



# THE OUTLOOK

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S  
STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1933

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## Legalized Recreational Marijuana Not Permitted on Campus Grounds

JASMINE RAMOS  
STAFF WRITER

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed three different bills in order to legalize and regulate the use and consumption of recreational marijuana, fulfilling one of his early on campaign promises on Monday, Feb. 22.

However, legalization within the state does not necessarily mean legalization within college campuses. Many higher educa-

tion institutions in legal states have battled between federal and state laws as marijuana remains federally illegal. The same applies to Monmouth University.

Mary Anne Nagy, Vice President for Student Life and Leadership Engagement, sent an email to the campus community explaining the new laws' implications on the University on Thursday, Mar. 18. The message stated that even though marijuana may be legalized, the possession or use of it is still not permitted on

school grounds.

This is partly due to the fact that Monmouth University, and all higher education schools, must abide by the Federal Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, Nagy wrote. The DFSCA was passed by Former President George H. W. Bush in 1989, where it allowed institutions to receive federal funding as long as they enforced a drug program or protocol within their campus.

This funding helps with federal

work study programs, Stafford loans and any type of financial aid that might be beneficial to the students.

Additionally, when the laws were passed within New Jersey, it specified that the consumption of marijuana would not be permitted within "any public or private institution of higher education or a related entity thereof, regardless of whether the area or facility is an indoor place or is outdoors," the message continued.

Now, on-campus police must handle any marijuana condition similar to any other police officer within the state. Dean A. Volpe, Captain of the Monmouth University Police Department, specified that on-campus officers must follow the New Jersey Attorney General guidelines with regard to the recent changes to the marijuana laws. The Department of Law and Public Safety of the State of New Jersey specified that the new laws create "more lenient penalties for possession and distribution that remain tiered based on weight."

However, Nagy explained that regardless of how the police

## IGU Symposium on Human Rights And Environment

MATTHEW CUTILLO  
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES EDITOR

The Institute for Global Understanding (IGU) held its first biennial symposium on human rights and the environment from Mar. 25-27.

Featuring experts from the government, nonprofit, academic, community, and private sectors, the symposium examined topics that intersected human rights and the environment. Panelists addressed regulatory responses, litigation, academic and scientific discourse.

Thursday began with opening remarks from President Patrick F. Leahy and Interim Provost Rekha Datta, followed by a lecture on climate migration, racial crises, and the history and future of climate justice by Maxine Burkett, a Professor of Law at the William S. Richardson School of Law.

"If there's ever been a time when we need increased global understanding, it



PHOTO TAKEN by Anthony DePrimo

Marijuana, recreational or otherwise is banned from campus grounds and University owned buildings.

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## Nursing Students Administer COVID-19 Vaccines

DENISSE QUINTANILLA  
STAFF WRITER

Monmouth nursing students administered COVID-19 vaccines at Brookdale Community College as a part of their clinical experiences, their third time administering vaccines in total, on Tuesday, March 23.

Rachel Blackwell, a sophomore nursing student, described it as a very rewarding experience, as about 1200 people arrived for either their first or second dose. "As a nursing major, this vaccination clinic helped me practice skills that I will continue to use here and in my nursing career," Blackwell said.

"My experience throughout the day giving the vac-

cines was really good," added Heather Orgonas, another sophomore nursing student. "I was nervous at first, but as the day went on, my nerves subsided and I really enjoyed it."

Laura Jannone, Ed.D., Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Nursing Program, organized the clinicals. She was asked by the Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Studies, Ann Marie Mauro, Ph.D., to coordinate the participation of the Pre-Licensure Baccalaureate nursing students in local COVID-19 vaccine clinics.

"They are part of history," Jannone said. "Nursing during a pandemic is extremely important—not only in caring for the sick, but also in preventing illness by participating in vaccine clinics. They get to witness how the

response team sets up and rolls out the mass point of distribution (POD) clinic... Students have the opportunity to provide essential health care during a pandemic and to protect the public from COVID-19 through mass vaccination efforts."

The students have worked with RWJ Barnabas Health, Monmouth Medical Center, and the Monmouth County Health Department to administer vaccines at various New Jersey locations. Currently, the School of Nursing is working with the Visiting Nursing Association of Central Jersey (VNACJ) to have students participate at the organization's vaccination sites as well.

Jannone reflected on the experience nursing students

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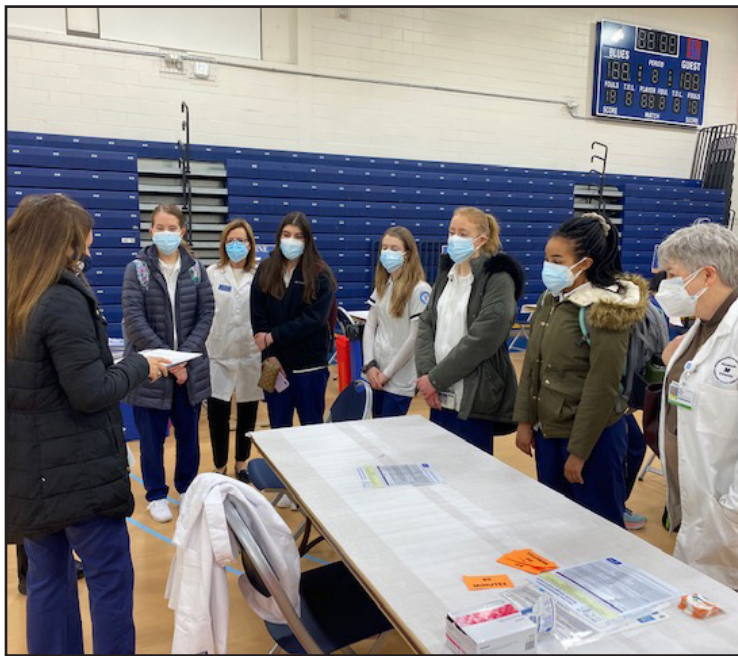


PHOTO COURTESY of Laura Jannone

Pre-Licensed Baccalaureate nursing students were coordinated to administer COVID-19 vaccines at Brookdale Community College.

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# “Blitz Writing” Combines Tales of World War II-Era London

MATTHEW CUTILLO  
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Kristin Bluemel, professor of English and Wayne D. McMurray Endowed Chair in the Humanities, was interviewed by Handheld Press about her literary contributions to forgotten work by World War II-era writer, Inez Holden, on Monday, Mar. 8. Bluemel worked as an editor for Holden’s novel “Night Shift” and her memoir “It Was Different at the Time,” both about ordinary people living through the Blitz, a German bombing campaign against the United Kingdom in 1940 and 1941.

“Night Shift” describes six consecutive nights, primarily in a factory that is manufacturing parts for reconnaissance planes during the war and “It Was Different at the Time” is based on Holden’s actual diaries she kept throughout the Blitz. Both sets of writings were republished together in “Blitz Writing” by Handheld Press of Bath, England, in 2019. “‘Blitz Writing’ is essentially two books wrapped into one very tidy and attractive package,” Bluemel said. Handheld’s publisher and London historian Jerry White joined the conversation to provide his perspective.

Kate MacDonald, literary historian, editor, and director of the Handheld Press asked Bluemel why Holden was writing a diary and novella

at the same time on the same subject. “I think people who maintain extensive diaries are compelled to do so,” Bluemel said. “There are multiple volumes of this diary. It was not isolated to the months or years of war. Holden was a storyteller. She used the materials of her life to inspire her imagination and to communicate with people.” It is known that Holden wanted to be a published writer, as many of her acquaintances were writers, Bluemel explained. “She had an extraordinary assemblage of cultural figures and prominent personalities who

were her friends and her associates. She was inspired and she wanted to clearly share her vision and her storytelling; her astonishing knack for mimicry of voices and her ear for conversations with the public.” “Night Shift” followed next, a story of working people doing ordinary things, something that was rarely published, Bluemel explained. “It’s really an extraordinary document, I believe, of ordinary life during the Blitz outside of London.” White joined the conversation to offer input on other writers documenting the Blitz who published works

during the same time period. “There are a few novelists and diaries who are publishing at around the same time,” White said. “Well-off journalists and writers are writing diaries because they know everybody’s going to be interested in them. They’re seeing and telling history as it’s happening.” Journalists and novelists of the time were publishing with an eye to an American audience, offering the plight of Britain to win the sympathy of America. “There’s quite an industry of writing about London,” White continued. “If you take [these]

books together, Holden is a unique witness of the aspects of the wartime economy in particular, not just of London.” “Night Shift” was Holden’s fourth novel, her earlier three works were products of the late 20s and 30s, MacDonald explained. “Then there’s a pause,” MacDonald said. “Is that pause because she was writing short stories or was focusing on journalism?” MacDonald asked Bluemel. “I’m interested in how ‘Night Shift’ evolved within her own context.” Holden’s early novels were much different from her writings during the Blitz, Bluemel explained. “There’s the same knack of recording dialogue, but with completely different sets of social and cultural concerns,” Bluemel said. “I’m drawn to [her] wartime books because I’m drawn to literature of work. Most of us work all the time and it’s never in our literature; even if we’re writers we’re working.” Holden came from an elevated family with a significant ancestral role in county society, Bluemel explained. She did not often imagine her life as a worker or somebody in sympathy with factory workers. “It’s that kind of culture that couldn’t be more different from the working class people and particularly the working class women who are on the factory line.”



