TV Theft in The Village Still Leaves Residents Concerned After Two Months

Residents required to pay for new TV if suspect neglects to come forward

Emely Alba
Contributing Writer

Student residents in The Village apartments received an email from Assistant Director of Residence Life Billie Jo Wood on Jan. 24 regarding a TV theft that occurred in the Fenwick Hall lounge in December.

“We found that one of the televisions provided in the Fenwick lounge had been stolen,” Wood said. “While we have filed a police report and are working with the police on an investigation, we are asking for your assistance in identifying the suspect.”

The email continued, stating that if the suspect is not identified, then the residents of The Village will have to pay for the replacement of the television.

Senior family science and human development major Alondra Martinez does not want to pay for the TV on top of residence costs.

“It bothers me because we already pay so much money for a room here at Montclair [State],” Martinez said. “Even though it can be a few cents to a dollar, why do I have to pay for it when the responsible person is out there?”

The annual security report provided by Montclair State said that there have been 27 burglaries in total on campus in the past three years — not including 2018 statistics.

Senior English major Alayna Higgs said she never experienced something like this happening before.

“I have never heard of anything like that happening here [and] before this, I have lived in Sinatra [Hall], Dinallo [Hall] and Russ [Hall],” Higgs said. Capt. Kieran Barrett of the University Police Department (UPD) said theft is just one of several types of crime found on campus.

“Over the years, we have seen many different crimes and theft is among them,” Barrett said. “When you live in a fairly open community, the chances of being affected by crime increase.”

Barrett further mentioned that any person with information is urged to contact UPD in order to not just solve the crime but to help relieve residents’ concerns about damage fees or general building safety.

Residents of The Village are not surprised the suspect has not been identified. Senior math major Danny Delgado is one of them. He believes this may have been a ploy from the school itself to get a new TV for the lounge.

“I feel like [the school] wants us to pay for it,” Delgado said. “It’s just a TV [the residence hall] will get out of everyone else.”

Two Cars Catch Fire in Lot 17

Adrianna Caraballo
Assistant News Editor

The University Police Department (UPD) and the Little Falls Fire Department responded to a car fire in Lot 17 at around 8:14 a.m. on Jan. 31. The engine of a 2005 BMW was what had caught fire, and the fire eventually spread to a neighboring car.

When officers arrived and saw the car on fire, they moved nearby people to a safer location. A community alert was also sent out via text message to the campus community to avoid the area.

Students were alarmed by the sight of the car fire while heading to and from classes. One student, undeclared freshman Alexis Gonzales, said he saw the fire in the distance.

“I saw the smoke when I was coming to school,” Gonzales said. “I thought it was Red Hawk Diner cooking.”

Gonzales was unsure of how to react but decided to just go to class and carry on with his day.

“Luckily as I went to class I heard fire trucks coming closer,” Gonzales said. “It was done by the time I got out of class.”

According to UPD Capt. Kieran Barrett, the Little Falls Fire Department responded as the vehicle was being engulfed in flames.

Freshman psychology major Ashley Rosado was also there during the car fire.

“I park around here so I thought my car was next to it, I got scared,” Rosado said. “I was just worried about my car.”

The fire continued on page 2
Fire: The cars involved in the incident were both owned by University Employees

Continued from page 1

At around 8:40 a.m., the fire was safely contained.

The campus property was unaffected by the fire and no one was harmed, but the car was beyond repair.

The vehicle is a complete loss and one other vehicle sustained damage as a result of the fire,” Barrett said. “Both vehicles were owned by university employees and were towed from the scene.

The damaged car was not targeted, and the fire was not arson or vandalism.

“The cause of the fire was investigated by the fire department and deemed to be mechanical in nature and by no means purposeful,” Barret said. “Thankfully, there were no injuries.

The Montclair Police Department is urging the public to avoid the area. The fire was safely contained.

The damaged car was not targeted, and the fire was not arson or vandalism.

“The cause of the fire was investigated by the fire department and deemed to be mechanical in nature and by no means purposeful,” Barret said. “Thankfully, there were no injuries.
Montclair State University reached a high temperature of 68 degrees on Tuesday afternoon following a polar vortex just days before. Students could be seen taking the opportunity to soak up the sun all around campus.
International Student Organization
Revisits Montclair State Roots

Genesis Obando
Staff Writer

International students are a demographic of the Montclair State University population that is often overlooked. Many students come from all around the world to study abroad here for a semester, including from different places in the United States.

Although there are many clubs on campus open to all students, international students didn’t always have a club specifically for them.

The International Student Organization (ISO) was originally formed around the spring of 2008. Marie-Esther Buh is the only domestic student on the board.

The executive board also includes Buh’s coworker Shannon Donaghy, a junior English major who is the secretary and the only domestic student on the board. Shahrazad Koofe is the vice president, and Vera Yapi is the treasurer. ISO also has other students handling social media, publicity and programming.

Buh says the main purpose of bringing back ISO was to create a safe space for international students; a space where they could meet and form relationships with the community.

“I wanted to give a face to [Montclair State’s] diversity,” Buh said. “Very popular word, not enough presentation.”

Through ISO, Buh wants to show the international diversity on campus and not just the diversity among domestic students. Students come from all around the world, bringing their cultures with them and becoming a part of Montclair State’s identity.

Donaghy explained this is something ISO wants to encourage and share with the campus community.

“I think it’s really important for people to know we’re open to everybody, not just international students,” Donaghy said. “The main mission is to exchange cultures, so we’re open to domestic students.”

On Wednesday Jan. 30, ISO held its first event of the semester. They hosted a meet and greet for all members to get to know each other and meet the executive board. Members met in a classroom in University Hall and played introductory and trivia games.

As the members introduced themselves, they learned about the different countries the other members come from, like Morocco, France, the Dominican Republic and Afghanistan.

