

Areté

Newsletter of The Honors School

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Tough Guise

by Dan Suraci

Tough Guise, a film on male aggression by Jackson Katz, was shown on November 28th, 2007 to Monmouth University students. The film, which seeks to promote awareness of the subject, focuses on how male role models over the past century have changed the American ideal of masculinity dramatically. Directly after the film, an open discussion was conducted with students and faculty, finding their reactions to this eye-opening film.

Katz shows how masculinity has changed in the media from Humphrey Bogart to James Bond, from Sylvester Stallone to Arnold Schwarzenegger. He also focuses on the idea that most men are reared with the idea that guns and violence are part of being a "real man." Even using toys as an example, the circumference of a G.I. Joe's bicep has increased exponentially over the past thirty years.

Katz believes the media underreports the number of men that are performing the heinous acts of violence, such as school shootings and domestic abuse. For example, Katz mentions that males have perpetrated all of the school shootings in America, but most news sources tell of students or "kids killing kids." Through statistics and examination of media, he finds that while men commit most of the violence in America, it has come to be ingrained into our culture as acceptable.

Tough Guise gains its title from Katz's segment and fascination with the reaction of poor minority young men who use the "tough guy" facade in order to gain respect in their community. According to him, this comes from media portrayals from Italian gangster movies such as the *Godfather*. Katz ascribes the creation of this facade to poor socioeconomic standing, and the "tough guise" must pose and act "tough" in order to achieve what someone with 'normal' socioeconomic standing feels entitled to without having to play the tough guy – respect.

On the positive side, Katz shows how Mark McGwire is a very positive role model for young males. While competing fiercely with Sammy Sosa for the home run record in the 1998 season, if they assumed the "tough guise," they would become enemies. But Katz showed the sensitive side of McGwire, who became friends with Sosa, and who cried on national television when starting his foundation to help children. According to Katz, men like McGwire are the best role models for children today.

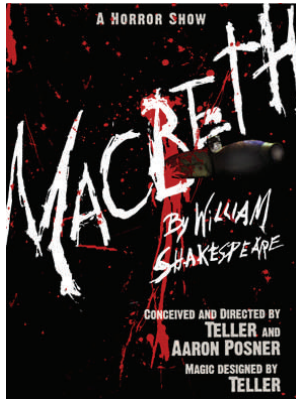
Tough Guise fulfills its intentions. Katz presents a problem in today's society which is not often realized, and leaves the audience to find their personal solution to the problem. *Tough Guise* is very effective in showing that this is not an inevitable problem, but created within the boundaries of male conditioning in America. Katz's ideas are something that all of us should contemplate when we are raising our sons.



A New Twist on an Old Classic

By Robin Craig

Shakespeare's *Macbeth* is one of the most well-known and well-loved plays of all time. It is a story of betrayal, revenge, and the weaknesses that are found within every human being. Two River Theater Company's production of *Macbeth* captures every aspect of the story as well as the audience's attention. *Macbeth* is set in Scotland in the Middle Ages. It is the story of Macbeth's rise to power as King and the lengths to which he would go to retain this power and how the power affects him and those around him. In the end, his desire to maintain power is Macbeth's downfall.



Macbeth has been called Shakespeare's scariest and most gruesome play. There are many illusions, and as with other Shakespearean plays, the supernatural has a large role. Two River Theater Company along with Teller, of the comic duo Penn and Teller, captured these illusions superbly. This production of *Macbeth* conceived and co-directed by Teller and Aaron Posner utilizes magic to amaze and entertain the audience.

The intimate surroundings of the Joan and Robert Rechnitz Theater draw in the audience. Within the first few minutes of the show, the Weird Sisters, who foretell events to come, run through the audience making the whole theater a part of the stage.

The costuming, while having a present day styling, evoked the feeling of Medieval Times that fit with the scenery and actions of the play. Most importantly, the acting captured the spirit of each character and made each seem believable. The audience could sympathize with Macbeth's victims, but could also understand the emotions that drove Macbeth. While in Shakespearean times all roles would have been played by male actors, this cast included several key female actors. True to Shakespearean times, however, males played the roles of The Weird Sisters.

INVITATION TO JOIN THE HONORS SCHOOL

Not everyone is aware that students may join the Honors School even if they did not come into Honors as freshmen. If you have a 3.5 or better GPA after completing 12 credits at Monmouth University, and you are interested in more information about joining a tailored curriculum to suit your needs, please contact the Honors School Office at 732-263-5308.

Past issues of *Areté*
are available at
www.monmouth.edu/honors

The Life of *Mere Mortals*

By Michael Edwards

Two River Theater has made its mark in the community by bringing excellent talent and innovative plays to Red Bank season after season. Their formula for success has been a blend of lesser known jewels mixed in with traditional plays with a twist. However, *Mere Mortals* was a departure from the TRTC norm. This audience got something a little different.

Mere Mortals is a production of seven different comedies whose plots are not related. The plots in comedies ranged from typing monkeys, a man believing he is a dead French painter, a "Groundhog Day" like rendition of a meeting at a coffee shop, to a burned out hippie kid performing a surprisingly in depth summary of "Moby Dick." I'm not one to laugh much at on stage antics, but I was truly cracking up with the rest of the audience at nearly every different performance. I would have been content at these bits of comedy presented to us, but as usual there was more to uncover. By around the fifth or sixth act, I realized the concept that tied each of these random acts together. The main characters were escaping reality in varying degrees of departure. They were recreating the world in a way they found more interesting. A boring construction job suddenly became a spotlight to sing and dance. Another day at an Arab bazaar turned into a grandiose miscommunication of true love catalyzed by a suspect translator. *Mere Mortals* transformed us into the lives of those that were transforming their lives into something more fun, comical, and interesting.

What I liked best was that each member of the audience got exactly what they wanted out of the performance. Some may opt for comic relief, others for the reminder not to take life so seriously, and the rest can delve into the intellectual humor packed into every act. A show that has you leaving the theatre full of thought; but then what else would you expect from Two River?

The Growing Legacy of Monmouth University

By Michael Edwards and Sasha Goldfarb

In our three years at Areté, we have experienced many things the community has to offer that reaches far beyond life on a college campus.

As the editors and founders of Areté, we have been reporting the cultural and personal achievements of Monmouth students, as well as our accomplishments as an institution. In our three years at Areté, we have experienced many things the community has to offer that reaches far beyond life on a college campus. Just during our four years in college, Monmouth University has changed its image in the community from an overshadowing presence to a local crossroad for cultural and artistic achievements.

We are avid readers of another area publication, the *Tri City News*, which provides another unique perspective on similar issues and creative causes. While we can appreciate the social value and exchange *Tri City News* offers, we have developed resentment for how their publication has depicted our university. While we are the first to admit that our university has experienced some growing pains during its recent years of expansion, recently the *Tri City News* has over represented a minority of apathetic and uninvolved students in one of their articles. Labeling us "future suburban denizens that [the editors] disdain for their conformity and close-mindedness," "out-of-control," and "spoiled brats," the *Tri City* staff managed to diminish the past decade of achievements with a few catch phrases. This is not a call for retraction or an attack on their publication. We can realize that disciplinary actions and indiscretions are common to all colleges, and that Monmouth University is not unique compared to other colleges praised by the same article. Instead, as senior editors we want to take this time to reflect on what positive aspects we have witnessed and experienced over the past four years at Monmouth.

Recently, the university has answered the call for diversity with an eager and open mind. Monmouth University was recently host to *Latin American Realities*, a series of events including art, film, cuisine, and theatrical productions to promote the awareness and enrichment in Latin American cultures. A recent theatre event, *Peru Negro*, not only

embodied Hispanic culture, but also gave a voice to a minority culture of the African Diaspora. Our radio station, WMCX, has produced a Spanish radio program called *Aca*, bringing to light sociopolitical issues of minorities in an all-Spanish format.

There is also our annual foreign language film series, which draws people to view independent films of many different cultures and participate in open discussions. Minority students are represented in many student clubs and organizations, such as the African American Student Union, Hillel/Jewish student union, *Los Conquistadores*, and the multicultural Greek organizations Lambda Theta Alpha and Lambda Theta Phi. The university also sends admissions counselors to urban areas to provide opportunities for a multitude of students. In this issue of Areté there is a feature describing the budding student organization for Fair Trade at Monmouth University, a campaign to promote a fair economic model for trade and business that will help alleviate global poverty and inequality.

From a more global standpoint, our Study Abroad program has renewed itself, accepting another class of ambitious students to explore and learn overseas in Spain, Italy, Great Britain, and Australia. One of our editors visited Chile last winter in an outreach program called *Sin Fronteras*, involving a summer program for children in poverty within a country of a formerly harsh and terrifying dictatorship. The program to Chile continued to be successful again this year, boasting almost twice the number of participants from Monmouth University. There is another program with an associated number of credits for students that go to Argentina each year.

