would find in an American bar. It was a pretty good time, although most of us were either just getting over being sick or were starting to get sick so we were very exhausted and didn't stay out too late.

On Sunday, my cousin that I haven't seen in ten years came to visit me! She is studying abroad at the University of Manchester and her school sponsored a weekend trip to London, so she stayed overnight with me. We went shopping around Oxford Street, visited the pub on campus at Regent's, and then went to a very low-key pub right down the street from us to get some food and strawberry beer (as gross as it sounds, it's actually pretty good!). Unfortunately, we were both exhausted. She had already had a long weekend, and I am still recovering from being sick, so we didn't go too crazy. But I am going to plan a trip to Manchester now to go visit her.

Again, sorry there's nothing too exciting this week, but next week I promise there will be many things to tell you!

In case anyone wants to contact me with questions, you can e-mail me at ddc_marie@yahoo.com.



PHOTO COURTESY of
Lindsay Plesniarski
Popular tourist
attraction, the
Roman Baths, in
London.

Bath!

LINDSAY PLESNIARSKI
STAFF WRITER

Hello Monmouth! Hope all is well back in Jersey. This past Saturday, the school had a day trip to Bath, which ended up being quite beautiful! The bus ride took a good two and a half hours to get there, but it was definitely worth the wait! I FINALLY got to see some countryside: sheep, acres of green grass, horses, etc. I love the city and all, but I was waiting to see the beauty of the color green!

When we arrived at Bath, the first thing that I noticed was all the tiny shops! There are streets of mini stores, sadly - very expensive, but they were so cute! Of course, our main tourist visit was to see the Roman baths! It was really cool! The water is actually green, and not very clean either! However, this did not stop people from touching it with their hands, or sticking their feet in it! I touched the water, but didn't dare to put my foot in it like some other brave people!

During the 'tour', we were given these 'controllers' which look like outdated cell phones from years ago (they were huge)! By each description, there was a number, which you typed in on the controller. Then you would put it by your ear - just like a phone - and listen to the commentary. They were cool gadgets, but I barely paid attention to the commentary because I was distracted by artifacts. Also, there is this huge 'wishing bath' where people made a wish and threw in some pence, pounds, or - strangely enough - American dollars. I don't ever remember seeing dollar bills in a wishing well before, but there's a first time for everything, I guess!

Besides seeing the baths, there was this amazingly funny street performance! There were two men, completely naked except for a leopard thong, and they performed acrobatics and other stunts! Everybody was shocked and filled with laughter! We were like, 'so...this is what Bath is like!' It was amazing! They didn't have a license to be there or anything, nor was there a charge to see this performance. These two men do this as a profession and live off the tips that people give to them after the show! Bath wouldn't have been such a great trip if it wasn't for these performers; you would never see such a thing in America - you'd get arrested! What's even funnier is that they were performing this right outside a very expensive café and the people could see them through the windows! All little kids came outside to see the performance as well, some even with their parents!

So, all in all, Bath was amazing! I got some beautiful pictures of the city, and hilarious videos of the street performances! It definitely is a place to check out when you are in London. Take care, MU!

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Men's Basketball

Knights too Hot for Hawks to Handle *FDU Shoots 59 % in a Key Northeast Conference Victory at Boylan Gym*

CRAIG D'AMICO
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The Monmouth Hawks and the Fairleigh Dickinson Knights seem to always make for compelling television. The last six times these two teams have gotten together in front of a television audience, the game has been decided by an average of just three points.

So when the Hawks and the Knights matched up again on Monday night in front of a packed Boylan Gym crowd and an MSG Network audience, just seven days removed from Manny Ubilla's buzzer beater to cap an 18 point Knights comeback to steal a win over Monmouth, one would have thought that we would be set to witness another classic.

However, the final result was anything but classic, as the Knights ran away with the game and embarrassed the Monmouth Hawks on their home floor 84-71, in a game that wasn't even that close.

The two teams traded the lead back and forth in the first half, as the first ten minutes saw six ties and 12 lead changes. With Monmouth leading 24-22 following a Marques Alston three pointer, Eric Hazard hit a three from his favorite spot, the left corner, to give FDU the lead for good, 25-24.

From there, the Knights proceeded to close out the first half on a 23-8 run, taking a commanding 46-32 lead into the locker room. The Knights held Monmouth without a field goal for nearly a four minute span, as the Hawks gave up one of their highest point totals on the season in the first half.

Despite facing the large deficit, there was still a sliver of hope, as the last four times these two con-

ference and Garden State rivals have gotten together, the team leading at halftime has gone on to lose the game. Also, the last three times these two teams met on television, one of the teams had come back from a double digit deficit to win the game. With those stats in mind, the argument could've been made that the Hawks had the Knights right where they wanted them.

