



THE MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1933

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Monmouth University Among Academic Institutions Named in Paradise Papers

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Monmouth University has been named alongside 104 colleges and universities in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, including Yale University, Princeton University, and Oxford University, in the Paradise Papers, a leak of documents and files that indicate the institutions named had affiliations with offshore accounts, most often, to avoid tax liability.

While the University's connection to the Papers may not indicate any wrongdoing or illegality on their part, the business practice's commonality among institutions of higher education raises a question of ethics and moral duty.

The Paradise Papers are the second-largest data leak in history, following the 2016 release of the Panama Papers. Both leaks were obtained by German newspaper *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, who then shared the material with the International Consortium of

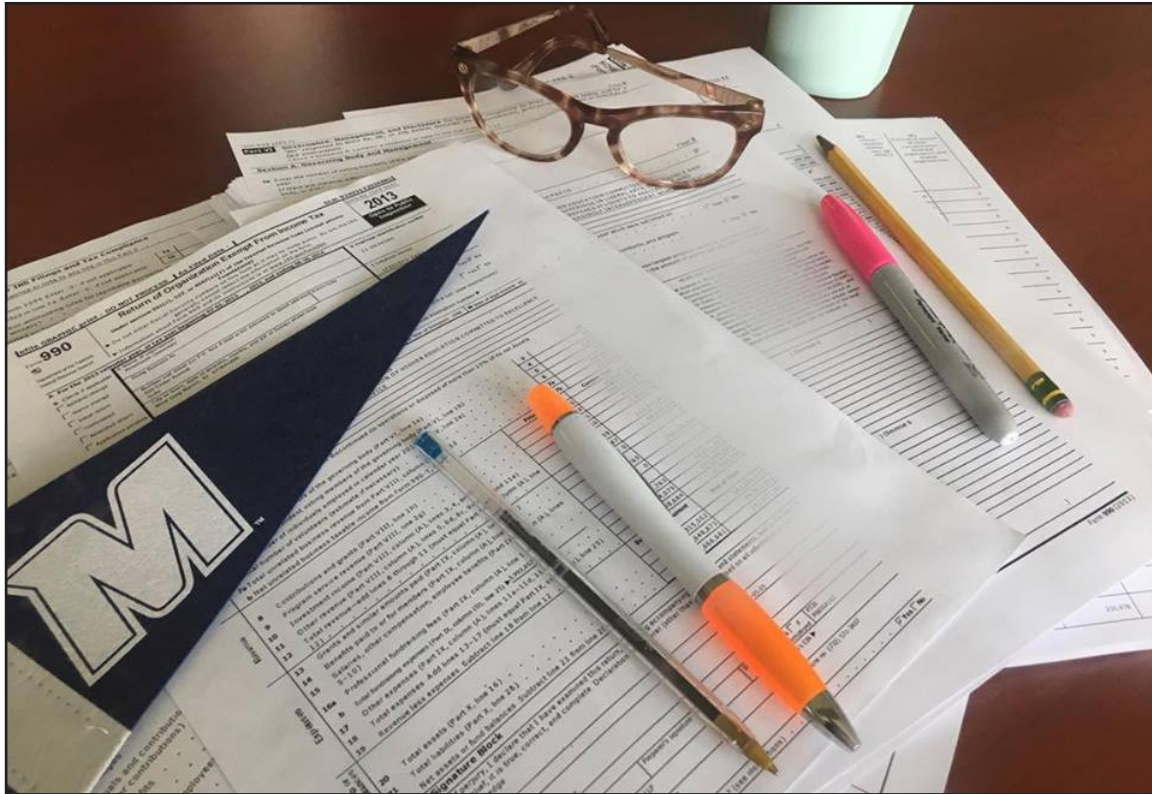


PHOTO TAKEN by Coral Cooper

Monmouth University has been named in the recently-released Paradise Papers alongside major corporations and over a hundred other academic institutions.

Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), The ICIJ published the Papers a United States based organization that won a Pulitzer Prize for their work on the Panama Papers.

tutions avoid paying taxes by keeping funds in offshore accounts.

George Yager, a CPA who

specializes in tax compliance and family wealth planning, and provides consultation on tax advisory services to a broad range of clients including management companies and their owners in the alternative investments industry, as well as energy and real estate clients, explained tax avoidance as an action taken to reduce one's tax liability and maximize after-tax income.

"Tax avoidance is perfectly legal and involves the practice of maximizing deductions, adjustments to income and use of tax credits to lower tax liability within the Tax Code and Regulations. While the legality of tax avoidance is clear, the ethics of it are not. Most taxpayers use some form of tax avoidance to legally lower their taxes such as contributing pre-tax income to a 401(k) retirement plan," said Yager.

"This would be viewed as both a legal and ethical practice to reduce one's taxes. But when a tax avoidance strategy entails the use of loopholes in the Tax Code, the question of whether that is ethical may be raised."

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Students Present Forum on Institutional Reform

JOY MORGAN
ENVIRONMENTAL/ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Academic Exchange Program (AEP) piloted the first ever integrated class at a maximum security prison in New Jersey, this fall. The directors and students of this program explored the significance of this experience while hosting a critical forum on the complications connecting educational and correctional institutions on Wednesday, Nov. 15.

Students enrolled in the "Investigating the School to Prison Pipeline 2" class will have spent 12 class periods this semester inside of the New Jersey State Prison, learning alongside incarcerated students. The curriculum of this two-part course was uniquely developed by the AEP Program Directors, Eleanor Novek, Ph.D., an associate professor of communication, and Johanna Foster Ph.D., the Director of the sociology department, and an associate professor of sociology.

Throughout the semester Monmouth and incarcerated students collaborated on a report on why prisons needed to be made more like schools, and schools less like prisons. Students gathered information and creatively responded to four major research questions: "How can we support at-risk youth and end zero-tolerance policies in public schools?," "How can we understand the larger societal forces that limit support

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PHOTO TAKEN by Joy Morgan

Students in an integrated class learned alongside incarcerated students in a uniquely developed curriculum.

University Mourns English Professor

ROBERT ZADOTTI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

David J. Tietge, Ph.D., a beloved professor of 15 years and respected colleague at Monmouth University, passed away at the age of 51 on Nov. 28. This comes as a shock to those who knew him.

Tietge's influence on the entire community at Monmouth is easily seen, but it is within the quiet corridors of the English department building where his presence was most known. His door was covered with newspaper clippings, cartoons, and other images, all giving a small snapshot of his humor and personality.

Inside his office, everything is gathered neatly around his desk. There is a guitar in the corner of the room, a baseball resting in a cup, and various books stacked next to each other. "Consilience: The Unity of Knowledge" sits comfortably next to Bram Stoker's "Dracula."

The desk sports a half-finished bottle of soda sitting next to a coffee travel mug. The chair is well-worn

and leans against the wall next to an air conditioner and a boarded-up window. The office is well-lived in, and has character in every inch of it.

Tietge focused on the various rhetoric of theory, science, and popular culture. He published three books and had articles in numerous journals. As the Director of First-Year Composition, he was responsible for many of the changes currently present in those courses today, making the course more streamlined and accessible to new students.

"He had a really in-depth knowledge of critical and literary theory that put him on equal standing with any of the literature professors in our department," said J.P. Hanly, Associate Director of First Year Composition, an assistant professor of English, and a close colleague of Tietge.

"He was someone that I felt could support me and push me to be my best, so I was glad to come and work with someone like that," Hanly said. "He made courses good for

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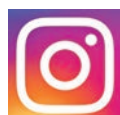
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Beloved English Professor Passes Away at 51

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students and good for professors to teach.”

Outside of his classes, Tietge was fond of music, the outdoors, astronomy, and a variety of other topics. His widespread personal interests were only rivaled by his professional ones, creating the image of a modern renaissance man, someone who knew a little bit about everything and a lot about certain things.

Today, he is remembered by both students and faculty.

“He’s had really a tremendous impact, and a lot of students have said life-changing,” said Susan Goulding, Ph.D., Chair of the English Department. “He was very committed to liberal arts, higher education and humanism. We have this collective commitment that we shared with him, and to teaching the liberal arts, and that is very helpful to us.”

Tietge’s influence was most clearly seen through his relationships with his students, in which he constantly fought to improve the first year composition courses, where most students would have their first experience with the liberal arts at Monmouth.

“Dr. Tietge was without a doubt one of the smartest minds I have encountered in my time at Monmouth,” said Matthew Yard, a senior English student. “I will always remember him for his willingness to stay late after class and continue conversations on literature, films, or just

about any other topic we were interested in.”

Tietge’s vision of making the liberal arts as accessible and impactful as possible will be carried on by the people he had touched in his life. In remembering him, those who think fondly of Tietge should find comfort in the passion he lived with every day of his life, and should seek to live their own with a similar vigor.

Born in Iowa City, Tietge grew up in Long Branch before moving to the Atlantic Highlands four years ago. He is survived by his daughter Carlie Anne Tietge, and her mother, Katherine Leigh Tietge, alongside his parents and sister Erica. Carlie graduated from Monmouth this past spring. He had gotten to see her walk.

Donations may be made in his memory to the Dr. David J. Tietge Memorial Scholarship.



IMAGE TAKEN from monmouth.edu
Dr. David J. Tietge was a beloved professor and friend to many.

Singing For Our Sisters Event Donates to Women’s Education

CHRISTINA TERMYNA
STAFF WRITER

Students Advocating Girl’s Education (SAGE) and Blue Hawk Records came together for their first annual Singing for Our Sisters event on Wednesday, Nov. 29. The event was created to support female education, to spread awareness on the lack of it, and to empower women to be whoever they want to be.

The two organizations collaborated for the first time last year, for their PB&Jam event, which included performances by five different acts and collected donations for homeless women. With the success of PB&Jam in mind, the two clubs decided to come together once again to host another event to aid and empower women.

“I contacted Kaitlin and within a month we had this amazing show planned. Girls from Blue Hawk Records volunteered to play and I got so much support from both sections of Intro. to Gender Studies,” said Blue Hawk Records’ Aja Armstrong, who organized all the musical acts and enlisted the help of classmates from her section of Introduction to Gender Studies, taught by Corey Wrenn, Ph.D., Chair of the Gender Studies Department.

The event included musical performances by members of Blue Hawk, including: Monica Flores, Skyline’s Brittany Byrne, Nicole Govel, and Incolor. Performances included some covers of female empowering tracks, like Corrine Bailey Rae’s “Put Your Records On,” as well as some original pieces by the artists.

“I love doing shows, and I love helping my community, so what’s better than a show for a cause!” Armstrong continued.

SAGE President Kaitlin Allsopp, along with other members of the group, worked to collect donations of school supplies for Sisters Academy, an all-girls school located in Asbury Park, NJ. SAGE has worked

with the school previously and has donated their annual 5K run money to the facility.

“I became an advocate for female empowerment through educating myself on discrimination and violence against women across the world,” said Allsopp. “You can’t help unless you know what is going on, so education is the most important step. This movement is so important because women are still barred from full access to education, employment, and independence around the world. By empowering women, there is widespread spillover effects that benefit families, communities, and nations. The future depends on women’s equality.”

Many students showed up for the cause and were treated to pizza, along with the performances. Donations poured in. Due to the success of the event, this is one the organizations now plan to hold annually, giving to new recipients each time.

“So far, we have overflowed the donation box, filling about six or seven grocery bags to the brim,” said

Allsopp.

“The simplest ways we can keep making meaningful change for women and girls is analyzing and breaking down restrictive, traditional gender norms, by encouraging little girls to pursue interests in science, math, and engineering, as well as the arts, English, and other traditionally female interests and careers,” said Allsopp. “We can empower women through education. Men can help by doing just the same, listening to their female counterparts, taking their thoughts and concerns into consideration and by learning about rape culture and taking steps to stop it.”

“Anyone can help by organizing and supporting communities and organizations that empower women and support girls’ education; this can be accomplished through donating or volunteering, and also applying feminism in everyday life,” Allsopp added. SAGE will be collecting donations throughout this week, which can be dropped off in Room 226 of Bey Hall.



PHOTO TAKEN by Christina Termyna
Nicole Govel performs at “Singing for Our Sisters.”

Students Call for Prison Reform

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preparations?” and “How can we reduce the stigma of felon status and increase empathy for returning citizens?”

“We broke down into groups in our class with the inmates at Trenton State, and we worked together to distribute a focus for each group to touch upon as far as what we felt the general public needs to know,” said Paul Matt, a senior communication student. “We need to listen and understand who they are, and how they got to prison based off of their upbringing, environment, and previous educational experiences. The purpose of education in prison is to teach the inmates what they haven’t been taught before in order to be a productive member of society.”

“This was ultimately to educate the students on the history of mass incarceration, institutional inequality, ethnic disproportional effects, and the politics of race, class, and gender in this culture,” said Foster.

Elizabeth Carmines, senior sociology student and School to Prison student said, “Dr. Novek and Dr. Foster were amazing to work with in the class. They were the perfect blend to keep us grounded and also fire us up about the topic. Both of them are so passionate about criminal justice reform, and they both have spent years devoted

to influencing change in the system, which made them the perfect people to lead the class.”

Attendees of the forum included President Grey Dimmena, Esq., and Gary Lanigan, the commissioner of the prison, prison activists, lawyers for the incarcerated, students and faculty, and family members of the incarcerated students. The inside students were not permitted to leave the prison to participate in the event, but some family members in attendance were moved to tears.

“At the forum, one of [the inside student’s] mom and aunt came and it was really a heart-breaking thing for me,” said Erica Bogert, a senior communication student who took the course. “Her son has been incarcerated for decades and she cried to us at the end hoping for her son to come home. We cried with her because we knew her son as he is today, a kind, ambitious, and smart man, not the one who was incarcerated 20 years ago.”

Novek and Foster started their career together in 2013 when they were introduced by a fellow instructor at Monmouth, due to common interest in education inside of prison systems. Foster began her career in Bedford Hills Correctional facility, where she taught sociology to the incarcerated women. Dr. Foster also co-founded the College Bound Consortium, the first college program making efforts

to provide NJ women in prison education, which has since developed into The New Jersey Scholarship and Transformative Education in Prisons Consortium (NJ-STEP).

“I am really proud of Monmouth for taking an enormous step in social justice and civil rights,” said Foster. “I see opportunity for Monmouth to do even more going forward, and our goal should be to offer academic credit to the students on the inside, just at it is earned by the students from Monmouth. As a private institution, Monmouth should consider fair exchange which would offer credits for the incarcerated students enrolled in the class, in exchange for the opportunity our students have had to learn inside of their facility. Without special arrangements with the prison, our University could not provide the students this educational opportunity.”

