



THE OUTLOOK

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S
STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1933

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New Wireless Network Intends to Improve Connections

TAMMY SYBEL
STAFF WRITER

MU Wireless will be replaced with MU Secure to be used by students, faculty and staff at the University beginning on March 10.

According to Dr. Edward Christensen, Vice President for Information Management at the University, "In order to comply with Payment Card Industry mandates, the Monmouth University wireless network must be encrypted. In addition, information security best practices also strongly recommend that wireless networks be encrypted," Christensen said.

This means that MU Secure will be simply, more secure. "MU Secure is an encrypted enterprise grade wireless network. As an

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Communication Department Hosts Career Event

CASEY ALLOCCO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Department of Communication held its second annual Communication Career Event last Tuesday, February 28, in Wilson Hall.

The purpose of the event was to give communication students and alumni the chance to participate in seminars about their degree and to network with professionals in the field. From 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm, several events were held including, "What You Can Do with a Communications Degree," "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About A Career In ____ (But were too Afraid to Ask)," as well as networking, internships, and professional preparation opportunities. These events

Careers continued on pg. 4

Campus to Aid Victims of Brighton Ave. Fire

AMY GEIS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"I heard on a walkie-talkie 'Sue DePinho needs to come to the office, it's an emergency.' Suddenly my heart sank and the hallway became a mile long," DePinho, a University alumnus, recalled.

DePinho had a missed phone call from her boyfriend on the morning of Monday, February 13. DePinho, who teaches Video Production and Photography at Shore Regional High School, was teaching class while her boyfriend, Derek Tranchina,

was on his way to their burning apartment on Brighton Avenue in the West End of Long Branch.

"We just lost everything we owned and there is no one to blame or point a finger at."

SUE DEPINHO
University Alumnus

DePinho and Tranchina moved in to the apartment about one year ago. "The location was amazing and the rent was af-

fordable enough for the two of us to save for a house," DePinho said. The apartment was

also animal-friendly, perfect for their puppy named Blue. The night before the fire, DePinho said that Blue was up

all night, scratching his crate and crying. They let him in bed with them and he was shaking, "which makes us believe that he knew something was going to happen," DePinho said.

After she talked to someone in the office, she found out about the fire. "Stunned and hysterical, I called Derek, who confirmed that he did run in in time to get Blue, but the fire was bad and we might lose everything," DePinho recalled.

She then made her way out

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"Let's Make It Real, Leap Into Diversity" Event Draws in Campus Community



PHOTO COURTESY of Blaze Nowara

Students and staff join together at the "Let's Make It Real, Leap Into Diversity" event, which was held last Wednesday to spread the message of diversity across the University campus.

KEVIN HOLTON
COPY EDITOR

The University is again looking to spread a message of diversity through its annual diversity awareness programs. Two sessions of the program took place last Wednesday at the "Let's Make It Real, A Leap Into Diversity" event, which began with a one hour introductory session at 1:15 pm and an extended two hour session at 2:30 pm on the second floor of the Rebecca Stafford Student Center.

This event, run by the Ameri-

can Conference on Diversity, was to highlight some of the major issues with and types of discrimination that can take place on a daily basis. The events focus on how to overcome and eliminate the bias some face every day as a result of height, weight, color, creed or orientation, among other factors.

"It was very informative and interactive," said Judith Nye, Associate Vice President of Academic Foundations and General Education. "[It] addressed some serious issues. I think a lot of folks took away some important insights."

Nye also commented on the job that the conference is doing. "The American Conference on Diversity is becoming a major force and the University has partnered [with them] on a number of occasions," she added.

Those in attendance were referred to as participants, rather than audience members, for two reasons. First, everyone was expected to join in group exercises throughout the presentation. Second, everyone participates in practicing diversity whether they promote bias, prohibit it or simply ig-

nore it.

Everyone was told that they would discuss things that would not be pleasant to talk about. Conversation is the key to connection, and connection leads to understanding; this point was emphasized throughout the event.

One of the aspects of the event was a short video featuring a variety of college students that had performed internships with the organization. They discussed ways in which they had to fight discrimination, such as one student whose

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Read up on the new video game review of Mario Kart 7 for 3DS.

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Club and Greek

The Verge, the newest media organization, has officially launched on campus.

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Unsanitary Behavior Spreads Throughout Pinewood Hall

Guest Privileges Restored After Temporary Suspension

TAMMY SYBEL
STAFF WRITER

Incidents of the smelly kind have been plaguing Pinewood Residence Hall in recent weeks. Someone has been depositing fecal matter and urine in random crevices in the building, causing dismay for its residents. These incidents also have led to the discontinuance of visitor privileges among Pinewood residents.

Corey Inzana, Area Coordinator for Pinewood Hall and Willow Hall, said that these incidents began last fall. The incidents temporarily stopped after a few floor meetings were held about them.

“The amount of incidents that occurred with either urine or feces amounted to five times over the course of the two semesters,” Inzana said. “Three of the five instances took place in the first floor men’s bathroom, one urine issue occurred in the first floor hallway and the most recent fecal incident occurred in the second floor lounge.”

Some students found out about the incidents through social media. “I was scrolling through Twitter when I saw that someone from my building tweeted what had happened,” said Rachel Gramuglia, a first-year resident of Pinewood. “So then I tweeted about it and called one of my friends and she told me everything that happened. I was like, ‘Why would someone ever do that? Just use a toilet.’ I was furious that someone would do

that. It’s revolting. There is a fine line between a funny prank and a drunkenly disgusting [and] idiotic decision.”

Jessica Costello, also a resident of Pinewood, echoed the same reaction. “I thought the whole incident was ridiculous,” she said. “It is sad to see that, at 18 and 19, people are still so immature to use the showers as a bathroom and leave bags of pee in the lounge. The thing that disgusts me the most is that someone did this in an area that everyone uses.”

As a repercussion of the recent incidents, visitor privileges in Pinewood were temporarily suspended. “There are some students that are angry about losing these privileges, but discussions I have had are revealing that students are more upset that someone behaved in such a manner that affected the rest of the Pinewood community,” Inzana said. “When I was investigating these incidents and was talking with students, the most common responses we received were, ‘That’s disgusting; it couldn’t have been someone who lives here who would do that.’”

Some students said that it is unfair that the entire building is being punished for one individual’s actions. “Not being able to have visitors was a little extreme, I thought. The whole building should not have been punished,” Costello said.

Meanwhile, Gramuglia said that it is understandable that this precaution is necessary. “I understand that

everyone had to be punished, considering we had no idea who it was,” she commented.

As a result of the help that was received and the input of Pinewood’s resident assistants, Inzana said that these guest restrictions can now be lifted.

“The students are handling it fairly well,” Inzana said. “They are not happy with the idea that someone would partake in an unhealthy act such as defecating in the lounge or showers, because this is their home. There have been many students who have attempted to help in resolving this issue. For example, some students have been very proactive in the Pinewood Community by going door-to-door to discuss and gather as much information as they can from their fellow residents regarding these issues.”

“The precautions that are being taken revolve around education and communication,” Inzana added. “These precautions include, but are not limited to, hall meetings and door-to-door discussions by RAs discussing living in a healthy environment and why it’s important to always know where and what guests of the building are doing.”

While the culprit behind these incidents has yet to be identified, Inzana said that he is hopeful that they will soon cease. In the meantime, his focus is on providing for the health of Pinewood’s residents and guests.



PHOTO COURTESY OF Joanna Zietara

Residents of Pinewood Hall have awoken several times in recent weeks to find feces and bags of urine throughout the residence hall.

Alum and Others Affected by Brighton Blaze Find Local Help

Fire continued from pg. 1

to the building and nearly collapsed. “I could see the smoke from West Long Branch,” DePinho added.

As DePinho and the other residents stood outside, she said that her only question was what to do next. “We did not have insurance and we were basically told that there was nothing that we could do but watch it all burn,” she said.

“We just lost everything we owned and there is no one to blame or point a finger to,” DePinho added. “To have no possessions and no home is a situation that no one should ever have to be in.”

The only things they were able to save were what they had on them and Blue, after Tranchina had gone in to rescue him only a few minutes before their apartment building caught on fire. “I cannot imagine losing everything you own and your pet at the same time,” DePinho said. “We were lucky to get him.”

Tranchina recalled pulling up to the building and with all the chaos, he didn’t have much time to think. “But there was no way I was going to leave my dog in there without at least trying to get

him. He’s a part of our family,” he said. “I just remember thinking, ‘If my dog is safe, everything else can burn.’” The couple said that they owe Blue’s life to one of Tranchina’s friends, who was eating lunch at La Scalas Pizzeria across the street when he saw smoke coming from the dance studio and called Tranchina.

The University and local community have been helping DePinho and the other victims raise money. Shore Regional High School and other local schools also have done some fundraising while collecting clothes and home goods.

DePinho shared that the employees at the Central Jersey Bank, which was located across the street, have played a big part in donations, fundraising and support for everyone. “I keep calling them our little angels,” she said.

Other businesses that are helping the couple include The Windmill, Jacks Goal Line Stand, Surf Taco, and The Mix Lounge and Food Bar. They have all helped through either donations or fundraising.

“At Monmouth, alumni, professors, employees, and other MU community members have made

very generous contributions,” said DePinho. As an alumnus of a sorority, her sisters and alumni in Delta Phi Epsilon held a Premier Designs jewelry party this past Sunday where she received the profits, which have yet to be disclosed.

Marilyn Ward, Coordinator of Service Learning and Community Programs, said the campus has been raising money for her with tables for collections at the basketball games, and in the Dining Hall and the Student Center as well. DePinho worked in the office with Ward while she was enrolled.

DePinho graduated from the University in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Marketing and a Bachelor of Arts in Communication with a concentration in TV/Radio Production.

As an undergraduate student, she also was a cheerleader, host of the show M-You and had a Friday afternoon radio show on WMCX to name a few of her activities.

“When people asked us what we needed, it was hard to respond,” DePinho said. “If you walk into your house and look around at everything you have, that is what we lost.”

While tragedy has hit the couple’s lifestyle, they said that they

are still grateful for what they do have. “We have each other and we have the puppy,” DePinho said. “Everything else is just stuff.” She added that she feels blessed that it did not happen during the night and no one was killed.

“The love and support we have received has been unbelievable,” DePinho said. “We are so lucky and fortunate, which is ironic to say after what we have been through, but it is true.”

Members of the University community who wish help the couple through donations may contact Ward at mward@monmouth.edu, or Mark Holfelder, Associate Director of Residential Life, at mholfeld@monmouth.edu.



PHOTO COURTESY OF Susan DePinho

Sue DePinho, left, and Derek Tranchina, right, managed to save their puppy in the Brighton blaze, but lost nearly everything else.

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2/29/12 - 4:54 PM
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SPRUCE HALL

PULA / STUDENT MISCONDUCT
3/1/12 - 9:54 PM
PARKING LOT 6

PULA / STUDENT MISCONDUCT
3/1/12 - 10:07 PM
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PULA / STUDENT MISCONDUCT
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School of Education Creates Mentoring Academy

CASEY ALLOCCO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Dr. Lynn Romeo, the Dean on the University’s School of Education, has recently announced the formation of the School of Education Alumni Mentoring Academy. This is a free program for graduates of the University’s School of Education.

The academy is a new way for the graduates to receive more experience as new teachers. During the three-year program, the graduates will be able to discuss ideas and shape dialogue. It is geared towards managing K-12 students and offers assisted evaluations of the 21st century. The academy also provides an online component with resources. Sessions are four times per year and include topics such as “Vision Building: Developing a Profession Persona – Sustaining Your Passion in an Era of Accountability” and more on strategies for establishing a successful classroom.

Some faculty and administra-

tors are supporting the online program and the academy. According to the University News-wire, Christine Grabowski, an Alumni Novice Mentor and third grade teacher at the Middle Road School in Hazlet, sees the program as a “perfect forum for novice teachers to collaborate and learn from each other as well as from veteran teachers.” She add-

“Educational research indicates that professional development occurs most successfully when teachers meet on a regular basis for the purposes of learning, reflecting and sharing resources.”

LINDA FOSTER
Coordinator of the School of Education

ed that the academy will allow the new teachers a look on a more professional level and the ability to be the best teacher they can be.

Megan Meier, also a University alumnus and novice teacher, told the University Newswire that she is excited to participate in the Academy. She said that a teacher is more able to grow when they learn from one another and looks forward to her chance to partake in all the academy has to offer.

Linda Foster, the coordinator of the School of Education, said that the academy will be beneficial for the graduates. “Educational research indicates that professional development occurs most successfully when teachers meet on a regular basis for the purposes of learning, reflecting and sharing resources,” she commented.

Romeo said that it is important to stay connected with graduated students as they begin their journey into the work place. “We hope to provide the necessary support from [the school of education’s] alumni mentors, faculty and administrators,” she said. “I hope the alumni novice teachers gain useful strategies and the support needed to flourish as teachers.” Romeo has found that new teachers benefit more from a three-year program rather than a simple state-mandated one year program.

Those interested in becoming members of the academy can contact Patricia Heaney, the Director of Student Teaching, at 732-263-5431 or email soeama@monmouth.edu.

University Hosts Annual Diversity Event

Diversity continued from pg. 1

roommate was told she would “need a complete makeover before she even has a chance” of joining an unnamed sorority. A Muslim student then discussed how she was walking by a man who was handing out bibles. The man proceeded to shout, “You’re wicked! You’re all wicked!” at the aforementioned student.

After a brief introduction from Elizabeth Williams-Riley, the Vice President of the American Conference on Diversity, groups of eight were formed to discuss a variety of questions. Following these talks, group spokespeople shared highlights from the conversations with the group.

“It was great to talk about these issues, and from talking about them with each other, we learn to interact with each other,” said Julian Williams, Director of Affirmative Action and Human Relations at the University. He is in the process of joining the regional board of the American Conference on Diversity.

“I think we’re very diverse here on campus, but it really addressed issues that often aren’t talked about,” said Victoria Rivera, a student participant.

The American Conference on Diversity is a non-profit organization based in New Brunswick, NJ. They host events across the nation to teach tolerance and understanding.



PHOTO COURTESY of Blaze Nowara
Julian Williams, Director of Affirmative Action and Human Relations, interacts with the audience about diversity.

Catholic Centre

Sunday Mass
Sundays at 7 PM in Wilson Chapel
(No Mass on 3/11)

Daily Mass
Mondays & Tuesdays at 12 PM
in Wilson Chapel

Catechism Group
Tuesdays at 4:30 PM at the CC

St. Patrick's Day Party
Thursday, March 8 at 7 PM
at the CC

Prayer Service
Wednesdays at 12 PM
in Wilson Chapel

Eucharistic Adoration
Thursdays at 12 PM in Wilson Chapel

www.mucatholic.org/ on Facebook:
Monmouth University Catholic Centre 16 Beechwood Avenue,
West Long Branch, 732-229-9300 Gate to our house is located in the rear
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MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

WHERE LEADERS LOOK *forward*

THE PROVOST’S FILM SERIES 2012
RICHADA
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Wednesday, March 21, 2012; 7:30 pm
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(Synopsis taken from the IMDb web site.)

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Communication Students Network and More at Career Event

Careers continued from pg. 1

offered information for communication majors to gain a better understanding of options for a future career.

The lecture, "What You Can Do with a Communications Degree," had five speakers positioned at the front of the room. The speakers introduced themselves and told their stories about the career paths their communication degrees led them on.

"I use my degree every day," Attorney-at-Law Albert Calise said. The rooms were full of students paying attention and asking professionals questions.

The speakers gave advice, tips, and even helped with preferred resume styles. "It's being able to open your mouth and open your mind. Say hi to people and be nice to everybody," Calise said.

Anderson Diaz said, "In your career you can either decide to push against the tide or let the tide take you where it wants to go."

The event held a variety of information panels along with interactional networking and an internship fair. As the second year the event was being held at the University, the number of

speakers and professionals increased. Last year, the event had 50 speakers and professionals speaking to about 200 students.

This year, 60 professionals and speakers came to the event along with representatives from businesses including *ABC Radio*,

Fox5, *Clear Channel*, *WWE*, *HBO*, *Cablevision*, the *New York Daily News* and *USA Today*. Also, some major public rela-

tions and marketing firms along with the professionals were there and available to have one-on-one conversations with students, including mock interviews.

"I hope the students in attendance hear helpful stories from professionals in the field about how they positioned themselves for their career, and how they used their communication degree to best advantage," said Dr. Chad Dell, Chair of the Communication Department. The event was held by the staff of the University's Department of Communication.

This event was seen as a good way for the students to make connections and get a guide to their degree. "We recognized early on that the job market is very competitive, and we wanted students to have every advantage when they graduate," continued Dell. The staff of the department, Communication Council, Career Services and the Alumni Affairs office all helped to participate in this "natural step" to a career.

According to Dell, the student feedback on last year's event was positive and the staff hopes to achieve the same, if not better feedback from this year's event and for more events in the future.



PHOTO COURTESY of Blaze Nowara

Specialists in the field of journalism, radio, television and public relations made up panels and discussed the ins and outs of their careers.

New Wireless Network for Campus Community

Wireless continued from pg. 1

unencrypted network, any wireless devices could intercept the traffic to and from a computer on MU Wireless," Christensen said. So students and faculty will be able to surf safely on the internet.

To elaborate more on the safety of the new network, Christensen said, "A new Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA2 Enterprise) secured wireless network, MU-Secure, has been deployed across campus and is available in all locations that have access to MU Wireless. MU Secure utilizes the Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA2) security method, which provides stronger data protection and network access control than MU Wireless which utilizes the less secure Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP)." Christensen noted that the new network will also be easier and more practical for users using the wireless network. "With the less secure 'MU Wireless,' users had to re-authenticate peri-

odically; with the more secure 'MU Secure,' users have to re-authenticate their device only when they change their password," Christensen added.

Some students may have heard of the new change over to MU Secure while others may still be in the dark about this impending

emails that arrive daily may have missed the notices about the switch in their inbox.

"The first announcement of the availability of MU Secure was sent via email to the entire campus on November 14, 2011. A second notice was sent January 31, 2012 to the entire MU

tensen said.

The change from MU Wireless to MU Secure has been in the works for quite some time, "Information Management has been testing MU-Secure since June 2011, and was officially announced to students and employees in November 2011," Christensen said.

Mary Ann Nagy, Vice President for Student and Community Services said, "There has been a considerable effort to improve our use of technology on campus and this is just one piece to that puzzle. I know that the IT staff has been communicating this change for some time now to all on campus including students. As with any issue involving technology, students having difficulty switching over to MU-Secure should contact the help desk on campus."

In an effort to make the switch as seamless as possible, throughout the month of February, Information Management had made available guides for students as well as holding "Get Secure @

MU" events to help students and faculty acclimate to the new network.

Furthermore, if students encounter any difficulties with MU-Secure, help is readily available. Christensen said, "As with any technology issue, Students can visit the Campus Technology website or contact the Student Information Management Help Desk for additional information or to report any problems. It is recommended that they call extension 3490 first to verify that someone is there."