The Knights would show no mercy, coming out of the locker room on a 9-0 run to extend their lead to 23 points, 55-32. After missing their first seven shots, the reigning NEC Rookie of the Week, Jhamar Youngblood, put Monmouth on the board with a layup, ending a scoreless drought of 4:22 to start the second half.

Monmouth would make a run to get back in the game, going on a 10-0 run with 11 minutes to play to get within 13. A Dejan Delic layup with seven minutes to go pulled the Hawks within 11, but they would draw no closer, as FDU responded with a 5-0 run to put the game out of reach.

One final effort saw Monmouth pull back within 13 points with 3:45 to go after a John Bunch three-point play. However, after Whitney Coleman missed a three pointer that would have cut the deficit to 10, the Knights ran up the floor and drilled a three of their own for the final dagger.

Andre Harris, the league's leading scorer, blasted the Hawks for a game high 24 points. Peebles and Ubilla each hit for 19, and Tyler finished in double figures for the Knights as well with 15.

For the Hawks, Youngblood tied a career high with a 20-point performance, but received little help. Alston finished with 11,

all in the first half, Delic finished with 13, mostly in the second half, and Bunch finished with a strong 13 point, 7 rebound, 6 block performance, going 7-7 from the free throw line.

While it was a "White Out" for the fans at Boylan Gym, they saw the Knights shoot "Lights Out," shooting a blistering 59 percent from the field for the game, including 6-12 from three-point land, and 14-17 from the charity stripe.

The Hawks and the 10th ranked scoring offense in the NEC couldn't keep up with the third ranked offense in the NEC, as Monmouth allowed its highest point total since an 84-69 loss to Seton Hall back in early December.

The loss ended a seven game win streak at home for the Hawks, dropping their record to 11-14 and 6-7 in conference play. They are currently tied for seventh place with the Wagner Seahawks, a team they swept this season following a rare win on the road in Staten Island last Thursday.

Up next, the Hawks will welcome another arch nemesis, the Central Connecticut State Blue Devils to Boylan Gym on Thursday night before traveling to Maryland to play the Mount St. Mary's Mountaineers on Saturday night.

The Blue Devils boast a league best 13-1 conference record, having won their last 11 in a row, the fifth longest win streak in the nation.

The Blue Devils will also come to Boylan Gym looking to clinch the 2007 NEC Regular Season Championship with a win over the Hawks on Thursday night, a team that they have lost nine of their last 10 against, and a team that has ended their season the last three straight years.



PHOTO COURTESY of MU Athletics

Whitney Coleman's ball handling was not enough for the Hawks last Monday against Fairleigh Dickson.



The Hawk File:

Katie Degen

ERIC M. WALSH
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The women's lacrosse team at Monmouth University looks strong this year as they are returning seven players from last year's squad that went 13-7 overall and 7-0 in the NEC, including an NCAA Tournament berth. The 2007 team is filled with solid players, and one that stands out is senior midfielder Katie Degen.

"Katie is an instrumental leader of our team and the lacrosse program," said head coach Kelly McCardell. "She is an extremely hardworking athlete and dedicated player who constantly pushes herself and her teammates to be the best. Katie has made such an impact on the program, and I'm excited for her to continue to build upon her accomplishments as the team is preparing for a successful season."

Degen, a 5'6" standout recruit from Glen Head, New York says, "As a player I would say that I am a very competitive, hardworking person."

This has been evident on the field as she has been a force since his freshman season at MU. She has started in all of the Blue and White's games since her first contest freshman year. In her first

year, she started in all 17 games, tallying 17 assists, which was good enough to put her in second on the team in that category. She also registered 22 goals, giving her 39 total points. For her efforts, she was named second-team All-NEC as a midfielder.

Her sophomore season was even more impressive. With her 41 goals and 16 assists, she was named first-team All-NEC and the Northeast Conference Player of the Year. Last season, while leading Monmouth to an undefeated season in the NEC, and a NEC Tournament Championship, Degen tallied 54 total points on 33 goals and 21 assists. She was ranked 18th nationally in caused turnovers per game with 1.85. For the second consecutive year, she was named to the All-NEC first-team.

As for her fourth season in a Hawks uniform, Degen replies, "I am very confident that our team will win the conference this year. We have a lot of key returning players and a solid freshman class that will play a major role this year."

When asked about the future of Monmouth lacrosse, Degen said, "I think Monmouth is going to be the team to beat in the NEC for a long time. We have a great coach-

ing staff, and the younger girls on our team are great players who will do big things for Monmouth."

The elementary education major hopes to be teaching and coaching lacrosse soon after her graduation. With her success on the field, she will have no problem finding a coaching job. In her final season, Degen will be greatly missed as an athlete and a student.



