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President Gaffney Announces Retirement

PHOTO COURTESY of Jim Reme

The President will be stepping down after serving 10 years at the University.

ANTHONY PANISSIDI
CO-NEWS EDITOR

Involved, strong and outward.

Those are the adjectives that President Paul G. Gaffney II used to describe his time at the University. After nine years of service, Gaffney announced on Monday his decision to retire following the next academic year in June 2013. When he steps down, Gaffney will have fulfilled a decade of service as University President.

"I've come to the realization that there's a point in your life when you've made about as much progress as you think you can make," Gaffney said. "I sense that an institution like this needs new and different ideas. It's healthy for the University."

Robert Sculthorpe, Chairman of

the University's Board of Trustees since 2010, has served on the Board since Gaffney became President in 2003. "I think [Gaffney] generally feels that 10 years is about the right time because he has spent a lot of energy, a lot of creativity, a lot of ideas," Sculthorpe said. "He feels very fulfilled as he said in his remarks that he and Linda both leave completely satisfied with what they've contributed to Monmouth."

Linda Gaffney has been married to Paul Gaffney for 37 years. "My husband and I made a joint decision before we arrived at Monmouth University that his second career should span a maximum of 10 years," she said. "We think [that] each university president brings new ideas, philosophies, abilities and talents to the table. At the end of 10 years, all those new and ex-

citing elements should be renewed and it would be time for the next chapter in our lives, as well as Monmouth's."

Challenges

After finishing a three-year presidential term at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C., Gaffney became the University's seventh president in July 2003. Since taking office, he said that his hardest challenge has been improving the University's relations with its surrounding towns.

"I had been the president of a university and I've been to most of the major universities in America over the last 20 years," Gaffney said. "So nothing here really surprised me, even though I wasn't a full-time administrative educator my whole life, but I was surprised by the town-gown relations."

Gaffney's work on town-gown relations has been noticed by the Board. "I think [Gaffney] proactively went out to tell the University's story and make it a point that we are not adversarial with the community, [but] that we are an asset and that we're good citizens," Sculthorpe said.

Two common town-gown concerns include zoning and planning approval for on-campus construction projects, and underage drinking policies. Gaffney said that he expected the latter because it is a common issue at many colleges and universities. However, he was surprised at the amount of time and money spent on seeking zoning and planning approval from

Gaffney continued on pg. 2

Employee Giving Campaign Reaches Highest Donation

MELISSA WINTERS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The University Advancement team announced that the 2011 Employee Giving Campaign raised \$242,960 on February 2, setting a record and beating its original goal of \$225,000.

"There is a lot of campus pride here and we attribute so much success to the fact that employees love working at Monmouth University," said Jacqueline M. Bartley-Oxley, Associate Vice President of Development for University Advancement.

Bartley-Oxley oversees the campaign that allows employ-

ees to support the University through several donation opportunities. "We always start with appealing to them to let them know that they can give back to their own area," she said. "We let them know that every gift counts whether it's five dollars or \$10, participation is important."

Kevin Scally, Marketing Manager of the Annual Fund, recognizes the impact of the strategies used in this year's campaign. "Our donor-centric fundraising approach," helped

Campaign continued on pg. 4



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth University Photography

Employees attended the luncheon to celebrate the \$242,960.98 yearly donation back to the University.

New Art Building in Progress

MELISSA WINTERS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After the demolition of the former 800 building last August, construction of the new art building continues to make progress as spring approaches. As previously reported by the University, the new art building is part of the University's continuous effort to improve the campus.

According to Patti Swannack, Vice President for Administrative Services, the new art building, which will soon be renamed, is anticipated for completion this fall. "We got started later than we would have liked to," Swannack stated, "but we are pushing hard to complete the building as soon as possible."

The final cost of the project is estimated at six million dollars, said Swannack, all of which was donated to the University specifically for the construction. In addition to providing an updated learning facility, construction of the new art building will eliminate issues that were present in the former building.

"The old 800 building had some charm, but it was never designed to be used for gallery, studio or computer lab space," expressed Karen Bright, an art professor who teaches Digital Illustration, Senior Portfolio and Advanced Typography. "It was very inefficient in terms of energy usage and physical space," she said. "In fact, there was an entire third floor that was not utilized at all."

Furthermore, one of the main issues of the old 800 building was its failure to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. According to these standards, all public facilities must be readily accessible for individuals with disabilities.

To meet these regulations, Swannack assured that the new building will feature all of the requirements outlined by the ADA. These requirements, she mentioned, include an elevator, accessible bathrooms, ramps, and fire alarms.

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Gaffney to Retire After Next Year

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local towns. Since 2003, the University has made the most progress in its relations with the townships of Long Branch and Ocean, Gaffney said.

“Working on bettering the relations so that the towns trusted that we were doing the best we could in both of those cases was a major challenge for me and it’s something I’m still working on,” Gaffney added. “I think we made a lot of progress.”

Adam Schneider has been the mayor of Long Branch for nearly 22 years. He commented that Gaffney has always been great to work with during the latter’s 10 years as University president.

“There was always a lot of contact,” Schneider continued. “I see him frequently.”

When it comes to zoning and planning issues, Schneider said that Gaffney has always addressed him before the beginning of any construction projects via phone call or visit.

In the last few years, Gaffney worked with the local towns to build the Multipurpose Activity Center and Mullaney Hall, expand Edison Science Hall and upgrade the art building. Future construction plans include adding to the Leon Hess Business School, Gaffney said.

Besides town-gown relations, Gaffney added that he worked to popularize the University. Upon taking office, he was surprised that more people had not heard of the University given the beauty of its campus, safety of the surrounding towns, and its proximity to the beach and major cities.

“I said the University also has to have some influence and be seen outside the fence,” Gaffney commented. “I think a lot more people know about Monmouth University now than 10 years ago.”

Notable Contributions

One of the biggest contributions that Gaffney has made to the University as its president is his record of perfect attendance, he said. “I love being on the campus,” he explained. “I love being out of my office.” Gaffney said that his fondness of the campus has led him to be accessible to the University community. “I’m pretty proud that I’m known and approachable around the campus,” he continued.

Sculthorpe added that he often noticed the exchanges between Gaffney and students when the two walked around the campus. “It’s just amazing how many students he knows by name,” Sculthorpe said.

Besides being consistently visible outside of Wilson Hall, Gaffney added that construction played a major part in his presidency. Many such projects were made possible through Gaffney’s fundraising skills that helped bring in federal money, such as \$10 million for the Rapid Response Institute.

Also since 2003, the academic quality at the University has grown with the increasing grade point average of each incoming freshman class; this number rose from 2.98 during the fall of 2004 to 3.4 during the fall of 2011. Despite the improvement in this area, Gaffney highlighted the relatively low cost of the University compared to other private institutions in New Jersey. For instance, Seton Hall University has an annual full-time undergraduate tuition cost of \$33,490, while the University’s is \$28,000.

“I think Paul has delivered and over-delivered in many ways,” Sculthorpe said. “Anything he has recommended, anything he has suggested, anything that he is involved with – he gets it done.”

Dr. Rebecca Stafford, who preceded Gaffney as the sixth presi-

dent of the University for 10 years, said that Gaffney met the challenges that she left for him and more. “Of course, we always leave challenges for our successor and I left him plenty to improve, [such as] our fundraising, finances and the academic quality of the school,” she said. “That’s been amazing; we’re now listed in *The Princeton Review* and a lot of other publications, so we have improved that academic quality and reputation, and he did that.”

Desire to Do More

Despite a long list of accomplishments, Gaffney said that there are still areas in which he wishes he could have contributed more as University president. “I think I could stay here 20 years and everyday there’d be something I’d see that I’d want to make better,” he said.

Stafford said that the sciences were an area that she left as a challenge for Gaffney when she departed in 2003. “I would like to see more emphasis on the sciences,” she said. “There’s an infinite room for growth and development.”

As a scientist and engineer, Gaffney said that he agrees with Stafford’s limitless vision for the sciences. He considers that area to be the University’s primary area for raising and spending money. By expanding Edison Science Hall this past year, Gaffney said that this enables the growth and modernization of science laboratories.

Gaffney also helped create two institutes that strengthened the University’s science program. The Urban Coast Institute is a science and policy institute that examines issues surrounding the coast in an urban environment, such as New Jersey. “We did that because I’m an oceanographer, we’re so close to the beach and we had no oceanography program,” Gaffney said. “We weren’t going to build ships and piers and big laboratories like Rutgers and Stevens have. We wanted to find a niche and this we could do without having to spend zillions of dollars.”

The other program developed during Gaffney’s presidency is the Rapid Response Institute. Gaffney said that he sought to build upon the University’s nationally recognized software engineering school which helped him raise millions of federal dollars for the institute.

Aside from growing the University’s science school, permanent seats for soccer games and two more off-campus residence halls that can accommodate 800 students in the West End section of Long Branch were two other tasks that Gaffney said he would have liked to conquer.

Challenges for the Next President

The maintenance of academic success, improving the University’s reputation and growing enrollment are the most important challenges facing the University’s next president, Gaffney said.

“We’re underpriced right now and that can have a negative connotation that people think this is a cheap University as opposed to a less expensive University,” Gaffney said. “Our competitors - Rider, Farleigh Dickinson and Seton Hall universities - are about the same size, [have the] same athletic skill [and have a] GPA about our level.”

Despite these similarities, Gaffney said the University’s competitors cost \$4,500 to \$5,000 more per year. In order to be perceived as a quality institution, Gaffney said that the University’s tuition price must move closer to that of these other universities. “That’s not why we’re raising tuition right now, but we need to get closer to the middle,” Gaffney said. “We don’t really want to be in the top half [among New

Jersey’s other private institutions], but we’re in the bottom third.” Even so, Gaffney said that any increase in tuition will take place gradually in the coming years.

As far as increasing enrollment goes, Gaffney said that that has become a challenge for any college or university in the Northeast. This is due to a decline in the region’s number of 17- and 18-year-olds who are eligible to attend college. “It has nothing to do with me or Monmouth University, but it’s a challenge that the new president is going to have to face,” Gaffney said.

Pondering a Replacement

As the current University president, Gaffney will have no say in who replaces him. However, he still speculated as to the type of person needed to fill his shoes. While he said that the best fit for the University would be an individual with a combination of business and academic exposure, Gaffney admitted that he can see a wide array of backgrounds filling the presidency.

“I could see a lawyer, a businessman, a former military person, a professor who has had no administrative experience [or] somebody who has been in higher education his or her whole life,” Gaffney said. “It’s really going to depend on the personality and whether it’s apparent when they interview that they’re really going to love being at Monmouth University.”

Regardless of what background the next president comes from, Gaffney said that he or she must embrace the education mission. “He’s got to know that he’s around 6,000 students every day,” he said. “You’ve got to love this job because it’s 80 hours per week.”

“We knew this would not be an eight hour, five-days-a-week position when Paul signed his first Monmouth University contract,” Linda Gaffney said. “I would conservatively guess my husband spends an average of 12 working hours on weekdays with university and community affairs. We seldom have a free weekend due to athletic and other MU socially related events. There are never enough hours in a day, a week or a year for a university president.”

Paul Gaffney speculated that there are going to be major changes in the field of higher education during the next decade, which may even include mergers and acquisitions among colleges and universities. He said that someone who is interested in these types of financial opportunities might make for a good president.

Above all, the next president needs to be somebody who can move quickly and in different ways, Gaffney said. “Universities change very, very slowly,” he added. “My guess is that’s going to be different in the next 10 years. You’re going to have to move a lot more quickly to stay in business, to stay competitive.”

Post-Retirement Plans

Following retirement, Gaffney said that he is still unsure of what he wants to do or where he wants to live. He added that he and his wife agreed to hold off talking about future plans until this coming summer.

As far as his relationship with the University is concerned, Gaffney said that he hopes to remain in contact. However, he added that he plans to keep his distance as he has done after leaving previous jobs so that his successor can grow. “I would want to be as supportive of the University and help however I could, but I don’t want to be in the hair of the new president,” Gaffney said. “I think that’s unfair to [him or her]. [He or she] needs to be judged [alone], not compared to me.”

Construction Continues on Art Building



PHOTO COURTESY of Kim Grier

Construction on the University’s new art building has progressed since September as steel beams now rise from its foundation.

Construction continued from pg. 1

A second issue present in the old 800 building was the presence of asbestos. Swannack stated that there was no health hazard posed by the asbestos in the former building, and that there will be no asbestos in the new building.

Aside from the safety benefits, the new art building will serve many educational benefits to art teachers and students. Michael Donato, a professor in the art department, is looking forward to the comfortable environment that the new building will provide. Donato, who teaches painting and drawing, mentioned the importance of the room structures of the new building.

“Classroom studios will be square rather than a narrow rectangle,” Donato commented. “A square room with a model stand in the center allows for 360 degree views of the model or still life placed on the stand.” He also stated that this room format will improve the overall comfort of students and easier setup.

Swannack listed other features of the new art building includ-

ing eight classrooms, faculty offices, a student lounge, animation studios, Mac studios, storage for permanent art collection, and a two-story gallery.

“The larger and more extensive gallery space will bring more exhibition opportunities to campus,” stated Bright, who sees the new gallery as an important addition to the building. “Students will also benefit from the extensive gallery space when they stage their senior and annual exhibitions.”

Bright also explained that she is looking forward to windows that open and floors that are not crooked. When asked what she is looking forward to most, she expressed, “Space that is well-designed and suited for the purpose of teaching and learning.”

Currently, art classes are being held in the 600 building and in Edison Hall. Swannack stated that some classes will continue to be held in the 600 building after the new art building has opened. She also mentioned future plans to upgrade the School of Sciences facilities following the art building’s completion.

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Picking the Next President

How Will the University Replace Gaffney?

ANTHONY PANISSIDI
CO-NEWS EDITOR

For the first time in 10 years, the University’s Board of Trustees will have to find a new president following President Paul G. Gaffney II’s official announcement that he will retire on June 30, 2013.

Robert Sculthorpe, Chairman of the University’s Board of Trustees, commented that the next president needs to be a strong leader who understands the University’s goals and the direction in which the Board wants to take it. “I suspect there will be quite a few applicants who will be looking at this opportunity,” he said. “It’s basically going to take close to a year to find the next president.”

Grey Dimenna, the University’s Vice President and General Counsel, explained how the University selected Gaffney nearly a decade ago. Considering how well that process went, Dimenna said that the University will probably follow a similar course of action once Gaffney departs. As the current University president, Gaffney will have no say in who replaces him.

In 2003, the University used a search committee that was staffed by Dimenna. He was responsible for providing the committee with administrative support, such as scheduling meeting rooms, planning off-site interviews and handling traveling arrangements for candidates who were coming to the University to be interviewed. Dimenna did not have any say in the search committee’s decision.

“My guess would be, because the process worked so well, that the next process would probably be similar, but that would be up to the Board of Trustees and the search committee,” Dimenna said. “The one thing that I think would be certain is that next time they would probably form another search committee because that’s how people do things in higher education.”

The committee represented five groups in 2003. There were eight to nine trustees, as well as three faculty and two administrative members. The student body was represented by one undergraduate and one graduate student. Members of the committee were ultimately chosen by Paul S. Doherty Jr., the former Chair of the Board of Trustees. Currently, Sculthorpe would select the members of the

committee.

Dimenna said that narrowing down candidates for the presidency consists of a general discussion among members of the Board who typically meet in Wilson Auditorium. As long as the majority of the Board approves of the same candidate, then he or she may be offered the position; unanimous consent is not required.

“Obviously, it would be better that the Board was in agreement on who the next president should be,” Dimenna said. “The Board of Trustees is the president’s boss. They have the right to ask the president to leave if they’re not happy with his performance.” Unanimity would be better, Dimenna added.

Sculthorpe said that the Board has not pondered any potential replacements yet. However, all will be considered, including internal candidates who already work for the University. “It will be a very open, transparent and thoroughly bedded process,” Sculthorpe explained. “We welcome anyone who would have an interest.”

In 2003, applicants for the presidency were required to meet with the search committee to facilitate the selection process. Gaffney recalled the meeting that took place at the Marriott Newark Airport Hotel while he was still the President of the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. “It wasn’t on campus so we weren’t seen; it’s all pretty confidential at that point,” Gaffney said. “So my school didn’t know I was here [and] nobody here knew.”

Gaffney said that he was asked questions for about an hour and he quickly grew fond of the members of the committee. “They were really a great group of people who have proven to be great [during] the last nine years,” he said.

Following the hotel meeting, the candidates were narrowed down to four who were then brought to the University. “That was unbelievably hard,” Gaffney said. “You meet with the trustees, then they take your wife off and she meets with people without you there, and [we met] with the trustees at a social event, and I met with a faculty group, a student group; I met with athletes [and] alumni.” Gaffney then had to speak and answer questions in front of nearly 300 people in Wilson Auditorium. “It was nonstop all day and night, break-



PHOTO COURTESY of Jim Reme

The University’s three most recent presidents left to right: current President Paul G. Gaffney II, Dr. Rebecca Stafford and Dr. Samuel Magill.

fast through dinner,” he said.

The process for the individual applicant lasts for roughly five months, while it takes nearly a year for the University to pick a new president, Gaffney said. Once a candidate is selected, he or she is called and offered the position by the Chair of the Board. “I got a call from the chairman of the search committee,” Gaffney said. “He called me at the National Defense University.”

A contract that determines the length of the new president’s first term is then negotiated between the candidate and Board. The number of years that a president will serve varies by contract since there is no preset number; however, the contract is typically longer than a year. For instance, Gaffney’s first contract was for three years followed by a renewal for three and a half years.

“My guess is that it would probably be in the neighborhood of three to five years,” Dimenna said. “The person coming in wants to know that [he or she] is going to have a certain amount of time here and a year isn’t really a long time to give people an opportunity.”

Since Gaffney has officially announced his retirement, the University can legally post a job opening for the presidency. The University’s advertising strategy will resemble that followed in 2003, Dimenna said.

Before Gaffney was identified, ads for the presidency were placed in various media sources, such as

the *Chronicle of Higher Education* which is a weekly source of news and job information for college and university faculty members, administrators and students. The Chair of the University’s Board of Trustees sent letters to friends, donors and officials that announced the search for a new president and asked for suggestions. The University’s website carried the job posting and a search consultant was responsible for recruiting candidates who were deemed eligible for the job.

Finally, Dimenna said that the University used a document that he drafted called a leadership statement which consisted of three parts. The first part contained basic information about the University, such as the number of enrolled students. The second part spoke of eight or nine issues that the next University president would face. The third part spoke of characteristics that the search committee was looking for in the next president, such as leadership ability, fundraising skills and a sense of humor.

“[The Leadership Statement] will be composed of a number of pages that will list the attributes of the things that we’re looking for,” Sculthorpe said. “[It will] give a job description of what the president’s role is and obviously bring them up to familiarity with Monmouth University per se.” Sculthorpe added that the new Leadership Statement will be completed within the next several months.

“That was really our recruitment document,” Dimenna said. “If people were interested in the job, we would tell them to look at the document because basically it would tell them what we were looking for and what the successful candidate will have to do.”