Information Management is always striving to make sure that the University has the best service available on the wireless network. Come March 10, students should be sure to erase any reference to MU Wireless from their devices once MU Secure has been established and functioning. Further help can also be found on the University website under Campus Technology and students may contact Information Management if problems still arise.

"There has been a considerable effort to improve our use of technology on campus and this is just one piece to that puzzle."

MARY ANNE NAGY

Vice President for Student and Community Services

modification. Christensen said over the past year Information Management has spoken with SGA regarding the change and over the past several weeks posters and flyers have circulated to make students and faculty aware of the coming changes. Some students checking and skimming

community announcing that MU Wireless would be shut down March 10, 2012. The MU Wireless login page has also advertised MU Secure as of November 14, 2012 and more recently changes have been made to the login page to denote the countdown to the switchover," Chris-

THE MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1933 OUTLOOK




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email: outlook@monmouth.edu
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~The ORR

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THESE IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE MAY 2012 GRADUATION:

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Students who don't obtain advisor approval will not be able to self-register using WEB-registration and will need to register in-person at their academic department or at the Registrar's Office.

Full details are listed in the information and instructions which were e-mailed to your MU email account in February and March.

WEBstudent Screens for Registration :

- Course Schedule Information
- Sections Offered by Term
- WEBRegistration Approval / Blocks
- Course Prerequisite Worksheet
- WEBRegistration Worksheet 1 & 2.

Other WEBstudent screens that are helpful during Registration include:

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Making a Case Against Affirmative Action

THE OUTLOOK STAFF OPINION

Affirmative action is a program that began during World War II when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order barring discrimination in the federal government and by war industries. This was the first step towards equality. During the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960's, this program picked up again during the civil rights movement. This program was intended to allow equal opportunities for minority races and eventually genders. Since the Nixon administration, however, some colleges have used it to make sure there is diversity on college campuses.

There have been multiple cases about whether this is a form of racism or merely giving other races a fair shot at an education. In the landmark case, *Regents v. Bakke*, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that state colleges and universities could not leave a certain amount of spaces for minority applicants. This case did not solve the problem. The ruling also said that race could be used as a "positive factor" in determining whether someone should be admitted into a place of higher learning. This applied to both public and private colleges and universities.

Coming up during the Supreme Court term this year is *Fisher v. University of Texas*.

This is the most recent affirmative action case. In this case, a white female student, Abigail Fisher, believes she was denied admission to the University of Texas based on her race. In the state of Texas, students in the top 10 percent of their high school's class gain admission to any public university in the state. There is no race consideration with the top 10 percent. Fisher barely missed the cut off and was put into a group of general applicants where race plays a role into admission. According to Julian Williams, Director of Affirmative Action and Human Relations at the University, affirmative action standards are not used at the University. "The University uses a race blind and gender blind test where we choose our students solely based on their credentials."

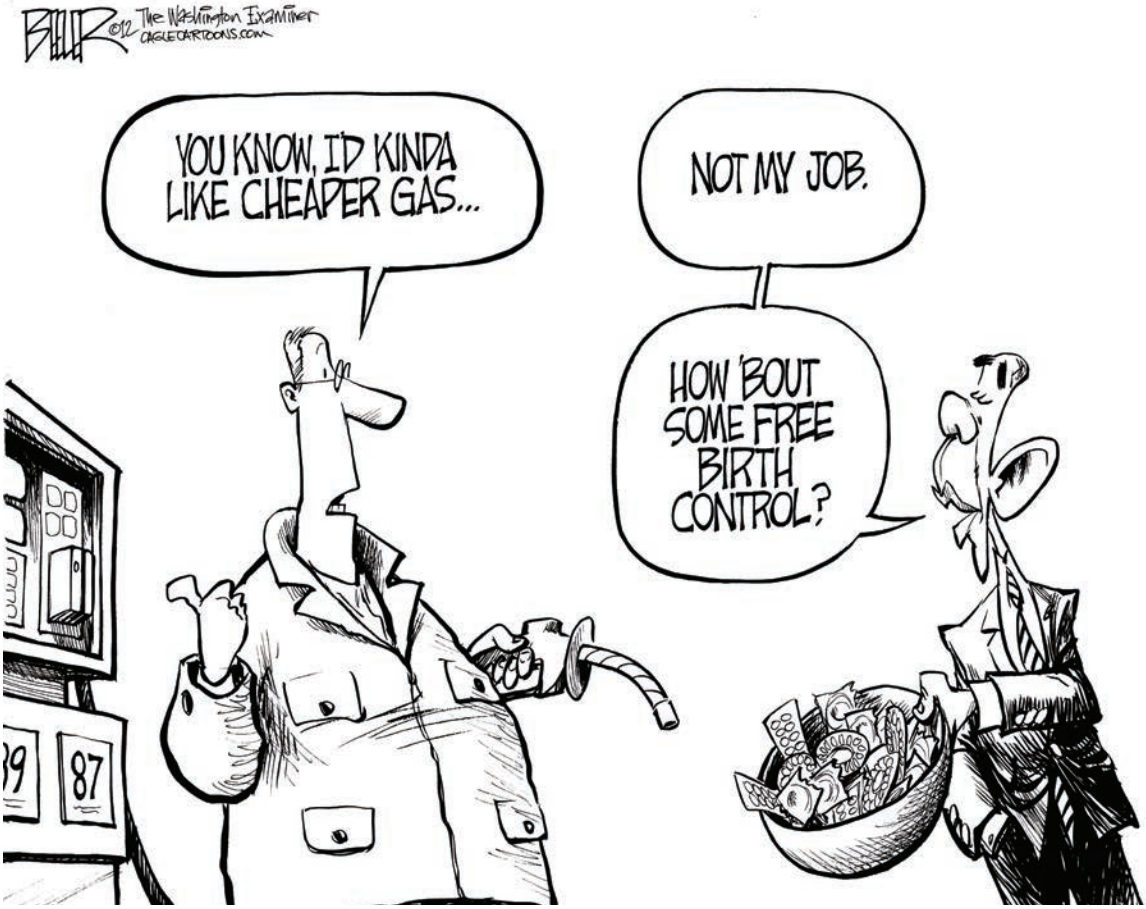
The Outlook staff believes there is a better way to create more diversity without using affirmative action. The general consensus is that affirmative action should not play a role in determining admission. Some members said this was necessary during the civil rights movement but not so much now. With affirmative action, diversity is created but not naturally which can lead to prejudice and hatred among races. The Outlook staff believes that students should be

admitted solely on their abilities and qualifications not the color of their skin or their gender.

Allowing affirmative action is seen as a form of racism according to The Outlook staff. The main point of college is to allow the world's best minds to tap into their potential, not give one race an opportunity over another. While, in one way, it may create diversity it encourages racism. The best candidates are the ones who deserve the positions.

According to the United States Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." These words say that before we are New Jerseyans, Americans, male or female, black, white, Hispanic or any other race, that we are part of the human race. By not realizing this, we forget everything our forefathers fought for.

Martin Luther King Jr. and other leaders who fought for equality would be disappointed in this program. "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character," stated King during his famous 1963 speech "I Have a Dream."



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Asbury Park: The Hidden Gem of the Jersey Shore

DIANA KUMPF
STAFF WRITER

After living in Long Branch for about four years, I have watched Asbury Park morph from a worn-down unsafe location into a flourishing treasure chest of prime day and night-time entertainment. The improvements that have been made to Asbury Park has made it an ‘it’ spot for young adults.

Whether it is live music, dining, or a fabulous bar scene, Asbury Park has it all. There are endless options for a night on the town, making it one of the most valuable outlets of entertainment available to students who live close to the University.

Asbury Park may be most well-known for The Stone Pony located on Ocean Avenue. It is a smaller bar that has decent size stages with platforms slightly off the dance floor. Signed Fenders, Gibsons, and other guitars line the walls.

The Stone Pony has held many performances by all kinds of different musicians, including the great Bruce Springsteen. It has been a spot for rising musicians for years.

Ever since my freshman year of college, a night at The Stone Pony was something looked forward to. A concert at The Stone Pony is like watching a band play at a party, except it could possibly be one of your favorite bands playing.

For example, the Pony recently hosted a sold out Citizen Cope show. This past week, students flocked to The Pony to rave at the Barstool

Blackout Party.

The list of big events that come through the Pony is long and im-

(another perk of living local).

After expressing my love for The Stone Pony to my friends, it was

experience the Stone Pony after four years of living only 4.5 miles away? How could you not take advantage of

Press Room offer live music and reasonable drink prices (a huge plus). But as students and locals to the area, it should be a requirement to pay your Rock n’ Roll respects to the Stone Pony at least once before graduating!

Maybe seeing awesome live performances isn’t your thing? That’s fine! Asbury’s bar crawling scene is plentiful and a refreshing change from the typical Jack’s or Draft House night. Bars such as Porta and the Watermark are a good time waiting to happen. Luckily for those who live close to campus, cabs are super cheap and accessible (and not to mention totally necessary).

If drinking is also not your style, there is no need to fret! Asbury has plenty of dining options that will please even the pickiest eaters. Specifically, Asbury Pies on Cookman Avenue is a pizza shop that is cheap and to die for (I suggest trying the stuffed garlic knots).

Wonder Bar, which neighbors the Stone Pony, has one of the tastiest burgers I have tasted in my life. Food-wise, the choices of restaurants in Asbury Park are endless.

As the summer nears, Asbury Park will become progressively more crowded and even more eventful. I implore people who have yet to experience Asbury Park to do so as soon as possible.

Because of the variety of possibilities for a fun day or night out, Asbury Park is my most cherished source of fun that I have had while attending our lovely University.



PHOTO COURTESY of uptake.com

The Stone Pony is one of the many popular attractions in Asbury Park that brings in locals and tourists.

pressive. Not to mention that tickets purchased directly from The Stone Pony are significantly cheaper than the tickets offered on Ticketmaster

brought to my attention that many of my fellow seniors at the University have yet to go to The Stone Pony. How could it be possible to never

such a gold mine of entertainment?

The Stone Pony is not the only spot in Asbury to see music. Other bars such as The Saint and The

A Lottery That Doe\$n’t Pay

ANNA CHAMBERLAIN
STAFF WRITER

This coming week is spring break and there are several great things to expect. Warmer weather, great trips and some time to recuperate from midterms. However there is one ominous aspect that waits for us when we return: the housing lottery.

It is quite ludicrous how people get during housing, but it is understandable. Everyone that day is on edge waiting for that e-mail each year to see if you should be jumping for joy or crying in the corner worrying if you are going to have a place to live next year.

Last year I told everyone not to talk to me about housing until I had

gotten my number. Even if you do not get a good number or get wait-listed, do not fret.

Residential Life is very helpful; however, here are a few things that are very important to consider. If you are a freshman or participating in the lottery for the first time, pay close attention.

One of the first things you need to worry about is not where you are living but whom you are living with. This has been repeated millions of times but it is the honest truth. Do NOT room with someone just because they may have a lower number.

This could lead to disagreements and drama in the next school year that are unnecessary and could put a strain on friendships. Remember

you are going to be with this person for a good portion of the time.

Along with discussing whom to room with, make sure you are going to be with people that are not going to flake out. I have seen this happen to several people who were supposed to room with certain friends, but because someone was not sure it turned into a huge fight.

Make sure in advance that everyone is set and agrees to the plans you have made.

If you are the person who is unsure, be honest about it. It can be a difficult conversation, but it is only as difficult as you make it. It is better to take care of this issue now than to wait until the last minute to discuss this issue.

Also, make sure that the people

you are rooming with are responsible and will be on time for rooming selections. Do not be afraid to assert this point because it can affect everyone in your group.

Once everyone agrees on a living situation, take the time to discuss rules and issues. Who is going to bring items for the bathroom? When does everyone usually wake up or go to bed? When do you do homework? How do you feel about guests? How do you feel about a boyfriend or girlfriend spending the night?

If you live in an apartment, who is going to take out the trash? Is there going to be a rule about who cooks and who does the dishes? Are you going to take turns cleaning? Even if you are living off-campus, these are good questions to ask to

see how things are going to flow between you and your roommates. This will avoid any type of conflict that might occur because it was never brought up.

Once the day arrives, make sure you are at housing selection a little early (you will get a certain time you have to be there based upon the lottery number). It will be nerve racking especially if you have a higher number and have to wait a while to be called.

The best thing to do when it comes to the lottery housing is to stay calm. It will be stressful but it is only as stressful as you make it out to be. If you have a set plan, responsible roommates, and keep your cool it will be a better experience for everyone.

Effective Attendance Policy is Absent

ADIT PATEL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The attendance policy at the University is a complete waste. There are tons of reasons why the policy should not exist. Take other schools as the first example, top schools in New Jersey like Rutgers. It does not actually have a set attendance policy; they “expect” attendance.

This may seem a little extreme but I feel as though Rutgers and other schools prosper not because of the overwhelming amount of people that attend their universities, but rather because they weed out the weak.

The students who are meant to go to school get a proper education because they are willing to go to class and prosper, while the students who want to party and not go to class fail.

If students want to work, they will work and if they do not, there is nothing anyone can do about it. No attendance policy is going to change how a student thinks. So why is it that if I got sick two days out of the semester and I overslept once, my

grade is going to go down? Sounds a little obnoxious right? Yeah, I think so too.

What truly is a major disappointment is the fact that no matter what is going on in my life, I can only miss two lectures for a specific class. Luckily for me I am prone to sickness.

My body knows when it’s overworked, so what essentially happens is every other week I have a cough and congestion. All I truly need on those days where I feel terrible is a day off, a couple hours to relax.

Everyone knows how their own body is feeling, and when it is overworked, it reacts to that. Why is it that when I do need a couple of hours to myself, I have to worry about my grade being lowered? Half the time when I do go to class in that state of mind, the professor sounds like they’re speaking in another language and are saying 200 words per second.

What grinds my gears the most about the attendance policy is the fact that it does not help your grade, it can only hurt it. Some teachers at

this school, definitely not all, look to get the normal distribution curve (bell curve).

Some professors will do anything to lower your grade. I had a foreign language professor who did everything in her power to get the perfect statistical curve. I promise you I’m not lying at all; she took off one point for every accent mark you missed.

How is it that even though I get the question right, you are going to mark it wrong because of one small portion of the answer? It is a 100 level class and you’re going to treat it like a 300+ level course. That definitely makes no sense to me.

In that same class, I remember one student missed a lot of classes but he always brought in doctors notes. And yet this professor had the nerve to not only question the fact that he was sick but also question the legitimacy of his doctors’ notes.

At the end of the day, what happened was she got her bell curve, the professor emailed the final letter grades to the class and sure enough the grades were distributed just as they would be in a bell curve.

The attendance policy gives an-

other excuse to lower my grade and yours, which is funny because in other classes the attendance policy doesn’t even matter.

There are some classes where professors take attendance but do not even look at it. In one class I missed five classes, made sure I was on the

ball with my work, went to the professors’ office hours, and nothing happened to my grade (I actually got a better grade than I was supposed to).

There is a definite bias in the classroom and the attendance policy adds to it. There’s no real point in having it.



PHOTO COURTESY of Brett Bodner

The attendance policy does not give much leeway for students missing class without a legitimate excuse.

Feeling the Pain at the Pump?

A Look at Who's to Blame for Rising Gas Prices

BRITTANY HARDAKER
STAFF WRITER

As gas prices continue to soar, the American people are being forced to make decisions that will best suit their financial needs. In a country where prices of everything only seem to go up, gas will be just an additional expenditure that the public will be required to face. As a result of this concern, politicians and government officials keep the high prices of gas as one of their top concerns.

While prices of gas are continuously rising and politics are weighing heavily on consumer's inability to afford fuel for their cars, they are forced to reevaluate their current cars and look towards smaller, more fuel-efficient vehicles.

According to an *Associated Press* article, "As gas prices rise, Detroit is better prepared with small car. Gas prices are spiking. But this time, Detroit is ready." The article explains that when gas prices soared in 2008, Detroit's three U.S. automakers, Ford, General Motors and Chrysler, were struggling. Unlike competitors, they did not have small cars and relied on trucks and SUVs for profits. However, "When gas prices peaked at \$4.12 in July of that year, sales from the Big Three (Ford, General Motors and Chrysler) plummeted more than 20 percent. That same month, sales of the fuel-sipping Toyota Corolla jumped 16 percent," the article explained.

In an effort to get better gas mileage on their vehicles consumers are shifting to small cars again. Although, the article said, "Prices have never been as high for this time of year. The price of a gallon of gas is up 46 cents this year to an average of \$3.74. Analysts say gas could hit \$4.25 by this April."

President Obama explained that regardless of preventative measures being taken by auto companies to help consumers lessen the need to fill their tanks as frequently, there is no easy fix for the rising of gas this year. According to the article, "Obama: Fuel-Efficient Cars an Answer to Gas Prices" from the Associated Press in March 2012, President Obama said that, "Higher auto mileage standards set under my administration and better cars built by a resurgent U.S. auto industry will save money at the gas pump over the long term."

He explained that Detroit automakers are planning to build cars that average nearly 55 miles per gallon by 2025, doubling current mileage standards. "That means folks will be able to fill up every two weeks instead of every week, saving the typical family more than \$8,000 at the pump over time," Obama said, "What's happening in Detroit will make a difference. But it won't solve everything. There's no silver bullet for avoiding spikes in gas prices every year."

Not only have politics played such an important role in gas prices and their rise and decline throughout the years, but gas has played an important role on politics, especially during the election process. Obama aides worry that fuel prices could hurt an American economic recovery that has been improving and also harm the president's re-election prospects.

According to the *Washington Post* article, "Obama calls on Congress to repeal federal subsidies for oil industry" from March 1, 2012, "President Obama reiterated his call for Congress to repeal federal subsidies to the oil industry Thursday, escalating a political skir-

mish with Republicans over rising gasoline prices amid evidence that much of the public remains uncertain about who is to blame."

Nearly one-quarter of Americans do not know who to hold responsible for the recent spike in gas prices, "Which have shot up 47 cents per gallon over the past two months," according to a new *Washington Post*-Pew Research Center poll. While statistics from this poll show that most Americans do not know who is at fault for the rise in gas prices, 18 percent blame the President while 14 percent blame big oil companies.

Considering the fact that this year is an election year, the question of oil and energy policies are of special concern. President Obama has been working diligently to rally support and shape public debate behind his policies on energy in order to prevent taking a political risk before the election.

For example, the *Washington Post* article explained that Obama continues to defend his energy policy in recent weeks, saying there were "no quick fixes" to escalating prices at the pump. He reiterated his policy by saying, "Every time you fill up your gas tank, they're making money," referring to big gas companies. "Let's put every single member of Congress on record: You can stand with oil companies, or you can stand up for the American people."

Like President Obama, many politicians are concerned with the

to rise right now is instability in the Middle East — this time in Iran."

