MSU Students Share the Love on Valentine’s Day

Crossword puzzle & more on p. 13

Students made cards for their significant others at the “Love Your Commute” event.

Rebecca Serviss | The Montclarion
INVESTIGATION UPDATE

The Montclarion would like to update readers about a story published Dec. 12, 2018. Student Terra Applegate was not charged with anything in relation to the shuttle bus incident.

Red Hawk Rap Sheet

Monday, Feb. 4

University Hall: A university employee reported the theft of a set of keys belonging to a university owned Kabuta vehicle, during which time the employee entered the building for a short period of time. Upon returning to the vehicle, the keys were missing. This incident is under investigation.

Dinallo Heights: A student resident reported the theft of laundry from a first floor laundry room. This incident is under investigation.

Wednesday, Feb. 6

Fenwick Hall: Patrol officers responded in regards to a domestic dispute/simple assault between two female roommates. The students advised that they engaged in a verbal disagreement, at which time one of the individuals threw a package of markers at the other, striking her in the face. The victim did not wish to press charges and a complaint referral form was signed. This incident was forwarded to the Director of The Village apartments.

Freeman Hall: A female student came into police headquarters to report an incident of sexual assault with a known male student that took place on Monday, Feb. 4. The student advised that following the incident, she sought care at the University Health Center. The student was offered and refused a SASPA order at this time. This incident has been forwarded to the Essex County Prosecutor’s Office and is currently under investigation.

Tuesday, Feb. 5

Blanton Hall: Non-student Justin Guimaraes was issued a special complaint summons while in the food court for the possession of alcohol while under the legal age. The individual was issued a follow-up court date in the Little Falls Municipal Court and was escorted to police headquarters where he took an Uber back to his residence.

Greeklife: A female student reported an incident of possible sexual assault in the past. The student advised that the date of the alleged incident was Wednesday, Jan. 23. The student advised that she did not have any recollection of what took place, but woke up in her residence room feeling sore and bruised. The student was offered medical attention from EMS and CAPS and refused. Information was provided to the student regarding on campus resources.

Thursday, Feb. 7

Dinallo Heights: A female student reported an incident of a possible sexual assault in the past. The student advised that the date of the alleged incident was Wednesday, Jan. 23. The student advised that she did not have any recollection of what took place, but woke up in her residence room feeling sore and bruised. The student was offered medical attention from EMS and CAPS and refused. Information was provided to the student regarding on campus resources.

Anyone who has information regarding these incidents is urged to call the police station at T-I-P-S (8477). All calls are strictly confidential.
4.5 Million Dollars Set to be Approved for University Hall Facade Repairs

Some students question university’s decision to invest in only the building

Heather Berzak
News Editor

The board is about to approve a total of 4.5 million dollars in order to repair the outside of University Hall, according to Montclair State University President Susan Cole.

“The sod of University Hall needs upkeep,” Cole said. “It’s been there for a while now.”

Cole went into more detail about the project.

“The skin of buildings is subject to deterioration, so [the repairs] include cleaning, sealing, there are leaks in the building, insulation, things they called ‘weep screens,’ control joints, window sills, roof work that needs patching, [and] all of the roof flashings,” Cole said.

This construction project is set to take place over the course of summer 2019, and if needed, summer of 2020, in order to prevent interference with the campus’ heavy usage periods.

Senior political science major Lauren Alemany believes this money would be spent better elsewhere.

“Montclair [State] should concern themselves with more imperative topics, such as putting the money toward hiring full-time professors instead of worrying about ‘appearance,’” Alemany said.

She continued to express concerns about how tuition is spent.

“My parents pay full tuition for me to go to school and get an education, but instead the money is going toward the mere window outside of my classroom,” Alemany said.

Cole explained that because University Hall is such a large building, if repairs aren’t done every 15 years or so, the building will deteriorate; with some of Montclair State’s buildings deteriorating in the past in the same manner.

Junior linguistics major Allie Libertino believes parking is a larger problem that needs investing rather than University Hall repairs.

“I feel as though there are more important things Montclair [State] could be spending millions of dollars on,” Libertino said. “For example, maybe 2-3 more parking decks, one for residents, one for teachers and another for commuters.”

She then addressed the matter of University Hall, tying it to her parking concerns.

“University Hall is perfectly fine and does not need any more improvements,” Libertino said.

“University Hall is a large and complicated building that gets a lot of weather; thus why it needs the repairs.

“It is right in the path of the north wind,” Cole said.

Sewage Water Floods Life Hall

Flood water is currently being tested for traces of contamination

Adrianna Caraballo
Assistant News Editor

Sewage water flooded the first floor of Life Hall, filling the air with a foul smell. It was the same day as an audition for prospective students, ruining the event.

A sewer line that was backed up broke, causing the Theater and Dance Offices, the Production Office, the Costume Shop and classrooms on the lower level to be filled with contaminated water. No campus alert was sent regarding this incident.

At 7:45 a.m. on Feb. 5, Mary Guerriero and Megan Gwozdz entered Life Hall and smelled a strong stench. As they got closer, they saw a current of the sewage water.

“It was really gross, when we first walked in it was gag-worthy,” Guerriero said.

Within hours, the flood rose significantly throughout the building.

“After a couple hours, we looked down the steps and it was a complete flood,” Gwozdz. “Everyone had their rain boots on. The facility staff was on it.”

Maintenance from the university rushed to the scene in rubber boots and plastic gloves, trying to contain the situation. They were able to block one of the areas in the building before the water came in.

The classrooms and offices on the lower level had to be relocated to the second floor of Life Hall and to rooms in Finley Hall. The lower level bathrooms are not to be used until they are deemed safe. They have been cleaning and bleaching the lower level hallways.

Students were warned through an email from professor Lorraine Katterhenry to not go downstairs.

“Please do not use the bathrooms downstairs or even go downstairs until we are cleared,” Katterhenry said. “[Students] can go to the vending machine but please wear shoes.”

Chairperson of Theater and Dance, Randy Mugleston, is aware the Costume Shop is currently deemed hazardous with many costumes being soiled from the sewage water.

“We’re trying to avoid touching contaminated garments,” Mugleston said.

According to Mugleston, last week a specialist came in and took samples, but the results have not come back yet.

“There’s someone testing the affected areas,” Mugleston said.

“We’re waiting for those tests to come back to see whether we can occupy the spaces.”

Costume Shop Supervisor Judith Evans explained that Life Hall is working with the university to make sure everything is clean and safe for students and faculty.

The flood was confined to the floor, the costumes hanging above were left unaffected.
Students Get a Chance to ‘Love Their Commute’ for Valentine’s Day
Weekday holiday does not hinder Office of Commuter Life fun

All students were welcomed to sit, enjoy some candy and Munchkins while creating cards for anyone they choose whether it is for a significant other, a friend, a family member or even just for themselves on Wednesday, Feb 13.

Since the holiday falls during the week, it can push back many students’ plans with their significant others or friends and family. The Office of Commuter Life wanted to give students a head start on their Valentine’s Day festivities by holding an event called Loving Your Commute.

Helping out at the event was Michelle Rios, a student assistant for the Office of Commuter Life and a senior child advocacy and policy major. Rios said the purpose for this event is to help make commuters feel like they are part of the campus community since many of them are not on campus all of the time.

“We want [commuters] to be included,” Rios said. “Regardless of being a commuter, good things can happen.”

