Students propose idea of installing hidden cameras in resident laundry rooms

February Shows Abundance of Laundry Thefts in Resident Halls

Resident Assistant Nicole Guillermo in the Dinallo Laundry room where laundry theft has been reported.

Genesis Obando
Staff Writer

Recently reported thefts are leaving many students concerned, especially residents. Between Feb. 4 and Feb. 11, seven theft reports were filed at the Montclair State University Police Department (UPD).

On Monday, Feb. 4, a resident reported theft in the first floor laundry room in Dinallo Heights. On Friday, Feb. 8, a laundry theft was also reported in the third floor laundry room in Fenwick Hall in The Village.

Other theft reports included stolen money at the Panzer Athletic Center and Sony head-phones in Cafe Diem.

In December, a television was stolen in the Fenwick Hall lounge. According to Capt. Ki-eran Barrett from the Montclair State Police Department, that case is still being investigated.

Nicole Guillermo is a junior resident assistant and service assistant in Dinallo Heights. She said there have been multiple cases of laundry theft in the laundry rooms.

“I’ve been hearing so much about [laundry theft] in Dinallo,” Guillermo said. “I feel like we’re used to it now.”

Guillermo said that since laundry theft has happened so much, Dinallo Heights resi-dents have taken matters into their own hands. Guillermo and other residents will stay in the laundry room the entire time in order to avoid having any of their laundry stolen.

Sophomore biology major Ashley Almanzar said she heard the majority of theft happens in Dinallo Heights and Machuga Heights laundry areas.

“I think that we should have hidden cameras in the laundry area and if something does oc-cur, then we have the evidence on tape,” Almanzar said. “Not only in the laundry area but all over campus, so if this situation happens, then we have backup [evidence] to find the person.”

Barrett said there is no fluc-tuation or increase in incidents of reported theft.

“At the end of the year, and also monthly, we look at any trends or hot spots that may come up from time to time,” Barrett said in an email state-ment. “We tend to see theft on campus as crimes of opportuni-ty where rooms or vehicles are left unsecured.”

Guillermo said she advises her residents, and students in general, to be mindful of their personal belongings in open ar-eas.

A new policy in the works will give students and employees at Montclair State University the freedom to identify themselves by the name they feel most comfortable with. The policy was announced in a campus-wide email on Feb. 13.

“Montclair State University recognizes that some individu-als have a strong preference to use and be known by a name other than their legal name for reasons related to their gender identity, cultural background or for other social or personal rea-sons,” the email stated.

Senior theater major D. Fontaine, who identifies as nonbi-nary – a term referring to their gender identity – and uses the pronoun “they,” believes the policy means progress.

“I think they’re making a step in the right direction in re-gards to letting people address themselves as they want to be addressed,” Fontaine said. “It’s very unnerving and triggering to be referred to by a name you no longer associate with.”

Fontaine added that they wish the school had referred to it as a “chosen name policy,” ex-plaining that they feel the word “preferred” implies less neces-sity for use.

The policy will not take effect until Oct. 1, but individuals can begin to apply for a preferred name before then. Students can

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Crossword puzzle & more on page 9!

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13,000 Students with Only a Handful of Tampon Choices

OPINION
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ENTERTAINMENT

SPORTS
Montclair State University Indoor Track & Field NJAC Championship
Policy: President Cole believes students should think thoroughly before picking a preferred name

apply to the office of the dean of students, and employees can apply to the division of human resources.

University President Susan Cole explained that the school will not be able to use a chosen name in situations that affect the school’s ability to apply with legal requirements or keep official records.

“There are a lot of information management systems, and we have to be very careful about the integrity of the university and there can’t be ambiguity about that,” Cole said.

“There are lots of legal requirements from the government that relate to all kinds of things.”

If the name is approved, the university will allow students to use their preferred names for ID cards, housing and class rosters, student and employee directory information, and various other situations.

Cole warns, however, that having a preferred name can result in potential consequences in the future.