According to a *CBS News* poll released February 29, 2012, "Amid a national spike in gas prices, two in three Americans," an alarming 67 percent, "say the hike in costs is causing them financial hardship at home." The poll surveyed more than a thousand adults nationwide as gas prices rose to an average of \$3.731 per gallon. Just one month ago, the average cost was more than \$0.30 cheaper. Of the 67 percent, 38 percent of those say that the hardship is serious.

Americans with lower household incomes are especially likely to feel pain at the pump. The poll showed that "49 percent of those earning less than \$50,000 say hikes in gas prices have caused them serious financial hardship; among those earning between \$50,000 and \$100,000, only 29 percent say the same thing. That number falls even further to 22 percent among those with incomes of \$100,000 and higher."

Similarly, the poll illuminated the statistical difference Republicans and Democrats feel in regards to gas prices. "At 37 percent, Republicans were more likely to say that they had experienced serious hardship due to the rising prices than were Democrats (28 percent), although 32 percent of people in both parties said the price hikes had caused them difficulties of some nature," the article said.

The poll showed regional differences as well. Americans living in



PHOTO COURTESY of hybridcars.com

A Chevy Volt is an electric car that more people are buying to avoid paying high gas prices.

high prices of gas and how they are affecting the American public this year. The recent spike in fuel has also raised a large amount of controversy and debate between Republicans and Democrats alike.

Obama's Republican presidential rivals have been criticizing the Obama administration's policies and blamed the President for the spike at the pumps. According to Andrea Saul, spokeswoman for Mitt Romney said, "Americans deserve a president who can deliver real energy solutions and pro-growth policies, not more empty rhetoric and broken promises."

According to the *Washington Post*-Pew Research Center poll, published in February 2012, there is a significant partisan split over whom to blame for the price spike, with 33 percent of Republicans naming Obama compared to just five percent of Democrats and 20 percent of independents. The poll also shows that 11 percent of the public cites uncertainty in Iran and the Middle East as the primary factor.

However, President Obama offered an explanation as to why gas prices in America are skyrocketing.

"Gas prices are still subject to spikes because the amount of oil we drill at home doesn't set the price of gas on its own. That's because oil is bought and sold in a world market. And just like last year, the biggest thing that's causing the price of oil

the West, or 43 percent of the American public, are most likely to suffer seriously from gas prices while we, those living in the Northeast, or 27 percent of Americans, are the least likely to suffer from the spike in gas prices, the poll exposed. In addition, 39 percent of Americans in both the Midwest and South said high gas prices had caused them serious economic hardship.

While politics are playing an ever-important role in the fuel game, the poll found that a majority of people believes that all Presidents, both past and present, have some control over the situation. Fifty-four percent say gas prices are something a president can do a lot about, while 34 percent think it is beyond any president's control."

These feelings also differ according to political party, the poll showed. "Republicans are more likely to say the president, now a Democrat, can do something significant to control the price of gas, while Democrats are more divided. Forty-two percent of Democrats say a president can do a lot about gas prices; 43 percent say it is beyond his control."

According to Dr. Dooley of the Department of Political Science and Sociology, "It appears that oil prices will continue to rise for the foreseeable future as tensions with Iran continue to grow." However, he questions whether or not that will have an impact politically for Presi-



PHOTO COURTESY of deathof1000papercuts.com

Ads like this are showing up across the Internet in response to the rising gas prices.

dent Obama. "That is a tough question," Dooley explains, "Oil prices are just one economic indicator voters will analyze, but sometimes it is not the most reliable when voting for a president."

In regards to the impact of gas prices on Presidential elections, Dooley said, "In 1984 when Ronald Reagan was running to keep his job as president, gas prices were almost as high as they had ever been and he defeated Walter Mondale without breaking much of a sweat."

Professor Murray of the Department of Political Science and Sociology also offered an interesting outlook on the impact of politics on gas prices this year. He said, "Gas prices are always fodder in a political campaign, but they are almost never as clearly linked as some would have you believe. Prices always go up in the spring and come back down in the fall to coincide with higher demand during the summer vacation season. With summer just around the corner, Americans will be faced with the hardship of continuous rising gas prices."

He then explained how during Presidential years, people notoriously look for political explanations for the decline of gas prices during fall months, "Such as an incumbent trying to manipulate the market to boost his reelection prospects," Murray said. "But the President has little control over this fluctuation. It will be worse this year, because anticipated disruptions in production are expected to make the summer price bubble much larger than normal. So we can expect Republicans to blame President Obama for the rising prices now and then offer some conspiracy theories when they come back down in September, just as Democrats did to George W. Bush when gas prices rose and fell in 2004," Murray concluded.

Lexi Todd, a Political Science major at the University also has strong feelings about the seemingly limitless gas prices our American public is faced with on a daily basis. "Unfortunately as a commuter the constantly increasing price of gas is a necessary evil. Every week when I go to fill my tank the prices seem to creep closer and closer to the four dollar a gallon mark, and

as the demand for gas continues to rise so will the prices," Todd said. "Politically I do believe that Obama's economic programs are at least partially to blame for the worsening conditions and the lack of improvement. What the average citizen fails to recognize, however, is that gas prices are determined primarily by the global marketplace. So while demand may not be at an all time high in the United States, demand in China and India remains strong, therefore oil companies are not very likely to lower prices any time soon."

Throughout the past few years, students all over the country have been faced with skyrocketing gas prices and are especially impacted by the commute to and from school. However, the University is working hard to help students get the best gas mileage.

Vaughn Clay, Director of Off-Campus and Commuter Services explained, "Commuter students at Monmouth University have over the last 10 years had to contend with some dramatic swings in gas prices. As a regular response to those economic shifts, the Office of Off-Campus and Commuter Service's (OCCS) has attempted to provide our students with a variety of information about stretching their gallons of gas as far as possible."

Clay offered some informative ways that students can get the best mileage out of their vehicles. He said, "Students can improve their gas mileage by three percent by making sure that their tires are properly inflated. By changing the air filter, they can improve their gas mileage by up to 10 percent depending upon the make, model and whether or not it is fuel injected. Finally, another step students can take to improve their gas mileage is by making sure the car is properly tuned up."

However, like many American commuters have been doing throughout the course of the past few years, Clay recommends, "Another great way to save money at the pumps is by carpooling with a friend, roommate or classmate. The savings really depend on how often you can carpool."

If students would like to learn more about living a greener life off-campus and carpooling, Clay recommends visiting OCCS's website at www.monmouth.edu/commuter or by emailing occs@monmouth.edu.

Syrian Violence Becoming International Issue

DAN ROMAN
STAFF WRITER

Continued violence and bloodshed in Syria shows little sign of stopping. The brutal regime of this Middle Eastern country has continued its crackdown on apparent “opposition” groups. The number of people killed during the violence is unknown. Rebel forces estimate 9,000 people have been killed. The government is saying that 2,000 security officers were killed. Citizen journalists and opposition members have given evidence to the contrary showing the attacking has intentionally been going after innocent civilians. YouTube videos and activist accounts have shown government forces shelling buildings of civilians and attacking random people in the street.

Those in the opposition fighting against this repressive regime vow to not stop fighting unless Assad is out of power. The activist named “Danny” whose real name has been hidden because of safety concerns, told *CNN*, “The fighting will not stop until Assad is stopped, or all of the activists are dead.” David Wallsh, a PhD student in International Affairs at Tufts University believes that this situation will not end soon. “The Assad regime has an overwhelming military advantage over the opposition, and neither the opposition nor the international community has figured out how to match it.” Al-Assad is a member of the

minority Alawite population in Syria. Alawite is a religious outshoot of Shiite Islam. According to *CNN*, the government began

of people at risk because the government is turning them away. The Assad regime is trying to hide the atrocities going on in the

ber nations of the Arab League has been put on the government of Syria to stop the senseless violence. This has not stopped Assad,

the “Legitimate representative of the people.” The Syrian National Council has also begun to organize with the Free Syrian Army and has established a “Military Bureau” to coordinate with them. In order for Assad to be stopped the opposition needs organization. and strength. It has been shown that the people of Syria will not stop fighting until the Assad regime is out, and the more the government tries to stop the freedom fighters, the more they are able to recruit and gain more resources.

During the Arab spring, the dictator has not been able to defeat the fight for freedom. Conventional wisdom holds that when the people of a country fight for their rights, they will win. Dr. Patten, Chair of the Political Science Department, believes it is a matter of time before Assad is out of power “Authoritarian regimes are quickly becoming extinct in the Arab world. It won’t be long before Assad’s regime is toppled and the people of Syria are free” said Patten.

Monmouth freshman Alec Stabile believes that the United States needs to intervene. “I think the United States is in a unique position where they can publicly denounce Assad and show the world that we support all people who fight oppression and authoritarianism.” Once the SNC has legitimacy, the rebels will be able to peel support away from the Assad regime.



PHOTO COURTESY of abcnews.com

Syrian rebels burn a picture of President Al Assad at an anti-government rally.

attacking the majority Sunni anti-government protesters.

The world cannot be silent on this issue; innocent people are dying in Syria. Aid workers cannot get through to help the hundreds

embroiled country from the rest of the world.

Fortunately, The U.N. Human Rights council recently condemned the crackdown. Enormous international pressure from mem-

who is still ramping up attacks on his own people.

Trying a different approach, the European Union recently recognized the Syrian National Council (SNC) opposition to Assad, as

Will Super Tuesday Be Super for Romney and Santorum?

Super Tuesday Could Become Crucial to Winner of the Republican Nomination

SAM MAYNARD
STAFF WRITER

Mitt Romney won the Arizona Republican primary by a wide margin. Romney was also reported to have initially won his home state of Michigan over challenger Rick Santorum by three percentage points, however after a recount it was called a tie. This led to the two candidates splitting the delegates.

While this is not the outcome Mitt Romney had hoped for, it is still a promising result for him going into Super Tuesday.

With the tremendous amount of mistakes he is making it is understandable why he is still struggling to become the clear front-runner in this race. While his win on Tuesday was good for his campaign, he’ll have to kick it up a notch and prove to voters in the Super Tuesday states that he is the candidate that is capable and prepared to defeat Barack Obama in a general election. Political Science major Alexandria Todd responded, “I think Romney will ride the wave of momentum he gathered from his victories in Arizona and Michigan.”

Rick Santorum has proven to be more than just a dark horse, making every step of this race a struggle for the Romney camp. From what looked like a clear-cut loss for Santorum actually turned out to yield big gains and definitely improve his chances come March 6th. Dr. Joseph Patten, Chair of the Political Science Department stated, “Santorum seems to be wounded after making a few political missteps in past weeks. As Romney’s main competitor this will be crucial.”

Controversy was bred in Michigan, when the Santorum cam-

paign circulated automated calls appealing to Democrats to cross party lines and vote against Romney in the open primary. While Romney still has a relatively safe lead, what Santorum was able to do cannot be overlooked. Santorum took half of the delegates from Romney’s home state. Santorum may be able to garner solid

points. He also has a commanding lead in Oklahoma with about 42 percent. Romney currently stands at third place in the state.

While Santorum seems to have the backing of solid conservative voters, this still will not make up alone for the overwhelming advantage Mitt Romney has in the rest of the Super Tuesday states.

is drawing large blocks of voters. In Virginia, Mitt Romney and Ron Paul are the only candidates on the ballot, since Santorum and Gingrich did not file in time. Still, Romney leads Ron Paul by an extremely big gap, 69 percent to 26 percent. It is safe to say that he will win Virginia’s delegates. Although Romney is leading,

ing to the *Post/ABC* poll, “By better than two to one, Americans say the more they learn about Romney, the less they like him.”

Santorum on the other hand may be appealing to a limited audience by maintaining his extreme right-wing views on matters like contraception and religion in politics. The ultra-conservative rhetoric leads many to believe that he will be unable to put up a serious fight against the incumbent, President Obama. Santorum, when asked about religion involved with politics on *ABC’s* “This Week” he stated, “The idea that the church can have no influence or no involvement in the operation of the state is absolutely antithetical to the objectives and vision of our country.”

Still, these points may be irrelevant if one candidate cannot draw numbers that exceed those of President Obama’s. In the same *NBC news/Marist* poll, Obama leads Romney in Ohio 50 percent to 38 percent. He also leads Romney in Virginia 52 percent to 35 percent.

These numbers indicate that voters are not satisfied with the Republican field, and if they have to settle, they seem to be doing it for Mitt Romney. Patten commented by saying, “Romney has been given an important advantage for Super Tuesday, but it will be much harder for him to collect enough delegates to secure the nomination with the new rules of the Republican Primaries. Given that it is no longer strictly winner-take-all, all of the candidates have a chance to stick around until the convention and limit the amount of support Romney can receive.”

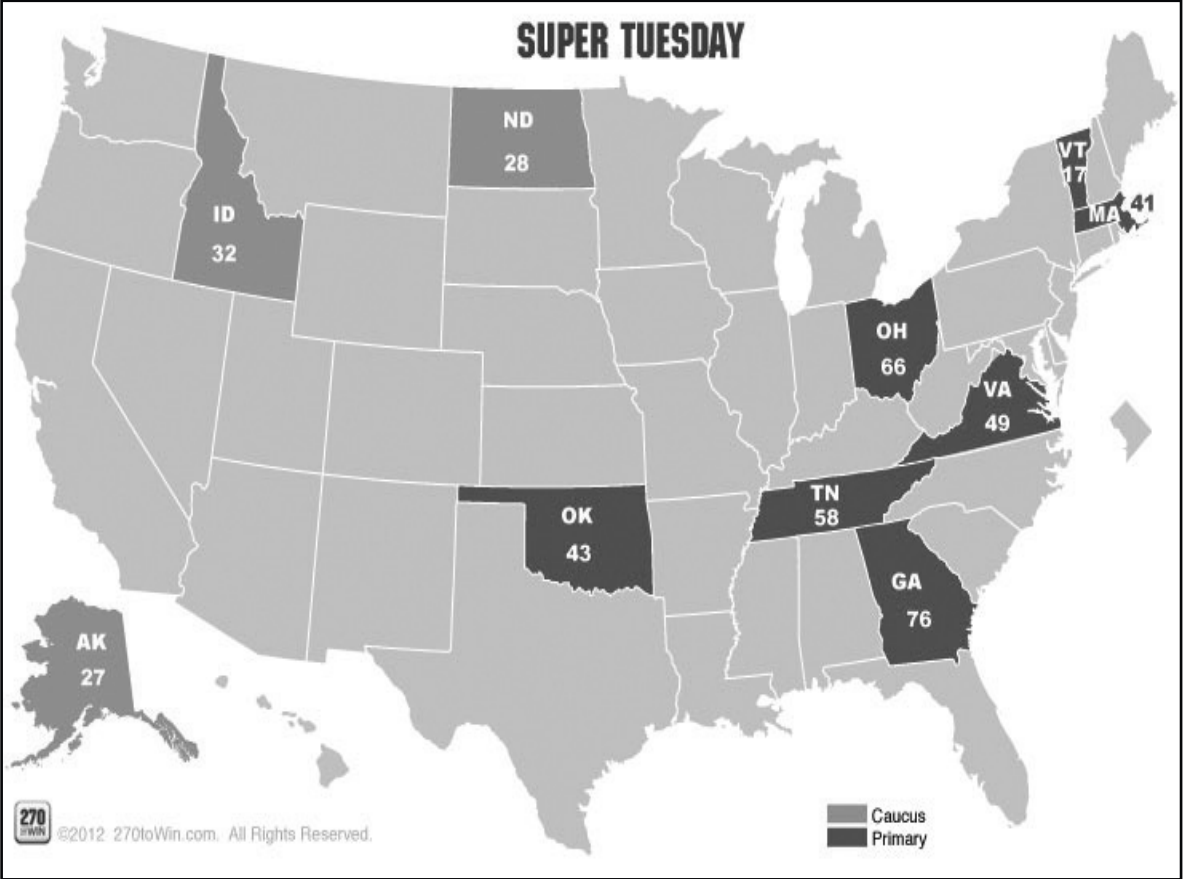


PHOTO COURTESY of 270towin.com

Ten states have primaries on Super Tuesday, which will help determine the Republican nominee.

support from states like Ohio, which has one of the highest delegate counts of 66. According to a recent *NBC News/Marist* poll, Santorum has a slight lead on Romney by about two percentage

In his stronghold of Massachusetts, a Suffolk University poll places Romney in the lead with 64 percent support. The numbers are similar in North Dakota, Vermont, and Idaho, where Romney

the question of electability still looms. Many are struggling to buy the fact that he’s a true conservative. According to a *US-news.com* article “Mitt Romney’s Electability Problem”, “Accord-

The Benefits of Organic Meat

SLOANE CORAN
STAFF WRITER

Because of the rapidly increasing “green” movement and growing concern for the environment, organic food is at the forefront of many consumers’ minds--and that includes meat. Raised without the use of growth hormones, antibiotics or other harmful substances, organic meat involves sustainable farming practices that help keep the environment clean and pristine. Compared to conventional meat, choosing organic can benefit your body as well as the planet.

To reach organic standards, meat must be free from antibiotics, growth hormones, bioengineering and ionizing radiation, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. Organic meat farmers adhere to guidelines that promote ecological balance, including the use of renewable resources, the conservation of water and the avoidance of farming methods that pollute the air, water and soil. Many organic farmers raise their animals in pastures rather than closed feedlots, resulting in “pastured,” “free-range” or “cage-free” animal products.

When meat satisfies the requirements for organic processing in America, it receives a “USDA Certified Organic” label to distinguish it from conventional meat, the United States Department of Agriculture notes. Although organic meat is not available at all grocery stores, you may be more likely to find it at natural health shops, farmers markets, food co-ops or straight from local farms.

Organic meat is said to offer benefits for health, animal welfare and the environment. According to Princeton University, organic cows that are grass-fed tends to have less total fat and higher levels of omega-3 fatty acids in their beef rather than conventional beef, making it a better choice for heart health than

conventional beef fed a grain-based diet. In addition, organic farming bans the use of purported cancer-promoting growth hormones and antibiotics in animals, leading to fewer health risks in humans and minimizing the evolution of antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria. Organic meat may also reduce animal cruelty and suffering. Organically raised animals often have drastically better living conditions than animals raised in feedlots and commercial farms, Princeton University explains.

“Overall, if people are going to consume meats, investing in organic, free-range meats from a reputable and local trusted food market such as Whole Foods is the best option,” says Mary Harris, who is not only the Director of the Monmouth Area Vegetarian Society (MAVS), but also a Specialist Professor and owner of a local business called Heaven and Earth in Bayville, NJ.

Some forms of organic meat may still pose health risks. Fatty cuts of meat, whether organic or not, contain high levels of saturated fat and cholesterol. These are two substances that can raise your blood cholesterol levels and increase your risk of heart disease, according to Mayo-

Clinic.com.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture regulates the National Organic Program as part of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990. This program oversees the production and handling of organic foods in a way that promotes wise use of resources and ecological balance of the soil and environment.

