

The Outlook

Monmouth University's Student-Run Newspaper EST. 1933

February 19, 2025

Monmouth University

West Long Branch

New Jersey

VOL. 97 No. 15

College Republicans engage in online hate speech

TAYLOR MEMOLI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/NEWS EDITOR

MAIREAD SPELLACY
SPORTS EDITOR

***This story was produced in collaboration with "The Signal" at The College of New Jersey

THE BACKGROUND

Last November, Members of the Monmouth University College Republicans participated in the The College of New Jersey's (TCNJ) College Republicans GroupMe chat where many hateful and bigoted opinions were expressed targeting members of the Jewish, Palestinian, and LGBTQIA+ communities.

TCNJ's student-run newspaper, "The Signal," shed light on TCNJ's College Republicans GroupMe in the editorial titled, "When is it enough? Students deserve action from Student Conduct" published on Feb. 7. The article included images of some of the posts, majority of which were, turns out, posted by a MU College Republican club member. One such post made by the high-ranking E-Board member of MU's College Republicans club stated, "These people would get bullied n humbled at monmouth," referring to the members of the TCNJ's LGBTQIA+ community and pride club, PRISM.

We set out to check the accuracy of this, and similar comments made in the GroupMe chatroom. The chatroom was available to the public through the link posted on the TCNJ's College Republicans GroupMe Instagram page. Anyone with the link was able to access the chat. The link was removed shortly after the "The Signal" editorial was published.

The content of the chat was documented by screenshots taken by an unnamed source.

"We received a tip from another individual outside of 'The Signal' who alerted us to messages being sent about 'The Signal's' editors related to a recent election story that was published," stated Tristan Weisenbach, Editor-in-Chief of "The Signal."

The screenshots of the messages were shared with "The Outlook." Of the 16 screenshots that have been provided to us, 36 messages were posted by the member of Monmouth University who identified themselves in the chat. The individual is on MU's College Republican Club's E-Board. At least one other member of the club participated in the chat.

At TCNJ, the editorial members strongly condemned the statements but also called for action from the administration after they filed a bias report with the TCNJ's Office of Student Conduct last November. On Dec. 18, 2024, per the editorial, they were informed that there was insufficient evidence to bring charges as per the Student Conduct Code.

"We thought it was important to write the editorial because we shouldn't tolerate that kind of hate on our campus. Our school did not take any disciplinary action against the students, and we thought they [referring to the administration] should have done more," Weisenbach said.

TCNJ President, Michael Bernstein responded to the editorial in the form of a "Letter to the editor" published in "The Signal" on Feb. 11. In the letter, Bernstein responded directly to the sentiments expressed in the original editorial, i.e., that the school should have done more to address the hateful comments. "While I understand the desire expressed in 'The Signal' editorial piece to see disciplinary action taken in this matter, our obligation as a public institution of higher education necessitates caution and prudence in pursuing any steps that inappropriately infringe upon free speech rights," Bernstein wrote.

Bernstein referred to the First Amendment and the Supreme Court, to argue that the speech was not offensive enough for formal

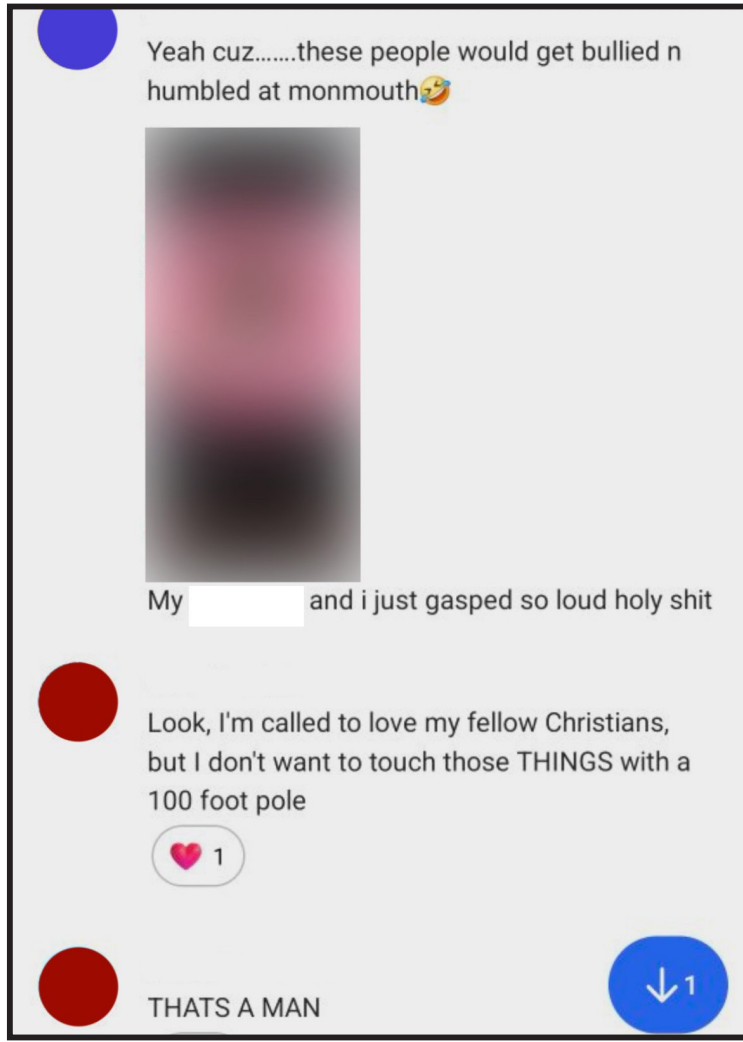


PHOTO TAKEN from GroupMe.

Figure 1: The identities of the individuals in all screenshots are concealed. A blue dot represents the Monmouth student while the red dot represents TCNJ students in each figure.

action to take place. According to Bernstein, in reference to the Supreme Court, speech must be "so severe, pervasive, and objectionably offensive that it can be said to deprive the victims of access to the educational opportunities or benefits provided by the school." Bernstein also added, "...the First Amendment does not shield those who made the comments 'from criticism by students, faculty, or the broader community. Criticism is a form of 'more speech,' the remedy to offensive expression the First Amendment prefers to censorship."

However, Mac Ziminski the President of TCNJ's PRISM club believes that their educational opportunities were affected. "I thought it couldn't be that bad until I read it [the chat] and then they [chat participants] were dehumanizing my friends. They called [retracted reference to individual] a pedophile, they

thought that we were going to die for a fundraiser to give water to people that don't have access to it, and so many other awful things like making fun of our friend's nicknames, which is a very normal thing to have... It just kept getting worse and worse the more you kept reading. Nobody from the administration talked to me or any of the victims about how this has impacted our education. Last semester, I didn't do work for a week... I was too emotional to focus on it and now the same thing is happening again. To say my education has not been destructed is a lie," said Ziminski.

President Bernstein did condemn the comments and stated that not all the participants in the chat were TCNJ students. "The Signal's" editorial focused on hateful comments made last fall by participants (not all of whom were TCNJ students) in the GroupMe chat of a

recognized student organization. Let me say upfront that I found the comments to be abhorrent and wholly inconsistent with the College's values," concluded Bernstein.

THE MESSAGES

The high-ranking member of the MU College Republicans Club mentioned Monmouth twice in the messages they posted. One message consisted of the individual stating they attend Monmouth along with their position on the College Republican E-board (See Figure 6). We found that the bulk of the messages posted by the MU College Republicans were targeted at the LGBTQIA+ community.

While the entirety of the contents weren't shared with us, of the messages that were shared, five demonstrated the Monmouth student engaging in LGBTQIA+ hate speech. The exact dates and order of these messages were not available in the screenshots provided to the paper, but we've learned from TCNJ's editorial staff that the messages were sent in November after the presidential elections were concluded, on or around Nov. 17, 2024.

We examined several of the screenshots containing the posts. The first instance was a reaction to a member of TCNJ's College Republican's sending a screenshot of a "Paint N Sip" event hosted by TCNJ's PRISM. The event benefitted Palestinians through attendee donations to "Operation Olive Branch." The Monmouth member responded in three separate messages, "U realize," "Ppl [people] on palestine," "Would kill any gay person" (See Figure 3).

In the second instance, a TCNJ member sent a screenshot of the "Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil," also hosted by PRISM. In response, the Monmouth member stated in three separate messages, "Are you fucking seriois [sic]," "This is disgusting," "Who tf [the fuck]

Hate speech cont. on pg. 2

INSIDE:

NEWS

College Republicans engage in online hate speech

Pg. 1-3

ENTERTAINMENT

"A Bronx Tale": Starring Chazz Palminteri

Pg. 8

SPORTS

Men's basketball hit the road

Pg. 14

INDEX

News	2
Editorial	4
Opinion	5
Features	6
Lifestyles	7
Entertainment	8
Politics	10
Clubs & Greek Life	11
Sports	14



outlook.monmouth.edu



Got a tip? Tell us.

cont. from pg. 1

would wanna participate in that” (See Figure 4).

The event honored “those who lost their lives to transphobic hate crimes,” as stated on the flyer.

In the third instance, a screenshot of a TCNJ student’s Instagram page was sent to the TCNJ College Republicans GroupMe. The Monmouth member stated in two separate messages, “Wht [sic] the fuck is that thing,” “Thats a thing,” referring to the person in the image (See Figure 5).

In the fourth instance, a screenshot of the PRISM Instagram page—which showed an introduction of a member of the club—was sent by the Monmouth member on Nov. 17, 2024. With the photo, the Monmouth member said in two separate messages, “Thats a minor???” “Queer studies.” (See Figure 2). This comment was regarding the academic minor of the TCNJ student in the post. To this message, a TCNJ GroupMe member questioned the gender of the TCNJ student in the post, “[retracted name of the student] is a ‘man’????” After this, the Monmouth student responded, “Queer studies minors must love minors” (See Figure 2).

Finally, in the fifth screenshot, another post from the PRISM Instagram page was sent introducing another member of the club. Included with the sending of this post, the Monmouth member stated, “Yeah cuz.....these people would get bullied n humbled at monmouth,” followed by a laughing emoticon (See Figure 1).

REACTIONS

We reached out to many faculty, students, and the members of administration here at Monmouth for comments.

“I’m going to be honest; I am disgusted by the comments made

by Monmouth students, but not surprised,” stated Sarah George, President of Monmouth’s Pride Club.

“During my time here, Monmouth University has become more diverse with each passing year, however, the culture remains the same. Admins boast about their strides in diversity, equity, and inclusion, yet shun anything that doesn’t maintain the status quo. This reinforces an environment where students can spread heinous messages with little to no repercussions. Our E-Board had to report hateful messages from students to administrators previously and next to nothing had been done. I hate that these comments are not being taken seriously, but I know that our community grows stronger each day,” George said.

We reached out to President Leahy for a comment and we recieved the following statement via email, “I’m not sure I fully understand what’s going on here, but, regardless, I unequivocally condemn hate speech of any kind. It does not represent the values of Monmouth University at all. And, I do not believe these sentiments are widely circulated around Monmouth.”

Growing diversity at Monmouth has been one of the main strategic goals. About 34% of the roughly 850 incoming first-year students identified as racially and ethnically diverse, according to the AOL article, “Monmouth University’s new freshman are most diverse group in school’s 91-year history.”