Despite all of the advertisements, Gaffney said that he was informed about an opening for the University’s presidency while serving on a U.S. commission that dealt with ocean policy from 2000 to 2004. Gaffney was one of 16 commissioners along with his friend Lillian Borrone, who was the former Assistant Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Borrone informed Gaffney about the vacancy at the University and suggested that he apply.

“She knew some of the Board members and she said that the Board was great,” Gaffney said. He recalled her saying that it’s much easier to work in a private institution than a public institution because of the governance and that the campus is beautiful.

After visiting the campus during Thanksgiving weekend in 2002, Gaffney said that he decided to apply for the presidency. At the time he submitted his application, Gaffney also was a finalist for the presidency at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington; Georgia Tech’s Research Institute; and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science at the College of William and Mary.

Obama Exempts New Jersey from No Child Left Behind

SAGE FONSECA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

New Jersey became one of 10 states to receive a waiver from President Barack Obama exempting the education system from the laws of the No Child Left Behind Act on February 9.

This exemption means that Governor Christie will be able to continue with his plan for education reform without being at risk for losing federal aid if standardized test scores do not meet 100 percent proficiency levels by 2014.

According to Professor Gregory Bordelon in the Political Science department, constitutionally education is controlled by the respective states. By taking New Jersey out of the federal program, the state government can make its own education changes, such as attempting to make high school graduation rates stay at 75 percent or higher and filing for a corrective action plan if it

falls below.

Under NCLB, if schools did not meet the standards for proficiency for six consecutive years, the state would have to either restructure the school, close it, or have the government run it directly. Now New Jersey will be able to monitor and make their own decisions about how to correct the education issues.

Governor Christie applauded the waiver during a prepared statement released later that day saying, “This is not about Democrats or Republicans. It is about pursuing an agenda in the best interest of our children whose educational needs are not being met, and those who are getting a decent education but deserve a great one.”

The new system will still focus on the core concepts on NCLB, such as making students college-ready and rewarding schools which do well, but it hopes to even the playing field between the states different districts.

Under Christie, schools will be grouped into three sections with three different objectives. The first two classifications will be chosen from Title 1 schools. Schools with the lowest five percent performance rates which will be called Priority Schools, the Focus Schools will be picked from 10 percent of schools which are not meeting their proficiency goals.

Third will be the Reward Schools for those making progress or going above and beyond expectations. The classification of schools will take place this summer and be implemented in the 2012-2013 school year.

Christie has formed his new education strategy in hopes of breaking down the barriers which once separated schools by “Needs Improvement” and proficiency standards, based on standardized test scores without taking into account economic background or location.

New Jersey is also a part of

the Common Core State Standards Initiative, whose mission is “[To] provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them.” This idea of preparing students for life after grade school carries with the original goals of NCLB and Christie’s new education reform.

However, the reform initiative is not being accepted easily by all New Jersey residents and teachers who have disagreed with Christie’s proposal since it was first announced. In a statement by the teachers union in 2011 the budget cut in the reform plan is being seen by the union as an “ongoing effort to privatize public education in New Jersey.”

Yet in a recent statement about the failing state of the New Jersey education system for underprivileged children, Vincent Giordano, vice-president of the NJEA said that “life’s not always

fair, and I’m sorry about that.”

There is one constant in the matter, aside from political prerogative, which is that no matter which side is speaking they are both clear that New Jersey needs education reform. With the new waiver schools will be able to be judged on progress rather than test scores, making teacher and student accomplishments clearer than with the old NCLB requirements.

“The Obama Administration’s approval of our education reform agenda contained in this application confirms that our bold, common sense and bipartisan reforms are right for New Jersey and shared by the President and Secretary Duncan’s educational vision for the country,” said Christie.

Twenty-eight states have applied for the waiver but so far only Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oklahoma and Tennessee have been approved.

Academic Department Offers Applied Music Program

Music and Theatre Department Teaches Students How to Play Musical Instruments

LAUREN GARCIA
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Department of Music and Theatre Arts offers an Applied Music Program that allows students to take one-credit private music lessons regardless of their major.

The program provides students of all majors the chance to learn a musical instrument with professional musicians. Upon filling out a registration form for a course and emailing it to Dr. Gloria Rotella, Director of the Applied Music Program, students can take a 50 minute long lesson once a week where they will learn the instrument of their choice.

"Applied Music study in the areas of voice, piano, strings, winds, brass, guitar and percussion serves those students pursuing a major in music education, music performance, music industry, and music theatre majors, as well as those non-majors who wish to develop musical skills primarily for personal enrichment," Rotella said.

Daniel Martin, a music education major and IT minor, sees the program as a wonderful opportunity for students to take advantage of. "It gives students the chance to work one on one with professional level musicians for practically free."

Professor Michael Gillette, a specialist professor of music and violin instructor, encourages students to take advantage of the

private classes while they are at the University.

"Students not only in the department but across campus have a chance to take lessons here rather than going somewhere else to find a teacher. There's no music department I can think of that doesn't offer applied music on campus so the fact that we're doing that and have been doing that for a few years now is a good step towards making this a better music theater department. The objective is to serve the students and if they want to take lessons they should be able to do it here," Gillette said.

The lessons are structured to not only teach students how to play a specific instrument but to give them an appreciation of music.

"I teach students who have never played before. Every semester I teach a few students who are interested in violin but have never played or picked up a violin. The idea is to teach them technique and to give them some appreciation for playing the instrument," said Gillette. "In a

lesson, I can't speak for other professors here but I believe everybody is teaching the students basic repertoire, basic technique, basic appreciation of playing the instrument or singing. The idea is to expose a student to the right technique and the right pieces to be playing that are appropriate for them in any particular stage of their development."

In addition to the private

Martin said.

According to Laura Dubois, professor of music, accompanist, and piano instructor, the job of creating the Applied Music Program was put upon her in 2003.

"At that point, private instruction was not offered to students. I came up with a system that is still in use today, though it has grown and evolved tremendously under the wonderful guidance of Dr. Gloria Rotella," Dubois said.

According to Dr. David M. Tripold, Chair of the Music and Theatre Arts Department, the Applied Music Program was officially created in 2004 in order to have the department grow and to align itself with other institutions that offer music as a

major. Since 2004, however, the program has grown in both the amount of students as well as in the professionalism.

"The department has grown quantitatively and qualitatively over the past 10 years," Tripold said. "We now have about 130 music and theatre majors and offer a curriculum that is competitive with other institutions of our

size."

Dr. Rotella, who came to the program eight years ago, has created the most significant changes to the program, which include better organization and the increased professionalism of the performance lab.

"There has been a major change in performance class; the number of times a student is required to perform has increased, students are required to wear professional or performance attire, their performance is documented through the use of a rubric to give the students performance experience that relates more closely to the real world," Rotella said.

In addition to the improvements already made in the department was the hiring of an accompanist for students when they perform.

"Hiring an official accompanist for the department was a decision made by Tripold. This decision was made to benefit the students and enhance their musical education. Prior to that, students had to pay additional fees for accompaniment. Having a departmental accompanist has given all students the opportunity to work with a professional pianist, regardless of their financial circumstances," said Dubois.

Musical instruction is held in Lauren K. Woods Theater. Any students interested in taking classes should contact Dr. Rotella at grorella@monmouth.edu.

"I teach students who have never played before. Every semester I teach a few students who are interested in violin but have never played or picked up a violin. The idea is to teach them technique and to give them some appreciation for playing the instrument."

MICHAEL GILLETTE
Specialist Professor

weekly instructions, students are required to attend a performance class at the end of each week and to perform in one class at least once.

"This performance class gives students the opportunity to practice performance etiquette, practice performing in front of an audience, and gives you something to work forward to present,"

Employee Giving Campaign Raises \$242,960

Campaign continued from pg. 1

make 2011 one of the best fundraising years in the University's history," he said.

According to Bartley-Oxley, 67 percent of full-time employees or 691 people participated in the 2011 campaign. A number of mini-campaigns were used to generate employee support including the opportunity to participate in the Hawk Walk Brick Campaign through which employees, students, alumni and families can personalize bricks to be placed on campus.

In addition, Bartley-Oxley mentioned that employees used the campaign to memorialize losses in the University community, including the Bertha Hughes Memorial Gift opportunity, which honors the late faculty member. "Bertha had been with the University for over 40 years," she said. "With her great smile and welcoming demeanor, so many employees, alumni and friends were touched by her presence. They signed on to give in Bertha's memory."

To further generate support, volunteering Employee Giving Campaign Captains within each

University area reached out to colleagues to become donors. "It's a great group of dedicated employees that go above and beyond the call of duty to help motivate others to sign onto the campaign," Bartley-Oxley said.

Scalli explained how the funds raised by the Employee Giving Campaign benefit the University community. "Since donors are able to designate their giving to the areas of their choice, it is too long to list every way giving helps students and academic programs," he said.

Funds also have a direct im-

pact on the daily lives of students, Scally commented. "Employee contributions are used for the University's needs, such as keeping the cost of tuition down, providing scholarship assistance, maintaining campus infrastructure and preserving the natural beauty of campus," he said.

Furthermore, the Employee Giving Campaign influences external support for the University, Bartley-Oxley said, mentioning that employee donations give foundations and grant-makers a positive image of the University. "A gift continues to keep Monmouth

moving forward," she said.

With the success of this year's campaign, however, come ambitious goals for next year. Bartley-Oxley explains that attention is focused on increasing employee-participation to over 70 percent of full-time employees. She mentions that a dollar goal will be set and announced to the public in a few weeks.

Our underlying goal is to always exceed the success of the prior year," she said. "The year 2011 was such a record year, but we'll work hard to make 2012 an even greater success."

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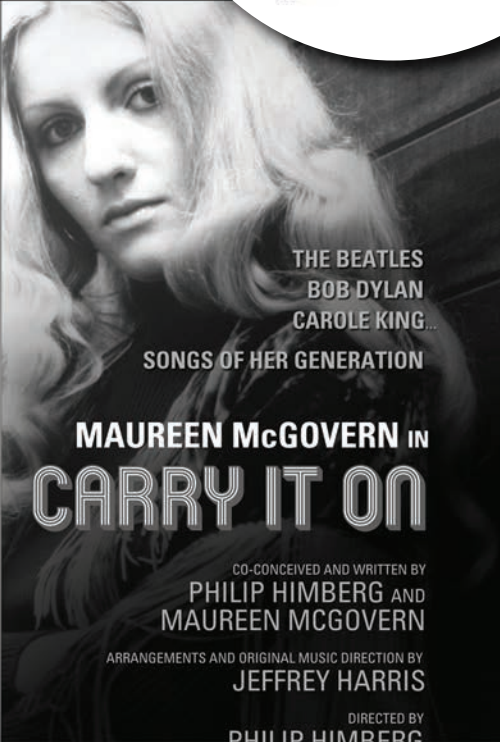
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Participate More Outside the Classroom

THE OUTLOOK STAFF OPINION

Student enrichment is important in any university. However, not everyone likes to get involved. Some students will not go beyond the required work for their major. Maybe they would get more involved with their majors if they were given credit for doing work outside of standard curriculum. This is exactly what the University does with the practicum credit, but they are only for certain majors. Not every field has practicum credit as a requirement. Nevertheless, some of us at *The Outlook* feel like this should change.

If a student can graduate college with a deeper understanding of their major and have actual first-hand experience, that person will be more likely to get hired. Businesses today do not just want people with a degree; they want people that have real experience in the work field before they finish their education.

Communication majors at the University are required to take a one credit practicum. For the students interested in journalism, their practicum includes writing seven stories to be published in *The Outlook*. This gives students the experience of writing for a real newspaper and dealing with the stress of journalism like deadlines and finding reliable

sources.

However, not everyone on staff feels that a practicum should be required. Some feel that there are enough clubs aimed at specific majors that can benefit students so that any further outside work is unnecessary. The students getting “forced” to participate are taking positions away from people who could potentially really want that spot.

Students should take advantage of the programs presented at the University, especially when credits can be earned.

The Department of Music and Theatre Arts has also created an Applied Music Program. This gives students, regardless of their major, the opportunity to receive one credit for a private music lesson. This may not be considered as practicum for majors in that department, but it is a start.

Business majors do not require any practicum credit. Doug Stives, Director of the MBA Program and business professor, explains that their equivalent is an internship. A third of the accounting majors at the University attend internships at CPA firms to get experience in the field.

Political science majors also require internships that are considered to be their practicum. Rekha Datta, PhD Professor of political

science, said that since fall 2010, political science majors are required to take a one credit course in civic engagement, which is a project/service-based practicum on or off campus.

Different fields require different work. All majors are incredibly diverse and this can make it hard to create a specific practicum for that program. Therefore, internships may be the next best thing next to practicum.

Internships and practicum are alike because they both provide exposure to the real life workplace for graduates. However, here at *The Outlook*, the majority of us feel that practicum should be required in more programs at the University. Sometimes a club is not enough for to students to get the experience of a career.

The practicum can also help students determine if they want to pursue their major. It gives them enough experience to see if they will enjoy that career choice for many years to come.

College is where students are supposed to figure out what they want to do for the rest of lives. The University provides students with many opportunities to help with this choice, but it is ultimately up to the student. Having a practicum for each major would give students a better grasp of their major while receiving credit for it.

SHENEMAN THE STAR-LEDGER



"I VETOED THE GAY MARRIAGE BILL BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT MARRIAGE IS A SACRED BOND BETWEEN A MAN AND HIS CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL BASE."



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Outlook Corrections:

In last week's issue, the SGA Minutes in the Politics section were reported with one inaccuracy. It should have been stated that the plans for students to use their meal plans in the Student Center and Shadows are tentative, not definite as the article stated.

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MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1933

2012 AWARD OF THE YEAR

Vegan is the Way to Go

VICTORIA JORDAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Eating “healthy” seems to be the newest trend: If you’re not choosing an entrée from the “under 500 calories” list or slurping protein shakes as a snack, you may be considered the odd-ball out at the dinner table.

However, there are a large majority of us that assume that the “light” and “fat-free” versions of certain foods are what we should be eating. With these kinds of perceptions, we may be inclined to purchase and consume foods that are only low in fat and calories.

Without doubting that those products would most certainly be a smarter purchase than their fattier forms, some of those foods may be incorporating other ingredients that tend to increase the sodium, cholesterol, sugar and saturated fat levels. They may also not contain enough protein, carbohydrates, fiber, calcium and other vitamins that our bodies need.

There is a diet that, when balanced and followed correctly, is extremely beneficial in ensuring healthy nutrition, assisting with disease prevention and providing physical benefits.

Veganism is a different type of vegetarian diet that excludes meat, eggs, dairy and animal products. Although often por-

trayed and thought of as crazed animal-rights enthusiasts, vegans choose to eat this way for many reasons. However, it can be argued that their food pyramid is often followed in much healthier ways than the typical Americanized diet.

A vegan diet brings forth numerous benefits, some of which I never understood until further research into this lifestyle. Although I myself am not a vegan, I do believe that it is a healthy and “clean” diet for those interested.

In order to better understand veganism and present a clearer basis as to why I believe it is a healthy life decision, I spoke with Michael Balducci, owner of Veggie Brothers online vegan food delivery service. Having no extensive

prior knowledge about veganism, I asked what kind of products I should be looking for when at the supermarket.

ket,” said Balducci. “Now, you can find vegan butter, non-dairy alternatives such as soy, rice and almond milk and even non-dairy ice creams made from soy, rice and coconut milks.”

How is it that people can survive off of what seems to be such limited selection of food?

All of these products contain the essential amount of carbohydrates, fiber, magnesium, protein, potassium, calcium, antioxidants and vitamins that a normal diet includes. The difference is that the vegan diet reduces a large amount of saturated fat from our diet, eliminates our cholesterol intake and increases the amount of

occasion of disease or illness will be lowered. Risks for high cholesterol and blood pressure, cardiovascular disease and diabetes will be immensely lessened.

Surprisingly, you may be eating some vegan foods daily already. Spaghetti in tomato sauce, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, salads and vegetable soups are almost always vegan.

If you are considering making the switch to veganism, it may not be a difficult transition.

“Meat and dairy substitutes are on the market, sold online at VeggieBrothers.com, and sold in various supermarkets and health food stores,” said Balducci.

Dishes at VeggieBrothers.com include meatless products like, chicken pot pie, italian sausage and peppers, ham and cheese turnovers, black bean burgers, and chicken noodle soup. All of these are 100 percent vegan.

Vegan products are becoming more common and adjusting to this diet may come easily to some people. If you are considering this lifestyle, consult with your doctor to make sure that it is a safe option for your health.

Visit VeggieBrothers.com for vegan food orders and tips, and receive an exclusive student discount with promo code MUMARCH2012.



PHOTO COURTESY of dealsthatgiveback.com
Veggie Brothers is the first and only online vegan food delivery service out there today, according to veggiebrothers.com.

“Fruits, vegetables, beans, legumes and grains. These are vegan food choices that have always existed in the supermar-

ket.” Since a vegan diet involves more consumption of nutritional items, it can be assumed that the

Let’s Party? Let’s Not.

NINA INCORVAIA
STAFF WRITER

Over the past couple of weeks, I have noticed signs that students have posted in their windows. Some are big, some are small, some are countdowns for different holidays, but the ones that always strike my curiosity are the signs in regards to partying. Most of these partying signs reference the constant college student’s struggle between going out on a week night or studying for that huge test you have the next morning. Many students choose to go out instead of studying, but is that what we are really here for?

One sign that sticks out in my memory glorified how in college you can retake a class, but you cannot retake a party. This blows my mind. I do not know about anyone else here, but to attend the University, I am looking at paying about \$14,000 per semester in order to take the minimum four classes. This total is not even including living arrangements or meal plans. On average, students pay about \$23,000 each semester when you add up lab’s, special class fees, housing, books, etc. Personally, I am not paying \$23,000 to party every night of the week. Please tell me if there are any people who would.

As a junior here at the University, I have witnessed many of my peers pay tuition only to skip class habitually and party every night. Most of these students were either pulled out of school by their parents or worse, failed out before they could get back on the right track. Unfortunately, I have met countless people who could not handle the freedom and independence that college presents to them. Too many students view college as a place to party without having to come home to their families. It is true that your family will not be waiting at the door for you to come in after a long night of partying, but soon enough your long nights of irre-

sponsibility will catch up to you.

Though many students come into college with good intentions, the media does not help keep the college-aged crowd on the right track. Websites like CollegeHumor.com and CollegeCandy.com promote the reckless lifestyle of the “ideal” college student. Also, movies like the classics *Animal House*, *Van Wilder* and *Old School* portray college as one big ongoing party. The media puts an unrealistic image in our minds as to what we should be doing when we get in college. Though the media stresses the party atmosphere, the reality is late nights in the library and often quiet nights in the dorm. Unfortunately, a movie about a night studying in Guggenheim would not make an interesting film, so Hollywood exaggerates a small aspect of college.

Now do not get me wrong, I believe going out and having a good time is reasonable in college, but it has to be in moderation, like everything else in life. Of course in college it is much easier to throw away our responsibilities, but ultimately this is the time where we learn to be responsible and to survive on our own. Though it is tempting to go out every night and skip classes, the time we spend here at the University should be cherished and we should all take advantage of the programs that do not involve partying that we will never be able to experience the same way again.