According to the Organic Trade

The USDA National Organic Program requires farms to allow on-site inspections to ensure they are following the organic standards set in the program, so that they can label their food as organic when it goes to market. Farmers must keep detailed accounting of their production and handling plans to show proof their livestock was fed organic food since they were in utero.

A growing concern that has been brought to light by the movie *Food, Inc.* by Marion Nestle, author and department of nutrition and food studies chair at New York University, is the use of genetically modified food such as corn. Corn is one of the biggest food crops, used in a large percentage of foods as a filler. Non-organic farmers feed it to livestock. However, Northwestern Health Sciences University suggests that feeding

grain causes the guts of livestock to become compromised, and in combination with pesticides and antibiotics, provides a lower standard of food than that that comes from organically fed animals.

Experts aren’t sure yet if organic foods actually contain more nutrients than conventional foods, but there are health benefits to consuming less pesticides, antibiotics, hormones and other chemicals that are added to conventional foods.

Meat, poultry and dairy items are among the most important products to consider when buying organic for several reasons. Most conventional livestock comes from concentrated-animal feeding operations (CAFOs). According to *Food, Inc.*, the print accompaniment to the documentary film, these are industrial-scale facilities where thousands of animals are fed and housed together in very close proximity.

In these cramped conditions, disease can spread quickly; therefore, farmers dose each animal with antibiotics. Karl Weber, the editor of the film, asserts that increased use of antibiotics on livestock leads to antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria that can eventually pass to humans.

Organic animals don’t need antibiotics because they don’t live in such tight quarters. USDA organic standards prohibit farmers from giving any medical treatment to animals unless they are sick, including antibiotics and synthetic pesticides.

Organic farmers and ranchers are also prohibited from giving their animals hormones or supplements to promote growth. Conventional feedlots engage in this practice in order to make livestock grow faster, so that they can be slaughtered sooner, which lowers the cost of raising them.

According to Weber, ingesting hormones from meat can lead to hormonal imbalances that may cause cancer. Organic, grass-fed beef is also higher in Omega-3 fatty acids, which can lower cholesterol, beta-carotene and vitamin E.

Organic meat can be two or three times more expensive than the pesticide, herbicide, synthetic fertilizer, hormone and antibiotic laden, factory farmed versions. The good news is that there are ways that will help you save money without having to compromise on health, safety and the future of the planet.

How to Save Money When Buying Organic Meat

1. Eat less meat.
 - If organic meat is twice as expensive, then buy organic, but eat half as much. Most of us meat-eaters eat way too much per serving. Adults only need a portion of meat the size of the palm of our hand, not including our fingers.
2. Buy organic meat when it is on sale and freeze it.
3. Substitute protein.
 - If you eat meat two or three times a day then substitute one or more meals with organic eggs, dairy, nuts, fish, legumes etc. for protein.

Association, the philosophy behind organic meat production is to provide conditions necessary to meet the health needs as well as the natural behavioral needs of animals by leaving them in their natural environment. Organic livestock live outdoors to feed on grass, exposed to fresh air and sunlight and they are fed only 100 percent organic feed.

Organic livestock do not eat animal byproducts of any kind, plastic pellets or any other foreign substance.

New York Fashion Week Previews Upcoming Styles

CASEY REIDY
STAFF WRITER

Each year the city that never sleeps welcomes designers from all over the world to display their newest collections over the course of eight days. The event becomes a top priority for celebrities, merchants and consumers alike everywhere. This glamorous event is New York Fashion Week, and students at the University can rest assured that they will be seeing its effects shortly.

The Spring 2012 New York Fashion Week boasted designers such as Michael Kors, Marc Jacobs, Nicole Miller and more than 200 others. Each of these collections have a theme may it be colors, design or overall feel. These themes are the basis by which many style forecasters predict the trends of this upcoming fall and winter.

So what styles should we expect to see around the University next semester? “Sleek minimalist tailoring, Asian influences, black-and-white graphic schemes, and bright color-blocking” were amongst some of the biggest trends seen across the board says Fashion Critic Booth Moore in an *LA Times* article titled *New York Fashion Week: Trends In Women’s Wear*.

Senior Amy Rodriguez, who is interested in fashion, watched clips of several shows on the Internet and has been following press articles over the past month about the presentations. “One thing I noticed to be consistent throughout many design-

ers is the color orange. Many prints patterns and fabrics used in the cases are orange or shades of red-orange. I think we can ex-

pect to see a lot of this around campus next fall,” she says.

Another trend that can be expected for the upcoming fall semester here at the University

is going green in fashion. And no, we are not talking about the color. Many designers of New York’s



PHOTO COURTESY of inhabitat.com

Fashion Week is a source for anyone to get their fashion tips for the upcoming season.

Fashion Week decided to go green with their use of recycled fabrics and materials. Over 20 designers incorporated environmentally friendly products into

their collections, according to Ecouterre, a couture based fashion blog that focuses on designers who try to go green.

Only time will tell if these trends will reach the University, but it seems that many students are excited to welcome them.

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

GENDER STUDIES

PROGRAM

SPRING 2012 EVENTS

FILMS

Don't miss
"THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES"
 Tues. Mar. 6, 7:30 p.m, Pollak

"ORGASM, INC.
 The Strange Science of Female Pleasure"

This shocking and hilarious documentary offers a "powerful look inside the medical industry and the marketing campaigns that are literally and figuratively reshaping our everyday lives around health, illness, desire – and that ultimate moment: orgasm."

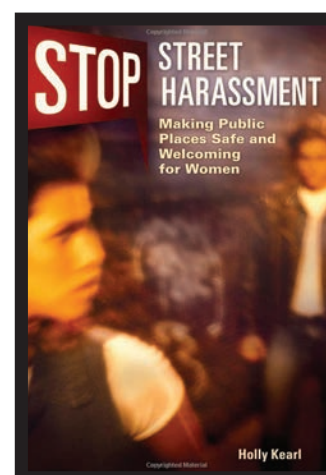
Wed. Mar. 7 Screening
 4:30pm - 6:15pm, Magill 107/108/109
 *The film runs 80 minutes, followed by a brief post-show discussion.

GUEST SPEAKERS

"Madonna and Me."
 Contributing authors of a new anthology.
<http://www.madonnaandmebook.com/index.html>
 Wed. Mar. 21; 4:30, Magill 107/108/109

Holly Kearl
 Author of "Stop Street Harassment: Making Public Spaces Safe and Welcoming for Women."
 Wed. Mar. 28, 4:30, Magill 107/108/109

GS faculty forum
 featuring the research of Dr. Andi Hope and Dr. Heather Brown.
 Thurs. April 5, during MU's Global Understanding Conference.



**All are invited to
 our second GS
 spring meeting:**

Wed. April 11,
 11:30 -1 pm, McAllan 115
 (note new date!)

For more info:
http://www.monmouth.edu/academics/gender_studies/default.asp

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Comedy of Errors Has Audiences Laughing Across the World

DAN STE. MARIE
STAFF WRITER

William Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors*, starring British comedian Lenny Henry, was performed at Royal National Theatre in London, England last Thursday with National Theatre Live broadcasting the performance across the world at 700 cinemas in 22 countries, including Pollak Theatre.

Alyssa Caporaso, a sophomore and an employee at Pollak Theatre, was attending the event for a theatre appreciation class and helping to collect sign-in sheets for the classes. She had high hopes for tonight's production as she heard it was "very funny."

"The shows are very cool," said Caporaso. "[At] these kinds of events you will see a lot of people come out because obviously they're all students. And Monmouth offers a lot of great programs."

The play begins with Egeon (Joseph Mydell), a merchant of Syracuse imprisoned by Solinus (Ian Burfield), the Duke of Ephesus, for being in the city illegally and is to be executed unless he comes up with a thousand marks. Egeon begs for mercy as he tells a tragic tale of his wife giving birth to twins and buys a set of twins to "attend" to his sons. The family then set sail back home but the ship was destroyed, splitting the family apart.

Now Egeon's son, Antipholus of Syracuse (Lenny Henry), is all grown up and goes out in search for his twin brother and mother along with his servant Dromio (Lucian Msamati). Egeon is worried he'll lose his whole family, embarking on his own quest until he is captured. Duke sympathizes with Egeon, granting him one more day to find his son and come up with the fine or be killed.

After this sad but hopeful story, the errors and comedy begin im-

mediately as Antipholus and Dromio arrive in Ephesus. Dromio is sent off to deposit some money as Antipholus considers how to spend his time, just as Dromio walks on stage sooner than expected. Yet, it's not Dromio of Syracuse but his long lost twin brother, Dromio of Ephesus (Daniel Poyser) who works for Antipholus's twin brother, wanting who he thinks is his master to return home to his suspicious wife.

Confused? So were all the characters involved as Dromio of Ephesus is beaten for joking about Antipholus having a wife. When Adriana (Claudie Blakley), wife of Antipholus of Ephesus, and her sister Luciana (Michelle Terry) hear about Antipholus's denial of being married, they send Dromio back to find his master as the sisters also go on a hunt for Adriana's husband.

The sisters find Antipholus and Dromio of Syracuse in a pool hall. Adriana pleads with who she thinks is her husband to come home while flaunting her good looks and seducing Antipholus and the rest of the cast. Antipholus and Dromio can't shake them off and think women from Ephesus practice witchcraft. They reluctantly agree to go home with them while snapping their fingers for superstitions. Soon after, the audience meets Antipholus of Ephesus (Chris Jarman) who is locked out of his home and leaves in a huff to sleep with another woman to get back at his wife.

What really brings this production to life is the endless energy each of the characters exudes. Both Dromios are beaten excessively by either their master or master's twin, continually jumping and running around stage. The sisters trump around in their high heels like "The Real Housewives of Ephesus" and command just as much attention as they yell at the top of their lungs. Then there's the Antipholuses, both constantly caught in confusion of what's going on as their



PHOTO COURTESY of sketchesontheatre.blogspot.com

Lenny Henry played Antipholus of Syracuse in the Shakespeare play, *Comedy of Errors*, who searches for his lost twin brother and mother with humorous results. It was broadcasted to Pollak Theatre from London's Royal National Theatre via National Theatre Live.

anger is stretched throughout the show. They scream at their servants and are chased by a mob, but have no problem laughing at their unexpected fortune or smiling at their love.

Freshman Norman Ryan, who was also at the event for a theatre appreciation class, had a hard time deciphering what the actors were saying due to the language, but he was still laughing at the things they did. "I can follow what they're doing," Ryan said. "She's [Adriana] jumping on tables and he's [Antipholus of Syracuse] getting on one knee, so I can understand that."

Live theatre is all about making the cue and hitting the mark, and the cast did both masterfully well. When a maid throws water off a balcony below, a merchant is strategically placed. While the slapstick humor

seemed easy to perform, each time one of the Dromios was beat by an Antipholus with either rope, a dinner plate or pool cue, it was only because the actors were nicely directed by Dominic Cooke and fight director Kate Waters.

In between scenes, set pieces were swiftly changed with the help of a moveable stage that gave the setting of a vibrant city. While the sets were being changed, a group of musicians acting as a street band performed songs that went well with the previous scene, like "Iron Man" by Black Sabbath, as the sisters first set out on their search for Antipholus under the impression he's cheating. "Crazy" by Gnarlz Barkley is heard after Antipholus and Dromio of Syracuse think the sisters are witches.

Egeon and Solinus are shown briefly through these set changes as Egeon searches for money and his family.

While this is one of Shakespeare's first plays and intended for audiences during the Middle Ages, director Cooke transcends the work to modern times very well that all audiences can enjoy. When Adriana acts like an animal while being intimate with her husband's twin, the crowd howls in laughter in Pollak Theatre and Royal National Theatre. Gross humor was sparingly used like the Dromio brothers exchanging flatulence through an intercom, but kept all audience members laughing.

"I loved the play, I've never seen it or read it before," said Anne Cannon, of Ocean Township. "I come to Pollak all the time, especially for the operas. I think it's wonderful here."

Don't Fall Asleep While Traveling Between Parallel Universes

NICOLE MASSABROOK
STAFF WRITER

The pilot for NBC's new drama "Awake" is phenomenal. The show does what most pilot episodes are incapable of: Giving you much more than what is in the trailer. Most new shows spend their pilot giving you an extended version of their trailer, but "Awake" goes through most of that footage in the first 10 minutes.

We see Michael Britten (Jason Issacs) get into a car accident with his wife and son, and it's revealed that he is living in two realities. In one his son died, while in the other, his wife was the victim. Michael doesn't know which is real and has no desire for either reality to disappear, but that was just the first 10 minutes.

Michael is also a homicide detective. In each world he has a different partner and a different case. Details from each case seem to slip into the other. The address 611 Waverly Place is important in the killing of a taxi driver while the parking spot 611 in Waverly Parking Garage is important in his kidnapping case.

Details like that go back and forth, which should indicate which reality is a dream, but don't.

One detail will appear in the reality with his son and then appear in the reality with his wife. Meanwhile, another detail will appear in his wife's reality and then slip into his son's reality. Viewers don't know which reality is real



PHOTO COURTESY of fanpop.com

Whenever Detective Michael Britten (Jason Isaacs) wakes up, he alternates between universes where either his wife or son survives a car accident in the new NBC drama, "Awake."

and neither does Michael.

If your head is spinning already, don't worry too much. The show makes it really easy to identify which reality Michael is in, and understanding the premise is much easier to watch than read. The show flows really well so that it is fast paced but is still easy for viewers to grasp.

They also use colors to help viewers remember which reality they're in. In the reality with his wife, Michael has a red rubber band and all of the scenes are shot in warmer, yellow tones. When he

is awake with his son, Michael's rubber band is green and the shots are in cooler, blue tones.

The show blends the elements of a procedural drama and a sci-fi thriller quite well. I dislike most procedural cop shows because they're too plot-driven and follow the same formula every week. "Awake" might turn out to be slightly formulaic, but it's not a formula that any other television show has right now.

The show is also very character driven. It's more about how this situation is affecting Michael and

those around him rather than figuring out why it's happening (though it is a subject that has to be addressed eventually). It shows very different ways of how his wife and son cope with loss.

The weakness of character driven shows is often casting. If the cast can't do the material justice, the show will quickly fall to pieces.

Luckily, "Awake" is incredibly well cast. Issacs has left *Harry Potter's* evil Lucius Malfoy completely behind for the

sympathetic, conflicted Michael. For some reason, the casting of kids in adult dramas often doesn't go well, but again, "Awake" doesn't have this problem with Dylan Minnette playing Michael's son, Rex.

Wilmer Valderrama ("That 70's Show") was a surprising choice for the role of Michael's partner, rookie detective Efrem Vega, but the comedian plays the dramatic role well.

The ratings for the pilot episode were decent, but not great. This could be because the show airs after NBC's comedy lineup on Thursdays at 10 pm. It doesn't exactly fit in with shows like "The Office" or "Up All Night," but there aren't really any similar shows on NBC right now that would be a good match.

The only thing that I can't tell is how exactly this show will go on for years. Michael says he doesn't want to figure out which reality is real, but that's going to have to change sooner or later.

While a show with two overlapping crimes a week is watchable, it will get old fast if no progress is made with Michael. However the previews for coming episodes make it seem like this won't be a problem. It seems as if they'll be digging right into the show's mythology and why Michael is living in two realities.

I'm not sure what direction the show is going in, but I'm definitely excited to continue watching and find out.

There's More Than One Reason to Stay Out of This House

JENNA INTERSIMONE
SENIOR EDITOR

Editor's Note: Recently, *The Outlook* attended the Associated Collegiate Press College Journalism Convention in Seattle, WA. While there, they had the opportunity to see an advance screening of the suspense-thriller, *Silent House*, opening on March 9.

"Remember what we went through?" asks Sophia (Julia Taylor Ross), the eerie-eyed childhood playmate of Sarah (Elizabeth Olsen), when she unexpectedly shows up at Sarah's doorstep after a number of years apart.

Unfortunately, Sophia, *Silent House* is as forgettable as the mothballs, wicker furniture and broken folding chairs that sit untouched in corners throughout its dusty chambers.

Sarah is a blatantly bland and awkward college dropout who visits her family's run-down lake house with her father John (Adam Trese) and Uncle Peter (Eric Sheffer Stevens), two brothers who maintain their childlike and idiotic bickering left over from their younger years. John is a seemingly tender and vulnerable dad who banters effortlessly with his daughter, while Uncle Peter is slightly more reckless and juvenile, easily falling into bouts of temper tantrums with his brother.

When Uncle Peter gets in yet another stint with John and storms off into the night, he leaves Sarah and John with the daunting duty of sorting through the family keepsakes that are scattered in heaps of plastic and piles. When Sarah hears a suspicious sound, she asks that John investigate, and when he doesn't



PHOTO COURTESY of feardex.com

In *Silent House*, Sarah (played by Elizabeth Olsen) is trying to avoid terror for 85 agonizing minutes while staying at her family's dilapidated lake house.

return, Sarah sets off through the house to try and find him. Like an episode of "Hoarders" gone wrong, this sends the characters in a scramble about the house that's filled with moldy men, suspicious photographs, and wandering children.

If this sounds familiar, that's because this is basically the premise for every cheap-thrills horror movie ever made. The electricity is out and no one has a cell phone? How convenient! Sarah heard another noise and she's going to check it out? What a great idea! We spend the film waiting for another shadow to appear in the foreboding darkness and for Sarah to run down the stairs again in a frenzied panic.

However, it was sort of cool to see the shots of Sarah running around taken from only a single take, courtesy of cinematographer Igor Martinovic, which made me feel like Sarah did, terrorized and hysterical. There are some interesting angles, although at times the shakes and blurs of the cameras made me feel sick. This is probably because these effects are overused and, at times, the film is lacking a set scene for the audience to actually figure out what is occurring.

These overdone takes, however, are accompanied with the subtle yet spine-chilling original music by Nathan Larson, fitting effortlessly to the shadowy scenes.

The set itself is subtle as well, thanks to set decorator Robert

Covelman since the set has small eccentricities that make the movie feel more real, such as the hair-raising green rabbit wallpaper and the plastic toy dinosaur. These little details make it feel like this could be your own summer home or your grandma's home in the woods.

Olsen does a noble job as well of making audiences feel like they too could be running amok at this terrorized lake house. If you're expecting to meet the "third" Olsen twin, get ready to forget they are even related.

Olsen easily distinguishes herself from the once-bubbly and now-gloomy twins by being perfectly seated in the middle; she is a normal person experiencing ex-

traordinary problems. She does a superb job as the victim who finds herself in a horrific situation, completely enveloped by fear and frailty.

While the secrets lurking within *Silent House* are sinister and thought-provoking, the movie feels unfinished. It's as if directors Chris Kentis and Laura Lau decide to ditch the woodland home and head off to another location like the Jersey shore when things begin getting a bit too creepy for comfort.