PHOTO COURTESY of MONMOUTH SPORTS Information
Katie Degen will play a key part in the Hawks success this upcoming season.

Name: *Katie Degen*

Hometown: *Glen Head, New York*

Major: *Elementary Education*

Most Memorable Moment at MU: *"There are two moments that stick out the most to me. The first would be losing to Mount St. Mary's after 5 overtimes my sophomore year. The second would be winning the NEC's last year at home on Kessler."*

Biggest Rival: *"Without a doubt, it would be Mount St. Mary's. I unfortunately have lost to them my freshmen and sophomore year in the conference championship, but last year we took them out in the semis. This year I hope to even it out."*

Favorite Teammate: *"I do not have a single favorite teammate. Our team is very close, but there are a few that stick out to me. Last year our freshmen starting goalie Monica Johnson was our backbone. She was there when we needed her and is always motivating. Also, I could not forget the girls I have played with since I have been at Monmouth. Carolyn Raveia and Kaitlyn Robinson are such talented players and I love playing with them. Lastly, I would have to mention Ashley Waldman and Megan Nutter because we play in the midfield together we just connect."*

Deja Vu for Track and Field

Capture Third Consecutive NEC Title

MIKE TIEDEMANN
STAFF WRITER

The men's and women's track & field teams set goals going into the NEC Championships this past weekend. It was a clear goal: win the NEC Championship. If accomplished, this would have been the third straight for the men. The women barely missed out of the title the previous year.

men and veterans." The men used balanced results in their events on their way to 117 points over the weekend. "The men's team did not have a perfect meet, but we did come up with some great individual performances to win our third straight championship," said Compagni. Top individual results came from David Gaines in the 800m and Nick Williams in the shot-



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Sports Information
The Women's Track and Field team placed second in the NECs.

In what was a very similar outcome, the men's team placed in 15 events over the weekend on their way to the NEC Championship. The women, however, fell just two points short and finished second for the second straight year. Behind first place finishes in the 4x400m and the distance medley relay team, the women got the results it needed in order to compete. However, it proved not enough as LIU edged them out for the second straight year. "The women had a great second day of competition," said Coach Joe Compagni. "We had a lot of solid performances by both fresh-

put for the men's team. Latasha Dickson was able to capture the women's 500m title when she came in at 1:15.44. The weekend was filled with highs and lows throughout the events. For the men, the highs brought another championship. On the women's side, while they didn't come away with the title, they showed their resolve by competing until the last event on their way to a very respectable 127 points in the competition. Both teams will continue to train and look to improve for important upcoming events including the NCAA's, ECAC's, and IC4A's.

Coach Callahan Welcomes Class of '07

CRAIG D'AMICO
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

In front of a large group of Monmouth Hawks football supporters, head football coach Kevin Callahan stepped to the podium last Wednesday night at the Varsity Club to announce the incoming recruiting class. It was all part of the Hawks' National Signing Day celebration. Callahan announced the addition of 15 new student-athletes to their roster for the incoming 2007 football season. The recruits include 11 from the Garden State, three from Maryland, and the Blue and White's first ever recruit from the state of California. Callahan talked to the gathering about each individual recruit before taking questions from the crowd and showing a video of each recruit from their high school playing days. The video is currently available to watch on the Monmouth Hawks Web site, www.gomuhawks.com. "Our coaches did an outstanding job of establishing a large pool of talented prospects," said Callahan. "From that pool, we were able to land an excellent class, and meet our positional needs for this year. Academically and athletically, it is a very talented group that could impact Monmouth football in the near future."

Amongst the highlights from the recruits on the defensive side include defensive ends Garrett Culloo and Dave Ogden. Calloo played two years at Ocean High School and won back-to-back state titles at Wayne Hills. The Hawks also introduced five linebackers: Mike Fullam, Derek King, Pierre LaFontant, Chris Mastrangelo, and Joe Valenti. Fullam finished his high school career with 16 sacks at Wayne Hills, King set a school record with 116 tackles at Ramapo last year, LaFontant was an All-County performer at Gaithersburg High School in Maryland, Mastrangelo came from the Randolph High School program, and Valenti led St. Peter's Prep with nine sacks last year. On the offensive end, the Hawks welcome offensive linemen Alex Iachetta and Jim Sullivan, kicker Matt Miller, and wide receiver Troy Yudin. Miller set a school record at Tenafly with a 46 yard field goal last year, and Yudin reeled in 13 touchdowns last year at William Heart High School. Most of the Hawks' attention was focused of the defensive side of the ball, due to the fact that the defending Northeast Conference champions lost nine of 11 starters from their defensive unit from last year. The Hawks will open the 2007 season on Labor Day weekend when they visit the University of Maine on Saturday, September 1, 2007.