According to Rios, the Office of Commuter Life hopes to hold monthly stand-alone events planned specifically for commuters but are open to the entire campus community.

Of the students that attended, undeclared freshman Brianna Rodrigues and freshman psychology major Melanie Garcia, decided to go together.

It was Garcia’s idea to come to the event since she commutes and she invited Rodrigues to accompany her, as both of them made Valentine’s Day cards for the people they care about. Garcia loves free goodies, but she also was looking for a way to make her mom a card.

“When I saw DIY cards, I was like, ‘That’s perfect’ because why not make a card for somebody?” Rodrigues said. “Why not [make a card], just put a smile on someone’s face?”

Of the students that attended, undeclared freshman Brianna Rodrigues and freshman psychology major Melanie Garcia, decided to go together.
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Like most college campuses, Montclair State University has given many students the opportunity to meet that special someone while giving them the space to foster those relationships. With Valentine’s Day upon us, couples share their love stories and plans for the holiday.

Family science and human development major Monica Seidle and information technology major Alon Height met while living in Bohn Hall on campus during their freshman year, despite going to the same high school. The juniors appreciate having one another to navigate their college experiences.

“We spend a lot of time together and get to study together and help each other through a lot of things,” Seidle said. “We get to go out together, stay in together if we just want to watch movies, and be there right away whenever one of us needs each other.”

The two plan to spend Valentine’s Day exchanging gifts and having dinner close to campus.

“My favorite thing about her is that she is always there for other people,” Height said. “If she sees that one of her friends is stressing, she always takes the time out of her day to help others.”

Seniors Samantha Soto and Ari Lopez Wei met through a mutual friend after Lopez Wei saw Soto in a Snapchat story during the summer of 2017 and commented. Lopez Wei, a journalism major, was shocked to get a message from an unknown number a few days after. According to the couple, the rest was history.

“My favorite thing about her though is how encouraging she is,” Lopez Wei said. “She believes in me and is always pushing me to follow my passions.”

Despite going to the same university, the two don’t spend a lot of time together while on campus. As a marketing major, Soto typically finds herself on a different schedule than Lopez Wei during the semester.

“I go to the Feliciano business school for all of my classes and Ari stays near the School of Communication,” Soto said. “We only really see each other when we’re going home or for the occasional meal at school. I like the idea that we’re both doing our own thing, focusing on school and yet close at the same time.”

Though the couple’s Valentine’s Day plans are a surprise due to their packed Thursday schedules, they plan on celebrating a little after the holiday.

“If I see him [on the 14th], we may just get heart-shaped chocolate waste,” Soto said.

Class of 2018 alumni Trevor Cardone and senior family science and human development major Lauren Kaiser have Montclair State to thank for their meeting, as they lived across the hall from one another in Hawk Crossings on campus.

“He lived across the hallway from me in Hawks,” Kaiser said. “Our roommates became friends and introduced us to each other.”

Living on campus allowed the two to spend a lot of time in the Montclair area, including their go-to date spot, Fujiya Ramen.

“Being so close to each other allowed us to hang out a lot and really get to know everything about one another,” Cardone said. “I feel like if we lived farther away, we wouldn’t have hung out as often and it would have created less of a bond between us.”

The couple plans to keep it low-key with a nice dinner this Valentine’s Day.

Sophomore sustainability sci-
ence major Lauren Willett and senior television & digital media major Aiden Wehrle met working at the Student Recreation Center on campus. The two love going on coffee dates at The Fine Grind in Little Falls and will spend Valentine’s Day enjoying Ethiopian food at Mesob in Montclair.

When asked what their trick was to a successful relationship in college, Wehrle noted that it is a rather simple recipe.

“Listening and communicating,” Wehrle said. “Sounds cliché, but not enough couples do that.”

Willett added that going to the same university has simplified their relationship.

“Campus rec has been the main contributor to our relationship,” Willett said. “We work together and enjoy being able to relate and experience things through the department.”

Willett expressed how easy the relationship is with the help of living on campus.

“Also living on campus makes everything in our relationship easier,” Willett said. “We’re always within a certain proximity of one another, and it makes our schedules more flexible.”

Class of 2018 alumnus Ricky Mitra and senior family science and human development major Aly Smith are two years strong. The two met through Greek Life here at Montclair State and are glad to have been at the same college at the same time.

“I’m so thankful I met Ricky through Montclair [State],” Smith said. “He’s made my college experience so memorable.”

The couple’s Valentine’s day plans are a surprise, but they enjoy going to Cuban Pete’s right in town.

“Attending college with Aly was fun,” Mitra said. “Being able to share a group of friends and always sharing experiences together made it that much more meaningful.”

Seniors Rachel Wilkins and Kenneth Dwyer have been dating since high school and have been together for six years. While high school band brought them together, their time at Montclair State has been a good way to stay connected.

“It’s great that we ended up at the same university,” Wilkins said. “We didn’t plan to go to the same place like some high school couples do, it just worked out that way because of the programs we were pursuing, but I’m glad we ended up at the same university.”

Dwyer, a film major, is happy to have had the opportunity to share the college experience with Wilkins, a women, sexuality, and gender studies major.

“We got to experience college together, had some classes together and made friends together,” Dwyer said. “It was easier for us to share moments and experiences because we were so close.”

The couple plans to spend the night off campus with a stay-cation in a hotel. Whether it’s a night out on the town, staying in or spending the night somewhere romantic, Montclair State is feeling the love this Valentine’s Day.
Chocolate is often referred to as a “love drug” because it has been found to stimulate emotions, causing people to feel what is called a “chocolate high.”

Alexa Spear | The Montclarion

This week both romance and the love for chocolate was in the air as Montclair State University planned ahead for Valentine’s Day. Without exception, chocolate is the easiest way to express one’s love and affection on Valentine’s Day. The heavenly aroma of chocolate wrapped up in a heart-shaped box is an incredibly romantic gift for many students on campus.

According to the article “Chocolate: The Love Drug” from Fox News, chocolate has been found to increase love and affection between couples. It has also been proven to give consumers a satisfactory feeling that keeps people warm during the cold winter months. The combination of its sweet aroma, texture and taste have been found to stimulate emotions, causing people to feel what is called a “chocolate high.”

Michelle Sales, a sophomore international business major, agrees that chocolate is the quintessential romantic gesture.

“I think chocolate is a romantic candy,” Sales said. “It is something that everyone associates with love, which is why it is so popular among couples.”

Leading up to Valentine’s Day, Montclair State students have given insight into what their favorite chocolate is and what they are planning to do on Valentine’s Day.

“My all-time favorite chocolate is Ferrero Rocher,” said Dana De Dejos, a freshman justice studies major. “On Valentine’s Day, my boyfriend and I are planning to go to the Sojo Spa Club in Edgewater then eat at the Cast Iron Pot in Fairview.”

According to the article, “Ferrero Rocher Finds Valentine’s Day Love” from Netbase, online consumers rated Ferrero Rocher to be the “perfect gift” to give and receive.

For many on campus, Valentine’s Day might seem like just another Thursday. However, with all the events occurring on campus, fun is unavoidable. Sophomore Salah Ahmed thinks that Valentine’s Day can be celebrated by everyone.

“A lot of people assume that on Valentine’s Day you have to be in a relationship to enjoy the day,” Ahmed said. “This Valentine’s Day, I am going to meet up with my friends in the Student Center and check out the Valentine’s Day activities.”

