The Outlook

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Monmouth University welcomes most diverse class in 91-year history

Student diversity continues to grow year after year

DAE'SANI CLARKE
STAFF WRITER

This Fall, Monmouth enrolled it's most diverse freshman class as a show of a true dedication to opening the doors to students from all backgrounds.

Patrick F. Leahy, Ed.D., President of Monmouth, mentioned that he is immensely proud to welcome this class. "I hope it is evidence of our continuing commitment to creating a welcoming, supportive environment for students of all backgrounds," he said.

Leahy highlighted the University as a place where students can see themselves thriving.

He also noted that he was pleased with this class's GPA. The class of 2028 incoming GPA is 3.62 which just shy of the university's record high of 3.64, which the previous class achieved just last year. "For those students who have reported SAT scores, they are the highest ever. I hope Monmouth is seen as a place where talented students can come and be challenged academically while retaining and graduating at ever-increasing rates," Leahy said.

In an Asbury Park Press (APP) article published on Aug. 30, it was reported that the previous incoming class was recognized as the most academically prepared class in the school's 90-year history. This positive trend continued this year as this class is just slightly less academically prepared, according to Leahy.

Additionally, the APP article mentioned that about 34% of around 850 incoming first-year students identified themselves as racially and ethnically diverse. Similar to the previous first-year class, a large percentage of these students are first-generation students. President Leahy credited his first-rate faculty members and dedicated staff colleagues for making this happen.

As for Monmouth's academic future, the light seems to shine bright. He said, "In general, we again enrolled one of the most academically talented classes in our history, fully one-half of whom are FLI students – this is either first-generation or low-income. Our current strategic plan aims to integrate excellence and access like no other private university in the country, and this year's class illustrates our progress towards this ambitious goal."

Robert McCaig, Ed.D., Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing Division

MOST DIVERSE cont. on pg. 3

MU Players raise money for BCEFA in NYC

LORELAI HILARCZYK
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Monmouth University's student-run theater club, MU Players, volunteered with Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (BCEFA) in New York City on Sept. 22 at their 38th Annual Flea Market and Grand Auction. The event raised $1,421,657, breaking last year's record according to the BCEFA website.

BCEFA is an organization dedicated to helping those within the entertainment industry who are directly affected by HIV/AIDS. They also help people in the community struggling to find health care, meals, emergency assistance, and lifesaving medications. Their annual flea market features live auctions and silent auctions of Broadway memorabilia, artifacts, and autograph signings with Broadway talent.

This year, BCEFA had 64 Broadway shows and organizations running tables for the flea market. The tables included new Broadway hits as well as ones that have been running for years such as "Hadestown," "Once Upon a Mattress," "The Outsiders," "Moulin Rouge! The Musical," and "The Notebook." Some of the top items being auctioned off were a pair of Converse sneakers Daniel Radcliffe wore and signed from "Merrily We Roll Along," and a signed guitar by "Rent" cast members Adam Pascal and Anthony Rapp.

MU Players president, Nora O'Rourke, arrived early in the morning with other members of the club to set up chairs, tables, and boxes of merchandise.

MU PLAYERS cont. on pg. 3

"Springsteen on Screen": Inside the vault

BASCAM and director Thom Zimny discuss upcoming Bruce Springsteen projects

CARLEE MIGLIORISI
STAFF WRITER

The Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music (BASCAM), hosted the event "Springsteen on Screen" which featured Emmy and Grammy award-winning director Thom Zimny showcasing never before seen footage of Springsteen in celebration of his 75th birthday on Sept. 28. The event also featured special guest and E Street Band drummer Max Weinberg who brought a comical yet insanely insightful commentary which gave new life to the footage.

BASCAM has been revving up more and more programs as they anticipate the construction of a new building that will house the Archives, as well as offer related exhibition galleries, and a 230-seat, state-of-the-art theater. Over the summer, BASCAM hosted a pop-up outpost in Asbury Park's Convention Hall which held several "Meet the Author" book events. Now with the semester in full swing, the

"SPRINGSTEEN" cont. on pg. 2

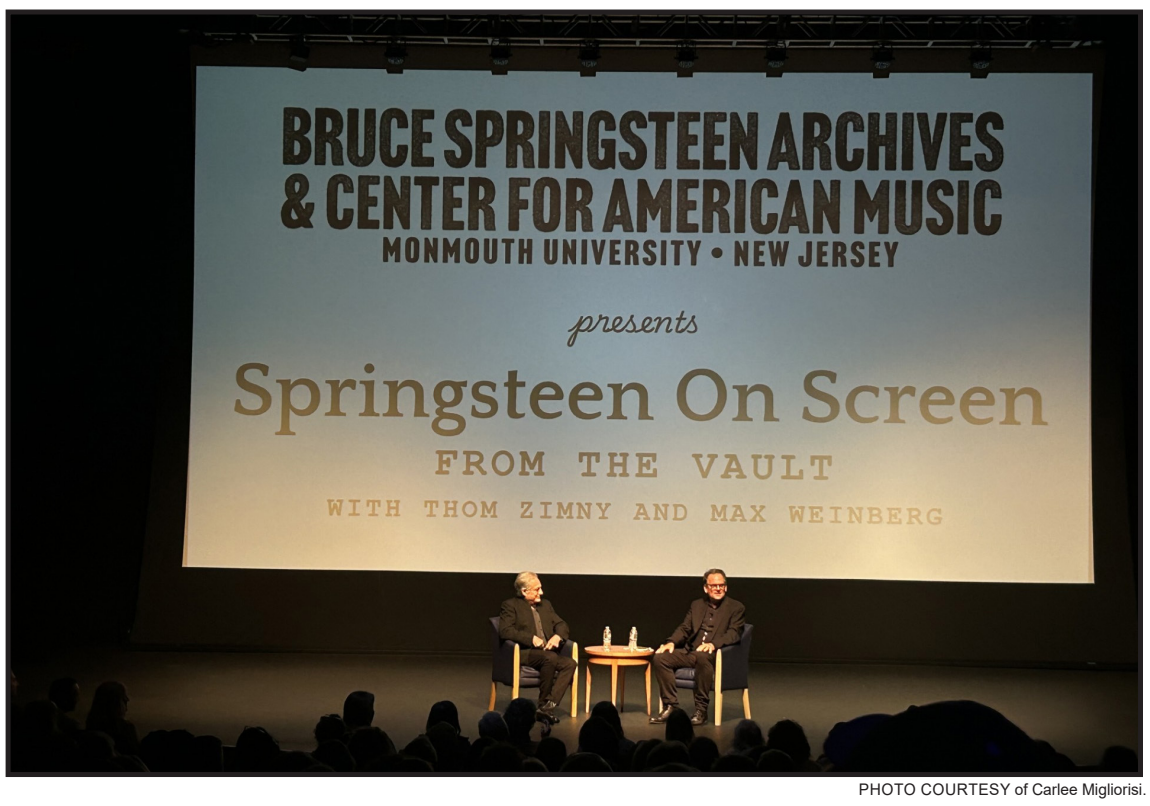


PHOTO COURTESY of Carlee Migliorisi.

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"Springsteen on Screen"

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first event was met with such anticipation that it sold out in under 30 minutes.

BASCAM Director Eileen Chapman remarked, "Thom's films will show the history of Bruce's prolific career and will give us an intimate look into the mind that created such amazing music."

The event started with some opening remarks from Executive Direct, Bob Santelli, who highlighted the significance of the partnership between BASCAM and Zimny. He said, "Thom is working on a brand new film for us that will premiere in our new building. To have Thom as a part of the team is not only an honor but a blessing for our institution."

Zimny and Weinberg were each introduced and received standing ovations from the sold-out crowd. Santelli made note of Weinberg's dedication towards the mission of the Archives by highlighting the fact that Weinberg traveled from Florida that morning to attend the event.

Zimny opened the vault viewing with a live cover of "And Then She Kissed Me" from the historic Bottom Line show in 1975, which was before Springsteen reached national status with the release of "Born to Run" and his double cover feature in "Time" and "Newsweek" magazines. The "time machine," as Zimny would refer to the viewing, took the audience onto the cramped stage of the legendary Bottom Line, which included a 26-year-old Springsteen clad in leather, Converse, and an askew newsboy cap. The rest of the band was in their 1970s garb, complete with ruffled collars and white tanks, complemented by shaggy hair and scruffy beards.

Another highlight from the footage was from 1976 when a lawsuit prevented Springsteen from professionally touring or recording. The footage featured the band crammed into a study-turned-studio in Springsteen's home at the peak of summer. Weinberg said, "[The] room had no air conditioning and even with the windows open it was terrible."

This event served as a kickstart of Springsteen happenings that will take place in the next year or so. In a matter of weeks, the film "Road Diary" will debut on Disney+ and Hulu and will showcase footage from Springsteen's 2023 tour with the E Street Band. Production of another Springsteen film has already started, this one titled "Deliver Me From Nowhere" and will feature "The Bear" star Jeremy Allen White as Springsteen, and will focus on the development of Springsteen's 1982 album "Nebraska." Next year also marks the 50th anniversary of Springsteen's monumental album "Born to Run," which should guaranteed to deliver some special happenings both from Springsteen himself and BASCAM.

Meet the Greeks event held on Shadow Lawn

DAE'SANI CLARKE
STAFF WRITER

On Friday, Sept. 20, Monmouth Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) held a Meet the Greeks tabling event on Shadow Lawn. The event occurred from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., and consisted of the 15 chapters under Greek life, as well as the Panhellenic, the United Greek, and the Interfraternity Councils.

According to the Fraternity and Sorority Life page on the Monmouth website, there are many benefits of joining, such as fellowship, sharpening your interpersonal skills, and meeting new people with diverse perspectives and life experiences. They also mentioned that Greek life provides support for personal development. It's known as a guide to staying focused on personal, academic, and professional goals.

Kimberly Mars, Assistant Director of Student Engagement for FSL, corroborated this by saying that it offers an opportunity for freshmen and undergrads to come out and learn more about each organization and the causes that they stand for. She said, "There's so many things that Greek life can help you with, whether that's networking opportunities, building a brotherhood or sisterhood and just getting to know new people on campus and having people to do things with."

When it comes to picking an organization of choice, Mars thinks that it's important to do research. She encouraged students to utilize events like Meet the Greeks to the best of their ability. She continued, "It allows you to talk to every single chapter, get to know them, and see if it aligns with the values that you have."

Eliza Wilson, a member of the Panhellenic Council, sees Meet the Geeks as an introduction to the recruitment year and refers to it as a relaxed environment. She mentioned that Greek life has helped her cope with her distance from home. "I live two and a half hours away and this is how I made friends. I think it's a good way to branch out, to network also," she said. She highlighted the fact that students get academic support and lots of leadership opportunities. Wilson also said that it's okay for incoming freshmen to be nervous. She explained, "It's okay to feel a little bit out of place for a little while. It definitely takes time; it took me a little while too but if you are interested it doesn't hurt to try new things. If it's not for you that's okay but we're here to support you throughout the whole way."

> ***"The immediate difference from joining was instantaneous. Knowing that there were always going to be people around campus that you know are going to be there for you means the world."***
>
> - Eliza Wilson



IMAGE COURTESY of Julia Oldakowski.

The Lambda Tau Alpha table at Meet the Greeks.

Rebecca Pimenteo is a junior MEPB student as well as a member of the sorority Alpha Sigma Tau. She said that students should join Greek life because it's a great way to get involved. As someone who didn't join until her sophomore year, she described how she noticed a difference. She said, "The immediate difference from joining was instantaneous. Knowing that there were always going to be people around campus that you know are going to be there for you means the world."

