



Students Take Action Against New Jersey Water Pollution

ALLISON LACASKEY
STAFF WRITER

The beautiful Jersey Shore. The beaches and ocean, right in our own backyard. Did you know that 75 percent of New Jersey waterways are too polluted for swimming or fishing? These are waterways that eventually drain out into our ocean.

“Since I was four years old, I’ve lived five blocks from the Belmar Beach, so the ocean is my backyard. Beach closings and litter bother me, so I want to do something about it,” said Marygrace Murphy, member of the Monmouth University Chapter of the New Jersey Community Water Watch.

According to Murphy, this water pollution is caused by overdevelopment, aging infrastructure (old, neglected, underground pipes), and litter. Murphy says that a big reason for the pollution is that people just aren’t aware.

That’s where Water Watch comes in. It is a statewide program based on college campuses whose cause is to clean up and improve New Jersey’s waterways.

In its second full year here at Monmouth, its main activities include cleanups, stream monitoring and water testing, and education. In the past two years, Monmouth’s Water Watch members have cleaned litter from lo-

cal beaches, and organized hurricane relief trips to the Gulf Coast. Members have also educated students grades K-12 in areas such as Neptune, Newark, and Trenton.

This year, the club has set out to teach 300 schoolchildren about protecting New Jersey’s waterways.

“Little kids are so impressionable. You go in there with a lesson and they get so excited about it. They go home and tell their parents to recycle,” member Nikki Starinski said.

This semester, one of the club’s projects is a Rain Garden, which will be constructed near Whale Pond Brook. Rainwater washes oil and other pollutants from cars in the parking lot into the water. The parking lot has eliminated plants that help filter those pollutants out of the water before they reach the brook. The Rain Garden will help this issue.

It will consist of two lima bean shaped gardens, deeper than a typical garden. Native plants will fill the gardens and help filter the storm water before the pollutants get into the brook. Whale Pond Brook leads into Lake Takanassee, which eventually leads into the ocean. The Rain Garden will help reduce the amount of pollutants going into our water.

Construction of the Rain Garden will begin in March or April, and volunteers are needed.



PHOTO COURTESY OF www.google.com

The Monmouth chapter of New Jersey Community Water Watch will sponsor its next clean up on March 1.

“Our goal is to get Rain Gardens cropping up everywhere,” Jaime Kinard, Rain Garden project leader, said.

Other events being held by Water Watch this semester include the Lake Takanassee and Pier Village cleanups and environmental education lessons at St. Rose High School in Belmar. For more information on how you can help, and a calendar of scheduled events, contact Katie Feeney, campus or-

ganizer at (814) 450-5237.

Shutting off lights when you leave a room and putting trash in its place is a big step in keeping our environment clean. Water Watch is a way to “have fun and know you’re doing something really important,” said Professor John Teidemann.

Water Watch meetings are held each Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. in the Rebecca Stafford Student Center, SC 202B.

New Cellular Phone Law to be Effective March 1

JACQUELINE KOLOSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Beginning March 1, 2008, New Jersey motorists will be ticketed for using cellular phones while operating a vehicle, according to a new law signed by Governor Jon Corzine. This new law, which was passed this past November and amended the current law N.J.S.A. 39:4-97.3, will be now considered a primary offense, as noted in the February 2008 Traffic Bulletin from the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety.

Ken Walker, Deputy Chief of the Monmouth University Police Department, said, “This change would authorize law enforcement officers to stop and ticket motorists whenever they are observed unlawfully using a hand-held wireless telephone.” According to the February 2008 Traffic bulletin from the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety, the motorist will receive a ticket between \$100 and \$250, but no points will be put on his or her license.

When asked the reason why the previous law regarding cellular phones was amended, Walker said that accidents as a result of cell phone use “was a contributing factor.”

Walker hopes that it will reduce the amount of car accidents that are caused due to cellular phones.

President Gaffney Speaks Out About Climate Change

JACQUELINE KOLOSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

During November 27-30, 2007, Monmouth University President Paul Gaffney II spoke at a conference in Hawaii regarding climate change.

“In Hawaii, they have been taking measurements of the top of one of the biggest mountains there for [the past] 50 years of the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere,” said President Gaffney. He added that there has been a rise in this greenhouse gas since they began collecting the data.

The conference, he said, celebrated their data findings. “They brought climate, atmospheric and oceanic scientists to talk about carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and

its potential effect on climate,” said President Gaffney. He was selected to speak due to his involvement with the report.

President Gaffney has been studying oceanography and meteorology since his days in graduate school. However, the topic has been the subject of conversation since the mid 1980s. “I used to be in the business when I was still in the navy giving away federal money to universities for the navy,” he said. “Some of the money we gave away was to people who thought they had ideas about determining if climate change was happening or not.”

President Gaffney believes that climate change will occur regardless if man is around or not. “On

average, every 100,000 years for various reasons the world gets warmer and the world gets colder,” he said. The climate and the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere have been rising for thousands of years, he added. “Man has been around with the capabilities of putting things into the atmosphere for about two to three thousand years.”

The question that is up for debate is whether or not man is making this problem worse and if it is possible to correct. “My opinion is that man is probably making it worse and man can probably make it better,” he said. “I’m not sure if we can completely reverse it. I think bigger things are going on.”

Taking carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere is a good start as it im-

proves the air quality. “It may slow down what is going on,” he added.

“Technology needs to continue to mature, we need to invest in technology,” he explained. “Our knowledge is not sufficient yet.”

He thinks that taking such steps as measuring the Earth as well as the ocean can help answer some questions. “[We need to] take other kinds of environmental measurements to see if what we are doing is really working,” President Gaffney said.

He suggested measuring the ocean as opposed to the air because the ocean changes slowly while the air changes daily.

President Gaffney believes that some nations will be able to withstand the effects of climate change

in the future. “We have a powerful, stable nation where we can make changes and we can adapt if the world gets warmer and the sea level gets higher,” he said. “[However] the poorer countries in other parts of the world can’t.”

He said that he is worried of the instability that could result if the climate change situation worsens.

President Gaffney explained that when people think of global warming they think of only the climate increasing. However, some places around the world will experience different effects. Some nations will get more rain, will be colder, hotter, experience more storms, etc. “It’s different in every part of the world because of geography,” he said. “It could be just the opposite.”

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Sunday 39°/27°
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Monday 46°/35°
Partly Cloudy

Tuesday 46°/33°
Showers

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SIFE Sets Sights on Local Community

ALISON WASZMER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In addition to the international projects discussed in last week's Outlook article "MU SIFE Goes Global"; SIFE is also working on various programs to better the local communities of Long Branch and West Long Branch.

As with all of SIFE's projects, the goal is to bring empowerment and independence to those whom it would not normally be given; ultimately providing them with new opportunities for success. Currently, SIFE has three major projects planned for the two communities. They are: Invest Your Best, SIFE Kids and Project Green Card.

Invest Your Best is stock market educational game, designed to teach adolescents and teenagers the basics of finance and economics. The curriculum for this program includes a brief overview of stocks and the stock market, as well as bi-weekly presentations focused on a single aspect of stocks or the stock market, giving students a more detail insight.

The topics for the bi-weekly presentations include the ins and outs of the stock exchange, *preferred* versus *common* stock, and building a portfolio.

The game will first be implemented in a single middle school class. Using an internet based program students will research various companies and their stock. Based on their research, they will then select a single stock to invest in. Once the stocks have been chosen, students will be expected to track their stock daily, which will be done via the internet as well.

Intermittently, members of SIFE will follow up with the class. At these times students will be given the opportunity to sell their stock and select a new one. The reason students will only be able to trade stocks at these times is to ensure that there is the proper rationale behind each transaction. All students who wish to sell their stock and purchase new stock will be



PHOTO COURTESY OF Bob Danhardt

SIFE donated food to Long Branch Middle School, which is one way they are giving back to the local communities.

program, which will target students of all ages with a variety of activities. The list of potential components for this project is pages long, so SIFE has chosen three to concentrate on at the moment. Of those three activities the first is the creation of student-run stores. The stores, which will carry mainly school supplies, will be located in the local middle schools and be run by the students, under the supervision and guidance of SIFE members.

The students responsible for the store will be expected to make almost all of the decisions, including marketing campaigns and what products to stock, as well maintain records. The objective is to give students a taste of the everyday workings of a business; and what better way is there than giving them the hands-on experience of running their own store.

The second aspect of SIFE Kids is the creation of a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. As with the student-run stores, the non-profit organization will be managed by students of a local high school with the help Monmouth University SIFE members. Everything from obtaining official 501 (c)(3) status

how to fundraise, how to write press releases, how to write donation requests to businesses as well as the skill set necessary to organize donations from local school districts who are planned to be the suppliers of the materials being shipped. Goods for donation include toiletries, shoes, jackets, and other items essential for livelihood.

SIFE's third locally significant program is Project Green Card. Last October, members of SIFE went to churches in Long Branch and West Long Branch, in search of the area's greatest socioeconomic issue.

Almost unanimously the answer was immigrants in the community being unable to gain citizenship.

Further research showed that the lack of a centralized location made the processes of obtaining citizenship confusing and convoluted. In hope of removing this obstacle SIFE created Project Green Card. With the help of Long Branch High School, SIFE is working to create a central location, where immigrants will be able to find guidance on their path to citizenship.

Running this program out of Long Branch High School is dually beneficial in that it is easily accessible and enables the students to help their parents through the process. By providing immigrants with help from individuals who care and making information readily accessible, SIFE anticipates that Project Green Card will play a key role in solving some of the local socioeconomic problems.

On top of these three projects, during last Wednesday's meeting SIFE decided it was time to start some new projects. Some highlights for the new projects are: Girl Sprouts, a program to teach Girl Scout troops about business and entrepreneurship, participants in the program will earn merit badges related to business; Production to Consumption, which will teach middle school children the lifecycle of a product, each students will pick a product and must research the how's and why's from the first stage of production through the final sale; and Virtual Vacation, a role-playing activity to help elementary school children better understand exchange rates, students will pretend to be on vacation in a foreign country and must purchase 5 products, then convert their remaining money back to US dollars.

Any student interested in being part of SIFE is welcome to attend weekly meetings which are held every Wednesday at 3 pm in Bey Hall room 229 or SIFE can be reached at SIFE@monmouth.edu.



PHOTO COURTESY OF Bob Danhardt

SIFE attended the MLK Festival with their Dollar Scholars Program.

asked to explain their reasoning to a SIFE member. Students with proper justification will be granted permission; if the student's reasoning is inaccurate, then why it is inaccurate and what the proper course of action is will be explained.

Initially, the program will run for a single quarter. At the end of the quarter, the student who earned the most will be given a trophy and certificate. The hope is that SIFE may one day be able to buy them their own stock. Eventually, this program may be used school-wide, where the competition will be not only on a student to student basis, but also on an inter-classroom basis.

SIFE Kids is a very ambitious

to choosing and planning various charity events and programs will be done by the students. This will offer students the unique opportunity to give back to the community in the ways they see best. This program will begin at the high school level, but is expected to quickly grow to incorporate all grade levels.

The last part of SIFE Kids is the establishment of Project Victory Box. This program is aimed at helping soldiers abroad. By sending specified products from around the area and shipping them overseas, the soldiers are then able to build a rapport with the towns they are going through to show them that the U.S. does care.

