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Monmouth's Black Student Union (BSU) begins celebrations for Black History Month

TAYLOR MEMOLI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/NEWS EDITOR

February is celebrated worldwide as Black History Month, a tradition that began in 1976 when President Gerald Ford officially designated this month for recognition. Since then, individuals all around the globe have recognized Black excellence in society, especially here at our own university.

"Black History Month's importance lies in the celebration of Black people's contributions, among them inventions, ideas, and efforts, that have historically been overlooked and discredited. Learning about these contributions allows a more accurate and inclusive understanding of history," explained Jessica Taylor, public relations chair for BSU.

"What is now BSU was rebranded in 2018 by former President Zorih Fowler," explained Jihad Johnson, Assistant Director for the Intercultural Center and BSU advisor. "Prior to 2018, what is now the Black Student Union was previously known as the African American Student Union for many years. The name was changed to be more inclusive of people from various regions whether they are from Africa, the Caribbean or elsewhere."

BSU provides students with a support system and community. Taylor explained, "The purpose of the BSU is to provide a forum for students with a common bond to unify and support each other, and share the cultural achievements of Black

people within the University community. The BSU is an educational, social, and political force on campus to represent and advocate the concerns, problems, and image of Black students."

BSU is not a club exclusive to Monmouth University, but is seen all around the country on various college campuses. "Monmouth, like many other college campuses, brings together students, faculty, and staff from many different backgrounds, identities, and lived experiences. Groups like BSU are important to institutions because they provide a space for both community-building and cross-cultural learning. Student organizations also offer opportunities for members to help welcome and guide their peers as they enter the university and seek out ways to get involved," said Johnson.

For the month of February, BSU is hosting 13 events. From basketball games to book clubs, students will be able to celebrate Black history in various ways on our very own campus. For the full list of events, visit <https://www.monmouth.edu/intercultural/black-history-month/>.

Besides these events, there are various other ways to honor Black History Month. "One can make an effort to educate oneself and others on Black historical contributions. Reading celebrated Black literature, watching documentaries about Black historical figures, listening to influential Black artists, and even engaging with Black peers on their experiences are all easy ways one can educate themselves now and throughout the entire year on Black history," concluded Taylor.



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PHOTO COURTESY of Jessica Taylor.



PHOTO COURTESY of Jessica Taylor.

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MU's usage of gas-powered leaf blowers: an update

GILLIAN DESTEFANO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On June 20, 2024, Bill S217 Sca (1R) was introduced in the New Jersey Senate and referred to the Senate Environment and Energy Committee. Proposed by Bob Smith, Senator of District 17 covering Middlesex County and Chair of the Senate Environmental Committee, the bill would prohibit the use and sale of two- or four-stroke engine gasoline-powered leaf blowers for use or operation in New Jersey.

If passed, any person, or business, who would violate the bill's provisions would be subject to fines of between \$500 and \$1,000. The bill would also provide Corporation Business Tax (CBT) credit for the purchase of electric leaf blowers that would replace gas-powered leaf blowers.

According to US News & World Report, more than 100 cities, including Montclair and Maplewood, across the U.S. have banned or

restricted gas-powered leaf blowers, which have been called a major source of pollution.

Leaf blowers create decibel levels over 80, and according to the National Council on Aging, anything above 70 is considered harmful to humans. They also create low-frequency noise that travels for blocks and penetrates walls and buildings, causing increased stress levels according to Quiet Clean PDX, an organization working to ban gas-powered leaf blowers. Additionally,

continuous noise exposure is detrimental to health and can cause hypertension, high cholesterol, and increased risk of atrial fibrillation, which causes irregular heartbeat and can lead to blood clots and stroke. They are also disruptive to sleep patterns, harming the immune system and stimulating poor food and drink habits.

According to Patrick Leahy, President of Monmouth University,



PHOTO TAKEN by Henry Boody.

“Our team in facilities use a mixture of gas-powered and battery-powered leaf blowers as part of the extensive inventory of equipment used for campus maintenance, which includes lawn mowers, chainsaws, snow plows, and other equipment.” Leahy additionally noted that the University employs seven newer battery-powered leaf blowers that are used to maintain smaller areas. He added, “They are also using battery-powered chain saws, trimmers, and string trimmers.”

Daniela Hernandez, senior accounting major, said, “Last year I lived in the Garden Apartments, and I guess my schedule aligned with the landscapers. Whenever I’d go to class, I’d cut through the path between the Great Hall and the soccer field. Every day, the debris would get blown into my face and affect my breathing.”

Catherine Duckett, Ph.D., Associate Dean of the School of Science, said, “Monmouth does its landscaping during business hours. Other institutions have a crew that comes in at six o’clock and is done by the time classes are done. If [Monmouth] wants to keep their two-stroke leaf blowers, they should be smart about it. The amount of carbon pollution that a two-stroke leaf blower reduces is like driving your car from here to Chicago. It’s a lot of pollution. For an educational institution, it’s considered irresponsible.”

Duckett continued, “[Gas-powered leaf blowers] kick up dust and mold, which is bad for breathing. They destroy insect habitats, which is really bad for the balance of nature because most songbirds have to feed insects to rear their young.”

She added that the “Insect Apocalypse” is partly due to landscaping practices such as leaf blowing and the movement away from native plants. “This is causing songbird decline, which has a concomitant risk to human public health because, with the increase in temperatures, there are going to be more mosquito-borne diseases.”

As of Dec. 3, 2024, approximately 88% (7,638 square miles) of New Jersey has drought conditions. Duckett explained that the drought is influenced by both natural variation and climate change. She warned that landscaping practices exacerbate the situation by stirring up dust and debris, further impacting the environment.

“Leaf blowers are also an environmental injustice issue,” she said. “Most of the landscapers, at least in this local area, are Hispanic or people of color. They’re people who don’t usually have health insurance, and they’re being exposed to respiratory risk from these leaf blowers.” She suggested that the school should provide N95 masks for their landscapers to protect them from respiratory diseases and dementia.

Lisa Iannucci, Specialist Librarian, said, “I’m in the library, and you can smell the toxic fumes that drift through the air. When they’re blowing by the tennis courts, I can smell it. They’re doing the leaves all the time in front of the dorms. We’ve complained about it, and they claim that they don’t do it before eight o’clock. It’s so loud that I can hear it from my office, and I am, like, 100 yards away from it.”

Leahy said, “Our

incredibly hardworking, dedicated Facilities Team works several shifts to ensure the campus is safe, clear, and beautiful for our students. There are three main shifts: 6 a.m.–2 p.m., 7 a.m.–3 p.m., and 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Team members are also called to respond as needed for weather emergencies, very often late at night and on the weekends.”

Iannucci continued, “The administration can get out ahead of this because clearly, if you look at national trends, these types of phase-outs and bans are taking place more and more. There is clear scientific evidence that leaf blowers are detrimental to people’s health on many levels. They are environmentally damaging, and they also harm wildlife.”

She added, “It sounds to me like they probably would want to keep the blowers to then use the electric blowers. That’s been a solution in a bunch of different localities, and what they have done is get subsidies for businesses to replace gasoline-powered ones with the electric ones. It’s not the perfect solution, but it’s a step in the right direction.”

As far as the next steps, the bill still has some ways to go before its passage into legislation. John Morano, environmental author and professor of journalism, said, “Honestly, I think the jury is still out on the successful results of these bills. They have been passed in over 100 cities in states like Maryland, California, Oregon, Vermont, Florida and Illinois. That would seem to indicate that something’s working.”

Jacques Peters, Rechnitz Family/UCI Endowed Chair in Marine and Environmental Law and Policy Department

Leaf blowers
cont. on pg. 2

THE:
Outstanding,
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“The Outlook” ad ran on Feb. 16, 1989.



PHOTO TAKEN by Henry Boody.

Monmouth still uses gas-powered leaf blowers despite the negative contributions to the environment.

cont. from pg. 2

in Marine and Environmental Law and Policy Department of Political Science and Sociology, said, “Phase outs have a dedicated time horizon to accomplish a policy goal, and is an admission that the government needs to allow people to adjust to meet that goal. Here, the bill provides two years for citizens and businesses to move to electric leaf blowers. However... the landscape industry plans to challenge the ban in court, which would probably delay policy enforcement. It seems it passed the Senate Environment and Energy Committee and is now with the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.”

Morano added, “If landscapers are running their diesel trucks just to power battery chargers for their leaf blowers, and if the methods used to manufacture these batteries aren’t clean, well, in that sense, the success of the bill could be limited. However, if it’s done responsibly, strategically, then we can wind up with an environment that’s quieter, less polluted and ultimately healthier. That would seem to be a success. I’d like to see us try for that.”

Some other examples of successful phase-outs in recent years include

plastic straws and plastic bags, indicating that these environmental initiatives can occur. Duckett said, “I was part of the Long Branch Environmental Commission while we were passing a local plastic bag ban, and we were working with people in the Environmental Commission who worked for 20 years to get a plastic bag ban. I’ve seen [the effects] with my own eyes. How many plastic bags do you see in trees now? A lot fewer than you used to. That probably means fewer microplastics in the environment, which are a known risk for human health. This took a lot of local environmental commissions and municipalities passing bag bans to convince the legislator that this was something that people really wanted. The same is gonna be with leaf blowers—the people have to stand up and speak.”