Annika Jantz, a sophomore business administration student and a member of Alpha Sigma Tau, spoke about what this event means to her. She said that talking to potential members and sharing the love that they have for her sorority is something that she enjoys doing. A piece of advice that she would give to freshmen is to give everything a shot. She said, "If you're thinking about Greek life, be open to it because a lot of people are really closed off and have stigmas around everything." Being open to everything, meeting people, and trying something new is something that Jantz highly suggests.

Phi Kappa Psi is one of the fraternities that was present at Meet the Greeks. Michael Morgan is a junior communication student as well as a member of this fraternity. He believed that it's crucial for students to join Greek life because they may never know who they might meet. He said, "When I joined my first year, I didn't do much in the fall. I had friends but I didn't have a solidified group and that's what I found when I joined Greek life." Morgan mentioned that being one of the smaller organizations on campus makes them even closer.

Karina Garica is a senior communication student and a member of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority Incorporated. She explained that this event means a lot to her for several reasons, being that she is a part of one of the multicultural councils at a predominately white school. She said, "It's important to get our name out there, and talk about who we are, and what we do." She thinks it's important for freshmen to join Greek life because it's about a sense of community. Speaking from experience, she was able to click with her sisters when she was a freshman. She said, "It's just about stepping out of your comfort zone. It's okay to go to things alone and just talk to new people, that's how you get your face out there." She concluded, "You may not become a sister or join an org., but you create friends and that's what's important."

Most Diverse

cont. from pg. 1

of Enrollment Management, is a helping hand when it comes to selecting applicants for the new class. McCaig, though, gave credit to everyone across the university. He said, "My team may lead it, but recruiting a high-quality diverse class is a full University effort – faculty, staff, student ambassadors, etc. We were ecstatic to hit a new high-water mark for racial and ethnic diversity; we have been working intentionally to increase our percentage of students of color for a long time now, and it is very satisfying to see those efforts continue to pay off."

McCaig believes that Monmouth isn't the best educational institution that it can be without diverse people, diverse thoughts, and diverse approaches to solving the problems of an increasingly complex and interconnected world. When it comes to selecting incoming freshman acceptances, he said, "The process is the same for all applicants. They can choose whether to be evaluated with or without standardized test scores (typically the SAT or ACT) and then we look at the size and strength of the applicant pool and decide what admission cut-offs will need to be to make our enrollment target."

Zaneta Rago-Craft, Ed.D., Advisor to the President for Diversity and Inclusion and Director of the Intercultural Center said that this news is an encouraging sign. She elaborated, "Diversity in a student body often leads to more dynamic discussions, innovative ideas, and a more vibrant campus community – not to mention helping us to meet our mission of being an institution that 'educates and prepares students to realize their potential as leaders and to become engaged citizens in a diverse and increasingly interdependent world.'"

According to Rago-Craft, it appears highly likely that these numbers will continue to grow. She said, "Many universities are increasingly prioritizing diversity and inclusion, not just as a broad goal but as a fundamental aspect to their mission." She added that Monmouth could attract an even greater diverse range of students in the future if they implement effective outreach and support programs on top of being situated in a region that's rapidly diversifying at the high school graduate level.



PHOTO TAKEN by Matthew Boyle.

This class, in addition to being the most diverse, additionally had the highest SAT scores in the school's history. Hevan Warmington, a sophomore social work student, said, "As a person of color (POC), I'm not surprised to see how low the percentage of POC in the new class is, [but], one thing that does surprise me is the number being way higher than I expected." She shared that this is something that adds to her comfort on campus. Gaining this knowledge informed her that there are more people like her at the university.

Last year's incoming freshmen were recognized as the most academically prepared class in Monmouth's history, which Warmington is a part of, as well. Comparing that to this year's freshmen, Hevan anticipates a rising trend for the school. She said, "I think that means that our graduation rate is bound to rise. Monmouth's academic future is bright."

Rago-Craft noted that awareness of deepening racial diversity is important for all members of the Monmouth community. She said, "The achievement helps us to stand out to future students and employees, while also providing a more realistic campus experience that will help shape our students for the world of work after graduation."

She concluded, "Students will be entering companies and organizations with a wide range of social identities, lived experiences, and perspectives. Learning to work and live together across differences now – with support and guidance from professors and mentors – is a powerful way to prepare for entering future careers and communities."

MU Players

cont. from pg. 1

O'Rourke was tasked with alphabetizing Broadway Playbills, sifting through history so that possible buyers could find them easily. "Working alongside the talent of Broadway was exhilarating! People of all different Broadway backgrounds were there with us giving us insider information. Being behind the table working with these people was such a cool networking experience," O'Rourke said.

Sheri Anderson, MFA, Director of Theatre Arts and faculty advisor to MU Players, has special ties to the event. Coming from Broadway herself, she knew the students would value this event and the experience of coming together in the city.

"As soon as I took over as the faculty advisor to MU Players, I immediately proposed Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS as our philanthropy because I think it's a wonderful organization and wonderful connection for students to make," Anderson said.



PHOTO COURTESY of Julianna Chesla.

Members of MU Players take a selfie at BCEFA event in NYC.

Along with volunteering directly for BCEFA, MU Players puts on "Cabaret for a Cause" in December where they raise money as well. Their well-established connection with the organization has opened the doors to the department and the club for getting involved with more volunteering events and rare experiences with BCEFA.

Kira Fisher, sophomore Musical Theatre and Music Industry major got to work at the Broadway Bares table, selling costumes from fundraiser shows put on by BCEFA throughout the years."Besides just being starstruck, it's so cool to get to talk to them and learn about their jobs and all the cool things they've gotten to do. It's also really great to have an opportunity to try to get your name into that circle of people, especially while still in college," Fisher said.

The auctions give fans the chance to have a piece of Broadway history while raising money to make the lives of performers significantly better.



PHOTO COURTESY of Julianna Chesla.

Members of MU Players pose for a picture at BCEFA event in NYC.

BCEFA teaches the community to look beyond themselves and personal stigma and work towards making the Broadway circle more successful. Fisher continued, "Not only does BCEFA do incredible things for those suffering from AIDS, but they also cover other life-threatening illnesses, as well as Covid, which is so important! This organization is vital for a lot of people in the industry who might be suffering from illnesses that prevent them from working because it provides them with financial relief in the times they need it the most."

The event left the club with a sense of community and coming together in a way that supports everyone within the Broadway atmosphere. Not only do the big names of Broadway draw people to the event but the legacy of performing arts that has shaped the entertainment industry.

"To me, everyone in MU Players has a passion for theatre in some way, this event brings them to the heart of theatre," O'Rourke concluded.

The Outlook

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Is journalism dead or are media simply evolving?

EDITORIAL STAFF

"Journalism is dead." A statement that is continuously heard all around us. Those of us intending to go into journalism are constantly being questioned about what we will ever do with that degree. Because journalism is dying, right? Actually, that's far from the truth.

Journalism is more alive than ever, and the question to be asked is, "Is journalism dead or are media just simply evolving?"

All of our editors agreed with the statement that journalism is not dead, but in fact is evolving. One of our editors believes that journalism is, "becoming something much bigger with technology at the forefront of our lives. Instead of print being the biggest outlet for news, online articles and broadcasts are definitely being consumed more." People are consuming more news now than they ever have whether they are aware of it or not. Journalism is placed directly in front of us through different media; media we are accustomed to now. Digital media have largely outpaced the traditional media in the news production, but traditional media, like printed newspapers and magazines, or radio and television, are still around and they haven't been fully replaced yet. Some people prefer traditional media over the digital platforms and there is still something to say about the media experience that traditional media offer.

However, when it comes to news distributed through different media, our editors all recognized that news has shifted primarily to digital forms, one of our editors even said, "People tend to associate journalists with newspapers, but physical newspapers are dying out. These newspapers have switched to online platforms and have many subscribers and readers." Another editor discussed the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on journalism and journalists. They stated, "Mostly everything you look up online will bring you to an online newspaper. When a breaking news story happens, journalists give you the facts, not AI."

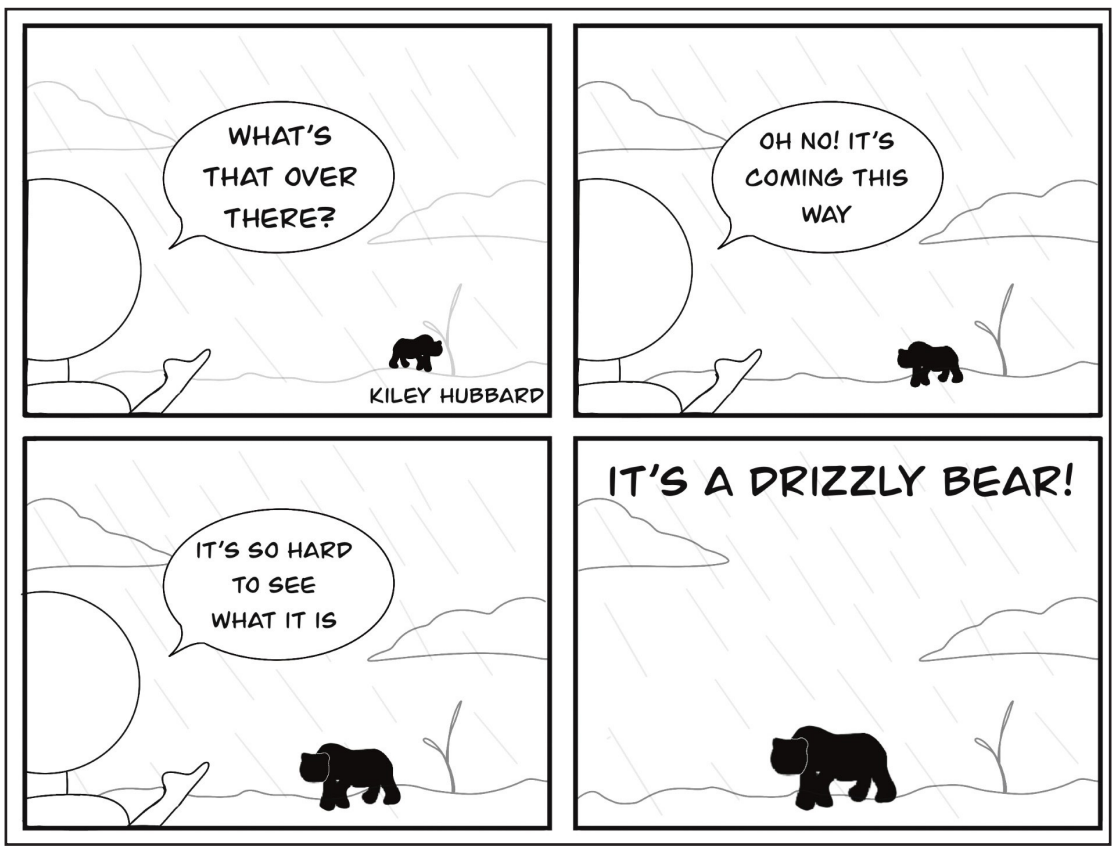
That raises the question, "Are journalists still needed when AI is so prevalent today?" One editor believes that without journalists, the people will be fed misinformation from AI that will cause them to lose the knowledge of what is happening around them. She expressed her view on this topic and how it pertains to what is going on currently, "This statement is especially sad to hear during an election year where knowing the truth about people is incredibly important."

Another one of our editors shared, "People who say journalism isn't needed anymore have no idea the value and impact journalists make every day. If you got rid of journalism, the public would be fed lies by the highest people in society; in other words, journalists are the voice of the general public and the voice for regular people. Without journalists that voice is silenced."

Journalists will always be needed to keep news alive and to deliver truths to the public, giving them perspectives and stories they cannot get elsewhere. Journalists are responsible for giving information to the public, as editor explained, "Well, who else is going to get you your news, or whatever you read online? We relay the information, so who else is going to relay it?"

