

# The Outlook

Monmouth University's Student-Run Newspaper EST. 1933

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Monmouth University

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## SGA votes to defund The Outlook by 41.67%

**MAIREAD SPELLACY**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/ NEWS EDITOR

**AVA MCGINTY**  
MANAGING/FEATURES EDITOR

After being recognized by the Associated Collegiate Press (ACP), in March, The Outlook has been virtually defunded by the Student Government Association (SGA).

The Outlook is the oldest co-curricular student-run organization that's been a print publication since the inception of Monmouth College in 1933. The Outlook goes through the same annual budget request as any other student club and organization. This year the budget request that The Outlook made was the same as last year's budget request. SGA's decision to allocate funds that are significantly less than the request came as a shock to this newsroom. A budget cut of 41.67%, prevents the paper from printing physical copies, and drastically reduces opportunities that this club has been giving

to its members, such as traveling to ACP conferences where we have repeatedly won awards, and gained national recognition for our reporting.

John Morano, Professor of Journalism and founder of the Monmouth University journalism program said, "Well, when one considers that The Outlook in print is the oldest, most enduring activity at Monmouth University, the first issue from Monmouth Community College opening in 1933 is hanging in the hallway outside the newsroom, and the fact that just this year the paper placed 8th in the American Collegiate Press National competition, along with the continued involvement of students from a variety of majors on campus, to then conclude that we should cut the paper's budget by roughly 40%, the precise amount needed to produce a print version of the paper, it does cause one to wonder."

We reached out to SGA to try to understand how this budget decision was made.

According to Brendan Sheehan, the SGA president and the former politics editor for The Outlook, this year the amount that SGA has to disperse to clubs has increased by \$50,000. He explained that the clubs and organizations requested approximately \$1.2 million and SGA has half of that amount to disperse.

At the same time that SGA imposed a draconian budget on The Outlook it also raised budgets in some cases. Sheehan gave the example of the Greek Senate, which was allocated an additional \$4,000 which he says was the largest increase in funding of any club or organization. Given that the budget was increased by an additional \$50,000, it is clear that there is a number of budgets that were increased even with the addition of four news clubs on campus.

When Sheehan was asked which club received the largest budget cut, he responded, "This year, the SGA experienced the largest budget cut for the 2026-2027 academic year. We cut our budget from \$120,000 last year to approximately \$73,000

this year, a 57% cut." He further explained, that the \$47,000 cut from SGA's 2026/2027 budget would be dispersed among approximately 61 of the 130 clubs who applied this year. According to our calculations, a \$47,000 decrease from \$120,000 to \$73,000 is a 39.2% cut. If this is the case, the 41.67% The Outlook budget was cut was the largest cut of any club or organization.

No attempt was made to make a contact with The Outlook to explain this drastic budget cut. Instead we received an email on April 13, with the allocated amount of \$35,000. Professor Morano said, "It does seem, perhaps curious, to me that in making this monumental decision to de-fund the print edition of The Outlook, not one actual journalist on campus, myself included, received so much as a text, not to mention an email or a phone call, to discuss the implications of such an action. There was not one inquiry regarding whether there were other alternatives or approaches that might be taken. No one asked about industry or academic

norms. Indeed, The Outlook is a co-curricular activity. Students can earn credit for supervised work there. There is a faculty adviser, as well. Neither the SGA nor SGA's adviser apparently had any interest in finding out whether the de-funding would impact academic pursuits."

In the past we've worked with SGA to address the printing costs. For the last two years we successfully cut printing costs by half. Our current printing costs are \$42,000 annually. SGA was aware of that as we explained it during the budget carousel. We wondered how SGA came to the decision to cut our budget so drastically given that the move would certainly prevent us from printing the paper as we have done so for nearly 100 years. We put this same question to Sheehan, "Unfortunately, fewer students

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## The Outlook receives "Best in Show" recognition at ACP Conference

**MAIREAD SPELLACY**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/ NEWS EDITOR

Five members of The Outlook editorial team attended the Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) Spring National College Media Conference in San Francisco, California, taking home eighth in Best of Show in the process.

The three day conference ran from Mar. 5-7 in San Francisco where over 160 sessions were offered through panels, roundtables, and presentations. The conference featured 10 plus simultaneous hourly sessions, keynote speakers, and on-site media critiques.

According to studentpress, conventions for college and high school journalists go as far back as ACP's inception in 1921 as a division of the National Scholastic

Press Association (NSPA). The first ACP convention to be sponsored by the College Media Association dates back to 1946 in Chicago.

Ava McGinty, The Outlook's managing and features editor attended this year for her second time. McGinty said she is always impressed by the range of sessions that are offered and is grateful to learn from such talented journalists. "I learned a lot from this conference that I'm excited to bring back with me to Monmouth...during one of the keynote speeches, Sierra Lopez, who's a Bay Area reporter, said, 'when you stop asking

questions, the community stops getting answers.' This stuck out to me because sometimes as a journalist I get burnt out or tired, but this reminds me about how important it is to keep the people around you informed,

especially on a college campus," McGinty said.

For some editors, it was their first time attending the ACP conference. Emily Stacherski, The Outlook's lifestyles editor said, "I loved that

I got the chance to attend this year. I got the chance to hear from professionals in the field, who work on all different topics. I love that this conference brings together student journalists from all over the country to teach us how to hone our craft. I had no idea that we would be able to pick and choose what topics we learn about, but it was really cool because we could

all focus on our own interests." Stacherski added that one of the biggest things she learned was making sure as journalists, you are advocating for yourself whether that be for press passes or credentials.

Henry Boody, The Outlook's politics editor and photographer said, "The ACP Conference was one of the more eye-opening events I've attended in recent history. Not because it was popular, or the grand hotel it happened in, but the people who spoke. The available conference sessions were broad enough that even someone whose career isn't tied to journalism could listen and ask questions of those involved in documenting something as significant as the Minneapolis protests." He continued,

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## Budget

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are picking up physical copies of The Outlook at the stands across campus. The result of this is large quantities of copies being disposed of at the end of every week. As we evaluate how we can make the best use of every student dollar, we took into consideration the volume of newspapers being disposed of every week and found it unsustainable. We are not advocating for nor forcing The Outlook to stop printing or transition entirely online, nor is this an attempt to prevent publication. This is an economic choice in a national environment that is transitioning away from large quantities of print newspapers to less print copies and more online publications," he said.

Professor Morano explained that the idea of an online version "seamlessly" replacing the print version is inaccurate. "Of course, both are available to the university community, but as far as the paper can tell, the level of engagement with the print version far exceeds what they find from the digital version." He continued, "Not everyone has reliable internet or phone service. Not everyone is willing to search and click several times just to get the paper. Many people forget that the digital paper has been issued because it can be 'out of sight, out of mind.' That same issue on a newsstand can be quite engaging. There's a reason why The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Daily News and so many others that could easily go fully digital, don't."

A study by the American Press Institute found that 74% of 16-to-40-year-olds get news and information at least weekly from traditional news sources, including print newspapers, according to ACS Media Group. While print media has traditionally been linked to older audiences, trends indicate a shift in its audience, according to a 2024 Media Max Network article titled, "Why Newspapers and Magazines Still Matter." In an era of digital misinformation Millennials and Gen Z are turning to print media for credible, well-researched content, the article explains. The article also points out that print media often serves as a "cultural connector" for Black, Hispanic, and LGBT communities. "They offer a platform for voices and stories that may be underrepresented or overlooked in mainstream digital media."

In a "Dear Editor" letter from

Monmouth University Latin American Student Organization (LASO) they shared the same sentiment, "The Outlook plays an essential role in making that possible. It provides a platform where diverse voices, including those from underrepresented communities. Where many can share their stories, raise concerns, and celebrate their identities in a meaningful and visible way."

"I do believe that print publications are important," Richard Veit, PhD, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs said. "For nearly a century, The Outlook has done great work reporting about what is happening on campus. I understand that the SGA was unable to fund the budget at its previous level. I look forward to working with colleagues from Student Life, Academic Affairs, and the SGA as we work to support The Outlook in an environment with limited budgets," he said. While the administration is citing limited budgets, it is easy to observe that Monmouth University prints various publications in full color. For example, we notice Monmouth Magazine which also has an online version laying around campus and offices and is made available to the campus community in print form. We point that out only because it shows inconsistency in how the cost of printing a student newspaper is framed by the SGA President, Sheehan, as an "economic choice." In addition, SGA advisor Dr. Vaughn Clay said about his role in this decision, "My role is not to make unilateral decisions when it comes to the annual funding of clubs and organizations, but rather to participate in a broad, collaborative process with SGA leadership. Budget decisions are made through multiple layers of discussion and evaluation, taking into account institutional perspectives, feedback-metrics from clubs and organizations who are applying, as well as any financial considerations that may arise from one year to the next."

According to a Columbia Journalism Review from December 2016, the experiment with online only publications is showing to be a failure. They write, "The reality is this: No app, no streamlined website, no 'vertical integration,' no social network, no algorithm, no Apple, no Apple Newsstand, no paywall, no soft paywall, no targeted ad, no mobile first strategy has come close to matching the success of print in revenue or readership."

Regardless of the assertion that The Outlook's physical copies are left on the stand at the end of the

week, this is no evidence that the paper is not reaching the readership. Columbia Journalism Review cites studies that have found that print editions "reach 28 percent of circulation while digital versions reach just 10 percent." The Outlook is well within these trends if not better in terms of circulation. Additionally, Pew Research Center collected data on time that digital readers spend on news sites, and it is less than five minutes.

Eliminating print publications can have a chilling effect on the campus community. It's a known act of silencing that universities have used in the past. According to Indiana Citizen, In October of 2025, Indiana University announced it was suspending print editions of the Indiana Daily Student citing a budget deficit. A 158 year old newspaper was forced to go digital-only but the move caused a widespread outcry and the University reversed its decision. According to Professor Morano, "...the elimination of a print version would remove the paper from newsstands across campus, in effect, silencing headlines that some on occasion might find inconvenient, truthful and accurate, but inconvenient. It's not a stretch to wonder if the action is a form of censorship." According to NPR, as a fallout, Indiana University also faced a lawsuit from a former advisor to the paper who was fired after he, "stood up against the censorship."

Other universities in the country are attempting to limit student journalism by limiting access to newsstands. According to The Christian Science Monitor from March 21, 2026, University of Texas at Dallas limits the number of newsstands on campus making student press more difficult to access. As The Christian Science Monitor explains, "The controversy in Dallas is one example of mounting challenges student journalists face nationwide, from censorship to administrative stonewalling to the elimination of print editions."

Professor Deanna Shoemaker, Chair of the Department of Communication shared her concerns with SGA's decision to defund The Outlook. "In a moment when we need independent journalism, a free and open press, and critical thinking more than ever, it is deeply troubling that our award-winning and longstanding Outlook newspaper is in danger of losing almost half of its funding for next year. This means that our 93-year old student-run newspaper wouldn't appear in hard copy anymore. I wonder what our

distinguished journalism alumnus, Linda Deutsch, would say, after she gave a substantial gift to annually support outstanding journalism students at Monmouth, if she was alive today? If you walk the second-floor halls in Plangere, you'll see framed historic Outlook stories from the 1930s all the way to Anti-Apartheid protests, Martin Luther King, Jr's visit to campus in 1966, Sit-Ins, the 9/11 attack, Hurricane Sandy, and more. I urge all faculty, students, and staff to pick up an Outlook newspaper each week to explore the important stories that hold our campus accountable, celebrate our exciting work at MU, and help our students engage with the world. Having the Outlook appear only online does NOT serve our students or our community well, and I hope our campus will help us fight back. I want to thank the generations of ambitious and courageous students who have spent many hours working to print our weekly campus newspaper, which is vital to our democracy," she said.