If new regulatory requirements do pass in New Jersey, Leahy noted that Monmouth would, of course, comply with them. Leahy said, “Indeed, we look forward to advances in technology that would allow for the practical and widespread use of battery-powered leaf blowers. We have a large area to cover, and the current technology in battery-powered blowers can’t handle the job. We will continue to monitor progress in this area and revisit their use throughout campus in the years to come, regardless of the status of the bill.”

Duckett advised that

the University uses rakes, despite the unlikely scenario. “If they are going to be using gas-powered leaf blowers,” she said, “they should do so when students and faculty are scarcely in event, like between 6 and 8:30 am, the landscapers should be issued respirators, and there should be posted times that they won’t be used so that people who are asthmatic can avoid a section of campus that’s being leaf blown.”

Zafira Demiri, graduate assistant for Climate Change Learning Collaborative, agreed with Duckett and said, “The two most green alternatives would be a good old-fashioned rake or letting the leaves be. If we were to let the leaves sit until spring, that carbon could be reabsorbed into the soil, and it would greatly promote ecosystem health.”

Duckett additionally said that petitions are an effective means of drawing attention to an important issue. She elaborated, “If someone gets a letter-writing campaign and gets a petition going and there are 500 signatures from Monmouth University, that’s pressure. Especially if the addresses are from all over New Jersey. That’s pressure. That would actually be the best way to make a change here on campus, to get the law changed.”

Concerning the future, Leahy concluded, “We are always looking for additional ways to maintain the campus in the most sustainable way possible.”

Bruce Springsteen Archives & Center for American Music (BSACAM) and the Music and Theatre Arts Department host “A History of Hip-Hop Sampling”

TAYLOR MEMOLI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF / NEWS EDITOR

The Bruce Springsteen Archives & Center for American Music (BSACAM) and the Monmouth University Music and Theatre Arts Department will host “A History of Hip-Hop Sampling” on Feb. 7 at 7:00 p.m. in Woods Theatre. Music journalists John Morrison and Josh Leidy will present a multimedia presentation exploring the history of hip-hop culture and the evolution of sampling in cultural and technological contexts. The event will be followed by performances by Blue Hawk Records Students and artists.

Melissa Ziobro, BSACAM curator and adjunct public history professor, knew she had to have Morrison and Leidy visit the university after hearing about the success of their program at the National Liberty Museum in Philadelphia “I knew I wanted to try to bring it to Monmouth - because it was so well-received there and because we at the Bruce Springsteen Archives & Center for American Music really want to be celebrating a wide range of musical genres. I am so grateful that we won a Diversity and Innovation Grant to make it happen,” Ziobro explained.

The event will not only feature these journalists, but some of our very own campus performers. Joe Rapolla, specialist professor of music and theatre arts, explained, “Blue Hawk Records is a vibrant platform for Monmouth’s incredibly talented student/artists, who represent a wide array of musical genres and styles—from hip-hop to pop, rock, and beyond. This event will feature exclusive live performances that showcase the breadth of some of our

accomplished Hip Hop artists. The performances will be especially notable for their authenticity, as they’re crafted and executed by students who are supported by our acclaimed music industry program. The students will be working alongside their peers in areas like production, promotion, and sound engineering, ensuring a high-quality, professional-level presentation. It’s a chance to see the future of music from the next generation of artists.”

Rapolla continued, “The history and evolution of hip-hop sampling is a fascinating journey through culture, technology, and innovation. This event offers a unique opportunity for our students, faculty, and the wider Monmouth community to engage with the deeper roots of hip-hop, particularly its role in shaping modern music. By collaborating with the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music, we’re able to provide a rich, interdisciplinary learning experience. Not only will attendees gain insight into the cultural and technological innovations that have shaped hip-hop, but they’ll also experience the ongoing legacy of this genre through the performances of our talented student-artists. It’s an event that speaks to the heart of both musical history and contemporary creativity, and it’s a chance for everyone to connect with the power of music in ways that resonate across generations.”

Attendees are assured that they will be able to learn about Hip Hop as well as gain some more appreciation for our campus community. “I think people will learn a little history, and be enormously impressed by the talented musicians we have right here on our beautiful campus!” Ziobro concluded.

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Should MU consider providing textbooks for their students?

EDITORIAL STAFF

Monmouth, along with many other universities and colleges nation-wide, has many programs that require students to buy textbooks that are necessary for their courses. The unfortunate fact is students have to buy many of these textbooks on their own dime.

Some students are spending hundreds of dollars on textbooks alone each semester. Students are already paying thousands of dollars in tuition, so it is worth questioning if schools, including Monmouth, should consider covering some textbook costs so students who are already paying a lot of money for an education do not have even more of a financial burden weighing on them.

When asked if they thought it was reasonable to force students to buy textbooks for their classes on top of already paying for tuition, one editor said, "I think textbooks should be covered by the university. I understand that different majors require different textbooks, therefore it wouldn't be right to charge let's say a communication major the same price as a health studies major if the price of textbooks was included in our general tuition bill. However, the school should have some system in place that allows students to borrow and return books for free, and if that student

chooses to purchase the book to keep, they can do so."

Another editor said, "I believe that all curriculum and materials used in a course should be covered by our tuition. In my experience, students spend lots of money on textbooks we are told we need that the professor doesn't end up using."

A different editor said, "I don't think it's reasonable for us to be forced to pay extra for our textbooks on top of tuition. They're asking college students to spend 100+ dollars on textbooks, knowing that the majority of them can't work while they're in school. And those who do work, it makes their lives a million times harder juggling work, school, and having to pay for school expenses."

Many students are having to buy more than just a few textbooks. For example, one editor said, "For one of my classes this semester I have to buy 11 books. There's no way we get through 11 books in one semester so I already know I'm going to be wasting money."

Even if Monmouth can not fully provide free textbooks that are included in tuition it is at least fair that they should consider limiting the amount of textbooks students are forced to purchase.

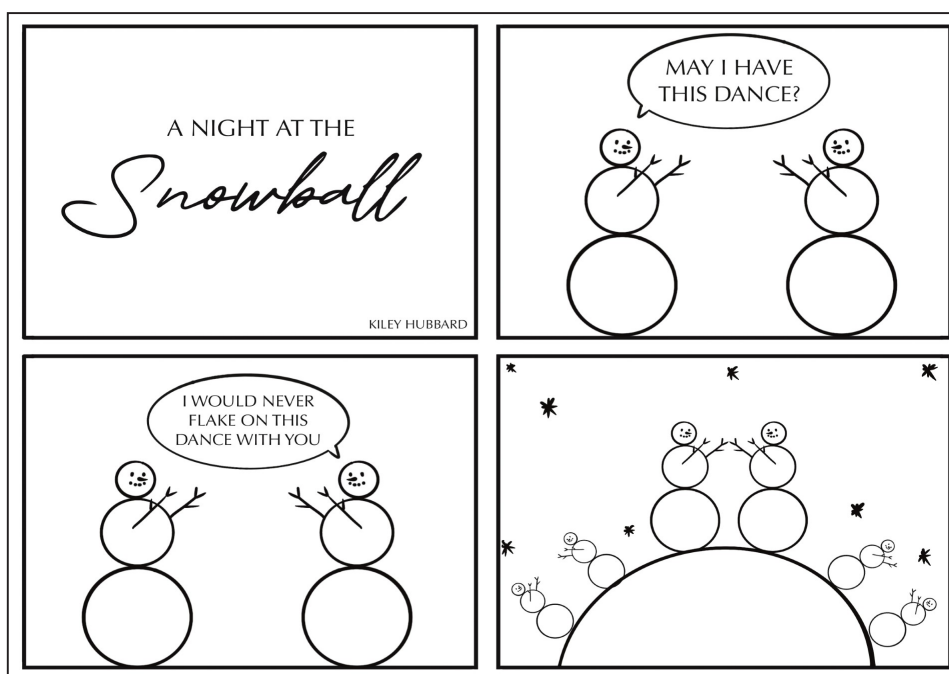
One editor thinks that Monmouth should limit the amount of textbooks stu-

dents need to purchase, as she said, "I do think colleges should limit the amount of textbooks students have to purchase. Half the time, the professor says you 'need' the book, and then we use it once or twice throughout the semester. So unfair to the student and frankly it's a waste of time."

One editor said, "I can't tell you the number of times I bought a textbook for a class, and it simply collected dust in my room because my professor never referenced or used it. I wasted a lot of money on textbooks I never used, and certainly did not need after the class was completed. Therefore, I think professors should be allowed to transparently say that students either don't need a textbook for their class, or they should be given the opportunity to buy (on the university's dime) the online version of textbook which they then can post on e-campus or disperse to the entire class."

It is clear that a lot of students would agree that they should not be forced to buy so many textbooks each semester out of their own pockets due to the fact that students are already paying top dollar for tuition.

It is unreasonable to make some students spend hundreds of dollars on textbooks each semester when much of the student population either do not have jobs or deal with other necessary expenses while attending school.