Most of our editors get their news from TikTok, Instagram, X, The New York Times, television, Deadline, Apple News, and newspapers. Each and every one of these media outlets are reporting news, developing stories that are coming from journalists and other news sources.

So while some think journalism is "dead," an editor would respond with, "Definitely not, I mean, you will reading this editorial in The Outlook, a very strong and important campus paper that has been publishing for over 90 years."



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QB change for NY Giants?

CHRIS ARP
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With Week 4 in the books for the New York Giants after a mournful loss to the Dallas Cowboys on Thursday Night Football, the Giants have a ten day gap between their next game in Seattle when they take on the Seahawks.

After losing this week by a final score of 20-15, with the offense showing very few signs of improvement, it's fair to ask whether or not the Giants should make a quarterback change for Week 5.

The Giants are currently 1-3, last place in the NFC East, and don't have much to lose, as this season feels like a replica of the last few years yet again. The defense looks polished, but there's simply no life to the offense.

Danel Jones finished this week's game with 281 pass yards, 0 touchdowns, and 1 interception. While he didn't necessarily lose them the game, he definitely didn't help them win it.

Giants standout rookie WR Malik Nabers exited the game in the fourth quarter with a concussion, but still accumulated 115 yards on 12 receptions. One could only think how much better he would be with a good quarterback, as his early success with Daniel Jones is still impressive.

This offseason, the New York Giants brought in Drew Lock on a 1 year, 5 million dollar deal to backup Daniel Jones. Lock previously spent time in Denver with the Broncos, and backed up Geno Smith in Seattle with the Seahawks. Some could argue that Lock is more talented than Jones, and where the Giants currently stand, with signs pointed towards another gloomy season in East Rutherford, giving him a shot to lead the offense should definitely be up for debate inside the Giants coaching room.

Before the season started, the Giants had internal discussions about trading up in the draft to take Jayden Daniels, the star QB out of LSU, who was drafted by the division rival Washington Commanders and has shown signs of being a star.

This shows that the front office doesn't have the confidence in Daniel Jones that they once did, and while he's under contract for a few more years, it might be in their best interest to give Drew Lock a chance to start, and if that doesn't work out, look to take a quarterback in the upcoming draft.

Do we really need to spread awareness about mental health?

RILEY MCGEE
STAFF WRITER

I believe that mental health awareness needs to be spread and that people need to be educated about it. I have faced challenges such as anxiety and depression in the past. Looking back, I wish I had someone to educate me about the symptoms of these conditions in detail and guide me on proper treatment methods when I was younger.

For as long as I can remember people have told me that there is a stigma around mental-health, which is why I think that we should spread awareness about it. This stigma alone can simply stop individuals from getting the help that they truly need, which is heartbreaking in itself. It also refers to negative attitudes, beliefs, and stereotypes that our society holds towards people that experience mental health issues.

By stereotyping, I mean that people believe that mental problems such as anxiety and depression are signs of weakness, and that disorders such as being bipolar are dangerous. This is not true, just because you suffer with these things doesn't make your feelings any less valid than someone that doesn't suffer them.

By spreading awareness about these kinds of disorders, it can help to normalize the conversations around mental health, allowing people to talk about their feelings more easily and without feeling judged.

Also, it allows for people to learn how to identify the signs and symptoms of a certain disorder. This can help someone more than you think because they might be able to hear about the symptoms early on and get help before they worsen.

Along with this, I believe that we need to spread awareness about mental health because it promotes something called emotional well-being. This meaning that it is a state of positive emotions, a sense of purpose and the ability to manage emotions and adapt to change. Spreading awareness teaches people how to cope healthily and manage what they are feeling, improving their life. This is something that I wish I had known growing up, how to properly cope and manage these emotions.

All of these reasons are extremely important when it comes to spreading awareness about mental health. I believe that the most important thing is to spread that you are never alone. There is always someone who will be here to talk to you, to be here for you whenever you need something.

You can always reach out to anyone whether that is a teacher, family member, close friend, coach, there is always some. There are helplines and free counseling especially on Monmouth's campus.

I believe that we need to start spreading more awareness about mentalhealth because it is something that is so important and you never know what someone is going through.

Is the phone ban in classrooms worth it?

FINN SHATARAW
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There are both pros and cons of the phone ban in classrooms. First, removing phones can promote learning without the need of distractions. With students paying more attention, test scores could soar, and information could be easily absorbed.

Another pro is the socialization aspect. Teens are developing and maturing and require socialization in order to thrive. At this stage, it is important to talk face-to-face.

The final pro that I can find is that removing phones from the equation can stop online bullying in school, while it does not stop it at home,

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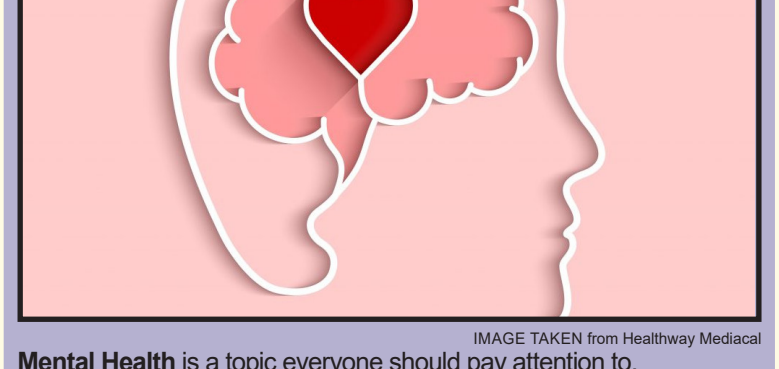


IMAGE TAKEN from Healthway Mediacal

Mental Health is a topic everyone should pay attention to.

Student Voices

How do You Keep Your Mental Health in Check?

COMPILED BY MICHAEL GRUSEKE



"I like to Golf and play Madden."
- Dylan Lane



"For my mental health I like to go outside, run, and hang out with mt friends."
- Will Snowden



"I like to pray to God."
- Jaiden Witter



"I enjoy going on runs, hanging out with my friends, and going outside."
-Caroline Gruseke

PRSSA: Who they are and what they do



LAUREN BEVACQUA
FEATURES EDITOR

Within the Department of Communication, there are many ways students can get involved within their major. One of those clubs is PRSSA, a Public Relations firm that is helping local businesses strategize their public outreach. With students running the club, they can gain real life public relations experience and build their resume.

"PRSSA is a student-run, nationally affiliated PR firm at Monmouth University that works with local clients to fulfill their PR needs," senior communication student and PRSSA co-president, Ashley Schumacher, said.

PRSSA helps students in the Public Relations (PR)/Journalism cluster of the communications major gain real-world experience. By building skills, students may stand out to employers.

Schumacher continued, "Students benefit by applying their classroom knowledge to real projects and gaining hands-on experience in managing and creating materials from start to finish. This not only helps them build their skills but also strengthens their portfolios. Companies gain fresh perspectives and tailored solutions that meet their specific needs!"

According to forbes.com, good PR can help make brands more credible, strengthen their image, establishes brand and customer relationships, and creates an identity for your business. By joining PRSSA, PR students can develop the skills and expertise to help these businesses. This is a rewarding experience helps students graduate confidently and ready for their career.

Bailey Fredericks, senior communication student, Lifestyle/Managing Editor for "The Outlook," and co-president of PRSSA, said, "I first joined PRSSA in the fall of sophomore year. When the Digital Content Creator e-board position opened up in the spring of that year, I knew I had to apply. Luckily, I got the position and was able to build my portfolio by expressing my creativity through social media outlets for a nationally affiliated firm. I stayed as the Content Creator up until this fall, when I assumed the role as Co-president. It has definitely been a lot of work, but it's a great experience that helps develop my professional PR skills."

Building professional portfolios is crucial for students resumes, "PRSSA is a great resume-builder for students who want to improve their resumes and gain more experience in the field. Involvement also offers students the opportunity to build their portfolios with work samples. It is also a great way to meet other students on campus," said Professor Mary Harris, APR, Specialist Professor of Public Relations in the Department of Communication, and Advisor of PRSSA.

The Executive Board of PRSSA has found their experience to be rewarding. Anya Stuckert, a senior communications student, is the Firm Director. Her role is to "oversee communication between Shadow PR and our clients, ensuring smooth collaboration and quality public relations services."

She emphasized, "Through my involvement, I have not only gained skills but also secured an internship. I highly encourage anyone seeking real-world experience and opportunity in PR to join!"

"It has also been a great opportunity to be more involved on campus and meet other students who share similar career interests," said Sofia Vitagliano, a senior communications student and Director of Events for PRSSA.

Schumacher continued, "Companies gain fresh perspectives and tailored solutions that meet their specific needs."

PRSSA meets every Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. in Plangere Room 234. Students can also follow PRSSA on Instagram @ monmouthshadowpr!

Club spotlight: The social justice club

AVA MCGINTY
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

Students at Monmouth University who are looking to get more involved on campus should consider joining the Social Justice Club. The Social Justice Club is a growing club that allows students to be curious about and tackle the social issues happening on the campus, impacting our community, and beyond. This club allows students to meet like-minded, curious individuals who share a passion for understanding the things that shape our lives.

Last November, the Social Justice Club held a panel discussion that featured three University professors to talk about their work prior to becoming an educator. Explaining her interests in social justice, Johanna Foster, Ph.D., and Associate Professor of Sociology, said, "I was very much connected to racial justice and gender justice movements in the 1980s and early 1990s before I became a professor. When I was in college, I was a part of a social justice club as I wanted to make a difference not just on my campus but in the larger world."

Foster believes this is an experience students can get out of being in the Social Justice Club. Foster explained, "One of the benefits of being part of the Social Justice Club is that students have this amazing chance to share their concerns, learn what might be troubling other students, and then develop strategies to try and solve some portion of the issues together. To be able to be in groups like that, for me, has been one of the most energizing and impactful parts of being in a community."

Speaking on her own experience in the club, Kristen Frawley, senior social work and sociology student and club secretary, said, "The Social Justice Club has shaped my experience here at Monmouth by giving me a platform to learn, advocate, and work towards solving issues I care about. Involvement in this club has made me feel much closer to my campus community by connecting me with others who share my passions, whether that's individuals I've met or organizations we've collaborated with."

Jen McGovern, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Sociology and Political Science, spoke on the panel hosted by the Social Justice Club last year. She also believes that students should join the club. McGovern said, "Students who join will also get the opportunity to work towards issues they care about. In the past years, students in this club have been able to connect with other student clubs, faculty, and administrators to work on projects they care about. "

The club operates as a united front, working together to tackle prominent issues. Frawley expressed that members have the liberty to do projects and events on things they are personally interested in.

Frawley emphasized, "If individuals are passionate about something, the club supports that passion! It's also empowering to see an issue and be able to do something about it, from spreading awareness to implementing solutions."

For students looking to get involved with the Social Justice Club can contact Kristen Frawley or follow the club on Instagram, @mu_socialjustice.





IMAGE TAKEN from @mu_socialjustice
Students in the Social Justice Club often help faculty organizations, like FAMCO.

Cozy Fall Activities



MELANIE ARIZA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As the fall season starts to roll in, it's the perfect time to start getting festive and engage in activities to get in tune with the autumnal ambiance.

Embrace the season by exploring the endless activities it offers and appreciating the essence this season invites us to savor. Here are some ideas that can help inspire your next activities:

Create a Bucket List:

Creating a fall bucket list is a wonderful way to start organizing your ideas. Even something as simple as planning small activities for yourself can do the trick and help you get into the spirit.

To give you some inspiration, Nicole Perdomo, a business student, shared, "Movie nights with iconic Halloween movies like "Hocus Pocus" and "Halloweentown" are my go-to. A scented pumpkin spice candle with a great snack to go along with is a fall activity must!"

Engaging in activities like these helps her welcome the new season on a positive note and others should consider doing the same.