The Outlook has been a historical record of the life of this University. A few semesters ago we assisted Springsteen Center's archivist, Melissa Ziobro on her project, offering old print copies of the paper for her research. It is in moments like this that one fully appreciates the importance of print in the world in which we are subjected to the content often hidden behind the screens and online paywalls. As Monmouth Review's Editor-in-Chief Zafira Demiri aptly put it, "Although online forms of publication are great they are ephemeral... how can we trust that our voices will be heard if there is no physical proof of it?...How do we know that we—the students—are even here?"

In addition, The Outlook has a strong academic and professional component. It serves as the ground for academic instruction and for training future journalists in their own profession. Print journalism skills are as relevant as ever. Professor Morano explained, "On an academic note, I have never seen a student walk into my class waving their phone around, excited that their story made page one. I have seen many students walk into News Writing class with print paper in hand opened to page one, smiling broadly, proudly."

He continued, "Also, academically and professionally, the design of a print page is quite different from the design of a digital page. It is a skill that students should learn and practice. The Outlook is

the best, perhaps only, opportunity at the University for them to do that. At least, it was until SGA decided to defund the opportunity."

Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. David Golland described The Outlook as a, "high quality, longstanding student newspaper," and added, "The Outlook should be doing hard-hitting stories that challenge authority as part of its mission to teach young journalists to become professional journalists."

The Outlook is appealing this decision. "I have heard that the paper can appeal the decision, as if that will impact it. But whom do they appeal to? My understanding is that they appeal to the same people who made the decision. One would think that a less involved third party might be more likely to recognize if there was any irregularity, bias or other agenda in this action. It does seem that appealing to the people who decided this, is more of a formality than an actual appeal. I hope I'm mistaken, but there's not a lot about this decision and the process that causes me to think otherwise, sadly. It is frustrating to see people who have no degree or professional experience in the field making decisions as if they know something that those who actually practice and study journalism don't know, unless of course, you don't want to hear what experts might say," said Professor Morano.

As to what the legacy of this important student paper is and for those who wonder why the printing should continue, one has to just walk into the Plangere Center and look around. "If anyone in the Monmouth University community is unsure what the print edition of The Outlook means to the institution, I would encourage them to take a stroll to the second floor of the Plangere Center and see just a few of the classic front pages hanging on the walls. In fact, the building that houses this display was in large measure paid for by a journalist who admired The Outlook, Jules Plangere. He also wrote the check that paid for the display of the front pages. And, at the end of the hallway is a sign above the newsroom that says, The Linda Deutsch Center for Student Journalism, another donor who was an editor at The Outlook when she attended Monmouth College. There's over \$8 million in donations to the University from just these two people, both directly associated with The Outlook, but it seems SGA and their adviser can't fund a print version that has been funded for over 90 years previously and is regularly recognized nationally. It is a curious and sad decision, to say the least," Professor Morano concluded.

## ACP

cont. from pg. 1

"This made me realize that photography doesn't need to be just aesthetic or artistic, but rather functional and purposeful. And I might just dip my toes in photojournalism more than I have already."

Additionally, the student-run newspaper was recognized for their online publication, demonstrating

the efforts put into making their stories accessible to all, in addition to print, receiving eighth in the Best of Show Award for a four-year campus of 15,000 students or fewer. All the editors who attended agreed that it prepared them in some way for a professional career in journalism and media. McGinty said, "As someone who is starting to look ahead to life after graduation I was definitely attending sessions I think

could benefit me in that way." She attended sessions such as, "Ask a Hiring Manager," "Your First Job is Not Your Dream Job," and "Beyond Salary: Negotiating and Evaluating Offers."

"As much as being a college student prepares you for the skills you're going to need professionally, I've never considered how to negotiate job offers, including pay, start date, the title of the job, raise struc-

ture, and if you have the ability to freelance. This reframed my prior mindset that negotiation is confrontational when in reality, negotiation just equals communication. This makes me much more comfortable entering the professional world," McGinty added.

Frank Hoarle, The Outlook's sports editor attended this year for the first time and said that the conference was a great way to enhance

his knowledge in the field of journalism.

Marina Vujnovic, PhD, Professor of Journalism and The Outlook's adviser, said, "It's always great when we can send students to such an important conference where student journalists from across the U.S. exchange ideas about the importance of student journalism. We hope we can continue sending students every year."

Dear Editor,

I'm sorry for your loss. Not the part where written media is dead, but the part where Monmouth University thinks it is so.

The Outlook as a written publication is a staple to Monmouth University, its students, writers, editors, readers, and community members. Nearly every year, The Outlook wins national awards for print media.

Creating a newspaper for print teaches students the importance of details, layout, which pictures should go above the fold, and what stories make the front page. Each week, these students spend their days and long nights creating art, creating something worth reading, something worth sharing. They create something tangible.

A 41.7% budget cut does not just kill print media on campus, but puts all forms of journalism in jeopardy. This means The Outlook could only publish stories digitally.

Do you want everything to be summarized by some AI agent so readers can chug a 500 word story in under 5 seconds?

If you're not going to support written media, then why even have a school library? Why make textbooks mandatory for classes?

Because the written word has power in the hands of the people.

If Monmouth is worried about wasting paper or seeing the unread copies around campus then they could do more to encourage students and staff to pick up a paper. Make it part of a class assignment. Put it on all the desks in each building. Make it unavoidable. Compost the remaining copies on campus!

Do something, anything besides make it disappear completely.

And if it is just about the money, I'm sure a few thousand could be shaved off of the landscaping budget. There's no need to have six guys with backpack leafblowers fighting 24/7 against a few leaves.

Sincerely,

A proud Monmouth grad

Caroline Mattise '20

Former Outlook Editor-in-Chief

As a public relations club, we know what it means to be the sole contact between two individuals. Whether the contact is through a client and company, a brand and their consumers, or a news organization and its readers, the important part is sharing crucial information. The Outlook is the sole source of information between what goes on around the Monmouth community and those who are in it. This recent budget cut is extremely harmful to this relationship. Students and staff should have the opportunity to pick up the newest issue of the Outlook around campus every Wednesday and hear about the breaking stories going on. As students, we are incredibly upset and disappointed in SGA and people who took part in this decision. PRSSA supports The Outlook and hopes everything can be sorted out correctly and fairly.

- The Public Relations Student Society of America

To the Editor,

As a former news editor, editor-in-chief, and managing editor of The Outlook, I am deeply concerned over the reported cuts to the publication's print budget. Having spent countless hours in the newsroom in Plangere myself, I know firsthand that this is not simply a financial decision, but rather one that strikes at the core of student journalism and its role within the University community.

Print is foundational to journalism. For student journalists, the opportunity to see their work in print is not just symbolic, it is formative. I still have a binder overflowing with clippings of my favorite stories from the 4 years I spent writing for The Outlook.

Beyond sentimentality, the process of producing a physical newspaper demands a level of rigor, accountability, and craftsmanship that cannot be fully replicated in digital formats alone. It forces young journalists to think differently and more deliberately about how stories are told and consumed. These are essential skills that shape strong, adaptable journalists in the professional world.

During my time as editor-in-chief in 2022, we faced similar threats to the future of print at The Outlook. It is disheartening to see that years later, the same battle is being fought. The persistence of this issue suggests a troubling pattern that student journalism, particularly print journalism, is incorrectly viewed as expendable rather than essential.

It is also important to understand that this is not just a newsroom issue. The impact of cutting print reverberates across the entire University community. A physical newspaper serves a unique and irreplaceable role on campus. Copies left in academic buildings, the dining hall, and residence spaces invite engagement in a way that digital links do not. They also reach readers who may not actively seek out news online but who still benefit from being informed about the events, issues, and voices that shape Monmouth. Removing print diminishes that reach and, in doing so, weakens the publication's ability to inform the community it serves.

I understand that budgetary constraints are a reality for any institution and that difficult decisions are sometimes unavoidable. However, it is imperative to understand not all cuts are equal.

Reducing or eliminating print funding for The Outlook is not the neutral cost-saving measure that the University thinks it is. It is a step backward for a publication that has played a vital role in both student development and campus communication for decades.

I urge University leadership to reconsider these cuts and to recognize print for what it is: an investment in student learning, journalistic integrity, and an informed campus community.

Sincerely,

Abigail Brooks, MA

Dear Editor,

The Outlook student newspaper as a print publication is one of Monmouth University's strongest assets. When a student walks into a building, and they see right in front of them a physical paper full of campus news, events, and entertainment, that student is immediately connected to campus, and to the other students that wrote it. In an environment that often lacks student engagement, the Outlook is one of the only sources we have left that keep students involved and connected to campus. Therefore, the budget cuts are extremely detrimental and causes a disconnect that our University cannot withstand. The switch to digitalized news makes it harder for students to access, and is taking away the voices from our hardworking and courageous editors. Please reconsider this decision for the sake of student voices, for journalism, and for student engagement and connection to our campus.

Giovanna Territo: The Commworks Club

Dear Editor,

As a Writing Assistant at Monmouth University, I have worked closely with students as they shape their ideas into essays and creative pieces that reflect their voices and experiences. In that work, I have seen how important it is for students not only to write—but to see their writing exist beyond the moment of submission. The possibility that our campus publications may move entirely away from print is deeply concerning. There is a difference between producing work that lives on a screen and producing work that becomes part of a physical archive within the university community. Print carries presence. It creates visibility in shared spaces. It allows students to encounter each other's voices in a way that feels immediate and unmediated. When publications exist only online, they risk becoming invisible in the rhythm of daily campus life. A printed newspaper left on a table invites engagement without intention. A magazine picked up in passing becomes a moment of discovery. These experiences matter, especially in a university setting where student expression is still forming its identity.

I do not dismiss the value of digital platforms. They are accessible, efficient, and far-reaching. But they do not replace the cultural and communal function of print. Without physical copies, we lose something archival—something that says student work is not just produced, but preserved.

For the students I work with, seeing their words in print is often a milestone. It is affirmation that their ideas have entered the shared record of campus life. Removing that possibility risks diminishing not just visibility, but a sense of belonging within the university's intellectual community.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Elek Harris

Monmouth University Writing Assistant

Ceasing print publication of the Outlook would be an immediate disservice to students of the organization. The printing process prepares Journalism students for required skills in the field, like creating layouts through InDesign and coordinating with a live printing company. Each weekly publication night, students work together to combine their print-specific skills into one single issue. This is career training. It is a trial run for a career in weekly newspaper publishing. Should the Outlook move to a digital only format, it will alienate journalism students from that experience. The move would be a direct downgrade of the Journalism/Public Relations degree and a clear step backwards in preparedness for involved communications students.

Matthew Cutillo

Editor-in-Chief, Fall 2021

## THE OUTLOOK STAFF

### Mairead Spellacy EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**AVA MCGINTY** MANAGING EDITOR

#### SECTION EDITORS & DESIGNERS

Mairead Spellacy	NEWS EDITOR
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Victoria Caal	Riley McGee
Faith Molitor	Carlee Migliorisi
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Ana Carvalho	Asia Cooke
Melanie Ariza	Evelyn Thu
Eric Thu	Samantha Tate

#### ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER

Bryce Goodwin

#### PHOTOGRAPHER

Henry Boody

#### CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Mairead Spellacy

Marina Vujnovic, Ph.D. FACULTY ADVISOR

Tarra Emery OFFICE COORDINATOR

#### HOW TO SUBMIT ARTICLES OR LETTERS:

*The Outlook* provides the Monmouth University community with information concerning issues in and around the University while serving as a forum for expression of the ideas of its readers. Contributions must be submitted (email [outlook@monmouth.edu](mailto:outlook@monmouth.edu)) by 12:00 p.m. Sundays.