Valentine’s Day is not only for those in a relationship here at Montclair State. The university is hosting a wide variety of events, including Valentine’s Day breakfast and open mic night, as well as many games, all of which will be located inside the Student Center on Valentine’s Day.

While many students living on campus lack transportation to go out and buy a gift, stopping at one of the many bake sales hosted on campus this Valentine’s Day is a simple and easy way to treat that special someone.

Whether it’s romance, the love of chocolate or the activities happening on and around campus, Valentine’s Day is a fun and exciting day for everyone.

For Love and the Love of Chocolate

Freshman justice studies major Dana De Dejos poses with her boyfriend Daniel Nieto, a freshman biology major at Montclair State.
Students shuffle over to their seats, pulling out their notebooks and laptops as they wait for class to begin. In walks a student with eccentric clothing and a personable demeanor that demands attention. She’s never the first to arrive to class but never the last either. As the lecture begins, her own attention is divided – partially toward the professor posing questions and making intelligent remarks – yet all the while perusing various social media platforms and runway looks on her smartphone.

Sophia Casella, 20, is a fashion studies senior with a knack for thrifting and vintage clothes shopping. Donning a thrifted red cardigan paired with a striped mock-neck sweater, tattered Dr. Martens and some cherry earrings to top it off, the Swedesboro-turned-Bloomfield native relished in her nostalgic memories. Throughout her younger years, Casella’s aunt would hold yard sales. She admired how one man’s trash became another man’s treasure, and this realization ultimately held an influence over her going forward.

There came a point where Casella decided to check out Plato’s Closet, a popular consignment shop, because she wanted to be more trendy for less money. From there, Casella found a hobby she was able to feel passionate about.

She continues to thrift once or twice a week, oftentimes bringing her roommate, Lea Mellon, along.

“Soph expresses herself through styling herself and others,” Mellon said. “When she is in her zone [while] thrifting, she gets very creative and tries to see the potential in every piece she picks up.”

Mellon mentioned that Casella has an eye for taking a garment that some may consider off-putting and unsightly and is able to transform it into a trendy, fashion-forward outfit.

Casella is shown here in her “natural habitat,” while she peruses boxes full of second-hand clothing to expand her wardrobe. Photo courtesy of @sophiarosecasella via Instagram

Casella spends a majority of her free time thrift shopping in the New York/New Jersey area, scavenging for the most abstract pieces that she can find.

“I usually just jam to some music, and I bring my headphones,” Casella said. “Whatever my music mood is, is my [thrifting] mood. If I am listening to more emo music, I am going for very dark pieces, very grunge, and if I am into my hip-hop mood, I am getting very fun pieces that pop.”

Thrift shops with rows upon rows of boxes with briskly written labels require Casella’s full attention, as well as her patience. Jeans become mixed in with T-shirts and hidden gems run amok, playing a hide and seek game of sorts with determined shoppers. Consistency is not key when it comes to thrifting for the fashion connoisseur, who always ends up with something different while she is on the prowl for intriguing pieces.

The fact that the clothing she is wearing at any given time could be that of a person who is six feet under, or those of a celebrity who felt that their clothing was void of significance is major cause for her excitement.

“Every piece has a story behind it,” Casella said. “You never know what you’re going to get your hands on.”

After attending an event where Casella brought a suitcase check-full of thrifted finds in hopes to resell them, she was surprised that about half of her products were sold, despite not having any pricing method or sales approach. She received unexpected support from strangers, which left her with the idea to turn her hobby into a full-fledged business operation via Instagram or Depop one day. While Casella shops with a singular purpose, to keep herself and her own tastes in mind, she has confidence that the style of those who follow her on social media will be akin to her own selection whenever she chooses to resell.

“I usually just shop for me,” Casella said. “If people like it, they’ll buy it and if they don’t, they don’t.”

Casella wants to pick the weirdest things and make them work. She spoke at length on the details of her own outfits, as well as some of her favorite thrifting finds with the knowledge of a fashion historian one might catch themselves overhearing while passing a guided tour at a museum.

Casella remained chipper and at ease, just as if the mere action of talking about thrifting is a safe haven for her and the actual process of doing it is a place that she calls home.

Nifty, Thrifty and Thriving

Cassidy Lunney  
Staff Writer
Restaurant Review

Ani Ramen House: A Night in Japan

Ani Ramen House creates an atmosphere of authenticity with their decor, including a full length mural of a bustling city.

Amanda Alicea  |  The Montclarion

Ani Ramen House welcomes customers to a relaxed environment that transports them to the bustling streets of Tokyo.

The small noodle shop, located at 401 Bloomfield Ave. in Montclair, has walls plastered with Japanese newspapers and murals that instantly add authenticity to the customers’ dining experience.

The restaurant, which opened five years ago, is a 16-minute drive from Montclair State University and has had great success. The dim lighting and wooden tables that are placed closely together make the space feel cozy. Guests can enjoy their meal while still feeling comfortable.

Offering customer favorites like spicy miso ramen, short-ribbed ramen and shoyu ramen, Ani Ramen House has people lining up outside before the restaurant even opens.

When I first arrived, I ordered the special wings which are double-fried, creating a crunchy texture that contrasted very well with the sweet taste of sake soy glaze. The wings were stacked upon one another and topped with a small portion of cabbage, which added to the presentation of the overall appetizer.

I was also given edamame, which are boiled and pan fried with char, then topped off with sea salt and their own handmade chili oil. The smokiness of the char complimented the saltiness very well.

The miso ramen was flavorful yet not too overpowering and the chicken was tender and tasty. The scallions added just the right amount of spice while not overwhelming customers with too much flavor and the bean sprouts brought a different consistency and texture to the ramen.

If you’re looking for something filling and satisfying, Ani Ramen House is the place to be. With an attentive staff, a sultry environment and authentic tasty ramen, you won’t regret making a quick stop at Ani Ramen House.

Ani Ramen House serves their edamame with sea salt and their own handmade chili oil, which creates a distinct flavor profile.

The special wings are served as an appetizer at Ani Ramen House and come double fried with sake soy glaze.

The miso ramen comes highly recommended and contains classic chicken broth, miso tare with chashu pork, kakuni, bean sprouts and scallions.
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$80 / 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 $80 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 pickledly300@yahoo.com

$20-325 per hour / Homework Helper / Livingston
Looking for an after school homework helper. Interested in either current student, graduate or teacher to ideally come to our home Mon-Thurs for 1 1/2 - 2 hours (flexible in days/hours). Ideal candidate would be someone with education experience or experience working on study skills/executive functioning at the high school level. Looking for someone organized and who has patience! Payment flexible depending on workload/experience. If interested, please text or call Marcy at 973-699-0408 or email: marcymercer@verizon.net

$200-$350 weekly / DOG WALKER NEEDED/MONTCLAIR, GLEN RIDGE, BLOOMFIELD AREA
Local dog walking/pet care business expanding, with new business! Seeking to place 2-3 dog-loving people in steady, responsible positions, immediately. Responsibilities include a neighborhood walk, helping with young dogs, feeding, securing property and communication with pet owners. Regular hours are approximately 11:30am to 4pm. Please have a clean driving record and reliable vehicle. If interested, please email 39ketner@gmail.com.