My favorite fall activity is painting pumpkins with friends while sipping on some hot chocolate. The cozy atmosphere is made even better with a fall playlist or classic seasonal movie playing in the background. It's the best way to unwind, get creative, and soak up the autumn vibes together!

You can think of the start of fall as a reset button where you prioritize some time for yourself whether it's indulging in a hobby, activity, or simply enjoying the beauty autumn brings.

Decorate for the Fall Season:

Setting the mood for the fall season is essential for fully enjoying this time of year.

Whether it's decorating your home or your personal space, embrace the spirit of fall with seasonal decorations to transform your environment into a cozy vibe. As October rolls in, you might want to consider incorporating warm hues like oranges, reds, and yellows through candles, throw pillows, and cozy blankets. My favorite places to shop for seasonal decor are Marshalls and HomeGoods; they offer a unique selection of items at fantastic prices which makes it easy to create a warm and inviting atmosphere.

You might also add touches like seasonal flowers, pumpkins, candles, string lights, and frames around the desired area you want to decorate. This will fill your space with the comforting aromas of fall which are perfect for those crisp evenings.

Go Apple Picking:

Visiting an apple orchard or farm is a unique experience that captures the essence of fall. Whether you go with a partner, friend, or family member, the joy of picking your own apples, surrounded in a vibrant atmosphere, brings in the good vibes. Many farms include activities like hayrides, corn mazes, and petting zoos. It's a perfect opportunity to spend quality time and indulge in some fresh cider or bakery treats while creating awesome memories.

Kim Fleming, Adjunct Professor of communication said, "When I think of a must do fall activity, I immediately envision a trip to Delicious Orchards in Colts Neck, NJ. It's only about a 20 minute drive from Monmouth University. In my opinion, they have the absolute best apple cider donuts, which I typically pair with a pumpkin iced coffee from Rook; a perfect fall duo!"

Another fantastic recommendation is Alstede Farm in Chester, NJ. This charming destination lets you indulge in delicious homemade ice cream or, my personal favorite, apple cider donuts. The farm offers a variety of food and snack options to satisfy different cravings.

Activities vary from apple picking in picturesque orchards to enjoying a scenic tractor-drawn wagon ride. You can also explore the gorgeous blooming giant sunflower trail, which is perfect for cute photos and relaxation.

Visit Fright Fest at Six Flags:

Visit the annual Fright Fest at Six Flags for an exhilarating Halloween experience as this amusement park creates thrilling attractions to explore. You will have hauntingly wholesome fun as you see the park's eerie decorations, actors dressed as frightening characters, and hear spooky music playing throughout the whole area. Additionally, it offers a variety of haunted houses, each with its own unique theme and terrifying surprises. There are also creepy corn fields that make the adrenaline rush unbeatable!

In addition to the haunting attractions, Fright Fest offers a lineup of Halloween-themed shows that showcase everything from spine-chilling performances to lively dance routines. You can also enjoy the park's thrilling rides, many of which take on a whole new level of excitement when experienced in the dark.

Let's get pumped for fall! With countless activities to choose from, there's no shortage of ways to celebrate the fall season. Get creative and explore everything the season has to offer, whether it's apple picking, visiting pumpkin patches, or doing seasonal crafts. Make Fall 2024 a memorable time filled with fun and cherished moments!



PHOTO COURTESY of Melanie Ariza via Canva.

Follow this guide to practice self-care this fall season!

What To Consider Before Downloading Dating Apps

SARAH EIDELMAN
STAFF WRITER

It's no secret that technology has taken over, and as digital natives, Gen-Zers are well aware that it has invaded many different aspects of our day to day lives, dating being one of them.

Dating apps are widely recognized as one of the leading methods of meeting potential partners. However, there are specific issues to consider before setting up your profile. While there are many success stories in the realm of Tinder, Hinge, and Bumble, let this serve as a cautionary tale of the implications of the online dating world. From lack of authenticity, catfishing, to option paralysis, these apps are leaving Gen Z burnt out and pushing back.

A common issue with dating apps is the idea of it being inauthentic, a valid concern considering most users are mindlessly scrolling and swiping. It goes without saying that meeting someone through mutual friends or throughout the course of our daily routines is way more organic and authentic and maybe even less of a stressful process.

However, aside from a lack of organically building relationships, there is another aspect of inauthenticity taking place on online dating platforms. In an article for CNBC by Sawdah Bhaimiya titled, "Gen Z is Ditching Dating Apps to Meet People In Real Life. Here are 4 Top Tips," Bhaimiya explained that the companies running these apps are more focused on making money rather than the results of our experiences.

Author and licensed therapist, Jeff Guenther, explained that users become hooked by "micro-rejections," such as ghosting, which in turn, messes with mental health and self-esteem. Gen Z has become hyper aware of the ulterior motives of those who are running dating apps and are taking strides to meet people in a more traditional way; however, since we've been raised on technology, it seems to be more difficult for us to approach people and be vulnerable face to face. (See Bhaimiya's article for some tips on how to meet people in real life!)

A scary thought within the online dating world is that the companies who neglect to address that they are profiting from keeping you single aren't the only ones on these apps who may be lying. Abby Vesoulis explained in her article, "Paradise for Predators," that, "predators use these dating apps as a hunting ground for vulnerable victims." A frightening reality, but one you must face when deciding whether or not to set up your profile.

While catfishing has been around for some time now, with advancements in artificial intelligence (AI), it is easier than ever to deceive people online with developments such as ChatGPT, Midjourney, and Dreamstudio. While these softwares are already being used to cheat and trick people in settings such as the office and classrooms, the consequences become much darker as they infiltrate dating apps.

Dr. Jessica Barker, award winning global leader with over ten years of experience working in the human side of cyber security, explained in her book, "Hacked: The Secrets Behind Cyber Attacks" that AI catfishing is expected to continue and increase. She also stated that, "the reasons for this can range from people simply seeking to improve their chances of success on the apps to deeply manipulative and damaging scams." For reasons of safety, the impact of catfishing and AI is an important aspect to review before joining the online dating world.

One final issue to consider is option paralysis. The option paralysis phenomenon, according to psychologist Barry Schwartz, makes it harder to make decisions based on having more rather than fewer options and often leads us to feel unsatisfied regardless of our choices.

Arlin Cunic explained in his article, "Option Paralysis in Online Dating," that we tend to enter, "endless cycles of swiping and scrolling without ever making a real connection." This is a real concern for those who join dating apps with the intention of finding a partner. Too many options is proving to overwhelm us and blur our judgment. Cunic further goes on to explain that a common example of option paralysis is presented as a desire to, "keep your dating options open and never commit to one person because you're afraid of missing out on someone better."

In the article, Marisa Cohen, relationship expert and licensed marriage and family therapist, explained that mindfulness and self-regulation are important to overcome option paralysis. This is great to consider for ourselves; however, can we trust others to self-regulate and practice mindfulness?

Monmouth University senior finance student, Michelle Alves, explained her concerns, "With dating apps, we are constantly searching for 'the next best thing' when half the time the pictures are edited and filters are applied to give the illusion that people are meeting unrealistic beauty standards. So, as we look for the next best edited picture, we fail completely to even consider what we are looking for in a partner in regards to values and personality."

Similarly, Erin Coughlin, senior health studies student explained that, "mindlessly scrolling through dating apps not only interferes with the ability to form a true connection that isn't only based on outward appearance, but also is one of the main factors, in addition to social media, that cause relationships to fail these days. People believe there are endless options out there and tend to choose to move onto the next person or give up so easily in their relationships instead of working through issues because of this illusion."

With this information, if you are still looking to join the world of online dating, it is important to consider the impact of inauthenticity, the potential dangers and scams, and option paralysis, that has ultimately led Gen Z to push back against these apps.

Amazon Must Haves - College Edition

ANA CARVALHO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I think it's safe to say at some point in our college life, we've wondered if we were buying the right things or if we were forgetting something. The worst is not having a clue on where to start when buying college essentials and how you can find relatively cheap items. Considering this, I have compiled a list of Amazon "must haves" I think every college student could benefit from here at Monmouth University.

To finish reading this article, scan the QR code above!

Samara Cyn: Rising female rap sensation

MARISSA ALVAREZ
STAFF WRITER

Tennessee-born, Los Angeles-based rapper, Samara Cyn has quickly captured attention with her unique blend of neo-soul and hip-hop music. In March 2024, she dropped "Green Eyes Freestyle," on social media, featuring a laid-back video of her casually delivering bars. The post garnered significant attention, racking up 138,000 likes and praise from fans, including one comment that read, "You just created a fan. That was an impressive one-take. The vibe, composition, colors, swag, lyrics…everything was on point."

Many urged her to release the freestyle on major streaming platforms, but Samara shared there was no clearance with the song, so it is exclusive to social media and SoundCloud, a free music streaming platform.

With fans urging more, Cyn was featured in April 2024 on an online show, "On The Radar," where artists showcase their talents doing a freestyle. She displayed a flow and lyrics people praised again gaining 40,100 likes on the video. The anticipation for her to drop a song grew.

She followed up in May 2024 with her first big release of her single, "Moving Day," along with a music video. Cyn showcased her directorial talent by co-directing the music video with Ryan Pham. The visuals align perfectly with the song's theme, as she is depicted moving away, echoing the title. The creative choice they took to use a camera angle that makes it seem as if the object is moving with her highlights why fans are increasingly drawn to Cyn. She brings a creativity that many have not seen in a little while within the rap community.

If you love 90s and 2000s street style and enjoy original sound, you'll likely appreciate Cyn's work. Her trendy throwback style evokes a nostalgic feel that many adore, which is beautifully captured in her videos. As someone who appreciates both 90s and 2000s street style, I'm truly captivated by her work. This aesthetic is also evident in her music video for the single "Wake Up," released in May 2023.

Her consistent output has contributed to her growing platform, as she continues to release songs back-to-back. Her single, "Magnolia Rain," released in June 2024, is where she truly took the media by storm. The calm essence of the song and her slow but captivating rap flow had people replaying the song over and over again, gaining 870,000 streams on Spotify.

The song also consists of relatable scenarios that allow listeners to feel seen within it. She emphasizes the importance of staying calm in the face of life's challenges and teaches listeners not to let others bring them down, "The conversation of balance and finding common ground/ The conversation of who is and who is not around/ And being thankful for did and didn't hold it down," as stated in "Magnolia Rain."

What makes this song great is that she delivers a message while providing listeners with something to think about, all with style and ease. In hip-hop, it may be rare to find artists who convey meaningful messages in their songs. Cyn offers a refreshing sound, especially for our generation.

As she continues to develop her style as an artist, she shows listeners that she's not afraid to explore new sounds and be creative, as demonstrated in her pop song "Katana," released in July 2024. Some artists don't succeed when jumping into a different genre, but Cyn knew what she was doing in the studio when she took that leap. The groovy sound of "Katana" makes you want to dance. Her lyrics are also uplifting as she encourages her audience to be tough and tells them how she isn't weak herself, "I'm a cold piece of work/ Sweatin' out the roots, see the stains in my shirt/ Dig down deep, we gon' get it out the dirt."

In August 2024, she was featured on "A COLORS SHOW," where artists get the chance to perform in a colored room with just them and a microphone. She debuted her newest hip-hop single, "Chrome," where she gracefully rapped the song. In the video, you see the power of her stage presence as she raps with her hands and allows the lyrics and sound to control her body language. The song "Chrome," was officially released at the beginning of September on streaming platforms including Apple Music and Spotify.

With all this in mind, Cyn's talent, style, and creativity are gaining traction to her artistry. Her originality and skill make her a must-add artist to your playlist.



IMAGE TAKEN from IAMROOT.com.