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

Monmouth University's  
Student-Run Newspaper  
Since 1933

Plangere Center 2nd Floor, Room 260

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

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

Website: [outlook.monmouth.edu](http://outlook.monmouth.edu)  
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## The Outlook

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## Solution or statement?

#### EDITORIAL STAFF

On April 13, The Outlook staff was notified of a budget cut imposed by SGA which reduces our budget by 41.67%. The new proposed budget would virtually stop printing and distribution of the paper on campus.

The editors were asked about their reactions to this news that SGA President Brendan Sheehan called an "economic choice."

One editor commented, "My initial reaction was absolute outrage, especially considering that the SGA President was formerly on the staff here at the paper last year. It made me really upset because if anyone knows how hard we work and the voice we bring to students, it's Brendan Sheehan."

Another editor saw this not as an economic choice, but rather a first amendment issue. "Hearing that our budget was cut, I immediately thought this was an act of censorship. This brings into question the fundamental right of the First Amendment of The Outlook."

The editor continued, "I fully believe that this is in violation of our first amendment rights as students on this campus. An editorial and journalistic decision was made on our behalf without any conversation beforehand."

Another editor was shocked to hear about the cut, "This paper needs a certain amount of money to print alone, and a budget cut of that magnitude will make The Outlook's functional-

ity near impossible."

In 2020, the Center for Scholastic Journalism at Kent State found that 70 percent of school newspapers had a print edition with some even bringing print back after a hiatus.

Reading this, an editor responded, "Print journalism is not going away. Even if the industry is evolving to keep up with the fast past requirements that exist now with social media, you can always find print publications. I can think of more than ten print newspapers in New Jersey alone, many of which our Outlook alums go on to work for."

Another editor agreed, "Honestly, I think that statistic just shows that people need journalism. As a society, we strive to remain aware and spread awareness to others, and journalism is our way of holding people accountable and taking action."

"Print journalism is still prevalent and it should be. Trying to take that away is simply a malpractice," one editor emphasized.

Many of our editors plan to pursue journalism as a career, many noting they are met with the sentiment that print is a 'dying industry.' One editor said, "I do intend to pursue journalism as a career after I graduate this year. I think the budget cut has been concerned for the integrity of journalism as a whole and not feeling valued in terms of my career path on this campus. It's truly unnerving."

One editor said, "I have heard

it, and it honestly just motivates me to work harder for people. Journalism is an evolving industry, not a declining one."

One editor reflected on The Outlook's longstanding history at Monmouth, "It doesn't feel right to me. The Outlook has been in print for almost 100 years. A fully digital format would be confusing for faculty and students and, in my opinion, could be harder to access."

"Print journalism is absolutely needed for places like small towns and college campuses. How else are the people supposed to remain aware and have a voice?" one editor asked.

Another editor explained, "What once was reporting facts on the ground is now fighting for the truth to be heard in a sea of misinformation. What I'm trying to say is journalism is more important than ever."

"What we do in this newsroom is so much more than just putting words on a page; it's the experience that sets us apart from other job candidates and gives us the skills to thrive in the real world," one editor added.

We would like to end on a sentiment and a message directed to those who made this devastating decision expressed by one of our former editors and alumnus Ms. Isabella Hanna, Class of 2023, "The Outlook is bigger than any contributor or graduating class. It is nearly a century of honest reporting; it is transparency and student power personified; it's a home. It's my home. It's your voice. Don't tear down my home — and don't silence our voice."



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Dear Editors of The Outlook:

When I heard about the cutting of your budget, and by almost 50% no less, I was simultaneously floored and not surprised at all. As a former Editor-in-Chief of the paper, I am all too familiar with the not-so-subtle disdain that the University's administration holds for The Outlook.

The point is this: people in power are scared of being held accountable. If there is anything that this current presidential administration has taught us on a national scale, it's that accountability threatens those who have never had to face it before. The cutting of The Outlook's budget is just another way that freedom of speech is being dismantled all over the country, and now it is hitting where journalism students learn the foundations of how the press functions. I.e., the classroom. To say that this is disappointing behavior from my alma mater is an understatement. But again, I am not all that surprised.

But enough about feelings. Let me, briefly, get into the facts.

Reminiscent of research I did during my tenure at The Outlook, President Leahy's compensation in the fiscal year ending in June 2024 totaled to \$844,789, according to the institution's Form 990 available for public inspection on ProPublica. Tuition for students at Monmouth University for the 2025-2026 academic year averages almost \$50,000, without aid.

I am far from being an accountant, but the numbers are staggering. Rudimentary math shows that about 17 students' tuitions could pay for President Leahy's compensation alone.

Monmouth's mission is also self-described in this Form 990, which states that the University "...educates and prepares students to realize their potential as leaders and to become engaged citizens in a diverse and increasingly interdependent world."

To Monmouth's administration, and based on these figures, I ask you this: what do you gain? By cutting not only the budget but also the student experience down to scraps, are you serving the students or only yourselves? What matters more to you than students singlehandedly aiding their peers and community by serving as the University's Fourth Estate, so to speak?

I'll answer these questions myself. I may not be an administrative member at a university, but nothing matters more in this political climate than students' voices. In a digital age where sites can very easily be censored, edited, and deleted with the single click of a button, physical media such as newspapers are one of the few things that keep the news not behind a pixelated wall, but tangible in the hands of its readers. Undermining The Outlook and its influence in this way puts you on a definitive side of history. I don't think I need to explicitly tell you which one.

To the Editors and staff of The Outlook, I wish you all nothing but the best as you navigate these turbulent times and lack of support from those above you. Keep doing what you're doing, and never stop advocating for the truth.

Sincerely,  
Gabrielle Sangataldo  
MU Class of 2024

Dear Editors,

For nearly my entire college career, The Outlook was my home. As a contributing writer, it's where I learned the value of supporting an organization bigger than myself. As a staff writer and section editor, it's where I grasped the importance of collaboration and teamwork. Finally, as Editor-in-Chief, it's where I understood the gravity of supporting the student voice on an American college campus. Today, nearly three years since graduating, The Outlook is still home—one that now stands on the brink of collapse.

The Outlook's ethos is rooted in democracy: a newspaper written by students, representing students, and shared for students. A legacy upheld and guarded by generations of editors who have fought for its rightful place on Monmouth's grounds for close to a hundred years.

But you can't put up a fight when the University's administration endorses a 41.7 percent budget cut. Especially when that cut aims to eliminate The Outlook's greatest, most feared assets (second only to its writers): its printers.

They've disguised their intent so cleverly too. On the surface, this budget cut is thoughtful financial management that moves precious funds away from "dated" practices. Really, it's to censor discourse, keeping the University's image pristine and agreeable.

Side question: How much is annual tuition nowadays? Right, it's fifty thousand dollars annually, the highest rate of tuition to date, while the longest-standing student-run organization is consistently scrutinized for every dollar spent. As the kids say, the math isn't "mathing."

When I was Editor-in-Chief, I wrote an article that exposed how the administration made changes to the University's academic calendar for the next year without consulting faculty or student. Within a week of that article's print, the administration reversed the change. This is the 'why'. The Outlook's impact is real and tangible when given a place on the newsstands. If they take away the printers, they obstruct the democratic share of information and opinions.

The Outlook is bigger than any one contributor or graduating class. It is nearly a century of honest reporting; it is transparency and student power personified; it's a home.

It's my home. It's your voice. Don't tear down my home—and don't silence our voice.

Sincerely,  
Isabella Hanna  
Editor-in-Chief, Class of 2023  
Graduate Assistant, Class of 2024

Dear Editor,

The Monmouth Review has previously discussed our concern regarding this subject, and so the news that you may be going out of print landed on us with particular weight. One of the defining features of our school is the visibility of student work in physical form—newspaper stacks in common areas, magazines on tables across campus buildings, and printed pages that assert: student voices are present here, and they matter. Without those printed publications, something essential feels lost. If there is no physical newspaper, how do we encounter the reality of our own community in a tangible way? How do we prove to ourselves that student expression is not only produced but also seen, held, and shared in shared space?

To me, this is not simply a shift in format. It feels like a form of erasure—of student identity, student labor, and the culture that develops between writers, editors, faculty advisors, and readers. Digital publication certainly has value, but it is fleeting in a different way. A webpage is not something you can discover unexpectedly on a table, pick up, and read without intention. It does not gather in stacks that mark time, memory, and presence.

There is something irreplaceable about holding student journalism in your hands—the weight of it, the permanence it suggests, the sense that these words exist in the world beyond a scroll or a click. Without that, I worry about how we preserve continuity. How do we pass our work forward? How do we ensure it is encountered, not just hosted? As someone who has worked closely with The Monmouth Review in my role as Managing Editor, and as a rising Editor-in-Chief and Vice President, I have seen firsthand how deeply students value seeing their work printed. It is not just publication—it is recognition. It is record. It is memory made physical.

Sincerely,  
Alexandra Elek Harris  
Managing Editor, Rising Editor-in-Chief  
and Vice President for the Monmouth Review

# A legacy in print: 38 years of John Morano at Monmouth

**AVA MCGINTY**  
MANAGING/FEATURES EDITOR

At The Outlook, Professor John Morano became the steady presence behind the newsroom, guiding generations of student journalists before stepping down as faculty advisor in 2021. He is now retiring after 38 years at the university.

Morano, who was hired to found Monmouth's journalism program, also became the first faculty advisor in the paper's history. From the beginning, he made one thing clear; The Outlook belonged to the students.

"The first thing I did when they brought me in was write my letter of resignation," Morano said. "I signed it and gave it to the editor and said, 'Put that in your desk. The moment you feel I do not have your best interests at heart, or I am not here for you first, you can use it.'"

That letter sat untouched for over 30 years.

Over his 33 years as an advisor, Morano oversaw more than 800 issues of The Outlook. Under his leadership, the paper earned national recognition. The Outlook won five national championships from the American Scholastic Press Association (ASPA), one national championship from the Society of

Professional Journalists, and was awarded 'Top Ten in the Nation' from the Associated Collegiate Press. Of those five ASPA National Championships, The Outlook won back-to-back twice.

His approach was consistent. He treated the newsroom like a team, but never tried to control the outcome.

Julian Garcia '96, Editor-in-Chief, remembers that balance. "He was a really good guiding force for us at the paper. He was very hands-on. He always showed up for us, but at the same time, he didn't take control. He gave us advice, told us what he thought was best, and then stepped away and let us do what we needed to do."

Garcia said that freedom was essential. "I think that was the best way for us to learn. Not having him constantly looking over our shoulders but giving us guidance and then allowing us to succeed or fail. Of course, he would step in if something was egregious or could get us into trouble. But for the most part, he balanced being hands-on while knowing when to step away."

That trust gave students room to figure things out on their own, even when it meant getting something wrong the first time.

Greg Mescall '03, sports editor, and now a regular calling play-by-play on ESPN and Fox Sports, as well as the voice of USA Women's Water Polo, remembers one of those moments early on. "I remember working on a story as a freshman that admittedly was not ready for prime time, but he let it run anyway and it was the best learning experience. ... We spent time after breaking down how to do it better next time."

For many, Morano served as both a guide and a steady presence in the newsroom. Garcia reflected on that dynamic. "But on my end, I

always looked up to him. I never felt like we were side-by-side."

That perspective only deepened over time. After leaving Monmouth in 1996 and working at the Daily News, Garcia began to understand the long-term value of that mentorship. "As I got older, I realized I needed his guidance even more

than I did in college. He became a great resource, someone I could bounce ideas off, especially when I had challenges or was looking for new opportunities."

Garcia continued, "And that's one thing I want to emphasize, he's changed the least of anyone I know. He's the exact same person he was 30-35 years ago, both in personality and how he treats students and alumni."