Co-director of the AEP program, Novek is the coordinator of the New Jersey sector of the Alternatives to Violence Project, an organization that spreads non-violence education to over 50 countries in the world. Novek has also taught in multiple prison facilities throughout the state. In 2015 Novek was awarded “Literacy Volunteer of the Year” by the New Jersey Department of Corrections for efforts to educate the incarcerated.

Gender Studies Students Raise Awareness

CHRISTINA TERMYNA
STAFF WRITER

Corey Wrenn, Ph.D., Director of Gender Studies and sociology lecturer, assigns a final project to her Gender Studies students every year, in which she asks students to bring the knowledge they have learned in class to the community in any form of their choice.

Some ideas she offers are: organizing a gender-based event, holding workshops, publishing an essay to a local paper or feminist blog, and creating a community or campus art project. Some of this year’s project included the Singing for Our Sister’s event ran by Students Advocating Girls Education (SAGE) and Blue Hawk Records, collecting feminine hygiene products for the homeless, YouTube videos, and essays.

“Eliminating the gender gap is a lofty goal in the United States, but it is such an important one. Research supports that increased diversity and parity create a more stable, productive, and harmonious workforce. They also make for more fulfilling, stable relationships. Ultimately, however, gender equality is a matter of basic social justice and collective responsibility,” said Wrenn.

“I think our project was a huge success, the concert was a fun way to promote our cause that caught the attention of a lot of people,” said Katie Piltz, a sophomore social work student who helped out at the Singing for Our Sisters event. “Events like this are important for the empowerment of women because it proves anyone can make a change if they put their mind to it, just like we did.”

For her project, sophomore health studies student Cameron Oakley rallied up a group of about ten classmates to collect feminine hygiene products for a non-profit organization she works with called the Blessing Bag Brigade NJ. The organization collects everyday items, like socks, toothbrushes, and snacks, to

create Blessing Bags for the homeless. They hand these bags out to the homeless on a regular basis, giving them out in New York up to five nights a week. They have recently brought their efforts here to New Jersey, working in Newark, Asbury Park, and other areas at the Jersey Shore.

Another one of Wrenn’s students, sophomore chemistry student, Sonny Timpani, is organizing an information booth in the Rebecca Stafford Student Center on Wednesday, Dec. 6 from 12 p.m. until 3 p.m., as his praxis. Timpani specifically will be analyzing women’s issues in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Careers in STEM are still heavily dominated by males. While some may just accept the difference because it’s just what society has dictated others are striving to close this gap. “It’s important to me because there are plenty of women across the world who have potential, but do not reach it because of cultural norms,” said Timpani. With the assistance of a couple of classmates from his Gender Studies class, Timpani’s info booth will consist of posters and brochures that will present information on gender differences in stem, stereotypes, and what can be done to make way toward change. In discussing some ways that we can progressively make way toward eliminating the gap, Timpani discussed, “having a growth mindset, instead of a fixed mindset,” as well as encouraging girls to reach for these dreams at a younger age.

As for the overall effectiveness of this project? “Students gain experience in designing projects, implementing projects, working with classmates, faculty, staff, community members, nonprofits, and more. More importantly, they sharpen their skills at actually measuring how impactful their efforts are and how to promote their work effectively. This is a useful skill in many occupations,” said Wrenn.

University Invested in Offshore Accounts for Insurance

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Yager continued.

Yager added that taxpayers using this strategy would be legally reducing their tax liability, but it could be argued that by using loopholes they may not be paying their fair share and therefore, not be ethical. "As there is no single definition of ethics or specific rules, the ethical determination must be made by the taxpayer depending on the circumstances," he continued.

The practice of storing funds in these offshore accounts is not new, and a *New York Times* article suggests that universities are continuing to use these offshore accounts to avoid taxes and perhaps in some cases even hide investments, while growing increasingly larger endowments. While the purpose of holding money in these accounts varies, the general theme and rationality for holding these funds in these accounts are primarily for tax avoidance.

According to William Craig, Vice President for Finance at the University, the school's involvement in offshore accounts began in the 1980s, and the company used was liquidated in 2001.

"You have to go back to the 80s for this one," Craig explained. "Back in the 80s, there was basically an insurance crisis where it was becoming very difficult for corporations to get certain kinds of liability coverage at all, and if you did, it was extremely expensive. One of the solutions at the time was for groups of corporations to get together and essentially form their own insurance companies. These were all done because of the way the US laws were at the time. That's where this comes in in the Paradise Papers – that there were offshore investments."

According to Craig, two corporate groups were formed, with about 100 of the top corporations in the United States investing in them. The two companies, Ace Ltd. and Exel Capital LTD, were based in Bermuda, according to a 1999 article in *The New York Times*. According to Craig, these companies influenced the creation of a similar company for schools to get insurance.

"The company formed by the colleges was called something like 'School, College, and University Underwriters Liability (SCUUL)," said Craig. "Because of the success of the corporate ones that had been set up, they used a similar model in order to get capital to establish the insurance 'cooperative' – that probably isn't the right legal name, but it's a group of schools that got together to do it."

"You had to become a stockholder in the company," he continued. "That gave you the right to buy insurance, initially, from them. That's the 'investment' that Monmouth had. We were in it until they liquidated the company, around 2001."

SCUUL was created in 1986 as a response to a liability crisis that was making it difficult to purchase insurance. Reinsurance firms are generally used to avoid risk and financial loss and to provide long term fiscal stability. Bermuda is a popular location for the reinsurance industry because it has no corporate tax and no capital gains tax, according to the *New York Times*.

Craig said that the University was involved until the company liquidated due to US laws that changed, and a new company replaced the SCUUL, named United Educators, a Vermont based reinsurance company. "We showed up on the list because we were investors in the company," he added.

Craig is unsure of the total endowment fund invested in the offshore accounts, but explained that at the time administrators and trustees would have had to sign off on this decision. "This was done less as an investment and more a way to get insurance, the risk of not having insurance was great. Excess liability coverage - highest level of insurance coverage - was to protect from that risk of a catastrophic event," said Craig.

Two major investment pools of money are talked about for the University, according to Craig. "The one talked about most often is the endowment invested for the long-term - the idea of the endowment is to generate income that can then be used for specific university purposes a lot of that money comes from people who make donations - endow a professorship, scholarship fund money gets invested, hopefully forever generates money to be used for those purposes every year," he said.

The intention behind those monies, is to keep it invested to earn more money, so can be invested in a broader range of types of investments. "Some of it can be in fixed income investments - government bonds, corporate bonds, things that are just going to give you a return of interest - can also be invested in equities - stocks, bonds, things of that nature, they can be invested in real estate and private capital - firms that invest in new businesses, providing financial support to businesses that need additional monies, things like that - can be a very broad range of investments," said Craig.

The second pool is used for the operating funds of the University and of reserves that the school is setting aside for capital projects, such as new construction, and renovations. "These funds only invest in fixed-incomes since they have less risk of loss, and includes the monies used to operate the school. Tuition comes in and is invested in those accounts, and the pool also pays salaries and utilities. If the board decides to set money aside for a construction project and a contract is signed for the contractor to come and start building, they don't want to have to worry about their investments turning south and not allowing them to continue the project," Craig continued.

"As far as how do we invest, in both cases, outside managers are used to invest. In the case of the endowment, there is a firm called 'Commonfund' which was formed back in the 80's from a grant to try and help colleges establish a better way of investing their endowment money; they actually are the school's chief investment officer - they handle all the details of investing," said Craig.

The Board of Trustees has an investment committee, who have overall responsibility for oversight of investments of both endowment and operating capital, the pool two funds, and set overall investment policy, and what the University can invest

in. During the course of the year, they review those firms, and provide oversight of what they're doing. The board also maintains oversight regarding the day to day decisions on what is being invested in those outside firms.

Paul Savoth, JD, an associate professor of accounting, believes that Craig's explanation of how the University ended up in in the Papers indicates the school had a legitimate reason for investing in an off-shore company, different from the reasoning mentioned in the Paradise Papers story.

"I think the Paradise Papers story focuses on tax avoidance strategies and the ability to avoid public scrutiny of the type of investment being made," Savoth said. "Mr. Craig indicates that the investment was motivated by the need to obtain cost-effective insurance. I don't understand the legal structure well enough to criticize what the University has done, either legally or ethically."

Savoth believes that the University practiced a legitimate strategy for several reasons, and does not believe that the usage of these accounts was for any personal financial gain. "The initial investment was made decades ago by a consortium of universities for a legitimate business reason. From what we know, the arrangement has never been challenged by the IRS or another government agency," he continued.

"The investment has been overseen for decades by our board of trustees, the membership of the board has changed during that time, and yet the arrangement has been consistently approved. This does not appear to be the type of decision that the board members would have personally benefitted from."

Savoth explained that Monmouth is different when it comes to tax rules because it is a nonprofit corporation that wouldn't normally pay tax on general income, and that the school may be taxable on certain types of investment income.

"The general benefit to people of moving money into tax havens is that you can move that money out of the jurisdiction of the US tax system and move it into a lower tax jurisdiction in legal ways. As a lawyer and accountant, in terms of the ethics, that's a little bit of a complicated question - they're moving money offshore, even though that may sound clandestine, if it's legal, then it seems to me that they have an obligation to try to maximize the return on those monies and to me the administration has a responsibility to do what they can to generate the greatest after-tax way of return."

On whether there are negative repercussions or penalties for universities that practice tax avoidance, Savoth believes that legality is key, and the only negative is a tarnished reputation.

"Assuming it's legal, the publicity is an issue because people will associate that with some kind of unethical behavior, and that's negative publicity. For-profit corporations are finding that out and moving their HQ's out of US for tax purposes, and suffer negative publicity because of that."

While the strategy used was apparently legal at the time, there were some differences of opinion concerning its ethical

boundaries.

"To me, doing something like this is not unethical," said John Buzza, a specialist professor in management and decision sciences department who teaches a course on ethics, diversity, and social responsibility. "In business today, you've got to take advantage of any loophole that's out there, as long as it's legal – that's the key. There's a very thin line between legality and illegality, but offshore investing is done by hundreds upon hundreds of corporations in the USA for various reasons. In this particular case, it's insurance. If I can get cheaper insurance overseas than I can get here, why wouldn't I do that?"

Buzza also outlined some of the benefits of offshore investing, some of which included not having to worry about compliance and regulation standards from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), confidentiality, diversification of money, and the potential tax benefits.

"It's legal, so take advantage of it," Buzza said.

"This practice is legal," said Stuart Rosenberg, Ph.D., an associate professor in the department of management and decision sciences. Rosenberg also teaches a course on business ethics.

"It is acceptable and appropriate. Endowments are tax-exempt, but because they work with private equity funds that borrow money to invest, the money that they earn is taxable. By moving the money to offshore accounts, they are benefiting from existing laws in order to avoid paying taxes," he said.

"If we separate what's truly ethical and what's legal, some people might view this all very differently," Rosenberg continued. "They might argue that it is not morally right to receive a benefit from something if it's not being paid for. In the case

of higher education, perhaps the question of fairness could be addressed by demonstrating how endowments are being used to provide a public good. Need-based scholarships are one example."

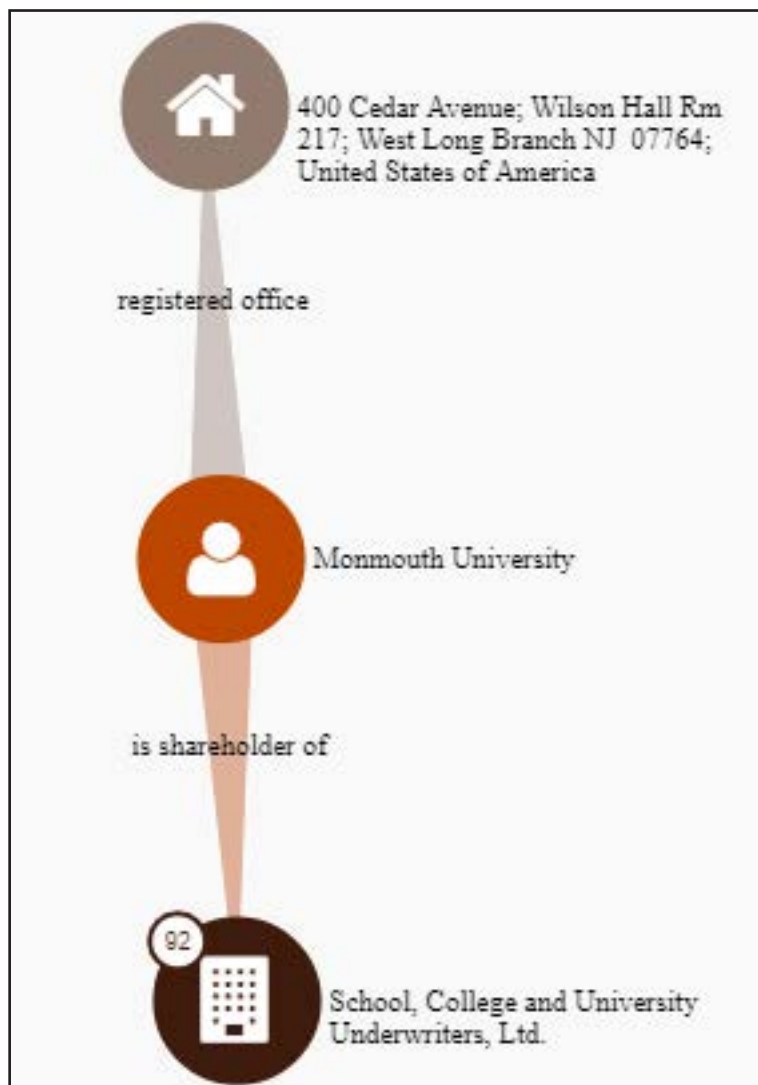
Kenneth Mitchell Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Political Science and Sociology and an associate professor of political science, believes that in a globalized society that is becoming increasingly difficult to tax, a tarnished reputation shouldn't exist from these business practices.

"What you see is the ability to tax capital that is so mobile has become incredibly difficult. It's not surprising that this is going on. When this information came out [The Paradise Papers]. This boundaryless world is increasingly visible and on display for us. Gone are the days of just taxing everybody's wealth. I don't think anyone won't buy their product or not go to Harvard or Monmouth because they turned up on these papers. I don't think it'll impact anyone's decisions," Mitchell said.

"The idea of how you want to tax yourself and spend your money - these are choices. I think that most people have seen for quite a long time that it's going to be impossible to tax wealth. Monmouth isn't any different than anyone else on the long list of for-profit and non-profit institutions that turn up on these things. I don't think they did anything wrong - this is so widely practiced," he concluded.

"In theory, the law is supposed to follow what society believes is ethical," Rosenberg continued. "As long as tax shelters are within the law, however, organizations will surely exploit that."