Members also participated in a game where a ball of yarn was thrown and each of them had to introduce themselves. They would hold a piece of the yarn and throw it to someone else in the room. At the end of the game, the yarn was intertwined, and it symbolized the connection everyone has despite cultural differences and what country they come from.

International students are excited this organization is back up and running. More importantly, they’re happy to know they have found a safe space and can meet people who can relate to them.

“I would love to keep meeting with them and become closer friends,” said Juan Ureno, a graduate student from the Dominican Republic. “Maybe help them if they need something from me and reach out to them if I need something from them.”

ISO wants to emphasize that they want to be an organization where members help each other out and form good relationships. They don’t just want to be a club that hosts fundraisers and aren’t close with their members.

They want these relationships to be meaningful and bring comfort to international students. ISO also wants to give domestic students a taste of different cultures right on campus and give them a chance to form meaningful relationships with international students.

ISO plans to host more events throughout the spring semester that are open to the entire campus community. These events include an international food sale, a talent show/cultural festival, and International Week.

Photo courtesy of the Office of International Engagement via Instagram

Photo courtesy of the Office of International Engagement via Instagram

Photo courtesy of the Office of International Engagement via Instagram

From left to right: Vice President Shahrazad Koofe, Treasurer Vera Yapi, President Marie-Esther Buh and Alice Boinot, who is in charge of publicity and social media, pose for a photo.
One of the staple off-campus hang-outs for Montclair State University students closed its doors as The Fine Grind in Wayne, New Jersey served its last cup of coffee at that location on Jan. 25.

According to The Fine Grind’s owner, Rhonda Mallek, the coffee bar’s second location is closing due to the town’s overhead, aka the price of rent.

“What happened is this store was running at a deficit,” Mallek said. “The overhead here was out of proportion compared to the sales we were making.”

Mallek discussed how they were well-loved but still had difficulties. “We were relatively busy and we were getting business from people who loved us, but the town’s overhead affected the percentage of our revenue that went to things like our payroll and rent,” Mallek said.

Established in the early spring of 2018, The Fine Grind in Wayne decided to close down two weeks prior to the day of closing, but Mallek believes this should only help the flagship location in Little Falls, New Jersey in the future.

“It will actually impact [the Little Falls location] in a positive way,” Mallek said. “The location in Little Falls, which was doing really well two years ago, was starting to have financial problems because of all the money that was going in the Wayne store.”

Mallek hopes for the best and knows this will benefit the other store. “This decision is going to save the Little Falls store as soon as we lev-

el off the price of goods from here,” Mallek said.

The Fine Grind in Little Falls, according to an article published by The Montclarion, closed for nine days last October due to “financial hardships,” only to reopen.

Located off Berdan Avenue in Wayne, the coffee bar neighbored Wayne Hills High School. Many students, whether it was during their lunch break or after school, went there to relax and hang out with their friends. High school senior Paige Boatwright worked at The Fine Grind in Wayne after school.

Boatwright has been working at both the Wayne and Little Falls locations for the past five months and will now be working just at the Little Falls location.

“It’s not that much of a switch for me,” Boatwright said. “I still will very much miss this location.”

While the store was in Wayne, many Montclair State students made their way from campus down Route 46 to grab their favorite cup of coffee. Chris Pierinelli, a senior hospitality management major, commutes from Wayne to campus and has spent time at Wayne’s Fine Grind.

“It was like one of the only things to do in Wayne,” Pierinelli said. “I’m definitely sad to see it go because my friends and I would go just to hang out.”

Pierinelli still plans to make the trip to The Fine Grind in Little Falls after classes.

“I actually go to that one more than the one in Wayne,” Pierinelli said. “It just stinks to not have it as close when I’m not on campus.”
Amanda Brown
Contributing Writer

For most people, their number one resolution is to lose weight. Unfortunately, with plenty of fast-food options and not enough healthy ones nearby, the chances of caving in and ordering a Wendy’s “4 for $4” is higher than sticking to what could be a life-changing transformation.

Fortunately, there are resources for those who do want to stick to their guns and cut back on their unhealthy eating. Natural Way Cafe, located at 23-25 Broadway in Fair Lawn, New Jersey sells a variety of options to select from.

My immediate reaction when stepping in was curiosity. It’s not often that I stumble across locations that sell natural products in close proximity to where I live. I enjoyed walking around and observing all the groceries and products they sell.

The cafe offers perishable items such as tofu, an array of milk such as rice, soy and almond, and a selective amount of exotic vegetables. They also have a juice-it-bar, specialty supplements, organic and gluten-free groceries and an assortment of teas.

In addition, there are several options ranging from appetizers to entrees with more selections from soups, wraps, sandwiches and even homemade specials. I had the pleasure of enjoying a pineapple shrimp entree.

The shrimp was sauteed with pineapple chunks, combined with mixed vegetables all put together in a store-made sauce. And luckily for those who are allergic to gluten or happen to be vegan, most of their meals are both gluten-free and vegan-friendly.

In order to maintain the healthy ratio, they are all served with a side of organic multigrain brown rice. This is great for those that want a more filling meal.

As a person who is very much into healthy living and a healthy lifestyle, I felt at home in the atmosphere of the cafe and even conversed with the owner, Farbia Chang. Chang incorporates his Chinese heritage in the store to influence his customers with a view of different cultures.

Chang promotes natural products to help others live happier and healthier lives.

“Life is a gift,” Chang said. “Try to share it.”

The beverage section at Natural Way Cafe includes a variety of vegan options, like soy milk, almond milk and rice milk.

Natural Way Cafe’s supplement section is overflowing with options.