Dr. James Pillar, Vice President for Student Life, condemned the statements while emphasizing MU’s freshman’s class diversity. “Monmouth currently has the most diverse class in 91 years after the enrollment of the freshman class in the fall,” he said. “The statements made were offensive and they are contrary to the values we strive for at Monmouth.” He continued, “I encourage all students to engage with one another in a mature manner that promotes a mutual understanding. Language that demeans or disrespects others does not belong in any community.”

Pillar further elaborated, “As a community, we take pride in the diversity of our student body and view it as a strength

of our institution. The comments referenced in the GroupMe do

not represent Monmouth, our students, or our commitment to creating a welcoming campus for all. Reading the published (TCNJ) article saddened me, as it reinforces the need for all of us to be committed to caring for one another and engaging in respectful conversations. We must continue working together to foster a campus where mutual respect remains at the center of who we are.”

Regarding the specific

“I’m going to be honest; I am disgusted by the comments made by Monmouth students, but not surprised.”

- Sarah George, President of Monmouth’s Pride Club

comment implicating Monmouth and making inferences about the Monmouth culture, George, explained, “These people would get bullied n humbled at monmouth,” that is vile. The administration should be ashamed that students on campus believe that bullying members of the LGBTQIA+ community is in any way right. However, as I’ve stated before, I do not think members of the Pride Club would be surprised by these comments. Unfortunately, too many of our members have been victims of bigotry and ignorance on campus before. The Pride Club is founded on inclusivity and kindness - values that not everyone can appreciate. And yet, we chose to be louder, and our support is growing. We have a solid network of support through faculty and professional staff,” said George.

Zaneta Rago-Craft, Ed.D., Intercultural Center Director and Advisor to the President on Diversity and Inclusion said, “This comment [referring to the GroupMe chat post refrencing Monmouth] does not reflect the values we strive to uphold as a campus community. That does not mean that our campus community is without bias, nor does it mean we don’t have room to grow in fostering understanding and inclusion, especially amongst our students. We all have a role to play in committing to creating an environment where all students feel safe, respected, and valued.”

Pride Club organized a general meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 19 where the comments were addressed and members had an opportunity to show support for one another, according to

George. “As of right now, I do not know how many of our members have been made aware of what happened since there have been no mentions of it in our group chats. While some try to tear us down, our community is strong. Our E-Board is even more determined to increase our visibility on campus. The LGBTQIA+ community is built on resilience and hardship, and we are stronger for it. We will not hide while hate is being normalized,” she said.

From a student perspective, Lauren Bevacqua, senior English and education major, stated, “As a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, I am extremely disappointed with the words and statements said. I have felt safe on Monmouth’s campus and have never witnessed anybody being bullied because of their gender or sexuality. If that were to happen, those people need to keep their opinions to themselves and should be reported for making homophobic or transphobic comments.”

Faculty advisor of The Pride Club, Amanda Stojanov, M.F.A., and Assistant Professor, in Digital Media, explained that no student should have to worry about discrimination from their own community. “It is always distressing to hear of hateful speech occurring in any community, especially on a college campus. Students come primarily to learn, but they are also here to build lasting relationships and create formative experiences that shape their personal and academic growth. They deserve to experience all of this in an environment free from discrimination.”

Professor of Sociology and Helen Bennett McMurray Endowed Chair of Social Ethics, Johanna Foster said, “Those statements are abhorrent, and also enraging. It was heartbreaking to learn they were authored by a member of our MU student community.”

Foster continued to explain that hate speech often flourishes online due to the detached yet intimate nature—known as “social distance”—that can occur simultaneously in group chats such as this. “In social interactions that are intimate,” she said, “the rules or norms often allow people to share

sentiments that would not be welcome outside of the intimate space. Likewise, when the social distance is very wide, and when there is no real immediate accountability from others to enforce norms of respect and decency, people can get away with being outrageous or hurtful because the normative check is not as potent.”

Foster added, “While students have speech rights that permit the utterance of derogatory sentiments, it does not mean we have to condone them or be silent about their cruelty and the harm that their protected expression creates, especially if we value a community where the dignity and safety of all of our members is a reality and not just lip service.”

She further encouraged educators and students alike to utilize their own free speech to promote frank dialogue about the negative effects of hate speech. “Right now, many people, including our nation’s leaders, are keen to protect the free speech rights of people to share their ill-informed and hateful prejudicial values and beliefs, but are also actively moving to criminalize teachers’ rights to educate students about why and how those values and beliefs are misguided, harmful, and also often plain wrong. You can’t protect hate speech and at the same time censor the voices that are calling it out. To do so is a kind of authoritarianism,” Foster concluded.

Although this type of hate speech is covered under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, the statements made clearly constitute cyberbullying. According to stopbullying.gov, “Cyberbullying includes sending, posting, or sharing negative, harmful, false, or mean content about someone else.”

Hate speech cont. on pg. 3

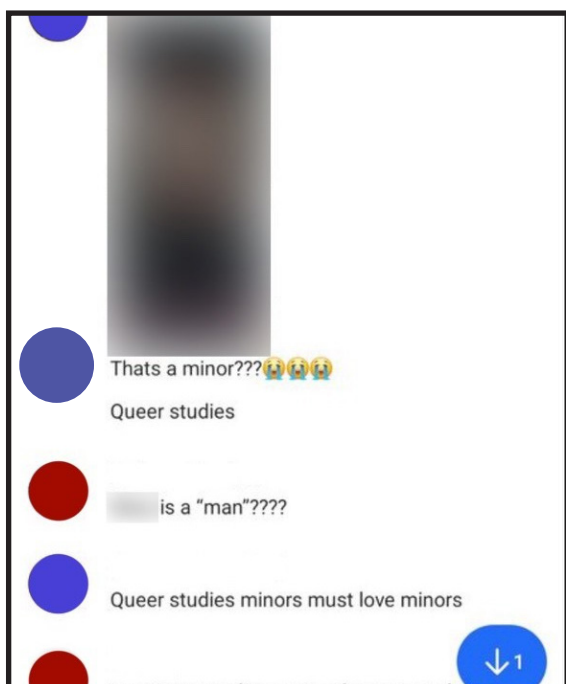


PHOTO TAKEN from GroupMe.

Figure 2

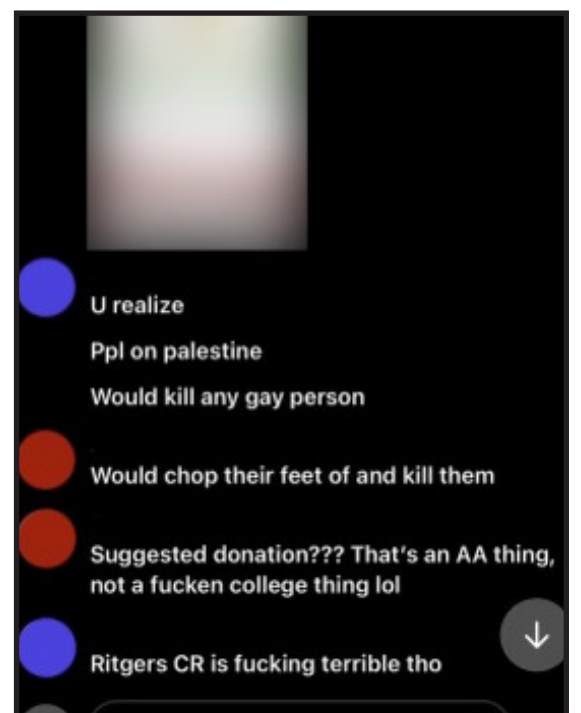


PHOTO TAKEN from GroupMe.

Figure 3

cont. from pg. 2

ACCOUNTABILITY

“The purpose of the College Republicans is to make known and promote the principles of the Republican Party among members of the campus and community,” says the statement found on MU’s Campus Life webpage, and under the Clubs and Organizations listing. We asked Giavanna Cangialosi, the President of MU College Republicans if the chat comments support these stated goals.

“Although everyone is entitled to free speech and their own opinions, the opinions of one individual do not reflect those of a whole organization,” said Cangialosi. “Assuming that certain comments represent the opinions of a whole group, regardless of viewpoint or topic, is misleading and feeds negative stereotypes...In short, these messages were disappointing and unacceptable. They were wrong and hurtful,” she said.

We also asked whether she believes that the poster of these messages should or will be facing any consequences, Cangialosi replied, “Yes.” At the time of the publication of this article, no members of the College Republican’s E-board have stepped down, and we are not aware if anyone is, or will be facing any consequences.

Cangialosi also asserted that she does not think there is a reason to believe sentiments like these are directed at students who attend Monmouth University. “From the looks of the messages, none of the messages were towards/about any student at Monmouth University.”

We were also keen on getting the views on the chat messages and the potential accountability for the poster of the messages from the MU College Republicans Club’s advisor. The Office of Student Engagement

informed us that the club does not currently have one.

Student Government Association (SGA) President, Tanner Purdy, said that these comments go against the sense of community at Monmouth, and the SGA’s efforts to promote it. “It is always our hope and expectation that students from all organizations are being good representatives of Monmouth University,” he said. “SGA was very disappointed to learn that members of this student body allegedly made the comments referenced. We unequivocally condemn the presence of cultural and social insensitivity/hate in any space where students congregate, be it in a physical or virtual environment. The SGA strives to create an inclusive atmosphere both in the confines of our organization and the campus community at large.”

Purdy continued, “It is our belief that the higher education space stands to serve as a place where people from different backgrounds and perspectives should be able to come together and learn from one another, and we continue to work with students, faculty, and institutional partners to achieve this goal. We are fortunate to have an existing relationship with student leaders from the Pride Club, University leadership, and Intercultural Center. It is our intention to connect with those groups to extend our full support, since no community members should feel excluded, ostracized, or made unwelcome.”

In addition to homophobic and transphobic messages, anti-Jewish messages were also found in the TCNJ College Republicans GroupMe chat. While the member of the MU College Republicans posted statements targeting Palestinians, they didn’t post any anti-Jewish statements.

One member of the group posted, “That last name is more Jewish than the world bank,” while another said, “Both of the signal writers lastnames [referring

to their Jewish last names] tell me all I need to know,” regarding the two staff members of “The Signal,” who wrote an article about the presidential election in November.

We reached out to the President of MU’s Chabad Jewish Club, Sarina Dadoun, for comments on the anti-Jewish sentiments expressed in the chat. “The antisemitic statements were said in a club GroupMe at a different school that Monmouth members were a part of but was not affiliated with Monmouth University. The

“I hope that people understand that hate has no place in our community, and we should all do our part to stop it whenever we can. It’s also extremely important that we don’t fight hate with hate, but rather by calling it out and uplifting those who are most affected by it.”

- Tristan Weisenbach, Editor-in-Chief of “The Signal”

member of the club who said them was removed from the club and the GroupMe for making those comments and continually being counterproductive to the conversation,” said Dadoun.

We asked Dadoun if she could provide any evidence of the member’s removal, but no such evidence was provided to the “The Outlook” at the time of this article’s publication.

Dadoun shared that the

Chabad Club and MU College Republicans have a good and supportive relationship. “I have had first-hand experience with the Monmouth University College Republicans assisting us with our event where we raised money for the Israeli Defense force after the brutalities that occurred on Oct. 7. We are very thankful and feel very supported by our College Republicans,” said Dadoun.