2025 Grammy predicitons:
The race to Best New Artist

MEGHAN REILLY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The 2024 music industry has seen a massive resurgence in hyper pop, country ballads, and new artists who are each vying for a nomination at the 67th Grammy Awards. From genre-bending musicians and viral pop sensations, there is a fresh wave of talent this award season that will draw increased attention to the ceremony next February.

The Recording Academy has announced that nominations will go public on Friday, Nov. 8 of this year. The eligibility period for the 2025 awards season includes releases from September of 2023 to August of 2024, allowing consideration for some of the year's most popular releases. The Grammy's tend to garner the most attention surrounding the "Big Three" awards of the night: Song of the Year, Record of the Year, and Album of the Year.

However, with the number of artists eligible for Best New Artist, it will also be a moment to watch. So, who exactly is eligible? Ranging from Chappell Roan following the tremendous exposure from "The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess," to both short and sweet Sabrina Carpenter, Benson Boone, Teddy Swims, Doechii, Shaboozy, and more.

The criteria for "Best New Artist" is one of the more contentious categories that has garnered some scrutiny in the past. However, the Recording Academy upholds a specific criterion: "any performing artist or established performing group who releases, during the eligibility year, the recording that first establishes the public identity of that artist" per the Grammy Awards website. Many artists considered breakthrough stars of 2024 have criteria that slightly complicate the nominee selection process.

Chappell Roan, a 26-year-old spunky and flirtatious popstar, has taken the world by storm since the release of her album "The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess." Roan's latest single, "Good Luck, Babe!" peaked at number four on Billboard's Hot 100 chart and remained there for 24 weeks. Her performances at music festivals this year have attracted thousands of fans, sometimes producing larger crowds than the event's headliners, including NYC's Governor's Ball and Chicago's Lollapalooza. Roan's popularity has demonstrated a type of "overnight fame" that seems difficult to replicate. Her ability to connect with people who largely feel ignored from social scenes is a large part of her charm. Self-proclaiming herself as "your favorite artist's favorite artist" (paralleling the sentiment from drag icon, Sasha Colby) has some very accurate merit. While Chappell, originally born Kayleigh Rose, has been making and uploading music since 2014, the release of her album majorly contributed to her success. Along with opening for Olivia Rodrigo's "Guts" World Tour earlier this year and performing at Coachella, Roan has continued to increase her monthly Spotify listeners from a little over a million in January 2024 to more than 45 million today, a 4400% increase.

Sabrina Carpenter, a 25-year-old singer-songwriter, has increased her social media presence and circulation online through her stark rebranding, becoming America's newest Pop Princess. Carpenter started her career on Disney Channel and released five studio albums before her latest project, "Short N' Sweet." Carpenter can now be seen sporting heart-cut-out micro dresses, chunky platform heels, and Brigitte Bardot-inspired bangs adding to her Ex-Disney image. Her hit song "Espresso" came out in April earlier this year and was performed the following day at Coachella, lasting eight weeks at number one on the Billboard Hot 100. This past week, the effects of her popularity continued to shine with five tracks from her newest project placing in the Top 50. While this is Carpenter's sixth studio album, "Short N' Sweet" satisfies Grammy's requirements for a release, bringing an artist more into mainstream public consciousness. Moreover, while Carpenter submitted approval for Best New Artist consideration twice before, artists are allowed three attempts. This reason is why singer-dancer Tate McRae sadly can no longer be considered despite not receiving a nomination.

Benson Boone, a 22-year-old singer-songwriter, got his footing on TikTok and brief participation in season 19 of American Idol. Boone's most famous single is "Beautiful Things," released in January of this year off his debut album "Fireworks & Rollerblades." The track peaked at number three on Billboard's Hot 100 and gained even more traction after his star-studded performance at the Video Music Awards. Boone also opened for Taylor Swift's Eras Tour at the Wembley Stadium in London on June 23, increasing his monthly listeners in the U.K. by nearly 20% according to Billboard. His incredible vocal range and songwriting ability might attract some attention from the Recording Academy, who tend to award such two-fold performers. For the past seven awards seasons, female artists have secured the Best New Artist award and Boone is hoping to change this trajectory. His album features intimate lyrics and smooth melodies that are meaningful and reflective, hoping to mirror such experiences for his listeners.

Other contenders such as Teddy Swims and Shaboozy have had major success this awards cycle, with both of their hit songs landing in Billboard's Top 100. While these artists are moreso famous for breakout singles, they should not be overlooked by the public. The Recording Academy shocked viewers, especially pop fans, last year when the award was given to 26-year-old Jazz singer, Samara Joy. Other artists in the category included Latto, Wet Leg, Muni Long, Anitta, Tuttle, and Måneskin. While many of the pop-centric fans watching believed this win to be a shock, jazz tends to be well-represented by the Recording Academy. Joy was also not considered a frontrunner amongst other contenders, giving her the implicit advantage of the underdog. It also is helpful that her album is incredibly well put together and cohesive, also securing another win the same night. This could mean a promising awards season for both Teddy Swims and Shaboozy.

As anticipation continues to build for the 67th Grammy Awards, the competition for Best New Artist is sure to be a promising watch for music fans. Covering different genres and sounds from Chappell Roan to Shaboozy, the Recording Academy has the opportunity to showcase a large range of musical sounds. With nominations being unveiled Nov. 8, music fans are anxiously waiting to see which of their favorites secure a nomination. Best New Artist highlights the voices that are contributing to a vast landscape of established stars, and it will be interesting to note who takes home the coveted golden record player.

"Monsters": Is Ryan Murphy crossing the line?

LORELAI HILARCZYK
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

I'm sure everyone has heard a joke about "pulling a Menendez." The story of two brothers who brutally murdered their parents with shotguns is not one you forget. And if you watch crime documentaries and 20/20 episodes with your mom like I do, then you've heard this one. Which brings me to Ryan Murphy and the new series collection of "Monsters," called "Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story."

Murphy has had a hand in well-known television shows like "Glee" and "American Horror Story." More recently, he co-created and produced "Monsters," with Ian Brennan, featuring the gruesome true stories of Jeffrey Dahmer and the Menendez brothers.

Needless to say, with Murphy's net worth of over $150 million, he can afford to cross lines and make controversial statements. And he certainly did that with "Monsters" season two.

The first episode, "Blame It on the Rain," opens with Lyle and Erik Menendez inside a hearse dressed in funeral attire. Erik realizes that Lyle is wearing their father's shoes and breaks down into tears, causing an argument between them. The interesting dynamic right off the bat pulls you into their clearly messed up heads.

"It's up to us now, right? And they would be proud of us. They would be proud of us," Erik says.

The story continues showing the aftermath of the murder, the crippling anxiety of Erik, and the psychotic rage episodes of Lyle. The details of the actual premeditation were done justice, which is surprising considering this was made for entertainment purposes. Hollywood is not known for its honesty.

But, the first episode does a great job of depicting what is said to have happened after the killings. Erik confides in therapist L. Jerome Oziel in October 1989, that he and Lyle were responsible for the murders. However, it wasn't until Oziel's mistress Judalon Smyth ran to the authorities after their nasty breakup in March 1990 and told them that Oziel had tapes of the brother's confession, leading to their arrest.

The real mystery you might be wondering: Who were these boys truly, and why would they kill their parents? In all honesty, the "why" is something we will never have a clear answer to.

As far as the boys go, we know they were rich kids living in mansions and buying whatever they wanted with daddy's money. Their father, Jose Menendez, immigrated from Cuba at 16-years-old and made a name for himself in America by working his way up the ladder. He worked within the music industry at RCA Records. Jose is said to have been a ruthless businessman, which is how Murphy portrays him.

In the show, Jose had a very controlling, obsessive, and abusive nature with the boys. Whether it was tennis practice or their girlfriends, Jose needed to control every aspect of his son's lives. Not only was Jose horrible to the boys, but he was also just as bad to his wife, Kitty. He was having multiple affairs, which drove Kitty to start taking pills, obsessively drink, and contemplate suicide.

Erik and Lyle later confess that their father had been sexually abusing them since they were little. After many detailed conversations with the lawyers about the father's actions, the brothers are visibly shaken. Episode five, "The Hurt Man," the viewer can expect to sit and watch 36 minutes of a detailed sexual assault encounter of Erik, who is telling his lawyer in jail; I have never been so uncomfortable in my life. Not only are the details so chilling and graphic, but the camera angle of the interview never changes. Stuck in a one-shot wide angle looking over the shoulder of Erik's attorney as he sits across the table in a dull jail room.

During the trial, Erik and Lyle tell their side of the story on the witness stand. However, the jury was not all convinced by Erik's performance. The jury ends in a deadlock, leading to a mistrial. In the end, none of it mattered: the sexual abuse, mental struggles, the broken Menendez family, because both brothers get life imprisonment without the possibility of parole and are separated. They had been separated until 2018, when they saw each other for the first time in 22 years.

The real problem with the show was Murphy's added homoerotic and incest plotlines. There is no actual evidence that the brothers were ever romantically involved. Murphy must have forgotten that these aren't fictional characters. They are real people who are currently sitting behind bars and were abused as children, leading to their mental breakdowns. If Murphy wanted to create a show about brothers who kill their parents because they have a thing for each other, then he should've just created a new story. That plotline took away from the abuse victim narrative and painted them as devious and sociopathic criminals. There were also many scenes about Erik Menendez being a closeted homosexual. In an interview with Barbara Walters, Erik explains that he is not gay, but felt confused for a long time because of his father's abuse. Another thing Murphy decided to ignore.

Outlets have reported that Erik Menendez released a statement the day after the show was released saying, "dishonest portrayal of the tragedies surrounding our crime have taken the painful truths several steps backward — back through time to an era when the prosecution built a narrative on a belief system that males were not sexually abused, and that males experienced rape trauma differently than women."

The Menendez family have all come out with a statement calling the show "repulsive" and "character assassination of Erik and Lyle." We will never have a full picture of the Menendez motive, but if even half of what was said in the show, interviews, and court documents; then these men were subjected to enough as young adults, we don't need their story for entertainment.

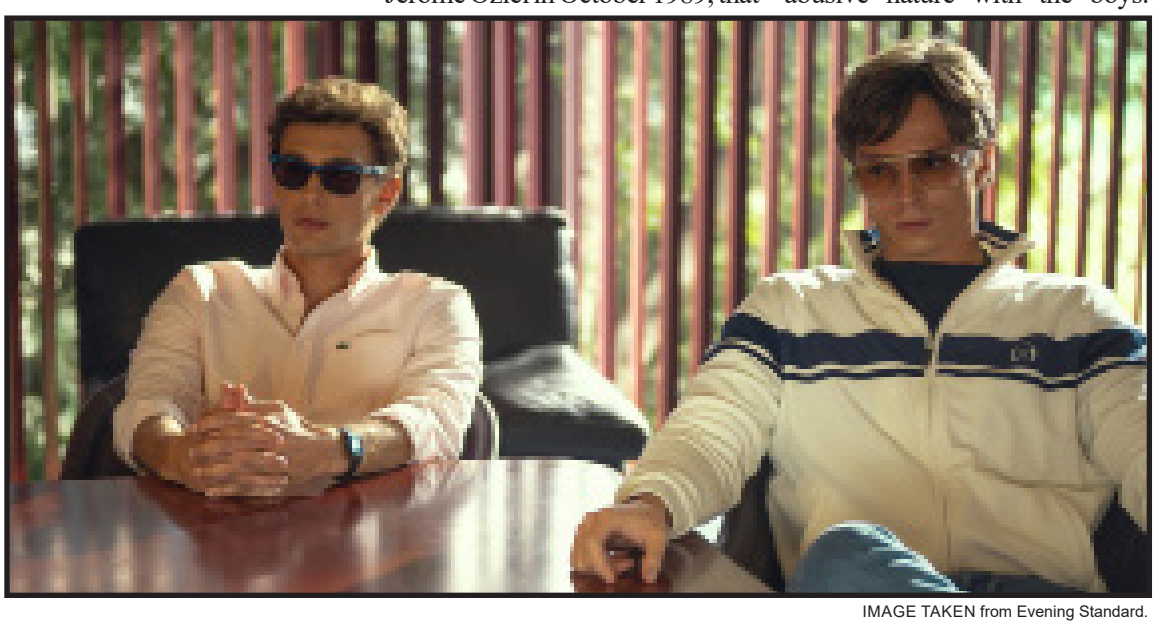


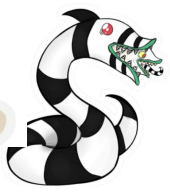
IMAGE TAKEN from Evening Standard.

