



Monmouth Students attend Mondo.NYC 2025 Music and Tech Conference

LORELAI HILARCZYK
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Monmouth University students consisting of Blue Hawk Records (BHR) members and several graduates attended the 10th annual Mondo.NYC Music and Technology Conference in New York City. The conference was held at Arlo Williamsburg Hotel from Oct. 14 through the 17. The trip was coordinated by Jeffrey Mendez, senior music industry major and Kylensky Miracle, junior business major and overseen by Joe Rapolla, professor and Chair of the Music and Theatre Arts Department.

The event was centered around music, arts, and technology professionals all working with the

music industry. This included industry artists, leaders, and entrepreneurs; including David O'Connor, Vice President of Artist & Business Development for Live Nation and Founder of OnesToWatch; Todd Dupler, Chief Advocacy & Public Policy Officer for The Recording Academy; and Antoinette Trotman, SVP Business Affairs Administration for Universal Music Group.

The experts covered a multitude of fields from legal, business admins, marketers, and music journalists. This week of panels, showcases, and networking opportunities explored the issues that the current future of entertainment faces. Monmouth students attended panels that focused on advocacy, social media, music supervision, and



PHOTO COURTESY of Blue Hawk Records via Joe Rapolla

Monmouth students with Monmouth Chair of the Music and Theatre Arts Department, Joe Rapolla at Mondo.NYC.

“Shadows of Shadow Lawn” 20th anniversary celebration: A night of chilling tales

MELANY MCCANN
STAFF WRITER

Whether you're a staff member, student, or visitor, we've all heard of the alleged hauntings of Monmouth University, but who would've thought that these rumors could actually be true? On Oct. 24 at 7 p.m., in the Plangere Center for Communication, WMCX, HawkTV, HawkInteractive, CommWorks and a radio station management class held a film screening of “Shadows of Shadow Lawn” for the 20th anniversary of the

student-made film about the ghosts roaming our university. Made in 2005, this film explores various rumors of hauntings on campus, focusing on The Great Hall, Woods Theatre, and a multitude of supernatural experiences. With interviews and anecdotes from students, staff, the Monmouth University Police Department, and anonymous contributors, this film pieced together the puzzle of these ghostly rumors. It took approximately six months to film, and since

the day of its original screening, these tales hold just as much pertinence as it did 20 years ago. The night began with a chilling elevator ride, decorated pitch black, with a man dressed in a red suit reciting the words, “Rob is dead” in a terrorizing voice. After the quick, but horrifying ride, the hallway to the screening was decorated as well. The once bright hallway now covered in cobwebs and screaming animatronics scaring those

who walked through. Once you braved past the décor, you were met with warm smiles. The movie was accompanied with various refreshments—water, pizza, and of course, tons of candy! There was also a table filled with free t-shirts memorializing the night. Soon after 7 p.m., Aaron Furgason, professor and advisor to WMCX officially began the event, introducing the class that worked hard to put it together, and talking

about the film itself. Then Tom Hanly was introduced, who worked first-hand on the film as co-producer 20 years ago and spent a night in Wilson Hall (now known as our Great Hall), along with interviewing several staff members. After words from Furgason and Hanly, the film began. The movie itself was captivating and provided some undeniable evidence about the existence of the spirits at Monmouth. It first explored the historic grounds of the

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Mondo Conference

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the relationship between technology and creativity. BHR students, in particular, networked with these professionals for future partnerships with the university and their student record label. Those who attended left feeling inspired with more awareness of what professionals do daily.

One of the event coordinators, Miracle, also expressed how he benefitted from learning different aspects of the industry. He explained how learning about advocacy was, "... uplifting for the future of the music industry as a creative and business professional, learning about how the industry benefits the economy and the legal action taken to protect creatives and their work to continue

to promote growth in our economy was eye-opening. It was an honor to have been able to attend such an informative and inspiring event with my fellow classmates," Miracle said.

Allison Spinelli, a sophomore music industry major said, "I learned so much about the music business and was able to learn from real industry professionals about their personal experiences in the industry. My biggest takeaway from the experience was how connections and hard work have a direct correlation with success in the industry."

Other music industry majors like Olivia Crocco, senior and Connor Hackett, junior were grateful to hear from influential industry experts from Billboard, Warner, Sony, and more. "I thoroughly enjoyed

all the panels and took away so much information from each, especially the panel on how social media affects the industry with great commentary from management teams and A&R, giving direct insight to the career path I would love to follow," Crocco said. She explained that although these events might seem daunting walking into a room full of professionals was "truly inspiring" for the future.

Along with learning about professions and future areas for careers, students also heard about personal experiences. Event coordinator, Mendez went to a sync panel featuring Randy Class, a Grammy nominated producer and songwriter for Selena Gomez and Shawn Mendez. Class talked about writing across different catalogs and how diversity in genres can open doors within

the industry.

"What stuck with me most was hearing that one good placement can do more than millions of streams and keep earning even while you're spending time with family," Mendez said, "To be present with loved ones while your work continues to move is what makes sync so powerful and something I aspire to capitalize on."

Opportunities like Mondo.NYC continue to strengthen Monmouth students' education and

their futures after graduation. Conferences like this are how students can develop a network and create lasting experiences related to their careers. Students left feeling a sense of hope and eager to start making a foundation for themselves to grow in the music industry.

"From music advocacy to music supervision, I know that there's a career for me out there, and the education I gain at Monmouth will help me succeed in one of the many fields that exist in this exciting industry," Hackett said.

Correction: In our last issue the name of the Deans Distinguished Speaker Series was named Ray and Pam Brunt Dean's Distinguished Speaker series, based on the communication we have received from the Dean's office on Oct. 8. The correct title is Wayne D. McMurray School of Humanities and Social Sciences Dean's Distinguished Speaker Series.

"Shadows of Shadow Lawn"

cont. from pg. 1

Shadow Lawn estate, where The Great Hall resides. Here, there are reports of spirit activity at night and during the day, along with unexplainable circumstances. The building was once owned by the couple Hubert and Maysie Parson before 1929, and this is where the haunting is believed to stem from. Supposedly, the Parsons often threw extravagant parties and dinners and invited as many people as possible. Unfortunately, because of their status, people didn't show up to their events. Since they received very few visitors, they're said to haunt the dining room and building because of their "unfinished business."

Staff members recount a recurring phenomenon they call the "ghost walk" where the ladies in the office would experience a cold spot, right after each other. One person at one desk would feel warm, and the person next

to them, only a few feet away, would get chills. They believed that this was Maysie walking by, as the film mentioned that this "ghost walk" would only happen before big events, or on specific days when they'd send out invitations.

The most chilling story of Wilson Hall, though, is a photograph that staff found. In the photograph are tables and chairs, with two translucent images of housekeepers. It's obvious by the rented chairs that this is a modern image, but the vintage maid outfits worn by the housekeepers suggest otherwise. It's an odd photograph that nobody understands, but many staff members believe that it is a nod to Bertha—Maysie's unwed sister who worked as a housekeeper at Shadow Lawn.

Wilson Hall seems to be the home of tragedy, as the film covered the unfortunate death of a firefighter who died during an electrical fire. He fell down the elevator shaft thinking it was the door to another room, and many

believe that his death contributes to the spirits roaming Wilson.

In addition to the above, there were various other anecdotes from staff and students reporting unease, self-igniting lights, and unknown noises, without any scientific explanation at the estate, and also mentions the imported church in the basement of Wilson, that may very well hone various spirits who were ripped from their original place of rest.

The film then dived into Woods Theatre, a supernatural hot spot as it was the carriage house for Guggenheim's. Back when the Guggenheims still occupied the library, their stable boy came to a tragic death in Woods Theatre where a horse kicked his head. His lover reportedly took her own life when told the grim news. Many staff members and students have reported disturbances at night in the upper level of the theatre, including flashing lights, an apparition of a boy, and most interestingly, the strong odor of

manure and horses.

It also explored various other unexplainable events on campus, including the sound of falling bookshelves in the library at night, visions of a woman in a white gown, the sound of whispering and the creaking of doors and stairs, and strange shadows.

Another notable occurrence from the film was the three graves of Maysie Parson's dogs on Cedar Avenue. The use of a headstone at the time of their death suggests that the animals faced a tragic death, and some of their headstones have disappeared, consequently stirring their spirits.

The film was set up in interview-style, where we joined staff at their place of work to discuss these disturbances. There was also eerie footage of campus at night, and in the

supposed places of haunting, leaving goosebumps on my skin.

One aspect of these hauntings that the interviewees believed was that it was all friendly. These aren't spirits filled with revenge and anger, but with ecstasy and want. While it may be scary to experience the cold spots and uneased presence of these spirits, many believe they've come back to watch the growth of their estate, and Hanly recalls that his experience with these spirits was nothing but welcoming.

Although this was made 20 years ago, these stories hold even more power now. Combined with the haunted hallway and elevator ride, dark room, and eerie phenomenon, this was truly a night full of terror. Friendly or not, one question remains, do you dare roam the halls of Monmouth University at night?



PHOTO TAKEN by Melany McCann.

The "Shadows of Shadow Lawn" atmosphere greeted staff writer, **Melany McCann** with haunting decorations as she entered the screening.