IMAGE TAKEN from Financial Times  
The Blitz was a German bombing campaign against the United Kingdom in 1940 and 1941.

# Recreational Marijuana Banned on Campus Despite Legalization

MARIJUANA cont. from pg. 1

handle the situation, the students must still follow the guidelines that are within the student code of conduct. She clarified that on a federal level, marijuana is classified as a class 1 substance, but even without that, NJ and the university itself would still prohibit the use of cannabis on campus. The student handbook states that during a student’s first offense of any use, possession or in the presence of a controlled substance, they will have “residence hall probation, up to a \$200 fine, possible service work assignment, disciplinary probation for one full semester, possible educational program, a mandatory meeting with Monmouth University’s Substance Awareness Coordinator, and parental notification.” During a student’s second offense, the handbook continues to explain that this would grant a student suspension from the University for the minimum of one semester, a fine of \$400, and permanent loss of University housing privileges. A third offense would include expulsion from the University. “We believe that marijuana is problematic for students in so many ways. It affects your lungs, and we know that there are other implications from a health perspective. So, we have made the decision that we are not chang-

ing our alcohol or drug policy, even though the state will allow you,” said Nagy. Within the Monmouth University student handbook, under health risks of certain substances, it explains some of the health risks associated with marijuana. Short term effects may include “distortion of time perception, increased heart rate, dilation of the blood vessels, and loss of short-term memory,” with long-term effects being “loss of motivation, chronic bronchitis, decreased lung capacity, and an increased risk of lung cancer.” The same rules have been applied to Universities in other legal states, such as California, who had decriminalized marijuana in 1996 and made it recreational in 2016. For example, in US San Diego, “UC students and employees who violate the University’s policy may face discipline, with a maximum penalty of dismissal,” according to a November 2016 statement. The bill was introduced after New Jersey voters were asked to vote on the proposition during the November general election. With 67 percent of the voters agreeing, NJ has become the 13th state to legalize marijuana and only the 3rd state on the east coast. Within these bills, the use of cannabis has been legalized for adults over the age of 21, as well as new regulations for sentencing

and underage becoming established. Citizens over the age of 21 are allowed to legally possess up to six ounces of marijuana, and mandatory minimum sentences for all non-violent offenses was eliminated. One of the bills also reduces the punishment for underage possession of both cannabis and alcohol, in which the governor and others hope will be an effort in addressing racial injustice. Underage possession of either are cited as written warnings, that include parental notification and might include referral to community services after multiple citations. “Our current marijuana prohibition laws have failed every test of social justice, which is why for years I’ve strongly supported the legalization of adult-use cannabis. Maintaining a status quo

that allows tens of thousands, disproportionately people of color, to be arrested in New Jersey each year for low-level drug offenses is unjust and indefensible,” said Governor Murphy. Eleanor Novek, Ph.D., Professor of Communication, agrees that there are problems within the legal system that disproportionately affect people of color. “For many years, communities of color have been disproportionately targeted by law enforcement, and that practice is still going on.” She believes that legalization is important in helping out with these issues, but there should be other laws in place to help with racial disparities. “People who were previously convicted of possessing or selling what are now legal amounts of marijuana still have criminal records,

which can make it harder for them to find jobs or housing, and more difficult to stay out of prison if they have future arrests.” She continues to state that, in a recent report by the American Civil Liberties Union, “drug-related violations were the most frequent cause for arrest in the United States in 2018, with nearly 40 percent of those arrests for marijuana.” Although Gov. Murphy promised to move forward with the legalization of cannabis in 2017 during his political campaign, NJ continued to have more arrests of marijuana related crimes than any other state. That same year, the police arrested 34,501 residents for possession and 3,122 people for selling, according to FBI data. However, for now it does not seem like there will be any upcoming changes on campus in regards of marijuana. When asked if in the future, Monmouth would look towards allowing the use of cannabis on campus, Nagy said, “I think the greatest impediment to a student’s degree is the use of substances. Past experiences and science tell us that it can be harmful and hurtful and right now I don’t foresee any changes in the University’s position.” She continued, “If people chose to smoke marijuana legally, when all the regulations are set and you are over the age of 21, that is your choice, you just can’t do it on campus.”



IMAGE TAKEN from Wikimedia Commons  
Marijuana possession is not permitted on school grounds.



# New York State Trooper Shares Organization’s History

MATTHEW CUTILLO  
MANAGING/NEWS/LIFESTYLES EDITOR

The Guardians Club hosted a virtual webinar with Kemar Francis, a New York State Trooper, about the history of the organization and the requirements to become a trooper on Wednesday, Mar. 24.

Francis began the informational session with a brief history of the New York State Police. The organization began in 1917, Francis explained, but its roots date back to an incident a few years prior.

Sam Howell was a construction foreman who was murdered in an armed robbery. He was overseeing the rural estate of Moyca Newell in Bedford, Westchester County. Newell was outraged at the criminals’ ease of escape due to low police presence in their rural area, and with the help of Katherine Mayo, began campaigning to establish a state force that would provide protection to rural areas of New York.

“In honor of these two women, the first academy was called Camp Newayo, a combination of both their names,” Francis explained. “On June 20, 1917, the first troopers began training. 232 men rode out on horseback after the academy was completed. At that time, troopers only rode on horsebacks in groups of 2, traveling about 25 miles per day. Most of the time,

you would never see the same troopers back to back. That was done purposely to portray the agency being actually larger than it was.”

Each pair of troopers would travel into different communities and areas, stopping at the local post office to receive reports, Francis said. While in that community, they would answer whatever police investigations would be ongoing at the time.

New York State Trooper uniforms are grey, meant to symbolize an impartial trooper, Francis explained. The purple on the uniform is a reflection of the roman praetorian guard, symbolizing royalty.

“The New York State Police doesn’t wear our actual badges on our uniform,” Francis explained. “We wear a collar ornament and that denotes what area and what troop that we work [within], and the black stripe on the side of our uniform pants is in honor of our fallen members.”

People oftentimes associate troopers solely with highway patrol but there’s more to the job than that, Francis said. “We also provide officer presence at largely populated areas throughout the state,” Francis said. “Here in New York City, you’ll find troopers in all of the large transportation hubs: Grand Central Station, Penn Station and at the airports as

well. We are also very dedicated to our community. We do many different community programs. One of the biggest roles that a trooper plays is we work well with all the other local police departments to help where that help is needed.”

The only difference between state troopers and local departments is jurisdiction, Francis explained. “[The NYPD] have jurisdiction for the five boroughs, whereas we have jurisdiction for the entire state of New York.”

To take the exam required to become a New York State Trooper, you must fulfill three separate criteria, Francis explained. You must be at least 20 years of age and you cannot reach your 30th birthday by the application dead-

line. You must be a United States citizen and you have to possess a high school diploma.

“That’s to take the test,” Francis said. “To be appointed to become a trooper, you have to be at least 21 years old and become a trooper before your 36th birthday. You must be a New York state resident, you must be able to pass [the fitness requirements] which consists of sit ups, push ups, and a mile and a half run.”

You must also be able to work rotating shifts and be available to work on holidays. At the time of appointment, you must have 60 college credits.

An applicant’s vision must also be able to become corrected up to 20/20, Francis said.

“Color blindness is a disqualification, but we inform people that if you are invited to our processing weekend, regardless if you believe that you are colorblind, we have doctors there that will tell you if you qualify or not. We suggest that you don’t self disqualify yourself.”