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 and from school, help with homework, prepare evening meals and stay until parents return home from work. 5 days a week. Will consider live in or out. Email: russelleis36@gmail.com

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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, personable, 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.

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$20 / 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 childcare experience a plus. If interested, contact ranelletorres@gmail.com.

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

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

Looking for part time help for these girls (ages 16, 14, and 12) starting ASAP! Responsibilities include picking up at school, transporting to and from after school activities in Montclair, light housework, laundry, keeping house tidy, preparing dinner. Our 16 year old has high functioning autism and has therapy. 3x a week at home. We have two non shedding hypoallergenic dogs and a fenced-in yard. Regular hours are 2:30-9:30 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: katiekupferschmidt58@icloud.com.

OTHER
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The Montclarion Crossword Puzzle and More!

**Valentine’s Day Edition**

Across

1. This holiday is celebrated the day before Valentine’s Day and was coined by Leslie Knope from “Parks & Recreation”
5. This bird is a symbol of love (Hint: It’s not Rocky the Red Hawk)
6. The flowers most associated with Valentine’s Day
8. A piece of jewelry worn on the wrist that is often given as a gift on this special day
10. A popular dating app among college students that probably won’t help you find a date for Valentine’s Day

Down

2. A necklace made usually in the shape of a heart for people to place small photos in
3. This stuffed animal is a popular addition to a box of chocolates
4. This cute nickname for your date is also the substance bees make
7. This symbol is used most often for Valentine’s Day, despite not looking anything like the organ it is named after
9. The only baby people expect to fly around and shoot arrows

Word Search

d p x n i s m n w y d e l o v e g y o p
e n z s p m g c v m t a o c h c
r e j s i e t k o d k t p n r o s e s c
g q y c p d r n g i e y i k b t h z o w
m s t r o y e f e c a l k e n g u s c
v t q d w g g v u q u w u k q b p p g r
f z k n k m u d z m y s c t q l r w j q
c a n d y z a u u b e n k k e e z g p k
s i h o w t k e u a t u i h n w y q p d
m h x s e l c u z b x s s n o j i t m
r v e q s r i n g u s o i e c y j i i s
l s c a e c n a m o r d e g c y c u n
k z w h r y y h g c w d m a or w w s m
k s o k y t e l e c a r b i l l q m x a
n z j q e a z f m w r y t r o e d l y q
i p d v m e e b b s d k n r g w y i d m
l x k e k w f r a c u x e a n e f j o g
l f o v l i q r z k n i p m e j p f g z
y h g d e e k m v u x f d y q u a r l d
j n h e m o x e k v v v v l x n n h r v

chocolate
romance
date
love

red
dinner
pink
ring
jewelry
marriage
bracelet
cologne
perfume
kiss
dress
suit

"For answers to the puzzles, please check The Montclarion Facebook page every Thursday."
Be Your Own Valentine

Valentine’s Day is an international occasion to show off your love and affection for your significant other. The stigma around the holiday is that it is only celebrated by those in relationships.

Every year during the month of February, couples around the world head to the mall to find the perfect gift for that special someone. Others wait until the last minute and come home on Feb. 13 with heart-shaped boxes of Lindt Lindor Truffles or plush teddy bears from CVS holding signs that say, “Be mine.” One thing that many people, including college students at Montclair State University, tend to forget is to show some care to themselves.

Students at Montclair State feel like they are always under pressure. In most cases it is the ongoing stress of schoolwork and keeping a good GPA, getting an internship or worrying about what comes after college. With all of these negative thoughts crowding the backs of students minds each semester, Valentine’s Day is a perfect occasion to take a step back from the real world. For those who are not in a relationship, it is the perfect excuse to do something for yourself.

It might seem a little self-centered to make Valentine’s Day about yourself, but in reality most college students and other hardworking members of society deserve a day to take care of themselves, too. There is no doubt that students work hard. They are true tightrope walkers when it comes to their studies, balancing many things such as going to class, completing assignments on time, studying for exams, going to work and trying to complete the other tasks on their never ending mental to-do lists.

Thanks to Google, there are thousands of ideas in which students have access to for inspiration when planning a relaxing, productive evening with a variety of different leisure activities that are sure to decrease levels of stress, anxiety and depression. There are typical suggestions, like marathoning a good series or movie on Netflix, a DIY spa day or retail therapy, but there are more effective ways to boost self-esteem.

One idea to help boost one’s self-esteem this Valentine’s Day is to make a care package. It is a very simple activity that anyone can do without an expensive price tag. Create a bundle of typical Valentine’s Day goodies and other favorite things, but also include a card addressed to yourself.

The card is the most crucial and personal part of the package. Inside the card, write a note or list of some of the things you have accomplished in the past few weeks like getting an A on a hard class project, getting a promotion at work or just say to yourself that you are a great person.

If you or someone you know is dateless this Thursday night, don’t feel ashamed or pressured to make any plans. Just plop a bag of popcorn in the microwave, grab a blanket, find a good book or rom-com and give yourself some credit for your accomplishments. It’s almost midterm season again and one of the last opportunities to get rid of all of those negative thoughts before more get added to the pile.

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CAMPUS VOICES:

How do you like to treat yourself on Valentine's Day?

By Rebecca Serviss

-On Valentine’s Day, I don’t really think it’s different than any other day. I think that self-care is the most important thing, not just [for] one day but your daily life. [I might] treat myself to chocolate and [other] things that make me happy and [that] sort of fits in with the holiday.

-Dara Dugan
Psychology
Freshman

-I think [on Valentine’s Day] I like to take time for myself or maybe hang out with friends so that we’re not all alone, and just have a girls day. I guess [we would go out] to dinner or lunch or catch a movie.

-Danielle Mason
Business Management
Junior

-[I plan to spend my Valentine’s Day] eating lots of chocolate. I [also] get myself a gift, too. I don’t know what gift yet, [but I will] probably get myself a charm for my Pandora bracelet. My sister is my Valentine this year, so I’m buying her some chocolate, too.

-Gissel Cruz
Child Advocacy & Policy
Sophomore

-“On Valentine’s Day, I’m looking forward to finishing my classes, getting ice cream, eating some chocolate, watching Netflix, like maybe a rom-com because I’m single.”

-Sandra Lavin
Communication & Media Arts
Junior
The State of the Union Address

Getting the facts straight

There are different ways people are spending their Valentine’s Day. Some are spending it with their significant others, while others may be spending it self-loving with friends or being a hopeful romantic and swooning over heart decorations.

Most people refer to themselves as hopeless romantics, which are people who have high, unrealistic expectations of love. He or she believes that love will be like movies and fairy tales. However, it is time we change this oxymoron to “hopeful” romantics. Hopeful romantics are people who still believe in love and the quirky Hallmark cards but still have practical expectations. They are optimistic about the idea of falling for someone or going on a date but will not be blinded by the possibilities the date or romantic holiday can go terribly wrong.

They are hopeful and will not let a terrible date or a sour relationship stop them from ever believing there are more chances for love. I’m not saying it’s easy, but this is for the hopeful romantics who put their standards way too high.

The definition of “hopeless” is “feelings of despair,” so why would a person want to refer to themselves as not having any chance? We manifest what we want in our lives, and if we keep referring to ourselves as hopeless, we will eventually start believing that and bring negativity to our love lives.