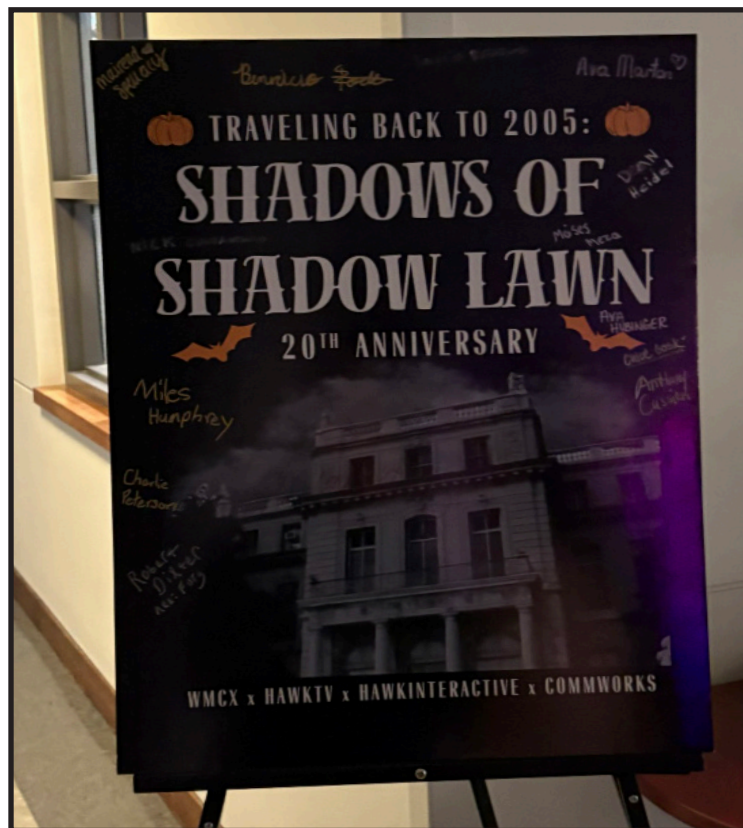


PHOTO TAKEN by Melany McCann.

Monmouth's Doctor of Occupational Therapy program hosts ninth annual event

KENDAL O'NEILL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Oct. 7, Monmouth University's Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) Program hosted its ninth annual De-Stress with Acupuncture event, in collaboration with the School of Nursing and Health Studies. The event took place in Bey Hall, Room 127, from 12–4 p.m.

The session was led by Andrea Garcia, OTD, MSW, OTR/L, Acting Program Director of the OTD Program, with assistance from Michelle Graceffo, LAc, a licensed acupuncturist. The pair first launched this event after completing training with Acupuncturists Without Borders in Auriculotherapy for Communities in Crisis. Undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty, were invited to attend, making it an inclusive opportunity for the entire Monmouth community.

This year's event saw its largest turnout yet, with over sixty participants. Attendees enjoyed a



IMAGE COURTESY of Kendal O'Neill.

Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program hosted its ninth annual De-Stress with Acupuncture event, in collaboration with the School of Nursing and Health Studies.

30-minute opportunity to relax and recharge through acupuncture and time spent in a calming, low-stimulation environment.

The tranquil setting helped participants unwind as they learned more about the therapeutic benefits of acupuncture and how it can

promote overall wellness. Research has shown that acupuncture activates the body's parasympathetic nervous system, the "rest and digest" response, which helps reduce anxiety, lower heart rate, and create a sense of calm and balance.

The acupuncture involved

the gentle insertion of up to five fine, single-use, sterilized stainless-steel needles into specific energetic points on the outer ear. These points each serve a different purpose:

Sympathetic Point: calms the nervous system

and promotes overall relaxation.

Shen Men ("Spirit Gate"): helps reduce anxiety and nervousness.

Kidney Point: supports calming fears and healing internal organs.

Liver Point: aids in detoxification, blood purification, and reducing aggression.

Lung Point: promotes deeper breathing and helps release feelings of grief.

The outer ear functions like a relay station, sending impulses to the brain that stimulate the release of endorphins, natural mood-boosting chemicals that help lower stress and promote relaxation.

This event would not have been possible without the support of Dr. Shannon Clifford, Acting Dean for the Marjorie K Unterberg School of Nursing and Health studies, and the National Wellness Institute Club, a new student organization under the direction of Dr. Alexis Silverio.

For more information about acupuncture visit Shore Points Acupuncture in Manasquan, owned by Michelle Graceffo, LAc.

Pearson World Cinema series screens "Leviathan"

HENRY BOODY
POLITICS EDITOR

The Institute for Global Understanding (IGU) and the Center for the Arts at Monmouth University held a screening of *Leviathan* (2014) on Thursday, Oct. 23, in Young Auditorium, Bey Hall, as part of the Pearson World Cinema Series. Thomas Pearson, Ph.D. and professor emeritus of history and Jason Adolf, Ph.D. and endowed associate professor of Marine Science, hosted the post-screening Q&A.

Directed by Andrey Zvyagintsev, *Leviathan* follows a man in a northern Russian town who faces the demolition of his home at the hands of a corrupt mayor. Pearson described the film as "a society and a political system that is riddled with corruption," adding that "it shows transactions in virtually all of the behaviors and encounters seen in the film."

Pearson noted how the film's visual scope amplifies its political message. "In this beautiful Northern Russian setting and the Arctic Russian



IMAGE TAKEN from Mubi.

Leviathan (2014) takes place in a Russian coastal town where the main character, Kolya is forced to fight the corrupt mayor.

North," he said, "the visual cinematography of this film is absolutely stunning."

The discussion tied the film to the semester's theme, "Global Transactions." Pearson explained that *Leviathan* reflects not only Russia's autocracy but also broader global issues.

"One reason why I thought this would be a really good film for this particular theme, but a very timely film, is because this really just shows how corrupting autocratic politics can be," he said. "Autocrats like Putin, like Victor Orban in Hungary, and as I even said in my comments,

you know, I'm sorry to say, we're seeing a lot in the way of autocratic politics in our country right now," he added.

He called *Leviathan* "probably the best Russian film of the 21st century so far," emphasizing how it reveals the breakdown of institutions meant

to protect citizens. "The film just shows the rule of law being absolutely meaningless in this town," Pearson said. "It shows the church head and the mayor are partners in this corruption."

Pearson reflected on the audience response as more introspective than interactive. "There was not as much audience questions of back and forth as there was with the first film," he said. "Most everybody afterwards was telling me really great film, really wanted to think about [it]. I said, this film, I think has the value," said Pearson.

Closing out the evening, Pearson reaffirmed the series' purpose: to challenge students to see cinema as education. "The whole idea is that film can not only be enjoyed, but it can be a very powerful educational tool," he said.

The Pearson World Cinema Series, named in his honor, continues with *Between Two Worlds* (2021) on Thursday, Nov. 13, at 6:05 p.m. in Pozzycki Hall Auditorium, as part of the "Global Transactions" series co-presented by the IGU and the Center for the Arts.

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Does Monmouth set students up for success after college?

EDITORIAL STAFF

Right after graduation, students should feel ready to start their professional careers with all the knowledge they learned in college. Whether that is the case or not is up for debate. Too often, students graduate and have a hard time navigating the real-world job market. Of course, the job market, including internships, is extremely competitive, even if the university claims to prepare graduates for success.

While some students feel confident that Monmouth University has provided them with the skills and connections they need to succeed, others question whether the support systems and career opportunities offered are enough to help graduates stand out in today's competitive job market. The Outlook editors reflected on these experiences, discussing how well Monmouth sets students up for success, how prepared they feel, and what improvements could be made to strengthen that transition from classroom to career.

When asked how well Monmouth sets students up to get a job in their field, editors generally agreed that the University provides resources and opportunities, but that students must take initiative to benefit from them. One editor shared, "I believe that there are quite a lot of opportunities and connections that Monmouth provides for graduating students. With that being said, Monmouth has set up those opportunities, and it's our responsibility as students to take them and do what needs to be done."

However, not every department seems to offer the same level of preparation. "They often host career fairs relative to each major, which

is helpful," said one editor. "Whether it's effective, or not, though, is a different story. In my opinion, I think Monmouth sets up certain majors better than others." The idea that some programs offer more hands-on experience is a common concern among students.

When asked how prepared they would feel if they were to graduate right now, editors' responses ranged from confident to cautious. Some students felt ready to step into their fields, while others were anxious about entering a tough job market. One editor shared, "I truly do feel quite prepared. Between hands-on experience and help from professors who have assisted me in my field of study, I feel that I am prepared to go into the field that I want to pursue."

Others expressed more hesitation. "I feel decently prepared to graduate, but super nervous to be out in the job world," said one editor. "Unfortunately, it's tough out there right now, and everyone has to pave their own way," they added.

Another editor admitted to feeling less confident, saying, "If I were to look for a job right now, I'd feel pretty iffy about it. The job market is not good right now, and I haven't done an internship yet, so I think it would be difficult at first."

Editors agreed that Monmouth does make an effort to help students build career-ready skills, particularly through hands-on learning. "First and foremost, the university provides many hands-on experiences, especially in the communication department," one editor explained.

"From the radio station to Hawk TV and The Outlook, we are learning from real-world positions and roles. In addition, career development

is there to assist when it comes to resumes, LinkedIn, headshots, etc."

Other editors praised the university's networking opportunities across departments. "The university has various opportunities for networking, like panels, events, and alumni experts," one shared. "I've been to several of these events, and there's not a time when I don't leave feeling inspired or with contacts. And those aren't even in the Comm Department!"

When asked what Monmouth could do to help students feel more prepared, editors offered a range of thoughtful suggestions. "I would like to see Monmouth incorporate classes that help us gain more knowledge about real-world scenarios," said one. "There are students who struggle financially and might not know entirely how to steward their money when they graduate. I think classes like that would really help us to be even more prepared."

Another editor called for more attention to specific academic interests. "I would like to see the communication department do more for print journalism and media," they said. "While it's not the most popular communication field, there are still those of us who want to work at newspapers or magazines."

A third editor mentioned the need for more variety at campus events: "Bring a wider variety of organizations to the career fairs. It's the same organizations every year. Changing it up can go a long way."

As editors reflected, it was clear that they believe Monmouth provides a strong foundation, but students must be the ones actively engaging with it.