"Monsters" stars Cooper Koch and Nicholas Alexander Chavez as Erik and Lyle Menendez.

Fall film recommendations

FELICE KOZAK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER










As the leaves turn colorful and the air begins to chill, there's no better time to watch a movie that captures the best qualities of fall. Whether you're in the mood for a nostalgic favorite, a feel-good film that's slightly spooky, or a frightening thrill, this list includes a variety of films for your viewing pleasure. Grab your blanket, some apple cider, and settle into the charm of autumn with one of these fall favorites.

Nostalgic Favorites:

"Hotel Transylvania":

Why it's perfect for fall: This playful, animated film is filled with humor and Halloween vibes,

Summary: Count Dracula runs a hotel exclusively for monsters to be themselves, but an unexpected human visitor causes a commotion when he appears at his daughter Mavis' birthday party.

Where to watch: Amazon Prime and Peacock.

"Harry Potter":

Why it's perfect for fall: This series captures the essence of autumn with Halloween feasts and the picturesque surroundings of Hogwarts.

Summary: Follow Harry, a young boy who went from a neglected child to a talented student who boards the Hogwarts school for wizards. He navigates life as mysteries begin to untangle and loyal friendships are made.

Where to watch: HBO Max, Amazon Prime, and Hulu.

"Twilight Saga":

Why it's perfect for fall: Taking place in the rainy Washington town of Forks, "Twilight" creates a mysterious yet romantic feel that's ideal for the fall season.

Summary: Misfit high schooler Bella Swan finds herself attracted to Edward Cullen, a vampire, as their relationship starts to exceed the supernatural.

Where to watch: Amazon Prime.

Spooky (Not Scary):

"The Addams Family":

Why it's perfect for fall: Quirky characters and ghastly humor intertwine in this timeless comedy/horror classic.

Summary: The mysterious Addams family is faced with danger when a con-artist tries to swindle their fortune.

Where to watch: Amazon Prime, and Paramount+.

"Beetlejuice":

Why it's perfect for fall: Tim Burton's eerie style paired with a combination of morbid, but amusing quips creates an entertaining film fitting for autumn.

Summary: A recently deceased couple reaches out to the mischievous ghost Beetlejuice to frighten away the new inhabitants of their former house.

Where to watch: HBO Max, Amazon Prime, and Hulu.

"Ghostbusters":

Why it's perfect for fall: The supernatural shenanigans of "Ghostbusters" are lighthearted enough to make this film a Halloween family favorite.

Summary: A group of scientists who became ghostbusters tackle paranormal threats in New York City.

Where to watch: Amazon Prime, and Hulu.

True Terror:

"The Shining":

Why it's perfect for fall: This iconic horror film's isolated setting and unsettling nature add to the eerie feeling of a chilly autumn night.

Summary: A family moves into a secluded hotel where a demonic entity drives the father to insanity.

Where to watch: HBO Max, Amazon Prime, and Hulu.

"A Quiet Place":

Why it's perfect for fall: The movie's tension and dreadful silence make it an enthralling option for a spooky evening.

Summary: A family must live in complete silence to escape horrific creatures that hunt using sound.

Where to watch: Amazon Prime, Hulu, Paramount+

"Scream":

Why it's perfect for fall: With Halloween night as the setting, this slasher is a must-watch that captures the essence of October with its suspenseful atmosphere.

Summary: A masked ghostface slasher terrorizes teenagers causing mass hysteria in the town of Woodsboro, leaving everyone to wonder who the killer is.

Where to watch: HBO Max, Amazon Prime, and Hulu.



IMAGES TAKEN from Pinterest.

A Conversation with Polling Institute Director Patrick Murray

BRENDAN SHEEHAN
POLITICS EDITOR

The Monmouth University Polling Institute was founded in 2005 and has since been led by Director Patrick Murray. The Institute is located on the first floor of the Plangere Center. Last year, FiveThirtyEight, a nonpartisan polling database, ranked Monmouth's Polling Institute fifth in the nation out of 589 polling centers. Why is Monmouth's Polling Institute ranked so high? Should polls be used to predict elections? Why should students be involved with politics? I spoke with Director Murray as early and mail-in voting begins across America to get his take on the state of polling, and beliefs about the polls ahead of the 2024 election.

Q: Polls seemed to show Hillary Clinton headed for a win in 2016. In 2020, polls underestimated Republican strength. In 2022, Republicans were favored to win big, but Democrats overperformed. Should we be relying on polls to predict the outcomes of future elections?

A: "Polls don't predict anything and as a pollster, I don't do any predicting... my job as a pollster is to tell people what things look like in the here and now... over the last few years, we've had these aggregators create prediction models, and in fact, I've done research on how media covers the polls, and it's all about who is going to win, and not about what issues are important for people. Then when their characterization of the race turns out to be wrong, they blame it on the pollsters. ...Sometimes there are issues with polls because they have a built-in range of error, particularly when you're doing it about something that's happening in the future. Polls measure the here and now of a known population really well and if you stick to just doing that, the polls will be fine. But, if you try to get them to feed all these prediction models, then you're going to end up with some errors because you are taking a chance of using a tool that's not meant to do that."

Q: The Institute partnered with The Washington Post to cover the 2024 presidential primaries. How did that partnership come about, and what was that like?

A: "Well, that was basically our reputation. We're one of the first media or academic polls to start using and relying on the voter lists for developing accurate samples as well as starting to move to text-based invitations for doing surveys online in combination with our live interviewing. ...We got contacted by the Washington Post who wanted to partner with us specifically because of what we were able to bring to the table."

Q: Is there a way for students interested to get involved with our Polling Institute?

A: "Yes, there is. We always have internships available for students who are interested in learning about polling. One of the things about being at a smaller school opposed to Rutgers or the University of Michigan, which also have polling centers, is that they have a larger base of students and methodology around survey research that happens in those academic programs. We don't have that happening in our academic programs at Monmouth all that much. So, what we try to do is bring in students from all different walks of life and all different majors and give them a place that's actually producing things in real time for an external audience. So, we've had students not just from political science, but also from psychology, history, English, social work, criminal justice, and the list goes on and on, who we found different things for them to do that help them understand how this whole system works and how you can use that to further your own experiences and ideas about what you might want to do."

Q: How long does it take to conduct an average poll?

A: "It usually takes about a week or so if you're doing an external poll like the polls we just released, national polls on the election scene in Pennsylvania. We have an idea of the kind of questions we want to ask and we put a questionnaire together. From the time we finish the questionnaire to the time we release our data is usually seven or eight days. Now, there are some other polls that take longer to do, the ones that you don't see which are the ones where we work with the faculty members on their research projects, there's a lot more back and forth and background research that goes into those polls, they usually take a little longer to conduct."

Q: Why is it important for students to get involved in politics?

A: "You tend to think that politics doesn't affect you, and particularly, this generation has been raised in an era in which government hasn't worked all that well. I can understand why you would think that, 'Why should I get involved with government? There are other ways I can contribute to my community, without getting into government and politics because I've never seen anything producing out of it,' and I can fully understand that. But, there was a time when people believed that government could work and that our system could make a difference for a significant number of people. The only way we get back to that is if more people participate. You have to be able to see that what you believe matters and that they can make a difference. But, you've also got to be able to accept that things aren't going to change overnight. Government, when it works best, works slowly."

Q: How do you think polling impacts how people think or behave on Election Day?

A: "That's something I think we have to be very careful about. My feeling has always been if I can't tell an accurate story from the polling data about what the state of an election is, or what the state of public opinion is on particular policy issues, then I'm not doing my job right and there's no reason to do polling - doesn't mean you have to be absolutely on the money when you are saying somebody's ahead or behind by a couple of points, but the underlying story has to be accurate. Is it a close election? Is it an election where somebody's running away with it and if so, why? Can you explain those things? If it's an election where you're not sure that there's a range of things that could happen because you're seeing countervailing factors playing out in the electorate, then you have to be able to tell that story as well."



IMAGE TAKEN from Monmouth University Polling Institute.
Director Murray with Megyn Kelly on FOX News in 2016.



IMAGE TAKEN from Monmouth University Polling Institute.
Director Murray with Rachel Maddow on MSNBC in 2015.



IMAGE TAKEN from Monmouth University Polling Institute.
Director Murray with Wolf Blitzer on CNN in 2016.

The Outlook

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to another year of *The Outlook*! My name is Taylor Memoli and I am so honored to be this year's Editor-In-Chief and News editor! I can't wait to work with each of you. I am so passionate about The Outlook, and I hope all of you will want to share that passion with me. Student journalism is incredibly important. As students, you have the right to know what is going on within your campus, and at The Outlook, we promise to promote honest and informative articles that educate students on what is going on around them here at Monmouth University. If anyone has any questions or story ideas for The Outlook, please feel free to reach out to me at any time! My email is s1321538@monmouth.edu. Happy reading!

- Taylor Memoli, Editor-in-Chief and News Editor

Hi everyone! My name is Bailey Fredericks and I'm this year's Managing Editor & Lifestyles Section Editor. I'm so excited for this year & to read all the awesome articles everyone writes! If you would like to write for the lifestyles section or have any other questions about The Outlook, please email me at s1321296@monmouth.edu! I look forward to a great year. :)

-Bailey Fredericks, Managing and Lifestyles Editor

PRSSA

Welcome back Hawks! Join the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) & Shadow PR, Monmouth's student-run and nationally affiliated PR firm, for meetings every Wednesday at 3 pm in Plangere 234. PRSSA gives students the opportunity to gain real experience in the PR world through hands-on work with local clients and guest speaker events. All majors & grade levels are welcome!

- Bailey Fredericks, Co-President



College Republicans

Welcome back patriot Hawks! We are so excited to see you all and work to preserve your freedoms on and off of campus this year! Get out and vote!

-NJFCR Chair Jacky Bruno and MUCR Chair Giavanna Cangialosi

College Democrats

We have 34 reasons you should join the College Democrats. Join Team Freedom today!

- Owen Bros, President

Real Estate Club

Hello everyone! Welcome back to campus. We will be having our meetings on the following Wednesdays from 2:45-4:00 in Bey room 222: 9/25, 10/30, 11/13, 2/19, and 3/19.

These meetings will be similar to last year, our goal is to have guest speakers at all of them.

Can't wait to see you all there!

- Margaret and Kaitlyn, President and Vice President

"College Core" - WMCX

Hey Hawks, did you miss us? Tune into College Core Radio every Monday night from 7-9 on WMCX 88.9 or the RadioFx app to hear us yap about all things college! We also play some really awesome tunes.

xoxo - Bailey & Sarah

SAB

SAB wants to wish everyone good luck for this school year! Make sure to follow @monmouth_sab on Instagram to keep up with future events happening around campus! We look forward to seeing everyone!

