Jersey's First 'Hackathon' Comes to Montclair State

According to Galant, teams will compete to win in the following categories: Best Overall Project, Best Design, Best Story, People's Choice and Best Project Relating to Superstorm Sandy and its Affect.

Photo courtesy of foursquare.com.

Stephanie Agudelo
Assistant News Editor

The term "cyber bullying" refers to the abusive behavior that is sometimes found on the seemingly boundless internet.

Montclair State University graduate student Joseph Aziz learned first-hand the consequences of cyber bullying. However, some believe that the punishment enacted upon Aziz was more drastic than his "crime" called for.

Last fall, Aziz commented on a YouTube video, saying that a female student's legs looked like "a pair of bleached hams." Last semester, a video was uploaded showing another Montclair student wearing similar pants. Aziz continued on Page 3

Barack Obama on his second inauguration!

"Through blood drawn by lash and blood drawn by sword, we learned that no union founded on the principles of liberty and equality could survive half slave and half free. We made ourselves anew and vowed to move forward together."

Photo courtesy of cbs.com.

Photo courtesy of foursquare.com.

Photo courtesy of Flickr.com.

Ethan Fria
Assistant News Editor

In an interview with CBS' Christine Sloan, Aziz said he was foolish and should not have done it, but he was responding to someone who called someone a racist.

Aziz continued on Page 3

Students Suspended for YouTube Comment

Still Under Construction

Starting last summer, many students have noticed drastic changes to the appearance of the campus mainly due to multiple construction projects that have been taking place since late June of 2012. What may have really caught the attention of many students is the new box-like structure that suddenly surfaced next to CarPare.

The Alumni Green is one of the many areas on campus under construction.

Stephanie Agudelo
Assistant News Editor

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-President Barack Obama

Still Under Construction

Photo courtesy of CBS.com.

Photo courtesy of Flickr.com.

Photo courtesy of Digital First Media.

The Montclairion | Lynka Tanaka

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On Dec. 14: Michael Chiavetta, 21, of Clifton, was arrested for disorderly conduct and lewdness while in Dinallo Heights. He is scheduled to appear in Little Falls Municipal Court. (building #49)

On Dec. 16: Nicholas Gallombardo, 19, of Ocean, was arrested for disorderly conduct outside of Blanton Hall. He is scheduled to appear in Little Falls Municipal Court. (building #48)

On Jan. 14: An act of criminal mischief was reported by a faculty member in Dickson Hall. An overhead projector was tampered with in one of the classrooms. This matter is under investigation. (building #31)

On Jan. 16: A staff member of maintenance reported a fraudulent loan taken out in his name. This matter is under investigation. (building #47)

On Jan. 17: Andrew Manley, 21, of Plainsboro, and Elon Schenker, 21, of Princeton Junction, were charged with disorderly conduct and obstruction of law while in Bohn Hall last semester. This matter is under investigation. (building #49)

On Jan. 20: Andrew Manley, 21, of Plainsboro, and Elon Schenker, 21, of Princeton Junction, were charged with disorderly conduct and obstruction of law while in Bohn Hall last semester. This matter is under investigation. (building #49)

The Montclarion willingly corrects its factual errors. If you think there is a mistake in a story, please call Editor-in-Chief Lori at ext. 5230. Anyone who has information regarding these incidents is urged to call the police station from any campus phone at T-I-P-S (8477). All calls are strictly confidential.
Student Fundeering on Fiscal Cliff

Aziz
Continued From Page 1

Student Funding Teetering on Fiscal Cliff

Ethan Fria

America finally received a re-
response from Congress at 2 a.m. on Jan. 1, 2013, the hour of the so-called "cliff" as the Bush tax cuts ran out, and the Federal Pell Grant — a safety net intended to accommodate Aziz in graduate school — was banned from contacting the woman or talking about her on Facebook, Montclair released the story.

"Hams" was the girlfriend of the male whose legs he compared to a hammer, said a Columbia University’s Graduate Student Funding Teetering on Fiscal Cliff article.

A “cliff” deal was an effort by Congress to revisit several tax code ranging from tax rate changes to social media cutbacks.

Though the deal left some issues unresolved (such as the death tax), it made some dramatic changes to the tax code and extended the Bush era tax rates to families with an income less than $450,000 and to individuals with an income less than $400,000.

What this means is that the middle and upper-middle class will permanently retain the Bush-era tax rates.

The deal expanded the Ameri-can Opportunity Tax Credit. This helps graduate students by allowing borrowers to deduct up to $2,500. It has been extend- ed for five more years, through the end of 2017.

The spending cuts, however, still loom. A legislation passed in America at the end of 2011, spending cuts—in the area of $5 billion— from domestic programs, includ-ing education. These cuts were delayed until March 1, but could have a serious effect on student financial aid.

As reported in an online New York Times article, Mark Kan-trowitz, founder of Finaid.org said, “Across-the-board cuts would mean a 8.2 percent reduction in student aid fund-
ing.”

Kantrowitz also projected that fees for federal education loans would go up, and the maxi-mum Pell Grant could be cut by as much as $400.

Aziz claimed he was respond-
ing to the work.

Three days later, Aziz received a letter in the mail from Presi-dent Cole. It stated that Aziz had been found guilty of harassment and disruptive conduct and the co-constituent amendment superseding the law that the state.

It turns out what Aziz said and did did not constit-
tute “bullying” under the accept-
ed definition of the term.

This was a case of the First Amendment, reversing the laws of the state.

The punishment included a one-semester suspension from Montclair beginning Jan. 2 and a note on his transcript—a severe definition of the term.

Pennsylvania State has no power to order students not to discuss any topic or person on in-dependent social media sites like Facebook,” said Robert Shirley, senior vice president of FIRE, a letter to Presi-dent Susan Cole asking her to consider rescinding the punish-
ment. After the letter was met with no response, FIRE took the case public.

Aziz Manglona, a senior at Montclair State, is dismayed at what the tax cuts may hold.

Well, I actually might be hurt by this. I’m almost done and it pains me to even imagine not be-ing graduate on time or at all. I don’t exactly have mon-y coming out the wazoo, so this is definitely not the best news.

Joseph holds a job on campus to subsidize the spending that the student loans don’t cover.

With all this in mind, pro-

resentive college students should prepare for some sort of reduc-
tion in funding to them, as well as reduction in opportunities in work study. Our work force, as of right now, consists of around 40 percent of people that hold col-
lege credentials under their belt. This number may drastically de-
crease resulting in a less effec-
tive education system.

The March 1 deadline fast ap-
proaches: and with it, the future of the college student funding.

To post a comment in an online New York Times article, a letter to Presi-dent Cole asking her to consider rescinding the punish-
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Pelican Report from Around the World

- On Tuesday, the United Nation’s Security Council adopted a resolution condemning North Korea’s recent rocket launch. This also led to the expansion of existing U.N. sanctions.

- On Tuesday, a prominent Jihadist announced that the deputy leader of al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and one of the most wanted men in Saudi Arabia had been killed. However, officials in the group’s home base of Yemen said they have no evidence of his death.

- Three people were wounded in a college shooting on Tuesday. At least two have been detained after the shooting at Lone Star County College in Texas.

- In response to recent school shootings, a Florida mother concerned about safety has donated more than $11,000 so that armed deputies can patrol the elementary school where her child attends.

Construction

Continued From Page 1

The underground piping distribution system installation is on schedule and the following should be noted:

- Lot 17 has been restored to use with the exception of the area around the new manhole.
- The entire roadway in front of Webster Hall is closed while the piping is being installed. The construction will continue and connect to the installed piping north of Stone Hall.
- The Alumni Green is closed, as is the rear exit of College Hall and the College Hall bridge. Access to the campus is through the University Promenade.