Ultimately, as one editor summarized, Monmouth can prepare students well "if we meet the university halfway."

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Is "Black Phone 2" a worthy sequel?

HANNAH FIERRO
STAFF WRITER

Scott Derrickson's "Black Phone 2" returns as a continuation that the first movie set with its familiar eerie tone that made it so memorable. Although, this time, something feels a little different. The movie is visually stunning, ominously atmospheric, and full of sentiment, but fundamentally it raises one question: did "Black Phone" really need a sequel?

Instantly the cinematography stood out to me. The movie looks dreamy. I loved how you could tell when Gwen, played by Madeleine McGraw, was dreaming by the use of grainy texture.

It made those moments feel nostalgic and unsettling at the same time. It gave off that perfect vintage horror vibe without overdoing it. Every scene was filmed in muted colors that matched the film's horror tone. I think the cinematography and lighting alone deserve praise, especially because they separate Gwen's intense dreams from reality in such a natural way.

The soundtrack was an important part in the sequel, the music reminded me a lot of the movie "Sinister", and after searching up the cast I realized it's the same director. The music has similar slowing

tension with ruptures of intensity, using silence to draw you into the story. I think it's the perfect blend of unsettling but also strangely beautiful, which is one of Derrickson's strengths.

The performances were another feature. Every actor brought depth to their characters, especially all of the returning cast. You could feel the emotional weight behind their trauma and how they've tried to move forward especially from the character Finney, played by Mason Thames. My only critique was I had mixed feelings about the dialogue, mainly with Gwen. I love her character because she's tough, witty, and has strong emotions. But, this time around, her lines sometimes came across as too childish. The cursing and humor that made her funny in the first movie don't land the same way here. It feels like the writers forgot that she's supposed to be older now. Her immaturity was believable when she was twelve, but by "Black Phone 2", it just doesn't fit the tone of her growth.

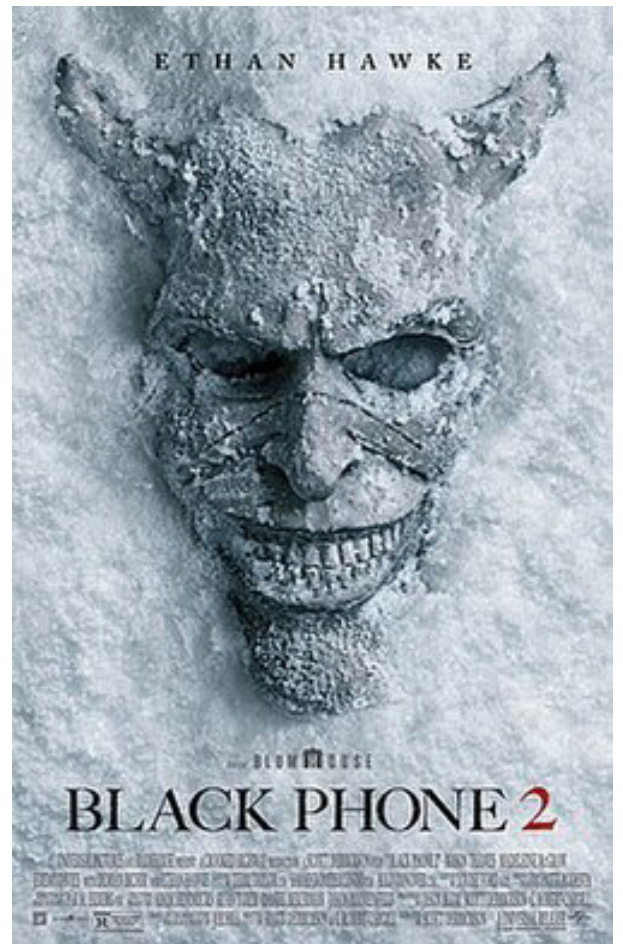
This might be an unpopular opinion, but I don't love that people are treating the Grabber like the next big horror icon. Despite Ethan Hawke's performance in the first film being unforgettable, and the mask design is definitely creepy, I think turning him into a "franchise villain" like Michael Myers, Jason, or Freddy

Krueger actually undermines what made "Black Phone" special in the first place. The original wasn't meant to build a new horror legend, it was about the terror of real-life evil. The Grabber wasn't a monster from another world, he was a man who kidnapped and murdered children. That's what made it terrifying.

The first movie worked because it blurred the line between psychological horror and supernatural mystery. The phone calls from the dead could be taken literally or symbolically. Fin might have actually been communicating with spirits, or maybe he was just imagining them as a way to survive his trauma. Either way, it made the story more layered and grounded in emotion.

But "Black Phone 2" leans heavily into the supernatural side. The Grabber's return feels like the movie is trying too hard to keep him alive (literally and figuratively), which kind of defeats the emotional finality of the first story.

Nevertheless, I don't think this sequel is bad. In fact, I actually liked it. If The Black Phone had to continue, this was probably the best possible way to do it. The story makes sense as a follow-up, and the new supernatural elements are creative and visually engaging. The pacing is tight, and the tone stays consistent with the original film's world. You



COURTESY OF Universal Pictures

can tell Derrickson still cares about these characters and their stories, he just leans more into fantasy and less into fear this time.

However, it's hard to shake the feeling that "Black Phone" didn't need to become a franchise. The first film was powerful because it ended with closure, a victory from pain, survival, and inner strength. Expanding that into a recurring "Grabber universe" turns something deeply emotional into something more basic. But even knowing that, I walked

out of the theater thinking it was good. It's a sequel that at least tries to be meaningful, not just another lazy cash grab.

At the end of the day, "Black Phone 2" is beautifully made, well-acted, and full of heart. It's not as tight or emotionally raw as the first movie, but it still manages to capture that strange mix of hope and horror. It might not live up to the original, but it's a worthy continuation for fans who wanted to pick up the phone one more time.

Hollywood vs artificial intelligence

KATELYN STANDVIK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

One of my favorite things about filmmaking has always been the acting. The raw emotion actors are able to bring to a character and deliver in a performance is truly amazing. It's these emotions that make stories come alive and allow audiences to relate to characters.

Now, imagine if this acting was done by artificial intelligence (AI). Imagine a computer trying to create those same emotions.

Well, imagine no further. Introducing Tilly Norwood: the world's first AI actress.

Tilly Norwood is a "fake" computerized actress created by Particle6, a company that integrates pre-production, production, and post production with AI. Specifically, Dutch actress

and comedian Eline Van der Velden created Norwood. Velden stated that the creation is not meant to replace actors, but rather to be used as a tool accompanying them. That being said, she also stated that she wanted Norwood to be the next Scarlett Johansson or Natalie Portman. I believe these statements contradict each other. By comparing Norwood to a real Hollywood actress, she is implying Norwood can replace a human. Thus, AI actors and human actors are in competition with one another.

As someone who is hoping to go into the film industry, Norwood and the creation of AI actors is beyond disturbing. Not only is she taking away the focus from real actors, how can she create art if she is not human? She cannot feel emotions, therefore how would she be able to deliver a meaningful performance?

Even though polls have

shown audiences would rather watch real actors, of course there are going to be some production companies that want to explore the idea of using AI actors. An AI actor would not need filming accommodations, could film reshoots, and would be able to do their own stunts. All of this would be appealing to Hollywood executives because it could be cheaper.

SAG-AFTRA, (Screen Actors Guild – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists) has publicly condemned the creation saying, "It doesn't solve any 'problem' — it creates the problem of using stolen performances to put actors out of work, jeopardizing performer livelihoods and devaluing human artistry." They have also stated their doubt that the AI actress would even be successful, something I agree with.

Personally, I do not think

people would want to see a movie that was made using AI actors. Everyone is tired of hearing about how AI is damaging the arts, and this feels like another blow. Many actors have also shared their fear over the situation with Emily Blunt saying, "Does it disappoint me? I don't know how to quite answer it, other than to say how terrifying this is."

Although some agencies did express interest in representing Norwood they quickly received backlash. As of now, Norwood has not been signed, and it seems that most agencies are distancing themselves from the situation, a relief for now. Most of Hollywood's major agencies have also publicly announced they will not sign her.

However, this is not the first integration of film production and AI in Hollywood. Wonder Studios is a British film company whose mission

is to integrate AI into their productions. They recently partnered with Lewis Capaldi to create a music video for his song, "Something in the Heavens": a powerful song, with themes about human connection. It's difficult to watch the music video and not think about how contradictory the collaboration between Capaldi and Wonder Studios is. A song that is so deeply human coupled with something that is inherently not.

AI is taking away the raw element of human emotions and human connection. As AI continues to become more and more widely used, a line has to be drawn somewhere.

Though the film industry has continuously adapted to new technology, AI is something unto its own; an entirely different battle. The issue at Hollywood now is how far should AI go in a production, and how does that interfere with a film being seen as art?

Hawk TV prepares for second annual Halloween special

SAGE FERNANDEZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Hawk TV, the Monmouth University student-run television station, is preparing for their Hawktober special on Friday, Oct. 31. This is the second year in a row the club will be filming the episode, and it will be just as fun and spooky as last year!

Hawktober comprises festive segments that the club films in the weeks leading up to Halloween. On Halloween, the episode gets uploaded on their YouTube channel @HawkTV-MU and you can enjoy a movie length program of games, spooky stories, and a whole lot of laughs.

Hawktober began after club members watched “Shadows of Shadow Lawn,” the 2005 documentary produced by Hawk TV alumni Tom Hanley and Patrick Perrotto.

Feeling inspired by the campus ghost stories, last year, Hawktober was centered around ghost hunting in the Great Hall. It was broken up into three main parts; on the street interviews asking students on campus where they think the most haunted place on campus is, touring the Great Hall while giving some of its spooky history, and finally, ghost hunting.