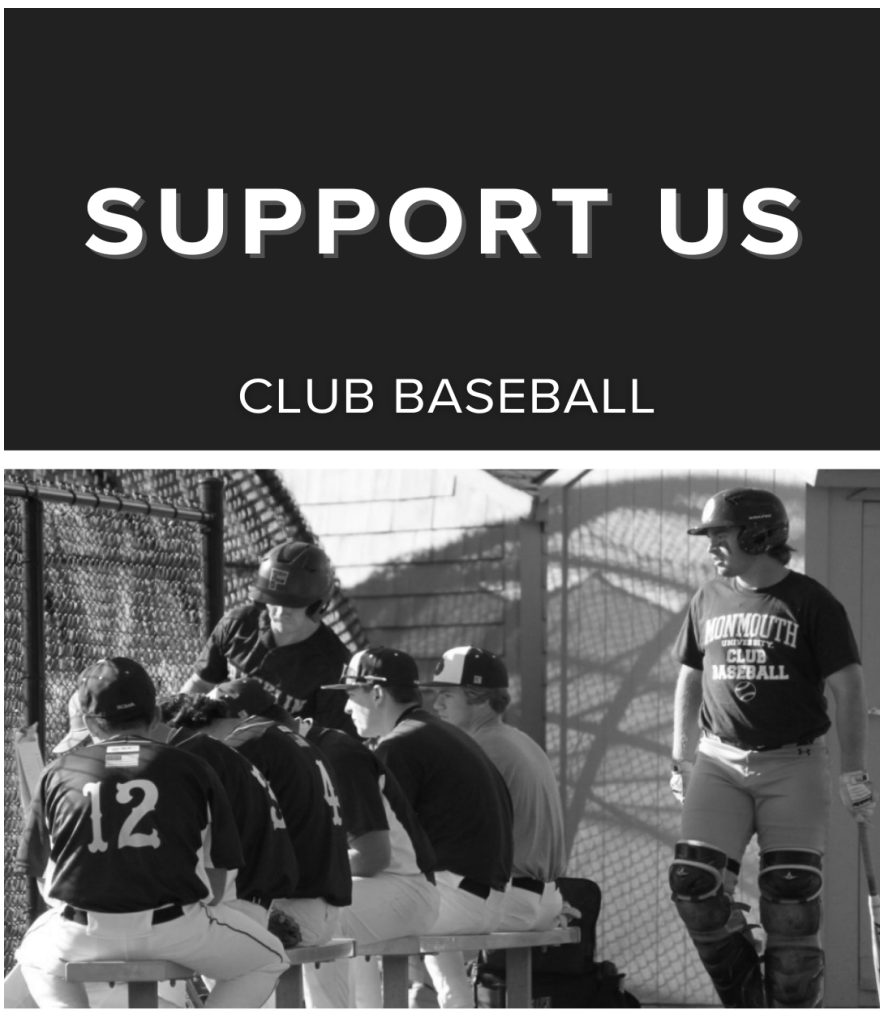
- Emily Webb, Marketing Chair

Social Justice Club

Hey Hawks! We're so excited to start another year of tackling pressing social issues, on and off campus. If this sounds like your thing, find us on Instagram @mu_socialjustice for meeting info, we would love to have you!

-Kristen Frawley, Treasurer







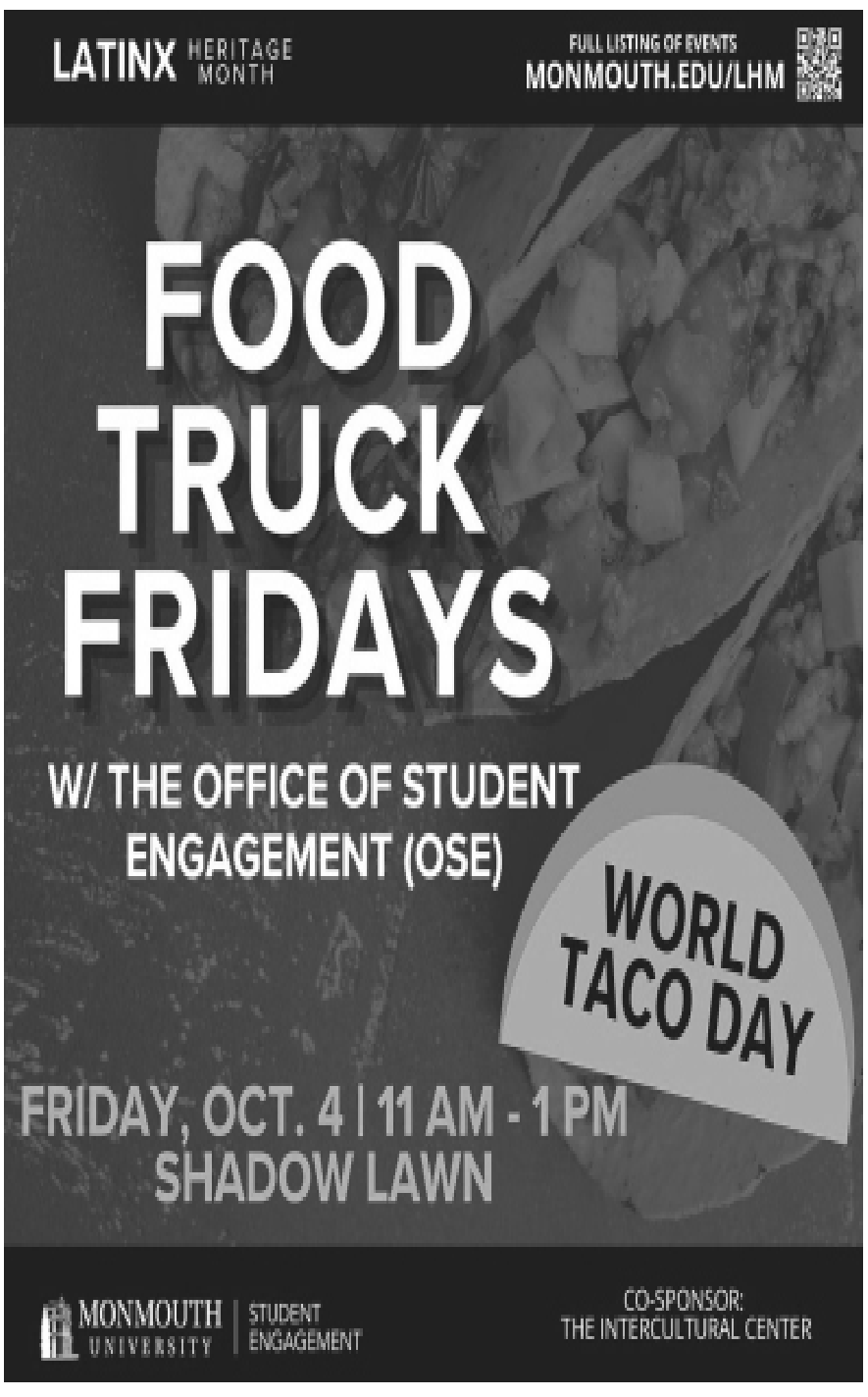
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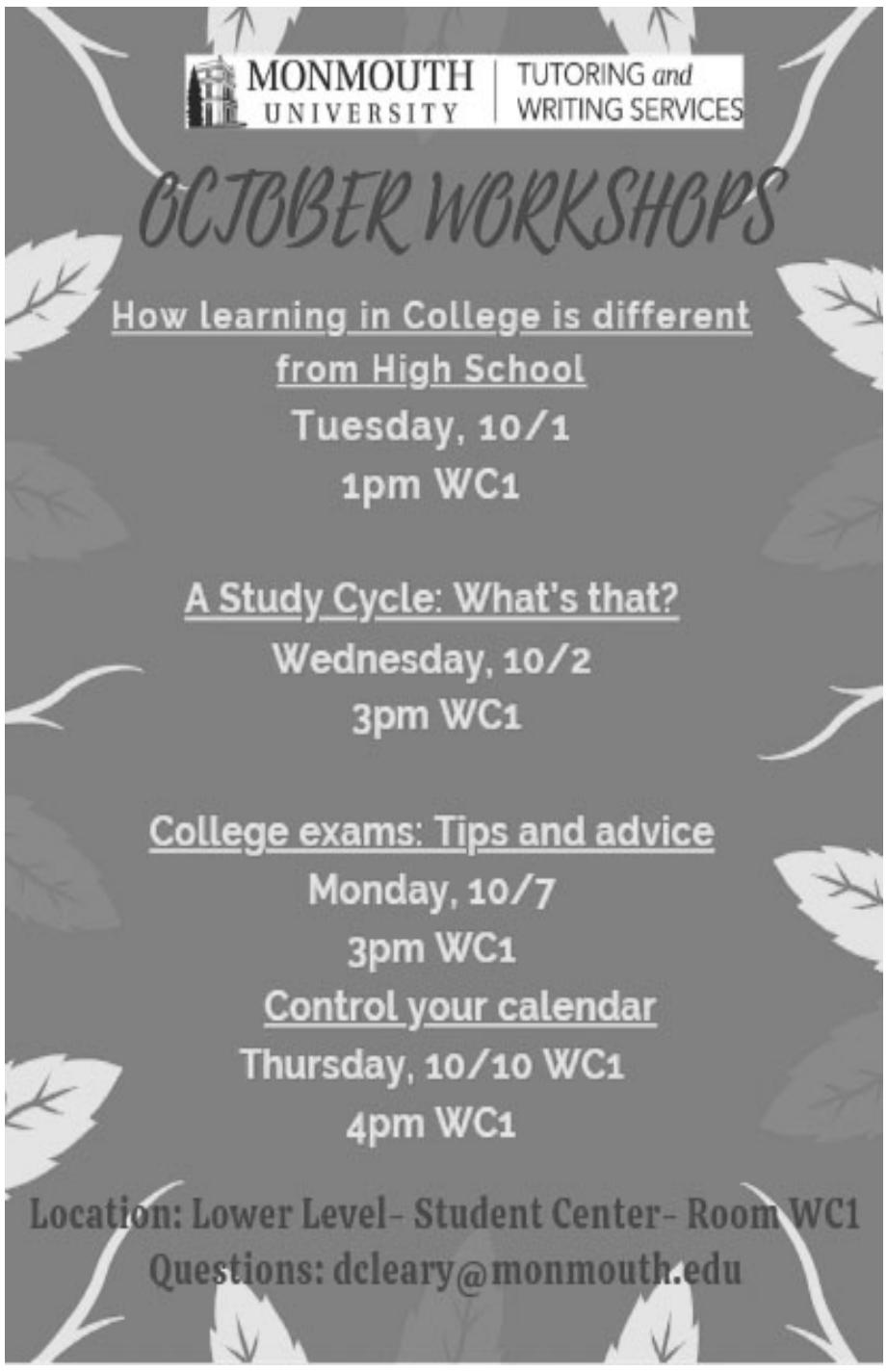
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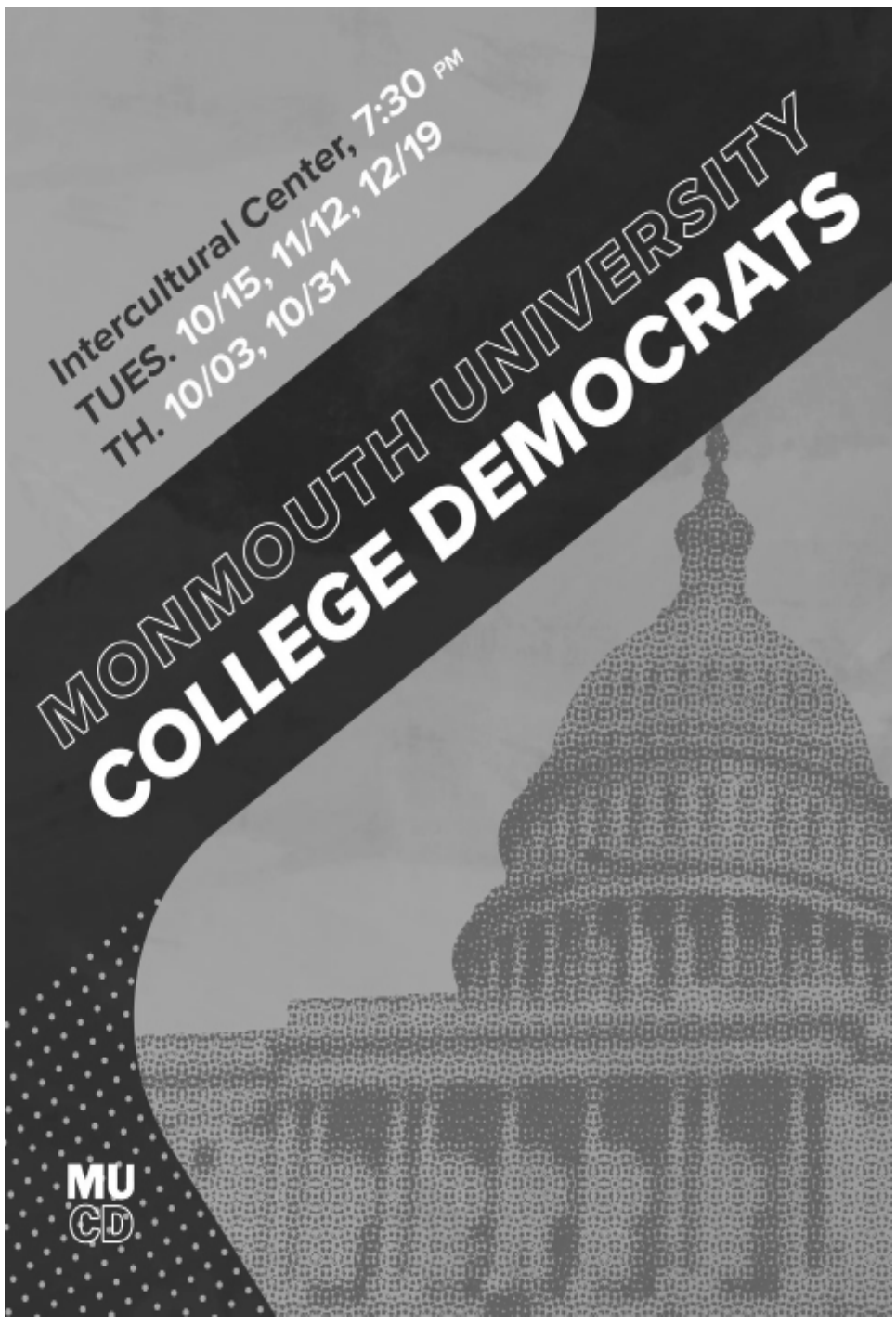
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4pm WC1
Location: Lower Level- Student Center- Room WC1
Questions: dcleary@monmouth.edu


