



THE OUTLOOK

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SGA Auction Raises Money for Charity

Fund-raiser to benefit local families of seriously ill newborns



PHOTO COURTESY OF Natalie Rambone

The auction table contained gifts donated from various organizations.

NATALIE RAMBONE
STAFF WRITER

The Student Government Association's sixth annual charity auction received support from students and the local community despite last week's inclement weather to raise more than \$1,000 for Michael's Feat.

The Student Government Senator Megan Canavan organized and ran the Feb. 13 charity auction at Anacon Hall, which benefited the Michael Gerard Puharic Memorial Fund, a non-profit organization that supports parents of seriously ill newborns in Monmouth and Ocean counties.

With the help of fellow SGA senators and general members, the SGA sent out letters and visited with the local businesses, family members, and friends to help sponsor the evening.

Donations included a New

York Giants signed football, Bath and Body Works gift basket and gift card, a Ming Ying gift certificate, money from the Monmouth University Bookstore, and tickets from the MU Box Office. There was even dinner for four from Vice President Mary Anne Nagy and from Phi Sigma Sigma.

Once you bought your auction paddle, you were handed a gift certificate as a bonus and a raffle ticket as well. The auction, which was supposed to start at 7:30 p.m., began at 8 p.m. due to snowy and icy conditions and lasted until sometime after 10 p.m.

To jumpstart the night, M.C. Michael Lizza introduced himself to everyone and introduced Dana Puharic, the founder of Michael's Feat, named after her son Michael who died from a chromosome disorder shortly after he was born.

Puharic said, "What is fan-

tastic too is that when I was interviewed by the paper (not *The Outlook*), the reporter said to me, 'Wow, they have been making a couple grand every year and this year is a significant year because they are going to reach over 10 grand for Michael's Feat.' And of course we value every dollar raised, but for all of a sudden to get \$10,000 from a college, who we as an organization did not have to lay out any money at all, makes us really grateful for that."

Bidding for the evening generally started around \$5 or \$10 and went as high as almost \$200; one even went to \$325. Some of the items that had the highest bids were the Residential Parking Decal which went for \$325, two New York Rangers tickets

Auction continued on pg. 3

Icy Conditions Shut Down University

Closing Procedures Inconvenience Some, Anger Others

SAMANTHA YOUNG
CO EDITOR IN CHIEF

After last Wednesday's University closing, some concerned students and faculty began to question the effectiveness of the campus alert system. So how does it work exactly and where did things go wrong?

To check the school's status during inclement weather, one may use the following resources: the Monmouth Web site (www.monmouth.edu), local radio and television stations, the campus hotline (732 263 5900), Hawk-mail accounts, or one can receive updates via text message. Electric signs at the entrance of Larchwood Avenue are also available

indicators of University status.

The February 14 snow day was the first of the 2006-2007 school year. A message was sent out to the campus at approximately 5:19 a.m. stating the University would be subject to a delayed opening. About three hours later at 8:37 a.m., another message was sent stating the University was closed. The second notice, in many instances, came too late for some.

"I checked three times the hotline number and it said all three times delayed opening and my class was supposed to begin at 10 a.m.," said English major Janine Strauss. "I commute from Colts Neck and I got up extra early so I could navigate the treacherous roads.... I drove all the way

here – about 45 minutes – and I saw the faculty parking lot was nearly empty and had a sinking feeling."

According to protocol, President Paul Gaffney II makes the ultimate decision. "I get up early, in [the case of last Wednesday], about 4:30 a.m., listen to the radio/TV, and confer with VP Swannack [about] snow/ice removal progress on campus," he said. "When a decision is made, calls are made to other VPs, and information about closing is sent to radio, TV and Internet."

Patricia Swannack, Vice President for Administrative Services, also alerts the MUPD and inquires about road conditions around campus and the police



PHOTO COURTESY OF Christina Guarino

Fallen tree limbs can be seen behind Elmhood Hall (above) and outside of the Plangere Center.

radio net. When there are no extenuating circumstances, the decision for school closings is made by 5 a.m. Swannack warns, however, situations can change very

rapidly. "Between 5 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. conditions began to deteriorate

Snow Day continued on pg. 4



Wednesday 44°/30°
Partly Cloudy



Thursday 47°/31°
Few Showers



Friday 42°/26°
Sunny



Saturday 42°/33°
Mostly Cloudy



Sunday 48°/37°
Cloudy



Monday 49°/33°
Showers



Tuesday 44°/34°
Showers

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY weather.com

News



The Underground hosts Thursday Night Alternative.
...3

Opinion



See what Sean Quinn thinks about possible troop withdrawal.
...8

Entertainment



Lupe Fiasco is not your ordinary hip hop star..
...11

Sports



Women's basketball earns a spot in the NEC Tournament.
...19

World According to MU: Religion

SEAN KENNY
CLUB AND GREEK EDITOR

A minister from Miami, Florida, who has the number 666 tattooed on his arm, has made the claim he is the reincarnated Jesus Christ. Jose Luis de Jesus Miranda, founder of the church known as the “Creciendo en Gracia,” Spanish for “Growing in Grace,” has gained the support of over 1,000 devoted followers and has also drawn furious criticism from several religious leaders around the country. According to a CNN.com article posted on February 19, titled “Pastor with 666 tattoo claims to be divine,” de Jesus states that he was visited by angels who gave him divine, Christ-like powers, and that his spirit is the “same that was in Jesus of Nazareth.” Leaders around the U.S. have condemned his claims and have accused him of being a fraud. Many believe that this organization is eerily similar to the cults of Jim Jones and David Koresh, both of whom engaged in mass suicide with their followers resulting in the deaths of close to 1,000 people, including women and small children.

Many believe that this organization is eerily similar to the cults of Jim Jones and David Koresh, both of whom engaged in mass suicide with their followers...

De Jesus, who has admitted to being both a petty criminal and a heroin addict in his home of Puerto Rico, has been able to win over the hearts and minds of hundreds of people in Florida. He also claims his church will one day be one of the “mainstream religions of the world.” De Jesus’ church has been building support and power for nearly 20 years and has been responsible for vandalism and protests around Miami and Latin America. His supporters have been accused of disrupting religious services at numerous churches, protesting and smashing crosses and statues of Jesus Christ. Some of the beliefs preached by de Jesus and the Creciendo en Gracia include the belief that there is no devil and that they are the “government of God on Earth.” De Jesus also preaches the number 666, which is usually a number referred to when discussing the Christian and Catholic belief in the “Antichrist,” is misunderstood by world religions. The Antichrist, de Jesus states, is “the “best person in the world,” and the being who replaces Jesus on Earth. Aside from preaching to his hundreds of followers, de Jesus drives

around in bulletproof Lexus and BMWs, while showing off his diamond-encrusted Rolex watches; all of which are apparently “gifts” from the numerous members of his congregation. These gifts have raised red flags around the country, with dozens of religious leaders extremely worried that de Jesus is using and manipulating people to join his church in an effort to construct another deadly cult. De Jesus, like Jones with the Peoples Temple and Koresh with the Branch Davidians, has been able to grab onto the hearts and minds of his congregation, and many around the country are afraid these individuals are going to suffer the same fate as those who joined cults in the past. Monmouth students had their reactions to the interesting happenings going on in Florida, and voiced their opinions on de Jesus. Danielle Ellement, Vice President of the Monmouth Catholic Center, offered an opinion on the situation which seems to be the popular reaction by many religious people and leaders around the country. “I think it is interesting, but no one can say that they are God,” stated Ellement. “Not even Jesus, since he said ‘I am son of the father.’ I think that man does have some relationship with God and some kind of connection with God in some way, like prayers or something.” When asked about de Jesus’ thoughts on the Antichrist and the number 666, Ellement responded with her views on the issue. “To be honest, I have no comment about 666,” she explained. “The Antichrist is a sin, not an evil. To be against God doesn’t mean you are evil. It means that you don’t have a good relationship with God, and/or you don’t believe in God.” Ellement continues, saying, “In the Catholic Church’s view, [the Antichrist] is a person who is a sinner and who is lost and in need of discovering themselves by finding a connection with God.” Other students gave a different reaction to what has been going on with the Creciendo en Gracia, and looked at the issue from a different angle. Sophomore Jamie Maralla reacted very differently from that of the larger consensus around the country. “Well, I’m sure if you told some random person that knew nothing about our culture the story of God, the story of creation, and the Bible, and that they had a million followers, they might think that we were nuts too,” stated Maralla. Millions around the country and around the world, for that matter, may have their opinions and judgments about de Jesus and his congregation. The reality of the situation is that the Creciendo en Gracia exists and the world will have to wait and see what happens to their church and self-proclaimed divine leader. Only time will tell whether or not their church remains somewhat peaceful or if they become yet another dangerous and murderous cult.

Outdoors Club Initiates Recycle Program

CECELIA LUCIDO
STAFF WRITER

The Outdoors Club recently kicked off its first official project as a new organization on campus. The group’s primary goal is to educate and involve Monmouth students in ways that they can help the environment, which is something they have started putting into action. On February 19, the club initiated a recycling program. They hope to collect and properly recycle used items that could pose a threat to the environment if improperly handled or disposed. The list of items includes used cell phones, cell phone batteries, empty ink cartridges, used household batteries, and other similar objects. Recycling items like these is important because if they are simply thrown away, the ink from used ink cartridges and the leftover acid from used batteries may seep out of their containers and into the ground at the garbage dumps they are carried to. According to Outdoors Club President Paul Mandala, the garbage dumps in New Jersey are already too contaminated. They are requesting as much help as possible in their efforts to prevent pollution from these substances from worsening.

“One of the simplest things we can do to change the environment tremendously is just recycling,” said Mandala. The items collected on campus will be shipped to FundingFactory.com, a Pennsylvania-based company that purchases empty cartridges, cell phones, and similar items that may be potentially hazardous from collectors. The company then recycles and

“One of the simplest things we can do to change the environment tremendously is just recycling”

PAUL MANDALA
OUTDOORS CLUB PRESIDENT

refurbishes the cartridges and phones to be sold back to consumers at a cheaper price. In reusing the original tanks, the amount of waste is reduced and the ink or acid from the items will not be left to leak into the garbage sites. Any batteries collected will be going to a local recycling center to be disposed of in a prop-

er manner. Information from Earth 911.org claims that batteries that end up in landfills or incinerators for disposal can potentially “leak into the environment and end up in the food chain, causing serious health risks to humans and animals.” Incorrect discarding of batteries may also expose the environment and water to lead and acid. “Chemicals such as zinc and lead are found in ordinary household batteries. When these are dumped into landfills, these contaminants eventually migrate into the underground aquifers, polluting our drinking water,” explained Outdoors Club Adviser William Reynolds. “If we can help people get into the habit of putting these batteries aside so that they do not go out with the ordinary trash, it may just become a lifelong practice for them.” The Outdoors Club needs the help of its fellow students. Collection bins to deposit used items will be located in each of the residence halls and also in the Rebecca Stafford Student Center. Any deposits of the listed items are greatly appreciated as the Outdoors Club continues its efforts to encourage Monmouth University students into environment-friendly habits that can benefit everyone.

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SAB Hosts Trip to Broadway's Avenue Q

DANIEL ROTH
EDITOR AT LARGE

Avenue Q was the place to be Sunday, February 18, as the Student Activities Board (S.A.B.) hosted a trip to the Broadway hit. The show, which is advertised on its Web site as good for adult and teenage audiences, uses puppetry and a script that deals with real world situations to entertain audiences.

S.A.B. President Christine Schumann commented on the choice of shows, "Avenue Q was chosen above some other shows for multiple reasons. When planning a trip to a Broadway show, one must keep in mind that a bus has 49 seats, so it must be a show with at least 49 reasonably-priced tickets available."