Terry Lipshetz '98, who served as sports editor, managing editor, and Editor-in-Chief, and is now the National Newsroom Managing Editor for Lee Enterprises, said Morano's influence extended far beyond the newsroom.

"You get to college and you're just an 18-, 19-year-old kid mostly away from home for the first time, and here is this professor who is not only a key instructor in what you hope leads into your career, but offers the qualities of mentor, older brother, father-figure and life coach," Lipshetz said. "Next to my parents, there is nobody during this four-year period of my life that had a greater impact on me."

He also pointed to the balance Morano maintained between independence and accountability. Lipshetz explained, "Professor Morano always popped in to make sure all was well. What would be our front-page stories? If we had something controversial, did we have the proper sourcing? Yes, this was a fun student-run organization, but it's serious work, too, with real-life implications if you get things wrong."

Students also learned through adversity, something



PHOTO COURTESY of John Morano.

**Morano founded the journalism program and has been guiding students in the newsroom and classroom for almost four decades.**

Morano did not shield them from.

Garcia reflected on those moments. "We had moments where things didn't go our way, and we learned from failure. He taught us persistence, strength, and how to deal with adversity."

Jennifer Knoeppel '05, now the Managing Director of Communications for NASCAR, said the experience pushed her beyond her comfort zone. "The Outlook itself pushed me out of my comfort zone. I wasn't the strongest writer, and I didn't always feel creative when it came to generating story ideas. There were times when I wanted to quit because it was time-consuming and I had other commitments."

She added, "But he encouraged me to stick with it, reminding me that it would get easier. Over time, it did. I found a rhythm, and it became more natural. That experience really helped me grow, both professionally and personally."

Morano saw that development as the purpose of the paper. He said, "The best part of the experience was seeing students grow, gain confidence, and realize what they were capable of. The goal was to create a space where anyone could participate and learn."

In the April 21, 2021 issue of The Outlook, the final issue Morano advised, former students wrote in and submitted messages of gratitude.

Caroline Masttise '20 wrote, "It was one of my favorite teams that I have been a part of and you will certainly go down as the winningest coach in paper history."

Courtney Buell '18 wrote, "What is unique to Morano's approach to advising is he has provided tools that are valuable

outside of the classroom. By instructing without governing, he has allowed his students to rise to their full potential and become self-reliant."

Even in stepping away, Morano stayed true to that philosophy. "When I stepped down, I stayed out of the newsroom completely. I knew I was handing it to someone capable, so I did not go back in. Once it is no longer your responsibility, you have to let it go," Morano said.

After nearly four decades at Monmouth, his presence is still easy to picture.

While he is set to deliver his last lecture at the university, he can still be found in his office, where rock music plays quietly as papers are spread across his desk. Glasses rest at the tip of his nose as he reads. Awards line the walls, and shelves hold typewriters, photos from his life, and worn ticket stubs from concerts, shows, and his years in journalism.

But his legacy is not just on the walls. It is in the people who still call him years later.

Mescall still keeps in touch. "He is someone I routinely check-in with, grab lunch, etc. to talk about the latest steps in my sports media journey. Even as I moved more into broadcasting and not as much writing, his thoughts and ideas are always valuable. He is good for a pep talk and we've long bonded over our love of basketball and the NY Knicks."

Mescall concluded, "I'm fortunate to know him and call him a friend and a mentor. I know I'm just one of many, many students he's impacted in this positive way. He leaves massive shoes to fill at MU."



PHOTO COURTESY of John Morano.

**Professor Morano is also the author of the Eco-Adventure series.**

# Emily's senior goodbye

**EMILY STACHERSKI**  
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Well, it's that time again: the Lifestyles' editor is officially signing off. For my last hoorah writing in this newspaper as a student journalist, I'd love to reflect on my time at Monmouth.

If you don't know me, my name is Emily. I am a senior about to graduate as a communication major and a sports communication minor. I am the Vice President of Monmouth's chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America, a manager of our football team, and of course, the Lifestyles Editor at The Outlook.

Now that you know what I'm currently up to, let's go to the beginning. When I arrived at Monmouth as an out of state freshman, I thought it was the worst thing to ever happen to me. My mom still talks about how she drove

away watching me wipe my eyes but knew she couldn't interfere with my journey. After about two days, I realized this was going to be one of the best times in my life, and I was absolutely correct.

Freshman year was filled with nerves but new friends and experiences I will forever hold close to my heart. Sophomore year included finding my place and finally declaring a major: communication with a focus in journalism and public relations. Junior year allowed me to grow more than ever before as I decided what I wanted to do in life, which was work in the sports industry. It was then I declared my minor and started working for the Monmouth football team, ultimately the best choice I have ever made during the past three years. It was also then that I started writing for this paper and was asked to take over the spot as editor, to which I of course said yes.

Now I'm a senior. That

statement makes me so sick I will not lie to you. I'm going to miss everything about this place and all the memories that went along with it. I'll miss my friends and the beach, the professors and the work, my apartment and my tentative schedules. I'm going to miss working in public relations. I luckily get to continue working with sports as I have recently accepted an internship with the Philadelphia Eagles (GO BIRDS). But I'm really going to miss writing.

Of course, writing is a skill that I will always use throughout my life but I mean truly writing. Though journalism wasn't a field I knew I would end up in, writing for The Outlook has given me a way to express myself in so many ways. I've written articles for the politics, entertainment, and the lifestyles section. All so different, but each a way to get my words across to an audience.

Lifestyles has been my favorite (not biased) section to write for because I could literally write about anything I want, which I will miss most.

I want to thank Lorelai Hilarczyk and Bailey Fredericks for getting me involved with The Outlook, as well as our advisor, Dr. V. Thank you

to my writers who showed out every week with amazing stories I had the honor to edit. Thank you to this year's editorial staff for everything we have accomplished this year, specifically our Editor-in-Chief, Mairead Spellacy.

With that, I am officially ending my time here as an editor. Onto the next!

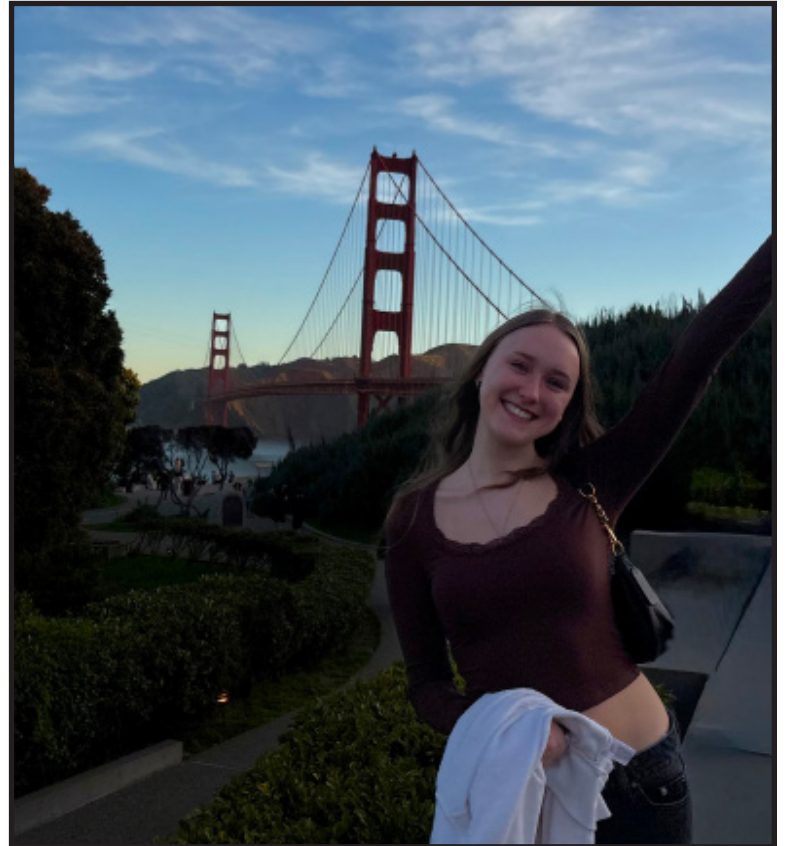


PHOTO COURTESY of Emily Stacherski.

## Life after graduation: Preparing for the next step

**KAMRYN CARDONE**  
STAFF WRITER

I think for a lot of college graduates, life after graduation is something everyone's been looking forward to. No more assignments, no more deadlines, and just no more school for the first time in 17 years. Everyone's college experience is different. Whether you're in a sorority or fraternity, involved in clubs, or just focused on your major, that's what makes it so meaningful. However, that same idea carries into life after graduation. Not everyone is going to graduate and have the same "life after." I think for a lot of students, graduating is actually harder than people expect. You're leaving behind the kind of whole life you built here.

And that's the part nobody really prepares you for.

College becomes more

than just classes. It's your routine, your friends, your favorite places on campus, the random late-night drives or walks, and even the stress you complain about but secretly get used to. It becomes your normal. So when that chapter ends, it doesn't just feel like you're finishing school, it feels like you're closing a whole lifestyle.

At first, life after graduation can feel exciting. This sense of freedom comes with not having a syllabus controlling your every move. You can wake up without an alarm, you don't have assignments hanging over your head, and your time is finally your own. But that freedom can also feel kind of unfamiliar. Like you're waiting for someone to tell you what the next step is, and realizing... no one is coming to do that anymore.

That's where things start to feel real.

Some people jump straight into jobs in their field, some take internships, some move

back home, and others are still figuring it out day by day. And honestly, all of it is normal, even though it doesn't always feel that way when you're comparing yourself to everyone else online. Social media makes it seem like everyone has it figured out, new jobs, new apartments, new "I made it" posts, but real life is usually way more in-between than that.

There's also this identity shift that happens that I don't think gets talked about enough even though every one goes through it. For years, you have introduced yourself as a student. Your life is structured around being in college. Then one day, that label is just gone, and you're trying to figure out who you are outside of that. It's not that you don't know yourself; it's just different when you're not constantly in a school environment shaping your identity.

And I think that's why

this transition feels so heavy sometimes. You're not just adjusting your schedule, you're adjusting your sense of self.

Even friendships change in this stage, not in a bad way, but in a real way. You don't see people every day anymore, and everything takes more effort. You can't just walk into someone's room or meet up after class. Now it's texting, planning, and trying to line up schedules that no longer naturally match. The friendships that matter start to show themselves in how consistent people are, even with distance and time.

And then there's the pressure to have it all figured out. To have a "career job," to be financially stable, to immediately step into adulthood like it's supposed to be seamless. But the truth is, life after graduation is not a straight path. It's a lot of trial and error, a lot of waiting, and a lot of small steps that don't always feel

big at the moment.

However, I think that's also what makes this stage important. You're learning how to build a life without structure being handed to you. You're figuring out what you actually want, not just what you were told to do. And even though it feels uncertain, there's something kind of powerful about that, too.

Life after graduation isn't one big arrival moment. It's not this instant "everything falls into place" experience people tend to expect. It's more like a slow adjustment into something new, where you're figuring things out without the structure you've had for years. And even if it doesn't feel perfect or figured out right away, it's still your life. Just like no two people are alike, no two lifestyles after graduation are the same; everyone is building, adjusting, and moving into their own version of what comes next.

# Francesca Fuentes' "Barely Breathin'": Connection and vulnerability

MELANY MCCANN  
STAFF WRITER

Sometimes the greatest artists are the local gems, and Jersey Shore native Francesca Fuentes is no exception. Driven by her passion for encapsulating the human experience, Fuentes has been singing and writing from a young age, and her new single "Barely Breathin'" was released April 17. If this is any indication of her upcoming album "Promise of Patience," you better claim your OG tickets.

