Montclair State Ranked in Top 25 Most LGBTQ-Friendly College Campuses in US

University places 24th in “Top 25 LGBTQ-Friendly Colleges for 2019” list

College Consensus is known for ranking college campuses across the country based on a number of different factors, from their facilities and programs all the way to the surrounding location’s quality of excitement.

To find out each rank, they combine a publisher consensus with a student consensus to reach a final percentage evaluating the school. In the case of Montclair State University, the publisher came up with a 40.5 percent consensus and a 68.5 percent student consensus; averaging out to 54.4 percent combined consensus agreeing that the university is LGBTQ-friendly.

Junior business major Nicole Merendino finds the university’s ranking in the top 25 as no surprise.

“I have no doubt that [the university] was considered on the top 25 list because of how inclusive the campus is,” Merendino said. “As a proud ally, I encourage everyone to get Safe Space Trained [as soon as possible] to promote an already diverse campus community.”

When evaluating which universities are considered LGBTQ-friendly, College Consensus looks for factors such as gender-inclusive housing options, mental health resources for LGBTQ youth and non-discrimination policies. Junior business major Colleen White sees first-hand just how all-inclusive Montclair State is as a resident living with someone of the opposite gender. She had to move to another class when the fire alarm went off and then were directed to re-enter, Brown said. “But at that point, water was cascading down from the ceiling in the hallway between the classrooms.”

Brown said she and one her students were fortunate enough to grab their belongings after an inch of water already covered the floor of the classroom.

According to undeclared freshman Mari Zuniga, a student in Brown’s college writing class, it was a bothersome disruption to their lesson.

“I couldn’t see the actual pipe burst, but I saw all the water coming towards me,” Zuniga said. “I was a bit of an inconvenience because it happened 15 or 20 minutes after class had started, and it was pretty cold outside waiting to go back inside after the fire drill to finish [class].”

Zuniga and her classmates had to move to another class, and some professors even had to relocate their classes in the middle of their lesson, including professor Bridget Brown, who is gay,” White said. “Personally I think we could have ranked higher, but considering the size and popularity of Montclair State compared to other schools on the list, I’m overall proud we made it on the list but surprised we aren’t higher.”

College Consensus acknowledged Montclair State’s LGBTQ Center on campus, Stonewall living suites in Dinallo Heights for the LGBTQ community and their LGBTQ minor option under gender, sexuality and women’s studies as a part of their rank.

Montclair State University sent out an alert to students via text message along with a notice of room changes on Canvas due to a pipe burst in Bohn Hall on the first day of classes.

Many classes had to change their schedules due to significant leakage. Some professors even had to relocate their classes in the middle of their lesson, including professor Bridget Brown, who was teaching her writing course.

“We evacuated [room 492] when the fire alarm went off and then were directed to re-enter,” Brown said. “But at that point, water was cascading down from the ceiling in the hallway between the classrooms.”

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Zuniga and her classmates ended the class day early and had to move to another class.
Continued from page 1

Bohn: The residence hall is no stranger to pipe-bursting incidents

The first issue of The Montclarion, then named The Pelican, was published on Nov. 28, 1928.

Red Hawk Rap Sheet

Tuesday, Jan. 22
Bohn Hall: Student Matthew Hakel was arrested for the possession of marijuana under the amount of 50 grams and the possession of drug paraphernalia. Hakel was processed at police headquarters and released pending a follow-up court date in the Clifton municipal court.

Field House: Patrol officers responded in regards to an incident of criminal mischief, whereby a large hole was found to have been made in a window by an unknown object. This incident is under investigation.

Saturday, Jan. 26
Red Hawk Diner: Patrol officers responded in regards to a verbal dispute. Officers spoke with two male students who alleged that they were refused service, spit at and called racial slurs from a diner employee. All involved parties were referred to the Little Falls municipal court if they wished to pursue further complaints.

Thursday, Jan. 24
Greek Life: Members of a student Greek organization responded to police headquarters to report an incident of theft by deception. The individuals reported that a known alumni member formally holding the chapter director position had taken approximately $20,000 out of the organization’s private account over a period of two years. This incident is currently under investigation.

 anyone who has information regarding these incidents is urged to call the police station at T-I-P-S (8477).

All calls are strictly confidential.
Colloquium on Environmental Concerns Brings Large Audience Turnout

Rutgers University’s Dr. Peter Strom delivers seminar on biodegradable plastic in CELS

Sam Carliner

With reusable straw movements and frequently new discoveries on climate change taking over the news, our environment is becoming a national concern.

As a result of the hike in environmental interest, Montclair State University’s earth and environmental studies holds a regular colloquium series where people can learn about sustainability.

Just one week into the spring 2019 semester, the department had no trouble packing the first floor lecture hall in the Center for Environmental and Life Sciences (CELS) with students and faculty for a plastics, degradability and environmental seminar.

Dr. Peter Strom, a professor of environmental sciences at Rutgers University, visited Montclair State to talk to a curious and plentiful audience about the environmental policy issues pertaining to the impact of non-plastic and plastic materials.

Strom went into depth about the degradability of plastic and when it can be best to use over other materials. He acknowledged issues with using plastic, such as when animals like seagulls get caught in plastic packaging for beverages. However, Strom noted that plastic can sometimes be better for the environment than other materials. Strom emphasized the importance of knowing the often circumstantial pros and cons of biodegradable plastic.

“With a lack of thought was not a characteristic of the seminar’s audience, as many of them were eager to ask questions and could be heard chattering about their interest in the presentation after Strom finished speaking.”

Oyinda Fedipe, a graduate student working toward her Ph.D. in environmental science, found the lecture and Strom’s focus on material-based circumstantial benefits particularly interesting.

“There are different things to look at as an environmentalist,” Fedipe said. “So when you look at both sides, it kind of helps you put things into a broader perspective as opposed to ‘this is definitely better than this’ and this lecture was an eye-opener to that.”