The project will teach students

Revolutionary Film Festival at MU

JUSTINE NAZARRO
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, many people interested in history here at Monmouth, gathered in Wilson Auditorium for the beginning forth of a film festival based around famous revolutions in history.

"The four films not only treat the topic of revolution, but the directors of the films were revolutionaries as well," says Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Thomas Pearson. The film being shown on Wednesday was the movie was Polish Director, Andrzej Wajda's film Danton. Wajda spent his life as a speaker against political oppression, and shows this with his epic direction in the movie.

The movie takes place in France in 1794, after the French Revolution has been underway for five years. In essence, it depicts the struggle between the two iconic figures known as Maximilien de Robespierre and Georges Danton. It maps out the two characters' struggle for freedom, as they feel it is necessary for the people of France.

The film focuses on Robespierre in the sense that his accusations against Danton lead to his weakening and his downfall. On the other hand, the movie looks at the life of Danton in terms of his last few acts as a leader of a revolution up until his beheading for these acts against the government. The movie shows us the major tenets of a revolution, and the wit and courage it takes for a leader of a revolution to be successful. It focuses on the Reign of Terror, and how its effects still play a role in France even today.

Danton also brings about the subject matter regarding the power of the people. Throughout the movie, the public is swayed by the ideas of both Robespierre and Danton, and in the end, their lack of support is what ultimately puts Danton to death.

"The public can be just as dictatorial as the figure," says Frederick McKittrick, Chair of the Department of History and Anthropology. The power of the mob can be applied to many scenarios in history today, which makes Danton such a powerful movie.

Following the movie, was an in depth discussion about its important aspects and underlying tones. The discussion panel consisted of both Thomas Pearson and Frederick McKittrick, as well as Dr. Priscilla Gac-Artigas, chair of the Department of Foreign Language Studies. Together, the panel discussed some of their own input regarding the film, and addressed any questions asked by members of the audience.

"I'm glad the panel discussion took place after the movie, because it gave me a lot of insight as to what I was learning in my history class," says Ashley Cattano, a student here a Monmouth. The panel gave an informative analysis on the theater aspect of the movie in regards to its historical relevance.

The four part film festival will be continuing on throughout the semester. Students should keep an eye out for these movies, because they are very informative in terms of history and the revolutionary aspects of t. Students should take advantage of these film showings because they are highly beneficial and free as well.

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Catholic Center hosts Valentine's Day Party

SARAH ALYSE JAMIESON
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

On Thursday, February 14th, Valentine's Day, the Catholic Center hosted its annual Valentine's Day party for all of the center's members and their guests to attend.

"The Catholic Center's Valentine's Day party should be the best, since all of their party's rock," Jenn Mastrangelo, a freshman, History and Political Science major stated as the center's girls were preparing the food for the party to begin.

The guests enjoyed a warm cooked meal around the center's kitchen table, and were treated a long, delicious and very social meal together, full of exciting conversation and laughter.

Ashley Hoppe and Gabby Furmato cooked over a hot stove to make a delicious meal consisting of salad, pasta, chicken and dessert. The house was full of some yummy Valentine's treats for their fellow members and themselves to feast on.

"The meal was awesome; it was way better than anything served on MU's campus," Sean Quinn, a senior, History, Political Science and Secondary Education major stated.

"I love sharing meals with my friends at the center. The Catholic Center's members are all some of the closest friends that I have here at Monmouth University," Sarah Clemency, a freshman, Theatre and Music Education major stated, after they all had sat to eat up.

Towards the end of the meal, a whole crew of Jenn Mastrangelo's girl friends showed up at the back door to share the fest. There was plenty of food to go around.

During the whole meal, there



PHOTO COURTESY OF Sarah Alyse Jamieson
(from left to right) Anna and Sarah Clemency sharing a meal at the Valentine's Day party at the Catholic Center.

was festive music playing which cheered all the guests. The girls danced together and sang to the tunes.

Sarah Clemency explained how the music playing made the party much more fun and enjoyable.

"The music playing made the party much better, because we all knew the lyrics to every song being played and we all sang together. The music made the party a blast."

After the girls had finished their share of the food, they enjoyed some delicious Valentines desserts. "The desserts were the best," Anna Clemency, a senior, Theatre major declared.

The guests also took a Valentine's Day quiz. Ashley won the tiebreaker and the game.

"Every time that we have a Saints quiz, I've won! I rule!" Ashley pronounced after she was the winner of the quiz, against all who played.

Ashley won a \$25 gift certificate to Friday's, and Ashley promised the members that she would take them out and treat them all to a drink, in her honor!

The girls took many pictures to capture the great moments at the party. "This Valentine's Day party was one of the best that I've been to. I love all my friends at the center; they are my entire Valentine's," Jenn stated.

"I had a great time tonight! I always have fun at the center, stated Sarah. "I love being a member; I am so overjoyed whenever I am here."

Everyone was so happy throughout the entire party; it was a success. "This Valentine's Day party was such a great one. It was only spent with friends, but they are some of my best friends, and I am so happy to have spent the night with them," Anna stated.

Pep Band Gets Involved



PHOTO COURTESY OF Aimee Parks
The Monmouth University Pep Band performed at the Men's basketball game on January 26 in Boylan Gym.

KATELYN WOODHOUSE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

At first glance the Monmouth University Pep Band stands out as a group with a lot of enthusiasm. The band has played at countless football and basketball games and actually traveled to Ohio, Florida and Philadelphia when the Monmouth Basketball team won.

The Monmouth University Pep Band is made up of all volunteers and provide school spirit and enthusiasm for the Football team, as well as the Men's and Women's Basketball teams

When asking a current member of pep band why do you enjoy it so much the response was quick, "...because it's a lot of fun, you just get to hang out and be around your friends."

Although the Pep Band is rather small they have created strong friendships. Recently the band purchased five new Pearl Competitor Series marching drums and they are starting a "Pep Line" for anyone who is interested in drumming.

The Pep Band also has a brass

and woodwinds section. Volunteers audition and are interviewed in a relaxed atmosphere. Tryouts and interviews are held at various points in the summer and spring, and at any weekly rehearsal session.

There are countless reasons to join Pep Band from receiving attendance awards to making great friendships. Unlike some other college bands, MU's Pep Band stays up to date with current music and is frequently heard playing "Jump on It" at the games.

Last semester they played for the President's Brunch and this semester plan to "open" for a reggae concert at the Student Center featuring the band, Verdict, march in the South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade and play during the Relay for Life event in Long Branch.

With all of the upcoming events that the band participates in, Pep Band is a major opportunity which everyone should look into. With more than a decade of experience, the Monmouth University Pep Band is another extracurricular program offered on campus.



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Campus Events This Week

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20
Break the Cycle, Be the Change • 10:00 AM • Wilson Auditorium
Info on Becoming a First Year Peer Advisor • 2:30 PM • Carol Afflitto Conf.
Time Management • 2:30 PM • Bey Hall 223
SGA Auction • 2:30 PM • Anacon Hall
Film - Hands of God • 7:00 PM • Wilson Auditorium
Exercise - Legs • 7:00 PM • Fitness Center

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21
Workshop - Leading Trough Diversity • 2:00 PM • Afflitto Conf. Room
Orientation Leader Applications Due • 5:00 PM • Student Activities

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22
If the World is Flat . . . • 6:00 PM • Pollak Theatre
Film: State of Fear • 7:00 PM • Pollak Theatre

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23
Great Black in Wax Museum Trip • Departs 9:00 AM • From Student Center
Women's Basketball vs. Long Island • 3:00 PM • Boylan Gymnasium
Men's Basketball vs. Long Island • 7:00 PM • Boylan Gymnasium

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24
NO EVENTS SCHEDULED

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25
Exercise: Abdominal and Low Back • 8:00 AM • Fitness Center
Beauty and the Greek • 10:00 PM • Pollak Theatre

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26
Klassroom Karaoke • 7:30 PM • Pollak Theatre
Libbie Schrader - Singer /Songwriter • 9:00 PM • The Underground
Relay for Life Kickoff Party • 6:00 PM • Anacon Hall

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27
Test Taking Strategies Part 2 • 2:30 PM • Bey Hall 223
Food for the Soul • 2:30 PM • Young Auditorium
Exercise: Abdominal and Low Back • 7:00 PM • Fitness Center
Guitar Hero • 8:00 PM (tentative) • The Underground
Screaming Orphans • 9:00 PM • Pollak Theatre

Friday
February 29
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It Takes a Village

JACQUELINE KOLOSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

As the campus newspaper, we are here to serve the university community and cover the news that occurs around campus. That goal is pretty straightforward. Before I make my argument this week, I just want to say this isn't a complaint, but rather a point I think needs to be brought up.

There is nothing I enjoy more than receiving story ideas and leads from the campus community to include as articles in future issues of *The Outlook*. As we want to give everyone coverage, it is difficult to do so when there is not all the effort I know can be put forth. It takes more than just the writer to cover the story or event being reported on, but as well from the person being interviewed or has ties to the story. We are a newspaper that thrives on quality of our prod-

uct and we want to make sure we print articles that feature all the elements that make them look as professional as possible.

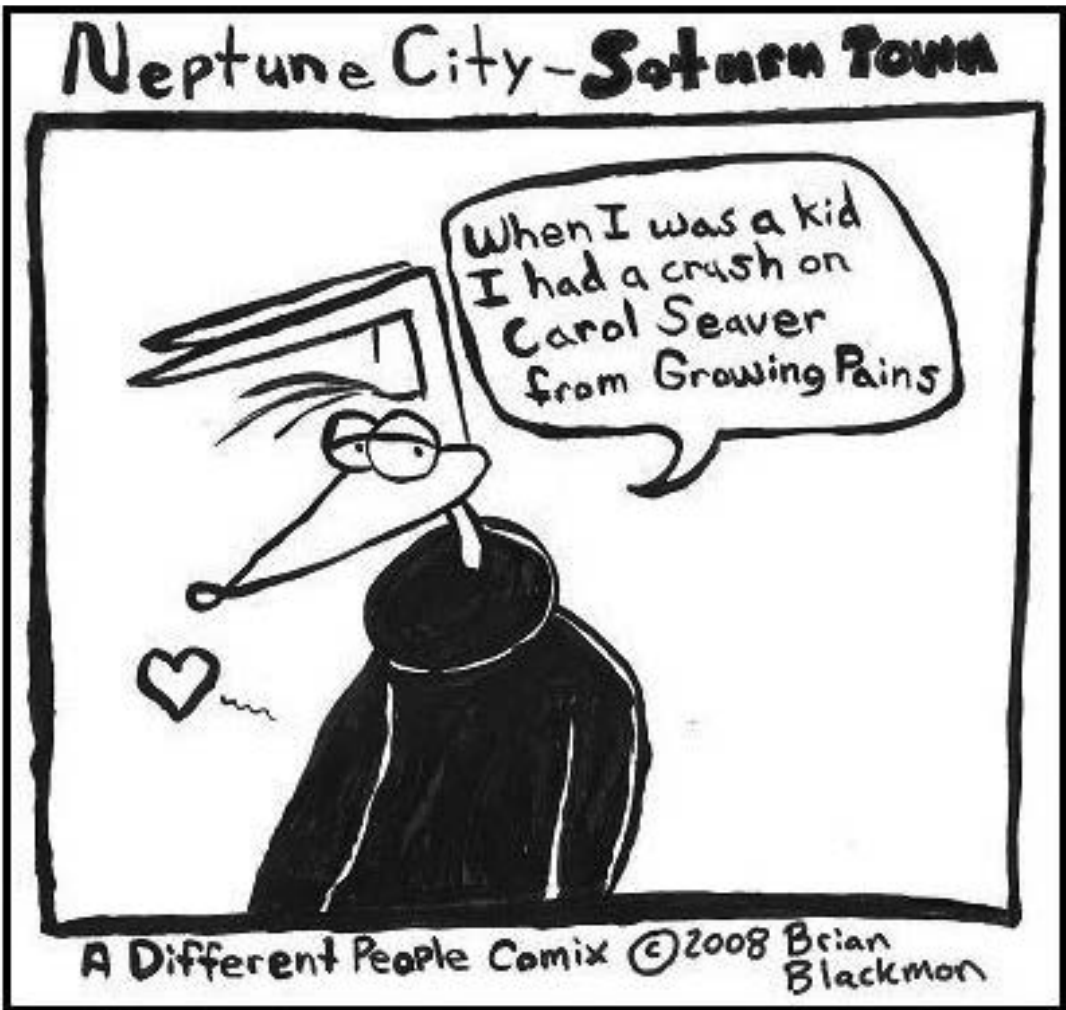
We want to give everyone equal coverage, but all parties involved must do their part. Sometimes we are unable to cover every event. But those involved with that event going on, for example, can submit a write up since they will already be there and snap a few pictures to send in, as well. Why not do that? Many clubs and organizations have some sort of public relations or media coordinators and sometimes I have to wonder why those people do not contribute articles about events going on in their respective clubs and organizations. So far this semester we have had a couple organizations do just that and it has been successful thus far. We encourage contributing writers to participate. You do not have to have your name in the staff box to submit an article.

