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.”
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,” Barrett said. “Thankfully, there was no harm to any individuals.”

The campus property was unaffected by the fire. The fire was safely contained.

The Montclarion is a publication of Montclair State University and is funded by student fees distributed by Montclair State University and incoming advertising revenue. The views expressed in the Opinion section, with the exception of the Main Editorial, do not necessarily reflect the views of The Montclarion. The Montclarion has a commitment to accuracy and clarity and will print corrections or clarifications if information is found to be incorrect.

To report an error of fact or a Letter to the Editor, email the Editor-in-Chief at montclarionchief@gmail.com.

Information reported in the Red Hawk Rap Sheet comes directly from the MSU Police Department. We do not print retractions to the events unless information directly from the police report is incorrect. We can print an update to the events only if the newspaper is given access to relevant documents to corroborate the information.

We do not print articles from anonymous contributors.

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

Red Hawk Rap Sheet

Thursday, Jan. 31

Lot 17: Patrol officers and the Little Falls Fire Department responded in regards to a report of a car fire. Upon arrival on scene, several cars were seen engulfed. A community alert was sent out to the university community to avoid the area. The fire was later extinguished and the vehicles were removed from the scene without incident.

Tuesday, Jan. 29

NJ Transit Station: A female student reported being assaulted by an unknown male. A bag the student was carrying unintentionally hit the male as she passed him in the stairwell, who responded by hitting the student across the shoulder with his briefcase and threatening her by stating, “If you ever do that again, I will punch you right in your face.” This incident was transferred over to the NJ Transit Police Department for a follow-up investigation.

Wednesday, Jan. 30

Abbott and Costello: Patrol officers responded to speak with a female student in regards to a report of harassment. The student stated that she overheard her roommate say she would threaten to punch her in the face. Officers later spoke with the student’s roommate who denied making such threats. The student advised that she did not wish to file a complaint against her roommate at this time. Both students were referred to administrative mediation with their resident advisor.

Thursday, Jan. 31

Calcia Hall: Patrol officers responded in regards to an incident of criminal mischief/bias intimidation in which a swastika was drawn on the wall inside a classroom. The drawing was later removed by facilities personnel. This incident is under investigation.
Winter Thaw Makes Early Arrival to Campus

Students lounge outside because of random warmer temperatures

Photo Essay by Olivia Kearns

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.

From left to right: Sophomore biology major Alex Carlucci, junior television and digital media major Mandonnah Mahallati and junior family science and human development major Frankie Racioppi chat on the steps of the Student Center.

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.

A group of friends hang out on a hammock in front of Calcia Hall.

Freshman television and digital media major Louis Biondolillo works on his laptop outside of Stone Hall.

Freshman animation and illustration major Marley Goudie hangs out with friends behind the Center for Environmental and Life Sciences building.
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 now the current president of the newly restored ISO. She says that ISO was one of the biggest organizations on campus years ago, but with time it seemed to die down. Eventually, it was forgotten about.

ISO was reinstated at the end of the fall 2018 semester by Buh, who is a senior English major from Cameroon, a country in Central Africa. Buh works at the Office of International Engagement, which helps to bring in international students and works with domestic students who want to study abroad.

Buh began the process of bringing back ISO and giving it a fresh new start. 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 meal 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.
The Fine Grind’s Wayne Location Reaches an Oddly Bright End

Current and former employees of The Fine Grind gather around a counter at the Wayne Fine Grind.

One of the staple off-campus hangouts 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-
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 WORLD WITHOUT NEWS WOULD BE...

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

Photo courtesy of wikipedia.org.
Help Wanted

$20 / Need help moving boxes, Montclair – Edison
Looking for someone to help move boxes. Must be able to lift, and able to work outside. Not a lot of boxes. Can be done in one day. Contact: 973-819-9893 or rrodwick@comcast.net

$20 Per hour / Homework Helper / Livingston
Looking for an after school homework helper. Must be willing to stay until homework is done. $20 per hour. Email: pickldily630@yahoo.com

$20 – $50 per hour / Homework Helper / Assignment
If interested please email me at marcymercer@verizon.net.

$200 – $350 weekly / DOG WALKER
Local dog-walking/pet care business expanding. If interested, please email 39ketner@gmail.com.

MONTCLAIR
$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.

$600-700 / GORGEOUS ROOMS FOR RENT / 7 MINS FROM CAMPUS
Gorgeous rooms for rent in large, clean, recently renovated 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’s + 1 month security to move in. Please feel free to text/call me – (201) 204-6992 or email 39ketner@gmail.com.