In layman’s terms, this meant the university would have to replace and install a brand new piping system beneath the foundation of the campus in order to provide heating and cooling independently. This system is planned to satisfy 85 percent of MSU’s heating and cooling needs.

Construction updates are released on montclair.edu, which gives information about the progress so far and plans for the future.

“The construction is progressing at the new combined heating, cooling, and power (CHCP) plant. All the major equipment has been received and is in place. Work continues to install mechanical and electrical systems with and toward a plant start-up for April 2013,” said the recent update.

As far as piping distribution goes, everything seems to be on schedule and all buildings will remain accessible until further notice. The website also states that certain roadways, like the road near Webster Hall, are currently undergoing piping installation and will remain closed until that work is over. The final touches are still being made on areas such as the University Promenade, Dickson Hall, Partridge Hall, Life Hall and the Student Center.

Another change that is now in effect goes toward making sure that shuttles are the only vehicles driving on campus. Last season, students saw the relocation of the shuttle stop outside of University Hall when the road in front of the diner was closed due to construction. Now, there are gates in place that block road access on that side of the building, allowing only shuttles and university vehicles to pass through.

For an 18-month period, the campus has certainly made great strides towards bringing back the scenery we all know and love. The sooner this new system is finished, the closer Montclair State will be to becoming self-sufficient and independent.

The Montclarion • January 24, 2013
Transform your life

Graduate Open House

Sunday, February 10, 2013
12 p.m. / University Hall

REGISTER ONLINE
montclair.edu/graduate

The Graduate School
MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY
1 Normal Avenue | Montclair, NJ 07043
Emerald With Envy: Pantone’s Color of the Year

Every year, Pantone—famous for the Pantone color wheel—picks a specific color to be the “color of the year.” This year, Pantone has chosen emerald, the rich tone we associate with the deep green stone of the same name. Incorporating this bold color into your wardrobe can not only help keep you fashionably current, but it can add an appropriate splash of happiness into the often drab winter colors.

Accessories are the easiest way to incorporate any color into your wardrobe. For Pantone’s color, sprinkle into your wardrobe a chunky green necklace, bangles in shades of emerald, a leather satchel or even earrings—think Beyoncé at the Inauguration. Add green laces to a pair of your favorite Converse shoes or purchase a green beanie to keep you warm as the campus continues to grow colder. Emerald can be paired with almost any color combination and will accentuate even the most basic of outfits.

Clothes

It’s impossible not to find a top, bottom or dress in your desired style that incorporates emerald. Pairing a deep green blazer with all black is a classy way to make the typical business look pop. If one thinks ahead, a tan body would look great paired with a jewel-tone bikini.

Nails

Essie nail polish offers shades of emerald nail polish in “Going Incognito,” “Pretty Edgy” and the more muted “Mojito Madness.” A splash of green on your fingernails and toes is sure to keep you smiling and stylish with the start of the new semester.

Decor

Using shades of green can brighten and liven up your room at home. Adding pieces of green furniture and bedding to your dorm can energize the space and give it a fresh new start. With so many shades, the color can invoke warmth with rich tones or bright energy in lighter tones.
STUDY ABROAD SPECIAL SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2013
Global Education Center
22 Normal Avenue, Montclair, New Jersey 07043

11:30 a.m.
Exchange Program Information Session

12:30 p.m.
Budgeting Tips for Study Abroad: Saving, Raising, and Winning $

1:30 p.m.
Applying for a Gilman Scholarship for Study Abroad (Pell Grant Recipients Only)

2:30 p.m.
Study Abroad Information Session

DID YOU KNOW?
- Montclair State University offers academic programs in over 50 countries
- Semester, academic year, summer, and short-term programs are available
- Programs can fit into most majors’ study plans without delaying graduation
- Financial aid is available (grants, loans, scholarships)
- Credits for study abroad towards major, minor or general education requirements are possible
- Classes are available in English
- Employers value international experience and it’s a resume booster
- You will have the experience of a lifetime!

Register via the link on our website: montclair.edu/GlobalEd/studyabroad

STUDY ABROAD WEEKLY INFORMATION SESSIONS
Every Wednesday, 2:30 p.m.
Global Ed Conference Room  22 Normal Avenue (across from Pacer Athletics Center)  No Pre-Registration Required
Bi-ing Out Feminism

Lisauxie Doyle
Staff writer

Young women are accused of many things. As little girls, they may be tossed aside as frivolous or overly-imaginative. As teenagers, they suffer dramatics and are desperate for attention, and as young adults in college, they are prone to phases and promiscuity. Particularly, bisexual women are often cast aside as lesbians in denial or straight girls “going through” something. This is such an absurd phenomenon that the moniker L.U.G. (Lesbian Until Graduation) threatens to follow any woman who explores her sexuality in college.

Why are bisexual women so desired? In “lesbian” porn, the actresses typically perform for a third, presumably male viewer. The inclusion of this male consumer is not necessarily limited to lesbian porn, but because the genre allegedly centers on men and women, they are identified as having a “lesbian” side and a “straight” side. Bisexual individuals are thus split between these conflicting identities. Bisexual women are often accused of wanting “the best of both worlds” or “fence-sitting.”

They are also perceived as more able and willing to assimilate into straight, mainstream society than lesbians. One element of oppression some lesbians face comes from an overly masculine appearance. To “pass” for straight, in this sense, is a cop-out, compared to lesbians whose sexuality is less than ambiguous. The bisexual woman is characterized by many lesbian scholars as an interloper who can play straight in the streets but queer in the sheets.

Because she can have the option of avoiding conflicts or judgment many lesbians face, she is viewed as more likely to abandon the gay rights’ struggle. Coupled with this perceived willingness to switch between men and women and thus bring back diseases from both sides of the fence, is the assumption that because a bisexual can have it all, she automatically will want it all. Many criticize bisexuals for promiscuity.

One prominent scholar on bisexuality, Paula Rust, observed that environment can alter identities. A woman who loves other women may call herself a lesbian to appease her girlfriend, but “queer” at a feminist conference. The term “lesbian,” in this case, is more intimately self-explanatory, but may be exchanged for “queer” or “dyke” as a more confrontational, more politically-charged term.

As Girlfriends magazine writer Jenny Weiss puts it, “Of all the words for bisexual, the worst is probably bisexual.” Challenging the term bisexual is the recent appropriation of “queer.” While bisexuality is deeply associated with two genders, queer de-emphasizes the sex aspect of relationships and blurs the gender binary. “Queer” represents a viable alternative for many, yet there remain those who stand by “bisexual.”

By Alfred Kinsey’s scale, the majority of people in America fall in the gray areas between an entirely heterosexual 0 and an entirely homosexual 6. This scale measures three elements of sexuality: practices, desires and identity.

According to a study by Rust, almost half of the lesbians she surveyed had been with a man; of lesbians who had been out for 20+ years, 93 percent of them had sex with men. Perhaps seeing sexuality as a colorful spectrum is helpful in understanding its fluidity for many. If sexuality is so fluid, let’s just go with the flow.

Give us your feedback! Comment Online themontclarion.org

Feature

Jennifer Baumgardner, Look Both Ways

Bi-ing Out Feminism

“I believe in the radical possibilities of pleasure, babe,” spat punk band, Bikini Kill frontrunner Kathleen Hanna as a rallying cry to feminists to reclaim sexuality on their own terms.