Natural Way Cafe sells veganaise, which is a vegan alternative to the popular condiment mayonnaise.
Special Savings for Students

Save an Extra 25%

Full-time college students riding NJ TRANSIT bus, rail or light rail to class.

njtransit.com/studentpass

Student Pass
Help Wanted

Looking for Mary Poppins
Current elementary education student or recent graduate, or retired elementary school teacher, would be ideal. Needed: to drive boys ages 4 & 7 to school and back, help with homework, prepare evening meals and stay until parents return home from work. 3 days a week. Will consider live in or out. Email: russellfreib@gmail.com

$20 Per Hour / SOCCER COACH / MONTCALIR
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-$700 / GORGEOUS ROOMS FOR RENT / MONTCLAIR
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, whether it's student aid, work, parents etc. 1st month + 1 month security to move in. Please feel free to text/call me - (201) 204-4992 or email 396otter@gmail.com.

$18 / Part-time childcare mid-January / Montclair
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, contact nanettelerner@gmail.com.

$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 $30 for the job. It should not take long. I would think travel time to Edison and back is about an hour.

If interested please email me at pickledly63@yahoo.com

Help Wanted

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 Marcy at 973-699-0485 or email marcymercer@verizon.net.

$20-25 per hour / Homework Helper / Livingston
Looking for someone to help with homework, prepare evening meals and stay until parents return home from work. 3 days a week. Will consider live in or out. Email: zack@watchfantom.com. Room to expand. If interested, please email: roomtoexpand@icloud.com.

$10/hour Sales Development Associate, WatchFANTOM
Interested in learning the world of sales? Then join our fast growing media startup, WatchFANTOM. We are HQ’ed 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.

Help Wanted

$200-$350 weekly / DOG WALKER NEEDED/MONTCALIR, GLEN RIDGE, BLOOMFIELD AREA
Local dog walking/pet care business EX-PLODING, with new business!! Seeking local dog-walking/pet care business EX-PLODING, with new business!! Seeking local dog-walking/pet care business. If interested, please email Marcy at 973-699-0645 or email: marcymercer@verizon.net.

Looking for part time help for three girls - Montclair
Looking for part time help for three 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. 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: katiekupferschmid@icloud.com.

Help Wanted

$5/ Hour / After school / Home / Montclair
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 Marcy at 973-699-0485 or email marcymercer@verizon.net.

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$10/hour Sales Development Associate, WatchFANTOM
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$15/ Excel Proficient College Student – To assist with teaching and assisting with excel work.
Looking for a college student that is proficient in excel in order to conduct as needed small analysis, 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.

$20 Per Hour / Homework Helper / Montclair
Looking for someone to help with homework, prepare evening meals and stay until parents return home from work. 3 days a week. Will consider live in or out. Email: zack@watchfantom.com. Room to expand. If interested, please email: roomtoexpand@icloud.com.

$200-$350 weekly / GORGEOUS ROOMS FOR RENT / MONTCLAIR
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, whether it’s student aid, work, parents etc. 1st month + 1 month security to move in. Please feel free to text/call me - (201) 204-4992 or email 396otter@gmail.com.

$300-$400 weekly / Montclair
If interested, please email Liz at: mxdwicjkconemcast.net or call: 973-839-8983

Service Provider

$15/ Excel Proficient College Student – To assist with teaching and assisting with excel work.
Looking for a college student that is proficient in excel in order to conduct as needed small analysis, 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.
The Montclarion Crossword and Word Search

Hidden Hangouts at Montclair State

Across
2. A secluded area exposed to the outside in the middle of University Hall, which is home to many birds and plants
4. This outdoor hangout is a great way to view the sunset or the city and is popular in CELS and School of Business... if you know how to get to it
5. A chill hangout and late-night food place inside Machuga Heights
6. This dining area is located in the Student Center but is a nice break from the usual chain restaurants in the same building and serves buffet style and gourmet food

Down
1. Hidden inside Red Hawk Deck on the fourth floor is this display of contemporary art exhibits
3. Dedicated to the baseball legend, this building exhibits rare memorabilia and overlooks a diamond

Club Sports at Montclair State

cheerleading  ice hockey  basketball
softball  track  roller hockey
field hockey  wrestling  rugby
swim  volleyball  equestrian
dance  baseball  soccer
lacrosse

Sudoku

*For answers to the puzzles, please check The Montclarion Facebook page every Thursday.*
Central Receiving is Not so Central Anymore

It is almost Valentine’s Day and on-campus residents at Montclair State University are eagerly expecting a special something from that special someone.

For students living on campus, getting mail can sometimes be a bit of a hassle. If it is not an Amazon purchase, it requires a more complicated process. When students expect a delivery, they sit by their computers and browse through their emails, looking for a message from Central Receiving notifying them their packages have been delivered.

Once the notification comes in, they rush over to Postal Services across from Red Hawk Deck, only to find that Central Receiving is no longer located there. They sigh with a feeling of defeat when they realize that it is going to be more than just a long walk to retrieve their package.

Over the summer Central Receiving was moved from its central location. While the old Central Receiving location was still a long hike across campus for the majority of students and faculty, it was more convenient than its new location at 147 Clove Road, near Lot 60 before the ramp to get on Route 46.

What used to be an excursion across campus now requires waiting for a shuttle to get to the new location, which is about 1.5 miles away from the previous one. It is also approximately a half-hour walk from the old location. In reality, it could take at least an hour for students to pick up their packages and return to their residence halls, which is anything but central.

The campus community was notified about the location change that took effect back in June of 2018, but with the implementation of Amazon Locker delivery at Montclair State, many students have been steering away from ordering on other websites because of the easy access.

There are a handful of students who benefit from the switch. Residents who live in The Village apartments are the closest to the new location and can easily pick up their packages in a reasonable amount of time, but there are other members of the campus community who are unsatisfied with the new location, including many faculty members who send and receive packages from their offices.