In between each segment were bumpers that transition from one part to the next. Each bumper was a brief recreation and parody of famous Halloween movies, including “Scream” and “Halloween.” There was also a pumpkin painting competition, games, and a cooking segment.

With last year being a resounding success among the club, the students could not wait to get started brainstorming for this year’s show. Ideas started getting thrown around months in advance, and in the weeks leading up to the shoot dates, the club’s meetings consisted of members getting to share

their creativity and join in on the planning process.

Natalee Mattei, sophomore communication major, and club operations manager, said, “Participating in Hawktober this year has been a blast! With it being my first one I cannot believe the creativity and planning that is involved in it.”

This year, the layout is relatively similar to the first special. Returning segments include the bumpers and some friendly competition. The main story will be Hawk TV’s rendition of “Clue,” the popular whodunit board game and film adaptation from the 80s.

Although none of the members are professional actors in the industry, I would bet that after adding this parody to their portfolio, there may be a few blockbuster scripts with their name on it.

Frank Hoarle, junior communication major, and Hawk TV station manager, said, “We

are very excited, it’s one of the most anticipated events of the year for Hawk TV.”

He continued, “...there’s a lot that goes into Hawktober...it takes a lot of hands so we can really get the members of the club involved... it takes a lot of pre-planning and a lot of production”.

The club filmed the bulk of the content last week, however there is still a lot more production and editing that still needs to be done before the finished product is posted.

Post-production editing is delegated amongst the members who produced the segment. This way, they can make their vision for the segment come to life, and get a few of the general members involved so they can learn how to edit as well.

The members will soon see their hard work come to fruition when it premieres, so grab some popcorn, throw on a spooky costume, and be sure to catch Hawktober coming this Halloween at 6 p.m. on YouTube.

Upcoming events!

WEDNESDAY

Bobbing for “Apples” by Alpha Sigma Tau and Sigma Tau Gamma
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Student Center

Breast Cancer Awareness by Veterans’ Association
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Student Center Table

Candy and Affirmation Cards by Psychology Club
1:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Student Center Patio

LinkedIn Headshots With Career Development
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Career Development - 1st Floor
Student Center

Halloween Party by Kosu Club
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Student Center 202A

Big Man on Campus by Zeta Tau Alpha
9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Pollak Theatre

THURSDAY

Theme Thursday - Halloween by Gourmet Dining
12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Magill Commons Dining Hall

Thursday Alternative: De-stress Guided Meditation by Office of Student Engagement
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Guggenheim Memorial Library

FRIDAY

Redwood Hall Costume Contest
12:00 a.m.
Redwood Hall

LinkedIn Headshots With Career Development
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Career Development - 1st Floor
Student Center

Food Truck Friday - Dessert Theme by Office of Student Engagement
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Friday Live: Spooky Bingo by Office of Student Engagement
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Nagy Commons (Rain Location: Anacon Hall)

SATURDAY

Drive In Movie Bingo
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
By Pinewood Hall

SAB Drive In Movie - A Quiet Place
7 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Lot 16 (Lot opens at 6:30 p.m.)

Stay connected on HawkHub to explore events and programs happening on campus!

Song of the Week!

“Somebody’s Watching Me”
by Rockwell



The history of The Great Hall

AVA MCGINTY
MANAGING/ FEATURES EDITOR

Monmouth University’s most prominent building, even featured on the logo, is an iconic part of the university. It’s even an iconic part of popular culture, as The Great Hall served as Oliver “Daddy” Warbucks’ mansion in the 1982 film “Annie.” The Great Hall that stands today was built in 1929 however, it’s not the only mansion that has stood here on Shadow Lawn.

The original 52-room mansion at Shadow Lawn had multiple owners including Colonel Joseph Benedict Greenhut in 1915. Greenhut offered the residence to President Woodrow Wilson so it could serve as the summer White House and the planning center for Wilson’s second term campaign, as reported on the American Aristocracy website. According to the Monmouth University Website, President Wilson stayed at the estate from Sept. 1 to Nov. 8.

Hubert T. Parson, president of the F.W. Woolworth Company at the time, bought the Shadow Lawn estate in 1926

and in Jan. 1927, a fire destroyed the original mansion, one year after Parson, had spent one million dollars on its renovation, according to the Monmouth University website.

After the mansion was destroyed, Parson commissioned architect Horace Trumbaur and his assistant Julian Abele (the first African-American professional architect) to design the mansion that stands today. The home was finished in 1929 with 130 rooms, including an indoor swimming pool, bowling alley, theater, and a chapel.

No expense was spared in the creation of the mansion which cost the Parsons a total of \$10.5 million when it was built. “The mansion features limestone quarried in Belford, Indiana (also used in the Empire State Building), fifty varieties of Italian marble, and steel and concrete framing to ensure the mansion would be fireproof,” according to the Monmouth University ‘Great Hall History’ portion of the website.

The chapel located on the lower level was taken from a Tudor Abby and brought here, to West Long Branch, said Jan Connolly, former director of Special Events

and Programs, in “The Shadows of Shadow Lawn,” a documentary released in 2005. The documentary was produced by Monmouth Alumni Tom Hanley and Patrick Perrotto, which included a guided tour of The Great Hall, explaining its rich history.

The only people living in the residence when the Parson’s owned it was Hubert, his wife, Maysie, and Maysie’s unmarried sister Bertha Gasque, who acted as the housekeeper, overseeing the servants and staff, according to the “The Shadows of Shadow Lawn.”

The documentary also notes that while The Great Hall is an extravagant mansion with plenty of event space, the Parson’s rarely had guests. Since the Parsons were considered “new money,” they were not well accepted in the West Long Branch social scene, especially by neighbors Murray and Leonie Guggenheim.

The Guggenheim’s lived across the street in what is now the Guggenheim Memorial Library and reportedly referenced the Parson house as being gaudy. Even going as far to throw a

party the same night Maysie Parson planned to make her debut as a hostess at Shadow Lawn, and as a result, not one person showed up at the Parson’s estate, said Connolly, in the documentary’s guided tour through The Great Hall.

So, how did The Great Hall come to be a part of Monmouth University?

The short answer is that Hubert Parson lost a lot of his money due to the Wall Street Crash of 1929. To add to that, in 1932 Parson had reached the executive retirement age enforced by the Woolworth company of 60 years old, so after 12 years as president, he had to resign, as reported by the New York Times. Parson had started with the Woolworth organization as a bookkeeper, earning a salary of \$12 dollars a week, eventually working his way up through the company through his 40 years there.

After no longer working for the Woolworth company, he was no longer able to afford his and Maysie’s lavish lifestyle and high taxes, so Shadow Lawn fell under municipal ownership in 1939 for \$100.

It then became the campus for the Highland Manor School for Girls in 1942 when it relocated from Tarrytown, New York, as reported by The New York Times, until it was bought by then-Monmouth Junior College for \$350,000 in 1955.

Eugene H. Lehman, founder of the Highland Manor School for Girls, became the university president in 1957 before stepping down to emeritus status soon thereafter.

The Great Hall officially became a National Historic Landmark in 1985.

Today, it is home to various administrative offices, the English department, classrooms, Parson’s Café, and is a beloved study space for all students.

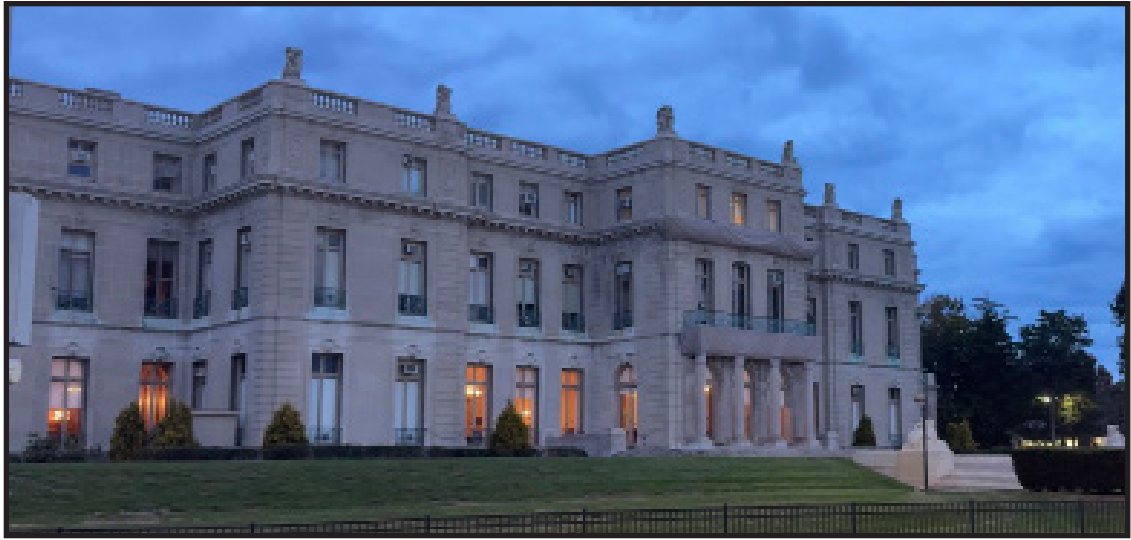


PHOTO TAKEN by Ava McGinty.

No costume? No problem. Last-minute costume ideas for Halloween

HANNAH FIERRO
STAFF WRITER

Halloween is just around the corner! The pumpkins are carved and the rooms are decorated, but if one question keeps lingering it's, "What am I wearing for Halloween?" I've got a bundle of last-minute ideas that are fun, easy, and affordable.

I understand you've probably been very focused on classes, midterms, or work, and costume planning got pushed to the bottom of your to-do list, and now every Amazon delivery is delayed. Don't panic, you don't need a full month's worth of planning to wear something creative and trendy. Here are some ideas you can throw together using pieces you might already own or can borrow from a friend.