Intercultural Center, 7:30 PM
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TH. 10/03, 10/31
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SAB
STUDENT ACTIVITIES BOARD
MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

Football offense has a record setting day in a comfortable win over Fordham

DYLAN LANE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Monmouth Hawks (3-2) had another school record set in a win over the Fordham Rams (0-5) with the final score being 63-21. The Hawks set the record for the most points scored at Kessler Stadium with 63. The Hawks scored 61 last October against Hampton but scored 2 more this weekend to beat the previous record. An impressive win for the Hawks considering the harsh rain and windy conditions that were endured during the game.

The Hawks wasted no time putting points onto the board as running back Mahki Green took the opening kickoff all the way back on a 100-yard kickoff return for a touchdown to put the Hawks up 7-0.

The Rams then responded and went 72 yards in six minutes which was capped by a 9-yard rushing touchdown by running back Julius Loughridge. This was the first and last time the game was tied.

The Hawks responded in a perfect 87-yard drive which was finished by running back Sone Ntoh who was able to power through for a 1-yard rushing touchdown to give them a 14-7 lead.

The Rams were forced to punt and the Hawks went 70 yards down the field in which Ntoh finished off the drive with a 3-yard rushing touchdown to put the Hawks up 21-7.

Another quick Rams drive resulted in a punt. The Hawks responded once again when running back Rodney Nelson ran for 34 yards. Two plays later Nelson got into the endzone for a 26 yard rushing touchdown to put the Hawks up 28-7.

The Rams had another three and out which led to a punt that only went 33 yards. It took one play for Ntoh to take it 64 yards for a touchdown. Monmouth went up 35-7 and Ntoh already had three rushing touchdowns on the day.

The Rams were able to find a spark in which they went 75-yards in under five minutes finishing with a Loughridge touchdown, his second touchdown of the game. This made the score 35-14. The Rams desperately needed a stop defensively if they wanted to get back into the game.

But for the second time in regulation the Hawks returned a kickoff for a touchdown. This time it was wide receiver TJ Speight who returned it 79 yards. Monmouth went up 42-14 with 4:44 left in the first half.

The Rams found themselves in a hole in which they could not move the ball. Another three and out which resulted in a punt. The Hawks found the endzone again with Ntoh scoring a 7-yard rushing touchdown with 33 seconds left in the half. The Hawks took a commanding 49-14 lead and the Rams ran the clock out to get out of the half.

The Rams knew they needed to score if they wanted to make a comeback. They came out throwing the ball aggressively on the first drive to start the half but were only able to gain one yard and were forced to punt. Monmouth only needed five plays to find the endzone again. Quarterback Derek Roberston found wide receiver Tra Neal for a 27-yard touchdown. This grew the lead to 56-14.

Fordham was able to pick up a few first downs on their next possession but on 4th-and-10 at Monmouth's 47, the Rams were not able to pick up the first down and Monmouth took over on downs.

Monmouth took little to no time to capitalize on the turnover and went 53 yards in three minutes which was concluded by a 2-yard rushing touchdown by Ntoh. This gave Ntoh his fifth touchdown of the game and Monmouth went up 63-14.

The next two drives were punts by both teams and when Fordham got the ball back at there own 20, they went 80 yards in 10 plays in which Fordham quarterback Jack Capaldi found Fordham wide receiver Jack Freeburg with 12 minutes left in the fourth quarter. The score was now 63-21.

Both Fordham and Monmouth defense played strong for the rest of the game and prevented any touchdowns from growing the score. The final score was 63-21 in which the Hawks recorded 407 rushing yards next to Fordham's 108.

Monmouth (3-2) will take on Delaware (4-0) on Saturday Oct. 5 at Kesler Stadium. This will be a big test for the Hawks who are on a two game winning streak.



PHOTO COURTESY of Connor Graf.

CAA player of the week honors

MAIREAD SPELLACY
SPORTS EDITOR

After a record setting performance for Monmouth football on Saturday Sept. 28 against Fordham, two Hawks were awarded CAA player of the week honors following their performance. Running back Makhi Green earned CAA Special Teams Player of the Week while running back Sone Ntoh earned CAA Offensive Player of the Week. Green set the tempo for the Hawks early on, on the game opening kickoff when he completed 100 yards for his first-career kickoff return touchdown. He finished with 143 yards on the day. Ntoh completed an outstsanding offensive performance as he leads the FCS with 12 rushing touchdowns. Not only does he lead the FCS but his team with five touchdowns, a team-record tying performance. His 135 yards were a career high and he now sits tied at eighth in Monmouth history with 26 career touchdowns. Ntoh currently leads the FCS with 12 rushing touchowns.



PHOTO COURTESY of Connor Graf
Sone Ntoh is named CAA Offensive Player of the Week.



PHOTO COURTESY of Connor Graf
Makhi Green is named CAA Special Teams Player of the Week.

Men's soccer remains unbeaten after 0-0 tie against Charleston

MAIREAD SPELLACY
SPORTS EDITOR

Mens soccer (4-0-5) stands unbeaten after facing College of Charleston (7-2-1) in a Coastal Athletic Association (CAA) matchup on Saturday Sept. 28 down in South Carolina, where the match ended in a 0-0 tie.

Pressure was applied early on, on both sides of the field as the Hawks and the Cougars went back-and-forth, allowing both goalkeepers to get a piece of the ball.

As the Hawks continued to apply pressure, forward Jakob Friedman and forward Victor Andersson attacked Charleston goalkeeper Olly Marshall, but were unable to get past him.

Goalkeeper Eryk Dymora secured his fourth shutout of the season with five saves, the 17th of his career. Dymora played a key role in the Hawks performance on Saturday, preventing the Cougars from getting on the board.

Dymora made a pair of saves early on in the contest as Marshall made a save of his own from an Erik Reis shot. Reis along with defensemen Bastian Hatcher led the Hawks with three shots each, two of Reis' on goal.

Monmouth and Charleston continued to fight, a majority of the first half played in the midfield. The score remained 0-0 at the half.

In the 57th minute, Reis was able to get a piece of the ball, but was stopped once again by Marshal. Dymora responded in the 70th minute with a pair of diving saves that kept the Cougars off the board.

Neither team backed down, battling until the very end, but neither team was able to get on the board before the end of regulation.

Both goalkeepers remained solid in goal, and after a long and hard fought battle the Hawks remain unbeaten not only in CAA play but on the season. The all-time series now sits at 2-2-1 between the Cougars and the Hawks over the course of twelve years.

The Hawks finished with nine shots, four of them on goal allowing Charleston goalkeeper to make four saves. While the Cougars finished with 11 shots, five of them on goal.

Monmouth will face Delaware Saturday Oct. 5 where they will look to secure their second ever win over Delaware, as they sit with one loss and one win against them going into the match.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics

Erik Reis led The Hawks alongside Bastian Hatcher with three shots, putting two of them on goal.



PHOTO COURTESY of Max Vittorio

The Hawks were not able to walk away with a victory but remains unbeaten.

Women's soccer capture 3-0 win over W&M

MAIREAD SPELLACY
SPORTS EDITOR

It was Summer Reimet's pair of goals that helped Monmouth secure their 3-0 win over William & Mary on Thursday Sept. 28. As William & Mary were coming off of two back-to-back wins to begin CAA play, Monmouth would have to get past William & Mary's goalkeeper, Jazzy Lorenz, and they did just that.

With seven matchups in the all-time series, none of which Monmouth were able to come out on top of, they knew they would have to apply pressure early. Within the first 20 minutes, the Hawks had already fired off five shots, attempting to get on the board early.

The Hawks continued to try and find opportunities offensively but Lorenz for the Tribe showcased her skill with a couple of great saves.

After a Monmouth ball off the crossbar and a pair of saves from goalkeeper Cassie Coster, both teams remained scoreless at the half.

The second half, the Hawks came alive and just 10 minutes into the second half forward Ashley Lavrich found forward Summer Reimet who sent the ball into the corner of the net to give Monmouth their first goal of the day.

Reimet added her second goal of the day in the 72nd minute when midfielder Liza Suydam found her on the right hand corner of the goal.

The Hawks final goal came in the 83rd minute when forward Loren Gehret sent the ball into the far corner of the net, past Lorenz, to set the final score at 3-0.

Coster recorded her fifth shutout of the season and twenty fifth of her career after five saves against the Tribe. Remeit's seventh goal this season not only secured her season-high but her career high as well after her six goals as a freshman.

The Hawks will take on Stony Brook on Thursday Oct. 3 in Stony Brook, N.Y.



PHOTO COURTESY of Anya Kazmierczak

Summer Reimet had a pair of goals against William & Mary to lead the Hawks to a 3-0 victory.

CAA Offensive Player of the Week
Summer Reimet



PHOTO COURTESY of Anya Kazmierczak

CAA Co-Defensive Player of the Week
Cassie Coster



PHOTO COURTESY of Luke Schlaifer Photo, LLC.



A RECORD SETTING PERFORMANCE FOR FOOTBALL

Following Monmouth football's historical win over FIU, they secured a 63-21 win over Fordham in a record setting performance.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 14

PHOTO COURTESY of Connor Graf