We also reached out to Yaakov Greenberg, the faculty advisor of the Chabad Jewish Club, but he declined to comment for this article.

In addition to anti-Jewish sentiments expressed in the chat, one TCNJ student used a reference to Christianity to denigrate a PRISM club member. The statement read, “Look, I’m called to love my fellow Christians, but I don’t want to touch those THINGS with a 100 foot pole” (See Figure 1).

Connor Graf, who is currently in the process of creating a Christian club on campus, said, “As a Christian man myself, I believe the biggest thing we should do is love all people and pray for all people. I may not believe in one thing, but that doesn’t mean I can judge and condemn someone for it. I think Monmouth is a great University and love is being spread especially during this time. Monmouth is a community where people feel connected. Regardless of differences, people still love each other, and that’s the most important thing,” Graf said.

At Monmouth, following the publication of “The Signal’s” editorial, the MU College Democrats hosted two meetings on Feb. 12 and 13 to discuss the events and support the students who felt affected by these GroupMe comments.

Owen Bros, President of the College Democrats, said, “We hosted two solidarity meetings because there were so many of my members completely outraged that there were members of the MU Republicans spewing

such blatantly homophobic and hateful words, many of whom my members see daily in their classes.” He cited that attendees of these meetings described the hate speech as a betrayal of trust and wondered if the University would take any form of disciplinary action.

Bros concluded, “It is disappointing and frankly sad that what everyone sees on the news has gotten down to the level of students, but to be even more frank, I am not surprised. We have one of the absolute worst people in office, character-wise, and his actions and words will only embolden people to do the same. In other words, if the President says homophobic things, then it must be okay for ordinary Americans to do it too. That simply cannot be tolerated anymore. We are moving backward as a society if college students cannot even love each other as human beings.”

At TCNJ, the community at large, while shaken by the reveal of the hateful messages shared on TCNJ’s College Republicans GroupMe chat, has banded together to denounce this kind of hateful speech, and started the process of healing.

“The response has been very uplifting,” Weisenbach stated regarding “The Signal” editorial article. “I think a lot of people in the TCNJ community were surprised and taken aback by the things that were said in the group chat, and so it seems many people are coming together to denounce that kind of behavior and to support those who were targeted by the hateful comments...I hope that people understand that hate has no place in our community, and we should all do our part to stop it whenever we can. It’s also extremely important that we don’t fight hate with hate, but rather by calling it out and uplifting those who are most affected by it.”

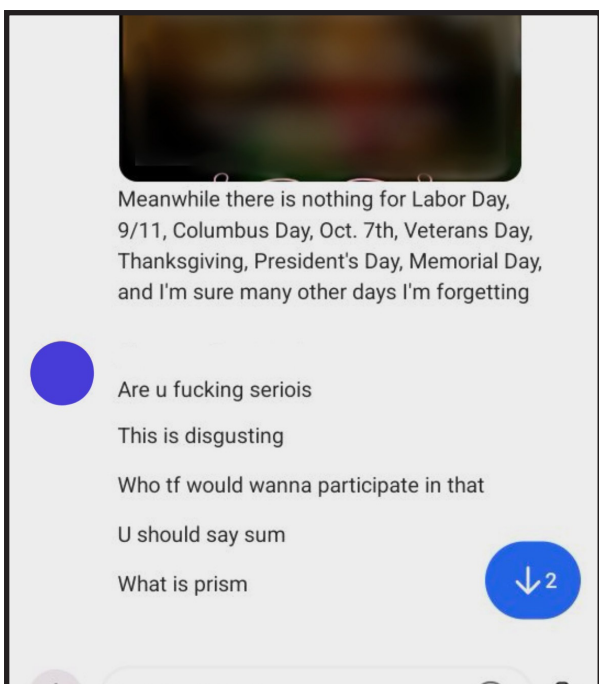


PHOTO TAKEN from GroupMe.

Figure 4

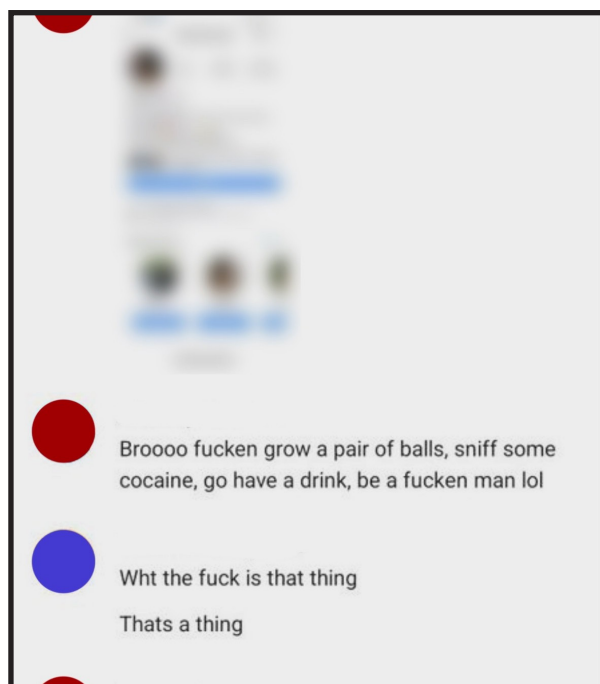


PHOTO TAKEN from GroupMe.

Figure 5

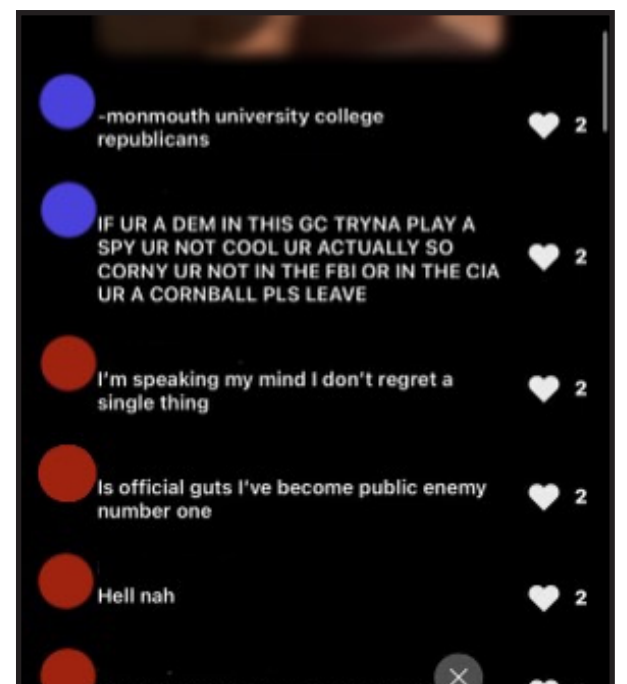


PHOTO TAKEN from GroupMe.

Figure 6 After the word “republicans,” the individual wrote their title in the MU College Republican’s club. It has now been blurred to conceal their identity.

THE OUTLOOK STAFF

Taylor Memoli EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

BAILEY FREDERICKS MANAGING EDITOR

SECTION EDITORS & DESIGNERS

Taylor Memoli NEWS EDITOR

Mairead Spellacy SPORTS EDITOR

Brendan Sheehan POLITICS EDITOR

Ava McGinty FEATURES EDITOR

Bailey Fredericks LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Michael Gruseke OPINIONS EDITOR

Kiley Hubbard COMICS EDITOR

Lorelai Hilarczyk ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

STAFF WRITERS

Dae'sani Clarke	Chris Arp
Victoria Caal	Riley McGee
Marissa Alvarez	Carlee Migliorisi
Faith Molitor	Sarah Eidelman
Frank Hoarle	Christina Rodriguez
Emily Stacherski	Asia Cooke
Sara Nelson	Meghan Reilly
Melanie Ariza	Evelyn Thu
Emily Stacherski	Ana Carvalho
Jefferson Gonzalez	Gillian DeStefano

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER

Bryce Goodwin

PHOTOGRAPHER

Henry Boody

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Taylor Memoli

Marina Vujnovic, Ph.D. FACULTY ADVISOR

Tarra Emery OFFICE COORDINATOR

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.

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*.

Monmouth University's
Student-Run Newspaper
Since 1933

Plangere Center 2nd Floor, Room 260

Phone: (732) 571-3481
Fax: (732) 263-5151

Mailing Address:
The Outlook
Monmouth University
400 Cedar Ave
West Long Branch, NJ 07764

Website: outlook.monmouth.edu
E-Mail: outlook@monmouth.edu
Advertising Inquiries: outlookads@monmouth.edu

The Outlook

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____
STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
Daytime Phone: _____
Evening Phone: _____

\$25 NON-ALUMNI SUBSCRIBER \$15 MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

Mail this subscription to and payment to:
The Outlook Monmouth University

400 Cedar Ave. West Long Branch 07764
Or Call 732-571-3481 for Credit Card Payment

Free speech: Its limits and the line

EDITORIAL STAFF

In the era of social media, the question of what is protected by the First Amendment is being carefully considered by scholars and courts alike. The First Amendment guarantees five basic rights; freedom of speech and expression, freedom of the press, freedom of people to assemble, freedom to petition the government, and freedom of redress, or protest.

The editorial staff gave our input on the discussion of free speech, hate speech and possible retribution. The editors were asked whether hate speech is protected under our right to freedom of speech. One editor replied, "If it's something as simple as a hateful restaurant review, then yes that should be protected...if it's something serious regarding a group of people who are at risk of attack, then that shouldn't be protected."

Another said, "I believe

hate speech, as long as it doesn't threaten anyone directly, should be protected. I may not like it, or even find it repulsive, but at the end of the day, everyone has the right to express themselves."

The difficulty with the rise of online threats, political violence, internet anonymity and social media is where to draw the line between free speech and speech that requires disciplinary action.

One editor believes the line is, "When people are put in danger or are considered at risk of being targeted because of the hate."

Another replied, "Disciplinary action should be taken when specific individuals are being targeted."