Before you go off into the real world, go to Winter Ball at least once while you’re here, watch a Hawks game, go to a Greek event and have a good time.

Don’t live your college career in a haze and do yourself a favor, do not fall into the all too common path that many college kids do. Make sure you get what you need to get done here, but do not forget to have fun. Keep a healthy balance and enjoy what are arguably the best years of your life.

Hollywood Needs to Step it Up

ANNA CHAMBERLAIN
STAFF WRITER

The Oscars took place this weekend and after looking over all the movies, I could see that it was not a good year for Hollywood. There were some great movies like *The Help*, *50/50*, and *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*.

However, it seemed like it was the year of the sequel: *The Hangover Part II*, *Cars 2*, *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* and the list goes on. With the exception of *Harry Potter*, the rest of these sequels are mediocre at the best.

Honestly, why do we need them? It just builds our hopes that it will be as good as the original, even though that is usually never the case.

There is also no point to making another sequel decades later. They are making a third *Ghostbusters* movie. The last movie was made in the 80s and no one has made another sequel since then because there was no need for it.

If people want their kids to be interested in older movies, tell them to check out Netflix. That’s what it’s for.

Another thing is that once one type of movie comes out, there are six other ones trying to pull off the same success. For example, *Paranormal Activity*, which is another “documentary-type horror movie” like *The Last Exorcism* and *The Devil Inside* that came out. Or how after *No Strings At-*

tached premiered, *Friends With Benefits* was released.

Just because one movie does well does not mean that the same plot is going to work for all of them. It seems like there really are no real original movies at the box office. If there are, they are usually ignored or considered to be boring, tacky or weird.

The action movies have maintained a steady popularity, but why are they

It is possible to have a creative story with great dialogue that has action. Look at movies like *Indiana Jones* and *Harry Potter*: Both of these sagas have kept me entertained and emotionally attached while watching them.

Romance movies have the same problem. They are either too mushy and unrealistic or are just stupid. *Up* told a better love story in about eight minutes than what the *Twilight* series has given the public in four movies. These stories are usually so over dramatic and complicated that you are never quite sure what exactly happened. A perfect example of this is the story within movies like *New Year’s Eve* and *Valentine’s Day*. There are so many plots and subplots that you need a venn diagram just to understand a movie about people falling in love.

Whatever happened to simple plots about two friends falling in love like in *When Harry Met Sally* or a guy falling in love with a girl even though she is completely dysfunctional like in *Breakfast at Tiffany’s*?

What about the musical? It would be nice to see a few original dance numbers, really anything else that isn’t a remake or a re-



PHOTO COURTESY of movies.popcrunch.com
Millions of movies have been made over the years, but it seems as if many share the same plot.

all in 3D or IMAX now? I understand that it is supposed to enhance the experience, but does it really?

I spend about \$12 on a ticket just to take the glasses off halfway through the movie because I get so dizzy from all the explosions and back and forth camera angles. I wish that these movies would put as much effort into their visuals as they did their plots so I wouldn’t be sitting there bored with a migraine.

The new *Footloose* was not bad, but it will never live up to the original. These film directors need to stop trying to make movies that were already good “better.” As the old saying goes, “If it ain’t broke, don’t try to fix it.” The movie franchise has seemed to hit a snag, but not all hope is lost. With movies like *The Artist* and *Hugo*, hopefully aspiring directors and screen plays will use these for inspiration for future movies and

Debate Hawks Win at Rutgers

At Recent Tournament, Hawks Defeat Reigning National Champion

DAN ROMAN
STAFF WRITER

The Monmouth University Debate Hawks have quickly gained the attention of the national debate community. This season has been extremely successful for the Debate Hawks as they defeated reigning national champions Liberty University at the Rutgers-Newark debate tournament back in November. The win was further noteworthy because it took place in a playoff round, and was also the first time in school history that a Monmouth team defeated Liberty. In addition to Liberty, Monmouth has racked up wins against national powerhouse debate programs such as Cornell University, NYU, U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy and Dartmouth.

In addition to these wins, Monmouth has had four teams make it to playoff rounds at each of the three tournaments they have attended this year, a major accomplishment for a program which was nonexistent just a few short years ago. At the most recent tournament at Cornell University, four teams made it to the playoffs. These debaters were Jen Sime and Lianne Kulik, Mark Cosentino and Andrew Bell, Miriam Peguero and Olivia Mills and Lexi Todd and Dan Roman. Lexi Todd brought home a trophy for being the eighth best speaker at the tournament.

The team not only wins, but it also gives back to the community. Thanks in part to a grant from TD Bank, Dr. Joseph Patten, Chair of the Political Science Department and Debate Hawks coach has helped the debate team start a program at Asbury Park High School. As a part of the Urban Debate League, the debate

Bishops from Asbury Park won a tournament in Baltimore last year, the first year of the debate team. Most importantly is the fact that every senior member of the debate team in Asbury went to the college last year.

The Monmouth team hosted a tournament here on campus on January 21 – 22. The tournament ended up being the fourth biggest tournament in the country

tended the whole year. In fact, the tournament was run so well that Monmouth has been asked to host the district championship next year, a tournament where over 20 schools compete to try to make it to the national championships. This is an honor for any team in the country to be asked to host a tournament of this magnitude.

Patten continues to get new people to join. He does this by

is garnering a lot of interest lately by students and faculty. People always come up to me to congratulate me on the latest tournament results and it's really special considering the position we were in not long ago where we had no funding." The team is constantly growing with 36 members currently on the roster and many others on a waiting list to join the class in

member being a nervous, worried, and a shy boy that was hesitant to join the team. I can say now, as a motivated, mature, self-disciplined young man, it was the best decision I could have ever made. The team itself has grown so much since its birth as a small team. From expanding in its numbers within Monmouth University, to expanding its' community reach to Asbury Park."

If you ask anyone who has ever debated they can tell you that debate is an academic sport. With rounds sometimes lasting as long as two hours, teams who make it far into the playoffs will debate nine or 10 rounds in one weekend. That is 20 hours of intense work for just one tournament. Debate is something that will change student's lives. Co-captain of the debate team and senior Arielle Giordano says, "Being a part of the Monmouth University Debate team is the single best decision I made throughout my college career, you aren't just a member of a club or a team, but you become a part of a family."

The team has already set a goal of making it into the top 25 in the nation next year. In order to make it into the top 25 teams score points according to how far into playoffs they make it and how many teams are in the playoffs. Monmouth currently is averaging 43 points per tournament but has only been able to attend three tournaments this year. The National Debate Tournament rankings take into account the top six tournaments for each school, putting Monmouth at a disadvantage. If Monmouth were able to go to six tournaments, which they are hoping to next year, by averaging 43 points per tournament, they will easily make it into the top 25 nationally.



PHOTO COURTESY of Arielle Giordano

The Debate Hawks celebrate after a tournament at Rutgers - Newark, where they defeated reigning national champion, Liberty University.

with more than 70 teams and 250 people showing up to the Jersey Shore. Teams attending the tournament spoke about it being the best tournament they at-

recruiting from the Political Science classes he teaches and by asking just about any student he sees to join the team.

Patten says, "The Debate team

the fall, which teaches students the many intricacies of policy debate. Debate team co-captain and senior Brandon Karkovice adds, "As a freshman, I can re-

Got Time? Catch Up on SGA Minutes

SGA held a meeting on February 22. At the meeting, multiple topics were discussed. Vice President Oscar Sanchez reported SGA is working with Residential Life and Athletics to set up a fundraiser for the fire victims. Jackie and Sami will discuss this later. The new E-board proposal will be voted on later in the meeting.

New Club Constitution Approval for Campus Crusade for Christ (Cru). Previously known as Christian Ambassadors would like to change their name to Cru after joining together with Cru, an Interdenominational Christian Organization. Cru provides a place for Christian believers to grow closer to God and strengthen their faith. This club has been approved by SGA.

Parliamentarian Becca Baier reported, "I would like to move forward with the idea of "The Undie Run" or this event by some other name. There is a sheet on the clipboard. Please put your name if you are seriously interested in being on the committee and will come to meetings.

Move for Hunger has offered to partner with us and share their many connections with DJs and vendors if we decide to go a route that would include these things at the event. We can make it as big as we want and I have some ideas going. These are all tentative events. Seniors and Freshman- please don't forget to complete the NSSE survey. It was emailed to you and it's really important."

Vice President Nagy reported to SGA that a young alumni and a current graduate student were both affected by the fire. The graduate student was not worried about himself; he was worried about his neighbors who had no other place to go. This is a reason why everything we can do to help the victims is extremely important. There has been an unfortunate situation in Pine-wood Hall where someone has been using the lounge and other places as a restroom. Word has been that the person is a visitor so unfortunately the visitation rights of the residents in Pine-wood Hall have been suspended. When someone comes forward it will be dealt with. VP Nagy spoke with Dr. Pearson about Health Studies and the class-

room situations. One classroom has already been moved. An undergraduate study has also come up with another course called research methods. Dr. Pearson is concerned with and would like specific complaints about customer service. VP Nagy has already been working with her staff to make sure the students have good customer service.

Ravi Shah stated, "On Wednesday February 15, I met with Jeffery Stapleton, the Senior Associate Athletic Director here at Monmouth. I met with him to discuss several concerns from the student body and several of our own students at SGA. The concerns I brought to his attention were:

1. What was the reasoning behind the MAC Fitness Center hours as they are currently set up?
2. Is there a way to extend the hours on the weekends especially on Saturdays?
3. Would it be possible to keep one lane open for students to use the pool when outside groups are using it?
4. Is there a ventilation system in place at the Fitness Center?
5. Would it be possible to add blinds for the large windows in

the Fitness Center?

Mr. Stapleton and I discussed each issue and he reported the following for the concerns:

1. The reason the hours are shortened on the weekends is due to limited usage by students particularly on Saturdays. He showed me three given Saturdays where only 51, 56, and 76 people signed in to use the MAC. These people were spread out between the hours of 9:00 am-4:00 pm and he said there is no way to guarantee that they all were there to use the Fitness Center and that they were not all there at 4:00 pm. Therefore for financial reasons, they chose 4:00 pm as a time to shut it down.

2. Mr. Stapleton did tell me that if I could generate enough interest among the student body to extend the hours on the Fitness Center for Saturdays he sees no problem in extending the hours to 5pm to start and see how the students respond. If a large amount of students show up and use the gym at 4:00-5:00pm then he would then push it back until 6:00pm and so on and so forth. I have already begun to contact students and already have over

60 names of students who are genuinely interested.

3. For the question regarding the pool, it is not possible to keep one lane open for students because the pool is rented out by the University to outside groups and these groups are paying for the use of all six lanes.

4. There is a ventilation system in use at the MAC and it is top of the line so therefore, according to Mr. Stapleton, there is no reason to make any changes to it.

5. Finally, Mr. Stapleton did not see a reason as to why there should be blinds for the windows and claims that there is no glare on those windows because according to him, the MAC building itself blocks out the sun. However, he did say he would speak with facilities and the people over at the MAC and ask their opinion on this issue as well and would look into the possibility of adding blinds. This is still being investigated."

It was also announced that the first of March is the last day to apply for graduation for May.

Christie Lowers Flag For Houston

ALYSSA GRAY
STAFF WRITER

The world received the shocking news that musical icon and New Jersey native Whitney Houston was dead on Saturday, February 11, 2012. Her body had been found partially submerged in a bathtub after consuming a cocktail of Valium, Xanax and alcohol in her hotel room at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

After Houston's death however, society seemed to split between those who wished to grieve for her passing and others who, for lack of better word, were not all that surprised, primarily because of the fact that Houston's past was laced with drug and alcohol abuse. The controversy grew more volatile when New Jersey Governor Chris Christie made the announcement that he would be lowering the flags to honor the New Jersey native.

Professor Mezey, Associate Professor and Director of the Sociology program here at the University, says that she respects Governor Christie's decision to lower the flag for Houston. "My understanding is that he based his decision on his conviction that Whitney Houston made an important cultural impact during her life and because she was born and raised in New Jersey," states Mezey.

Freshman Gina Colasurdo was a little less than enthused about Christie's choice in lowering the flag. "A person very close to me lost someone very close to them in their lives. His friend was in

Afghanistan and was shot, but he didn't get the recognition he should have. In fact, many soldiers that have been killed in the local area do not get nearly as much recognition as Whitney Houston gets for abusing prescription drugs. So Governor Christie chooses to lower the flag to a known drug abuser over a person who is out there supporting the United States and fighting for our country. How fair does that sound?" asked Colasurdo.

Many people share the same viewpoint as Colasurdo, and believe that the lowering of the flags should remain reserved for military and police personnel killed on duty only. As stated in the *New York Daily News* on February 21, a man by the name of John Borri, who had lost his son in Iraq, was so enraged over Christie's decision in lowering the flags for Houston that he burned an American flag in protest.

This is not the first time that Governor Christie has lowered the flags for individuals other than those in the military and law enforcement. In fact, according to an article in the *Star Ledger* on February 21, Christie has ordered the flags to be lowered for 31 servicemen and women, two first responders, six public officials, the anniversary of September 11, Morristown High School baseball coach Harry Shatel and most recently, Clarence Clemons and Whitney Houston. Bringing Christie's grand total of drawing the flags at half-staff to 42.

Despite the high number of Christie's flag count and the large controversy it sparked, it can be said that his intentions are pure for him wanting to pay tribute to Whitney Houston. Some believe another outlet should be utilized in the commemorating of those outside of the armed services.

Jessica Costello, a freshman, believes other outlets should be used in such remembrances. "I do not think the flag should be lowered for a celebrity that died. A simple memorial to honor entertainers would be perfectly suitable."

Mezey, on the other hand, believes that such lines should not be drawn as to how such a person is remembered or not. "I don't think we need a blanket decision to honor or not honor a particular group of people. The decision to lower the flag for anyone who has passed away should be based on the positive contributions that person has made to the lives of others, and on the social and cultural meaning that person has for the group of people paying homage," Mezey decides.

All in all, the world lost a Grammy winning singer. While a tragedy, it must not be forgotten what the lowering of the flag stands for. Whether Houston deserved it or not is up for debate. The United States flag's meaning is stated in the Flag Code. There it states, "The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing." This should be considered in situations like this.

Greece Given Second Bailout in Two Years

SAMANTHA TARTAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Even after the culmination of negotiations among European Union member states, Grecians have found little avail as a second bailout package emerged early last Tuesday morning.

Finance ministers met Monday in Brussels with two objectives. The first concentrated on imposing stricter economic sanctions on Greece, and the second addressed whether the nation could eventually survive on its own.

With the finalization of last Monday's talks, Greece walked away with a second bailout package, valued at euro130 billion (\$170 billion). An earlier package was approved in 2010 by private lenders for euro100 billion (\$130 billion).

Time Magazine reported the Euro surged seven tenth of a percentage to \$1.328 within minutes of the bailout announcement.

This deal was essential for Athens to avoid default next month.

Greece's Parliament had the week-end to review and sign a 400-plus-

spending cuts and the new bailout package are focused on keeping the banks heads above water rather than sustaining the body of its country.

Graffiti-stained storefronts embody the country's fragile condition and the smell of tear gas continuously infuses the streets of Athens, enveloping the violent facades since 2008.

Rachel Donadio from *The New York Times* reported on February 25, "The first time I visited Athens the city was in flames. It was December 2008. [The riots were] set off after a policeman's bullet killed a teenager [and] engulfed the city. For several days, the rule of law was tenuous at best."

Without the second bailout Greece would be forced to return to its old Drachma currency, further weakening fragile economic ties to the Euro-zone.

Dr. Kenneth Mitchell, Associate Professor of Political Science at Monmouth University also commented on last Tuesday's bailout developments. "Today Greece is insolvent, as it was prior to the latest bailout. This second bailout kicks the can down the road, say, to early



PHOTO COURTESY of washingtonpost.com
Riot police attempt to control a crowd that are protesting the bailout in Greece.

Is Birth Control a Governmental Issue?

SAM MAYNARD
STAFF WRITER

The Republican Presidential primaries have taken a turn to social issues this month, with new controversy over religious institutions providing birth control on their insurance plans. Earlier, President Obama issued a new mandate that would require insurance providers to cover the costs of birth control if Catholic or other religious employers do not wish to include it on their plan. Naturally, this drew critical responses from all of the Republican candidates. However, the most outspoken was Rick Santorum, claiming that President Obama is waging a war on religious freedoms and trying to promote a "secular agenda." Many agree with Mr. Santorum saying that the President's mandate is unfair and requires religious institutions to practice methods that go against their religion.

There has been a larger response from women who feel they have not been represented in this debate. At a congressional hearing with religious authorities from multiple faiths, there were no female testimonies provided. Representative Darrell Issa (R-CA) denied one female Georgetown Law Student, Sandra Fluke, the opportunity to speak at the hearing. This decision sparked a tremendous amount of backlash from women's groups across the country. It was reported by *CNN* that Nancy Pelosi harshly criticized the hearing and is including Ms. Fluke as the sole witness at an all-Democratic Policy Committee.

With women being an increasingly important electorate, it is puzzling to see the Republicans alienate them so greatly. Numbers cited in the President's address on the issue indicated that nearly 99 percent of all women have relied on birth control at some point in their life. With numbers that large it may be unwise for candidates like Rick Santorum to essentially

write off their interests. Also, with all of the talk by the candidates of sizing down the influence of government, they still are open to passing a law that keeps women and families from making their most personal decisions. So, government regulation is bad unless it's upholding a narrow religious doctrine? In any state, it is dangerous when leaders use their position to cast their religious convictions on the citizens.

Seven states have already filed suit to fight the mandate. Florida, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas have joined the suit. Whether or not the courts decide to reverse the mandate is another issue. With the Supreme Court ruling on the controversial Healthcare Law this summer, it may not even matter. According to Pre-law advisor and Political Science Professor Gregory Bordelon, it will be difficult to argue against the mandate, but there are strong arguments on both ends of the debate.

According to Professor Bordelon, "The issues before the courts under the Free Exercise Clause will be whether an exception should be granted to specific religious institutions or whether the mandate constitutes an incidental burden on a particular religious practice." The states will have to prove that there is a clear cut violation of religious freedoms in accordance with contraception provision or show that it puts a burden on a specific religious practice.

However, Professor Bordelon goes on to point out that this may be a non-issue after the Supreme Court makes their ruling on the Healthcare Law this summer. "All of this should be looked at in the context of overreaching mandate issues of the Health Care Act before the Supreme Court this term. This specific issue could be moot in the political arena depending on how the Court rules this June." The government may not have a basis to uphold the mandate if the Court

rules a certain way this summer.

In a nation as developed as the United States, it is difficult to believe this argument is still at the forefront of national politics. Women's reproductive rights and overall independence have been instrumental in securing a forward-thinking populous that values what is essential in a democracy: the acceptance of ideas other than your own.

A *TIME* article by Emily Rauhala reported on reproductive rights in the Philippines this week. In the country, all forms of birth control are prohibited. Women are "advised" to track their cycle and refrain from intercourse except when they are at their least fertile. Even condoms are prohibited. The article goes on to explain that due to this harsh crack-down, about 500,000 pregnancies result in abortion, and 60,000 women in the country are injured by unsafe abortions, while about 1,000 women are killed. These deaths and unsafe healthcare procedures are the result of a government indoctrinating their extreme religious agenda on the public.