At 85 minutes, *Silent House* is not short and sweet, but instead just... short. However, at the same time, I could cut this movie in half (let's ditch some of these scenes of Olsen running back and forth and screaming maniacally) and the end result would be exactly the same. The movie is lacking depth, yet is filled with useless takes.

Perhaps contributing to its lack of depth is *Silent House's* meaningless dialogue. Much of what is actually spoken takes place before any real action even occurs and has nothing to do with the plot. It is just chatty dialogue from screenwriter Laura Lau.

This film doesn't run on dialogue or action. Instead, it runs on thoughts and interpretations, most of which remains incomplete and left to the audience to make up for themselves, which feels like a get-out-of-the-haunted-house-free card.

Silent House has pointless hiding and running (like *The Strangers*) and confusing psychological thrills (such as *Secret Window*), but just like those movies, it reminds us we all have skeletons in the closet. Sometimes even if we try to escape them, they can manage to crawl on out and haunt us until we're sent away screaming.

Mario Kart 7 Hits a Few Bumps in the Road on the 3DS

NICK SEGRETO
STAFF WRITER

And they're off... whether you like it or not in 3D. Like 3D, your opinion for *Mario Kart 7* will most likely be that you love it for staying true to the formula of *Mario Kart* racers or you'll hate it for not changing a thing since *Mario Kart 64*. I'm more on the latter track in this case.

To be fair, there is some, and I do mean some, innovation for *Mario Kart 7*. As far as game play goes, you'll find that there is the new hang glider on all of the karts. Fortunately it isn't an item you pick up but something that will always be implemented on the course and you'll have to get acquainted with it.

One of the better things about the *Mario Kart* games is their easiness to pick up and play. You drive forward, you use an item, that's all you need to know to pick the game up and play it. There are a few levels of depth, mostly in mastering drift boosting, and now in making the use out of gliding in the air. *Mario Kart 7* is no exception, which isn't a bad thing.

As far as graphics go, the game looks pretty. It's vibrant and colorful, each track has a unique look to it and the colors match the theme the track represents. Since it's on the 3DS I'm obligated to bring up that elephant in the room and answer the question: Is the 3D any good?

I won't lie, the 3D actually looks decent. The racers actually appear like they're jumping out as they turn the track. However, the rest of the track is blurred and it's difficult to tell where the items and obstacles are. It really messed with my hand



PHOTO COURTESY of geek.com

Despite 3D and new elements like hang gliding, *Mario Kart 7* for the 3DS is mostly the same racing game players have seen already.

eye coordination, so I just turned the 3D off and never turned it back on.

Like most *Mario Kart* games, the music is somewhat lacking in my opinion. After listening to the music itself without the noise of red shells hitting me and my own shouting, I noticed the music does improve. However, I could have just as easily turned the volume off and it wouldn't have made too much of a difference.

Now, it's time to move on to the main course, the tracks themselves. Following the tradition set since *Mario Kart DS*, there are eight cups instead of four. Four of the cups are a series of four races on new tracks

for *Mario Kart 7*. The other four are retro cups which are a series of four races on tracks from the previous *Mario Kart* games.

Nintendo picked a few fan favorites from *Mario Kart DS*, such as Luigi's Mansion and Waluigi Pinball. But the blue shell that hit me from nowhere was the inclusion of a previous Rainbow Road. Since I had never done this before, I gave a soft clap to Nintendo for having two Rainbow Roads in one *Mario Kart* game.

As far as the new tracks go, they're also pretty good. As mentioned before, a lot of them incorporate aerial parts so that gliding is

required to pass. These parts are the riskiest but also allow for you to fly over the competition and into first place.

Another new feature is the coin system. If I remember correctly coins were in *Super Mario Kart* but never made an appearance since then. Now they're back and serve as a way to unlock kart parts by basically collecting coins in the races. When the cup is over the coins are added to your total. When your total hits a certain number you get a new kart part.

It's a neat system that encourages replay. However, my complaint is that not all of the unlockable features are obtainable by collecting coins. You still have to play the dreaded 150 CC mode to unlock the other eight characters. It would have been better if you could unlock everything by either winning all cups or the coins, that way everyone can play the game however they want.

This brings me to my first major complaint- the unlockable characters. You don't need them unless you just want to see Metal Mario in a race. Each character has the same kart parts and you make a custom kart. The only difference is each kart has a different color based on who is driving.

It eliminates the uniqueness each character had in earlier games like *Mario Kart DS*. At the end of that game you unlocked the feature to drive any kart with any character, but you had to earn that. Otherwise you had to stick to a certain character and began to enjoy that character. That's how I became such a big fan of Dry Bones.

But without a doubt my biggest gripe with *Mario Kart 7* is the CC modes. You have the standard races, balloon battles and coin collecting battles. The balloon battles and coin battles are the same as they were in previous *Mario Karts* and are admittedly just as fun. The standard races however contain what will forever make *Mario Kart 7* just another frustrating racer to me: The CC modes.

You've got 50 CC, 100 CC and 150 CC. For those of you who have never played *Mario Kart* before allow me to translate those difficulties. They are, respectively, super easy, hard, and pull-out-your-hair insane. This is how *Mario Kart 7* is, and it's just like every other *Mario Kart* before this.

There is no distribution of difficulty at all. Maybe if 150 CC's difficulty was pushed up to a 200 CC and a normal mode was introduced I wouldn't have so much of a problem.

However, 150 CC is quite literally just unfair. Everyone else is faster than you no matter what and they always get three mushroom boosters or three red shells while you get banana peels.

If you've played any other *Mario Kart* before, then you've already played *Mario Kart 7*. True to its name, *Mario Kart 7* gets 7 out of 10 for me.

Only buy it if you're a hardcore *Mario Kart* fan. Otherwise you can rent it, play the tracks once or twice and you'll get a weekend's worth of enjoyment out of it. As for me, I'm waiting for Nintendo to wake up and make a new installment of my all time favorite racer, *F-Zero*.

Our Neighbors in Sandy Hook

The Harbor Seals of Point Pleasant

MARISSA WEBER
STAFF WRITER

The mackerels were flying back and forth, bubbles were being blown and fins were flapping. Then, I got a kiss from a harbor seal; a soft, moist velvet kiss on my forehead. So excuse me if I seem like a sucker for these guys, because I am.

But my story doesn't start with the kiss. It starts at Sandy Hook on a January morning during low tide. A warm day for that time of year, the sun seemed to rise just for me, following my footsteps as I walked towards the sand bar on the bay side of Sandy Hook. The sunbeams warmed me and I left my jacket unbuttoned.

New Jersey's beaches in the winter are beautiful, unbeknownst to most local residents or seasonal tourists. Sandy Hook is no exception. While the "bennies" are back home in the north, hundreds of seals take to the sandbars and seas. The most common species is the Western Atlantic Harbor seal, but grey, harp, and hooded seals are also seen. All of these are categorized under the mammal subheading known as pinniped, which means "fin-footed" in Latin.

As I approached the sandbar a couple hundred meters away, I saw dozens of seals sunbathing. From afar, they looked like large pieces of driftwood casually scattered on the small, temporary piece of land. Even from this far away, I could hear their grunting sounds. A few of them were scooting around, only as graceful as a creature can be when using fins in place of legs to carry their blubbery bellies. It's obvious that they are more suited for life in the water, but when basking, they look more than content, their bodies shaped like a banana, head and tail raised. Seeing 40 of these banana-shaped sunbathers is quite a sight. Their sizes, colors and patterns are varied, making it possible to differentiate individuals.

I situated myself on the edge of the water, letting the bay's gentle surf crash on my boots. I watched them for more than an hour. As the high tide came and the sandbar shrank, many of them went to feed, likely catching the fish that come in with the tide. In their element, they were smooth and swift; a few jumped and soared out of the water like dolphins. Others bobbed at the surface, their puppy-dog heads poking out as they caught their breath, preparing for their next dive, which could easily last 20 minutes.

New Jersey has long been a wintering spot for harbor and other types of seals, although numbers have been increasing since the 1970's for unknown reasons. The total number of seals in New Jersey waters during any given season is difficult to estimate. "They spend the majority of their time at sea, making it difficult to conduct accurate counts," explained Michael Davenport, Marine Species and GIS Program Manager at the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey.

"However, their numbers are monitored at the major haul-out sites or colonies, where they briefly congregate on land to rest and escape from predators," Davenport continued. "Over 70 seals have been observed hauled-out on shore at one time," said Davenport about Sandy Hook, making it the site of New Jersey's second largest seal colony. Sandy Hook is runner-up only to a beach in southern NJ, where 155 individu-

als have been spotted.

However, many people are shocked that seals are naturally found here. Upon hearing about their presence for the first time, Heather Stafford, a senior communications student said, "That's crazy! And also interesting, I wonder why they come here."

The seals follow migrating schools of fish and end up by us in what Monmouth professor and

for local pinnipeds, educating the public of their existence and their plight. Luseal loves wrapping herself in the faux-kelp bed which the caregivers offer at playtime, and utilizes her other senses very well; her limited vision isn't much of a hindrance. The other two seals, sisters named Coral and Sequin, were born in captivity but are the offspring of rescued and rehabilitated wild harbor seals from Cali-

Zebrowski and the team of caretakers continued with their tasks, which included teeth brushing and getting the seals to lie patiently as their lower backs are touched, a task which prepares them for weekly visits by the veterinarian.

After feeding, the three seals, Sequin, Coral and Luseal, retreated to the water to blow bubbles, swim, bob and look extra

mammals, as humans are one of their greatest threats. "Seals are exceptionally sensitive to disturbances while they are hauled-out on land," explained Davenport, "perhaps due to their limited mobility on land." For this reason, the MMPA requires that humans (and boats or other watercraft) stay at least 50 yards from the animals, and do not touch or harass them.

Harassment, however, does not just refer to physical contact or bullying of an animal. "Harassment is anything that you do that changes their behavior," explained Zombrowski with avid concern for the wild creatures. "If they lift their head to look at you, that's harassment."

Some people who approach seals do so with kind intentions. Often beachgoers will see a baby seal, called a pup, and assume because they are babies that they need help. The truth is, they swim the same day they are born and can be weaned and searching for food on their own after only one month. They may be small and adorable, but they are more than able to take care of themselves. It's important to mention that if a citizen approaches a seal and gets bitten, law requires that seal be euthanized, so it is better for the person – and the seal – to maintain a safe distance.

If you see a seal and suspect an injury, report it immediately the Marine Mammal Stranding Center in Brigantine by calling (609)-266-0538. They are a non-profit whose mission is to respond to marine mammals and sea turtles in distress and, if necessary, rehabilitate and release them. Founded in 1978, the organization has responded to thousands of stranding calls. In 2011 alone they handled 122 seal strandings, which was their highest number since 2001. For the Marine Mammal Stranding Center and Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ, public education is key, and Monmouth University is joining the cause.

Monmouth's own Urban Coast Institute is partnering with both groups to promote education and protection marine mammals and sea turtles. This fall, UCI is set to host training seminars directed towards law enforcement and other 'first responders,' such as animal control officers. Jim Nickels, UCI's resident biologist, is proud of the collaboration, which fosters the organization's mission of serving the public interest with research and education in an effort to support productive coastal ecosystems.

"We are fortunate at Monmouth to have excellent meeting facilities," Nickels continued, "To be centrally located, and have the support from the University to work with various groups on important issues." The workshop is tentatively set for October 2012.

This collaborative project is a positive step in educating first responders, but everyday citizens and beachgoers can make a difference, too. New Jersey is a distinct home for wildlife, and the wintering harbor seals are just one example of the array of creatures who share our home. We should take their presence as a reminder of the importance to tread lightly and be mindful of the human impact on our environment. "As the seal population continues to grow, so too are the threats to their continued existence," said Reynolds. "Having marine mammals here is a wonderful reminder of the bay's connection to the ocean and the need to keep waters clean."



PHOTO COURTESY of Marissa Weber

Harbor seals bask on the sands of Sandy Hook to catch some sun in the wintertime.

nature-enthusiast Joe Reynolds calls "an urban jungle," which actually suits their needs well. "The bay is protected from large ocean waves, there are distant sandbars and remote beaches, and the bay sits adjacent to several deepwater sea channels that lead the seals to fish populations," explained Reynolds on his blog, "Nature on the Edge of NYC." The rest of the year, usually April through November, the seals spend their time in the waters off the coast of Maine and Canada where they mate.

I knew Jenkinson's Aquarium in Point Pleasant had seals as part of their exhibit, but when I found out that one of them was a seal rescued from our local shores, I knew I had to go and meet her. Jennifer Zebrowski, supervisor of mammals at the aquarium, was more than welcoming. "Raising awareness about the

fornia. All three seals live a pampered life, free of predators and filled with daily enrichment and activity.

During my visit, a small crowd gathered on the benches in front of the seal exhibit. Eager for the presentation to begin, many of the children were antsy and squirming in their seats. Zebrowski led me into the seal room to get a behind-the-scenes look during the feeding. I stayed where I was directed, and knelt down to get eye-to-eye with the awkwardly adorable creature. The caretakers fed the seals by rewarding them with pieces of capeland, mackerel, herring and squid, after they correctly performed cute behaviors to please the audience. However, these 'tricks' were more than meets the eye.

"The behaviors we teach them are just that – behaviors. We don't like to call them tricks," explained Zebrowski. "They are things they

cute for the ogling families. I was more than pleased with the experience when the session started to wrap up. Zebrowski then asked me if I would like a kiss. My eyes went round as I stuttered an excited 'yes!'

I was told to kneel down and lean forward with hands in my lap. At Zebrowski's command, Coral leaned forward with her long, thick whiskers sticking out comically from the sides of her face. She teased, not quite making contact with me. Again, Zebrowski told her to give a kiss. This time, her silky snout gently graced my forehead, leaving a damp imprint in its place and a huge smile on my face.

"That's all," said Zebrowski to Coral, letting her know feeding time was over. She spoke in a voice similar to what one would use when talking to a puppy, and shrugged her hands to prove to



PHOTO COURTESY of Marissa Weber

Jennifer Zebrowski and Coral, a rescued harbor seal at Jenkinson's Aquarium in Point Pleasant.

seals that visit NJ is a passion of mine," she told me. "These guys are our ambassadors for the wild ones."

In fact, all three of the resident seals have wild roots. Luseal, who is permanently blind, was found near Point Pleasant in 1991. She was just a baby, or 'pup,' injured after surviving a shark attack. Unable to be released, she became an envoy

do naturally in the wild; we just put cuter titles to them." Some of these behaviors include scratching their face (called 'salute'), 'speaking,' sticking their tongues out, and fin flapping. "These all mean other things, whether it is courtship or something else, but it just shows you how versatile they are." And patient, too.

Another employee gave a guided annotation to the visitors, while

Coral that indeed there was no more fish.

Although Zebrowski speaks to Luseal like one would to a cocker spaniel, and despite the fact that Coral gives kisses, wild harbor seals are predatory by nature and pose safety hazards to humans or pets that get too close.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of 1972 was created to protect seals and other

Exoskeleton Gives Paraplegics a Chance to Walk

Ekso-Bionics Brings Freedom to Wheelchair-Bound

SHAHARYAH AHMAD
SCIENCE EDITOR

Most of us took our first steps as toddlers as we were watched excitedly by our parents in the comfort of our homes. As the days passed, we gained experience and walked upright, pushed our chests out and marveled at our own accomplishment.

As the days turned to years, some lost that privilege and were told by the doctor that we could not walk again. Car accidents, construction accidents, surfing accidents, and skiing accidents among a myriad of others have robbed them of the freedom of walking free.

Recently, that freedom has not only been restored, but has been revamped like never before.

A collaboration of professionals in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, programming and medicine in the California-based Ekso Bionics, has given people in wheelchairs a second opportunity at taking their first steps.

Ekso is a bionic exoskeleton that allows paraplegics to stand up from their wheelchairs and walk upright. Armed with four motors and fifteen electrical sensors, the battery powered and ready-to-wear device allows the patient, according to eksobionics.com, to walk over ground with a natural gait, assisted by advanced balance and positioning systems. In only five minutes, the patient can transfer from his or her wheelchair to the device with minimal assistance, and on their own with experience.

Eythor Bender, CEO of Ekso Bionics, believes that we are at a crossroads in the history of mobility. Up until now,

bionic exoskeletons were contraptions portrayed in the form of sci-fi avatars or robots. We have reached the “tipping point” of scientific advancement where we now hold the ability to turn dreams and hope into reality, according to eksobionics.com.

“Many things had to happen over the last year to get us to where we are today,” said Bender. “A dedicated team of employees and test pilots has been working towards the goal of helping people to realize their dreams of standing up and walking.”

Jerry, an Ekso test pilot, was living in San Diego prior to his injury. He would surf every day, hike with his dog and relish the pride of starting his own business. One night, however, he dove into a swimming pool and hit his head on the floor, breaking his sixth cervical vertebrae and pinching his spinal cord, leaving him paralyzed from the chest down from doing something he had done countless times before. Even though his life changed in an instant, Jerry would not change the way he chose to live it.

“After a few months of being sad and feeling sorry for myself,” Jerry said, “I realized that I was affecting everybody around me in a negative way. So one day I decided to just live my life and be happy and figure out new ways to do the things that I loved to do.”

The exoskeleton, Jerry recounted, is “effortless.” I can stand up in that for hours and not get tired. I really hope that the device will keep progressing and getting better and smaller than before. Who knows, maybe one day we can just eliminate wheelchairs altogether.”

Shivam Patel, sophomore biology major, said, “It’s pretty shocking to see how much mechanical engineering can do. The Ekso bionic exoskeleton

can finally provide a worthy wheelchair replacement for people who have a spinal cord injury.”

Mike Minkin, senior health studies major, thinks Ekso is “Very, very cool. I am incredibly impressed with how technology has advanced. An exoskeleton device gives a human being a sense of individualism and confidence to continue doing the things they love. I can’t wait to see what happens in the next few years.”

Everyone remembers when man began to walk on the moon. Now man will walk from a wheelchair.

Since its startup, Ekso Bionics has forged partnerships with world-class institutions like UC Berkeley, received research grants from the Department of Defense and has licensed technology to the Lockheed Martin Corporation. The company continues to chart its own path through this new ocean of scientific progress that glistens with the capability and tenacity of human will.

“For decades,” said Dr. Jia Luo, chemistry professor, “the powered exoskeleton technology has been explored to augment the human body and its capabilities for military purposes. Recently, researchers and designers have strived to overcome the technical hurdles to make powered exoskeletons affordable and practical for civilian use. The exoskeleton system from Ekso Bionics is a truly remarkable example and has the potential to revolutionize healthcare.”

Ever marked by the aberrant tides of conventional acceptance, modern science must continue to uphold its trusted duty to engineer the notion of a “no” into the concept of a “yes” for the betterment of the global populace.



PHOTO COURTESY of eksobionics.com

Jerry, a paraplegic, now uses an exoskeleton by Ekso Bionics so that he can stand up and walk.