“As of right now, and this is in the works to be changed, we do have a tattoo policy,” Francis continued. The tattoo policy states that you can not have any visible tattoos while in uniform.

“We have a short sleeve uniform that we wear half of the year, so you can not have any tattoos that show beneath the elbow, on the face, or anywhere that is visible while you have your uniform on,” Francis said.



IMAGE TAKEN from MSN.com

New York State Troopers began in 1917 as a response to the lack of policing in rural areas.

# Symposium Examines Human Rights and Environment

SYMPOSIUM cont. from pg. 1

is right now,” Leahy said. “All you need to do is look at the events in our country over the last week or so to realize that we desperately need great global understanding, not only in our country but around the world. I’m so proud that Monmouth University is doing its part... in creating greater mutual understanding here on our campus and in our community across the state, and I hope in some small way around the world.”

Friday featured a series of panels moderated by Professor James R. May of the Delaware Law School and Professor Randal Abate, as well as a Monmouth faculty panel moderated by Catherine N. Duckett, Ph.D. and Tony MacDonald, Esq.

Joshua C. Gellers, Ph.D., of the University of North Florida, gave a lecture on the rights-based approaches to environmental protection: implementation, translations, and future research.

Marijuana Mladenov, Ph.D. Faculty of Law for Commerce and Judiciary at the University Business Academy in Novi Sad, Serbia, followed with a lecture on access to safe drinking water and sanitation under the European convention on human rights.

Maria Antonia Tigre, LL.M., of the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University provided a view of COVID-19 in Latin America, greening the jurisprudence of the inter-American human rights system through indigenous claims.

Lina Muñoz-Avila, Ph.D. of the Universidad del Rosario in Colombia, gave a lecture on protecting Latin America’s environment and the role of women environ-

mental defenders.

Deepa Badrinarayana, S.J.D., of Chapman University and the Fowler School of Law, emphasized getting environmental justice “right.” Badrinarayana’s lecture proposed a first step to reinforce the normative importance of a constitutional right to environmental protection by focusing on the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Professor Rebecca Bratspies of the CUNY School of Law dissected “Mayah’s Lot,” the first book in the Environmental Justice Chronicles series. Bratspies’ lecture chronicled how the story has been used to teach basic civics, to build environmental justice awareness, and to cultivate a new generation of environmental leaders.

Begaiym Esenkulova, S.J.D., of American University of Central Asia (Kyrgyz Republic) promoted environmental and human rights protections in an international investment treaty regime.

Stellina Jolly, Ph.D., of South Asian University in India gave a lecture on India’s paradigm shift in its deepening environmental crisis, despite the enactment of extensive legislation, regulations, and administrative measures.

Jonathan M. Scherch, Ph.D. Pacific Bamboo Resources offered a lecture on advancing bamboo resources in service of critical needs. The bamboo plant has been an important feature of cultural and socio-economic development throughout the world for thousands of years.

Friday afternoon signaled the first Monmouth exclusive faculty panel, moderated by Duckett.

Melissa Alvare, Ph.D. lecturer

in the Department of Political Science and Sociology, gave a lecture on resisting the “rising tide” of climate gentrification. The pursuit of climate justice entails working to address such environmental inequality, protecting groups that have historically borne environmental burdens.

Kathleen Grant, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of the School of Education, provided a lecture on the interconnected challenges and solutions towards the fight for climate and racial justice. The presentation detailed how the values associated with white supremacy culture, such as individualism, power hierarchies, and domination, are at the root of both environmental destruction and racism.

Eric Fesselmeyer, Ph.D., Associate Professor of the Leon Hess Business School, presented evidence on urban heat and sorting becoming categorized by income and race. There is evidence that low income and minority households suffer disproportionately from high urban temperatures and to urban temperature changes in

countries with high urban income segregation.

Abha S. Sood, Ph.D., Lecture of the Department of English, presented her research on the displaced community of Isle de Jean Charles, Louisiana. The presentation retraced the history of the current Native American inhabitants and the actions which led to the island becoming uninhabitable.

Friday evening shifted to the second round of the Monmouth exclusive faculty panel, moderation duties now operated MacDonald.

John G. Comiskey, Ed.D., of the Department of Criminal Justice, gave a lecture on “Climate Insecurity: An Anthropocene Security Approach to a Sustainable Global Future.” The paradigm that once focused on the survival of the state now evolved to include nontraditional national-security issues such as public health, environmental degradation, poverty, crime, and terrorism, Comiskey’s lecture explained.

Tom Herrington, Associate

Director of the Urban Coast Institute, provided a presentation titled “Climate Change-driven Coastal Migration: State of Our Knowledge and Required Research Questions that Need to Be Answered.” The lecture detailed permanent population displacement that comes as a result of natural disasters.

Friday’s lectures ended with a presentation by Robin Mama, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Social Work. She explained the 17 Sustainable Development Goals which recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

Saturday, the symposium’s final day, began with a global perspective on climate and energy justice roundtable moderated by Abate. The roundtable featured lectures by Patricia Galvão Ferreira, S.J.D. of the University of Windsor Faculty of Law, Esmeralda Colombo, LL.M., University of Bergen in Norway, Jae-Hyup Lee, J.D., Ph.D. of the Seoul National University School of Law in South Korea, and Damilola Olawuyi, LL.M., of the Hamad Bin Khalifa University Law School in Qatar.

The afternoon featured a documentary film screening and commentary of Kivalina: Life in the Modern Arctic, with appearances by Gina Abatemarco, Writer and Director, and Kelsey Leonard, Ph.D., an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Environment at the University of Waterloo.



IMAGE TAKEN from Monmouth.edu

The Symposium featured experts from a multitude of sectors.



THE OUTLOOK

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Marijuana Not Permitted on Campus

EDITORIAL STAFF

On Feb. 22nd, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed into law the legalization of cannabis for both medical use and recreational use. On March 18, Mary Anne Nagy, Vice President for Student Life and Leadership Engagement, sent out an email to all Monmouth University students regarding the new legalization of non-medical marijuana for people age 21 and older. The email stated that the University will not permit the use of marijuana on campus or at University-owned properties. The email also mentioned that the University is subject to the Federal

smoke and drink on campus. They want a clean campus, free of any questionable substances.”

Another editor said, “As per Nagy’s email, the reasoning for this is because the law states that marijuana is a substance 1 drug, which the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) defines as ‘drugs with high abuse potential.’ Although Nagy didn’t say this in the email, I think another reason for this pan on campus is its possible effects on students’ education.”

Most editors believe that it will not be allowed on campus in the future. However, one believes that it will be

here to learn, not to smoke.”

Some editors are happy with the state’s decision to legalize marijuana, despite the University’s stance on it. Meanwhile, a few editors feel indifferent about the decision because they do not smoke, so it does not affect them personally.

“I don’t smoke, but I know a lot of people who are happy because they don’t have to be afraid of getting arrested all of the time,” said an editor.

One editor also said they are incredibly happy about marijuana becoming legalized.

“The war on drugs has been a massive failure for the United States. Minorities are arrested for marijuana at

“I do not see it [marijuana] being allowed in the future because people come here to learn, not to smoke.”

Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act.

Nagy also provided a statement from the law which is, “Consumption of marijuana is prohibited in any area of any building of, on the grounds of, or in any facility owned, leased, or controlled by, any public or private institution of higher education or a related entity thereof, regardless of whether the area or facility is an indoor place or is outdoors.”

Most of the *Outlook* editors agreed with Monmouth University’s decision to maintain a ban on recreational marijuana on campus.

One editor said, “I do agree with Monmouth’s decision as they are a private institution and can make their own choices. I think it was banned for the same reason you cannot

allowed.

They said, “I’m sure one day it will be allowed on campus, but only if it is federally legal. I don’t mean decriminalized; I mean completely legal. That is the only way Monmouth could absolve themselves of any responsibility when it comes to it.”

The other editors believe it will not be allowed on campus in the future due to some stigma around it.

“I don’t think it will be allowed in future years. However, the stigma around it has been decreasing over the past few years and will probably decrease more so in the years to come,” said one editor.

Another editor said, “I do not see it being allowed in the future because people come

extremely larger rates than whites despite similarly reported usage numbers,” they said. “If something as destructive as alcohol can be promoted in our society, then it’s only fair that another substance, which actually does less damage to you, is allowed as well.”

Another editor feels that people are still going to partake in marijuana use, with or without legalization. However, they said that if it can have some positive effects, like an improved economy especially after the pandemic, then that would be a good thing.