Faculty members do have an option to have their packages picked up, but with the hundreds of packages that come to and from campus, many packages get misplaced or lost. Just imagine lugging around a giant box back to your dorm after traveling more than a mile to the new mailing location.

What the campus community wants to see happen is a change to mail delivery as a whole. The process should not involve a cross-campus trip just to pick up a small package.

For students who live on campus, each has a mailbox in their respective residence halls that many rarely use. This is because the purpose for the mailboxes is for cards and letters only.

While most mailboxes are small, many students believe they have a lot of potential and could make picking up their packages more convenient.

They hope one day a long walk and shuttle ride to Central Receiving can become just a short walk downstairs in their dorm buildings.

For now, faculty members and students living at Montclair State are still adjusting to the new location of Central Receiving. The campus community hopes that this change is temporary and that more improvements are underway.

Students and faculty are very pleased with the new advancements of the Amazon Lockers as an alternative to Central Receiving, but there is a lot that can be done to make package pickup more central and convenient.

Voices:

“I honestly think [the new Central Receiving] is great because the new location is closer for a lot of people who live on campus. You don’t have to walk as far to the Red Hawk Deck. The facility is very nice and less crowded. It’s a good move.”

- Matt McGuire

Business Administration

“Central Receiving is great because it was frustrating enough when it was closer and now that it is further I feel like I am putting off getting packages that I should be getting. I am getting books from places that are more expensive because it is just harder to go across campus to get it.”

- Caitlin Ellis-Foster

Athletic Training

Sophomore

“I honestly think [moving the location of Central Receiving] is the most annoying thing I’ve ever heard of. [Postal services] did not send out an email, there was no warning. The fact that it’s in a different location is what bugs me.”

- Olivia Kearns

Hospitality and Management

Sophomore

“[Postal services] did not send out an announcement, I feel a little indifferent about it, and I don’t think it affects me that much.”

- Tommy Bavaro

Hospitality and Management

Freshman

“I don’t agree with it because it was frustrating enough when it was closer and now that it is further I feel like I am putting off getting packages that I should be getting. I am getting books from places that are more expensive because it is just harder to go across campus to get it.”

- George Jamgochian

Sports Media and Journalism

Sophomore

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Sports Media and Journalism

Sophomore
The Most Boring Yet Historical Super Bowl Ever

Biggest televised event of the year ends with many disappointments

Unsurprisingly, the halftime show wasn’t the only fail of the night. Com- ing in second place is the actual game itself.

Granted, this year’s Super Bowl did make history by having the young- est coach, Sean McVay, at almost age 33, in a Super Bowl game. The game also made history by having the oldest coach who has won a Super Bowl title, Bill Belichick, at the age of 66, accord- ing to The New York Times.

Regardless, Super Bowl LIII became the lowest scored game in history at a whopping 13-3 game-point difference. As for the audience in the stadium, watching almost a four-hour football game with little to no action through- out all three quarters is insulting given the overpriced tickets one must pay to reserve their seats.

According to Stubhub Pressbox, tick- ets cost on average $4,367 and there were 300 last-minute tickets being sold at $3,000. One would assume that watching from the comfort of your own home would be more practical and suitable since you can watch all of the best Su- per Bowl commercials, but even that was a letdown.

According to Ad Meter, the worst ad commercial was Burger King’s ad revolving around Andy Warhol awk- wardly and quietly eating a whooper adding no further context from a film clip that is 37 years old. The commercials used to be sporadic and memorable but are now trying to take a stance on moral and ethical social causes with their products.

In 2014, Budweiser released a commercial called “Puppy Love” where we follow the journey of one adorable dog trying to hang out with his best friend who was a horse. Their owners forbid them from seeing one another but both animals were persistent and want- ed to continue their bond.

Now the commercial had nothing to do with beer, social justice issues, nor did it invoke a positive message for all, but it pulled on the heartstrings of many people because it was an innocent and ca- thartic story.

We know as an audience what to expect from overproduced com- mercials, perfectly executed half- time shows with a tremendous light show and exhilarating game play from the top teams.

Perhaps as a faithful viewer of the Super Bowl year after year, my expectations are never met because of the relentless repetition and pre- dictable routine of the overall for- mat.

I think that, had residents got- ten daily updates on the situation, it would have allowed them time to plan better instead of guessing whether or not they can shower without- out any interruptions.

Residents understand these kinds of problems pop up every once in a while, but it is a little disappointing when we pay over $5,000 for housing and are stuck wondering when prob- lems like heat or hot water are ex- pected to be fixed. Even just a daily email that says, “We’re still working on it,” would make us feel reassured that it’s being taken care of.

Most residents are thankful for ev- eryone who has assisted us through this issue, including Residence Life and University Facilities, but when a problem like this arises, we ask, as residents, that we are kept in the loop so we know progress is being made.

CARLY HENRIQUEZ
ASSISTANT OPINION EDITOR

It’s All Here, Except for Hot Water

Some Machuga Heights residents spend weekend without hot showers

Last week, most of the country was blasted with cold fronts that brought along high winds, snow squalls and sub- zero temperatures that left many ar- eas covered in ice.

Commuters at Montclair State Uni- versity called these ongoing condi- tions a nightmare as many fled cam- pus Wednesday afternoon, hoping to beat the snow squall that shortly took place and the unsafe road hazards that were destined to come next.

For on-campus residents, prob- lems didn’t really begin until Friday, as many shivering students who were looking forward to taking a nice warm shower after facing Montclair State’s harsh winds were greeted with another chilling surprise.

On Friday night around 10 p.m., students living in the Gordon and Clara Barton side of Ma- chuga Heights were alerted with an email that there had been reports from residents of no hot water in their bathrooms.

Coincidentally, this was the same area that had no heat during the noto- rious November snowstorm right be- fore Thanksgiving. Many residents, including myself, believe the harsh winter weather is to blame for the outages.