Monmouth has also made great strides in community partnerships. Information Technology students have been creating and maintaining websites free of charge to local businesses for years. Volunteerism is emphasized through our joint cooperation and participation in such events as local beach cleanups, student tutoring, soup kitchens, charity walks, and awareness campaigns.

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Dear Friends:

My name is Alex Keller and I am writing on behalf of Monmouth's Global Service Project; the student run portion of the Global Understanding Project.

It is our aim to satisfy students who are not only interested in the field of International Relations, but also those who seek to revel in the delight and sense of fulfillment that comes with giving back to the less fortunate. Under the guidance of graduating leaders Mike Prepilit-skiy (President) and Robert Marmolejo (Vice President), I have been lucky enough to see the positive effects their leadership has had on the local, and to an extent, the global community.

Once I seize the reigns of the GSP in the spring, I plan to arrange for distinguished speakers and some interesting activities. It behooves us as a university community to offer our services to those in need. Accordingly, all students (faculty are welcome in the Global Understanding Project) are welcome to join the Global Service Project if interested in meeting the needs of the local community and of those abroad.

Thank you.
Alex Keller

Legacy *(Continued from page 3)*

The Two River Theater Company, which this newsletter has been reporting on for years, has a strategic alliance with Monmouth to defray costs of admission for students to performances, and has selected the university to host the popular Two River Film Festival.

While a further enumeration of our accomplishments and deeds would be possible, this is not intended to be a bragging contest. Rather we wish to represent our pride in Monmouth University as an academic institution and a center for the community. As the end of our time at Monmouth University draws near, it is with a sense of gratitude and nostalgia that we reflect on what we have been afforded through the Honors School, Monmouth University, and neighboring towns and cities.

The fact is there will always be a few out-of-control off-campus parties, uninformed (or just plain stupid) decision-making, or a few apathetic students who do the minimum to get by. But we are fortunate to be in a university rich in social and business networks, community ties, athletics, diversity, and the arts. The aforementioned "close-minded denizens" are beginning to see all the opportunity available to those willing to involve themselves in more than the standard 15 credits.

After all is said and done, we at Areté are big fans and supporters of the *Tri City News* and its backing of the Asbury Park community, and we know that in the past years your city was not a book to be judged by its cover. So, if you can put aside the images of the mindless, rowdy college atmosphere sustained by only a minority of students and take a look – speak to a student or two instead of relying on previous dogmas – you might find the artists, professionals, and intellectuals that businesses and schools have come to expect from our growing student body and successful graduates.

Making a Difference with Fair Trade

By Sasha Goldfarb

"Fair trade," our president Molly interjects again, after I've made another semantic blunder. "Right, I always say free trade," I correct myself and go back to reshuffling the literature in our display that's being whipped about the Student Center patio on a windy day. Laughing and huddling for warmth, we start talking to anyone and everyone who passes our table, handing out brochures, stickers, bits of chocolate, and steaming cups of coffee. Of course it's all Fair Trade chocolate and coffee. New to the movement, but not the idea, I'm ready to dive in headfirst.

So, what is fair trade? Basically, fair trade is a socioeconomic model meant to promote fair pricing for foreign goods, in order to raise the social and environmental standards for the typically exploited workers and marginalized producers. It means providing a fair price for the goods we buy so that the people who produce them can have a means to provide for themselves and their families. It ensures that farmers, artisans, and other workers can lead dignified and meaningful lives by earning a fair wage. And while it may sound simple, millions of people live and work in substandard conditions for long difficult hours every day, just to earn what would be too low to pay any individual in our country for some of the lowest-level jobs.

And what does that mean to you? You might be thinking: "Absolutely nothing." But the inequalities, suffering, and needs of people around the world are nothing to be ignored. Money is a huge factor and the largest influence in how we experience and perceive the world around us. It is not just a matter of rich and poor, the advantaged and disadvantaged – there is a whole new level of poverty within the United States, and there are countries sinking below the Third World status. Tara O-Neil, a junior and secretary of Fair Trade at Monmouth, describes how the Fair Trade movement is slowly