They said, “I think marijuana use should be held to the same standards as alcohol use—age limit of 21, no driving while under the influence, etc.—for safety reasons.”

HOW TO SUBMIT ARTICLES OR LETTERS:

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

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

All copy must include the author’s full name and contact information. *The Outlook* accepts articles and graphic material from students, faculty and administrators, and reserves the right to edit or reject any material which they determine is not suitable for publication or its readers. Copy and advertising appearing in *The Outlook* do not necessarily reflect the views of Monmouth University or *The Outlook*.

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# College Students: Powered by Caffeine

STEFANIE DONAYRE  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Caffeine is no stranger to students at Monmouth University. Dunkin coffee cups can easily be spotted in the hands of several of the University’s students all around campus as they rush to their 8:30 morning classes. From the on-campus coffee shops in Plangere Center to the Rebecca Stafford Student Center, there is no lack of options. Several of us have chugged cans of energy drinks, such as Monster and Red Bull, to stay awake and study during midterms and finals.

Ever since I started commuting at six in the morning from New York for my class every Wednesday, I found myself falling into my old habit of relying on caffeine. With a Starbucks conveniently located on the route to Monmouth, I would justify picking up a cup of coffee by telling myself that it would keep me alert on the road and energized for my class.

Caffeine is an organic stimulant found in tea, coffee, and cacao plants which are derived ingredients of tea, energy drinks, coffee, plants and chocolate. In an article from 2018, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) stated that caffeine is not a replacement for sleep but does in fact make you more awake. The FDA recommends no more than 400 milligrams of caffeine a day. That is just about the amount of caffeine found in four cups of coffee.

During the quarantine, I found myself having a tougher time adjusting to a decent sleep schedule, so I changed my diet. I decided to experiment with my caffeine intake by cutting all ties from it. Since I did not consume energy



IMAGE TAKEN from Dailymail.Co.UK

Consuming coffee is how many college students survive, and sometimes they can become dependant.

drinks or soda regularly, I had believed that it would be easy. While those two drinks were easy to eliminate from my life, coffee was not. Within the first week, I found it difficult to concentrate on tasks and had no motivation. Prior to this challenge, I had not thought about how much I often relied on caffeine to make up for the lack of sleep I got or as a main part of my study routine. Breaking habits are always a challenge, but I realized my mistake had been going completely cold turkey.

Anyone who constantly consumes caffeine and suddenly stops will experience caffeine withdrawal. This can cause headache, fatigue, low energy, irritability, anxiety, a lack of concentration, depression and tremors. These symptoms can persist for approximately two to nine days. Caffeine withdrawal is certainly an unpleasant experience and luckily,

there are ways to avoid it. Anyone who relies on caffeine daily should improve their sleeping schedule, find alternatives for their cravings, and reduce their intake every week 25 percent according to the American Migraine Foundation.

Eventually by finding new drinks such as smoothies and juices to substitute my caffeine cravings, I had forgotten about coffee temporarily. Once businesses began to open again, I decided to check out local coffee shops. Much to my surprise, I got jittery from a small Irish cream cold brew, which was something I had not experienced in quite some time.

Consuming a significant amount of caffeine has its drawbacks. While it is important to remember to not consume an extreme amount, it is not harmful to treat yourself every once in a while.

# No Weed for Thee

JOHN PAPAGNI  
STAFF WRITER

With marijuana now legal in New Jersey, it calls to question what right a location has to ban the substance. Many private properties such as colleges, stores, and hotels have made it clear that the smoking of the substance will not be permitted on a property’s respective premises. While this may seem unreasonable to people who have waited a very long time for marijuana to be legal in the state of New Jersey, private properties are entitled to make these decisions.

Private institutions hold their own policies, and have the right to tell their customers or students what they can and cannot do on their property. When it comes to private places, more often than not, you must sign a contract agreeing to their terms and conditions. If you partake in smoking weed while on their property, you are breaking the contract.

Not smoking on private property can also be seen as a courtesy to other people. While some people may enjoy smoking weed, there are plenty of people who do not. The only reason I believe people should be able to smoke weed on private property is if they have a medical condition. I know many people who have illnesses that might benefit from the usage. I feel that private properties should make an exception for people who have medical conditions, as long as people provide proof

of their medical condition. When weed became legal a few months ago, Monmouth University was quick to respond, stating that the smoking of marijuana on campus or at University-owned properties will not be permitted. Any consumption or possession of weed is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

While the University has made their stance on weed abundantly clear, this is what I mean by allowing people who have a medical condition to show proof that smoking weed helps them, and improves their quality of life.

While the law has been passed for a few months, there are still going to be universities and businesses that will not permit the smoking of marijuana anywhere near their respective facilities; however, things could change in the upcoming years.

I am sure there will be people who push for usage of marijuana because it is technically legal in the state of New Jersey. However, I personally feel that private businesses are entitled to the rules that they establish for the safety and health of other people.

Smoking marijuana is not for everyone; some people highly benefit from it while others do not want anything to do for it. People who smoke weed need to be respectful of others around them and not abuse the freedom that many have been waiting years for. On the other side, people who do not smoke need to respect people’s decision to smoke and not judge them harshly for their decision.

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# Nursing Students Describe Experiences Administering COVID-19 Vaccines

NURSING cont. from pg. 1

gained from their participation at vaccination clinics. “I am very proud of the Monmouth Pre-Licensure BSN students,” she said. “They arrive at 7:15 a.m. and work a full day giving vaccines, going over health questionnaires, and observing for side effects. The students are compassionate and empathetic. They listen to the stories of the people getting vaccines, some of whom have lost loved ones to COVID-19.”

Orgonas noted that this experience was very beneficial to her educational journey. “Being a part of this vaccine clinic not only allowed me, but my other fellow nursing students as well, the opportunity to put some of the skills we learned in the lab into actual practice. This definitely helped us to further strengthen our education and performance,” she said.

If getting the vaccine is scary for some, administering the vaccine is at a whole other level. However, these students were up to the challenge.

Orgonas said, “At the beginning of the day, I was pretty nervous to be giving out the vaccines as I did not want to hurt anyone or possibly perform the skill incorrectly. But once the day went on, and I had given out a few rounds of injections, I definitely calmed down and was really able to focus on the goal of the day.”

Blackwell agreed, “I was anxious to administer my first dose, [but] after I gave the first injection, I gained more confidence and felt more relaxed. I felt proud being able to give an individual a vaccine that can keep them from getting seriously ill and ending in a



PHOTO COURTESY of Laura Jannone

Students in the nursing program are administering COVID-19 vaccines this semester as a part of their clinicals, which students described as a rewarding experience.

“They are a part of history...Nursing during a pandemic is extremely important—not only in caring for the sick, but also in preventing illness by participating in vaccine clinics.”

Laura Jannone, Ed.d.

Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Nursing Program

hospital.”

Both students felt that Monmouth have prepared them for this moment. “We have nursing labs which allow us to practice on a Derma pad with all types of injections,” Blackwell said. “We tested out on our skills

which included all injection types, this gave me the practice and skills that I needed to administer injections in the future.”

Through this experience, Orgonas was able to see first-hand how a large-scale vaccination clinic runs.

“There were many different components to how the site operated that made the goal of vaccinating a large quantity of people easy to reach,” she said.

Although the nerves were there for the first time, Blackwell and Orgonas said

that they would participate again.

Blackwell shared, “I am very excited that I have the opportunity to go to the clinic two more times, and I would love to keep on vaccinating in the future. It is a very rewarding and unique experience to be a part of the solution in a global pandemic.”

Orgonas agreed, “We met and spoke to a lot of great people that day and it overall felt really rewarding to be able to help out in distributing these vaccinations in the fight against COVID.”

Jannone mentioned that student response has been tremendous, and she has been there support them every step of the way.

“They are thrilled to be part of the experience. The people receiving vaccines are so thankful and appreciative. I tell them they are part of history to prevent a deadly disease. [The students] are excited and nervous at first. By the end of the day, they are confident in their role and skills.”

As a nurse, Jannone has received both doses of the shot in early February. Blackwell was also able to get vaccinated in early December, since she worked in a long-term care facility as a nursing facility.

Blackwell said, “I highly recommend thinking beyond yourself and thinking of the people who you love and the public that could possibly be exposed and potentially have extreme side effects and ending up seriously ill.”

Jannone added, “It is safe and effective and will save lives. There are some side effects, especially after the second dose, which simply shows your immune system is responding. The disease of COVID-19 is much worse and can be deadly.”