America cannot share the same fate as the Philippines. The reproductive rights of all Americans are not something that can be regulated by the state. Lawren Rohling, a social work major said "I believe insurances should cover contraceptives. Not only is it used for the pure purpose of people having safe sex, it can be used for medical purposes." The constitution protects religious liberties but it does not give those in power the authority to enforce their religious convictions on others. In our system of government, ideas must be accepted even if some do not agree with them. The current law allows for women to have the choice to have an abortion, not impose the choice on them. In this country, it must be recognized that any faith or belief cannot triumph over the private rights of the people.

page document, shifting critical parts of its sovereignty to its foreign lenders, the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

A recent *Time Magazine* highlighted how the second bailout has stretched lending countries' patience to its limit. "We've seen that Greece time and time again fails to satisfy the conditions that the international community makes. In the Netherlands, it really is an issue that you have to lend money to a country that for the umpteenth time hasn't held itself to its agreements," said Jan Kees de Jager, Netherlands Minister of Finance. He also expressed concern about controlling money his nation has lent.

Dr. Charles Cotton, Adjunct Lecturer of Political Science at Monmouth University discussed the importance of the second bailout for the European Union. "Although it is a tough pill to swallow now, it will stabilize the Euro-zone in the long term. Retracting the euro is of no benefit to any state moving forward." Many citizens believe that the

summer, at which point German and French leaders conjure bailout number three. No viable scenario exists for Greece to address its debt while remaining in the Euro-zone. Despite the pain that will come, Greece should return to the drachma and devalue in order to regain competitiveness. It can do that now or sometime in the near future, [but] at great costs to Euro-zone tax payers."

This type of bail out could also affect the United States economy. "We've discovered that the United States is very interconnected with the rest of the globe in the last couple of years," Jon Hilsenrath, the Wall Street Journal's chief economic correspondent stated in an interview with ABC news during last summer as the first bail out took place. Hilsenrath's statement is a reminder that what affects one country affects another.

Donadio also spoke with Elias Darlas, a clerk from downtown Athens. "We are like a ticking time bomb, like the Arab Spring. If it exploded here, it will happen elsewhere."

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Reuse, Redesign and Rewear Your Clothes

ALICIA MOLLENKAMP
STAFF WRITER

Remember that awful shirt you got for your birthday a couple years ago? Or that shirt that went out of style the second you bought it? Or that shirt that shrunk or you grew out of? If you haven't already disposed of the piece of clothing that does not appeal to you anymore, hold onto it and simply revamp it.

Revamping an old article of clothing may be the extra push or last technique you need to hold onto it. The technique of "recycling clothes" is also trending in the fashion world amongst many fashion designers.

For example, according to InventorSpot.com, fashion designer Gary Harvey can take a pair of jeans, a trench coat, an army jacket, wedding dresses or even newspapers and turn them into stylish vintage ball-gowns.

Luckily there are many tips and techniques out there for a person to utilize when trying to redesign an old article of clothing. For starters, the supplies you will need to complete these transformations are: crafting scissors, basic sewing kit, and accessories (buttons, sequins, beads, etc.). Scissors will either become your best friend or worst enemy when dealing with cutting old clothes. When starting off, I would recommend re-designing the oldest articles of clothing for practice purposes.

A basic sewing kit will include a variety of needles and string for stitching/sewing small projects. This can be purchased at stores such as Target, CVS and Walgreens. Accessories can be purchased if you're feeling am-

bitious and creative.

Applying accessories can be difficult, but they can be that extra pizzazz for a dull article of clothing. Craft stores such as JoAnne Fabric's and AC Moore offer a wide variety of accessories that can be applied on articles of clothing. Some of the most popularized applications are sequins, buttons and fabric pieces.

Now that you have the basic supplies needed to revamp your old clothing, it's time for some ways of redesigning.

Cutting up an article of clothing is typically the quickest, easiest way to make a simple to drastic change.

Sophomore Hope Fischer said, "I always cut my shirts. It's an easy way to make an old shirt look new."

Some recommendations of cutting techniques from green-america.org include cutting a

neckline of a shirt, creating stylish rips in old jeans and cutting the sides or back of a shirt into different designs. When cutting a neckline of a shirt, V-neck, scoop neck and off-the-shoulder designs are simple to transform

er article of clothing that can be revamped with just a couple of snips. That accidental tear can be the inspiration of your newly revamped ripped jeans! Ripped jeans are a funky way to express yourself while being fashionable.

Sophomore Elisabeth Medino, a sophomore, said, "I have so many clothes I have grown out of and I don't know what to do with them all."

Growing out of an article of clothing is natural; we grow in height and width. Luckily there are ways to save an article of clothing after out-growing it.

The quick tip of saving these out-grown clothing articles is cutting or hemming them to be shorter to make them appear that they are meant to be that shape and size.

For example, a pair of pants that no longer fits can be cut into a pair of shorts or capris by cut-

ting off a couple extra inches at the bottom. A long-sleeved shirt can also be cut into a tank top or short-sleeved shirt by cutting a couple inches off the sleeve. A shirt can also be transformed into a crop top by either hemming or cutting the bottom. These tips, along with many others regarding shortening clothes, can be found at kidzworld.com.

Now time for the fun part; applying fabrics or accessories to an old clothing item. This requires more practice than the other techniques, but it is a creative way for redesigning clothes.

Arts and crafts stores are notorious for their array of accessories stocked on their shelves. From patterns of fabric to pieces of faux fur, these stores can be your saving grace when dealing with an old piece of clothing. There are many examples of applying accessories to a piece of clothing and ideas can be found at flickr.com.

One example of redesigning an article of clothing is either stitching or sewing another piece of fabric on top or underneath. This could mean stitching a piece of fabric underneath a pair of ripped jeans. The options with accessorizing clothing are truly endless!


For further directions on how to cut up clothes into a new style, D.I.Y. (do it yourself) articles can be found at dornob.com. For a visual step-by-step guide, Youtube.com offers many D.I.Y. tips in the forums of instructional videos.

Redesigning clothing may be your last chance to hold onto some of your old pieces of clothing. It's also a fun way to express yourself and an opportunity to be creative.




Redesigning old clothes is a great way to save money and save some of your favorite pieces of clothing.

PHOTO COURTESY of dornob.com



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Liliana Ursa Captures Life Experiences Through Poetry

DAN STE. MARIE
STAFF WRITER

Romanian poet Liliana Ursa shared some of her work last Thursday at Samuel Magill Commons as part of the Visiting Writers Series, which is connected to the University's Center for the Arts.

On the University's Visiting Writers Series webpage, Michael Thomas, Director of the program and Assistant Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, said in a video recording, "What we're doing is following an ancient tradition of the oral performance of literature, and whether we know it or not, we have a real hunger for that kind of live oral performance of literature. And I love the way that the Visiting Writers brings people together like that."

The reading began with an introduction by Thomas, who acknowledged the fact that Ursa wasn't originally considered to be part of this year's engagement, since she lived in Romania, until it was known she'd be touring the United States. "When we had an opportunity, we took advantage of it," Thomas said.

After Ursa was introduced, the eager audience gave a generous applause. She took to the podium, grateful for the response, and thanked Thomas for his introduction. Ursa started with a story about a friend pleading her to come to America, since the friend suggested, "America is your writing desk." She finally took the journey from Romania, and was immediately moved by the weather in New Jersey. "And



PHOTO COURTESY of Dan Ste. Marie

Liliana Ursa, a Romanian poet, was the latest writer welcomed to the University as part of the Visiting Writers Series on February 23.

of course," Ursa said, "I started writing a poem. And then a second arrived."

Ursa also explained that some foreign language poets didn't hold the same values of translating their work to other languages like she did, or liked "covering a rose with a blanket" and attempting to smell it through the blanket. Ursa said she tries to cover the rose with "a thin veil" so the poem doesn't lose its original meaning.

The first poem Ursa read was titled "Unforgetting," in Romanian, and was one of the first poems that

she had written. Her poem was about absence and desire to write poetry. While some of the audience couldn't understand the poem in her native language, the emotion in her voice was enough to feel the sadness and "absence" of the poem.

Linda Jenkins, of Wall Township, said she had been an admirer of Ursa's for a few years and was thrilled to hear she'd be visiting the University.

"It's wonderful to hear a poet like Liliana read her poetry aloud as opposed to just reading her poetry at your home," Jenkins said.

"Her voice offered so much depth to her already emotional and moving poetry."

Later, Ursa explained that her name came from her father. He wanted a boy but instead had her so she chose to honor him by using the name. But she also said Ursa meant "bear" in Romanian, "a powerful name."

Then she read a poem about her experience of meeting a live bear that two men brought to her home in Romania, and the jolt of life she felt after touching the animal.

Ursa explained all her poems offer stories and insight into her writing. Each poem is so memorable to the point of where it was written and her overall feelings. With her poem "City Lights" she described the café she was sitting in, her mood, and what inspired her to write the poem about a "city tamed once and a while by the poet."

"I loved Liliana's selection of her poems since almost all of them addressed a situation or a landscape in which the poet was moved to write in that very moment," said Thomas. "Liliana Ursa often finds moments of celebration or sorrow in which she begins composing, and her poems reveal that hunger, that feverish urge to make sense of the unsayable, which is a poet's job."

While Ursa's poems match perfectly with stories, describ-

ing the minute details in experiences, she also has an elegant way of reading her poetry. There's a careful accentuation of each word that holds a valuable meaning when strung together with some phrases said in a soft whisper as they delicately slip from her tongue.

In her poem "The Perfect

"...[Liliana Ursa's] poems reveal that hunger, that feverish urge to make sense of the unsayable, which is a poet's job."

MICHAEL THOMAS

Assistant Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Street," about a street Ursa lives on with many friends, her voice rose with sweetness as she said, "There we forget to grow old."

Shelby Whitebread, a senior in marine biology, attended the event for Thomas's poetry class, Confessional Poets, and found the readings "moving" and "spiritual." She also said she wants to go to more events at the University.

"It's great that we have so many different events that are walking distance from our dorms," said Whitebread. "It's really awesome and eye opening thing that many people can enjoy."

Documentary Offers a Deeper Insight at Life in Pakistan

Provost Film Series, Caravanserai Screen *Made in Pakistan* and Hold Q&A With Executive Producer

NICK SEGRETO
STAFF WRITER

According to *Newsweek*, Pakistan is one of the most dangerous nations in the world. Many people are, understandably, offended by this remark, such as Ayesha Khan, executive producer of *Made in Pakistan*.

The documentary, which was screened for audiences on February 21 in Pollak Theatre, was the second feature in this year's Provost Film series and part of the Caravanserai cultural program. This year's films share the theme of Muslim culture, with an emphasis on women.

For Khan, a driving force and motivation in making the documentary was showing the world that Pakistan is not a dangerous place to live in, and in many ways, is much like the United States of America.

Dr. Thomas Pearson, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, thought that the film "shattered our perception of there being a Pakistani culture."

Made in Pakistan shows the lives of four working class citizens in the city of Lahore. These four people aren't very different from Americans in regard to living a good life and doing things such as paying bills.

Tara Mahood is a public relations worker in the fashion business. Rabia Aamir is an editor

for the *Fourth Article*, a magazine that is trying to both entertain and inform. Mohsin Wartaich is an aspiring politician. His father is running for the presidency in Pakistan and wants to implement changes that will actually benefit the Pakistani people.

Yet, the person who really drew my attention was Waleed Khalid. He is a conservative and religious lawyer partaking in the boycott following Pervez Musharraf declaring a state of emergency in 2007 (this led to the suspension of the country's constitution).

Waleed is probably the most down to earth of the four people in the documentary. His job is on the line, but he opts to instead partake in a peaceful boycott. It's a logical way to try to solve the problem and ultimately things work his way.

The four lead characters are a good blend. While the two men are actually looking for a solution to the issue of the re-election, the two women are up-and-coming

entrepreneurs who are supporting their families.

What really delivers the message that Pakistan is similar to America is the scenery involv-

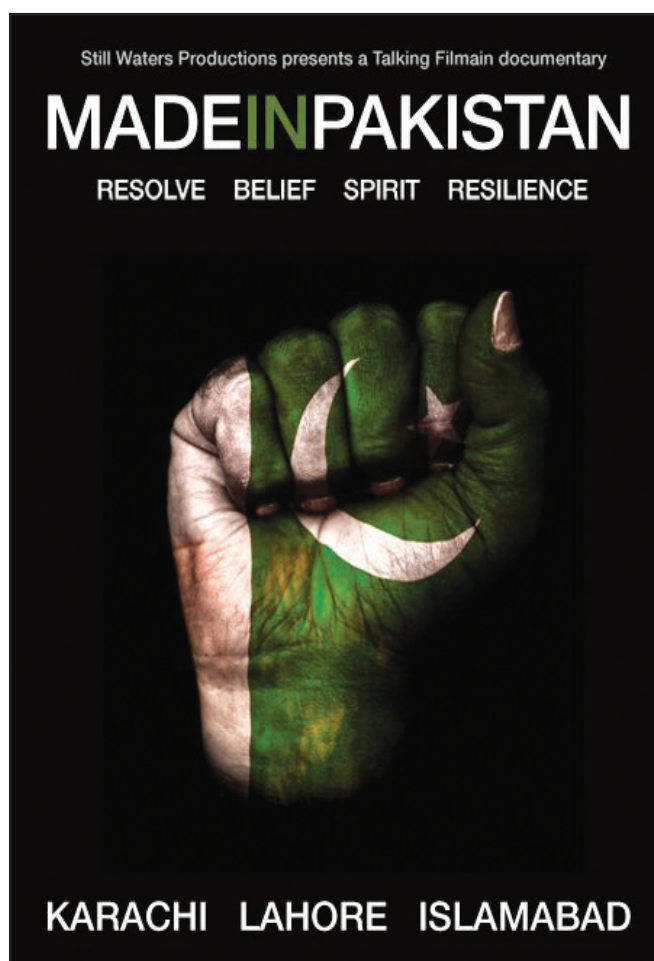


PHOTO COURTESY of wacnh.org

The Provost Film series and Caravanserai cultural program screened *Made in Pakistan* last Tuesday, which focused on the lives of four Pakistan citizens.

ing Lahore. It's one of the largest cities in Pakistan and looks surprisingly similar to a big U.S. city. They have prestigious schools, nightclubs, watch "The Simpsons," and even took the day off when Michael Jackson passed away, according to Khan.

Batool Samdani, a visitor from Lahore, thought that the tour of Lahore was very realistic. Meanwhile Karen Leoncavallo, who was also attending the screening, said the movie was "very well done, and I'd like to know more."

The camerawork is nice as well. With many scenes shot in bulk, it is easy to see that most were done in one shot, whether the director wanted them to or not.

One minor complaint I have is that I would like to see a spell check done to the subtitles. I only noticed a few typos here and there, but it was enough

that it distracted me from what was happening in the scene.

Made in Pakistan comes to a close during the assassination of Benazir Bhutto during the re-election campaign. Despite the anarchy that erupted in the upcoming weeks, everyone managed to move on.

Because of the graphic nature shown during the closing 10 minutes, I would give this documentary an R rating. I would advise closing your eyes during the scenes involving actual news footage if you are disturbed by the sight of dead bodies.

Khan held a Q&A session after the movie, talking about what she thought the Pakistani government should do now that they are under a civilian rule. Additionally, it was interesting to hear what an actual Pakistan citizen had to say about this topic, since like the rest of the Pakistani people, we or America at least very rarely get to hear what they have to say.

Interestingly enough this was the first documentary to be released in Pakistan, according to Khan. Hopefully, we here in America will get to see more of this documentary at some point in the future. At only an hour of length, it shatters many stereotypes you might have about the Pakistani culture and people.

The next film in the Provost Film series will be *Rachida* on March 21 in Pollak Theatre.

Cowboy Junkies Didn't Carry the Same Tune For All

NICOLE MASSABROOK
STAFF WRITER

If you were depressed and brooding on Friday night, Pollak Theatre would've been the perfect place for you. The event was called "An Evening with Cowboy Junkies," but probably should've been re-named "Three Hours of Depressing Songs and Awkward Swaying."

Cowboy Junkies, despite their name, are not actually a country band with a penchant for drugs. They play a mix of rock, folk and blues. It culminates in them sounding a lot like 90's alternative music like The Cranberries or Alanis Morissette.

Singer Margo Timmins acknowledged their love for depressing songs. They sang a song that is apparently famous in China, but had to translate it first. Timmins laughed, "We found the song, translated it and found that [the Chinese singer/songwriter] likes depressing songs too."

The Canadian band, which was formed in 1985, divided the set into two parts. The first part consisted of all of their new songs, without much reaction from the audience. Timmins acknowledged that the audience probably didn't come to hear songs they didn't know. "Grin and bear it," Timmins said to the crowd, "Maybe you'll like some of them."

The new songs were from four albums, collectively known as *The Nomad Series*, which were written and recorded over 18 months. Why record four different albums in 18 months? They just wanted a chal-

lenge. Timmins said that each album can be listened to on its own, as there isn't much linking the four together. I'd have to disagree and say that based on the sampling they gave the audience, all four albums sounded exactly the same.

Listening to Cowboy Junkies is a lot like listening to a Nickelback album. There isn't necessarily anything wrong with the music. It's actually pretty good for the first few songs, but after three hours everything sounds exactly the same.

After an intermission they came back and played their old songs with a lot more enthusiasm from the audience. The increased enthusiasm was particularly weird because the old songs sounded pretty much the same as the new ones. Their pianist would make some odd sounds on the synthesizer, the drums would kick in, and Timmins would awkwardly sway along while singing about how she's alone and sad.

Timmins also read her lyrics off of a binder that stood in front of her the whole time, which struck me as odd. If her band wrote and recorded the songs, shouldn't she know the songs? She was honestly the strangest part of the show. She spoke and sang in this airy, whimsical voice that gave off a lot of hippie vibes. During one song, there was a minute or two where she didn't sing so she walked off stage and then returned when she had to sing again. Perhaps that was to save us from the awkward swaying.

Each of the songs also included a pretty awesome guitar solo by Mi-



PHOTO COURTESY of sweetlyrics.com

The Canadian band Cowboy Junkies played a mix of old and new songs, as well as some fan requests, when they performed at Pollak Theatre for concertgoers on Friday, February 24.

chael Timmins. He used about half a dozen different guitars throughout the night, and was by far the best part of the show. Longtime fan, Andrew Klobeucar of Jersey City said, "Mike is an even better guitar player than he was [in 1985]."

Klobeucar and the rest of the over 40 crowd, which made up a majority of the audience, enjoyed the show. He added that he enjoyed

the small, intimate settings that the band has played over the years. Sherri Cook of Butler, NJ also enjoyed the show. Cook even skipped out of work early to drive down. "I definitely enjoyed the show," said Cook. "I loved that it felt intimate."

Some of the other longtime fans complained that they didn't play enough of their older music. Cowboy Junkies did seem to know that they were playing for a spe-

cific audience. They did a couple of acoustic songs which were actually requests that they had taken from fans on their website.