People should feel excited and optimistic when it comes to seeing or hearing any type of reference to love. It doesn’t always have to refer to a love song or a couple.

Love surrounds us through friendships, ourselves and smuggling with our favorite book. The next time you hear someone call you or themselves a hopeless romantic, just change it to hopeful.

The 2019 State of the Union Address felt like a car wreck where you want to look away but can’t help but stare.

President Donald Trump delivered his speech on Feb. 5 and, unsurprisingly, left the nation skeptical about the statistics and claims he was spewing throughout the entirety of the night.

Did you know, according to Trump, “If I had not been elected president of the United States, we would right now, in my opinion, be in a major war with North Korea”?

It comes as a shock to many to hear a prominent figure like the president of the U.S. present such presumptuous opinions because he possesses a major influence on the average American citizens.

Statements such as those only in-sinuate malicious accusations about Hillary Clinton and the Democratic Party, which only further divide us as a nation.

The misleading comments, exaggerations and false narratives were the reoccurring theme during the State of the Union. Whether he was addressing the unemployment rate, human trafficking or the economy, there was a sprinkle of lies in each area.

According to the Haaretz article, “Trump’s State of the Union Fact Check: Mistakes, Exaggerations and Lies,” Trump stated, “Nearly 5 million Americans have been lifted off food stamps.” However, the number of food stamps hasn’t declined that much.

“In 2018, there were 40.3 million people participating in SNAP” Haaretz wrote. “That is a decline of 3.5 million, not the five million that Trump talked about.”

Trump exaggerates the statistics on many other issues as well which can bolster his image and the success he is having in his presidency. By doing so, he loses the trust of the American people because he fabricates these outlandish numbers with no validity behind them.

As a student working in reporting and journalism, it then becomes the responsibility of the media to hold him accountable to these statements.

Major news media industries such as The New York Times must now put out fact-checking articles to correct what was contrived from Trump’s statements. It’s fascinating to see how many more people are using fact-checking websites since Trump’s presidency.

Poynter.com wrote an article addressing what people should expect from fact-checking in 2019. According to the writers of the article, Daniel Funke and Alexios Mantzarlis, “In 2019, we predict that fact-checkers will have to contend with the rise of government actions against misinformation around the world.”

It becomes dangerous when misinformation is commonly scattered around by government officials because there are some naïve viewers at home simply absorbing preconceived fallacies.

For instance, President Trump said, “One in three women is sexually assaulted on the long journey north.”

In reality, according to Doctors Without Borders, “The report did not conduct a random-sample survey that could be applied to all migrant women. Instead, the group interviewed nearly 500 people whom its doctors treated. Of those people, 12 percent were women. So the statistic is derived from the experiences of 56 women and cannot necessarily be considered representative of all migrant women.”

When Trump makes obligatory remarks to impose an excessively negative image on the border crisis, it constructs a social disorder where people become wary and hostile.

Carly Henriquez a communication and media arts major, is in her first year as assistant opinion editor for The Montclarion.
Horoscopes: A Necessary Evil

CASSIDY LUNNENY
STAFF WRITER

There is nothing more general on this earth than a horoscope. No, the zodiac sign—subhead, keep the predictions and make me roll my eyes yet remain strongbeliever in karma and a paranoid millennia, the horoscope is to a Gen X what the chainmail promising bad luck for seven years is to your fourth-grade self with a prepaid Virgin Mobile phone. Just when you thought you were having a good day, your horoscope. Nix for the week lets you know that you may or may not get the worst news of your life, not unlike those pesky Twitter memes that constantly remind us of our eventual demise if we don’t retweet them in five seconds or less.

According to Cosmopolitan.com, my super spacy horoscope for the week is as follows: “This Wednesday, your ruling planet Mars collides with an innovative but disruptive energy, which might inspire you about your truth. It’ll be messy and vulnerable, but the universe firmly supports you being authentic. On Valentine’s Day, you want luxury, indulgence and dependability. Align with it personally or romantically, and watch the magic happen.”

I see it as this Wednesday, the big red ball in the sky is going to wreak havoc on your life and make you spew words better left unsaid in a fit of rage. But wait, once Valentine’s Day hits, you will have high expectations and demand endless affection, if you’re not a lonely soul that is.

Horoscopes have the capacity to make me roll my eyes yet remain fearful all at once. As a strong believer in astrology, I believe, to a point, they may be right about us. However, I also believe everything is a product of how they were raised – no matter what generation they come from. So maybe it is not our fault we turned out this way. But where did the “snow-flakiness” begin?

The reason millennials do not respond well to hardship is simple: Nobody is eating Play-Doh anymore. I saw a lot of children open a lot of gifts over this past holiday season, not one of them was to be played with because that is how I learned to navigate the world. I ate Play-Doh, cheated death and then I knew not to do that. 

BITE ME. I mean, find a new thing! Please. There is a lot of good stuff on Hulu now, and if you do not have Hulu, I will send you my brother’s friend’s cousin’s step-dad’s niece’s dachshund’s password. No problem.

Now, things have gotten a little out of hand. The Bird Box Challenge, based on the Netflix film that certainly did not live up to the hype, caused a car crash after a 17-year-old got stuck behind himself while driving with a 16-year-old passenger. The “In My Feelings” challenge led to many people being hit by cars while dancing outside of moving vehicles. However, a man in Florida did become a viral sensation from doing so. Despite being struck by oncoming traffic, the only thing that was hit was the jackpot.

My favorite of the social media challenge trend has got to be the killer clown phenomena that swept our great nation in the fall of 2016. I mean, people were afraid to go outside because it was so real. Although it was mostly just bored teenagers trying to scare each other, the craze became deadly when a stabbing was reported in Pennsylvania. I do not ever want to hear millennials called unoriginal again. Imagine being so motivated that you are willing to stab.

This is what is defining our generation: Recording dangerous behavior for digital acceptance. We were taught that what we think is important and that we have to share our natural gifts with the world. Unfortunately, not everyone can make it. So, what is the answer? Social media. You learn how to play your favorite song? Post it. You put together a funny experience at the supermarket? Post it. However, posting a piano cover on Instagram does not make you a musician.

Sharing a recording of yourself repeating words over a garage band beat does not make you a rapper. Getting retweets on your Twitter thread about the weird thing your cashier said to you does not make you a comedian. If you think you are worth listening to, find a stage and see if you actually are.

And nobody cares about your $18 salad, Skyclar. Just because they put a fried egg on top of it does not mean you are interesting.

Regardless of one’s stance on horoscopes, they are entirely essential to the vitality of this generation. Without them, we lack depth and the ability to see the bigger picture. Who knows what would happen to us if we never tried to let the pages of a magazine define our lives through supremely vague metaphors and mumbo jumbo. Perhaps we would never know our own personality traits, or that Capricorns and Pisces do not mix.

Cassidy Lunneny is a fashion studies major, is in her first year as a staff writer for The Montclarion.

Social Media Challenges

BRIAN ROONEY
COMEDY WRITER

Millennials are accused of being oversensitive, unprepared for the real world and, as we are called on Fox and Friends, “anti-gun violence imbeciles.” I believe, to a point, they may be right about us. However, I also believe everything is a product of how they were raised – no matter what generation they come from. So maybe it is not our fault we turned out this way. But where did the “snow-flakiness” begin?