While people like Strom and Fedipe study and have a particular interest in the topic of degradability, the event and many more hosted by CELS are open to all students.

Isamar Cortes, a graduate student on the way to a master’s degree in environmental science, explained that sustainability issues affect everyone.

“The fact that everyone’s connected and everything’s connected and every little decision we make affects something else, [that] would probably be the biggest sustainability archer,” Cortes said.

Strom made it a point that humans have already solved some environmental issues and that people will continue to be successful at resolving issues if they are treated thoughtfully.
Gianna Natale on Finding Resilience

The Natale family was able to raise over $5,000 for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention during the Out of the Darkness Walk in 2018. Photo courtesy of Gianna Natale

Alexa Spear
Feature Editor

"Before it happened to me, I felt like it was something that only happened to other people," Montclair State University Alumna Gianna Natale said, recalling the life she knew before everything changed. Natale overcame tremendous obstacles on her journey to graduation, but through everything, she has remained focused on being a source of support for those in need. Natale always knew she wanted to make a difference, but it was her high school guidance counselor that inspired her to pursue a similar path.

"I wanted to help others how she helped me," Natale said. "I don't think there was a time that I doubted this was the area I needed to be in."

Natale decided to major in family and child studies, with a minor in psychology. However, faced with new experiences and new responsibilities, she struggled to acclimate during her first year at Montclair State. Her anxiety had intensified because I know what it's like," Natale said. "It's helped me to relate to others and empathize with their concerns."

Eventually, Natale was able to overcome her fears and began to flourish. She was recognized for her academic achievements on the dean's list and joined the Kappa Omicron Nu honor's society. Natale found a sisterhood through Sigma Delta Tau. She was drawn to the sorority's philanthropy initiatives and organized the expansion of their community service locations to CUMAC, a non-profit food bank in Paterson, New Jersey.

Natale explained how this experience gave her a renewed sense of purpose and was one of her proudest achievements during her undergraduate career. "It made me feel really good to give my time, and I never would have found that without [Sigma Delta Tau's] community service hours," Natale said.

Then, on Dec. 4, 2016 during Natale's junior year, she got a call that she needed to come home. Her father, Marty Natale Jr., had died by suicide. Natale was in the midst of preparing for finals when she heard what had happened.

Natale was shocked and had a hard time processing the loss of her dad but wanted to honor his memory by completing the semester. "I was in a blur, but I was able to go back and take my finals," Natale said. "I made myself finish because that's what he would have wanted. I knew it meant so much to him, and he was so proud of me for going to college."

After Natale returned, she reached out to Montclair State's office for Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). She realized she needed help with the grieving process so she could continue to pursue her education.

"I desperately wanted someone to talk to on campus, and it was so helpful to have someone there every week," Natale said. "I think it's so important that students know what's available to them. There is help."

During her time at Montclair State, Natale began interning at Passaic Valley High School in Little Falls in their teen center. Alongside the mental health clinician, she ran a stress management group. Natale says the experience led her to determine that she belonged in the social work field. Natale ultimately finished her last year with straight A's and shared that she didn't realize her strength until she was faced with adversity.

"I knew I was raised with some degree of resilience, but I didn't know how much I was capable of until I really had to use it," Natale said.

Natale is now enrolled at Rutgers University and plans to graduate in May 2019 with a master's in social work. She's still considering a career as a clinical social worker so she might be able to help others with grief and suicide-specific loss.

"Using my hardships to help other people is really important to me," Natale said.

Natale continues to work on the child study team at her former alma matter, Manalapan Englishtown Middle School, where she helps other students find resources to engage with their education and overcome challenges.

"I really want to help someone want to help themselves," Natale said. "If they feel lost, I want to help them find their way." Every September, Natale's family...
participates in Out of the Darkness Walks, which is offered through the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). Donations go toward providing more programs through the AFSP, as well as coordinating survivors’ groups and future suicide prevention walks. 

At first, Natale’s family was hesitant to share their story, but when they realized it might make a difference in someone else’s life, they decided to use their social media platforms to advocate for the cause. “We weren’t sure about it because that would mean being completely open and vulnerable to the world, but we decided that’s what we wanted to do so that we could help people and spread more awareness and education,” Natale said.

Natale will continue to honor her father by sharing information on suicide prevention in the hopes of effecting positive change. “I share my story to help people realize that this is an issue. It makes me feel like I’m doing my part,” Natale said. “If I could help one person get help, or make them rethink things, then I would be successful for the rest of my life.”

To help fight the stigma of mental illness, Natale suggests starting a conversation with your loved ones and donating to organizations that provide education and mental health counseling to under-served communities. She encourages current students to prioritize their mental health and to remember to employ self-care throughout their studies.

Montclair State provides free mental health resources through CAPS, located in Russ Hall Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. throughout the semester. If you or a loved one is in crisis, please contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or the Crisis Text Line by texting TALK to 741741.
$50/Need help moving boxes, Montclair - Edison
I moved to Montclair several months ago with a POD. It is in storage in Edison and I need help moving some things around so I can get the things I need. There is no heavy lifting just sliding some boxes and furniture so I have access to them. I'll pay someone $50 for the job. It should not take more than 1/2 hour. I would think travel time to Edison and back is about an hour. If interested please email me at pickliday6300@yahoo.com

$20-$25 per hour / Homework Helper / Livingston
Looking for an after school homework helper. Interested in either current student, graduate or teacher to ideally come to our home Mon-Thurs for 1 1/2 - 2 hours (flexible in days/hours). Ideal candidate would be someone with education experience or experience working on study skills/executive functioning at the high school level. Looking for someone organized and who has patience! Pay flexible depending on workload/experience. If interested, please text or call Marcly at 973-699-0485 or email marcymercer@verizon.net.