She went on to say, "It's a very different show from all the other Broadway plays because of its original songs and style of performance. Because it tends to be racier, this show is good for the college age audience because it involves characters struggling with some of the same things as a col-

lege student or recent college graduate."

Tickets for the show had been advertised in the Student Center as well as online and were available for \$40 to students and \$45 to guests. Included in the price was a bus ride from the school into the city. The bus left the Student Center Parking lot full with both students and alumni. After arriving in the city around 11:20 a.m., patrons had the opportunity to explore the city before the 2 p.m. showtime.

The show itself is the comic tale of a group of puppets and people whose lives all intersect as they live on Avenue Q. Finding your purpose in life, dealing with homosexuality, Internet pornography, and racism are just some of the topics covered by the characters throughout the play.

Darcy Dobens, a Masters of Social Work student, offered her opinion of the show, "I really liked it a lot, and it was hilarious. Going in I heard it was vulgar but it fit in. I would definitely recommend it."

Monmouth Alumnus Jean Moran (class of 1991) echoed these sentiments. "I loved the show! It was funny, very contemporary, it was the truth," she said. She went on to mention that Lucy the Slut was one of her favorite characters.

Mahmut Ozkul, who is involved in the



PHOTO COURTESY of avenueq.com

Left to Right: Rod, John Tartaglia, Nicky, Jennifer Barnhart and Rick Lyon.

Masters program for software engineering, said this was a special trip. It was his first trip to Broadway. "It was an awesome experience, I had lots of fun," he said. "Princeton (the main character in the play) and Lucy the Slut were some of my favorite parts of the show." Later on he added that this will not be his last Broadway experience.

The show lasted two hours and twenty minutes. Those that went on the trip were picked up immediately following the end of the show.

Avenue Q has been performed at the John Golden Theatre on Broadway since July 2003. The show has won a Tony Award in 2004 for best Musical, and a Lucille Lortel Award for Best Musical in its first performing season.

S.A.B.'s next trip is to Caroline's Premier Comedy Club on Broadway this Friday. Tickets are on sale for \$15 to students and \$20 for guests. During the last weekend of March, the S.A.B. is sponsoring an overnight trip to Washington, DC. For that trip, the price is \$375 per room. The rooms will each accommodate four people.



PHOTO COURTESY of avenueq.com

Left to Right: Princeton, John Tartaglia, Kate Monster and Stephanie D'Abruzzo.

TNA Moves to Underground



PHOTO COURTESY OF Jacqueline Koloski

TNA performers Zac and Carlos were of ten to perform at Thursday's event in The Underground.

JACQUELINE KOLOSKI
CO EDITOR IN CHIEF

In only its second event of the spring semester, Thursday Night Alternative (TNA) was again on the move. After relocating from Oakwood Hall and then Magill Commons, TNA took place in The Underground on Feb. 15.

It was a packed house as students performed live music and even poetry pieces. Ten people performed before the crowd singing original songs as well as covers. Some students even showcased their talents on a variety of instruments like the keyboard, dijeredoo, the banjo,

during the course of the night for Einstein Bagel \$25 gift certificates.

Gant was satisfied with the turnout at the Underground.

"We had our loyal TNA crowd that always comes out and it was nice to see many new faces at the event as well," said Gant. "My department, Residential Life, and RHA all sponsor the event and felt with the newly opened and renovated Underground with stage and set would be perfect for TNA," said Gant in regards to the change of location.

He added that the new location is convenient for residents as it is

"It was nice to have other people hear the music you write."

JESSICA PYRDSA
MU Freshman

and the acoustic guitar.

An event sponsored by the Substance Awareness Department, Jonathan Gant, who is the department's graduate assistant, said the purpose of the night is to give students an alternative to the "party scene" on Thursdays.

"It gives students a safe and fun environment where they can still get out and have fun enjoying free live music, refreshments, and hanging out with friends," said Gant. "It is also a great way for students to showcase and express their talents whether it be poetry musical, or in another form at this Open Mic style event."

In addition to the live entertainment, the Substance Awareness Department has three drawings

connected to Elmwood Hall. Gant encourages everyone to attend the event.

Angie Randazzo, a visitor from Brick, performed twice at TNA. "I thought it was really relaxed. It was nice to be able to free myself for awhile."

Jessica Pyrdsa, a freshman music industry major, performed two original songs on keyboard during TNA. "It was nice to have other people hear the music you write," said Pyrdsa.

The next TNA is scheduled for March 15, and the new residence hall location is being considered. "We will try to get the students opinions on the Underground location and probably have it back there in March," said Gant.

SGA Fund-raiser

Auction continued from pg. 1

that went for \$174 and \$100 for a signed Giant's Football.

Sophomore Tara McMenamin, who won NY Liberty Tickets and Bath and Body Works Certificate, thought that the auction was very interesting and went to a good cause. "My boss is Adam Puharic so obviously he helps out with Michael's Feat, and I am really happy to see it does a lot with the community and had a good turnout."

"I think the auction went really smoothly and that it was a really successful night, and I look forward to it next year," added Mark Williams, a freshman Student Government Senator.

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Snow and Ice Cause Havoc on Campus

At 5:19 a.m. delay was in effect; 8:37 a.m. school was closed

Snow Day continued from pg. 1

very quickly," she said. "No one predicted the severe icing or extreme power outages that occurred. The storm was expected to change to rain. Instead most of the precipitation fell as ice."

The inclement conditions originally called for a delay until 10 a.m.

jeopardize the safety and security of employees or students."

"[The inconvenience] was a major drag," comments Strauss. "I would have appreciated a phone call or something or just not changing their minds at the last minute and close the town from the beginning based on the road conditions."

Even with the many options to reach students, inclement condi-

"It is our goal to notify everyone as quickly as possible."

PATRICIA SWANNACK

VP of Administrative Services

"The conditions did not improve as expected at 5 a.m.," said Gaffney. "I went out again from 8 to 9 a.m. and decided after discussion with police...I would close."

Swannack said it is the University's goal to make the best possible decision in the shortest time.

"It takes some time to send emails, post information on the University's Emergency Hotline, notify radio and television stations, change the Web site, send text messages and voice mails, notify Emergency Personnel and post notices in the residence halls," said Swannack. "It is our goal to notify everyone as quickly as possible."

Communication broke down, at least in part, between administrators and students, leaving some to arrive to empty parking lots and emptier classrooms.

"I went to my [8:30 a.m.] class and the building was closed and all the lights were off," said freshman Keefe Hutzler, a future health studies major. "I got back to my [Beachwood] dorm and saw papers on the doors but there were none there before I left."

The most effective form of notice for the school closing seemed to be text messaging. The ease of text messaging allowed most of the 1900 students currently enrolled in the Monmouth University's sponsored program, to coordinate their schedules with minimal confusion.

"I checked the e-mail [to see if school was closed] but last year I signed up for text messaging on my cell phone," said sophomore art major Kelly Murray. "I wasn't personally inconvenienced. My classes weren't until 10 a.m. anyway so I had the morning to check my email."

Wednesday into Thursday morning brought with it even more questions about the status of the University. With ice still covering walkways and parking lots partially cleared, a delay was expected, but not given.

"Facilities Management personnel work around the clock to plow and de-ice parking lots, driveways, and sidewalks," said Swannack. "With temperatures as low as we have been experiencing until we can get salt and sand down and the sun comes out, ice is very difficult to eliminate."

While the stories of inconvenience filtered through campus last week, Swannack assures the campus community [University administrators] "do not want to

tions can be unpredictable.

"We cannot control the weather," said Gaffney, "just react to its changing nature the best we can."



PHOTO COURTESY of Christina Guarino

Caution tape surrounds fallen tree limbs in front of Plangere Center. As of Tuesday, clean up of the debris has yet to take place.

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The Outlook provides the Monmouth University community with information concerning issues in and around the University while serving as a forum for expression of the ideas of its readers.

Contributions must be submitted (email outlook@monmouth.edu) by 12:00 p.m. Mondays to The Outlook office, 2nd floor, room 260, Plangere Center.

All copy must include the author's full name and contact information.

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Editorial

JACQUELINE KOLOSKI
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

This week I want to touch on an issue I am sure all of us have encountered at least one time this semester. Cold and flu season is a nightmare for everybody especially college students. It's not the best experience going to class when you are sick and would much rather be sleeping and attempting to get better. It has seemed as though every other week people have been getting sick. They are better one week and then the following week the cold is back.

Annoying right? Before I returned to school again for the semester I was battling a cold. It went away for awhile then came back with a vengeance as it caused me to lose my voice for four days. Four days! I got nervous because classes were starting and the best way to start a new semester is with no voice. Ironically, I have a Voice and Diction class so I wanted to get better before that class. Luckily, by the second class I was good as new so I didn't sound too bad.

To get more information on this particular health topic I figured to go straight to the source. I talked with the Director of Health Services, Kathy Maloney, to get some more information about what has been the reason for the onset of more people being sick right now. She gave me a lot of good insight as well as steps as to how students can avoid getting sick during cold and flu season. So let me share with you what she had to say.

Maloney said that numbers have not shown that more people are getting sick this year as opposed to last year. It may appear that way, but it's not. She said that in the Health Center, they find more patients during the months of Oc-

tober and February. She said that because this is cold and flu season that it is not out of the ordinary to see so many people getting sick. I guess its just he point of trying to avoid not getting sick.

Since we are always in such close quarters because of classes and such, it is difficult to not get sick. You are around people all the time so it is less likely you will escape cold and flu season scot-free. Maloney said that it is, "hard to combat viruses on campus. Our students are in multiple classes with multiple people contacts who can potentially carry viruses."

She continued that this is worse for resident students who are living amongst many people. I have lived on campus for the past three years and I have been pleasantly surprised that I have not been sick as much as one would think. I think I have to credit that with being lucky. I better be careful by saying that and hope that does not jinx my chances of not getting sick.

It is becoming more and more common to hear the sneeze, sniffle, and coughs of our fellow classmates. I'm really looking forward to when the weather finally breaks. The main reason because it won't be below zero, snowy, and icy anymore. The reason that makes a close second is the fact that it will mark the end of the cold season. But then you bring in the issue with allergies, which is another story for another day for anyone that is interested.

The weather these past few months have definitely been off kilter. We go from it be fairly warm in the early winter months and then all of a sudden we hit a cold snap. Sometimes I credit the weather for making me sick, but I think that is one of those myths

when it comes to getting a cold. Nobody has proven that as one of the causes. There are always those myths that swirl around that those in the health field try to dispute or find some truth in.

Maloney told me four ways that students can fight off that pesky cold or flu virus. Step one is "Get rest! Many college students wear themselves down with lack of sleep and of course everybody is under pressure," said Maloney.

I know for a fact I should follow that one. I feel as though at times I am not getting as much sleep as I probably should. I think sometimes I can just get away with four or five hours of sleep but then it definitely catches up with you. It makes you feel very run down and I can see how it plays a role in catching a cold. It hurts your immune system greatly.

Step 2, said Maloney, "Remember to eat healthy and drink plenty of liquids." So that means to set aside that candy bar as hard as it may seem and eat an apple or have a glass of orange juice. I know sometimes when I am feeling a bit under the weather that helps me feel a little better.

Step 3 she said is to wash your hands. "Students can pick up surface viruses from common places such as bathrooms, desks, and computer keyboards," said Maloney. The fourth and final step is to get a flu shot each year, said Maloney.

She said that these steps will help prevent you from getting sick. Hopefully, you take these steps into consideration and if you are one of the many feeling under the weather I hope you feel better. For the others, follow these steps so you can stay healthy and cold-free for the remainder of the cold and flu season.



Photos of the Week:

The Ice Storm

by: Christina Guarino; Photo Editor



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.

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Redefining Private Property Rights

DANIEL J. WISNIEWSKI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

What integrity remains in a democratic country when people are no longer secure in their persons, places or things, particularly their private property? Being an American, this issue does not seem to be highly controversial. We are the land of the free, we as Americans are secure to have a ‘pursuit of happiness’. But I assure you, good friend, this nation’s status as the land of the free can be debated. The current uses of eminent domain are ruining the very fabric of the United States of America as a free society.