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Thumbs Up

Montclair State closes for a snow day

Abraham Lincoln would have been 210 years old on Tuesday

Today is Valentine’s Day

Thumbs Down

NASA declares Mars Rover Opportunity to be dead after 15 years

A bus of 18 people over turns on the New Jersey Turnpike on Tuesday

Joaquin ‘El Chapo’ Guzman was found guilty of corruption and brutality
“In America, the President reigns for four years, but Journalism governs forever.” – Oscar Wilde

WRITERS WANTED FOR: NEWS
FEATURE ENTERTAINMENT OPINION SPORTS

Come Help Us Out!

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Phone 973.655.5230
Fax 973.655.7804
E-mail Montclarionchief@gmail.com
Student Artist Profile: Adriana Negron

Adriana Negron is a senior studying musical theater at Montclair State University. She has recently been seen performing the role of Diana Morales in “A Chorus Line.” When she is not being a triple threat, she enjoys arts and crafts and DIY projects. Negron sat with Assistant Feature Editor Teresa Gomez to talk about her journey into musical theater.

Q: Describe your background in the performing arts?
A: I started dancing when I was 3 years old. My mother owns a dance studio so she had me very involved in the arts. I started doing musicals when I was 6 years old, and I haven’t stopped since.

Q: What made you want to become a performer?
A: When I was a part of my first mainstage musical at the Pocono Playhouse, I knew that I wanted to pursue musical theater as a career. Theater let me express myself and made me feel at home. It still does!

Q: How has Montclair State fostered you as an artist?
A: Montclair State has groomed me into the performer that I am today. All of the knowledge that I learned at Montclair State, I brought with me into my first professional job on tour with “A Chorus Line.” Montclair State took the time to make sure that I had all of the knowledge to step out into the professional world before graduation.

Q: What is your biggest motivation?
A: I would say my passion for the arts is my motivation. Theater is something that I do for myself. I challenge myself to be a better performer each time I step on stage. I continue to work hard because of my love for performing and I will never stop working hard until I reach the top.

Q: What is your favorite style of musical theater?
A: I would say my favorite style of musical theater would be musical comedy. I love it when there is a strong sense of comedy in a show. To me, the jokes and bits never get old and it is always great to hear different crowds’ reactions.

Q: Briefly explain your experience in “A Chorus Line” in China?
A: My experience was life-changing. I got to sing to a large audience of around 2,000 people every night. I had the opportunity to work with many professionals in the business while expanding my knowledge of a different culture in China.

Q: What is your latest project?
A: My next big thing coming up is Senior Showcase. I hope to get signed with an agency that would like to represent me and help me find work in the future.

Q: What or who inspires you?
A: My latest inspiration is Baayork Lee. She was my director for “A Chorus Line” and an original cast member of the production. Baayork inspires me because she has had such a successful career despite her height. She never gave up on her dreams and she inspires me to do the same. I am also pretty small myself, so seeing that she could become successful makes me hopeful for my future.

Q: What is a quote or motto you live by?
A: The motto I live by is “Reach for the Stars.” This is the name of my mother’s dance studio so this saying has always been a part of my life. I love this phrase because it makes me want to continue to chase my dreams and never give up on working toward something, even if it seems unobtainable.

Q: What are your career goals after graduation?
A: After graduation, I would like to be signed with an agency. I would love to go back on tour or a cruise ship to explore the world. My overall goal is to be on Broadway.

Q: What artist would you like to meet and/or collaborate with?
A: I would love to collaborate with Chita Rivera. I have met her once before, but I would like to pick her brain and get to know more about her career and how she dominated in an industry where there are so few Latinas.

Adriana Negron is a senior studying musical theater. Photo courtesy of Adriana Negron

Adriana Negron (right) poses with a fellow cast member to promote "A Chorus Line." Photo courtesy of Adriana Negron

Adriana Negron played the role of Diana Morales in the musical, "A Chorus Line." Photo courtesy of Wang Qishu

Adriana Negron (far right) participates in the musical "A Chorus Line." Photo courtesy of Wang Qishu
MSU Students Prepare for Valentine’s Day with Romantic Flicks

Thomas McNulty
Staff Writer

As Valentine’s Day is here, one can smell love in the air across Montclair State University. The birds are chirping, the sun is shining and everyone is watching their favorite romantic movies.

It seems like a lot of great romantic comedies hit the perfect middle ground between drama and jokes, so the movie can take itself seriously but still be entertaining. Nobody wants to be depressed by a rom-com, but nobody wants it to be completely irreverent either.

Senior English major Maryrose Spinella has a favorite movie from the early 2000s.

“‘Valentine’s Day’ with Eric Dane and Anne Hathaway, is my favorite,” Spinella said. “I like how cheesy it is, and it’s all about love and everybody gets together in the end. It all ties up.”

A lot of these romantic comedies are cheesy, but that’s kind of the point. They’re feel-good movies, portraying ridiculous situations of love that would never happen in real life.

Not every Valentine’s Day movie is a rom-com, though. Some romantic movies forgo comedy completely, and shoot for good old-fashioned romance.

Junior psychology major Ali Quast said “A Walk to Remember” is her favorite Valentine’s Day movie.

“It makes me cry every single time,” Quast said. “It shows that no matter how bad life gets, there’s still hope for a life and a happy ending.”

While these types of movies can be a little depressing, they tend to be the most accurate reflections of actual love and life. Things don’t always go perfectly, and people don’t always live happily ever after, but people still manage to move on and live life to the fullest.

However, not everyone watches movies to get into the spirit of Valentine’s Day. Others would rather spend the time going out or planning how they will spend the day.

“Valentine’s Day is a great time for me to hang out with my boyfriend,” said senior math major Maria Taute. “We get dinner or go on cool dates and cherish each other’s love.”

Taute also feels that Valentine’s Day shouldn’t come just once a year.

Senior English major Wendy Faria named “When Harry Met Sally” as one of her favorite Valentine’s Day movies ever.

“It’s so beautiful,” Faria said. “Meg Ryan is incredible and it’s very realistic how the characters behave, and Billy Crystal is also phenomenal in his role. It’s a timeless classic.”

Faria also cited “You’ve Got Mail,” with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan, as a good movie for the holiday.

“Tom Hanks is the best, and Meg Ryan puts in another great performance,” Faria said.

However, besides movies and the special holiday, Faria went on to say that people shouldn’t just use that one day to show love.

“Every day is an opportunity to show your love for the people you care about,” Faria said.

I, myself, am not usually a big fan of romantic films, but “Crazy, Stupid, Love” is a personal favorite of mine. The film has a few different romantic plots that all converge at the end of the movie. Steve Carell, Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone all give spectacular performances that make it a hilarious pick for any romantic evening.

Many Montclair State students feel that Valentine’s Day shouldn’t come just once a year. Every day is an opportunity to embrace the ones you care about. However, if you need an excuse to check out some of these romantic movies, Valentine’s Day is a pretty good one.
Top Picks to Stream

Romance Movies

"The Big Sick" is a romantic comedy written by Kumail Nanjiani and Emily V. Gordon, whose real-life relationship inspired the film. The movie revolves around Kumail, played by himself, a Pakistani-American stand-up comedian who tries to balance his social, comedic and family life while also being an Uber driver in Chicago. Kumail soon meets Emily, played by Zoe Kazan, at one of his acts. Emily and Kumail immediately start to hit it off. As their relationship progresses, cultures begin to clash as Kumail’s parents expect him to marry a Pakistani woman. Kumail and Emily decide that they aren’t really a couple, yet both of them do not seem content with this choice. Suddenly, Emily is stricken with a life threatening illness and Kumail is forced to remain at her side and face her parents, played by Holly Hunter and Ray Romano, while also facing his true emotions.