Pop Culture

Barbie (or Ken), the colors pink or blue never miss. For Barbie, you can find any shade of pink, either a dress with heels, a workout set, or even a pink hoodie with white sneakers, and call it Barbie. Add some sunglasses or a "Hi Barbie!" name tag for extra flair. For Ken, anything sporty, such as tank tops,

swim shorts, and a backwards hat. Bonus points if you're hanging with your "Barbie" and carrying around a toy surfboard while saying "I'm just Ken" all night.

Wednesday Addams is a great last-minute costume since all you need is a black dress, a white collar, tights, and braid your hair in pigtails. For makeup, add dark lipstick and eyeliner, and you're all good to go! It's classic, spooky, and recognizable. It's a perfect costume to stay low effort but high impact.

Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce are a good duo costume if you're going with a friend or partner. It can be a fast and fun costume; one person can wear red lipstick, sparkly eye makeup, and a glittery outfit for Taylor, possibly adding a "22" or "Swiftie" sign for a cute photo moment. For Travis, that person can wear a football jersey or Chiefs colors.

Classic but Creative

A vampire is the ultimate Halloween classic. Wear all black, throw on fake fangs, and dab a little red lipstick near your mouth. Spirit Halloween also provides vampire makeup kits with instructions to follow! Also, for accessories, if you've got a leather jacket, lace top, corset, or red jewelry, even

better. You can go full gothic elegance or "just fed" messy, both give vampire chic.

For ghosts, you can go very old school by grabbing a white sheet, cutting out eye holes, and then you're done. But if you want to go more in-depth, try layering a white dress, skirt, or oversized hoodie with silver or sheer accessories to give an ethereal effect. Add pearl jewelry, eyeliner, gray or blue smoky eyeshadow, and a shimmery highlighter for a ghostly glow. You can even get sparkles or rhinestones from Walmart for extra glamour.

A witch costume never fails. All you need is a black dress or sweater, boots, and some dark lipstick. If you have any pointy hats and a broomstick for drama. You can choose different aesthetics between cottage core and full goth glam. Both will cast a spell!

Funny & Easy

When you forget your costume, grab a name tag and write "Error 404: Costume Not Found." Lazy? Yes. Iconic? Also yes. Bonus points if you commit to the bit and look completely unbothered all night.

A tourist is pretty simple, you can wear a floral shirt, baseball cap, sunglasses, socks

with sandals, and a disposable camera. Walk around with exaggerated curiosity, take pictures of everything, and say "Wow, what a beautiful campus!" every five minutes. It's low-effort comedy.

You can dress as a trendy social media influencer by cutting a cardboard square to resemble your favorite social media app, like TikTok, Instagram, or Snapchat, and wear colors that match. Find inspo pictures of easy outfits they have worn since the cardboard pulls this look together.

Groups and Duos

The movie "Mean Girls" is perfect for friend groups. Think pink skirts, glossy lip gloss, and a lot of attitude. Add a "Burn Book" prop and quote lines all night. It's nostalgic and timeless, the ultimate trio costume.

The Scooby-Doo Gang is easy and adorable. Velma wears orange, Daphne purple, Shaggy green, Fred white with a scarf, and Scooby can be brown with DIY ears. It's colorful, recognizable, and perfect for a five-person friend group.

The "Adam Sandler" crew where comfort meets comedy. Throw on oversized basketball shorts, sneakers, and a giant

T-shirt or hoodie. It's ironic, cozy, and perfectly suited for a chilly October night. The best part? You can literally nap in it afterward.

DIY & Aesthetic Looks

To dress as a fairy, all you need is a flowy top, glitter, and some wings from the dollar store. Add sparkly eyeshadow and soft curls or space buns for that whimsical touch. It's quick, cute, and fits almost any vibe.

A cowgirl/cowboy wears jeans, flannel, boots, and a hat, which can be done from your closet. Add a bandana or temporary tattoos for fun. Make it a creative duo costume with "Yee" and "Haw" shirts.

Overall, Halloween at Monmouth isn't about perfection; it's about having fun, being creative, and celebrating with friends. Whether you're rocking pink as Barbie, haunting the halls as a ghost, or going full DIY mode, the best costume is the one you actually enjoy wearing. So raid your closet, borrow from your roommates, and make it work.

At the end of the night, it's not about how much you spent; it's about the memories you made before Monday morning hits. Happy Halloween, Hawks!

How to create a cozy book nook

EMILY STACHERSKI
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

For those of you who are big readers, there are so many places you can pick up a book and start reading. However, imagine you have a designated place filled with cool decorations, the fuzziest blankets, and the perfect atmosphere to get sucked into a book. If this sounds appealing to you, you may need a book nook!

Anyone can easily create a book nook in their own home with just a few basic things, and right now, I'm about to tell you exactly what those things are.

The first thing you need is a spot to set up this book nook. You're going to want somewhere that you won't be disturbed. Many people choose to utilize corners in their living room or bedroom. If you have a window with a nice view, that's

a perfect spot too. Even a small alcove or the space beneath a staircase can be transformed into a cozy hideaway with just a few thoughtful touches.

The next thing you need is a chair. Find the comfiest chair and bring it to your newfound space. This can be any type of chair you want. Once you have it, it's time for my favorite part. Throw as many blankets and pillows on it as you like. The ultimate goal is to make this the most comfortable place you have ever been. Add a soft rug for extra comfort.

Next, you'll need good lighting. I recommend a gentle, warm light so it's easy on your eyes. Being near windows will be great with natural sunlight; however, once it gets dark, if you are reading a physical book, it will be hard to see. A small reading lamp or fairy lights can make a huge difference and set a peaceful, inviting tone.

Then, fill the surrounding area with books. Usually, people set up bookshelves around their

book nook for easy access. You can set up the books in any style you want, organized by color, genre, or your current reading list. Bonus points if you make it look nice!

Lastly, add any decor you want. Whether this is a few trinkets on the shelves next to the books, fairy lights on the wall, or a few items just sitting nearby, it's a great idea to add stuff so you truly feel like you love being in this spot. Don't forget a small side table for a mug of coffee or tea, and maybe a plant or two to bring a bit of nature indoors.

Once it's all set up, your book nook will become more than just a random spot in your house; it will be your personal retreat. A cozy sanctuary where stories come to life, where time slows down, and where you can unwind with your favorite book and a warm blanket whenever you need a break from the world.



IMAGE TAKEN from edwardgeorge.



HALLOWEEN P.2 — ERIC THU

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“Stranger Things: The First Shadow” brings Hawkins to life on Broadway

KATELYN SANDVIK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As fans across the world prepare for the fifth and final season of “Stranger Things” they can still experience a new story set in Hawkins, Indiana by taking a trip to Broadway. The Duffer brothers have teamed up with television show writer, Kate Trefry to create “Stranger Things: The First Shadow,” a thrilling, nearly three hour Broadway play. Set 24 years before season one, the play tells the chilling story of how Henry Creel became Vecna.

From the start, the “Stranger Things: The First Shadow” is a work of its own. The opening scene grips audiences with thrilling special effects: flashing lights, loud sounds, and pyrotechnics. A top secret government experiment regarding two battleships goes horribly wrong, creating a tear in the Upside Down (an alternate dimension with otherworldly beasts based on the game Dungeons and Dragons). The ship crashes and the scene changes from the captain’s deck to a shipwreck. Viewers are briefly introduced to the horrors of the Upside Down

as the crew fights for survival against demogorgons. Something unique about these opening moments is the use of screens as the background. Unlike traditional Broadway plays, this allows for a variety of different locations to be developed on the same stage.

The main characters of this play are : Henry Creel, his father Victor Creel, his mother Virginia Creel, and his younger sister Alice Creel. The family has just moved from Nevada to Hawkins, Indiana, the reason for this is Henry. Just from this opening scene, it is clear he is anything but normal and the rest of the family is frightened by him. Quiet, creepy, and eerie, Henry talks to himself and continuously tries to convince himself he is “normal” to no avail. He possesses supernatural powers, similar to Millie Bobby Brown’s character, Eleven, however his are more violent in nature.

The play progresses to Henry’s first day of high school at Hawkins High. Here, the rest of the characters are introduced. Since the show is a prequel, they are younger versions of the parents from the television series, a delight to fans. Joyce Byers, Jim Hopper, and Bob Newby to name a few. It’s entertaining to see how the young versions are practically

identical to their older selves. Joyce is smart and witty while Hopper is argumentative and cynical. Bob’s adopted sister is also introduced, Patty Newby, a completely new character not present in the television series. The laugh out loud moments illustrate typical high school stereotypes and the chaos of a first day. This also sets up the main conflict of Henry trying to fit in, hide his powers and control them.

Multiple times the characters even come off the stage, breaking the boundaries and immersing the audience into the story. For example, after intermission, to get the audience’s focus back on the story, the lights went dark, the back doors of the theater opened, and actors walked the aisles in hazmat suits. They peered into the audience and even interacted with viewers. Henry also comes off the stage multiple times throughout the show, whenever he seems to be stressed.

The cast does a phenomenal job of bringing the characters and story to life. The acting feels natural and fresh, giving the play authenticity. Each actor fully embraces their characters, notably Louis McCartney who

plays Henry. Even though by the end of the play audiences should resent Henry for becoming Vecna, McCartney makes the character relatable. We see Henry’s struggle not just within himself, but with his environment. Even his family tried to force him into societal standards just for their own sake of wanting to be normal. They encouraged Henry to convince himself he was “normal” without helping him. McCartney makes these elements build off one another, creating suspense until the moment he transforms into Vecna.