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BATTLE OF THE BARS

* All participants on this page are 21 and older

JMACS

TAYLOR MEMOLI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/NEWS
EDITOR

When the hangover starts to subside on Saturday night and students fully recover from their night out at Porta, there is only one place on Monmouth students' minds. Johnny Mac House of Spirits, or Jmacs as we call it, is located on Main Street in Asbury Park and houses Monmouth's greatest local bar scene. With three different sections, great music, plenty of opportunities to socialize, and free pizza (yes, free pizza), this spot is everything a college student can dream of, even more so than Porta.

One of the first great appeals of Jmacs is the bar atmosphere. With three sections, this bar provides visitors with plenty of opportunities to socialize, and well as get their groove on.

"Jmac's is the better bar because the music is better, it's easier to talk with your friends (due to the lack of sweaty people), and the vibes are just better in general," stated Vicky O'Malley, senior marine and environmental biology and policy major. At Jmacs, you don't have to worry about wasted people pushing into you at every opportunity. The vibes here are more relaxed, all while still categorizing as a college bar.

While Jmacs won't make you feel like you are on an episode of "Jersey Shore," it will allow you to converse more

with friends and partake in a social experience with people you might not have met anywhere else.

"Jmacs plays songs that are fun and energizing to sing along to with friends but you can still socialize without getting bumped into. During themed nights, the music fits into different genres and time periods that are appealing to different audiences and age groups," explained Meghan Reilly, senior English major. Jmacs is also the perfect place for students to get their flirt on without having to worry about, let's just say, strange individuals.

"Jmacs is my favorite bar because you can really do whatever you want. If you want to relax and talk to your friend there is a place to do that, if you want to dance there is a place to do that, and if you want to get free pizza and talk to strangers there is a place to do that too. It's even better when the weather is nice because there is so much space to meet new people," said Kristen Frawley, senior sociology and social work major.

While people might prefer Porta due to the ability to dance, Jmacs back tent features the same space to dance with friends while still being surrounded by their third bar. The music is modern, upbeat, and appealing to all different kinds of music fans. From Chappell Roan to Morgan Wallen, DJ Rob Bush always ap-

peals to various music fans while still keeping the energy flowing in the building.

Last, but certainly not least, the greatest aspect of Jmacs is their free pizza. With each drink bought, customers are given a little red ticket that grants them access to some of the greatest pizzas in our vicinity. Yes, the lines are long, but the time spent in them with friends and the friendly people around you makes it fly by.

"Jmacs is significantly better than Porta for so many reasons, one of them being the free pizza. It is one of the greatest marketing schemes ever. Every time you buy a drink, you get a free pizza, which helps you sober up, leading you to buy more drinks. It's convenient and delicious. Good drinks and free pizza, what's better than that?" stated Olivia Puzio, senior psychology major.

Dave Portnoy even stopped by Jmacs to try their pizza during his One Bite Pizza Review series. He gave the pizza a 6.6 and told audiences that the experience was "one of its kind in the world" and that Jmacs was the "first-ever category of free bar pizza" while praising the individuality of the location.

Listen, I love Porta as well, but there are such unique aspects of Jmacs that you can't find at any other bar. And with that, let's just say they saved the best college bar for the last of the weekend.

PORTA

BAILEY FREDERICKS
MANAGING EDITOR/LIFE-
STYLES EDITOR

Porta, located at 911 Kingsley St. in the vivacious and lively town of Asbury Park is one of the best bars to visit on a Friday night.

Opened seven days a week, Porta specializes in happy hour delights and delicious cocktails. But, at 10 p.m. every Friday, the calming environment of this cozy restaurant is transformed into a spunky and exciting night club.

In a comment on Tripadvisor, a user who calls themselves "NYC_Geezer" pretty much summed it up, "Day or night, weekday or weekend, this place is awesome. It is the best pizza down the Jersey shore. The bartenders are great, and they make terrific cocktails. I cannot even describe how awesome the pizzas are."

Thanks NYC_Geezer, but let's hear what some students have to say. "I love Porta because it allows me to see all my friends in a social setting, listen to music, and have fun," said Isabella Jandoli, senior social work student.

Porta always has a live DJ set on Friday nights featuring popular local artists like DJ Hicks and DJ Za. The music never fails to get everyone pumped, both figuratively and literally; as soon as you

walk through the door the base has your body shaking.

Emily Schatzel, senior education student, agrees, "I like Porta because there are two different rooms and different DJ's each week, so you have the opportunity to hear all kinds of music." Porta truly is for the music lovers - and isn't that pretty much everyone?

As Schatzel pointed out, Porta has two distinct sides: the Abbot Room and the Pizza Room, both alive and flourishing every Friday. The Pizza Room has plenty of specialty nights for those of us who love a theme. This past January they had a 2010's night (what college-aged student doesn't love that?) and a Latin Night. Some upcoming February events include: Valentine's Day Pink Pony Club (for all the Chappell Roan fans) on Feb. 14 and Country Night on Feb. 21. The Abbot Room stays consistent each week with classic club tunes and a huge dancefloor for all. Like both sides? No worries, the \$10 cover allows you unlimited access to both rooms.

Mike Gruseke, our opinions editor, loves Porta, "Porta is awesome. I enjoy the music there as I like more of a club vibe. I've also had a much easier time ordering drinks at porta compared to some of the other popular bars

in the area." You're so right Mike, customer service is key.

Ultimately, most students put it simply, "I like to dance" and Porta provides a judgment free zone allowing everyone to let loose after a long week. From champagne cannons to the abundance of disco balls hanging from the ceiling, Porta is a total vibe. One student, who preferred to stay anonymous, said, "I love the atmosphere of Porta. Once you step foot into the doors it feels like you have transformed into a totally different world. The lighting, music, decor, and people make this bar like no other."

The unmatched ambience of Porta keeps bar-goers coming back every week. "Porta is the one bar my friends and I consistently go to each weekend. We always have no doubt that we will have fun there," explained Justin Arp, senior business management student.

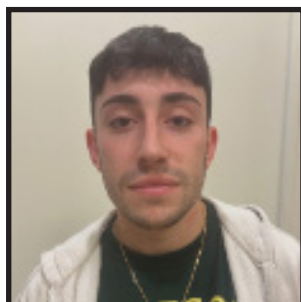
Thomas Viru, senior marketing student, couldn't agree more, "I like Porta because it gives me an opportunity to blow off some steam after a very long week. I like going there because I get to see all the people that I know, have fun with my friends, and enjoy a great night out. To put it simply, Porta is fun."

So, have I convinced you to spend your next Friday night at Porta? It is guaranteed to be a spectacular time.



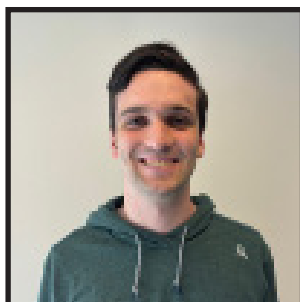
Do you prefer Jmacs or Porta?

INTERVIEWED
by
**MICHAEL
GRUSEKE**



"I like going to Jmacs rather than porta because I like spending my night in more of a calm environment."

- Tiago Ribeiro



"I like Jmacs better because of the social setting and free pizza."

- Andrew Kneipher



"I like Porta because when I go out I enjoy the music and the atmosphere."

- Caroline Gruseke



What is your favorite bar?

Scan the QR code to participate in our poll!

Important Black figures in Monmouth's history

AVA MCGINTY
FEATURES EDITOR

Monmouth University has a rich history influenced by the lives and legacies. During Black History Month, it is especially important to recognize the contributions the Black community has made here at Monmouth.

The Great Hall (formerly known as Shadow Lawn and Wilson Hall) is one of the most recognizable parts of the campus. It was built in 1929 and designed by Horace Trumbauer and Julian Abele. Abele was the third formally educated black architect in the United States upon his graduation from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Architecture in 1902.

In 1906, Abele's portfolio was shown to Horace Trumbauer who immediately hired him. Abele worked for Trumbauer for 44 years and eventually worked his way up to being a senior designer, working on buildings up and down the east coast. Abele faced various challenges in his career, including Jim Crow laws, but overcame these adversities and left an everlasting legacy built into Monmouth University's campus.

Walter McAfee was a renowned physicist who worked at Fort Monmouth as a part of the United States Army Communications-Electronics Command. Dr. McAfee worked on various projects throughout his military career, one including Project Diana. This project included the first time that radar signals were bounced off the moon, beginning the age of space exploration. This project paved the way for the development of space satellites and eventually manned space flight.

Dr. McAfee became one of the very few Black Americans to earn an advanced degree in physics when he graduated from Ohio State University in 1937 with a Master of Science in theoretical physics. He received his Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1949.

From 1958 until 1975, Dr. McAfee lectured at Monmouth College (now Monmouth University) on atomic and nuclear physics and solid-state electronics. During his time at Monmouth, Dr. McAfee served on the Curricu-

lum Advisory Council of the Electronics Engineering Department. He was recognized for his accomplishments and presented with an honorary doctorate of science from Monmouth in 1985.