## Declutter Your Dorm: The Importance of Spring Cleaning

MELISSA BADAMO  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/FEATURES EDITOR

In the “work-from-home” age of the pandemic, with most classes being held virtually at home or in your dorm room, it’s easy to find your desk overflowing with clutter. However, now that spring has sprung and finals are around the corner, it’s important to find time to clear your workspace of the various books, stationary, and even water bottles piling up at your desk.

According to a 2010 study published in the scientific journal *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, women who described their workspaces as “cluttered” were more likely to be depressed than

women who described their homes as “restful” and “restorative.” And, according to another study conducted by Indiana University, those who kept their homes clean were healthier and more active than those who didn’t.

Having a clean, organized desk can help you stay motivated as you tackle the rest of the semester. Virtual classes can be tough, but it’s easier to complete assignments successfully with a tidy, comfortable workspace, especially now when students are learning directly from their computer screens.

Matthew Goranites, a sophomore business administration student, described the workspace he has been utilizing since the shift to virtual classes a year ago.

“My desk right now is slightly messy—definitely messier because of doing classes at home,” he said. “It’s usually cluttered in the middle of the week, as that’s when I do most of my work. I try to declutter it at the end of each weekend to prepare myself for the new week to come.”

Dedicating a specific time on Friday to cleaning your workspace is an effective way to ensure that you enter the weekend with an organized mindset, which will set you up for success while also decreasing any anxiety that can build up from a stressful week.

Goranites also noted the importance of keeping a decluttered space when completing assignments. “Your room is a reflection of yourself,” he said. “By keeping

your desk organized, your objectives for the day are clear. If your desk is out of order, you may find yourself unfocused on the tasks

at hand. Staying organized is what helps me minimize the amount of stress I encounter each day and may help others as well.”



PHOTO TAKEN by Melissa Badamo

A decluttered desk is a decluttered mind. Studies show that maintaining an organized workspace can decrease stress and anxiety.



# Personal Computer Sales Rise: Is Remote Work the Future?

MATTHEW CUTILLO  
MANAGING/ NEWS/ LIFESTYLES EDITOR

The pandemic-induced stay-at-home orders have forced many people to commit to owning a personal computer (PC). Between Zoom meetings, club meetings, and just general online work, it has become almost necessary to buy a device with more power and control than your smartphone.

According to Gartner, worldwide Personal Computer shipments grew 10.7 percent in the fourth quarter of 2020 and 4.8 percent for the year. This sustained consumer demand resulted in the highest global PC market growth in a decade. “The worldwide PC market saw a strong finish to 2020, recording a third consecutive quarter of year over year growth, although there continued to be supply shortages due to this high demand,” said Mikako Kitagawa, research director at Gartner. “Robust consumer PC demand again drove sales, particularly in regions where governments maintain stay-at-home orders as the COVID-19 pandemic persists.”

The pandemic will inevitably wind down and some jobs will require their employees to return to an in-person work environment. However, many companies are opting to save money on the office space and keep their employees at

home.

A *New York Times* article titled “Remote Work Is Here to Stay. Manhattan May Never Be the Same” explains that NYC has undergone serious structural business changes due to the remote nature of the pandemic. Salesforce, owner of a 630-foot building, only expects workers to show up a few days a week. The article also mentions that a nearby law firm, Lowenstein Sandler, is debating on whether it’s worth renewing the lease on its office that once held 140 lawyers working 40 hours a week.

But is all this good or bad? What is the data behind happiness when it comes to working from home? According to a study by Owl Labs, remote workers are reportedly far happier at their jobs than in-person employees and are more likely to stay in their occupations longer.

Although remote workers reported being overall happier, they also work longer hours. Remote employees reported working over 40 hours per week, 43 percent more than non-remote workers.

Better work-life balance (91 percent), increased productivity/better focus (79 percent), less stress (78 percent), and to avoid a commute (78 percent) were the reasons respondents said that they decided to work remotely, according to the survey.

Despite more work and a

new slew of technical complications, employees have become too exhausted by the grind of traditional life to continue onward when given a choice to work from home.

Spending an hour in commuter traffic and paying tolls and parking fees just to sit on a computer when you have one at home doesn’t make much sense. Of course, many occupations will always require

their employees to be in person. Any job where you work with your hands or are in a constant team environment will likely require it. However, the masses are waking up to the nonsensical nature of driving to use someone else’s computer when you have your own at home. Business owners are waking up as well to the fact that paying thousands of dollars for office space is forcing an old mindset

into a modern world that requires contemporary innovation to remain agile.

The Owl Labs survey also found that employees are more loyal to companies that offer them increased flexibility.

The remote workers surveyed said that they’re likely to stay in their current job for the next five years, a large 13 percent more than in-person employees responded.

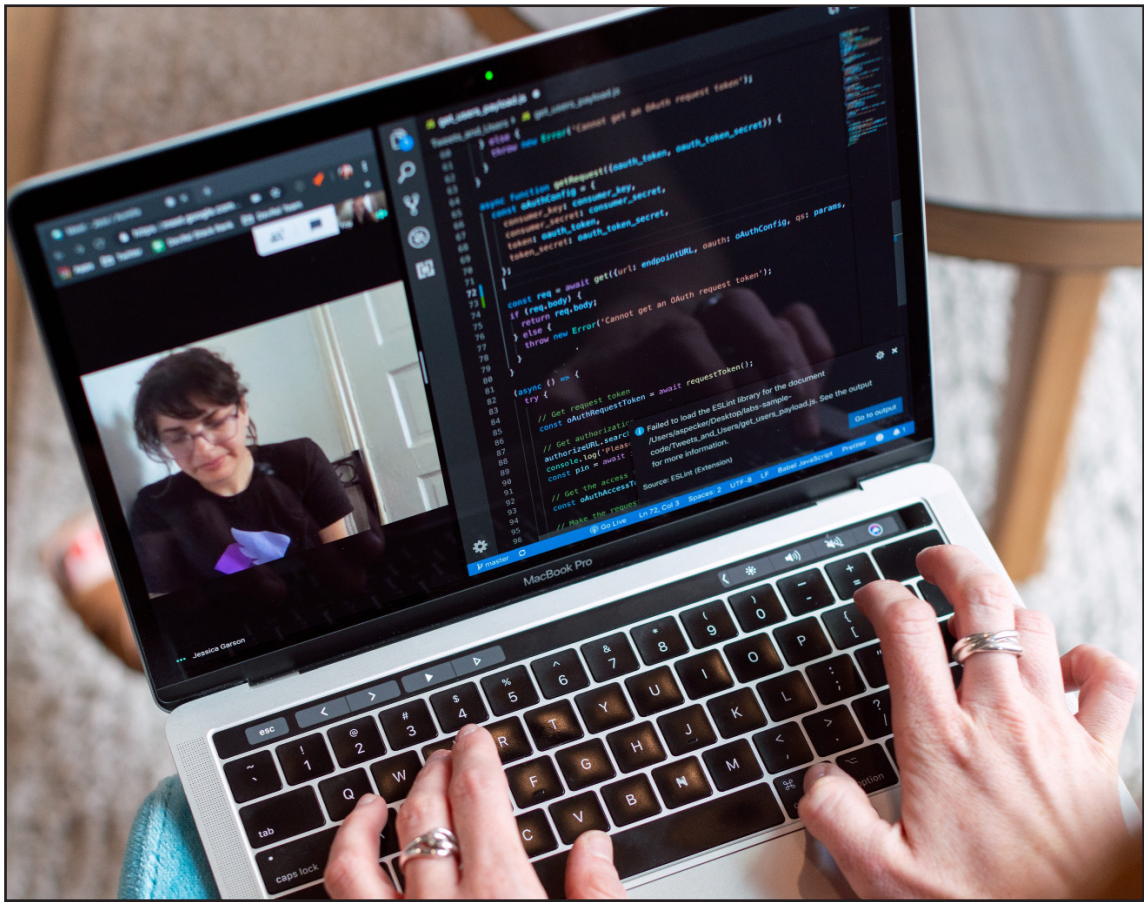


IMAGE TAKEN from Pexels.com

Remote workers report being overall happier than their in-person counterparts.

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# Return to Yharnam: The Transcendental Horror of Bloodborne

ALEX DYER  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

In 2021, on the sixth anniversary of *Bloodborne*'s release, tens of thousands of players on internet forums like Reddit have congregated to create their very own co-operative online event within the game.