When everyone gets the coverage they want, they reap the benefits that come with publicity. For example, more people recognize them, more attend their events, and simply the public is informed about what they do. Everybody wants to receive those benefits, but at times we don't receive what we need in order to produce that. That could be as simple as providing more pictures to compliment a story. People expect us to cover every event, but in reality we can't. It's impossible as hard as it is for me say. Sometimes what we need comes barely before deadline and sometimes past despite the fact writers or editors contact sources well in advance.

Each week we attempt to do everything we can do to give coverage to everyone, but to drive home my point, we can't do it alone.

The Outlook is currently looking to fill associate and assistant editorial positions. If you are interested, please attend Monday general meetings at 8 p.m. for additional information.

Interested in writing, editing, photography or layout & design? Join The Outlook! General meetings are Mondays at 8 p.m. in The Plangere Center Room 260.



Did you know... your cartoon or picture can be here next week! It can be about anything but should be related to the Monmouth community, student life, or something going on in the news that week. E-mail submissions to outlook@monmouth.edu and it will be printed here. How cool is that? Very.

DISCLAIMER: All articles appearing in the Op/Ed section of *The Outlook* are solely the opinions of the authors and do not reflect the views of *The Outlook's* editors (unless otherwise noted) or any and all advertisers. Opinion articles are run unedited and the content is the sole responsibility of their authors. All students and faculty are welcome to respond to any opinion piece that appears on these pages, and everyone is encouraged to submit an article for consideration. *The Outlook* reserves the right to withhold any articles deemed inappropriate or otherwise unfit to print in the Op/Ed section. Due to legalities, *The Outlook* will no longer print anonymous articles.

A Letter from President Gaffney

Dear Students:

I want to talk to you very briefly about campus safety, as I did last year. In the last few days there have been four tragic shooting incidents on campuses; two on college campuses. The early reports indicate lone actions by severely troubled individuals.

Monmouth University re-doubled its efforts in security and safety after the Virginia Tech incident. We increased investments in campus security, hired additional safety personnel, further upgraded the communications alert system that we have had in place for over two years, heightened training for our full-time commissioned police force, conducted mental health awareness training for faculty and staff, and appealed to you.

Appealed to you? Yes. We asked every student (and employee) to be aware of his/her surroundings, to watch out for each other, and to get help for a classmate, teammate, roommate, or friend when he/she seemed troubled. The University will again scrutinize its security procedures. I ask you, again, to watch out for and take care of each other.

Sincerely,

Paul Gaffney

P.S. Please share this note with your parents. I will share it with faculty, administrators, staff and on-campus contractors.

Mueller’s Sidewalks

BRIAN BLACKMON
STAFF WRITER

There is something unique about the sidewalks of Pt. Pleasant Beach, George Mueller’s sidewalks—an individuality that resurrects my childhood with every footstep I apply to this beautiful weathered bridge of cement which runs (rung by rung) up and down the streets of town.

On certain streets, the sidewalk might climb up over the roots of a powerful tree, forcing the traveler to ascend to new heights upon the shattered plates, before descending back to the mortality of earth, the path continuing under branches which capture the shades of springs, the secret symphonies of June-bugs, autumns of Indian summers, and cold grey ocean winters. On certain streets, the sidewalks are

worn like river stones, slumbering, lost in meditations concerning the lore impressed upon its nature. It is through this interaction, between traveler and sidewalk, that a precious dialogue is formed. It is my hope that these sidewalks, Mueller’s sidewalks, our sidewalks, will be preserved in their individuality, their personality; and allowed to remain a sanctuary of memory and contemplation.

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(Located on the second floor of the Plangere Center)

ATTENTION SENIORS and GRADUATE STUDENTS - If you think you will finish in May, apply **NOW** for graduation!

March 7, 2008: LAST day to submit an e-FORM 'Application for Graduation' and graduate in May.

April 4, 2008: LAST day to submit e-FORMs for "Substitution" or 'Waiver' and graduate in May.

APPLICATIONS, SUBSTITUTIONS or WAIVERS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE DATES WILL **NOT** BE PROCESSED, THEY WILL BE HELD UNTIL JUNE 2008.

Sincerely,
The Office of Registration and Records
1 February 2008

Super Tuesday Solved Nothing in the Democratic Party

MICHAEL HERBERT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Super Tuesday was the closest the United States has come to having a notional primary with a total of twenty four states (and American Samoa) holding primaries or caucuses. It was touted as the day where nominations were made. We got that, at least on the Republican side, now Sen. John McCain has a strangle hold on the Republican nomination. But as the results rolled in on Super Tuesday, as far as the Democrats are concerned, the race is now more muddled than ever. Depending what website you visit either Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton has the lead in delegates using the proportional style allocation the Democratic National Committee has decided upon.

On the Democratic side there were twenty two states up for grabs. Sen. Obama won more states overall (Obama 13, Clinton 8 New Mexico is still outstanding), while Sen. Clinton won the states with the most delegates up for grabs (NJ, NY, MA and CA). If the Democrats had a winner take all contest like the Republicans, which is the case on most states, the race could have been decided. That is not the case however; the Democrats have a proportional contest where the delegates are given out by congressional district. With that approach the candidates are now closer than ever, with no clear front runner.

Super Tuesday ensured that the

Democratic Nomination would not be within anyone’s grasp in the near future. The contest will continue on throughout the coming months and even then we still might not have a clear winner. The events of this past weekend, with Sen. Obama winning LA, NE, WA, and ME, pulled the candidates into a virtual tie. As we look forward Sen. Obama is favored in all of the contests on Tuesday, Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia. He will be riding high when the next big day of contests approach on March 4th, states include Pennsylvania and Texas and 444 delegates up for grabs. We could have a clear favorite by then, but with the rules the Democratic Party has in place, it is anyone’s guess. The process could come down to the convention where the un-pledged super delegates could very well select the party’s nominee. Then there is the issue with Michigan and Florida, where both states were penalized for holding their primaries too early and stripped of their delegates.

The Democrats are facing potential disaster. If the primaries and caucuses can not yield a nominee the super delegates would probably decide the nominee and possibly fracture the party. With all the uncertainties surrounding the Democratic Party there is one thing that is certain. The two remaining candidates are in for a long and heated contest that no one could have foreseen months ago.



ATTENTION STUDENTS

Accelerated MAT Information Session

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

7:00 p.m.

Wilson Hall Auditorium



Politics

national, state, school



ALL VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS SECTION DO NOT REFLECT OR THE OPINION OR ARE ENDORSED BY THE EDITORIAL STAFF OF THE OUTLOOK

Political Debate: Should Political Literacy Tests be Administered to Potential Voters? (Week 1)

Here students debate political issues of the day. Week 1 students make their initial argument followed by Week 2 in which they respond to their opponent.

Side 1: Illiterate Voting is Fruitless

KRISTYN MIKULKA
SOPHOMORE, POLITICAL SCIENCE CLUB

Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are the fundamental principles the United States was built on. Living up to one's full potential and making the best life for you and your family is the main priority of most Americans past and present. In order to obtain these goals one must instill trust and devotion to our government, fighting for the best system the country can have. In order to obtain these goals the government must instill trust and devotion in its citizenry, and the citizens must fight for the best system the country can have.

American citizens are encouraged and expected to participate in the election process by voting and becoming knowledgeable about the political issues that plague this great nation. In order to surpass the great accomplishments this nation has already made, citizens of the United States need to choose the best candidates possible to hold political offices, especially the highest position in the land.

In November of 2008 we will face one of the most important elections America has seen, and simple participation is not enough. In recent months the issue of re-instating a literacy test for voters has dominated both political and national news. Many people have totally ignored or right out denounced this ideal, without even considering the importance it many have to our nation's present

state. A voter literacy test would not impede on personal liberty but would instead help our nation to reclaim its power and integrity in a constantly digressing situation.

In recent years the American political system has seen scandal, injustice and treason. The government can only pursue these issues after a political representative has committed a crime, and even after long investigations and judiciary action, the criminal may be pardoned. In order to avoid the expensive and long tribulations, we, the voters, need to take the first step.

Insuring voter integrity is the first step to bettering America. This process can be started with simply insuring that voters are knowledgeable of the issues our nation faces, and the stands the candidates have taken. Going back to the intentions of our founding fathers we can discover that many of them feared our nation would be destroyed by the selfish and uneducated who would participate in government just for the sake of participating. I do not want to discourage people from being active in our political system, however, I feel that an unknowledgeable vote is a vote against the development of our great country.

It is impossible to guarantee the integrity of every voter, but the government can eliminate the politically illiterate. A simple literacy test showing voters ability to comprehend ballots, political issues, and other simple tasks may help solve this problem. The literacy

test will not inhibit the nation nor its vast freedoms but instead create an ideal situation were voters can expand their political knowledge. The tests will eliminate voters who may not have the nation's best interest in mind. Television, internet, and newspapers have been constantly bombarded with slogans calling for every citizen to get out and vote. I do not disagree with this notion and encourage every politically educated person to participate. However I do not agree with the idea of voting just to vote. Voting for the sake of voting, while making no effort to enlighten oneself on the issues that are dominant in the campaign or election, is fruitless.

The United States of America is in a crisis politically, internationally, and on our home lands. A "wasted" vote will not advance the nation, but worse, deter it from advancing. We can no longer rest on our laurels and assume each political figure running for office will have the nation's best interests in mind. Since the creation of America we have seen corrupt individuals spoil our good name, as well as take advantage of uneducated voters to win votes. It is here and now that we need to transform our deteriorating nation by insuring each vote is in the best interest of our country and cast by politically enlightened citizens. The United States cannot develop if people refuse to educate themselves on the issues at hand and a political literacy test may be the only way to guarantee this.

Side 2: Voter Competency Tests: Impractical and Unreasonable

DANIELLE DIODATO
SECRETARY, POLITICAL SCIENCE CLUB

Voter competency testing in the United States as a way to deter the "politically ignorant" from taking part in the process is like testing female competency before a woman may become a mother. Not only is it unconstitutional, it simply is not feasible. The Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution clearly states, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." In 1919, the Nineteenth Amendment granted women the right to vote with these words: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." It is hardly a coincidence that the words *competency*, *ability*, *skill*, *aptitude*, *literacy*, or anything akin to *proficiency*, are not included therein. While this may be true, the right to vote has not always embraced the trouble-free process that citizens have grown accustomed to.

Prior to the enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the right to vote was based on establishing proficiency in a literacy test that examined knowledge of the United States Constitution, the respective state government, and the national government. The major problem with this *literacy* test is that Latinos and African-Americans from minority neighborhoods were being denied the right to vote, by way of not passing the exam. The federal government left these citizens disenfranchised and without the proper funding for education in the areas necessary to pass the exam. At the dawn of the twenty-first century, this problem still persists. The requirement for a literacy test is no longer in existence. While this may be true, it cannot be ignored that the United States is still comprised of underprivileged and grossly uninformed citizens that are not being given the proper funding and attention to permanently put a stop to this glaring ignorance. Reinstating the competency test would clearly re-establish the disenfranchisement that the United States has worked tirelessly to prevent.

Furthermore, there are a series

of problems that occur when trying to define exactly what a competency test is. How do we define *competency*? How do we define *ignorance*? What exactly would this test look like? When would it be administered? Is it possible to ensure a citizen's right to privacy if and when they do not pass the exam? Most importantly, who would ultimately be responsible for determining whether or not a citizen has passed the test? Granted, there could be many different answers to the preceding questions. This clearly proves that, with the growing size and diversity of the current constituency, one, two, or even four different versions of a potential competency test would never statistically be able to achieve what people ideally would want it to achieve, acknowledgement of political literacy.

Nonetheless, it is not feasible to punish people for faults that arise within the system. If the national and/or respective state government is not providing adequate funding for programs that will politically inform people, then this is something that must be fixed within the system. If the United States is going to ensure a successful government with an informed constituency then no rock can be left unturned. The argument is counterintuitive. Punishing someone for something that they did not learn in high school or grammar school is not the appropriate or most efficient way to solve a major problem. It is very interesting how certain politicians are willing to dismiss the importance of educational funding, deeming it not a responsibility of the Federal Government because it is not clearly found within the United States Constitution. Yet, individuals would be in favor of testing voter competency in order to deter ignorance. This is either elitism at its **finest** or the current political system that exists within the United States **CLEARLY** is not working up to its full potential.

Voter competency testing will never solve the problem of political *ignorance* in the United States. The problem will not be solved until the source of the issue is confronted. At best, testing the constituency will only aid in finding out where the problem begins. Utilizing these tests to automatically deter citizens from voting is not rational or practical.

Hello everyone! For those interested in writing for the Political News page of The Outlook, please contact Daniel Wisniewski, President of The Political Science Club to get started! You can contact him at daniel.j.wisniewski@monmouth.edu. All topics and viewpoints are welcome! Thank you!

Putin "Accepts" Power, Soviet Union Redux

DANIEL J. WISNIEWSKI
PRESIDENT, POLITICAL SCIENCE CLUB

From "Putin Stakes out New Power Role," *Wall Street Journal*: In a news conference last week with Russian and foreign journalists Vladimir Putin spelled out his desire to be Prime Minister for upcoming years. Putin has been the Russian president for 8 years, and his protégé is expected to win the position in a landslide election coming soon. This would put Putin in position to take the parliamentary position of Prime Minister. Over the past few years the Putin government has been accused of silencing political opposition and limiting the free press.

Putin is disallowed by the Russian constitution to run for a third term, but shortly after the nomination of Dmitry Medvedev – Putin's protégé – Putin was offered the prime minister role. Tight control by the Kremlin on the political process and media,

Putin's promised appointment, and a surprisingly strong 80% straw poll for Medvedev for the upcoming March 2 election, all smacks of old Soviet tomfoolery.

Putin's statements at his last press conference gave an attitude towards western influence. When responding to a claim that Putin had made a fortune by being President, the former KGB member said that western organizations should stop trying to teach Russia how to be democratic and instead should "teach their wives to make cabbage soup" instead. I hear Khrushchev.

Russian aggression lately has become more common. In the past two years the Russians have increased their military aircraft flight range, almost nearing England, and usually mirroring western military aircraft patterns. Also, recent plans by the U.S. to build a missile defense shield in Europe have met staunch opposition from the Russians. Recently

Putin has threatened to aim missiles (and presumably launch them if he deems necessary) in order to preempt any such defense shield, citing national security. Completing the defense shield has been on hold.

It is uncommon in political history that a senior authority steps down to take a subordinate role, especially to a former lower ranking party member. This has raised questions in the U.S. State Department. While nothing can be concluded from simple unusual developments, general trends do not look good for the future democratic process in Russia. As their economy grows (now roughly seventh in the world), and more power is being centralized, a Soviet-style system is beginning to rear its head. With Communist China still out their, growing its military and shooting down old satellites, who are the real two nations in the world "rattling sabers"?

Political Quote

"The media's selection and description of particular events – far more than editorials – help to create or promote national issues, to shape the minds of the Congress and public, and to influence the President's agenda and timing." – Theodore C. Sorensen

All quotes from Quotationary by Lenoard Roy Frank

THIS WEEK OVERSEAS...

KRISTEN MCMONAGLE
OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENT

Imagine hopping on a plane, going to a country where no one speaks English, and having to find your way in the bitter cold dark snowy night. That was my weekend in Stockholm, Sweden and it was the most amazing one of my life thus far. It was a spontaneous adventure filled with many amazing moments that made me realize if I can do this, I can do anything!

It was a late night when my new friend Cayce and I decided to book a weekend trip. We sat in the lobby of our dorm building and searched the internet for good deals on flights.

A round trip flight to Stockholm was surprisingly cheap, under \$100, so after a few easy steps we had plane tickets to Sweden.

It wasn't until a few days before leaving that we realized Sweden is pretty cold this time of year and that there might be a significant language barrier, but that just made us even more excited to go.

We took a late night flight on Thursday that took about two hours and was smooth the entire time. Both of us are terrified to fly, so it made for an interesting trip, but we landed safely!

An hour bus ride took us from Stockholm Vasteras Airport into the main bus and train terminal of Stockholm, where it was very late, very dark, very cold, and very empty!

After a bit of roaming and a



PHOTO COURTESY of Kristen McMonagle

A soldier for the Swedish army stands guard outside of the royal palace during the changing of the guards.

ton of laughing, we found a helpful person who told us the way (in broken English!) to our hotel. A good night's sleep in our really nice (and cheap!) hotel prepared us to conquer Stockholm in the daylight.

The shining winter sun in Sweden is deceiving, because it looks mild outside, but it's actually completely freezing.

Feeling totally unstylishbundled up from head to toe (ear muffs and long underwear included) we headed to our first destination, Gamla Stan.

For those of you who don't know, Stockholm is made up of 14 islands on a lake with a whole bunch of bridges connecting them. Gamla Stan is one of the islands. It means "Old Town" in Swedish and that's exactly what it

was. Cobblestone roads, narrow alleyways, and architectural masterpieces fill the entire island with the gorgeous water all around.

We managed to take our gloves off a few times to capture the magnificent sights in pictures. The Kungliga Slottet, Royal Palace, was especially fun, because we got to see the changing of the guards.

It was a very unique experience and definitely way cooler than the British changing of the guards. (Shh!)

Ru m b l i n g s t o m - a c h s and freezing

bodies led us into a warm pub where we dined on Swedish meatballs with spaghetti and cranberry sauce.

The Swedes use "Kronor" as their money and one British pound is equal to around 14 Kronor. When our bill came and the meals were about 150 Kronor each we nearly had a heart attack, but after a bit of money translation we calmed down and realized it wasn't too expensive.

That night we took it easy in our hotel lobby, unfrosted our bodies in the hotel's sauna, and learned a few Swedish words by watching English TV shows with Swedish subtitles. "Hej" means hello. "Tagen" means train. Who

said TV isn't educational?

The next day we put on even more layers of clothes and went to museums. First, we went to the Water Museum, Aquaria, where we were able to climb into a "sewer" and see the effects of acid rain-water, explore a living rainforest, and look at huge Swedish Catfish.

Then we walked over to Nordiska Museet, the Nordic Museum, where we saw an orchestra play, learned about Swedish fashion, and looked at very old Swedish toys.

That night Cayce and I found a traditional pub where we tasted Falcon, a Swedish beer, and ate a Swedish meal called Biff Rydberg consisting of beef, potatoes, a creamy mustard sauce, and a raw egg yolk. (We skipped out on eating the raw egg.)

London has been amazing, and the fact that we can travel across Europe on the weekends is so great. My weekend in Sweden was fantastic and I plan to go on many more weekend trips before heading back to good old New Jersey.

I've only been here for a month



PHOTO COURTESY of Kristen McMonagle

A flame burns outside of the restaurants and stores that are open, which helps add to the old town feel of Gamla Stan.

and already feel like I have gotten so much out of this experience.

If you are considering studying abroad in any of the places that Monmouth offers, I totally recommend it. It will be the greatest experience of your life.

Cheers!



PHOTO COURTESY of Kristen McMonagle

The view of the beautiful Regents Park in London where Regents College is located.



PHOTO COURTESY of Kristen McMonagle

An old house stands near the Vasa Museum in Stockholm.

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Pop, Lock, and Drop It with MTV

TAYLOR CORVINO
STAFF WRITER

Just when you thought there was no more room for another competition based reality show judging America's talent, think again. MTV has partnered with American Idol judge and Grammy award winning producer Randy Jackson to create *Randy Jackson Presents America's Best Dance Crew*. MTV is searching for the one crew to crown *America's Best Dance Crew* and win the \$100,000 cash prize.

The 12 original crews perform weekly in front of a live studio audience and work to impress a panel of expert judges. The judges include ex *NSYNC member JC Chazez, choreographer Shane Sparks, and rapper Lil' Mama. The crews also must work hard to impress the millions of viewers at home; at the end of every episode it is up to America to decide which teams will be voted into the bottom two. In the subsequent week's episode, the bottom two teams then battle it out on stage, showcasing their hottest moves. The judges then decide which of the two teams remain in the competition and which team has to pack their bags and go home.

Teams consist of five to seven men and women who collaborate and choreograph creative and original routines that are performed each week. Teams are also faced with different challenges each week, from recreating moves seen in popular music videos and movies, or recre-

ating well-known dance moves from history.

This week the 8 remaining teams were divided in half. The top four, voted by the viewers were granted a free pass in the next episode, but still had to perform. The bottom four teams were then further divided in half again. The final bottom two teams then duel it out. The crews this week were assigned different popular music videos and



PHOTO COURTESY OF www.google.com
Dancers audition to be on America's Best Dance Crew.

were asked to imitate the artist's attitude and fashion, all while adding their own personal flare. The teams that were ranked in the top four this week were Kaba Modern, Live In Color, JabbaWockeeZ, and BreakSk8. Kaba Modern, best known for their

isolations, was slotted to perform Chris Brown's video "Wall to Wall". This music video took the crew out of their element, incorporating smooth transitions into their dancing. The group was able to overcome their initial sloppiness and gave a great performance.

Live In Color was assigned "Hey Mama" by the Black Eyed Peas. Live In Color has brought fast reggae beats to the stage with high energy and their signature booty shake ending. This week the group had to slow down their moves to the down beat of *Hey Mama* that the crew was not used to. Lil' Mama praised the crew claiming that they did better than the video and was able to showcase their technique with the slower tempo.

JabbaWockeeZ was next to take the floor dancing to Omarion's "Ice Box". Shane Sparks is quoted as saying that this was their "Best performance yet." JC Chazez also commented that JabbaWockeeZ is a team to look out for. They had

been repeatedly flying under the radar when compared to more popular crews. The judges were quick to compliment the crew for choreographing a better routine than the original music video.

The last team in the top four this week was BreakSk8, a team of all men who literally dance while on roller skates, full of stunts and flips. The judges expressed in previous weeks that they wanted to see the men do more dancing rather than creative skate stunts, and they did just that. BreakSk8 danced to "Git Up" by Ciera and JC Chazez noted that the group knows their strengths and consistently plays up the crowd well.

The bottom four teams for this week included Iconic, Status Quo, Fysch n Chicks, and Femme 5. Iconic is our very own local dance crew from Icon Dance Center in Englishtown, New Jersey. Iconic, although in the bottom four, was safe from elimination this week and given Chris Brown's *Kiss Kiss*. The team is best known for their Broadway style and professional training. Iconic delivered big this week impressing the judges with their creative choreography and tight moves. While the judges appreciate their classical dance training Lil' Mama wanted to make sure that the team gets more "street" in the following weeks to come.

Then there is Status Quo who was given an older song by MC Hammer, "Can't Touch This".

This vivacious all boy group failed to impress the judges this week. Their dances are usually full of crazy energy and wild stunts but this week fell short to synchronization problems.

The bottom two teams that went to face off were the only all female groups in the competition, Fysch n Chicks and Femme 5. Both crews wanted desperately to stay in the competition but supported whoever won in the name of "girl power." The final battle came down to Fysch n Chicks rendition of Beyonce's "Freakum Dress" versus Femme 5's take on "Hollaback Girl" by Gwen Stefani. Both teams really brought it this week making the final decision the most difficult yet for the panel of judges.

We saw a different side of Fysch N Chicks, mastering the art of dancing in heels and sexy dresses, but as always were able to deliver sass. Femme 5 also executed a very strong performance but at times danced more like solo artists rather than a cohesive group, which wound up being the deciding factor. In the end Femme 5 was sent home.

There are now seven teams remaining in the competition and it is up to you to decide who will be voted off in the coming weeks. To see if local hip hop crew Iconic sticks around for another week, cast your vote and tune into *Randy Jackson Presents America's Best Dance Crew*, Thursday nights at 10pm on MTV.

New Stars on Season 6 of Dancing with the Stars

- Adam Corolla-Comedian
- Christian De La Fuente-Latin Actor
- Shannon Elizabeth-Actress
- Steve Guttenberg-Actor
- Marissa Jaret Winokur-Actress
- Penn Jillette-Magician
- Mario-Singer
- Marlee Matlin-Actress
- Priscilla Presley-Actress
- Monica Seles-Tennis Star
- Jason Taylor-Football Star
- Kristi Yamaguchi-Figure Skater

Dance War: Bruno Beats Carrie Ann

KRISTEN RENDA
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

After seven weeks of the show, the first season of *Dance War* is over and the winning team was Team Bruno.

Dance War is a show with two of the *Dancing with the Stars* judges Carrie Ann Inaba and Bruno Tonioli. Bruno and Carrie Ann traveled to New York, Los Angeles, and Nashville in order to search for people who could both sing and dance extremely well, in hopes to find the ultimate pop group.

Bruno's team consisted of the Zack, Kelsey, Phillip, Lacey, Tony, and Charity. Carrie Ann's team had Mariel, Qis, Elizabeth, Chris, Bradley, and Allysa.

The way the show worked was each team would perform two numbers in which they would sing and dance to look like a real pop group, after the show America would vote and would find out who won the next week. If the team lost, they had to lose a member of the group which was very hard for team Bruno who lost twice having to lose Tony and Charity. Carrie Ann's team lost once losing Allysa, and each time a member is lost, the team is devastated.

Last week the teams both danced their hearts out knowing these were the

dances that would have to portray how much they deserve to win. This week was different because America wasn't voting, so they each re-performed their favorite dance and perfected it. Each team also recorded a song to be their single if they win the competition and they performed that as well.

Team Bruno chose to re-perform "These Boots are Made for Walking" because Bruno felt that this is the dance that America finally saw how great they are. Kelsey really shined in this performance and it was interesting to see how they worked around being without one of their teammates. (Tony was voted off after they performed this number.)

Team Carrie Ann chose their first performance which was "Papa was a Rolling Stone." It showed that they can really perform as a team, however it failed to show how well they can dance. That was something that Team Carrie Ann struggled with all season and America realized it a couple weeks into the competition.

Team Bruno constantly had advanced choreography while they sang which showed off both of their skills. Team Carrie Ann kept the

choreography simple and concentrated more on their vocals and per-



PHOTO COURTESY OF www.google.com
Bruno, host Drew Lachey, and Carrie Ann pose for the excitement of their show.

forming to the audience. Why have a show called *Dance War* if you aren't going to concentrate on the dancing aspect?

In the end, Zack, Kelsey, Phillip and Lacey of Team Bruno received a record deal with Hollywood Records. Most likely the group will be completed an album and touring really soon. However, Team Carrie Ann was also excellent and it wouldn't surprise me if they got recognized by a record label and got signed themselves.



This Season on Idol



VERONIQUE BLOSTEIN
STAFF WRITER

Last week, *American Idol* took us to Hollywood, for the next round in the competition. This year's Hollywood week was completely different from any of the previous seasons. First of all, contestants had the chance to redeem themselves if they performed poorly the first day. No one was cut on their first day. If a contestant received at least two "yeses" from the judges, they got a free ride to the last day, and those who didn't had to compete in a second round in order to determine who would be sent home, and who would continue on. There was also no group segment, so the drama this year was more personal, rather than interactive.

This season also gave contestants the opportunity to perform with instruments. Brooke White took advantage of the option, and the judges loved her performance. On the other hand, the use of instrument did not prove to be helpful for some. Jake Mellema performed with a drum set, which Simon critiqued as "horrible."

The judges were, as host Ryan Seacrest put it, relentless. Many contestants forgot their words, much to the dismay of the judges. We watched failure after failure. (Good thing these people had a second chance to perform again. Talk about pressure.)

Drama ensued among the judges, as usual. Of course the main culprits were Simon and Paula. During (the politician) Kyle Ensley's performance, Paula critiqued it as being "corny,"

which Simon didn't agree with. The argument resulted in Simon walking off. He apologized to Kyle the next day.

The cuts finally came faster than the speed of light on day three. Almost 100 people were cut by the end

performance. However, based on his past performances, the judges let him through to the top 50.

After the end of the final audition day, Simon, Randy, and Paula continued to argue over who would be in the top 24. Last minute decision making

was even being done the morning the top 50 would find out who the top 24 were. Simon made it very evident he was not happy with some of the choices. Some of the top 24 include returning contestants Chikezie Eze and Danny Noriega, along with Carly,

Brooke, Asia'h, and Syesha. Josiah, however, did not make the final cut.

When it came down to the final two girls and the final two guys, the tension in the air increased. For the guys, the final decision was between Kyle Ensley and Colton Berry, with Colton receiving the final spot. Simon expressed his displeasure at this decision by saying, "Wholeheartedly, I disagree with this decision . . . I'm really disappointed." For the girls, it came down to Cardin McKenney and Joanne Borgella. The judges stated that the decision was unanimous, and the final female spot went to our girl from Hoboken, Joanne.

Idol fans, we now have our top 24! The future of the season is now in our hands. Be sure to watch *American Idol* this week to begin voting for who our top 12 finalists will be, and don't forget to tune into *The Outlook* next week to find out how the first live performances turn out!



PHOTO COURTESY of www.americanidol.com

This season's top 24 Idol contestants.

of the day. All who had gotten a free pass performed with the remaining contestants on the last day with a full band setup. Syesha Mercado rocked the house, even with a strained voice. Simon also gave huge props to Asia'h Epperson when he said it was the "best audition by a mile. I loved it. You're terrific." Carly Smithson from Ireland belted out an amazing rendition of Heart's "Alone," after worries that her dog allergies could have affected her voice. It appears that this season will be another great year for the ladies.

The last Hollywood audition was performed by an unprepared Josiah Leming, the teenager who'd been living in his car. He and the band could not get along during rehearsals, so when it came time for his audition, he asked to sing a cappella. Simon said he sensed overconfidence in Josiah, and told him that he shouldn't sing without the band unless he was 100% certain it would be a stand-out

Upcoming Concerts to Rock Your Senses

ALEXANDRA JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Many great live acts will be taking the stage in upcoming months. Although it would be nice to hit every concert in the area, your bank account probably is not as plentiful as the line-ups. Plan ahead wisely, because there are definitely some impressive acts that won't break the bank.

Coming up in mid-March, The Spill Canvas will be opening for Yellowcard's acoustic tour. If you are unfamiliar with their music, The Spill Canvas



PHOTO COURTESY of www.google.com

Concert goers all wave their hands in the air.

These guys definitely know how to put on a great live show. Also joining them on the tour will be PlayRadioPlay!, Treaty of Paris, and Secondhand Serenade. These bands will be rocking Irving

Plaza in New York City on March 15 and Trocadero in Philadelphia on March 17. With tickets priced at \$18.50, the small cost will be worth these five acts without question.

Later in March, Say Anything and Manchester Orchestra will team up with Biffy Clyro and Weatherbox for a tour of their own. Say Anything thrives on fun music that revolves around the inner-most emotions that sex, love, and friendship evoke. Their crazy music matches up perfectly with their on-stage demeanor. As one of the most fun bands to watch perform, they

have no problem getting their audience pumped from start to finish.

Manchester Orchestra is much more subdued than Say Anything, but packed with just as much musical talent. Although they exhibit different styles of rock music, both bands

are a must see, which makes it tremendous that their hitting the road together. With stops at TLA in Philadelphia on March 26, and at the Nokia Live Theatre in New York City on March

29, definitely make sure to check out at least one of the shows. Tickets are reasonably priced at a mere \$17.50, so don't miss out!

The Rocket Summer will be co-headlining The Alternative Press Tour with All Time Low. With the help of The Matches, Sonny, and Forever the Sickest Kids, this tour is a great opportunity to check out some great talent that isn't main stream. The Rocket Summer can be recognized by their feel-good, upbeat sound and vocalist Bryce Avar's unique voice. You can catch this tour at TLA in Philadelphia on April 10 or at Irving Plaza in New York City on April 11. Tickets are more than affordable at \$13.50.

In mid-April, The Starting Line will be playing at the Electric Factory in Philadelphia on April 18. With Four Year Strong and Bayside as opening acts, this will certainly be a high energy concert. The Starting Line has been touring for years now, and knows exactly how to work the crowd. After putting forth a lot of great material in the past, The Starting Line will most likely mix old favorites with their new hits, as they usually do when they take the stage. Tickets are on sale for \$20.

Whether you're familiar with these bands or not, hop onto MySpace for additional tour information, as well as to get a listen of their songs. There are plenty of concerts hitting the surrounding area, so get out there and enjoy the live music!

Definitely, Maybe Definitely Delivers

MEGAN LABRUNA
STUDY ABROAD EDITOR

Critics are hailing *Definitely, Maybe*, saying it's the best romantic comedy since *Annie Hall*. I wouldn't go as far as saying that, but the movie was very good for being part of the predictable, tear jerker, lovey-dovey and all around adorable genre that defines the romantic comedy.

The film centers around William Hayes (Ryan Reynolds), a father in the midst of a divorce. During one of his assigned days with his daughter, Maya (Abigail Breslin), he picks her up from school only to find out that she and her other classmates have been given a lecture

on sexual education. Of course this brings about many questions for Maya, which her father is stuck answering such as: if sex is meant for making babies, then how is it possible for a child in her class to be a mistake?

All this newfound knowledge and curiosity brings Maya to ask her father how he met her mother, since she is no longer content with

the simple version that they met, fell in love, and got married. Reluctantly, Will decides to tell his daughter the story, but instead of just letting her know about her mother, he decides to tell her the story of the three greatest loves of his life, in which he changes all their names, some scenarios and facts, and tells Maya that she has to guess which one is her mother.

The movie goes on to show flashbacks in the ups and downs of each relationship, which allows Will to recount old memories he had suppressed for many years.

It is uniquely written so that the stories tend to intertwine, but the way the movie was filmed makes it easy for the viewer to not get confused in all the flashbacks. By recounting his days of old, Will and his daughter both learn new and surprising details about each

relationship, which could impact their current life. The film also stars Elizabeth Banks, Isla Fisher, and Rachel Weisz.

I recommend going to see the movie either as a couple or for a girl's night out, because the film focuses completely on relationships. *Definitely, Maybe* is guaranteed to definitely have you leaving the theater smiling.



PHOTO COURTESY of www.google.com

Abigail Breslin and Ryan Reynolds share a father-daughter moment.

Jumper Hits The Box Office Hard

MEGAN LABRUNA
STUDY ABROAD EDITOR

If you like action/adventures enhanced with sci-fi scenarios, then you will love *Jumper*. The movie stars Hayden Christensen as David Rice; a boy who during his younger years was teased for his mother being absent and his father being a drunk. After a foolish school prank, David realizes he is able to jump from wherever he currently is to wherever he wants to be.

The movie continues with David running away from home and starting a new life. Years later he heads back to his old town to find his elementary school crush Millie (Rachel Bilson). The two recognize each other immediately

and the old sparks fly again. Millie, who even as a child wanted to travel the world, agrees to fly to Rome with David, but she is unaware of his abnormal capabilities.

During this trip, David runs into another Jumper named Griffin (Jamie Bell) who enlightens him of their situation, capabilities, and the fact that there are certain people after "Jumpers" who are determined to kill each and every one of them. Griffin warns David that this group, led by Roland (Samuel L. Jackson) will kill anyone who gets in their way, friends or family. With this newfound knowledge, David is set on protecting Millie and saving his own life.

There are a few holes in the storyline which cause some parts of the movie to be inconsistent, such as early on in the

movie it is inferred that a jumper needs to see their jump site using pictures before they can make their first jump to it, but later on Griffin is able to jump a car through traffic without ever having seen where he is jumping before.

Another inconsistency is the fact that David supposedly had his first jump when he was five years old, but when the story begins the viewer is lead to believe that his first jump was during the school

prank. David's mother is mentioned here and there throughout the film, and although there is something unexpected about her, there is no real need for her to even be a part of the movie.

As for the acting, I wasn't impressed by

the cast's performances, especially Hayden Christensen, who always seems to come across as incredibly monotone and unanimated.

All inconsistencies and bad acting aside, the action scenes in *Jumper* are absolutely amazing. There is one scene in which both David and Griffin are fighting and simultaneously, jumping from different place to place while managing to get in a few sucker punches and the computer graphic effects of the whole thing make it look so real.

If you're looking for a solid story and good acting, then you might not appreciate *Jumper*, but if you want an adventurous movie that has a sort of fantasy feel to it, *Jumper* is definitely the film to be watching.

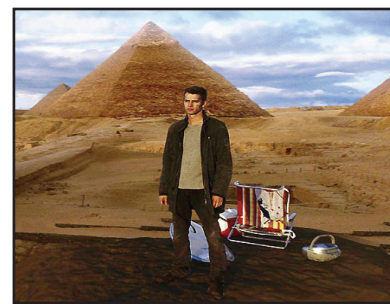


PHOTO COURTESY of www.google.com

Hayden Christensen jumps to Egypt.

Steer Away Graduation Jitters

One Monmouth Alumna shares her tips on how to be satisfied and successful with your career choice

DANIELLE DECARLO
FEATURES EDITOR

At the end of every semester, lots of MU students graduate and are able to embark on their next journey in life – to find a job in the real world. For about 99.9 per cent of these students, it is extremely scary and petrifying to take this next step; but remember there have been plenty of alumni that have found success, whether it was through another employer

person can accomplish once the days of classes are over!
“You definitely have to stick with what you like,” Riddle said about deciding on a job after graduation. “Upon graduation, everyone gets into general careers, or pointed in a certain direction, and that’s okay; you want a good job. However, a lot of people fail to connect with



PHOTO COURTESY of google.com

Don’t search the newspaper for your dream job. Search your mind and decide what you really love instead.

“You’re so young when you graduate,” she said. “How do you really know what you want to do then? You have to focus on what you enjoy and that will lead you.”

Riddle’s choice to start her own business, All About Writing, was given some motivation by her dad’s mantra, “Do what you do best and do it with a passion. Success will follow.” Of course starting your own business is difficult, but if it is something you really love, you can make it successful. There are a lot of benefits for Riddle of owning her own business.

“I have an 8 year old at home, and when I was teaching I was getting home so late and I worked all the time,” she said. “I wanted something I enjoyed doing, and also be able to make my own schedule. This way, I can balance my own life.”

Riddle believes having her own business gives her tons of other benefits, too.

“You can learn a lot more than you think when it comes to all aspects of your business,” she explained. “I have to make advertising decisions, financial decisions; it’s a variety of things. I also like meeting people, different people. I love learning all about them.”

If you are interested in starting your own business after graduating, Riddle offered a few tips to those of you interested.

“The biggest thing is to get involved in joining the town and the local Chamber of Commerce. The business owners will give you busi-

ness tips, and it’s great to network within the community. If I hadn’t joined, I would have been off to a

really slow start; any community support is great!” Riddle said.

If you don’t know exactly what to do right when you graduate, there’s no need to panic. There are plenty of options, and in the end, if you are doing what you really love, you’ll never work a day in your life. Starting your own business is a great option if you want to be in control, so to speak. If you’re unsure of where you want to go, don’t get discouraged. The perfect option is out there for you!

Once again, don’t panic if you’re feeling a little lost about what to do after graduation. You are definitely not alone, there are plenty of other students in the same boat as you. The right option is out there for you, and we are all so young when we graduate that it’s best not to rush such a big decision. Find out what YOU want to do first.

If you want more information about All About Writing, you can visit the website at www.allabout-writingconsulting.com.



PHOTO COURTESY of google.com

For a lot of students, this will be the last time that they will pass by the Monmouth University entrance as they embark on their next journey after graduation.

or all on their own.

One example is Christa Riddle. She graduated from Drew University as an English major and a writing minor, and attended graduate school at Monmouth University in 2005 with a Master of

what they really like. I didn’t do that right away. I wish I had earlier.”

For Riddle, writing was always put on the back burner. It was something she always wanted to do, but like so many other stu-

“... a lot of people fail to connect with what they really like...you have to focus on what you enjoy and that will lead you.”

CHRISTA RIDDLE

On finding a job after graduation

Arts in teaching. She has started her very own business called All About Writing.

Some of the services All About Writing offers are; writing of speeches, newsletters, brochures, articles, biographies, etc., editing and proofreading, resume writing, and writing tutoring.

“We are judged on our appearances and first encounters, and sloppy writing puts forth a bad introduction,” Riddle said. “This can often undermine what a person is trying to say or convey through writing.”

All About Writing isn’t the only thing that Riddle has done since she finished her schooling. During her career since graduation from Drew, she has worked two years as a teacher, three years as a writing tutor, three years as a lawyer’s administrative assistant, four years as a licensed insurance underwriter, and eleven years as a part-time small business manager, and of course attended graduate school here at Monmouth. As you can see, it is amazing what one

dents she was pointed in a different direction.



PHOTO COURTESY of google.com

This diploma can take you in any direction you desire, whether you want to be employed or be your own employer - it is entirely up to you.



PHOTO COURTESY of google.com

A lot of students are confused as to what they want to do after graduation. Don’t fret though, it’s normal! Follow what you like to do, your determination will lead you to success!

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The Kortney Rose Foundation is a local organization that raises funds for pediatric brain tumor research. Named for Kortney Rose Gillette, a third-grader who attended Wolf Hill Elementary School in Oceanport, the foundation offers many opportunities to get involved. Sponsor a fundraiser, participate in a walk or help with labeling during club meetings. For more information please email Kristen Gillette at kortneyroseorg@aol.com or visit the website, www.thekortneyrosefoundation.org All donations are made to the The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

This is a great opportunity to make a difference on a local level for individuals or groups. Projects are one-time or ongoing. Questions? E-mail volunteer@monmouth.edu or stop by the Office of Service Learning and Community Programs, Room 301c in the RSSC.

Recipe

Food For The Soul

Sponsored by Counseling and Psychological Services

February 27
2:30PM-4:00PM
Young Auditorium

For Special Accomodations, Please contact us prior to the program at 732-571-7517.

Stephanie Martel of Vibrant Health and Wellness will discuss "primary foods" such as relationships, career, spirituality and more.

"Sometimes we are fed not by food, but by the energy in our lives."

Counseling and Psychological Services Spring 2008 Program Schedule

February

- Wednesday, 2/20-10:00AM-11:15PM. *Break the Cycle, Be the Change.* Wilson Auditorium. Interactive community diversity program presented by the American Conference on Diversity. The program addresses different forms of prejudice and how we can all become "agents of change."
- Wednesday, 2/27-2:30PM-4:00PM. Young Auditorium, Bey Hall. *Food for the Soul.* Stephanie Martel of Vibrant Health and Wellness will discuss "primary foods" such as relationships, career, spirituality and more. "Sometimes we are fed not by food, but by the energy in our lives."

March

- Wednesday, 3/5-2:30PM-4:00PM. *What's Love Got to Do With It?* Young Auditorium, Bey Hall. The audience will view excerpts from various films that depict relationship abuse, domestic violence and assault, followed by an interactive discussion with counseling staff.
- Wednesday, 3/26-2:30PM-4:00PM. *Bias Incidents and Hate Crimes on the College Campus.* Young Auditorium, Bey Hall. Detective David D'Amico from the Bias Crime Unit of the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office will talk about incidents on campuses throughout New Jersey and how members of the community can respond.