$20-50/day weekly / DOG WALKER NEEDED/MONTCLAIR, GREEN RIDGE, BLOOMFIELD AREA
Local dog walking/pet care business EXPANDING, now new business! Seeking to place 2-3 dog-loving people in steady, responsible positions, immediately. Responsibilities include a neighborhood walk, helping with house chores, securing property and communication with pet owners. Regular hours are approximately 1am to 4pm, Monday through Friday. More hours available on weekends and on an as-needed basis, as well as pet-sitting opportunities. Prior experience with pet care, a plus. Honest, reliable individual, a must. Use of own reliable vehicle is required. If interested, please email Liz at rmdwvck@comcast.net or call: 973-819-8893.

Looking for Mary Poppins
Current elementary education student or recent graduate, or retired elementary school teacher, would be ideal. Needed to drive boys age 4 & 7 to school and back, help with homework, prepare evening meals and stay until parents return home from work. 5 days a week. Will consider live in or out. Email: russelhlee61@gmail.com

$20 Per Hour / SOCCER COACH / MONTCLAIR
Kiddie Soccer conducts soccer programs for preschool age children. Our programs are fun, non-competitive and instructional. We are currently hiring coaches for our upcoming Winter and Spring programs. This is a part-time position. Coaches are assigned to programs that both fit into their schedule and make sense from a geographic perspective. We hire primarily college students. We look for people that have a background in soccer (or other organized sports) are energetic, personal, responsible, reliable and most importantly, GREAT with children. If interested, please check us out at www.kiddiesoccer.com and send us an email at jobs@kiddiesoccer.com.

$600-7000 / GORGEOUS ROOMS FOR RENT / 7 MINS FROM CAMPUS
Gorgeous rooms for rent in large, clean, recently remodeled home. 7 minutes drive from campus and near the restaurants, cafes, bars, bookstores etc in Montclair. Must have source of income. If interested, please call 201-204-4692 or email 396knoter@gmail.com.

$18 / Part-time childcare mid-January / Montclair
Looking for part time help for these girls (ages 16, 14, and 12) starting ASAP! Responsibilities include picking up at school, transporting kids to activities, helping with homework, playing, and setting up for dinner. Kids are 7 and 12. Regular hours are 3pm-7pm, M-F with an opportunity for a few more hours a week. Please have a clean driving record, patience and positive energy. Precious child care experience a plus. If interested, please email rita.moyano@yahoo.com.

$15/ Excel Proficient College Student – To assist with teaching and assisting with excel work.
Looking for a college student that is proficient in excel to conduct as needed excel macros, pivot tables, analysis. The position will require you to do the work from the comfort of your own home and in as needed basis once or twice a month. Excellent opportunity to make extra cash! Please send you resume to rita.meyers@yahoo.com.

$15/hour Sales Development Associate, WatchFANTOM
Interested in learning the world of sales? Then join our fast growing media startup, WatchFANTOM. We are HQ’d in Montclair and people on the ground in markets like Dallas, Denver, and Kansas City. In this role you’ll work closely with the founder to develop sales materials, connect with potential customers, and implement a sales strategy. At the moment we are looking for someone that can work 10 hours a week, but there is room to expand. If interested, please email zack@watchfantom.com.

Caregiver / Montclair
Looking for part time help for these girls (ages 16, 14, and 12) starting ASAP! Responsibilities include picking up at school, transporting to and from after school activities in Montclair, light housework, laundry, keeping house tidy, preparing dinner. Our 16 year old has high functioning autism and has therapy 3x a week at home. We have two non shedding hypoallergenic dogs and a fenced-in yard. Regular hours are 2:30-5:30 Monday through Friday, but we are flexible as more works at home. Prior experience with children is preferred, use of own reliable vehicle required. If interested, please email: katiesqueen8898@icloud.com.

ARE YOU IN CRISIS OR STRUGGLING? HEALING, HOPE AND HELP CAN HAPPEN!
Please CALL the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 (TALK) at any time to speak to a counselor and get support. You can also connect to the Crisis Text Line by texting “Hello” to 741-741 to be connected to a counselor. All services are free, confidential and available 24/7 for anyone in crisis.

Love to draw?
Submit your comics/cartoons to The Montclarion at MONTCLARIONPRODUCTION@GMAIL.COM

PERSONALITY
IS EVERYTHING IN ART AND WRITING
Across
3. The men’s and women’s teams often compete in dual meets, and they recently swept rival William Paterson University
5. This men’s team spends a lot of time on a diamond, sharing their space with a group of Jackals
6. This team ended their season 20-10 with 1,228 kills and had breakout performances from freshmen Carly Waterman and Leah Higgins

Down
1. The women’s team is led by captains Alex McKinnon and Domonique Wirsing with head coach Karin Harvey
2. This team ended their season 15-4 and several players (Marissa Siconolfi, Amber Haslett, Victoria Rossi, Nicole Andriani, Elizabeth Cimilluca) tabbed NJAC honors
3. This men’s team ended their fall season with a record of 18-2-4, made it to the Elite 8 and plays at Pittser Field
4. This team finished the season 8-2 and is known for iconic homecoming games

Sudoku

For answers to the puzzles, please check @themontclarion on Instagram and The Montclarion Facebook page every Wednesday.*

Places to Eat on Campus

university hall cafe
au bon pain
freeman dining hall
red hawk diner
sams place
California tortilla
panda express
chop’d
dunkin donuts
venture cafe
rift zone
bistro
which wich
chilis
olo
grill nation
so deli
On a Friday afternoon, many students at Montclair State University drop their books and study materials and head over to the Willowbrook Mall to make a few extra bucks in the food court. At the end of their shifts, they are eager to receive their paychecks, but they are surprised to see their hourly wages have slightly increased.

On Jan. 1, New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy gave a raise to thousands of workers in minimum wage jobs by increasing the hourly rate from $8.60 to $8.85. Those who work at minimum wage jobs, including college students, were very disappointed by the raise, students at Montclair State believe they deserve more than just an additional quarter to their hourly pay.

In the past decade, the hourly minimum wage in New Jersey has risen by $1.70 an hour. This may not seem like a huge increase, but when you look at the steady progress, the Garden State has come a long way from its original rate of $7.15 an hour.