The six years since *Bloodborne*'s release on the PlayStation 4 have seen quite little decline in the player base; a remarkable feat for a game that came out so early in the console's

other devoted fans.

This year, right before the *Return to Yharnam*, I happened to play *Bloodborne* for the first time. I was expecting a challenge, as the title is notorious for its emphasis on incredibly difficult bosses. As I joined the Hunt during such an active period in the game's lifespan, I thought this would be a great moment to reflect on *Bloodborne*, one of the most ingenious pieces of horror fiction in the past decade.

At first glance, *Bloodborne* seemed like a Victorian-era monster-slaying RPG: heavily promoted were gory images of elegantly dressed

into the game in the middle of the chaos of "the Hunt"—a night when members of Yharnam's Healing Church walk the streets to destroy traces of the infection in lethal ways—the player is tasked with, essentially, figuring out what the hell is going on.

However, the game centers on the concept of "insight;" by gaining insight, the Hunter begins to uncover the true nature of Yharnam and the blood-borne disease transforming its citizens and clergy into beasts. Like in real life, insight is a valuable asset in *Bloodborne*. Unlike in real life, the more insight you have, the more apparent the horrifying and positively Lovecraftian nature of Yharnam becomes to you.

Insight can also be a curse, though. At certain insight levels in the game, the Hunter (and, therefore, the player) becomes hyper-aware of just how twisted the things that are happening in Yharnam are. An item which grants insight, called the "Madman's Knowledge," is usable if the player requires, but the item's name invokes a feeling that, maybe, if madness is engendered by such knowledge ignorance truly is bliss.

In a complete subversion of the classic horror vibe that was established by the first chapter of the game, *Bloodborne* soon evolves into a complex tale filled with lore about the Great Ones, incomprehensibly powerful astral beings similar to H.P. Lovecraft's "Elder Gods" (Cthulhu being perhaps the most famous of these).

The player learns, as the game's story descends into madness, that the citizens of Yharnam are actually being infected with the ancient blood of these so-called Great Ones, which was discovered hidden deep beneath the city's surface, in a decrepit labyrinth.

Unbeknownst to both the Healing Church and the people, the Church has been administering this blood to citizens to forge covenant with the Great Ones, causing all who have partaken to transform into hideous beasts; take Vicar Amelia, for example, a young priestess of the Healing Church who becomes a huge canine monster with gnarled antlers as a result of being "treated" with the blood of beings akin to gods.

Not only is *Bloodborne* a masterpiece of celestial fiction; it's a powerful example of how initial perceptions of media can be deceiving. In horror, this is especially effective.

*Bloodborne* on its face presents as a bleak Victorian monster story, but our perception is distorted as we gain insight and find out the true nature of Yharnam and its plague. The Hunter starts out fighting werewolves, angry mobs, feral dogs, and zombies, but the enemies



IMAGE TAKEN from Bloodborne.fandom.com

Vicar Amelia, a human-turned-beast, is one of the early bosses encountered in the game, and exemplifies the effect the Great Ones' blood has on humans.

become increasingly more ethereal, otherworldly, and difficult to handle. Eventually, in true Lovecraftian fashion, you graduate to slaying beings that are revered as gods from another dimension.

H.P. Lovecraft was a pioneer of this astral horror, creating dozens of unique and omnipotent creatures in an attempt to trivialize humanity's place in the universe: by giving credence to the mere idea that these fantastical interdimensional deities exist—even in a strange fictional universe—Lovecraft was able to question reality and the philosophical implications of a higher power. Works in the mythos H.P. Lovecraft created are produced by dedicated authors to this day.

*Bloodborne* is a love letter to H.P. Lovecraft, through and through. However, by not presenting itself in such a manner outright, and through meticulous design, a unique aesthetic, and a heaping helping of difficulty, the game is also able to maintain its individuality.

It's no small feat to complete *Bloodborne* from start to finish. It's the hardest game I've ever played in the amount of focus and tenacity required to finish it.

I daresay it's worth it. There are few things more satisfying than, for example, slaying the Blood-Starved Beast after 40-something attempts and more than a few strategy changes. It's not for the faint of heart, but it is for people highly interested in a unique story; it doesn't get much more unique than many of these concepts. *Bloodborne* provided a challenge unlike any other available in 2015, and the *Return to Yharnam* community event is a mark of the enduring enjoyment players still get from the game.

All things considered, it's no wonder that, after six years, the active player base of *Bloodborne* is as blood-thirsty as ever. If you're taking part in *Return to Yharnam* and the commemoration of *Bloodborne*'s anniversary: happy hunting!

To all others: may the good blood guide your way.



IMAGE TAKEN from Bloodborne.fandom.com

This creature, known as Ebrietas, Daughter of the Cosmos, is a prime example of *Bloodborne*'s less Victorian, more Lovecraftian influence: the creatures come from space, and often have tentacles and/or many eyes.

life.

The *Return to Yharnam* ("Yharnam" being the fictional Victorian England analogue in which the game takes place) event, which was organized entirely by the game's player community, celebrates both this six-year milestone and the enduring lifespan of *Bloodborne*'s active player base. From March 24 to April 7, players, known as Hunters, will be actively searching for player-versus-player duels to test their skills against

Brits hacking and slashing beast and vampires, the promotional content conjuring up memories of classic first-wave horror movies like *Dracula* and *Frankenstein*.

Beneath the surface, though, I found that this Gothic fantasy was more of a conduit for something more celestial and much deeper than any promotional art ever divulged. *Bloodborne* begins in Yharnam, a city where the people have been turning into beasts as a result of a mysterious affliction. Dropped



IMAGE TAKEN from GamesRadar



IMAGE TAKEN from GameSpot; banner from SteamCommunity.com

*Bloodborne* was heavily inspired by the mythology created by early 20th century horror author H.P. Lovecraft, including a giant tentacled deity known as Cthulhu.



# “Lighting it Up Blue” with the Sisters of Alpha Xi Delta

LILY HOFFMANN  
CLUB AND GREEK EDITOR

April is Autism Awareness month, which means that for the next few weeks, the sisters of Alpha Xi Delta’s Iota Nu chapter will be bringing awareness to the developmental disorder that affects approximately 1 in 45 adults. Alpha Xi Delta chapters nationwide have partnered with Autism Speaks, which is the largest Autism advocacy organization in the United States. According to the sorority’s official webpage, Alpha Xi Delta chapters have been able to raise over \$11 million for the cause, namely through the organization of walks and other “AmaXling Challenges.”



Alpha Xi Delta’s proudly recognizes Autism Speaks as their national philanthropy.

Locally, the Iota Nu chapter of Monmouth University is dedicated to the cause. The sisters of Alpha Xi Delta at the University will be working hard all month to bring awareness and raise funds for Autism Speaks. For many sisters of Alpha Xi Delta, this is a cause that hits home. For Valerie Torrieri, the chapter’s Philanthropy Vice President, the cause is especially close to her heart, as her brother has Autism. She said, “He has inspired me to work so closely in my sorority to raise awareness for the Autistic community. Advocating for those with Autism who cannot advocate for themselves is so important...as a sister of AXID, we educate not only our other sisters but

our school and community on Autism awareness.” Karin Vega is a sister who also has a strong connection with Autism Spectrum Disorder. As someone with a family member who is affected by the condition, she said, “Ever since I joined, [Alpha Xi Delta] my knowledge on how to increase global understanding and acceptance of people with Autism has grown exponentially. There’s something new to learn every day.” Though COVID-19 has affected their ability to support their philanthropy in person, the chapter has stayed committed to the cause. According to Torrieri, the sisters will be hosting a virtual game of bingo, called, Xingo with the Xi’s. She said, “Sisters are selling bingo cards, and that money goes directly to Autism Speaks.” Other virtual activities include virtual 5k runs, and working alongside “Rose Buddies,” which happens to be Torrieri’s personal favorite. She said that the chapter works closely with a facility in the community of women that have Autism. “We ‘initiate’ them into our sorority...Even when working with the Rose Buddies, we were quickly able to switch our usual in-person events to virtual so we could still host them.” Skylar Adams works closely with Torrieri and serves as the chapter’s Internal Philanthropy Director. She also is very fond



Sisters of Alpha Xi Delta, Iota Nu supporting Autism Speaks at the Today Show in 2019.

of the Rose Buddies and helped plan a virtual tea party and fashion show for them, which took place on March 9. She said, “Getting to see everyone dressed up and so happy it just warmed my heart! We got to see everyone dancing and strut their stuff on camera. It was such a moving and memorable experience and I can’t wait to do it next year!” Other Panhellenic chapters on campus will also be showing support towards the cause this month. Margaret Abitanto serves as Chapter President of Alpha Omicron Pi at the University. She said that the sisters of her chapter will help the sisters of Alpha Xi Delta in their fundraising efforts. “We treat other organizations’ philanthropy like our

own. We are very excited to see what AXID has in store!” The efforts of Alpha Xi Delta do not go unrecognized by parents of children with Autism. Leigh-Mary Hoffmann is the parent of a nineteen-year-old daughter on the Autism Spectrum. She said, “It warms my heart to see college students working with Autism Speaks both to support research and maybe even more importantly, demonstrate acceptance and inclusion of people with physical and mental disabilities.” For more information on Autism, visit AutismSpeaks.org, and to support Alpha Xi Delta in their observance of Autism Awareness Month, follow them on Instagram, @axid\_monmouthu.