April

- Thursday, 4/3-12:00PM-5:00PM. *Anxiety Screening.* Stafford Student Center, Room 202A. Students may participate in this screening by filling out a brief questionnaire that screens for anxiety and other mood disorders. The professional counseling staff will provide results immediately. Videos and literature available.
- Tuesday, 4/15-7:00PM-9:00PM. *CPS Film Series: Transamerica.* Wilson Auditorium. In this engaging film, a conservative transsexual woman and her long-lost teenage son explore the definition of the modern American family. Interactive discussion with counseling staff to follow.
- Wednesday, 4/30-2:30PM-5:30PM. *De Stress Fest.* Stafford Student Center, Anacon Hall. Our favorite day! Enjoy massage, yoga, games, prizes, videos, food and fun as you prepare for the FINAL stretch! Take a break! Bring a friend! Just come and enjoy!

Monmouth University
Life and Career Advising Center
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Tel. 732-571-7517 e-mail mu counseling@monmouth.edu

For special accommodations, please contact us prior to the program at 732-571-7517.

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Eucharistic Adoration
Every Monday 3:30-4:30PM

Lenten Masses
Wed Feb 13, 20, April 5, 19 at 12PM
in Wilson Chapel

Rosary
Every Monday 9 PM

Easter Basket Donations
We are collecting items for baskets for children in Monmouth Medical Center. No candy as there may be diet restrictions and only new toys or items. Please drop off donations to the Catholic Ctr or leave on the back steps. Baskets will be assembled at our Easter/St. Patrick's Day party on March 17 at 7:30 PM. Thanks so much

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CLUB and GREEK

Editor Note: This page contains articles written by the student members of these organizations. The Outlook is not responsible for the content of these articles. Send articles to outlook@monmouth.edu. Deadline is Mondays at 2:30 p.m. Otherwise, publication may not occur.

Alpha Sigma Tau

Alpha Sigma Tau is proudly to present Beauty and the Greek on Monday, February 25, 2008. Please purchase tickets to support this event for our many philanthropies especially Suicide Awareness. Ticket prices are \$5.00 before the door and \$7.00 at the door. If you would like to participant on stage for this event please contact Jenna DeLozier (s0620281@monmouth.edu) and Nicole Russo (s0583809@monmouth.edu). And finally, CONGRATULATIONS to all the new members of Alpha Sigma Tau. Insiders: Matey and Gia: love making animal sounds in the student center haha! Welcome Back, Sec. Love you <3 Aaliyah...Luckystar is happy to be back with her lovelies. 507 w/ Gia, Vogue, & Athena best ever! Yay creepy guys!!!...Yo Dolce! Steak dinner soon? Roxie...Fire alarms, what!? Kozmic & Radiance hold it down!

Congrats Alpha Upsilon class! Tuki, How's Fred? Radiance, Guitar Hero? –Summer...Muse-love our drives & parties on demand, Alpha Taus its awesome to finally hang out cause you are all amazing! Spryte come lay in my bed and bring the JRs! –Euphoria, Little and Little-face I love you – <3Biggie Muse...Gia- those look great <3 Athena (G-Sec), I love Alpha Sigmas and all the ladies!-Astrid...Chic loves everyone!!!!

Delta Phi Epsilon

To Alpha Rho, the sexiest pledge class ever, congrats, we love you. To HOLLYWOOD and CaLi, Love our lives. Its senior year and “ You only live once, but when you live like us once is enough!” Love, Dazzle I love my little, Jewelz! Great Weekend with my sisters and TKE! Congrats Alpha Rho!! Love you big *J’adore <3 Jewelz* I Love Fabulous and Vogue! Love, Jewelz* Congrats Alpha Rho! Love yous already. CoCo <3’s CaLi. Congrats Alpha Rho, great time with you on Friday! I love you big, your doing a great job with the million things your doing! Luv always, HEiRESS. I love you MoJiTo. You rock my world Glitz and Vegas. Big I love you *shine* So excited for the new editions!! Go Alpha Rho! Pips your good looks are blinding. Oh hey glitz CLEAN YOUR ROOM! Love MoJiTo. Congrats Alpha Rho we all love you- HOLLYWOOD Alpha Rho, I’m so excited for you pretty girls! Secret and Pseud, so happy to have you back! I missed you! D Phi E- I love you all! Love always, Vogue <3 Congrats Alpha Rho babies! So excited for you girls!! Obsessed with Jewels and Vogue! Love you! <3 FabuloUS. Sisters- I missed you so much and I’m so happy to be back with you all! I was miserable not associating with you all! Secret- I’m happy were back in action! Psudes- so happy I can run up to you in public! Congrats Alpha Rho Babies! Xox Big and Psude- even though I forgot at times I can say hi now without having to think about it <3 yas xoxoxoxo SINergy

Political Science Club

The Political Science Club is planning an exciting spring semester! If you’re interested in writing about politics or recent news events writefor the politics page of the outlook. Interested in debate? The club is beginning a debate team this semester. The club is also planning a Support the Troops event as well as a trip to Washington, D.C. If you’re interested in having a lot of fun with the Political Science Club, stop by a meeting every Tuesday in Bey Hall room 228 at 3:45.

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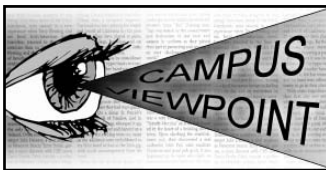
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What are you looking forward to most this semester?

COMPILED BY: SARAH ALYSE JAMIESON



Carlos
sophomore
"The end of it."



Perry
sophomore
"Winning the Lacrosse NEC(North East Conference) Championship! DOMINATING!"



Ashley
senior
"Going to Vegas with my wonderful roommates."



Tommy
junior
"The resurrection of Tau Kappa Epsilon."



Emily
senior
"Tuesday nights at Jack's."



Gerard
senior
"GRADUATING."



Sara
junior
"April showers to be in April, and not in February."



Taylor
junior
"Finishing out the school year on a good note."



Rachael
freshman
"Warm weather, for the beach."



Mike
junior
"To turn 21."

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Basketball

Staying Alive

Men lose at Wagner, defeat FDU to remain in contention for the NEC Tournament

ERIC WALSH
SPORTS EDITOR

With the season coming to a close, Monmouth finds itself in a tie for tenth place in the Northeast Conference, with just six games left in the regular season. The team needed to win at least one of their next two games in order to stay alive in the NEC Tournament picture. Traveling to first-place Wagner and then to rival Fairleigh Dickinson, the task would not be an easy one.

After the team dropped a close battle to the Seahawks 68-61, they found themselves in a must-win situation at FDU. With clutch performances from starters Yaniv Simpson and Whitney Coleman, and a big contribution from Jhamar Youngblood off the bench, the Blue and White put together a strong second half performance to defeat the Knights 66-58 and keep their postseason dreams alive.

On Saturday, February 16, the Hawks of Monmouth University traveled to Staten Island, New York, to take on the Wagner Seahawks, the number-one team in the NEC. Wagner entered the contest with an 11-2 record in the NEC, and an impressive 18-6 overall record.

James Hett, who resides in Staten Island when he is not at Monmouth, was greeted by a chorus of boos when he was introduced in front of the Wagner crowd. The local boy almost got the best of the local team, but in the end it was Wagner who came out on top 68-61.

The Hawks got off to a good start going up 10-7 by the 16:35 mark in the first half after a Whitney Coleman three-pointer from the wing. But Wagner stormed back with a 7-0 run over the next 2:28, going up 14-10.

A Nick DelTufo dunk brought the visiting team within one, 19-

18, with 10:07 remaining in the opening stanza. Once again the Seahawks went on a scoring spree with another seven-point run to open their lead to 26-18 with just over eight minutes to go in the half.

At the 2:15 mark Wagner had maintained its eight-point lead, 33-25, when MU ignited for an 8-0 run to close the half at 33-33. The Monmouth run was highlighted by an old-fashioned three-point play by R.J. Rutledge, a lay-up from Hett, and a long-distance trifecta from Simpson.

After the home team opened the half with a 4-0 run, the Blue and

came down the floor looking to take the lead for the first time in the game since the first half. Youngblood drove to the basket and put up a floater that rolled off the rim, with Wagner grabbing the rebound and drawing a foul.

The Seahawks were up 62-59 with just 28 seconds left when a Simpson three-pointer just came off the rim, along with Monmouth's hopes for a victory.

Monmouth had to do without their leading scorer for most of the second half, as Coleman sat out with an injured ankle. He was noticeably limping towards the end of the first half and tried to give it a go in the second stanza, but was only in for a brief time.

The Blue and White were led by DelTufo's 13 points, with Rutledge adding 10 points, and Simpson totaling nine points on three trifectas. Hett, who played valiantly in defeat in front of a hometown crowd, had eight points, five rebounds, four assists, and four steals. The home team relied on double-doubles from Durell Vinson (19 points, 19 rebounds) and Mark Porter (16 points, 10 rebounds) to secure the win. Monmouth dropped to 5-20 overall and 2-11 in the NEC with the loss to Wagner.

The Blue and White returned to action on Monday night at Fairleigh Dickinson, in a must-win game if the squad wanted to make it to the NEC postseason. The Hawks were in tenth place in the NEC going into the game at FDU, and needed a win in order to remain in contention for a berth in the NEC Tournament.

Monmouth put together a clutch performance when they needed it

the most, coming away with a 66-58 victory over the Knights. The Blue and White went on a 13-2 run midway through the second half that enabled them to control the rest of the game, and snap their six-game losing streak.

The first half was back and forth, with both teams going on runs throughout. Monmouth made the most important run of the first half when it was down 31-26 with 43 seconds remaining, as the Blue and White scored the last four points of the half to go into halftime only down one, 31-30.

The Hawks opened the second stanza just where it had left off in the first stanza, scoring the first seven points of the half to go up 37-31 at the 17:27 mark.

The Knights finally turned on their offensive power by scoring the next nine points to take a 40-37 lead. Rutledge answered by connecting on a three to tie the score at 40-40, after a near five-minute scoreless drought for the visiting squad.

After a Coleman transition lay-up, the Hawks put together a 13-2 run to push the score to 55-45 with 8:45 remaining. FDU pulled within six with 6:05 left in the contest, but the 6-0 Monmouth run capped by a Dutch Gailey rebound and put-back pushed MU ahead for good.

Monmouth, who committed a season-low seven turnovers in the game, outscored the FDU bench 31-0.

The Hawks will need to continue this winning pattern if they are hoping to make it into the top eight in the NEC, with the top eight teams playing in the NEC Tournament, and the winner moving onto the NCAA Tournament. The team will travel to Connecticut to play Quinnipiac on Thursday, February 21, with a scheduled 7 p.m. tip off time.

NEC Men's Basketball Standings

- | |
|-----------------------------|
| 1. Robert Morris |
| (12-2) |
| Wagner |
| (12-2) |
| 3. Sacred Heart |
| (12-3) |
| 4. Quinnipiac |
| (9-5) |
| 5. Mount St. Mary's |
| (9-6) |
| 6. CCSU (8-7) |
| 7. Long Island |
| (5-9) |
| 8. St. Francis (PA) |
| (4-10) |
| 9. Monmouth |
| (3-11) |
| Fairleigh Dickinson |
| (3-11) |
| 11. St. Francis (NY) (2-13) |



PHOTO COURTESY of MU Sports Information

Jhamar Youngblood came off the bench to contribute his second career double-double against Fairleigh Dickinson, with 11 points and a career best 13 rebounds.

White tied the game with 11:30 left to go after a Youngblood free-throw capped a 6-0 Monmouth run.