“Stranger Things: The First Shadow,” is truly a play that

appeals to everyone: people with no knowledge of the show and long time fans of the series. The play has a storyline of its own and serves as a captivating introduction to Hawkins and the world of the Upside Down. Fans will be able to enjoy a new storyline, new characters, and easter eggs from the show. Meanwhile, newcomers will be able to dive headfirst into the mystery and thrill of “Stranger Things.” There is no foreseeable end to its Broadway run, but make sure to grab your tickets before the final season comes out in November!



PHOTO COURTESY of Katelyn Sandvik.

A soundtrack to the Halloween atmosphere

LORELAI HILARCZYK
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Halloween is finally here! While this season always seems so fleeting, there’s no better way to immerse yourself in spooky season than through music. These 13 tracks are filled with nostalgia and good ol’ fashioned fun. Listen while you get dressed in your costumes, drive down a windy eerie road, or even carving a last minute pumpkin. Happy Halloween!

“Somebody’s Watching Me” by Rockwell: What better way to start off a Halloween playlist than with Rockwell’s classic paranoia track that’ll have you checking over your shoulder? The groove of this song is infectious, not to mention its backing vocals by Michael Jackson. There’s a reason this song becomes a trend every year during spooky season.

“Psycho Killer - 2005 Remaster” by Talking Heads: Inspired by the iconic horror film serial killer, Norman Bates from “Psycho” (1960), this song is both catchy and unsettling.

Yet, this song and its lyrics have this haunting confidence attached, making it a must-listen on this playlist.

“Maneater” by Daryl Hall & John Oates: Oh, oh here she comes! This poppy edgy 80s hit was written to feel glamorous and seductive. It reminds me of “Jennifer’s Body” (2009) as Megan Fox plays a literal maneating demon. Watch out boy, this song might chew you up.

“Monster Mash” by Bobby

“Boris” Pickett and The Crypt-Kickers: This song will bring you back to days of elementary school Halloween parties and trick-or-treating nostalgia. Its lighthearted monster imagery of bubbling cauldrons and creaking doors will put a smile on your face.

“Thriller” by Michael Jackson: This mini-movie in your ears is naturally beloved by all during this time of year. It’s chilling, funky, and timeless

from the track’s production to the music video. One can’t deny Vincent Price’s mini monologue certainly gives some the chills.

“Crystal” by Stevie Nicks: From the soundtrack of “Practical Magic” (1998) this song is whimsical and witchy in the best possible way. Grab your brooms and black hats because anyone who resonates with this track is an honorary witch.

“Season Of The Witch” by Lana Del Rey: Rey’s interpretation of Donovan’s 1966 track is absolutely spellbinding. Recorded for “Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark” (2019) this haunting track will leave you in a trance.

“The Dead Dance” by Lady Gaga: Featured in season two of Netflix’s “Wednesday,” Gaga surely knows how to create a theatrical dance scene. This song is definitely one to dance around to, hence the name and its electro-dance pop mood.

“Goo Goo Muck” by The Cramps: Sticking with the “Wednesday” soundtrack, this song made Netflix history in season one when Wednesday Addams did her iconic original dance. Sorry, I just can’t resist a good trend. The show brought this 1981 punk horror song back to life

making it the perfect fit for this season.

“Ghostbusters” by Ray Parker Jr.: Who you gonna call? If there’s one song that embodies the spirit of a ghostly Halloween, this one is it. Written for the 1984 film, this cheeky upbeat anthem will tempt you to join the busters in hunting down ghostly ghouls.

“Time Warp” by Little Nell, Patricia Quinn, and Richard O’Brien: From the soundtrack of “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” (1975), this song is full of rock ‘n’ roll energy and even dance instructions.

“Superstition” by Stevie Wonder: This funky and gritty song about checking your superstitions and beliefs in things you might not understand is a timeless cautionary tale. The perfect song to bring us back to reality after all the spooky happenings.

“My Girlfriend Is a Witch” by October Country: Let the fun continue with this 1968 psychedelic pop song that’s full of charm. Discovering your girlfriend is a witch has never sounded so good, enchanting, and magical.

Happy listening and happy Halloween!



IMAGE TAKEN from Spotify.

Leaked young republican chat prompts party fallout and national condemnation

HENRY BOODY
POLITICS EDITOR

In mid-October of 2025, Politico published roughly 2,900 pages of messages from a private Telegram chat called “RESTORE YR WAR ROOM.” The chat, created in January by Peter Giunta, former chair of the New York State Young Republicans, aimed to rally support for his bid to lead the national Young Republicans federation. Over several months, it drew more than 400 members from Young Republican chapters in New York, Kansas, Arizona, and Vermont and produced what Politico described as a blur of slurs and violent fantasies. Participants joked about rape, praised Adolf Hitler, and referenced gas chambers, according to Al Jazeera, while Kansas’ Young Republicans chair Alex Dwyer posted the neo-Nazi code “1488” into the conversation, according to Kansas Reflector. In the same Politico report, the team spent months verifying the messages before publication, which prompted shock among mainstream party leaders and attracted bipartisan condemnation.

Besides Giunta, the chat included prominent state figures such as Annie Kaykaty (New York national committee member), Bobby Walker (who would later replace Giunta as New York State Young Republicans chair), Joe Maligno (general counsel for the New York group), Kansas vice-chair William Hendrix, and Vermont state senator Samuel Douglass, according to Kansas Reflector. Also participating was Michael Bartels, a senior adviser at the U.S. Small Business Administration. Bartels later testified that Gavin Wax, president of the rival New York Young Republican Club, had pressured him to release the logs, according to Al Jazeera. Giunta publicly accused Wax of orchestrating a “character assassination,” while some participants suggested the leaked messages had been doctored or taken out of context, according to CBS News. While Politico has not revealed its source, speculation suggests

internal disputes among New York and Kansas Young Republicans may have led whistle-blowers to forward the content to reporters.

The revelations prompted swift organizational punishments. New York Republican county chairs voted unanimously to disband the New York State Young Republicans and revoke its charter, according to CBS News. Nassau County party chairman Joseph Cairo called the racist remarks “disgraceful, disgusting,” adding, “They should be totally excluded from the Republican party because they do not represent what the principles or beliefs of our Republican Party are,” according to CBS News. The group’s social media profiles were subsequently scrubbed and its functions suspended. In Kansas, the state GOP deactivated the Kansas Young Republicans chapter after learning that Chair Alex Dwyer and Vice-Chair William Hendrix had participated, and Hendrix was promptly fired from Attorney General Kris Kobach’s communications staff, with Kobach calling the comments “inexcusable,” according to Kansas Reflector. In Vermont, pressure from Republican leaders, including Governor Phil Scott, forced Sen. Samuel Douglass to resign. Douglass apologized and stated he stepped down after receiving threats against his family, according to The Guardian. Ultimately, PBS.org reported that eight of the 12 chat participants identified by the media lost their jobs, and several others had job offers rescinded.

Nationally, Democrats quickly condemned the messages. New York Governor Kathy Hochul urged immediate consequences, stating, “Kick them out of the party. Take away their official roles. Stop using them as campaign advisers... There needs to be consequences. This bullshit has to stop,” according to a PBS NewsHour report. Speaking on the Senate floor, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer described the chat as “revolting” and called for Republicans, including President Donald Trump and Vice President Vance, to “condemn these comments swiftly and unequivocally,” as recounted in the same

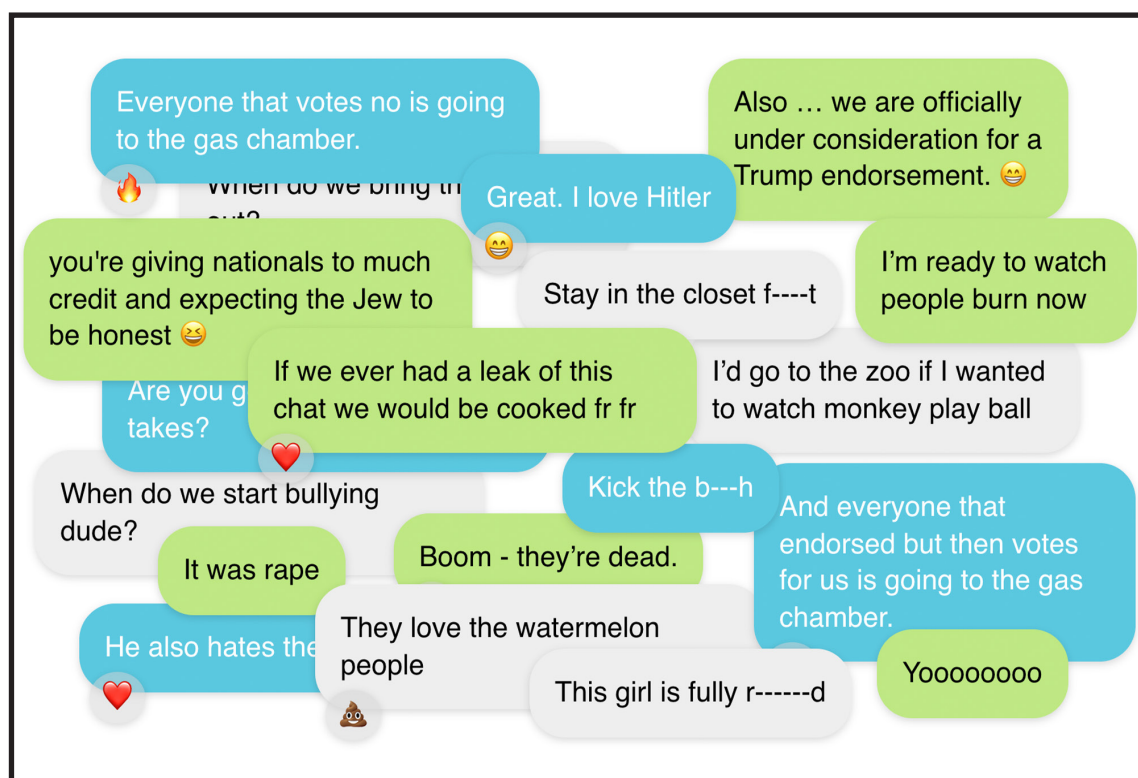


IMAGE TAKEN FROM Politico

CBS NewsHour report. Condemnation also came from within the GOP. New York Assemblyman Michael Lawler and state Senate Minority Leader Rob Ort called for the resignations of the two, according to CBS News. House Speaker Mike Johnson stated that such extremism had no place in the party, telling CBS News, “We roundly condemn any of that nonsense,” while insisting the participants did not represent the broader GOP. Reactions also came from high-ranking officials, most prominently Vice President JD Vance. After the Politico’s initial report was published, Vance posted a screenshot of text messages between himself and Jay Jones, the Democratic candidate for Virginia’s attorney general race, on X, including a message from Jones suggesting a prominent Republican get “two bullets to the head.” On The Charlie Kirk podcast, he dismissed the uproar stating that the participants were “kids telling edgy, offensive jokes,” and later on The Charlie Kirk podcast, saying, “I really don’t want us to grow up in a country where a kid telling a stupid joke, telling a very offensive stupid joke, is cause to ruin their lives,” according to Al Jazeera and ABC News. At this time, the White House has not issued an official statement on the matter.