What to Know About Living Off-Campus

COURTNEY CIANDERELLA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As students move up in their college careers, many develop a desire to live off-campus. While many look forward to making the transition from on-campus to off, there are responsibilities and things to keep in mind that go into living on your own.

Finding a Rental

There are multiple things to consider when looking for a rental. Numerous and varied housing options are offered to students and those should determine what type of housing they want before contacting landlords and realtors.

One of the options is to live in an apartment building; which there are many large and small apartment buildings in the Monmouth University area. Apartment buildings generally contain studio to two bedroom units. Houses are another option where you can find single, two, and three bedroom houses in areas surrounding the University.

“I like living in a house because there is more space to move around,” said junior David DeSimone.

You may also find apartments or houses that may already have existing tenants that are looking for a roommate. Some people choose to work in exchange for room and board. This may require

10 to 15 hours of services such as childcare, eldercare, tutoring, housekeeping, chauffeuring, and general maintenance being exchanged for room and board.

Reviewing your finances is another good step to look into where you want to live. It is important to decide what is feasible and affordable for you to live as well as thinking about your expenses such as food and gas.

“When you set parameters on your spending, you will be less likely to run out of money unexpectedly,” said Vaughn Clay, Director of the Office of Off-Campus and Commuter Services.

By taking time to figure out how much you can afford before signing a lease, you can avoid missing a payment or paying bills late. “Just about everyone needs to get into the habit of working within a monthly budget,” said Vaughn.

Then do some research and look into the surrounding communities and decide which is best for you. Concerns would be the amount of traveling time it will take you to get to class/work each day, how you plan to travel (car, bike, walk, bus), and where the bank and grocery store is located.

Identify some possible rentals and make appointments to go see them first before making any final decisions. If you are considering sharing an apartment or a house,

think about your lifestyle preferences and the preferences of your potential roommate(s).

Sharing a Rental

Sharing your living space could be just as much of a challenge as living on your own. There should be several discussions with your roommates such as food, expenses, and establishing a set of ground rules that you can all agree on. “When students are working together to seamlessly fit into their respective neighborhoods, they wind up having an off-campus experience that is memorable for all of the right reasons,” said Clay.

Gather all of your housing options and decide which is best for the group as well as what is cheapest. Living alone in a studio or a one bedroom apartment will probably be the most expensive option. Many times, the more people living in a house or an apartment, the cheaper it would cost. Check with the landlord/manager and the town to see if the number of people you plan to live with exceeds the number of tenants permitted.

Selecting a Roommate

When choosing a roommate or roommates, there will most likely be many differences of opinion. “Communication is the foundation for creating a sense of trust, honesty, and respect among the

roommates,” said Clay. “If everyone is communicating with one another, then there shouldn’t be too many problems that cannot be overcome within the group of roommates.”

Such things should be discussed including: how the rent will be divided, if food would be shared or purchased individually, household supplies and furniture, respecting each other’s personal property; if anyone will have overnight guests, how often, and for how long. “Good communication is important because of people’s conflict in schedules,” said Shaina Tinsley, a junior, from Mays Landing, NJ. “If you have visitors, you need to respect your roommates in case they have tests or work early in the morning.”

Understanding Your Lease

Review the lease between you and the landlord. The lease is a signed contract and all tenants are responsible for what it says on the lease after the signature is given. When signing a lease, you are legally bound to the terms and agreements stated. “When tenants do not read the lease, they are exposing themselves to a host of unexpected and unpleasant possibilities,” said Clay.

Moving Out

Just like there are guidelines to moving into a rental, there are

guidelines to moving out as well. “You need to notify the landlord of your move out date so you can hopefully schedule an inspection of the unit in order to get your security deposit back and not get charged for anything that may occur after you move out,” said Clay.

This is in a written form called a Letter of Termination, which includes your name, your rental, the date you will be moving out, and your new address. It will usually say on the lease how far in advance you will need to give notice, but if you do not have a written lease, you must give notice 30 days before rent is due. “Everything related to a rental experience is tied in the process of documentation,” said Clay.

Before leaving, you also need to clean your rental, thoroughly removing anything that belongs to you and/or your roommates. The final steps to moving out are to returning your keys to your landlord and making sure to get your security deposit back.

For other questions, stop in to the Off-Campus and Commuter Services Office on the second floor of the Rebecca Stafford Student Center and speak to Clay. You can also find more information on the Monmouth University website, e-mail occs@monmouth.edu, reach by Facebook at MU Off-Campus or Twitter at @monmouthOCCS.

“LOL” in Anacon

Comedians KT Tatara and Adam Mamawala Perform

CASEY WOLFE
COPY EDITOR

The Student Activities Board (SAB) at the University welcomed comedians KT Tatara and Adam Mamawala to Anacon Hall in the Student Center on March 3 at 8:00 pm. Tatara and Mamawala were returning guests after performing at the University last year.

Tatara, a 32-year-old from California, performed first. Not only has he been on Showtime before, but Comedy Central as well.

He did not hesitate to jump right into his crude, though hilarious, comedic style. He used his ethnic background of being half-Japanese in his jokes as well as using other races and sexes.

Tatara really related to the audience through his blunt humor on matters that all college kids could understand.

His performance was very interactive. Midway through his act he asked students at the University about recent events here that he could talk about. He also called out members of the audience about their different reactions to his jokes and other things such as leaving their seat to get a drink or someone fumbling with their empty soda can.

At the last part of his performance, Tatara called up a student from the audience and proceeded to serenade her in song.

Adam Mamawala is from Hoboken, New Jersey. He attended high school in Hillsborough, New Jersey, but grew up in Illinois near Chicago. He has performed in over 20 states and has been to about 60 to 70 colleges in the past few years.

Mamawala’s performance did not start off as “in-your-face” as Tatara’s, but the attention of the audience was captured.

What really got everyone laughing was his incredibly accurate impression of President Barack Obama. Drawing from personal experiences, Mamawala was easy to relate to.

In his act he talked about relationships, his summer job as a tennis camp counselor and his college experiences at The College of New Jersey. When referring to some of his experiences, he read us text messages he has gotten or notes off of his smart phone that he had written in the moment.

Like Tatara, he also used his racial background of being half Indian in his act, providing as a transition into more (respectful) racial jokes.

Mamawala says growing up around family and friends with good senses of humor got him interested in comedy.

“The reason that I tried stand-up comedy is because my freshman year in college I went to a New Jersey Nets game and I kept making all these snide remarks about the game, and this friend of mine kind of looked over at me and she’s like,

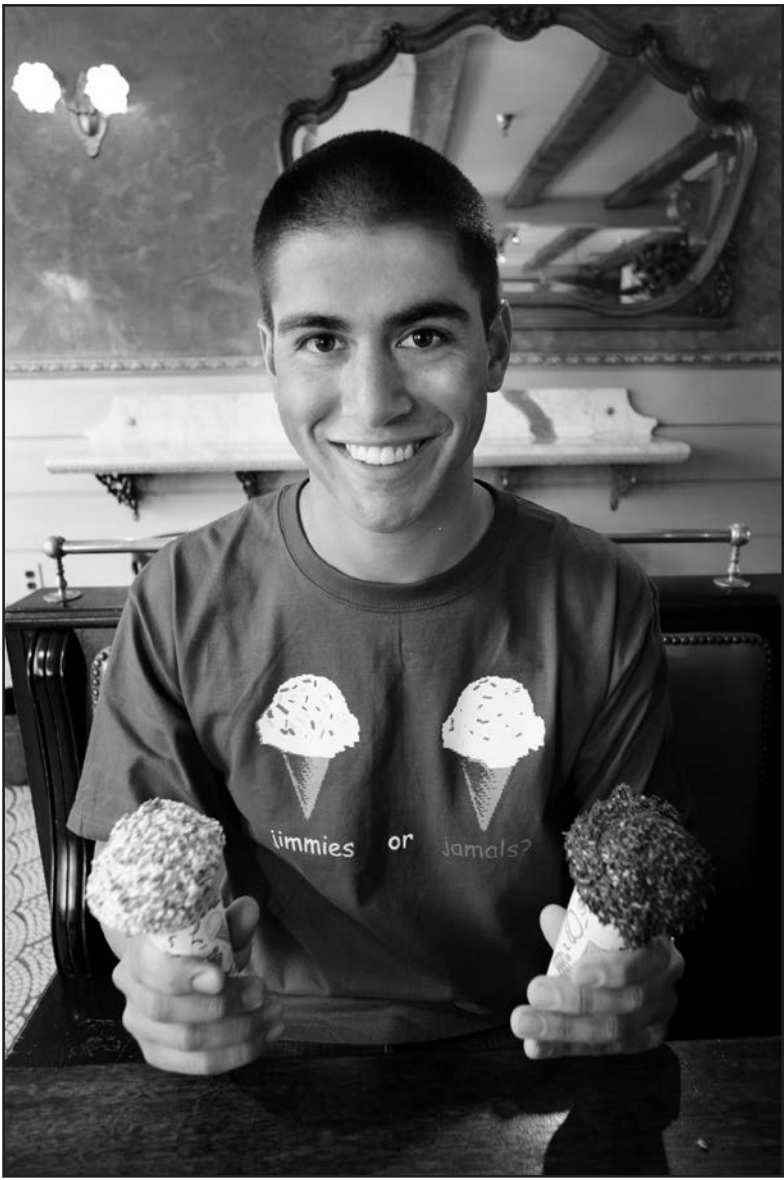


PHOTO COURTESY of ivc.edu

Adam Mamawala of Hoboken, NJ, decided to get into stand-up comedy after being encouraged by his friends at a basketball game.

“you sound like you’re doing stand-up right now. You should write some of this down and go to an open mic night and see if people think you’re funny,” says Mamawala.

He started at the Stress Factory in New Brunswick and launched his career from there. He said college audiences are easier than people in club settings also.

He hopes to further expand his comedy career in the future. He says his acting background helps him in his comedy acts and would like to get back into that area of performance.

“I’m hoping as a stand-up comedian opportunities are going to present themselves for me to get back into acting, whether it’s on a sitcom or hosting a show like “The Soup” or “Tosh.0,” that sort of thing,” Mamawala says. “I definitely have very lofty aspirations of where I expect myself to go.”

The styles of both comedians were different from each other but both hilariously entertaining. From their relatable stories, to crude language, to interaction with the audience, it was evident that these comedians

were meant to perform.

Everyone in the crowd was laughing by the end of the night. Senior Samantha Sansone attended because she had never seen a comedy act at the University before and said her expectations were far exceeded.

“I actually have not laughed that hard in a while,” said Sansone, “What I was expecting was that they would be remotely funny but not something I could relate to. What I got was something completely different.”

Members of SAB say that comedy acts are generally really popular among students and that the turnout to these events remains relatively constant. Seeing their performances and the reactions of people in the audience, it is hopeful that Tatara and Mamawala will return to the University in the future.

The next comedy event sponsored by SAB is Steve Byrne. He will be performing in Pollak Theatre on March 22 at 7:30 pm. Student tickets are five dollars with a student ID and are on sale now on the second floor of the Student Center.

Club and Greek Announcements

Energy Service Corps

This was an exciting week for the Energy Service Corps, a non-profit national organization.

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.

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.

College Republicans

Are you concerned about rising gas prices? Are you concerned about our future? We certainly are, and we want to hear your opinion on these matters and how you believe the government should solve these issues. Have something else you want to say on the issue of public policy? Please tell us.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 7 from 3:00 to 4:00 pm in Bey Hall room 228. E-mail us at mugop@monmouth.edu if you have any questions.

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!

The Outdoors Club

The Outdoors Club wants to thank everyone who came out for the Bubakoo’s Burritos and rock climbing fund raising event! The ODC will be sending out emails in regards to the upcoming horseback riding trip so keep a look out. All of the spots are filled but if you are still interested contact President Kyle at s0705020@monmouth.edu to be placed on the wait list.

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!

SGA

You’re invited to Student Government’s Annual Auction.

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

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 newborn 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!

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.

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 muenvironmental-club@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!

RHA Movies in Oakwood

Due to the halls closing for Spring Break there will be no movie screenings this week.

Have a great Spring Break! Movie titles such as *New Year’s Eve* and *Hugo* will be shown the following week when we return.

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.

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 bi-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.

The Verge Becomes Newest MU Media Outlet

Online News Portal Launches at University

AMY BOGSTROM
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The University’s new innovative news portal launched last week in the Jules Plangere Building. *The Verge* is the first student-run on-line news outlet on campus.

It is a multimedia website containing videos, audio, and pictures alongside the articles posted. The news portal is completely student run; all of the stories are researched, written, and posted by students. Mass media is heading towards new platforms and the students at the University have jumped at the opportunity.

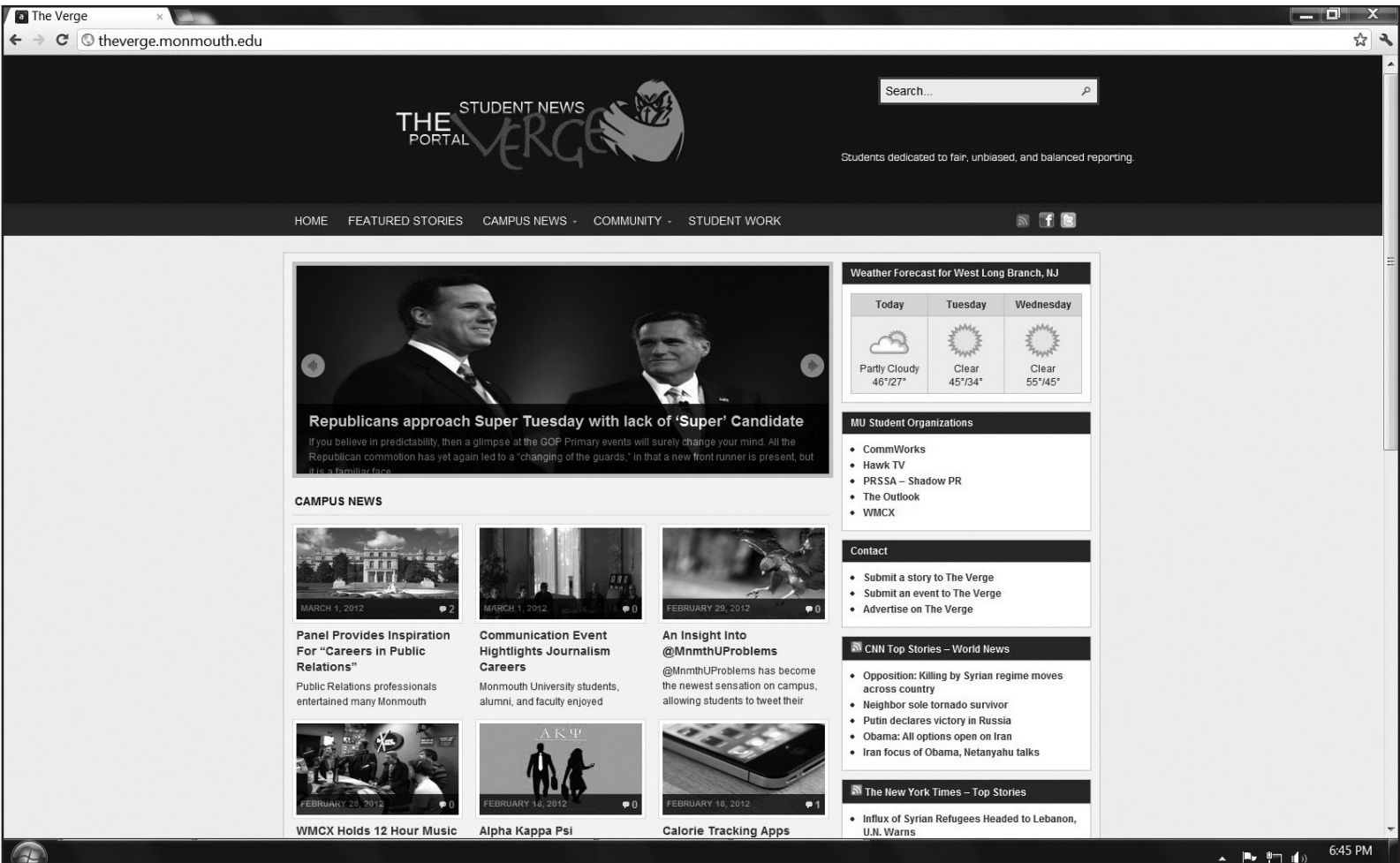
“*The Verge* is a great way for students to adapt to new technology,” said Lisa Tobia, a junior and writer for *The Verge*.

The online new portal is made possible through WordPress, a personal publishing software established in 2003. This is what allows the students to embed links and pictures with their stories. It also allows readers to comment on those stories.

The Verge has been in progress for about a year now, and last Wednesday’s launch party was deemed very successful. “It felt great,” said *The Verge*’s faculty advisor and creator, Professor Marina Vujnovic. “About 50 people showed up. Even President Gaffney attended.”

Faculty and students squeezed themselves into room 206 to help celebrate the commencement of *The Verge*. President Paul Gaffney gave a speech along with Dr. Chad Dell and Professor Vujnovic.

“This has been a year’s wait,” said Tom Ranzweiler, the Editor-in-Chief of *The Verge*. Ranzweiler, along with Associate Editor Kayla Inglima, have worked with Professor Vujnovic on this project since last spring semester.



The Verge is the fourth and newest media outlet in the Communication Department. It is a multimedia website containing videos, audio and pictures alongside articles posted pertaining to the University, as well as global events.

However, *The Verge* has been in progress since long before that. Vujnovic said she’s thought about this since she received the teaching position back in 2008, and from that time on she’s worked with Professor John Morano, Professor Dell, and Rupa Dasgupta from the IT department to make *The Verge* possible.

“The online news portal isn’t meant to be competition to *The Outlook*,” said Vujnovic, “I just wanted to give the students more

of a variety. It is more than just an online paper; it’s a news portal to the world. To bring convergence to the media and to create excitement about new media while giving students experience in journalism and multimedia is the ambition behind the whole project.”

The stories on the website range from student problems, sports, pop-culture and events in the community.

Links to other major news

sources can also be found on *The Verge*’s website, along with links to the other University’s student organizations: Shadow PR, *The Outlook*, CommWorks, Hawk TV and WMCX. The website as a whole is very organized and easy to navigate.

The Verge will be updated as often as possible, the goal is to update the website daily but it will be updated at least weekly.

“Every few days is a new story,” said Inglima.

Although *The Verge* is in its infancy, more than a handful of students are already actively involved. Currently 20 students are involved, with seven completing their practicum through *The Verge* this semester. If interested in becoming involved, students can submit stories directly on *The Verge*’s website, or contact Vujnovic.

“I’m happy to hear from everyone,” she said. “The more the merrier.”