Bi-ing Out Feminism

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‘Don’t You Worry Child’
Letters from Jordan

Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has.”
- Margaret Mead

Over the past two weeks, me and two other students went with two members of the Montclair faculty to Amman, Jordan to film a documentary before the semester began. The project was “Hayatuna Amman,” a program designed to give arts education to the underserved children of Jordan, whether in the areas of deepest poverty or the orphanages and abandoned youth of Amman. The children were approaching the time of their first performance on Jan. 19, and we were going to go to film the trials and tribulations of these teachers and children leading up to the event. It was a last-minute assignment, as we had expedited passports, throwing together equipment and extensive consulting of students who had travelled to the area in recent memory. We flew out to Frankfurt two weeks from being notified that we received the funding with little understanding of the region, arriving in the dead of night on Jan. 11.

Our understanding of the climate of the Middle East resembled that of our conceptions of the American Southwest: there were the cacti, scorpions and harsh sands, but in reality, it resembled our familiar mild summers and cold, dry winters. Spiritus Mundi, the Swedish NGO that funds the Hayatuna project housed us at their apartment, which served mostly as their headquarters and secondarily as lodging for the pedagogues that come internationally to teach. The crew and I were mostly holed up with a tattooed Swedish rapper who comes periodically to teach songwriting.

As to be expected, in any narrative, our expectations were insufficient to prepare us for the work ahead. Amman wasn’t the third-world dust-bowl we’d anticipated. It was a sprawling, densely populated city of five million; western, metropolitan and safe to roam at all times of day and night. The Jordanian and Palestinian people were the most energetic and welcoming we’d ever met, with infectious energy and unmatched hospitality.

We started filming meetings and rehearsals and learning about the pedagogues, including the singers, thespians, rappers, dancers and other diverse talents that made up the Hayatuna team. The more time we spent in the workshops, however, the more we started to observe the children. When we’d allowed ourselves this kind of rededication to our subjects, it was as if every door opened to us. When we went to visit the orphanages where Islam and some of the other children in the program spent their days and nights, we were led on a guided tour of the facilities by none other than Islam herself. Saja Naji took us to Jabal Al-Natheef, Amman’s most impoverished neighborhood where she grew up. She took us into her home, introduced us to her parents, aunts, uncles and friends and walked us to the community center to show us the photographs she’d taken as part of a workshop. For a society we were certain would be cloistered, conservative and resistant, we were allowed to look in on their lives in ways almost no casual observer is ever permitted.

Our experience in Amman was of blissful failure: a failure of prejudice, a failure of expectation, a failure of resignation. We were there, however, with no particular immediate aim in sight under the care of an interested party and in a culture that we believed would be resistant to American voyeurism.

As we allowed ourselves this kind of redefinition to our subjects, it was as if every door opened to us. When we went to visit the orphanage where Islam and some of the other children in the program spent their days and nights, we were led on a guided tour of the facilities by none other than Islam herself. Saja Naji took us to Jabal Al-Natheef, Amman’s most impoverished neighborhood where she grew up. She took us into her home, introduced us to her parents, aunts, uncles and friends and walked us to the community center to show us the photographs she’d taken as part of a workshop. For a society we were certain would be cloistered, conservative and resistant, we were allowed to look in on their lives in ways almost no casual observer is ever permitted.

Our experience in Amman was one of the main subjects of the upcoming film. When we’d allowed ourselves this kind of rededication to our subjects, it was as if every door opened to us. When we went to visit the orphanage where Islam and some of the other children in the program spent their days and nights, we were led on a guided tour of the facilities by none other than Islam herself. Saja Naji took us to Jabal Al-Natheef, Amman’s most impoverished neighborhood where she grew up. She took us into her home, introduced us to her parents, aunts, uncles and friends and walked us to the community center to show us the photographs she’d taken as part of a workshop. For a society we were certain would be cloistered, conservative and resistant, we were allowed to look in on their lives in ways almost no casual observer is ever permitted.

Our experience in Amman was of blissful failure: a failure of prejudice, a failure of expectation, a failure of resignation. We were pushed to our greatest triumphs as documentary filmmakers by our subjects and the commitment that we developed through our attention and involvement. There’s a certain emotionally dangerous attachment that comes with that kind of immersion in your subject.

It was hard for any of us to leave Jordan, though the work had just begun. We were already receiving Facebook messages from the kids in Jabal Al-Natheef. “When can we see the movie?” “What time is it in America?” “When will you return? We miss you!”

There’s a gratification in a job well done, or even in knowing you’ve just set out in a larger endeavor, or in knowing that your love and labor is needed. For those of us who returned from Amman, that gratification is expressed in our commitment and will constantly live on in our heart.

To read the complete day-to-day chronicles of the trip, and find out about how the performance went, read “Letters from Jordan” at themontclarion.org
Greetings from Newcastle upon Tyne! Four fellow Red Hawks and I made the journey to the United Kingdom to study abroad for a semester at Northumbria University. Upon arriving, we were greeted by friendly people and helpful advisors. We were all skeptical as to what we should expect and most of us did not really prepare ourselves mentally to be alone in a completely foreign country. But we were all pleasantly surprised at how helpful and welcoming the locals were.

I was expecting to get some sort of culture shock, but British culture is extremely similar to ours in the United States. There are a few differences, however, like the amount of time people spend partying. Compared to Montclair State University, students here go out almost every night. There are even a few pubs on campus that cater to students. Besides that, life abroad pretty much mimics that of a normal student back at MSU.

With the first two days of classes over, we are still figuring out how classes will lay out for the rest of the semester. Unlike Montclair, most of my classes do not have exams during the term. Instead, a single paper or final exam counts as 100 percent of your grade. In other classes, professors are more lax with attendance, as long as all of your work is handed in.

Rosemary Soto, a junior, was surprised when she went to her classes. “The people here were friendly. The tutors were very helpful and explained the course content to real world situations.”

To read the rest of Adriana’s story, visit our website themontclarion.org
Wanted: 29 Serious People to Work from Home using a computer. Up to $1500 - $5K PT/FT www.ValleyIncomeOnline.com

Before school care and driver needed for 12 and 14 year old in our Cedar Grove home (close to campus) from 7A-8A Monday to Thursday. References, background clearances and car required for transportation to school. 610-993-8796 or ncarrelli@carebridge.com

Needed ASAP: P/T caring babysitter for 2-yr-old daughter. 3 days/week, schedule flexible. Needed for morning routine and daycare drop-off, noon pick-up, afternoons. Must drive/have car, prior childcare experience, references. Extremely discounted apartment available for right person. Contact Logan 707-797-7773 for interview.

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MUSIC
How well do you know artists and songs? Try our Music Crossword, and guess these popular songs!

Across
1 Male Lead from The White Stripes
3 Black Key's 2010 Album
5 "Where Is My Mind?"
8 "Sail"
11 "Twist and ___"
12 "M&M"
13 Song featured on Beyonce's Album "4"
15 The Kooks 2008 Album
18 Album: Of the Colour Of the Blue Sky
21 "I Am In ____"
23 The Weeknd's 2011 Album
24 Channel Orange, Frank

Down
2 "Turn Me On With Your ___"
4 David Guetta feat. Sia
6 Michael Jackson Classic
7 A$AP Rocky Single
9 The Listening
10 "Starships" Singer
13 Mylo Xyloto Artist
14 Greenday's 1994 Album
16 Blues Singer, Redding
17 Kid Cudi & Dot Da Genius Album
19 Somebody That I Used To Know
20 Welcome To the Black Parade
22 "Forever ___"

LOVE TO DRAW?
SUBMIT A COMIC STRIP TO THE MONTCLARION TO BE FEATURED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!