To gauge the implications beyond the headlines, The Outlook spoke with Ken Mitchell, Ph.D. and Chair of Monmouth’s Political Science and Sociology Department. Mitchell argues the scandal

doesn’t reveal much new about youth political culture. “College students and young politically active people express passionate praise of their side and ruthless, distorted judgment of the other side,” he said. Having studied in London, Mitchell recalled “loads of harsh, inflammatory commentary” and doesn’t believe today’s partisan youth are necessarily more extreme.

If anything, he suggests Generation Z might be less politically engaged overall and potentially less polarized than commonly perceived. “Gen Z voters, more than earlier generations, are registered Independents. Many students feel alienated from both major parties. My sense inside and outside MU is that Gen Z views both parties as fundamentally untrustworthy and indeed hostile to the interests of young people,” he explained, citing issues like tuition costs and climate change where students often feel ignored.

Mitchell also challenged the idea that scandals like the group chat leak significantly shift public trust in the long run. He noted that surveys show that confidence in major institutions, such as courts, parties, media, and universities, has been declining for years. “It is hard to make a case that this leak story moves the needle in terms of public trust overall,” he said, arguing that rising tuition costs and perceived institutional failures likely damage trust more than inflammatory text messages among a

small group. Rather than blaming young people for an environment often shaped by older generations, Mitchell urged universities to empower student government and support cross-partisan clubs to foster constructive dialogue. He cited the recent SGA-led protest from this past spring semester against FAMCO at Monmouth, where the Young Democrats and Young Republicans “made signs together, coordinated their protest activities together, spoke in public together,” demonstrating that student collaboration can transcend party labels on specific issues explained Mitchell.

The Young Republican chat leak exposed racist and violent messages exchanged within a youth wing of a major political party. The incident led to organizational shutdowns in New York and Kansas, the firing of participants, and national condemnation, prompting several GOP leaders to distance themselves from the remarks publicly. Mitchell suggests the episode may reflect long-standing political tensions and broader institutional distrust among young people, rather than indicating a uniquely radicalized Generation Z. The aftermath presents Republican Party leaders with the challenge of addressing extremist rhetoric within their youth organizations and raises questions about engaging a generation described by Mitchell as often skeptical of established political parties.

TO/ The Outlook

Hello, everyone! My name is Mairead Spellacy 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 s1342915@monmouth.edu. Happy reading!

- Mairead Spellacy, Editor-in-Chief and News Editor '25/'26

Hi everyone! My name is Ava McGinty and I'm this year's Managing Editor & Features Editor. I'm so excited for this year & to read all the awesome articles everyone writes! If you would like to write for the features section or have any other questions about *The Outlook*, please email me at s1356207@monmouth.edu!

-Ava McGinty, Managing and Features Editor '25/'26



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 three shows. Hawk TV News shoots biweekly on Tuesdays. On Wednesdays, we film our pop culture show called Triple Scoop and on Thursdays, our sports show called the Extra Point. All begin at 7 p.m. We hope to see you this semester!

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



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 '24/'25



College Democrats

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

- Owen Bros, President '24/'25



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 '24/'25



WMCX 88.9

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) '24/'25



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 '24/'25



"OmniSports Media" - WMCX

Tune in every Friday from 11 a.m. -1 p.m. for sports content about the MLB & NFL on WMCX 88.9.

- Dean Heidel, OmniSports Media Host



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 '24/'25



MU Sports Industry Club

We are a club dedicated to connecting aspiring students with sports industry professionals through networking opportunities. Our first meeting will be on Sept. 22nd at 7 p.m. on Zoom with Rachel Luscher, the Digital Coordinator at the New York Islanders! Follow our Instagram @musportsindustry for more info!

- Ava McGinty, Vice President



Monmouth Field Hockey



GAME DAY

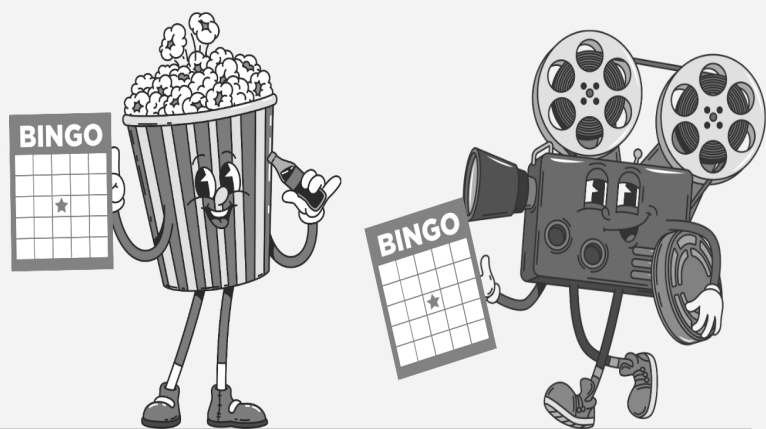
10.31 | 3PM | VS. NORTHEASTERN

Student Costume Contest

WINNER TAKES HOME A NEW TV!

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
DRIVE IN MOVIE BINGO
NOV 1

JOIN RA DIANA AT THE SAB DRIVE IN
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**MEET IN PINE LOBBY AT 6:30 TO
PICK UP YOUR BINGO BOARD**

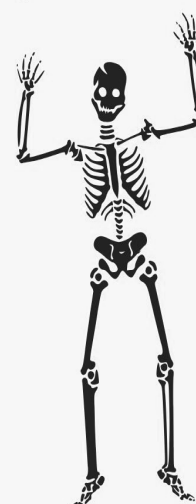


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REDWOOD HALL
COSTUME
CONTEST
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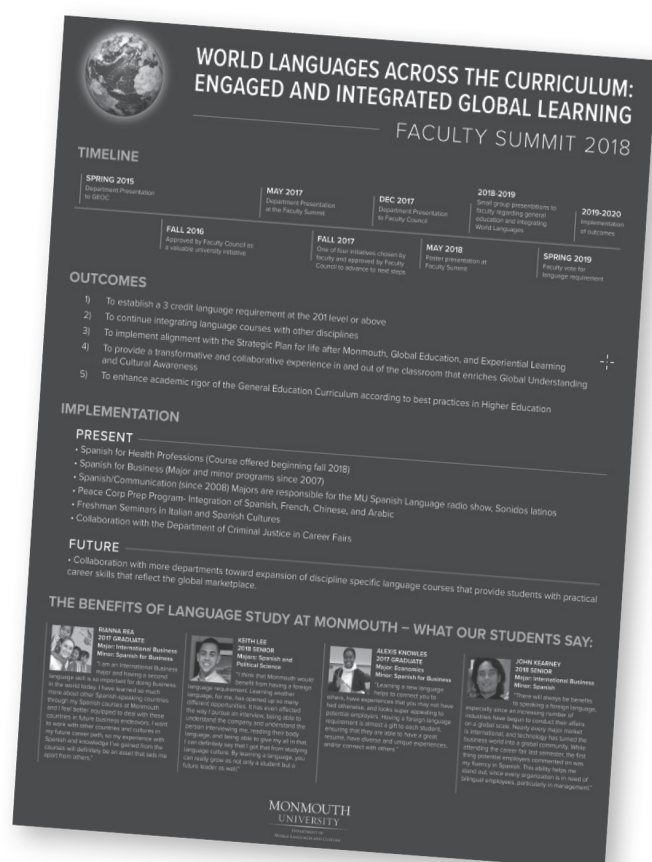
OCT 31 / NOV 1



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Nelson propels football to fifth straight win

FRANK HOARLE
SPORTS EDITOR

Sophomore running back Rodney Nelson ran for four touchdowns as Monmouth spoiled Hampton's homecoming with a 28-10 victory in Virginia on Saturday, Oct. 25.

The win marked the Hawks fifth straight victory, as the team remained undefeated against FCS opponents.

Monmouth received the opening kick, and was able to drive the ball into Hampton territory. The Hawks drive stalled, and got aggressive going for it on fourth down, but an incomplete pass by freshman quarterback Frankie Weaver ended the drive. Weaver was officially making his first start at quarterback for the Hawks, as graduate quarterback Derek Robertson remained sidelined with an injury.

Hampton was able to get the ball to the Monmouth goal line, but attempts to run the ball in got stuffed by the Hawks defense, and the Pirates settled for a field goal.