The Seahawks went on yet another run to go up 50-44, but a three-pointer from Simpson pulled the Hawks within three with 8:14 remaining.

Wagner held the lead until Rutledge hit a trey from the wing to knot the score at 59-59 with 1:28 left in the contest. After a Wagner made free-throw, Monmouth

Free-Falling

Women drop two more games to Wagner and FDU; have now lost six straight

ANDREW SCHETTER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Monmouth Univeristy Women's basketball team dropped their 5th straight contest to the Seahawks of Wagner, Saturday afternoon 71-61. The Hawks now fall to a disappointing 7-17 and 4-9 in the North East Conference.

The Blue and White were in a hole from the beginning as they missed their first 7 shots falling behind 8-1 early. Forward Jennifer Bender kept the Hawks in the game during the first half scoring 10 points and snatching 7 rebounds. Wagner's leading scorer at half Andrea Reed also netted 10 points.

Reed came out of intermission hot, as she netted 6 quick points and the Seahawks tried to make this one a blow out as the Wagner lead was quickly boosted to 14 at 52-38. Monmouth once again proved that they refused to quit in this tough season as they slashed the lead back to single digits with 7 minutes left in the game.

Three-point specialist Veronica Randolph gave the Hawks a fight-

ing chance making it a 6 point game just under the 5 minute mark with a beautiful three ball from the corner. This however, would prove to be the closest the girls would come to a lead in the 2nd half as

the Seahawks continued to score high percentage shots and put the game out of reach for Monmouth.

The story of the game was the Hawks' inability to take care of the basketball in the contest they had

a total of 26 turnovers which resulted in 16 points for Wagner in the first half alone. Wagner continually scored in transition and took advantage of more opportunities than Monmouth.

Captain Brianne Edwards was one of the bright spots for the Hawks in the game as she fell only two rebounds short of a double-double, scoring 12 points, grabbing 8 rebounds, and adding 4 assists to her impressive showing. Bender once again played exceptionally well as she notched yet another double-double, her third in the teams last 4 games, with 20 points and 12 rebounds in the contest.

The team returned to action against Fairleigh Dickinson on Monday evening, in a game that was televised on Fox Sports New York, but lost their 6th straight, 75-54. The loss brings the Hawks to 4-10 in the NEC and 7-18 overall.

The latest chapter in the "Garden State Rivalry Series" was disappointing for the Hawks as they could only muster 12 points in the last ten minutes of the game giving the Knights a 21-point win.

The Hawks for the second straight game sputtered out of the gate as the 39-24 deficit at half proved to be too much to recover from.

Lakia Barber provided a bright spot in the game for the Hawks as she scored 19 points off the bench in 23 minutes of play. She was the only player on the Hawks to score in double digits in the contest.

Bender continued her strong play falling just one point shy of her fourth double-double in the past 5 games.

Farleigh Dickinson had 3 players in double digits with Forward Christy Altamirano, leading the way with 19 points.

The starters for the Knights were the stars of the game as Monmouth's bench outscored the opponents bench 24-21. However, the Knight starters combined for 54 points and provided the Knights with a comfortable lead throughout, as the Hawks only led once in the game in the first minute of play.

The Hawks will have to wait until Saturday afternoon to snap this late season skid when they take on LIU at home with a 3 p.m. tip off time slated.



PHOTO COURTESY of MU Sports Information

Lakia Barber tied a career-high against Fairleigh Dickinson with 19 points in only 23 minutes of play off the bench, but her spark could not help the Hawks overcome a slow start in the contest.

A Word on Sports

Our Tax Dollars at Work

ALEXANDER TRUNCALE
STAFF WRITER

I remember the first time I ever voted. I remember how genuinely and surprisingly excited I was. Finally I was old enough to help decide who would represent me in the federal government. Before I filled out my absentee ballot, I considered all the issues. War, taxes, and the environment all crossed my mind, but for me, the biggest issue I thought of when I filled out that ballot was whether or not Roger Clemens actually did steroids, and what my elected representatives were going to do about it.

In all honesty, the Congressional hearing on February 13th investigating Roger Clemens' steroid use had to have been the biggest waste of time and money in history of our nation's Legislative Branch (and that's saying something). I have a hard time believing that on the first Tuesday in November, people vote to send their Congressmen to Washington in order to find out whether or not some overpaid baseball player injected steroids into his rear end and whether or not he bled through a pair of designer pants.

There were 34 Congressmen and women that were present at this all-important hearing. If there are 300,000,000 people living in America today, and there are 435 representatives in the House, that means that, on average, one

Congressman represents about 690,000 people. Multiply that by 34, and you have 23,460,000 people whose representatives feel that Roger Clemens steroid use is actually worth the time of day. Outside of ESPN, who's desperate to cover anything in February, the slowest sports month of the year, no one cares. But for some reason, 34 representatives felt as though investigating before and after pictures of Clemens' body was in the best interest of their constituents. In the words of Oklahoma State head football coach Mike Gundy: Are you kidding me?

Meanwhile, as this charade was going on, other representatives in the House, (those who actually get it) were debating House Resolution 976, which would extend the "Protect America Act", aimed at allowing foreign intelligence services more latitude in gathering information. The 34 congressman who were at the hearing, were obviously not at the debate of this important bill, opting instead to listen to stories about Debbie Clemens juicing up in order to look good for her Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue photo shoot.

And if that isn't enough to get you angry, Arlen Specter, a U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania, has decided that he is now going to put all his time and effort into investigating NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell's handling of Bill Belichick and the filming of the New York Jets in Week 1 of the NFL season, which the all-too-clever

media has dubbed "SpyGate." Like the Clemens hearing, this investigation is going to cost money, and since I doubt Senator Specter is going to dig into his own pocket to finance this, the bill once again will fall upon you and me, the taxpayers.

Since somebody obviously slipped Henry Waxman, Arlen Specter and his colleagues a bunch of clueless pills, allow me to illustrate the real issues America faces in 2008. We are fighting a war in Iraq, but we're not entirely sure who we're fighting and soldiers my age and younger are getting annihilated by roadside bombs. And, in case you've forgotten, America is also fighting a war in Afghanistan, and believe it or not, soldiers are dying there, too. The economy is slowly but surely slipping into a recession and China is continuing to eat our lunch and our dinner. America is facing some real challenges in the coming year. Neither stealing defensive signals or Human Growth Hormone are one of them.

Ideally speaking, we elect Congressman to represent us and we entrust them to do what is right for our nation. Congress should let Roger Goodell and Bud Selig police their own sports, and focus their attention on important things, like the treatment of our veterans, and the capture of that really tall guy with a beard who is still hiding in a cave somewhere.

Former Hawk Signs Pro Contract

Mike Castellano is 24th pick for Arkansas team of the upstart AAFL

PRESS RELEASE

Former Monmouth linebacker Mike Castellano recently signed a one year contract with the Arkansas team of the upstart All American Football League.

"I am really excited about the chance to keep playing football," said Castellano. "The chance to continue playing was always the most important thing to me. It was exciting to sit down and watch the draft and see my name come across the screen. It's a great feeling to know I have the chance to keep playing."

The Freehold, N.J., native was one of Arkansas' out-of-area selections.

The teams of the AAFL are able to lock up 25 players from their area, in Arkansas' case, players that attended and graduated from

that play a 10-game regular season. Players must have completed their college eligibility and earned degrees at a four-year institution. Some of the League's teams will be hosted by universities with Division IA football programs and other teams will play in independent venues. Games will be scheduled in the spring and early summer. The Arkansas team is coached by former Arkansas Razorback quarterback Ron Calcagni. The team will play its home games at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Castellano ended his career with the Hawks as a Two-Time All-NEC selection. His 218 career tackles is ninth all-time among Monmouth players. The 6'3" linebacker also finished with 12.5 sacks and seven interceptions in his three seasons in West Long Branch. As a senior,

"The chance to continue playing was always the most important thing to me."

MIKE CASTELLANO
Former Monmouth Football Player

colleges and universities in the states of Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

Castellano was one of just 25 out-of-area players selected by Arkansas.

Castellano was invited to a private workout at the University of Central Arkansas where he went through three rounds of evaluation and drills for the Arkansas coaching staff. After the session, the staff requested game film on the former Hawk.

The AAFL is a brand new league of outdoor football with six teams

Castellano was second on the team in tackles (behind current Calgary Stampeders defensive back Matt Hill) en route to being named Football Gazette First Team Mid-Major All-American.

"Monmouth is a very high level of football," said Castellano. "They always are a competitive team led by a great coaching staff that prepared me to play at the next level."

Camp starts for the Arkansas team around the middle of March, with the team set to make its debut on April 12 in Texas.

Preseason Number One

The baseball team is the favorite to win the NEC this season as selected by the coaches

PRESS RELEASE

The Monmouth University baseball team was picked as the preseason favorite to repeat as Northeast Conference champions, in the league's preseason coaches' poll, which was announced this afternoon by conference officials.

Monmouth, the defending NEC Champions, received six of eight first place votes, while Quinnipiac was picked second, followed by Central Connecticut State. Mount St. Mary's, which was awarded the other two first-place votes, was chosen fourth. Long Island was picked fifth, while Wagner was selected sixth. Sacred Heart and Fairleigh Dickinson rounded out the list.

Monmouth, which has qualified for a league-record 11 NEC postseasons, returns 22 lettermen from last season's 36-24 squad, which set a program-record for wins and appeared in its third NCAA Regional. Head coach Dean Ehehalt, now in his 15th season with the Hawks, welcomes back three all-conference players, including NEC Pitcher of the Year Brad Brach, NEC Rookie of the Year Ryan Buch, and first-team all-league selection, Andy

Meyers. Monmouth also has the luxury of returning seven starting position players, and a deep pitching staff, which accounts for 32 of last season's victories and 14 saves.

Brach, Monmouth's all-time winningest pitcher (21), tied for the league lead with nine victories last season, while setting a new single-season strikeout mark with



PHOTO COURTESY of MU Sports Information

The Hawks open up the season with a three-game series at East Carolina on February 29, with the first pitch set for 5:00 p.m.

84 (besting his own record set in 2006 - 82). Brach, who tossed a no-hitter against Long Island and was named NCBWA National Pitcher of the Week for his performance, is now second on Monmouth's all-time list with 207 strikeouts. The first-team all-league performer

was also named to the ABCA All-East Region team.

Buch was tabbed a Collegiate Baseball/Louisville Slugger Freshman All-America, along with NEC Rookie of the Year, New Jersey Rookie Pitcher of the Year, and ABCA All-East Region, after sporting a 9-3 record, setting a new school freshman mark. He ranked second in the loop with a 2.44 ERA and posted 76 strikeouts.

Last season, Meyers claimed first team accolades at first base following a terrific regular season that saw him rank in the NEC top-10 in 10 different categories, including RBI (65, first), average (.395, second), slugging percentage (.596, second) and on-base percentage (.474, third). Meyers, who has blasted nine homers, ranked first in the league with a career-high 88 hits (one off the school-record).

In its 2007 NCAA Tempe Regional appearance, Monmouth had the tying run in scoring position in both of their regional games at the end of each contest, including losses to No. 6 Arizona State and Nebraska.

Monmouth opens the season with a three-game series at East Carolina, starting on February 29, with first pitch set for 5:00 p.m.



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THE CHOSEN ONES



The Monmouth Hawks Baseball team was picked to finish first in the NEC in the league's preseason Coaches' Poll.

Full Story on Page 19