EMAIL MSUPRODUCTION@GMAIL.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

THE RED HAWK PALS by Ashley Matarama
well here we are again.
I'm having bed withdrawal...
At least there's activities throughout the week!

Better mark them on my calendar. Oh this one looks good!

Go to Embedbe.blogspot.com to catch up on the previous episodes of Heartbreaking Harold
The Montclarion MSUOpinion@gmail.com

May have not truly stuck by its name as the “chaos year.” The end of the world is now a major debate about gun control laws. Obama has just been inaugurated, and now is debating the improvement on gun control. Many states have also been debating the issue of having armed guards in public schools. Long Island citizens have voted for having armed guards in their schools, although Mayor Bloomberg himself doesn’t agree with their decision. He believes this would be promoting guns instead of restricting gun use.

A Florida mother named Laura Lauria has donated $11,000 to her child’s elementary school so that the school may hire armed guards, but once again, seeing guns may not be the most suitable approach when it comes to securing schools. Not only can the sight of a gun leave an impression on children, it is also not a fool-proof defense mechanism. For example, Columbine had armed guards present, but that didn’t stop Klebold and Harris to commit such a heinous act. Others have suggested that professors and teachers should be armed with weapons, which once again leaves a very impressionable image in a child’s mind. Also, having professors armed would be outra- geous. No student will feel safe knowing there is a gun in their classroom.

The answer to our gun laws isn’t what is in question, though. In fact, the question is about making public schools and universities safer. How many times have we had people sleeping in our libraries and lounges and have found out they are neither staff nor stu- dents of the university? There needs to be improvements made to our own school’s security. The first step would be to install more cameras on campus. Many public schools use building security booths as an access point into a building. Others are even investing in metal detectors and bulletproof glass. This may be some things to consider when discussing the improvement of campus security. Let’s face the facts: it is impossible to stop illegal activity, which includes illegal firearm trades, but school security is one thing we can focus on that may actually make a difference.

Students Speak

In what ways can Montclair improve security on campus?

Mike Panepinto
Sophomore
Broadcasting

“Montclair can improve security on campus by adding some video cameras in certain places that aren’t accessible, like the Student Center because I know that some robberies have occurred down there and I think that would help. Also, [they should] have more cops in the Student Center and [other] public areas because I think that the cops are around. [However], they’re not in the places that are too pop- ulated and they don’t help the students out that much.”

Lisa Burnup
Junior
Family and Child Studies

“I think that they should put cameras near every dorm building, just because when you walk at night time alone, it can be really scary, but that can be prevented by the cam- eras, so you know someone is always watching.”

Amber Kusching
Sophomore
Theater Studies

“The problem that I have with security is the blue light phones that are sup- posed to be available around campus. You’re supposed to be able to get a phone from no matter where you are on campus. They’re very hard to see, which is not a very good situation because they’re supposed to be very easily accessible, and some of them aren’t. They should be available to everybody, and I don’t think a lot of people even know that those resources are available.”

Jose Guifarro
Freshman
Undeclared

“I think that in order to have more security around campus, they should have more security guards.”

A Gun Controlled Environment

This past year has truly been like the year known as the “chaos year.” The end of the world may have not hap- pened, but an enor- mous amount of trag- edy happened in 2012. With both the Aurora, Colo., and Sandy Hook shootings happening only a few months af- ter one another, these incidents have caused a major debate about gun control laws.

Obama has just been inaugurated and now is debating if this much needed reform on gun control will be his primary focus for the next four years. With the main focus on the reformation on gun control, many have not considered upgrading the school security system. There is much debate that an armed America would be the best form of tactical defense in the country, meaning the purchasing of guns will become an easier pro- cess. This kind of ideal- ism could be promoting guns, giving more citi- zens a feeling of security knowing that a pistol is strapped to their thigh.

As much as those who have guns would like to keep them, the pro- motion of guns could also cause a potential power struggle now that everyone has an equal opportunity and a fighting chance.

The other men- tality would be to take away weapons or make them much harder to obtain, which would lead to less guns users in the USA, but could mean losing their only means of de- fending themselves. Those who are naturally malicious will not be as willing as a citizen to give up their weapons. The on-going debate has definitely cornered our president. He has posted his stance on the matter on the White House’s website. Some of the policies he touches upon are as fol- lows: Obama and Biden support community cam- paigns to prevent youth violence. They plan to make the “Assault Weap- ons Ban” permanent and give police officers across the nation gun trace in- formation, making it easier to solve gun crimes and illegal arms trades. The president has not made any of these policies official, but these are some speculations as to what will be changed over the course of his presidency. Many states have also been debating the issue of having armed guards in public schools. Long Island residents have voted for having armed guards in their schools, although Mayor Bloomberg himself doesn’t agree with their decision. He believes this would be promoting guns instead of restricting gun use.

A Florida mother named Laura Lauria has donated $11,000 to her child’s elementary school so that the school may hire armed guards, but once again, seeing guns may not be the most suit- able approach when it comes to securing schools. Not only can the sight of a gun leave an impres- sion on children, it is also not a fool-proof defense mechanism. For example, Columbine had armed guards present, but that didn’t stop Klebold and Harris to commit such a heinous act. Others have suggested that professors and teach- ers should be armed with weapons, which once again leaves a very impression- able image in a child’s mind.

Also, having professors armed would be outra- geous. No student will feel safe knowing there is a gun in their classroom.

The answer to our gun laws isn’t what is in question, though. In fact, the ques- tion is about mak- ing public schools and universities safer.

How many times have we had peo- ple sleeping in our li- braries and lounges and have found out they are neither staff nor stu- dents of the university? There needs to be im- proves made to our own school’s security. The first step would be to install more cameras on campus. Many public schools use building security booths as an access point into a building. Others are even invest- ing in metal detect- ors and bulletproof glass. This may be some things to con- consider when discuss- ing the improvement of campus security.

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A Barbie Girl Living in the Real World

Ukrainian model chooses the plastic life, life in plastic not so fantastic

Since her creation in 1959, Barbie has been a role model to the young girls who played with her, but her personal style to gain popularity by changing their appearance to look like an actual Barbie doll.

From inhumanly narrow waists to blouched hair and perfectly portioned facial features, these girls have learned from physical reconstruction to give off the illusion that they are living doll.

Ukrainian model Valeria Lukyanova is the most publicized person who uses cosmetic tricks and her tiny waist, likely coaxed to its size by a tightening corset, to play Barbie in real life.

Although Lukyanova is not the only girl who dresses as a human doll, many others have found fame in their appearance and simply having fun.

These doll girls intentionally fabinet-gasted me, especially Lukyanova, who strives so openly to fit the "Barbie" image.

It's no secret that for decades, women have tried to look like Barbi and her tiny waist, likely coaxed to its size by a tightening corset, to play Barbie in real life.

The fact remains that ever since the 1960s, when women began to feel more like Barbie, or should I say a plastic toy with a fictional life style by nature is unachievable.

However, a new trend in internet culture has taken emulating Barbie and her style to a new level of reality.

In the past few years, some young women have taken to copying Barbie, but in their personal lives to gain popularity by changing their appearance to look like an actual Barbie doll.

In an interview with V Magazine, Lukyanova completely missed the point in her article.

"I know many, many girls who have used cosmetic tricks on their skin and hair, but I don't believe in plastic surgery. I believe in natural beauty and potential, women at least have something to represent."

Instead of embracing personal appearance, but about the limitless possibilities of imagination and potential in life.

"In a world where many professionals are directly inspired by Lukyanova, it's not surprising that the first constructed image of femininity girls see Barbie a candy store and not sacrificing things like friendship for personal appearance and simply having fun in order to have that occupation.