Black History Month gives the opportunity to learn about the legacies of individuals that may not be well known but are still influential. Melissa Ziobro is the Director and Adjunct Professor of Public History and has published numerous times on Abele, Dr. McAfee, and others. She said, "I think that during Black History Month, there is a sometimes a tendency to celebrate a handful of widely known figures at the national level: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Shirley Chisholm, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman. But we have these inspiring individuals who left indelible marks right on our campus, and we should honor them, as well; not only this month, but year-round."

Influential figures are not something strictly from Monmouth's past. Walter Greason, Ph.D., had been a lecturer in the department of history and anthropology and was appointed as the dean of the Honors School in 2017. Dr. Greason was the first Black dean of the Honors School and focused on the student experience.

From 2018 until 2021, Dr. Greason was an associate professor and chair of the Department of Educational Counseling and Leadership where he expanded the anti-racist social justice curriculum.

Monmouth has had visits from prominent civil rights activists including Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Ruby Bridges. Dr. King visited campus in October 1966, and he delivered a speech in Boylan Gymnasium that left the audience optimistic and hopeful for working towards a future of equality.

In October 2022, Dr. Bernice King, the daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., visited Monmouth and spoke at the Social Justice Academy's panel titled, "Combatting Racial Injustice Through Education." She took questions from the audience of students, faculty, staff, and local community members and discussed racial equity issues.

Ruby Bridges was one of the first Black children to attend an all-white school in Louisiana in the 1960's during the de-segregation movement. Bridges visited campus in October 2024 and spoke on a panel hosted by The Social Justice Academy in Pol-

lak Theater titled, "The Courage to Challenge Racial Injustice and Build Equity in Education," giving her perspective on her childhood experiences and on current racial justice issues.

By continually bringing in guest speakers to talk about issues regarding diversity and justice, it helps educate the student body to facilitate a welcoming and inclusive campus community.

Monmouth has multiple organizations on campus that continue to give Black students a voice including the Black Student Union (BSU), National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. These organizations also work close with the Intercultural Center to create a stronger sense of inclusivity on campus.

Jefferson Gonzalez is a senior communication student who works at the Intercultural Center. During the month of February, the Intercultural Center hosts events to celebrate Black History Month. Some of the events are partnered with BSU including the annual Ebony Night.

Gonzalez said, "Students are busy and may not take a step back and realize how Monmouth University came to be today. We are only here for a short time and the professors and staff are here for a long time." He continued, "It is important to have an awareness about Black History Month and have good programming that involves the students by having fun but educating them on the figures that made Monmouth what it is."

Throughout the university's history, there have been influences from faculty, staff, and students. Some of these legacies are actually built into the architecture of this campus. Ziobro said, "This is our shared history as Hawks, and I really think not only should it be inspirational to us in the near term, but that we have a shared responsibility to keep it alive for future generations."



IMAGE TAKEN from guides.monmouth.edu
Map of Julian Abele's architectural work.

1920s

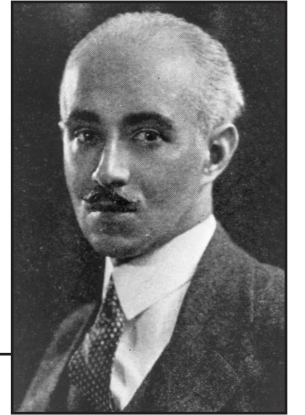


IMAGE TAKEN from archives.upenn.edu
Julian Abele c. 1927.

1940s



IMAGE TAKEN from wikipedia.org
Walter McAfee during his time in the U.S. Army.



IMAGE TAKEN from mommouth.edu
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. giving a speech in Boylan Gymnasium in October 1966.

1960s

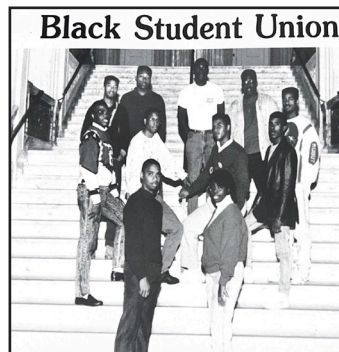


PHOTO COURTESY of Monmouth College Shadows
Black Student Union's pictured in 1989.

1970s



IMAGE TAKEN from aum.edu
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. was chartered at Monmouth in 2011.

2010s



IMAGE TAKEN from pixelsmerch.com
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was established at Monmouth in 2018.



IMAGE TAKEN from mommouth.edu
Dr. Walter Greason was a previous dean of the Honors School.

2020s



IMAGE TAKEN from outlook.monmouth.edu
Bernice King speaking in Pollak Theater in 2022..



IMAGE TAKEN from facebook.com
Ruby Bridges speaking in Pollak Theater in 2024.

Movie watchlist for feeling lost in your 20s

TAYLOR MEMOLI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF /
NEWS EDITOR

It's that time during every senior college student's journey where they are confronted with the unavoidable question: "So what are you going to do after graduation?" Well, that is the golden question. Our lives are just starting, yet the uncertainty surrounding it can be overwhelming. To cope with this—and avoid answering the question—I compiled a list of eight movies that represent those exact feelings to hopefully bring you all some reassurance that we don't have to figure out our lives quite yet, and that's perfectly ok.

Frances Ha (2012) - Dir. Noah Baumbach

My favorite movie on this list, "Frances Ha" follows the quirky Frances as she tries to live in New York City with no real place to live, no real job, and all the strange people that come along with that. "Frances Ha" teaches viewers that it's ok to not know, and that uncertainty can be fun if you make it.

Lost in Translation (2003) - Dir. Sofia Coppola

Surrounded by the beautiful setting of Japan, "Lost in Translation" explores loneliness, isolation, and the longing for connection through the characters of Charlotte (portrayed by Scarlett Johansson) and Bob (portrayed by Bill Murray). This movie features some excellent performances and outstanding directing. "Lost in Translation" teaches viewers to find the beauty in the quiet around them.



IMAGES TAKEN from IMDB.com.

The Graduate (1967) - Dir. Mike Nichols

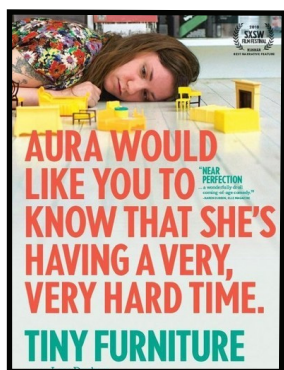
The go-to movie after college graduation and the most expected movie on this list, "The Graduate" follows Benjamin (portrayed by Dustin Hoffman), a recent college graduate who worries about his future. His worries are flipped on his head as he begins a love triangle with an older family friend and her daughter. Will this happen to any of us after we graduate? Who's to say.

Shiva Baby (2020) - Dir. Emma Seligman

If you are feeling a sense of anxiety in your life right now, just know Danielle is as well. "Shiva Baby" is a movie of ultimate uncertainty in your future, present, and past. Viewers are dropped into Danielle's (portrayed by Rachel Sennott) life as she attends a shiva with her crazy family, better-than-her ex-girlfriend, and her sugar daddy... and his wife and baby. If you want to experience other people's anxiety, this movie is for you.

Tiny Furniture (2010) - Dir. Lena Dunham

In Lena Dunham's masterful prequel to "Girls," "Tiny Furniture" is a semi-autobiographical account of Dunham's young life as her character Aura experiences life after college when the only place one can afford to live is back with their parents. Viewers watch as Aura encounters people of her past, meets new strange men, and bonds with her mother and sister, all while trying to be an "adult" (whatever that word means).



Garden State (2004) - Dir. Zach Braff

After coming home for the funeral of his mother, Andrew (portrayed by Zach Braff) decides to stop taking his antidepressants and experience life undisputedly. While doing so, he meets Sam (portrayed by Natalie Portman) and begins

to open up, all living with his father and confronting his emotions. "Garden State" is a wonderful story of love, authenticity, and the little things that can make life beautiful.

Before Sunrise (1995) - Dir. Richard Linklater

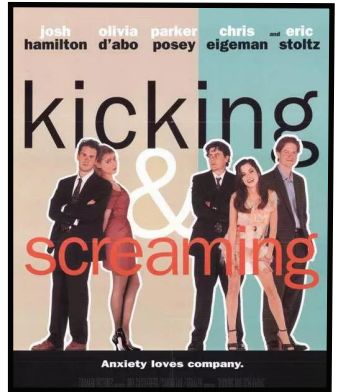
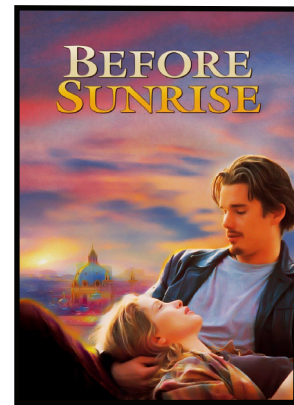
If you're a romantic, "Before Sunrise" might be your best pick on this list. Linklater's "Before Sunrise" focuses on the conversations and little moments between Celine (por-



trayed by Julie Delpy) and Jesse (portrayed by Ethan Hawke) as they explore Vienna after only meeting each other the same day on the train. "Before Sunrise" gives lost viewers hope that love can come from the most unexpected

of places. **Kicking & Screaming (1995) - Dir. Noah Baumbach**

Its incredibly pretentious masculine writing aside,



"Kicking & Screaming" is a great addition to the no-plot genre. "Kicking & Screaming" highlights the struggle of not wanting to move on into the real world. If anything, this film is a perfect example of what not to do after graduation.