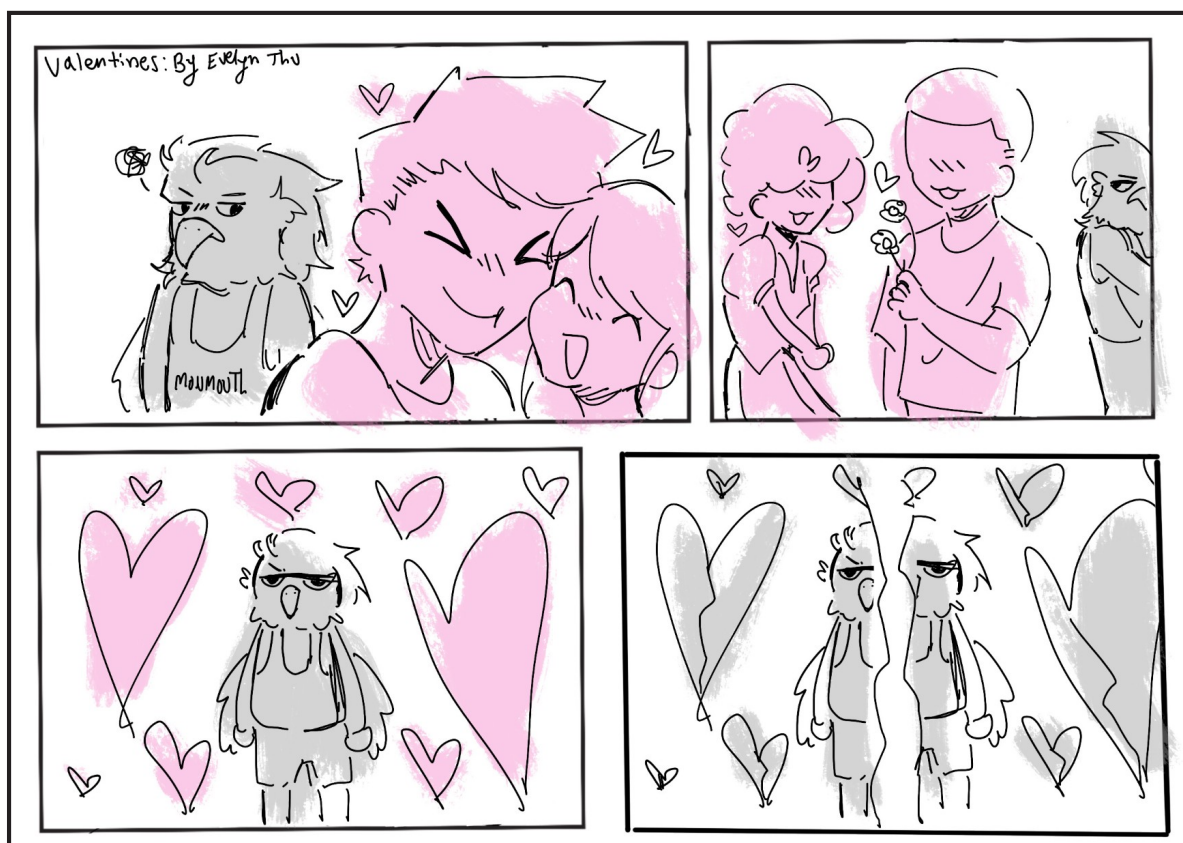
Given the protests on college campuses last year over the Israel-Hamas war, another discussion taking place is how colleges and universities balance promoting freedom of speech, and protecting the safety and wellbeing of their students. The editors were asked about what insti-

tutions like Monmouth could do to balance these responsibilities.

One editor said, "More education needs to be done in every department. Fortunately, Monmouth is starting to require classes that promote this, but more action needs to be taken on the administrative end."

A second said, "Universities need to make clear the difference between a strong opinion and bullying, threatening and demeaning language. Administrators should make clear to students their protected rights, and where the line is drawn and discipline begins."

As anonymous social media sites like Yik Yak sweep college campuses, and political polarization and extremism inject themselves into campuses across America, students deserve to know what free speech rights they have, and where their university draws the line between free speech and speech that deserves repercussions.



Serving the Monmouth
community
since 1933

THE OUTLOOK
Monmouth University's
Student-Run Newspaper Since 1933
<http://outlook.monmouth.edu/>

Follow us on:



@MUoutlook

DISCLAIMER: All articles appearing in the Op/Ed section of *The Outlook* are solely the opinions of the authors and do not reflect the views of *The Outlook's* editors (unless otherwise noted) or any and all advertisers. Opinion articles are run unedited and the content is the sole responsibility of their authors. All students and faculty are welcome to respond to any opinion piece that appears on these pages, and everyone is encouraged to submit an article for consideration. *The Outlook* reserves the right to withhold any articles deemed inappropriate or otherwise unfit to print in the Op/Ed section. Due to legalities, *The Outlook* will no longer print anonymous articles.

Does social media contribute to body issues?

RILEY MCGEE
STAFF WRITER

I think now more than ever, social media does contribute to body issues. As college students we spend an extreme amount of time on apps like Instagram, Snapchat, and Tiktok. With this, we follow influencers that seem to be living these luxurious lifestyles, and they all seem to be healthy, skinny, or enjoying life in general. Along with this, there are influencers on the app that are constantly posting about them at the gym, or what their diet is, and showing how “fit” they are to the public. We see models on the app that can promote an “unhealthy” lifestyle as well. This is what we see on social media while we are aimlessly scrolling in between classes, or during homework breaks. Not only are we seeing it, but there are students in high school and middle school that are seeing the same things we see on social media. This can cause extreme insecurity to kids so young, ultimately leading or contributing to body issues. Social media can cause us to compare ourselves to others online whether they are our friends or simply people that we follow. As a generation that grew up with social media, it can lead us to compare how we look to someone on the internet, and make us wish that we looked like them. This can lead us to want to change our appearance and even our bodies. Social media glorifies diet culture, the idea of a calorie deficit, and lifting is what can make you be healthy and skinny or look good. But it can be unhealthy for the younger generations to be watching these kinds of things. Obviously we

all want to be healthy, but when we are constantly comparing our bodies to others, it causes body dysmorphia and insecurity. Social media can lead us to have a negative image of ourselves, leading us to obsess with our self-image. Along with this, social media and obsessing with our self-image can lead to eating disorders. This is something that can be very serious, especially if you are following people that glorify not eating. It can cause us to become unhealthy, and look sick, simply because we want to look good. But not eating doesn't make you healthy, it just lowers your health. Some people on social media apps encourage only eating healthy foods to help you lose weight, but we should be able to eat what we want while living a healthy lifestyle. Finally, social media gives us unrealistic beauty standards of how we should look. We should be skinny, fit, always happy is what it implies; always looking our best and dressing our best. But realistically, we are perfect the way we are, we should be happy with who we are, and can obviously change small things. Social media puts the idea that we have to fit into these beauty standards in our brains which is why it causes body issues or can contribute to it. A way to help steer away from the unhealthiness around social media is to simply just spend less time following the unhealthy following. If these people that you are following are causing you to feel insecure or not enough, then you shouldn't be following them. We should work on promoting positivity and that we are perfect the way we are. We don't need to be a size 0 to be pretty, we need to be kind to ourselves even on our hardest days.

THE RISKS OF REMOTE WORK

MICHAEL GRUSEKE
OPINIONS EDITOR

Remote work options have become almost an expectation for flexibility and convenience in the modern workplace. The pandemic proved that many jobs can be done from home and the rise of technology has also made companies make the shift to offering more remote jobs. However, working in your pajamas and avoiding the daily commute could potentially have hidden costs that are overlooked by many. The first significant downside is the isolation that comes with working remotely. While technology allows for virtual communication, this can never match the interactions people have in a physical office setting. Employees are missing out on improved brainstorming/ teamwork and even simple casual social interactions when they are sitting at home behind a screen. With little face-to-face communication in-person, co-workers might find it harder to feel like they know each other, which only hurts the overall teamwork of a company. On top of this factor, sometimes it is not the best idea to mix home life and work life together. Working at home remotely might make it tricky for some people to know how to properly separate their work life and home life. Someone that commutes to an office, knows that work is done in the office and at home they can relax, meanwhile those lines might be blurry for someone whose office is their home. There is also a genuine concern about remote work due to potential technological failures. Obviously, many companies who have a remote work option trust too many technological errors. Unfortunately, these difficulties happen from time to time, with workers having trouble joining meetings, whether it is because of bad internet connection or other issues. Remote work can set companies back if workers are dealing with technical difficulties during the work day. Finally, I think that it is especially not a good thing for recently graduated students to start their work life sitting at home. It is healthy to get out of the house and have a schedule, and learning how to work collaboratively in a real-world office setting is an important tool for recent graduates to have as they enter the workforce. Many in this generation (college students) already have an obsession with technology, it does not make sense to increase this obsession with everyone staring at screens and not having real in-person interactions during the work day. Working from home sounds like a nice opportunity, but there are many factors that make me say that it is not the best idea overall.



IMAGE TAKEN FROM Activtrak.com.



Do you like the idea of working remotely after college?

INTERVIEWED by
MICHAEL GRUSEKE



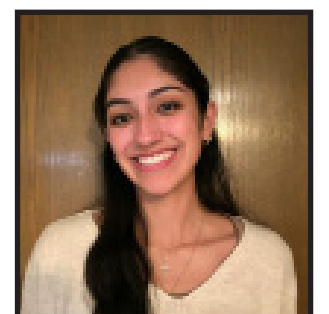
“Although I’ll always prefer in-person interactions, there are so many benefits of remote work. I’m open to the idea of it.”
- Bridget C.



“I feel that fresh out of college you should get the experience of working in the workplace. Working remotely does have its benefits but for me, working in person is the better choice out of college.”
- Nick G.



“Yes. I like the idea of being able to work from wherever I want, rather than being tied to one place.”
- Ava M.



“No because I chose to pursue nursing so it wouldn’t benefit me.”
- Hailey S.

Top 10 favorite games of Professor Cox

AVA MCGINTY
FEATURES EDITOR

For this month's Top 10, "The Outlook" talked to Professor Dickie Cox, an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication. Currently, he teaches Games and World-building, and Introduction to Digital Media. Due to these of courses and interests in games,

we asked him about his top 10 favorites. Games are an immersive way to connect and socialize with family and friends and they were a way for Cox to make friends in new places as he moved professionally. Beyond his interests in games, Cox is a media

artist and creative technologist. Because Cox loves tabletop games as much as videogames, the list includes both. Because of his unwillingness to create numerical rankings, this top ten list appears in chronological order.



IMAGE TAKEN from sleeklogo.com.

"Ms. Pac-Man" (1982)

While I played many of the games in this list well after their release, this is definitely the first game that figures into my lifelong love of games. This was the game when I joined the "Pac-Man" craze of the 1980s. As a kid, I would weave my way through grocery and department store aisles in a parallel action as the title character hunting for this game cabinet with quarters burning a hole in my pocket. The arcade in a nearby mall was my first "third place."

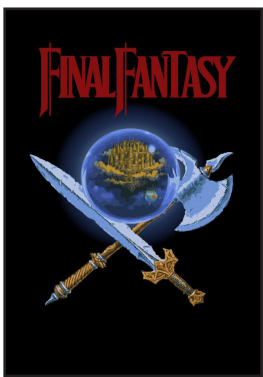


IMAGE TAKEN from imdb.com.

"Final Fantasy" (1987)

I spent as much time in my familial basement playing this game on my Nintendo Entertainment System as I did mowing grass and swimming in the summer of 1988. The design team at Square created this classic dungeon crawler that afforded the opportunity to create a four-character adventuring party with classes. This is the first game I played which featured characters who matured during gameplay...and AIRSHIPS!

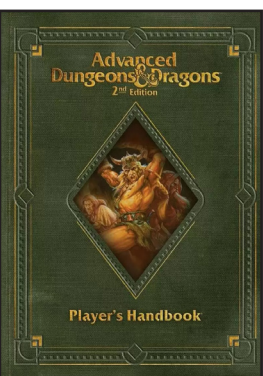


IMAGE TAKEN from drivethrurg.com.

"Advanced Dungeons and Dragons, 2nd edition" (1989)

Pen and paper roleplaying games became a staple genre in my life at the age of 13. I would play with a small group of friends before and after school in our local library every possible weekend. This immersive shared fantasy storytelling game was my safe haven while growing up in a small southern town. Playing this game taught me creativity, collaboration, how to build shared worlds, and gave me my love of studying systems.