While the problem was being fixed, Barton and Gordon Hall residents were suggested to find other places to shower, including the Student Recreation Center or to find a friend whose room was not affected by the outage.

I find that the issue wasn’t how the situation was handled, but the lack of communication and updates to ensure us that it was being fixed.

The last update residents got on the issue was Saturday afternoon, and no one heard anything else until Mon- day night.

I think that, had residents got- ten daily updates on the situation, it would have allowed them time to plan better instead of guessing whether or not they can shower with- out any interruptions.

Residents were notified around 5 p.m. Monday evening that the hot water had been restored, but when the last email sent to residents was on Saturday, it makes us feel left in the dark. As residents we don’t need to know every detail as to what hap- pened, but we should be kept in the loop when there are issues pertaining to our living spaces.

Residents understand these kinds of problems pop up every once in a while, but it is a little disappointing when we pay over $5,000 for housing and are stuck wondering when prob- lems like heat or hot water are ex- pected to be fixed. Even just a daily email that says, “We’re still working on it,” would make us feel reassured that it’s being taken care of.

Most residents are thankful for ev- eryone who has assisted us through this issue, including Residence Life and University Facilities, but when a problem like this arises, we ask, as residents, that we are kept in the loop so we know progress is being made.

REBECCA SERVISS
OPINION EDITOR

CARLY HENRIQUEZ, a journalism major, is in her first year as an assistant opinion editor for The Montclarion.
The Shorts Epidemic

Why are students baring knees in the dead of winter?

Most students prepare for the cold as anyone would: Winter coats, jeans, bigger socks and even hats and gloves to boot, if it was absolutely necessary. What is not necessary is what I have been witnessing on this campus for the last four years, and it’s completely unacceptable. Shorts.

There are people out here wearing shorts during the coldest part of the semester. I’m in utter shock whenever I see one of these heathens walking around campus like it is a warm spring day. It’s barbaric, and it needs to be recognized as an actual problem.

Considering the last week we had weather-wise, there is no possible logical explanation as to why these people wear basketball shorts when the high of the day is 9 degrees. We also go to school on top of a mountain that is in a wind tunnel, so it feels even colder than that. I can barely test on my phone without my fingers feeling like they’re going to snap off, let alone leave my calves exposed.

I’ll be the first to admit that I have worn shorts this winter. I’m not proud of my actions, but there are easy answers to this. Firstly, I wear shorts sometimes when I’m inside with the heat going off. That’s not an issue, and I’m not going to bash anyone for what they do in the comfort of their dorm.

I have worn shorts when I go to yoga, but I immediately put on jeans when I’m done with that class. I go to a stall and swap pants and go about my day from there. So, unless everyone on this campus is doing exactly what I’m doing, which I highly doubt, then that’s fine and I’m willing to deal with it.

Seriously though, it’s very cold this winter and there are more disadvantages than advantages when you’re not prepared for the cold. People have died in Chicago and it felt like it was 20 degrees there, so what makes anyone think they’ll be fine with wearing shorts during the polar vortex?

I can only assume that everyone wearing shorts now has no functioning nerves in their lower legs. The numbness they already feel must be something that medical science has yet to discover the cure to. It could also be pure stupidity that’s the cause of this issue and that’s what I have been believing for a while now.

Out in the Open

Light on R. Kelly accusations bares little results

My initial reaction after watching the first few episodes of “Surviving R. Kelly” was not dismissive; rather, I indulged like most did. My reasons included my curiosity surrounding his childhood and what caused him to become the man he is today.

Prior to watching the documentary, I had heard about the number of sexual assault allegations and now it all makes sense. As I sat at my desk that Saturday morning fixated on the lack of repercussions for his actions, I began to think. Can one man truly have all that power? Maybe money is the solution to all problems. Where were the parents? Were their testimonies genuine? And why are black women the most targeted, but least protected?

There were also reports that one of the victims, Stephanie “Sparkle” Edwards, was releasing a song in lieu of the documentary being released. If you put two and two together, you too would be able to see where the speculation comes from. It made me question the authenticity of the accusers’ tears and testimonies.

Let’s face it, this isn’t the first time when people have questioned the allegations made against a black superstar. We live in an age in which the masses seek fame rather than fortune and 15 minutes can go a long way. It took me by surprise when I saw a video on Instagram of two of his accusers at his concert in the front row.

However, I did not let that deter me from the fact that there were other women in the documentary with real stories and real grief.

Like other sexual assault cases against men of stature, there is always more than just one accuser. There will be those accusers whose accusations are false. Though this shouldn’t be the case, it discredits the testimony of the other accusers.

Everyone who was involved with R. Kelly and knew of his actions but did not confront him are guilty as well. They stuck by his side because of money, fame and power: the three drugs that most people revere.

The hardest part is realizing that actions should’ve been taken against R. Kelly way before the new millennium. It is even harder for me personally to know the number of allegations and still decide to be a fan. It was difficult to digest the extent to which his actions affected the women involved and their families until I saw the pain and sorrow in their eyes.

In the end, the most crucial thing I realized while watching is that we all have demons. We all have vices that cause us to embrace the pain we’ve endured or acted out as a way to run from the problems that trouble us.
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The 91st Academy Awards Ceremony Remains Hostless

Thomas McNulty  
Staff Writer

Last month, it was announced this year’s Academy Awards ceremony would be conducted without a host. The Academy’s original choice, actor and comedian Kevin Hart, was met with controversy after the emergence of anti-gay jokes which the comic had made in the past. While many expected Hart to be replaced, it was later announced the 91st annual Oscars ceremony would instead be conducted using a variety of different presenters. This marks the first Oscars ceremony without a dedicated host since the 61st award show in 1989.