New Jersey still has one of the lowest minimum wage rates in the northeast, beating Delaware by a dime. For a state with such a high population of liberal figures and followers, it is shocking to see we are very behind compared to other states in the ultimate goal of raising the minimum wage to $15 per hour.

In reality, living off of $8.85 an hour while attending college makes it harder to achieve financial goals, including trying to make enough money to become self-reliant or even trying to get a head start on paying off student loans.

Full-time college students at Montclair State are required to take at least 12 credits each semester, which adds up to four classes. Students typically go to class for most of the days of the week, leaving only a few hours left to earn their paychecks and complete their assignments before the next day begins.

If a student works 20 hours each week, under the new minimum wage, they would only make $177, $5 more than they did previously. It is also a $45 difference, in comparison to college students working the same jobs in New York who make $11.10 an hour.

For students who still rely on their parents financially, it is a nice little promotion added to their bank accounts. For those who are struggling to become self-reliant, making less than $200 a week is barely enough to keep up with a car lease, food for the week and other basic necessities.

It is very unlikely that the politicians down in Trenton will agree on $15 per hour in the near future, but they need to think about the obstacles minimum wage workers have to go through to make a living. Not everyone has the ability to work over 20 hours a week while trying to balance their course work at the same time. It shouldn’t have to be a choice between a paycheck and a good GPA.

Those who are only able to get minimum wage jobs, including college students, deserve to make enough money to support themselves and pay for the resources they need without having to jeopardize their higher education.

Voices:

- Brooke Alvine
  History
  Sophomore

- Angelica Maloney
  Exercise Science
  Junior

- Anton Specht
  Television and Digital Media
  Sophomore

- Kendri Noelvill
  Biology
  Senior

“I think that especially for college students who work and who are full-time students, a minimum wage increase is good because then you can get money to pay off loans. At the same time, it may not be good for small business owners who already can’t pay for their employees. Bigger corporations like McDonalds are not going to have a problem with the increase as opposed to a small pizzeria.”

“I honestly don’t think New Jersey is trying hard enough to give more money to people, especially younger people like us who are fighting for minimum wage jobs while struggling to make minimums. I come from New York and our minimum wage right now is $15 an hour. It’s ridiculous coming out here seeing how much life is similar here but how differently we get paid. The state is not even trying to benefit their own people.”

“Personally, I like the idea of [the minimum wage increase] because I have a job on campus. I work at Webster Hall. It’s a very minimal increase, but over time it can add up to your bank accounts. For those who are struggling to become self-reliant, making less than $200 a week is barely enough to keep up with a car lease, food for the week and other basic necessities. It is very unlikely that the politicians down in Trenton will agree on $15 per hour in the near future, but they need to think about the obstacles minimum wage workers have to go through to make a living. Not everyone has the availability to work over 20 hours a week while trying to balance their course work at the same time. It shouldn’t have to be a choice between a paycheck and a good GPA.

Those who are only able to get minimum wage jobs, including college students, serve to make enough money to support themselves and pay for the resources they need without having to jeopardize their higher education.”

“In my honest opinion, I don’t believe just raising the minimum wage by a quarter is going to solve anything. Especially now, living conditions are expensive. Just to live is expensive, period. Maybe a $5 increase in the minimum wage would have helped because not a lot of people right now are in a good condition [since] they need two jobs just to stay alive.”

We Got 99 Problems a Quarter Won’t Solve

By Rebecca Serviss, Jennifer Losos and Carly Henriquez
Language is usually heard from one voice to another person’s ear, but sometimes it’s not easy and some people have a difficult time framing their mind with a new perception. However, ASL is a quick language to pick up because it’s visible. If learning a new language is one of your New Year’s resolutions, pick ASL. You can either take it at the university or even go to events, such as ASL pottery slam. It’s even a great icebreaker when you first meet people and show them how to spell their name.

ASL is used for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, babies who still can’t talk and others who are just interested in the deaf culture. The language hasn’t been around for long and was first introduced in 1871. However, deaf people were not introduced with open arms and had pure negativity, called audism. Audism is when hearing people think they are superior to deaf people. It is also when people don’t allow deaf people to use ASL and force them to speak. Not every deaf person is able to use their voices or lip read. Deaf people who can use their voices and/or lip read are the ones who either were taken to speech therapists or were forced to learn in a hearing environment.

Audism is still common in some businesses or schools that don’t accommodate with translators or talk loudly when a person finds out someone is deaf. Another misconception some people have is that the deaf are disabled. Calling them disabled is a form of unjust treatment. The only thing they can’t do is hear, but they can still drive a car, go to the movies and order food at restaurants.

Some hearing people are also against having their young deaf or speech-delayed children sign because they think it will prevent them from speaking. However, it should be up to the child, plus they will develop a form of communicating faster.

Finding a form to communicate will help with a child’s frustration when they want to express their feelings but still don’t know how to. The deaf don’t just use their hands to speak but also use their body and facial expressions to affect the meaning of their signs. They are some of the most expressive people and have acted on shows and in movies, such as Marlee Matlin and Nyle DiMarco.

There are many benefits to learning ASL, even if it is only the alphabet because then you can fingerspell, which is spelling but with your fingers. Sign language is beneficial for people who can hear but are curious.

ASL can be used in a loud environment, for babies who want to express their hunger or thirst, in translating and being able to put a smile on someone who is deaf. They are deaf, not dead.
I feel that having Generation Z is known for being the first generation to be raised completely by the internet. Because of this, a lot of young fools are growing up without the desire to disassociate from those who call themselves Generation Z. This leaves us with the other end of the “youth” generational spectrum: Millennial.

Unlike those who learned about the birds and the bees from Google, a good portion of us who are somehow falling under the category of Generation Z, did not have cell phones until they were 15 years old and certainly didn’t have their own computers until college. These things allowed those such as myself to play outside and ask our mothers where babies come from.