This film wonderfully portrays a relationship that is not usually represented in Hollywood while being hilarious and heartfelt. The fact that this movie is based on a true story makes it that much better. “The Big Sick” is a great film to stream this Valentine’s Day.

- Sharif Hasan
Assistant Entertainment Editor

‘Hitch’ on Amazon Prime

"Hitch" is a 2005 romantic comedy about Alexander “Hitch” Hitchens, a so-called “date doctor” who is hired by men to help them excel on dates with women. He is hired by Albert Brennaman to help him win over Allegra Cole, a celebrity client of the firm he works for. All the while, Hitch himself becomes interested in Sara Melas, a gossip columnist.

"Hitch" stars the well-respected Will Smith as the titular role, and Kevin James in the supporting role of Albert. The film also stars Amber Valletta as Allegra and Eva Mendes as Sara. Regarded as one of the best rom-coms of the 2000s, this film is a great watch for a date night in or even a family movie night.

- Thomas Neira
Entertainment Editor

‘The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part’ Proves the Franchise is Still Going Strong

Diego Coya
Staff Writer

After the surprise commercial and critical success that was “The Lego Movie,” a sequel was inevitable. While there were spinoffs that came out during the past few years, it was a surprise to audiences that it took five years to release the sequel. As someone who adored the original, I can say that while the sequel is not on par, it is still a blast to watch.

“The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part” takes place five years after the original. Since the first film, everything has turned grim and apocalyptic.

Characters are trying to make the world better by restoring civilization while also trying to survive. A new threat emerges when invaders from outer space kidnap citizens and take them to their homeland. This leads the protagonist, Emmet, to go on an adventure to save these people, and along the way, a character named Rex Dangervest helps him to complete the mission.

Right away, I noticed how incredible the animation looked in this film. The way live-action and stop-motion animation is incorporated is something to be praised. Visually, the film is stunning and it is evident the creative team behind the film were very passionate in their work. The animation is very colorful, even more so than the original and it is simply at the top of its game.

In addition to how well the animation is, the voice acting is just as great as it was in the other films. The voice cast includes Chris Pratt, Elizabeth Banks, Will Arnett, Tiffany Haddish and several other actors. All of them do a fantastic job, especially Chris Pratt who voices two characters: Emmet and Rex Dangervest.

Going into the film, one of my main concerns was that the directors from the original film, Christopher Miller and Phil Lord, were not returning to direct this film. However, they did write the screenplay for this movie, and it does not go unnoticed. Consistently there is humor that is thrown out, so much so that it would essentially be impossible to catch all the jokes in one viewing. It also tells a great story, and characters arcs are explored more from other films, such as fan favorite Lego Batman. The fan favorite that even has his own film is given a lot to do and continues to prove why he has the fans he has.

I will say this film does seem to be aimed at a younger audience than the first film. It’s not necessarily a flaw, but it is something I can see young adults or older audience members having an issue with.

In terms of flaws, I will say the film did feel a tad too long, and there are some musical numbers that didn’t work for me. Unfortunately, there were elements in this film that felt too predictable, such as a “twist” that was unsurprising. “The Lego Movie 2” is a sequel the whole family can enjoy. If you are a fan of the franchise thus far, it is almost a guarantee that you will enjoy this one. Since this is a franchise that is known to make a lot of money, there is definitely going to be another film in the works. I’m curious to see where the franchise will eventually go.

- Thomas Neira
Entertainment Editor

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- Thomas Neira
Entertainment Editor
'Big Mouth' Valentine’s Day Special: Bitter But Not Sweet

Annabel Reyes
Staff Writer

In a special Valentine’s Day event, the Netflix comedy “Big Mouth” gives an honest yet entertaining outlook on the romantic struggles of growing up.

On a cold and dreary February afternoon, I found myself eagerly reaching for my laptop and blanket so I could finally tune in to the special that all “Big Mouth” fans have been waiting for: “My Furry Valentine.”

On Friday, Feb. 8, “Big Mouth” fans were pleased to exercise their right to “Netflix and chill.” The writers of the popular animated comedy released a much-needed fix of the awkward lives of a group of pubescent teens from Westchester County, New York.

Instead of gracing fans with the classic monstrosity raunchy humor that “Big Mouth” is known for, “My Furry Valentine” takes a more depressing approach. The episode addresses the brutally honest aspects of what Valentine’s Day is like for young teens whose bodies are frustratingly “going through changes.”

The episode opens with a muckymonumental style shot of protagonist Andrew and his hormone mon episode, which consists of Andrew’s quest to make Missy his valentine, whether she likes it or not. Nick’s battle to deal with the pain of his sensitive nipples and suffocating affection of his parents. Andrew and Nick get overwhelmed by their emotions while their hormone monsters try to get them through it all. Jessi is nauseated by her mother’s intense lesbian affair with Dina and shares her hatred for Valentine’s Day with Matthew, who struggles to find a special someone for himself: Jay has the opposite problem in his sexual relationships with his female pillow and male couch cushion, as they fight for his attention.

Although the episode’s contents reflect the frank and embarrassing nuances of an adolescent’s love life, the humor is often underwhelming. Instead of laughing over the generous visuals of Nick and Andrew’s sexual mishaps, I was left feeling sorry for them. When Andrew attempts to channel his inner Billy Crystal and schmoonie Missy, he loses his temper along with most of his hair.

After watching the season 2 episode, “The Shames Wizard,” where Andrew is caught pleasuring himself to Nick’s older sister’s bathing suit, I was rooting for Andrew to find a valentine and finally be happy. Instead of being the innocent yet misunderstood awkward teen we love and adore, Andrew is depicted as an aggressive dunce who pressures Missy into being his valentine and pushes his handicapped classmate, Lars, out of his wheelchair.

Nick is also troubled as he takes out his anger on Connie, his hormone monstress, who was only trying to help him and his sore nipples. Adding on to the episode’s despair and frustration is Jay, who gives up his love of jerking off to inanimate objects. I was desperately waiting for Jay to find a valentine that is human. However, the episode did not cater to my hopeful wishes.

The sadness does not seem to end when Lola is upset that her mother is out of town and spent all of her money on Sephora products, and Devin emotionally abuses her boyfriend Devon into proposing to her. The episode finally begins to lose its gloomy tone, when Nick apologizes to Connie and Jessi reconciles with her mother. However, it serves as the episode’s conclusion. Instead of leaving me laughing, “My Furry Valentine,” left me emotionally exhausted. Besides Coach Steve introducing Jay, whom he refers to as his “child best friend” to his new girlfriend, “Reese’s Werther’s Spoons,” I expected the Valentine’s Day special’s plot to address less serious issues and be more of a lighthearted treat I had been anticipating.

“Big Mouth” is a popular Netflix series that accurately depicts the struggles of growing up that not only make you squirm but make you laugh and embrace the humor behind life’s embarrassing hiccups. Although “My Furry Valentine,” misses the mark, my optimistic outlook on life leaves me hopeful for season 3. There is always next year.