Younger audience members didn't enjoy the show quite as much. Freshman Raquel Warehime said, "It was very mellow. It made me depressed." Courtney Carr, also a freshman, said, "It wasn't our thing, but the audience really liked it."

Ghost Rider Fails to Seek Vengeance For a Sequel

ALEX FILLIMON
STAFF WRITER

"It doesn't matter how far you run. There are some demons you just can't escape," says Johnny Blaze, played by Nicolas Cage.

After sitting in the theater for about 45 minutes, I felt like I needed to escape this new demon after going through a disappointing experience watching *Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance* (3-D) directed by Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor (*Crank*). I had high hopes for this sequel, but with the mediocre acting and some cheesy effects, my burning passion for a positive review was put out.

The story began with Johnny/Ghost Rider hiding out in Eastern Europe in an attempt to escape his struggle with the spirit of the Ghost Rider. As explained by Blaze at the start of the film, he was a stunt motorcycle rider who performed shows with his father.

After his father was stricken with cancer, the Devil offered to save his father for Johnny's soul. The Devil held up his end of the bargain by curing Blaze's father. However, he got killed in a motorcycle accident at his next show.

With Johnny having signed a contract for his soul, the Devil made him the Ghost Rider, a demon capable of numerous supernatural abilities.

While Johnny has been staying at an isolated area in Europe, a French monk named Moreau (Idris Elba) finds Johnny to ask for his help in locating Danny (Fergus Riordan) and Nadya (Violante Placido), a mother and son who are being hunted by a group of mercenaries led by



PHOTO COURTESY of fmoviemag.com

The Ghost Rider is a firey being on screen, but the sequel, *Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance* (3-D), doesn't pack the same heat.

Ray Carrigan (Johnny Whitworth from *Limitless*). In return, Moreau and his fellowship of monks can help free Johnny from the Ghost Rider curse.

As the Ghost Rider, Johnny can sense Danny's whereabouts just as the boy has been captured by Carrigan, who is following orders from his boss Roarke (Ciarán Hinds), the Devil.

Now with Johnny more involved in this divinie mission, he starts to build a friendship with Danny and his mother while contemplating a major decision in regards to being the host of the Ghost Rider. Should he save himself, or save the world from evil and stop Roarke? I think you know what choice he makes...

The acting was just god awful. I wanted to give Cage a chance with this film, but he really disappointed me.

Whenever he spoke, he over exaggerated his lines. Some lines

included, "the bee...I thought... it was going to sting your face," "You're...a bad man!" With the pauses being so drawn out and awkward, it really annoyed the hell out of me (no pun intended). After seeing *Wicker Man* (2006), I both laugh and cringe whenever I think of Cage and bees.

I had to do a face palm whenever he turned into the Rider. While Blaze was looking for Carrigan and Danny, he and Nadya interrogate one of Carrigan's contacts, whose part of an illegal fighting ring.

Since the Ghost Rider is brought out whenever there are signs of evil, he struggled to keep it in. I understand it's tough to keep yourself from turning into a flaming skeleton of death and destruction, but Cage just took it to a whole other level.

You're supposed to feel scared and worried that Blaze is going

through this transformation, but with an overly dramatic performance done, it just led to laughter.

With Peter Fonda doing a great job playing the Devil in the first *Ghost Rider*, I was curious to see how Hinds would portray the role. Fonda's performance portrayed the Devil as a manipulative and deceptive being, which is what I would think when the Devil is trying to get something that he wants. I didn't get that impression from Hinds at all. He had this low gravelly voice which made him hard to understand at times, and his facial expressions made him look stoic and unemotional. I guess that would be another portrayal of the Devil, but I personally liked Fonda's performance better.

Moreau (a "French, alcoholic d**k," as described by Blaze) was probably my favorite character of the entire film. With the impressive action scenes at the very start,

he seemed like an awesome supporting character.

As part of a brotherhood of machine gun wielding, wine guzzling, demon hunting priests, I liked him more than the Ghost Rider. He appeared again later in the film as he helps Blaze free himself of the Ghost Rider spirit. At one point, he said he'll "share a 2,000 year old bottle of wine once all of this is done," and I might've gone ahead to join him.

After seeing *Spirit of Vengeance* in 3-D, it really made the special effects (Nick Allder) too much for me to handle.

If I saw fire coming at me one more time, I was going to sprint toward the emergency exit doors fearing for my life. Once was enough, but with fire constantly in your face, it got pretty annoying. If you see the movie, see it in 2-D.

The cinematography by Brandon Trost wasn't too bad either. The car and motorcycle chases had some solid tracking shots. Plus, the high adrenaline scenes made me feel like I was actually in the chases and gunfights.

I'm glad that this PG-13 rated disaster turned out to be 95 minutes, because I couldn't stand to be in the theater for much longer.

If you're a die-hard Marvel comics fan and LOVE Ghost Rider, then this film might be enjoyable for you. Don't go in with high expectations though. Honestly, I liked the first film a lot better than this. Gotta love sequels, huh?

Johnny explains that the Ghost Rider has "no reason, no conscious, just hunger." Well, Johnny, I would have to say that this film has no acting, no sense, just trash.

Magic is in the Air at the University

TAMMY SYBEL
STAFF WRITER

Do you believe in magic? Does the sleight of hand intrigue you? Magic throughout time has always had a certain 'je ne sais quoi' quality to it, often perplexing and provoking illicit gasps in audiences for centuries. It has evolved into an extraordinary genre that baffles and tricks the senses. It is not your average "abracadabra" form of magic anymore. There is definitely more than pulling a white fuzzy rabbit out of a black hat.

Believe it or not, our University can boast for having a magician walking among us: Ross 'the Magic Man' Bernstein, a sophomore music education major minoring in psychology.

Bernstein said that his love for magic began when his uncle, a theater agent, got him a magic set for his seventh birthday. He said, "From then on, my uncle said that if I mastered all the tricks in the set, he'd get me another set. So I mastered all the tricks within a month." After displaying his command over the tricks he learned, he said his uncle was quite impressed. "He got me a new set of all new magic tricks. I mastered those and he said, 'You know what? I think now that you're nine-years-old we can buy you actual magic tricks.' By the age of nine or 10, I got actual prop magic," he said.

Soon, Bernstein was able to show his deftness in magic to his middle school classmates. "When I got into middle school, that's when I started performing magic on stages and stuff for people and showing it. I started out with stage magic; I didn't get into the cards and stuff until high school. But stage magic is where I started, because I liked the aspect of performing on stage," he said.

It was during this time that Bernstein branched out into different venues to show his skills, particularly in coffeehouses that had open mics. "When I asked the guy who runs them if I could do magic, he said, 'Okay, I'll give you a shot. Just remember these three rules: no cursing, you have a time limit of three minutes, and you can only do three tricks,'" he said. Bernstein

delivered. He said that the guy was blown away by what he did and was convinced Bernstein was a miracle-maker.

For a short time, Bernstein even had a show on Hawk TV. Kate Nawoyski, Station Manager for Hawk TV said, "I thought his magic show was entertaining and was a good addition to Hawk TV. It was something different, unlike any other show we had at the station. He has great stage presence that draws the audience into his magic tricks. And he's super dedicated to his magic and productions which adds to his overall act."

Since then, Bernstein has been an avid performer all over the place, not just on campus. He enjoys it when people come to his shows even though they have seen his tricks before. He said, "The funny thing is, when I go I ask who has seen me before, half the hands go up. And I think it's so weird because you came to see me do the same tricks that I do every time again," he said.

Bernstein thinks this is because magic is the roadway back to childhood. He said, "In college, we become kids again and there's that sense of you want to be that child again because we're adults in class and then we get to be children on the weekend. And magic brings out that in us."

Kat Perez, member of WMCX, said, "When Ross performs, the word 'tricks' doesn't accurately describe his skill. The word that truly describes what Ross creates is 'magic.' Not only is the audience enjoying his talent, but also his obvious joy and enthusiasm while performing. He loves what he does and it shows greatly in his performances."

Kelly Easton, member of WMCX, said, "My friend and I had him on our radio show, Random Roulette, because our theme for the night was magic so we had him do some tricks for everyone to watch on the webcam. No matter how hard I tried to figure out what he was doing, I couldn't think of an explanation."

In total, Bernstein has been practicing magic for about 13 years and performing for nine

of them. When asked what his favorite medium to work in is, he found it hard to say. "There are different categories within magic so you can't really compare them to each other. You can't compare card magic to stage magic. The best card trick compared to the best stage trick, you just can't. If I had to pick a favorite card trick, because that's what I mainly do on campus, it would be the invisible deck."

The invisible deck is a clever trick, in which the participant does all the work by making believe there is a deck of cards in front of them. The participant picks their favorite card, and then Bernstein gets a real deck of cards and picks the card the participant chose. Bernstein said he views himself as the facilitator. "That's the definition of card magic right there. You did everything by yourself, I just simply brought out a deck at the end and made what you did as 'magic' become real. And that's what magic is supposed to be. It's supposed to be hands-off, I let you do the magic, and the magic happens with you, not with me." This trick has stumped 17 professors here, Bernstein said.

Dr. David Marshall, Chair of the Department of Mathematics, had Bernstein as a first-year student in his seminar class, "Numbers, Clocks, and Secret Codes," where Bernstein incorporated his magic skills into a final project. Marshall said, "Students were required to choose a topic which was in some way related to the concept of 'code,' and design a presentation for the class on that topic. Ross gave a very good presentation to the class on card codes magicians' use for performing card tricks."

In high school, Ross started his own company called Outrageous Parties. Not only did he do magic, but he also was a DJ and MC. But his magic supplies were not far away. "Even if I was doing a DJ gig, I would bring my magic stuff with me because you never knew what was going to happen," he said.

Bernstein said that he enjoys doing magic tricks at birthday parties because the kids are such true believers in the magic itself. "I get some of my best lines from kids. I find that their logic is just the root of where magic comes from. You have to think like a kid in order to



PHOTO COURTESY of Ross Bernstein

Ross "the Magic Man" Bernstein has been learning and performing magic since he was seven-years-old.

truly appreciate magic," he said.

Bernstein said that he enjoys it when kids heckle. He said it gets them more vocally involved and enhances their overall entertainment of the show that he puts on.

There are about 25 magicians in this area alone. Every month, Bernstein attends an International Brotherhood of Magicians meeting with these fellow local magicians, which he has been attending for five years. "I'm a semi-professional since I don't do it full-time, but when I do perform I get paid. When you're an amateur, you don't get paid," he said. Ross also is currently a magician mentor to two high school students.

After every magic show, there is always those audience members who ask the question all magicians dread to hear. Bernstein said, "I hate when people ask me, 'How did you do that?'" In response, he says, "Well if I told you, I'd have to saw you in half, put one half of your body in the Hudson and the other half in the Pacific Ocean. And that usually scares them away."

Magic is more than just the illusions and performing for Bernstein though. "I love psychology; psychology is behind all of my tricks. Psychology behind all magic is very in-depth. If you're a psychology major, you can probably get behind my whole script that I have for my show and analyze what I'm doing," he said. The cognitive element of magic has interested Bernstein for a while, since in high school he did a thesis on magic and its history, where it's going, and what the future of magic looks like.

For all those who still are kids at heart, magic is a mesmerizing type of art form that has the ability to astound and leave viewers in awe. For dates and times when Ross will perform, check out and like his page on Facebook, "Ross the Magic Man." Bernstein said, "Magic is the belief that a person can do the impossible. People find magic every day. Magic's not only on stage. When magic is on the stage, it's a forced example of what you can see every day naturally."

The Public Education Versus Private Education Debate

NANA BONSU
STAFF WRITER

When choosing the right college, there are many factors a student takes into consideration. One of the common topics of discussion when choosing a college is the debate between private universities versus public universities.

There are many differences that distinguish a public univer-

sity from a private university. William Craig, Vice President for Finance, said, "In general, the tuition of private universities will be higher than that of public universities because private institutions receive a large portion of their revenue from tuition and fees paid by their students, gifts from alumni and friends of the institution, and revenue generated by investing endowments that have been

accumulated over time. On the other hand, public institutions receive a significant portion of their revenue from the state government."

According to collegeconfidential.com, private colleges also tend to offer the best financial aid. "The amount of scholarships and grants students receive are often larger at private universities, lowering the actual cost of attendance," said Craig.

Kimberly Price, first-year student, said, "Finances can affect a student's decision to attend either a private or public university. Those who struggle financially may choose to attend a public university rather than a private university."

There is a common misconception that private colleges provide better educations than public colleges, but this idea is unfounded. The price tag of a college does not define its quality of education, nor does it make any one college better than the rest.

"Students can get just as good of an education at a community college as they can get at a private university," Price added. "People assume that more notable private colleges are better, and that they will receive a better education by attending those universities, but

that is not always the case."

For some, a public college can provide some qualities that a private college may not. Shiza Sarfraz, a Rutgers University student, said, "Public colleges are usually bigger and have a wider range of diversity because the acceptance rate is higher, so the students are exposed to people from all types of different backgrounds."

Price, a student athlete, also cites ethnic diversity, larger facilities, as well as athletics as a benefit of attending a public college. "The athletic program of public schools may be better because they have more public funding," she said.

However, private colleges also provide benefits not found in many public universities with large populations. "Private colleges afford students more privacy and smaller class sizes, but these benefits are not necessarily the result of the higher tuition students pay," Price said.

Overall, what makes one college better than another, whether it is a private or public institution has nothing to do with how expensive the college may be.

"The quality of the education that a student receives is

often a product of how well the institution they choose matches their needs and whether the student takes advantage of the opportunities available at the school they attend," Craig said. "While some students may thrive in a major university with large class sizes, others want a more personal experience where they can exchange ideas with faculty and other students in a small class setting."

The desires of each individual student should define whether or not a certain school is the right fit, and not the price of the university's tuition, nor how prestigious the school is.

"While for many students, the cost of attending college is an important factor, it is generally one of many that are considered in deciding where to attend," said Craig. "The school's location, size, faculty, class size, facilities, majors offered, and student activities provided are all factors that are considered. Each student has their own set of priorities and will look for the institution that best matches these desires. Personal preferences are important factors in a student's success."



PHOTO COURTESY of wikipedia.com

Although public universities tend to be cheaper, there are drawbacks as well, such as large lecture halls as opposed to small, personalized classes.

Want to Raise Your GPA?

Hit the Gym and the Books

SHAHARYAH AHMAD
SCIENCE EDITOR

When you exercise, your brain needs energy to keep up with your body’s metabolic needs. However, when you finish your workout, neurons, which are your brain cells, remain hungry for more. Japanese scientists investigated this phenomenon and arrived at an interesting conclusion.

The human brain contains millions of cells, called neurons, that form elaborate networks and electric circuits routing and controlling every task we perform in fractions of a second.

The chemical energy your body uses in walking, singing and bench pressing comes from the catabolic breakdown of a simple sugar known as glucose. Stored in the liver and skeletal muscles, a carbohydrate known as glycogen can be broken down into glucose in feedback loops to maintain a homeostatic balance of a stable blood glucose concentration.

Ten years ago, it was discovered that astrocytes, cells that support and nourish neurons, actually contain small stores of glycogen.

When blood glucose levels run low during high energy aerobic exercise (known as hypoglycemia) muscles turn to the breakdown of carbohydrate reserves of glycogen into glucose, which breaks down further in complex biochemical pathways into the chemical energy that fuels the

muscle contractions of your legs while running.

During your jog, your brain, which is one of the most “hungry” organs, said Gretchen Reynolds of the *New York Times*, becomes starved for energy as well, as it is involved in coordinating movements, balance, vision, breathing, among a myriad other factors.

The Japanese researchers from

had one group of adult male rats run on a treadmill and another group sit on a treadmill sedentarily. From their paper in the *Journal of Physiology*, the scientists used a high-powered microwave irradiation to instantly freeze the rats’ glycogen levels.

“The food that the rats ate, it appeared, had gone directly to their heads,” said the *New York Times*, as the rats’ brain glycogen

four more weeks, the brain glycogen levels further increased in the frontal cortex and hippocampus, structures that play critical roles in higher-order-thinking and memory.

Limited by our current technology, this study cannot yet be tested on humans. Hideaki Soya, professor of exercise biochemistry at the University of Tsukuba and senior author of the studies told the

ing to conduct a study of MU students using the Fitness Center that would be analogous to the follow-up study done with the rats. Would the regularly-exercising students perform better on a test of thinking and memory?”

Mike Minkin, senior health studies major, thought the study, “was really interesting. It makes sense that astrocytes increase in those who perform exercise on a daily basis. I know, personally, I feel more sharp and alert when I am in shape. I also feel as if I accomplish more as well. It is nice to see the science behind it. I would like to see a study on the measure of astrocytes and levels of motivation. It would be quite interesting to see if there is a correlation between the two.”

In summary, blood glucose levels fall during high intensity exercise due to energy consumption. This causes the brain to break down glycogen from astrocytes into glucose to fuel its metabolic functions. When the glycogen levels restore after rest, they actually rise higher than they were previously in regions of the brain involved in thinking and memory (among others), to new thresholds even. As you continue exercising, your brain glycogen levels in said areas theoretically can keep getting higher and higher, resulting in a heightened capacity to think critically and remember clearly.

So before the next batch of exams comes around, hit the gym before the books.



PHOTO COURTESY of commons.org

Studies of brain glycogen metabolism have shown that exercise can lead over time to a heightened capacity to think and remember better than before.

the Laboratory of Biochemistry and Neuroscience at the University of Tsukuba hypothesized that “During prolonged exhaustive exercise that induces hypoglycemia and muscular glycogen depletion, the resultant hypoglycemia may cause a decrease in brain glycogen.”

To test how much the levels of brain glycogen had changed, they

levels “not only had been restored to what they had been before the workout, but had soared past that point, increasing by as much as a 60 percent in the frontal cortex and hippocampus and slightly less in other parts of the brain.”

This apparent “supercompensation” actually became the new norm for brain glycogen levels. As the rats continued exercising over

New York Times, “It is tempting to suggest that increased storage and utility of brain glycogen in the cortex and hippocampus might be involved in the development,” of a better, sharper brain.

“Although we can’t directly study brain glycogen metabolism in people,” said Dr. Robin Kucharczyk, chemistry professor at the University, “it would be interest-

Two Weeks in the City of Lights

Student Recalls Time Spent in Paris

MICHELLE GILMAN
STAFF WRITER

Picture this: You are sitting outside a small French cafe at one of their tables on the sidewalk. You have an espresso and a croissant and hundreds of people are passing by, speaking French. The sun is shining and there is a beautiful river across the street. You are in Paris. “One of my favorite things about Paris is all the cafes lining the streets,” said Kim Kravitz, junior at the University.

According to the Assistant Director of Study Abroad, Robyn Asaro, students can sign up to study abroad by printing out an application on the University website. The Study Abroad page includes previous student videos, photo galleries, stories, information with dates, deadlines and frequently asked questions.