Women's Basketball

Hawks Defeat St. Francis, Fall to LIU

Brianne Edwards Scores Career High 19

ALEXANDER TRUNCALE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Monmouth Women's basketball team now sits in sixth place in the Northeast Conference standings after splitting a pair of games this week. For the second time in just a week, the Hawks blew away St. Francis (PA) 77-59. Monmouth began the game up 22-10, receiving six points from Brianne Edwards and five points each from



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Sports Information
Brainne Edwards accurate free throw shooting has proven key towards the end of game.

Charisse Johnson and Marisa Jimenez. MU took a 32-23 lead into the locker room at halftime. In the second half, Monmouth would gain a double-digit lead that they would not relinquish, after Jennifer Bender's three point play at the 14:40 mark which put them up 45-32. A Jimenez layup gave the Hawks their biggest lead

of the game, at 51-35. St. Francis would cut the lead to 62-51 with 4:54 left in the game, but the Blue and White would put the game away down the stretch. Edwards led the way with a career-high 19 points, while Jimenez added 12. Bender also chipped in with nine, all of which came in the second half. But the story of the game was the Hawks stingy defense, which held the Red Flash without a field goal for eight minutes in the first half. The Red Flash shot just 32 percent from the field in the first half. "Our defensive intensity was the difference tonight," said head coach Michele Baxter. "This is the second game in a row that we've really come to play on that end of the court and it showed tonight with the outcome." With a solid victory over SFU, the Hawks turned their attention to what they knew would be a tough game against first-place LIU in Brooklyn. The Blackbirds went into the matchup with 11 straight wins.

The Hawks hung tough in the first half. An Edwards jumper tied the game at 12 early in the first half. After the teams went back and forth, the Blackbirds regained the lead at 21-18 on a three from Valerie Nainima. What would hurt the Hawks in the opening half was their 11 turnovers compared to just six by LIU. Despite this, Monmouth was down 23-19 at the break in a

low-scoring affair, as the Hawks brought their best defensive game from the previous tilt, and held LIU to just 29 percent shooting. But the second half was a different story, as LIU just ran away from Monmouth. The Blackbirds opened the half on a 14-4 run, and took a 37-23 advantage. They would not look back, and continued to knock down shots. At the nine minute mark, the Blackbirds extended their lead to 46-29, putting the game away with three straight three-pointers from Mikaelar Whippy, Nainima, and Brittani Kozik. The Hawks would try to make it close, but it was not enough, as they fell 58-47. The Hawks are now 14-8 overall and 7-5 in NEC play. They currently occupy the sixth spot in the NEC standings. Monmouth will take on Wagner at home and then will travel to Connecticut, first to Fairfield to take on Sacred Heart, and then to New Britain to take on the Blue Devils of Cental Connecticut State.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Sports Information
Nyaimah Ware has helped her team by hitting key shots down the stretch of games.



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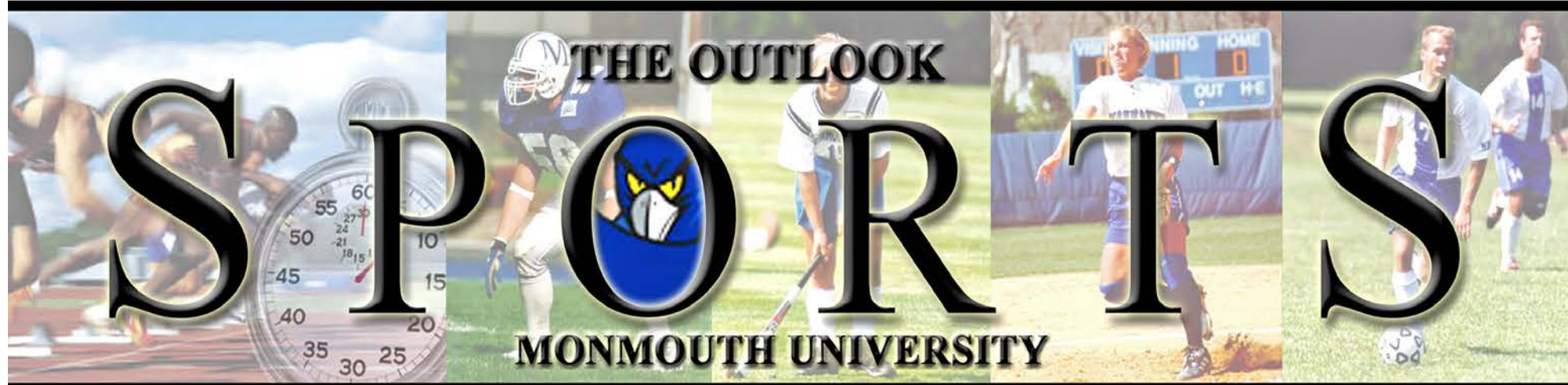
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