



Diversity Issues Given Presidential Attention



Terik Tidwell of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., and Mabel Jimenez of Lambda Theta Alpha, Latin Sorority Inc. address issues at the Student Speak Out in Wilson Auditorium.

WESLEY CHIN
NEWS EDITOR

President Paul Gaffney addressed student concerns about diversity on campus at the Student Speak Out held in Wilson Auditorium last Tuesday night. The open-forum allowed students the opportunity to publicly voice their opinions to the administration and fellow students. Esmeira Paulino, Multicultural Greek Council president and sister of Lambda Theta Alpha, Latin Sorority Incorporated, and Mabel Jimenez, fellow sister and chapter president, moderated the event. Paulino stated that the purpose of the forum was to formally address issues primarily stated in a November 1 editorial printed in *The Outlook* (“A Lack of Diversity at Monmouth”), concerning a student’s opinion of the lack of diversity at the University. Lambda Theta Phi, Latin Fraternity Inc. and Omega Psi

Phi Fraternity, Inc. acted as co-sponsors of the event. Although fliers advertising the event listed the presence of several University administrators, it was the decision of President Gaffney to be the only representative to field questions from the students. However, some members were present despite the president’s request, including Mary Anne Nagy, vice president for student services, and Aaron Ferguson, advisor of campus radio station WMCX, who began the night to personally address the editorial comments directed towards the station. “I told everybody that I would be the person standing up,” commented President Gaffney. “I really wanted to hear what the students had to say. The questions could be from a million different directions, and you can’t just have, from 7-9 at night, have a million different administrators here.”

Students expressed their concerns in the perception of the University’s lacking relations with surrounding areas, such as Long Branch and Asbury Park. Rashaun Jarvis, author of the November 1 editorial, claimed these areas do not know much about college life, and feels, “Monmouth University owes something to the community that is so close.” President Gaffney, who appeared to be familiar with many of the student speakers at the event, assured the crowd that the University has branched out to surrounding communities, recently with Long Branch Board of Education, to, “try and get kids in here. To get high school kids interested in becoming young men and women that would like to come to Monmouth University.”

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Prison Inmates Share Stories

Project PRIDE Helps Prisoners Educate Community About Drugs and Alcohol

KATELYN MIRABELLI
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Monmouth University students, faculty, and administrators filled Wilson Hall Auditorium at 5 p.m. on December 5 to hear the stories of three prison inmates who volunteered to speak about the importance of good decision making. The event was created by Project P.R.I.D.E., which stands for Promoting Responsibility in Drug Education. Project P.R.I.D.E., which is a part of the New Jersey Department of Corrections, was implemented in 1999 and is a way for inmates to give back to the community, and hopefully make a difference in the lives of others. Mike Ritter, the program coordinator, was the host for the hour-long presentation. Ritter stated that currently, there are 27,000 men and women serving sentences in a New Jersey prison facility; of those people, 80 percent of them are in jail because of charges related to drugs or alcohol. He went on to state, “I’m 100 percent sure what you’ll see will change your life.” The overall goal of the program is discourage people, especially high school and college students, from getting involved with drugs and alcohol. For the event, there were two men and one woman who spoke to the audience about their stories. The first to speak was a 23-year-old man named Leon; he is serving a 10-year sentence for possession with the intent to distribute. Leon was one of five children, growing up in Toms River, and moved to Neptune when his parents divorced when he was 6 years old. However, when he got older, he moved back to Toms River with his father because his father was not as strict as his mother. In the eighth grade, he started to drink alcohol and smoke marijuana. Leon went on to high school, failing drug tests and eventually getting expelled.

At 17, he was caught selling drugs and sent to a youth facility. Upon his release, he went to a county college in Baltimore, MD. However, during his first semester, one night while using PCP, he decided to drive. He crashed his car, and woke up with police around him; he had other drugs in his possession, as well. Leon’s message is clear. “I let pride get in my way,” he said. “Drugs and alcohol will ruin your life, and it will catch up to you....don’t end up crashing your dreams into a tree like me.” Charles, a 25-year-old man, was the second person to speak. He is currently serving a four-year sentence for possession and distribution of drugs. He came from a good family and was a very talented athlete growing up. His grandmother and aunt were very involved in their church, and in Charles’ life. His football career began in the seventh grade, when he joined a Pop Warner Football League. He went on to play in high school, and even started for the varsity team. He was being looked at by several colleges, and had a bright future ahead of him. However, in tenth grade, Charles dislocated his shoulder while playing football, making him unable to play for the season. Charles was so upset about not being able to play, that he began to abuse prescribed medications such as Vicodin and Percocet, as well as experiment with marijuana at parties. School became less and less important to him, as he began to use drugs more frequently; his grades and attendance dropped dramatically. Although Charles was able to play in his junior year, he was sloppy, and his grades were no longer good enough to get him into any of the schools that had considered him before. Finally, in his senior year, Charles was unable to graduate with his class and needed to attend summer school.

Pride continued on pg. 3

Wednesday 57°/44°
Showers

Thursday 59°/43°
Mostly Sunny

Friday 60°/40°
Partly Cloudy

Saturday 54°/40°
Partly Cloudy

Sunday 58°/38°
Partly Cloudy

Monday 53°/38°
Sunny

Tuesday 53°/43°
Mostly Cloudy

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PHOTOS COURTESY of Michael Booth

Students recite poetry, cover old favorites and previews original pieces to those in attendance.



Thursday Night Alternative Takes a Hiatus for Winter Break

JACQUELYN BODMER
STAFF WRITER

The Oakwood Hall lounge was the host of the ever-popular Thursday Night Alternative on December 7. Co-sponsored by the Residents Hall Association (RHA) and the Department of Substance Abuse Awareness, TNA is a chance for students to get out and have a fun and entertaining time each month.

RHA Vice President Kimberli Gerechoff loves attending TNA each month. "TNA is a lot of fun! Many people come out to share their talents and it's always nice to hear everything," said Gerechoff.

Beginning at 10 p.m., students sign up for free gift certificates – this month, it was three certificates to Einstein Bagels for \$25 each – and sign up to perform. Free popcorn and drinks are also available for the taking. The night is free of charge and open to all students until midnight. Around 80 students come and go during the night, which makes it flexible for many students to come and hang out.

According to the Substance Abuse Awareness Web site, (www.monmouth.edu/student/substanceawareness/), "Throughout the year campus-wide events

raise awareness and provide information for students regarding alcohol and other drug use. This event began as an 'alternative' to the Thursday night party scene, for students who were looking for something different to do. Read a poem, sing a song, or tell a joke, and get some free food and drinks."

There is a wide variety of students that come to TNA, including commuters, residents and RAs. Christian Traum, an RHA member, enjoys coming to TNA. "I really think this is a great event, because it gives people something to look forward to every month, and it also shows them they can have a great time even if they don't drink every Thursday night," said Traum.

Of the 16 performances, every act was unique and different from the next. Many of the routines this month included guitarists playing and singing, and one act recited a poem. The songs were a wide range and a nice variety to the nonstop entertainment. Some songs played were by artists like The Dave Matthews Band, Early November, The Starting Line and Tenacious D.

Other TNA performers went as far as playing original songs they wrote. Some songs required

everyone's help to sing the chorus, and some performers asked that everyone sing along for fun, including songs like "Happy Christmas," and the ever-popular "Feliz Navidad." "The best part about this month's TNA was hearing the mix of holiday music that people performed," said Traum.

After performances were complete, a crowd, still going strong, wanted to hear more. A few of the performers volunteered to play again, which saved the night from ending early. "I like to hear the music that everyone performs, because it is always different and interesting," commented Gerechoff.

Overall, the night was filled with a collaboration of fun, food, and student-run entertainment. RHA member Cait Carroll commented on the benefits of TNA, "I think this is a great way for students to show off their talents. The night is a lot of fun and it's a very comfortable atmosphere for students. Everyone who comes is very supportive of one another and everyone has fun. I love coming to this event, because it's a great alternative for people who do not like to go out and drink. It's a fun and safe way to spend a Thursday night," said Carroll.

The next TNA is after the break on January 25.

On the Hill: For the Last Time

Student Bids Farewell to Nation's Capital

DANA PANZONE
STAFF WRITER

Just the other day, at our commencement ceremony, The President of The Washington Center, Michael Smith, told us how proud we should all be of ourselves for being risk-takers; for taking a challenge and leaving the places that we had become so comfortable in over the past several years. As I sat there listening to him, I thought back to when I had first considered applying to The Washington Center. I went to Dr. Patten's office to discuss the program with him. It was obvious that I was a bit apprehensive about the thought of leaving Monmouth for a while semester. He told me that it is the things that we do *not* pursue in life that we regret later on---not the things that we chose to follow through with.

That advice stuck with me as I applied and was accepted to The Washington Center program. I remember when I first came to D.C.; it seemed practically impossible to ever adjust to this new lifestyle. I was in a big city with hardly any familiar faces and I was working a 9-to-5 job for no pay. Now, I know everyone has heard the horror stories of internships. I myself was expecting to be doing a little coffee fetching and copying endless amounts of papers throughout my days as an intern.

Here I am now, finishing up the last week of my semester in D.C., and I consider myself fortunate to say that my experience as an intern was quite the opposite. My job with GalleryWatch challenged me and helped me gain work experience different from anywhere I had ever worked before. I truly feel that I have been an asset to their company. Working on Capitol Hill, seeing in-person all the prominent political figures I had only previously read about or seen on television was so surreal. It's funny how one day, I was just an average college student; and the next, I was riding an elevator with Senator Ted Kennedy.

But the opportunities I have experienced even went beyond my internship. I had the chance to take a class taught by a very experienced journalist who not only helped me to become a better writer, but also helped me to get a precise idea of the kind of journalist I want to be. I have also seen so many interesting places throughout this semester, and have made some great friends.

I ended up adjusting to D.C. more than I thought I would. So much so, that I think it will actually be hard to take myself out of the routine I have developed here. Perhaps that is a good thing. Perhaps that means I really am ready to start a career and be a part of the so-called "real world". Though I still don't see myself back here some day, I no longer rule it out as an option. I will be more than willing to conquer any of the challenges that lie ahead of me in the future.

I would definitely recommend The Washington Center Program to anyone willing to be a risk-taker like myself. Opportunities like this are very rare. And when you look back on such a valuable experience, you really can't imagine what your life would be like had you not seized that opportunity.

Honors School Hosts Colloquium

DR. MAUREEN DORMENT
DR. SUSAN DOUGLAS
MU FACULTY

Honors freshmen have an opportunity in their first two semesters to be a part of an Honors learning community called a "cluster." In clustered courses, students attend two to three Honors courses in different disciplines with the same group of 15 to 20 students. The professors collaborate and develop a common theme that is presented in all of the classes. This interdisciplinary approach includes common assignments that encompass the different disciplines.

On December 7, students in Honors Cluster I presented their final PowerPoint projects for Fall 2006 in an end of the semester colloquium. Drawing from English, Anthropology, and Western Civilization in World Perspective, each student developed a topic in consultation with their professors (Maureen Dorment, Rich Veit, and Lisa Vetere) that related to the theme of the cluster, "Ideas, Science and Technology." During each of the student presentations, the other students wrote a critique

and submitted them at the end of the colloquium. The variety of topics was impressive, ranging from the impact of John Lennon and Yoko Ono on society and the peace movement; Chinese Foot Binding explored on the basis of the aesthetic, social status, and sexual control issues on which it was based; the significance of The Zero in Society, an intellectual revolution dating back B.C.E. in Greek, Indian, and Mayan culture; to Anthropology in Film, looking at the media stereotypes such as *Indiana Jones*, *A New World*, and the upcoming *Apocalypto*. Lunch and snacks were served. It was a good experience for the students, sharpening both their oral and critical skills. For the faculty, it was rewarding to observe the process of interdisciplinary integration of course material, the goal and objective of the first year Honors clusters.

On December 11, students in Honors Cluster II presented their final projects. Their cluster theme was "The role of the Government in the Life of the Individual." Professors Noel Belinski, Susan Douglass, and Anthony Inciong

developed a collaborative project to bring this theme to life via "Anime," a style of animation developed in Japan, using stylized, colorful art. The title of this anime production is "A Meeting of the Minds." Each Honors student in this cluster selected an historical or literary figure within their course of study to be the subject of their anime. Students then prepared a storyboard and contextualization for their animation partner in Professor Inciong's class in "Motion and Design." Each anime is portraying that individual's view of the cluster theme. Another component of the collaborative project was the use of Japanese vocabulary and music to reflect the role of Japan in our course of study. Steve Mervine, Manager of the Multi-Media Center, pressed these anime onto DVD's which were viewed for the first time at the Honors Cluster Conference. All students and faculty involved in this project will receive a copy of this DVD. This project provided an opportunity for Honors students to bring the past to life with the use of the technology of the 21st century.