Traveling is something that must be appreciated. I have always been sure to appreciate every minute of my travels. I am fortunate enough to have been able to visit Paris, France. During my two week stay in Paris, I experienced so much culture, including, but not limited to the fashion, cuisine and language. The city is very old and has so much history. “When I went to Paris I never wanted to leave. The city is so charming,” said Ruth Myers, junior at the University.

Studying abroad is a beneficial experience. The opportunity to study abroad can increase confidence as well as make a student more marketable to employers. It has proven to be a positive on a resume

because only 1 in 100 students get the chance to study abroad. It allows a person to stand out from peers and be more aware of other cultures and values. “Studying abroad is a now or never opportunity. 99.9 percent of students say it was the best decision they made during their college years,” said Asaro.

My hotel was two blocks from Notre Dame Cathedral, also known as Our Lady of Paris in French, is one of the most magnificent buildings I have ever seen. Notre Dame is truly underrated. This massive cathedral took my breath away when I began to see it in plain sight the first time. It was so large, and stood practically alone in the center of Paris. “Notre Dame was gorgeous. It is captivating,” said Myers.

Along Notre Dame, and through the rest of the city, is the Sienne. The Sienne was by far my favorite thing about Paris. The Sienne is a river that runs through the city of Paris, below the streets but in plain view. There are 32 bridges throughout Paris that cross over the Seine, connecting the city. Although during the day it is simply a river running through the city, at night, the Sienne comes alive. Boats travel around the city allowing travelers to see Paris in an amazing way. People gather around the river with wine and musical instruments, singing and dancing, enjoying the moonlight along the water. “My favorite night spent in Paris was the night my friends and I danced to live music down by the Sienne,” said Kravitz.

I visited Paris in May, a beautiful time for that part of

France. The weather is warm, in the 60’s, and there is hardly any rain. Being able to walk a couple blocks from my hotel to the Sienne, with the sun shining and the water sparkling, was one of the simplest joys I have ever experienced.

The Champs-Élysées, was another beautiful part of Paris that I had the pleasure of visiting. It is the Fifth Avenue of Paris. The vegetation lining the block is perfect, the people are fashionable and chic and the stores are fabulous. Although you may not want to max out your credit card by shopping, there is nothing like walking down the fantastic street and seeing the Arc de Triomphe, commissioned by Napoleon. It is surrounded by a 12 lane circle that is so busy that tourists must cross under a tunnel to reach the Arc. “The tunnel on the way to the Arc de Triomphe is so creepy, and then suddenly you see sunlight and there it is, bigger than you could imagine,” said Myers.

Now, I haven’t forgotten the Eiffel Tower. This structure is over 984 feet tall, and it is impossible to describe efficiently to someone who hasn’t seen it in person. Many believe that the Eiffel Tower is overrated; it is anything but. There is nothing like seeing the tower for the first time. When I saw it, a smile spread across my face, and I knew I had chosen the right place to complete my studying abroad. “I felt so liberated when I stood at the top of the Eiffel Tower. It felt more like the top of the world,” said Kravitz.

If you haven’t seen the Eiffel Tower, add it to your bucket list



PHOTO COURTESY of webwallpapers.net

Notre Dame de Paris, also known as Our Lady of Paris, is a massive cathedral that sits in the center of Paris.

(now).

Another place tourists must visit while in Paris is the Louvre. It is one of the largest museums in the world, and it is truly regal. It is constructed in a “U” shape, and in the center is a large glass pyramid that allows visitors to look down into the museum from the outside. “Our group took the coolest picture in front of the glass pyramid, it was stunning,” said Myers.

The building is well over 600,000 square feet and features almost 35,000 pieces from hundreds of time periods and places all over the world, including the “Mona Lisa.” “The ‘Mona Lisa’ was so small! But it was so cool seeing it up close,” said Kravitz. Even if you are not interested in art, I guarantee you will never forget the Louvre. It also features a beautiful area surrounding the building. It is right along

the Sienne, where there are several ornate bridges to be seen, and lots of little shops along the way. The area surrounding the Louvre is quite worth the trip itself. “I got all of my best souvenirs on the side streets near the Louvre,” said Myers.

There are so many more places in Paris that are incredible and hold a special place in my heart. Paris has earned itself the label of a cliché, but it doesn’t deserve it. This city is spectacular and should be seen at least once in everyone’s lifetime. It has something to offer for everyone, culture, famous art, unique cuisine, beautiful language, fascinating people and so much more.

According to Asaro, the University has study abroad programs in Italy, England, Australia and Spain. However, students can travel anywhere with an outside program.

A Tribute to African American Culture

AASU Celebrates Black History Month

COURTNEY CIANDELLA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It was a night full of African-American pride in Anacon Hall Friday night as the African-American Student Union (AASU) hosted a tribute to African American culture to celebrate Black History Month. The purpose of the AASU is to unify and support each other and share the cultural achievements of African Americans within the University community. They represent and advocate the concerns, problems, and image of the African-American students. The event served to educate people who made a difference in black history with readings, reciting of poems, music, dancing, and singing. The event began at 7:30 pm on Friday, February 24, with light music by a three-person band performing on guitar, keyboard, and drums. There were round tables set up and decorated with red tablecloths and green and black napkins to represent the colors of the Afro-American flag. There were tables with desserts like cupcakes, pie, cobbler, and refreshments for guests

to enjoy. The President of the AASU, Tina Onikoyi introduced the audience to what they were about to see and the crowd settled in their seats. First, the student and a member of the organization, Malcolm McDonald sang acoustically a song titled “His Eye on the Sparrow.” As he sang, pictures of some famous people in black history were shown behind him on the projector like Rosa Parks, Barack Obama, and Oprah Winfrey. Then, Nohely D’Oleo gave a reading about novelist and poet, James Baldwin. During each reading, the projector showed a picture of the person behind them throughout the entire reading. Melina Morel read about Madame Walker, an African American businesswoman and philanthropist. There was a dance performance from the Asbury Park Technical Dance Academy consisting of about 12 young dancers dressed in brown and copper outfits and a few dressed in purple and black. Following the dance was a 15 minute intermission. During the intermission, some audience members gave their thoughts about the night so far. “I think it’s great,” said Peggy McPherson, Ocean, NJ resident and four year participating

in the Voice of Trinity from Trinity Church Choir in Long Branch, NJ who performed later in the night. “The dancers were outstanding.” Freshman Brielle Wanamaker from East Orange, NJ said, “It’s really nice. I like the historical information and the performance is really good.” One of the crowd’s favorites, the Asbury Park Technical Dance Group makes an appearance again dancing to a slower song and wearing outfits that were turquoise and black and some in black and purple. The next poem that was recited by Natasha Powell titled “Phenomenal Woman,” really grabbed the audience’s attention making them speak out several times throughout the poem. “I thought the reader delivered the poem inspirationally and the message of the poem resonated with me as far as its feminine views,” said Junior Kristen Malm from Rocky Hill, Connecticut. Several more poems and readings were read about inspirational people such as Charles Drew, Shirley Chisolm, W.E.B. Dubois, and Sojourner Truth. One of the last performances of the night was from the Voices of Trinity from Trinity Church



PHOTO COURTESY of Courtney Ciandella

The purpose of the AASU is to unify and support each other and share the cultural achievements of African Americans within the University community.

in Long Branch, NJ. The eight-person choir sang a couple of songs performing with the band, who had not been seen since the beginning of the night. The choir got people in the audience clapping along with them and getting into the music. “They were full of energy,” said Malm. “You could tell that they loved what they were doing.” The night concluded with a final poem, “Dream Deferred” recited by D’Oleo. Everyone was very happy with the events success and to be able to honor Black History Month. “It’s so nice to have something going on for Black History Month,” said freshman from Ewing, NJ, Jacelyn Tucker.

Club and Greek Announcements

Men’s Lacrosse

The University men’s lacrosse program enters its third season of competition in the Liberty Conference of the NCLL. The Hawks, in their first season under Head Coach Jerry Dohn, went 2-0 in fall competitions in 2011, notching a 5-4 win against Rowan and a 7-6 victory over pre-season #12 TCNJ. Led by senior captains Vin Sodano, Joe Milano, and Michael Asprocolas, the Hawks seek their first ever playoff berth and look to compete for the Liberty Conference Championship. Be sure to witness the team’s rise to national prominence this spring in home contests against Rutgers-Camden, Rowan, La-Salle, Cabrini, Arcadia, TCNJ, St. Joseph’s, Temple, Delaware Valley, and Rider. Go Hawks!

Economics and Finance Club

The Economics and Finance Club will be meeting every Wednesday at 2:30 pm in Bey Hall, room 231. Students can check out our website for further information as well as our calendar of events at muefc.wordpress.com.

CommWorks

CommWorks: Students Committed to Performance has a new weekly meeting time for Spring 2012! Visit us on Thursdays 1:00 to 2:15 pm in Plangere room 235.

College Republicans

Do you oppose high gas prices? We do. Join us out our next meeting on Wednesday, March 7 in Bey Hall 228 from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. Speak your mind on how it takes a toll on your commute and what you want the government to be doing. We will also be hosting a Super Tuesday Viewing Party in Turrell Board Room on March 6 beginning at 7:30 pm. Food and refreshments will be provided. Please e-mail us at mugop@monmouth.edu if you plan on attending this event or have any questions.

Theta Xi

The men of Theta Xi would like to welcome everyone back for an exciting second semester of the school year. We would like to announce the newest addition to our Theta Xi family, Scarlet Schaad, the beautiful new born daughter of our advisor and mother away from home, Suanne. We would like to extend our congratulations to all of those who have recently chosen to ‘go Greek.’ We would also like to recognize Tyler Havens and the rest of the Greek community for another successful semester of recruitment. We are proud to announce our new Spring Associate Member class Alpha Kappa, congratulations boys. We would also like to thank Taliercios Catering in Middletown and Joe’s Pizzeria in West Long Branch for their donations this past semester. We will be hosting our annual Miss Monmouth fundraiser in the Spring and are looking forward to seeing everyone there! Make sure to be on the lookout for other upcoming Theta Xi sponsored events!

Energy Service Corps

This was an exciting week for the Energy Service Corps, a nonprofit national organization. They hosted a very successful kick-off meeting on Wednesday February 8 that spread the word of energy conservation. Weatherizations will be starting this week; they are a free service that will lower your utility bill about 30 percent. This service is funded by donations given by students and faculty from around the campus, every penny given will help bring this world to a brighter future. The collection boxes have been placed throughout campus and will stay there until the end of the semester. The ESC asks that all students donate in order to save our Earth from the toxic fluids ink cartridges and cell phones contain. Because the Energy Service Corps is a nonprofit organization 100 percent of the proceeds will go towards supplies for weatherizations. Interested in teaching kids about saving energy? Join us for four days during spring break to teach in Newark, Trenton and Atlantic City. Food and housing are provided for those willing to participate; for more information or to sign up contact tom at tom@energyservicecorps.org.

SGA

You’re invited to Student Government’s Annual Auction. The event will take place on Friday, March 30, 2012 at 6:00 pm. The Blue and White Club in the Multipurpose Activity Center. All proceeds benefit Michael’s Feat.

The Outdoors Club

This past Sunday the Outdoors Club went to Hartshorne Woods Park in Highlands, NJ for another day trip! They spent the day mountain biking and hiking which proved to be perfect activities for the sunny day. At the end everyone met up to slackline - a new found ODC tradition. The much anticipated horseback riding trip in western PA is now completely full. If anyone still wants to go they can be placed on the waiting list; please contact an eBoard member or go on the ODC Facebook page. Want to help raise money for the ODC and get Bubbakoo’s Burritos? Then go to Bubbakoo’s on Wednesday February 29 between 11:00 am and 9:00 pm and order food. Fifteen percent of the bill comes back to the club! Just don’t forget to bring a special Bubbakoo’s Burritos and ODC flyer! Look for them around campus or ask an eBoard member for some for you and you friends! Don’t forget to check out the official Outdoors Club Facebook page for updated information; feel free to post any questions or suggestions regarding the club and any of the trips.

RHA Movies in Oakwood

This Friday and Saturday in the Oakwood Lounge, RHA will be screening two films. Friday March 2 there will be a showing of *Happy Feet* at 8:00 and 11:00 pm. Saturday March 3 there will be a showing of *The Sitter* at 8:00 and 11:00 pm.

All Lifestyles Included

Just a reminder that ALI meets every Wednesday on the third floor of the Student Center (in the corner near the Affilito Conference Room) at 3:30 pm. We have a lot of exciting events and fun social gathers this semester including our fabulous, annual drag show and so much more! Come check us out, we are always doing something entertaining and getting everyone involved!

Environmental Club

The Environmental Club is going to convert empty plots of soil and grass patches on the south side of lot 18 into a thriving rain garden. The purpose of this rain garden is to collect the run-off and polluted water from the commuter parking lots and naturally filter it. Donations by either funds or materials, such as plants, mulch, or stones, are welcome! Earth Day is also coming up! The Environmental Club will be hosting its second annual Earthfest on Earth Day to help raise awareness of environmental issues around Monmouth and the world. Keep an eye out for flyers. The Environmental Club is also having a T-shirt sale for only \$15 each. Email muenvironmentalclub@gmail.com if you want to get involved in the Environmental Club, want to donate, or are interested in a T-shirt. Please let us know if you have any environmental concerns about Monmouth University!

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Attention Seniors: Important Notice

PRESS RELEASE

Any student who has applied to start law school this coming fall must inform Dr. Enoch Nappen. Please tell him if any law school accepts you and the name of the school(s).

The Elvin R. Simmill Memorial Award goes to the graduating senior with the highest grade point average who has been accepted to and will be attending law school this coming fall.

To apply for this award, please show Dr. Nappen your letter(s) of acceptance and current GPA before Monday, March 19.

Dr. Nappen is in Bey Hall 245, (732)571-4475.

Spring 2012 Office Hours: 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

A Look at Nonprofits With Shadow PR

PRESS RELEASE

WEST LONG BRANCH, NJ – Jaclyn Boruch, Director of Marketing and Communication at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Monmouth County, joins Shadow PR Wednesday, March 7 at 3:00 pm with a look at nonprofits and social media.

“As a member of a nonprofit organization who works closely with social media and other nonprofit companies, I am really excited to learn more about what we can do to be successful,” states Amanda Erdmann, Communication Director of Shadow PR, on the upcoming event.

Boruch has three years of professional public relations experience between six different companies. In addition, she owns her own social media company in which she helps employers use social media effectively. With her advanced social media skills and involvement with nonprofits Boruch’s presentation will provide essential information to all communication majors.

The PRSSA bio-monthly Speaker Series was instituted in 2009 to provide networking opportunities for public relations students and professionals. To stay up to date about who is speaking when follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/speakerseries. For more information about the speaker series or Monmouth’s PRSSA Chapter go to www.monmouth.edu/prssa or contact Amanda Erdmann, Communication Director, at s0756510@monmouth.edu, or Dr. Shelia McAllister-Spooner, Faculty Advisor, at smcallis@monmouth.edu.

University Communications Council Presents First Master’s Class with HBO Documentarian Joe Lavine

PRESS RELEASE

Long Branch, N.J. -- Documentarian Joe Lavine will be the inaugural speaker in the first of a series of master’s classes at Monmouth University hosted by MU’s Communication Council, an advisory organization that makes a connection for faculty and students in the department with working professionals in the field of communication.

Lavine is a Vice President and Senior Producer for HBO Sports and oversees the sports documentary series Legends and Legacies for the network. His presentation will be held on Thursday, March 1 at 7:30 pm at HR Young Auditorium and will focus on the business of documentary production.

After graduating from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Radio, Television and Film, Lavine began his career working as a messenger in the newsroom for New Jersey Public Television.

A year later, he found his true calling when he accepted a job as a producer for Major League Baseball [MLB] Productions, the official production company of MLB. He spent the next 13 years working on a multitude of baseball projects including “This Week in Baseball,” “The Greats of the Game” and a number of official World Series films.

Looking for new challenges, Lavine left MLB and became a freelance producer working on various network sports specials and major sporting events such as the Olympics and the Super Bowl. He also worked as a segment producer for HBO’s Real Sports With Bryant Gumbel for which he won two Emmy Awards.

It was at HBO where Lavine got his opportunity to produce long-form documentaries. The HBO Sports documentaries use sport as a way to tell stories about history, personal achievement and societal issues. Perhaps the best examples of this are Lavine’s documentaries *Nine Innings from Ground Zero*, a film about the 2001 World Series played in New York City just weeks after the 9/11 tragedy, and *Dare To Dream*, the inspiring story of the Women’s National Soccer team.

Lavine also earned 14 Emmy nominations for his films including *Where Have You Gone Joe DiMaggio?* and *Ali-Frazier*. Both films were honored with the University of Georgia’s Peabody Award.

Other documentaries that Joe has worked on include *Breaking the Huddle: The Integration of College Football*, *Assault in the Ring*, and *Lombardi*, the life story of footballs legendary coach Vince Lombardi. All three were honored with Emmys for “Outstanding Documentary of the Year”. Lavine most recently completed *Namath* which aired in January 2012.

Community Service Club Announces New Project For March

PRESS RELEASE

West Long Branch, N.J. -- The Community Service Club will be sponsoring a “March Madness Clothing Drive” on Monday, March 5 until Friday, March 9, and on Monday, March 19 until Friday, March 23. Donated clothing will go to Meal at Noon Soup Kitchen and Soup D’Shore.

Gently worn clothing can be donated at one of the boxes in front of the information booth on the second floor of the Student Center.

The club will also host a fundraising night at Bubbakoo’s Burritos on Tuesday, March 27 from 11:00 am until 9:00 pm. Proceeds from this event will go towards the Community Service Club’s team for Relay for Life and the Multiple Sclerosis Walk.

The Community Service Club is a campus organization whose primary purpose is to become involved in ongoing volunteer services, to identify the need for services within the community and provide them, to become involved with local community service events, and to represent the University as a positive force within the community.

For more information about the Community Service Club or for ways to get involved with these events, check the club’s Facebook page, stop by their office in room 312 on the third floor of the Student Center, or call Joey Contreras at 856-305-6952.



What is one thing you want to do before you die?

COMPILED BY: JACKLYN KOUEFATI



Luke
sophomore

“Drive the fastest car ever manufactured.”



Joe
freshman

“Travel a lot.”



Robyn
staff

“I believe that you should live everyday like it’s your last.”



Alex
junior

“I want to play professional soccer.”



Sofia
sophomore

“Go to a third world country and help sick children.”



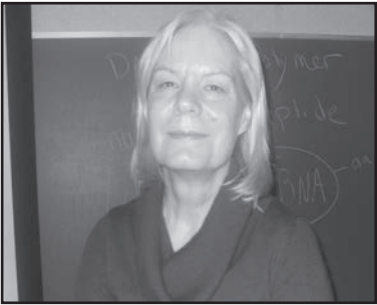
Alexandria
junior

“Have children.”



Stephen
freshman

“Take a road trip across country.”



Merrily
faculty

“I would like to read all of Shakespeare’s works.”



Tom
sophomore

“Go to Germany and drive on the autobahn.”



Victoria
sophomore

“Go to Greece to visit my family.”

CHILDREN OF SUBSTANCE ABUSERS Awareness Week

You are not alone!