“A preferred name becomes an alias and there are lots of situations in life where you’re required to disclose any other names by which you went by, any aliases you might have had,” Cole said. “So people should be aware of these things when they decide they want to do this. They should know some of the issues that are related to it.”

Wednesday, Feb. 13

Harassment: Patrol officers met with a female student who advised that several items of her clothing were stolen out of the laundry room. The incident is under investigation.

Monday, Feb. 11

Greek Life: Police headquarters received an anonymous call from an individual wishing to report an incident of hazing. The caller advised that several members of a Greek Organization on campus were being beaten and publicly ridiculed. The caller did not wish to provide any further information into the matter. This incident is under investigation.

Friday, Feb. 15

Bohn Hall: A female student came into police headquarters to report an incident of theft. The student advised that her North Face jacket was stolen from the ninth floor laundry room while she completed her laundry. This incident is under investigation.

Friday, Feb. 15

Whitman Hall: Patrol officers responded in regards to a report of a theft. Officers met with a female student who advised that several items of her clothing were stolen out of the laundry room. This incident is under investigation.

Monday, Feb. 18

Alice Paul Hall: Patrol officers responded in regards to a report of a theft. Officers met with a male student who advised that a metal safe box containing money and passwords was stolen from the inside of his desk drawer, located within his residence room in Alice Paul Hall. This incident is under investigation.

Thursday, Feb. 7

Gibson Hall: Patrol officers responded in regards to a report of a theft. Officers met with a female student who advised that several items of her clothing were stolen out of the laundry room. This incident is under investigation.

Monday, Feb. 18

Harassment: Patrol officers met with a female student at police headquarters who wished to report an incident of harassment. The student reported receiving harassing text messages and direct messages on her Instagram account from a known Montclair State student. The student did not wish to file a complaint at this time.

Monday, Feb. 18

Alice Paul Hall: Patrol officers met with a female student who wished to report a theft in the past. On Friday, Feb. 15, the student reported receiving harassing text messages and direct messages on her Instagram account from a known Montclair State student. The student advised that her purse was missing. The purse contained several forms of ID, credit cards and gift cards. This incident is under investigation.
Rec Center Pushes Students to Get Healthy with Free Fitness Assessments

Students encouraged to get back on track with their fitness goals after the holidays

Rosaria Lo Presti
Staff Writer

Since the holidays have passed and leftover Valentine’s Day candy is either thrown out or eaten, it’s the perfect opportunity for students to check in on their physical health.

Personal trainers associated with the university provided a full week of free ongoing fitness assessments in the Student Recreation Center to allow students to gain a better understanding of their current health.

These assessments intended to help students better achieve and set their personal fitness goals.

The evaluations examined blood pressure, cardiovascular tests, weight through the use of highly accurate scales and body mass index (BMI), which is calculated through a handheld bioimpedance analysis.

Afterward, the personal trainers examined these statistics with regards to the student’s age and height in order to calculate their overall health fitness level.

Senior history major Alexa Guidetti, a personal trainer working at the event, believes there is more to fitness and health than just going to the gym.

"We chose to do a week of free fitness assessments for the rec center community as a wellness check because around this time we feel that it’s important for people to realize where they are at physically in order to live a healthy lifestyle,” Guidetti said. “There is more to this than just going to the gym, and we are here to offer as much advice as we can.”

Before working out, it’s important to identify the individual’s strengths and weaknesses. The purpose of these assessments is to accurately measure a person’s overall general fitness level and to see how one can improve based on them.

This event also gave an opportunity for students to ask the trainers any questions regarding diet plans and proper workouts needed to achieve their fitness goals.

Suraj Makadia, a junior business administration major who attended the event, believes that it’s important for people to keep track of their health, suggesting that all students go for a fitness analysis.

“I wanted to see how healthy I was, so I tested my blood pressure, body weight and BMI,” Makadia said. “I believe that people should come in and see where they are at so they can set their goals.”

According to the article titled, “The Importance of Physical Fitness” by Mana Medical Associates, staying active can help maintain a healthy weight, reduce risks for Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, as well as reduce the risk for a variety of cancers.

Junior exercise major David Cosgrove, another personal trainer at the event, believes many students don’t know where to begin in their fitness journey.

“Sometimes people don’t know where to start,” Cosgrove said. “This kind of event could give students an idea about where they are currently, so they can then set their goals.”

Fitness Assessment Week took place between Monday, Feb. 18 and Friday, Feb. 22.
Feminine hygiene products can also be found at the Blanton Plaza's C-Store, Outtakes Market and in one vending machine on the bottom floor of the Student Center.

At nearly double the retail price, all period products on campus are costly. However, we live in one of 12 U.S. states that doesn’t tax tampons and pads.

Senior communication and media arts major Kristin Perretti is disappointed that more than half the country states that doesn't tax tampons and pads.

As a result, Perretti expresses further frustration about stigma of going through periods.

"It's a naturally occurring thing that all women have to go through, and the stigma is obnoxious," Perretti said. "The fact that capitalism takes advantage of the stigma is even more frustrating."

Most tampons today are composed of rayon and fluff pulp and hardly any cotton is used in modern mass-produced tampons. Rayon is associated with the increased likelihood of toxic shock syndrome; the fibers are bleached for appearance and can end up stuck to the vaginal wall.

The organization, Women's Voices for Earth (WVE), works to remove harmful chemical exposure from American households. WVE tested a variety of Tampons, Always and U Kotex pads and tampons, and found the products contain varying levels of carbon disulfide.

According to the study performed by Krzysztof Sieja, Jaroslaw von Mach-Szczypinski and Joanna von Mach-Szczypinski, their results "detected carbon disulfide emissions from all four tampons that contain rayon, but it was not detected in either of the all-cotton tampons."

The two brands most widely distributed on Montclair State's campus are full of chemicals that can cause hormonal disruption, early menopause and chemical imbalances in young women.

Senior business administration major Elaina Dzirkos appreciates that Montclair State provides access to low-cost feminine hygiene products, but is also concerned about the potential health risks of their ingredients.

"I'm flabbergasted," Dzirko said. "I'm glad that there are free products provided on campus because you might not be able to afford it or may forget to bring your own, but I'm going to have to do more research on what I was exposing my body to."

The quality of feminine hygiene products makes a world of difference. Companies like Cora, Lola and Natracare sell feminine hygiene products made from pesticide-free organic cotton.

These brands are built on holistic and chemical imbalances in young women.

Senior communication studies major Lindsay Slaff believes that it’s important to choose organic products for several reasons.

"It definitely makes a difference whether feminine hygiene products are made out of organic products," Slaff said. "Chemicals are constantly being ingested or put onto our skin, such as food and makeup, and the only difference is that the ingredients must be shown to consumers."

Slaff suggested that if the government cared more about women’s needs, ingredient lists would be mandatory. "I think if the government made it mandatory to include the ingredients on boxes of pads and tampons, more people would choose an organic alternative," Slaff said. "Aside from benefiting the human body, organic alternatives make a difference on the environment as well."

For every month’s supply purchased, Cora donates a month’s supply to young women in need in India, Kenya and the United States. Upon discovering Cora, I was skeptical. Organic tampons sounded like a plot established by the bourgeoisie to scam me out of four extra dollars a month.

Before Cora, I was simply using the brand my mother had chosen for me when I began menstruating. I never questioned it, assuming that in her 40 years of living with it cramp, she had discovered the pinnacle of feminine hygiene products. Last year, I made the switch to organic products only, and I never looked back. Everyone deserves to live free of harmful toxins. It’s time that we work to educate and advocate for a healthy change. Periods are organic, and the products we use to cope with them should be, too.
Montclair State University continued the month-long tribute of Black Heritage Month by celebrating the 110th anniversary of the university’s chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) on Wednesday, Feb. 13 in University Hall’s conference center.

The anniversary was rescheduled to Wednesday due to inclement weather, but this did not discourage the crowd of students, faculty, alumni and guests who reconvened Wednesday night to celebrate the organization’s anniversary.