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CALENDAR

MARCH 10 –14	SPRING BREAK
MARCH 15	CIRQUE ODYSSEY, POLLAK THEATRE
MARCH 20	BUCKETS AND TAP SHOES, POLLAK THEATRE
MARCH 25- APRIL 13	THE GLASS MENAGERIE, TWO RIVER THEATER, RED BANK (FOR A FREE TICKET, CALL THE TWO RIVER THEATER BOX OFFICE AT 732-345-1400. IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS A MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY STUDENT AND RESERVE YOUR TICKET—NOTE: FREE TICKETS ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR SATURDAY NIGHT OR SUNDAY MATINEE PERFORMANCES. BE SURE TO BRING YOUR MONMOUTH ID WITH YOU THE NIGHT OF THE SHOW TO PICK UP YOUR FREE TICKET.)
MARCH 31	LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH “W” GRADE
APRIL 3-18	ACADEMIC ADVISING AND PRIORITY/EARLY REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER, FALL, AND SPRING
APRIL 12	A DAY WITH THE MARX BROTHERS, POLLAK THEATRE
APRIL 19	ANNUAL HONORS SCHOOL RESEARCH CONFERENCE
APRIL 21	FINAL DRAFT OF HONORS THESIS DUE
APRIL 27	SGA STUDENT AWARDS CEREMONY
APRIL 28	HONORS SCHOOL AWARDS CEREMONY DINNER
APRIL 28	FINAL DRAFT OF HONORS THESIS PROPOSAL DUE
MAY 5	LAST DAY OF CLASSES
MAY 6	READING DAY
MAY 7-13	FINAL EXAM PERIOD
MAY 20	COMMENCEMENT



HONORS SCHOOL JOINS THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

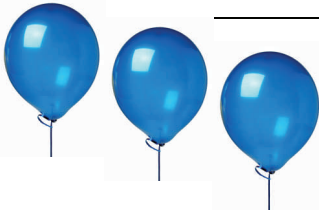
The Honors School is forming a team to participate in Monmouth University's first Relay for Life to be held on campus on April 11-12. All Honors students and their friends are welcome to join the team. Relay for Life brings together the whole community and helps raise funds for the fight against cancer. At the event, team members will camp out overnight, walk around the track, and meet others who care about this cause. They will pay tribute to cancer survivors and caregivers, and honor those who lost the fight through a moving luminaria ceremony (you may purchase a luminaria bag online for just \$5). Relay for Life is unlike anything else you will ever do. It's a night full of fun, hope, and remembrance. To find out more about Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society, go to the following link:

http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr_id=11164&pg=entry

If you would like to join the Honors School Team, please contact Reenie Menditto (imenditt@monmouth.edu) for details. If you are unable to join the team, you may still support the fight against cancer by making a donation in the name of the Honors School Relay for Life Team.

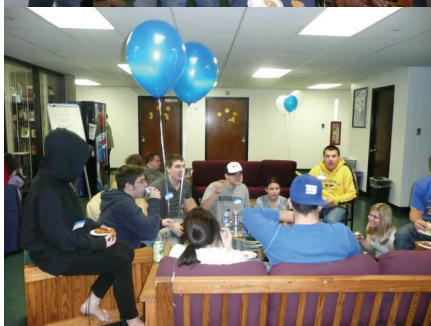
SOCIAL EVENTS

Fall Barbecue Food, Friends, and Fun!



HONORS/FIRST YEAR AT MONMOUTH WELCOME BACK PARTY

On February 7, the Honors School and First Year at Monmouth sponsored a "Welcome Back Party" for Honors students, their friends, Honors faculty, administrators, and staff. The event took place in Birch Hall and included refreshments as well as door prizes. Approximately 65 students and guests enjoyed the food and festivities. The Honors School donor, Jane Freed, assisted in selecting door prize recipients.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF MONMOUTH COUNTY

Have fun!

Be a friend and a

leader among

your peers!

Do your part to make

your community and

your world a better

place!

We are currently
interviewing
volunteers to work
with students from
the Hope Charter
Academy, Asbury
Park, in September.

INTERESTED?

**Contact the
Honors School
at
732-263-5308**

Fair Trade

(continued from page 4)

turning that all around: "...instead of just giving people money, it is setting up a whole system to help people become self-sustaining and improve many areas of life such as healthcare and education. It's like the 'teaching a person to fish' metaphor."

Even if we do not look beyond our own borders, the United States has long struggled with issues like immigration, welfare reform, and the illegal drug trade and trafficking. In just one example, Fair Trade can provide means for otherwise desperate coffee farmers with no income not to have to turn to crime for money. It means people may not have to leave their countries to find a way out of impossible situations. Vice President, Heather Harris, relates Fair Trade ideals to her own life:

"Fair trade has changed my way of thinking about the products I buy. It's not just coffee, but all things. I have a young son and it's really hard to buy a toy for

him that was not made in China. As factories outsource to other cheaper countries, the quality of the product decreases, and most importantly, Americans lose their jobs."