It’s easy to look at a calendar and slash generations down the middle. However, this desire to define and separate these close generations should come from individual self-definition based on the way in which one was raised in the transitional period that is the digital age.

I grew up on the computer, playing my Nintendo DS, PSP, watching movies and old cartoon reruns. As a child, I would have never thought technology would have the impact it has had.

We have created a society where people are dependent on technology to communicate.

The harsh truth is that we have lost face interaction with one another, but the irony is we love to FaceTime one another. We allow ourselves to be vulnerable through technological devices, but not in person.

Allow me to clarify what Generation Z is. If you were born between 1995 and 2010, well then, you belong to the club. Generation Z, who are we? Who are you? And I don’t mean who you are on the inside. Chances are you don’t know, but you have an idea of who you want to be. Kendrick Lamar poetically stated, “Technology bought my soul.”

The more pressing issue concerning Generation Z is the fact that technology has slowed down the number of words people use a day. Think about the number of meaningful conversations you have daily. How many of those conversations provoked thought? If they do, how do you utilize the English language when talking? Do you find yourself using abbreviations, such as “LOL” and “snark,” when you talk? This is where it becomes problematic.

As someone who is a part of Generation Z, it is crucial to understand that we are two steps behind the generation before us. Our communication skills are poor unless our parents’ who were able to articulate what they mean and how they feel when they speak. But are we to blame?

We were raised during a time when we were given too much information to digest at once. Instead of thinking and asking questions, we talk. It doesn’t matter what the topic is, we just talk.

You’re probably thinking I contradicted myself due to my earlier point, but I didn’t. Is a conversation really conversation if it’s pointless? Time is valuable. It is the only commodity that we can’t get back, so why waste time when it’s going in reverse?

The real issue is real life. Do you know what it means to live? If you don’t, then put your phone down, close your laptop and take a walk. The world is much more than the worlds we’ve created on Snapchat, Twitter and Instagram. Are you really having fun, or do you want people to think you are? Is Instagram and Twitter fame enough for you?

Chances are it’s not, but the internet has made you too insecure to follow your dreams and tap into your potential. Our generation has lost all sense of who we are and what means the most to us. And

Concerning Editorials and Columns

Main editorials appear on the first page of the Opinion section. They are unsigned articles that represent the opinion of the editorial board on a particular issue. Columns are written by individuals and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Montclarion staff.

Millennials vs. Generation Z

‘90s babies are caught in the middle of two completely different cultures

The Government Is Back Open, But I am Still Sad

The longest government shutdown in American history lasted 34 days, left nearly 500,000 federal workers without paychecks and cost the U.S. economy overall $11 billion. With $1 billion, you could buy the Tampa Bay Rays a dozen times.

The whole debacle began when President Donald Trump refused to approve a federal budget that did not include at least $5.7 billion for a wall on the U.S. and Mexico border. The Democratic controlled House of Representatives rejected the request, so Yogi and Boo-Boo didn’t have to deal with those damn tourists for a month. Luckily for them.

I do not believe that history is shut down occurred due to Democrats and Republicans doing what they believed was best for the American people. I believe it occurred due to the horrific but amusing state of American politics today. A person on that team wants this so I we have to do whatever it takes to accomplish the complete opposite.

The shutdown was only one example of how polarizing the two-party system has become and how nothing more than pettiness can lead to people working for no money.

Mike DeWine, the new governor of Ohio, announced he would sign the “heartbeat” abortion bill former Gov. John Kasich had vetoed, which would prohibit abortions from taking place after a heartbeat is detected inside the womb — the strictest anti-abortion legislation in the country. Heartbeats of fetuses become detectable six weeks into pregnancy or before most women even know they are pregnant.

The only example a male like myself can use to relate to that is when I want to return a product I bought, but instead of a refund, I am given store credit. Sure, that is not at all the same thing, but damn those bastards over at T.J. Maxx.

This sharp polarization has caused the U.S. government to be rendered inefficient over the past two decades. Former Democratic President Barack Obama rescued many executive orders due to a non-cooperative Republican Congress, and now Trump is facing the same issues as Democrats took back the White House.

This divide has caused riots across the country, some resulting in murders, the destruction of entire neighborhoods and admitted, a few spicy memes.

This problem does not seem to have an end in sight as Democrats are proposing electing a candidate that is the total opposite of Trump, which would only add fuel to the fire.

Third party candidates have never been taken seriously, but the power of social media outreach and implementation of strategies, such as ranked choice voting, can finally challenge the two-party system.

The first independent candidate to announce their 2020 presidential run is former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz. As much as I believe it’s time to break the two-party system, I still feel the need to trust an independent to run the free world who made drinks sizes confusing.

Brian Rooney, a communication and media arts major, is in his first year as a comedy writer for The Montclarion.
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Haley Flake is an undeclared freshman at Montclair State University. She is a singer and songwriter who has a passion for the visual arts. Flake has recently released her first EP on Spotify and has music available on all music streaming platforms. She spoke with The Montclarion Video Editor Mackenzie Robertson about her upcoming projects, music and career goals.

Q: What sparked your interest in singing and songwriting?
A: Well, my dad is a musician so I just grew up being surrounded by music. I actually started whistling before I could even talk, so I think it is just always something that has been in me.

Q: What projects are you currently working on?
A: I just released my first EP last month, which was mostly just acoustic music. Now I am releasing a lot of singles which are mostly high production and more pop-oriented music.

Q: What genre do you see yourself falling into?
A: Right now I’m still trying to figure out my sound a little bit. I’m still young and new to the music industry scene, but people are calling my stuff like ‘Indie Chill Pop.’ It is a blend of a lot of different things I think.

Q: What do you hope to accomplish with your music?
A: I hope to be able to do music as my main career. For this year, I want to hit 100,000 monthly listeners [on Spotify]. That is my New Year’s resolution. My music is on all music platforms, but my main platform is Spotify.