## Upcoming Campus Events

(More information on the Experience Monmouth app)

### Wednesday March 31, 2021

- Anti-Asian Violence, History and Education, 2:30 p.m.
- Before You Peace Out: Creating An Effective E-Board Transition Plan, 3 p.m. & 7 p.m.
- Campus Catholic Ministry Bible Study, 7 p.m.
- "A Woman In Decline: What Are You More Susceptible To?" hosted by AKA, 8:08pm

### Thursday April 1, 2021

- Active Minds Meeting, 7 p.m.
- "Culture Testimonies" hosted by AKA, 8:08 p.m.

### Friday April 2, 2021

- "Soles 4 Souls - Global Impact" hosted by AKA, 8:08 p.m.

### Tuesday April 6, 2021

- Virtual Tuesday Night Record Club, 7:30 p.m.



# Biden Calls for Stronger Gun Control

GEORGEANNE NIGRO  
SENIOR/POLITICS EDITOR

President Biden has urged stronger gun control laws after the recent shootings that occurred in Boulder, CO on March 22. Biden has been urging Congress to pass expanding background checks and banning assault-type weapons, like the one the Boulder shooter used.

According to the White House and the *New York Times*, Biden said that strengthening background checks would be “common sense steps that will save lives in the future.” He also said, “This is not and should not be a partisan issue—it is an American issue. We have to act.”

Nicholas Sewitch, J.D. Department Chair and Specialist Professor of Criminal Justice, said politicians—especially the president, congressman, or senator—feel that it is their duty to protect the people.

“There’s also the political aspect of it, too, in that the media reports when there’s a high-profile mass shooting when an assault weapon is front and center for days, if not weeks, and it becomes a political issue,” said Sewitch.

He said that the political end of it extends into how it can be prevented and how action can be taken regarding this, especially if it is happening too often.

“Even though we know that the overwhelming majority of gun-related deaths are not committed with assault weapons, and that the homicides rates in certain cities and states are at epidemic proportions, they don’t get the publicity of the high profile, mass killings that assault weapons get,” said Sewitch. “So, it’s kind of interesting that there doesn’t seem to be the same political will to deal with that issue, as there is with the assault weapon issue.”

Sewitch believes that the strengthening and expansion of background checks will make a difference and are appropriate

measures to take, but he does not know the magnitude of that difference. He also feels that there is no reason for the average citizen to have an assault weapon.

“The purpose of assault weapons is to kill people, to destroy people, to create devastation. There’s not a sporting purpose,” said Sewitch.

He said that generally with assault weapons, people do not usually hunt with them. In terms of self-protection, he thinks that it would be hard pressed to argue that people have fended off violent crimes by having an assault weapon present, and if someone came into their house and an assault weapon was present, it was the key to protecting themselves.

“So, when we think of the general purposes, Second Amendment purposes, when having a firearm, none of them exists with assault weapons, and they’re capable of such devastation,” said Sewitch.

He also said that in terms of mass shootings, it is not simply comparing the number of people who die in a mass shooting with an assault weapon versus all the other

gun deaths. He said it is rather that feeling of safety that we have of security, and when one of these mass shooting occurs, it creates trauma for all.

Sewitch said that he understands the vision in this country when it comes to gun rights, but he feels that the Second Amendment does not bar background checks and does not bar the banning of certain unusual weapons like assault weapons.

“I don’t criticize the people who believe they should have the right to own a handgun, and that there’s certain Second Amendment rights that shouldn’t be disturbed and that the gun control people are trying to infringe on. But when they argue that the Second Amendment bars these restrictions, they’re just plain wrong,” said Sewitch.

He believes that Biden is taking the right steps in terms of strengthening gun control. Sewitch said this country has become so polarized and neither side trusts the other.

“When one of these shootings happens, everybody goes to their corners and starts pointing fingers at each other. The National Rifle

Association (NRA) demonizes the liberals and the democrats, and the democrats demonize the NRA and gun owners. The problem is there is no trust and instead of agreeing on common measures that are hard to oppose, we go to our corners and we don’t trust each other,” said Sewitch.

Saliba Sarsar, Ph.D. Professor of Political Science, said that guns are easily available and acquired in the U.S. according to Small Arms Survey. The survey also said that the U.S. actually surpasses all other countries in the number of firearms per 100 persons.

“Around 39,000 people die from guns annually. The loss of one life to gun violence or any other kind of violence is unacceptable, let alone thousands. Seriously decreasing or eliminating unregistered firearms can significantly lower firearms deaths,” said Sarsar.

He believes that Biden’s gun control plan not only expresses his own beliefs, but also reflects the opinion of several Americans who are in support of universal background checks and ban on assault weapons.

“The U.S., like other countries, must act swiftly to ensure the safety and security of all its residents. Democrats, Republicans, and Independents must work together to tighten gun laws in order to reduce gun availability and accessibility and save countless lives,” said Sarsar.

Kevin Dooley, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science, believes that Biden would take bolder action if he had more seats in the Senate.

“Presently, he doesn’t. The Senate is split 50/50. And not all democrats agree with him on gun control, therefore, I doubt that he takes strong gun control measures,” said Dooley. He believes that background checks can be a good start for this.

“I think background checks are a step in the right direction, but we must remember that most mass shootings are not due to a person’s mental illness or ‘background.’ Gun violence is due to the availability of guns,” said Dooley. “The U.S. has more guns available to its people than other industrialized democracies; therefore, it has more gun violence.”

Sarah Cooper, a psychology student, believes that mass shootings are caused by internal racism and people who have anger and hatred towards specific people.

“I think Biden needs to put in place a more in-depth screening process for gun ownership, including a personality test that assesses someone’s chances of using a gun wrongfully,” said Cooper. She hopes that one day our country will make gun owning not impossible, but more regulated.

“I understand having a gun for your own safety, but I personally do not think it is something that should be used in sport or against others unless it is actual self-defense. This means for cops as well, their training for assessing situations where a gun is necessary should be stricter,” said Cooper.



President Joe Biden urges Congress to pass legislation on stronger background checks and banning assault weapons.

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# Monmouth Football Flashes in Return to Kessler

ERIN MULLIGAN  
STAFF WRITER

On Mar. 27, in West Long Branch, the Monmouth University football team (1-0) defeated Charleston Southern (0-2) 35-17 in their 2021 spring season opener at Kessler Stadium.

Every position seemed to dominate on Saturday. Junior running back, Juwon Farri, ran for 119 yards on a career-high 33 carries and three touchdowns.

As for true freshman quarterback, Tony Muskett, he made quite the impact throwing for 297 yards on 18-of-26 passing and two touchdowns. Head Coach Kevin Callahan, was very impressed with how Muskett managed the game, the way he got the team into the proper plays, as well as changing the plays.

Callahan praised Muskett and his arm talent that he displayed on major throws throughout the game. He added, “He’s just going to continue to grow and get better and better.”

Junior wide receiver, Terrance Greene Jr. racked up 166 yards on five catches as well as scoring one touchdown.

The defense did not disappoint one bit on the other side of the ball after committing three interceptions and five sacks. Junior defensive back, Eddie Morales III was the team leader in tackles with eight and one interception. Lorenzo Hernandez, a junior transfer defensive lineman, committed not just five tackles, but a pair of sacks, and a pass breakup as well in his Monmouth debut.

On their first drive of the game, Monmouth led 7-0 following a throw from Muskett to Greene Jr. who brushed off and avoided two tackles for a 70-yard touchdown. CSU then yielded a field goal in their first drive but Monmouth responded.