PHOTO COURTESY of Steve Mervine

Professors Rich Veit, Maureen Dorment, and Lisa Vetere with their Honors students at their end of semester colloquium.

Inmates Speak to Students About Making The Right Choices

Pride continued from pg. 1

One day, while driving to summer school, he was smoking, and got into an accident; he did not get into any trouble because he said he swerved to avoid hitting a deer. Charles lost all interest in football and college that summer, and eventually began selling cocaine. He also continued smoking marijuana and taking painkillers, until the day he got into trouble.

He drove a girl home one night, while under the influence, and after she got out the car, he drove away and fell asleep with his foot on the brake at a stop sign; he was about a block from his house. He woke up with police around him, and he had to get blood tests taken.

There was nothing in his system; however, one day the police did show up at his house. They kicked in the door and arrested him when he sold cocaine to an undercover police officer.

Charles had one message, “The decisions that you make do affect you for the rest of your life--good or bad.”

Finally, Rose, a 43-year-old woman serving a 12-year and 30-day sentence, spoke to the group. She began by saying, “I never saw myself as someone who would be incarcerated.”

Rose was originally from Morris County, NJ. She grew up with three siblings, and was very shy. She began drinking alcohol and smoking cigarettes at the age of 14. She said, “I absolutely loved

not feeling anything at all.”

She continued these patterns and even went on to experiment with drugs like marijuana. When she was 17, her father confronted her about her alcoholism. However, her mindset was that she “wasn’t hurting anyone.” Rose continued her habits after high school.

She said, “Alcohol and drugs robbed me of my motivation.” Thus, she dropped out of the community college she was attending and began to work. By the time she was 21 years old, and legally old enough to drink, she realized that she was not a “social drinker,” but a “blackout drunk.” Rose preferred to stay in and drink by herself.

This behavior went on for years, until the night before Thanksgiv-

ing in 1998, when a few people she worked with invited her out to a bar for drinks. She went, and only had a few beers; however, while driving home, she dropped a cigarette and bent down to pick it up. She heard a crack in the windshield.

When Rose arrived home that night, she noticed blood on the windshield and had to turn back because she knew, “something terribly wrong had happened.”

Police were at the scene when she went back; she got scared and went back to her house, and the police arrested her in the morning--Rose had killed a 45-year-old man who had been crossing the street.

Her case went to trial in January 2001. She was charged with

death by auto, leaving the scene of an accident, and possession of drugs (she had a small amount of marijuana with her). For these charges, she is serving a 12-year sentence, will have her driving license revoked for 15 years after her release, and will have three years of parole.

“My sentence is a life sentence,” she said. “If you drink don’t drive, if you drive, don’t drink.”

The presentation closed with a question and answer session. Leon, Charles and Rose all have some anxiety about the day they are released because prison is such a different world from the one we live in. However, all of them plan to continue speaking to others about how important it is to always make the right choices.

Statewide Aid to Benefit Women In Need

JACQUELINE KOLOSKI
CO EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Magill Commons is hosting the “We Support You” campaign from noon to 3 p.m. on December 14. The event is sponsored by Redeem-Her, in association with the Women’s Reentry Initiative for Training and Education [WRITE-NJ] and with the assistance from Monmouth University student organizations Gender Studies Club and the communication honor society Lambda Pi Eta.

“The purpose of the event is to serve the women by meeting a tangible need,” according to Stacey Kindt, director of Redeem-Her. This is one aspect of the organization Redeem-Her. The organization is made up of formerly incarcerated women. “We are working together to become valued members of our community.” She said that this includes service in such areas as employment, housing, support, and clothing.

cialist professor of Sociology at Monmouth University, said that she has worked closely with Kindt and Redeem-Her. Dr. Rebecca Sanford, the Executive Director of WRITE-NJ and Assistant Professor Communication at Monmouth University and faculty advisor for Lambda Pi Eta, is involved as well.

“WRITE-NJ works with Redeem-Her...She [Dr. Sanford] and I have been working...on the inside to help improve higher education and job training programs for women on the inside and so we have been working with Redeem-Her to put women who are leaving in touch with them so they can get some help to return to community,” Dr. Foster said.

Dr. Foster said the idea originated from the fact that when women are released from prison they have very little possessions. “The idea is to package up those bras along with other things needed along with words of support and encouragement inside those packages to make those women feel that they are not alone,” she said. Dr. Foster added that the women receiving the packages will also receive contact information to reach out to Redeem-Her for future needs.

world. Once students come and talk with women who have been incarcerated and learn more about the difficulties formerly incarcerated people face in returning back to a productive community that it will help students themselves become more educated and thus more able to contribute not only to Monmouth but our surrounding communities,” she said.

Dr. Sanford agrees that this event is positive for the University as well.

“I think it is great Monmouth is

willing to hold an event like this. We have an obligation to the community that while we are training citizens to go out there and have

Kindt has presented at Monmouth University on various occasions prior to this event. She has spoke to different classes concerning incarceration and women in prison, she was a member of the Prison Issues panel that was held on campus last year, and she spoke about a film that was presented at the Two River Film Festival entitled *Troop 1500*.

NJ and vehemently support their efforts to bring educational and vocational opportunities to prisoners,” she said.

“The idea is to package up those bras along with other things needed along with words of support and encouragement inside those packages to make those women feel that they are not alone.”

DR. JOHANNA FOSTER
Program Director of WRITE-NJ and Specialist Professor of Sociology

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Students 'Speak Out' to Administration

Concerns and Problems Presented to President Gaffney

Diversity continued from pg. 1

The president has stated his admiration and support of the Educational Opportunity Fund, a state-funded program that aids in financial and educational support of students from income-challenged families. His first meeting with Monmouth students as president was with the 2003 EOF Summer Program class.

According to the president, the University is the first school in the state to give bi-lingual tours of the campus and visit all Abbott Districts, or "urban" areas deemed by the New Jersey Department of Education that are in need of additional educational support. Although recruiting does take place

in several surrounding communities, he added, "It is not engineered specifically to get all our resources together to aim at Long Branch, Asbury Park, Neptune, or other places around."

However, some students were unconvinced of the University's measures in diversifying the campus.

Josh Medrano, who received his undergraduate and graduate degrees at Monmouth, recalled instances of blatant discrimination during his time at the University, and questioned the effectiveness of recruiters in bringing minority students to the campus.

Differences arose between Medrano's statistics on the number of African-American students at the University compared to President

Gaffney's figures. Medrano said there are 162 African-American students enrolled at Monmouth while President Gaffney said the figure is 203. Neither Medrano nor President Gaffney disclosed the source of their statistics.

According to the University Web site, there are a total of 6,200 students enrolled at Monmouth, with 3,902 of them being full-time undergraduates. It also states that the student body emanates from 26 states and 52 nations.

"The reason why I came tonight is that the feeling [of diversifying Monmouth] is getting worse," said Medrano. "I think that Monmouth is not proactively trying to seek-out, or recruit. They are not doing anything to diversify, in that regard, to get Monmouth where it



PHOTO COURTESY of HawkTV

President Gaffney fields questions from University students.

needs to be. It's disgruntling and disheartening to feel that way."

Statistics provided by President Gaffney at the forum showed minority student percentages match the median of a school of its kind at 12.5 percent. Though the figure was a reported decrease by the students conducting their own research,

President Gaffney stated that the figure remained relatively the same, within a percentage point, from the start of his presidency in 2003.

"The statistics are that we are in the middle of our peer group. We are trying to get better. I'm not happy [with the 12.5%]. I come from an organization that has overcome this to a great extent."

The president stressed patience on the part of restless students who wish to see immediate change. He commented that many of the projects implemented, including bilingual tours, recruiters, and community involvement, have been in place for less than three years.

"I want to make progress, but you have to give it a minute or two to work," he added.

Brandon Bosque, Student Government Association president, offered a contrasting response at the forum about the diversity issue. Born of Puerto Rican descent, he feels that the Latin population is somewhat ill-represented by the opinions of a select few.

"While we are not strong in numbers, I personally am living to be above and beyond of what is expected of minorities and college students," said Bosque. "I don't see it as numbers, but I see it as quality."

President Gaffney went on to say that the diversity issue is larger than just a couple of select groups.

"I do worry a bit about focusing only on two communities [Latinos and African-Americans], although I know we have to make progress," explained President Gaffney. "You have enough interest on hand to make progress, but we have to worry about other groups that are here too that may feel that they are different, and want to feel welcome, like people from Eastern Europe, or China."

"There's all kinds of diversity, not just skin color diversity. Its all kinds," he added.

Existing minority organizations have also voiced views of misguidance and other issues concerning Greek life on campus.

According to Paulino, there were instances that she received "inaccurate information on school policies" from Tyler Havens, Assistant Director of Student Activities for Greek Life, questioning the credibility of training for the position and calling for new representation.

"As a minority Greek on this campus, I honestly don't feel welcomed," she commented. "I feel like we have no guidance or support from the administration."

Havens, who did not attend the

"If the things that I said were not real issues, and they weren't valid, then we would not be able to get this many people in the room tonight"

RASHAUN JARVIS
Brother of Omega Psi Phi

forum, declined to comment until he has more time to address the issue with his department.

President Gaffney, however, did comment on Paulino's concerns.

"Even if there was training, I want to do it again, because you are concerned," replied President Gaffney to Paulino's statements. "I'm aware of [the issues] and we'll fix the problem, even if I have to get personally involved."

Jarvis recalled the mixed reception to his initial editorial, which played a pivotal roll in creating the open forum. Several comments received, he said, deemed the message militant and "out of left field." However, high ranking administrators, such as President Gaffney, have come to understand that Jarvis' intent was made for serious strides towards change.

"If the things that I said were not real issues, and they weren't valid, then we would not be able to get this many people in the room tonight," he stated. "I don't think we would be able to get the president here tonight, I don't think we would be able to get a lot of these people here, who have other things to do. So obviously, these are real issues that we are dealing with."

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Editorial

JACQUELINE KOLOSKI
CO EDITOR IN CHIEF

It's sad to say that this is the last *Outlook* for the fall semester. It boggles my mind that we have already put out 13 issues for this school year. Time sure does fly when you are working non-stop. For this final editorial of the semester I wanted to elaborate on a subject I know that everyone can relate to. That subject happens to be stress. I'm sure all of you are feeling it right now as you read this thinking about a final that will be haunting you in a couple days or a paper that you waited to write until the last minute.

So, we made it. Congratulations to you freshmen out there for surviving your first semester of college. It's the end of the semester which means only one thing: papers, projects, and the dreaded final exams. As a result of this hoopla comes the expected stress this time brings. Stress is synonymous with the last week of the semester probably more so than any other time. The whole semester itself is pretty stressful when you have five or six classes plus other activities that consume your precious time. Time I found is very precious especially this time of the year. As I sit here and compile my editorial for the week I can't help but think about the sociology exam that I have to study for as well as another class project that requires my attention.

It seems as though you ask yourself, "Where did this all come from?" It didn't seem like too much during the middle of the semester. Now that it is all very quickly coming at once and the due dates are rapidly approaching it is as if you

almost go into panic mode trying to get everything accomplished. During my Thanksgiving break I thought to myself that the next couple weeks are going to go by slow because I am very much anticipating the much-needed winter break. It's a time where I am going to attempt to catch up on all the sleep I did not get during this past week of school.

The million dollar question is why do we put so much stress on ourselves at this time of the year? I wish I knew the answer to that. I really do, but unfortunately I don't have it. There's just a stigma about the end that just gives off this feeling that time is running out that makes you stress out. I know everyone is probably wishing right now that there were more hours in the day. I know I am feeling that right now.

Even though it is the homestretch and you feel like there is really nothing left to do, that's when the work you should have done earlier, including papers and projects, are piling up on your desk like a mountain. Everything else seems like a blur right now because you are in a mode that just revolves around getting work done.