Q: Have you had the opportunity to work with any other artists?
A: Yes. I did my first collaboration with a rapper called Nacey G. That was a track called “Bad Luck,” and that was really a stretch for me artistically because I went from very chill, acoustic music to a 100 percent hip-hop record. I did a feature for him, which was really cool, and I actually ended up really liking the track. [Nacey G.] is a very talented artist.

Q: In regards to your music, what artists and styles inspire you most?
A: I really like pulling influences from all over the place. Since I was young, I was really influenced by jazz music for the tone of my vocals. I also like psychedelic music too, like Tame Impala, but recently I have been listening more pop music just to get a feel for that, too.

Q: What other outlets do you use to express your artistry and individuality?
A: I do visual arts, too so I do a lot of collages and mixed media. I use that to express myself too. Last year in Advance Placement art [in high school] my concentration was the 27 Club. That is a group of musicians who all died at the age of 27 and have inspired me musically. I did pieces inspired by their music.

Q: How has Montclair State University helped hone your craft?
A: I think any transition in your life is inspiring if you look at it through an artistic lens. Also, being in the choir definitely helped my integrity as a musician and an artist.

Q: What are your plans for the future after you graduate college?
A: I want to pursue music 100 percent and see if I can make it into my career.
For years, January has been known to be arguably one of the worst months when it comes to movie releases. Usually, the month consists of generic and cliched films that hardly make any money at the box office.

The trailer for “The Kid Who Would Be King” certainly looked like it would follow that same trope. However, having seen the film, I am happy to report that this film genuinely surprised me, and I had a blast with it.

“The Kid Who Would Be King” is written and directed by Joe Cornish. It stars Louis Ashbourne Serkis, Denise Gough, Rhinna Doris, Angus Imrie, Rebecca Ferguson and Patrick Stewart. The plot follows a young teenager named Alex, who lives an ordinary life. He has one friend, gets bullied constantly and is misunderstood by his mother. One day, he pulls a sword out of a rock, after which chaos ensues. The next day, a wizard named Merlin shows up and tells Alex he is the king they have all been waiting for. Additionally, he needs to find allies to go on an adventure with and fight a wicked enchantress who wants to put the world into slavery.

I originally was not planning on seeing this because of how much I disliked the trailer. However, seeing that the film’s Rotten Tomatoes score was high, in addition to hearing the praise it’s been getting, I decided to give it a chance.

I’m very happy I did. This film contains great performances, exciting action sequences, likable characters and humor that mostly works. For a film released in January, it certainly is one of the better ones.

With the exception of Stewart and Ferguson, I am not familiar with any of the other actors in this film. In fact, the majority of these actors have only appeared in TV shows or short films. With that being said, I thought everyone did a terrific job in their roles.

Serkis plays the main protagonist, and I truly hope to see him in future roles. As a protagonist, he’s likable, believable and above all, an interesting character. There is a story arc he goes through, which I don’t want to spoil, but I will say that element of the movie made his character more sympathetic. I was impressed by his performance.

My favorite performance of the film, however, is Imrie as the wizard. Not only was he the funniest character but also the most compelling. There are plenty of scenes where he provides a lot of laughs, and his character sometimes transforms into an older version of himself, played by Stewart. While Stewart is not in the film that much, he delivers a very solid performance with the time he is given. And once again, that goes to everyone who acted in this film.

The direction stands out as well. The action scenes are well filmed and very entertaining to watch. There is a car chase and a finale which is engaging to watch, and even though it is a family-friendly film, there were some moments where I was on the edge of my seat. The pacing of the film is pretty good. I was never necessarily bored.

With that being said, I don’t think this film needed to be two hours long. There are some moments in the second act that do meander, and more detailed editing could have helped tighten the pacing. Not all the humor landed either. While the majority of it did, when it misses, it misses pretty hard. The film also possesses an element of predictability.

Due to these flaws, I can’t say that “The Kid Who Would Be King” is a great film, but it is certainly a solid one that surprised me on how good it ended up being. It’s not doing well at the box office at the moment, which is understandable because of its poor marketing.

I do hope people seek this film out because chances are, they will be pleasantly surprised like I was. I would say go see it at a matinee price, and if you have a younger sibling or a child, take them to see it with you.
Oscar Nominations 2019: Snubs and Surprises

Sharif Hasan
Assistant Entertainment Editor

The 91st Academy Awards are, without a host and a best picture front-runner, already proving to be an interesting night.

Nominations for the 2019 Oscars were announced earlier last week, revealing a number of surprises, both good and bad. “Roma” and “The Favourite” took the lead with 10 nominations each, and “Vice” and “A Star is Born” followed with eight.

“Black Panther” received seven nominations and made history by becoming the first comic book film adaptation to be nominated for best picture. Other films in the best picture category include “Green Book,” “BlackKklansman” and “Bohemian Rhapsody.”

Glenn Close from “The Wife” and Olivia Colman from “The Favourite,” who won the best performance by an actress in a comedy and a drama at the Golden Globes, were both nominated for Oscars. Lady Gaga from “A Star is Born,” Melissa McCarthy from “Can You Ever Forgive Me,” and first-time actress Yalitza Aparicio from “Roma,” all received their first nominations. Unfortunately, Emily Blunt from “Mary Poppins Returns” and Toni Collette from “Hereditary” missed out in this group.

Rami Malek and Christian Bale were recognized for their biographical roles as Freddie Mercury and Dick Cheney respectively and are most likely the front-runners in the best actor category. Bradley Cooper from “A Star is Born” and Viggo Mortensen from “Green Book” are also up for the award, with a surprising nomination for Willem Dafoe as Vincent Van Gogh in “At Eternity’s Gate.”

Nominated for best supporting actor were Richard E. Grant from “Can You Ever Forgive Me,” Adam Driver from “BlackKklansman,” Sam Rockwell from “Vice,” Sam Elliott from “A Star Is Born” and 2017 winner Mahershala Ali from “Green Book.” Many were disappointed to find that Timothée Chalamet from “Beautiful Boy” and Brian Tyree Henry from “If Beale Street Could Talk” were not among these nominees.