**Look for a follow-up on this story in the next issue.*



GRAPHIC TAKEN from offshoreleaks.icij.org

A graphic created by ICIJ allowed users to easily see how institutions were linked to offshore accounts. Here, the University is linked to SCUUL.

THE OUTLOOK

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Potential Problems of Pipelines

EDITORIAL STAFF

Pipelines connect us all. From the energy from natural gas heating our homes, or the polyester shirts you and your best friend both wear made from petroleum transported via pipeline to that manufacturer. It is estimated that approximately 2.6 million miles of pipeline crosses the United States delivering precious resources like crude oil, natural gas, water, biofuels, and sewage.

Despite the various purposes of pipelines at large, it is the harmful environmental effects associated with fossil fuels that left a bad taste in the mouth of our editors and quite literally for those whose clean water was contaminated. With oil spills and national protests in mind, our editorial board asked, "do the people have a say in the construction of these potentially hazardous modes of transport, and is the issue much larger than oil spills?"

"The benefits of a pipeline are: of course it's efficiency in transporting fossil fuels; it's much quicker and overall less expensive," says one editor, "independence from other companies," says another, and most importantly "creating jobs and strengthening our nation's economy." However, the editorial board agreed "investing in the long run is a bad idea," and that it "needs stronger environmental regulation."

Most of our editors were not originally familiar with the system of pipelines embedded beneath

the ground of our nation, but considering the U.S. has the largest pipeline system in the world, being buried is something that pipeline businesses are good at. In order to build a pipeline, companies must obtain a Right of Way (ROW).

This is a permit that allows the company to construct and embed pipelines on areas of land. As hidden as the pipelines beneath the ground are, the regulations associated with their construction is equally mysterious to our editors. It has unanimously been determined that while the ROW can be obtained by buying and purchasing land, some pipeline companies strive to construct pipelines in preservation and environmentally protected land mutually owned by taxpayers. In this case, it is up to the government to manage the land with the voice of its citizens in mind.

Our editorial board believes it is imperative that the government and these businesses are transparent with the people local to the area where pipeline construction has been proposed, although we doubt this currently happens. "100 percent people need a say in what is happening on their land. If we let the government, this government specifically, have complete control, this earth will be gone faster than we know it. We are the people that are directly impacted by whatever the government decides," said one of the editors.

The skepticism of our government's management of pipeline projects extend into the fundamentals of business and its relationship

with politicians. "I don't think letting the government make that decision is unilaterally a good idea—the oil lobby is really strong, and much of what legislators do and say is dictated by special interest groups that profit off of oil. Obviously they'll want to implement the pipeline system to help their bottom line," one editor commented.

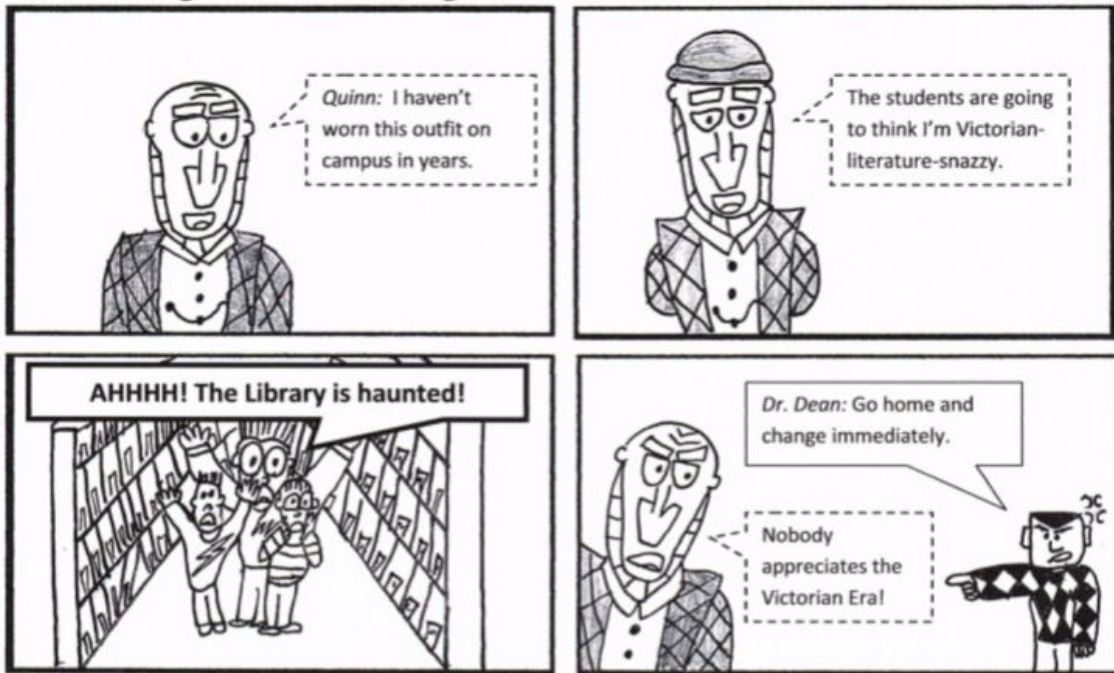
Although business for fossil fuels is booming, "Oil is limited and its supply is running low worldwide, meaning our rate of consumption is exponentially higher than the rate that it is being replenished naturally. It's a dead end that will keep destroying the planet's atmosphere and ecosystems, so I don't think making pipelines will help the situation," an editor said.

"These pipelines and those in other regions could potentially impact the environment soil, animals, and drinking water not only if they burst, but while being constructed," said one editor— an example of this is the 60 gallon spill that occurred upon primary stages of construction in the Keystone Pipeline.

With all of these dangers, and the struggle for citizens to become aware and instrumental in the decision process of pipelines, our editors are at a stand still.

We, at *The Outlook*, agree that renewable energy is the wiser solution to the problem. We hope that technologies are advancing quickly enough to combat our contributions to pollution and climate change before fossil fuels are dangerously depleted and the earth is in peril.

Knowledge and Quinn by Brian Turczmanovicz



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IS CUFFING SEASON REAL?

JULIA BURKE
STAFF WRITER

The holiday season is here and by that, I mean it is cuffing season! Suddenly, the weather drops, and everyone is cold and lonely and wants to be tied up to a loved one. Depending on who you are, and your relationship status, this can either excite, or terrify you. It is like

musical chairs and it seems like everyone is scrambling to be in a relationship. The people that are in relationships, found a chair to sit in, and tell others that one day it may be their turn to find an open seat. The people left still standing are panicking because everyone around them seems to be getting “cuffed,” or paired up. But is cuffing season even real? Or is it just a made-up

phenomenon?

Personally, I think cuffing season is an actual part of the cold weather season. Even research has found a common theme with humans getting into relationships as the temperature begins to drop. According to Sameera, a relationship expert, psychologist and CEO of the matchmaking site, Lasting Connections, “People who would

normally rather be single find themselves desiring to be tied down by a serious relationship. The cold weather and spending lots of time inside makes people lonely, so they are looking for someone to spend this time with.”

The cold weather is an ideal time to cuddle, and snuggle up with someone. In addition, all of the holidays and festivities including Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas make one want to take part in the activities with a significant other. For example, around the Monmouth area there are so many perfect holiday date ideas—like going pumpkin picking at local farms, ice skating at the ice rink at Pier Village, or even going to Walmart to buy gingerbread houses to decorate.

Who is going to fulfill all the “#relationshipgoals” you see on Twitter, and wear matching fuzzy socks, and sip on hot cocoa with you? You definitely need a boyfriend or girlfriend to do all of these things with, and that is why many people are so eager to be cuffed during this season.

Also, when people go home for the holidays, they are sick of hearing their annoying, nosy Aunt Sue say things like, “So you’re still single?” No one needs this negativity in their life, and no one wants to be bombarded with these questions

that just remind you about your nonexistent love life, and endless, futile hours swiping on tinder.

However, being cuffed allows you to not dread these questions, and maybe even look forward to answering them. Everyone wants that special someone to show off to his or her family, and to prove to them that you *somewhat* have your life together, and that people are actually interested in dating you.

In our generation, it may be cuffing season, but that does not mean that people do not still fear the, dare I say it, “c” word, aka “commitment.” To be honest, just typing it out, gave me major anxiety. As much as we would not like to think so, nothing is as picture-perfect as it seems, and just because a supposed couple posts a cute picture on Instagram in front of a Christmas tree and gets over 500 likes, it does not mean that they are super happy, or even a real couple.

So, yes, cuffing season is a real occurrence that sweeps the human race, but are two people always necessarily cuffed? Many times, they are, but also, many times they are not, and those are just the harsh climates (both literally, and metaphorically) of cuffing season, and of our society.

Best of luck to all of you in the game of cuffing season musical chairs!



PHOTO COURTESY of Maggie Zelinka

The temperature dropping brings about cuffing season and the desire to do all these cold weather activities with a significant other.

Being Called “Pretty”

CHRISTINA TERMYNA
STAFF WRITER

We live in a society that heavily bases a person’s worth on how attractive they are. People seem to believe that more attractive people have the upper-hand in life, and that they “have it easy,” but this past summer I learned quite the opposite.

Growing up, my weight was always a huge struggle for me. At the tender age of ten, I was told that I was overweight by my pediatrician, and I never looked at my body the same way again.

While I have always been self-conscious about it, I never found the strength to make a change until this past summer, when I was going through a particularly bad break up.

I made the decision to let my break up build me up, instead of tear me down. With a little inspiration from Khloe Kardashian’s own “revenge body,” as she called it, I decided to get a little revenge of my own. I was going to prove everyone who ever called me fat wrong. I started hitting the gym hard, and eating a lot healthier. Fast forward a few months, and I ended up doing exactly what I set out to do; I got my revenge body, and am currently in the best shape of my life.

While getting in shape has certainly had its benefits, like giving me more energy, boosting my self-esteem, getting sick less often, etc., it has also resulted in some very unexpected disadvantages—the most important one being harassment.

At first, compliments were nice. Others were noticing all of my hard work. It was nothing crazy; just things like, “Oh hey, you look like you lost some weight! Good for you!” It made me feel good, but compliments soon turned into remarks, and remarks quickly turned into insults.

For starters, some people began to believe that because I was now in better shape that I thought I was

better than them. I brought my own food to work in order to stick on this path of healthfulness, instead of eating the less healthy options offered at my job. Soon though, coworkers began to make negative comments about what I was eating and my new lifestyle. “Ew, who do you think you are?” and “Don’t you eat real food?” are statements I began to hear regularly.

Just to be clear, I absolutely do not believe that I am better, or that I look any better than anyone else because of my transformation. I do not think that anyone has to live the way I have decided to in order to feel confident or beautiful. Everyone is beautiful, and I truly mean that. So, I was surprised by the hate I began to receive.

I also began to get bombarded with perverted comments about my body and my looks, and I have even been groped by men. One day I asked a customer to see his ID before agreeing to serve him the drink he ordered, and I was met with the statement: “Let me see your ID, so I can find out where you live and stalk you.” Excuse me? He later apologized after his friends, surprisingly, yelled at him for saying something so disgusting, but why did he think suggesting something like that was okay to begin with?

In venting to others about the harassment I have faced, I have also been told, “Well, you’re a pretty girl. This is just something you’re gonna have to deal with.” That statement dumbfounded me, and my confidence quickly diminished. Comments that belittle a human being or make them feel like they are of lesser value are not compliments and do not build them up, let alone give them the upper-hand.

What does the word “pretty” even mean, and why do we all try so hard to be it? I for one, am over it, and if being called pretty means that I deserve to be harassed and/or treated negatively, please do not call me pretty because that is not a compliment.

’Tis The Season of Giving

CHRISTINA TERMYNA
STAFF WRITER

It’s the holiday season, a favorite of many. Each year, we wait for things like peppermint mocha coffee, being bundled up around a warm fire, and of course, presents; because who doesn’t like presents? One thing that I think many people forget is that it’s not just about getting that expensive handbag you asked your significant other for, it’s about giving. I remind myself of this every year.

You’ve definitely seen it before. Many public places, whether it be in the grocery store, at your local municipal center, or here on campus have Christmas trees set up that aren’t just there for decoration. They are decorated with ornaments that give a child’s age, and what he/she would like for Christmas.

Many people just walk past them without second thought. Have you ever thought that maybe the wish written on that piece of paper is the only gift that child will this year? Have you ever thought that maybe if no one takes that tag off that tree, that child will watch their classmates show off their new, shiny gifts and have to sit and wonder what that feels like?

Of course, Christmas is not just about presents, but imagine being able to make that kid’s day. So every year, my mother and I both pick a tag off of one of those trees and do our best to be able to do just that. They often don’t ask for much, maybe a jacket or a new outfit. These are things people need, not just want.

Even if you can’t afford to do something like that, you could help with a toy drive, volunteer at a homeless shelter, read sto-

ries at your local library. Every small deed counts. You truly don’t know how much something, that may seem so little to you, may mean to someone else.

The other day, my friend was going through the drive-thru at Starbucks. He ordered his coffee as he always does, and as he pulled up to the drive-thru window, he asked the barista how much he owed him. He replied, “Oh, the car in front of you paid for your coffee. Have a nice day.” My friend drove away happily and went about his day as he normally did, but did not forget the generosity of that stranger.

Instead of just taking the free coffee for what it was, he decided to pay it forward. The following morning while going through that drive-thru, he asked the barista if he could pay

for the coffee the person behind him had ordered. As he pulled out of the parking lot, the person behind him beeped their horn joyfully and waved gratefully. He went about the rest of his day feeling good about the small deed, knowing that stranger had appreciated it too and that he had just made someone else’s day a little bit brighter.

Giving is simple, and it doesn’t have to be an over-the-top display. When shopping for loved ones this year, think of something that would truly mean something to them, not just the price tag. If you can, donate gifts to families who can’t afford them or buy that cup of coffee for the stranger behind you. You never know what others may be going through and even the simplest kind gesture could mean the world to them.



PHOTO TAKEN by Caroline Mattise

One small act of kindness might brighten an individual’s entire holiday season.

Mixed Emotions Over Murphy

JUSCELUCIO DASILVA, JR.
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As New Jersey prepares to inaugurate its new Governor-elect, Phil Murphy, many are approaching his election with uncertainty due to his stance on the legalization of marijuana.

Murphy has said that he would sign a bill to legalize marijuana within his first 100 days in office and it would be beneficial to the state.

"Phil Murphy definitely represents a turn away from [Governor] Christie's policies," Stephen Chapman, Ph.D., an assistant professor of the political science, said. "This is not surprising for a couple reasons. First, NJ is a Democrat-leaning state that hasn't voted for a Republican in a presidential election since 1988. This gives Murphy an advantage from the start. However, there is a diversity of ideology throughout the state level, which is why we've seen

more alternation between [Democrats] and [Republicans] at the state executive position," he added.