If this is what you imagine, then Lukyanova has completely missed the point in her transformation as a symbol of this generation.

In an interview with V Magazine, Lukyanova said, "Many people say bad things about people who want to perfect themselves. This is how they justify not wanting to strive for self-improvement." I would argue that they are both wrong.

You can say the most hurtful and vile things to someone online and feel it's apro- priate to talk to these people as if they do not matter.

You can say the most hurtful and vile things to someone online and feel it's apro- priate to talk to these people as if they do not matter.

The point is that people have grown up in an Internet-influenced era. All they know is social media, social networking, smartphones and Google. You can create relationships with people from the confines of your room and never go out and interact with real people, and some are completely isolated as a result.

Social media has inadvertently caused people to think that the things that lack communication skills so much that so many of us can no longer relate to each other.

In the online world, we have reduced other human beings to avatars and usernames who lack feelings, so we feel it's appropriate to talk to these people as if they do not matter.

You can say the most hurtful and vile things to someone online and never feel any consequence because you can hide behind anonymity.

The Internet is the gift and the curse of the modern world. People who never had a voice now have the forum to say anything to anyone and that power can be mis- used and abused quickly.

There are also individuals who build friendships and alliances online with people with whom they must likely never meet in real life. Inse- cure individuals will go to the ends of the Earth to protect this persona, not realizing that once you turn off your laptop or mobile device, you are completely isolated with that.

As long as the internet provides anonymity, humanity, humans will continue to lose touch with each other.

There is no obvious solution as to the revival of compassion.

This country especially thrives on entertainment and drama.

People will continue to stand by and watch others fight, get attacked or even killed as long as they are the first to get "likes" and approval for uploading the videos.

What can be done? Is there any way that we can better relate to each other? Will this genera- tion just continue to contribute to the demise of all things humane?

Answers are imperative if we ever want to generate any transformation in the world.

Kristen Bryfogle, a Classics major, is in her first year as an assistant opinion editor for The Montclarion.

SUKHIE BLODENDU" (Bledendu's) argument that university faculty should not use their titles when they write outside of their specialty is completely non-sensical and is definitely not practiced by the swarm of anti-empireialists who have flooded the academic world." -Petras Georgiou

We at The Montclarion have crowned "The Voice of the Webs" as an effort to provide an open forum for the unheard voices of our community. It is an opportunity for editors for greater and spelling.

It is The Montclarion's discretion to obtain from printing any correspondents contributions, to staff, students or persons in particular.

In regard to "The Defamation of Furor Fure," "The Voices in Our Web" is an effort to provide an open forum for the unheard voices of our community. It is an opportunity for editors for greater and spelling.

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"When [Fure] writes and speaks on the subject of English literature, he is using his title of profes- sor properly. When Grover Furr claims that he is a professor at Montclair State, in the course of writing an article, he is using his title of profes- sor properly. When Grover Furr flooded the academic world." -Petras Georgiou

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The Man of A Thousand Locks
An investigation into Nicolas Cage’s ever-changing, ever-beautiful hairdos

Toward the end of last semester, an esteemed colleague of mine took the liberty to write an article (or article highlight) highlighting the work of art that is Nicolas Cage, whose reputation, as she pointed out, is seemingly impeccable, especially after considering some of the roles he has chosen in the past (The Wicker Man immediately comes to mind).

That is not to say he is a bad actor, as my colleague also clearly noted that his talent allows through in films such as "Adaptation" or "Leaving Las Vegas." Perhaps Nicolas Cage simply lives making films, particularly bad films, so that he can keep his "good" reputation among his new fans, especially those who have a "good" reputation among his new fans, particularly those who have a "good" reputation among his new fans.

Not only does Cage have the talent for choosing bad roles, and then using those roles to advance his popularity, he also has a knack for buying outlandish and extravagant properties, only to foreclose on them a few years later. Over the past six years, Nicolas Cage has purchased at least six different properties, which included a castle in Bavaria and his $10.5 million Bel Air Home, which real estate agent Bret Parmasa described as a "trout house bordello," according to an article on AccountingWeb's website entitled "Nicolas Cage: A Tale of Multiple Foreclosures." Even after paying $6.25 million in back taxes last year, Mr. Cage still owes the Internal Revenue Service $87 million in back taxes, dating as early as 2002.

Many actors would crumble and fade away under such circumstances, yet Nicolas Cage continues to act with his resilience in Hollywood circles. How is this possible? Is there some sort of secret weapon that Nicolas Cage has in his arsenal that allows him to bounce back so rigorously? After doing some in-depth research regarding this phenomenon, it has been discovered that the key to Nicholas Cage's resilience and success is his hair.

Nicolas Cage's hair, the secret to his acting immortality, has often been referred to as "Puggy Sue Got Married" in 1996 to "Season of the Witch" in 2011—is consistently bad, had to the point where critics and fans tend not to care about the movies he stars in as much as they care about what type of bird's nest will be resting atop his head next. His hair is a metaphor for his career; it is often ugly, but it is this ugliness that allows for a more personable approach when regarding his work, allowing Mr. Cage the freedom to abuse his hair to the advantage of his acting career.

What is Nicolas Cage's hair like? This question has perplexed scientists for years, and much to their dismay has left a distinct anomaly in the field of muggery.

What most researchers failed to recognize is that Nicolas Cage's hair is actually grafted from multiple sources to fit whatever role he is currently portraying. For example, while Cage used grafts from his back and chest hair in order to create that memorable "my head hair looks like it was grated from my chest hair" look in "The Wicker Man," the cast and crew put together dried shrubs and left over fur from the bear suit used in the movie in order to create the beautiful quaff we saw on screen.

In "Con Air," Nicolas Cage actually had threads from the Shroud of Turin woven into his existing strands in order to create that Jesus Christ look he pulled off so well. Where there is a movie or a character doing some in-depth research needs to be done before this rumor can be confirmed.

Cage used patches of his hair in order to create the beautiful quaff we saw on screen. His hair has provided the cornerstone with which he has erected his career. It has provided comic relief for countless YouTube enthusiasts watching him flip out on screen, and has also quelled the aggression he is often faced with from the IRS.

It has helped him win over millions and will continue to do so until it decides to leave us and join the alien race from whence it came.

It has been donated to charity to be reborn as a book. It has become the equivalent to the Rosetta Stone, allowing us to join the alien race from whence it came.

It has been rumored that in New Orleans near one of his new sold properties, Cage actually used patches of his hair in order to treat a stab wound victim prior to the arrival of the ambulance.

Not only was the wound completely healed by the time they arrived to the hospital, but there was also a small imprint of what looked like Nicolas Cage’s face where the wound used to be. More research needs to be done before this rumor can be confirmed.

If you are looking for more supplemental material, it is suggested that you should watch "The Evolution of Nicolas Cage's Hair: Enjoy!"

Levon Syers, an English major, is in his first year as a columnist for The Montclarion.

The Second Amendment Calls for Recoil

Recent shootings call for the reevaluation of the second amendment

With the theater shootings in Aurora, Colo., and the most recent shooting of 26 people, 20 of whom were children in Newtown, Conn., one can’t deny it’s been a tough year. We hear about more and more shootings on the news and they are happening more frequently.

The Sandy Hook massacre has sparked a nationwide awareness for the need for gun control. Most scream for tougher gun control laws while others feel the need to loosen the laws and break down the wall between the armed and dangerous and civilians.

Since Sandy Hook, President Obama and other government officials have made the reformation of gun control laws their top priority.

However, gun control laws are going to pose a difficult challenge to change because many want to keep the Second Amendment. Others say that Sandy Hook is the last straw and revisions to the law must be made.