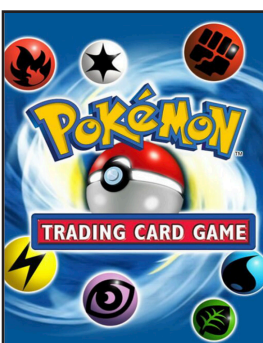


IMAGE TAKEN from steamgriddb.com.

"Pokémon Trading Card Game" (1997)

I started playing Pokémon in the summer of 2024 because of my five-year-old son's interest in the creatures on the cards. I credit this card game as the vehicle that gave him a passion for reading. He was so curious about what each card said and, as we worked through new words, I could not help but notice the embedded systems for interactivity written into the cards. I love both the collectability of this game's specially printed cards and building new decks to test synergies. My son loves his fire-based Cinderace ex deck from Steller Crown.



IMAGE TAKEN from zelda.fandom.com.

"The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time" (1998)

I first played this game on the Nintendo 64 in 2006 in my thirties. I was so moved by the time traveling puzzles of the game and how much the songs played on the titular woodwind unlocked secrets in the game. While it was one of the most aesthetically beautiful games that I played, I never completed the game; mostly because of my work schedule at the time. Someday I would like to rebuild a Nintendo 64 system and finish this game.

IMAGE TAKEN from Monmouth University.



"Portal" (2007)

I played and finished Portal two days after its release while I was faculty-in-residence at the Mallet Assembly at the University of Alabama. The honors students in that hall all downloaded and played the game all night and day upon its release. I was struck by their deep commitment to be among the first players to finish the puzzle-platform game designed by Kim Swift and developed by Valve. The overnight meme became the "Cake is a Lie" and I was directed by the students to explore the game for myself to see the mind-bending wonder of the portal gun mechanic.



IMAGE TAKEN from wikipedia.org.

"Fallout 3" (2008)

There is a little irony that I discovered the Fallout series while living in New Mexico—home of the Trinity Site. The post-apocalyptic setting for this game was the ruins of Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia which I had previously explored in my personal and professional life. This was one of the first games that made use of locations for which I had a mental map. It is a great blend of adventure and horror with some comedic moments.



IMAGE TAKEN from fallout.fandom.com.

"Carcassonne" (2000)

The German board game designer Klaus-Jürgen Wrede created this tile placement game that depicts the medieval landscape of France. In my mind, this game is the front door ushering in the 21st century's golden age of boardgames. It has a streamlined rule set with lots of expansions created since its initial release. The seamless tiles are puzzle-like but players vie for points through worker placement mechanics.

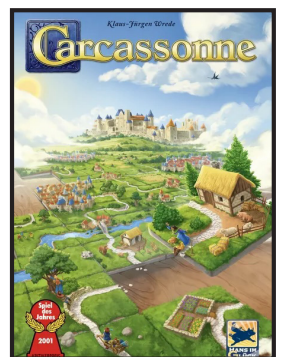


IMAGE TAKEN from boardgamegeek.com.

"Dragoon" (2016)

This strategy box game featuring warring dragons was published by Lay Waste Games after a successful Kickstarter. The base set offers 2 to 4 players the opportunity to play as Dragons ruling over villages and cities while hoarding treasure. I love the weight of the metal-casted tokens and texture of the cloth playmat. It is the most balanced game for three players that I have ever played.



IMAGE TAKEN from laywastegames.com.

"Kids on Bikes" (2018)

This roleplaying, RPG ruleset is loosely based on coming-of-age fantasy and science-fiction films from the 1980s like "Goonies" and "E.T." and released on the heels of the critical success of "Stranger Things." In this collaborative storytelling game, player characters work through the pains of growing up while wrestling with dark and strange occurrences in their hometown. I adore this genre as the 1980s was the backdrop of my own coming-of-age. The designers scored additional social currency with me when they held a charity sale and donated those proceeds to the Sylvia Rivera Law Project to benefit transgender rights.

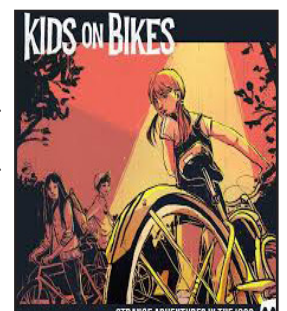


IMAGE TAKEN from facebook.com.



BAILEY FREDERICKS
MANAGING EDITOR /
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Blue light glasses have taken the internet by storm with every influencer recommending these protective lenses claiming they reduce the negative symptoms caused by too much cell phone and laptop usage throughout the day. As a chronic sufferer of tired eyes, brutal headaches, and restless sleep, I thought I would give blue light glasses a try.

For three months I have consistently worn blue light glasses throughout the most blue light-heavy parts of my day. These times include: when I'm doing homework, when I'm at work, while I am editing this very pa-

per, and of course, while I'm doom scrolling. I purchased my blue light glasses from Amazon for around \$13.

My initial thought was, "no way a pair of \$13 plastic glasses could actually improve my health." In fact, most research points to the conclusion that blue light glasses do absolutely nothing. "This systematic review found that blue-light filtering spectacle lenses may not attenuate symptoms of eye strain with computer use, over a short-term follow-up period, compared to non-blue-light filtering lenses," found the research study, "Blue-light filtering spectacle lenses for visual performance, sleep, and macular health in adults" published in 2023 by Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. The

study also found no connection between blue light lenses and sleep quality or overall health.

With all the being said, I do think my \$13 went to good use. To start, I have experienced way less headaches since using my glasses. Prior to wearing these lenses, I would start developing a headache most days of the work week at around 5 o'clock in the evening. These headaches would get increasingly worse and would only cease after I woke up the following morning.

Since wearing my glasses, I now only get headaches around one to two times a week, usually the days I use my computer and cell phone a profuse amount. Though, I do find that screen breaks

are the only treatment for breaking up a headache that's on the verge of beginning.

In terms of sleep quality, I found that I'm sleeping more consistent hours each night (around 8-9 hours) and typically sleep through the entire night. I'd like to credit this to using my blue light glasses when doing my homework and scrolling on my phone before bed, but alas, that may not be the case.

In general, I've been trying to limit electronic usage about an hour before bed, not just because of the blue light, but because social media tends to make me anxious. Scrolling on Instagram reels nowadays is like seeing a highlight reel of the world's worst moments. Further, my better sleep could be due to using my blue light glasses in the evening, or it could be because of my attempt to limit media consumption at the end of the day.

Lastly, I experience less eye strain using my laptop if I am wearing these glasses. When writing news stories, essays, or other pieces of media, I make sure to put on my glasses. When I do, I swear I can look at my com-

puter for longer, without my eyes getting tired. As for my cell phone, I never really experience eye strain when using my iPhone, so I can't say my glasses have made a difference there.

Now, could my experience be the result of some extraneous variable? (I have been trying to eat healthier and drink more water.) In short – maybe.

I already explained that there is no scientific evidence to back up the idea that blue light glasses improve health, but what about the phenomenon of placebo effects? Ben Frumin, Editor-In-Chief of Wirecutter, "The New York Times" division of product reviews, wrote an article entitled "Even If My Blue-Light Blocking Glasses Are a Placebo, I at Least Like How They Look," about just that. Frumin also admits that the symptom relief blue light glasses provide could be a placebo effect, but finishes the article by stating, "But I like the way they make me look. And I like the way they make my eyes feel when I look at a screen. And in the end, that's enough." I personally could not agree more.

What's your next read?

BAILEY FREDERICKS
MANAGING EDITOR /
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Take this quiz to choose your next book!

1. Where is your dream vacation?

- a. The Scottish countryside
- b. Salem, MA
- c. The Maldives
- d. Hawaii

2. Which song resonates most with you?

- a. "Come As You Are" by Nirvana
- b. "Season of the Witch" - the Lana Del Rey version
- c. "Walking on Sunshine" by Katrina & The Waves
- d. "Good Grief" by Spacey Jane

3. Which is your favorite accessory?

- a. A scarf
- b. A flower crown
- c. An Apple watch or fitness band
- d. A puka shell necklace

4. What's your favorite sport?

- a. Skiing
- b. Equestrian
- c. Track & Field
- d. Surfing

5. If you could spend one day with a celebrity, who would it be?

- a. Stephen King
- b. Stevie Nicks
- c. Rachel Ray
- d. Cindy Crawford

6. How much do you agree with this statement: "horror movies are my jam"?

- a. Absolutely agree
- b. Mostly agree
- c. Agree slightly
- d. Do not agree at all

7. What's your favorite animal?

- a. Dogs
- b. Foxes
- c. Birds
- d. Dolphins

8. On a scale from 1 (lowest) to 10 (highest), how much do you like the winter?

- a. 9-10
- b. 8-6
- c. 5-3
- d. 1-2

9. Which is your favorite music genre?

- a. Alternative rock
- b. Indie
- c. Pop
- d. Country

10. If you could have a superpower, you would want the ability to...

- a. Read minds
- b. Talk to animals
- c. Heal illness
- d. Breathe underwater

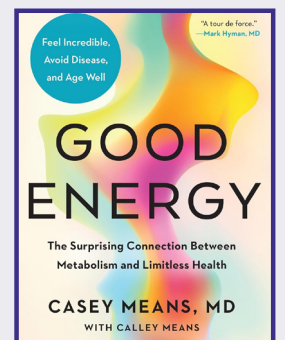
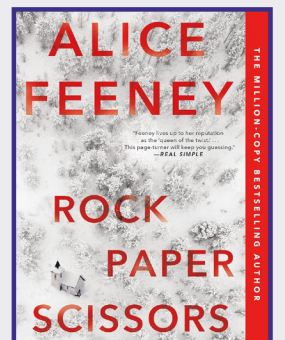
The Results:

If you answered mostly A's, your next read is "Rock Paper Scissors" (Thriller/Mystery) by Alice Feeney. Adam and Amelia Wright decide to indulge in a weekend away in Scotland to not only relax, but to also save their broken marriage. What the couple doesn't realize is that their vacation is about to take a turn when a giant snow storm hits, isolating them from the rest of the world. Tensions between the couple begin to arise when they realize they may not be the only ones trapped in this cozy Scottish hideaway.

If you answered mostly B's, you should give "Slewfoot: A Tale of Bewitchery" (Historical Fiction, Horror, Fantasy) by Brom a read. Abitha, the black sheep of an early Puritan colony, tragically loses her husband under mysterious circumstances. While Abitha is fighting for her right to her late husband's land, Slewfoot, a powerful creature, is awoken just outside the colony with no memory of his past. Slewfoot and Abitha must work together to discover their places in the world - are they cultivators of light or darkness?

If you answered mostly C's, "Good Energy: The Surprising Connection Between Metabolism and Limitless Health" (Non-fiction, Health & Wellness) by Casey Means may be a good fit for you. Dr. Casey Means dives into the science behind the root causes of some of the worst diseases and health conditions - cancer, anxiety, type 2 diabetes, Alzheimer's, and more - facing Americans today. Means proves to readers that creating "good energy" within your body isn't as complicated or overwhelming as it sounds.