In his 2017 gubernatorial campaign, Murphy ran on a platform of changes that he hoped to bring to New Jersey, such as getting tough on gun violence and protecting women's rights and the rights of undocumented immigrants, such as the DREAMers, as well as the rights of the LGBT community. "I'm glad that Murphy will be a governor who ensures the rights of women, immigrants, and the LGBT community," Roxy Nicoletti, a sophomore biochemistry student said.

On his campaign, Murphy had noted that after the Recession in 2000, New Jersey was one of the slowest recovering economies and, therefore, believes that having more secure jobs with rising wages would help to revitalize the state's economy again. In addition, Murphy believes that legalizing and taxing the sale of

marijuana would help to bring more revenue into the state government—which many feel apprehensive about.

Alexis Borrino, a sophomore education student, worries that by legalizing marijuana, the state is sending a "dangerous" message. "I'm definitely for decriminalizing marijuana; too many people are being imprisoned for just possessing marijuana, even if they do not use it themselves," Borrino said. "However, I think legalizing recreational marijuana is sending a dangerous message to New Jersey, especially to young people whom the policy appeals to. New Jersey is facing a huge opioid epidemic and I believe saying that marijuana is okay might give leeway for young people to try other, more lethal drugs," she continued.

Upon winning the Democratic primary nomination, Murphy justified his decision: "The criminalization of marijuana has only served to clog our courts and cloud people's futures, so we will legalize marijuana," he said. "And while there are financial benefits, this is overwhelmingly about doing what is right and just."

According to *NJ.com*, towns that will opt out of the selling or growing of marijuana will miss out on an estimated \$300 million annual tax revenue that marijuana will generate.

Polina Amburg, a specialist professor in the Department of Nursing, explained, "There is some evidence indicating positive responses in patients taking medicinal marijuana. Marijuana is being prescribed for various reasons, but most common uses of the medicinal marijuana are

for pain control."

Amburg also warns about some of the potential dangers of the drug. "I witnessed a young mother collapse in public due to her mixing marijuana and beer," she said. "I took care of a patient who developed severe psychosis and hallucinations as a result of taking marijuana. Another patient became very confused and disoriented after using marijuana." However, Amburg explains that while these may occur, they are not common.

Michael Milford, a forensic psychology student and a United States Air Force Special Operations Command veteran, explains that he has benefited first hand from the use of medicinal marijuana. "Medicinal Marijuana stabilized my life in all aspects. It's an all-in-one remedy for pain, anxiety, and PTSD," Milford said. "It's a natural alternative medicine, greatly appreciated over getting hooked on big pharmaceutical medications."

Researchers at the Arizona State University have also reported there is no negative effect on any measures of health, other than on the user's dental health. According to the researchers, marijuana users had "a higher incident of gum disease." However, this is only for chronic users. "Chronic marijuana use is about as bad for your health as not flossing," the *Washington Post* reports.

Additionally, a *CNN* report has recently come with the new potential use of marijuana for treating drug addiction. According to the report, treatment centers are using marijuana as a detox and a helpful protocol for those with extreme ad-

dictions. "With cannabis, there is no known lethal dose; it can be helpful for certain conditions," Joe Schrank, the Director of the Treatment Center at High Sobriety stated in the report.

Ultimately, their goal is not only to get drug addicts off their opioids, but also to reduce drug use in general.

In a drug fact sheet, the Drug Enforcement Administration has reported that there has been "no death from overdose of marijuana." Moreover, there is a significant difference between the deaths caused by prescription drugs, illicit drugs, such as cocaine and heroin, and opioids. In 2015, the National Center on Health Statistics reported 29,728 people died from prescription drugs and 21,823 died from illicit drugs. Opioids caused an astonishing 33,091 deaths in 2015, while marijuana caused zero.

Furthermore, in all of the years it has been used, no known deaths have been caused by marijuana. It is a drug that has not killed anyone, and yet comes with many benefits such as: treatment of multiple sclerosis muscle spasticity, cancer-related pain, appetite stimulants in AIDS patients and for chemotherapy-related nausea and vomiting, as Wynne Armand, M.D., a Physician at the Massachusetts General Hospital and an assistant professor in Medicine at the Harvard Medical School reported.

In response to Murphy's ambitions to legalize marijuana for its financial and medical advantages, current-governor, Chris Christie told New Jersey 101.5, "It's blood money; it's disgraceful and it's disgusting."



IMAGE TAKEN from NY Times

Candidate Phil Murphy addresses crowd on his NJ campaign.

Keystone Pipeline Bursts: Is New Jersey Next?

JOY MORGAN
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANT NEWS
EDITOR

The Keystone Pipeline leaked 210,000 gallons of crude oil in South Dakota on Nov. 16, creating the largest spill to date in the state. Despite this spill, proposals for pipelines across the U.S. continue to move through legislation, with energy companies acquiring permits for construction.

According to TransCanada, the company that owns the pipeline, the crude oil spill occurred three miles southeast of Amherst, South Dakota and transport of oil was shut down minutes after the leak was recognized. TransCanada reported that it would be days before any groundwater contamination could be discovered and that no immediate threat to human or wildlife was evident.

On Nov. 27, the company announced plans to repair and restart the pipeline.

Gloria Brown Simmons, three-time recipient of NASA's Group Achievement Award in years 1990, '91, and '96, and adjunct professor of astronomy said that "this spill is disastrous. It is no surprise that, [despite risk assessments suggesting spills no more than 50 barrels no more than once every 7 to 11 years], there is yet another spill of harmful toxins into the environment.

However, there are currently similar pipeline projects proposed for the state of New Jersey, which have raised concern among experts and environmental groups.

One such project is the Pinelands Pipeline, which will run for 22 miles through the Pinelands Preservation and potentially carry natural gas through this land.

This project was previously declined by four consecutive NJ governors, and in 2014, declined by the Pinelands Commission itself.

Since the Pineland Commission's original disapproval, two members of the committee who voted against the pipeline were replaced, and two new seats were given appointments by NJ Governor Chris Christie: Dennis Roohr, Mayor of New Hanover Township, and Robert Barr, President of the Ocean City Democratic Club.

Scott Jeffrey, Ph.D., associate professor of management and decision making sciences, refers to the behavior of Christie as a political phenomenon known as "court packing."

"We have seen this in history with Franklin D. Roosevelt," said Jeffrey, who is also a professor of ethics.

"When you don't like the decision the group makes...change the group. This is the wrong thing to do. It controverts the philosophy of democracy, the independent judiciary, and the balance of power."

According to Simmons, the NJ Sierra Club, an environmentalist group, is suing the Pinelands Commission over the approval of the pipeline.

"I'm in support of the efforts of the NJ Sierra Club and would appeal to the government elect to appeal this approval," she said.

In addition to the Pinelands Pipeline, the PennEast could potentially be coming to NJ.

This pipeline would start from northeastern Pennsylvania and extend to Mercer County, NJ, with one third primarily in NJ, and would cost about \$1 billion to construct.

Moreover, because it is an interstate pipeline, the project is under the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission



IMAGE TAKEN from CNN Money

Despite potential risks, such as mass oil spills, there is still a chance that pipelines transporting fossil fuels like crude oil and natural gas could be constructed in the state of NJ and PA.

(FERC) and must obtain state and local permits, in addition to the FERC Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

If approved, the PennEast pipeline will cross environmentally sensitive areas and waterways such as the Delaware River and the Sourland Mountains.

Robin Kucharczyk, Ph.D., coordinator of General Education Natural Science and a Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry and Physics said, "Pennsylvanian fracking is done in Marcellus shale, which is a rock that holds natural gas deposits."

"That's where they would go to harvest the gas and it would have to go through New Jersey to go south, which would cross through the Delaware River," Kucharczyk continued.

"This fracking is a problem because of the pollution it causes,"

Kucharczyk explained.

"In order to get natural gas deposits from the rock, you have to force water and other hazardous chemicals into the shale to fracture it and release the gas. If these chemicals seep into the aquifer than this results in contaminated drinking water. If it reaches the surface, it affects the soil and the ecosystem," she said.

While there is major controversy on both gas and oil pipeline constructions threats to the environment, President Donald Trump and other pipeline supporters often refer to the low manufacturing costs and potential for thousands of jobs.

In response to these arguments, Justin Murray, a senior student of finance, said, "The argument that pipeline construction leads thousands of jobs, is not false, but is not true. A majority of these jobs

are temporary and do not result in employee retention."

In response to these proposed benefits, Jeffrey said, "First, I don't believe manufacturers pass savings to consumers the way people think they do."

Jeffrey explained that cheaper prices should not outweigh the adverse effects that could result from installing such a pipeline.

"Secondly, natural gas is still a fossil fuel. Even if something makes bad things cheaper, the price of the good is irrelevant because of its negative effect to society. If we use fossil fuels we should have to pay the full price and at this time; no one is paying for the potential damage caused by using fossil fuels," Jeffrey concluded.

Office of the President

Dear Students:

Although it seems like only days ago that we began the academic year, another semester is rapidly coming to a close. We have accomplished so many exciting things together in 2017, and I know even greater things are ahead in the coming year.

For our seniors, the end of this semester is a major milestone in your academic career because you will graduate in just a few short months. I am looking forward to seeing you walk across the stage and shaking your hand. Our first-year students should also be proud of a successful transition to academic studies at the collegiate level. I have spoken to so many of you and I am pleased to hear how well you are doing.

Second and third-year students, I hope you will take stock of your time ahead and make a conscious effort to participate in the many clubs, organizations and activities that are available to you. There are so many opportunities to take advantage of at Monmouth so don't miss out.

Graduate students, I know many of you balance jobs, families, and other obligations with your studies. I am truly impressed with how well you manage to meet all those competing interests. It is good to see you are one step closer to meeting your goal.

When your finals are finished I hope you will take a moment to reflect on the accomplishments, big and little, that defined your semester before you spend a well-deserved break with friends and family.

Thank you for making me so proud of you this year.

Grey J. Dimenna, Esq.
President



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Staying Motivated During these Final Weeks

JORDAN SMITH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Usually during this time of year, people are full of joy that the holiday season has finally begun. With that being said, the same cannot particularly be said for college students. For some of us, this is a new experience that we have yet to understand. For others, it is a known fact that these few weeks before celebrating the holidays with family and friends can be a living nightmare.

Homework piles up, assignments seem to be doubled, studying for exams seems to take up all of our time, and our mental anxiety can make us seem insane. The one thing college students are searching for during this time of mental stress is motivation. Essentially, we are all working towards the goal of finishing the fall semester with grades that satisfy us, as well as spending the holidays with our families.

Junior social work student, Caileen Makovec spoke about motivation during this grueling time of the semester, she said, "Motivation is very important. If I'm not motivated to accomplish my goals for the end of the semester, nothing will get done."

Makovec also stated that

she tries to achieve her goals by completing set tasks at a time. She said, "Don't let your assignments pile up, that's the easiest way to feel the most overwhelmed."

One crucial aspect that Makovec pointed out was that her time management is essential to succeed towards the end of the year. Without time management, Makovec states, "you will end up slacking and not doing as well as you'd like." Motivation for Makovec is a key factor for success during this time of the school year, along with many other students.

Max Sobrano, a junior business management student, stated that motivation was one of the key parts to thrive during finals. Sobrano said, "One way I like to stay motivated is to plan ahead. I'll plan out my day to know exactly what I need to get accomplished and the deadlines I need to meet." Most of us are aware that planning and time management can be an imperative element towards the end of the semester.

Sobrano continued, "I schedule every day for everything that I need to get accomplished." When asked what motivates him overall, Sobrano said, "One thing that truly motivates me is the support I receive from my parents. They always

push me to keep at my goals and to accomplish the things I set my mind to." Sobrano's outlook towards this time of year was based on planning ahead to succeed during this time of year when most people are overwhelmed and mentally exhausted.

Finally, professor of communication, Nicholas Messina, gave his input on how motivation can be an effective way to prevail during finals. Messina has to motivate himself almost twice as much as any student due to the fact that he is a communication professor, as well as a graduate student.

Messina said, "Without motivation, you will not be able to make it through the end of the year." Sobrano and Makovec seemed to be set on finishing assignments before their deadlines. On the contrary, Messina said, "Try not to focus so much on deadlines, it will essentially make you more overwhelmed than you need to be."

Following this, Messina also stated that he will usually set a time for himself to take about an hour break to relax and focus on himself. "By doing this, you will be able to decompress and not feel as if you're being engulfed by your work." When asked about how he focuses on his time management, Mes-

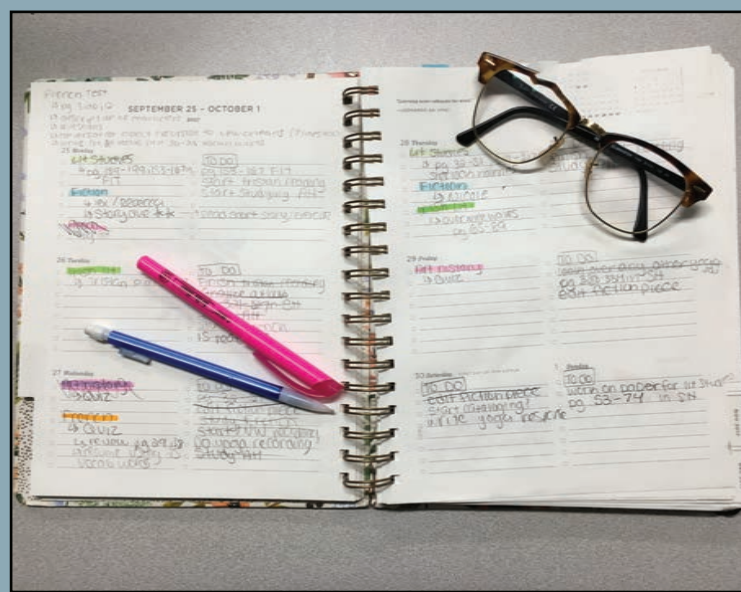


PHOTO TAKEN by Campbell Lee

Writing everything out is a great way to stay organized and combat finals week stress.

sina also said, "I usually make a list for myself for the things that I need to accomplish." With the same idea as Sobrano, Messina found that by following this method of checking off things from his list, he felt more confident which ultimately resulted in feeling more motivated.

Overall, planning ahead seemed to be a crucial element during finals. No matter if you're making a physical list or making mental notes in your head, the idea of planning ahead

to accomplish goals is a major part of success.