Inspired by artists such as Taylor Swift, Fuentes officially began her musical journey at 18 years old after attending Monmouth University, an apparent home to a strong music community. Before her career could truly catalyze, she faced a difficult personal and professional split with her producer in 2021, leaving her destitute with an unfinished album. But Fuentes' story is one about perseverance and vulnerability—she channeled this heartbreak into honing her

sound and skill, and in 2025 released her EP "Can't Hide," and is currently expecting her debut album to release in October 2026.

"Barely Breathin'" was written in 2021 following the split with her producer, and explores the intense separation, detailing the crushing and suffocating void in the wake of a breakup. The song uses this metaphor literally and figuratively, exploring themes of anxiety, prolonged connection, and uncertainty. It's the ultimate emotional attachment anthem.

The single opens with a light guitar melody and drums, but the main attraction is her voice. Soothing, velvety, and warm, her voice is undoubtedly incredible. Accompanied by the soft instruments, this bedroom-pop track is extremely intimate and introspective. It's dream-like, breathy, and makes it impossible to not bop your head along.

The song takes listeners on a journey of understanding, confusion, and anxiety. The track begins with "I keep a guitar at your

house/For when you want to ask me to write some songs again," immediately throwing listeners into the relationship. Soon after, it depicts her rationalization of this emotional journey and the split, "I need to focus on why we need this space and time."

Fuentes embodies this experience and years for connection. She articulates the refusal to accept a breakup, trying to find glimmers of hope and fantasizing about the "what-ifs," seen as the song details "I left a silk dress in your drawer, in case you want to ask me to spend the night once more." I think we're all guilty of leaving a trail of ourselves behind hoping it'll guide someone home.

This track's strong suit is the repetition of "Barely Breathin'" throughout, most notably in the repeated lines "I'm barely breathin'/I'm turning blue and I need you to soothe me/I'm barely breathing/I'm barely breathin' without you." Fuentes' lyricism captures the theme of suffocation, both in the absence of this

partner, but also in the anxiety that accompanies their vacancy.

The height of the song, and my personal favorite segment, is, "If I run out of air, meet me in heaven where we can see this through/If I run out of breath, if I die a mess, it's cause I can't live without you." This verse comes near the end of the song, and it is the release of the built tension throughout the piece. It is thrilling and, ironically, like a breath of fresh air after the built intensity.

"Barely Breathin'" is incredibly raw and vulnerable. Just like her song "I Wanna Be Your Lover Again," much of her music doesn't shy away

from intimate lyrics and honesty. Her music makes you feel seen, understood, and details the hardships that many refrain from acknowledging. And while I may feel suffocated when replaying her music, it is for an entirely different reason than hers. Fuentes' vulnerability has allowed her to not only stitch her wounds but make the threads of connection and community.

Take a deep breath and stream "Barely Breathin'" along with the rest of Fuentes work, including her EP "Can't Hide." Get prepared to meet your new favorite artist as she's taking the music industry by storm. You won't want to miss this!



PHOTO COURTESY of Joscil Jackson.

## BHR vol. 27 "From The Basement" to release on April 24

LORELAI HILARCZYK  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The end of a Monmouth University spring semester means Blue Hawk Records (BHR) will likely have some music planned. Just like in prior years, BHR is set to release an extended play (EP) vol. 27, titled "From the Basement" on April 24, before the official end of the semester. Produced through the Music & Theatre Arts Department's Record Label Strategies class this gives students the experience of running their own record label. Overseen by professor and chair of the department, Joe Rapolla, the class is able to learn different aspects of marketing, branding, and distribution of music.

For this album the class hosted auditions in Woods Theatre choosing from 13 student artists. The class eventually picked three to record their originals in Asbury Park's Lakehouse Recording Studios. This resulted in what the artists are describing as a harder rock oriented sound which captures the 90s basement vibe that can be seen on the album cover.

As for the three artists being featured on the EP, they include Blue Hawk Studio President, Cam Bacon and two bands, Soulstice and Uncle Eddie's Ghost. The band, Soulstice is

composed of singer, Kyla Wang; guitarists, Elijah Elias and Vincent Fazari; bassist, James Matthews; and drummer Michael Fazari. Uncle Eddie's Ghost is made up of vocalists and guitarists, Will Horn and Alek Dursike; guitarist, Cam Bacon; drummer, Michael Kazigian; and bassist David Thomas II. In true BHR fashion, these bands are proof of constant collaboration.

"This Stage" by Bacon is the first track on the EP. This garage rock song was inspired by classic early 2000s rock bands like Jet, The Strokes, and The White Stripes. Bacon explained that

he had an idea for a high energy song in his head and once he got the first few chords out, he knew it was something. As far as the meaning behind the track, Bacon said, "It's a little bit about dealing with imposter syndrome, not feeling like you're good enough at something even though you are told that you are." But, he did point out, like any good artist would, that the interpretation is up to the listener.

While Bacon is the solo vocalist, he credits a lot of the creative work to his bandmates who added to the project. "After the song made the album, the five

of us really added all of our own flair and personality to the song, and that's why I don't consider myself as the sole songwriter on the song but rather the five of us," Bacon said. BHR music fans can also look forward to Bacon's lyrics of, "When I leave this stage will you call out my name?/Some things you pray for, in another day it will change..."

The second song is "Memory Loss" by the band, Soulstice. Drummer Michael Fazari gave some insight to how the song came to be. He said, "My father wrote the song's lyrics in response to the loss of his mother. At its heart, though, the song speaks to something more universal—the pain of losing those closest to us too soon, and the memories we never had the chance to make." Fazari also described the song as a 1990s ballad with the chorus, "She's got memory loss, I've got memory loss" that encompasses the heart of the song. The song was also incorporated into Fazari's father's latest documentary which is being screened on Sept. 19 at MU.

Fazari attributed his creativity to being able to collaborate in the positive music environment that BHR has created. He said, "My favorite part was working alongside my peers in a professional environment and

contributing to a shared creative effort." And he also enjoyed collaborating with his father and letting the emotional impact be shared with the audience through this song.

The final track on the EP is "Crush" by Uncle Eddie's Ghost. Dursike, one of the guitarists and vocalists on the record, said that this song is about feeling like a kid when you have a crush on someone. He also admitted that it's a tribute to his girlfriend, making this what I would dub an indie rock style love song. Like Bacon's track, Dursike said that this was also inspired by bands like Axe and the Hatchmen and The Strokes. The creative process between the band members was a lot of back and forth collaboration whether it was the verses or the bridge. And not to mention the obvious laughing and jokes that come with working with your friends.

Like the previous worthwhile student albums, this group of artists along with the BHR team have put in the time, effort, and creative energy to make a solid EP. With the consistent theme of 90s rock, this writer can hypothesize that "From The Basement" will be just as entertaining as the volumes of musical art created in past years within the talented walls of BHR.



PHOTO COURTESY of @shotsbykatgrace.

# “Don’t You (Forget About Me)”: Lorelai’s Senior Goodbye

MELANY McCANN  
STAFF WRITER

“Real people do this,” was the first realization Lorelai Hilarczyk came to when joining The Outlook student-run newspaper. After spending countless hours making sure her piece was perfect and reading it a million times, her first printed article’s headline had a misspelled word. Naturally, she freaked out about the mistake, but she quickly learned that this imperfection was proof of journalism’s humanity. This panic was not only an important lesson, but was a clear prediction of her career to come.

Beginning her sophomore year, Lorelai joined The Outlook and never looked back. Encompassing 71 articles, thousands of words, and countless connections, her career thus far has been anything but dull. Those articles include a review of Monmouth’s “Singin’ In The Rain,” an exclusive feature with Chris Galletta the main creator of “A Minecraft Movie,” and a 2000s club experience of “Party 101” with “Victorious” star Matt Bennett, to name a few.

As a communication major concentrating in journalism and public relations, Lorelai’s participation in The Outlook was inevitable. While fear about skill and commitment may have held her back during freshman year, opting to become well versed in her courses before taking on the responsibility, made her unstoppable once she got started.

Lorelai grew up in a very musical household and was a certified Disney kid. She was named after Lorelai Gilmore from “Gilmore Girls,” making her devotion to the entertainment section practically fate; although she joked that she did not mean to follow in the footsteps of Rory Gilmore becoming an editor at her college paper. That’s just what the world had in store for her. Quickly, she climbed from a contributing writer to staff writer, covering a variety of topics, from album reviews and film recaps to spotlight pieces on local artists. And by March of her sophomore year, she was asked to be the entertainment editor.

From endless days

in the newsroom curating connections to taking on this position, this has been the highlight of her college career and, in the words of Lorelai, “the most rewarding moments in my life thus far.” As a true fangirl, the opportunity to write about music, film, and entertainment was incredibly compelling and “the literal coolest thing ever.”

Her career in The Outlook spanned various departments. As a musical theatre minor, her passion for theatre landed her in dress rehearsals and MU Players events, where she got to witness early performances of campus shows and write about them in a review/preview style. Her love of music helped her carve connections with the Music and Theatre Arts Department, where she’d sit in on networking events and review Blue Hawk Record’s albums. Lorelai has even had the incredible opportunity to attend the Sea.Hear.Now Festival 2025 in Asbury Park



PHOTO TAKEN by Lorelai Hilarczyk.

Lorelai’s media pass from Sea.Hear.Now Festival 2025.

with a press pass. Where she managed to barricade for artists like Royel Otis, Inhaler, and 4 Non Blondes in order to bring the full festival experience to the page for MU students.

Former Managing and Lifestyles Editor, Bailey Fredericks recalled her experience with Lorelai. “When I had the privilege of being an editor of The Outlook alongside her, she never stopped inspiring me. From the creative story angles she pursued to her perfect use of witty and unique headlines, every student journalist could borrow a trick or two out of Lorelai’s playbook,” Fredericks said. Most important, though, Fredericks said, “Lorelai puts her whole heart into every single thing she pursues,” and that is apparent in how she pursued The Outlook.

Samantha Spano, Monmouth alumna and independent country artist,

had the opportunity to work with Lorelai on various occasions during her time as a writer, most recently in Lorelai’s article on Spano’s song “Whiskey Don’t Work (Anymore).” Spano said, “For Lorelai, writing is a passion project. The same way that I pour my heart into songwriting, she pours her heart into her stories.”

Lorelai’s career with The Outlook goes beyond the articles themselves, it festers in the impact she made. Spano also said, “Throughout my college career and beyond, Lorelai was the first to shine light on my new projects and as an independent artist to have that kind of support means more to me than I can put into words.” The best part about interviewing with Lorelai for Spano was that interviewing always felt like catching up with a friend.

Olivia Melfi is another Monmouth alumna and artist that Lorelai collaborated with. Melfi highlighted that Lorelai “just naturally lives in the world of entertainment.” During Melfi’s senior year at Monmouth, Lorelai interviewed her for an artist spotlight. Melfi echoed a similar experience with Lorelai as Spano. Melfi said, “[Lorelai] has such a beautiful way of capturing stories and turning them into compelling narratives...The questions she asked me about my music were so thoughtful and intriguing...I even found myself surprised about some of the answers she got out of me.”

As Entertainment Editor, Lorelai was incredibly devoted to sharing this joy. She assisted Emily Stacherski in her position as lifestyles editor and taught her everything she knows.



PHOTO COURTESY of Lorelai Hilarczyk.

The Outlook editorial team, including three of the six that will depart from the print publication and graduate with the valuable skills of working for a student-run newspaper.

“She sat with me week after week when I first became editor and helped me with anything I needed and answered all my questions,” Stacherski said, “I’ll be super grateful for the help she gave me, and I’m so happy I got this opportunity because of her in the first



PHOTO COURTESY of Lorelai Hilarczyk.

place.”