The long list of presenters expected to appear at the award show include actors Brie Larson, Chris Evans, Tess Thompson, Daniel Craig, Charlize Theron, Whoopi Goldberg, Awkwafina, Tina Fey, Jennifer Lopez, Amy Poehler, Maya Rudolph, Amanda Stenberg and Constance Wu.

Montclair State University students had a lot to say about this topic, as we approach the ceremony’s scheduled date of Feb. 24.

When asked about the lack of a singular host, freshman English major Sierra Schiff expressed how she felt about the topic.

“Should there be a host, but I don’t blame them for not wanting to do it,” Schiff said. “It’s a lot of pressure, and they face the potential for a lot of public backlash.”

However, Schiff did go on to say she believes Hart would have been an ideal host, and that there was no need for a replacement.

“The fact that Kevin Hart, someone who is used to that sort of attention, backed out goes to show how much stress it can be,” Schiff said.

On the other end of the spectrum, some students felt that Hart was always a poor choice to host the show.

“It’ll probably be better off without Hart anyway,” said senior English major Wendy Faria. “He’s not funny. He just gets by from being offensive.”

Faria said there should be a singular host, and she suggested actor and musician Neil Patrick Harris as an ideal candidate.

“I think the Oscars should be taken seriously with a serious host,” Faria said.

Other students expressed skepticism toward the Academy Awards, which in recent years have lost much of their credibility.

“The Oscars are a big advertising campaign,” said freshman history major MaryRose Spinella. “I haven’t enjoyed the Oscars in the past so others are optimistic to see how the new format plays out.

While the lack of a singular host is seen by many as an ill omen, others are optimistic about drawing consumers to view the show using a well-known entertainment figure.

“The Oscars’ traditions but also about drawing consumers to view the show using a well-known entertainment figure,” said senior English major MaryRose Spinella. “I haven’t enjoyed the Oscars in the past so this could be a good change.”

If there were to be a host this year, Spinella believes that actor and comedian James Corden would be a great choice due to his experience hosting the 2016 Tony Awards and the Grammy Awards in both 2017 and 2018.

Mariana Gomes, a senior music major, also expressed excitement about the change and how excited she is to see how it plays out.

“The lack of a singular host will be detrimental to the show’s effectiveness. The host of the Oscars is typically used to unify the ceremony’s many different aspects, as they are responsible for introducing the awards, the presenters, the musical acts and often appears in promotions for the show itself.”

This ceremony will lack the distinct tone and identity which previous hosts have contributed to their respective ceremony. This year’s Oscars may consequently feel a bit muddled.

‘How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World’ releases in theaters on Feb. 22.

Diego Gaya  
Staff Writer

After five years, audiences are finally able to see the highly anticipated conclusion to the “How to Train Your Dragon” trilogy. Since the first two films were well received by critics and audience members, this film had a lot to live up to.

I had the privilege of seeing an early screening this past Saturday, and I can confidently say that “How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World” is a satisfying conclusion to one of the best animated trilogies ever.

In this film, we follow the character Hiccup, who is now the leader of his tribe. His daily routines consist of trying to maintain the peace between everyone and the dragons, as well as going on rescue missions and fighting enemies who threaten that peace.

Things start to take a turn for the worst when a hired tyrant named Grimmel wants to kill every dragon possible. This causes Hiccup and his tribe to go on a quest to search for the hidden world, which is a utopia for dragons. From there on, the adventure ensues.

“How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World” was undoubtedly my most anticipated animated film of the year. As someone who loved the first two films, I wanted to see where the story would go and how it would wrap up.

I left the theater not disappointed because it had so much going for it: Stellar animation, a lot of heart, great characters, humor that mostly works and a lot of emotional beats that hit hard. However, this film is the weakest in the trilogy, but that is saying a lot considering how great the first two films are.

As I stated before, the animation is absolutely mind-blowing. If one were to watch the first two films today, the animation for those movies would hold up very well. In this film, the animation is nothing short of top notch.

I can imagine that a 3D or IMAX screening would amaze any viewer. However, even in a regular screening, it’s beautiful to look at. The film opens up with an exciting action scene that sets the tone of a fun animated film that people of all ages could enjoy. Additionally, it has a very consistent pace that never drags nor does it get boring. It’s entertaining throughout.

The characters in the film are also very likable and easy to relate to. It’s amazing to see how much Hiccup has grown from the first film up until this conclusion. The character has matured and has grown through a lot of obstacles, which makes his character that much more powerful than most of the other protagonists in animated films.

Most of the characters in the film provide comic relief and have arcs that are continued from the previous two films. There are admittedly some characters I wanted to see more of, such as Hiccup’s mother, who was a very important character in the second one but is unfortunately not given much to do in this film.

The weakest aspect of the film was the villain. This is disappointing to report since the villain from the second movie was not only intimidating but memorable. This villain was unfortunately disposable and had a very weak motivation.

While most of the humor landed, not all of it did. There is a running joke between one of the characters and Hiccup’s mother that seemed to get repetitive after a while. Other than that, there really is no other issue with the film’s humor.

If you have never seen a “How to Train Your Dragon” film, then I highly implore you do so. Not only are they great animated films, but they are just great films in general.

This conclusion to the trilogy comes out on Feb. 22, and I highly recommend seeing it, especially if you have been a fan of the franchise thus far.
"In America, the President reigns for four years, but Journalism governs forever." – Oscar Wilde

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Dan Gilroy Paints a Messy Canvas with ‘Velvet Buzzsaw’

Jake Gyllenhaal’s second collaboration with the writer and director of the critically acclaimed film “Nightcrawler” proves to be a poor attempt at a comedy-horror satire. “Velvet Buzzsaw” marks Dan Gilroy’s third attempt as a writer-director, following “Nightcrawler” and “Roman J. Israel, Esq.” When I heard that Gilroy would be making a Netflix movie with Gyllenhaal, I was instantly fascinated. When I saw the trailer for the movie, my excitement grew even more. Unfortunately, the film did not live up to my high expectations.