Fair Trade organized only about a year ago with two graduate students in the social work department, and is now an expanding student movement to spread awareness of Fair Trade, Fair Trade products, and offering more Fair Trade choices on campus. At the time that Fair Trade at Monmouth first began, Fair Trade options were only available at Einstein's and Java City, but now Fair Trade coffee is offered at all of Monmouth's venues. But we must include a word of caution: Customers must request a Fair Trade coffee brew or else you could be getting a non-Fair Trade product. Einstein's Bagels and the Student Center has a Fair Trade coffee brewing almost all of the time now, but be sure to look for the Fair Trade label (see photo) near the coffee's description.

If you are interested in learning about Fair Trade products, you can visit Transfairusa.org, FairTradeFederation.org, FairTrade.net, or Globoexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/. There are Fair Trade options for almost any type of product, but the main focus of Fair Trade at Monmouth has been fair trade coffee and chocolate. Supermarkets and stores like Wegman's, Dean's Market, and Whole Foods are known distributors of Fair Trade goods like coffee, tea, and chocolate, but even other chains like Foodtown and Acme are beginning to pick up on the trend. For just a quick coffee fix, Starbuck's, Dunkin' Donuts, Wawa, and even Quik Check have a Fair Trade coffee option, but you must ask for it. The student-run chapter at MU emphasizes that the simplest thing to do in support of Fair Trade is to just speak up. Especially asking for options at campus venues lets vendors and providers know that this is what consumers are demanding. It does not require any further physical or mental exertion beyond a simple statement.

Other off-campus places of interest are Ducky Tea in Asbury Park for Fair Trade teas, or Ten Thousand Villages for artistic products and information associated with Fair Trade. Fair Trade at Monmouth has also been a supporter of Bead for Life®, an organization that supports community development of Africa through the making and selling of beautiful, hand-made beads and jewelry. You can learn more by contacting the Sociology or Gender Studies Club through Dr. Nancy Mezey nmezey@monmouth.edu or at their website: beadforlife.org. To learn more about Fair Trade at Monmouth, please e-mail fair-trade@monmouth.edu.



Alumni Corner: Michael Wiltsey—Class of '96

by Nicole Stevens

HONORS ALUMNI

WE WOULD
LOVE TO HEAR
FROM YOU!

E-MAIL US AT
arete@monmouth.edu
AND LET US KNOW
WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN

DOING

SINCE YOU LEFT
MONMOUTH.

TO CONTACT

DR. GARVEY

DIRECTLY, E-MAIL
garvey@monmouth.edu

WE LOOK FORWARD TO
HEARING
FROM YOU.

"Inspiring," is the choice word which Monmouth University Honors alumni Michael Wiltsey uses to describe his experiences as an Honors student at Monmouth more than ten years ago.

Born and raised in the small town of Gloucester City, NJ, Michael entered Monmouth with a double major in criminal justice and psychology and the hopes of one day being able to work in both fields. With such a heavy workload already upon him, Michael initially hesitated to join the honors program for fear that it would consume too much time. However, with a little convincing from Dr. Garvey and an ambitious attitude, Michael pursued the program and is now "so glad [that he] did."

He is proud to have been a part of it and recognizes graduating with Honors as one of his most memorable moments. "I truly enjoyed the program and found that it challenged me to think critically and broadly about topics, and to view them from varying perspectives. I adopted this approach and continually work to apply it to my everyday life and worldview."

In 2001, five years after graduating from Monmouth, Michael gained a Masters in Forensic Psychology at John Jay College. From there, he went on to study under the well-respected forensic psychologist, Dr. Kirk Heilbrun, at Drexel University, where he is now working on earning his doctorate in psychology. Recently, as he finished writing his dissertation and prepared to defend it, Michael was thankful that he had the experience of writing the honors thesis to assist him in this difficult task.

While continuing his education, Michael also has been working as a Crime Scene Investigator for the past nine years. He is now preparing to begin his second career as a psychologist working in this same "challenging and intriguing" line of work which offers him many rewarding moments: "I have had victims and family members of victims come up to me, shake my hand, and thank me for my work on a case. That is an amazingly rewarding and humbling experience and it reminds me why I chose this line of work."

"Take a positive approach to life, envision what you want, and go get it," is the advice Michael offers to current students—advice which has surely propelled him to a rewarding and successful life. Having already succeeded in one career and making great strides towards another, Michael can look back and appreciate the experiences and lessons which the Honors School and Monmouth offered him. He still makes time in his busy life to keep in touch with Dr. Garvey and hopes to revisit the campus soon.

Editor's Note: The Honors School would like to wish Michael the best of luck as he begins his second career as a clinical and forensic psychologist. We wish him and his family all the best.