$200 – $500 weekly / WEEKEND NANNY
Looking for a weekend nanny for our 2 children (ages 16, 14) 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. Must be fun, patient, and reliable. Caucasian, needs to be a driver. Starting at $200 per week.

$300 – $500 weekly / house-sitting / Montclair
Available immediately. I have a 10 yr old boy to take care of who has activities most evenings. You would need to babysit, do light housework, and prepare meals. You would need to have a clean background.

Job Ranger
$300-$500 Weekly / Dog Walker Needed / Montclair, Glen Ridge, Bloomfield Area
Local dog-walking/pet care business expanding. If interested, please email 39ketner@gmail.com.

$10/hour Sales Development Associate, WatchFANTOM
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 zach@watch fantom.com.
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

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 Central Receiving, only to find that Central Receiving is no longer located there.

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, they each have 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.

学生们在新中央接收地点排队收集他们的包裹。

OPINION

CAMPUS VOICES:

Do you agree with postal services moving the location of Central Receiving? Why or why not?

By Jennifer Losos and AJ Melillo

“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.”

“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.”

“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.”

“Well, I didn’t know what Central Receiving was and I wasn’t aware of it. They didn’t make any announcements. I feel a little indifferent about it, and I don’t think it affects me that much.”

- Caitlin Ellis-Foster
  Athletic Training Sophomore

- Matt McGuire
  Business Administration Sophomore

- Tommy Bavaro
  Hospitality and Management Freshman

- George Jamgochian
  Sports Media and Journalism Sophomore
The Montclarion • February 7, 2019 • PAGE 11

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. Coming in second place is the actual game itself.

Granted, this year’s Super Bowl did make history by having the youngest 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, according 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 throughout all three quarters is insulting given the overpriced tickets one must pay to reserve their seats.

According to Stubbhub Pressbox, tickets 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 Super 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 awkwardly and quietly eating a whopper 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 a 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 wanted 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 cathartic story.

We know as an audience what to expect from overproduced commercials, perfectly executed halftime shows with a tremendous light show and exhilarating gameplay 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 predictable routine of the overall format.

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 areas covered in ice.

Commuters at Montclair State University called these ongoing conditions a nightmare as many fled campuses 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, problems 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 Residence Halls Gordon and Clara Barton side of Machuga 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 notorious November snowstorm right before 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 Monday night.

I think that, had residents gotten daily updates on the situation, it would have allowed them time to plan better instead of guessing whether or not they can shower without 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 happened, 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 problems like heat or hot water are expected 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 everyone 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.

Thumbs Up

Spring came early this week

Governor Phil Murphy signs a new legislation to raise minimum wage to $15 by 2024

Cardi B helps Girl Scouts sell cookies

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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 text 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 dorms.

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.

When I say “everyone,” I just mean the male students on campus. I have yet to see any women in my time here at Montclair State University wear shorts or anything short in these frigid times.

Speaking of women, what’s University President Susan Cole’s stance on this epidemic of shorts-wearing students on campus? They are a health concern to everyone on her campus and there needs to be a newsletter or at least a mass email about some kind of dress code that’s only applied for the late autumn to early spring months.

This is nothing short of the biggest problem facing our campus today.

Anthony Gabbianelli, a journalism major, is in his second year as sports editor for The Montclarion.

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.

Jami Reddick, a family science and human development major, is in his first year as a staff writer for The Montclarion.
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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, Tessa Thompson, Daniel Craig, Charlize Theron, Whoopi Goldberg, Awkwafina, Tina Fey, Jennifer Lopez, Amy Poehler, Maya Rudolph, Amandla 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 Schieff expressed how she felt about the topic.

“There should be a host, but I don’t blame them for not wanting to do it,” Schieff 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,” Schiff said. “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,” Schiff 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 Matthew Baker. “If there’s no headline for the advertisement, the people who invest in these ads will feel like their money has been wasted.”

Baker raises the point that having a host isn’t just about preserving the Oscars’ traditions but also about drawing consumers to view the show using a well-known entertainment figure.

While the lack of a singular host is seen by many as an ill omen, others are optimistic to see how the new format plays out.

“I’m excited to see what they do without a host,” 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 Gomez, 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’ is Worth the Five-Year Wait

Diego Guay
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 then 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 gone through a lot of obstacles, which makes his character 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.

“How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World” releases in theaters on Feb. 22.
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“In America, the President reigns for four years, but Journalism governs forever.” – Oscar Wilde

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Top Picks to Stream
Black History Month

"42" on Netflix

Photo courtesy of Legendary Entertainment

"42" is a 2013 film based on the remarkable true story of Jackie Robinson. Robinson, played by Chadwick Boseman, became the first African-American to play on a professional baseball team in 1947. After being signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers, Robinson is met with bigotry and racism, both on and off the field. The Brooklyn Dodgers owner, Branch Rickey (Harrison Ford), challenges the baseball color barrier by signing Robinson to the team. This monumental act puts Rickey, Robinson and the whole team on a pedestal to be attacked by the press, other teams and baseball fans who are unwilling to accept change. This is a great film that highlights a pinnacle moment in American history. Robinson endured constant harassment and threats, yet persevered. "42" is an amazing movie to stream in honor of Black History Month.