Approximately **25% of all college students** grew up with a parent or guardian who abused alcohol or other drugs

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Children of substance abusers are **2x - 4x more likely to develop an alcohol or other drug problem**. Abuse may be hereditary, but there is help! You can stop the cycle of abuse.

Be confident!

Children of substance abusers often seek approval, limit their socializing with peers, have trouble expressing emotions, and have fear of criticism. Talk to a counselor and boost your self-esteem.

It’s not your fault!

Children of substance abusers often feel responsible for their parent’s problems and will continue feeling responsible for others in their life. You are **NOT** to blame and not responsible for the actions of others.



If you or someone you know would like to learn more or discuss any issues, please contact the
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A 100 year Relationship in 100 words and 10 collages**February 29, 2012 at 11:30 AM in Wilson Auditorium**

Dr. Saliba Sarsar, Associate Vice President for Global Initiatives and Professor of Political Science, will take the audience on a journey of conflict and war, as well as peacemaking and peace building between Arabs and Jews, Israelis and Palestinians during the 20th century. The presentation will include scholarly analysis, personal experiences and anecdotes, and the exhibition of his 10 collages, with each representing one decade in Palestine/Israel between 1900 and 2000.

Please join us and feel free to bring your class(es)

rsvp:

lclay@monmouth.edu

*You're Invited to
Monmouth University's
Student Government Association's Annual*

Auction

*Friday, March 30, 2012
6:00 P.M.*

*Blue and White Club in the Multipurpose Activity Center
at Monmouth University*

All proceeds benefit



Comics and Characters That Don't Need to Speak

MATTHEW FISHER
COMICS EDITOR

Usually when readers open up a comic book, they will notice word bubbles or captions that contain character dialogue or thoughts. Yet, there are points when writers and artists decided to take risks and tell stories that rely on visual storytelling more than words.

Known as silent issues, these particular tales are somewhat uncommon, but nevertheless, interesting to read when they are published. So, with the silent movie *The Artist* being a big winner at the Academy Awards, why not take a look back at comics whose pictures spoke louder than words?

To begin, one of the more memorable silent issues was “G.I. Joe” #21 from Marvel Comics, written by Larry Hama, who also did the breakdown art, and finishings art by Steve Leialoha.

The story titled, “Silent Interlude,” was about the silent ninja and soldier, Snake Eyes, going on a mission to rescue fellow G.I. Joe member, Scarlett. Telling the story silently with Snake Eyes as the lead seemed appropriate since the character never spoke to anyone and let his actions talk for him.

The issue was also notable for introducing Snake Eyes’ rival, Storm Shadow, into the G.I. Joe cast.

According to joeguide.com (via Comics Interview #37-38), Hama explained what his real intention behind writing and illustrating “Silent Interlude” was. He said, “I wanted to see if I could do a story that was a real, complete story - beginning, middle, end, conflict, characterization, action, solid resolution - without balloons or captions or sound effects. I tried to do it again, as a matter of fact, with the Joe Yearbook #3 story.”

Hama went on to create one more silent issue for Marvel with “G.I. Joe” #85 (it featured Storm Shadow) and one for IDW after they took over the G.I. Joe property with “G.I. Joe Origins” #19 (another tale that focused on the elusive Snake Eyes). While talk-

ing to ifanboy.com at the 2010 San Diego Comic-con, IDW Senior Editor Andy Schmidt described the excitement of telling another silent Joe story. “One of the first things I wanted to do as a G.I. Joe editor was revisit the silent issue. It’s just too fun not to do again... This time we brought on the incredibly talented and dynamic artist Joe Benitez to punch it up and hit it out of the park!” Schmidt said.

While “G.I. Joe” #21 was iconic for telling a silent issue, Marvel would return to this format starting late 2001 and continuing in 2002, where different Marvel series were wordless. The comics were united under the banner known as “Nuff Said,” and included issues such as: “Amazing Spider-Man” #39, “Captain America” #50, and “Uncanny X-Men” #401. These issues were also collected together in the trade paperback, “Nuff Said.”

A synopsis on marvel.com for the trade paperback described the basis for the comic book venture. It read, “Marvel President Bill Jemas and Editor-in-Chief Joe Quesada hatched a test for the Mighty Marvel Maestros: Since you’re the best artists and writers in the biz, we challenge you to tell a story using visuals only.”

“Amazing Spider-Man” Volume 2 #39 has continued to stand out today for two aspects. 1) A memorable silent cover with Spider-Man covering a crook’s mask and a “Nuff Said” slapped on it, and 2) the way the then-series writer (J. Michael Straczynski) and artist (John Romita, Jr.) told their Spidey tale just as effectively as any other issue filled with word bubbles and thought captions.

Yet, “Amazing Spider-Man” #39 wasn’t the only book that had readers excited by this event. In a mania.com review by Tony Whitt for “Captain America” #50, he wrote, “The ‘Nuff Said’ story this time is actually not at all bad, and it’s probably because Dan Jurgens provides the pencilwork as well as the script, aided only by inker Bob Layton. I’ve often said that these

stories only work if the writer and artist(s) are in sync on the story, and what better way to ensure that synchronicity than by drawing part of your own script yourself?”

Marvel continued to tell one more silent issue with stories featured in their 9/11 memorial graphic novel, “A Moment of Silence.”

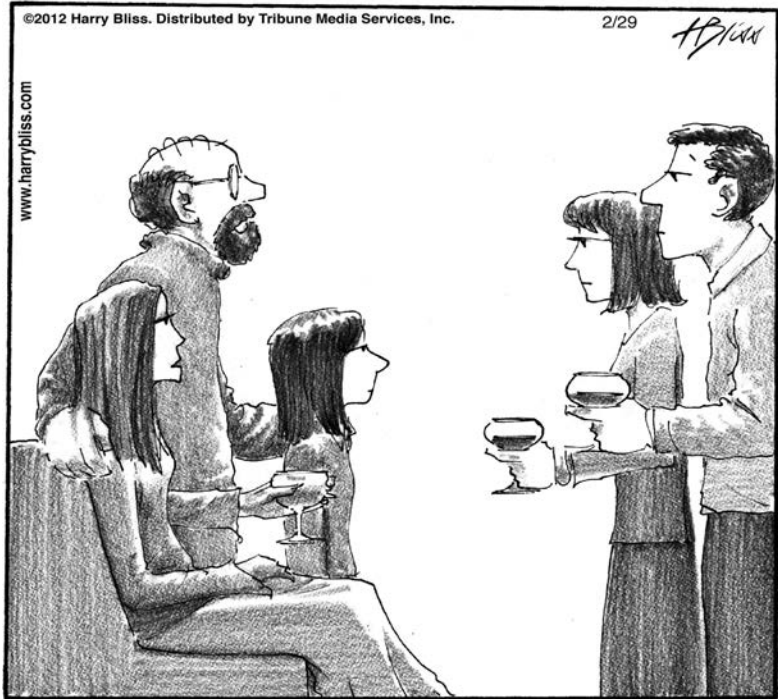
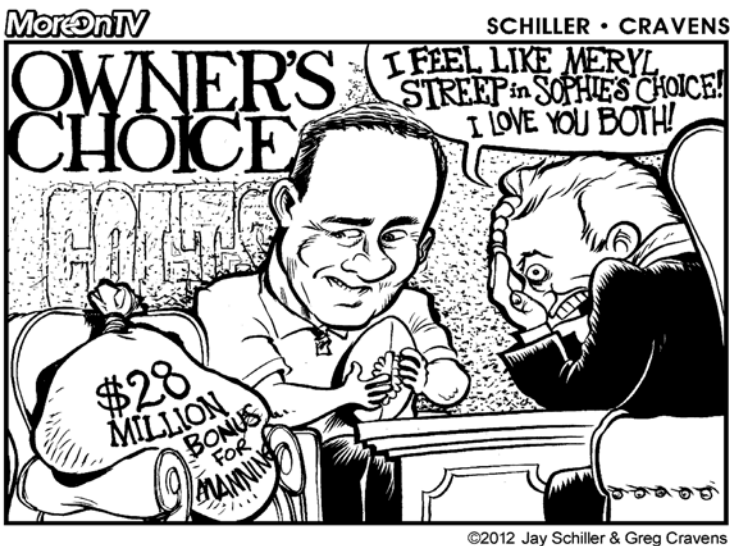
Although DC Comics doesn’t have any silent issues I could recall or find, that doesn’t mean they haven’t stayed in the spirit of Snake Eyes and presented quiet yet skillful fighters.

One character that easily fits into this category is the third Batgirl, Cassandra Cain, who spoke through body language rather than words.

When writer Andersen Gabryrich took over the “Batgirl” monthly series, she explained to comicbookresources.com that while Cassandra doesn’t speak to others, she still has a way of communicating. “I think that the ability of deduction and being able to put together pieces is very much a part of what her language is. She could walk into a room and automatically know what’s different; that sense that something doesn’t seem right. She’s not a psychic and can be easily fooled, but as far as her initial response to things, her physical space is what she knows,” Gabryrich said.

Other silent DC characters have included the Legion of Super-Villains leader, Tarik the Mute and Jericho from “Teen Titans.” (Marvel has also had their share of brooding, silent types such as Black Bolt, king of the Inhumans and the earthly hulking Man-Thing.)

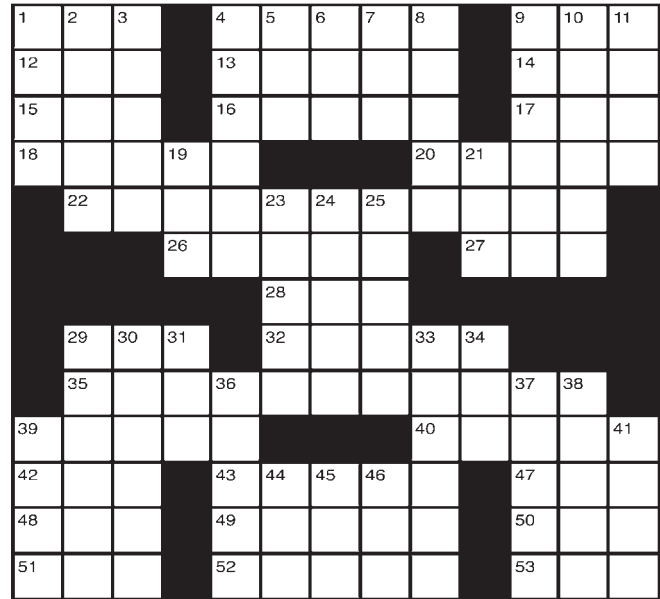
While comics have always been a visual medium, these silent issues took their description to a new level where the story was completely dependent on the art. They demonstrated how this medium is always experimenting with new ways to present their adventures and stories. Overall, these series and characters bring new meaning to “Shhh! I’m reading.”



“We don’t own a television — we have three iPads, two iPhones, three Kindles and two laptops.”

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/26/12

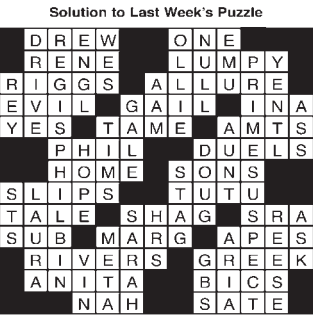
ACROSS

- Saget of “America’s Funniest Home Videos”
- “Green _____”
- “Grounded _____ Life”
- Yoko _____
- Actress Eva Marie _____
- Coach _____ Parseghian
- “_____ be in England now that April’s there...” (Robert Browning)
- Tropical fruit
- Network for Wolf Blitzer
- Explorer _____ de León
- _____ PG; like movies possibly not for the whole family
- Actor on “NCIS: Los Angeles”
- Toaster’s proclamation
- “Boys Don’t _____”; Hilary Swank film
- Meyers or Graynor
- Role on “Up All Night”
- “The Big _____”; movie for Bogart and Bacall
- “Last _____”
- Glover or DeVito

- “The _____”; series for Mr. T
- Prefix for cycle or form
- Kingdom
- Bart Simpson’s “Grampa”
- Banned insecticide
- Unfasten, as one’s shoelaces
- Monogram for author Stevenson
- “_____ Yes to the Dress”
- Rings, as a bell
- “The Old Man and the _____”

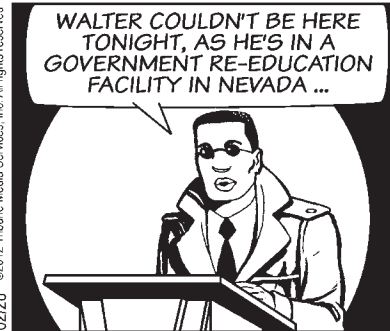
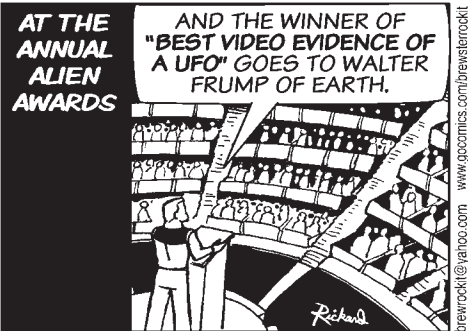
DOWN

- Betty of old cartoons
- “_____ of Old Smoky”
- Singer Pat _____
- _____ as a lamb
- President Arthur’s monogram
- “The Adventures of _____ Tin Tin”
- High school subject; abbr.
- “The Perfect _____”; film for George Clooney
- “Fear _____”
- Crotchety
- Kentucky Sen. _____ Paul
- Dracula and others; abbr.
- Diane Sawyer’s employer
- Pot _____; braised beef dish
- Role on “Cheers”
- Sigourney Weaver sci-fi movie
- Plummer or Peet
- “_____ Fair”; Reese Witherspoon film
- Actress _____ Jillian
- Singer and actor who played Mingo on “Daniel Boone”
- “The _____ and the Pendulum”
- Pancake topper
- Approaches
- “Gone With the Wind” star
- Failures
- Small plateau
- 180° from WSW
- “One Day _____ Time”
- Comic strip “_____ Abner”

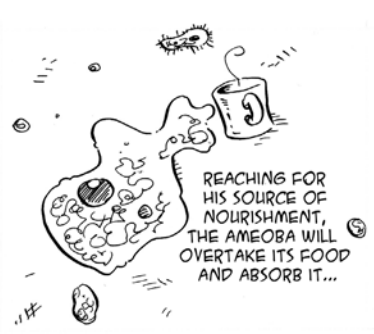
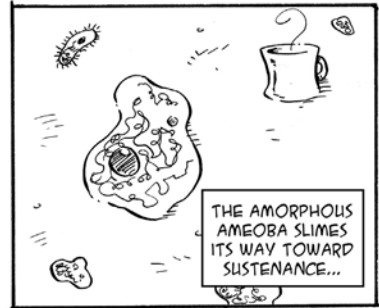


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2/26/12



Best In Show Comic



Welcome to Falling Rock National Park by Josh Shalek



Men's Basketball Stuns First Place Long Island

Ends Regular Season with 106-78 Thumping of LIU-Brooklyn

ED MORLOCK
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The men's basketball team finished the regular season with two big home wins against St. Francis (N.Y.) and Long Island University – Brooklyn. The Hawks finish the season as the sixth seed in the Northeast Conference (NEC) and will face Robert Morris in the first round of the conference tournament.

Monmouth (12-19, 10-8) has won nine of its last 12 games and is on the right track heading into the NEC tournament.

Jesse Steele scored 18 points and Dion Nesmith added 15 as Monmouth defeated St. Francis (N.Y.) 79-73 Thursday night.

"We are playing our best basketball right now," said Monmouth's Head Coach King Rice after Thursday's win. "One more game and then it's the conference tournament."

The Terriers (15-14, 12-6) led 36-18 following a Stefan Perunicic three-point basket with 5:57 remaining in the first half. From here, Monmouth went on a 34-9 run over the next 14:06 to surge ahead 53-45. During the run, Steele scored eight points and Marcus Ware added seven. Andrew Nicholas scored seven of the Hawks' final nine points during the game-changing stretch.

Ben Mockford led St. Francis (N.Y.) with 16 points. Jalen Cannon tallied a double-double, scoring 15 points and grabbing 14 rebounds.

At the end of the night, the Hawks were tied with Quinnipiac and Central Connecticut State for fifth in the

NEC.

Mike Myers Keitt scored 20 points and Nicholas added 18 as Monmouth defeated LIU Brooklyn 106-78 Saturday night.

Monmouth scored more than 100 points in a game for the first time since 1997. They scored 102 points in an overtime matchup against LIU-Brooklyn in Boylan Gym.

106 points was the most points ever scored by a basketball team in the MAC, since it opened in 2009.

The Blue and White jumped out to a 19-4 lead over the NEC's top seeded Blackbirds (22-8, 16-2) on senior night. LIU Brooklyn responded with an 18-0 run to take a 22-19 first half lead.

The teams went back-and-forth until C.J. Garner committed a technical foul in a 54-51 Hawks lead game in the second half. From here the Monmouth lead slowly started to grow, and before you knew it, the Blue and White were ahead 103-73 and the students were chanting, "UP-BY-THIR-TY!"

"It was just a special type of feeling that I got inside," said Myers Keitt about the final minutes of senior night. "When I came off of the court for that final minute I was just so proud of my coaches, my teammates and of the Monmouth community and the support that they showed us tonight."

Julian Boyd led the Blackbirds with 17 points and Jason Brickman added 16. Garner scored 10 points and led the team with six assists.

Steele and Nesmith both scored in double figures, combining for 25 points. Austin Tillotson shot five for five from the field for 10 points.



PHOTO COURTESY of MU Photography
Dion Nesmith drives to the net for a lay-up in the Hawk's 106-78 victory over first place LIU-Brooklyn on Saturday night.

Senior Will Campbell was honored Saturday night and displayed his talents in front the crowd. Campbell scored 14 points on six of nine shooting and grabbed a couple rebounds. Senior center Phill Wait tallied six points and six rebounds.

"Tonight our seniors took the energy of our great, great fans, came out

and played as well as I've seen them play," said Rice.

Robert Morris (22-9, 13-5) swept the Blue and White this season. In the first matchup in Pennsylvania, RMU handled the Hawks 69-51. When the Colonials came to the MAC, they won 81-73 in overtime.

Velton Jones gave MU nightmares

following the game in West Long Branch. Jones shot 50 percent from the field, including six of 11 from three-point land, and dropped 35 points in the overtime thriller.

The Hawks are the hottest team in the NEC and look to continue the success Thursday night when they travel to RMU.

Baseball Team Drops Three Straight to Virginia

THE OUTLOOK SPORTS STAFF

Following a 3-0 start, the men's baseball team took a step back this weekend after dropping three straight games to the seventeenth ranked University of Virginia Cavaliers.

On Friday afternoon, UVA exploded offensively and defeated the Hawks in blowout fashion 18-4. The game was delayed an hour and 12 minutes due to rain, but once it cleared up the Hawks opened the game scoring two runs right off the bat.

Josh Boyd opened the game with a triple, who was then driven home thanks to a double by Jamie Rosenkranz. Jake Gronsky singled up the middle in the next at bat to give the Hawks a 2-0 lead in the top of the first. UVA would rally in the bottom half of the inning, tying the score at two. The following inning the Cavaliers would take the lead after a sacrifice fly and they would not look back.