 Aren’t we past the days where a gun in each house is safe and reasonableness, common sense was drafted away back in the 1700s? Furthermore, if every household had a gun, wouldn’t that cause more trouble instead of keeping the peace? The Second Amendment, which was intended as a way to find random things to do and not have someone willingly take your gun, wouldn’t that cause more trouble instead of keeping the peace?

While Long Island residents have voted, many are still opposed. New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and public schools chancellor Dennis Walcott are both very opposed to the idea of placing armed guards in Long Island schools. They are both long-standing supporters of stricter gun controls and regulation.

President Obama, another supporter of stricter gun control has placed gun control laws on his to do list as well. He intends to sign seven different executive checks on any gun buyer, renew a ban on military-grade assault weapons, which expired back in 2004 and place a ban on high-capacity ammunition clips.

If we are okay knowing every neighbor has a gun, we have to ask ourselves: How close is close enough? After Sandy Hook, many have taken to the polls to vote on how to make our children safer.

Most recently, Long Island residents voted yes on having armed guards patrolling local schools. Some say this will make the students safer. Others argue that having guns around children is asking for another Virginia Tech or Columbine.

These are facts that cannot be ignored.

If you are looking for more supplemental material, it is suggested that you should watch "The Evolution of Nicolas Cage's Hair: Enjoy!"
The 85th Academy Awards are approaching and Hollywood's biggest night is sure to be a nail biter. Here are my official predictions for all the major categories, but as we all know, anything can happen at the Oscars! Be sure to tune in on Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. on ABC to see if your favorite stars and movies from 2012 take home the gold statues.

**Best Picture Nominees:**

The Best Picture field this year is a crowded one, with nine nominees in total, but overall I see this being a three horse race in the end. The fact that Ben Affleck and Kathryn Bigelow were both shockingly left out of the best director race puts Argo and Zero Dark Thirty at a major hurdle.

Argo took home the Golden Globe for Best Picture: Drama, and would be my personal choice for the win, but Affleck's snub makes an Argo win highly unlikely. Amour was a beautifully crafted and heartfelt film, although there is no chance the Oscar this year is going to a foreign language film, so Amour is out. Quentin Tarantino's bloody, over-the-top, Django Unchained should be content with just its nomination, and has no shot at winning Best Picture. Unfortunately, this means no funny acceptance speech from Tarantino, unless he takes home best screenplay.

Beasts of the Southern Wild was one of the most critically acclaimed, low-budget indie films of all time, but now it is in the ring with the big boys and should just step to the side. Les Misérables was an on-screen musical for the ages. It was grandiose and well-staged, but no Tom Hooper in the best director category means no Best Picture for Les Misérables—sorry, England.

This leaves us with Life of Pi, Lincoln and The Silver Linings Playbook. While Life of Pi came in second with eleven total nominations, none were in the acting categories, which may hurt its odds. Ang Lee at the helm increases its odds slightly, but 90 percent of the time, a film's acting outweighs its visuals in the end. The Academy's love affair with producer Harvey Weinstein makes Silver Linings Playbook a clear frontrunner, not to mention it has acting nominations in every category. However, I'm going with Steven Spielberg's Lincoln to win best picture.

This historical drama starring the superb Daniel Day-Lewis is already being deemed an American classic, and I believe it's time Spielberg adds another statue to his collection.
More Oscar Predictions


**My Pick:** Daniel Day-Lewis, *Lincoln*

The Best Lead Actor race is one of the very few categories this year with a clear frontrunner, Daniel Day-Lewis. Lewis' performance almost made it seem like we were watching the 16th president himself on the big screen in some lost footage. From his towering presence to his famous beard, Lewis embodied Abraham Lincoln in ways that no man could ever emulate.

It was a performance for the ages, conveying a man who led America through a grave constitutional and moral crisis. Joaquin Phoenix's portrayal of the 16th president himself on the big screen in some lost footage almost made it seem like we were watching the 16th president himself in The Master, but unfortunately for Joaquin, Lewis' presence in the category questions whether his fellow nominees should even bother showing up.

But this year it's one of the toughest to forecast. That leaves us with two Oscar veterans, Robert De Niro and Tommy Lee Jones. This is almost painful to predict, but I'm giving Tommy Lee Jones the slight edge over De Niro.

Best Supporting Actor Nominees: Alan Arkin in *Argo*, Robert De Niro in *The Silver Linings Playbook*, Philip Seymour Hoffman in *The Master*, Tommy Lee Jones in *Lincoln*, Christoph Waltz recently won the Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actor, although his chances here are much slimmer, yet he is still a possibility. While Phillip Seymour Hoffman stands a shot at winning and I believe should win, the fact that *The Master* was left out of the Best Picture race really makes me question his chances. That leaves us with two Oscar veterans, Robert De Niro and Tommy Lee Jones.

Christoph Waltz recently won the Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actor, although his chances here are much slimmer, yet he is still a possibility. While Phillip Seymour Hoffman stands a shot at winning and I believe should win, the fact that *The Master* was left out of the Best Picture race really makes me question his chances. That leaves us with two Oscar veterans, Robert De Niro and Tommy Lee Jones.

**My Pick:** Tommy Lee Jones, *Lincoln*


**My Pick:** Anne Hathaway, *Les Misérables*

Like Best Lead Actor, Best Supporting Actress is pretty much set in stone. Anne Hathaway might as well start preparing her speech now, as she is a lock. After all, she didn't get a haircut for nothing. But this year it's one of the toughest to forecast.

This is another three-horse race between Emmanuelle Riva, Jennifer Lawrence and Jessica Chastain. Lawrence is building a ton of steam as the Oscars approach, not to mention her role in *The Master*. This is another three-horse race between Emmanuelle Riva, Jennifer Lawrence and Jessica Chastain.

Quvenzhané Wallis is the youngest Academy Award nominee of all time at age nine for her work in *Beasts of the Southern Wild*. This is another three-horse race between Emmanuelle Riva, Jennifer Lawrence and Jessica Chastain. Lawrence is building a ton of steam as the Oscars approach, not to mention *Silver Linings Playbook*.

**My Pick:** Jennifer Lawrence, *The Silver Linings Playbook*

Best Animated Film Nominees: *Brave*, *Frankenweenie*, *ParaNorman*, *The Pirates! Band of Misfits*, *Wreck-It Ralph*.

**My Pick:** *Frankenweenie*

Best Animated Film is typically the award that has a clear winner before the Oscars even air. Recent winners such as *Up*, *Rango* and *Toy Story 3* made this category easy to predict in the past, but this year it's one of the toughest to forecast. *Brave* was an early frontrunner, but the fact that it came out so early in the year makes it seem somewhat forgettable in the midst of the more current releases, *Frankenweenie* and *Wreck-It Ralph*.

The combination of Disney's track record in this category and the prospect of Tim Burton finally winning an Oscar makes *Frankenweenie* my pick.


**My Pick:** Jessica Chastain, *Amour*

Quvenzhané Wallis is the youngest Academy Award nominee of all time at age nine for her work in *Beasts of the Southern Wild*. I see the Academy throwing us their yearly curveball in this category; Lawrence is building a ton of steam as the Oscars approach, not to mention *Silver Linings Playbook*.

**My Pick:** Naomi Watts, *The Impossible*

From her towering presence to his famous beard, Lewis embodied Abraham Lincoln in ways that no man could ever emulate. Joaquin Phoenix was also brilliant in his return to the big screen in *The Master*, but unfortunately for Joaquin, Lewis' presence in the category questions whether his fellow nominees should even bother showing up.