Journalism professor John Morano, too, has a strong opinion on Lorelai’s magnanimity. “She’s generous with both a thought and a smile and is typically selfless in how she approaches her involvements, The Outlook in particular.” He explained, “Her involvement actually raises the level of learning for everyone in the room.” According to Morano, if you have any questions regarding journalism, education, and opportunities at Monmouth, Lorelai is the one to ask. “That’s how it’s done,” he said.

David Tripold, a professor in the Music and Theatre Arts Department, also shared his experience with Lorelai. “In my opinion, Lorelai is a passionate and capable writer who has a future ahead of her in journalism.” It’s clear that Lorelai’s writing and charisma have touched

various individuals, across departments.”

When I began as a contributing editor my freshman year, I worried about my talent, but it was Lorelai’s kind words that pushed me to write. And now as a staff writer, I can for

certain agree with everyone’s sentiments. Lorelai has been a guiding post for me, and her endless encouragement and companionship has been such a vital source of inspiration for me as a writer. I wouldn’t be the writer I am today without her mentorship and friendship.

Advisor to The Outlook, Dr. Marina Vujnovic also reflected on her time working with Lorelai which was “a pleasure” and that “[Lorelai] is one of the best editors we’ve had by far. It will be difficult to fill her shoes.” Vujnovic said, “Although we will miss her at The Outlook, we wish her all the best in her immediate and future pursuits.”

Lorelai has dedicated three years to The Outlook and has clearly made an everlasting impact. She is ardent in her commitment to print journalism and was earnest in her position as editor. Lorelai shared that she has loved being “immersed in the community” and while she is sad to leave, “I have complete total faith in the next entertainment editor and the entire staff for the next year.”

And after writing over 56,000 words, she will let up her pen this week and release her final ones, ending her career as a student journalist and setting out into the professional world. It’s fair to say we can all agree with Samantha Spano who said, “Lorelai has a wonderful future ahead of her in whatever venture she decides to take on next.”

# Supreme Court rules against Colorado's ban on conversion therapy for minors

**JULIAN CAROMANO**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On March 31, 2026, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 8-1 against a law in Colorado that prevented mental health professionals from providing “conversion therapy” to minors, in the case *Chiles v. Salazar*. The focus of the case centered on whether or not the state, or the government in general, could restrict licensed mental health professionals from having counseling conversations aimed at changing or altering a minor’s sexual orientation or gender identity. In short, the court did not rule on the legality of conversion therapy itself, but only against the governmental restrictions against it.

According to the American Psychological Association (APA), “conversion therapy” refers to, “attempts to change a person’s sexual orientation, gender identity, or related behaviors.” The APA goes on to explain that the practice of conversion therapy originates from the “scientifically discredited belief that being LGBTQ+ is a mental illness that should be cured.”

Kaley Chiles, a licensed counselor, challenged the 2019 law, stating that the ban discriminates against her based on her views that she expresses through her talk therapy. The Supreme Court of the United States’ (SCOTUS) blog reports that Chiles argued she wasn’t attempting to “convert” her clients, rather, she was helping clients “with their stated desires and objectives in counseling, which sometimes includes clients seeking to reduce or eliminate unwanted sexual attractions, change sexual behaviors, or grow in the experience of harmony with one’s physical body.”

The Supreme Court ruling argued that the Colorado law, which prevented mental health professionals from certain speech, due to the ban on conversion therapy practices or phrases, had violated the First Amendment, and sent the case back to lower courts. Justice Neil Gorsuch, part of the majority in deciding to rule against the Colorado law, stated that the law that regulated what counselors and therapists could say, “censors speech based



IMAGE TAKEN by Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images

on viewpoint.” Gorsuch went on to acknowledge the dangers associated with regulations that may discriminate based on someone’s point of view. “When the government seeks not just to restrict speech based on its subject matter, but also seeks to dictate what particular ‘opinion or perspective’ individuals may express on that subject, the violation of the First Amendment is all the more blatant.”

The state of Colorado contended that the conversion therapy ban targeted physical conduct or medical treatments, rather than speech, but the majority rejected it, with Gorsuch stating that Chiles “seeks to engage only in speech, and as applied to her the law regulates what she may say,” including, “what views she may and may not express.”

Gorsuch concluded, “Colorado does not regulate speech incident to conduct; it regulates ‘speech as speech.’” The only dissenting opinion of the Supreme Court was that of Ketanji Brown Jackson, who provided a 35-page dissent stating that Colorado, among 25 other states, banned conversion therapy for minors because of the consensus among medical professionals that conversion therapy and its practices are “ineffective and harmful.” Jackson says that when “a healthcare professional’s speech is not being targeted ‘as

speech’ (because it conveys an idea) but is instead ‘incidentally’ restricted due to a state’s otherwise legitimate regulation of the medical treatments being offered to patients, heightened scrutiny is not warranted.”

Almost 700,000 people who identify as LGBTQ+ in the U.S. have reported receiving conversion therapy at some point in their lives, half of them being adolescents, according to the Williams Institute. Greater risks of suicidality have been reported in LGBTQ+ people who underwent conversion therapy compared to LGBTQ+ people who have not experienced it, approximately 75% higher odds of planning a suicide and 88% higher odds of attempting suicide, and the odds of both statistics are even higher for transgender people. Transgender people especially may be affected negatively by this ruling, as there are currently 762 bills in consideration across the country that could impact access to healthcare and mental health services for transgender people. According to the Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention, the U.S. is in the early to middle stages of a genocidal process against trans people, due to allowance of practices like conversion therapy and the passing of bills that affect transgender people in negative ways.

After the Supreme Court decision to rule against the

restrictions on conversion therapy practices from the Colorado law, such as in the case of Kaley Chiles, some people that don’t support the Court’s ruling believe that it will open up more opportunities across the country for lawmakers to allow the practice, even in states that offer more support for LGBTQ+ individuals. Additionally, some believe that the allowance of conversion therapy practices through the ruling will more harshly affect LGBTQ+ adolescents and children, since adolescents have few options to make their own mental health or medical decisions, and may be forced to undergo conversion therapy if their family places them into it.

However, some also say that the Supreme Court acted justly in their decision due to the narrow scope of the ruling. Seth Chandler, Professor of Law at the University of Houston, stated that the ruling was fair.

“Colorado took sides,” Chandler said. “Where it said it’s fine with us if you want to engage in gender-affirming speech, but we are going to prohibit you from engaging in ‘rethinking your sexuality’ speech.” Chandler argues that, because the decision was based on whether or not the Colorado law violated the First Amendment (which the Supreme Court said that the Colorado law had done), the ruling was

ultimately the right decision. “This ruling from the Supreme Court enrages me, as conversion therapy has been proven time and time again to be harmful and detrimental to people’s mental health, and comes from a fundamental misunderstanding of gender and sexuality.” Ky Gray, vice president of the Monmouth University Pride Club, shared their opinion on the recent ruling. “Studies show its negative impact, and conversion therapy is denounced by many major mental health organizations as dangerous and pseudoscience. I think the Supreme Court has failed people, especially children, by defending this in the name of free speech. Freedom of speech is not freedom to harm others.”

Gray continued, “While I think adults who choose to go to conversion therapy instead need therapy dedicated towards accepting this natural part of themselves and unpacking why they think this part of them is wrong, I guess it is their prerogative as adults if they personally believe this is something changeable that they wish to try to change. However, considering many minors are forced to go to conversion therapy by their parents, who are usually religious and believe being gay to be a sin, it hurts to know the Supreme Court has chosen to protect these practices over their safety.”

Dear Editors of The Outlook,

On behalf of the Latin American Student Organization (LASO), we are proud to express our strong support for The Outlook and its continuation as a print publication on campus.

As an organization rooted in community, cultural pride, and student advocacy, LASO is deeply committed to ensuring that all students feel seen, heard, and represented. The Outlook plays an essential role in making that possible. It provides a platform where diverse voices, including those from underrepresented communities. Where many can share their stories, raise concerns, and celebrate their identities in a meaningful and visible way.

From our perspective, print media holds a unique power on campus. It creates a shared experience, something students can physically engage with, pass along, and reflect on together. For many of our members, seeing stories that resonate with their backgrounds and experiences in print fosters a stronger sense of belonging and validation. It reminds them that their voices matter and that they are part of a larger campus dialogue.

LASO also recognizes the importance of student development. Publications like The Outlook give students invaluable opportunities to grow as writers, leaders, and advocates. These are not just extracurricular experiences, they are foundational moments that shape confidence, career paths, and the ability to speak up for one's community.

The proposed budget cuts put more than a publication at risk; they threaten a critical resource that supports student expression, cultural visibility, and campus connection. As an organization that prioritizes uplifting and empowering students, LASO firmly believes The Outlook must continue as a print publication.

We stand in full support of your mission and the work you do every day to inform and uplift our campus community.

Sincerely,  
Latin American Student Organization (LASO)

Dear Editor,

Our club has discussed our fear of this topic previously, and that is why we were especially horrified to hear you may be out of print. A fine quality of our school is that you can find a newspaper stack around every corner, magazines spread across tables in every building: tangible artifacts that prove the cultural and creative community thriving in our school. Without those newspapers, without those magazines, how do we know that we—the students—are even here?

This is a matter of proof, and so I consider your going out of print to be erasure. Erasure of student identity, student culture, and community between faculty and students. Although online forms of publication are great, they are ephemeral. You cannot hold a blog post in your hands, you cannot feel the paper between thumb and forefinger as you flip through the contributions of students who have given their time and energy to the cause of journalism, the arts, and the humanities generally. Those words are expected now to exist somewhere behind a glass that most people are too busy endlessly scrolling on to find. How do we direct people to our online publications? How can we trust that our voices will be heard if there is no physical proof of it?

I want to let you know I have many copies of The Outlook saved that I have collected over my four years at Monmouth. Issues I found impressive, articles I made contributions to with either quotes or leads, and events I wanted to remember. To think other students may not have that kind of keepsake to take with them disappoints me—more than that—it deeply upsets me. It feels like an affront to the documentation of student culture and identity. It feels like—no. It is erasure.

Sincerely,  
Zafira Demiri  
Editor-in-Chief for the Monmouth Review

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to display my strong support for The Outlook as the print publication that has served the student body at Monmouth University. The Outlook for generations has served as a voice on campus to inform, educate, and support students on important issues. It provides a space for open conversations within the university community. Having student journalism at any university, and specifically at Monmouth, plays a role that promotes transparency and engagement. It also allows for faculty and staff to be informed, but it creates an opportunity for students who are interested in becoming writers, editors, photographers, and media professionals to have hands-on experience that can grow their knowledge for their future careers and build their involvement and connection on campus.

A critical part of journalism is the printing presence. It is a symbol that seeing the newspaper available throughout campus shows that student expression exists, and that is part of tradition, since 1933. A reduction of that support is a reduction to tradition, and a loss of opportunity for students to have access to their potential in future careers such as being part of academic publications, journalism, media, and so much more. As someone who is involved in the Law Review and understands the purpose and significance of having a voice on campus, it is important to support The Outlook to remain a print publication and to continue to serve the student body of Monmouth University.

Sincerely,  
Zulmy Lozano  
Editor-in-Chief, Monmouth University Law Review

Dear Editors of The Outlook,

As someone who spent three years working on The Outlook, including serving as Editor-in-Chief, hearing that the school cut the paper's budget didn't surprise me; it just confirmed exactly how little student journalism is valued here.

The work that comes out of this paper is seriously impressive. The Outlook gives students a real chance to be heard, no matter their major or how much writing experience they have. That kind of space is rare, and clearly, it's not being protected.