Rock ‘n’ Raise 2012

Communication Organizations Raise Money for Relay for Life

KEVIN HOLTON
COPY EDITOR

On Friday, March 2, the University’s most active and prominent organizations got together to raise money for Relay for Life. This gathering consisted of support from members of, WMCX, Hawk TV, *The Outlook*, Desperate Mamas and Desperate Students. Desperate Mamas, a group of University faculty dedicated to fighting cancer, celebrated its fifth birthday.

Donna Mancini, Office Coordinator of Radio and TV as well as a leading member of Desperate Mamas, says, “We aim to have fun. We have a reputation of pushing the envelope, as we aim to fulfill [our goals] too.”

Mancini added, “The groups are supportive of each other and each has a different strength.”

The lobby had been decorated with a variety of colored flags, banners, streamers and party balloons. Local vendors lined the halls, selling everything from Uggs and jewelry to hot dogs and kitchen supplies. Those who came to the event were able to play Guitar Hero at a station in the corner of the lobby.

Desperate Mamas was stationed in the center of the Plangere lobby, though they had tables set up along the adjacent halls to hold the raffle prizes. They sold raffle tickets in portions of one, five and 10 dollars to raise money. The prizes included gifts cards, items and services from venues such as Spellbinders, Medusa



Rock ‘n’ Raise took place in the Plangere Studio and was supported by organizations such as WMCX, Hawk TV, *The Outlook* and Desperate Mamas.

Hair Design Studio, Retro Fitness, Joe’s Crab Shack, Tip to Toe Beauty, Organic Style and Windmill. There were a total of 48 different prizes to win.

Gina Cerra, a junior as well as promoter for the event, says, “It’s

absolutely fabulous. I think it’s a great idea. We should do a fundraiser every month. Relay is a great cause.”

She went on, adding, “We should do this for other foundations as well.”

The concern for those in need, and the desire to raise money to assist them, showed in every person who had come to aid in the event.

Anna Chamberlain, a sophomore as well as Hawk TV promotions director, says, “We’ve been selling

a lot of tickets and received a lot of donations. This is for all those who are suffering; we just want to help them out.”

The lobby televisions, as well as WMCX, broadcasted the performances of various live bands that were playing in the Plangere studio. The studio was set up with a variety of backgrounds and stages to celebrate the mood of the event.

The bands were Roseld, Loose Fit, Devil’s Holiday and Time Will Tell. Each brought their own mix of strong vocals and talented musician ship. Between bands, acoustic artists played a few songs to bring in more donations. The efforts of the soloists and bands alike showed the audience how to rock out while raising money.

Some of the solo performances included Diego Alessandro, senior, and Amanda Duncan, a local artist.

Alessandro says, “It’s nice to be able to do something for a worthwhile cause.” He is a member of Hawk TV and as well as WMCX.

Duncan sold pens as well as her EP to raise more money. The audience was happy to purchase after her fun songs and charismatic nature got the whole studio dancing.

This was one of many events held to raise money. Desperate Mamas, which is a single group out of all those that aim to help others, has also hosted the Superbowl Party, Birthday Bash and will be hosting a calendar raffle. This event entails a prize being given every day from March 14 to April 13.



When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

COMPILED BY: JACKLYN KOUEFATI



Taylor Chiovaro
sophomore
“A veterinarian.”



Elijah Phillips
junior
“A NFL superstar.”



Christine Fasca
faculty
“I wanted to dive off cliffs in search of pearls.”



Mark Cosentino
senior
“A garbage man.”



Alex McClay
junior
“A Rockette.”



Brittney Penson
junior
“I always wanted to be a teacher.”



Gary Kowal
junior
“A hockey player.”



Evelyn Herrera
staff
“A forensic officer.”



Taylor Dickson
junior
“A magazine editor.”



Alexandria Carbajal
junior
“I wanted to be on Broadway.”

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for details, x.3481 or
srown@monmouth.edu

DESPERATE MAMAS TEAM MEMBERS: Diane
McQuay, Donna Mancini, Sandy Brown, Evelyn Herrera,
Christina DelBene, Kris Simoes, Linda Mussara, Sheila
McAllister, Tina Johnsen , Eileen Jones

2

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RoboCop Has Always Kept Comic Book Streets Safe

MATTHEW FISHER
COMICS EDITOR

While most superheroes were born in comic books, some iconic characters originated elsewhere. This has happened with Marvel characters such as X-23 (a female clone of Wolverine) in “X-Men: Evolution” and Harley Quinn (the Joker’s love and right-hand girl) in “Batman: The Animated Series.”

RoboCop, one of the coolest heroes, didn’t start in comics but rather a live-action movie. Soon, the adventures of RoboCop couldn’t be contained solely on the silver screen and over the years has found homes at different publishers.

For those unfamiliar with the cyborg policeman, RoboCop was Alex Murphy (played by Peter Weller in the first two movies), a Detroit cop who was killed while on duty and then resurrected as RoboCop by the Omni Consumer Products (OCP) Corporation. Most of the films tend to deal with Murphy/RoboCop as he comes to grasp with his robotic self while keeping citizens safe.

The first *RoboCop* comic began at Marvel in 1990 (ending in 1992 after 23 issues) and was written by Alan Grant and illustrated by Lee Sullivan. In addition to new, original stories, Marvel also offered an adaption of *RoboCop 2* for comic book readers (the comic book series was meant to take place between *RoboCop 2* and 3).

In an interview with robocoparchive.com, Sullivan talked about his experience as artist for the *RoboCop* comics. Sullivan said one of the best things about working on the series was “working for Marvel US for the first time; I felt that I was a real artist at last!” However, he mentioned some of the less thrilling aspects including “the direction of the book; unfortunately Greg Wright was also working on a title called Deathlok at the time, and as this was also a part man/part machine character, I think the gritty cyborg story direction was firmly kept for the Marvel version, and poor Alan Grant...was left with

very compromised property to work on.”

Following Marvel, this cyborg went to Dark Horse Comics where he would remain from 1992-94. His first story here was a crossover with another sci-fi icon, the Terminator in “RoboCop vs. the Terminator” by Frank Miller (writer) and Walter Simonson (artist). Most of his stories were presented as parts in “Dark Horse Presents” in addition to an adaptation of *RoboCop 3*. RoboCop would remain offline until 2003 when he would confront grittier storytelling from the mind of Miller by moving to Avatar Press.

Miller’s story followed the events of the first film as Murphy’s humanity slowly returned and Omni discarded him, deciding to create a new model. Now Murphy and his partner Anne Lewis must contend with this new creation while still following orders to protect citizens.

In a press release on avatarpress.com, Avatar Press editor-in-chief, William Christensen, discussed what it meant to have an original *RoboCop* story by Miller at Avatar. “This is the Robocop story Frank Miller always intended, composed straight from his original writings and scripts. The vast majority of this material never made it onto the screen, but we’re unleashing it in its full glory now. To think that there is this Miller story from just a few years after Dark Knight that has gone largely untold is amazing,” he said.

According to the site, the stories by Miller were actually elements from his *RoboCop* screenplays that got discarded.

Today, RoboCop is preventing and/or fighting crime at Dynamite Entertainment (home of other franchises such as “Game of Thrones,” “Zorro,” and *Army of Darkness*).

The first Dynamite *RoboCop* comic was the four-issue storyline titled “Revolution.” Written by Rob Williams and drawn by Fabio Neves, it followed RoboCop continuing to deal with the chaos of Old Detroit while uncovering a big cor-

porate scheme.

The series kept the same attitude and element from the original film by presenting talking heads discussing the latest in business news as well as satirizing the world itself.

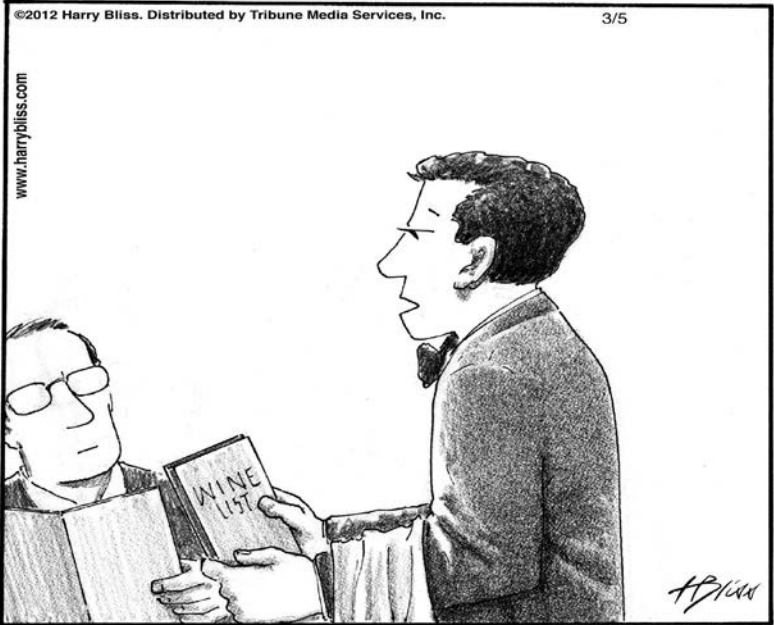
Williams talked to dynamite.net about working on the series and he described how he approached this new series with so many other RoboCop stories (comics, DVDs) out in the world. He said, “...I deliberately steered clear of the old comics, cartoons, TV show. I didn’t even watch *RoboCop 2*. I’m sure that will aggrieve some die-hards but I wanted to come at this with an outsider’s perspective. I figure, go to the heart of what made *RoboCop* work, and that’s the origin story and the crazy Dutch extreme aesthetic of that first movie.”

After the completion of “Revolution,” Williams began his second *RoboCop* story with artist P.J. Holden by restaging one of the coolest crossovers ever with “Terminator/RoboCop: Kill Human.” The story dealt with RoboCop time-traveling into the past to fight the deadly Skynet and its Terminator drones with the assistance of resistance fighters John and Sarah Connor.

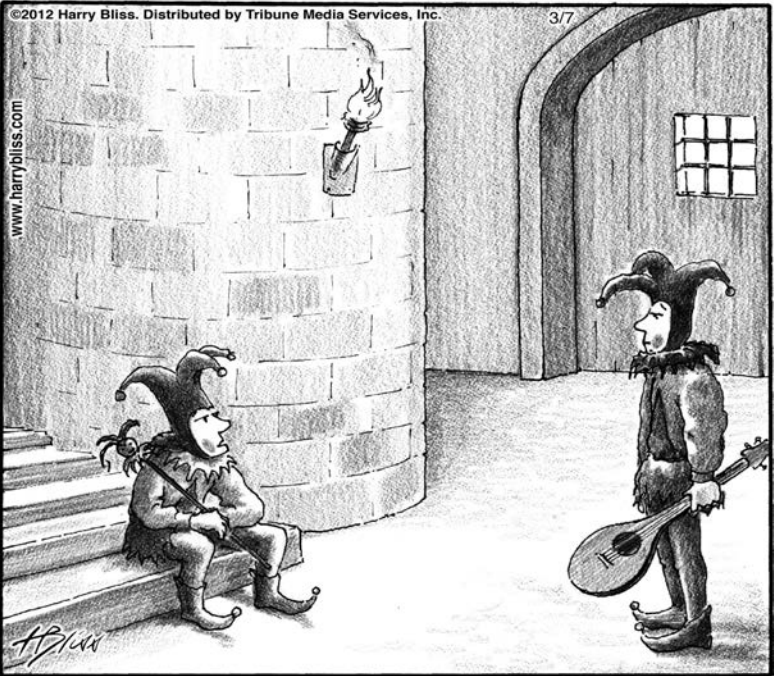
Williams’s latest *RoboCop* tale is a road trip (literally) with “RoboCop: Road Trip.” According to dynamite.net, the series picks up from the last *RoboCop* series as “...OCP has taken over Old Detroit from the authorities in a political coup. It’s up to Robocop and what’s left of the Old Detroit Police Department to try and make it out of the state in order to get help from the US military.”

The site also goes on to say that RoboCop faces a new threat as well as a struggle with his mind.

As with any machine over the years, RoboCop has had upgrades to keep him going and fighting crime from his first adventures at Marvel to his latest endeavors over at Dynamite. Sure, RoboCop is more than 20-years-old now, but as long as he continues to function and keep streets safe, I see no glitch in his software.



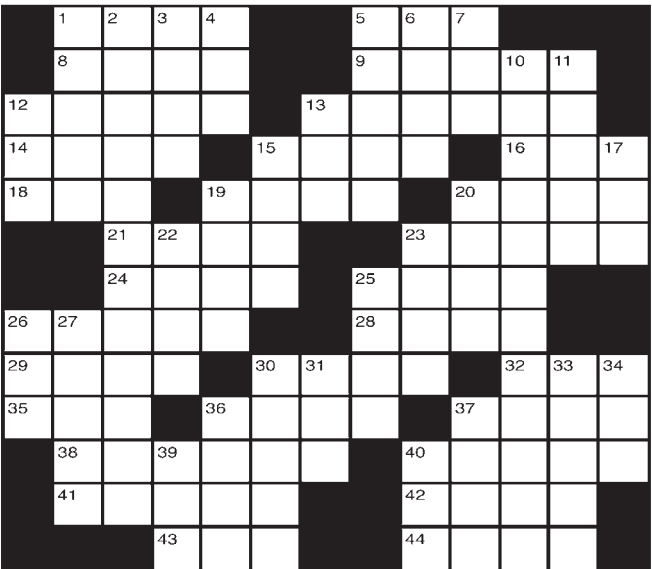
“Would you prefer sparkling water, filtered water, tap water or water?”



“We’re following Carrot Top.”

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



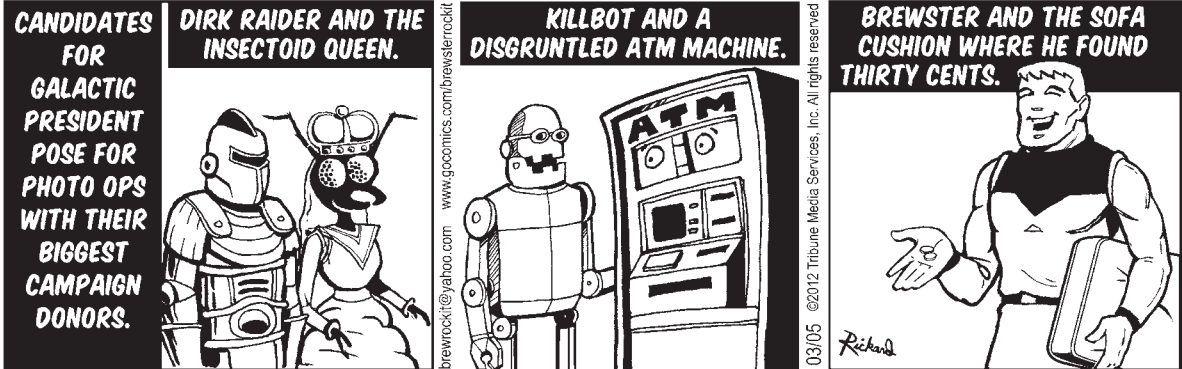
Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 3/4/12

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sherman Hemsley sitcom
 - 5 “My Children”
 - 8 Actress Glaudini
 - 9 “Beauty and the ___”
 - 12 Actress and director ___ Foster
 - 13 West Indian polytheistic religion
 - 14 Small bills
 - 15 Costello and Ferrigno
 - 16 Home of the Trojans, for short
 - 18 Suffix for command or puppet
 - 19 “Mr. Candid Camera”
 - 20 “___ by Step”
 - 21 ___ football; foam toy
 - 23 Role on “I Love Lucy”
 - 24 Worry
 - 25 Katherine Helmond sitcom that was a parody of daytime serials
 - 26 In the know
 - 28 Actress Belknap
 - 29 Brokaw and Hanks
 - 30 Namesakes of actress Wray
 - 32 “___ on a Hot Tin Roof”
 - 35 “What Kind of Fool ___?”; hit song for Sammy Davis, Jr.
 - 36 Actor ___ Kristofferson
- DOWN**
- 1 “Home ___”; Macaulay Culkin film
 - 2 Ed O’Neill sitcom
 - 3 Wallach and Marienthal
 - 4 Glasgow negative
 - 5 “Mad ___ You”
 - 6 Late July babies
 - 7 Boy
 - 10 Mitzi Gaynor musical
 - 11 “We’re off ___ the Wizard, the wonderful Wizard of Oz....”
 - 12 Actor Mantegna
 - 13 Max ___ Sydow
 - 15 Lorna ___; daughter of Judy Garland
 - 17 Rank for Max Klinger and Radar O’Reilly; abbr.
 - 19 “Live ___ or Die Hard”; Bruce Willis movie
 - 20 Father on “American Dad!”
 - 22 Makes a boo-boo
 - 23 Long, long periods
 - 25 “\$#! My Dad ___”
 - 26 “One Day ___ Time”
 - 27 “Designing ___”
 - 30 Fern leaf
 - 31 “Up in the ___”; George Clooney movie
 - 33 Take ___; look briefly
 - 34 Street paver’s substance
 - 36 Shoelace problem
 - 37 “The ___ Breed”; James Stewart film
 - 39 “___ Fly Away”
 - 40 Ninth month; abbr.

Solution to Last Week’s Puzzle

B	O	B	A	C	R	E	S	F	O	R
O	N	O	S	A	I	N	T	A	R	A
O	T	O	M	A	N	G	O	C	N	N
P	O	N	C	E	R	A	T	E	D	
P	E	T	E	R	C	A	M	B	O	R
S	K	O	A	L	C	R	Y			
A	V	A	S	L	E	E	P			
M	A	N	S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G
D	A	N	N	Y	A	T	E	A	M	
U	N	I	R	E	A	L	M	A	B	E
D	O	T	U	N	T	I	E	R	L	S
S	A	Y	P	E	A	L	S	S	E	A

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Women’s Basketball Triumphs Over LIU-Brooklyn

Will Now Face-off Against Quinnipiac in NEC Semifinals

DARIA DELUCCIA
STAFF WRITER

With the regular season over, the Universities women’s basketball team defeated Long Island University-Brooklyn this past Saturday 68-56 in the quarterfinal game for the 2012 Northeast Conference Tournament. Third-seed Hawks rivaled the number six Blackbirds, beating them for a third time this season.

Together the team worked hard for their defeat. “The game went good,” Junior Abigail Martin stated “The game went good and we played well as a team too.”

Head Coach Jenny Palmateer was excited about the girls win. She explained how the team had a successful first half, hitting three pointers to give them a safe lead. LIU came back wanting revenge for their previous two losses against the Hawks. However, the team did not allow any room for a win.

Junior Alysha Womack played a tough game with 23 points and a strong first half. With her help, they were able to spring ahead from the beginning. Martin had her fourth double-double of the season by scoring 14 points with 10 rebounds.

Junior Chevannah Paalvast scored eight points and had a career high five steals and two blocked shots.