Eminent domain is described by the Merriam-Webster dictionary as “a right of a government to take private property for public use by virtue of the superior dominion of the sovereign power over all lands within its jurisdiction.” The implied meanings of this definition are endless.

First off, to appease any skeptical readers, I agree that eminent domain has a good place in any form of government. That very *place* however needs to be narrowly redefined.

Going back to the original definition of eminent domain, its main purpose is for public use. This would, and with little argument, include the construction of bridges, highways, parks, military installations, and other similar public projects. They are used by the public, in the sense that they are physically being crossed over, driven on and played in. Military installations fall under the jurisdiction of national defense and are typically considered protected by the U.S. Constitution within the first article. I agree with these uses because they have clear logic and motive.

However, what is being seen throughout the United States, and what I strongly disagree with, is the seizure of private lands by the government to build higher income residences. These residences create more tax flow and are therefore purported as a legitimate use of eminent domain.

There is no integrity in a government that gives property from one private entity to another and claims that it benefits the general public. Eminent domain’s seized property is not physically used by the public in these cases and its increase in tax dollars will largely be countered by supporting the increased population. In addition, a general feeling of weariness and distrust towards government is created by sketchy land seizures. One of the key pillars of a successful democracy is the legitimacy of its institutions; draw your own conclusions.

An interesting idea which can be evaluated along with this problem is that of gentrification. From Merriam-Webster dictionary, gentrifi-

cation is defined as “the process of renewal and rebuilding accompanying the influx of middle-class or affluent people into deteriorating areas that often displaces earlier usually poorer residents.” Is it ethical to remove people from their lands simply to replace them with people in a higher socioeconomic class? Questions like these are the ones which need to be evaluated.

Building on the previous paragraph, many lands seized are often those which are deemed ‘dilapidated’. The government has been mandating that lands seized must be in distress. Who I ask determines the standard at which a property is deemed dilapidated? The government does. Backroom hand shakes and cooperation is all that is necessary for a government to seize a person’s private property. This is not to say that local government’s scheme against the American public to steal their property, but it is an idea to keep in mind.

Another idea I have been kicking around in my head is that of viewing taxes as a byproduct of population. What I mean by this is that taxes should be seen as a benefit for the people which inhabit a particular community. I don’t feel that taxes should be used as a motive to increase population in one area or another.

Sure, areas of older towns can become dilapidated, unused and therefore subject to eminent domain. The difference here from my previous argument against giving property from one private entity to another is that the properties are not being actively occupied.

The government is drawing a very fine line, albeit in circles, around the American public. A constitutional right, as the fourteenth amendment states, that no “State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law”, is apparently transparent. I will not debate substantive due process versus procedural due process in a situation where private property is being seized. It is in capitalist democratic nature that all law should be instituted to protect people’s personal endeavors, not infringe upon them.

All of my rhetoric can prove nothing more than what you want to believe. Emotional stories about the local grandmother who is forcefully removed from her home after fifty years of residency are just isolated examples, even if true; and I will refrain from playing that chord, even if by mentioning it now nullifies my point.

Sovereignty of private property is a principle of democracy and capitalism; two ideologies The United States of America are founded upon. Further actual protection should be given to Americans in order to ensure their implied right of sovereignty. This nation needs to re-write its personal property rights.

Letter from your Opinionated Editor

Do you like fashion? Do you like models? Do you like winning prizes? This year’s fashion show, *Unzip*, just might be the sexiest fashion experience you’ve encountered so far. The show is this Saturday, February 24th. Doors open at 6:30 and the show starts at 7. This is the 3rd annual M.U. fashion show where students hit the runway to show off the hottest local designer’s fashions for the year and it all happens in Wilson Hall.

You can purchase tickets in advance from WMCX radio station on the 2nd floor of The Plangere Center (Communication building) for \$10 or buy a ticket at the door for \$15. Since this is a charity fashion show, all proceeds go to The School for Children.

The event is sponsored by Hawk TV, WMCX, The Outlook, Comm Works & PRSSA. Your ten dollars will also get you a ticket book for tons of raffles for big name prizes such as an Apple Ipod and accessories, a digital camera, camcorder, PS2 game system, a 20 in. flat screen TV, a CD sampler package, a Patrick Elias signed puck, gift certificates for tanning and restaurants, and many others. Refreshments will also be served and designers may be selling the clothing shown.

-*-

Okay, so as you can see, I really want you to go to the fashion show and I’m telling you this because it really is a good time (and I’m modeling in it again!) So, check it out. It’s a great way to start off your Saturday night.

Now, on to other issues...

Ideally I wouldn’t want to bring up negative aspects of our school, but sometimes it needs to be done. This is one of those times. My rationale is that if we acknowledge our weaknesses and downfalls, something may be done to change them and our school will be better for it. If we don’t express these issues, they will never be resolved. So, here’s some constructive criticism that I’m sure as members of the University community, you can relate to.

Overcrowding.

Parking lots. I bet you can guess what I’m going to say. There is a serious issue with parking on campus. I can’t imagine the amount of gas and time we’ve wasted circling the commuter lots for a spot every day. This is nothing new and we’ve all complained about this many times. But, I don’t see any resolution to such an obvious problem for all students. In fact, I see that its worsening due to piles of snow and fallen tree limbs taking up our precious spots. I have seen many cars parked illegally recently, but it would not be right for these people to get tickets because there is just not enough spaces for them to park because the parking lot was not completely cleared from the storm.



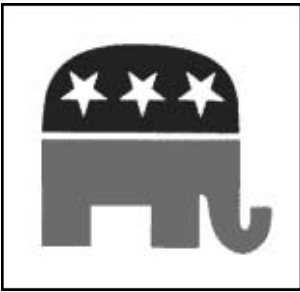
As if falling tree limbs weren’t scary enough, the parking lot gets quite dangerous when drivers speed around the corners trying to fight for spots. It just doesn’t make sense that we all pay so much to be able to park on campus, but we’re not even guaranteed that we’ll have a spot to get to class. What we are guaranteed is high blood pressure during heavy traffic times of the day.

Another issue is that two of my classes right now are filled with students and in small classrooms where there is barely enough seats for every student. Even though there usually are enough seats, the students are on top of each other and right up to the very front of the room. This leaves no space to seperate even teacher and students.

There seems to be a common theme here. The University wants to keep thinking of itself as a small school, but so many students are being admitted that if we’re not doing anything to accomodate the number of newcomers, we’re going to have problems. These problems could be prevented and solved if there was more space to accomodate students.

Anyone agree?

Support the Troops



SEAN K. QUINN
STAFF WRITER

First I want to pay a compliment to Daniel Wisniewski’s Op/Ed last week about the War in Iraq. His views and arguments were right on target and I applaud him for his courage in writing it. I also encourage others on campus who can do some research to get the facts of the matter to write in as well. Have courage my friends, there are more of us out there then you might think.

Dan was right on the money with pointing out that Bush is not the liar as so many on the left love to shout during their “patriotic” and “peaceful” protests. As I have pointed out before on these pages, there is a big difference between being mistaken and telling a lie. Further, let me back up

Why are they singing a different tune now that they are in charge? It is simply because this is something they know will help win the war in Iraq, which would vindicate the President and severely hurt their chances in 2008. Make no mistake about it, they want it all back, and they will not rest until the Capitol AND the White House are under their control.

Folks, in short, the Dems want the war to fail because it makes them look better, after all public opinion of the war is one of the main reasons why they back control of the House and Senate. IF the war fails, they will play the old “I told ya so game” or if they bring home the troops before the job is done, they are the compassionate ones who brought our troops out of harm’s way which is a horrible and downright emasculating idea

My friends, if what the troops need to succeed are more boots on the ground, who are the democrats to question the wisdom of those in the know?

Dan’s points about WMD in Iraq, Saddam did have them at least at one time and did in fact use them. More importantly, it came out during his trial that he wanted the world (and even his top generals) to believe that he did have WMD...I guess it was to boost his “street cred” with the other despots of the world.

Now to the main reason I wrote this week: the cowardly, purely political and very telling non-binding bill to censure the President’s proposed troop surge. Folks, we hear constantly from our friends on the left that they support our

Folks, in short, the Dems want the war to fail because it makes them look better...

troops but oppose the war...gimmie a break! Saying that is like saying that you are a Yankee fan but that you really don’t want them to win the World Series.

Not only is this legislation (that the Senate thankfully refused to vote on) insulting to our troops but it is typical of Democrats as it literally does nothing (this is what the non-binding part means). So not only are the Dems wrong, they are also ineffective... so much for being the Congress of Action.

What’s ironic is that as recently as November, top democrats were playing arm chair general and insisted that we needed more boots on the ground in Iraq, they even admonished Bush for not doing so.

(remember how morale and self worth plummeted during the pull out in Vietnam?)

Moreover, pulling our troops out and retreating before the people of Iraq can properly defend themselves from all enemies foreign and domestic, would lead to the very real possibility that we might have to go back in some year’s time to an Iraq that is even worse off than it is today. As Thomas Paine once said, “If there must be trouble, let it be in my day, that my child may have peace.”

Madame Speaker, how do you think the troops, whom you swear you support, feel when you and your cronies propose legislation like this? Legislation that basically says “well if we were in charge we wouldn’t send in reinforcements that the generals say they need”. How also do you think they feel when guys like Joe Biden say that this is an unwinnable? Mr. Protector, how do you think our fighting men and women are supposed to do their jobs when you spend your days insulting them by saying that their comrades died for nothing?

My friends, if what the troops need to succeed are more boots on the ground, who are the democrats to question the wisdom of those in the know? If there is one phrase that cops and soldiers and marines love to hear is “backup is on the way” the worse thing we can do at this time is not give our fighting men and women the tools and numbers they need to complete their mission, and I encourage the Dems to keep that in mind.

As always I look forward to reading or hearing responses and thoughts to my writing, and if you want to talk about this on the air, be sure to listen to The Political Watchdog every Wednesday from 2-1pm on WMCX.

A Valentine’s Day No One Should Have

ERIN STATTEL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Valentine’s Day warrants the opportunity for many women to receive roses, candy or jewelry but what almost no one knows is that some women got beatings this past Wednesday. Intimate Partner Violence, or IPV, occurs more often than not in our society that glorifies the objectification of women and promotes violence as a solution. This is something that needs everyone’s attention because IPV does not discriminate and could be happening right under your nose.

So, what exactly is Intimate Partner Violence? For the sake of limited space I’ll give you a brief definition. Women Against Abuse, an organization dedicated to helping women and their children in situations of domestic abuse, defines IPV as a pattern of abusive behaviors that adults or even adolescents use on their intimate partners in order to control and gain power over them. These means of control include but are not limited to; sexual abuse, economic dependency, isolation from friends and family, physical/emotional/mental abuse and threat of harm to pets, children or belongings.

According to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/default.htm>), a branch of the Center for Disease Control, around 5.3 million women 18 or older experience Intimate Partner Violence, nearly 2 million women are injured and an estimated 1,300 women die as a result of IPV every year. Occurring most frequently in women, there have been numbers of reported incidents of IPV among men, however men are much more likely to let it go unreported. Un-

fortunately, our society supports and even promotes aggression.

The cycle can be broken by educating children, and adults, that violence is never the answer. Campaigns of organizations such as the Family Violence Prevention Fund (endabuse.org) are trying to eradicate IPV by promoting ideas such as “Coaching Boys into Men” which aim to dispel societies conflicting messages about what it means to be a “real man”.

Victims now have a number of options to turn to. On the national level there are hotlines such as the one offered on the Women Against Abuse website (www.womenagainstabuse.org) out of Philadelphia. 1-866-723-3014 or 1-866-SAFE-014 runs 24/365 and someone is always ready to listen or offer help to assist in leaving an abusive relationship.