Besides the work in general, after you complete the work you stress out about grades. Grades are a gray area in my book. You hear some say that you should not worry about grades and focus on learning instead. It's ironic because grades do mean something because why would we be here in the first place? Students stress towards the end to get extra credit assignments done to increase their grade just by a little bit. Even if it is just a point, that one point matters if it means you are getting a B

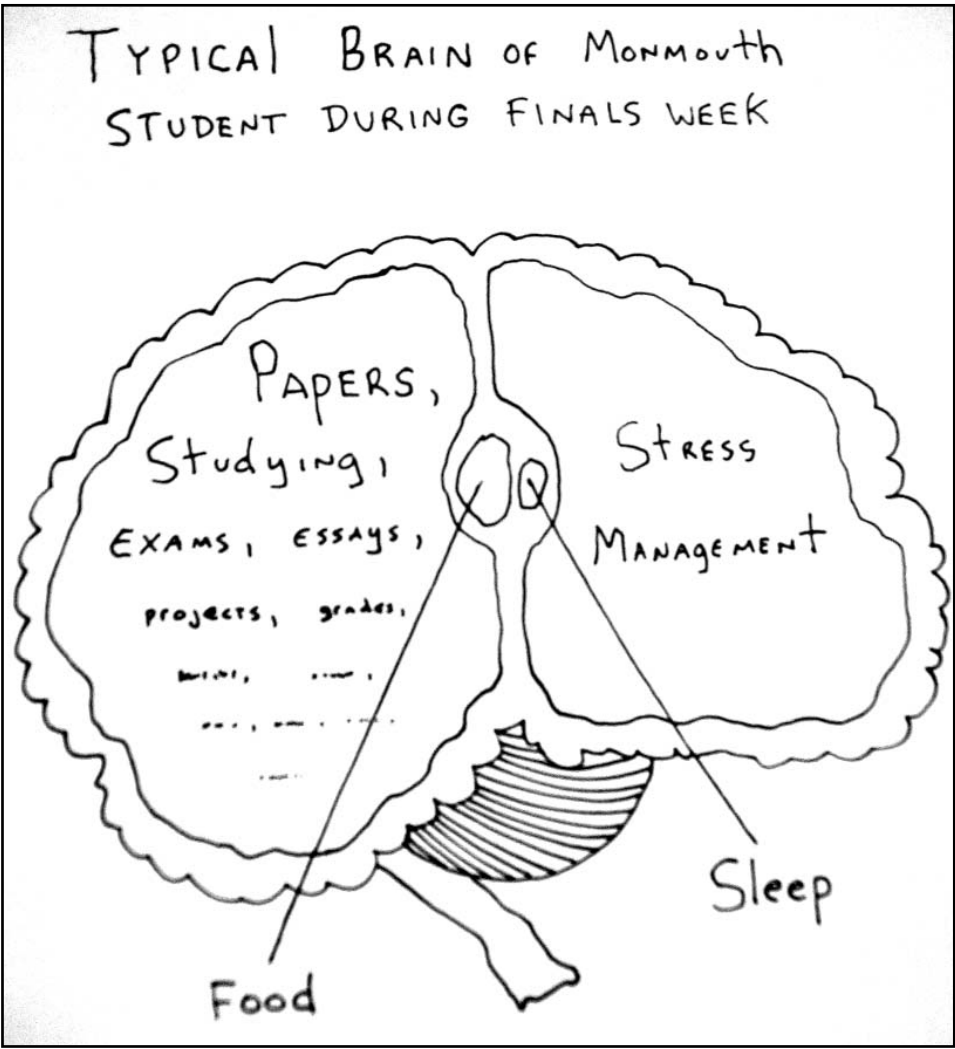
rather than a C. As they say, every little bit helps. Students can't help but fret about grades. If you put the work in you naturally want to see how you did.

Our University does one activity that helps relieve the stress of finals week just a tad. The Life Career Advising Center (LCAC) hosts an event called The De-Stress Fest. At this event, they have board games students can play, they set up an area where you can relax and watch a movie. And the best part of it all, that will most definitely relieve your stress, is that they have massage therapists there also. I have been to the De-Stress Fest a couple times and I have enjoyed it. For at least a half an hour, it helped take my mind off of finals and papers. I highly suggest you check it out this year.

I think there should be more events like that on campus so students can get a way from the stresses of school during finals week. Even if it was watching a movie or just hanging out all together, that would help students get through the hardships of finals week just a little easier.

On top of the stress from school, the holiday season is upon us which just adds to our stress. Students are busily trying to get holiday shopping done in between working and school. The holidays are supposed to be a time where you can relax and enjoy time off but that's never the case. You always find yourself rushing around at the last minute picking up gifts, baking, etc. It never fails. It is almost as if when the holidays are finally over that's when you can actually sit and relax.

Have a safe and happy winter break. Good luck on finals.



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

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BY SUZANNE GUARINO

Outside of the classroom, we can learn many valuable lessons from our day-to-day lives as college students. Looking back on the semester, what have you learned about yourself that you think you should change for next semester?



Brett, Megan, Jordan juniors
“We have to stop procrastinating and doing assignments right before their due so that we can go to bed earlier and so we don’t sleep through class.”



Morgan freshman
“Since I’m involved in zero activities on campus, I should probably get involved next semester because it looks good on your resume.”



Ryan freshman
“I learned that I can be responsible living on my own without my parents around. I do need to do all my work ahead of time, though, because I don’t wanna have to go through the whole ‘twelve pages due tomorrow’ situation anymore.”



Antonio freshman
“I’d like to learn time management and how to be more organized.”



Kim & Lindsey juniors
“We can’t procrastinate. We have to balance our time effectively between basketball and schoolwork.”



Express your... *Opinion*

Design by Lucio Barbarino

Have an opinion? Of course you do. So, share it. This is an open forum just for you. Use these pages to air out your viewpoints. You can do so by sending articles, cartoons, or photos to outlook@monmouth.edu with “opinion” as the subject.

A Tale of Two Sides:

A Response to “CNN Shows Why I Left Journalism”

In the world of media reporting, biased views should be nothing that surprises anyone with an active interest in politics. It is the job of television networks to garnish ratings by showing footage that will create controversy. While I do not agree with CNN for contacting terrorists for destructive footage, they are protected by the first amendment to air its point of view. CNN is protected just like other networks. What you do not see in Ms. Bachman’s opinion is a criticism of the opinions of Fox News anchors like Bill O’Riley and Sean Hannity. If she is going to criticize CNN for bias, she should also learn to accept that her opinions on terrorists and the president are biased as well.

I recognize that just like some journalists who report for CNN, Ms. Bachman, has a right to voice her opinions; however she should have realized that if she includes her biased comments in an attack against CNN, that her comments will be scrutinized as well. When Ms. Bachman says, “we have gone to war with terrorists, led by one of the greatest presidents of our time,” she is sharing an opinion that is completely biased. She wants to know how CNN can give “terrorists” a fair shake, but I guarantee she does not consider the fact that people like Bill O’Riley and Sean Hannity are given a fair shake to state opinions she would never question. Furthermore, she mentions World War II era reporting and how this would have never happened during that time. The reason why World War II reporting was one sided is because the

government completely censored opposing viewpoints.

Different people view events differently. It would have been interesting to hear the perspective of Japanese people after the United States dropped a nuclear weapon on Hiroshima that killed an estimated 80,000 people, destroyed 68% of the city’s buildings, and caused at least 60,000 more deaths from injuries or radiation poisoning from the bomb. I’m not saying that an attack on

“If [Ms. Bachman] is going to criticize CNN for bias, she should also learn to accept that her opinions on terrorists and the president are biased as well.”

Japan was not warranted, but if we are going to play the “innocent lives being killed card” on other countries; maybe it would not hurt to look at the staggering numbers of innocent lives the United States has caused as well. This does not simply apply for World War II, but also applies for Iraq. The question I’m trying to pose is whether Ms. Bachman wants a censored media outlet, because it sounds like she expects one.

If she does not want to accept and see other points of view that contradict and challenge her own

beliefs she should either turn off her TV and stop reading newspapers or move to a different country. Ms. Bachman states, “Reporters have gone as far as to refuse to agree that we are going to win”; unless she was living under a rock during the recent election, I think she would agree that the majority of the Americans that voted decided that this war is no longer about winning; rather it is about getting out of a mess before more innocent lives are lost.

It is important to try and understand other points of view. I understand Ms. Bachman’s point of view, and even though I disagree with it for the most part, I respect the right for her to write it. However, she needs to respect the right of CNN and other networks that want to air views from other perspectives. She questions giving “people who chop off the heads of others and plan attacks” a fair shake, but does she ever stop to consider that sometimes Americans are viewed in that exact same manner? It is this ignorant attitude of some that lead people to use discrimination against the Muslim faith or anyone that lives in the Middle East. What’s important to consider is that these people have an opinion too, and not all of them are dangerous. Ms. Bachman needs to respect and realize that not every viewpoint is hers and that reporters are not always supposed to be on “our side”.

If everything heard on the news was positive and one sided it would not be called news and it would certainly not be promoting different opinions.

One of my best friends was born in Iraq, lived there for 7 years, and follows Assyrian beliefs. While I do not agree with everything she says, I feel it is important, as a political science major, to hear as many different opinions as I can before I make any serious judgments. I, like a lot of other people, have a friend in the army who was in Iraq; I, also like everyone else, was deeply impacted by the events that happened on September 11th. I supported going into Iraq and taking down Saddam Hussein and destroying the terrorist organization of Al-Qaeda. My political beliefs are surprisingly not liberal; I like to consider myself a moderate. In fact, I supported Tom Kean Jr. in the recent senate election, and I am a fan of John McCain, Rudy Giuliani, and Barack Obama. My overall point is that while I may not agree with CNN and their opinions all the time, I respect the first amendment and the right to air other opinions that may conflict with my own beliefs. Voltaire once wrote, “I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it;” as a student who strives to maybe one day run for political office or at least remain heavily involved in politics, I am thankful to live in a country that has journalists who are not afraid to challenge the administration and show the opinions of the other side.

-Eric Sedler
*Junior, Political Science Major,
and Member of the Political
Science Club*

Fountain Gardens

The good, the bad, and the ugly of living on yet off campus

LISA PIKAARD
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

When it comes to living in Fountain Gardens, tenants are supposed to be treated as equals whether they are students or winter long residents. The only issue I have with this is, we are not.

First and foremost, we, as students, are told that we are not supposed to have our visitors’ park in the visitors’ spots. They are supposed to be left open for year long residents’ guests. The parking situation is horrendous as it is, leaving students to park on the street and even around the block where there is little lighting.

It is difficult to have a friend come over because there is no place for them to park. It is even more difficult when I am on campus at a meeting until 11:00 pm and have to drive back to the apartment and find there isn’t a single spot for me to park. My nearest option is around the block if that is even available.

Students on campus are provided with lights and emergency boxes as a safety precaution for walks at night on campus. At

Fountain Garden we are supposedly campus residents, but we are not treated like students.

Being that we are in Long Branch on a very dimly lit street with many apartments and residents, safety should be of greater concern than on campus which is well lit. The safety precautions at night are far from adequate.

The parking situation is difficult, but worse than that is the winter break situation. We are the only residents in these apartments from September through May. Over winter break we are forced to leave and not allowed to reside in our apartments without getting approval and paying a fee of \$150.00. Residents of the apartments that are not students, however, are not faced with this fee. We pay for our apartment and no one moves in or out in this time frame so why is it that students are forced to stay out of their apartments through this break?

Another matter that needs to be dealt with is respect. Whenever a problem arises at Fountain Gardens, whether it is something broken or something spray painted, instantly an e-mail goes to stu-

dents with threats of punishment. Why are students blamed when we are not the only residents of the complex?

I have no problem with Ron, who runs the apartment complex, but there are problems he says he cannot fix that must be fixed. First and foremost, any issues we have, we are told to e-mail him, however, he never responds! There is no use in e-mailing him because it will get absolutely nothing accomplished.

The biggest problem my roommate and I are experiencing is the lack of hot water. He sent out an e-mail saying there was nothing he could do for the students in these apartments but the complex does not have a large enough water heater to keep hot water flowing into our apartments and so in the morning there is no hot water.

The reason I have issues with this claim is, only certain student apartments are affected. Why can he not take the same effort with the section of student apartments affected that he has with every other group of apartments. It is awful in the morning when turning the hot water knob in the shower will

leave my roommate and I with freezing cold water. If we do happen to shower at a time when there is hot water, it is gone before I can even rinse out my shampoo leaving me with icy water and a very quick shower. Ron saying there is nothing he can do about the water situation is not good enough. An e-mail saying he is sorry and there is nothing he can do is not helping the situation. Well, he better do something fast.

With all of these issues, the cost of gas to drive back and forth to campus every day when it isn’t warm enough for the residents to ride bikes or walk, and the impending winter weather that promises to make it difficult to get to and from campus, it is becoming glaringly apparent that this apartment complex may not have been the wisest choice for myself to reside in.

Don’t get me wrong, living in my own apartment with only one roommate off campus with a full kitchen and all of the benefits of the experience of living on my own is great. Being treated differently based on my status as a student, however, was not something

Holiday Safety Tips

The Monmouth University Police Department is hoping that your holiday and winter break is a happy and safe one. With that in mind, please take the time to review the following holiday safety tips while shopping.

Before Leaving Home

- Plan your shopping trip carefully. Know where you are going and what routes you will take to get there.
- If possible, arrange for a friend to go shopping with you. There is safety in numbers.
- Let someone know where you are going and what route you will be taking. Additionally, let them know when you expect to return.
- Leave your home secure, engage alarms and give the appearance that your home is occupied by leaving the lights on in the most frequently used rooms.
- Don't leave valuable items out in the open. Secure them in closets, safes, etc.