How water can improve your health

RILEY MCGEE
STAFF WRITER

Since I have been little, drinking a sufficient amount of water has always been something that I made sure to do. As a former athlete, staying hydrated before soccer games, track meets, or basketball games is always something that I had to do.

Growing up, I had a soccer coach that engraved the idea of staying hydrated in our brains, especially during a soccer tournament when it was 85 degrees out. He would say something along the lines of, "before our next game, drink two whole bottles of water," or "from now till tomorrow for the game, drink five bottles of water." This was something most of my teammates followed because we

wanted to be able to recover and perform to the best of our ability.

According to Medical News Today, drinking water has plenty of benefits for people as a whole. They also recommend that in order to stay hydrated, women should aim to drink around 11 cups of water a day where men should aim to drink 15 to 16 cups of water a day. Obviously, this recommendation can change based on if it's hot outside, physical activity, and if you are sick.

By drinking more water, it can improve our health in several different ways. To begin, as mentioned before, drinking more water keeps us from becoming dehydrated. Dehydration causes us to get dizzy, unclear thinking, and overheating. But, by drinking enough water, you can make sure that these things don't happen to you.

Along with this, drinking more

water can help with people's mental health. Medical News Today says that water can have an impact on cognitive thinking and mental performance, things that can be altered with dehydration. Drinking more water is believed to help improve memory, when you consume it more than just in the morning. This can be beneficial for college students if true.

Consuming more water can also be very good for our skin's appearance and health. Drinking more water not only helps to hydrate our bodies, but hydrate our skin as well. This can prevent things like dryness and itchy skin. It could also help prevent wrinkles and acne as well. In short, if we are dehydrated all the time our skin is also at risk of being dehydrated too.

Finally, drinking an adequate amount of water can help with many of our bodily functions according to Medical News Today. Drinking more water can help our kidneys by removing wastewater from the body. Along with this, it can help with our urinary tract system. Lastly, drinking more water can help with our joint and bone function; this can help to relieve joint pain in our bodies, especially as we get older.

In conclusion, by drinking more water we can truly improve our health. I believe that everyone should make sure they drink a sufficient amount of water so we can make sure we stay healthy and happy. If we all just drink a little extra water everyday we can improve the functions of our body, our skin, our memory, and keep ourselves the best we can be.



IMAGE TAKEN from PEXELS.com.

Drinking more water can improve your health in many ways.

From Soul to Rock: influential Black artists who shaped music

LORELAI HILARCZYK
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

In celebrating Black History Month, there are so many groundbreaking black musicians and singers who shaped our culture. Whether it was through their stunning renditions, guitar solos, smooth vocals, or musical classics, these names live on in music history. Here's my list of the most influential black artists.

Born and raised right here in the state of New Jersey is six-time Grammy award winner, Whitney Houston. Known for her hits "I Wanna Dance with Somebody (Who Loves Me)" and "Higher Love," Houston's breathtaking vocals have stolen

millions of hearts. Her voice remains timeless in its emotion and star quality. Her rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" at the Super Bowl XXV was the best anthem performance by far (sorry, Fergie). There truly will never be another female vocalist with the passion and power of Houston. She was one of those artists who did it effortlessly, and it's a shame she was taken from the world too soon. Her legacy lives on in today's current music makers who look to her vocal style in hopes of achieving the same monster career.

We've all been struck by this smooth criminal, haven't we? Michael Jackson, also known as the "King of Pop," first came into

the public's view in his family band, The Jackson 5 in the 1960s. However, Jackson's solo career is where he truly shined. No offense to the family band's classic 1969 single, "I Want You Back," but does it really top "Thriller"? His songs like "Billie Jean," "Beat It," and "The Way You Make Me Feel" are replayed constantly. There's something so catchy about, "Just beat it (Beat it), beat it (Beat it)/No one wants to be defeated/Show them how funky and strong is your fight/It doesn't matter who's wrong or right/Just beat it (Beat it), beat it (Beat it)." Jackson set numerous records in music history. He shares many of those with today's artists like Drake, Taylor Swift, and Katy

Perry. But, in my opinion, not even Taylor Swift can compare to Jackson's stardom.

Taking us all the way back to the 1940s and '50s is the iconic old-school voices of Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong. There truly aren't voices like these anymore. Fitzgerald revolutionized scat singing and took improvisation to a whole new level. She won a grand total of 13 Grammy awards and was the first woman to receive The Recording Academy's Lifetime Achievement Award in 1967. She definitely set the precedent for what makes a female jazz vocalist with her delicate but powerful sound.

Now Armstrong, in the same way, had an impact on the jazz community. Not only for his low and raspy voice but for his amazing trumpet playing. I will never forget watching "Hello Dolly!" and hearing Armstrong's duet with Barbra Streisand. If you don't know what I'm referencing then I highly suggest you watch the 1969 film. It's likely you know his song, "What A Wonderful World" where he sings, "I see trees of green, red roses too/I see them bloom for me and you/And I think to myself/What A Wonderful World." His artistry and power live on today even though he has long since passed on. My personal favorite from both Fitzgerald and Armstrong is their rendition of "Dream A Little Dream Of Me," which has been in several movies and television shows.

The next two are complete and total energy powerhouses. Any guesses? These two divas demand R-E-S-P-E-C-T and don't mind a little showstopping. It's female vocalists, Tina Turner and Aretha Franklin. These soul

voices sent shock waves throughout music history by giving us iconic pop culture moments. Such as Turner's Creedence Clearwater Revival cover of "Proud Mary," where she spun us round and round, with sparkles and all. Franklin also took us on a journey with her song "A Natural Woman," where she sings, "Cause you make me feel/You make me feel/You make me feel like a natural woman." These two pioneered the female voice as not only being strength but being a true woman, inside and out. If these two aren't empowerment symbols then I don't know who is.

Ending things off are two of my favorite artists, Prince and Stwevie Wonder. Not only have both of them shaped the soul, R&B, and pop genres, but they also gave way to self-expression and creativity. Prince's ability to be bold in his songs "Kiss" and "Little Red Corvette" allowed other artists to experiment with song themes. Those who know of Prince's style know that his self-expression knew no bounds; he wasn't afraid to dress his heart out.

In a similar way, Wonder knows exactly who he is as an artist and isn't afraid to experiment in his genre. His songs "Isn't She Lovely" and "Superstition" took classic funk and R&B sounds and elevated them. There is not a time when those songs come on the radio that I don't drop everything and turn the volume up.

These artists have shaped culture and music in so many ways. Sadly, most of these artists have passed on, leaving their legacies for the radio. But, for Black History Month, let's pay homage to these massive icons.



IMAGE TAKEN from The New Yorker.

Whitney Houston singing "The Star Spangled Banner" at Super Bowl XXV on Jan. 27 1991.

Black American culture in television: storytelling on screen

EMILY STACHERSKI
STAFF WRITER

Black American culture paved the way for many things we see in our everyday lives, including music, food, art, language, and more. More specifically, the part this culture played in television helped influence shows we see now, including those with black actors, producers, writers, and directors. Six shows that have successfully shaped culture, not only in the black community but in society as a whole, are "Julia," "Sanford and Son," "The Jeffersons," "The Cosby Show," "The Arsenio Hall Show," and "In Living Color."

The American television sitcom, "Julia" ran from 1968-1971 and starred Diahann Carroll as the main character, Julia. This series was the first to show a black woman as the main character in the middle class. It broke barriers in so many ways, specifically in the way it challenged audiences by refusing to rely on old stereotypes

of black characters like in the '50s. Julia, both the character within the show and the show itself, was extremely successful and helped earn Diahann Carroll two awards: the "TV Land Groundbreaking Show Award" and a Golden Globe for Best TV Star.

The black American sitcom, "Sanford and Son" (1972-1977), is known as the first predominately Black cast since "Amos 'n' Andy." The show follows widowed Fred. G Sanford and his son, Lamont Sanford, as they navigate life together. This show had white writers, however, the actors were able to look over each script to tell them what was accurate and what wasn't. It was also known for its racial humor which was a precursor to many other sitcoms.

The very first series to portray an upper-class black family was "The Jeffersons," which was on air for CBS from 1975 to 1985. This was another show that broke old stereotypes and allowed their characters to live a successful, wealthy life. It was also one of the first series

to have a married interracial couple.

NBC's "The Cosby Show" (1984-1992) was another predominately black cast that featured the Huxtable family as they went through life. As people of color were underrepresented in entertainment, the series showed an affluent black family leading successful middle-class lives, normalizing Black excellence and diversity.

Creating a sense of community was a huge success as more shows with black casts rose to popularity. For example, "The Arsenio Hall Show" (1989-1994). Arsenio Hall, an actor, comedian, and producer, was the first African-American to host his own late-night talk show. He created a space for black artists, musicians, and entertainers to share their talent, helping define a sense of visibility for black culture.