Montclair State’s NAACP collegiate chapter kicked off their anniversary celebration with opening visuals, dance sketches, poetry performances and award presentations by Complexions Dance Team honoring Brotherly Love nominees, along with musical selections by the Voices of Unity Gospel Choir.

The university chapter is part of the Montclair Township branch and welcomed a crowded room filled with students, professors and the public who mingled as they dined.

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The chapter’s president, Mechi Antoine Brown, delivered a powerful visual presentation championing the efforts of past generations while acknowledging his branch’s plans.

Brown talked to the crowd of students about the importance of unity and securing the legacy.

“Today’s celebration is not just honoring the acts of civil rights activists, it is about securing the legacy for the future,” Brown said. “As agents for change, this organization is pushing to educate and encourage people of all colors to take part in civic engagement.”

Brown continued to talk about how they must represent the past generations.

“We are standing on the shoulders of those who came before us,” Brown said. “It is our responsibility to reach back and raise awareness.”

The campus organization, which values itself on securing the political, educational, social and economic equality rights of all students of color, urged students to value their education and to give back to the university through their support for campus organizations representing people of color.

James E. Harris, retired associate dean of students of Montclair State and first vice president of the Montclair NAACP as well as the president of the New Jersey State NAACP, spoke to the room of students, alumni and guests about the importance of leadership.

“The NAACP has a responsibility to educate and prepare young people for the future,” Harris said. “In order to have a seat at the table, we need leaders who are willing to help focus on the issues that go unheard, and education does not stop in the classroom. It continues beyond.”

Since its inception, the Montclair State chapter of the NAACP has played a key role in eradicating the legal barriers of the past and has fought for equality in education, employment and voting.

Junior psychology major Ivory Twitty, who was present at the event, expressed her gratitude for the organization.

“The NAACP is needed now more than ever,” Twitty said. “With such high tensions and unrest in our country, it is very calming to know there is an organization on campus that strives to improve the lives of all people, no matter [their] race or creed.”

Montclair State’s NAACP Collegiate Chapter Celebrates 110th Anniversary

Tiffany Baskerville
Staff Writer

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Erin Webb Will Stab You With a Needle and Be Happy About it

Erin Webb works at the front desk of Freeman Hall.

Kristen Milburn  Contributing Writer

Russ Hall opened in 1915 as the first residence hall at Montclair State University. It housed students studying to be teachers, was used briefly as an administrative building and now serves as the makeshift tattoo parlor for Erin Webb, whose brightly colored hair and heavily tattooed arms might differ slightly from the appearance of Russ’ first residents.

Webb, a senior English major whose pronouns are “they” and “their,” lives on the renovated fourth floor of the building where the angled walls and exposed water pipes make it hard to forget that their room was once an attic. Nestled between the pipes and Polaroids of their adored nephew, Killian, Webb gives themselves and their friends stick and poke tattoos.

Webb first gave themselves a tattoo when they were 13 after watching “Foxfire,” in which Angelina Jolie’s character gives herself a chest tattoo. Webb grabbed a ballpoint pen and a sewing needle and给自己 a chest tattoo. Webb sat on their desk chair and gave themself more tattoos when they couldn’t afford to get them professionally done, so they want to keep it cheap for other people as well.

“I don’t like asking people to pay me, because what if they don’t like it?” Webb said. “I have a weird barter system if people really want to give me something. I have been paid in pizza, vanilla Coke and Jager. I will also accept herbal refreshments.”

One of Webb’s coworkers, Kaitlyn Kirgan, emphasized Webb’s unexpected kindness.

“[Webb is like] Baymax, but with tattoos and hair they dye a new color every other week,” Kirgan said. “People look at them and think that they might be mean or scary, but they’re the sweetest person I’ve ever met.”

It is clear from Webb’s freely-given hugs and smiles that they genuinely care about the well-being of others and do their best to be a positive impact on other people. Webb takes the assumptions other people make about them in stride.

“People have told me that they judge people who have tattoos or piercings, and they should work on that,” Webb said. “Some of the nicest and friendliest people I know have a lot of tattoos. Having tattoos doesn’t mean anything other than that you wanted to get a tattoo.”