It was a performance for the ages, conveying a man who led America through a grave constitutional and moral crisis. Joaquin Phoenix was also brilliant in his return to the big screen in *The Master*, but unfortunately for Joaquin, Lewis' presence in the category questions whether his fellow nominees should even bother showing up.

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**My Pick:** Tommy Lee Jones, *Lincoln*

The Best Supporting Actor category is by far the toughest category to predict this year and let me say right off the bat – Any one in this category has a shot at winning. In fact, everyone in this category has previously won at least one Oscar. Alan Arkin won an Oscar back in 2007 for *Little Miss Sunshine* when every one had their money on Eddie Murphy, so I wouldn’t be completely baffled if he somehow pulled off the win so Argo could get some much deserved gold its way, but don’t bet all your chips on this one.

**My Pick:** Daniel Day-Lewis, *Lincoln*
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The Montclarion • January 24, 2012
A new year brings new episodes from some of your favorite “can’t miss” TV shows. A new year also brings new TV shows that have the potential to reach that golden “can’t miss” status.

At this time, I’d like to call out to all you Sex and the City fans. For six years (1998-2004), millions of people fell in love with a show that was bold, funny, sexy and creative, taking place in the iconic location known as “the city that never sleeps,” New York. No one can deny that Sex and the City reached cult status by the time of its departure in 2004, taking eight Golden Globes with it. In 2008, Sex and the City was brought back to life as a movie, which produced a sequel in 2010.

The most notable character from Sex and the City was its protagonist played by Sarah Jessica Parker, Carrie Bradshaw. Throughout the years of watching her navigate the ins-and-outs of her life, you might wonder what Carrie was like before she made it big in the city. Guess what? You don’t have to wonder anymore.

On Monday, Jan. 14, the pilot episode of The Carrie Diaries aired. The show, which is a prequel to Sex and the City and based on the book series written by Candace Bushnell, follows Carrie Bradshaw, a junior in high school living in Connecticut with her father and her 14-year-old sister, Dorrit. The show begins in the year 1984, a year belonging to the decade where the music revolution of rock n’ roll was in its golden years, the fashion scene was becoming reborn, diversity and culture were springing up around every corner and people were embracing their individuality while trying to bring their dreams to life (If I had the chance to be alive to experience any decade of my choosing, it would be the 1980s, without a doubt).

The pilot introduced the young Carrie Bradshaw, portrayed by AnnaSophia Robb, trying to get over the loss of her mother to cancer. Luckily, Carrie has her three best friends: Jill, Maggie and Walt. Maggie and Walt have been together for two years, but Walt is slowly realizing that he’s gay and Maggie definitely isn’t deserving of the “girlfriend of the year” title. In an effort to raise her spirits, Carrie’s father gets her an internship for one day a week at a law firm in Carrie’s dream city, Manhattan. On her first day of her internship, Carrie meets Larissa Loughlin, a style-editor for Interview Magazine, and is automatically taken under Larissa’s wing due to her purse. The pilot focused on the importance of family and friends around you, especially in a time of mourning. The second episode, “Lie to Me”, which aired Jan. 21, showed the importance of being honest and trustworthy to and for the ones you love and care about because lies have the tendency to catch up to you at some point or another. Carrie experiences the consequences and the rewards of honesty with her father, her sister, her boss at the law firm and with her love interest, Sebastian Kydd, portrayed by Austin Butler.

So if you were a fan of Sex and the City and of Carrie Bradshaw, I definitely recommend that you give The Carrie Diaries a glance. The Carrie Diaries airs Monday nights at 8 p.m. on the CW network.
Hugh Jackman also won a very well-deserved Golden Globe for Best Actor in a Comedy or Musical. But although the actor has Broadway experience, his vocals fell slightly short: “The sharp quality of his voice did not quite fit. He seemed to be suffering from a slightly nasally case of overactive vibrato. But Jackman gave a truly heart-wrenching performance as the lovable ex-con and did an astounding job conveying the myriad of complex emotions. Russell Crowe plays Javert, the policeman who not only fights with protagonist Valjean, but also undergoes intense internal conflict as he tries to balance his infallible sense of right and wrong and obedience to the law with his own moral compass. Although Crowe began his career in musical theater, the Oscar-winning actor’s performance falls short. His monotone demeanor throughout the film does this complex character no justice. All in all, however, the major picture motion rendition of Les Misérables marries the classic Broadway masterpiece with metricus attention to detail and incredible artistic vision from director Tom Hooper.

19th Century Classic Gets a Hollywood Debut
Review of the Drama Les Misérables

Kelly McGrady
Staff Writer

Do you want the people’s song? I mean singing for the long-awaited arrival of Les Misérables to theaters. Tom Hooper’s adaptation of the hit musical that shares its name erupted in theaters this Christmas. The motion picture is based on the long beloved Broadway sensation which has been seen by more than 60 million people in 42 countries and in 21 languages around the globe and is still breaking box-office records everywhere in its 28th year.

Originally based on Victor Hugo’s novel Les Misérables set against the backdrop of 19th century France, the story dictates the journey of ex-prisoner Jean Valjean and his endless chase with policeman Javert, who dedicates his life to hunting down Valjean after he breaks his parole. After 10 years of hiding and what he thinks is a new start, Valjean agrees to care for factory worker Fantine’s young daughter, Cosette. Les Misérables depicts a breath-taking story of broken dreams and unrequited love, of passion and sacrifice and of strength and of the power of human spirit. The film is a new start, Valjean agrees to care for factory worker Fantine’s young daughter, Cosette.

The King’s Speech Academy Award-winning director, Tom Hooper, the stage-to-screen musical, has assembled an all-star cast including Hugh Jackman (Jean Valjean), Russell Crowe (Javert), Anne Hathaway (Fantine), Amanda Seyfried (Cosette), Eddie Redmayne (Marius), Aaron Tveit (Enjolras), Samantha Barks (Eponine), Helena Bonham Carter (Madame Thenardier) and Sacha Baron Cohen (Thénardier). Hooper not only dedicated an immense amount of time and effort transforming the critically-acclaimed Broadway musical to fit the realm of film, but also to achieve a balance between film and live theater. For this reason, along with many others, Hooper had his entire cast sing live while filming instead of pre-recording and lip-syncing. “The only way to make this work is by capturing it in the moment,” Hooper explained. Moved to tears while reading the screenplay, he said, “With the combination of the way the music made me feel and the effect the screenplay had on me, I thought there was an amazing opportunity to work in an emotional way.”

Did the film do this incredibly well-known musical justice? In my humble opinion the movie was extremely well done, aside from a few minor complaints, and also at times had me in tears. No moment was more tear-jerking than Anne Hathaway’s portrayal of the tragic Fantine. Her soliloquy, “I Dreamed a Dream” earned her a well-deserved Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actress.

Jackman’s portrayal of Valjean is jam-packed with a lipstick-full of starting and singing stars including Hugh Jackman (Jean Valjean), Russell Crowe (Javert), Anne Hathaway (Fantine), Amanda Seyfried (Cosette), Eddie Redmayne (Marius), Aaron Tveit (Enjolras), Samantha Barks (Eponine), Helena Bonham Carter (Madame Thenardier) and Sacha Baron Cohen (Thénardier). Hooper not only dedicated an immense amount of time and effort transforming the critically-acclaimed Broadway musical to fit the realm of film, but also to achieve a balance between film and live theater. For this reason, along with many others, Hooper had his entire cast sing live while filming instead of pre-recording and lip-syncing. “The only way to make this work is by capturing it in the moment,” Hooper explained. Moved to tears while reading the screenplay, he said, “With the combination of the way the music made me feel and the effect the screenplay had on me, I thought there was an amazing opportunity to work in an emotional way.”