On a local level there are numerous county and municipal services available, as well as independent organizations. Here in Monmouth County there are independent services such as 180 Turning Lives Around (www.180nj.org) located in Hazlet that offer a number of opportunities for escaping abusive relationships and households. 180 addresses issues such as counseling, court assistance, shelter and housing as well as training and education surrounding domestic violence. The organization also offers a hotline for domestic abuse (1-888-843-9262) and sexual assault (1-888-264-RAPE/1-866-264-7273) as well as a youth helpline (1-888-222-2228 9AM-Midnight).

Instances of date rape and sexual violence can be found on any college campus in America and here at Monmouth we are not immune to the issues of gender violence and Intimate Partner Abuse.

Monmouth University offers programs and campaigns similar to those of the aforementioned. The campus Police Department emergency extension is 3499. The non-emergency phone number is 732-571-3472 and this is where anyone can report crimes of bias, hate or gender violence. However, there are University resources and student-run programs, such as the Bystander Action Campaign and the Brown Envelope Project, available to IPV victims and students on campus. Contact the Student Activities Department to find out how you can get involved and help prevent IPV.

Help for students who may

It is not okay to violate another human being

be victims can also be reached through the Counseling and Psychological Services in the LCAC of the Student Center. Contact director Franca Mancini at 732-571-7517 and/or Psychological counselor Kathryn Memoli 732-571-7517 x 2343 if you are in need of their services.

All of this is just a tip of the iceberg. Intimate Partner abuse is not something that will go away overnight. But we all can do something about it. Don’t let it go unnoticed; get involved in campus or local efforts to report what you see and offer victims a chance to change their lives. It is not okay to violate another human being and when we remember this we too can help others as well as ourselves to overcome Intimate Partner Abuse.



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The Art of Satire

Driving to Disaster

DAN ROTH
EDITOR AT LARGE

I remember it as if it were yesterday. It started around 2 p.m., the cold chill of minus 20 degree weather, the air digging into your skin like being spiked in the face by high heeled boots. The sky resembled something like a black hole, seemingly able to pull everything it wanted into its tight firm grip. Even if you were with someone, there was something about that day that just made you feel as if you were the only one in the world and nothing, not your mom, your dad, your best friend, or your pet could reach you and pull you out.

The entire day went on as if I was stuck in the never-ending story. My time was spent between staring at the television screen, which was stuck on one of those droned out marathons on the Bravo channel this time the horrifying tale of Project Runway, and glancing out the window. When I was able to fall asleep it felt as if I were gone for an eternity yet when I looked at my clock, only moments had passed.

The nice thing was that living with three others guys there is usually something to do. However, every time I creaked open my door to see if there was any activity, it became apparent that they were as spaced out as I, keeping their doors shut throughout the course of the day. When one finally did open it was to eat, and then all you could hear was the their foot hitting the steps as they went down the cold stairs to get their food and bring it back up to their rooms. Then the doors shut again.

Finally, around five o'clock convoluted and depressed by the tragic length of this day I decide to go out. I'm not sure where I was going or what I was going to do but I drove. Even with it being as dim as it was outside I made the decision to take the scenic route. I pulled out and make a left onto

Ocean Avenue and followed it down. The further and further I went the less I knew where I was going but strangely, the more comfortable I became not knowing.

It was just past 6 p.m., I had been driving for over an hour. I was at this point way past anything I knew to be local. To be honest if it were not for the fact that I was on the same road I would have been completely lost. I made up my mind to go along another half hour and then turn back.

As I kept on going depression

I felt like a different person, a person I had never known myself to be. I was obsessed, I was angry, I was hurt, contrived, alone, lonely, I was going crazy!

took over. Something was egging at me, a large brick taking up my mind, I couldn't help but just be mortified by everything that had transpired that day. It was as if I didn't know who I was anymore.

All of a sudden I made a b-line and pulled a U-turn. Luckily enough there was not anyone on the street, but I don't know if I would have cared if there were. I knew there was one place I had to be at that exact moment in time and I didn't care how fast or how far I had to go to get there.

As I raced to where I knew I had to go I felt like a different person, a person I had never known myself to be. I was obsessed, I was angry, I was hurt, contrived,

alone, lonely, I was going crazy!

I felt like a different person, a person I had never known myself to be. I was obsessed, I was angry, I was hurt, contrived, alone, lonely, I was going crazy!

An hour and 15 minutes later I get there... silence. I stare, unable to hold back my frustration any longer. I put my car in park and press my head up against the window. Tears are rolling down my face. It was the same sight I had seen just before two that day, the same sight that had turned this day into a living hell. See the reality was, it was cold out, but not dark, not dreary, the sun was actually out and shinning pretty brightly. To everyone else it was probably a nice break from the snow fall that had started to accumulate in the weeks prior. But for me, in that one spot, at that one moment, everything had changed.

What I saw out of that window was...dreadful... White Castle had closed for renovations. I wouldn't be able to taste those small steamy, succulent pieces of heavenly goodness for four whole months. Just long enough that I would be graduated. No longer able to visit this one place of re-cluse that had sheltered me and kept me happy so many times in the past four years, it was one of the saddest days of my life.

I stayed in that parking spot stunned for while before I was able to even move. The fact of the matter was that I knew there was another White Castle just 9 miles down the road on Route 35, but that didn't matter. There is no making up for a lost love. No going back to what is already gone. It is something I will have to live with as much as I hate it. Maybe one day, some time, I will be once again reunited with my old friend. Until then.... I will reminisce about the time we spent together and the memories that will fill my dreams with love, pleasure, and tasty supprises.

Thinking about the future...



ATTENTION: Monmouth University Graduating Seniors!

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TEST CENTERS

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

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

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

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

For additional information, visit www.TreasuryJobs.nj.gov



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Pseudo-Intellectuals: The Shame of Humanity

LAUREN CIRAULO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

You've seen them. They parade around New York's East Village in newsboy caps and thrift store patchwork blazers looking for the next hookah bar to pontificate in. They gorge on falafels as they preach about existentialism and the current state of politics. They force words like "spurious" and "histrionic" into their everyday conversation and claim to possess a deep appreciation for the "idiosyncratic" style of e.e. cummings' poetry. You've met them. You know them. And you hate them. They are the most ruthless and despicable breed of humanity: the pseudo-intellectual.

Who are these pseudo-intellectuals per say? Well, these loathsome little creatures emerged from the twenty-something artistic subcultures sometime in the late 50's and have become a mighty and ever-expanding force since the advent of the internet. Technically speaking, pseudo-intellectuals are people of average intelligence who are enchanted with highly intellectual topics and discussions such as philosophy, socioeconomics, destiny of humanity, and the like.

Unlike a genuine academic, a pseudo-intellectual's main reason for being interested in these

topics is because it makes him feel intellectually superior to his peers. Essentially, it's conspicuous consumption combined with putrid aestheticism combined with braggart snobbery. He usually despises mainstream culture, accuses those who disagree with him as being ignorant, and when his ideas are challenged, he often retaliates with "You are clearly not in tune with your creative energy or the greater ideas of our generation."

Pseudo-intellectuals can often be found in political discussion boards on the internet, patronizing boutique shops, participating in various Anti-something rallies, sitting on a park's bench during a weekend afternoon and playing a guitar, or spending eight consecutive years in college trying to earn a B.A degree in political science or philosophy. However, the majority of pseudo-intellectuals can be found in the ravenous and cut-throat world of the coffee shop.

Unlike the typical, barbaric bars and clubs that the 20-something "heathens" flock to, there is no camaraderie in coffee shops. There is a definite code of behavior: No consorting with those outside of your intelligence level (Especially if they scored under a 1400 on their SAT's). No mentioning of clichéd subjects (This means NO

Bob Dylan). And no ordering any caffeinated drink less than five words long (Triple grande caramel macchiato is NOT acceptable). Furthermore, if you talk too loud, someone is sure to give you a nasty look, one that says, "I can't believe they let commoners in."

How does one remedy the problem of pseudo-intellectuals...plug your ears until they go away.

Coffee shops are where semi-intelligent people put on airs and try to convince other semi-intelligent people that they are smarter than God. If some guy next to you eavesdrops on your conversation and doesn't hear you question your existence, name-drop Nietzsche or use words like "post-modernism," he'll roll his eyes at his companion and whisper something like, "What an inferior creature. Such a pity."

Although coffee shops are perhaps the home to the most odious of pseudo-intellectuals, a step down on the repugnancy level are the ones that loiter around art galleries and regularly attend show-

ings at the closest independent movie theater. These pseudo-intellectuals have failed to reach the absurd egotistical levels of the coffee shop intellectual, so while they still talk, they don't speak nearly as patronizing.

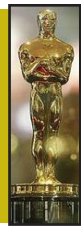
This breed tends to express their admiration for the portrayal of a distorted reality in the works of Salvador Dali and dissect the particular meaning of Andy Warhol's use of Campbell's Soup cans in his art. They also like movies that are imbued with drug culture (almost all list *Requiem for a Dream* as their favorite) and experiment with cinematography (*Being John Malkovich*...sigh). You may even catch them speaking about *Empire Records* as if it was a culturally relevant force that thrust teenage society into a new era bent on revolution and vintage record shops.

Pseudo-intellectuals may be obsessed with art, film, and coffee, but the center of their self-aggrandizing universe is music. But not just any music. They scoff at those who enjoy musicians who capitalize off of their music and are not depressed or pensive or political (Example: Paris Hilton...understandable). Instead, they rather intensely profess their love of Elliott Smith because "Elliott Smith was a martyr for indie music. He transformed the grunge era into something softer

and deeper. A true dogmatist." These people also nod their heads in agreement to every lyric sung by The Decemberists, cry when they listen to Cat Power, and feel compelled to protest democracy during the last few stanzas of Radiohead's "Karma Police."

Despite this unfortunate blemish in the human race, there are subcultures that are even more petulant than the pseudo-intellectuals. Platinum-haired princesses with credit cards. Goths with stable homes. Trust-fund hippies. Movie critics. But those groups seem to speak for themselves. Pseudo-intellectuals not only speak for themselves, but over-analyze their effect on society, talk until they run out of artistic topics, and dissect the implications of narcissism.

So how does one remedy the problem of pseudo-intellectuals? It's a complicated revision and will take years to re-educate this group of semi-intelligentsia. However, there is a temporary and rather easy solution upon encountering one of these egotistical creatures: Just plug your ears and hum "la la la la" to yourself until they go away. If that doesn't work, do it louder. Scream if you have to. Or just hit them. They'll get the hint if you slug them hard enough.



Who's Gonna Win?



KRISTEN RENDA
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

It's that time of year again: the time when Hollywood's finest goes all out, dresses in their very best, parties all night long, and it's all over a little man named Oscar. That's right; it's time for the most anticipated awards show of the year, The Academy Awards.

Hosted this year by Ellen DeGeneres, the 79th annual Academy Awards will be held live on Sunday, February 25 at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, California. Hollywood Boulevard will turn into the red carpet, and many of today's A List stars will be there.

The competition seems really stiff this year, and it's hard to

tell who is going to get the honor of taking home the statue of that gold naked bald man. But here are my picks.

As much as I would love to say that Leonardo DiCaprio will get Best Actor for his role in *The Blood Diamond*, I think the Academy will choose Forest Whitaker for his work in *The Last King of Scotland*. I'm not just saying this because I love Leo; he truly deserves an Oscar for this role. He had to learn the South African accent (which is very hard to do), and he nailed it. He did such an amazing job in this movie. If he doesn't get the Oscar, I think it's because the Academy is joining the bandwagon of what many people in America think of Leo, and aren't taking him seriously as an actor.

I haven't seen *The Last King of Scotland*, so I can't say whether or not Forest did a better job than Leo. But, honestly, this is Leo's third nomination -- I think it's time he's won something.