- Sharif Hasan
Assistant Entertainment Editor

"Selma" on FX Now

Photo courtesy of Paramount Pictures

"Selma" is a 2014 historical film that chronicles Martin Luther King Jr. during the year 1965, as he prepares civil rights marches from Selma to Montgomery in the state of Alabama to protest against unjust voting laws. The film is directed by Ava DuVernay, and stars David Oyelowo as King with supporting performances from the likes of Carmen Ejogo, Tom Wilkinson, Tim Roth and Common among many others.

"Selma" is critically acclaimed and is commonly cited as one of the best films of 2014. The film earned two Academy Award nominations, being nominated for best picture and winning best original song for "Glory." Many claim that DuVernay was snubbed for best director and Oyelowo’s powerful performance was snubbed for best actor.

- Thomas Neira
Entertainment Editor

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 Donlad by Tom Sturridge and Gretchen played by Toni Collette, soon get in on the action, revealing how vicious the art business is as everyone in the industry fights for a piece of the new "Dease."

Gilroy wanted to explore a subject that is usually neglected in film, something that he did successfully in "Nightcrawler." Unfortunately, "Velvet Buzzsaw" comes across as too over-the-top and convoluted, especially when the horror aspect is shoehorned in.

The film suddenly shifts from a weak satirical look at the art industry to a sort of B-grade horror movie as the stolen art begins to come alive and murder people. Although some were creative, the deaths in this movie were way too predictable and the film would cut away before anyone actually died, feeling like the first five minutes of a "Supernatural" episode. If you’re unfamiliar with that reference, just imagine three minutes of a "Supernatural" episode. If you’re unfamiliar with that reference, just imagine minutes where a character would be attacked by the art, the camera would cut away and someone else would later find the dead body.

There were choices in this film from the score to the editing that made it feel like a TV movie or a long episode. I understand that "Velvet Buzzsaw" was released on Netflix, but films such as "Mudbound" and "Roma" prove that low-budget movies on streaming services can actually 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.

Gyllenhaal 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."

Photo courtesy of Netflix
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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 Pros 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 in the loss to Rowan. Despite 21 Points by Hoffman, 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 Pros were noticeably absent, 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 kept the Red Hawks winning 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.

“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, 9-6 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.
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 goalkeeper 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 goalkeeper 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 would continue to get chances, but Way would make multiple big saves to ultimately prevent the Red Hawks from mounting a comeback.

Despite the loss, head coach Dave Solomon was happy with the effort from his team. “We had a couple breakdowns early in the first and second periods that cost us goals, but I think not having enough bodies and getting tired out was the difference,” Solomon said. “If we had a few more players and a little more jump, we would’ve been a lot more competitive tonight.”

Heading into next season, the Red Hawks will look to address a major issue that plagued them all season, and that is the lack of depth on their roster. With so few players on the team, Montclair State’s players would often 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.
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 four rebounds while guard Taylor Brown had nine points along with six rebounds.

Meanwhile, Rowan’s Nicole Byrne 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 moving their New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) record to 10-5.

The last time these two teams met was on Jan. 5 when the Red Hawks traveled to Glassboro, New Jersey and beat Rowan with the score 72-61. McKinnon and Calloway each had 17 points that game.

In the first quarter, the Red Hawks started off with a tremendous pace on offense. With 7:16 left in the quarter, after an air ball from a three-point attempt from Brown, Red Hawks’ guard Cerys MacLelland grabbed the offensive rebound and capitalized by converting a layup. 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 with 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, Rowan’s Byrne made a midrange jumper to put the Red Hawks’ lead to four. The quarter ended with the Red Hawks having a 15-11 lead.

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.

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 13 points with seven points and two steals. Meanwhile, for Rowan, Johnson scored eight points and seven rebounds. Rowan and Montclair State had problems shooting from the field. During the first half, the Red Hawks secured a 27-22 lead at the end of the first half.

In the first half, Calloway set the tempo with seven points and two steals. Meanwhile, for Rowan, Johnson scored eight points and seven rebounds. Rowan and Montclair State had problems shooting from the field. During the first half, the Red Hawks secured a 27-22 lead at the end of the first half.

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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 35-37.

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 normally do,” Brown said.