When Parking

- Always park in well-lit areas.
- Note the location of your vehicle in the parking lot to conveniently return after shopping.
- Always lock all your doors.
- Remove all items, such as radar detectors, laptops, portable navigation systems, or packages and hide them in the trunk, glove compartment, or out of site.
- Avoid parking near vans or other vehicles with covered cargo areas.
- Avoid carrying large handbags. Carry only what is necessary.
- Look around the parking lot for suspicious persons before you exit your vehicle.
- Don't get out of your vehicle until you are ready. If you don't feel safe, stay in the car or drive away.

When Returning To Your Car

- Never leave the store with your arms full of packages. Use a courtesy cart.
- Have your car key in hand, ready to unlock your door.
- Check the parking lot for suspicious people and look around before you exit the store.
- Do not return to your vehicle if you see people loitering nearby.
- Carry a whistle or other audible device. If you feel threatened, use it. If you're inside your vehicle, lock your doors and honk your horn to attract attention.
- Check underneath, in front and in back of your car as you approach it.
- Check the front and rear passenger seats inside your car before you enter it.
- If you are planning on returning to the store, never leave your packages in plain view inside your vehicle. Lock them in the trunk or place them on the floor and cover them with a blanket or jacket.

Once again, on behalf of the Monmouth University Police Department I'd like to wish everyone a great holiday and happy and safe new year.

Det. Frank Graham
MUPD

“Quotes” of the week

“The most glorious moments in your life are not the so-called days of success, but rather those days when out of dejection and despair you feel rise in you a challenge to life, and the promise of future accomplishments.”

-Gustave Flaubert

“Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.”

-Calvin Coolidge

*“Peace on earth will come to stay,
When we live
Christmas every day.”*

-Helen Steiner Rice

“Don't be afraid of showing affection. Be warm and tender, thoughtful and affectionate. Men are more helped by sympathy than by service. Love is more than money, and a kind word will give more pleasure than a present.”

-Sir John Lubbock

“No act of love is ever wasted.”

-Geneen Roth

“My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?”

-Bob Hope

“There's nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child.”

-Erma Bombeck

“Peace is not something you wish for; it's something you make, something you do, something you are, something you give away.”

-Robert Fulghum

“For myself I am an optimist - it does not seem to be much use being anything else.”

-Sir Winston Churchill

“The thing that is really hard, and really amazing, is giving up on being perfect and beginning the work of becoming yourself.”

-Anna Quindlen

“Winter is on my head, but eternal spring is in my heart.”

-Victor Hugo

All quotes courtesy of:
<http://en.wikiquote.org>



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Mass during Advent
*Wednesdays, Dec. 6, 13 & 20th at 12
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Adoration
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Christmas Party & Gift
Exchange
Thursday, Dec. 7 at 8:30pm

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Watch for our special events during the semester!
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LAST CHANCE Please Contribute to Lambda Pi Eta's

(The Communication Honor Society's)



DRY FOOD DRIVE for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation through Monmouth Medical Center benefiting families with children suffering with CF

boxes can be found in the lobbies of most campus buildings
until 12/14

Orthodox Christian Fellowship

Beginning his 24th year as Greek Orthodox Chaplain at Monmouth University, Archimandrite Father Ephraem extends his personal blessing to all Eastern Orthodox students, faculty, and staff for a prolific scholastic year and hopes all will be active in the Orthodox Christian Fellowship. Father is available at any time to minister to the spiritual needs of all Orthodox Christians on a 24-hour basis, for prayer, confession, or just someone to talk to.



Father Ephraem can be found on campus, or he
can be reached by calling: 732-671-5932

Variety Show Proves Students “Got” Talent

WESLEY CHIN
NEWS EDITOR

Susie St. Amour took first place for an acoustic performance in the “Monmouth’s Got Talent” variety show at the student center Monday night, walking away with a \$200 prize.

The event, sponsored by the Student Activity Board, showcased various talents from the student body. St. Amour, a veteran campus performer, won the judge’s vote by performing an original song, “Another View,” and a cover of Gavin Degraw’s “Follow Through”. Csilla Geriner and Maddie Bauer took a second place finish and \$175 for their rendition of Saturday Night Live’s Spartan Cheerleaders. Stephanie Ramos and Emily Parsowith were award-

ed third place and \$150, singing “Take Me or Leave Me,” a song from Broadway musical “Rent.”

Judging the event were Mike Paterson, Associate Director of Student Activities, and SAB members Erica Fisher and Laura Cocca. Alex Abragamov, SAB Vice President of Marketing and Membership, hosted the event, and later took the stage to perform a martial arts demonstration. Twelve total performers took the stage in front of the fire place in the student center, exhibiting their talents for a mixed crowd of seated audience and passer-bys.

Second place winners Geriner and Bauer combined music and comedy in recreating the Spartan Cheerleaders, made famous by SNL’s Will Ferrell and Cheri Oteri. The duo sketch comedy

and dance routine were complemented with authentic looking cheerleading outfits and stage props. Audience members wildly laughed as the two closed their performance with the trademark “Perfect Cheer.”

“I thought their act was the most creative of the bunch,” praised Fisher. “I remember watching it on SNL, and they did it just as good.”

“Rent” performers Ramos and Parsowith entertained audiences with their vocals and acting talent. Both singers walked and danced the length of the stage, performing to an attentive crowd. Performers Dave Ruda and AJ Penta both played acoustic guitars and sang for the student center audience. Ruda, a SAB member, played three songs, including

“The Best of Me” by The Starting Line, “Cute Without the E” by Taking Back Sunday, and a short rendition of Outkast’s “Hey Ya.” Penta performed an original song he had written. Senior Dan Duffy performed two Xavier Rudd songs, which included using a didgeridoo, a traditional wind instrument from Australia.

“Being that the setting was in front of a fireplace, I decided to choose songs that people would know and want to sing along,” remarked Ruda. “It’d be cooler if there was a real fire, but hey, it was fun anyway.”

Abragamov would later change outfits for his portion of the variety show. Switching attire between sets, he took the stage in a demonstration gi, a martial arts uniform, complete with a third degree black belt he had earned at a younger age. Requesting the assistance from the audience and blaring music through the sound system, he proceeded to break pieces of wood. He set a new personal record, palm-striking through eight blocks of wood in a single try. Although gaining the complete attention of the crowd, Abragamov was ineligible to win because of his SAB membership.

“If I wasn’t in SAB or running the show, I prob-

ably would have won,” he jokingly said. “The crowd was fired up, the intensity was tremendous. MU’s got talent, for sure.”

Crowd response to the various acts was positive and enthusiastic. SAB intends on holding another talent variety show this upcoming spring semester. For more information check the SAB Student Events calendar.

“It was crazy watching him break all that wood,” said Dan Gregory, a freshman. “For a moment there, I thought he was going to go on a rampage and chop everything!”



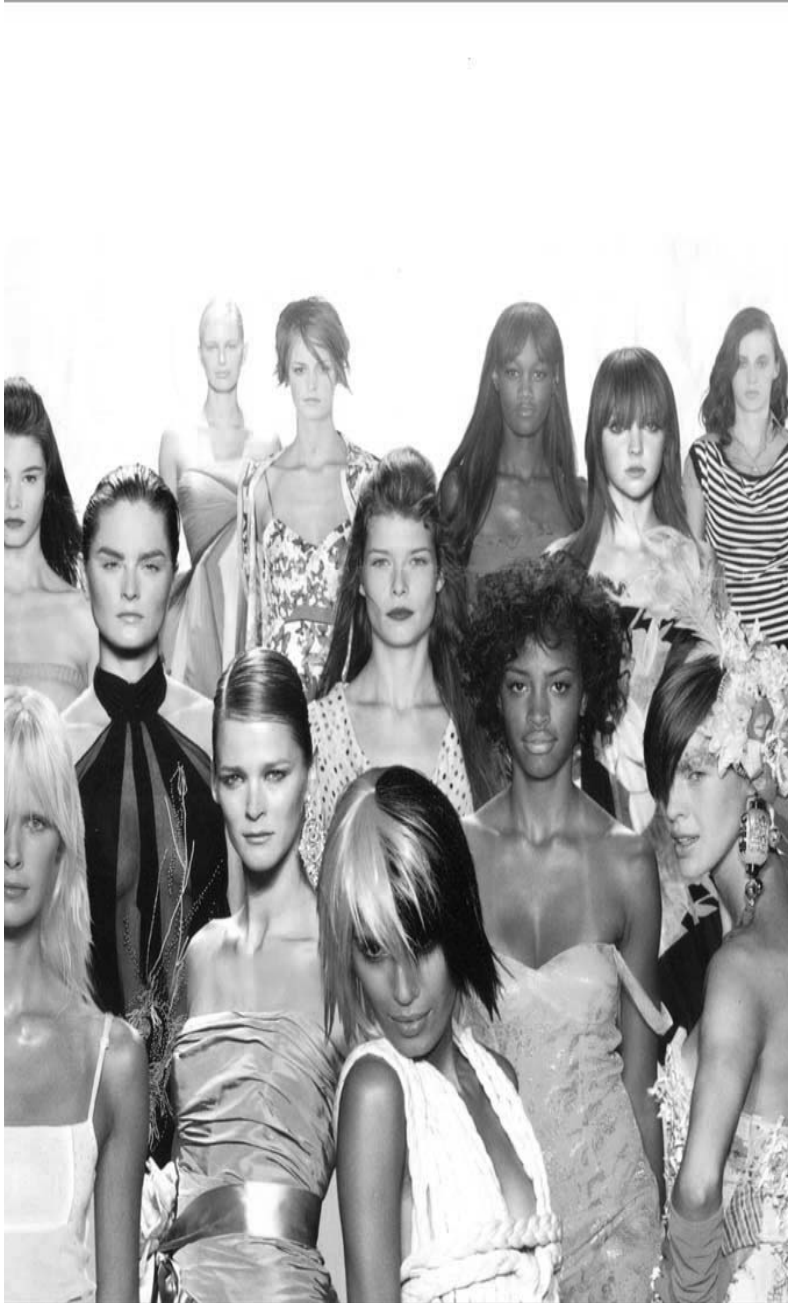
PHOTO COURTESY of Wesley Chin

Alex Abragamov breaks seven wooden boards.

brush

The Salon Slightly South of SoHo

129 brighton avenue long branch nj 07740 732.222.3026



Attention Students:
As a member of **Monmouth University**, you are entitled to 30% off all services at Monmouth County's hottest salon. Please mention that you are an **MU** student when you call and bring your student ID card at the time of your appointment.
(New Stylists Only)

ATTENTION: FINANCIAL AID STUDENTS

If you have had a Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Stafford Loan and will be graduating in **January** and have not yet completed your Exit Loan Counseling please go to:

<http://www.dlssonline.com/exitcounseling/ecec-main.asp>

If your graduation date is incorrect, please contact the Financial Aid Office at (732) 571-3463 or via e-mail at dorsey@monmouth.edu, or you may visit us in person in Wilson Hall, Room 108.

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Diggin' in the Crate

JASON MORLEY
STAFF WRITER

Memories are often linked to other bits of information to create a timeline so that you can accurately tell when and where an event took place. Personally, music is always a major factor in how I recollect a past party that's a bit hazy (for whatever reason) or a night out that might be mixed up with so many others. I use music as a way to pinpoint experiences, things that have happened in my life, and other incidents by remembering what music was out around the same time. The songs that surround us become the soundtrack to our lives. As my last year here comes to an end, I reached for a few tracks to bring back the nostalgic nights, and early mornings, of my first year here.

Hip Hop/R&B

- Smilez & Southstar - "Tell Me"
- R.Kelly - "Ignition (Remix)"
- Wayne Wonder - "No Letting Go"
- J.Lo feat. The Lox - "Jenny from the Block"
- Angie Martinez - "If I Could Go"
- Kelis - "Milkshake"
- Fabolous - "Can't Let You Go"

Club/Dance

- Lasgo - "Alone"
- Daniel Bedingfield - "Gotta Get Thru This"
- Kira - "I'll Be Your Angel"
- Puretone - "Addicted to Bass"



LORRAINE LESCHHORN
STAFF WRITER

Gwen Stefani is back with her sophomore solo album, *The Sweet Escape* and shows no signs of having mellowed out after becoming a mother for the first time. There is more of an R&B feel, but Gwen seems to be more comfortable with new wave, as only a child of the 80s would.

This time around, there is more of a modern sound present with songs

Not So Sweet Sounds



like "Yummy" and "Wind it Up." "Wind it Up," produced by Pharrell Williams of the Neptunes, is the first single, and is built around a yodeling sample from The Sound of Music.

The second single is the title track with an appearance from Grammy nominated rapper, Akon. The track most reminiscent of No Doubt is "Don't Get it Twisted," which is a mix of dancehall and reggaeton with a bridge of ska and reggae.