I definitely think the Best Actress award will go to Helen Mirren for her role in *The Queen*. She's been getting critical acclaim for her portrayal as Queen Elizabeth II, and it is well deserved. She has already won

both a Golden Globe and a SAG Award. So it wouldn't surprise me if she took home Oscar, as well.

Martin Scorsese is a fantastic director, and his work directing *The Departed* was outstanding. The movie was excellent, filled with lots of twists and turns to keep you on the edge of your seat, and it made the two and a half hour movie feel like nothing. The camera angles were great, and a lot of times left your heart pounding, wondering what was going on. Scorsese really got his message across in the film, and that's what great directors do. My pick for best director is Scorsese.

Finally, Best Picture of the year. This one is tough, because all five of them have gotten rave reviews. On a personal note, I would choose *The Departed* hands down, but on a realistic note, I honestly think it will go to *The Queen*. Judging from all the awards the film has won already, seeing it win the Oscar for Best Picture just seems right.

Other nominees in these categories are Will Smith, Ryan Gosling, Peter O'Toole, Penelope Cruz, Judi Dench, Kate Winslet, Meryl Streep, Clint Eastwood, Stephen Frears, Paul Greengrass, Alejandro González Iñárritu, *Letter from Iwo Jima*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, and *Babel*.



PHOTO COURTESY of www.google.com

Helen Mirren as Queen Elizabeth II in what has a great chance of being the winner of Best Picture, *The Queen*.



PHOTO COURTESY of www.google.com

Director Martin Scorsese discusses a scene from the Warner Bros picture *The Departed* with actors Leonardo DiCaprio and Matt Damon

Fall Out Boy's Newest Album Soars High

LISA PIKAARD
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Fall Out Boy's newest album, *Infinity on High*, has an evolved sound, great beats, and, of course, many tracks that are bound to be big hits.

Fall Out Boy is known for their success with pop rock and they don't turn their backs to that on *Infinity on High*. But they do make the genre their own. Without originality, the album would be just another pop rock compilation that will fall flat in just a year's time.

Infinity on High, however, is risky in that it is original. But I think Fall Out Boy's risk taking is going to pay off. The album is not exactly what one might expect. But, at the same time, it is what the world has come to know and love. Rock tracks with fun lyrics and catchy dance tunes are on the album like "The Carpal Tunnel of Love," as one would expect, but some of the lyrical content is much deeper than anything Fall Out Boy has written thus far. Also, the album has more mellow tracks than I expected.

The album kicks off with "Thriller," which is almost a power ballad but a bit more power than ballad. The vocals are strong, but it's the music that makes this song work.

The album's most popular track is "This Ain't a Scene, It's An Arms

Race." It's a powerful rock pop song that can get anyone on their feet. It's an in your face song that will get stuck in your head for hours and hours as soon as you hear it. "Thnks fr the Mmrs" may be the only track with more appeal than "This Ain't a Scene It's An Arms Race."



PHOTO COURTESY of google.com

Fall Out Boy's newest album *Infinity on High* is definitely a new sound for the band making it something to hear.

"The Take Over, The Breaks Over," is one of the most pop tracks on the album. The only problem I have with this song is that the beat reflects too many of their other songs. They need to change it up a bit more. This track is one of the weakest on the album.

"I'm Like a Lawyer With the Way I'm Always Trying To Get You Off (Me & You)" proves that Fall Out Boy still likes long song

titles and has a habit of mentioning the word 'lawyer' in the title of at least one song on their album. This song is different from almost anything out there today and really has something. Their originality is really showcased in this song that has a classic feel.

It's also really important to mention, "Golden" because the song is very different than what is expected from Fall Out Boy. Starting with piano and vocals it's really intense. They definitely took a slight risk putting something this different on their album. This song is just one of the many that mention God, as well. The song is beautiful, though, and the risk will pay off.

The most creative track on the album (not only title wise) is "I've Got All This Ringing in My Ears and None on My Fingers." This song has a great feel and again, it's original and nothing like what is out there in the music world today. It's upbeat, playful, and is going to be a huge success.

Infinity on High, overall, is not entirely what I expected Fall Out Boy to release, but it works. Aside from "The Take Over, The Breaks Over," the album is all hits. Songs worth downloading are "Thriller," "Thnks fr th Mmrs," and "This Ain't a Scene, It's An Arms Race."

Movies that Rocked the Box Office

Ghost Rider—\$44.5M

Bridge to Terabithia—\$22.1M

Norbit—\$16.8M

Music and Lyrics—\$14.0M

Daddy's Little Girls—\$12.1M

Albums that Blew Up the Charts

Snow Patrol-Eyes Open

Hinder-Extreme Behavior

Norah Jones-Not Too Late

Fall Out Boy-Infinity On High

The Fray-How To Save A Life

Eat, Drink, and Be Lupe

Food and Liquor Celebrates the Return of Hip Hop

WESLEY CHIN
NEWS EDITOR

Imagine you're Lupe Fiasco, an up-and-coming young emcee, bred in the world of the Chicago hip-hop underground scene, flying to New York City after an impressive hotel impromptu rhyme session for none other than the game's living legend: Jay-Z. You're flying to the big city, at his request, with intentions to signing to Roc-a-Fella. You're 20, shopping around for a record to release your debut album, and you're planning to what?! Tell Jay-Z "no thanks"?



PHOTO COURTESY of yahoo.com
Lupe Fiasco may have turned down signing with Jay-Z and Roc-a-Fella Records but Jay-Z has taken the young star under his wing.

The reason: the ambitious businessman had decided to pursue ventures with 1st and 15th, a label he co-owned, and co-founded from the ground up. But that's not all. Not only does Jay accept Fiasco's decision, but he takes him under his wing, talking the

young rapper's reputation up to Arista Records' L.A. Reid, his first major label signing as a solo artist, and letting him sit in on recording sessions for *The Blueprint* and *The Black Album*. The teamwork would ultimately lead to HOV becoming executive producer of Fiasco's debut *Food and Liquor*, released September 2006 collaboratively through Atlantic Records and 1st and 15th. The 14-track chronicles the struggles and triumphs of life on the corner, both inside Chi-town and abroad. Lupe brings freshness, originality, and integrity that the present

So how can Fiasco, a practicing Muslim who doesn't drink or do drugs, appeal to an audience who has, in recent years, been constantly bombarded with the lavish gangster lifestyles including the aforementioned? Well, the proof is in the title's pudding. According to interviews, the title suggests a balance of the good, and the bad; the food – provider of sustenance, energy, and life, and the liquor – drunken stupidity and foolish alcohol-induced pride. Fiasco wears his influences and upbringings on his sleeve, being an avid jazz fan, and son of a vastly talented instrumentalist father, and a world-traveling chef mother. The album is driven by heavy hip-hop drumming, interwoven with classic piano, horns, and orchestral strings.

Fiasco does not want to play by the rules that govern the gates to mainstream hip-hop's success. Apparently, you can bite the hand that feeds you, so long as there are others who will offer you food. Tracks like "Real" criticize the game for glorifying fallacies of coming up from poverty, and, at the same time, cleverly relay a message to the listeners who buy into hype: tsk tsk. It's as if Lupe is saying you don't need to be a "gangsta" to make it in the industry. Who else could make his presence known with the single "Kick, Push", rhyming about finding hot spots to skateboard at? (OK, probably Skateboard P Pharrell Williams, whose Neptune production crew also contribute to the album) Fiasco is conscious of his youth in his rhymes, including a verse in "Sunshine" about an old-school Nintendo game about a plumber's super quest to save a princess. You have to understand one thing: he thinks big, and thinks across mul-

gimmick-laden, suffering game desperately needs. If Nas' *Hip-Hop is Dead* is the general leading rap's movement back to the age enlightenment of emotion and social awareness, then *Food and Liquor* is easily the war's second in command.



PHOTO COURTESY of google.com
Though Fiasco's album is titled *Food and Liquor*, Fiasco does not drink or do drugs. The title refers to where he grew up.

tiples. Fiasco has youthful, imaginative ammunition, and he easily disguises with smart wordplay, so untrained eyes will regard it as witty, while the trained will herald it genius.

On top of that, the now 26-year-old emcee has the world in his sights: not only in success and fame, but in content. "American Terrorist" does not necessarily explore US involvement in war overseas, but does examine, from alternate perspectives, the country's historic upbringing, religious views, and social wellness. His faith in Islam and feeling the backlash of anti-Muslim sentiment may have inspired to the track, but that is nothing to turn a deaf ear to. In an industry that producers and emcees rock iced out Jesus medallions and praising the Lord verbally, seconds before murdering enemies lyrically, the inspira-

tion that Fiasco uses to fuel tracks shows the creatively constructive potential that incorporating faith-based spirituality into verses.

Fiasco describes the inspiration in naming his album by what he has grown up on. According to him, food and liquor stores are as commonplace on Chicago street corners as Wawas on stretches of New Jersey streets. Everyone, from all walks of life, come to these places, interacting with each other, and living their lives together. Perhaps it's a hint of what Fiasco thinks that the game needs. Or, on a larger scale, what most people need. They need a balance of what will support us, and allow us to grow, and what will bring us down when we get too high. Fiasco's release proves that everyone can use their own moderate helpings of the good and the bad; the *Food and Liquor*.

Local Hip Hop Artist Has Great Potential

KRISTEN RENDA
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

J. Midd is an up-and-coming hip-hop artist coming straight from right here in Long Branch. His latest recording has a very Eminem meets Chamillionaire vibe to it. Actually, for all you *Entourage* fans out there, his style is very similar to Saigon. (A rap artist that appeared in a couple episodes of the show)

The first song on the recording is called "I'm Rich Bitch," and it would definitely be a hit in a club. It

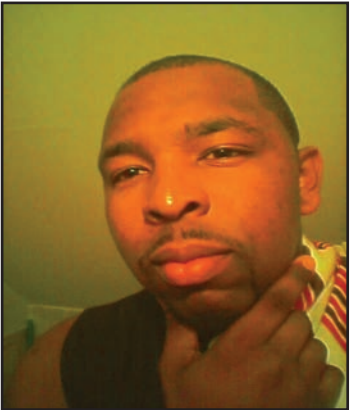


PHOTO COURTESY of www.myspace.com
J. Midd getting ready for a show.

has a really strong hip-hop beat and I couldn't help but dance along with the music as I listened to it.

Another song on it is called "Wuts Good Really Good", and I think this one would be much better for radio play. It has a slower, more depressing beat to it. I can picture a fan just listening to this song in their car and nodding to the beat.

"She's Mine" is a more upbeat song about a girl named Lisa. It's almost like a love song in a hip-hop/rap format, and I really like that. It's something different than the typical hip-hop/rap song, and it makes it nicer to listen to. The song isn't saying the guy wants to

hook up with her, or that he wants



PHOTO COURTESY of www.myspace.com
J. Midd right before a big show.

to kill someone, he's saying that he wants to be with this girl, and he's going to treat her right.

From someone whose favorite music is Backstreet Boys and country, I found myself actually liking the music. I really thought it was good, and I think a lot of hip-hop fans will love him. I can picture this music playing in a club, or people car dancing to it as they're driving around town.

Hot Tickets

Everclear is performing tonight, Wednesday, February 21, at 8:00 pm at B.B.Kings Blues Club & Grill

The Ataris are also playing tonight at the Bowery Ballroom at 7:00 p.m. If you miss them tonight, you can catch them on Friday, February 23 at Northern Lights in Clifton Park at 7:00 pm, or On Sunday March 4 at 6:00 pm at Starland Ballroom.

My Chemical Romance is also playing a show on February 23, at Nassau Coliseum at 8:00 pm.

Sevendust will be taking the Starland Ballroom stage on February 27 at 6:30 pm.

Hanson is back and playing in New Jersey! Hanson will be at Starland Ballroom on March 1 at 7:30 pm.