Lastly, Fox's sketch comedy, "In Living Color" (1990-1994) created by Keenen Ivory Wayans had a mainly black cast, however, was multicultural due to a few white actors being involved, including Jim

Carey. This series helped influence other sketch comedy TV shows like "Chappelle's Show" and "Key and Peele."

Black American culture, portrayed through television, not only shaped media but cre-

ated other long-lasting effects throughout other aspects of pop culture. Opening doors for more diverse storytelling was a huge success starting from the 60s and lasting until our present day.



IMAGE TAKEN from Rewatch TV Classic.

Rising Black artists making a scene in music

MARISSA ALVAREZ
STAFF WRITER

Every generation has individuals who carry forward the legacy of those who came before them. They pay homage through music and art while recognizing the hard work of earlier artists. Musicians often draw inspiration from the lyrics, beats, and styles of their predecessors. This inspiration is expressed through sampling, cadence, and lyricism in their own songs. When one great artist finishes their contributions, it is time for the next to shine. These contemporary artists deserve your attention as they continue the legacy of those before them, sharing their unique styles and providing our generation with fresh sounds.

Naomi Sharon: Naomi Sharon, a Dutch-Caribbean singer and songwriter, has been gaining popularity thanks to her spiritual sound. Her music evokes the style of Nigerian-British singer Sade, characterized by her angelic vocals and calming melodies. Recently, she signed with Drake's label, OVO, becoming their latest R&B solo artist. Additionally, her music transcends genres, incorporating house elements in some tracks while others feature a mellow alternative R&B vibe. In her debut album, "Obsidian" she showcases how she fuses these genres together while exploring themes of love and trusting what's to come. As heard on during her song "Definition of Love", "You give me faith/ That love can be instant/ Break down these walls/ Remove all the distance/ All I see/ All I know/ Is that you are a definition of love." This versatility sets her apart as an artist capable of working



PHOTO TAKEN from swidlife.com.

across multiple genres.

D2x:

Chicago rapper D2x has been making a name for himself in the local music scene, which has helped elevate his profile in the rap industry. In 2018, he released his EP "Enjoy Life," which gained popularity thanks to the track "Woop Woop." The album showcases his vulnerability as he shares the challenges he faced, such as dropping out of college basketball and experiencing recording in the studio for the first time. He also discusses how he built confidence in his rap skills. D2x's sound is reminiscent of the Chicago rapper Kanye West. His cadence and lyrics pay homage to West's unique style and music. D2x is reminiscent of West's albums like "Graduation" and "The College Dropout." Within D2x songs, he mentions West as well in his song, "BE (HOME)," with the lyrics "Back in the treehouse/ I just knew I could take the world/ I seen Ye do it." The lyrics reflect how West has inspired

to keep going despite life's challenges.

Lizzie Berchie:

Born and raised in East London, singer-songwriter and producer Lizzie Berchie has gained neo-soul listeners with her unique style, which fuses her childhood influences of R&B, neo-soul, and jazz. These genres together create a soulful sound when hearing her musical influences span from Erykah Badu, Jill Scott, and

Cleo Sol. Her music explores themes of life, love, and self-growth. She expands on these themes in her EP, "Am I an Adult Yet?". In the album's first track, "Don't Get Ahead Of Yourself," she explores the themes of life and self-growth and she encourages the listeners to take their time in life and learn from it, "Waiting makes it sweeter/ The lessons we learn on our way are deeper/ Times a creeper, don't let it deceive you." The instrumentation fused with her soft vocals creates a captivating jazzy sound that makes listeners to every lesson she has integrated in her songs.

Naomi Sharon, D2x, and Lizzie Berchie each possess a unique style while also paying tribute to those who came before them. Their ability to fuse genres, discuss important themes in their work, and captivate audiences with their vocals demonstrates why they are poised to shine in the music industry.



PHOTO TAKEN from urbanmag-online.com.



PHOTO TAKEN from musicweek.com.

Hidden Kingdom: Wakanda's colonial defiance

BROOKE REDNER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"The Wakandans used vibranium to develop technology more advanced than any other nation. But as Wakanda thrived, the world around it descended further into chaos. To keep vibranium safe, the Wakandans vowed to hide in plain sight, keeping the truth of their power from the outside world."

Young Killmonger said, "And we still hide, Baba?" N'Jobu replied, "Yes." "Why?" said Young Killmonger. Colonization has created an influence on what countries will receive but also what they will not, which has led to slow economic and cultural growth within cultures. The economic system of a dependent country had many adverse effects once colonialism occurred. The colonizer country will take and overrule the resources that the dependent country has, including its natural

resources and agriculture. Over time, the colonizer's economy was utterly reliant on the colonizer's economy. "Black Panther" may seem like another Marvel movie, but if you look closely enough, you'll see that it explores colonialism through the whole foundation of Wakanda. Wakanda itself serves as a thought experiment of an African nation untouched by colonialism. Its advanced technology, cultural traditions, and political sovereignty show the audience a glimpse of an alternate version of Africa's development without European intervention. Wakanda's visual design blends futuristic elements with traditional African aesthetics. For example, their whole world is hidden from the outside, so everyone believes that they are a poor country. They have seen what Europeanism has done to their people worldwide and choose to stay hidden. The movie shows the impact of colonialism through an imaginary African world without colonial oppression.

Wakanda strives to obtain their way of living. They have hidden all of their resources from the outside world for years. Wakanda knew the consequences of letting other countries in on their help, "If we bring them in, then they will solve all of their problems as well." Wakanda represents Africa and its whole glory. Wakanda is a technologically advanced society that has never been conquered. In some ways, the writer shows what Africa could have been without colonialism. In a way, black Panther is teaching viewers that modernization during colonialism had ruined their sense of culture and it would have been a better Africa if it hadn't occurred. The main antagonist, Killmonger, embodies the devastating legacy of colonialism. He is represented as an African-American displaced from Wakanda. His character specially represents the descendants of those who were taken from Africa during the slave trade. His motivation to take

over Wakanda stems from the historical trauma of colonialism and his desire to use Wakanda resources to empower oppressed people globally. "Why, so you can lock me up? Nah. Just bury me in the ocean with my ancestors who jumped from ships, 'cause they knew death was better than bondage," he says. The film criticizes both isolation and intervention as responses to colonialism. While Wakandas isolation protected it from colonization, the film questions whether this came at the cost of abandoning other African nations and peoples to colonial exploitation. Through Tachallas's character- it argues for a middle path in order to do things right. One that maintains sovereignty while using resources and power to help others affected by colonialism's legacy. The museum scene early in the film directly addresses the colonial theft of African artifacts. Killmonger points out how European museums

acquired their African collections through colonial looting. Killmonger even looks at her and says, "I don't know you tell me you the expert," which symbolizes how Europeans thought their way of living was superior which is why they colonized in the first place. The ending scene where T'Challa opens Wakandas' strength to the world suggests a way forward that acknowledges colonial history while working to address its ongoing impacts. Colonial powers caused the problem by creating a global structure that encouraged wealthier countries to extract natural resources from poor countries while destabilizing sustainable native cultures. Sadly, many cultures and traditions have been erased through time by the actions of colonialism. The events should be a reminder and a warning to people around today. It should encourage our world to face the fact of how colonialism has altered the outcome of life, culture, and language itself.

Celebrating America's Black Trailblazers

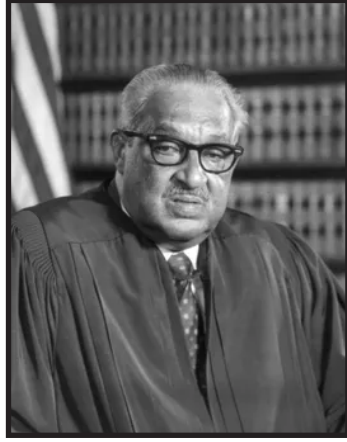
BRENDAN SHEEHAN
POLITICS EDITOR

February is Black History Month. For this week's issue, "The Outlook" chose to share some of the Black Americans who have broke barriers in politics.



KAMALA HARRIS
49TH VICE PRESIDENT

Kamala Harris began her career as a deputy district attorney in Oakland, California before becoming district attorney. In 2004, Harris was elected Attorney General of California by less than one percentage point. She became the first woman and Black American to serve in the role. In 2016, Harris was elected to the United States Senate, becoming only the second Black woman to ever serve in the Senate. After running unsuccessfully for the 2020 Democratic Party presidential primary, nominee Joe Biden chose her as his running mate. In Nov. 2020, she was elected Vice President of the United States, becoming the first woman, first Black American and first Asian American to serve as Vice President. She lost the 2024 U.S. presidential election to Donald Trump.