By planning ahead and accomplishing goals, more motivation to complete all of your tasks can be built up. Motivation during this time of year is key.

Whether this is your first time understanding the mental stress of finals or if you have dealt with this before, motivation will ultimately assist you in achieving your goals and finishing out the year strong.

The Importance of Ugly Sweaters

EMILY CONDRON
STAFF WRITER

For those who celebrate Christmas, it is a known fact that there are a vast number of people who overdo the decorating aspect of the holiday. For those who purchase an over-the-top Christmas tree to those who simply enjoy their Charlie Brown tree, the spirit of Christmas impacts society in huge ways. The newest phenomenon, however, has been the new love for ugly sweaters, or Christmas sweaters. The true question is, why have they become so popular?

Throughout the past few decades, ugly sweaters have been making their way to store fronts and into people's lives. Many see it as a way to celebrate and create new traditions with their families.

Junior psychology student, Siobhan McLoughlin took the time to explain how her family utilizes their love for these holiday sweaters: "I love ugly sweaters because my family always does this tradition with white elephant where we switch gifts that are not labeled or anything. So, everybody goes and grabs a gift and every year we always re-gift these two ugly sweaters. If you get these two sweaters, you have to wear them to Christmas the next year. Right now, my cousin and his girlfriend have them and I cannot wait to see them in the sweaters!"

Mixing Christmas sweaters with other holiday traditions has become more and more accepted in American society, and it may have to do with them adding some refreshing fun to the boring, usual games people play on Christmas!

In the Condron household, ugly sweaters play an enormous role in the family's Christmas celebration. Kathy Condron, the host of all Christmas festivities, allows anyone and everyone to come celebrate. Condron purchases the amazing Christmas tree that she goes and cuts down herself, she decorates inside and out of the house to make

sure that all Christmas joy is spread, and she owns LOTS of Christmas sweaters. "They are not ugly sweaters, they are beautiful sweaters," Condron says every year as she hears people call her sweaters ugly.

As family and friends walk through the door for Christmas, there are four garbage bags to the left that are filled to the rim of ugly sweaters. As you see them, you go through the bags to find the perfect sweater for you. Some choose the same as the previous year and some do not, but it is all in fate's hands!

Usually, everyone that goes to the Condron household fights over getting the special ugly sweater: it has lights, it has ornaments, and this year it may even sing! Freshman health studies student, Shannon McGorty was able to see pictures and hear stories from past Christmas celebrations and her first comment was, "Can I come this year?"

Even with all of this amazing Christmas spirit, there are some of those who find ways to celebrate without the ugly sweaters. Instruc-

tor of History, Paula Burns-Riccardi was kind enough to give her comments on how she celebrates and said, "We don't participate at all regarding ugly sweaters." Just because Burns-Riccardi does not implicate the ugly sweater traditions does not mean her family does not have fun! There are a large number of people in the world who do not even know what an ugly sweater would be, and that is okay too!

Although there are some who may not agree with the ugly sweater traditions and some that believe ugly sweaters should be in everyone's homes, the impact that these simple pieces of clothing have is significant. Families use these Christmas sweaters to embrace the holiday spirit and spread the happiness that comes along with the holiday spirit.

The ugly sweater parties that have come along with the season is also something that keeps the younger generations in the loop! So, this holiday season, even if you do not celebrate Christmas, make sure to remember to grab your beautiful, ugly sweater and take your festivities up to a whole new level.



PHOTO TAKEN BY Emily Condron

Ugly sweaters have become a staple piece in modern day holiday celebrations.

Beating the Winter Blues

MARIE SOLDI
STAFF WRITER

The end of the semester is quickly approaching, so that means finals, heading back home for the holidays, and also the winter blues. As you relax and unwind in preparation for a new semester, you obviously want to make the most of winter break. Give the following tips a try if you don't want the winter blues to bring you down!

BuzzFeed offers some of the best ways to keep your spirits up, even on the gloomiest, coldest, and darkest of days. One of the first things is to go outside within the first hour or two that you wake up.

It is safe to say that nobody wants to leave the comfort and warmth of their bed to venture out into the cold, but it is still important to get some fresh air and sunshine. You can do something as simple as walking your dog or taking a stroll around the neighborhood.

Not only should you get some sunshine yourself, but let natural light into your home or apartment by opening the blinds and curtains. You can even brighten up your home by getting light colored pillows and blankets. Just because winter has its cold and gloomy days doesn't mean your home has to be gloomy too.

Senior communication student Elliot McPherson has experienced the winter blues before as the cold weather keeps us trapped inside. "While some people can deal with the isolation, it drains you not being able to enjoy the weather as much and having to constantly battle the cold. Also, the shorter days can really hinder what can be completed during the day," he said.

While McPherson doesn't have a surefire way to beat the winter blues, staying social with a good attitude does help.

"Sometimes for me, all that's needed is the extra effort to go and meet with friends and hang out. That extra effort can be hard to muster, but it is definitely worth-

while. But keeping a good attitude is most important though," he continued.

On the other hand, if you truly detest going out in the cold, there are ways to combat the winter blues by staying inside. Light a fire in the fireplace, get cozy, and use the cold winter months to relax, reflect, and spend some quality time with friends and family. Sometimes there is just nothing better than sitting in front of the fire wearing warm, fuzzy socks with a cup of hot chocolate in hand.

If you begin the winter season with a preconceived notion that it will be terrible, you will not have the chance to embrace the good it brings.

Senior communication student Kayla Cardona, is not a fan of winter since she is originally from Florida, so she has definitely experienced the winter blues. She said, "I try to get through the season by focusing on the positives, such as getting excited about the upcoming holidays and spending time with family."

Also, of course, by finding any excuse to keep warm by buying extra fuzzy socks or making hot chocolate." While some prefer staying in and cozying up, adjunct professor of computer science and software engineering, Tracy Hill, believes staying active and energized is the way to go. "When the weather gets colder and it becomes darker earlier, many of us tend to hibernate and turn to comfort foods and sit around watching too much TV. While that's not necessarily a bad thing, it's important to do so in moderation," she said.

Hill added that it is important to open the blinds and let light in, venture outdoors to enjoy nature, and visit family and friends. "It's perfectly normal to have the 'winter blues' at times, but remember to be grateful for all the beauty the season brings!"

Just because it snows and it's cold out, doesn't mean that winter can't be enjoyed.

Lady Bird Spreads Its Wings

MARK MARRONE
STAFF WRITER

June 23, 2015 was the final obligation of seniors at Steinert High School. It was a scorching hot day as I picked up my friend of ten years, Tom, in my father's 2000 Buick LeSabre.

Dressed in our Shrek green gowns, we were sweating in bumper to bumper traffic on Hamilton Avenue because the air conditioning and back windows were broken. Today the air conditioning works, but the heat went just in time for winter.

When we entered the cool Sun Center in Trenton, we were directed to our chairs. For the last time, the class of 2015 would be together under the same roof. It was nerve wracking sitting in those chairs because after each speech the end was drawing near.

All the school dances, hanging out with friends, asking the teacher to use the restroom and pasta Thursdays in the cafeteria would all be over. Once our caps were thrown into the air, it was the beginning of a new chapter.

This day serves as a precious moment not only for being with my high school class for one last time, but for the memories that led up to it.

Senior year in particular was a pivotal moment for all students to determine what path to choose after graduation.

These memories rush back while watching a film like *Lady Bird*, which represents all the peaks and valleys of senior year in high school.

Lady Bird, played by Saoirse Ronan, a senior in a Sacramento Catholic High School, is one of the lesser known people in her class. She wants to go to college on the East Coast, but *Lady's* grades, financial situation and mother are obstacles in her way.

As *Lady* applies for colleges, she gets a role in the school play, falls for a boy and gets involved in other extracurricular activities.

Lady Bird is the definitive coming-of-age feature by capturing all the major events during senior year of high school in genuine fashion.

The film also addresses parental relationships, socio-economic issues and adolescent choices.

We all remember those petty arguments with our parents over doing the dishes or coming home late from jenga night at a friend's house.

They lasted for a day or so, and in the end, we hugged it out. *Lady*, on the other hand, honestly feels that her mother hates her.

At seventeen-years-old, the world revolves around you and if Mom tells you to clean your room after the homecoming dance, it's official: she hates your guts.

Lady is usually arguing with her mother over something, whether it's after listening to *The Grapes of Wrath* audiobook cassette or sifting through the stylish outfits at Thrift World.

The High School senior feels that her mother is too controlling, but she doesn't see her mother's love through the lectures.

Lady's mother, Marion, played by Laurie Metcalf, lectures her child because she wants her to reach her full potential. Not everything can be handed to *Lady* on a silver platter, including a college education on the East Coast.

Usually around November is when college applications are due. Remember the fun of that? Picking the right schools and writing all those essays and checks to College Board for sending SAT scores to colleges; that was a blast.

Lady goes through the same challenges, but she wants to continue her education on the East Coast, despite pushback from her mother.

This will hurt her mother not only in the heart, but wallet as well.

Lady's mother has picked up two shifts at the hospital because her father, played by Tracy Letts, has lost his job.

This is another example of the mother's unrecognized love. Not all affection for one's child is shown through hugs or kisses.

Many children take their parents efforts for granted when it comes to working hard for paying the bills.

If paying your child's bill for



IMAGE TAKEN from Consequence of Sound

Lady Bird soared above Movie Critic Mark's expectations; he rated it 3.5 stars out of 4.

tuition isn't one of the highest forms of love, I don't know what else is.

While *Lady* deals with family and financial issues at home, she also gets involved with the juicy high school drama we all miss.

During play practice, *Lady* falls for its leading actor, played by Lucas Hedges. The two embark on their puppy love relationship, which has surprising twists.

Meanwhile, *Lady* begins associating with the cool kids who hang in the parking lot and smoke cigarettes they probably got from the chill gas station employee. Those cool kids are the ones we all loved in high school, who got a BMW for their seventeenth birthday.

To back them up, a \$50,000

vehicle was essential to roll up in the Wawa parking lot after school.

Along with the social climate of high school, it navigates through all the important events in a typical school year.

The first day mass, homecoming dance, the play's opening night, Thanksgiving break and of course, prom.

Ah, the prom was a great time especially when the dude who graduated two years ahead of you was DJing the event. Nothing like shuffling to "Trap Queen" in a tuxedo to send off our last year of high school.

With each event, it's impressive to see *Lady* evolve into a young adult.

These features are expected for a coming-of-age flick, but *Lady's* genuine curiosity stands out compared to other films with similar themes.

When she first kisses a boy, *Lady* runs in the middle of the street, screams to the high heavens and falls to her knees. I had the same reaction when I found out peer leaders got an additional study hall period.

Additionally, as *Lady* and her friend hang out prior to mass, they are snacking on communion bread like chips. It's okay though, because the bread hasn't been blessed yet. The humor sprinkled in these moments make *Lady's* experience a sincere portrait of adolescence.

The film's charming humor and original feeling is accredited to first-time director and screenwriter Greta Gerwig. Gerwig has recently starred

in terrific films such as *Frances Ha* and *Mistress America*, which she also co-wrote.

The dialogue between high school students, along with children to their parents feels like the camera is rolling through an actual conversation.

Also, the situations are relatable and ones we have all found ourselves in. I mean, haven't you been at the homecoming dance, swaying closely with your date and a nun approaches you saying, "make room for the Holy Spirit?" Amen to that!

Lady Bird is the definitive coming-of-age film. In today's cinema, we are lucky to come across some films in the same genre like *The Edge of Seventeen*, but they don't portray the same personal touch that Gerwig brings.

Watching this takes me back to June 23, 2015. The sadness of a stage ending, but the excitement for a new one to begin.

While harping on nostalgia, Gerwig successfully makes this a beautiful love letter to mom. Many parents may feel their love goes unrecognized through all the bickering and arguments.

However, once the dust is settled, it's important for us to be grateful for the things we have and to see love in different ways.

Our parents pour love into their work and lectures to give us a better life.

Lady Bird is not just about reflecting on the angst of high school, but rather recognizing the efforts of our loved ones.

Marks Remarks:

Lady Bird is the definitive coming-of-age film. In today's cinema, we are lucky to come across some films in the same genre like *The Edge of Seventeen*, but they don't portray the same personal touch that Gerwig brings.



Welcome To Corrupt Ebbing, Missouri

MARK MARRONE
STAFF WRITER

Starring Frances McDormand, Woody Harrelson, Sam Rockwell and Peter Dinklage

Every day I get in a workout running Westwood Avenue up and back. For the four-mile trek I wear shorts, no matter what the weather, and a fanny pack which blasts Carly Rae Jepsen from my phone.

I may get a lot of side eyes during my run, but something that gets even more attention are the huge billboards towering over the train tracks further down Westwood.

Usually the billboards support a typical advertisement like car insurance or new Guy Fieri pasta sauce, but what if there was a stronger message hovering over those tracks? How about something like, "RAPED WHILE DYING. AND STILL NO ARRESTS? HOW COME, CHIEF WILLOUGHBY?" That may gain more attention than me wearing a fanny pack.

Mildred Hayes, played by Frances McDormand, is a single mother who works at the local gift shop where tourists can find the perfect Missouri engraved ashtray. Seven months ago, Hayes's daughter was raped and burned to death. Since then, the Ebbing Police Department have not arrested a single suspect or found any evidence leading towards one. In protest, Hayes rents out space on three billboards to grab the attention of the police and townspeople.

Director, producer and screenwriter Martin McDonagh's dark comedy touches upon grief and a humanistic side of the police set in an overlooked part of America, all while boasting some of the greatest performances this year.

In an interview at the Toronto Film Festival, Frances

McDormand said of her character, "When you lose your spouse you are a widow. When you lose your parents you're an orphan. When you lose a child, there's no word." After the loss of her child, the stubborn mother is struck with grief.

Mildred hasn't been attending mass and has kept a low profile in the community. Losing a child is an unimaginable feeling that becomes a part of a parent for the rest of their life.

Not only does Mildred experience the trauma, but goes through it alone with the absence of her husband. Considering the pain a parent experiences, it is empowering to see Mildred jump into her mechanic suit and bring hell to the Ebbing Police Department.

Mildred handles her grief through radicalization when she rents the three billboards to hold policemen accountable. Instead of sitting by the window, looking out at the distant corn field and waiting for the boys in blue to knock on her door, Mildred decides to take matters into her own hands.

Once the billboards go up, the police finally provide attention to Mildred's situation.

For the past seven months, the file for her daughter's case has been sitting on desk of lazy officer Jason Dixon, played by Sam Rockwell, where he kicks up his feet and reads comic books throughout the day.