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Les Misérables

Girls: A Breath of Fresh Air

Daniell DeSisto
Staff Writer

Girls, an up-and-coming comedy series on HBO, premiered its second season on Jan. 13. While I had never heard of the series before a few weeks ago, everyone I approached about the show had plenty to ramble over, from the brilliance of creator and star Lena Dunham to the realistic light shed upon spoiled white women in their 20s.

Girls managed to match two Golden Globes this year (Best Television Series — Comedy or Musical and Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series to creator and star Lena Dunham) along with numerous Emmy nominations. Clearly, this is a show that gets people talking. The series follows Hannah Horvath (played by Lena Dunham), an aspiring writer attempting to balance her life after her parents choose to stop financially supporting her. In Season 2, Hannah’s challenges include taking care of her non-financial partner, Adam, who was hit by a truck on her bicycle. Along for the ride are Hannah’s best friend, Marnie, who loses her job in the Season 2 opener after her company “downsizes,” Jessa, who just recently returned from her honeymoon after rushing into marriage; Shoshanna, a quirky and innocent girl dealing with the aftermath of losing her virginity; and Elijah, Hannah’s ex-boyfriend-turned-gay who is residing as her roommate.

I found the first two episodes of Season 2 (all that have aired so far) to be enjoyable and easy to follow, considering my prior lack of knowledge. Despite the fact that the plot line seems to be steering out of control at times, the overall show is entertaining and has some really fantastic comic moments. The characters are also lovable and I rooted for them to achieve their goals throughout the episodes.

Nevertheless, the aspect I found most interesting about Girls was its portrayal of the average-looking woman. Lena Dunham, while by no means “fat,” is not the skinniest actress on the planet, nor the most attractive overall. However she chooses (after all, she writes and directs the show) to appear naked or scantily clad in numerous scenes. I myself can’t think of many shows in television who shed light on women who don’t possess perfect figures. I found that aspect of Girls to be extremely refreshing and re-enforced the realistic tone of the series.

Girls is certainly a show worth checking out for anyone looking for a light comedy with a side of drama and will be a breath of fresh air for those tired of seeing models rule the television scene. Girls airs on HBO on Sundays at 9 p.m.

Girls

Follow me on twitter: @emontclairian
You can start putting away your Mighty Ducks VHS tapes because this glorious 15-day lockout has finally come to an end. It had taken numerous locked-out NHLers, NHLPA (Players Association) and the NHL owners in dire at- tempt to come to an agreement. Up to a collective bargaining agree- ment that would accommodate both sides, the NHL owners, seemingly, this lockout was very similar in comparisons with last year’s NHL and NBA lockout disputes between the two sides. However, this had now been the third time a lockout had oc- curred under NHL commissioner Gary Bettman. I can now under- stand why fans decide to boo at Bettman when he comes out on the ice every year to present the Conn Smythe Trophy as well as the team that wins the Stanley Cup. Despite whether fans dis- approve of Bettman, they are still on him to keep his end goal is indeed back for a jam-packed 48-game season. In fact, all 31 home openers were sold out.

Here are some of the re- percussions that have taken place during the past scheduled games they lost a total of 32 games, with some teams not being able to keep up with their current- cence, the cancellations of both the All-Star Game as well as the popular Winter Classic game that’s played outdoors. This lock- out has also forced teams to only have a week’s worth of training and their home openers were sold out. The Red Hawks currently hold on to the lead for the conference lead, scoring 68 points within one later in the opening half, but the Red Hawks followed with an 8-0 run to take a nine- point lead midway through the half. That was the closest that the opponents would get, as the Red Hawks held on for a 20-point win, marking the 10th time this season the Red Hawks have the deepest roster in the nation, and are currently ranked 12th according to NCAA. com. Thanks to her record set- ting effort, Henry was named NJAC Player of the Week, be- coming the first Red Hawk to receive this honor this season. In the Red Hawks’ two confer- ence games, Henry nearly aver- aged a triple double, averaging 12 points, 10.5 rebounds and 8 steals per game. She currently leads the NJAC in field goal per- centage, shooting .519 from the field. Henry is also second in the league in steals with 3.9 per game.

The undefeated Red Hawks return to action on Wednesday, Jan. 23 as they host conference rival William Paterson. The Hawks are one of nine remaining unbeaten teams in the nation, and are currently overall pick in the NHL Draft, Adam Larsson. He’s been a healthy scratch in their first two games which may indicate that head coach Peter DeBoer doesn’t think Larsson fitting into the teams mold as of yet.

There are a few other things to look out for in this years season. Will Alexander Ovechkin ever become the elite player he once was or have teams around the league seemed to have figured him out to a sci- ence? It will be interesting to see if the Vancouver Canucks find a trade partner in dealing away their goalie Roberto Lu- ongo. The Edmonton Oilers will an exciting team to watch. They have the last three number one overall draft picks who are all offensively savvy. Let’s also see if whether last year’s defend- ing champions, the Los Angeles Kings, can bounce back from a slow start.

You can start signing up for your hockey team because the puck have dropped and the talks about a lock-out season can be put to rest.

**THE FOUNDATION FOR A BETTER LIFE**

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Men's Basketball

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Who's Hot This Week

Esteban Morales
Men’s Swimming and Diving
Morales became the second Red Hawk to win NJAC Diver of the Week this season after his performance against NJAC rival, Rowan. After tying for second in the first diving event with a score of 101.30, Morales claimed first place in the second with a score of 111.60.

Nicosis Henry
Guard - Basketball
Henry earned NJAC Player of the Week for the second time after averaging 12 points, 10.5 rebounds and 8 steals as the Red Hawks went 2-0 last weekend. Henry also posted a school record 12 steals in a 68-48 win over Rutgers-Newark. Henry currently leads the NJAC in field goal percentage with .519.

Game of the Week

Women’s Basketball
vs. William Paterson
January 23, 8 p.m.

The 12th ranked Montclair State Red Hawks look to continue their unbeaten season with a win against conference foe William Paterson.

For updates, check out: www.montclairathletics.com and @TheMontclarion on Twitter

Swimming & Diving

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Close Doesn’t Count in Swimming

Mike Panepinto

While most of us were able to enjoy the time off between semesters, both the Montclair State men’s and women’s swimming teams were busy in the pool. The men’s team competed in three meets over the week, while the women’s team swam in two meets, winning 1 and losing 1. Both teams also took part in a training trip to St. Croix, where they swam in an exhibition match that did not count on either team’s record.

The MSU men’s swimming team kicked off their winter break action on Jan. 5 against Fairleigh Dickinson College at Florham. The 200m freestyle relay by ending up with a time of 1.45.49. Buob, junior Corey DuBois earned the top spot in the 100m breaststroke by swimming a 2.37.94. Junior Esteban Morales captured first in the second section of diving, out-dueling his teammates, sophomore Tommy Dreisbach by a total of 111.60 to 105.60. Both divers finished tied for second place, scoring a total of 101.30 points through the first set of dives. Smith, Quentz, and Becker who made up MSU’s 400m freestyle relay team finished in second with a time of 3.26.86. DuBois also took second place in a separate event by swimming a 2.37.94.

Junior Joseph Berry, sophomore Richard Sang and freshman Alan Baob also claimed firsts in one event each. Along with freshman David DaBois, the 200m medley relay team combined to swim a 1.45.51. Smith was the top dog in the 200m freestyle with a time of 1.49.94, and he later combined with the 50m freestyle medley for a time of 58.04 respectively. DuBois also took second place in a separate event by swimming a 2.37.94.

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