This gives No Doubt fans hope that they will stick to their ska roots when Gwen joins them again next year. The album features appearances by big name artists such as Akon, Swizz Beats, Tony Kanal (of No Doubt), Pharrell, and Tim Rice-Oxley from Keane.

Love.Angel.Music.Baby, her first album, was a much better effort. But, if you are a Gwen fan, pick up *The Sweet Escape* for a good time.

The outcome is a record that switches from hip-hop to electro pop in the blink of an eye, overcoming a lack of depth by making up for it with twists and turns that have not been done before. Well, maybe with a classic Madonna album.

After a strong start, *The Sweet Escape* begins to slightly wane with the desperation to be modern, but just then is when Pharrell comes back with "Yummy," which is chant-like, similar to "Hollaback Girl".

Although it seems tough to dig out the sweet moments on this album, it is worth it. Beneath it all, there are some moments that shine, and Gwen Stefani remains the SoCal sweetheart she has always been.



PHOTO COURTESY of google.com

Gwen Stefani is back again but *The Sweet Escape* isn't so sweet.



Know Your Roots



MIKE MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

Here's an album I've been anticipating for quite some time. Although it's been out for about a month already, I just got my hands on it. And, I must say, it's worth the wait. The album is *One-X* by Three Days Grace. For fans of the band's first album, this sophomore attempt will surely not disappoint.

There's something about Three Days Grace that just makes them really catchy. When "I Hate Everything About You" came out back in '03, I didn't allow any other melody into my head for at least a month. A mixture of an almost sing-along type chorus and lyrics that I as a confused teen could re-

late to made it a song that really stuck to me. It seemed to have this effect on many others around my age, and the rest of the album gave the same vibe.

A couple of songs into the album, one can easily tell what the band is all about. This is due to the fact that they are very blunt in their message; no beating around the bush here.

Instead of trying to use metaphors and sound poetic, they will just come right out and say things like "By the time you come home/I'm already stoned/I can hardly wait to leave this place."

This simplicity is the band's both strongest and weakest point. It is beneficial because it makes their message clear: they are a

bunch of struggling kids trying to cope with disaster-ridden relationships and dysfunctional societies.

The simplicity of their work makes them very easy to relate to, but the simple nature of their songs doesn't say much for them as an innovative band.

Their music might be absorbing, but it certainly doesn't stand out as anything provocative. Also, the material seems to get repetitive about two-thirds of the way into the album. Simplicity can only be so enthralling before it starts to get boring.

One-X provides a lot more of the same, but in a good way. The lyrics are still dark and depressing while the music manages to keep upbeat and attractive.

The only difference is that this time around, the songs are more based on feelings of isolation and anguish than dysfunctional relationships. There are still plenty of relations issues present here, but his time they are handled with a more mellow tone. "Get Out Alive" and "Over and Over" deliver the same message of resentment towards previous affairs, but in a much softer manner.

This album follows the same format of it predecessor, *Three Days Grace*, in terms of going stale shortly after the halfway point. But the fresh ones are delicious. The first single, "Animal I Have Become", is one of the catchiest rock songs I've heard since their debut hit, and deals with the struggle with a human being's darker side.

The second single, "Pain," has a chorus equally capable of getting the listener hooked and once again deals with the hardship of simply being human. The opening song, "It's All Over," features a gripping guitar riff and almost doomed atmosphere. Yum.

There's one song on the album that truly stands out and leaves me baffled as to why has not been one of their hit singles yet: "Riot." With a name like that, the song promises to be good.

This song addresses feelings of isolation from a society that steps on its adolescence, and the urge for adolescents to step up and rebel. This is something that has surely dwelled in the minds of the majority of our youth, and makes this song instantly recognizable and relatable. Backed with awesome riffs and a great breakdown, this song is a definitely the main highlight of *One-X*.

The album has its ups and downs, in both tenor and in quality. The band says that they tried out a lot of new ideas with their melodies and choice of instruments, and it shows in a lot of the songs.

There are several songs that provide a repeat of the chorus near the end with a different instrument and effect, and it adds a nice sense of musical experimentation to the songs.

Once again, it gets kind of dull by the time it's over. But everything up to that point is worth it.

It ends with the very different, eerie beat of the closing song



PHOTO COURTESY of www.amazon.com

Three Days Grace
One X
Jive © 2006

"One-X," which wraps up the album with a needed feel of variety.

Overall, this is a great album that I would recommend to anyone who could relate to and was drawn in by their self-titled debut. There's plenty here to keep you hooked for a long time.

Enjoy the break, and stay classy MU.



PHOTO COURTESY of google.com

The simplicity of Three Days Grace makes *One-X* one of a kind.

Upcoming Tour Dates

3/5
Continental Airlines
Arena

3/12
Wachovia Center



Fit For Gods

CHRISTOPHER SOUSA
STAFF WRITER

Apocalypto is another big budget Mel Gibson film. But does it hold up to his last work *The Passion of the Christ*? *Apocalypto* is a movie that takes place in what is now known as Central America. It revolves around a tribe of Mayans living within the forest.

They are eventually taken hostage by an opposing Mayan tribe of hunters. One of the tribe men

who is captured is a hunter, with a wife, son, and another child on the way. This is what influences our character with his ultimate struggle to get back home to his family. As they are traveling through the forest, they do not know why they have been taken prisoner, or what they will do with them.

Eventually their captors take them into their city, which is located where the forest has been cut down to make way for the vastly growing and encompass-

ing civilization. The culture there is very advanced, with many Mayan pyramids, a different ideas of dress and a different monetary system. It becomes apparent that this advanced civilization seems to revolve around prayer to the gods for prosperity and good fortune, and also about money.

Shortly after being introduced to the society, the captured tribesmen realize they will be sacrifices to the gods to bring prosperity to this land. This is where our main character really realizes that he will not be going home and that he must escape to save his family. This leads us to one of the best chase scenes ever filmed, through the immense forest. The forest almost seems to become its own character, as it influences what our characters do and what happens to them through out the movie.

Apocalypto is definitely going to be remembered as the bloodiest movie of the year. This movie is all action, with non-stop chase scenes through the forest. This movie is being considered for Oscar nominations, and is also being called one of the best movies of the year. If you are looking for that one great action movie of the year, *Apocalypto* might be the movie.



PHOTO COURTESY OF rottentomatoes.com

Mel Gibson's newest film finally has people talking about his work, not him.

Hollywood Happenings

KRISTEN RENDA
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Lots of happenings went on in Hollywood this past week, and I'm here to tell you all the good stuff.

Nicole Richie has a new boyfriend and it is none other than Hilary Duff's ex, Joel Madden. The couple has been secretly dating for a few weeks, and just came out of hiding this past week. First the pair was spotted at LA hot spot Teddy's; onlookers said Nicole couldn't stop smiling. They were caught exiting the Chateau Marmont in West Hollywood.

In other Ms. Richie news, early Monday morning she was arrested for driving under the influence of Vicodin and Marijuana. She spent four hours in jail before she got out on \$15,000 bail.

There's a rekindling relationship going on between Paris Hilton and Stavros Niachos. The two were seen in Miami clubbing together this weekend and they appeared to be heating things up again. Let's see how long they last this time. Will they make it down the aisle?

Yet another new couple is in Hollywood. Britney Spears moved on from K Fed rather quickly. She was seen kissing producer JR

Rotem in Los Angeles Sunday. What's crazy about this relationship is that Rotem (working on Brit's album) worked on K Fed's

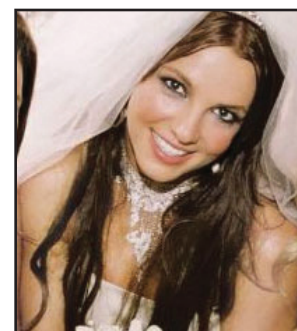


PHOTO COURTESY OF google.com

Britney Spears is finished with all things KFed including her wedding dress.

album. Could there possibly have been an affair going on?

Just in case any Britney fans want to buy her wedding dress, the star is reportedly auctioning off the dress that she wore in September 2004 when she married K Fed. No word on the starting price, but all proceeds are going to her charity foundation.

That's all for this semester! Thanks for reading. Why? Because their lives are just...better.

Déjà Vu: It All Falls Apart

SAMANTHA YOUNG
CO EDITOR IN CHIEF

Have you ever had that feeling in the pit of your stomach? The furrow of your eyebrows as you look at someone for the first time knowing you had seen them before? One morning in the not too distant past, I had a similar experience. While conversing with one of my friends after class, another girl, whom my friend recognized, stopped to exchange pleasantries. As I turned my head to introduce myself, her face triggered something in my memory. I could swear I had met her before. What if I had? Tony Scott examines the concept of déjà vu in his latest film of the same name. In fact, after watching this film, you'll probably ask, "Haven't I seen this before?"

In a post-Katrina world, New Orleans, Louisiana is still in a state of upheaval. Streets once the picture of Southern suburbia now feature water-damaged houses on

desolate streets. Fortunately, the spirits and souls of those affected thrive just months later. This sense of resilience sets the mood of the film.

Life continues on as 548 men, women and children corral from the Algiers dock onto the Sen. Alvin T. Stumpf barge. As the melodious voices of the Beach Boys underscore the carefree attitudes of the passengers, it also signals doom lurking in the coming frames. It soon explodes onscreen as a car bomb detonates, killing and severely injuring innocents.

Tragedy has once again struck Louisiana. Who's to blame? Enter Doug Carlin (Denzel Washington), an Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agent who lives for the job. Seen as the "go-to guy" of the department, he is recruited by FBI investigator Agent Pryzwarr (Val Kilmer) onto a special operations unit. They are given a strict deadline in which to find the terrorist and solve the

unusual, yet connected murder of Claire Kuchever (Paula Patton), a supposed barge victim.

From here the movie takes off, forging three separate movies. When questioning Kuchever's father (Enrique Castillo), he says to Carlin, "I need her to matter to you." This is an understatement as Carlin becomes infatuated with Kuchever and the possibility of their reunion in the future, or perhaps, the past. This forms one of the stories. The other two are comprised of a traditional *CSI* episode, collecting evidence and searching crime scenes. While each part in itself is entertaining and intriguing, it is questionable whether all three blend together to make one coherent story.

While the pace of the film is Technology played a rather large role in this film and, as such, due should be paid to those responsible. The sequences involving the duality of past and present, namely the chase scene with Carlin at the wheel, are done with expert precision, smooth transitions and amazing graphics. The superimposition of Kuchever's life onscreen while being monitored by the investigative unit is also done well. Joe Pancake and Nathan Dell are to be rewarded for the accuracy and realism they brought to the screen.

Déjà Vu, although a little recycled in some respects, still kept the viewers' interest. Almost one-third into the movie, the audience sees the face of the terrorist, expunging any sense of surprise, but Tony Scott, in conjunction with the writers, were able to form a storyline capable of a longer running time without it feeling long-winded. The movie finds its biggest flaw in its lack of originality.

It has the futuristic feel of films such as the *Back to the Future* trilogy, the ethical dilemma (arresting suspects before they commit the crime) of *Minority Report*, and the surveillance graphics and camera angles of *Enemy of the State* (also directed by Tony Scott and produced by Jerry Bruckheimer).

The cast, however, is really what made this movie stand on its own. Denzel Washington, from the moment he walks onto the screen, mesmerizes. Every word spoken and every emotion conveyed is done with the confidence of a seasoned actor. The character of Doug Carlin wasn't a stretch for Washington. Reminiscent of *Training Day* and *Out of Time*, Washington has played the quintessential "crime scene prodigy" before, but his acting chops are undeniable.

Washington's star power and screen presence was nicely matched with that of lesser known actress, Paula Patton. They blended together onscreen and played well off each other. Knowing no one could upstage Washington, casting directors were wise to choose an actress that would compliment him, not struggle for screen time.

Although a serious film, quippy one-liners were interspersed in the script, giving the viewer a break from the carnage. Characters Denny (Adam Goldberg), Shanti (Erika Alexander), and Gunnars (Elden Henson) helped to provide this relief with off-beat delivery and good comedic timing.

The aspect of the movie most refreshing and therefore, enabling the movie to be considered as a separate entity among its genre, was the setting. The New York and Los Angeles locations are,

for the most part, becoming over-used in mainstream Hollywood films. Taking this story, moving it to a different part of the country – even more, onto a barge – gave the story a fresh feeling.

Unfortunately, the two biggest plot holes of the film deal with the two best parts, the science and the setting. First, the scientists emphasize the energy needed to send something to the past. "The mass has to be as low as possible" they say while transporting a piece of memo paper. Remarkably, later in the movie, Denny is able to send Carlin. Weighing in at an easy buck eighty-five, the energy necessary, according to the expert testimony earlier in the film, would be unimaginable. The second plot hole is not as big, but still apparent. I just spoke about the creativity of the setting, however, not one Louisiana accent was present in the entire film, including Carlin, a New Orleans native.