During my time there, I published a story with the headline "College Republicans engage in online hate speech." It ran above the fold in the print edition, sitting in stacks across every building on campus. You couldn't avoid it, and that was the point. The print paper didn't let that story be buried, softened, or ignored—it forced accountability. It made the campus confront what was actually happening. Once it was printed, it was permanent. No edits, no quiet revisions, no pretending it didn't happen.

And that's exactly what gets lost when you start stripping resources from a paper like this.

Because The Outlook isn't just there for moments of accountability, it's also where this campus sees itself. I've watched students light up seeing their work, their clubs, or their names in print. I've seen pages clipped and hung up across campus, becoming part of its memory. That visibility matters more than people in charge seem willing to admit.

Journalism on a college campus is not optional. It is one of the only spaces where students can document their own reality without interference. The Outlook is news for students, by students; cutting its budget isn't just a financial decision. It's a choice to limit student voices, reduce accountability, and quietly shrink one of the only platforms that holds this campus to its own standards.

And beyond all of that, the printed paper is a learning ground. It's where editors learn how to actually build a newspaper. Students learn how to edit, design, and lay out pages all before they graduate college. Those are concrete, transferable skills that students carry into their careers and place them above their competitors in the job market.

If the concern is that not every paper gets picked up on campus, there are solutions such as printing fewer copies or creating designated newsstands. A pretty solvable problem. Cutting nearly half the budget is not a solution to this—it's a statement. And it says far more about the decision-makers than it does about the paper.

It's also hard to ignore the timing. As the university prepares for the opening of the Bruce Springsteen Archives, an initiative meant to draw more attention, more visitors, and more visibility to campus, it is choosing to scale back one of the only student-run institutions that actually documents what happens here in real time.

At the very moment this school is positioning itself for a wider audience, it is reducing the presence of the one publication that reflects the student body's voices directly, holds the institution accountable, and leaves behind a tangible record of both. The same paper that has consistently called out wrongdoing and given students a voice is now being pushed aside.

And it raises a larger question about priorities. The archives may elevate the university's profile, but they are not built for students in the same immediate, participatory way that The Outlook is. One preserves history while the other allows students to actively create it, question it, and challenge it in real time. Treating the latter as expendable, while investing in the former, makes it clear which voices are being centered and which are not.

This contradiction is hard to ignore.

This decision is anti-journalism. If there is a justification that proves otherwise, it has yet to be made clear. But in my eyes, nothing about this decision is unclear.

Sincerely,  
Taylor Memoli  
MU Class of 2025

Dear Outlook Editors,

We, Blue Hawk Records, write in strong support of The Outlook and in opposition to the proposed budget cuts.

As a student-run record label housed within a music program affiliated with the Grammy Museum, affiliated with the Music Business Association, and recognized by Billboard as a top music business school, we are committed to fostering collaboration and creativity across campus. One of the most important platforms that supports this mission is The Outlook.

The Outlook has been an essential partner in amplifying our initiatives and creating space for student voices. From our highly successful semesterly album releases to important initiatives like Campfire Jam, a live performance event that brings students together, as well as our signature panels, including our alumni panel and Women in Music Chapter panel, The Outlook has consistently been at the forefront in supporting and showcasing student work.

At Blue Hawk Records, we value creating an environment where students have the freedom to express themselves and share media that represents who they are. A budget cut of this magnitude directly undermines students' ability across campus to share their stories, highlight achievements, and engage in meaningful dialogue.

We stand firmly with The Outlook!

Sincerely,

Blue Hawk Records

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Sports Industry Club, I want to express our full support for The Outlook and its continuation as a print publication.

The Outlook has been an important part of Monmouth University for decades, serving as a voice for students and a source of awareness across campus. In a time when student voices and transparency matter more than ever, reducing its ability to operate in print would be a significant loss to the university community.

As a club that recently received a budget increase, we recognize the impact that funding decisions can have on student organizations. Because of that, we feel it is important to speak up when another organization faces a substantial cut that could limit its reach and long-standing presence on campus.

We stand with The Outlook and support its continued role as a print publication for students, faculty, and the broader Monmouth community.

Sincerely,

Ryan White  
President, Sports Industry Club

Dear Editor,

Being the university's student-run television station, Hawk TV knows a thing or two about how important it is to broadcast news to students and faculty across campus. The Outlook has been Monmouth University's student run newspaper since 1933. While Hawk TV has only been around for 30 years, we understand the impact that news can have. Hearing the news of the budget cut to The Outlook is extremely disappointing. The paper has done tremendous work throughout its nearly 100 year history, and a budget cut of almost half would lead to extreme limitations of what the paper can do, and that is morally and objectively wrong. This world needs newspapers now more than ever, and this is a step in the wrong direction. Hawk TV stands behind its communication ally in The Outlook, and heavily condemns the budget cut that could be coming their way.

- Hawk TV

Dear Editor,

When I served as Editor-in-Chief of The Outlook from 2020-2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic, the circulation of our print issue was at risk due to university concerns about spreading germs through newspaper contact. This act of caution seemed like an act of censorship in disguise.

This wasn't the first attempt at removing print copies on campus, and it certainly isn't the last: In November 2019, copies of The Outlook were removed from the student center and replaced with copies of Monmouth Magazine.

But, we pushed back. Both times. As a result, The Outlook was returned to all news stands and we continued to publish print issues throughout the pandemic.

So, when I heard The Outlook won't be able to continue in print next academic year due to major budget cuts, I knew I had to continue to fight for this newspaper—and student journalism—as a proud Outlook alumna.

First, removing the print issue strips away a vital avenue for freedom of speech on campus. The Outlook is an essential vehicle for student journalists to report unbiased news to inform the Monmouth community, whether it be tuition increases or a new club on campus.

The Outlook existing merely as an online publication limits the readership and exposure the paper would receive if someone were to pick it up in the student center, Great Hall, or any other campus building The Outlook is distributed in. This year alone, I've seen the talented editors publish major news stories on a campus-wide data breach, mold concerns at the Guggenheim Memorial Library, a burst pipe in Rechnitz Hall, and even updates on the new Springsteen Center.

The Outlook doesn't just report the news; it highlights essential voices from professors, faculty, and students to represent the entire campus community. These diverse voices need to be accessible in print in all areas of campus. Diversity is rooted in Monmouth's values. It's who we are as a community.

Second, producing a print issue is pertinent to the education of student journalists. During my 6 years at The Outlook throughout undergrad and grad school, I gained valuable experience with Adobe InDesign to lay out articles each week, which is essential for my current role as Editor at Formedics. There, I lead print production of a medical magazine, proofread articles in Adobe InCopy, and help maintain a tight production schedule. Despite popular belief, print isn't going anywhere just yet; it's a major part of my day-to-day career.

At The Outlook, I learned how to design newspaper pages and unleash creativity. I learned how to copy edit and format articles specifically for print. I learned how to meet pertinent print deadlines. The Outlook provided all the necessary tools to excel at leading a print publication.

"Excellence in Teaching and Learning" is at the top of Monmouth University's core values, and ceasing print production of The Outlook will deny student journalists of this vital learning experience that will shape their future careers.

The Outlook needs a print newspaper. For freedom of speech, for student education, for keeping print journalism alive.

-Melissa Badamo '21, MA '22, and MFA '23  
Former Editor-in-Chief of The Outlook, 2020-2021

As executive members of FAMCO, the faculty union at Monmouth University, we write in support of The Outlook as an essential voice within the Monmouth community. For decades, The Outlook has served not only as a source of information, but as a space where student perspectives are expressed, issues are examined, and critical thinking encouraged. We understand that The Outlook has been presented with a 41.7% budget cut, essentially eliminating its ability to be a print publication.

At a time when access to reliable information and open discourse is more important than ever, the role of a visible, student-run newspaper cannot be understated. Print publication ensures that The Outlook remains accessible to all members of the community. Seeing a headline and picking up a copy fosters engagement in a way that extends beyond digital platforms.

We recognize the challenges posed by budget constraints, but we firmly believe that the value The Outlook brings to campus life far outweighs these drastic cuts. Supporting this publication means supporting student voices, opportunities for learning and discourse, and the continued examination of our shared experience.

We stand with the editors and staff of The Outlook in advocating for the preservation of its print edition.

Sincerely,  
FAMCO Executive Board  
Megan Delaney, President  
Stephen Chapman, Vice President  
Corey Dzenko, Grievance Officer  
Melissa Brzycki, Mediation Officer  
Jennifer McGovern, Membership Officer  
Susan Pattay, Secretary  
Dickie Cox, Treasurer  
Nicholas Messina, Communications Officer



## A HISTORIC MOMENT FOR MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY



### ON JUNE 7, THE BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN CENTER FOR AMERICAN MUSIC OPENS ON OUR CAMPUS

This is more than a new building. It is a new era for Monmouth University.

- It will bring artists, scholars, and industry leaders from around the world to Monmouth.
- It will create new opportunities for internships, research, and careers in music, media, and the arts.
- It will place our university at the center of a global conversation about American music.
- It was built with donor funding, no debt, and no tuition dollars.

You may not be on campus that day, but you are part of what comes next.

This momentum is real. In just the last year Monmouth is now:

- Classified as a Research College & University—among just 14% of American colleges.
- Reaffirmed by Middle States with 12 commendations.
- Recognized as a **National University** by U.S. News & World Report.

And we built the Center the right way—through donor support, without relying on tuition dollars.

The debut of the Bruce Springsteen Center for American Music marks the next chapter in our history. The doors will open on June 7, but the impact will be lasting.

**BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN**  
CENTER FOR AMERICAN MUSIC



**MONMOUTH**  
UNIVERSITY

# Sumpter leads softball to sweep over Towson on the road

FRANK HOARLE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Monmouth softball earned a series sweep over Towson this past weekend, taking all three games against the Tigers on their home field. The sweep was Monmouth's first over a CAA opponent since North Carolina A&T in March of 2025.

Freshman pitcher Carah Sumpter led the way for the Hawks, getting four hits in eleven at-bats (ABs) including a home run throughout the weekend and pitching a complete game while only giving up one earned run in the second game of the series.

In the first game of the series on Friday, the Hawks took a 5-3 victory despite a late rally from Towson. The Hawks opened up a 5-0 lead, but Towson scored three runs in the final two innings

to make the final score a little more respectable. Senior third baseman Mackenzie Bloss, senior infielder Bri Lawson, and Sumpter all had multihit games, and redshirt senior pitcher Alissa Eimont tossed a complete game, only allowing two earned runs.

On Saturday, the Hawks took their second straight victory in a game they also never trailed in. They took a 2-0 lead in the top of the third and never looked back, maintaining control and earning a 6-3 victory. Sophomore first baseman Ella Stevinson and Lawson each had multihit games, and in a game that Sumpter started on the mound, she also hit a home run in the fourth inning while tossing a complete game and only allowing one earned run.

With two wins already under their belt, the Hawks completed the series sweep on Sunday with a late rally. Trailing 1-0 for most of the game, the Hawks scored three runs in the final two

innings just like Towson did on Friday. However, these runs actually changed the result of the game. The first two runs that the Hawks scored were a result of two errors by Towson. The third run came courtesy of a sacrifice fly from Sumpter.

Freshman center fielder Dominique Lopez and senior catcher Kaitlynn Place were the two hawks that earned multihit games, while Eimont tossed her second complete game of the series, this time only giving up one run and striking out five.

Following the series sweep, Sumpter was named the CAA Co-Rookie of the Week for her performance over the course of the weekend, along with UNC Wilmington's Emily Whitwell.

With the sweep, Monmouth now finds themselves in a three-way tie for second in the CAA North division, along with Drexel and Stony Brook. Each team currently sits at 8-10 in the standings. Whichever team



PHOTO COURTESY of Katelyn Sandvik.  
**Carah Sumpter** was named CAA Co-Rookie of the Week following her performance in Monmouth's sweep over Towson.

finishes second in the CAA North division will get an automatic berth to the CAA Tournament.