If you answered mostly D's, you should consider picking up "Same Time Next Summer" (Romance) by Annabel Monaghan. Sam's life is right on track; with a perfect fiancé on her arm and an amazing job in the city, what more could she ask for? She is totally not thinking about the boy who broke her heart when she was 17 years old all these years later - totally. Except, of course, when she goes to the beach. Or when she hears the sound of a guitar. Or when she goes for a swim. But other than that, she is definitely happy with her perfect fiancé.



IMAGES TAKEN from Amazon.com.

“A Bronx Tale”: Starring Chazz Palminteri

LORELAI HILARCZYK
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

On Feb. 15, the students of Monmouth University and theatre-goers got to experience the one-man show of “A Bronx Tale” starring the creator himself, Hollywood star Chazz Palminteri in our very own Pollak Theatre.

If you’re unfamiliar with “A Bronx Tale” it tells the story of Calogero ‘C’ Anello, as a boy growing up in a neighborhood with Mafia-related activity. He eventually captures the attention of mobster, Sonny, and their relationship grows into a friendship with a father-son-like bond. But, like any good play, there are trials and tribulations, laughs, and, most importantly life lessons.

I had the pleasure of seeing this performance for one of my theatre courses, and I have never been so pleasantly surprised. Palminteri, at 72 years old, played 18 characters, according to the theatre staff. He had the sold-out theatre hanging onto his every word and movement. He set the stage of the neighborhood so vividly that I could picture it as if I was standing in the center of it.

My favorite part of the opening was when Palminteri acted out all the different people on the block. He depicted “Italian men romanc-

ing their women” by yelling, “Marie, get in the fucking car,” which earned enthusiastic laughter from the audience. I know fellow Italian humor when I hear it because that’s the family I grew up loving. So it was clear most of the audience was in on the jokes.

Each character had a different walk, voice, and persona onstage, which was extremely impressive, considering this was a one-man show. There was never confusion as to who was talking or what character was being portrayed. That’s how good Palminteri’s storytelling was, which makes sense because afterward, he told my theatre class that it was his 1,053 performance. He knows this play like the back of his hand, literally, because it’s based on real events from his life. But, of course, there’s some entertainment embellishment for script purposes.

Some of my favorite characters were obviously the infamous Sonny, who gave off an obvious Tony Soprano feel, for “The Sopranos” fans out there. Not only were Sonny’s mannerisms and overall personality so intoxicating, but Palminteri was also able to move the audience in a way that enabled you to feel for him. At one point, ‘C’ asks him if it’s better to be feared or loved by people.

Sonny says, “Feared. Fear lasts longer than love,” but there’s a fine line between being feared and being hated. Being hated isn’t as valuable. This was a theme throughout the play, as Sonny was constantly the center of attention on the block. If Sonny wanted something, there was a line of people ready to give it to him. He was as respected, as he was feared and his overall charismatic attitude is why people loved him.

Obviously, ‘C’ was the main character of the story and inspired by Palminteri’s life as a young boy living in the Bronx, NY. We see him grow and evolve into a young man with the help of his father, Lorenzo, and in many ways, Sonny. He went from a 9-year-old boy who loved the Yankees to a young man trying to romance his crush, all while balancing the relationship with his father and working for Sonny against his wishes. To me, it seemed like all ‘C’ wanted was to be wanted and worthy of people’s time. Sonny was able to give that to him while gaining a friendship, a “son” he never had, and a gambling good luck charm.

Now, this show wasn’t all dark and scary, mafia, although the lighting designs and set choices were so simplistic that it was bone chilling, in the best way. It also



PHOTO COURTESY of Pollak Theatre Box Office.

Professor Sheri Anderson’s theatre students at a meet and greet with Chazz Palminteri after the show.

really helped to highlight Palminteri and allowed the audience to better focus on the plot. There were funny moments, and laughs had by the audience. For example, when ‘C’ was talking about his crush Jane, one of the neighborhood guys, Crazy Mario, told him to do the “Mario Test” to check her intentions. I’ll spare The Outlook readership the explanation but it was hysterical. Later on, Sonny would go on to explain “The Door Test,” a much friendlier and wholesome alternative to the Crazy Mario’s version.

This story really had the audience feeling every emotion possible: love, frustration, sympathy, empathy, shock, fear, and even fulfillment in the end. When the show ended, Palminteri came back out onstage to say a few words to the audience. He

then took some cards out of his pocket that said, in big black lettering, “The Saddest Thing In Life Is Wasted Talent,” which was his father’s motivational saying. It’s one he carries with him throughout all things in his life as a reminder to keep doing what he loves. He called some young audience members up to the stage to take some as a reminder to keep doing good things, and the rest will follow. Definitely a moment those kids will remember forever.

My class then waited for Palminteri after the show to have a private moment with him and get a photo-op. I’ll leave you with what he told us is his advice for success, “1. Show up, 2. Be good at what you do, and 3. Be well-liked.” And that’s all there is to it, because “in the end nobody cares.”

BHR & BSU Present: Valentine’s Day Classroom Concert

GILL DESTEFANO
STAFF WRITER

On Valentine’s Day, Blue Hawk Records (BHR) and Black Student Union (BSU) collaborated for a “Classroom Concert” from 3-5PM. Chelsea Lagotta, Michael Anthony Rocks, Aidan Cole, Evan Schuett, Azure Kai, and Samantha Spano sang about love and heartbreak.

Amani Adelekan, Vice President of BSU and BHR was the one who made the event come together. Last year, alumni Asad Whitehead organized two classroom concerts for the year, a Halloween and Holiday themed event that took place, literally, in a classroom in Plangere. Adelekan continued his legacy and was able to use her connections in both clubs to honor both. She chose the location and setlist, bringing her own directorial vision.

Lagotta sang three songs, one of which was an original song. Her choice of songs were slow and sweet, and her original song definitely matched that vibe, strumming her acoustic guitar. She said she was nervous as it was her first time writing and performing her own music,

as well as opening, but sure enough, she delivered.

Michael Anthony Rocks (MAR) followed her performance. He definitely brought his own unique flavor to the performance, starting with an original song he wrote his sophomore year of high school called “Natural.” He rapped and sang over a lively melody about a girl he supposedly had a crush on at the time. The song was catchy and his confidence delivered, even some people in the crowd got up and started dancing.

MAR then performed “The Talking Stage,” another original song written this past September featured in BHR’s compilation album “Signature Edition.” He joked with the crowd about how many of us are all too familiar with this stage, and the song had a soft rock feel performed on guitar. He finished his set with “Lights Down Low,” where he hit the highest of high notes. All in all, an impressive performance with a variety of genres and confidence which connected him to the audience.

Following MAR was Aidan Cole, who stuck with sweet, slow melodies on guitar. He sang, “Love Comes to Everyone,” by George Harrison, “BIRDS

OF A FEATHER” by Billie Eilish, and “Wish You Were Here” by Pink Floyd. I thought his performance was solid. He whistled for part of “BIRDS OF A FEATHER” which I thought was a fun twist.

Following Davis was Azure Kai, whose voice was unique and impressive. Using just karaoke on the internet, she sang “Babe” by Styx, “More Than Words” by Extreme, and “Night Changes” by One Direction. She chose primarily R&B slower beats, which was a nice switch up from the other genres. Kai’s voice was very strong. “Night Changes” was a particularly good choice because it’s a familiar favorite throwback, and the crowd hummed along. She seems to have perfected the androgynous sound.

Evan Schuett played next, and chose the songs, “Far, Far Away” by Wilco, and “Old Friends” by Pinegrove. He introduced a country element. The event definitely incorporated several genres and kept it interesting. He had a twangy and deep voice, which stayed faithful to the country genre.

Closing the show was Samantha Spano, who delivered a very strong performance. She sang

“Hate My Heart” by Carrie Underwood, a new and untitled song, and “Whiskey Don’t Work Anymore” by Travis Tritt. Her voice and guitar skills speak for themselves and are in a league of their own. You could tell how her emotions were being poured through the songs, especially in her newest piece. But I won’t spoil her artistry too much for those longing to see the coastal cowgirl.

In the end, it was a very fun

event to attend, BSU provided food, beverages, and plushies. The location was great, and so comfortable for all the students. It was a pretty lowkey vibe but that was what made it all the more intimate. I can’t think of a better way to spend a Friday evening than listening to some of my talented peers do what they do best. I added more than a few songs to my own personal library.



PHOTO TAKEN from Instagram.

Super Bowl LIX Halftime: Kendrick Lamar's great American game

EMILY STACHERSKI
STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 9, Super Bowl LIX (59) took place, the world's most popular TV program of all time. This year, over 126 million viewers in the United States watched, making it the most-watched Super Bowl in history. The halftime show, a performance by American rapper Kendrick Lamar, brought in over 133.5 million viewers, up 3% from Usher's performance last year. Not only did he bring in more viewers than the actual game, but he also brought in a

bigger audience than Michael Jackson's 1993 halftime show.

Yes, the halftime show was a big success on Sunday, seeing as Lamar himself traveled more yards in 13 minutes than the Chiefs entire rushing output. However, people are continuously going back to his performance to take a deeper look into the meaning of each decision. Was it all a message to end his feud with Drake? Was he calling the government out? Well, let's take a deeper look and decide for ourselves.

The show started out with the field set as if it were a PlayStation controller. Each performance space was shaped like the square,

circle, 'X', and triangle buttons. Then, none other than actor, Samuel L. Jackson portrayed the character of Uncle Sam. He said, "This is the great American game," and the stage was set for the rest of the performance. Many people speculate this is bigger than the Kendrick-Drake beef and is actually Lamar calling out the corrupt political system. About a minute in, Lamar states, "The revolution is about to be televised, you picked the right time but the wrong guy," a nod to the presidential election outcome. After singing a part of his song, "Squabble Up," Uncle Sam expresses his concern that the performance so far is "too loud, too reckless, too ghetto," which can be translated to showing the oppression of minorities in today's world.

Lamar's hit song, "Humble" was performed next while he stood in the middle of his dancers, who created the image of an American flag. This is symbolism for the divide in our country. Throughout the next few minutes, the words in the audience lit up by lights that wrote, "WARNING WRONG WAY," also a hint that our society is not moving progressively but actually moving backward. Uncle Sam's demand to the scorekeeper to deduct one life can be interpreted that Lamar is not acting the way the government wants him to, so he will be facing

consequences.

On the other hand, there were a few nods to the Drake feud. The first hint Lamar gave us that he would play the Grammy-winning, viral distract, "Not Like Us," was him talking to his background dancers saying, "I wanna make a move. I wanna perform their favorite song, but you know they love to sue," talking about the lawsuit involving the two stars. After his backup dancers asked what song he was talking about, the beginning music of "Not Like Us" started to play, which resulted in Lamar smiling and saying, "Yeah, that song." Tricking the audience, he went on to perform "Luther" and "All the Stars" with singer-songwriter, SZA, who wore a stunning red get-up and sung mind-blowing vocals.

After giving the performers a compliment for being "nice and calm" (which is supposedly "what America wants"), Uncle Sam quickly regrets his words as the starting music for "Not Like Us" officially played again, knowing the trouble this will ensue.