With a 76-yard drive that consisted of six plays and was topped off by a six-yard Farri touchdown. Number 30 ran 26-yards



Junior running back Juwon Farri won Offensive Rookie of the Week after rushing for 119 yards on a career-high 33 carries and three touchdowns in Saturday’s 35-17 win against Charleston Southern.

“What I think you saw today was his [Farri] ability to break tackles, to make people miss, to get the tough yards, to make the pile move forward, and to get the extra yard for the first down.”

KEVIN CALLAHAN  
Head Coach

to make the score 21-3 but CSU quarterback, Jack Chambers conducted a 13-play, 97-yard drive that resulted in a 16-yard touchdown pass making the Hawk halftime lead 11-0.

In the third quarter, the boys in blue and white scored a pair of touchdowns extending their lead to 35-10. With 3:01 left in the half, the first touchdown of the third was a 2-yard run by Farri.

“What I think you saw today was his [Farri] ability to break

tackles, to make people miss, to get the tough yards, to make the pile move forward, and to get the extra yard for the first down” said Coach Callahan.

Senior defensive back, Justin Terry, then intercepted the Buc-

caner’s quarterback, Jack Chambers, on a drive at CSU’s 20. Just one play later, Muskett threw to junior Wide Receiver, Assanti Kearney for a touchdown.

CSU scored the final touchdown of the game but the Hawks were too far ahead resulting in their first win of the 2021 season. Following the season opener, three of the Hawks, Farri, Hernandez, and Muskett, earned Big South honors for their performances.

Farri was named Offensive Player of the Week, Hernandez was named Defensive Player of the Week, and Muskett, Freshman of the Week. This was the first time in Farri’s career that he scored three touchdowns in one game. The star running back has acquired 1,143 yards, the 13th most in school history. He is also tied with Bobby Smith with his 11 rushing touchdowns.

Hernandez committed five tackles with four of them being solo and two were sacks. The defensive lineman took part in the defense holding CSU to only 28 yards rushing in addition to five sacks and three interceptions for the day.

Hernandez’s first sack was in the first quarter on a third down which forced a CSU punt. His second set the Buccaneers back 11 yards where a drive resulted in an interception.

As for Muskett, he is just the third true freshman to start at the quarterback position for Monmouth. There has not been a true freshman starting for the Hawks since 1993. Muskett has surpassed Dan Sabella’s 263 yards in a 1994 win over Wagner with his 297 yards. Not to mention, he showed his skills outside the pocket after picking up a first down on an 11-yard run early in the game.

Looking ahead, the Hawks are set to face Gardner-Webb in an away game this Saturday at 1:00 pm at Ernest W. Spangler Football Stadium.



Monmouth football will head to Gardner-Webb with a 1-0 record on Saturday to face the 2-0 Runnin’ Bulldogs at Ernest W. Stadium with kickoff slated for 1:00 pm.



# Men’s and Women’s Golf is in Full Swing

JACK MURPHY  
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Men’s golf competed at the Battle at Rum Pointe in Ocean City, Maryland while the women’s team competed in the second Monmouth Spring at the Jumping Brook Country Club.

The men’s outing at Rum Pointe lasted two days. The highlight for them came on the second day when they posted the lowest score in the field on Sunday with a 295.

It was a historic day for

the men’s team, as this was the first time that they broke 300 since playing at Bucknell in October of 2019. The Hawks were able to finish in a tie for fifth place at the event.

Sophomore Erik Stevens led the Hawks as he individually placed ninth and shot a 148 in his two rounds of play. This was Stevens’ lowest score in two rounds in his career.

Senior Ron Robinson shot a 71 and 148 in two rounds, marking the lowest for him this season as well, earning him 13th place. Junior Bren-

dan Smith set a season best, as he shot a 74 on Saturday and finished the weekend with a total of 154 finishing in a tie for 32nd place.

The men’s team will compete again on Saturday, as they will head up to Springfield, Pennsylvania to compete in the Columbia Invitational where they will play 36 holes in a single day.

The women’s golf team tied for third place on Monday for the second event of the Monmouth Spring Series. Sophomore Liddie McCook finished in seventh place and recorded her sec-

ond top-10 finish this season. Sophomore Claire Orr finished right behind her as she just took one extra stroke shooting an 82 compared to McCook’s 81.

Orr took home eighth place and her first top-10 finish of her career. Junior Amanda Hart finished in a tie for 14th place as she finished her day shooting an 86.

“In a day which I can confidently say that Mother Nature won, I was very pleased with our efforts today,” said Head Coach Michelle Melia. “We are excited to get

back at it this Thursday at FDU’s event and hoping to play in improving weather in order to capitalize on all the progress we made.”

Monmouth finished behind Farleigh Dickinson University and Siena while tying Hartford for third place in this event. Finishing behind the Hawks were Sacred Heart, who came in fifth, and LaSalle, who finished in last.

The women’s team will be competing next at the FDU Invitational, which will be a two-day event this weekend on Saturday and Sunday.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

**Men’s golf finished** the second round at Rum Pointe with a team score of 295, marking the first time they broke 300 since October 2019.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Men’s golf will head to Springfield, PA where they will compete in the Columbia Invitational.

# Field Hockey Begins Campaign Undeclared

MARK D’AQUILA  
SPORTS EDITOR

Monmouth field hockey quite literally shutout the competition this past week with a perfect 3-0 record, outscoring their opponents by a score of 6-0 in three games.

Junior goalkeeper Kate O’Hogan was the leader of

the Hawks, earning America East Defensive Player of the Week after recording three shutout victories in net.

This was O’Hogan’s third Defensive Player of the Week honor of her career after recording four total saves against America East competition.

In game number one of the week and six for the season

on Wednesday, Monmouth took on the Golden Bears of California at So Sweet a Cat Field. The first goal came in the second quarter when sophomore Aylin Aufenacker executed in front of the net on the assist from redshirt junior Hannah Schiavo. The blue and white took the first goal and ran with it following up in the quarter with

a goal from junior forward Katie Yoder to make it 2-0. The assist on Yoder’s goal came from junior forward Annick van Lange, which was her third of the season and 63rd career point.

Senior midfielder Ireen Frenken secured the victory in the fourth quarter after a penalty drawn by Aufenacker set up the penalty shot to make it a 3-0 final.

“Today was a massive win and a total team effort,” said Head Coach Carli Figlio. “We had Aylin, Katie, and Ireen step up in a very big way and it paid off for us.”

Heading into game two of the week on Friday against UMass Lowell, the Hawks were locked into a defensive battle from the jump as the entire first half went scoreless. O’Hogan carried the team for most of the game with three total saves on seven shots in net and left it up to the offense to score a lone goal for the win.

Van Lange got the job done in the third quarter, thanks to an assist from Frenken for her first goal of the season and 28th of her career resulting in the 1-0 final.

“Today, the girls showed a ton of character; they stayed the course even when their legs were tired and I’m really proud of how deep they dug today in order to come out with a total team win,” said Figlio. “All the teams that we have competed against have been such great competitors and for

the girls to be able to mentally as well as physically withstand these last four games in seven days, I’m just so proud of who we’re starting to mold ourselves into.”

The week concluded on Sunday afternoon on the road against a tough component, University of Albany—and once again, the story of the game was defense. Aufenacker kept her strong season going with the first goal of the game at the 18-minute mark assisted by Frenken. At the 40-minute mark, Aufenacker returned the favor with an assist back to Frenken for the 2-0 advantage.

This was more than enough for the red-hot O’Hogan, who closed out her fourth shutout of the season and third in a row, helping improve Monmouth’s record to 6-2 on the season.

“To come out of a five game in nine-day schedule with four wins is a complete testament to the mentality and will of this team,” said Figlio. “I’m incredibly proud to be surrounded by such strong female athletes and am excited to see what the future holds for this team.”

Next on the docket for the Hawks is the final home game of the season on Friday, April 2 where they will play Maine again at 11:00 a.m.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Juior goalkeeper Kate O’Hogan earned America East Defensive Player of the Week honors after not allowing a single goal in her team’s first three games.





# ***NEW YEAR, SAME HAWKS***



Monmouth football returned to Kessler Stadium for the first time in a year and a half with a 35-17 win over Charleston Southern on Saturday, March 27 led by senior captains pictured left to right Erik Massey, AJ Farris, Anthony Budd, and Gene Scott.

**SEE STORY ON PAGE 14**

PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics