

Monmouth conference explores American history through music

AVA MCGINTY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/ NEWS EDITOR

Monmouth University brought together more than 70 scholars, writers, educators, musicians, and other experts for a three-day academic conference examining the role of music in American history and cultural identity.

The Bruce Springsteen Center for American Music and the Wayne D. McMurray School of Humanities and Social Sciences hosted “Music America: The Sounds and Songs That Shaped Us” Oct. 16-18. The conference featured close to 40 sessions covering genres and artists ranging from classic rock and hip-hop to disco and symphonic music.

Melissa Kozlowski,

curator of the Bruce Springsteen Center for American Music, said organizers wanted to bring together people who approach music from different academic and professional perspectives. “A lot of work went into creating a program that showed just how many different ways music can help us understand the American experience,” Kozlowski said.

The conference continued the center’s exploration of the United States’ 250th anniversary, an initiative that began in 2024 with the launch of the traveling exhibition “Music

America: Iconic Objects from America’s Music History.” The center has since expanded the initiative through programming, concerts, and publications.

Presentations examined music in relation to race,

class, war, protest, literature, law, education, and regional identity. Artists discussed included Louis Armstrong, Woody Guthrie, Bruce Springsteen, Beyoncé, and Taylor Swift.

Ashley Kahn, a two-time

Grammy-winning American music historian, author, professor, and producer, spoke during a plenary session titled “Paul Simon and Graceland.” Holly George-Warren, a two-time Grammy-nominated author and music historian, also presented at

the conference, discussing how John Steinbeck’s *The Grapes of Wrath* inspired generations of songwriters.

David Golland, dean and professor of history in the Wayne D. McMurray School of Humanities and Social Sciences, presented research on the Santana Blues Band and its significance during a period of racial integration in American music and society.

Another presentation examined Springsteen’s song “The Ghost of Tom Joad” and its connection to the character of the same name in John Steinbeck’s novel “*The Grapes of Wrath*.” The discussion explored class and labor in American history through the song’s literary connections.

Golland also moderated a plenary session on Paul

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PHOTO TAKEN by Annalaan LeMay.

Monmouth students learn about careers at United Talent Agency

CHRIS MARGOTTI
POLITICS EDITOR

For students hoping to break into the entertainment industry, getting a foot in the door can be challenging. However, a recent trip to New York City gave Monmouth students an opportunity to see what working in the industry could look like and learn directly from professionals who have built careers in the field.

On Wednesday, Oct. 14, Monmouth University’s

Career Development office organized a Career Trek to United Talent Agency (UTA), one of the entertainment industry’s leading talent agencies. The visit allowed students to explore career opportunities in music, sports marketing, and entertainment while gaining valuable advice on internships, networking, and entering the workforce.

Located in Manhattan, United Talent Agency represents professionals across various entertainment industries, including television, film, music, publishing, and digital media.

The Career Trek program is designed to introduce students to potential employers while providing a firsthand look at different professional environments.

Jeffrey Mass, Director for Employer Engagement at Monmouth University, explained that these experiences allow students to explore careers in ways that traditional classroom learning cannot always provide. “Our Career Trek to United Talent Agency was a great opportunity for students to see firsthand how the entertainment and talent

agency industry operates,” said Mass.

During the visit, students heard from Jenna Shatzman, Music Tour Marketing Coordinator at UTA, and Monmouth alum Richard Govell, who works in sports marketing through KLUTCH Sports Group. Both shared their career experiences, giving students an inside look at different roles within the entertainment and sports industries.

For students interested in pursuing these competitive careers, the opportunity to speak directly with industry

professionals offered a better understanding of what employers are looking for and how to prepare before graduation.

Rosie Chisolm, Coordinator for Career Engagement at Monmouth University, emphasized that the experience of attending this event goes well beyond simply touring an office for students.

“On our Career Treks we make it a point to have

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Music conference

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Simon's album "Graceland," released in 1986 during South Africa's apartheid era. The discussion considered how artists approach protest and dissent, including their use to challenge oppression and the questions that can arise from artists' own decisions.

"These are meaningful questions still today as we consider the role of music and other forms of art in the desire to improve the world and the human condition," Golland said.

Kenneth Womack, professor of English and popular music at Monmouth, participated in a session titled "Rave On! Buddy Holly as Songwriting Juggernaut" alongside guitarist Sam Popkin. The session explored Holly's life and musical contributions before his death in 1959.

Womack said the conference gave historians an opportunity to share research on the relationship between music and national identity. "The Music America

conference established a forum for historians to share new insights about the ways in which music has shaped and reshaped our nation's identity," Womack explained.

He also praised the university's role in bringing scholars together to examine music's place in American culture. Womack said, "I am really proud of our team here at Monmouth University for hosting this event and challenging scholars to think deeply about the music that exists at the cultural core of American history."

Kozlowski said one of the conference's highlights was the range of discussions, particularly the opportunity to bring traditional academic scholarship together with public history, museums, exhibitions, and education.

The conference also reflected the Springsteen Center's work beyond the musician's own career. Although Springsteen remains central to the center's programming, Kozlowski said its mission includes examining the broader history of American

music through scholarship, education, and public discussion.

"I hope attendees came away thinking about American music not simply as entertainment, but as an incredibly rich lens through which we can explore our history, culture, and identity," Kozlowski said.

The conference also generated a small financial surplus after expenses. Golland said the funds will support student programs throughout

the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, including the undergraduate Psychology conference, Debate Hawks, Model United Nations, and the Mock Trial Team.

Golland said the event helped strengthen the relationship between the school and the Springsteen Center while creating opportunities for Monmouth faculty and students to present research to an academic audience. He also

identified increased academic visibility for the university as a goal of hosting the conference.

For Kozlowski, the conference demonstrated how the center can connect its exhibitions and concerts with academic research and the university community. "A conference like this allows us to bring all of those things together and, importantly, to connect the Center with the academic life of Monmouth University," Kozlowski said.



PHOTO TAKEN by Annalaan LeMay.

"Music America: The Sounds and Songs That Shaped Us" took place between Oct. 16-18, 2026.

Exploring careers

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students connect directly with the early career teams at these organizations," said Chisolm.

Students also met with a UTA recruiter who offered advice on the internship application process, including ways to stand out to employers and increase their chances of receiving an interview.

Chisolm explained how UTA outlined potential career paths across several industries, including technology, finance, and tour marketing. This information helped students better understand which opportunities and experiences they should pursue while still attending college.

"These connections are especially valuable in highly competitive industries like talent representation, where networking and industry knowledge can play an important role in getting started," Chisolm explained.

These conversations are particularly valuable in industries where securing an internship or entry-level position can be difficult.

For Ava Marton, a senior communication student who attended the trip, the experience provided a closer look at career possibilities she had not entirely thought were practical until now. Marton explained, "I had a wonderful experience at the UTA Career Trek and learned a lot about what it would be like to have a career position there."

Marton added that one of the most interesting parts of the visit was discovering how many different jobs exist within music marketing.

Beyond career advice, the Career Trek program also introduces students to the experience of traveling into New York City for work.

Chisolm explained that many trips take place in Manhattan, allowing students

to experience public transportation and better understand what a potential commute could look like after graduation.

Monmouth University provides train tickets and transportation for these trips, making the opportunities more accessible to students. Participants can also choose to remain in the city afterward and explore.

The United Talent Agency visit is one of several professional experiences Career Development has organized. Mass highlighted

previous Career Treks have included visits to Morgan Stanley, L'Oréal, Penguin Random House, Paramount, Bloomberg, Johnson & Johnson, and the New York Giants.

These event trips give students the necessary exposure needed to different industries while encouraging them to make professional connections and explore career interests before entering the workforce.

For Monmouth students who may be uncertain about their career paths,

opportunities like the UTA Career Trek offer a chance to ask questions, explore new interests, and discover that the professional ecosphere has more possibilities than they might expect.

Marton encouraged other students to participate in similar experiences while they have the chance.

"I would tell other students to take the opportunity while they still have them available, there's a lot of helpful information you can use for future reference," concluded Marton.



PHOTO CURTOSY of Rosie Chisolm.

Career Treks help students by connecting them with industry professionals and potential employers.

Pearson World Cinema Series screens “Fuse”

MICHAEL McNAMARA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Pearson World Cinema Series held a viewing of the Bosnian movie “Fuse” on Oct. 22. The movie portrayed postwar Bosnia in a light of humor, while still showing the deep problems that afflicted the area at the time.

The movie began by showing a small Bosnian town, riddled with issues. There were landmines in the fields, and one even blew a character’s legs off. The town also had a human trafficking problem, with the police chief being paid to be in on it. Zaim, the former police chief, was dealing with losing his son during the war and had visions of him as a ghost. However, things changed when a helicopter flew above with the U.S. president’s limo and the town was told Bill Clinton was coming for a visit. An international committee arrived to assess the town for security shortly after. The film

comedically showed office workers throwing binders of paper out the window to hide evidence of corruption. The town had other problems, much stemming from the war. No one knew what the Bosnian flag looked like, and a few didn’t even know who Clinton was. Even when they first tried to make an American flag, they made the stars red.

In an attempt to get aid from the West, the small town put on a facade. They painted over some of their buildings to make them look new, started putting up American and Bosnian friendship posters, and the mayor even borrowed some Serbian residents from a neighboring town to put on a show of unity. The fixes fooled the international committee for a bit, but it changed when they found a huge weapons stockpile in a hidden room under the town hall. The mayor and police chief blamed the weapons stash on Zaim, the former police chief in an attempt to defer the blame. However, the

former chief had gone missing as he tried to look for his dead son. Eventually, the day of the visit arrives. Everything is planned and going well, until the former chief dies and something causes the presidential delegation to flee. The movie ends with the mayor’s town completely losing it, saying “We’re all dead now” after his only hopes of aid fled quicker than it had arrived.

The movie, while comedic, portrayed some deep-rooted problems in the former Yugoslav areas at the time. The portrayal of the father seeing visions of his dead son perfectly exemplifies the generational trauma of the time, as explained by Nick Pollard, a senior history major. He said, “I like the whole dynamic between the father and the invisible son as in the movie went on, especially towards the ending where we see the younger son visualizing not just the brother, but his father. I won’t spoil it too much, but the

trauma from his father had from him losing his older son, is now tragic to the younger son who witnessed his father’s death.”

Many people in areas all over Bosnia and Serbia had relatives who fought and died, and had generational trauma from that. One way people coped with that was just to blame their neighbors. Giancarlo Arce, a junior history major, described it as “I found it a bit comical when they had the scene with two guys who couldn’t muster up a handshake just because one’s a Serb, one’s a Bosnian. A lot of the relationships were played for jokes, even though like in reality, they, that is kind of like how Bosnian-Serb relations worked.”

One scene in the movie explains the ridiculousness of the hatred between the two sides. The international committee shows the firefighters x-rays of their lungs and asks which are the lungs of a Bosnian and which are from a Serb. Obviously

the firefighters couldn’t tell the difference. However, the inclusion of that shows even basic logic couldn’t shed the hatred between the two neighboring countries.

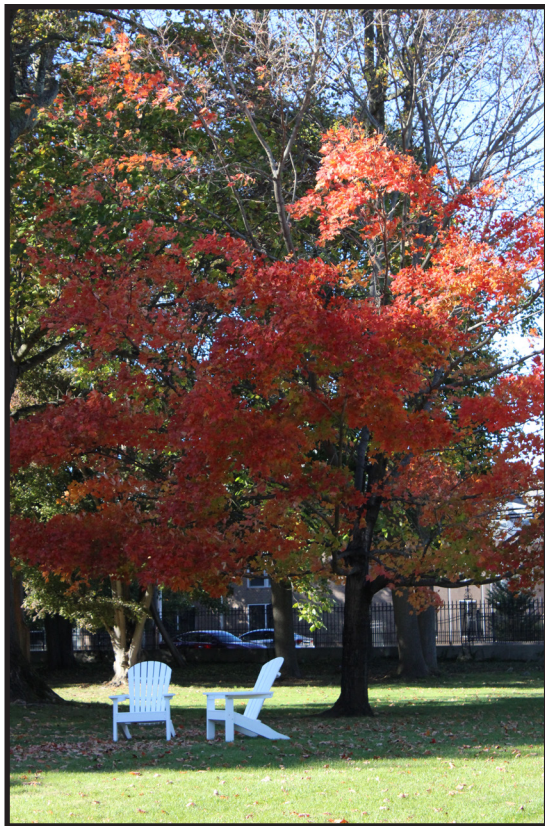
The World Cinema Series had comedy as this year’s theme. This movie, like the first one “El Conde,” had the idea of comedy as a coping mechanism for the great horror inflicted upon a people.

Abha Sood, Ph.D., senior lecturer in the Department of English, said, “I think satire comes to mind as I was watching it, I was thinking of this kind of novel that we teach in undergrad as well. Candide, where Voltaire represents the tyranny, talks about all the problems in the world and putting a spin on it, making a saying like “10,000 people died all for the good of the world.” You had that element (of satire) there, and I really enjoyed it.”

The World Cinema Series will feature it’s next film, “Where Do We Go Now,” on Nov. 19.

Fall on campus: A photo essay

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Should we live on or off campus?

EDITORIAL STAFF

The college years are usually associated with life-long friendships, growing up, and developing a feeling of belonging. At the same time, college life varies greatly depending on each individual's circumstances and environment. One of the key factors that influence the experience of students at Monmouth University is whether they are living on campus or are commuter students. While resident students benefit from being close to their classrooms and friends and participating in all kinds of extracurricular activities without wasting time on getting somewhere, commuters might have a much tighter agenda, which consists not only of going to the classes but also of performing other tasks.

This week, the members of the editorial team reflected upon how living arrangements affect their college life and whether Monmouth University gives equal chances to the students who live either on or off campus.

Mostly, it is believed that living on campus enables one to get acquainted easily and participate actively in college life. For example, one of our residential editors describes the advantages of living near the university in the dorm because this makes it easier to go to the library, see your friends and do all the stuff in the campus. Living in dorms provides similar benefits to the second residential editor, as it helps to communicate with people whom she would not probably ever meet if not living in the dorms. It becomes possible just thanks to common spaces in dorms.

However, it seems that the same possibilities might not be provided to the commuter students. "I think

opportunities are open to all students, commuter or residential, but they might not always have equal access," one editor explained. While there are lots of clubs, organizations, and campus activities available for students, participating in them is difficult for those who travel to campus every day.

For example, the fact that some events can start late means spending more time in college for the ones who have to travel again. One of the residential editors is frustrated with the parking situation, especially when it comes to students who need to travel a lot. "Fix the parking situation!" the editor suggested when asked what Monmouth could do to make campus life more inclusive.

Apart from travelling, some editors mentioned that one more difficulty in the way of commuters consists in making friendships. While it is easy for residential students to go in the dorm and hang around in the room with their friends, commuters are unable to enjoy the same opportunity as they are not living in the dorms. It becomes difficult especially if there is no place to sit and wait for something while being on campus for any events.

However, not all editors think that commuters have more difficulties in making friends while studying at Monmouth. "I don't think it's harder for commuters to make friends," one commuter editor said, emphasizing that students must also be willing to put themselves out there and meet new people. The editor shared that commuting has not negatively affected their college experience and that students can still find meaningful opportunities to connect with others

regardless of where they live. This difference in perspectives raises an interesting question: Is it fair if commuters have to spend more effort to feel themselves a part of the campus community, while residential students have all the advantages in making their studies easy and friendly?

It may seem like a little problem but there are many small things which make a difference for commuters. Our editors offered a couple of ways to help Monmouth make campus community friendlier for both resident and commuter students. "I think a lot of the more socially focused events occur at night, so one way to make commuters feel more included would be to hold those events during the day time," the editor explained. They believe that holding events in Asbury Park and Pier Village would also give more opportunities to get together.

Another change involves increasing the number of blocks for organizing club meetings. There are lots of students who attend clubs and meet during Wednesdays and it can make it difficult for commuter students as they cannot spend all day on campus. "Adding another block may make it easier for commuter students to make it to events," one editor suggested.

Overall, our editors believe that Monmouth offers a great opportunity to join the community and become active within campus, although it may be difficult for some students to access it equally. Commuting or living in dorms should not be a decisive factor whether you will get connected to your college or not. Being at college is not just attending lectures and courses, it is making friends and enjoying your experience during years of study.



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Should Halloween always be on October 31st?

RILEY KINDLER
OPINIONS EDITOR

As a kid, and even as college students, a lot of us circle Oct. 31 on our calendars. We now look forward to Halloween for reasons different than we did as a kid. As we get older, we don't go trick-or-treating anymore, but we all still like dressing up and seeing our friends.

For many, it has been convenient the past few years that Halloween has fallen on the weekend. That way, kids don't have to go to school after a late night of trick or treating and we don't have to go back to work or classes the next day. I've noticed that when Halloween falls on a weekday, I see less trick-or-treaters as many stay home altogether or end their time out early in anticipation of school the next morning. Ultimately, in recent years, it seems like more people have been enjoying the holiday when it

falls on a weekend. Based on that observation, why isn't it always on a weekend?

Keeping Halloween on a Saturday every year would keep everyone happy, as we've seen the past few years. Having Halloween be on a day of the week that there is no school gives children the luxury to start early and trick-or-treat all night. When Halloween was on a weekend when I was a kid, I was able to do two additional neighborhoods as opposed to just mine consisting of small streets. That way, I would also get to spend the entire day with my friends rather than just 2-3 hours.

Halloween can also be safer when it falls on the weekends, mainly because of the lack of traffic on the roads. Families are given an excuse to stay home on the holiday weekend to watch over their families or tend to trick-or-treaters. During the weekdays, however, a big concern is people coming home from

work. I always noticed how I was more worried crossing the street on a Halloween Wednesday as opposed to a Sunday. I couldn't cross the street freely those years, but on the weekends, it felt a lot safer and okay to get to the next house.

If more kids are trick-or-treating, obviously more candy is needed. Moving Halloween to fall on the last Saturday of October is an advantageous move for candy companies. Historically, according to the National Retail Federation, candy sales are higher on years that the 31st falls on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. If this tradition was kept, sales could hopefully grow higher as more kids are encouraged to trick-or-treat without the limitations of a bedtime. This year, candy sales haven't been as high as they should be, but a lot of that has to do with the rising prices of candy and the current economy. With many families struggling to afford

everyday necessities, spending extra money on Halloween candy can be difficult. Even though candy companies may not lower their prices, moving Halloween to a Saturday could give families more time to plan, budget, and enjoy the holiday without feeling rushed.

Therefore, it is my strong belief that Halloween should be moved from October 31st every year to the last Saturday in October. Kids could stay safer with fewer cars on the road during the evening commute, families wouldn't have

the same time limitations as they do with weekday holidays, and candy companies could benefit from families having more time to shop and celebrate. Without the stress of school, work, and other weekday responsibilities, the magic of Halloween can continue to thrive without being tied to October 31st. Halloween should be about creating memories, spending time with family and friends, and letting kids be kids. Moving it to Saturday would make the holiday more enjoyable for everyone.



IMAGE TAKEN FROM pexels.com

Are class selections too limited?

JULIAN CAROMANO
STAFF WRITER

As I've progressed toward completing my degree, I have noticed that my semester schedules rely on making sure I get into one specific class at one specific time. Every aspect of my schedule has to fit around that one class because it is often a prerequisite for higher-level courses related to my major. This limited scheduling affects the other classes I'm able to take in a semester if their time slots overlap, or it may leave me with few options for arranging my other classes in my course plan.

It seems to be a common college-student experience to be left with a handful of classes in undesirable time slots. Whether you are an early bird or a night owl, everyone seems to be inconvenienced at some point during their college years by that one particular class: the class that forces them out of bed for a 8:30 a.m. start, earlier than when most people begin their workday, simply because it was the only available time slot for their major.

Alternatively, students may be stuck with a class that keeps them on campus until 9 p.m., potentially affecting their ability to get enough rest before an early-morning class the next day or a job they need to be well-rested for to pay their bills.

This raises the question: Are class sections too limited? I believe so, as classes offered in only one section frequently force the rest of my schedule to revolve around that time frame. With more than 300 full-time instructors at Monmouth University, one would assume there would be enough instructors to offer at least two time slots for each class.

However, assigning more instructors to additional classes or asking specialized instructors to teach the same class multiple times a week may add unnecessary stress. Their workloads would increase if they had to teach more sections or subjects each week, potentially causing some instructors to decide the added workload is too much. This creates a dilemma in which we have to ask ourselves whether the convenience of more flexible scheduling is worth the

potential risk of overworking our instructors.

When asked for their opinions on class scheduling, some Monmouth University students agreed that limited class time slots affect them and their peers.

"As you progress through your curriculum and reach higher level courses, where it is clear only your major would take these classes, they tend to only have one section available," Rebecca Paar, a business administration student with a concentration in accounting, said. "They do not take into account that many people come in with credits and more than 35 accounting students may need a specific class. Given there is only one section, you receive no choice on what time the class is."

Paar continued, "As a SAM [student advising mentor] in first-year advising, many of the students I help have issues with the class times rather than the classes themselves. If they play sports? Your major better have a lot of sections, because the window of classes you can take is very limited; one freshman couldn't get past 12 credits because of the time con-

straints, in his second semester! If [freshmen] come in with a lot of credits and are ready for 200-level classes, they are almost always full and have a waitlist."

"I feel that the scheduling here at Monmouth, especially for the higher level classes, is so limited," Jerry Rivera, a business administration student with a concentration in operations, supply chain and data management, said. "As you go further in your concentration, the smaller the amount of flexibility you have. As for some of my classes for this year and next year, some only have one or two sections available and only one professor teaching it during a specific semester [fall or spring]."

When many classes are offered only early in the morning or late at night, scheduling becomes more than just an inconvenience for students. It may also negatively affect their health and academic performance. A 2023 study titled "Early morning university classes are associated with impaired sleep and academic performance," conducted by Sing Chen Yeo and other researchers and published in the journal *Nature*

Human Behaviour, stated, "Our findings suggest that there might be cumulative negative effects of morning classes on absenteeism and presenteeism that lead to poorer academic achievement."

Yeo and the other researchers reached this conclusion by analyzing students' sleep schedules and attendance in early classes. Students who participated in the study were asked to self-report their attendance. The researchers found, "Confirmed attendance rates were about ten percentage points lower in students taking classes at 08:00 [a.m.] compared with later class start times. Even though students frequently slept past the start of classes at 08:00 [a.m.], they still lost about 1 hour of sleep on average compared with days with only afternoon classes or no classes."

The report concluded, "Many students may be forced to make one of two undesirable choices when faced with early class start times: sleep longer instead of attending class, or wake up earlier to attend class."

Found in the feed: The media influence and self-expression behind Halloween costumes



PHOTO TAKEN by Payton McGeough-Gamache

PAYTON MCGEOUGH-GAMACHE
FEATURES EDITOR

‘Twas the week before Halloween, when all through the campus, the students planned costumes based on posts that entranced us. The outfits are hung in the closet with care, in hopes that Saturday night might soon be there.

This year’s costume lineup features classics like Frankenstein and vampires, pop-culture sensations like Christina Aguilera and Tate McRae, and characters from Scooby-Doo, The Shining, and Mean Girls.

Halloween is an opportunity for students to express themselves and transform for the night. From viral social media trends and iconic movies to childhood favorites and creative group costumes, we resonate

with the media world and bring our disguises to life.

A survey was sent out to 18 Monmouth University students to explore how much of a role the media plays in determining Halloween plans. When asked about the extent to which movies, T.V. shows, and social media influence costume choices, the majority said “a lot.”

Specific to social media, 15 respondents said that they decided on a costume idea after scrolling through platforms like TikTok, Instagram, and Pinterest.

Rebecca Sanford, an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication, thinks that social media can both expand and constrict costume inspiration. “For example, thinking about Pinterest and being able to search limitless inspiration for costumes may generate not only ideas, but also fun DIY techniques for making a mac-and-cheese costume out of pool noodles and beyond”, Sanford explained.

12 respondents said that they prefer to wear a costume that is unique, rather than wearing one that follows trends.

Katy Potter, a junior major-

ing in business administration with a concentration in marketing, wanted to think outside of the box this Halloween. “Expressing yourself and your creativity through a costume is so much more important and easy to do in college,” said Potter. This year, she is dressing up as Katy Perry.

While some students might use social media as a jumping-off point for out-of-the-box costumes, others find consistency in following trends. Popular costumes are reliable and often offer recognizable references that anybody would get.

Sanford further explained that the platforms students use can influence not only their inspiration, but also the variety of options they consider.

“If we’re thinking about the platforms that prioritize trending images, the costumes we consider may be more limited. If I only see a few options and I see those images, or variations of those images, repeatedly, I’d be inspired to dress accordingly. That would be more constricting for possible costume options,” said Sanford.

Whether students use algorithms to ignite ideas or follow what’s trending, the media has long played a role in shaping Halloween costumes. What students have worn in years past shows us exactly how its influence has followed us over time.

Five respondents remembered dressing up as a Disney Princess when they were younger. These recognizable characters demonstrate cultural visibility and allow for kids to identify with someone early on. Becoming Snow White, Jasmine, or

Tiana, offered a chance to step into the slippers of someone they admired, in turn bringing the stories they watched on screen to life.

Lizzy Corrigan, a senior majoring in nursing, recalled the time she dressed as Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz, and this year, she is channeling Karen from Mean Girls. While Dorothy is timeless, Karen reflects a pop-culture moment that Corrigan connects with at an older age.

So yes, we’ve always drawn inspiration from the media, but as we’ve gotten older and have created our own social media pages, there’s now an incentive to show off our final work. TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, etc., provide a space for students to present versions of themselves, making Halloween yet another opportunity for self-expression.

Amanda Stojanov, an Associate Professor who teaches courses in Digital Media, explained the ways that we might use these platforms. “I would argue that costume ideas are increasingly shaped by how they will look on the interfaces and within the constraints of digital environments,” said Stojanov.

“The term digital self-representation or digital identities recognizes that platforms we use influence individuals because they allow people to curate how they are perceived and encourage idealized versions of ourselves across social media,” Stojanov concluded.

Halloween costumes reflect more than simply what we want to be for the night. Whether a costume is inspired by the media we consume, a perfect photo opportunity, or a combination of both, each one tells a story about the culture we absorb and how we apply that to our own self-expression.

Upcoming events!

WEDNESDAY

Get a New LinkedIn Profile Photo
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Career Development Center

Pan Dulce con Cafe Dialogue
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
Intercultural Center

Study Abroad With Bryana
1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Bey Hall Room 201

OFF THE RECORD: Dating and Relationships in College
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Magill Commons Study Room 109

THURSDAY

Flu Vaccine Clinic
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Anacon B

Beach Clean Up
4:15 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.
Roosevelt Avenue Beach

Pilates
6:30 p.m.
South Boylan Gym

FRIDAY

Halloween Games
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Student Center Patio

Happy Parents Weekend!

Men’s Football vs. Bryant

To keep up to date with things happening around campus, follow @monmouthose on Instagram!

blob:https://live365monmouth-my.sharepoint.com/1c6321d2-3d42-438e-a52b-7b50105e063b

Song of the Week!

“Monster Mash”

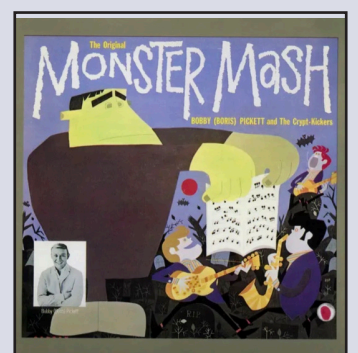


IMAGE FROM open.spotify.com

by Bobby “Boris” Pickett

Consistently ranked as the #1 Halloween song and Hot 100 novelty hit. Other classics include “Thriller” by Michael Jackson and “This is Halloween” from *The Nightmare Before Christmas*.



IMAGE TAKEN from monmouthuniversity@instagram.com.

Autumn playlist recommendations

JULIAN CAROMANO
STAFF WRITER

As the year slows down after the hustle of summer and the comforting chill of autumn takes hold, there's nothing better than winding down and relaxing with your favorite music. With an ever-expanding landscape of music genres and unique artists, you'll always have new artists to discover and enjoy.

Here are my top-five recommendations for your autumn playlist: The Other Side of Hell Is a Heaven So Delicate is a five-track EP by Heddy Edwards, featuring a specialized blend of genres ranging from alt-rock, shoegaze, and chamber

pop, creating a more unique sound than many alt-rock artists offer today. Additionally, Edwards' lyricism explores themes of self-discovery, mental health struggles, and grief, wrapping each song in emotional vulnerability and a nostalgic 90s aesthetic.

"The other side of town" dives into exclusion and belonging with hauntingly elegant vocals, while "Black tunnel" explores isolation, depression, and emotional release, with its chorus built on strummed guitars and driving drums.

Finally, "Dreamcast" closes out the EP with a bright, irresistibly engaging melody amongst the themes of anxiety and perseverance. Charm, Clairó's third studio album, blends jazz, soul, and psyche-

delic folk. Clairó's soft vocals accentuate the album's theme of quiet intimacy and match the peaceful calm of autumn.

The songs range from beautiful piano melodies like "Slow Dance" and "Terra-pin" to upbeat instrumentals in "Add Up My Love" and "Sexy to Someone." Charm focuses on the feeling you get from spending time with someone you love, and the memories that tiny acts of appreciation and intimacy leave lingering in your mind, perfect for the autumn season. True to the title, Charm's track list will leave you feeling charmed.

How to Count to Five from the Midwest-style emo band Holidays in United States, based in Brooklyn, NY, is an emotionally energetic album about youthful frustration, friendship, and community. Many songs delve into feelings of angst and disappointment from a young-adult perspective, but keep an energetic sense of collectiveness, letting listeners relate to those feelings. "Christopher Jazz" and "Edward vs. Jacob vs. Simon" express this best, turning what can feel like a lonely emotion of anger and disappointment into a collective release, like screaming your frustrations to a crowd that understands exactly how you feel.

This sense of community is strengthened by chorus-like shouts and layered vocals, like those in "Girl Problems" and "Sybau."

If you haven't listened to Midwest-emo before, like me, How to Count to Five is a great place to start. Vagrant, Kiaura Rose's seven-track debut album, is a beautifully composed collection of songs exploring grief, heartbreak, trauma, and self-reflection. Reminiscent of 90s indie/alternative rock, Vagrant features powerful vocals and unique instrumentals that are unlike any artist you've heard.

The opening song "Aftermath" introduces listeners to the emotional lyricism of the album, featuring ethereally soft vocals and a stunning violin performance in the outro, while songs like "Needy" and "Old Wood, New Floors" dive into insecurity, intrusive thoughts, and feeling disconnected from your past self over time.

The album's exploration of real-world struggles faced by everyday people makes it feel relatable, especially in "Clocking Out," my personal favorite track on the album. Finally, the title track "Vagrant" brings the album to a striking close with an energetic-yet-emotional melody that describes the struggles

of isolation and self-destructive patterns in difficult times.

For every autumn emotion, Vagrant has the perfect song for whatever you're feeling. Bewitched, Laufey's second studio album, blends jazz and pop into a whimsical, nostalgic, melancholic sound. With its beautiful piano arrangements, orchestral instrumentals, and immaculate vocals, Bewitched is a ballad for the hopeless romantic.

Some songs focus on the warm, fluttery, enchanting aspects of love, such as "Lovesick," "From the Start," and the title track "Bewitched." Other songs describe the emotional lows of heartbreak, stagnant relationships, and the pain of moving on, such as "California and Me," "Second Best," and "Promise."

Paired with the deluxe album, Bewitched: The Goddess Edition, the album's calming nature is perfect for every autumn moment, whether you're strolling through the sunlit campus as colorful leaves fall overhead or spending time with your loved ones in the quiet comfort of home. Just as Laufey herself described it, Bewitched is "a love album, whether it be a love towards a friend, a lover, or life."



IMAGE TAKEN from Pixabay.

The costumes we'll never forget

HANNAH FIERRO
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Choosing a Halloween costume at a young age was important and involved a lot of consideration. From the type of character, to any accessory you need, and even sometimes an annoyed parent wanting you to wear a coat on top of your creation. After all of that work, it seemed so unfair

to cover yourself up.

Years go by and some outfits can be easily pictured in our minds. You will be able to think of the one you would like to wear today, the one your family members never forgets, and the one you only want to see in the photo album.

In some cases, those three costumes are actually the same. Three Monmouth University students answered the question of the most memorable childhood Halloween costume revealing a skunk, a character of a horror film, and a creative parent dressing himself as their child's favorite TV show character.

When it came to Emma Baez, a sophomore, her favorite costume was that of a skunk. The only explanation of why this costume got picked was: "I was dressed up so cute." Sure, that can be enough for a little girl. A costume of a skunk might not

be the usual choice for anyone browsing the Halloween section for some ideas, but there wasn't any limit on what you could choose.

As long as it looked cute enough, you got to enjoy your child's costume. There is something quite amazing about that kind of confidence. When you're that little, loving your own outfit is enough of an explanation. You could choose a character from a favorite show, an animal and anything that caught your eye.

The main point about dressing up for Halloween was in wearing something and going outside with that look.

One example of such creativity can be seen in Jaden Hyman's story, a sophomore. His choice was the costume that was not his, but that of Hyman's father. At the age of 3, Hyman's father decided to dress as

DJ Lance Rock from "Yo Gabba Gabba". "My father knew I really liked Yo Gabba Gabba as a toddler," said Hyman.

It seems that parents do not only help their children with costume ideas and shopping but also dress up themselves. And they did a good job here, picking a character from a favorite show. This costume remained in Hyman's memory to this day, becoming his favorite.

Parents get many chances to join in on the Halloween fun helping with costume making and going out with kids to trick-or-treat. Dressing as a cartoon character based on what your kid likes adds another one. That also gives parents a compliment as participants of that holiday.

The third costume on the list is that of Thambbir Khan, a sophomore health science major, of Ghostface.

Khan picked the costume at age 9, when he started to watch horror films with brothers. "I used to watch horror movies with my older and younger brothers and one of the first movies was 'Scream' so that was extremely memorable as it created my love for horror movies and what helped me bond with my brothers as a kid and now," Khan said.

Of course, it looks like a total opposite of a cute skunk from above. But for Khan, it's related to a family member and to the hobby that stayed for all those years. There are definitely some nice memories there.

If you don't know what to choose yet, you can think of a halloween costume or tv show from childhood that held a special place for you and try to recreate the look. You can get friends involved and have everyone revisit a childhood costume.



PHOTO TAKEN from Pixabay.com.

New film “Verity”: The cost of justice

MELANY McCANN
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The words “find what you love and let it kill you” are the sole message of the recent book-to-movie adaptation, “Verity.” If you’re looking for something psychologically thrilling and equally unsettling for this season, take a look at the mental turmoil that is “Verity.”

“Verity” premiered in theatres on Oct. 2, and is based on the book by Colleen Hoover, with the same name. It follows Lowen Ashleigh, a struggling author who is grieving the death of her mother. Lowen is facing financial ruin, and her only way out is as a ghostwriter for Verity Crawford—a renowned author known for her psychological thrillers and murder novels. After a mysterious car crash left Verity catatonic and incapable of communication.

Verity’s husband, Jeremy Crawford, seeks out Lowen Ashleigh to finish Verity’s incomplete series that she is contracted to finish. While at first cautious and unsure, Jeremy convinces Lowen that she is fit for the job, and

Lowen is then invited to stay at the Crawford household to sort through Verity’s office filled with notes and book outlines in order to write.

What may seem like an easy task turns out to be no easy feat, as Lowen is faced with the unsettling nature of the household. Lowen learns of the tragic death of their daughter, Harper Crawford, and is plagued by visions of a mobile Verity, which is impossible due to her condition. While sorting through the notes in Verity’s office, Lowen finds a flash drive in a cigarette box. Assuming that this contains more outline information, Lowen downloads and prints the contents of the flash drive.

Lowen quickly learns that this is unlike any of the work Verity has previously produced—it is an autobiography. A disgusting summation of her life up until the crash, with raw, unfiltered, and terrifying accounts of Verity’s crude mentality. In it, she confesses, “One should walk away from an autobiography with at best an uncomfortable distaste for its author.”

While shocked at the contents of the autobiography, Lowen cannot stop reading,

torn between what is the truth and what is a mere plot point. The manuscript covers Verity’s journey through adulthood and motherhood, depicting how she fell in love with Jeremy, her love for writing, and the birth of her twins, Harper and Crew. Even though these may seem like innocent thoughts, they actually reveal the nature of Verity and her sick obsession with being the only person Jeremy loved, with no sense of compassion or empathy.

The film then follows Lowen as she navigates this information and her growing feelings for Jeremy. The close proximity of the home, and romantic recounts in the autobiography heightened Lowen’s connection with both Jeremy and Crew. After an accident that puts Crew in the hospital, Lowen is left to look after Verity on her own, and she decides to reveal her findings to Jeremy.

Without a second thought, Jeremy believes Lowen’s confession and the autobiography. This then descends into a fit of misunderstandings and violence, as Jeremy and Lowen try to bring justice.

Months later, after legal

hurdles and a book publication, Lowen finds a lifted piece of wood in Verity’s old bedroom. Upon opening it, she finds a letter. In it, Verity has a handwritten confession that challenges everything in the autobiography, leaving viewers and Lowen with one question: Which is the truth, the manuscript or the letter?

The most fascinating part of this film was its complexity. Viewers are constantly questioning their sanity and are left utterly disgusted by the events outlined in the manuscript. The existence of Verity and the proof of her horrid actions are spread throughout the home, and Lowen has to decide: how far

is too far for justice?

In relation to the book by Colleen Hoover, this is a pretty faithful adaptation. It is difficult to convey what a book can onto the screen, especially one such as this, that is so reliant on switching between two storylines, one of which is conveyed through an autobiography. The movie did a great job at presenting this to viewers, and despite its dark content, it is worth the watch.

Whether you’re still seeking some more spooky films to commemorate the season, or looking for your next watch, this film is perfect. It’s filled with suspense, horror, and a hint of romance.



IMAGE TAKEN from @maka.petra on Instagram

Horror movies through generations

LAYLA GREEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It’s spooky season! October marked the official start of the holiday season; the leaves are changing color, the weather is getting colder, and people are switching from T-shirts to cardigans and sweaters. And to top it all off, at the end of the month, kids and adults alike are all able to dress up in costumes, have fun, and eat candy in the name of Halloween.

Unfortunately, at a certain age, we become culturally

ineligible to go trick-or-treating, unless you dare! Luckily, we can always watch a scary movie and relax on the couch instead. With the abundance of recent horror movies, like “Obsession,” “Iron Lung,” and “Backrooms,” there is a lot to choose from. If you’re debating which one to sink your teeth into this holiday, look no further.

“Dracula” (1931): This is one of the original horror movies, starring Bela Lugosi, and is considered the OG Dracula. It is a black-and-white film directed by Tod Browning and Karl Freund

with a run time of 1 hour and 14 min, first released on March 11, 1931. This film is based on a 1920s stage adaptation of Bram Stoker’s novel of the same name. The film begins with an English man named R.M. Reinfield who goes to visit Dracula in his castle in Transylvania because he is arranging a lease for the Count of a property in England.

The film follows Dracula as he preys on young women, and walks the streets of London looking for victims. In the wake of his killings, Dracula’s true identity is revealed and he must fight to keep his life.

“Halloween” (1978): “Halloween” is a classic horror movie that introduced the notorious Michael Myers. Unlike “Dracula,” it is filmed in color. It was directed by John Carpenter and has a run time of 1 hour and 31 min, making it a quick, spooky watch. This film was released on Oct. 27, 1978.

The film was written by John Carpenter and Debra Hill and stars Jamie Lee

Curtis as Laurie Strode.

The film follows Michael Myers who, 15 years after killing his sister, escapes from a mental hospital and terrorizes the town of Haddonfield, Illinois on Halloween. This movie is certainly a halloween classic and scares people every year. The Halloween franchise has 13 movies in total starting with the original in 1978 and ending with “Halloween Ends” in 2022. It’s a perfect marathon watch!

“Scream” (1996): Similarly to the aforementioned movie “Halloween,” “Scream” is another classic horror movie that introduced a character that we all know to this day, Ghostface. It is directed by Wes Craven, with a run time of 1 hour and 51 min and was released on Dec. 20, 1996. The film was written by Kevin Williamson and stars Neve Campbell, Courtney Cox, and David Arquette. This movie is about high schoolers who must use their horror movie knowledge to unveil the masked killer in their town.

There are currently 7 movies in the “Scream” franchise so far. If you want a horror movie with classic 90s stars, and a masked killer, this is certainly the movie for you!

“Backrooms” (2026): Now on to one of the newest and already one of the most iconic scary movies, “Backrooms.” The film is directed by 21-year-old Kane Parsons and has a run time of 2 hours and 6 minutes. It was just released on May 29, 2026. It was written by Will Soodik and Kane Parsons, and stars Chiwetel Ejiofor and Renate Reinsve. This film has a very different and interesting premise, as it follows an architect named Clark, who witnesses a gap open in his basement. From here, Clark descends into madness as this maze threatens his livelihood and sanity.

Whether you plan on taking a trip to the past with “Dracula” or want to enjoy a modern horror with “Backrooms,” there is truly nothing more thrilling than watching horror at this time of year.



IMAGE TAKEN from Unsplash

Blue Hawk Records prepares for its 28th compilation album

MELANY McCANN
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Calling all music lovers! New semester means new beginnings for Blue Hawk Records as they begin preparations for their new compilation album! If their 27th compilation album, “From the Basement,” is indicative of their greatness, prepare for a rollercoaster of emotion, vulnerability, striking lyricism, and unfiltered talent. This next release will be no different!

Blue Hawk Records is an entirely student-run record label, founded in 2013 by faculty member Joe Rapolla. Students and professors alike buzz about the upcoming album every semester, and this semester is no different.

Blue Hawk Records is home to various members of the music industry program and passionate individuals, providing students with not only a transformative hands-on experience in the music industry, but also allowing student voices to be heard by a larger community. This label propels the voices of students and lets them shine. There’s a strong chance that your new

favorite artist may be in this next release.

Auditions for the compilation album were held on Sept. 30, and this time, auditions were spiced up with a new facet. Blue Hawk Records launched a brand new audition category. In an attempt for singers to showcase their individual talents and artistry, this new category gave those auditioning the option to sing a unique cover song. This was incredibly exciting and unlike any other audition.

This added another level of depth to not just the audition process, but to the voices heard, allowing students to truly share their specialties. It was a major hit.

After the audition process ended, five tracks were chosen to be part of the upcoming compilation album, all of which are sang by student artists. According to Blue Hawk Records, tracks were selected based on “originality, creativity, and exceptional talent,” laying the groundwork for a surely exceptional release.

Blue Hawk Records will commence production on Oct. 28th and prepare to vitalize these tracks and fully flesh out

the album. The tracks will be recorded at Lakehouse Recording Studios in Asbury Park, just like their previous releases. One of the record label managers and artists, Alexa Rae, commented, “I am beyond excited and proud to be a part of the 28th compilation album! The team is amazing and so dedicated to creating such memorable music.”

There is undoubtedly excitement among the team for this upcoming project and production. This album is loved dearly by the greater Monmouth community.

To commemorate the release

of the 28th compilation album, Blue Hawk Records will be hosting a release party to celebrate. The party will include giveaways, food, special guests, and even live performances of the album!

What makes these compilation albums so remarkable is that they are truly a labor of love. Passionate students come together and piece together a release to be proud of. These tracks are sure to be striking and worthwhile.

Grab your friends and mark your calendars for Dec. 11, 2026! Join the passionate

students behind this album and celebrate their hard work! The compilation album is set to release just before the semester ends, making it a great way to unwind through the height of finals, and a holiday gift to the Monmouth Community.

The album will be available wherever you stream, including physical formats! Whether you’re a Spotify enthusiast or physical collector, Blue Hawk Records has something for you. Based on the buzz of this release, and the exceptional talent of the chosen tracks, this isn’t an album



PHOTO COURTESY of Blue Hawk Records.

“VisionQuest” marks the end of the “WandaVision” trilogy

KATELYN SANDVIK
STAFF WRITER

“Who am I? I was an Avenger. But I’m not a hero anymore. I have his face, but not his virtue. All I have is his name,” is contemplated by White Vision in the trailer for the new Marvel Television series, “VisionQuest.” It also presents the themes to be explored in the series: identity and Belonging.

Released on Oct. 13, “VisionQuest” is the final installment in the trilogy. These three series all feature interconnected storylines, sharing characters and plotlines. The first series, “WandaVision” focused on Wanda Maximoff, played by Elizabeth Olsen, and Vision, played by Paul Bettany, living a suburban, sitcom life in Westview, New Jersey, that moves between decades. “Agatha All Along” and “VisionQuest” both deal with the fallout from the first series, but center around different characters, Agatha Harkness, played by Kathryn Hahn, and White Vision.

Originally created as a

weapon by S.W.O.R.D. in “WandaVision,” White Vision is visually identical to Vision, but instead of red armour with white, he shares all of his memories.

However, White Vision cannot connect emotionally to these memories, causing him to have an identity crisis. Although he is linked to the original Vision, White Vision is not him. He does not have the same principles and values as Vision; he does not see humans and their actions in the same way. This prompts White Vision on a journey to discover his own person and purpose.

Opening with a nod to “Avengers: Infinity War,” Vision

is in Edinburgh working at the bar the original version of himself and Wanda used to be regulars at. Here, Vision is trying to integrate into society and learn how to be human. After closing up the bar, Vision heads home, where he escapes into the Mindspace, a virtual reality residing in his subconscious. In this reality, Vision resides in a grand manor with several other artificial intelligence “siblings” created by Tony Stark. J.A.R.V.I.S., played by James D’Arcy, E.D.I.T.H., played by Emily Hampshire, F.R.I.D.A.Y. played by Orla Brady, D.U.M-E played by Henry Lewis, and U, played by Jonathan

Sayer. These A.I.’s run the manor and attempt to guide Vision with tips to become more human-like. Of course, the group would not be complete without Ultron, the villain A.I. of “Avengers: Age of Ultron,” who happens to reside, or rather, is locked in the attic of the manor.

When a mercenary by the name of Paladin is hired to hunt Vision, capturing his son Tommy, played by Ruairidh Mollica, he is forced to take action. Tommy, who viewers will be familiar with from “WandaVision,” is the reincarnated son of Wanda and Vision who possesses superhuman superspeed, but cannot control it. Living in London as a pickpocket, Tommy struggles with having memories from his life before, during, and after Westview, not completely sure what is real. The relationship between this Vision and Tommy is a focal point of the series, as both try to form a bond and understand the dynamic between them.

Many elements of the series feel similar to that of “WandaVision,” which may be due to the fact that Jac Schaeffer, the genius behind “WandaVision,” is serving as the

head of the writers’ room.

Despite overwhelmingly positive reviews from critics, and an interesting storyline, the plot takes a while to get off the ground. The first episode, “No Strings,” focuses on building the world Vision inhabits as well as the characters around him, which at times can feel a bit dragged out and uninteresting, especially to audiences expecting an action-packed start. This plot can also feel a bit underwhelming and simple when compared to its predecessors. Bettany and Spader create an interesting dynamic between Vision and Ultron as a tense, toxic father-son duo. As for the rest of the characters, they seem to fall flat because of dialogue and acting. At times, their actions seem forced and are ingenuine.

Even though the series gets off to an uneventful start, it is intriguing to see where “VisionQuest” will take audiences, especially leading up to the release of “Avengers: Domsday.” This series may connect to the movie, or set up future Marvel projects. For now, audiences will have to sit through the buildup as Vision discovers his purpose, Ultron’s motives are revealed, and Tommy becomes the superhero, Speed.



IMAGE TAKEN from Unsplash.

Monmouth hosts Federal Judges for discussion on public trust and Courts

CHRIS MARGOTTI
POLITICS EDITOR

With political tensions continuing to escalate across the country and public confidence in government institutions confronting challenges, two federal judges visited Monmouth University to discuss the importance of judicial independence, civil discourse, and protecting the American judicial system.

On Wednesday, Oct. 14, Monmouth hosted “Public Trust in the Courts: Civil Discourse, the Rule of Law and an Independent Judiciary” at Pollak Theatre. The discussion was part of the University’s Leadership, Civility, and Common Ground in Politics and Public Service conversation series.

The conversation series was sponsored by Monmouth University’s Office of the President and co-sponsored by the University’s Pre-Law and Political Science Clubs.

The event included speakers U.S. District Judge Esther Salas and Senior U.S. District Judge Peter Sheridan. New Jersey Democratic state Sen. Vin Gopal and former Republican state Sen. Joe Kyrillos moderated the discussion, while Monmouth University President Patrick F. Leahy delivered opening remarks.

Throughout the conversation, the judges addressed the increasing threats against members of the judiciary, the influence of social media and political rhetoric, and the complications of sustaining public belief in the courts.

Judge Sheridan, who was appointed to the federal bench in 2006 by former President George W. Bush, spoke about how the environment surrounding the judiciary has changed over the past several decades.

“I think the atmosphere and environment in the federal courts is much different than it was in the ‘80s,” Sheridan said.

Sheridan pointed to an increase in threats against federal judges, citing approximately 450 threats in 2022 and 567 in 2024. Sheridan explained that the growing number of threats creates concerns not only for

the safety of judges but also for their ability to perform their duties independently.

“I think that the courts are suffering because of this threat level, and it impacts the judge’s ability to be independent, and to apply the rule of law, as we know it, to cases,” Sheridan said.

Judge Salas, who was appointed by former President Barack Obama in 2011 and became the first Latina district judge in New Jersey, shared similar concerns about the current state of the judiciary.

“I’m going to start by saying that I think we’ve seen a dramatic change, and I’m going to say that the judiciary is under attack,” Salas said.

Salas argued that the increasingly hostile language used by political leaders has contributed to an environment where judges face personal attacks and intimidation.

She emphasized that criticism of the judiciary is not limited to one political party, explaining that leaders on both sides have contributed to the decline in respectful political conversations.

“I think that we have lost the ability to talk about people in a civil way,” Salas said.

For Salas, the issue of judicial safety is deeply personal.

In July 2020, her 20-year-old son, Daniel Anderl, was murdered at the family’s New Jersey home by a disgruntled attorney who targeted the judge. Her husband, Mark

Anderl, was also seriously wounded in the attack.

During the discussion, Salas spoke about how her family’s tragedy changed her perspective on the responsibility judges have to speak publicly about threats against the judicial system.

She also described more recent incidents in which individuals have used her son’s name when sending unwanted food deliveries to judges as a form of intimidation.

Salas said these incidents demonstrate how threats can extend beyond the courtroom and affect judges’ families.

The discussion also assessed how social media has affected public opinions of the courts.

Salas explained that although the internet provides greater access to information, it has also created challenges in how people understand judicial decisions. Rather than reading full court opinions, individuals may form their views based on brief social media posts or political commentary.

She argued that judges can no longer rely entirely on their written decisions to explain the work of the judicial branch.

“I don’t think that we can sit back anymore and allow our opinions to just speak for themselves,” Salas said.

Sheridan extended a slightly different viewpoint, explaining that while public discourse about civility are valuable, judges must also maintain the traditional responsibility of allowing

their rulings to stand on their own.

He recognized that judges do not always make the correct decision and that members of the public have every right to disagree with court rulings. However, he highlighted that disagreement should not turn into fear and intimidation tactics.

“We don’t make the correct decision all the time. And people generally have the right to express criticism about a ruling, if they feel it is unfair or not impartial,” Sheridan said.

He explained that judges commonly make decisions in cases where one side wins and another loses. Although disappointment and criticism are anticipated, personal attacks can create crises that extend far beyond an individual judicial case.

Sheridan believes that protecting judges also means defending the equality of the entire judicial system.

“The only way our system works is if the judges are independent and society grants or wants them to have that judicial independence so they can make fair and impartial decisions,” Sheridan said.

The judges also addressed political outrage directed at the courts, including comments made by President Donald Trump and efforts made by legislators to dispute judges over controversial decisions.

Salas directed concerns of political leaders who publicly attack judges can

manipulate how others view the judicial system. She also condemned efforts to pursue impeachment against judges because of disagreements over their rulings.

Both judges accentuated the importance of preserving a judiciary system capable of making decisions without political pressure or fear of retaliation.

In addition to the moderated conversation, Salas and Sheridan took questions from the audience, allowing attendees to engage directly with the judges and learn more about the challenges facing the judicial system.

Salas also reflected on how Americans can begin restoring respectful discussions, emphasizing that civility does not start with elected officials alone.

She encouraged individuals to consider how they communicate with family members, neighbors, and others who may hold different opinions.

“I think, at a certain point, it starts at the kitchen table,” Salas said.

Even with her concerns about the current political environment, Salas spoke on her optimism that Americans can rebuild respect for one another and strengthen public confidence in their institutions.

“I think we’re capable of coming back from this. I know we’re capable of coming back from this, but it’s going to take all of us,” said Salas.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTHEW GELLER

TO/ The Outlook

Hello, everyone! My name is Ava McGinty and I am so honored to be this year's Editor-In-Chief and News editor! I can't wait to work with each of you. I am so passionate about *The Outlook*, and I hope all of you will want to share that passion with me. Student journalism is incredibly important. As students, you have the right to know what is going on within your campus, and at *The Outlook*, we promise to promote honest and informative articles that educate students on what is going on around them here at Monmouth University. If anyone has any questions or story ideas for The Outlook, please feel free to reach out to me at any time! My email is s1356207@monmouth.edu. Happy reading!

- Ava McGinty, Editor-in-Chief and News Editor '26/'27



Black Student Union

The Black Student Union is a safe space and a home away from home for our black and brown students here on campus. Everyone is always welcome and we are rooted in family and community.

We believe that the only way to cultivate community is to pour into the communities around us and create bonds and friendships that last. BSU is not just about having fun it's about building communities that last well after we're gone and creating a space where our students can finally feel like they fit.



WMCX

Here at WMCX, there is so much space to grow and use your voice! With opportunities such as broadcasting Monmouth University's home basketball games, having weekly talk shows on a variety of topics surrounding sports, music, pop culture, or politics, or becoming part of the E-board, there's a place for you at WMCX!

If this sounds like something for you, come to one of our weekly meetings every Wednesday at 2:45 in Plangere 236. Our doors are always open if you want to come and visit us upstairs. And stay tuned for some exciting events happening later this semester!



LASO

The Latin American Student Organization works hard to bring vibrant and energetic community to campus. Anyone is welcome to the events and meetings.

It really works to give campus a stronger understanding and connection to Latin culture. A home away from home.



Hawk TV

HawkTV is a great place to come if you have any interest in TV! We try to work in every idea and get our members diverse and hands on experience during every shoot. Whether you want to be on the reporting or technical side, or maybe even just want to explore the entertainment world, HawkTV is the place for you!

- Natalee Mattei, HawkTV Station Manager



PRSSA

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



MU Sports Industry Club

We are a club dedicated to connecting aspiring students with sports industry professionals through networking opportunities. Follow our Instagram [@musportsindustry](https://www.instagram.com/musportsindustry) for more info!

We will be hosting a meeting with Tyler Millen, Digital and Social Media Coordinator for the New York Islanders on Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. This meeting will take place on Zoom so be sure to follow our Instagram so you don't miss it! We will be hosting more club trip events throughout the year. If spots are limited, attendees are selected based on involvement, so be sure to attend our meetings!

- Ava McGinty, President '26/'27



Sigma Tau Gamma

Looking for something to do during the weekends? Are you interested in creating lifelong friendships and being a part of a unified brotherhood?

Sigma Tau Gamma endeavors to create a strong, lasting bond within the Monmouth University community. Becoming a brother means more than joining a fraternity, it means joining a network of men who support one another academically, socially, and personally. Whether it is cheering on Hawks athletics, taking part in philanthropy events, or hanging out on a quiet Sunday, there is always something to get involved in and someone to stand beside you.

Membership in Sigma Tau Gamma is not just about events or letters; it is about belonging. You will find people who show up for you, who push you to succeed, and who celebrate your achievements as if they were their own. From philanthropy to leadership to weekend hangouts, there is always a chance to get involved, make memories, and build connections that last far beyond four years.

If you are searching for brotherhood, purpose, and a place where you can truly make your mark at Monmouth, Sigma Tau Gamma stands ready to welcome you!



Monmouth Review & Beechwood Hall Presents

FRIGHT NIGHT



October 28, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.
Rechnitz 115

...

Scrapbooking and Journaling!

All Materials Included, but
Bring Your Creativity!



CEDAR HALL

HALLOWEEN SURVIVAL KITS

treats, resources, and
everything you need for a
safer halloween!



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28TH
8PM - 12AM
CEDAR HALL LOBBY

GRAB A KIT WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!



Oct 31

Free Candy

spooky & sweet

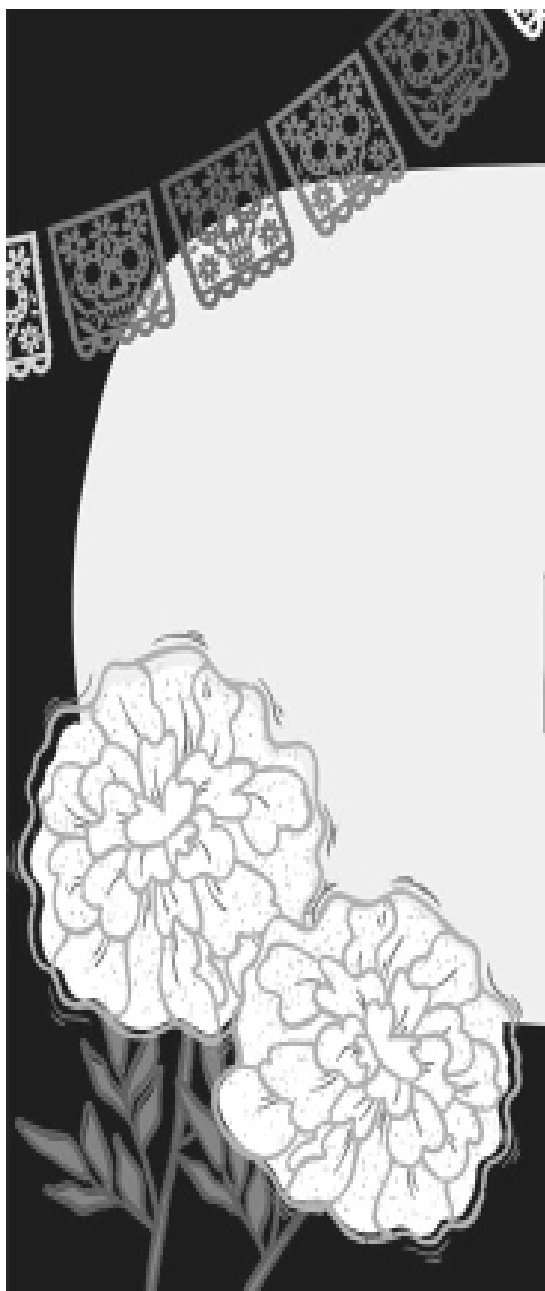
Come trick or treating in the
Pinewood Lobby from 8-12

Hosted by RA Mia and RA Mariam

MOVIE NIGHT

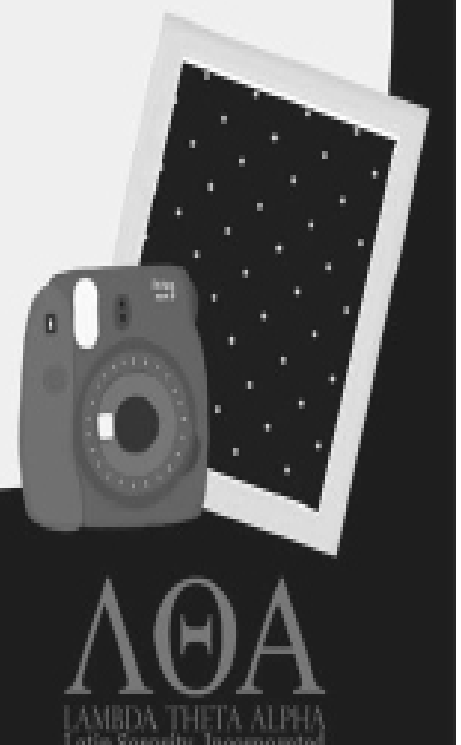


OCTOBER 31ST
WILLOW HALL



Framing' Memories

with LTA and RA Emelyn
Thursday Oct 29
Intercultural Center Lounge



ΛΘΑ
LAMBDA THETA ALPHA
Let's Share the Moment



See You There!

Chemistry Club

Liquid NITROGEN

Classic ice cream

E384 @2:45
NOV 4

Football takes care of business, remains unbeaten in CAA

FRANK HOARLE
SPORTS EDITOR

Monmouth Football continued rolling in CAA play on Saturday, as they took down the Hampton Pirates in commanding fashion. It was the sixth win for Monmouth in as many games against Hampton all time, and the last five victories for the Hawks have all come by 18 or more points.

The game started off slow initially for the Hawks, as they had one of their sloppiest first quarters of the season. After receiving the opening kickoff, the Hawks turned the ball over on downs after getting into Hampton territory. The defense was able to force a three and out, but Monmouth again turned the ball over on downs, this time getting stuffed on 4th & 1 in the Hampton redzone.

After a Hampton punt that pinned the Hawks at their own one-yard line, the offense finally got going on an extremely methodical 18 play, 99-yard touchdown drive that was topped off by an 11-yard touchdown catch by running back Kenny Smith Jr.. The drive also ate almost eight minutes off the clock, and Monmouth had a 7-0 lead just under five min-



PHOTO COURTESY of Ryan Schwager.
Kenny Smith Jr. ran for a career-high 163 yards and a touchdown while also catching another touchdown. He was named CAA Rookie of the Week for the second week in a row.

utes into the second quarter. Monmouth's defense cracked for the first time in the game on Hampton's next drive. On the second play, Hampton running back Donovan Shepard found an opening and ran for 76 yards down to the Monmouth one-yard line. Two plays later, the Pirates punched it in to tie the game at seven apiece.

The two defenses exchanged three and outs, and then on Monmouth's next drive, they took the lead back thanks to a goal line touchdown run by Nazir Treadwell. Treadwell had a strong game for Monmouth, carrying the ball 11 times for

39 yards and the touchdown. The score gave Monmouth a 14-7 lead.

Treadwell's touchdown drive was the first of six consecutive Monmouth touchdown drives to end the game.

In the third quarter, Hampton got the ball three times, and each time Monmouth's defense forced a three and out. That combined with the offense continually scoring touchdowns blew this game open. Tra Neal scored the first touchdown of the half for the Hawks on an eight-yard pass from Frankie Weaver, and that was followed up by Ocean Township product Shane Garrett scor-

ing a touchdown in his second consecutive game on a five-yard pass from Weaver.

In the fourth quarter with a 28-7 lead, the Hawks offense added three more touchdowns. Elijah Jennings joined the party with a one-yard touchdown run, then Smith Jr. had his longest run of the season, breaking free for a 70-yard score to put the game to bed. Greg Randall capped off six straight touchdown drives with his first career touchdown, and Monmouth walked away with a 49-13 win.

Weaver passed for 234 yards and three touchdowns in the win. Smith Jr. had

his best game as a Hawk, carrying the ball 19 times for 163 yards and a touchdown. He also caught three passes for 13 yards and another touchdown. He was named CAA Rookie of the Week for the second week in a row. Weaver spread the ball out this game, as leading receiver Gavin Nelson only had 60 yards receiving.

Although there were no turnovers in this game by either team, they had three sacks. Senior Jake Davis had his first sack as a Hawk, along with Jahide Lesaine Jr. and Bryce Rooks getting sacks of their own.

Monmouth is now 6-2 overall this season and 5-0 in CAA play. The only other undefeated team in the CAA is Campbell, who Monmouth plays in their final regular season game. The Hawks will host Bryant on Saturday for parent's weekend. The Bulldogs are right behind Monmouth in the CAA standings, as they are one of three one-loss CAA teams.

As for Hampton, their rough season continued as they fell to 1-7 with the loss. They are being outscored 159-57 in CAA play this season. They go on the road on Saturday to face Towson, who is currently 0-8 and looking for their first win of the year.

Men's Soccer draws Stony Brook

NATALEE MATTEI
STAFF WRITER

Sophomore Leo Zonta earned his first collegiate goal to help Monmouth Men's Soccer tie with the Stony Brook Seawolves this past Saturday afternoon.

A quiet first half followed the 1 p.m. kickoff, with a hard-fought battle from both the Hawks and the Seawolves. Monmouth held a slight edge through the first 45 minutes, outshooting Stony Brook 6-5 and earning themselves four corner kick attempts. Four of the Hawks shots were on goal while the Seawolves only had two.

Monmouth put Heidar Hermannsson, Stony Brook's sophomore goalkeeper, to work

early. In just the third minute of the game, sophomore midfielder Jessy Bichler put a strong shot towards the bottom right side, forcing Hermannsson to make his first save of the game.

Tommy Domiano, sophomore midfielder for the Hawks, put more pressure on Heidar in the 22nd minute, forcing him to make the save at the bottom center of the goal. Senior defender Raul Garcia forced another save at the top of the goal in the 29th minute.

Monmouth's sophomore goalkeeper Herman Johnsen was not tested until the 38th minute. He saved a shot from the Seawolves' redshirt sophomore defender Nelson Reynoso on the top. Johnsen's second save came five minutes later against graduate forward Olsen Aluc on the bottom left side.

Despite the strong looks from both sides, the game remained scoreless heading into half-time. Stony Brook evened out the play in the final 45, matching Monmouth's 6 shots and earning the edge on corner kicks, 5-4.

The Hawks struck first in the 51st minute of the game with a goal from sophomore defender Leo Zonta. The goal was assisted by graduate midfielder Sean Cadigan. The goal served as Zonta's first of his collegiate career.

Monmouth led the Seawolves for seven minutes until Finlay Oliver, a senior forward, beat Johnsen to earn his third goal of the season. Nelson was accredited with the assist.

Johnsen kept the score even at one with a save on Stony Brook's Alex Fleury, a senior midfielder, on the bottom left side in the 75th minute.

The Hawks got two more strong attempts in before the clock ran out. Jasen Bottini, a junior forward, sent one just high of the goal in the 87th minute. A little over 60 seconds later, Eric Palei, a freshman defender, forced one last save from Hermannsson at the top of the goal.

The Seawolves pushed for two more corner kick attempts, however they could not capitalize, and the game ended in a 1-1 tie.

Monmouth held their own against the Seawolves who had just one loss heading into the match. They held the overall offensive edge in the game, outshooting Stony Brook 12-11 and leading shots on goal 6-4.

The Hawks play their final CAA match-up this Saturday in Philadelphia against the Drexel Dragons. The 1 p.m. kickoff can be caught on FloSports.

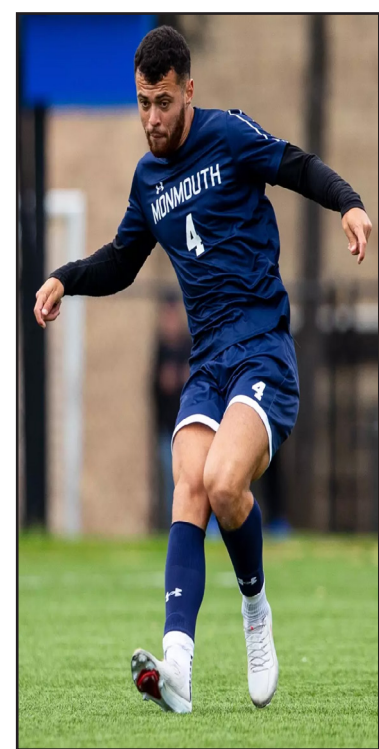


PHOTO COURTESY of Royce Dickson-Child.
Leo Zonta scored his first career goal in the draw.

Field Hockey earns 5-0 win over William & Mary on Senior Day

OLIVIA SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Monmouth Field Hockey had a home turf shutout against William and Mary on Friday, Oct. 16. The win secured the Hawks' spot in the CAA-playoffs, clinching their 13th straight postseason appearance. It was also Monmouth's fourth straight CAA win. Prior to the start of the first, Monmouth honored their senior class, which included defender Audrey Mullen, midfielder Luisa Schueter, forward Lauren Relik, defender Eulalie Brouwers, defender Anna Moors, forward Ava Zefrass, and midfielder Hannah Tromble. The seven have had a key role in the team's success over the past four years, including helping the team reach the highest ranking in program history, No. 11 in the NFHCA poll last season.

"We have a really large class that's exciting, and so obviously, the four years that they put in, the trajectory of when they were little baby freshmen to now, we're in a completely different position, and so it has everything to do with the hard work they put in. They are the foundation. So to do this on senior day is really important," said Hawks Head Coach Carli Figlio.

It was a sunny day on the



Anna Moors was among the seniors celebrated on Senior Day. She scored a goal in Monmouth's 5-0 win over William & Mary.

PHOTO COURTESY of Anya Kazmierczak.

turf and both teams came out with intensity. The Hawks stepped up to defend the corner that William and Mary secured in the first three minutes of the game, leaving the Tribe unsuccessful with their attempt to score. Monmouth had two shots on goal but were unlucky find-

ing the net, finishing the first quarter 0-0.

There was a big change of momentum in the second quarter for the Hawks. Freshman Maja Schröder earned the first goal of the day and her second goal of the season, in a 1-v-1 with Tribe goalie Emma Cari in

the 21st minute of the game.

The Hawks kept the momentum going into the third quarter. Moors scored on a penalty corner inserted by Relik to Schlueter, who set Moors up for her shot. This locked in Moors' fifth goal of the season and put the Hawks ahead 2-0.

Less than two minutes later, Milla Frye took the ball along the baseline and sent Stella Goddard-Despot a pass, which set her up to score, and brought the Hawks to a 3-0 lead. It was also Goddard-Despot's fifth of the season.

Monmouth added on to its cushion two minutes into the fourth quarter as they earned another penalty corner. Defender Olivia Oliver secured the first goal of her career, assisted by Mullen, and Schröder. This bumped the Hawks' lead to 4-0.

Frye topped off the electric day with an exciting chip shot goal that flew over William and Mary goalie Alexandra de Jesus finalizing the 5-0 shutout. Frye continues to lead the team with 12 goals this year.

Monmouth outshot William and Mary finishing with 19 shots, 13 being on goal. This win brought the Hawks to 4-0 in the CAA and 9-3 overall.

With four regular season games remaining at that point, the Hawks played the University of Virginia on Sunday, Oct. 18th to take on the No. 19 ranked Cavaliers.

"It's just crazy, looking back all these years that were seniors now... I think it was a team win. We've changed so much, saw each other grow up and become adults, so it's just really nice to see," said Moors.

Field Hockey experiences first CAA loss in overtime

OLIVIA SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The Hawks had their first conference play loss on So Sweet A Cat field, closing out their final home regular season game. They fell 3-2 in overtime against the Fairfield Stags.

This was the Stags first season in the Coastal Athletic Association, after departing from the Northeast Conference (NEC) last year. The upset was their first win over a nationally-ranked team since 2019 and improved the Stags to 10-5 overall and 5-1 in the CAA.

Monmouth, who currently stands at 9-6 and 4-1 in the CAA, struggled to maintain a steady level of play. Towards the end of the first quarter, junior Milla Fryre made a statement for the Hawks offensively, scoring the first goal of the game on her own efforts, bringing her to 13 this season. Frye holds on to her spot with the most goals on the team this season.

The game was tied in the 18th minute, when Fairfield's Camille Perlov found the net earning her team's first goal of the afternoon with the assist by Kaylen Fogelson.

Neither the Hawks or the

Stags were able to find the net during the third quarter of the game.

A minute into the fourth quarter sophomore Alicia Vanderlyde broke the tie after scoring on a penalty corner. The corner was earned by junior Lilly Ricks and senior Lauren Relik and Luisa Schueter were credited with the assists.

The Hawks held onto the lead until Fairfield's Rylee LaLoup scored with just over two minutes remaining in the game. Moments before the quarter closed, junior Éabha Curran took a shot but was unable to get the ball

past Stags goalie Paige Jackson. This set the Stags up to compete with the Hawks in overtime.

Eight minutes into overtime, the Stags had the opportunity to score on a penalty corner and they capitalized on that opportunity. Goalie Charlie Bowman made the initial stop, but the Hawks were unable to clear the ball out of the circle and as a result, Fairfield's Alice Pifferi found the net and brought her team to a 3-2 win.

Fairfield slightly outshot Monmouth 17-16, but the Hawks had the upper hand on shots on goal, 12-11. Both

teams had a total of five penalty corners.

Bowman completed the game with 8 saves. Vanderlyde had the most shots, taking four against the Stags, followed by Curran and Frye who each had three.

Monmouth's defeat ended its nine game run of consecutive victories in regular season CAA competition, a streak that began during the 2025 season. The Hawks traveled to Cambridge, Massachusetts to take on No. 5 Harvard Sunday, where they lost 3-1. They close out CAA play against Northeastern in Boston on Oct. 30 at 3 p.m.



FOOTBALL EXTENDS WINNING STREAK TO FIVE



Monmouth Football secured a dominant 49-13 win over Hampton on Saturday, remaining undefeated in CAA play and extending their winning streak to five games.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 14

PHOTOS COURTESY of Ryan Schwager.