Papa Roach will be playing a show no one should miss at Starland Ballroom on Saturday, March 1 at 7:00 p.m.



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By Linda C. Black,
Tribune Media Services

The wealth you acquire this year is based on the routines you establish. Through brilliant creativity on your part, other people's work gets much easier. Keep doing this; it's a good niche to fill.

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

You have the support of your teammates. They think you can do anything. Let them in on the secret. You can do it all because of them.

The more “To Do” items you check off the list, the more secure you become. Try to explain to the others, kindly, that this trick will work for them, too.

Your friends provide encouragement, but you're the one taking the test. Luckily, you're very smart, and you're proving it again. Relax and do what's natural.

You don't have to feel intimidated any more. You can do fine on what you've accomplished. You don't need any of them; just make sure they do a good job.

You don't need to tell everybody what you've recently discovered. Let them figure it out for themselves. Move fast, while you have the advantage.

You're being offered something nice for your home and-or family. Luckily, what you'll have to pay is not more than you can afford. Accept a good deal.

Get somebody else to take care of the parts of the job you find most difficult. You're really not in the mood to take on a bigger challenge now.

You're a bit hyperactive now, which is a good thing. There is too much work for a regular person to do, which is not a problem. You're also feeling romantic. Luckily, you can do it all.

Your sense of humor is coming back. You may not have known it was missing. Actually, it was just resting. Beware today of unexpected giggle fits.

Don't push too hard. That won't be necessary now. Go with the flow, and you'll wind up in a beautiful place.

Your attention is being drawn to a new topic, and this is good. You can afford to do more research now, and you should.

Move quickly on an opportunity that won't come again for a while. You've thought about it long enough. Grab it!

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SILLY ME AND MY USE OF POCKETS.

OH, I CAN'T REACH IT!
I HATE MY LIFE!!

CLUB and GREEK

Alpha Xi Delta

Hey everyone! The women of Alpha Xi Delta have been very busy planning our continuous open bidding events and the next one is tonight, Wednesday February 21 at 10:15 pm in Oakwood lounge for all women who are interested in joining our sorority or who would like to celebrate Hollywood and learn a bit more about our organization. We hope to see you there! We will be holding more meetings as well; for all girls interested, join our facebook group, “Interested in Joining Alpha Xi Delta,” and check The Outlook weekly for the latest updates and information. We hope everyone has a great week. Much Xi love to all!

Delta Phi Epsilon

We will be holding our annual event, Singled Out, on Wednesday, February 28th. The event is our spin off of MTV’s dating show that aired in the 90’s. The money raised from this event will go towards our philanthropy, Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders (ANAD). Tickets go on sale Thursday, February 22nd in the Student Center and the Dining Hall. See a sister for more information, or if you would like to sign up to participate.

I love you little delta diamond – Cara. Be-lated congrats to my Alpha Omicrons. Momma loved you! – Aloha. D Phi E fo shizzle dizzle <3 Starlet. Yo Stella, back off my man on Myspace. You know how we do, savin lives & ish <3 Stellar. Happy Birthday Sincere! Don’t worry you’re not over the hill yet! – Love, Radiance. Happy Birthday Hollywood! 21. Holla – essence. Happy B-day Secret! Happy Birthday A-Baby! Boobies, the best of men are found on facebook! <3 Riggs! Harmoni, make sure you check it out! Ha! <3 Sunset. Thanks Sparkle for being there for me - <3 Vegas.

Phi Sigma Kappa

Brotherssss!! Another busy week full of fun events but most importantly Greasehead, When is your wedding? I need to mark it down in my calendar. Gump, I am personally responsible for your broken bumper. I lied when I said I didn’t break it. Flamer, Elf is responsible for your dented hood, I’ve hid that secret for 2 years, no more. Jihad you can’t use 1 good deed to justify 1000 grimey things you’ve done this week alone. Launchpad, you are just the worst roommate EVER. Pugsley your girlfriend is more of a man than you. Fival, why don’t you make something cool. Like a teleporter so you can really disappear. Shine, this is getting really hard for me just do something stupid that I can make fun of you for, k. thanks. Tweakhead, you were misdiagnosed, take Xanax and relax. Olmec your not a Rhino just an excuse for Greaseheads Hole. Last but not least, the Infamous Queefhead finally came out of hiding and looks worse than Saddam Hussein when we found him in a cave. This is Yoda Signin Off and Always DAMN PROUD!

Alpha Sigma Tau

I hope everyone had an awesome snow day and stayed warm last Wednesday. Thanks to all who helped out with our Candy Grams, we had an unbelievable turnout.

LuckyStar misses her Luna and has officially decided we must have a Pi night soon! Love you girls (Big <3). Radiance and Electra party it up and show how Alpha Sigs do it right. Twinkle and Paradise have a splendid Saturday night out,...yay chicken wraps! Secret thank you for the Valentine I love you from Cleo. I LOVE SMALLS AND MY NUT MUFFIN! <3 Gia. HaHaHa Biggie, I’m so happy you like paddle numero dos! I love you!! Secret...you’re amazing I love you <3 Vogue. Scarlett buys Matey fun Valentines Day presents from VS – little you rock!! Matey also decides that she loves killing hours in an overpriced pet boutique so she can spend time with Gia who loves being there just as much! Yay for male revue! Spryte sits on Serenity’s drink and makes a puddle on the floor! I love you little! <3 Serenity. Spice says buy tickets for Caroline’s trip!! Woo! Spice can’t wait for er date with Shimmer, Paradise, Twinkle and Pearl! I love you Quasi! – Spice. Secret – you are a dirty pirate – lets go on a boat ride! Radiance where have you been in my life this week? I miss you! Spryte- thanks for all the yummy chocolate help! Muse – Keep your head up because you are one of my faves! Rhos – Inkwell please! Love you <3 Euphoria. Spryte and Scarlett spend V-day doin it up Hibachi style -<3 ya- Ditto the inkwell I miss you guys! Thanks for the lunchtime secret! Radiance Thanks for taking me to dinner! I love you biggz! ~ Summer. Big thanks for keeping me in line, I <3 U Spryte. Thanks to Electra, Spryte, Radiance and Serenity for joining me for such an amazing night on Friday. We must do it again soon! Secret, we need to hang out super soon! Love you all Tau love, Kaprice. Cyprus seconds LuckyStar, I miss Luna like it’s my job. Thanks Cleo for driving me home on Friday! Hope you get the job at Tiki Tan! & Glad you found it. Shout outs to Matey, Lady, Alpha Pi’s, Big Munchkin and the rest of the Lovely Ladies! It is so good to be back around! Secret, muse you are the best I miss you! I love my Alpha Pi’s Tau love Honey. Secret you are the bestest! <3 Tink. LuckyStar – I freakin heart you! And YES I chose for you! Haha! <3 Tink. I double ditto the inkwell I think we need a rho night...like NOW ok get up and lets me there now :o) haha love you Rhos! <3 Tink

SGA President’s Corner

Hello Monmouth University,

It’s been a while since the last SGA President’s Corner, but campus has been busy, nonetheless. One thing that was supposed to happen was President Gaffney’s Budget Presentation. Inclement weather cancelled the meeting, but will be rescheduled for March 14, 2007 at 2:30pm at Magill Commons in room 107. This is a great opportunity for anyone who wants to know where their tuition money goes or how Monmouth stacks up to other colleges in New Jersey financially. Heard a rumor about how money is spent? Think Monmouth is astronomically expensive? No excuses, here is your chance to find out the truth straight from the mouth of President Gaffney. As with all regular SGA meetings, all Monmouth students and faculty are invited to attend.

Also, on February 13, SGA held their annual Charity Auction to benefit SGA philan-

thropy, Michael’s Feat, which helps the family of serious ill newborns in Monmouth County. Despite the ice storm, over 100 items were auctioned off totaling \$2,400 to be donated to the charity. Megan Canavan programmed and organized the successful event and was pleased with the outcome. The auction has become a cherished tradition to SGA who hopes to make the event even better for its 7th year in 2008.

With that being said, I hope the first half of the semester has been good for all. I know it will get even better when the ice thaws. I have a question for all. What do you think about the Underground. What’s better about it? What would you like to see changed or added? As always, email your responses to sga@monmouth.edu. Be safe, be smart, have fun.

Sincerely,

Brandon Bosque

Sigma Tau Gamma

What Up Monmouth,

How’s life treating everybody? Let’s start this week with a big congratulations to our new Epsilon Class. Brian, Jimmy, Allen, and Antonio welcome to Sigma Tau Gamma the best fraternity around. Congratulations to all the other students who received bids last week. Sig Tau’s Fellowship Day is coming up on Saturday and we’re all geared up for a day of community service and brotherhood. That’s it for this week Monmouth, later **SIG TAU...FOR LIFE!!!**

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3:00PM Issues & Insights

3:30PM M – You

4:00PM M Squared

5:00PM M Squared Live

6:00PM Hawk TV News

6:30PM Extra Point

MOVIES AT 12 ON 12

The Notebook

Hotel Rwanda

Must Love Dogs

Jerry Maguire

Employee of the Month

Men in Black

Gridiron Gang

Saw III

Snakes on a Plane

LOOK FOR THE HAWK TV SCHEDULE IN YOUR DORM LOBBY

HAWK TV HAS ALREADY BEGUN PRODUCING ALL NEW EPISODES OF OUR ORIGINAL PROGRAMMING

2nd Annual



Drag Ball

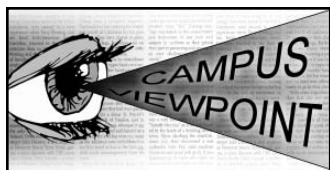
March 15 @ 8 pm in Anacon Hall

Doors open @ 7:30

\$4 in advance @ info booth

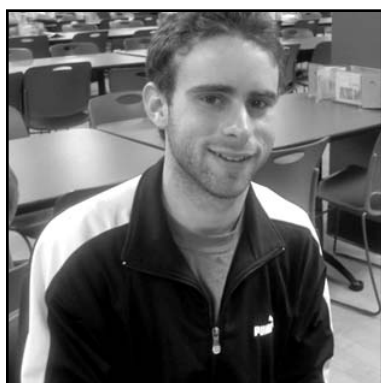
\$6 @ door

Amateur Performers contact ali@monmouth.edu by Feb 28th



What would be your dream job after college?

BY: SUZANNE GUARINO



Jeff
sophomore

"Traveling around the world to try out restaurants."



Matt
senior

"A professional baseball player starting pitcher for game 7 in the World Series for the N.Y. Mets."



Jen & Kate
sophomores

"A belly dancer or a housewife."



Matt
senior

"I want to be an aeronautical engineer because it's probably really easy and you probably don't do any work, plus the pay is probably really good."



Trevor
junior

"A well-known reggae DJ/ radio personality."



Christian
junior

"To be on The Real World."



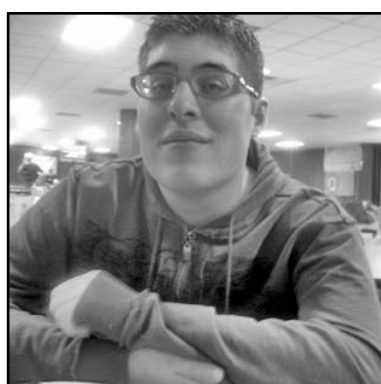
Sean
sophomore

"To be Hugh Hefner's partner in crime."



Sarah
sophomore

"To be a journalist/reporter."



Chad
sophomore

"A product tester so I could try out new things before they come out on the market."



Mohammed
junior

"I would be an oil tycoon! And save the world."