The Hawks have two CAA series' remaining, one against the team with the worst record in the CAA in North Carolina A&T (3-15), and one against the team with the best record in the CAA in Hofstra (18-3). The Hawks certainly need to win

a multitude of these remaining games in order to secure a spot in the CAA Tournament.

The Hawks will return to action on Wednesday, April 22 for a non-conference doubleheader on the road against Marist before returning home to host the aforementioned North Carolina A&T Aggies this weekend for a crucial three-game set.

## Women's lacrosse wins on Senior Day vs. Old Dominion

EDWARD GRANANOS  
STAFF WRITER

The Monmouth women's lacrosse team put together one of its most complete performances of the season on April 18, defeating Old Dominion 9-5 at Kessler Stadium. The victory, which came on Senior Day, was fueled by a dominant showing from graduate attacker Grace Curtin and a defensive unit that controlled the game from start to finish.

The Hawks wasted no time getting on the board, as senior midfielder Brooke Lacey opened the scoring early in the first quarter. However, Old Dominion responded with two straight goals to take a 2-1 lead midway through the period. Monmouth avoided entering the second quarter trailing thanks to Curtin, who scored in the closing seconds of the first to even the game at 2-2. That late goal shifted momentum and gave the Hawks a spark heading into the second quarter.

Monmouth took full advantage of that momentum in the

second frame. Curtin continued to lead the offense, scoring twice more to complete a first-half hat trick. Her ability to find space and finish opportunities proved to be a major difference-maker. She received support from graduate attacker Lauren Rismani and senior midfielder Sophia Lymberis, who each contributed assists as the Hawks built a 4-2 halftime lead. While the offense found its rhythm, the defense was equally impressive, holding Old Dominion scoreless for the entire second quarter.

The Hawks' defensive effort was one of the key storylines of the game. Monmouth held Old Dominion to just five goals on 19 total shots, while also forcing 20 turnovers. The team dominated ground balls, finishing with a 24-12 advantage, which allowed them to control possession and limit second-chance opportunities. Goalkeepers Gia Mitchell and Katie Sullivan played a strong game in net, making key saves to maintain the lead. The defensive unit's communication and ability to disrupt passing lanes played a crucial role in slowing down Old Dominion's attack.

Old Dominion attempted to



PHOTO COURTESY of Katelyn Sandvik.  
**Grace Curtin** scored five goals and recorded one assist on her Senior Day in Monmouth's 9-5 victory over Old Dominion.

claw back into the game early in the third quarter, cutting the deficit to 4-3. However, Monmouth quickly responded with a pair of goals to regain control. Rismani scored, capitalizing on an assist from Curtin, and Curtin followed with another goal of her own to push the lead to 6-3. This stretch highlighted the Hawks' efficiency in extra-player situations, as they consistently made the most of their opportunities.

The fourth quarter provided some late drama, as Old Domin-

ion scored twice to narrow the margin to 6-5 with just over six minutes remaining. Despite the pressure, Monmouth remained composed and delivered a decisive response. The Hawks closed the game on a 3-0 run, with goals from midfielders Marlaina Grimm, Curtin, and senior attacker Shea Berigan. Two of those goals came during man-up situations, further emphasizing Monmouth's ability to execute in critical moments. That late surge sealed the 9-5 victory and

ensured there would be no comeback from Old Dominion.

Curtin was the standout performer of the game, finishing with a career-high five goals and one assist for a total of six points. Her performance marked another strong outing in what has been an impressive stretch of games. Rismani also played a key role, tallying one goal and two assists while continuing to be one of the team's primary playmakers. Grimm added a goal and an assist, while Lymberis contributed two assists. Lacey and Berigan each found the back of the net as well, showcasing the team's balanced offensive effort.

Overall, the win improved Monmouth's record to 9-7 and demonstrated the team's ability to perform at a high level in all phases of the game. The combination of strong offensive execution, disciplined defense, and timely scoring proved to be the difference. With momentum on their side following a Senior Day victory, the Hawks will look to carry this performance into their upcoming matchup against Towson on April 25 at home as they continue to push toward the end of the season.

# Baseball splits midweek non-conference games

TARA DALESSIO  
STAFF WRITER

Coming off the momentum of their third series sweep of the season, Monmouth baseball seemed ready to take on their two non-conference matchups the following week. In a surprising turn, they experienced two very different outcomes, one a giant loss and the other defined by resilience. After falling 17-5 to the NJIT Highlanders, Monmouth regrouped and bounced back to defeat the University of Pennsylvania 5-3, redefining their ability to respond under pressure.

The Hawks faced NJIT on Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. riding the high of their weekend sweep, however that energy did not carry over. Monmouth struck first, with senior infielder Simmi Whitehill, one of the team's standout contributors in recent weeks, getting things started. His effort was quickly backed by a single from Nick Lovarco, who advanced to second on an NJIT error, bringing in two more runs for a 3-0 lead. Lovarco

later scored on a groundout by Jake Howlett, extending the lead.

That advantage was short-lived, as NJIT's freshman catcher Connor Klock put the Highlanders on the board and sparked a dominant offensive surge they would maintain for the rest of the game. Graduate infielder Sheehan O'Connor followed with a double to right center that brought in three runs, and redshirt senior Ty Sallie added another. After two more runs, junior righty Stefan Swee took the mound with the score at 7-4, but NJIT continued to build momentum, adding six more runs in the inning to make it 13-4.

The Hawks remained quiet until the bottom of the fourth, when freshman outfielder Will Fahey drove in a run with a single to left field. It would be Monmouth's final run, as the game ended after seven innings with a 17-5 NJIT victory.

Despite the tough loss, the Hawks responded in their second nonconference game against the University of Pennsylvania. Lovarco opened the scoring in the bottom of the second with a home run, tying him for the team lead on the season. Penn answered with two runs in the fifth and added another in the sixth,



*Nick Lovarco hit a home run and drove in another run later in the game in Monmouth's 5-3 win over Penn on Wednesday, April 15.*

PHOTO COURTESY of Katelyn Sandvik.

but Monmouth stayed within reach. Howlett brought in a run with a flyout to right field, cutting the deficit.

In the seventh, freshman infielder Sam Saucke advanced to second on a wild pitch, allowing sophomore outfielder

Colin Richter to score. Junior first baseman Chris Walsh added another run with a sacrifice fly, giving the Hawks the lead. Lovarco capped off the inning with a single, securing a 5-3 advantage that would hold through the final innings.

Graduate pitcher Jake Danyluk closed out the game with a hitless ninth inning, earning his second save of the season and sealing the victory. The win marked Monmouth's 20th of the season—and likely not their last.

## Baseball goes 1-2 vs. Stony Brook in weekend set

NAT MATTEI  
STAFF WRITER

Monmouth baseball went 1-2 over the weekend against Stony Brook, falling behind the Northeastern Huskies in CAA North standings after dropping Saturday's double header.

The Hawks opened the weekend with an 8-4 win over the Seawolves on Friday afternoon. After falling behind early in the first, Monmouth put up a four-run third inning to pull ahead. Sophomore centerfielder Colin Richter opened the scoring for the Hawks with a two-run blast to right, scoring graduate shortstop Jimmy Bruno. They added two more with another ball sent to right, this one a single off the bat of senior third baseman Simmi Whitehill. Sophomore first baseman Chris Walsh and sophomore catcher Brendan

Buecker scored on the Whitehill single.

Stony Brook scored three runs to tie it up in the fourth inning. Junior first baseman Chris Carson sent a two-run homer over the right field fence to make it a 4-3 game. Mike Cervoni sent one to third for an RBI single to tie the game at four.

Whitehill put the Hawks back on top with a homerun to right center in the top of the sixth. The Hawks scored three more runs across the last three innings, including the Hawks third long ball of the day in the ninth from junior second baseman Wyatt Hunt.

Sophomore right-hander Ryan Mealy and fifth year righty Kevin Opanel paired up to hold off the Seawolves offense. Mealy went 6.1 innings, giving up three earned runs, striking out two. Opanel came in to relieve Mealy in the seventh, going the final 2.2.

The series continued Saturday with a double header, the first game starting just before noon. The Seawolves pulled ahead in the first inning with a sac fly from senior right fielder Chanz Doughty. They added a run in the third and another in the fifth. Despite a ninth inning RBI single from Whitehill, Stony Brook kept their lead and took the first game with a final score of 3-1.

Graduate righty Alec Couture put up a strong start for the Hawks in the morning loss. Couture went seven complete innings and struck out four while giving up two earned runs. Senior righty Austin Beard came in for the eighth, earning his own strikeout.

The second game started shortly after the completion of the first, this one going back and forth. Monmouth opened the scoring in the first with a sac fly to right off the bat of senior left

fielder Nick Lovarco, scoring up one run. Senior righty David Hunt. Stony Brook answered right back in the bottom of the inning with an RBI double down the right field line from Carson. He proceeded to score on a throwing error by Bruno.

The Hawks earned another run in the fourth with a Lovarco home run to left field. An RBI single to center field from sophomore center fielder Nick Zampieron in the seventh and a Cervoni RBI single to left in the eighth put the Seawolves ahead of Monmouth 5-2. That score would end up being the final, and Stony Brook swept the double header to win the weekend set.

Freshman righty Cory Pascarella had the second start of the day. He went 5.1 innings, giving up three runs while striking out two. Senior righty Brendan Kenneally came in to relieve Pascarella in the sixth, going for one and a third, giving

up one run. Senior righty David Horvath earned the last out of the seventh inning. Lefty graduate Jake Danyluk closed out the game for the Hawks, striking out one.

Despite the series' loss, some of the Hawks had some great accomplishments on the individual level. Lovarco's homerun was his seventh on the year, giving him the team lead. Whitehill extended his on-base streak to 37 games. Walsh stole a bag in the first game, earning himself back-to-back seasons of 20 or more steals.

The Hawks now sit at 15-6 in the CAA and second in the north division, trailing behind Northeastern who sit at 13-5. The Huskies currently hold a better win percentage despite winning less conference games. Monmouth hosts the Rider Broncos for a three-game set this weekend. The first pitch is scheduled for 3 p.m. this Friday.



# CALLING ALL STUDENTS!

## HELP US IMPROVE THE MONMOUTH STUDENT EXPERIENCE

**We need your feedback!** We are conducting the **Student Satisfaction Inventory (SSI)**, a key tool we use to assess and strengthen the quality of your student experience at Monmouth. The SSI will help us better understand what we are doing well and what we could do better. It takes 15-20 minutes and can be completed on any device. Complete the SSI by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, April 27, and you will automatically be entered into a random drawing to win one of 50+ incentives!



Winners will be notified via email on Tuesday, April 28. Your chance of winning depends on how many complete the survey; in prior administrations of this survey approximately 930 students responded. Scan the QR code to access the survey. The SSI link is authorized by Monmouth University.

### CHANCE TO WIN!

- Beats Studio Pro Wireless Over Ear Headphones
- \$150 Amazon Gift Card
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- \$100 Visa Gift Card
- Sony WH-CH720N Noise Canceling Wireless Headphones
- \$75 Bookstore Gift Cards
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- And, much more!

### Students Advocating Girls' Education

5 Run or Walk

for education and mentorship

Saturday, April 25  
Student Center Patio  
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Registration  
9:00 am

Students \$5  
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For questions, please email: [rdatta@monmouth.edu](mailto:rdatta@monmouth.edu)



## MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY SPRINGFEST

# BY THE SEA

April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

12pm-4pm - Commuter Lot

Rides, Live Music, Games,  
Vendors, Food Trucks, and  
More!