The first few minutes of the film are actually quite interesting. Gilroy exposes the audience to the mostly overlooked world of the art industry. We are introduced to a variety of critical and pretentious artists and gallery owners, including Josephina played by Zawe Ashton, her boss Haze played by Rene Russo, and Morf Vandewalt, a very particular art critic played by Gyllenhaal.

Josephina, after suffering a difficult breakup that makes the film feel like a melodramatic television show, discovers her neighbor’s dead body. She then finds the departed’s hidden collection of paintings that were in the process of being burned. The painter, Vetri Dease, died before he was able to destroy the art.

Josephina and Haze profit off of the man’s paintings, which mesmerize anyone who lays eyes on them. Morf and other side characters, including Jon Dondon played by Tom Sturridge, try. We are introduced to a variety of critical, avant-garde artists and gallery owners, including Josephina played by Zawe Ashton, her boss Haze played by Rene Russo, and Morf Vandewalt, a very particular art critic played by Gyllenhaal.

The film suddenly shifts from a weak satirical comedy-horror movie that was supposed to be a tribute to the mostly uncharted territory of the art world was riveting and bold. Unfortunately, “Velvet Buzzsaw” comes across as too over-the-top and convoluted, especially when the horror aspect is shoehorned in. “Velvet Buzzsaw” seems to be a film with deeper meanings and metaphors that can only be understood if Gilroy told the audience, “This is what I meant by this decision.” If a movie has hidden messages the filmmaker wants the viewer to discover, then the film should first be well-made.

This movie wasn’t a total miss, however. There were still strong performances from Gyllenhaal, Collette and Russo and creating a film about the mostly uncharted territory of the art world was riveting and bold. “Velvet Buzzsaw” seems to be a film with deeper meanings and metaphors that can only be understood if Gilroy told the audience, “This is what I meant by this decision.” If a movie has hidden messages the filmmaker wants the viewer to discover, then the film should first be well-made.

Gilroy tries too hard to blend satire and horror into one film, resulting in a movie with poor interpretations of both genres. Although the exploration of the art industry is interesting at times, “Velvet Buzzsaw” is a disappointment of a film, especially when compared to “Nightcrawler.”

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Men’s Basketball Topped by Rowan, Despite 21 Points by Hoffman

Rowan nails a late three-pointer to complete comeback against Red Hawks

The Montclair State University men’s basketball team fell short to New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) rival Rowan University Saturday afternoon. The win for the Rowan Profs came from senior guard Nick DePersia in the last few seconds, with a final score of 92-90.

Despite this, the Red Hawks had the advantage on Rowan for almost the entire game, with junior guard Akbar Hoffman scoring 21 points while senior forward-center Jordan Roberson had nine rebounds.

Scoring was not an issue for either team, as Montclair State had six players reaching double figures in points. They started the first half strong, going up 15-7 in the first five minutes. The Red Hawks kept playing toward their net with strong offense by junior guard forward Justin Porter and three-pointers by sophomore forward Jalen Parham.

Montclair State was up 45-36 at the end of the first half. Junior forward Jalen Parham, who had 10 points in the game, commented on how he thought his team played. “We could have improved our communication and sense of urgency down the stretch,” Parham said. “What we did well was that we shared the ball throughout the game, but we just couldn’t get it done at the end.”

The Red Hawks kept up the strong defense to start off the second half, keeping Rowan out of the net again. Sophomore guard forward Irving Callender IV scored two points on foul shots and sophomore guard Mylès Mitchell-White scored a three-pointer to keep Montclair State on top of Rowan. The Profs were noticeably better in this half, as they slowly crept up on the Red Hawks to keep the Profs from getting closer. Callender was one of the main reasons that Montclair State was able to stay above Rowan, getting consistent shots and assisting on a few points as well as scoring a three-pointer. The Red Hawks were still up by 10 with 14 minutes left, but Rowan started to come back. Porter kept it close with a blocked shot as well as two points on foul shots, but it was not enough to keep the Profs from getting the score to 63-61 halfway into the second half.

“In the last few minutes I thought we were in a great position to win,” Radi said. “But Rowan did what they needed to do to come back and steal one from us on our home court.”

The last few minutes were very intense, as the scoring went back and forth between each team. Parham kept passing the ball around as well as getting some points on a dunk, while attempting to rebound any ball he could to keep Montclair State on top. Shots were being blocked by both teams as an attempt to keep each other out of the net as the score still remained very close.

With two points each by Roberson, Parham and Hoffman, the Red Hawks won 87-81 with a minute left. However, Rowan’s foul shot brought the score back up to an uneasy 90-89. Montclair State made every attempt to finish the game strong at the end, but a missed three-pointer by Radi in the final seconds secured a win for Rowan.

“I personally felt really bad after that game especially since we lost to Rowan once already,” Parham said. “That loss hurt.”

The Red Hawks look to improve their 14-8 record, 5-6 in NJAC play and snap their two-game losing streak.

“I think next game we just need to be more aggressive in the way we’re playing knowing that winning on the road is hard,” Radi said.

Red Hawk Recap

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Rowan University: 92

Red Hawks Women’s Basketball: 69
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Women’s Hockey Loses to UPenn in Final Home Game of the Season

Marino’s two goals not enough to power Red Hawks in home finale

Adam Grassani
Staff Writer

The Montclair State University women’s ice hockey team played its final home game of the season when they took on the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) Saturday night at Floyd Hall Arena. Unfortunately, the season struggles continued for the women, as they ultimately lost the game by a final score of 6-3, falling to a 2-10-0 record on the season, 0-4-0 at home.