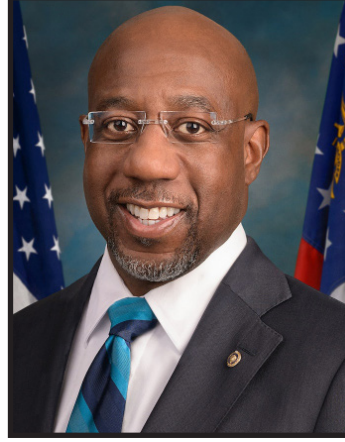
THURGOOD MARSHALL
SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

In 1967, Thurgood Marshall became the first Black American to be confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court. After graduating Howard University Law School first in his class, he began practicing law for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In the 1940's and 1950's, Marshall won 29 of the 32 cases he argued before the Supreme Court. His most famous win was the *Brown v. Board of Education* case, where the Court ruled racial segregation in schools was unconstitutional. In 1965, he was appointed the U.S. Solicitor General by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Johnson nominated him to be an associate Supreme Court justice in 1967, and he was confirmed by a vote of 69-11 by the U.S. Senate.



BARACK OBAMA
44TH PRESIDENT

After graduating Columbia University in 1983, he graduated from Harvard Law School in 1991. He then worked as a community organizer with a Chicago church. After working as an associate at a Chicago law firm, he became a professor at the University of Chicago Law School. In 1996, he was elected to the Illinois State Senate. He ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. House in 2000. He ran for the U.S. Senate in 2004, and he became the third Black American elected to the Senate since Reconstruction. His 2004 Democratic National Convention speech shot him to political stardom. He narrowly won the 2008 Democratic presidential primary and won a massive victory, becoming America's first Black president. He won the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize and was re-elected president in 2012.



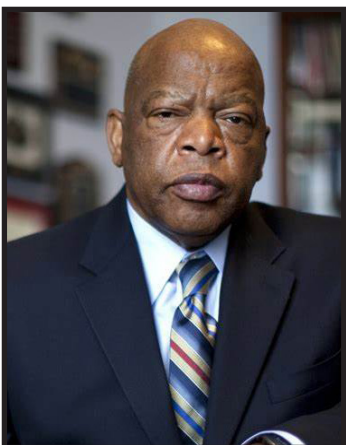
RAPHAEL WARNOCK
U.S. SENATOR

Raphael Warnock was the 11th child in his family, born in Savannah, Georgia. Warnock preached his first He lived in public housing and in high school was voted, "Most Likely to Succeed". He became a Baptist minister and worked as a pastor and community organizer in Harlem and Baltimore. In 2005, he became the senior pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had been a co-pastor. In 2020, he ran for the U.S. Senate, and because no candidate reached 50% in November, a second election was held in January 2021, which Warnock won. He became the first Black person to represent Georgia in the U.S. Senate and the first Black Democrat elected to the Senate from the South. In 2022, he was re-elected to a full six year term in the Senate.



KETANJI BROWN JACKSON
SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

Ketanji Brown Jackson was born in Washington, D.C. in 1970 to two public school teachers. She grew up in Miami and was a master in debate. In 1988, she enrolled at Harvard University and graduated magna cum laude. She graduated Harvard Law School in 1996 and then held three high-ranking clerkships with different U.S. attorneys. She worked in private law firms before becoming a federal public defender in Washington, D.C. She was on President Barack Obama's short-list for the Supreme Court when a nomination opened in 2016. In 2022, President Joe Biden nominated Jackson to the next member of the Supreme Court. She was confirmed by the U.S. Senate 53-47 and became the first Black woman to serve as a U.S. Supreme Court justice.



JOHN LEWIS
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

John Lewis was a congressman and civil rights icon. Growing up in the segregated South, he was inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks. He began participating in the Freedom Rides that protested bus segregation. In 1961, he was beaten and arrested for doing so. In 1965, he led more than 600 protestors in support of equal voting rights in Selma, Alabama across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. On the bridge, they were attacked by police with horses, billy clubs and bullwhips. After being a leading supporter of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, he was elected to the Atlanta City Council in 1981. In 1986, he was elected a member of the U.S. House, representing Atlanta. He won the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He died in 2020 after a battle with cancer and became the first Black American to ever lie in state at the U.S. Capitol.



SHIRLEY CHISHOLM
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

The daughter of immigrants, Shirley Chisholm grew up in Brooklyn, New York. She studied at Columbia University and became active with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In 1964, she was elected to represent Brooklyn in the New York state legislature. In 1968, she ran for the U.S. House with the slogan, "Unbought and Unbossed". She upset her opponent and became the first African American woman elected to the U.S. Congress. In 1972, she became the first woman to run for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. After winning 152 delegates, she dropped out of the race. Her congressional career spanned from 1969 to 1983, where she founded the National Women's Political Caucus, supported the Equal Rights Amendment and fought for abortion rights. She died in 2005.



COLIN POWELL
U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE

Colin Powell was born to Jamaican immigrants in New York City in 1937. He was raised in the Harlem and South Bronx neighborhoods. After studying at the City College of New York, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was deployed to Vietnam during the Vietnam War, where he served for two years. Upon coming home, he became a White House fellow and an assistant in the West Wing. After moving jobs, he became a senior military assistant to the Secretary of Defense in 1983. Powell then joined the National Security Council and after leading the Army Forces Command, he was appointed Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by President George H.W. Bush. In 2001, President George W. Bush appointed Powell as the U.S. Secretary of State. He was the first Black American to chair the Joint Chiefs of Staff or serve as the Secretary of State.



HAKEEM JEFFRIES
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

Hakeem Jeffries was born in Brooklyn in 1970 to a substance abuse counselor and social worker. He attended college at the State University of New York (SUNY) Binghamton. He furthered his political career at Georgetown University and then enrolled in the New York University (NYU) School of Law. He then clerked for both a federal judge and private practice. In 2006, Jeffries was elected to the New York State Assembly. After winning re-election twice, he was elected to the U.S. House in 2012. He worked on criminal justice reform, including an effort to ban chokeholds. He joined the Congressional Black Caucus and in 2019, he became the Chair of the House Democratic Caucus. In 2022, the House Democrats elected him their caucus leader and he became House Minority Leader in 2023, the first Black person to lead a major party in Congress.



HIRAM RHODES REVELS
U.S. SENATOR

Hiram Rhodes Revels was born in North Carolina in 1827. As education was denied to him in the South, he travelled to Indiana and Illinois to study. He became a minister in 1845 and moved to Baltimore where he was a pastor and principal for a school for Black Americans. Following the start of the Civil War, he organized volunteer regiments to fight for the Union army. He then volunteered as a chaplain to an African American regiment in Mississippi. He became a military governor in 1868 and then was elected the first Black person elected to the U.S. Senate. A Republican, he supported bills to expand voting rights and supported allowing former Confederates to hold office in an effort to reduce racial tension. He fought for desegregated schools. He only held his Senate seat for one year before becoming a college president.

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

Happy (upcoming) birthday to our very own, Brendan Sheehan! We hope 21 treats you well! See you at the bars.
- *The Outlook* staff

HAWK TV Hawk TV
CHANNEL 12.1

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
MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY SHADOW PR FIRM

Hi Hawks, welcome back! 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

Lens Collective
LENS COLLECTIVE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Our first meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 4:00 p.m. in the Art Building room 608.

- Henry Boody, 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
MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY 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
LASO Latin American Student Organization
MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

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 this Wednesday @ 1-2 p.m. with special guest, **Taylor Memoli!** Here us talk about the behind the scenes of *The Outlook* as well as some juicy gossip and great music!

xoxo - Bailey

College Republicans
MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY 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

College Democrats
MU CD

Love is love! Come to our Valentine's Day bake sale in the Student Center on Feb. 14.

- Owen Bros, President

Join the team of excellence.

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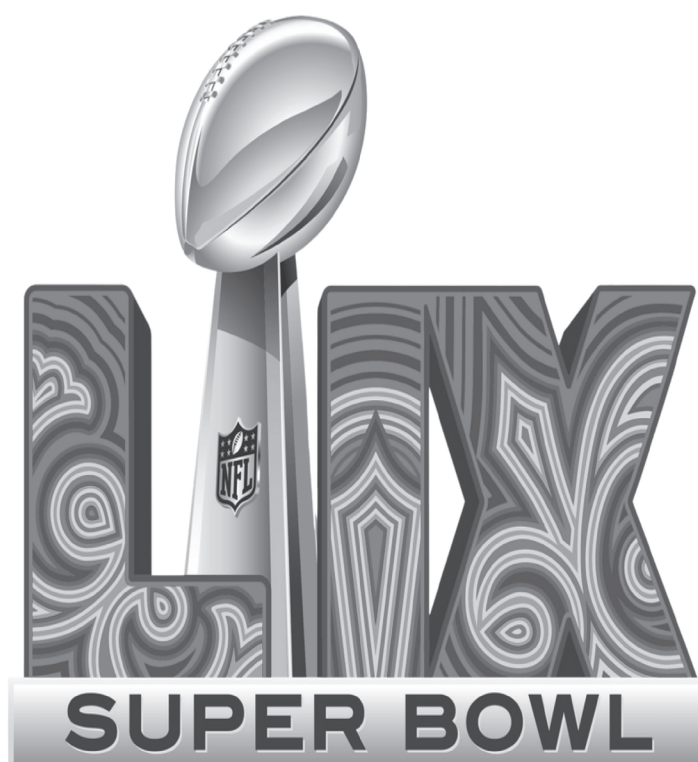
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SUPER BOWL TAKEOVER IN SHADOW'S LOUNGE!