Office of Student Activities and Student Center Operations

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

This Weeks Campus Events

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2007

HIV Testing
Health Center, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Break the Cycle, Be the Change
Wilson Auditorium, 11:00 AM

Women's Basketball vs. Fairleigh Dickinson
Boylan Gym, 7:00 PM

Texas Hold'Em Tournament
RSSC Fireplace Lounge, 7:30 PM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2007
Leadership Workshop - Building Communities
RSSC 202B, 12:00 PM

Spring Musical Begins - The Apple Tree
Woods Theatre, 8:00 PM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2007
Caroline's On Broadway Trip
Bus departs @ 3:00 PM
Tickets - \$15 - Office of Student Activities

Women's Basketball vs. Sacred Heart
Boylan Gym, 5:00 PM

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2007

Charity Fashion Show
Wilson Great Hall, 7:00 PM

Performing Arts: Celtic Connection
Pollak Theatre, 8:00 PM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2007
Heartsaver CPR
RSSC Anacon Hall, 12:00 - 2:00 PM

Lacrosse vs. Howard University
Kessler Field, 1:00 PM

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2007
Blood Drive
RSSC Anacon Hall, 12:00 - 4:00 PM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2007
Vagina Monologues
RSSC Anacon Hall, 7:30 PM
TICKETS: \$4 in Advance, \$7 at the Door
Tickets on Sale at the Information Desk

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

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

I've Got the Golden Ticket!

Leadership Programs
at
Monmouth University

Thursday, February 22
12noon 1pm

202B Conference Room
2nd Floor, Rebecca Stafford Student Center

BUILDING COMMUNITIES

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

Feb. 27 & 28
Anacon Hall, 7:30 pm

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

Tickets on Sale Now in the Student Center Box Office and Information Desk
\$4 in advance
\$7 at the door
All proceeds go to stop violence against women and girls

ENVY GOES BOTH WAYS



BLOOD DRIVE
Take a moment to Give!

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25
ANACON HALL A
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Brought to you by the ladies of
Lambda Theta Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Life Across the Pond

Weekend in London, England

DANIELLE DECARLO
STAFF WRITER

Hey everybody at Monmouth U! Well, I'm still a little sick so I didn't get to do as much this week as I wanted to. But I did get to see some pretty interesting things that are must-do's for London!

After classes on Thursday, a bunch of us went to the Absolut Ice Bar. If an explanation is necessary for some...the Ice Bar is a bar...made entirely out of ice! Literally, the walls, the actual bar, the tables, and the glasses you drink out of are made of ice. It was very interesting to say the least...and cold, of course! When you walk in, they give you these big furry ponchos to wear with gloves attached, and you go into these glass sliding doors and you enter a room made entirely out of ice! It was a little expensive -- about 15 pounds -- but that includes your coat and a drink which are all made with Absolut vodka. It definitely is the experience of a lifetime!

The room actually isn't that big. It runs in 40 minute intervals, so unfortunately we didn't have that much time in there. But by the time the 40 minutes was over, we were all too cold to stand in there anymore anyway! There was a sculpture of a man made out of ice with a suitcase sitting next to him that had objects carved out of ice inside of it and a bottle of Absolut inside also. They had a TV with a picture of a fireplace and seats with bearskin-looking covers on it, and tables carved out of ice. The glasses were very difficult to drink out of since they were so cold and stick to your lips a little bit, but the overall experience was very cool! It is

definitely only a one-time thing, but a must-see when you go to London!

After the Ice Bar, we went to O'Neill's which is in Chinatown, and it was fun, but very crowded. They had a live band which was nice for a change from all of the club music they play everywhere. On Friday night, we watched a movie and relaxed, and on Saturday I went down to Tuke Bar, the pub on campus and played some pool with one of the RAs and a few other people. After that, we watched a movie and hung out around Reid Hall with a bunch of people, which was nice since we have been going out so often and it gets very expensive!

On Sunday, a couple of us figured out where there was a Burberry Factory Outlet, so we decided to go there. It wasn't in the nicest area -- we felt a little unsafe -- but once we found the actual outlet, we were in heaven! I got a big tote bag, a scarf and tie for my dad, a sweater, and a scarf and glove set for my mom, all for just a little over 100 pounds, which is very cheap for Burberry, even in the states if you convert it into dollars! Sunday was also the Chinese New Year, so we went to Trafalgar Square to check it out, and there was a lot going on. But, by the time we got there, all of the festivities were ending. There was still a lot to look at, though, and a lot of people around.

Next weekend, I am going to Barcelona, Spain, which I am very excited about! My

other upcoming trips consist so far of pony trekking in Wales, Spring Break in Milan and Florence, Italy, and Paris, France. So, keep an eye out for the next few weeks, as I will have much to report about!

If anyone has any questions, you can contact me through Facebook or my e-mail is ddc_marie@yahoo.com. Feel free to e-mail me with any questions if you are planning on studying abroad! Stay warm and hope you all have a good week!



PHOTO COURTESY of Danielle DeCarlo
Ice man with suitcase, located in front of the Absolut Ice Bar in London, England.

Warwick Castle and Stratford Upon Avon!

LINDSAY PLESNIARSKI
STAFF WRITER

Hello Monmouth!!! I just came back from a day trip to Warwick castle and Stratford Upon Avon (ya know...the place where Shakespeare lived!) Well, can I say that place is just amazingly gorgeous! Stratford is a very nice place to visit.

We got to see the burial site of Shakespeare, see his theatre, and pose with some famous statues like Hamlet and Lady Macbeth. One of my favorite parts of visiting Stratford was the shopping. They have streets of the cutest mini-shops. We went in one called 'Aspire,' and we spent around one hour just in that one store alone. Half of everything was handmade jewelry and I couldn't help myself!

After spending a few hours in Stratford, we had to head back to the bus and head towards Warwick Castle. Wow, was that an adventure! The place is like a living Medieval Times!!! NO JOKE!!! There are shows with knights, and they teach kids how to fight! It was really cute to see the little boys pretend to joust. Also, one of the coolest things ever was we were allowed to walk on top of the castle towers. WHAT A VIEW!!! The most interesting thing was, back in the day, staircases

were made about 2 feet wide. I AM NOT exaggerating! You barely have enough foot room to climb each step. I don't know how people with large feet manage! Also, it was quite dark sometimes, so you just had to hope you were stepping in the right place. On top of everything, the staircases are spiral. And I mean this to the EXTREME!



My favorite thing, by far, was climbing up (and down) the most narrow, sharp-turning, dark stairs. Oh, and did I mention we were climbing for about five minutes? The castle towers aren't just ten feet off the ground, so we really had to climb our way to the top!

After all of that walking, we definitely worked up an appetite! We ate at the castle's restaurant, which were formerly horse stables. There was actually a sign on the wall that said "Caution! Chairs may be wobbly in some areas due to these are the original stable floors!" How cool is that?!?

If you get the chance, I would say this is one of the day trips you must go on at Regent's. Out of all of them, this one was my favorite! And, for only 20 pounds, you can't go wrong!

Take care, Monmouth!!!

PHOTO COURTESY of Lindsay Plesniarski
Warwick Castle overlooks River Avon in Warwickshire.

Are You an Adult Child of a Substance Abuser? Top 10 Things to Know

1. **You are not alone!** An estimated 1 in 4 college students grew up with a parent who abused alcohol or other drugs.
2. **Life with a substance abusing parent can be very chaotic and confusing** leading you to seek approval and figure out what is normal from the actions and reactions of others.
3. **Overwhelming feelings of responsibility** for others are common and can go back to feelings of being responsible for your substance abusing parent's problems.
4. **Identifying and expressing emotions** can be difficult things to do after living with a substance abuser.
5. **Your parent does not have to be still actively drinking or using for you to feel the impact** of the abuse.
6. **Growing up with a substance abuser may have limited your social life**, making friendships difficult to maintain and causing fear that someone may find the truth about your past.
7. **A fear of criticism** can be present and stem from some form of childhood abuse, verbal or otherwise.
8. **Anticipating problems** especially when things are going smoothly is something you may experience.
9. **Adult children of substance abusers are 2-4 times more likely than others to develop an alcohol or other drug problem.** Abuse problems can be hereditary and know that there is help and you can break the cycle!
10. **It often becomes difficult to trust** after a parent may have repeatedly let you down or broken promises.

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about alcohol or other drugs, contact the Office of Substance Awareness.
It's free and confidential! Call 732-263-5804.

Additional resources:
www.coaf.org - Education for children of alcoholics and other substance abusers
www.nacaa.org - Information on children of alcoholics
www.drjan.com - Education for adult children of substance abusers

Are You Concerned About Someone's Alcohol or Other Drug Use?

SUANNE SCHAAD
OFFICE OF SUBSTANCE AWARENESS COORDINATOR

JONATHAN GANT
OFFICE OF SUBSTANCE AWARENESS GRADUATE ASSISTANT

It's been said that the behavior of every problem substance abuser affects at least eight other people in their lives. Many students are affected by roommates' or friends' substance abuse, even if they themselves don't abuse. Students may end up losing sleep or study time because a substance abuser disturbed them. Students also report having to clean up after a substance abusing roommate.

If you are concerned about someone else's substance abuse, talk to someone you trust. There are many services available to assist you in this matter. The Office of Substance Awareness often works with students concerned about others' substance abuse. Confront your friend, when he or she is sober, about their substance abuse. Express yourself using "I" statements to let your friend know how their substance abuse affects you only. If you are willing to help, keep it realistic. Don't offer more of yourself than you can handle or may not be able to commit to in the long run. Make sure you say what you mean. Expect your friend to get angry and be in denial.

Change is hard for people to consider and can be very scary. Chances are, later, they may thank you for taking the time to care. If you have been making excuses for them, STOP. This only helps the user to continue when consequences aren't felt. It is not healthy for the substance abuser or you.

Here are some additional resources to help you:

- www.alanon.org — If you are concerned about someone else's alcohol use
- www.nar-anon.org — If you are concerned about someone else's substance abuse
- www.factsontap.org — Information on alcohol and drugs and tips
- www.drjan.com — Education for adult children of substance abusers

Men's Basketball

Hawks Climb the Mount to Earn Key NEC Victory

CRAIG D'AMICO
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The Knott Arena in Emmitsburg, MD had been a house of horrors for the Monmouth Hawks in recent years. The trip out to the small campus in Maryland had rarely produced any positive results for the Hawks, as they had only won there three times ever in the 25 year plus history of their rivalry with Mount St. Mary's.

With history and with the fact that Monmouth had only won two road games all season against them, the Hawks defied the odds and came away with a huge 61-60 victory over the Mountaineers that moved the Hawks right to the brink of clinching a spot in their eighth straight Northeast Conference tournament.

With the Hawks ahead by three with 2:30 left to play, the Mount tied the game on a three pointer by Chris Vann as he was fouled. However, Vann missed the free throw and failed to complete a four point play, keeping the game tied.

As the clock ticked under a minute to go, the Mount found themselves up four, 60-56, after senior Mychal Kearse knocked in a layup for his 1,000th career point. Kearse was one of six seniors being honored on Mount's senior night, and it looked for a moment like a storybook ending for the senior class on their home floor.

However, the Hawks would fight back, as Hawks senior Dejan Delic strutted to the free throw line and calmly sank two free throws to pull the Blue and White within two points.

Utilizing heavy pressure on the defensive end, the Hawks were able to force a turnover with just 35 seconds left. With the Hawks back

on the offensive end, they rotated the ball around the perimeter and found freshman Jhamar Youngblood in the right corner. Youngblood sank a huge three to give Monmouth the lead 61-60.

Off a timeout, the Mountaineers set up a final play. They put the ball in the hands of their star senior Kearse. However, his leaner from the left wing was off the mark and



PHOTO COURTESY of David Beales
John Bunch led the Hawks with a double-double, scoring 11 points and adding 14 rebounds in the winning effort.

rebounded by John Bunch, who was fouled with just four seconds remaining.