On the first play of Monmouth's second drive, Weaver completed a 20-yard pass to junior wide receiver Josh Derry. After that catch, Nelson ran the ball on five consecutive plays for 55 yards. His last run was a five-yard touchdown run, giving Monmouth a 7-3 lead with a little over five minutes remaining in the first quarter.

Hampton's next drive ended with a third down sack by freshman defensive lineman Lamont Lester Jr., as Hampton punted and gave Monmouth the ball back.

The ensuing Monmouth drive was dominated by the run, as Nelson and freshman running back Elijah Jennings combined for 73 yards rushing, with Nelson punching in his second touchdown on a three yard run.

With Monmouth holding a 14-3 lead, both offenses began to stall. The two teams punted on their next drives before Hampton was able to get inside of the Monmouth red zone with goal to go. On first down, Hampton junior quarterback Braden Davis was sacked by sophomore defensive back Jaeden Jones. On second down, Davis was sacked again, but this time the ball came loose, and ju-



Rodney Nelson ran for 233 yards and four touchdowns in Monmouth's 28-10 win against Hampton. He was named CAA Player of the Week for his performance.

PHOTO COURTESY of Jared Bundick.

nior linebacker Ryan Russo recovered the fumble for the Hawks. The sack that led to the fumble was made by junior defensive lineman Josiah Graham. The defensive stand led to Monmouth holding on to its 14-3 lead heading into halftime.

Hampton got the ball to start the second half, and it did not take long for them to take advantage. A 44-yard completion from Davis to senior wide receiver Tae'Shaun Johnson set the Pirates up at the goal-line, and freshman running back Gracen Goldsmith punched it in to cut Monmouth's lead to 14-10 a little over two minutes into the second half.

Monmouth was able to get deep into Hampton territory once again off the back of the run game, but on fourth down from the Hampton two-yard line, Weaver threw an incomple-

tion to senior wide receiver Jah'Kei Chavis was stuffed by the Hawks defense. Tra Neal, leading to another turnover on downs for the Hawks. Hampton responded with a turnover on downs of their own, as on 4th & 1 from the Monmouth 38-yard line, freshman running back Jah'Kei Chavis was stuffed by the Hawks defense.

Monmouth found themselves in Hampton territory again, in a fourth down situation. They elected to go for it again as they usually do, and this time Weaver was sacked and fumbled the ball, giving the Pirates the ball in great field position.

Hampton was not able to take advantage of the field position as Monmouth's defense forced a punt. On the Hawks drive, Nelson once again took over, rushing for 42 yards and a touchdown to give Monmouth a two-score lead in the fourth quarter.

Hampton got the ball back looking to stick around in the game down 21-10, but

Davis would be intercepted by Monmouth's sophomore defensive back Izzy Clark-White. This was followed up by Nelson's fourth rushing touchdown of the game, solidifying a 28-10 win for Monmouth.

Nelson ended the game with 233 rushing yards, a career high, on a whopping 33 carries. He was named CAA Player of the Week for his performance. In total, the Hawks ran the football 49 times. Weaver finished with 122 passing yards and an interception on a Hail Mary attempt to end the first half. The Monmouth defense had one of its best performances of the season, with four sacks and two turnovers.

With the win, Monmouth now sits at 7-1 overall on the season. They remain undefeated in CAA play at 4-0. The Rhode Island Rams are the only other team unbeat-

en in CAA play. The Hawks maintained their positions at No. 9 in the AFCA FCS Coaches Poll, and No. 10 in the Stats Perform FCS Top 25. The other teams in the CAA that are ranked are Villanova, sitting at No. 11 in both the Coaches Poll and the Stats Perform Poll, and the aforementioned Rhode Island Rams, who are No. 12 in the Coaches Poll and No. 13 in the Stats Perform Poll.

Monmouth continues its road trip this weekend as they travel north to take on the Bryant Bulldogs, who notably defeated FBS opponent UMass earlier in the season.

As for Hampton, they are now 2-7 overall on the season and winless in CAA play. They have a bye this weekend before getting back into action on Nov. 8 against the Maine Black Bears.

Women's Soccer clinches CAA North top seed

FRANK HOARLE
SPORTS EDITOR

Monmouth Women's Soccer locked up the CAA North top seed after a 0-0 draw against the Northeastern Huskies on Sunday, Oct. 26.

Entering the day, Monmouth was tied for the division lead with Stony Brook at 15 points each, although the Hawks held the tiebreaker. If Monmouth either outscored or scored the same amount of points as Stony Brook, they would earn the top seed. If Stony Brook outscored Monmouth, they would earn the top seed. The top seed in the division would get an automatic bid to the CAA Semifinals, while the second place team would have to play in a quarterfinal playoff game against the third place team.

Despite outshooting the Huskies 33-6 and having seven corner kicks, Monmouth was not able to find the back of the net

at all. Northeastern junior goalkeeper Eliza Teplow had a remarkable game, making 11 saves for the Huskies. Senior forward Summer Reimet had 11 shots for the Hawks, but only one was on goal. Freshman Natalie McGovern had three shots on goal for Monmouth, the most on the team. Of Northeastern's six shots, only one was on goal.

With Monmouth drawing Northeastern, they would finish the regular season with a record of 10-5-2, with a 5-3-1 record in conference play. They would be forced to scoreboard watch to determine their seeding in the CAA North bracket. If Stony Brook defeated Hofstra, they would earn the top seed and Monmouth would be forced to play in the quarterfinals. A draw or loss would give Monmouth the top seed. The Seawolves wound up losing to Hofstra by a score of 3-2, clinching the top seed for Monmouth.

The three teams in the CAA North division to make

the CAA Tournament are Monmouth, Stony Brook, and Hofstra, who clinched the final spot in the division with their win against Stony Brook. Northeastern's 0-0 draw against Monmouth would turn out to be its final game of the season, as they missed the tournament along with Towson and Drexel in the North division.

On Thursday, Stony Brook and Hofstra will have a rematch at Stony Brook University in one of two CAA quarterfinal matchups. The winner of that game will travel to West Long Branch to take on the Hawks in the CAA Semifinal at Hesse Field on Sunday.

Meanwhile, in the CAA South division, UNC Wilmington earned the top seed after going unbeaten in conference play. William & Mary and Elon earned the other two spots in the CAA Tournament from the South division, as Charleston, Campbell, and Hampton all missed the tournament. Wil-



Summer Reimet led the team in scoring in the regular season, with nine goals and four assists. PHOTO COURTESY of Emily Webb.

liam & Mary and Elon will face off at William & Mary University on Thursday, with the winner travelling to UNC Wilmington to face the Seahawks in the other CAA Semifinal on Sunday. The

winners of the two semifinal games will meet in the CAA championship game on Saturday, Nov. 8. The winner of that game will receive an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Men's Soccer concludes regular season with losses to Hofstra and St. John's



Patrick Osiecki scored the lone goal for Monmouth in their 4-1 loss vs. Hofstra. PHOTO COURTESY of Will Prata.

VICTORIA CAAL
STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 25, Monmouth University hosted Hofstra at Hesse Field on The Great Lawn. With a little over 400 attendees, this match started with a back-and-forth struggle. With fouls being distributed on both sides, sophomore forward Jasen Bottini was able to get a pair

of shots off, but neither saw the back of the net. With a few shots coming from Hofstra, neither team was able to secure a goal, leading to both teams heading into the half scoreless. With a red card on Monmouth, the Hawks were down a man for the entirety of the second half.

Despite entering the second half with renewed energy, the battle on the field remained a back-and-forth match as both teams con-

tinued to press. Hofstra was able to capitalize on key opportunities, which led to them scoring three goals. The Hawks sought hard to respond, maintaining possession and creating several chances before the senior midfielder Patrick Osiecki was able to rocket the ball into the back of the net, cutting Hofstra's lead to two at the 75th minute. Ultimately, Hofstra won with a late goal in the 81st minute to put the final score at 4-1. The Hawks fought hard and long in this match and in the season, with the team's resilience and effort evident in every game.

This was the 10th meeting against Monmouth and Hofstra in the all-time series, with Hofstra leading 7-2-1. This was sophomore forward Kevin DeCapua's first career start and Osiecki's second goal of the season, which tied him for second on the team with seven points. This

game also featured shots from freshman defender Damian Taraska, DeCapua, and junior forward Andrea Croce. Senior forward Jakob Friedman still leads the CAA in assists, is sixth in shots, eighth in goals, third in shots on goal, and fourth in points. Freshman forward Marcin Kluz is tenth in game-winning goals.

This match was senior day, where Monmouth congratulated seniors Jakob Friedman, Patrick Osiecki, Danny Bensch, Ian Brunet, Sean Cadigan, Matthew Fuentes, and Cam Lawrence.

Prior to hosting Hofstra, Monmouth hosted St. John's on Oct. 21 at Hesse Field on The Great Lawn. With a little over 600 attendees, this match was just as intense. With shots from Friedman and junior defenseman Raul Garcia in the first 15 minutes, the battle on the field grew as St. John's countered

with seven shots in the remainder of the first half. Two of the shots were saved by freshman goalkeeper Herman Johnsen to keep the score 0-0 heading into the half. As the second half began, the two teams continued in the race to find the back of the net. All were unsuccessful until the 65th minute, when St. John's was able to send one flying into the back of the net. The fight was not over as the junior forward Javi Losa attempted a late shot that went wide. It was St. John's who took the 1-0 victory. This was the fifth all-time meeting between Monmouth and St. John's, with the Red Storm leading 4-1 in the all-time series.

The Hawks have now finished their regular season and now wait until next week's CAA outcomes to determine whether they'll secure a spot for the CAA Tournament.



WOMEN'S SOCCER HEADS TO CAA TOURNAMENT



Monmouth Women's Soccer earned the top seed in the CAA North bracket after a 0-0 draw against Northeastern on Sunday.