Not only does Mildred make a bold statement through her billboards, but she isn't afraid to speak frankly towards police officers or anyone who opposes her actions. On a TV interview, Mildred points out how the cops haven't solved her daughter's case because, "they're too busy torturing black folks to solve actual crime." In another moment, Mildred barges in the police headquarters, addressing a cop by, "f--- head" in front of all the other offices. Mildred's voice speaks volumes not only on what's going on in Ebbing,



IMAGE TAKEN from Rogues Portal

Three billboards create quite a scene in the movie, *Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri*.

but the entire country. Sometimes one needs to address situations in a blunt matter to bring issues to light.

Having a female lead with a hardnosed attitude gives encouragement to those who are shackled by the chains of heartbreak. Mildred is a character to look towards for when one is going through an inconceivable tragedy.

It takes plenty of guts to leave the house and carry on with life as if it's an ordinary day. There won't be ordinary days with the loss of Mildred's daughter, but she accepts this in a powerful way. No longer can Mildred tolerate injustice and the mistreatment by the police. To hell with misery and the Ebbing Police Department, it's time for someone to do something.

Although the Ebbing Police Department is viewed negatively with the resurrection of the billboards, Martin McDonagh sheds a humanistic light on the boys in blue. Police brutality is an increasing issue in the United States. From Los Angeles to Baltimore, the tensions between citizens and cops are escalating through demonstrations demanding justice for victims of police brutality.

The cops in Ebbing, Missouri represent the flaws common in departments. Some officers are racist, while others abuse their power.

McDonagh acknowledges these imperfections, but shows how policemen are capable of change because they are human and have feelings too.

The chief's right-hand-man, Jason Dixon, represents the potential for police culture to change.

When we first meet Dixon, he is a low beat who does little for Ebbing other than getting wasted at the local tavern. However, Dixon progressively gains an understanding on the importance of his position.

Dixon gives hope to the audience that maybe one day trou-

bled officers in the force may evolve to serve people justly.

While the film addresses grief and police brutality, it also captures the essence of a small town in the south.

McDonagh is no stranger to creating an unforgettable environment. Ten years ago, the director released *In Bruges*, one of my favorite films of all time. *Bruges* is a small gothic town in Belgium, home to medieval buildings, small canals, the lofty Belfry Tower and gargoyles perched on homes at every corner.

A decade later, the atmosphere remains embedded in viewers' heads and McDonagh magically recreates that same feeling.

Ebbing is a small town where all the action happens on Main Street. The light blue police department dominates most of the real estate with its three stories and drove of cop cars parked directly out front, while other businesses have a modest appearance.

The local tavern is reminiscent of the bar at my local bowling alley, where dudes stare blankly at a pool table in awe of the bright red felt compared to the rugged green tables in the adjacent arcade. On the other hand, the Ebbing advertising agency is ran by a fella who wouldn't last a day in Dr. Paul's BK-250 class.

Outside of Ebbing is God's country. There is nothing but endless green landscapes and the big Missouri sky. Out in these parts are where the three billboards stand reminding the few who pass by that when they enter in town, they'll be greeted by an incompetent police department. From the inside and out,

McDonagh successfully creates another intimate environment where it makes the viewer feel like a member of the town.

The officers and townspeople are played superbly by a strong cast. Frances McDormand is Mildred, the tough mother who fights for the

justice of her daughter. Mildred's look consists of her short brown hair slicked back in a bandana while rocking a rugged mechanic jumpsuit. McDormand's character has a forceful delivery when she's discussing her daughter's case.

Mildred looks people square in the eye and bluntly explains the mishandlings by the police department of this case in a commanding tone.

McDormand gives this character a tough presence through her appearance, strength and frank deliveries.

Another standout performance comes from Sam Rockwell, who plays the bumbling Officer Dixon. Dixon has the type of swagger one would expect from an Ebbing police officer.

Rockwell provides a witty walk for the character who looks like he is about to trip ahead of his feet at any moment. The most significant part of Rockwell's performance is how the actor shows progression in his character. Dixon's evolution can be felt through Rockwell's change in tone and attitude.

The messages plastered on the billboards I encounter everyday are forgettable. Usually the billboards are attempting to persuade us to buy the latest thing. But what if those billboards were supporting something meaningful other than advertisement space, like local grievances?

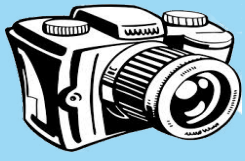
Sure, the townspeople of Long Branch would discuss controversial issues other than my obnoxious presence, shamelessly playing Carly Rae Jepsen up and down their streets.

However, the conversation may lead to progress and change in the neighborhood. Sometimes, we cannot keep our thoughts stowed away in our mind. It takes the courage and strength of someone like Mildred to expose a problem for someone to actually do something.

Marks Remarks:

"While the film addresses grief and police brutality, it also captures the essence of a small town in the south."





MOMENTS AT MONMOUTH



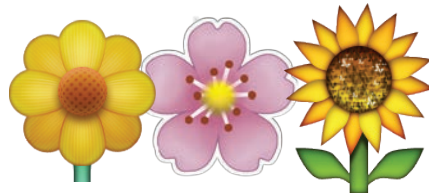
LEFT: MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGES AGAINST CANCER (CAC) CLUB EDUCATING MONMOUTH STUDENTS ON THE GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT. (FROM LEFT): DENA CAPPARELLI, BRIDGET NOCERA AND SARAH MCCAMBRIDGE
PHOTO COURTESY OF: COLLEGES AGAINST CANCER



RIGHT: MONMOUTH JUNIOR ANTHONY BARBOSA ENJOYING THE BEAUTIFUL FALL LEAVES AS THE SEMESTER COMES TO A CLOSE.
PHOTO COURTESY OF: ANTHONY BARBOSA



LEFT: MEMBERS OF THE GARDEN CLUB GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY BY PLANTING IN THE MONMOUTH COMMUNITY GARDEN.
PHOTO COURTESY OF: JESSICA FRENCH



RIGHT: MONMOUTH'S HOLIDAY BAZAAR IN ANACON BRINGING FEELINGS OF JOY AS WE ANTICIPATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON. (FROM LEFT): YAZMIN BELHDAJ, KANWAL ALAM, ABDELKADER BELHDAJ.
PHOTO COURTESY OF: GLOBAL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE PROGRAM



Don't see your picture this week?
Check back in next week's issue for more Monmouth students' photos!



How do you prepare for final exams?

COMPILED BY: NICOLE RIDDLE



Kilber Ruiz
Sophomore

"I like to give myself time to do work and prepare for the exams; it's best to think ahead and plan."



Krissy Antone
Junior

"I personally enjoy doing yoga and other activities to promote mindfulness during exam week along with studying."



Mike Confessore
Graduate Student

"Although I work a full-time job, I like to schedule a half an hour of studying each day to keep the workload manageable."



Sophia DePalma
Junior

"I try to plan ahead study times and areas to study because the study rooms and library can get busy."



Professor Thomas Pearson
Professor of History

"I keep up with my physical workouts three times a week in order to keep routine and give myself a break."



ARE YOU PLANNING TO LIVE OFF-CAMPUS NEXT YEAR?

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Before you sign that first or next lease, stop by the **Office of Off-Campus and Commuter Services (OCCS)** to learn more about navigating the process of finding an off-campus rental. OCCS will get you organized and ready to find the rental that is **right for you and your friends.**

OCCS is located on the 2nd floor of the Student Center. You can call OCCS at **732-263-5651** or set up a brief appointment via email: **occs@monmouth.edu**. You can also find a host of online office resources at the following web addresses:

**www.monmouth.edu/commuter and
www.monmouth.och101.com.**



ATTENTION: FINANCIAL AID STUDENTS

If you have had a Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan and will be graduating in **January 2018** and have not yet completed your Exit Loan Counseling please go to:

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The Outlook is currently seeking help in the following departments:

- Staff Writers*
- Copy Editors*
- Photography
- Layout (Using Adobe InDesign CS6)

Students from *any* major are welcome to join, experience is *not* necessary.

Feel free to visit the office on Mondays or Tuesdays and/or contact the Editor-in Chief, Courtney Buell at s0972966@monmouth.edu.



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Monmouth University Welcomes Chi Upsilon Sigma to the Greek Community

EVAN MCMURTRIE
STAFF WRITER

The seven founding sisters of the Gamma Beta chapter of Chi Upsilon Sigma National Latin Sorority, Incorporated were initiated on Wednesday, Nov. 15, officially marking the sorority's arrival to Monmouth's campus.

Chi Upsilon Sigma (CUS) was originally founded in 1980 by seven Latina women at Rutgers University New Brunswick. Brenda Pescoran, the Alumna Advisor of the Gamma Beta chapter, said that while CUS is a Latin sorority, its membership is not exclusive to Latin women. "We have the word Latin in our name to show respect for the seven Latina Founding Mothers who made it all possible to be where we are at now," she said. Pescoran also served as the New Member Educator for the seven Monmouth women who went through the Educational Process in order to be initiated. She said that CUS has members from various ethnic backgrounds, which is something that the organization is extremely proud of.

There has been student interest in bringing CUS to the university for a few years, according to Michele Kaplan, Assistant Director of Student Activities for Fraternity and Sorority Life. "We are al-

ways assessing our community and how we can meet the needs of our students," Kaplan said.

Pescoran confirmed that the initial interest in CUS came in 2012. She said that Monmouth had certain requirements to meet in order to be recognized on campus, which delayed the process. "We knew we had dedicated women who never gave up on their vision of bringing CUS to campus, who believed they could, and who wanted to bring diversity to campus," she said.

Cristal Polanco, a senior at Monmouth and sister of CUS, believed that it was worth the wait. "The reason why we decided to embark on the long journey of bringing CUS to campus was because before finding the organization we felt out of place," she said. "CUS became a home to us and we wanted to share this with other interested women." Polanco said that the purpose of the organization is to educate, elevate, and empower all women. The values of CUS are leadership, sisterhood, service, and character.

Marleny Mejia, a junior who serves as president of the Gamma Beta chapter, began to fall in love with CUS when she realized that the values and purpose of the organization correlated with those instilled in her by her own mother. She said, "I knew this would be a difficult journey, but without chal-

lenge there is no growth."

At Monmouth, CUS will join the other four Multicultural & Professional Greek Council (MPGC) organizations within the Greek community. Allan Flores, a junior and brother of Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Incorporated, was excited to have CUS join the MPGC community as he has always wanted to see it grow. "I believe that CUS will bring some attention to what the multicultural organizations on campus are about and what they stand for. For the most part, the [MPGC] organizations that have been on campus already have been left in the dark in the community," he said. Flores said that healthy competition brings the best out of people, and that is another reason why CUS's addition to the MPGC community is a positive change.

Crystalie Caraballo, a junior and sister of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Incorporated, said that her organization is excited to see the Greek Latina community at Monmouth get bigger. "Each one of us has worked extensively to have our organization here and we will all continue to support one another," she said. "We hope all of our organizations can continue to grow together and our council will continue to thrive." Caraballo said that as a member of a Latin sorority at Monmouth, she understands the

difficulty in recruiting and retaining possible members and carrying on with traditions. Her organization congratulates CUS and looks forward to working with them.

Ashley Payne, a sophomore and sister of Zeta Tau Alpha, was excited to hear that there was going to be a new sorority on campus. "I believe that CUS will bring more attention to the diversity in culture and student population at Monmouth and show how Monmouth University and its Greek community encourages and celebrates diversity for all cultures," she said.

Giorgio Courtis, a senior and former president of Tau Delta Phi, also believes that the addition of CUS will be beneficial to the Greek community. "I know that

the MPGC organizations root for each other heavily and have a very small and tight knit community, so the addition of another MPGC organization will boost the confidence and cohesiveness of the multicultural brotherhood and sisterhood here at Monmouth, which I am all for," he said.

Polanco said that ultimately, her and the sisters of CUS's goal was to help women at Monmouth find a home away from home in their sorority. "Our hope is that one day Monmouth will have a variety of multicultural organizations for students to choose from because everyone deserves to find a home and comfort at school," she said. "You come to school for an education, but the bonds created last forever."



PHOTO TAKEN by Evan McMurtrie

The sisters of Chi Upsilon Sigma pose for a picture.

Sigma Tau Gamma Hosts Talent Show Event

NICOLETTE PEZZA
CLUB & GREEK EDITOR

The brothers of Sigma Tau Gamma hosted their event "Sigma Tau's Got Talent" on Wednesday, Nov. 29 in Pollak Theater.

The event was co-sponsored by the sisters of Phi Sigma Sigma. Tickets were \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door with all proceeds going to Special Olympics New Jersey. Starting at 10 p.m. and ending around 11:30 p.m., there were eight acts who competed in the show.

The talent show was hosted by brother of Sigma Tau Gamma, Bobby Jones, and sister of Phi Sigma Sigma, Jill Murphy.

"I had a great time hosting Sigma Tau Gamma's talent show, especially because it was my first time doing it! Being able to co-host with Bobby Jones was an experience I don't regret, and I would love to host more events in the future," said Murphy, a senior communication student.

Acts that performed during

the event include Amelia Vitale, sister of Alpha Sigma Tau, who performed "I Will Always Love You" by Whitney Houston, the Sea Sharps A Capella group with a mashup of popular songs, and Malibu from Blue Hawk Records who performed their debut single "Brighter Blue."

"We had some amazing acts perform, and I didn't expect them all to be so talented. Malibu from Blue Hawk Records and Amelia from Alpha Sigma Tau were two acts that really stuck out to me because of their vocals and how the audience got so into their performances. There's so much talent at Monmouth that goes unnoticed until events like this," Murphy continued.

Amy Bellina, Director of Student Activities and Student Center Operations, was also impressed with the talent at Monmouth that the event showcased. "The event definitely highlighted the variety of talent we have on campus. It was great to see so many student perform-

ers, and hopefully it will encourage others to perform in the future," Bellina said.

Through ticket sales, the event was able to raise money for Special Olympics New Jersey. "We raised over \$1000 for Special Olympics. This is the most money our chapter has raised for Special Olympics and it wouldn't have been possible if it weren't for our performers, judges, and the sisters of Phi Sigma Sigma," said Henry Tran, brother of Sigma Tau Gamma.

Performers competed for first, second and third place prizes which were a \$25 Amazon gift card for first place, \$15 Uber gift card for second, and a \$10 Chick-fil-A gift card for third. Vitale was awarded first place, Sea Sharps A Capella where voted for second place, and Demi Dentes of Alpha Omicron Pi took third place.

The event served as a way to raise money and awareness for a great cause and also showcase some of the many talent students at Monmouth.



PHOTO COURTESY of Henry Tran

Brothers of Sigma Tau Gamma and talent show participants pose for a picture at their event.