In the bottom of the third, the Cavaliers exploded for five runs off a Hawk error, a hit batsman, and a bases loaded double making the score 7-2. UVA would put the game out of reach in the sixth when they scored nine runs on seven hits, extending the lead to 16-2. UVA would add two more runs bringing the final score to 18-2 in favor of the Cavaliers.

Pat Light dropped to 1-1 after pitching five innings and giving up five runs. Neil Harm, Reid Van Woert, Charlie Battis and T.J. Hunt all saw action out of the bullpen for the Hawks.

On Saturday, the Hawks had much better pitching performances, but unfortunately the Hawks would fall to UVA for a second straight game.

The game remained scoreless

until the third inning when UVA broke through with three runs on three hits behind another costly error by the Hawks. The Hawks would answer in the bottom of the fourth, when Rosenkranz reached on a base hit and later came around to score thanks to a double by Owen Stewart, which made the score 3-1.

The Cavaliers would add one more run in the bottom half of the inning and would add three more in the seventh inning and that where the score would stand as the Hawks fell 7-1.

Dan Smith, who picked up his first loss of the season, pitched five innings, giving up six runs on seven hits. John McDonald worked an inning out of the bullpen, striking out two batters, while Joe Loiodice and Adam Yunginger also came out of the bullpen, and each worked a 1-2-3 inning in relief.

The Hawks came into Sunday's match-up looking to walk away with at least one win against a ranked opponent, but unfortunately the Cavaliers completed the sweep in a decisive fashion.

Neither team was able to get on the scoreboard in the first three innings, but in the bottom of the fourth inning UVA jumped out



PHOTO COURTESY of MU Athletics
The baseball team now stands at 3-3 on the season, following three straight losses to the University of Virginia.

to a 2-0 lead after an RBI double by Brandon Downes and a safety squeeze set up by Keith Werman.

In the following two innings, UVA would score seven runs in the fifth and three runs in the sixth, which made the score 12-0 in favor of the Cavaliers.

The Hawks scored their lone run in the seventh inning when Boyd knocked in Craig Sweeney on an RBI single. UVA would later extend their lead to 13-1,

and that's the way it would remain as the Hawks dropped their third straight game to the Cavaliers.

Andrew Mcgee pitched four and two thirds innings in his first career start. He allowed seven runs on eight hits. Stephen Frey, Jonathan Shippee, Stephen Prosapio, and Jeff Paglione all pitched in relief for the Hawks.

Following this weekend's games, Boyd leads the team

in batting average as he is hitting .370; Stewart and Gronsky are tied with seven RBIs. Pitching wise, Light continues to lead the way even though he lost this weekend. Light is 1-1 with 4.50 ERA with seven strikeouts.

The Hawks look to find their winning touch once again when they travel back down to Virginia again to take on Virginia Commonwealth in a three game weekend series in Richmond.

Women’s Basketball Team Finishes Regular Season on High Note

THE OUTLOOK SPORTS STAFF

The women’s basketball team finished off the 2011-12 regular season with back-to-back home wins over Long Island University – Brooklyn and St. Francis (N.Y.). The Hawks finished the season third in the NEC and will host LIU Brooklyn in the first round of the conference tournament on Saturday at 4:00 pm.

Alysha Womack scored 24 points and Chanel Gomez added 11, including the go ahead basket with 0.9 second remaining. The women’s basketball team was able to defeat LIU – Brooklyn 55-54 on Saturday.

The Hawks’ win put them in a tie for third place in the Northeast Conference (NEC) with Robert Morris.

The NEC opponents played a close game throughout the contest. The Hawks led 26-25 at the break. The game featured six tied scores and 15 lead changes.

Monmouth was inbounding the ball from under the Blackbirds’ basket with 2.3 seconds left in the game trailing 54-53. Gomez checked into the game, hoping for the chance to win it. Alexis Canady

inbounded the ball to Gomez on the interior, and she laid it in for the decisive basket with 0.9 second left.

LIU was forced to throw up a prayer. A three-quarter heave fell short and the Hawks celebrated their 16 win of the season.

Canady led the Blue and White with five assists. Gena Broadus paced the team with nine rebounds. Gomez added eight boards.

The Blue and White have won five of their last seven games, including their last two, and head into the conference tournament with some momentum.

The Blackbirds fell to 20-9 on the season, 9-8 and seventh place in the NEC.

Forward Ashley Palmer led LIU with 19 points and eight rebounds. Ebony Davis added 13 points and seven rebounds. Kiara Evans led the Blackbirds with nine assists, and added seven rebounds and six points.

Womack score 17 points and Canaday and Chevannah Paalvast added 10 a piece in Monmouth’s

66-61 win over St. Francis (N.Y.) Monday night at the MAC.

The Blue and White have won five of their last seven games, including their last two, and head into the conference tournament with some momentum.

Monday evening, the Hawks faced off against St. Francis (NY), in their last home regular season game of the year.

The Hawks controlled the first half of play, as they headed into half time with an 11 point lead.

St. Francis (N.Y.) was within three points with 13 seconds remaining in the game. Gabby Singer made both of her free throws to put the game out of reach and secure the MU victory.

Jasmin Robinson led the Terriers with 16 points. Sarah Benedetti scored 14 and Jaymee Veney added 12 and eight rebounds.

Womack and Canady led the Hawks in rebounding with six a piece. Singer paced MU with three assists and three steals.

The Hawks swept the regular season series with LIU and look to complete the three game sweep Saturday against the Blackbirds.

Ford Palmer and Vincent Elardo Post Strong Finishes This Past Weekend

PRESS RELEASE

Monmouth University junior Ford Palmer (Smithville, N.J. (Absegami) ran 4:08.08 in the mile to snap the program record set in 1987 Thursday afternoon. The men and women’s track and field teams competed at the Armory’s Collegiate Challenge, the final test for both squads before the ECAC/IC4A Championships next weekend.

“We are proud of Ford for breaking a record that stood for 25 years,” said Head Coach Joe Compagni. “We had some strong efforts in every event area to give us great momentum heading into the ECAC/IC4A Championships.”

Palmer, who took fourth overall and was the third collegiate finisher in the event, broke Ed Hendricks’ record of 4:10.63 set 25 years ago.

Errol Jeffrey (Brooklyn, N.Y./Transit Tech [Bronx CC]) finished first place in the weight throw, landing a toss of 55’ 6.5”, while also earning first in the shot put with a mark of 57’ 3”. Dan D’Amato (Matawan, N.J./Old Bridge) threw 48’ 6” for fifth overall in the shot.

Josh Mann (Warwick, N.Y./Warwick Valley) cleared 45’ 7” in the triple jump to claim second.

Erik Anderson (Wading River, N.Y./Shoreham Wading River) and Jake Bartlett (Middletown, N.J./CBA) shared fourth place in the high jump, each clearing 6’ 4”.

Led by Palmer, the squad of Aaron Aquino-Rodriguez (Haskell, N.J./Lakeland Regional), Mark Bernardo (Staten Island, N.Y./Monsignor Farrell), and Alex Leight (Old Bridge, N.J./Old Bridge), ran to a sixth place finish in the 4x400, posting a time of 3:26.60.

Peter Matano (Wayne, N.J./Wayne Hills) vaulted himself to fifth place with a mark of 14’ 5” followed by Tom Jeffers (Bell-

mawr, N.J./Triton) who cleared 13’ 8”.

In the 200 meter dash, Ben Boyd (Port Murray, N.J./West Morris Central) crossed the finish in 22.20 in fourth, while Mike Drake (Cherry Hill, N.J./Cherry Hill East [College of Charleston]) trailed in eighth with a time of 22.42. Drake also claimed fifth in the 60 meter dash, running 7.13.

Garth DeBlasio (Millstone, N.J./Allentown) ran 2:34.79 in the 1000 meter to earn seventh.

Joshua Lewis (Montville, N.J./Montville Township) cleared 21’ 10” in the long jump to claim fifth followed by Stevenson Cajuste (Egg Harbor, N.J./Egg Harbor) who finished eighth with a clearance of 20’ 9”.

For the women’s team, Rachel Watkins (Oakland, N.J./Indian Hills) and Lindsey Walsh (Mount Laurel, N.J./Lenape) each cleared 5’ 8.75” in the high jump to share first.

Lauren McDonald (Roseland, N.J./West Essex Regional) vaulted herself to third place in the pole vault, clearing 11’.

Local product Kate Frye (Point Pleasant, N.J./Point Pleasant Boro) registered a mark of 18’ 6” in the long jump. The rookie also ran to a seventh place finish in the 200 with a time of 25.46.

Junior Sandra Jean-Romain (Old Bridge, N.J./Old Bridge) landed a shot put mark of 45’ 4” to earn second.

On the track, the Hawks finished 1-3-4-5 in the 800 meter run with Amanda Eller (Delmont, N.J./Millville) leading the way with a time of 2:13.01. The junior was followed by Emily MacEwen (South Glastonbury, Conn./Glastonbury) who ran 2:15.31, while Danielle Toritto (Smithtown, N.Y./Smithtown East) and Ali Hehn (Toms River, N.J./Toms River [Seton Hall]) finished in 2:15.35 and 2:16.56, respectively.

Hehn, MacEwen, Toritto and Eller also ran 3:59.45 in the 4x400 meter relay, good for seventh

overall.

In the 500 meter run, Colleen Rutecki (Springfield, Pa./Springfield) claimed seventh with a time of 1:17.30.

Making his second straight appearance at the U.S. Indoor championships, Monmouth University senior Vincent Elardo (Forked River, N.J./Lacey) finished 14th in the shot put Sunday afternoon at the Albuquerque Convention Center. This year’s field consisted of competitors that have won Olympic medals, World Championship medals and were former NCAA Champions.

Elardo landed a throw 17.33m (56’ 10”) in his first attempt in the circle making his mark the second-best collegiate result in the competition. Reese Hoffa of the New York Athletic Club (NYAC) took first registering a throw of 21.75m (71’ 4.25).

“Vinny is having a tremendous season again this year and is ahead of where he was last year,” said Compagni. “Coach [Abe] Flores has done an excellent job getting him ready to compete on such a high level. To step in the circle along with the best in the world again this winter is a huge accomplishment for Vinny and our program.”

Elardo, who finished eighth at the event last season, is one of just three collegiate athletes to throw over 60’ in both the shot put and weight throw this season. The local product is ranked 30th in the U.S. and 22nd among Division I shot putters. A team captain and the 2011 IC4A Champion won both throwing events at the 2012 NEC Indoor Championships to lead the Hawks to their fourth NEC Indoor team title this winter. Elardo has captured nine individual NEC Indoor and Outdoor titles in the throwing events during his tenure in West Long Branch.

Elardo and the Hawks will travel to Boston next weekend for the ECAC/IC4A Championships.

Softball Team Jumps Out to a 3-1 Start

THE OUTLOOK SPORTS STAFF

The softball team kicked off the season at the Spartan Classic at Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Virginia. They took three out of their four games, starting off the season in a solid fashion.

The first game was against Norfolk State on Saturday afternoon. The Hawks dominated the Spartans 10-4 and then defeated the University of Delaware 6-3. Second baseman Christine Scherr led the way for the Hawks with a home run and four runs batted in.

Down 3-0 going into the bottom

of the fourth inning, Monmouth used an eight run inning to take a commanding 8-3 lead. They never looked back from there.

Against Delaware, the Hawks scored five runs in the fifth and sixth innings to pull away with the win.

On Sunday, Monmouth split their two-game doubleheader. They lost to Army 8-4 in the first game, and defeated Delaware again by a score of 14-6 in the second game of the day.

The Hawks return back to action on March 8 at the Aggie Invitational at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. They will play five games in a three day stretch.



“Country Roads” Elicits Near Riot and Unfolds the Power of the Student Section

DAN GUNDERMAN
STAFF WRITER

YouTube phenomenon and Marquette head basketball coach Buzz Williams nearly brought on a full-fledged riot at West Virginia Coliseum on February 24th after pantomiming a ballroom dance to John Denver on WVU’s home court. The action greatly angered the West Virginia student section, who gave Williams a piece of their mind during an ESPN interview conducted shortly after.

Here, the power of a college fan-base was unfolded. They are without a doubt comparable to the three-headed monster, as seen when numerous security guards struggled to hold WVU students back from physically approaching the head coach.

The dance came after Marquette beat West Virginia 61-60 and greatly hampered the Mountaineers’ shot at the NCAA tournament. Already a YouTube sensation, Williams, who danced “Walk it out” two years ago on the court, offered a sarcastic apology for the event.

He stated that he liked John Denver’s rendition of the song “Take Me Home, Country Roads,” and was so amped after the game that it was just natural. Later that night he offered a more extensive apology but still, West Virginia students and fans of all ages are not very fond of Williams.

YouTube users have taken pleasure in watching the coach glide across Mountaineer mid-court, but while doing so, ask whether the move was professional or a display of poor sportsmanship. Should a college coach blatantly poke fun at a song that is so dear to the hearts of the home team’s fans? Then, should he deny its impact?

From an outsider’s standpoint, this move is irresponsible and a lack of judgment. Sure, you may be excited after a huge win for your program, but that should not result in you sarcastically grooving to the other team’s alma matter-like song. Show some dignity and respect for the opposing program, shake the other coach’s hand and head into the locker-room to begin your celebration. This move, Coach Williams, is just unnecessary.

Clearly, I am not the only one to think so lowly of the move, as students were clearly frustrated beyond belief as Williams ap-

proached his ESPN interviewers. Footage highlights security guards struggling to hold back angered students while showing some blatantly yelling profanity at the man. Like it was nothing, the coach continued the interview and stormed off in excitement.

A college student section is no force to be reckoned with. To anger them is to “awaken the beast.” The Mountaineers displayed this and showed their frustration. As rowdy as they may be, they promote sportsmanship and respect. This goes a long way for the sport, which can take pride in the fact that the fans uphold forms of morals and values. Buzz Williams, in his “two-step,” stabbed at the heart of these morals.

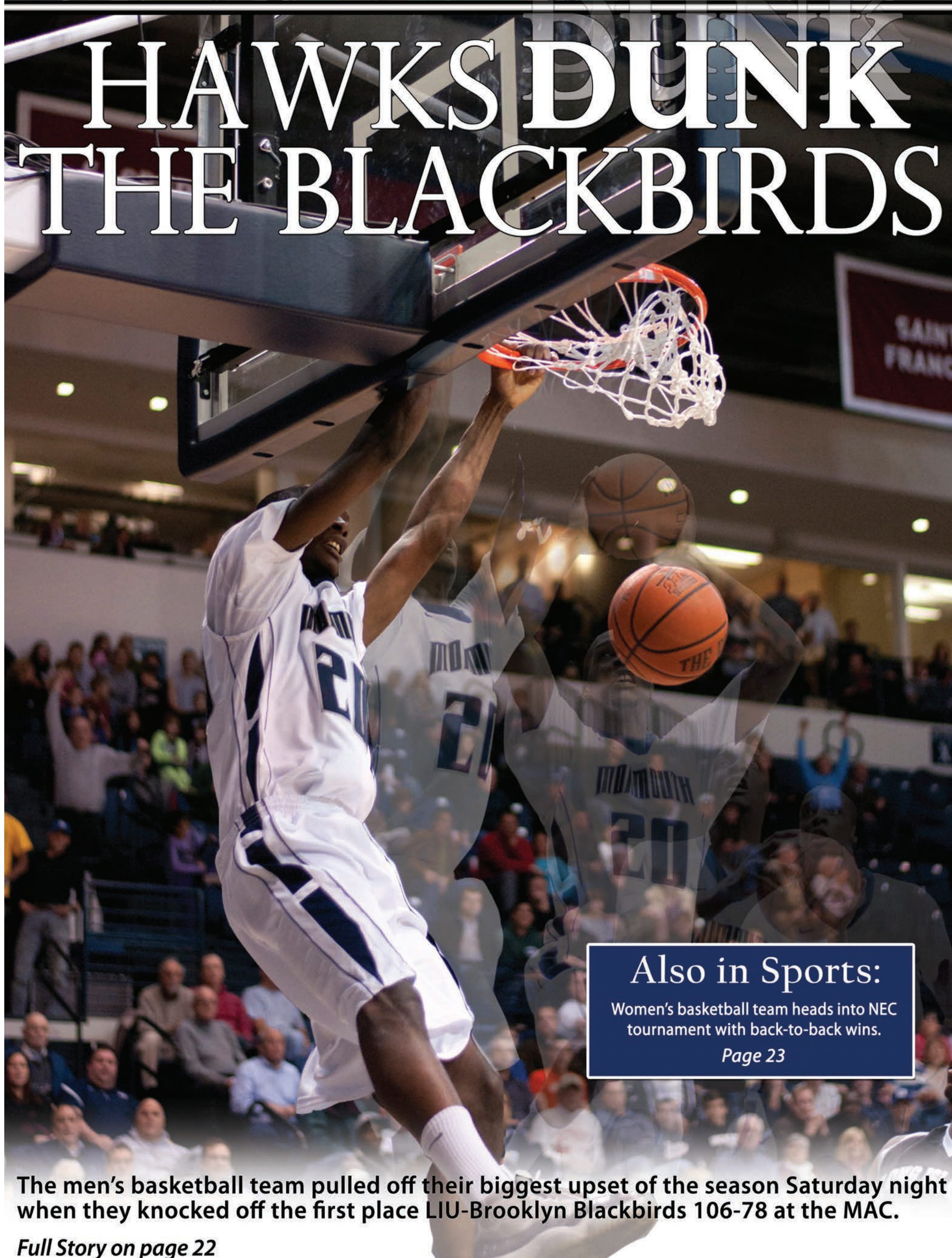
Just as the Monmouth Mob has had an increase in followers and dedication this season, (as pointed out in a recent *Outlook* article on the matter), other student sections take pride in their program and team. And as sometimes learned in a worst-case scenario, they will stop at nothing to show their perspective. As a head coach, Williams should have known the repercussions of his actions before making a mockery of himself and eliciting fury.

Maybe he really shows no remorse, as he has already “walked it out” on the sidelines in a game two years ago. Following an emphatic dunk by one of his players, he threw his arms up in the air and awkwardly stampeded down his own sideline. From that point on, he was an internet icon, but again, an example of an untamed, demeaning figure.

Clearly this Marquette coach, who is leading his tenth-ranked squad to a fantastic season, is keen with on-the-court issues, but needs a little reality check with sportsmanship. You may be overly-excited about a win, but it’s different when you degrade others while showing that excitement.

Maybe Williams, in need of this reality check, should have his squad take a stroll up to the MAC to take on the Hawks. Here, I can almost guarantee, you will find a student section riled up enough to set the man straight.

Whether your squad is ranked #10 or not, a few New Jersey basketball fans will definitely set you straight. We can guarantee you will not see Buzz stroll around at midcourt at the MAC dancing to the pep band...because if so he might find a sea of fans in blue and white, who want to throw in their two cents.



Also in Sports:

Women's basketball team heads into NEC tournament with back-to-back wins.

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The men's basketball team pulled off their biggest upset of the season Saturday night when they knocked off the first place LIU-Brooklyn Blackbirds 106-78 at the MAC.

Full Story on page 22