After going back and forth with his dancers, who egged him on, Lamar made the crowd go wild as he performed the long-awaited hit song. Only censoring curse words, he did not shy away from calling out Drake by name and smiling directly at the camera as he sang, "Say Drake,

I hear you like them young." This led to Lamar, along with the entire crowd, whose mic was unmuted until this line, singing the line most known, "And it's probably a minor." Speaking of A-minor, this double entendre is hanging from Lamar's neck on a necklace with a lowercase 'a' which is how A-minor is written in sheet music. Serena Williams was then shown for about five seconds, doing a famous dance she originally did after winning gold at the Olympics. However the bigger reason she was there was because she publicly dated Drake back in 2015.

He ended with "TV off," bringing out his record-producer, Mustard, who was honestly just happy to be included and also had the audience lit up with lights again, this time writing, "Game Over." The song was specifically chosen as the last song, but who was it directed towards? Drake? President Donald Trump? It's all up for interpretation, as we just saw the evidence for both.

However, I'll leave you with one more quote from this performance. Lamar said, "It's a cultural divide, Ima get it on the floor. 40 acres in the mule, this is bigger than the music. Yeah, they tried to rig the game, but you can't fake influence." I think it's obvious he isn't just talking about a little feud, but more important things going on in the world politically. What do you think?



IMAGE TAKEN from Yahoo.

"Short n' Sweet" deluxe: An extra sweet surprise

LORELAI HILARCZYK
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Sabrina Carpenter sure is a busy woman who does it all. After coming off her highly successful North American run of the "Short n' Sweet Tour," Carpenter has been everywhere. She won two Grammys at the beginning of the month, for "Best Pop Vocal Album" and "Best Pop Solo Performance" for "Espresso." She was also featured on the cover of Vogue's March Issue, where she channeled her inner Madonna for the photoshoot. Does this woman ever sleep?

Just this Valentine's Day, Carpenter released five new songs for the "Short n' Sweet" deluxe album. As if this album couldn't get any more iconic and trend-worthy, Carpenter kept things as witty as ever with these new tracks. She even gave us an incredible feature of "Please Please Please" with country icon, Dolly Parton.

Starting off the new tracks is "15 Minutes," which is as clever and catchy as the rest of the album. Now I don't know if anyone caught this but, there are a few hidden meanings in the song. The five deluxe tracks are each about three minutes long making the total a glorious 15 minutes.

Carpenter is also referencing the famous notion of having "15 minutes of fame."

She sings, "But I can do a lot with fifteen minutes/Lot of pretty boys, lot of funny business/Take a couple bucks, turn 'em into millions." She then goes on to sing about when her time in the spotlight is up, she'll, "Leak some pictures maybe/Say somethin' batshit crazy/I'll do it, don't you make me." Her subtle cheeky lyrics about fame and what it's been like going from a small Disney Channel star to the singer she is now, is beyond bittersweet. Especially if you've been following her career from the very beginning like I have.

Once that track ended, we're hit with "Please Please Please (feat. Dolly Parton)." Now, this is not the same song you know and love. This new version has been country-ified almost like her song "Slim Pickins." Parton and Carpenter's vocals complement each other so well, especially their harmonies and overall vocal styles.

As much as I liked it, people have taken to social media to complain about Parton's voice. Here's what I say to the haters, she's a 79-year-old singer and actress with a successful career that most people dream of. Parton and Carpenter also starred in the music video together, which gave nods to the

original music video. Take that, Barry Keoghan.

Slowing things down is the next track, "Couldn't Make It Any Harder." This track is my least favorite out of the deluxe tracks. I do love its '50s feel, and it reminds me of Sandy Olsson from "Grease" and her song "Hopelessly Devoted To You," which Carpenter has covered several times. There's been much speculation that Carpenter even sampled the song. Carpenter sings, "But I couldn't make it/Any harder to love me/Your arms are reachin'/And your eager heart is throbbin'." Carpenter's vocal ability truly shines through in this one.

The next track is my absolute favorite, and one I got to see performed live in Philadelphia as a surprise song. "Busy Woman" is back on the clever lyrics and carefree attitude. She's certainly not afraid to put it all out there in a song, which is exactly what people love about her music. I love her play on the aspects of time in this song, especially when it comes to her referring to having to make room in her calendar for a certain someone. She sings, "Cause I'm a busy woman/I wouldn't let you come into my calendar any night/But if you want my kisses/I'll be your perfect Mrs. 'til the day that one of us dies." Her tongue-



IMAGE TAKEN from WhiskeyRiff.com.

in-cheek, hidden-meaning lyrics are filled with references galore. It makes for one heck of a listen and definitely a good car jam song.

Finally, closing out the album is "Bad Reviews," where Carpenter takes on another storytelling side. Now, if you can't tell from the first listen, this is another Jack Antonoff production masterpiece. It has notes of country twang again, as well as an acoustic feel like "Slim Pickins." It's the shortest out of the five new tracks, at about two and a half minutes. If only this track were a little bit longer. She sings about how she's heard all of the bad news and reviews

about a certain someone and yet she still chooses to be in love with them. She sings, "Been alone for so long, I've got something to prove/If I close an eye, it's almost like your red flags are blue/So still I choose to be in love with you." I'm sure we can all speculate about who this song is about (cough, cough Keoghan), but nonetheless, it's relatable for a listener in so many different aspects.

If there's one thing I'm certain of, Carpenter will last more than fifteen minutes in the spotlight, and she should ignore the bad reviews and focus on being the busy woman she is.

Government Shutdown Less Than One Month Away as Congress Struggles to Find Solution

BRENDAN SHEEHAN
POLITICS EDITOR

The federal government is set to shut down by mid-March if Congress fails to find a compromise to fund the government. This would bring about the first government shutdown since Jan. 2019.

Bipartisan lawmakers in Washington, D.C. are working to try and find a solution to fund the federal government before it runs out of money on Mar. 14. The solution to fund the government would need to pass both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate, where Republicans hold historically slim margins, and get signed by President Trump.

A government shutdown would halt nearly all federal operations, including suspending pay for military servicemembers, closing national parks, and furlough millions of federal employees.

Republicans have 218 seats in the House while Democrats have 215. However, two of those Republican seats are vacant, meaning Republicans really have 216. This means House Speaker Mike Johnson will need to get his more moderate members and more conservative members on board, or support from Democrats if he loses some Republican votes.

Any funding measure would also need to make it through the Senate, where Republicans have 53 seats to Democrats' 47. Republicans

could afford to lose three of their own members, assuming all Democrats vote against a funding plan. In a 50-50 vote, the Vice President breaks the tie.

However, Democrats are not signalling opposition yet. In fact, they are negotiating with their Republican counterparts to find a bipartisan way forward. Democrats are also clear that any major cuts to government programs that they view as necessary could cost Republicans any Democratic support.

Another factor not typically at play in funding negotiations, is Trump's claim that he isn't bound by the Constitution's power, granting Congress the right to appropriate funds.

Last month, Trump tried to freeze all federal funding for federal grants and programs, even though they were authorized by Congress. Two federal judges deemed this move unconstitutional, as the Constitution gives Congress the right to delegate funds and approve them for use.

In addition to that curveball, Congress must take into account the impact of Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and its efforts to cut federal spending by trillions of dollars.

No government shutdown occurred under President Joe Biden's presidency, but two occurred during Trump's first term. The most recent, stretching 35 days, from Dec 2018 to Jan. 2019, was

the longest in U.S. history.

Historically, shutdowns reflect poorly on the party in power. With unanimous control in Washington, Republicans are looking to avoid a catastrophic political hit by avoiding a shutdown.



House Speaker Mike Johnson is tasked with uniting his Republican conference to avoid a government shutdown and deliver on Trump's agenda.



Senate Majority Leader John Thune is the leader of the Senate Republicans and will have to deliver the votes in the Senate to fund the government.



President Donald Trump will need to sign the funding deal passed by Congress in order to prevent a government shutdown. IMAGES TAKEN from CNN



IMAGE TAKEN from ASSOCIATED PRESS



What do you think of President Trump's First Month in Office?

BRENDAN SHEEHAN
POLITICS EDITOR

President Donald Trump's second term is now one month in. "The Outlook" asked six Monmouth University students for their thoughts on the Trump administration's first month in power, and their responses can be found below.



"The amount that he has gotten done so far is unprecedented and I'm interested to see how some things he's put in place turn out." - **Anthony T.**



"We have Elon Musk in office, the Gulf of America and are trying to buy Greenland while people can't afford their eggs." - **Brandon A.**



"Egg prices have not come down and airplanes are falling out of the sky." - **Owen B.**



"Over the last month, my faith in empathy and respect in the United States has diminished significantly." - **Veronica B.**



"I think President Trump's first month in office is a testament to how America's greediness and money driven culture is leading to the demise of democracy in America." - **Beyonce C.**



"It is interesting to see if his tariffs will be used as an economic instrument or a tool for leveraging diplomatic pressure." - **Giovanni D.**

TO/ The Outlook

Hello, everyone! 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!

-Bailey Fredericks, Managing and Lifestyles Editor

HAWK TV Hawk TV

Hawk TV is excited to be back for this semester! We are the student run television station on campus, and it is a great opportunity to meet new people and get involved! Our studio is on the first floor of Plangere, and we currently have four shows. Hawk TV News shoots biweekly on Tuesdays starting at 7 p.m. and alternates with the Creation Corner that starts at 7:30 p.m. On Wednesdays we film our sports show called the Extra Point and Thursdays, our pop culture show called Triple Scoop, and both of those begin at 7 p.m. We hope to see you this semester!

- Ava McGinty, Hawk TV Secretary and Executive Producer of Hawk TV New

PRSSA PRSSA

Hi 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 p.m. 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

MU CD College Democrats

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

- Owen Bros, President



Real Estate Club

Hello everyone! The 19th of this month is a career night in the Bey Hall auditorium at 6:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at s1322694@monmouth.edu.

- Margaret McNeil, President



WMCX

Here at WMCX, there is so much space to grow and use your voice! With opportunities such as broadcasting Monmouth University's home basketball games, having weekly talk shows on a variety of topics surrounding sports, music, pop culture, or politics, or becoming part of the E-board, there's a place for you at WMCX! If this sounds like something for you, come to one of our weekly meetings every Wednesday at 2:45 in Plangere 236. Our doors are always open if you want to come and visit us upstairs. And stay tuned for some exciting events happening later this semester!

- Beyonce Carranza, Program Director (VP)



LASO

The Latin American Student Organization (LASO) brings students together to celebrate Latin American culture. The club is open to everyone and hosts events like Día de los Muertos and their annual Outdoor Movie Night where they show a movie from latin american and have latin american cuisine. LASO also supports minority representation and encourages leadership. It's a great place to meet new people, learn about different traditions, and be part of an inclusive community.

- Jeff Gonzalez, general member



"College Core" - WMCX

Tune in every Wednesday from 1-2 p.m. to gossip with me and listen to funky music. *Potential guest hosts are on the horizon.*

xoxo - Bailey



College Republicans

We are so excited to see you all and work to preserve your freedoms on and off of campus this year!

-NJFCR Chair Jacky Bruno and MUCR Chair Giavanna Cangialosi






BHR
SONGWriters
SERIES

LIVE MUSIC!