Bunch missed both ensuing free throws, and in one final frantic scramble up the floor, freshman Jeremy Goode missed a shot driving in from the left as it was partially blocked by Bunch as the final buzzer sounded. Marques Alston appeared to have drawn a charge as well, but the officials kept their whistles in their pockets, and the Hawks escaped as victors, 61-60. It was Monmouth's fourth ever win at Mount, and first since 2003.

"This was good for us, because I remember we've been on the losing end of so many games here like that at the end," said head coach Dave Calloway. "We're right there. Every game is like a playoff game for us from here on out."

The Hawks were led by Maryland native John Bunch, who scored nine of the Hawks' first 12 points of the game. He finished with a double-double, 11 points and 14 rebounds, along with six blocks. Alston led the way for Monmouth with 15 points. Kearse led the way for the Mountaineers with 15 points and 10 rebounds.

In a game that featured five ties and six lead changes, the Hawks were able to come back after trailing by as many as 10 points in the first half. It was the fourth time this year that Mount led by double figures against an NEC opponent and lost.

The key stretch was an 8-2 run going into the locker room that cut Mount's lead to 30-26 at halftime, then a 5-0 for Monmouth to start the second half to give the Hawks their first lead since early on after a Delic corner three.

Monmouth earned the season sweep of Mount St. Mary's after

defeating them earlier in the year, 62-56, at Boylan Gym

The Northeast Conference regular season will wrap up next Monday, and the fight for a playoff spot and positioning will continue for Monmouth up until that final buzzer.

Friday night's game will be televised on FSNY with a 7:30 tip time,

"This was good for us, because I remember we've been on the losing end of so many games here like that at the end."

DAVE CALLOWAY
Men's Head Basketball Coach

and will see the Hawks honor their five seniors -- Alston, Delic, Bunch, Corey Hallett, and Steve Bazaz.

Monmouth will welcome Sacred Heart to Boylan Gym for senior night on Friday before traveling to Lorreto, PA to conclude the season on Monday night. The Hawks played both opponents earlier this season, dropping a game to the Pioneers on the road 74-57 and defeating the Red Flash at Boylan Gym 71-66.

The Hawks enter their final three games of the season in a tie with Wagner for seventh place in the NEC with a record of 7-8. The top eight teams make the tournament, which begins on March 1.

Men's Basketball Schedule

2/20
at LIU 7:00

2/23
vs. Sacred Heart 7:30

2/26
at St. Francis (Pa.) 7:00

NEC
Tournament
3/1-3/7

The Hawk File: Corey Forrest

ERIC M. WALSH
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Christopher Forrest, or Corey, as everyone knows him, may not be your typical Monmouth University student athlete. While the majority of the undergraduate students who attend MU reside in New Jersey, the tennis athlete hails all the way from Ocala, Florida.

Many things went into the process of choosing a school for Corey, but the biggest may have been one that was intangible. "My decision to come to Monmouth came right after my official visit. While I was here, I saw the team atmosphere and realized the potential here," says Forrest.

Forrest, who is just a freshman, exhibits the potential he mentioned when describing what helped him make the decision to attend Monmouth. While standing just 5'7" and weighing 135 pounds, Forrest shows the type of tenacity on and off the court that can't be measured. "I'm not the same person on the court as I am off the court. When I step on the court, I become someone who will stop at nothing to win," comments Forrest. "I will fight through the toughest of situations just to pick up that valued 'W'."

Forrest, who has already completed the fall tennis season in

which he finished 7-1 in dual matches, and was the fifth singles player, looks to improve upon his already stellar 4-0 dual match spring season.

For Forrest, it wasn't a difficult transition from high school tennis to Division I competition. "High school tennis and collegiate tennis is essentially the same," says Forrest. "Tennis in Florida is really big and there is a lot of competition, so I feel like I was well prepared."

While the team has had its ups and downs already this year, Forrest continues to stay positive. After losing the head coach who recruited him to an assistant coaching position at Texas Christian University, Forrest thought of transferring to a school closer to home. But after talking to his family members, fellow teammates, and friends, Forrest decided that Monmouth was the right place for him.

Forrest has high hopes for the team this spring season. He mentions, "I feel the team this year has a very good chance of winning the conference as long as everyone works hard and keeps their eye on the prize." His goals for the season have also changed since his arrival at MU. "My goal coming into this season was to be the NEC rookie of the year. That has since changed. I have decided that my new goal is to help the upper classman lead the

team to the NEC championship," comments Forrest.

As for his future outside of Monmouth, the finance major says, "I plan to enter the satellite tour and test my luck as a professional. If that doesn't work out I will be looking at a career in finance." Even though his plans are not certain, there is no doubt Forrest will follow his heart, wherever it may take him.



PHOTO COURTESY of Corey Forrest
Corey Forrest will look to play a major role in the men's tennis teams' success in the current spring season.

Name: Corey Forrest

Hometown: Ocala, Florida

Major: Finance

Favorite Teammate: "Our whole team is really close and they have really made my freshman season much easier. Everyone is very competitive which encourages better play. There are two guys that have helped me develop this season, Jay Letchko and Miles Vidriero. They have taught me how to 'GET BIG.' I believe that with our team chemistry we have a good chance to win the conference."

Biggest Rival: "I consider all the teams we play rivals because ultimately we are after the same thing, the win."

Most Memorable Moment at MU: "For the short time I have been here, my most memorable moment is beating Fairleigh Dickinson who is a notably good team in our conference."

In 10 years: "I have not thought about where I will be in 10 years. I feel that if I worry about the future too much I will miss out on what is important now."

Women's Basketball

Hawks Clinch NEC

Tourney Birth

Defeat Wagner, Mount St. Mary's

ALEXANDER TRUNCALE
SPORTS EDITOR

This week, the Monmouth Hawks clinched a place in the Northeast Conference tournament with road victories over Wagner and Mount St. Mary's.

First, the Blue and White traveled to Staten Island, New York to take on the Seahawks. It was a

a jump shot to pull Monmouth to within two.

In the second half, Monmouth would have to overcome a 27 percent shooting performance in the first half. The Hawks came out firing as they took a 26-23 lead on a Lindsey Zegowitz three pointer. They would then go up by seven when Marisa Jimenez grabbed an offensive board and put it back

lent free-throw shooting that has helped them in the past once again got them the win, as Monmouth hit nine straight from the charity stripe and would emerge with a 59-50 victory. Randolph led the way with 11 points, while Brianne Edwards had 10 of her own.

Next, the Hawks traveled to Emmitsburg, Maryland for a matinee date with Mount St. Mary's. This would be a tight game from the opening tip, as the Mount and the Hawks battled back-and-forth in the first half. The Hawks took a 24-20 lead at intermission, led by their defense, which held the Mount to just 29 percent shooting. It was also the fewest points allowed by Monmouth in the first half since the 21 points they allowed to Wagner on January 8.

In the second half, the Hawks came out on a 14-3 run, led by a Randolph three-pointer and an Edwards three point play. They would extend their lead to 14 at the 16:00 mark, as Randolph again hit a big three.

It was deja vu for the Hawks. Just like the last game Wagner, the Hawks saw their lead evaporate to just two, 52-50, as Mount St. Mary's battled back hard. But towards the end of the second half, it became the Marisa Jimenez Show. Jimenez hit 15 of her career-high 23 points in the second half, including a three from the left wing with 1:50 to go in regulation to seal a 60-57 victory and give Monmouth a berth in the NEC Tournament.

Next week, the Blue and White take on Central Connecticut State and Fairleigh Dickinson at home.

Huffman, Taylor

Shine for Track and

Field at Princeton

MIKE TIEDEMANN
STAFF WRITER

It seems like a weekend doesn't go by where both the men's and women's Track & Field teams here at Monmouth are not doing something special.

Whether it is new school records, individual championships, team championships or any combination of those, the season has been an exciting one for both sides.

This past weekend held true to form as, once again, something historic happened.

Ashley Huffman and Tisi-

televised on the 25th on ESPN2 at 4 PM EST.

On top of Huffman's success in the long jump, she also is a qualifier for the US Combined Events Championship that is being held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on March 4.

Huffman is one of the top 20 pentathletes in the nation, currently ranked 17th. The pentathlon is a one-day, five-event competition. The events include the long jump, high jump, shot put, 55m hurdles and 800m.

There were other performances to be proud of as well. Nick Williams finished second overall, first



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Sports Information

Marisa Jimenez scored 15 of her career-high 23 points in the second half as the Blue and White defeated Mount St. Mary's 60-57.

back-and-forth game in the first half, with Monmouth jumping out to a 7-2 lead before Wagner went on an 11-5 run to take a one point lead, 13-12. They would take a 23-21 lead into the break, after the Hawks went on a five minute scoreless drought. Nyaimah Ware would break the streak, hitting

in. The Hawks' largest lead of the game would come at the 4:40 mark, as Veronica Randolph's lay-up put them ahead 47-39.

Down the stretch, the Seahawks refused to go away. Monmouth saw its eight point lead cut to just one, 48-47, with just over two minutes remaining. But the Hawks' excel-

"We are very pleased to have two of our women's team members among the nation's elite. It is a great honor for Monmouth."

JOE CAMPAGNI
Head Coach Track and Field

fenee Taylor became the first two Monmouth athletes ever to qualify on the women's side for the USA Indoor Championships when the finished first and second in the long jump, respectively.

Huffman's jump of 6.08 meters ranks her seventh in the nation and also broke her previous school record by one centimeter. Taylor cleared a jump at 6.00 meters this past weekend. However, Taylor's best jump of 6.10 from earlier this year ranks her sixth in the nation.

"We are very pleased to have two of our women's team members among the nation's elite," said head coach Joe Compagni. "It is a great honor for Monmouth."

The Championships will be held in Boston, MA, on February 24-25. The events will then be

collegiate in the shot put coming in behind a Monmouth alumni, Jon Kalnas. In the men's 60m, Marcus Lewis finished second with a time of 7.19.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Sports Information

Ashley Huffman took first in the 60m hurdles.

Big Changes for

Field Hockey in

2007

ALEXANDER TRUNCALE
SPORTS EDITOR

After falling just short of a post-season berth in their 2006 campaign, the Monmouth field hockey team will welcome in a new coach and four new recruits this fall.

Carli Figlio, who spent two years as an assistant coach with the Hawks, was promoted to head coach this January, becoming just the second coach in the ten year history of the program. Figlio is a graduate of Kent State University, where she played field hockey and earned her degree in communications. While at Kent State, she was the team captain for three seasons, and led her squad to three NCAA appearances, as well as a MAC championship in 2002.

Dr. Marilyn McNeil, the Athletic Director for Monmouth, said, "I am very impressed with Carli's passion for the sport of field hockey. I really like her vision for what the program can be."

Now that she is in charge, Figlio has wasted no time in affecting the program. After spending the winter recruiting, she has landed four players who have signed the National Letter of Intent to play at MU. Those players are Katie Amundsen from Voorhees, NJ,

Nora Bosmans from Oakhurst, NJ, Melissa Murphy from West Long Branch, NJ and Meredith Violi from Stroudsburg, PA.

Amundsen plays her high school field hockey at Eastern Regional High School, a notorious powerhouse that has not lost a game to an opponent from New Jersey in its last 186 games -- a string that dates back to 1998. The streak is the longest in the nation.

Bosmans played at Ocean Township High School and was named to the second team All-Shore last season. Her sister, Aileen, will be a junior in the fall and plays forward for the Hawks.

Murphy was a three year starter at Shore Regional. Figlio expects that she will bring a strong defensive presence to the backfield.

Violi, the only one of the four recruits not from New Jersey, was a first-team All-Mountain Valley Conference selection her junior year. She was also the team captain her senior year, and was named Pocono Records 2006 Player of the Year.

Last season, the Hawks finished 6-12 overall, and 4-4 in the Northeast Conference. In 2007, MU will look to get back to the postseason for the first time since losing in the 2004 NEC semifinals to Rider.

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Running Away With the Title



Men's Track 3-Peats for NEC Championship