Diego Coya
Staff Writer

Liam Neeson has starred in a lot of action and revenge films ever since 2009. He has proven himself to excel in these roles. A lot of those films came out no later than in the first three months of this year.

The reactions to Neeson’s action films from audiences have been somewhat divided. One crowd has huge fans, and another crowd finds his movies repetitive and monotonous. If one finds themselves to be in the latter side of that division, then I think “Cold Pursuit” might be a delightful surprise to see.

“Cold Pursuit” stars Neeson, Laura Dern, Tom Bateman and Emmy Rossum. It is a remake of the 2014 Norwegian film, “In Order of Disappearance,” and interestingly enough, the director of this remake, Hans Petter Moland, directed the original film.

“Cold Pursuit” follows a snowplow driver whose son is killed in a drug mix-up. This leads Neeson’s character to track down the drug dealers to get his revenge. Prior to seeing this film on a Sunday morning, I didn’t know the plot nor did I see a trailer. All I knew was that Neeson had another action film coming out, and while I wouldn’t consider myself a diehard fan of Neeson’s action films, I do enjoy them.

I was surprised to see the direction this film took. Reading the plot of the film, anyone would assume that it is just another generic action film. At its core, this film is a dark comedy.

Within the first 20 minutes, it seemed like the film was going in a direction that everyone would expect, but then a major plot point happened in a comedic manner. I suppose the best way I can describe the tone of this film is like the film “Fargo,” or even the television show. There are lines of sarcasm and dark moments that unexpectedly happen. A technique like that could backfire and fail miserably, but for this film, it worked.

While the plot is ultimately Neeson trying to take revenge for what happened to his son, there are other story arcs that involve a young police officer who is willing to take drastic measures, Native Americans who are dragged into the drug war, Neeson trying to deal with the death of his son and the difficulties that people go through in the Rocky Mountains.

“Cold Pursuit” isn’t anything new or original, but admittedly it was better than what it should have been. Seeing how the story played out genuinely caught me by surprise.

What separates this from Neeson’s other revenge films is that there’s not a lot of action in this film. When the action is present, there are moments of brutality for sure. But for the most part, it’s a dark comedy that focuses on the characters and the hardships they go through.

The performances from the actors also help, as they all look like they are having the times of their lives in their roles. With a two-hour run time, the film had a pretty consistent pace and I can’t say I was ever bored.

The most disappointing aspect of the film is that Dern is not utilized at all. Her character is basically given nothing to do, and anyone could have played her role. Casting someone with that much talent to do nothing is always upsetting to see. I also believe there are other arcs that could have been a little stronger. Besides that, this is a film that I would recommend seeing.

“Cold Pursuit” is a film that surprised me in how it turned out. I liked it more than I thought I would, and I’m happy to see Neeson doing a film different from what he usually does. It’s not doing well at the box office, so I am hoping there will be people who will give it a chance and end up being surprised like I was.
This Week In Red Hawk Sports

THU 2/14
No Games

FRI 2/15
Men’s Lacrosse at DeSales University 7 p.m.

SAT 2/16
Women’s Basketball vs. First Round NJAC Women’s Basketball Tournament
Men’s Basketball vs. First Round NJAC Men’s Basketball Tournament

SUN 2/17
No Games

MON 2/18
Men’s Indoor Track at NJAC Championship TBA
Women’s Indoor Track at NJAC Championship TBA

TUE 2/19
Men’s Basketball vs. Semifinals NJAC Men’s Basketball Tournament TBA

WED 2/20
Women’s Basketball vs. Semifinals NJAC Women’s Basketball Tournament TBA

Student Athlete Couple: Eddie Emedoh and Lena Bilotti

Supporting each other in their respective sports is also something both Bilotti and Emedoh value in their relationship. Bilotti is also coming off a terrific season last year, finishing off her outdoor season, placing fifth in the javelin at New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) outdoor track and field championships. She credited her strong sophomore campaign to Emedoh and his unwavering love and support throughout the season.

“He motivates me to always do better and not give up,” Bilotti said. “There have been times where I would consider quitting track but he’s always given me reasons not to.”

Bilotti is very supportive of Emedoh and the men’s basketball team. She is in the front row of all of his basketball home and away games, cheering him on and offering words of encouragement. He believes having her by his side helps him get over games where he’s struggled.

“Anytime I know I have a bad game, I can sweat it knowing that she’ll be there after the game so we can talk about it,” Emedoh said.

While both Bilotti and Emedoh do have a strong relationship, it isn’t always sunshine and rainbows. Throughout the nearly two years they’ve been together, they have learned a lot about themselves and each other as a couple and as student-athletes.

Both have cited time management and being patient with each other as being two of the most important things they’ve had to work on.

“We just try not to sweat our problems too much,” Emedoh said. “Being a student-athlete couple, we have been patient with each other and work through anything that we go through.”

Red Hawks Men’s Basketball: 84
Stockton University: 81

Red Hawks Men’s Ice Hockey: 1
Army: 4

Red Hawks Men’s Ice Hockey: 2
Red Hawks Women’s Basketball: 65
Stockton University: 48
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The Montclarion

Room 2035 School of Communication and Media
in Upper Montclair, NJ 07043

Phone 973.655.5230
Fax 973.655.7804
E-mail Montclarionsports@gmail.com
Men’s Ice Hockey Gets Topped by Army on Senior Night

Calendrillo’s lone goal not enough to power Red Hawks in final home game of the season

A second-period goal by junior right wing Evan Calendrillo was not enough to top Army Friday night at Floyd Hall Arena. The Montclair State University men’s ice hockey team lost 4-1 to the Black Knights despite a good effort on their senior night and last home game of the season.

Despite suffering this tough loss that could have given the Red Hawks a playoff spot, the players kept a lighthearted attitude about what happened this game.

“We thought about the mistakes we made in our last game and put our hard hats on,” freshman goaltender Danny Porth said. “[We] grabbed our lunch pails and went to work.”

Senior left wing Michael Buckel started off the scoring chances for the Red Hawks with an early shot before senior forward Lucas Prospero took a roughing penalty.

Montclair State managed to keep Army out of the net with a strong penalty kill. An Army penalty halfway into the first period, one of them being a five-minute major.

Porth kept the score even with some saves before Calendrillo scored 2:10 into the second period to give the Red Hawks a one-goal lead. Army could not capitalize on an early powerplay as Montclair State continued to get scoring chances from players such as junior center Matthew Dreisbach and Buckel. They continued to win faceoffs, and Porth made consistent saves to keep Montclair State at the same level as Army.

“In order to beat a team like Army, every guy has to be working as hard as they can for the full 60 minutes,” Porth said.

The third period was when the Red Hawks had their downfall, where Army scored all four of their goals. Freshman forward Calvin Mckee scored the first goal for the Black Knights just 1:15 into the period, along with an unsustained goal from senior center Luke Schneider, 4:46 in. The Red Hawks tried their best to stay in the game, with a hit from Calendrillo and shots from Prospero and freshman defenseman Steven Ramos. Another Army goal came 6:05 into the third, as their offense was one step ahead of the Montclair State defense as well as Porth.

Samantha Impaglia
Assistant Sports Editor

Montclair State goalie Danny Porth blocked 41 of 44 shots against Army on Friday night.

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Montclair State goalie Danny Porth blocked 41 of 44 shots against Army on Friday night.

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Zak Pavlishin (44) skates around an Army defender.

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