Club and Greek Announcements

Hawk TV News

Hawk TV News is looking for vibrant and interested students who want to be reporters, writers, anchors and much more. You do not need to be a communication major to be apart of this organization.

If you are interested email us at s0933548@monmouth.edu or meet us on Wednesdays in JP 138 at 3:15 p.m.

Students Advocating Girls' Education (SAGE)

SAGE is dedicated to equal access to education and the betterment of the campus community through social justice, gender equality, and feminism. SAGE hosts a number of events on campus to raise money and donate to organizations and communities which improve access to quality education for women and girls, both locally and globally. They also increase campus awareness of social issues and current events pertaining to women's rights. If you are interested in joining, please contact the Club President, Kaitlin Allsopp, at s1034953@monmouth.edu.

Sociology Club

Sociology Club at Monmouth works to take the concepts learned in the classroom and apply them to social activism. They focus on raising awareness of inequalities and social issues that affect everyone as students. They believe that every person has the ability to make a difference in the community. All student ideas are welcome as they work through issues of race, gender, ability, and more to create an open and inclusive space. In the past they have signed petitions against the Dakota Access Pipeline, which threatened the sanctity of precious indigenous people's land; held American Sign Language classes; and educated students about sexual assault. With Sociology Club, every voice has a chance to be heard and they are devoted to addressing social issues that impact campus. The possibilities for what they will do this year are endless, so join them as they continue to work towards creating a campus environment that reflects the world we want to live in.

Home[body] for the Holidays

MARIE SOLDO
STAFF WRITER

"I'm dreaming of a white Christmas, just like the ones I used to know, where the treetops glisten, and children listen to hear sleigh bells in the snow."

We all wish for and dream of different things when the holidays roll around, but some simply wish they had family and the ability to enjoy the excitement that comes with the holidays. So, how do the holidays really make us feel?

As the song states, Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year, but the *Huffington Post* explains the reasons why that is not the case for everyone. For some, the holidays are simply a painful reminder of Christmases past, as well as family that is no longer here.

Throughout the past couple of years, members of my family passed away one by one, most recently being my father. While everyone else excitedly waits for Christmas, I just look forward to it being over.

Dr. Mark Sichel LCSW, author and psychotherapist, states that unrealistic expectations also come into play during the holiday season.

Regardless of whether you have family or not, it is easy to want that picture-perfect white Christmas or New Year's Eve kiss at midnight. But, when you don't get that, it can lead to disappointment, anxiety, and even depression.

If the holidays are a dreadful time for you, Sichel suggests being thankful for who and what you *do* have, as well as remembering that the holidays will pass and they only come once a year.

However, if you do not have family to enjoy the holidays with, or you are estranged from your family, Eleanor Novek Ph.D., professor of communication, suggests creating a sense of family wherever you are. "Celebrate 'Friendsmas,' which is like 'Friendsgiving,' by bringing unrelated people together to create a family-like celebration. This is nice for singles, newcomers, old folks, lonely people of every type. Another

way to celebrate is to give to others," she said.

Soup kitchens and some restaurants host holiday meals for the less fortunate, so you can go volunteer to cook and serve the guests, or even strike up a conversation with them. Something so simple as donating your time could mean the world to someone.

Novek added, "People in hospitals and nursing homes need to be visited and may feel especially forgotten on the holidays. Activities such as these remind us that we are really all one big family."

The *Huffington Post* goes on to say that we feel extra down in the dumps during the holiday season by comparing our holidays and lack of family to those of others. Your friend might post a picture of her entire family around the Christmas tree, and you wish that could be you surrounded by family. Or maybe you'll wish you had that special someone to kiss under the mistletoe when you see other couples doing it.

However, instead of letting all that bring you down, senior communication student, Kayla Cardona, suggests spending the holidays with close friends.

"I know how terrible it is to spend a holiday without family, and al-

though it may be rough, focusing on the positive things that you have going on will certainly help," she said. Direct your energy towards decorating, holiday shopping, or baking tons of cookies with friends.

It is also important to remember that your family would want you to be happy. Yes, holidays are meant for family, but that doesn't mean you should be unhappy on the holidays.

Jillian Young, a senior communication student, agrees with Cardona. "Create your own traditions and plan things with friends because there is a lot to do to get you in the holiday spirit if you just look for it."

She suggests, "You can have holiday movie nights, bake cookies, or just take a walk through your neighborhood and see Christmas lights. No matter what it is, you can always find something to do that makes you get more into the holiday season," she said.

It is good to keep busy and do what makes you especially happy during the holiday season, and as Dr. Sichel said, remember that the holidays will pass.

Whether you have no family at all or family that doesn't go all out for the holidays, you can still deck the halls and rock around the Christmas tree.



PHOTO TAKEN by Amber Galati

The holidays are a time to remember to give back, surround yourself with loved ones such as family, friends, and those less fortunate.

Cohabiting Before Marriage: The New Wave

CHRISTINA TERMYNA
STAFF WRITER

Up until recent years, it was unusual, as well as frowned upon for couples to live with one another before marriage. But, as time changes, so do societal norms and living together before marriage has grown more and more common.

The idea is that people should learn how to cohabit before marriage to see if they could in fact eventually get married. According to a relationship expert Rachel Sussman, "It's important to be roommates and see how that impacts your relationship." She believes couples should learn how to handle arguments over things like finances and cleanliness around the house before getting married.

Dr. Corey Wrenn Ph.D., Director of Gender Studies, said, "The research on this phenomenon is changing. Not long ago, many states had laws on the book prohibiting cohabitation, and cohabitation was statistically infrequent. However, this is changing, and it is now becoming a relatively normal family structure."

She continued, "As the social requirements for marriage are decreasing (many women can now support themselves financially and have children outside of marriage) and the social stigma is relaxing, cohabitation is growing in popularity. This may change, however, as many cohabiting couples were lesbian and gay, but now marriage has been opened up to them as an alternative."

"Historically, cohabitation was a strong predictor of divorce, but not necessarily because cohabitation itself created discord, but because people who were liberal enough to cohabit without marriage tended to be liberal enough

to seek a divorce. The research no longer supports that cohabitation is such a strong predictor of divorce, however, since cohabitation and divorce are now becoming more normal," Wrenn continued.

Amberly Russomano, a 24-year-old psychology student, lived with her fiancé for three years before getting engaged this past January. She said, "I truly believe couples should live together before getting married because it allows you to get to know the person on a deeper level, rather than making sure you always 'look good' for the other person. They see the 'real' you." Russomano is 100 percent sure in marrying her fiancé now because she is certain that they cannot only live together, but they can live together happily.

Nick Van Orden, 24, agreed saying, "I plan on moving in with my girlfriend before we get engaged because you really do not truly know a person until you live with them. I think it is important to move in together before getting married in order to make sure that you two are truly compatible."

While these thoughts certainly make sense, Meg Jay, a clinical psychologist at the University of Virginia, discussed an idea known as the cohabitation effect in an article for *The New York Times*. Jay actually found that couples who lived together before they made the walk down the aisle tended to be more likely to divorce.

She states, "Researchers originally attributed the cohabitation effect to selection, or the idea that cohabiters were less conventional about marriage and thus more open to divorce. As cohabitation has become a norm, however, studies have shown that the effect is not entirely explained by individual characteristics like religion, education or politics. Research suggests that

Take a Break from Winter Break

KARA D'ANTONI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As the semester comes to a close, there is only one thing on everyone's mind: winter break. Fourteen weeks of hard work and sleepless studying nights are finally over, and the holidays are around the corner.

Once the fall semester is history, that means the spring semester is just a month or so away. Similar to this semester, winter break will be over in the blink of an eye.

So, how do students and faculty utilize that beautiful break from classes? Is it a time for preparation or relaxation?

For adjunct communication professor, Kelly Harney-Furgason, winter break is more of a time to catch up instead of kicking back. Harney explained, "I'll probably reread through a bunch of the information that's been given to me for this class and see where I can expand on it."

Harney continued to elaborate on how she will improve her classroom, "...perhaps add a little more in to fake news, since that needs to be more prevalent, look at what my students have said to me at the end of each semester... I ask the class what helped and what didn't and then I try to adjust."

On top of being a prepared professor, Harney will also take the time to focus on herself and her family. "I just basically try to get caught up on my own life, get caught up on my kid's lives, make sure they're on par with what they need to do get done," she said.

Winter break is a great chance to get a head start for next semester, yet it is the perfect time to step back, relax, and spend time with loved ones as well. College can be draining, physically, mentally, emotionally; everyone needs a period of time to recharge and gain back the motivation to be even more driven than the semester prior.

Jack Rible, a sophomore communication student, said, "I'm probably just going to spend a lot of time with my beautiful girlfriend and just hangout and have a good time. Maybe I'll do my school work... I don't know...anything's possible."

Sophomore communication student, Hania Sarsar, has other plans for how she will spend her winter break. Sarsar said, "I'm looking forward to relaxing, sleeping in, going to New York, hanging out with my friends who are coming back from college."

"When it's close to January, I'll start seeing what books I need and then start looking at the syllabi and then just become ready and see what my schedule is for next semester," she continued.

Thinking about books, syllabi, and schedules may seem stressful; why think about next semester when this one is not even over? Although coming back to school means having homework, assignments, and papers, it also means coming back to all the amazing opportunities Monmouth has to offer.

It is exciting to look forward to a fresh start with different courses and fun club events. "I'm excited for the spring semester, I don't like the cold weather but, each semester that we go back we learn a lot of new stuff, we see what we want to do in life, and I'm excited for *HawkTV* going into their new semester," Sarsar said.

Something else students may look forward to is having a completely new class schedule. Rible said, "I have off on Mondays and one class on Fridays so I'm excited for the four-day weekend."

The excitement for next semester, winter break, and the holidays are only a few of the things that can help people get through finals week.

Once finals are over, people may use the next month to catch up on work or catch up on Netflix, regardless, everyone deserve time for themselves after a semester's worth of hard work and dedication.



PHOTO TAKEN by Shannon Lawrence

Cohabitation before marriage has recently become popular and may help with future relationships.



Gender Studies: How it Affects Us



JORDAN HERZOG
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The definition of gender specifically can change across cultures, overtime and within individuals themselves. In Western culture, we recognize two genders: male and female. However, the distinction aspect of gender is critical. The U.S. ascribes to a gender binary, falsely imposed on a disorderly reality. But, how does gender studies relate to us directly?

Gender Socialization is the process by which individuals acquire a sense of self and identity, when they learn to be masculine or feminine. At birth, we all are assigned to a gender from the beginning. If you are a boy, your color is blue, pink for a girl. Parents will treat you differently based on your gender too, even this early on in a newborns life.

Socialization should be a lifelong process, allowing the child to fit into society on their own. In this case, the child will have to use the gender they are given at birth and are expected to uphold the certain standards and expectations that society places on them throughout their lives.

Since the topic of gender studies is filled with many opinions, it is important to get the viewpoint of those around you. Dr. Corey Wrenn, Director of Gender Studies believes she feels the influence of gender stereotyping in her life and is upheld to unfair standards and expectations based on her being a woman. She says, "Female professors are expected to do a lot more of the emotional work as well as "housework."

Making new employees feel welcomed, dealing with upset students, organizing events and cleaning out

offices for new employees are all things she mentions as being gender stereotyped. Not only that, but she feels as though that she must work twice as hard to meet standards as a woman.

Feeling as though you are expected to act a certain way or having to do more work to prove yourself can be a frustrating experience for anyone having to deal with people viewing you based on your gender.

Katie Gatto, an instructor of computer science and software engineering, takes a different approach. She believes she is not held to standards or expectations because she never upheld to them in the first place.

However, she says she is still under the influence of typical gender stereotyping. Being a female professor, she is constantly being judged by appearance every day and expected to portray herself in a certain way day in and day out. Universities, being mostly patriarchal institutions, can also create work inequality.

As Gatto is involved with both the computer science and information technology field, she notes that there is work inequality especially in game design, where it is mostly directed towards men. There should be no difference in the role gender roles play when it comes to anything, but especially in the work environment.

What role does gender studies play in the lives of some students at Monmouth? Jonathan Dzialo, a junior computer science student, does not feel the influence of gender stereotyping in his life personally but does feel he is upheld to unfair standards. He believes that, as a male, he would be pressured to make a lot of money for his family.

In the past, society has always set

standards that men should be supporting the family by working and that women should be home taking care of the house and kids. If you went against these standards, people would look at you the wrong way and judge you because your family is different than most. Thankfully, this expectation is starting to disappear in our world today but it is still a problem.

Max Sobrano, a junior business management student, who also feels gender stereotyping in his life. He mentions that, most of the time, men are expected to pay on a date. While he doesn't mind this expectation, it goes along with men being expected to work and support their families. Your gender should not determine who pays for what or who works, this should be decided amongst the two people rather than having society's expectations influence them.

Sobrano also discusses work inequality, how women and men can be paid for the same job but be requested to perform different activities. For example, the stereotype that women should be performing secretary jobs but men should be in higher positions such as a CEO. If an individual has the skills required to perform the job it shouldn't matter the gender.

Gender studies is something that affects everyone every day whether we think about it or not. Our subconscious decisions are consistently altered by that of society's expectations and standards that is unfairly put on everyone.

Overall, gender should not be a factor when determining anything and people should think more about themselves rather than what others would think of them.



PHOTO TAKEN by Shannon Lawrence

Gender studies affects how many of us perceive gender stereotypes.

Is Technology Controlling Our Lives?

MARIE SOLDO
STAFF WRITER

Years and years ago, the internet was an escape from the world. Now, the world is our escape from the internet and the abundance of technology.

While technology can be very beneficial, it can control our lives without us even knowing it. Yes, it is nice having the ability to access anything and anyone at any time, but can we go five minutes without our phones?

Eddy Occhipinti, Associate Athletics Director/Marketing & Sponsorships believes that technology has greatly impacted our daily lives and society as a whole.

"In some respects, technology is incredibly helpful and has made many aspects of people's lives easier and more convenient. In other ways, and depending on what and how, technological advances can be seen as harmful, depending on your perception and point of view. Like anything, if we allow it to control us, it will. I do think technology and its convenience has made us all very dependent on it, for better or worse," he said.

Technology is eliminating face-to-face communication more and more. *Business Insider* states that the average person uses their cell phone 2,617 times a day, so it's no wonder interpersonal communication has become a rarity.

As you walk from class to class across campus, students' eyes don't leave their phone. Then, once you get to class, more students are glued to their phone, sending that last minute text before the professor arrives, or posting on their Snapchat story, fun phrases like, "I hate this class."

When was the last time you were asked out in person and not through

a text or Tinder message? When was the last time you sent someone a card to wish them a happy birthday instead of a text?