Don't miss our Super Bowl Takeover, where the big game meets an epic party atmosphere with food and non-stop excitement! Gather your friends, cheer for your team, and enjoy an unforgettable night of football and fun!

Sunday, February 9 from 5:30 pm-10:00 pm in Shadow's Lounge at Elmwood Hall!



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Celebrate friendship at the OSE Valentine's Day Pop-Up Event! Stop by for sweet treats, giveaways, and thoughtful surprises to share with a friend, someone special or keep for yourself.

From a four game roadtrip to a four game homestand: Monmouth wins in double overtime over Drexel

DAE'SANI CLARKE
STAFF WRITER

Monmouth took on the Drexel Dragons in an intense matchup on Jan. 30. Guard Madison Durr set an OceanFirst Bank Center record scoring 40 points. Guard Abdi Bashir wasn't too far behind with 32 points. The arena was on fire and packed with fans that helped bring in the first home game after a four game road trip.

This game was also put together to celebrate Student Appreciation Day. Students were provided with free pizza, donuts, hot chocolate, beanies and Monmouth Mob t-shirts. While the athletics department did a fair job making their fans comfortable, the real question became, will the Hawks be able to deliver the win?

After two overtime quarters, Monmouth was able to come out on top and serve up a win. The game started aggressively with defense in man to man. The Hawks might have tipped the bar too far causing them to collect their first foul which gave the Dragons an opportunity to secure two free throws and put points on the board. When they got possession of the ball back, forward Cornelious Robinson shot a jumper assisted by Durr, evening the score. There were several back-and-forth moments in the game.

The Dragons were able to pull ahead slightly after forward Victor Panov shot a clean three, bringing the score to 7-11. Bashir, who is ranked second in the nation in made three pointers, shot adrenaline into the crowd with one of his signature triples. This gave the Hawks the lead once again, 17-15.

Monmouth's defense was a huge highlight of the night, keeping the Dragons in check. Forward Jor-

dan Meka had back-to-back blocks that made the choir sing. Solid blocks delivered like this set the offense up beautifully, allowing room for Bashir to work his magic.

Towards the end of the first half, the Hawks had a back-to-back turnover; an attempt for a 3 pointer that was blocked by Delaware's Clem Edomwonyln that was

exchanged for a dunk.

The Dragon's continued to fight back, but Durr was determined to close those gaps in the score. The first half ended with the Hawks ahead by 10 points (44-33).

The second half is where things really began to heat up. It was clear that Drexel really wanted this win, returning back to the court with guns

blazing. Collins was able to make a jumper, adding two points onto the Hawks lead. After Monmouth missed a 3-point shot, Jason Drake for Drexel showed them how it was done securing his own.

The Dragons were able to catch up quickly making it a 6-point game with eight minutes left in the second

half. Andrew Ball was able to keep the fire hot with a slam dunk that kept the fans on their feet. After sinking two free throws it became a seven-point game. When the Dragons got the ball back, Sophomore Guard Villiam Garica Adsten sunk a 3, sending a message to the hawks that they were still in it to win it. Monmouth responded with two more threes by Collins which at one point looked like a 3 point shoot out match.

The Dragons caught completely up to the Hawks making this now a one-point game, but Bashir pulled off another fascinating three keeping their lead alive. There was a lot of exchange between free throws and layups but when it came down to one second, Shane Blakeney (Drexel) locked in for his team and shot a buzzer beater three making the score 80-80 going straight into overtime.

Drexel makes the first basket in the brand-new quarter, but Bashir isn't too far behind with another three. This part of the game was played at a very fast pace which resulted in back-to-back scoring. It seemed that the Hawks were careful during this part of the game playing very strategically. Madison Durr was frontman when it came to guiding the Hawks. Throughout the game he constantly kept Monmouth's lead alive. He collected tons of free throws and incredible layups. Drexel sunk successful free throws by Senior Guard Yame Butler tied the score again (91-91) resulting in another overtime quarter.

The Hawks were finally able to come out of the fire alive. The Dragons finally slipped up and couldn't manage to score points in the last 2 minutes of the game. Durr was on fire scoring all points for the Hawks in this quarter, but one free throw made by Muordar. The game ended on a 7-0 run with the score standing at 104-97.



Madison Durr had a 40 point performance, the eighth Hawk in program history with a 40-point game.

PHOTOS COURTESY of Emily Webb.

Men's basketball prevails versus Delaware

MICHAEL GRUSEKE
OPINIONS EDITOR

The Monmouth Hawks (7-16) claimed a victory over the Delaware Blue Hens (11-12) by the score of 92-83 this past Saturday, Feb. 1, at Ocean First Bank Center. The Hawks have proven they are a dangerous team to play at home, maintaining an impressive 5-1 record this season while playing in front of the home crowd.

Standout guards Madison Durr and Abdi Bashir combined for more than half of the team's scoring as the duo scored 52 points.

Guard Andrew Ball had an impressive day, scoring 10 points while also playing a key role defensively, boasting a statline of 3 blocks and 7 rebounds.

The Hawks jumped off to an early lead after a Bashir three pointer and a layup by center Dok Muordar set the score at 13-7 with 16:31 remaining in the first half.

Delaware quickly fought

back and took the lead with 11:56 left in the first half after guard Tahron Allen drilled a three pointer that gave the Blue Hens a 20-19 advantage. Thanks to an impressive stretch of defensive play, Monmouth went on a 10-0 run immediately after this and had a comfortable 29-20 lead with 9:15 left in the first half.

Delaware would continue to battle back, but did not regain a lead until being up 42-41 with 30 seconds left in the first half after a dunk from guard Erik Timko.

Monmouth only let this lead last for 21 seconds, as Ball then hit a clutch 3-pointer with 9 seconds left in the half, which took the Hawks into halftime with a slight 44-42 lead.

The second half started off neck and neck, but Monmouth finally gained some breathing room after Bashir sank a three pointer with 12:25 left in the game that put the score at 66-58 in favor of the Hawks.



PHOTO COURTESY of Emily Webb.

Abdi Bashir Jr. and Madison Durr combined for 52 points against Delaware on Alumni Day.

The Blue Hens kept battling back, tying the game at 73 a piece with 7:02 remaining in the second half after a layup from guard Trent Middleton.

Minutes later, Delaware would take a 77-76 lead after a layup from Allen with just 4:56 left in the game.

This would be the last lead the Blue Hens would hold as Monmouth responded with a few clutch shots and gave themselves an 86-79 lead

with 2:41 left in the game after a pair of free throws from Durr.

Delaware would not be able to recover from this disadvantage after Bashir and Durr combined for a perfect 6-6 behind the free throw line in the last 40 seconds of the game, ultimately securing the 92-83 victory over the Blue Hens.

Monmouth dominated Delaware in the block category as the Hawks had a season

high 11 blocks compared to the Blue Hen's zero blocks. Monmouth also outshot Delaware's offense by 10% (52%-42%). Both of these were key factors that helped the Hawks win this game.

Monmouth has now improved to a record of 5-5 in CAA play and will try to improve on this when they take on the Hampton Pirates (11-12) on Thursday (2/6/25) at Ocean First Bank Center at 7pm.

A trip to the Carolina's ended in a bounce-back win for the Hawks

MAIREAD SPELLACY
SPORTS EDITOR

The Hawks started their weekend long road trip in Buies Creek, NC as they faced Campbell on Friday, Jan. 31, but fell short in the last quarter.

Monmouth took a quick lead and controlled the tempo the majority of the game, leading 14-10 after the first quarter. Shooting 42.9% from the field, and holding the Camels to just 33.3% in the first half, the Hawks went into halftime leading 28-26.

The Hawks continued their shooting game outscoring Campbell 20-18 in the third. Despite a game high 25-point performance from guard Damaris Rodriguez, and impactful performances from center Belle Kranbuhl and forward Taisha Exanor, it was the Camels 32-point performance in the fourth quarter alone that solidified their

win over the Hawks, 76-67.

It was the second half in Sunday's game as well that made the difference, but in favor of the Hawks.

Feb. 2 the Hawks made their way to Elon, NC to face Elon University to cap their quick road trip with a 62-47 victory.

The Hawks had a slow start to begin with, ending the first quarter behind, 14-11. While still searching to get ahead offensively, the Hawks defense held the Phoenix to eight points and trailed by just two, 22-20, to end the half.

Out of the half, the Hawks came out ablaze shooting 81.8% from the field in the third, with a 21-5 scoring advantage. The Hawks defense went nowhere as they held Elon to five points in the third.

Another 21-point quarter secured the victory for the Hawks before they return home to host Drexel Friday, Feb. 7.



PHOTO TAKEN from Instagram @muhawks

THE OUTLOOK



MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY



MEN'S BASKETBALL CONTINUE TO PROTECT HOME COURT



Monmouth Men's Basketball protect home court after back-to-back wins to go 5-1 at home.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 14 & 15

PHOTO COURTESY of Emily Webb