Amy Adams from “Vice,” Marina de Tavira from “Roma,” Emma Stone from “The Favourite” and Rachel Weisz from “The Favourite,” were all nominated for best actress in a supporting role alongside the likely front-runner, Regina King, for her performance in “If Beale Street Could Talk.”

Alfonso Cuaron, who won a Golden Globe and a Critics’ Choice Award for directing, is nominated beside Pawel Pawlikowski from “Cold War,” Yorgos Lanthimos from “The Favourite,” Adam McKay from “Vice” and Spike Lee from “BlackKklansman.” This is also Lee’s first nomination in this category and he received his first ever nomination for best picture. It was a surprise to see Cooper missing from this list, despite his praised directorial debut with “A Star is Born.”

First Man” and “If Beale Street Could Talk” were expected to gain a high number of nominations, but it was actually quite the opposite. Justin Hurwitz, composer of the Academy’s favorites “Whiplash” and “La La Land,” also wrote the score for “First Man.” Although the film was nominated for four awards, it did not receive one for best score, despite winning the award at the Golden Globes. “If Beale Street Could Talk” was also expected to be nominated for best picture but was unfortunately missed.

The Academy also overlooked films, such as “Won’t You Be My Neighbor?” for a best documentary nomination, “Burning” for best foreign film, and “Eighth Grade” and “Sorry to Bother You” for best original screenplay.

This year’s nominations raise a lot of questions. Will “Black Panther” become the first comic book movie to win best picture? Will Close win her first Oscar, after six previous nominations? Will “Roma” be the first best picture and best foreign film winner? To add to that, “Roma” might even be the first Netflix film to win best picture.

The Academy Awards will be held on Feb. 24 at 8 p.m. and judging by the nominations, the ceremony is anticipated to be an exciting one.
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What great minds can do.
‘Remember the Titans’ is an outstanding addition to the Marvel Netflix universe.

For the past four years, Netflix has been providing its viewers with a vast amount of Marvel shows. A couple of weeks ago, season two of “The Punisher” was released. Similar to season one, the reviews between critics and audiences are divided with the former being mixed and the latter praising it.

In terms of where I fall under, I found “The Punisher” season two to be yet another great addition to the Marvel Netflix universe.

The second season takes place almost a year after the events of the first. Following Frank Castle as he travels the country alone—living a new life with a different identity. While traveling to Michigan, Frank notices a young woman being targeted by a group of people.

When Frank decides to save her, he realizes that she is wanted by a highly trained organization who is willing to do anything to kill her. While this is going on, other characters have arcs that continue from the first season, and it all intertwines together as the season goes along.

The majority of the Netflix Marvel Shows have 13 episodes in every season and “The Punisher” season 2 is no exception. This season takes the same slow burn approach that the first season took, and while there are critics and viewers who take issue with that, I personally did not mind it at all.

I have no problem with a slow burn series as long as I am invested in the plot and characters, and in the case of this season I certainly was. What some people may call dull or boring is actually a focus on the character of Frank and all of the trauma and chaos he has gone through.

We also see other characters’ struggles and obstacles that they endure on a daily basis. I’d much rather have a show that focuses more on character and drama, rather than a show that would have Punisher be in a gunfight in every episode.

Even though the show has more drama than violence, there is still plenty of graphic violence to be found in the season. There are several fight scenes in particular that are tough to watch. What makes it both hard to watch and look away from is the way these action scenes are filmed.

There are two certain scenes in this season, one involving a bar and one involving a prison, which are absolutely intense and incredibly well filmed. What makes the scenes even more intense are the stakes that are involved. It’s hard to tell who will survive or what the overall outcome will be.

The performances from the entire cast are nothing short of fantastic. Once again Jon Bernthal as the titular character is perfect for this role. He embraces the character so well and at times it is as if I was not seeing the character, but I was watching footage of a real Frank having these conversations and dilemmas.

There are certain other arcs he has in this season that allow him to shine more in his performance. Other actors in this season include Ben Barnes, Amber Rose Revah and Josh Stewart. Not only are these performances top notch, but the characters are so interesting. Stewart in particular as the villain is intense and terrifying.

From the first superhero shows that I have seen, “The Punisher” is hands down the most underrated one. Not only does it contain great performances, brutal violence and compelling storytelling, it solidifies the fact that Netflix has been killing it with their Marvel shows.

Many of these shows have been cancelled, and I sincerely hope “The Punisher” doesn’t follow. If you have Netflix and are into the superhero genre, I highly recommend checking this series out.

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Photo courtesy of Netflix
COMESPORTS

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Men’s Ice Hockey Falls to Sacred Heart at Home

Buckel and Prospero provide only offense in loss

The Montclair State University men’s ice hockey team suffered a tough loss Friday night against Sacred Heart University, 5-2. Senior forward Lucas Prospero and senior left wing Michael Buckel scored the two goals for the Red Hawks, while freshman goaltender Danny Porth saved 35 out of 40 shots he faced. Senior defenseman Daniel Diner also picked up an assist for both of the Red Hawks’ goals.

“I thought even though we didn’t get the result we wanted, everyone kept working hard and doing their job,” Porth said. “Even when it became apparent winning was no longer realistically possible.”

The scoring was started off by Sacred Heart with a goal 5:10 into the first period by freshman defenseman Ryan Gawricki, and then another 9:47 in by freshman forward Michael Zdanowicz. Montclair State answered with a goal by Buckel at 11:24, assisted by Diner. Buckel also had an attempt at a penalty shot with 2:47 left in the first but could not score.

The second period proved to be pretty even for both sides, although Montclair State started off the period strong with a few faceoff wins and consistent shots from players, such as freshman forward Will Prinz. The Red Hawks powerplay was strong when Sacred Heart took a holding and bench minor, although they could not seem to score on either.