Warnings should be given and caution exercised to those with low tolerance for violence. On more than one occasion, people are shown engulfed in flames and, at the very least, doused with gasoline.

All of my life I was taught, you can't change the past. This movie, in some respects, contradicts that axiom, but in no philosophical or intellectual manner deserving of further discussion. In fine big-budget fashion, the film is riddled with futuristic, impractical science and poor logic. In short, sit back and be entertained, because it will certainly do that. If you start to think about and question the methods of the characters within the script, it becomes blatantly clear the writers sunk themselves, not a bomb.



PHOTO COURTESY OF rottentomatoes.com

Denzel Washington's star power added appeal to the overdone storyline of *Déjà Vu*.

University admission aid for sale

SHIRLEY DANG
KRT ARCHIVES

With her daughter's collegiate career at stake, Miriam Schafer delved into the at-times byzantine world of admissions headlong.

She urged her daughter Laiah to hunt for schools, create a timeline and pen her essays during her junior year. But when the girl rebuffed Mom's words of wisdom, the California woman turned outside for advice.

She hired Sharon Lack, a marketing executive-cum-college admissions consultant.

"Admissions is really competi-

tive," Schafer said. "That's why it's important for some people that they have the best application they can, so they can stand out in the crowd."

For \$1,500, Lack helped Laiah winnow down a list of 30 colleges, finish her applications on time, review her essays and "put her best foot forward," Schafer said.

The girl earned acceptance at all five private colleges to which she applied and now attends American University in Washington, D.C.

As universities and colleges become more selective and entry requirements more complex,

parents are increasingly hiring private advisers with and without counseling experience to navigate the admissions process.

Some parents spend a few hundred dollars to find the best school for their child. Others spend a few thousand for years of advice on classes and summer enrichment camps. A select few invest upward of \$30,000 to work with consultants like Michele Hernandez in Oregon or IvyWise in New York to mold students into ideal candidates for elite universities.

Of the 1.7 million high school students who went to college last

fall, a projected 84,000 or 5 percent of the class of 2005 hired private admissions advisers, said Mark Sklarow, executive director of the Independent Educational Consultants Association based in Fairfax, Va.

Among the 260,000 students who went to private schools, one in five hired a consultant, Sklarow said.

Consultants cite January of junior year as the prime time to begin the college admissions process. But with increased competition, many consultants see students at an even younger age as parents shop for high schools that may increase their chances of entry to a specific college.

As the college admissions advising market continues to grow, so does the number of critics.

Bob Laird, former admissions officer for the University of California-Berkeley, says the unregulated industry breeds consultants that go too far.

"They come to do what's called 'packaging' a prospective student," Laird said. "I think it distorts the admission process. How much help is permissible, or ethical?"

The market for admissions consultants expanded as the frenzy for limited spots at top-tier schools heightened in the late 1990s. A glut of applications flooded in from the children of baby boomers to elite and state schools, driving down admission rates.

In 1980, Harvard University took 16 percent of applicants, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education. This year, the school admitted 9 percent. Stanford University takes close to one in 10 students; in 1980 it took one in five. During the past 25 years, the University of California-Berkeley's admission rate plummeted from 70 percent to about 25 percent.

"Suddenly, the simple question of who gets in and who doesn't wasn't so easy," Sklarow said. "It led many more people to say, 'I really need help with this.'"

At the same time, many public high schools eliminated counselors. Other schools cut back on counseling. In both cases, many students lost out on a free source of college guidance.

Typical high school counselors serve 500 students or more. In California, the number is closer to one per 1,000. High school counselors generally handle not only college guidance but also class scheduling and discipline.

"Some kids need more," Elsdon said.

Elsdon offers juniors a package called "Paving the Way." She focuses on getting to know students. Along the way, she may administer tests to match their interests with careers, which can help in creating a college list.

She helps steer younger students to classes and summer programs that coordinate with their interests but also bolster their chances of acceptance.

Sessions last about an hour and a half. The average hourly rate for new students is \$95, meaning each meeting costs about \$143.

"I try to keep it affordable," Elsdon said. "You don't need a lot of money to come."

Laird argues that any edge given to students who hire consultants ultimately harms the chances of entry for other candidates. Those most affected are those who cannot afford private advisers.

"I think that they have made the opportunities to go to college even more uneven," Laird said.

Several elite schools decry the use of private consultants. Stanford's undergraduate admissions

Web site says the school openly discourages "packaging," though feedback to find errors or omissions is permissible.

"Inappropriate coaching, on the other hand, occurs when either the essays or the applicant's entire self-presentation is colored by someone other than the applicant," it says.

Sklarow dismisses the notion that counselors help undeserving students gain entry to elite schools by massaging their resumes.

"If a kid doesn't belong in an Ivy League school," he said, "they won't get in."

The debate over private admissions guidance roils those in the industry, who, despite their role in catering to panicky parents, say the admissions craze has grown out of control.

"It's gotten out of hand," said counselor Jim Walker.

Walker started as a public high school counselor in 1962. He worked as a high school guidance counselor for 17 years, until 1997, when he retired and took on a part-time private practice with his wife, Dot.

Walker Walker & Associates now includes seven advisers and sees 150 students a year from Napa to Boise, Idaho, to Plano, Texas. Seeing a dearth of admissions counselors in San Luis Obispo, Calif., the firm held a workshop at a vineyard and instantly landed 50 clients.

The company charges \$230 for a two-hour session. Frequently, students will come in once or twice junior year and once or twice senior year, though sometimes the company will see a child every month, which would cost \$2,760 a year.

Walker said he attempts to maintain integrity by espousing a few principles.

"We never call a school on behalf of a student. We never write a letter of recommendation," Walker said. "We never go against what the school counselor recommends."

Walker offers free sessions at churches and volunteers to review essays at Berkeley High School.

Few private admissions consultants perform such pro bono work or have such qualifications, said Laird.

"There's not a lot of quality control," Laird said. "You can sort of hang out your shingle."

Hilary Roberts of Berkeley who helps students with college admissions essays hired an outside adviser to help her oldest son when he began looking at college.

Results were less than stellar, Roberts said.

"I really felt ripped off," she said. "We were paying \$125 an hour for information that wasn't tailored at all. We ended up just doing it ourselves."

After hiring an admissions consultant, Miriam Schafer became one.

"I used a counselor for my daughter, I saw what she had done and how it helped her," she said.

Schafer took online classes in college guidance through UCLA. She picked up some books, "What Colleges Don't Tell You" and "The Gatekeepers," a tell-all tome about college admissions.

Then she started her business, Colleges for You.

That's the thing, Walker said. Anyone can do it.

Most students and parents with a little time and patience can apply to schools on their own, he said.

"This is not rocket science," Walker said. "With a little guidance, families can do this themselves."

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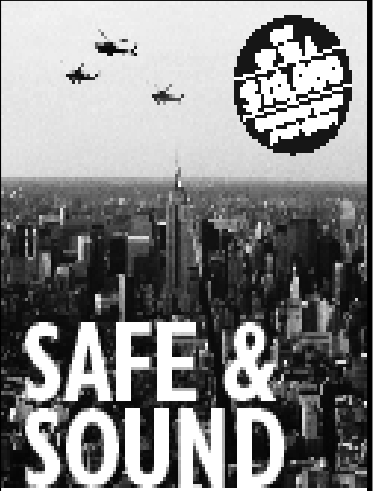


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HOROSCOPES

By Linda C. Black,
Tribune Media Services

Today's Birthday (Dec. 13)

Others look to you for advice even more than usual this year. They see you as a fountain of wisdom, which, actually, you are.

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

♈

Aries • (Mar. 21 - April 19) - Today is an 7

Partnerships are a very important part of your daily life. Ask those teammates now to help you carry a heavy load.

♉

Taurus • (April 20 - May 20) - Today is a 7

The work you've been putting off, amazingly, hasn't done itself. The pile is so high you can't really ignore it any longer. Just do it.

♊

Gemini • (May 21 - June 21) - Today is a 7

You're getting luckier and you're attracting good attention. No need to act in haste; your odds are even better tomorrow.

♋

Cancer • (June 22 - July 22) - Today is a 7

Everybody's got an opinion about how the job should be done. Listen, because some of these suggestions are pretty good.

♌

Leo • (July 23- Aug. 22) - Today is a 8

Your luck is better again, partially because you're doing your homework. Following a hunch is good but having a map sure saves time.

♍

Virgo • (Aug 23 - Sept. 22) - Today is a 7

This can be an unsettling time of year for you but it turns out well. Pace yourself, so you're not worn out by the time that happens.

♎

Libra • (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23) - Today is a 7

The answers are beginning to come into focus. In order to understand, you have to look at the situation differently than before.

♏

Scorpio • (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) - Today is a 8

Your increase in status leads to new connections, which lead to more good deals. It's up to you to maintain your cool _ in public, anyway.

♐

Sagittarius • (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Today is an 7

You're bringing more people onto your side by your actions and your behavior. Don't be shy; let them know what needs to be done next.

♑

Capricorn • (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) - Today is a 7

Accept a more authoritative role in the decision-making. Provide facts and motivation to get things moving now.

♒

Aquarius • (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Today is a 6

Conditions are much better now for meetings, rehearsals and parties. Everyone's in the mood to compromise, and that certainly helps.

♓

Pisces • (Feb. 19 - Mar. 20) Today is a 7

If at first you don't succeed, give up the whole idea. Just kidding. Come up with a way around a major barrier.

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES

By Michael Mephram

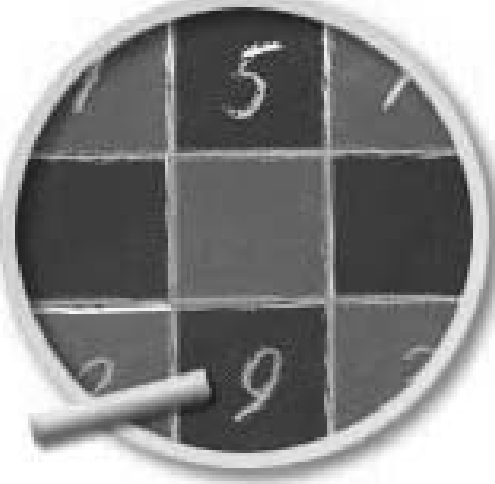
Sudoku

By Michael Mephram

	9							
5	3	1	9			8	2	
8			6					
6	4			3	5	9		
		9	4	1			3	2
					4			5
	6	2			1	4	8	7
							1	

Level: **1** 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.



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CAN TELL ME WHAT
YOUR PRANK IDEA IS.

by Aaron Warner

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MAKE UP FOR THAT!

WE FOUND IT
IN THE GARBAGE!

6	1	2	9	7	8	5	8	4
7	8	4	1	6	5	2	9	8
5	9	8	7	2	8	7	1	6
2	8	9	8	1	4	6	5	7
8	4	5	6	9	7	8	2	1
1	7	6	5	8	2	8	4	9
8	6	1	2	5	9	4	7	8
9	2	8	7	4	6	1	8	5
4	5	7	8	1	9	6	2	

PAUL

SO I TOOK YOUR ADVICE. I'M NOT GOING TO BUY YOU A PRESENT SO THAT WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH THAT THING WHERE I CONVINCE MYSELF YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH ME BECAUSE YOU LIKED THE GIFT.

THANK YOU. WHAT FINALLY CHANGED YOUR MIND?

OH, IT'S JUST A TECHNICALITY. I ALREADY BOUGHT YOU SOMETHING AN HOUR AGO. YOU'RE GONNA LOVE IT.

OH G—PAUL!

DON'T WORRY—IT'S STRICTLY A PLATONIC PRESENT. NO HIDDEN MEANING AT ALL.

PLEASE TELL ME IT'S NOT THE PINK BAG.

YEAH, NICE TRY. NO SNOOPING 'TIL CHRISTMAS! THAT'S THE SPIRIT, THOUGH. I KNEW YOU'D BE EXCITED!

BY BILLY O'KEEFE

MRBILLY.COM/PAUL

CLUB and GREEK

PSK Brothers Bring Winter Weather to Area Early

SEAN KENNY
CLUB AND GREEK EDITOR

There is still a little over a week left until the winter season is officially underway, but that hasn't stopped two Monmouth Greeks from bringing winter weather a bit early to their backyard.

Mark Mezynski, 21, and Aaron Griswold, 20, both brothers of Phi Sigma Kappa, have taken home projects to a new level by constructing their own personal snow making machine. It is a scaled down version of the machines ski resorts use to create artificial snow for ski slopes, and the pair has used their contraption for just that.