Even with a sprained ankle, senior Alexis Canady was able to

triumph over LIU with 13 points. With her first attempt at a three-pointer it was obvious that not even her injury could hold her back from pushing herself further along in the game. Wearing her boot during practice and working hard in rehab the week leading up to the game, she felt comfortable and prepared to play. The team felt a spark with her perseverance to come out and play.

Early on in the game, the Hawks took a six-point lead with the help of three three-pointers from Canady. Once LIU began to catch up to the Hawks lead, the girls switched into high gear. Throughout the rest of the first half, the Hawks continued to work hard by making the score 42-23 at halftime.

In the second half, LIU began to fight back after gaining 25 out of the next 32 points getting within six of the Hawks. However, Gabby Singer was able to knock down a vital three-pointer to give the Hawks the ball once again. The lead sprung back up after a lay-up by Martin, which held the Blackbirds from ever getting closer than nine points.

Palmateer also commented on having the most assisted turnovers in this game. This meant that they were able to shoot and move the ball well. Although the Hawks dominated the first half, the Blackbirds came back fighting in the second. Luckily, LIU did not break down the Univer-



PHOTO COURTESY of MU Photography

Alysha Womack helped lead the Hawks past LIU-Brooklyn with her team high 23 points.

sities momentum and drive, because they continued on for the win.

Everyone on the team was able to contribute to the big victory. “Being able to use our bench the way we did was huge,” explained Palmateer. “It’s nice when we look a little tired to throw someone out there and not feel like

we’re losing a lot. It was overall a total team win.”

The team knows what changes they need to make with their upcoming opponent. With the Quinnipiac game around the corner, they have been studying and watching film in preparation. The Hawks know they want to add to their already strong de-

fensive game to make them even tougher.

The Hawks are very excited for all of their upcoming games. They know they need to continue playing their game in order to make it further in the tournament. If they are able to do so, the possibilities for the Hawks are endless.

Men’s Basketball Season Comes to a Close Against RMU

ED MORLOCK
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The men’s basketball team ended its season Thursday night with a loss against Robert Morris 87-68 in the first round of the Northeast Conference (NEC) tournament.

“I can’t say enough about our team, and our kids, and the way they battled. The way they fought through adversity the whole year,” said Head Coach King Rice. “It makes you proud to be a coach and I’m thankful that they allowed me to coach them for this year, especially down to the wire tonight.”

Coron Williams led the Co-

quickly to an 11-1 lead 3:24 into the game. Velton Jones started hot scoring eight of the opening 11 points.

The Hawks responded with a 16-5 run to take a 17-16 lead on a Will Campbell layup with 11:33 remaining in the first half.

The Colonials answered quickly, going on a 12-2 run. A Lucky Jones jump shot put RMU ahead 28-19 at the 7:23 mark.

MU came back strong. They cut the Colonial lead to 31-30, getting points from Steele, Waite, Andrew Nicholas and Austin Tillotson.

At the halfway point, Robert Morris led 44-36.



PHOTO COURTESY of MU Athletics

Ed Waite scored 14 points and was 6-of-7 from the field in the Hawks 87-68 loss to Robert Morris.

“Tonight was a tough one. Robert Morris was hot. I thought we came in with a great game plan to get this win, but tonight they just outplayed us.”

KING RICE
Head Coach

lonials with 25 points, shooting eight of 11 from three-point range. Lucky Jones added 16 points off the bench.

Jones and Lawrence Bridges led the third seed Colonials with seven rebounds each.

The Hawks were able to slow down Velton Jones, holding him to 12 points after he dropped 35 on MU earlier this season. He scored only four points in the final 36 minutes of the game.

Ed Waite led the Hawks with 14 points on six-of-seven shooting. Jesse Steele added 11 and Mike Myers Keitt scored 10 off the bench.

Steele led MU in rebounds with five and assists with four.

Robert Morris jumped out

The home team dominated the second half. The Colonials faced one scare five minutes into the half. The Hawks crawled within five at 53-48 after points from Phill Wait and Myers Keitt. The final 15:03 was ugly for MU.

The Colonials’ lead peaked at 22 after a Williams three-pointer with 6:37 remaining in the game.

“Tonight was a tough one. Robert Morris was hot. I thought we came in with a great game plan to get this win, but tonight they just outplayed us,” said Rice. “Tonight we got beat by a better team.”

Marcus Ware scored nine for the Blue and White and Campbell tallied eight in his last game as a senior.

MU took a big step forward in

its first season under coach Rice. With a similar roster and more difficult schedule, the Hawks won three more games than they did a year ago and were able to qualify for the NEC tournament.

There is plenty of reason for optimism heading into the 2012-13 season. They lose contributors in Wait, Myers Keitt, and Campbell, but have a solid core of talent returning.

Tillotson and Nicholas will both be sophomores and look to build off of their first year experience. Guards Steele and Dion Nesmith will also be back and ready to get better as they get more comfortable in Coach Rice’s system.

The Hawks showed this year what they are capable of doing when they are playing their game. In the final week of the regular season, MU had two quality wins.

The Hawks beat St. Francis (N.Y.), which finished fourth in the NEC. The Blue and White also defeated the regular season NEC champions Long Island University – Brooklyn by nearly 30 points in the season finale.

The Hawks head into the off-season hoping to carry over some momentum from the end of this season and get off to a fast start in the fall.

Men’s and Women’s Track Teams Post Record Setting Weekend

GAVIN MAZZAGLIA
STAFF WRITER

Both the University men’s and women’s track and field team’s were dominant over the championship weekend, but the men broke a memorable record. The men’s team totaled 27 points, the most ever at the IC4A’s by Monmouth. It was good enough for a ninth place finish. It is Monmouth’s best finish at the event since their 11th place finish in 2002. The Hawks also had five team members take All-East honors at the event.

The women’s team finished in 17th place at the ECAC Championships. It is their second straight season finishing in the top 20. Their 17th place finish is their best in the event in school history. The women’s team also added two more All-East members.

“We were pleased to get the men into the top ten and the women into the top 20 at a high caliber meet like this. We competed very well against the best schools from the Ivy League, Patriot League, Big East and other major conferences. Both teams did a great job this indoor season and we are excited about the opportunities we will have outdoors in a few weeks,” Head Coach Joe Compagni explained in a press release.

For the men’s side, Ford Palmer ran the 1,000 meter run in 2:25.09, good enough for first place and to become the school’s first individual champion at the event. Palmer also joined the distance medley team to an AllEast finish



PHOTO COURTESY of MU Photography
Garth DiBlasio was part of the distance medley relay team that broke the school record for time of 10:02.70 this past weekend.

along with Mark Bernardo, Aaron Aquino-Rodriguez, and Garth DiBlasio. They finished in seventh place overall. Vince Elardo earned All-East Honors on the first day of the meet in the weight throw, and on the second day as well in the shotput, claiming second overall in the event. Errol Jeffery earned his first All-East honor as he finished fifth in the shot put. Shane Carle finished ninth in the shot put.

For the women, Laura Williams ran the 400 meter run in 54.98, good enough for fifth overall and an All

Big East honor. The 4 by 800 relay team of Emily MacEwen, Danielle Toritto, Ali Hehn, and Amanda Eller crossed the finish line at 9:02.24, coming in fifth place overall and earning All-East Honors.

It was a great way to finish off the indoor season for both the men’s and women’s teams. With a lot of confidence and momentum, the Monmouth track and field Hawks will shift to the outdoor season, which starts in two weeks with the 17th Annual Monmouth Season Opener.

Softball Team Knocks Off Delaware, but Falls to Army

THE OUTLOOK SPORTS STAFF

The softball team opened the season in Norfolk, Virginia in the 2012 Spartan Classic and won three of its four games.

The Hawks (3-1) defeated Norfolk State 10-4 in the season opener. Kayla Weiser went two for three from the plate, knocking in four runs. Kate Kuzma and Shannon Fitzgerald also knocked in two runs each.

The Spartans led 3-0 halfway through the fourth inning. The Blue and White exploded in the bottom of the inning for eight runs. Alicia Desanto started the inning off with a walk and stole second base. Weiser singled to knock in the Hawks’ first run. Kuzma came up next and singled. Vanessa Cardoza stepped up next with a single to knock in Weiser. Fitzgerald kept the flood gates open when she stepped up next, batting in Cardoza and Kuzma with a single. Two batters later, Chelsea Paprocki got a base hit up the middle, and Fitzgerald scored. Jenna Jaquish and Christine Scherr reached base to load them up with only one out. Two batters later, Weiser doubled to clear the bases and give the Hawks an 8-3 lead.

Alissa Schoelkopf pitched four innings, allowing two hits and three runs while striking out eight. Jordan Barnett threw three innings, allowing one run on four hits. Barnett struck out four.

In the second game of the double-header, MU defeated Delaware 6-3.

Scherr was two for two from the plate, knocking in four runs and walking twice. Katie Schumaker and Paprocki each had an



PHOTO COURTESY of MU Photography
Christine Scheer leads the team in home runs (3) and RBIs (7) through the Hawk’s first four games.

RBI as well.

Lauren Sulick pitched four innings, striking out three, allowing four hits and two runs. Barnett threw another three innings, giving up one run and five hits.

Monmouth fell in its third contest, being outscored 8-4 by Army.

Scherr, Weiser, Cardoza and Colleen Kelly all knocked in a run for the Hawks. Weiser and Cardoza both notched two hits.

Schoelkopf pitched 3.2 innings for the Blue and White. She allowed four runs, but only one earned. Barnett took the loss, allowing four runs, two

earned, in 3.1 innings of work.

The Blue and White closed out the weekend with a 14-6 win over Delaware.

Schumaker and Cardoza led the Hawks with seven hits and seven RBIs.

MU out-hit the Blue Hens 22-10. Scherr and Weiser also combined for seven hits.

With a 3-1 record in Virginia, the Hawks were the unofficial champions of the tournament.

The softball team continues its season this week in the 2012 Aggie Invitational in College Station, Texas. The Hawks face Texas A&M, Liberty and North Dakota State.

Baseball Team Goes 1-2 Against VCU

THE OUTLOOK SPORTS STAFF

The baseball team faced off against Virginia Commonwealth in a three game series this past weekend.

The Hawks were supposed to play the first game of the series on Friday, but the game was postponed due to rain. It was then rescheduled for Sunday, meaning the Hawks would be competing in a double header.

The series got off to a good start on Saturday afternoon, as the Hawks were able to defeat VCU 6-4 behind a strong pitching performance by Pat Light and a three hit, two RBI day for Jamie Rosenkranz.

However, the Hawks were not able to keep up their winning ways as they dropped both games of the double-header on Sunday. They were shut-out 8-0 in the first game, as they weren’t able to do anything offensively.

In the next game, the Hawks’ batters woke up, but in the end it wasn’t enough as the Hawks fell 5-3.

The Hawks will travel down to Troy, Alabama this week to take on the University of Troy in a four game set. From there, they will travel to Georgia State next Tuesday before they come back home for their home opener on March 16 against Fairleigh Dickinson.



A Message of Hope: UConn’s Jim Calhoun Overcomes Cancer and Spinal Stenosis

DAN GUNDERMAN
STAFF WRITER

If you’re looking for an inspirational story, you don’t need to flip on an HBO documentary or an ESPN 30 for 30 show, just look at the University of Connecticut. Instead of hearing the promising tale of a player who has made it from nothing to take the NCAA by storm, I’ll give you reason to believe that Jim Calhoun is an admirable man and an icon for the game of basketball.

His 871 wins and ranking of sixth all-time amongst NCAA coaches are not the reason behind this week’s spotlight. The head coach, riddled with health problems, has defied all odds to return back to the sidelines. He returned last week after missing nearly a month coping with the effects of spinal stenosis, a condition where the spine is narrowed and disk fragments push on spinal nerves.

The defending NCAA champions have not been much without their fearless leader, going 3-5 in his absence this past month and 5-6 in total without him on the season. To bring fire back to his squad, the head coach defied medical orders to coach them against Pittsburgh.

Instead of easing back to work and recouping at home, the 69-year-old head coach paced the sidelines and barked orders at his team which is holding onto their last hope for making the NCAA tournament. When he loosened his tie and seemed flustered throughout the game, it wasn’t a medical complication, but instead an example of his dedication for the job.

Players responded to his perseverance and noted to Yahoo Sports! that there is no substitute for Calhoun’s presence on the sideline. “He just brings that energy and it makes me want to fight harder, even when I’m tired, on my last straw,” said UCONN guard Shabazz Napier.

Even associate head coach said “I walked into the locker room and he was standing there and I said, ‘I knew you were going to be here.’ He just smiled at me and then went out there and performed.” Clearly his locker room presence inspires players, coaches and all UCONN affiliates and fans alike.

Received to a standing ova-

tion, Calhoun went out and beat an always-tough Pittsburgh team. Calhoun’s surgeon sat in the stands to watch this bout and monitor his health situation. Just days after surgery, the game was a risk for the coach who is approaching 70.

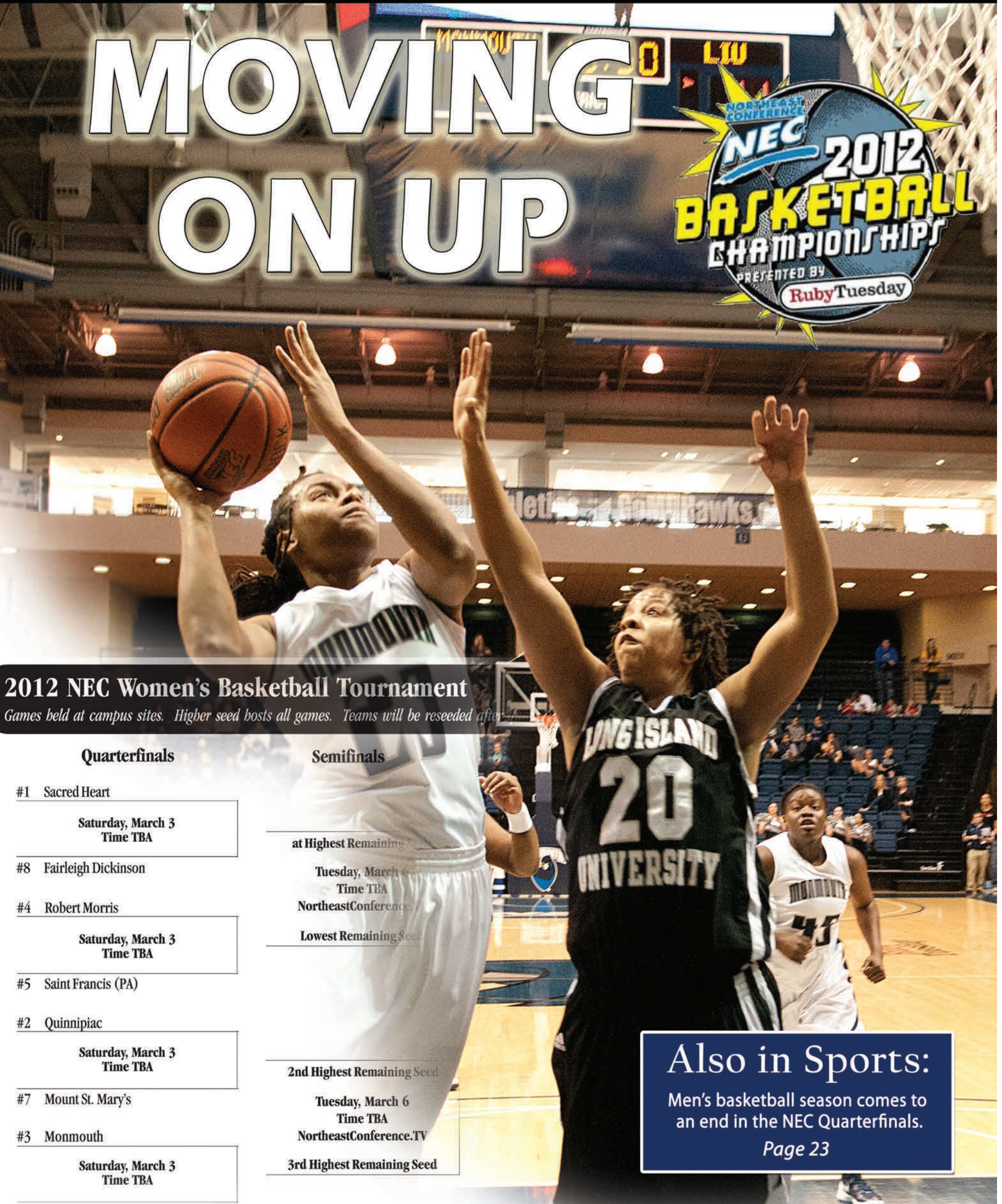
He put his players ahead of his own personal well-being and in doing so, showed the world the power of the head coach. Instead of a man just uttering a few words on the sidelines to a sport that is passing by him a million miles per second, Calhoun proved that his presence, ambition and companionship with his players is enough to drive a program forward with players who adore him.

The Hall of Fame coach has proven to be a prominent example for other NCAA coaches. Working to reach Calhoun’s stature with his program, long-tenured coaches can sometimes only dream of having the influence that Jim provides. A cancer survivor and powerful campus presence, there is merely no match to this coach.

This story even drives relevance here at Monmouth. Although he’s been at the helm of the Hawks for only a year King Rice was noted as being a coach who preaches team connectedness at the time of his hiring. Although the Hawks were eliminated early in the NEC Tournament, the team is very content with their play on the court, stemming from the presence of an influential head coach... King has clearly provided this influence.

Hopefully years from now we will have a feature spotlight on the accomplishments of Rice at Monmouth, noting his immediate turnaround of the program from the start. Until then we must make today’s emotional stories prime examples of the impact of sports. It is clearly not just a game, but a way of life, as thousands would attest.

As Calhoun defied all odds to make his comeback recently, he has shown the world how a truly admirable man acts. Already beating prostate cancer and multiple other health problems, he epitomizes the words ‘endure and prosper,’ a phrase none of his players can now ignore. At 69-years-old, he continues to build his resume.



MOVING ON UP



2012 NEC Women's Basketball Tournament

Games held at campus sites. Higher seed hosts all games. Teams will be reseeded after quarterfinals.

Quarterfinals	
#1 Sacred Heart	Saturday, March 3 Time TBA
#8 Fairleigh Dickinson	
#4 Robert Morris	Saturday, March 3 Time TBA
#5 Saint Francis (PA)	
#2 Quinnipiac	Saturday, March 3 Time TBA
#7 Mount St. Mary's	
#3 Monmouth	Saturday, March 3 Time TBA

Semifinals	
at Highest Remaining	Tuesday, March 6 Time TBA NortheastConference.TV
Lowest Remaining Seed	
2nd Highest Remaining Seed	Tuesday, March 6 Time TBA NortheastConference.TV
3rd Highest Remaining Seed	

Also in Sports:

Men's basketball season comes to an end in the NEC Quarterfinals.

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The women's basketball team advanced to the semifinals in the NEC Tournament with their 68-56 victory over LIU-Brooklyn on Saturday.

Full Story on page 22