Sacred Heart managed to score the only goal of the period at 13:33, when Montclair State took a holding minor. After this, Montclair State kept Sacred Heart out of the net, with consistent saves by Porth and physical play by players, such as freshman forward Ryan Martinez. The Red Hawks continued to get shots off throughout the period and ended it with 1:04 left on a Sacred Heart holding penalty.

“In my opinion, we had some opportunities but couldn’t capitalize,” Martinez said. “As a young team, our communication was less than ideal leading to mistakes that could’ve been easily solved.”

Martinez explained what the lack of communication did to defending their goals.

“It led to our forecheck being not as well played as previous weekends,” Martinez said. “They took that and had solid opportunities and goals off their rushes.”

After killing the rest of the penalty, Sacred Heart scored another goal to make the score 4-1. Montclair State tried their best to stay in the game with a shot off the crossbar by Prinz, as well as shots by Diner. Prospero then scored a power-play goal at 12:20, giving the Red Hawks hope they could still pull off a win. After Sacred Heart started to get physical, Montclair State fought back. This ended up with a few penalties on both sides, three for Sacred Heart and a five-minute major for Buckel. Montclair State could not capitalize on the four on three power play they received, but kept playing hard. Sacred Heart’s fifth goal kept them on top, and the game ended in their favor, 5-2.

“We learned that we cannot take any nights off against opponents ranked lower than us,” Porth said. “Army [West Point] is a very similar team to [Sacred Heart], and we’re going to need to take that loss, learn from our mistakes and play the way we have the whole season for the last couple weeks heading into the playoffs.”

The Red Hawks also lost to Central Connecticut State University on Saturday night 6-4 but have the chance to improve their 7-12 record against University of Massachusetts Amherst on Feb. 1. They will also have a chance to get one last home win on Feb. 8 against Army.

Center Matthew Dreisbach reaches for the puck against Sacred Heart University.

Samantha Impaglia
Assistant Sports Editor

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Super Bowl Student Voices

Montclair State students predict outcome of Los Angeles Rams vs New England Patriots game

Allison Giordano
Television and Digital Media
Senior

“I am going with the Rams just on principle because [I don’t like] the Patriots, and I’m an Eagles fan.”

Score: Rams 38
Patriots 27

Taylor Moore
Television and Digital Media
Senior

“As much as I don’t want it to happen, I’m going to say the Patriots just because of their record and support system.”

Score: Patriots 40
Rams 32

Patrick Blood
Undeclared
Freshman

“[I believe in] the Rams because the Patriots are the worst.”

Score: Rams 1 million
Patriots 0

Amanda Siess
Television and Digital Media
Senior

“I think the Patriots are going to win just because they have in the past. I think they’re magic.”

Score: Patriots 100
Rams 96

Photos by Anthony Gabbianelli
Dominating Defense Leads Men’s Basketball to Victory

Jordan Roberson shines with double-double in blowout win over Kean, 82-59

Corey Annan
Assistant Sports Editor

The Montclair State University Red Hawks overcame a slow offensive start to the game with strong defense to cruise to an 82-59 victory over the Kean University Cougars in a New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) matchup at Panzer Athletic Center. Although the score may indicate the Red Hawks had a great day on the offensive end, they relied mainly on great defense for most of the game to help carry them to victory.

Both teams came out the gates slow in the opening minutes of game, shooting poorly from the field, as both teams played very tough and gritty defensively. However, Montclair State would slowly begin to pick up their offense midway through the first half, going on a 8-0 run that was capped off by a fantastic and-one by sophomore center Malachi Smythe to give them an early 16-7 lead with 11:18 remaining in the game.

Montclair State's offense would slowly continue to find better shots later in the half, improving their field goal percentage to 41 percent by the end of the half. A big reason for this was senior forward Jordan Robertson, who was instrumental in giving the Red Hawks several offensive rebounds.

Robertson, who finished the game with double-double of 16 points and 12 rebounds, believes he had an advantage over his defender for the entire game.

"I had a smaller guy on me for most of the game," Robertson said. "I knew I had to crash the boards aggressively and take my time down in the post because nobody could really block my shot."

Montclair State would finish the first half strong as they went on another 12-2 run to push their lead to 13 points. The Red Hawks dominated defensively throughout the final six minutes of the half, with Kean shooting below 12 percent from the field during this stretch. The run was highlighted by a crafty layup by Smythe with a few seconds remaining in the half to give the Red Hawks a 38-23 lead at halftime.

Both teams started the second half firing on all cylinders on the offensive side, with both teams trading baskets for the first few minutes of the half. The Cougars hot start offensive-ly was short-lived, as they settled for more contested mid-range shots toward the end of the game. They shot an abysmal 35 percent from the field throughout the game. Montclair State saw this as their opportunity to put the game away for good. A 15-5 run in the final seven minutes by the Red Hawks would seal the Cougars’ fate for good, as sophomore forward Joseph Radi nailed a contested three-point shot with 4:26 remaining in the game to extend to 73-51. Montclair State would eventually take their starters out and coast the rest of the way to a victory.

Radi was very effective from the three-point line in the game, as all of his points came from beyond the arc. He finished with 15 points and was a big part of Montclair State’s offensive success in the second half.

Radi credited his great three-point shooting in this game to the extra time he spends at practice every day.

"Everyday I stay after practice to work on my shooting," Radi said. "Every time I take a shot, I feel confident that it will go in."

This victory will certainly help the Red Hawks achieve their goal in being the number one seed in the tournament, as they are currently a game and a half back from the current number one seed: New Jersey City University. However, junior guard Akbar Hoffman believes while it will help having home-court advantage, they can beat anyone on the road.

"If we get home-court advantage in the conference, there’s no telling what we could do in the tournament," Hoffman said. "However, even if we don’t get it, we have to continue to play good Montclair State basketball."

Sophomore guard Irving Callender IV scored four points with five rebounds in the win against Kean University.

Junior guard Akbar Hoffman scored 10 points against Kean University.