Walking up the driveway and into the backyard of their Deal residence on Phillips Avenue, you are greeted by two feet of solid snow complete with an eight-foot tall ramp. With the ramp leaned up against the house, Mezynski and Griswold practice their skiing and snowboarding skills in total privacy.

"Living in Deal we obviously haven't had any snow yet," explained Mezynski. "Aaron and I like to ski and snowboard, so we built the machine, blew a lot of snow and built a ramp for our own snowboarding park."

Created from products that could be purchased at any local hardware store, the machine can be used to spray down a large area of ground with ice and snow, which at first glance, cannot be distinguished from natural atmospheric snowfall. Mezynski, an avid handyman and accounting major at Monmouth, explained how he went about constructing the snow maker in somewhat technical terms.

"I used a high powered air compressor, high pressure water pump, brass fittings and high pressure water nozzles," He said. "The machine works perfectly but we can only produce good amounts of snow when it is exactly 28 degrees or below."

The pair hopes the upcoming winter season will add to their artificial snowfall, but they plan on expanding the already large amount of snow no matter what Mother Nature has in store.

"We plan to make enough snow to have an even larger area to snowboard in," stated Mezynski. "I would like to have the entire backyard covered and create 15 foot drop-ins from the top of the roof. I really want to make a serious snowboarding park."

While the rest of the state and Monmouth students alike wait for snowfall in the upcoming months, Mezynski and Griswold will wake up everyday to the site of their personal ski resort. The two plan to maintain their snowboarding park until the spring months come around and the weather puts a stop to it. Until then, though, anybody driving down Phillips Avenue in Deal might want to keep an eye out for an unusual scene: snowfall in only one backyard.



PHOTO COURTESY of Sean Kenny
(Left) High Powered Air Compressor (Right) Water Pump

Delta Phi Epsilon

I just want to say the Formal was a great way to end the semester. Thank you to all of Leadership Team who did an amazing job and good luck to the newly elected Leadership Team. No doubt that the 2007 year will be great! Hopefully everyone has a nice holiday! Corina, we will miss you, but be safe and have fun in London!

Love your PR chair...VEGAS!

Great semester sisters! Have a happy and safe break! Love you girls. Love cieLo J'Adore DPHIE! Great Semester sisters! Hope everyone has a great break. Love you all- CALI. Girls come visit me over xmas! Xoxo DaZZle. I love you Deepfers! I'll mis you when I'm in London. To the Jungle Crew Keep on truckin' Love Awliee Whats up deepfers love KCos. Jungle Stay fly. Great time at formal girls! Good luck on Finals and I will miss you all over winter break. Dolce Great formal Jolie and J'Adore love Aloha. I had a great time with you girls this semester! I can't wait for all the fun times ahead! Thanks 249 girls for an interesting semester! Love you all! TriniDy Awesome semester gals- I love you all so much- little, you are my life (duhhh) 249, we rock and throw good parties xoxo nevAeh. Thanks for an awesome semester girls, have a great winter break. I love you all and will miss you, see you in 2007. mwahhh-hzzz - DESTINI. I love you GF and little VEGAS we are now bonded by Saliva not just sisterhood- ExtReMe.

SIGNING OFF:

I'm going to miss all my sisters soooo much. My last semester in London! I'll be bask for sure for our graduation and for summer parties, but thank you all soo much for the best 4 years of my life! I love my sisters so much! Love 'Jolie' aka Corina



PHOTO COURTESY of Sean Kenny
(Top) Aaron Griswold (Bottom) Mark Mezynski atop their mountain of snow.

WMCX TOP 10 & GIVEAWAY

1. BLUE VAN - "Dear Independence" (TVT)
2. ZEBRAHEAD - "Broadcast to the World" (ICON)
3. MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE - "Black Parade" (Reprise)
4. AS TALL AS LIONS - "As Tall As Lions" (Triple Crown)
5. TOM WAITS - "Orphans: Brawlers, Bawlers, and Bastards" (Anti)
6. ME FIRST AND GIMME GIMMES - "Love Their Country" (Fat Wreck Chords)
7. BLOOD BROTHERS - "Young Machetes" (V2)
8. FOUR LETTER LIE - "Let Your Body Take Over" (Victory)
9. MORELLO - "Twelve Ways to Breathe"
10. COLD WAR KIDS - "Robbers and Cowards" (Downtown)

Listen to the **X88.9**, celebrating **12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS** with your chance to win great prizes during the **X-MAS WINTER WIPEOUT** and be entered to **win a surf board** provided by **Spellbinders** located in Long Branch and Allenhurst, New Jersey.

HAWK 12 TV

This Month on Hawk TV

HAWK 12 TV

Original Programming

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

MOVIES AT 12 ON 12

- Christmas Vacation
- Elf
- Love Actually
- Bourne Supremacy
- Clerks 2
- Superman Returns
- The DaVinci Code
- Over The Hedge
- Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

Tune in to Hawk TV Ch. 12 for all program listings and times

This month's Issues & Insights produced by:

Jenny Roberts, Bridget Shaw, Alan Tucker, Michael Payne, Amy Musanti, Craig D'Amico, Sean O'Connell, Jason Krawczyk,

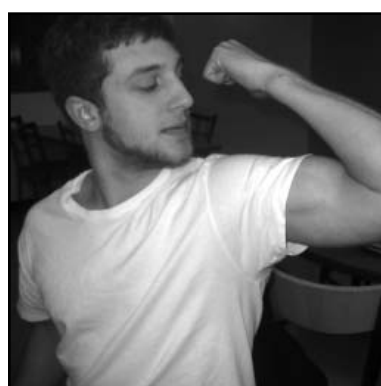
Check Out Music Videos Produced by Monmouth Students

Christopher Jones, Erin Sullivan, Laura Friedman, Matt Murray, Kristin Juliana, Justin Diana, and much more



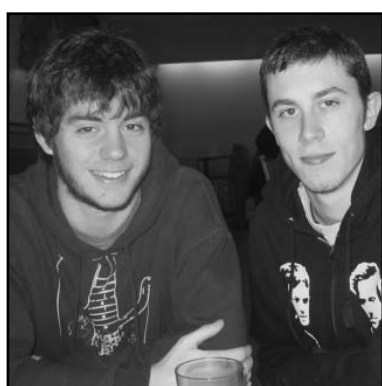
What will you be doing over the break?

BY: SUZANNE GUARINO



*Eddie
junior*

"Champions don't take breaks."



*Chris & Matt
freshman*

"We're pretty sure we're doing absolutely nothing."



*Andrew
sophomore*

"Not only am I celebrating Christmas, I'll be celebrating my birthday the next day. I'm gonna be hangin' out with my friends and family, sleeping, and looking for a job."



*Derek
senior*

"This break I'm going to sail around the world in a catamaran of my own design."



*Matt
freshman*

"I plan on taking a really long nap because I know when I get back it's back to getting four hours of sleep a night."



*Orin McKay, Jr.
junior*

"My plans for the break are to get much rest and to catch up with my lovely family; and prepare for the spring semester."



*Rachel, Laura, Nikki, Christine
freshmen, sophomores, junior*

"We are going home for Christmas, and coming straight back for intersession on Jan. 3rd!"



*Alvin
sophomore*

"I plan on getting mad big and proving haters wrong."



*Christina
sophomore*

"I'm just gonna spend some time with my family & friends and have a good time."



*Matt
sophomore*

"I have to work, unlike most kids at Monmouth..."

Fall 2006 Writing Proficiency Examination (WPE)

The Writing Proficiency Examination will be offered next on **Friday, December 15, 2006, from 5:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Monday, December 18, 2006, from 9:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**Check-in for the December 15th exam will begin at 4:15 p.m.
Check-in for the December 18th exam will begin at 8:45 a.m.**

Check-in for both exams will be held in the lobby of Pollak Theatre.

Eligibility Requirements for the Exam

In general, you are eligible to take the December 2006 WPE if and only if you meet all three of the following conditions:

1. **you are a current student at the time of the exam** (that is, you have a start date that falls before the date of the exam),
2. **you have previously completed EN 101 and EN 102 or their equivalents** (such as transfer equivalencies or Credit by Examination), **and**
3. **you have not previously attempted the WPE.**

Requirements for Attempting the Exam

The mandatory **reading set** for the WPE will be available at the University Bookstore for a minimal fee, beginning Wednesday, November 29, 2006. Before the exam, students must purchase and read the reading set, and must bring it to the examination.

In order to be admitted to the WPE, students must present a **Monmouth University Student Identification Card**. If you do not have an ID, you may obtain one at the ID Center, located in the Rebecca Stafford Student Center.

Resources for Preparing for the Exam

To prepare for the examination, students should pick up and read the Writing Proficiency Requirement **Preparation Manual**, available for no charge at the Writing Office (Wilson Annex Room 510) or online at <http://bluehawk.monmouth.edu/~eng/wpr.pdf>.

The Writing Office will offer **three information sessions** about the WPE at which the format and expectations of the exam are explained and at which you can ask questions in person. The sessions will be held on Thursday, November 30, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday, December 6, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.; and Monday, December 11, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. All sessions will be held in the Rebecca Stafford Student Center, room 202B.

Additional information is available from the WPE Information Line at 732-263-5491 and from the Writing Office in Wilson Annex Room 510. All students should consult the Monmouth University Undergraduate Catalog for the Writing Proficiency Requirement policy.

Beyond the Classroom:

PROFESSORS PERFORM HUMANITARIAN WORKS

OUTSIDE OF MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

DANIEL ROTH
EDITOR AT LARGE

Everything that goes on at a college or university is based on the priority of the student. Clubs, athletics, classes, and organizations are all designed for the benefit of preparing students for life afterwards. Little time and effort goes into knowing about those who allow students to succeed, the people who do the preparing, and many times the forgotten piece of the puzzle that makes up this institution. They are the professors.

The purpose of this multiple-part series is to acknowledge professors for the humanitarian work done outside of the classroom.

PART I:

PROFESSORS WORKING WITHIN THE PRISON SYSTEM

Dr. Eleanor Novek: Development of a Prison Newspaper

In 2001, communication professor Dr. Eleanor Novek, in collaboration with fellow Monmouth communication professor Dr. Rebecca Sanford, first taught a class at a women's prison with the goal of establishing a newspaper.

According to Dr. Novek, in her article titled, "The devil's bargain," the purpose of the class was to establish a prison newspaper that would give the incarcerated women a chance for self-expression. "We also wanted to raise inmates' interest, skills and confidence to a level where they could independently sustain a regular publication schedule for their paper," Novek said.

Developing a newspaper within a prison is no easy task. While the constitution does give inmates the right to have a newspaper, recent court cases have agreed with the penitentiary in censoring the paper to the specifications of the warden.

Some of the other challenges prison newspapers face is limited budgets, lack of assignments and topics that could be covered within the paper.

In the article, Dr. Novek states that the inmates benefit from the prison newspaper by having an increased ability in research methods and writing as well as developing self-awareness, and the ability to analyze a situation without taking sides.

The eventual result of two-and-a-half years of work was that more than 90 women participated, learning journalism skills and contributing to more than 30 issues of the newspaper published to date.

Recently, Dr. Novek has been participating in the Alternatives to Violence Project at the Garden State Youth Correctional Facility. The project teaches people how to handle things without the use of violence. Dr. Novek is currently in training to become a facilitator for the project.

At Monmouth, Dr. Novek's Civic Journalism class connects students with communities outside the school. Students during the fall semester wrote stories about Long Branch, its citizens, and the heroic efforts of community organizers to improve the quality of life for residents. The students toured the city and got to know these residents on a personal level.



Dr. Eleanor Novek, Associate Communication Professor
Dr. Rebecca Sanford, Assistant Communication Professor and
Faculty Advisor to honor society Lambda Pi Eta
Dr. Johanna Foster, Specialist Sociology Professor

Drs. Rebecca Sanford and Johanna Foster: The Women's Reentry Initiative for Training and Education, Project Inside

When away from the Monmouth campus, Dr. Rebecca Sanford and Dr. Johanna Foster have over 13 years of teaching time in prisons between them.

Dr. Sanford has been working in the prison system for the past eight years and is the Executive Director of WRITE-NJ, a not-for-profit organization otherwise known as the Women's Reentry Initiative for Training and Education. Dr. Sanford also works for Project Inside, a federally-funded program for college credits for students in prison.

According to Dr. Foster, Dr. Sanford is "the person who has really been leading the charge to improve access in higher education and viable job training for incarcerated women in our state."

Dr. Foster has been teaching in prison systems for over five years. Prior to coming to Monmouth, Dr. Foster was involved in NY prison work for a couple years and co-founded an NY organization called College Connections: Higher Education for Women in Prison. According to Dr. Foster, "When I moved to NJ to work for Monmouth, Dr. Sanford and I met and learned we had similar interests in the problems of mass incarceration. At that point, she gave me a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with her in her ongoing work here in NJ."