Montclair State opened the game up very sloppily, particularly on defense. UPenn defenseman Carolyn Watkins opened the game by scoring two minutes into the game when a shot managed to sneak past Montclair State goalie Kawanne Ferguson. UPenn then put another goal on the board when forward Kristen Murray caught Ferguson out of position, then buried the puck to give UPenn the 2-0 lead.

Not long after, Montclair State would actually start to gain some momentum when forward Cameron Marino fired an absolutely perfect laser shot right past UPenn goalie Makenzie Way to get her team on the board. UPenn would then go on to score three unanswered goals throughout the rest of the game. Montclair State’s players would of-ten get worn out very easily, which opposing teams would take advantage of and pull away late.

“We’ve already started talking to some of the local tier one and tier two hockey league coaches,” said Solomon. “We have about four or five interested players and now it’s just a matter of the process of getting them enrolled, accepted and deciding to come here.”

Solomon said they have a handful of students that are interested, which is promising.

Above all, the Red Hawks will be looking for a replacement goaltender, as Kawanne Ferguson will be leaving the team at season’s end. Solomon commended his goaltender on being willing to take the position despite her lack of experience at it.

Solomon said they’re going to miss Ferguson because she is really special to the team. “She’s never played goal before two years ago and we didn’t have a goalie and she stepped up and tried to learn it and she’s improved beyond belief for someone who just started playing goalie,” Solomon said. “That’s one area we have to address and try to get a goalie for next year and that’s what we’re working on.”

The Red Hawks will close out the season with two games on the road. They will head to Ice World to face Towson University on Saturday, Feb. 9 before heading to Hollydell Ice Arena to take on Rowan University on Saturday, Feb. 23.
McKinnon’s 11 points lift women’s basketball to second straight win

Red Hawks Increase Winning Streak After Victory Against Rowan

After the three-point attempt from Calloway, the Red Hawks had a nine-point lead and an early 5-0 run. Midway through the quarter, both teams struggled to find some rhythm on offense by missing shots and turning over the ball.

With 4:20 remaining, Brown made a three-pointer to put the lead at 25-15 for the Red Hawks. At the end of the quarter, both teams scored 15-11.

In the second quarter, Calloway knocked down a layup and scored on her free throw attempts. Meanwhile, Rowan’s Nicole Burke had 13 points, as well as forward Ayanna Johnson’s eight points, eight rebounds and three blocks.

The Red Hawks have now won two consecutive games. They put their record to 14-8 overall, followed by missing shots and turning over the ball. As the fourth quarter was approaching, Sutton gave the Red Hawks the largest lead of the game by draining a three to put the Red Hawks in the lead 30-28.

The Red Hawks scored five unanswered points from a lay-up by MacLelland and a three from McKinnon. The momentum gave the Red Hawks some spark and subsequently Calloway converted from downtown to put the lead at 10.

Throughout the quarter, things were going the Red Hawks’ way. Once Rowan called a 30-second timeout, Red Hawks’ guard Julia Sutton was fouled while making a layup and scored on her free throw attempt.

Following that play, McKinnon again hit a three from the corner to put the Red Hawks in the lead 46-31 with 4:16 in the quarter. The Red Hawks outscored Rowan 25-11 as the quarter concluded. Montclair State finished the quarter 55-37.

However, Rowan scored back-to-back baskets from Rulon and Dominique Peters to put the Red Hawks in the lead 30-28. The Red Hawks scored five unanswered points from a lay-up by MacLelland and a three from McKinnon. The momentum gave the Red Hawks some spark and subsequently Calloway converted from downtown to put the lead at 10.

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As the fourth quarter was approaching, Sutton gave the Red Hawks the largest lead of the game by draining a three to put the Red Hawks lead 60-39. Rowan showed some resiliency as the game was wrapping up. Unfortunately, the deficit was too much for them to vanquish. Eventually, the Red Hawks would defeat Rowan to have their winning streak at two. The Red Hawks now have beaten Rowan for the second consecutive time this season.

After the game, Brown discussed her rebounding performance.

“We knew we had to come in today because Rowan has some excellent post players,” Brown said. “Coach [Karin] Harvey did a great job executing some strategies and thanks to my teammates.”

Brown also noted how the Red Hawks look to move on as they face other teams throughout the season.

“Looking forward, we’re going to come out and play with the same tenacity as we normal-ly do,” Brown said.

The Montclair State University Red Hawks women’s basketball team concluded their game against Rowan University with a 69-55 victory on Feb. 2. Red Hawks’ guard Kim Calloway led the way with 16 points, four rebounds and two steals. Red Hawks’ forward Alex McKinnon finished with 11 points and six rebounds while guard Taylor Brown had nine points along with six rebounds.

Meanwhile, Rowan’s Nicole Burke had 13 points, as well as forward Ayanna Johnson’s eight points, eight rebounds and three blocks.

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Later in the first quarter, after an incredible block from Red Hawks’ forward Kayla Bush, Brown scored on a fast break. At the time, the Red Hawks had a 13-4 lead by having an 11-0 run. Rowan responded by three-form guard Olivia Rulon with 3:55 left, followed by a layup from Johnson. Rowan’s 5-0 run decreased the Red Hawks’ lead to 15-9. Late in the quarter, both teams struggled to find some rhythm on offense by missing shots and turning over the ball.

With 4:20 remaining, Brown made a three-pointer to put the lead at 25-15 for the Red Hawks. At the end of the quarter, both teams scored 15-11.

In the second quarter, Calloway pulled up from behind the arc and converted a three-pointer with 8:42 remaining. Calloway discussed how the Red Hawks executed their offensive strategy.

“I think we all worked together as a team and took some of the best shots,” Calloway said.

After the three-point attempt from Calloway, the Red Hawks had a nine-point lead and an early 5-0 run. Midway through the quarter, both teams struggled to find some rhythm on offense by missing shots and turning over the ball.

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