SAT
FEB 22
6 PM

GREAT HALL AUDITORIUM
LIVE Music performed by
members of Blue Hawk Records
Free Snacks and Refreshments

CO-SPONSORED BY:  MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY |  STUDENT ENGAGEMENT




TUTORING SERVICES

**WANT TO BE A
BETTER STUDENT?**

Looking to improve your academic and self-management skills, such as time management, organization and study skills?

 **MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY** | TUTORING and WRITING SERVICES

**ASK ABOUT
ACADEMIC COACHING!**

Make an appointment via Navigate Student on your phone app to meet with Dorothy Cleary or call 732-571-3542.

 **EAB**

 GET IT ON
Google Play

 Download on the
App Store




FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



:The Outlook at Monmouth University



: @MUoutlook



YouTube : Monmouth Outlook (@MUOutlook)



: @muoutlook

JCPenney

Suit-Up Event

Monmouth University student discount code for professional attire from JCPenney!



To receive your 30% off coupon, text **MONMOUTH** to **67292**

Scan to start shopping



SENIOR DAY

MEN'S BASKETBALL



-VS-



THURSDAY FEBRUARY 27
OceanFirst Bank Center - West Long Branch, NJ

Tickets are available at mpv.tickets.com



THE IGU PRESENTS:

THE LOOK OF SILENCE

February 27, 2025 Pollak Theatre 6:05 PM

An Indonesian man with a communist background named Ramli was brutally murdered when the "Communist" purge occurred in 1965. His remaining family members lived in fear and silence until the making of this documentary.

There will be a post screening Q&A hosted by Professor Minna Yu with special guest speaker Dickie Cox.

MEN'S BASKETBALL HIT THE ROAD

Men's basketball pick up win at Stony Brook

MICHAEL GRUSEKE
OPINIONS EDITOR

The Monmouth Hawks (9-18) took on the Stony Brook Seawolves (6-21) in a late afternoon matchup on Long Island, Thursday, Feb. 13. The Hawks came out on top with the 79-69 victory, marking it as their third road win of the season. Monmouth has proven themselves to be a potential threat to make a run in the upcoming CAA tournament as the team is now 4-2 in their last six interconference games, with both losses coming against the Towson Tigers (18-9), who are currently the top team in the CAA standings.

Monmouth's ability to share the basketball was a big reason the Hawks came away with the victory. For just the second time this season, five Hawks scored in double digits. Sophomore forward Cornelius Robinson III led the way in the scoring category for the Hawks with 15 points, shooting 5-8 on FGs (field goals).

The Hawks were able to rack up a season-high 22 assists collectively. Sophomore guard Abdi Bashir Jr. had a career-high seven assists, which is the most in one game by a Hawk this season.

The Hawks got much better play off the bench as their bench players outscored Stony Brook's, 26-5.

Seawolves' CJ Luster had

an impressive day, sinking seven three-pointers and scoring a total of 28 points. Although, the Hawks ability to shut down most of the other Stony Brook players was a key aspect to the win as Stony Brook only hit 42.4% of their FGs compared to Monmouth's 50.9% success rate.

The Hawks gained control early as they went on an 8-0 run that put the score at 22-13 in favor of the Hawks

with 11:04 left in the first half after a three-pointer was made by redshirt sophomore and guard Andrew Ball. Ball scored a season-high 14 points in this contest.

Stony Brook cut the Hawks lead to six points with 4:25 to go in the first half, but Monmouth would finish the half on a 7-2 run, with five of those points from junior guard Jack Collins.

This run gave the Hawks a comfortable 42-31 lead going

into halftime.

The Seawolves would be the team to jump out of the halftime break with more juice, cutting the Hawks lead to just one point after a layup from Luster put the score at 48-47 with 14:09 left in the game.

Both teams continued to score for the rest of the second half, making it a very close game towards the end. Stony Brook was in striking distance for the chance

to complete a comeback after Andre Snoddy made a two point tip shot that cut the Hawks lead to 70-67 with 1:47 left in the second half.

The Hawks team prevailed in the final 1:47 thanks to six huge points from junior guard Madison Durr that came on back to back possessions. These important baskets from Durr broke the game loose for Monmouth, resulting in a 79-69 win for the Hawks.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics.

Andrew Ball put up a season-high 14 points, two short of a career high.

Second meeting versus Towson results in loss

VICTORIA CAAL
STAFF WRITER

The Monmouth University Men's basketball team (7-7) traveled to Maryland, where they went up against the Towson Tigers (13-1) on Saturday, Feb. 15.



PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth Athletics.

Monmouth held Towson to 30% from behind the three, despite the loss.

This game was the second encounter between the two teams this season. On Feb. 8, the Towson Tigers traveled to Monmouth University's OceanFirst Bank Center. This game between the Tigers and Hawks ultimately ended with Towson winning

73-67. The battle between the two continued as the Hawks traveled to the TU Arena this past Saturday.

On Saturday afternoon, the Monmouth University Men's basketball team versed Towson University in an action-packed game. Junior guard Madison Durr, sophomore forward Cornelius Robinson III, sophomore guard Abdi Bashir Jr, junior center Dok Muordar, and junior guard Jack Collins started this game.

The first half was caught with setbacks after Collins started the game with a three, and Towson responded by going on a 17-5 run, which put the Tigers in the lead by 13. The Towson Tigers had seven three-pointers, which they took to fin-

ish the first half with 39-20. In the first half, the Tigers lead in FG% with 40.54% to the Hawks 23.53% and 3PT% of 38.89% to Monmouth's 30%. Monmouth did lead the FT percentage with 69.23% to Towson's 50%

As the second half continued, Monmouth started off with a good layup from Robinson. Points tallied in from the Hawks but ultimately, the Tigers powered through to win the half by seven points. After holding onto their lead at the half and expanding on it, the Towson Tigers won the game 80-54.

In the second half, Monmouth showed more of a statical improvement, leading the second half

FG% with 44.44% to Towson's 42.42% and the FT% at 100% (2-2) to Towson's 90.91%.

Durr led Monmouth with nine points, and Collins had nine rebounds this game. This was also Bashir's 100th three pointer of the season, which makes him the first player in Division I to make 100 threes this year and the second Monmouth University Hawk in school history to hit this mark. This game led to Fagan scoring his first career points, while Orchard had a career-high four points this game

The Hawks will travel to Hempstead NY to face Hofstra on Thursday, Feb. 20

Women's basketball pick up win at home over Hampton

MICHAEL GRUSEKE
OPINIONS EDITOR

The Monmouth Hawks (13-11) pulled off a big 62-60 win over the Hampton Pirates (6-18) on Sunday, Feb. 16, at the Ocean First Bank Center. Fifth year guard Damaris Rodriguez hit the shot of the game,

recording a three point play with 0:36 left in the game, that propelled the team to victory in this nailbiter. The Hawks have now won four games in a row while playing on their home court.

Fifth year forward Taisha Exanor was an important piece to the Hawks win, racking up a team-high 18 points,

11 rebounds, and two blocks. This was Exanor's seventh double-double this season, which leads the team.

The Hawks dominated the paint, out rebounding Hampton 46-26, which was a major difference maker to the result of this game.

Monmouth had a much slower start than Hamp-

ton offensively. The start of the first quarter consisted of mostly highlights for the Pirates. After a made layup from Arina Nikishina with 2:45 left in the first quarter, the Hawks found themselves down 23-12. The Hawks were able to slightly cut into Hampton's big lead in the final minutes of the quarter, making the score 25-17 going into the second quarter.

The Hawks then came alive, going on a 13-0 run to start the second quarter. After a pair of made free throws from graduate student and guard Kemari Reynolds, the Hawks found themselves winning by the score of 30-25 with 5:58 before the half.

The Hawks continued to control the second quarter with ease and took a 39-31 lead into the locker room after a dominant quarter of play, in which they outscored Hampton 22-6.

The teams went into the third quarter staying even

with each other, but eventually Hampton went on a quick run that cut the Hawks lead to 46-44 with 2:03 left in the third quarter. Hampton's Aisha Dabo made a two point shot with time expiring that cut the Hawks' lead to 48-47 going into the final quarter of play.

Hampton hit a few clutch shots throughout the fourth quarter and found themselves with a 60-58 lead over Monmouth with 2:16 left in the game.

Hampton would not be able to score a single point for the rest of the game, which allowed for the clutch three-point play by Rodriguez with 0:36 left in the game to officially seal the 62-60 win for the Hawks.

The Hawks (13-11) will look to stay hot when they travel to David S. Mack Sports and Exhibition Complex to play the Hofstra Pride (9-14) at 2pm on Sunday (2/23/24).



PHOTO COURTESY of Anya Kazmierczak.

Damaris Rodriguez made the clutch three-point play for the Hawks victory over Hampton.

Hawks fall short of a comeback against Bryant

NATALEE MATTEI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

At 2:04 PM on Saturday, Feb. 15, with flakes falling, the Monmouth Hawks won the first draw of the game against the Bryant University Bulldogs.

Though Monmouth had the first possession of the game, it was Bryant who came up with the first goal by senior attacker, Isabelle Katter, at 12:26 in the first quarter. The Bulldogs kept the pedal to the metal through the end of the first quarter by taking advantage of the Hawks passing struggles, scoring a total of five goals. Bryant's first four were unanswered until Monmouth's senior midfielder Danielle McNelly scored with just 1:16 left in the quarter. However, sophomore attacker Gabriella Constant got the last digs for Bryant before heading into the second.

Monmouth was able to lessen the scoring margin in the second quarter, only getting outscored by one goal in the second. Fighting against the snow, the

Hawks first and only goal in the quarter was scored by senior attacker, Caroline Brennan, at 13:56 on the game clock. Bryant took the momentum right back a few minutes later with an unassisted goal by Elise Larson. Just two minutes later the Bulldogs got the last licks of the half with a second goal by Constant.

Though Bryant outscored Monmouth by a score of 4-3 in the third, the Hawks started to play an even game. The scoring started with yet another Larsen goal that was shortly followed by a goal by sophomore attack, Caleigh Shore. Shore's goal was assisted by a fellow midfielder, and fellow sophomore, Sophia Ianno. Another Monmouth goal was followed by Bryant's first goal of the half from the same attacker as the game's first goal, Isabelle Katter. The Hawks got one more third quarter goal, a short-handed one at that, from junior attacker, Shea Berigan. Bryant ended the third quarter strongly, getting two more to hit the back of the net from



PHOTO COURTESY of Troy Fenton Jr.

Shea Berigan led Monmouth with four goals.

Emily DeGeorge and Amelia Piercy.

Despite their valiant efforts, the Hawks fell just short of beating the Bulldogs on the snowy Saturday. They managed to score the last five goals of the game, but were unable to match Bryant's game win-

ner, by DeGeorge, that was scored with nearly 12 minutes of playing time left. The Hawks kept fighting to fly away with a win, but even with their six goals scored in the last ten minutes of the game, they were unable. With a final score of 12-11, the Bulldogs walked

away with a record of 2-1, leaving the Hawks at 0-3. Although the game did not turn out in Monmouth's favor, the Hawks proved their grittiness and will to fight through adversities, both of which will prove to be crucial when it comes time for conference play.

THE OUTLOOK



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CAPTURE WIN BY TWO POINTS



Damaris Rodriguez's three-pointer with 36 seconds left secured the two-point win for Monmouth.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 15

PHOTO COURTESY of Troy Fenton Jr.