Together, they have amassed more than 222 university credit-hours taught behind bars, over 81 different sections of college classes at six prisons for both men and women in two states. The two have also taught approximately 30 non-credit pre-college and college prep courses and workshops at three facilities and have co-founded WRITE-NJ, an educational prison program.

Dr. Sanford has taught Interpersonal Communication, Business and Technical Communication, and Computers and Communication classes. On a pre-college level, Dr. Sanford has taught classes such as Critical Reading Skills, a class in which she teams with Dr. Foster.

Meanwhile, Dr. Foster has taught courses in Intro to Sociology, Intro to Gender Studies, Intro to Criminal Justice, pre-college English and Freshman Seminar. Dr. Foster also in 2003 co-founded The College Program, a volunteer-run college-in-prison for women in a medium security prison.

Dr. Sanford and Dr. Foster continue to work year round in these correctional facilities, educating inmates and preparing them for life inside and outside the prison system.





Late Night Breakfast

December 14, 2006

9:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Magill Commons

DE-STRESS FEST!!!

December 13, 2006

1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

SSC Anacon A

Door prizes~Games~Food~Massage



Men's Basketball

Hawks Head into Holiday on Sour Note

Drop a Pair of Games at Boylan Gym by a Total of Four Points

CRAIG D'AMICO
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

After playing eight of their first nine games on the road, the Monmouth Hawks returned home this week to start a six game home-stand in what they thought were the friendly confines of Boylan Gym. The Hawks dropped a pair of games in the “Boyer Room,” falling in their conference opener against Long Island University 74-71, and in a non-conference clash with the Hartford Hawks 76-75.

Last Thursday night, Monmouth looked to prove themselves worthy of the top spot in the preseason coaches’ poll, as the Hawks faced the team that they eliminated in the first round of last year’s NEC Tournament on their way to the conference crown.

Long Island was predicted to finish third in the coaches’ poll, and still had memories in their heads of shooting the Hawks out of the gym in their regular season meeting in Brooklyn, where the Blackbirds connected on 18 three point baskets.

The Blackbirds didn’t miss a beat to start out, as they started to pull away from Monmouth early, going five straight possessions with a three pointer, to grab a 23-14 lead with just under eight minutes remaining in the first half.

LIU grabbed their biggest lead of the game, 17 points, on an old fashioned three point play by Tyronne Mattison with 3:16 left in the half. But Monmouth would not go away quietly, as they made one last run prior to the break. The Hawks scored the last eight points of the first half, on a three by De-jan Delic, a Marques Alston free

throw, and layups by Alston and Whitney Coleman. Monmouth battled back to trail at the half by single digits, 38-29.

Picking up right where they left off, LIU came out of the break and connected on back-to-back threes to increase their advantage to 13 points, at 44-31, just two minutes into the second half.

Monmouth rookie Jhamar Youngblood led the charge and the Hawks’ comeback effort, anchoring a 6-0 Hawks run to pull within seven, 44-37. With ten minutes remaining, Alex Nunner drained a three, which was followed by a Youngblood layup, closing the gap to three. Whitney Coleman had a chance to tie, but his three point attempt was off the mark. Then with seven and a half to play, Monmouth had another chance to draw even, as Youngblood rattled home a three to cut the deficit to two points, 61-59. After a Blackbird miss, Delic missed a jumper in the lane that would have tied the game, and again Monmouth came up empty.

In the final minute, a Youngblood layup brought the Hawks to within 74-71. After two missed LIU jumpers, Mike Shipman brought down the rebound to give the Hawks one final chance with 17 seconds left. The Hawks raced up the floor without a timeout, as Whitney Coleman’s three point attempt from 25 feet out on the left side missed, wide to the right, as the final buzzer sounded.

Youngblood put together a great effort, scoring a career high 20 points, all in the second half. Alston, Delic, and Coleman all finished in double figures with 13, 12, and 11 points, respectively.



Jhamar Youngblood scores two of his career high 20 points in the Hawks loss to LIU.

For Long Island, it was their first win in Boylan Gym since 1999. They finished red hot from behind the arc, going 13-20 on the game and 6-7 in the second half.

Monmouth came out looking to rebound on Saturday night against a Hartford Hawks team that they narrowly defeated the year before in the Constitution State on a

Coleman block at the buzzer. Hartford came in returning only five players from last year’s team, losing 88 percent of last year’s offense.

Monmouth’s first three baskets were all threes, as they grabbed a 9-8 advantage early on on long-balls by Delic, Coleman, and Alston. Monmouth burst out on a

9-0 run midway through the first half to grab a 23-14 lead. The Hartford Hawks battled back with a 7-0 run of their own to cut the deficit to two. With Monmouth down 34-31 in the final seconds of the first half, Delic drained a three at the buzzer to even the score at 34 going into the break.

Fast-forward to late in the game, Monmouth tied the game at 67 after Youngblood served Alston a spectacular behind-the-back dish, as Alston drained the basket and drew the foul. However, Alston missed the ensuing free throw that would have given Monmouth the lead.


















































With the score tied 67, Bo Taylor converted on a three point play on the other end to give Hartford a 70-67 lead. Delic then hit a layup, as Hartford converted a free throw to keep a two point advantage, 71-69.

Monmouth then turned the ball over, as Shipman’s pass was intercepted by Jaret Von Rosenberg. Rosenberg converted four free throws in the final seconds to seal the deal for Hartford. They managed to hold on for a 76-75 victory in the “battle of the Hawks.” The game that saw seven ties and 11 lead changes.

Delic led the Monmouth Hawks with 24 points, including a career-high seven three pointers. The loss drops Monmouth to 3-8 on the season, and 0-1 in Northeast Conference play.

Monmouth will have a 20 day layoff before their next conference game, a December 29th meeting against Lehigh. The Hawks will take part in an exhibition game on Sunday, December 17th against Richard Stockton at 1 p.m.

Outlook's Weekly NFL Picks - Week 14

	Away	Dallas Cowboys	Jacksonville Jaguars	Buffalo Bills	New York Jets	Pittsburgh Steelers	Washington Redskins	Philadelphia Eagles	Kansas City Chiefs
	Home	Atlanta Falcons	Tennessee Titans	Miami Dolphins	Minnesota Vikings	Carolina Panthers	New Orleans Saints	New York Giants	San Diego Chargers
Alex (3-5 Last Wk) (63-41 Overall)									
Craig (4-4 Last Wk) (56-48 Overall)									
Jacqueline (5-3 Last Wk) (62-42 Overall)									
Lisa (3-5 Last Wk) (60-44 Overall)									
Sam (6-2 Last Wk) (50-54 Overall)									
Wes (5-3 Last Wk) (62-42 Overall)									

Women's Basketball

Hawks Drop Non-Conference Game, Then Upend NEC Foe

Blue and White Drops Exhibition Game to the NY Gazelles at Home; Take conference opener at St. Francis (NY)

ERIC M. WALSH
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Before the Blue and White got the NEC season under way, they had to face the NY Gazelles in an exhibition game at Boylan Gym on Wednesday, December 6. In a high-scoring affair, the Hawks were outshot in a 95-86 defeat. The squad rebounded nicely on Sunday, December 11, to win their NEC opener at St. Francis, 69-63. In their final prep before beginning a tough conference schedule, Monmouth took on the NY Gazelles. The game was even through the opening five minutes, as Veronica Randolph had eight of the team's 15 points. After getting within one of the Gazelles at the 11:06 mark, NY went on a 15-2 run that put the Blue and White down double digits for the remainder of the first half. The Gazelles shot 55 percent from the field in the first 20 minutes, leading 50-35 going into the break. The Hawks were even sharper from the field, shooting over 57 percent. But they gave away too many opportunities, committing 17 turnovers. Monmouth opened up by going on a 14-8 run through the first four minutes, and cut the lead to nine. Over the next four minutes, the teams traded buckets. With just over thirteen minutes to go, the score was 63-54, with the Hawks on the wrong end of the scoreboard. The Hawks got to within two, 75-73, with big buckets from freshman Brooke McElroy, sophomore LaKia Barber, and junior Veronica Randolph. Monmouth

found themselves down one with 4:30 left on the scoreboard after a Marissa Jimenez layup. The Hawks had several opportunities to take the lead, but their hot hand suddenly cooled, and they couldn't outdo the Gazelles offense, falling 95-86. Both Randolph and Jennifer Bender contributed 20 points for the Hawks in the losing effort. Monmouth opened up its Northeast Conference season with a matchup against 2-6 St. Francis of New York on Sunday, and pulled out a tough victory, 69-63, on the road. The Blue and White had trailed for the entire contest, until McElroy connected on a three at the 7:11 point of the second frame, tying the game at 50. After a St. Francis turnover, Brianne Edwards hit a shot from behind the arc to put the Hawks on top. The Hawks' lead was erased, as St. Francis tied the game at 55 with 4:46 to go in the game. Jimenez went on a run of her own, scoring ten straight points to put the Blue and White up for good with less than a minute remaining. "Marissa (Jimenez) was huge for us down the stretch this afternoon, and Brooke (McElroy) played her best game of the season," said head coach Michele Baxter. "They both gave us big lifts in the game, with Brooke carrying us early and Marissa closing out the game." In the 69-63 victory, the Hawks were led by several double-digit scorers. McElroy put in a career high 14 points with Jimenez matching the effort as well. Monmouth was playing without Bender, their leading scorer and rebounder, who is out with a neck

strain. The team hopes to have Bender back for their next contest on Saturday, December 16, when they travel to Philadelphia to take on the Drexel Dragons. The Hawks will look to improve upon their 5-3 record.

WOMEN'S HOOPS
UPCOMING
SCHEDULE

12/16/06
AT DREXEL 2:00

12/22/06
AMERICAN 7:00

12/31/06
LAFAYETTE 3:30

1/3/07
LONG ISLAND
7:00

1/6/07
MOUNT 3:00

1/8/07
WAGNER 7:00

Monmouth Track Competes at Princeton and Harvard

Latasha Dickson Qualifies for ECAC's; Nikki Zwartjes Ties School Mark in Pole Vault

PRESS RELEASE
MU ATHLETICS

Participating in their last meets before the holiday break, Monmouth University's track and field athletes had a successful showing at the Princeton Invitational and the Harvard Pentathlon on Friday and Saturday. "The Princeton meet was the first opportunity for us to see our full team in action, with the exception of some of the distance runners who just finished cross country," said head coach Joe Compagni. "Our throwers for both the men and the women had some tremendous performances as did our women's sprinters against some very strong teams." The women were highlighted by Latasha Dickson's ECAC qualifying time of 1:15.74 in the 500m. Dickson came back and anchored the 4x400 relay team that took first place. Freshmen Michelle Losey, Brittany Gibbs and Crystal Stein were the other three components to MU's winning time of 3:57.35. Gibbs also finished 11th in the 300m with a time of 43.40, which is the seventh best time in school history. Deanna Paulson's time of 42.63 in the 300m was seventh place and good enough for second in school history. Gibbs also tallied the 11th best distance in the triple jump, while Nikki Zwartjes tied her own school record in the pole vault clearing 10'-10". Tiffany Stevens also bested her personal best in the weight throw by eight feet (46'2.75"). Hawk Chris Vuano had a first place time of 1:05.50 in the 500m. The men's 4x4 team of Darrin Chandler, Derrik Keich, Kevin Gilroy and Vuono took second with

a time of 3:26.46. Junior Christian Keller took first among the team competitors in the weight throw with a throw of 60'-1.25", which qualified him for the IC4A's. His throw was the seventh best in MU history. Nick Williams took first in the shot put with a throw of 54'-9.25", with junior Kyle Hirschklau taking fourth with a toss of 51'-1.5", both of which qualify them for IC4A's. The Princeton Invitational was a non-team scored event featuring Rutgers, St. Joseph's, West Chester, Temple, Rider, Penn (men only), Manhattan and several other partial teams. Three MU athletes competed at Harvard on Friday night, which hosted a Pentathlon and a Heptathlon. Senior Ashley Huffman who sat out all of last year due to an injury, qualified for the ECAC's in her first chance at Princeton. Huffman scored 3,604 points, which is the third best output in school history in the Pentathlon. Jude Rene broke his own school record in the Heptathlon, earning 4,216 points to take first place at Harvard. Monmouth freshman Mike Buccheri tallied 4,196 points for second place behind Rene. Buccheri's point totals earned him second place in school history and set a Monmouth freshman record. "We are looking forward to coming back as a full team in January and expecting that our performances in every event area will get better every week," said Compagni. The weekend marks the last day of competition for the Hawks until the new year, when they travel up to the Fordham Collegiate Open, held at the New York Armory on January 5, 2007.



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The Monmouth women's basketball team is back over the .500 mark with victories over Lehigh and St. Francis (NY). *Full Story Inside.*