There are clearly downsides of technology, which Sue Starke Ph.D., associate professor of English believes. "We're beginning to see some of the societal downsides of the ways people use newer personal technology. I believe that people will eventually adjust and develop new codes of behavior and etiquette to respond

to and control disruptive aspects of new technologies," Starke said.

She added that it is important to recognize these problems so that new norms can be developed to deal with them. We have to learn to control technology, and not allow technology to control us.

Technology and social media bring us instant communication, instant access to anything, and tons of entertainment, like Netflix or Hulu. That is exactly why it is so hard to

be without our precious little cell phones.

Senior communication student, Elliot McPherson, admits that it can be a challenge losing immediate access to the above commodities.

"That's why nobody ever wants to lose their phone, because it makes life a little harder. Not to mention that future generations are being brought up more dependent on it than we were. It's a grey area with the fact that it has real benefits, but

real social drawbacks," he said.

Similar to what Starke said, McPherson also added that technology is always evolving, so we will eventually have to figure out what course of action to take, and what norms to establish.

Until those new norms come to be, it is important to realize that we *can* survive without our cell phones, and we must take the time to unplug. Believe it or not, unplugging can leave us feeling happier.

When we constantly see others post about their lives, it can leave us feeling lonely, jealous, or unhappy. Maybe your boyfriend doesn't treat you the way he should, but you see your friend being treated like a princess. That can make you feel unhappy and desperate to find a better guy. Or perhaps you see a classmate's "transformation Tuesday" post on Instagram while wishing that you had that fit body.

Unplugging also gives us the ability to open our eyes and truly pay attention to what's in front of us. Go bundle up and watch the sunset on the beach or spend some quality time with your significant other. Engage in meaningful, authentic, face-to-face communication. The moment that you are in, you will never get back, so don't miss it by scrolling through Facebook or "liking" all of your crush's Instagram posts.

With finals approaching and winter break right around the corner, try unplugging and see what the world has to offer, rather than using technology as an escape from the world.

Spend some one-on-one time with friends or your significant other. Turn your phone off for a night and go take a hot bubble bath followed by hot chocolate. Remember that there is a beautiful world to be seen when you look up from your phone.



PHOTO TAKEN by Amber Galati

In today's society, technology has become a way to improve our lives but inches its way to controlling us.

Men's Basketball Loses to UConn in Overtime

ZACH COSENZA
SPORTS EDITOR

Men's basketball was defeated by the University of Connecticut Huskies 84-81 in another overtime battle on Saturday night.

"I thought it was a great college basketball game and I thought the officials did a great job," Head Coach King Rice said. "I know they just came off an overtime win and now they have another overtime win."

Junior guard Micah Seaborn lead the Hawks with a career-high 27 points, 20 which came in the first half. Seaborn went 7-10 shooting with four threes. In the second half, UConn's defense controlled Seaborn, not allowing him to score in the first 14 minutes of the second half.

"It started with me," Seaborn said. "I have to take that one today and just learn from it for next game."

MU and UConn would trade baskets for the first ten minutes of the first half before the Huskies would go on a 9-0 run in the span of two minutes to make it 29-20 UConn. The Hawks would then go on a run of their own, finishing the half going 22-7 run to give Monmouth the 42-36 lead at halftime. The Huskies ended the half with a deep buzzer-beater three to close the deficit to six points.

In the second half, UConn would take the lead back, going on a 20-7 run in the first eight minutes of the half to



Junior guard Micah Seaborn scored a career-high 27 points including five three pointers in the 84-81 overtime loss against UConn on Saturday night.

make it 56-49 Huskies.

After a media timeout, the Hawks would go on a 10-3 run, with sophomore guard Louie Pillari tying the game at 59 all after a three-pointer with eight minutes left in regulation.

Monmouth and UConn would trade baskets for the rest of the second half. With the Huskies up 73-72 with a

minute left, senior forward Zac Tillman would make a layup to make it 74-73 Hawks with 48 seconds left.

The Huskies then went 1-2 at the free throw line after a foul and the game was tied at 74. After an MU timeout, senior guard Austin Tilghman would miss a deep three attempt and UConn would get the rebound

and miss a buzzer-beater three from half court to end regulation, making it the second game in the past week that Hawks would go into overtime.

In overtime, the Hawks lead would be as high as four with two minutes left. The Huskies then went on an 8-1 run to finish the overtime period to give

UConn the 84-81 victory. This was the second straight overtime victory for the Huskies, first defeating Columbia 77-73 on Wednesday night.

"You get to shoot any shot on the court that, anytime we're playing. You don't get to take ones when...you just don't get to do that. That's hero basketball," Rice said. "Everybody can be, 'Oh, we did all these cool things.' We were heroes at the end, and that made us lose at the end, and it's not okay."

In overtime, Seaborn, the Hawks leading scorer, was held scoreless in the last 4:29 of the game.

"I have to do better in closing moments," Seaborn said. "I did a little bit too much at times, and that's what kind of got other people thinking they could go 1-on-1."

For the game, Tillman and junior forward Diago Quinn ended the game in double figures, with 13 and 11 points, respectively. Sophomore forward Mustapha Traore added a team-high eight rebounds and four points. Monmouth's bench outscored UConn's 25-8, doing so for the seventh time this season in eight contests.

The Hawks (3-5) will look to rebound at home against Hofstra on Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the OceanFirst Bank Center. The Hawks will then go on a road trip that begins against #8 ranked Kentucky at Madison Square Garden in the Citi Hoops Classic on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 12:00 p.m.

Women's Basketball Falls Twice to Navy, Robert Morris

MATT DELUCA
STAFF WRITER

The Monmouth University women's basketball team loss to Navy 73-49 on Thursday night in Annapolis, MD.

Junior center Erica Balman led Monmouth with 10 points, while grabbing five rebounds. Sophomore forward Adriana Zelaya added eight points, hitting two three point shots. Sophomore Alexa Middleton scored seven points and had seven rebounds, while junior guard McKinzee Barker also contributed seven points.

The Hawks struggled in the first quarter, shooting 2-11 from the field and turning the ball over 11 times, leading to a 15-7 Navy lead after ten minutes of play. Balman connected on two-straight layups early in the second quarter to make the score 22-14, but Navy went on an 8-0 run to make the deficit 14 at the second quarter media timeout. Navy then embarked on a 19-0 scoring run in the final 5:40 of the quarter to make the halftime score 41-14. The 14 points was the lowest scoring output for Monmouth so far this season.

Navy opened the second half on a 9-2 run to open their lead to 34 early in the third. They then used another run late in the quarter to take a 37-point lead, but Balman scored on another layup to make the score 60-25 after thirty minutes. Monmouth began to find their scoring touch late, outscoring Navy 24-13 in the final frame, but could not

overcome the deficit, losing by 24.

"As a team, we are disappointed in our effort today," Head Coach Jenny Palmateer said. "We didn't hit shots early and we let that impact our play in too many other areas."

For the game, the Hawks shot 31 percent from the field and 26 percent from three. They did shoot 88 percent from the line, connecting on eight of nine free throws. Monmouth was out-rebounded 43-36, but did outscore Navy in bench points 34-31.

The loss dropped Monmouth to 2-5 on the season, as the game was part of a two-game road swing which took them to Robert Morris for a Sunday afternoon contest, where they lost 56-38.

Sophomore guard Kayla Shaw scored 19 points, which equaled out to half of the total amount the Hawks had in the game. Senior guard Rhaiah Spooner-Knight contributed eight points and grabbed five rebounds.

Both teams played a tightly-contested first quarter, as the Colonials held a 10-9 advantage after ten minutes. Robert Morris began the second quarter with a 10-2 scoring run, before Shaw responded with a three. The Colonials got another basket, which made the score 22-14, forcing Monmouth to call a timeout with 5:28 remaining in the half. Robert Morris closed the half on an 8-0 run, which made the halftime score 30-18.

Robert Morris maintained

their lead all throughout the second half, as it hovered around nine for a majority of the back-half of the third quarter and the start of the fourth. They pulled away in the final minutes, handing Monmouth their second-straight loss.

"I thought we played better today in certain areas and had

a lot more effort than our last outing, so I was pleased with that," Palmateer said. "We're just a team that needs to keep working offensively and figure some things out."

The Hawks shot 31 percent from the field, hitting only 14 shots, and shot 18 percent from three-point range.

That loss dropped Monmouth to 2-6 on the season, and they will hope to snap their two-game losing streak on Wednesday, Dec. 6, as they travel to Teaneck, New Jersey to take on in-state foe Fairleigh Dickinson. Tip-off is slated for 7:00 p.m. You can listen live on WMCX 88.9.



Sophomore guard Kayla Shaw had half of Monmouth's 38 points (19) in the loss to Robert Morris on Sunday afternoon.

D.C. United Goalie Eric Klenofsky Talks Rookie Year

ERIC KLENOFSKY
STAFF WRITER

As you grow up and the past starts to fade, your youthful days pass and the fun of high school dims. College shows up just in time for adulthood to start gnawing at you. Just like any other adolescent, this process is the same for an aspiring professional athlete.

If you've wanted to be a professional all your life then you've always been a dreamer. Playing our sport and dreaming of making it your job are synonymous but only a lucky few turn those dreams into something tangible.

For me, it happened.

Draft day was special, I think back to hearing my name being announced with goosebumps on my arms. You work your whole life for a chance to be a professional; one second you're an amateur with all the aspirations and the next you're a freshman in college again, but this time they refer to it as rookie year and classes don't exist.

Draft day only comes around once in a life time so when those words get spoken, and you hear your name called, stop scrolling on Instagram and pay attention. No one had to tell me twice, I had never been more anxious in my life.

"D.C. United selects, from Monmouth University, the goalkeeper, Eric Klenofsky." It's crazy how one sentence can change everything.

When you wake up the next morning and you start to figure out what those words actually mean, the anxiety really begins. After all, preseason was in ten days. Two things came to mind; I need to train, and I need to pack.

The fastest ten days of my life came and went. Jan. 23 had arrived and I was a young professional soccer player with the open road ahead; I made it, 22 years of dreams and work to get to this point.

Going from a two and a half

week preseason in college to a month and a half preseason in the pros was a grind by every definition of the word. This was a job now, and it was time to work.

As we went through preseason at IMG Academy in Bradenton, FL, lessons were learned, mistakes were made, and growth was happening. Obviously, everyone would love to walk into their first job after college and be the best at it from day one, but this was the pros now and it was always going to be a process.

I managed to get my feet wet in preseason friendlies against the Montreal Impact, the Philadelphia Union, the Jönköpings Södra IF and the U.S. U17 National Team. The season began and, like many other rookie goalkeepers, finding games to get experience was my next hurdle.

For me, that meant heading south to our United Soccer League affiliate, the Richmond Kickers, was a welcomed opportunity. Training went well and I was ready to make my regular season professional debut. On April 8, against the eventual champions of the league, Louisville City FC, we would fall 1-0. A penalty kick with nine minutes left was the difference maker but I was happy with my performance otherwise.

During the second half I started to feel my left knee tighten up, something I didn't think anything of. The next morning my knee was too swollen to play soccer with. I made my way back to D.C. to get my knee looked at.

Injuries, especially knee injuries are a part of the game that everyone wants to avoid. The fact is they are a very prevalent part of professional sports and sports in general. Unfortunately, I had torn my meniscus in my pro debut. Surgery would put me out until early July but it had to be done.

Rehab came and went and before I knew it I was back on



PHOTO COURTESY OF D.C. United

Goalkeeper Eric Klenofsky spent time on the game day roster during his rookie year, but did not make an appearance for D.C. United.

the field. I'd love to say that my knee was as good as new but that just wasn't the case. I finished out the year relatively healthy from July to October.

Traveling to Seattle, Montreal, Dallas, Portland, Columbus and many other cities was a dream and at times it really felt like a movie; especially when your flight gets cancelled due to inclement weather and you're forced to take a private jet the morning of the match, but that only happened once.

I'd be lying if I said I wasn't star-struck sharing a field with Tim Howard, one of my childhood idols, and so many other high level players. I made the

game day roster a handful of times but unfortunately I didn't crack the starting eleven this year; patience is something every young goalkeeper must have. As the year came to a close, it became very obvious that I needed another knee surgery.

I think back to an interview I watched of Tim Howard referencing his jump from the NY/NJ Metrostars to Manchester United years back. His message was clear: It doesn't matter who you are, whether you're the most established goalkeeper in the world or a rookie just breaking in, at some point you're going to face some sort of adversity. He spoke about the natural ebb and flow of a career, how every career has its peaks and its valleys.

For me, these two knee surgeries in my rookie year are part of the ebb and flow of my career. I am not the first professional athlete to go through this and I won't be the last. This process takes a whole lot of patience and a whole lot of trust. With my career on hold, rehabbing my knee and getting back to 100 percent is my job now.

Some people look at having two knee surgeries in one year or getting released as tragic events, I know, I've been getting texts about it for the last week or so; that's just not me though. I look at the situation I am in and I can't say that I feel stress or worry. More than anything, I feel thankful and blessed to be on this journey. When it comes down to it, it's about the journey; it's about enjoying life and enjoying the short time you have on this planet. Stressing just doesn't make sense; you don't have enough time to waste on it.

Being released and rehabbing for the first part of next season is a new challenge to fight through and it will bring a new opportunity. When

you go through hardships in life you can look at them two ways, as an optimist or a pessimist, I encourage you all to be optimists. See the light in a dark situation. Sometimes the wrong things need to fall apart for the right things to come together, enjoy the journey and be thankful.

Six months of recovery time is just another obstacle and that is all it is, just another bump in the road a breath away from being in the rearview mirror.

UPCOMING GAMES

Wednesday, Dec. 6

MBB vs. Hofstra
OceanFirst Bank Center
West Long Branch, NJ 7:00 p.m.

WBB at Fairleigh Dickinson
Rothman Center
Teaneck, NJ 7:00 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 8

Track & Field
Wagner Seahawk Shootout
Staten Island, NY 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 9

Track & Field
Princeton New Year Invitational
Princeton, NJ 10:30 a.m.

MBB vs. Kentucky
Citi Hoops Classic
Madison Square Garden
New York, NY 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 12

WBB vs. Virginia Tech
OceanFirst Bank Center
West Long Branch, NJ 7:00 p.m.

MBB at Princeton
Jadwin Gymnasium
Princeton, NJ 7:00 p.m.

*conference games



PHOTO COURTESY OF James Loving

Former Hawk Eric Klenofsky made his professional debut with the Richmond Kickers on April 8, earning five saves on six shots on goal.

THE OUTLOOK



HAWKS

LOOK TO

REBOUND



Following their 84-81 defeat to UConn, their second overtime loss in a week, senior guard and captain Austin Tilghman will look to lead the Hawks to victory.