With their changing hair colors, piercings and affinity for tattoos, Webb might not be what the Montclair administration envisioned a typical resident would look like when they built Russ Hall. However, Webb embodies the generosity, kindness and creativity institutions of higher education strive to instill in all of their students.

“Don’t forget to mention that I’m gay,” Webb said. “Otherwise, I’d be pretty boring.”

Erin Webb has given over 20 people tattoos in one evening. People gathered to talk and listen to music as Webb sat on their desk chair and gave people permanent tattoos as calmly as if they were drawing on their friends with a Sharpie marker. Clare Miller, a junior dance major, received her first tattoo that evening.

Miller was nervous and gripped her friend’s hand to distract her from the pain. Webb told her jokes and asked her questions about her interests while etching a puzzle piece on the back of Miller’s neck. Miller winced with each stab of the needle, but Webb’s calm and friendly demeanor helped her remember she was in good hands.

Not many bosses would trust their employees to give them a tattoo, but that’s exactly what Rebecca Mungiole, Webb’s service assistant coordinator, did. Mungiole has a number of professional tattoos, but went to Webb for a tattoo of the “Harry Potter” glasses and lightning bolt.

Mungiole said that her experience getting a tattoo from Webb was unlike any of her professional experiences because Webb was friendly and made it a fun experience.

Webb refuses to accept payment for tattoos, insisting that they started giving themselves more tattoos when they couldn’t afford to get them professionally done, so they want to keep it cheap for other people as well.

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How Real is Underemployment After College?

Shelby Watson
Contributing Writer

If you’re in college right now, chances are you want to get hired in the field that you’re studying in. You’re studying something for four whole years or more sometimes, so you’re probably going to work a job in your field of study.

Unfortunately, the reality is not that simple.

According to a study that was conducted in 2010 by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, only 27 percent of college graduates landed a job closely related to their major, meaning 73 percent were working in areas that were unrelated to what they studied in school.

Of course, it could be argued there’s always going to be a percentage of students who change their minds about their careers or students who just get unlucky right out of the gates, but the reality is this percentage is a lot bigger than you probably thought.

Another survey conducted by OneClass more recently showed a similar finding: 57.5 percent of college graduates don’t work in their field of study.

So, why does this happen?

It’s a combination of the economic situation, geographic location and, of course, your persistence in finding your ideal job.

However, arguably the biggest factor of being underemployed is the current demand and value of your degree.

According to a study by Burning Glass, psychology majors face the highest risk of underemployment after graduation with 38 percent being underemployed in their first job and then still underemployed after five years.

The chart also shows what percentage of students are underemployed in their first job but eventually find suitable employment with their second job.

Underemployment is a serious issue and colleges should be doing more to tackle it. They can start by highlighting careers in demand more explicitly to help nudge students into degree paths that are most likely to get them employed in their field of study.

If specific skill sets are in high demand, such as Microsoft Excel proficiency or data analytics, colleges should have shorter and more intensive courses to help students supplement their degree and increase their chances of landing a relevant career after graduation.

Every year, the demand for specific jobs are changing. If we think about the previous decade, most jobs would primarily be manual and human labor. Today, most jobs require data science, artificial intelligence and machine learning as the economy is slowly switching to automation.

This issue highlights two things. First, a lot more thought and planning needs to go into choosing what you’re going to study for the next four years. Many students decide to switch majors or programs after studying in university for three years.

It’s great if you choose to study something you’re passionate about but a lot more factors, like job prospects and career growth need to be heavily considered as well.

Second, just a degree usually isn’t enough. Since job competition is so high now in so many fields, employers are looking for things on top of your degree that supplement it, such as more relevant experience, specific skill sets and certifications. Many jobs even require years of working experience.

With the rise of companies like Coursera and Udemy offering courses on specific skill sets, students should take advantage of this and learn supplemental skills to strengthen their applications and increase their chances of working as what they envision.

Current and former Montclair State University students have different perspectives on underemployment after graduation.

Francis Holandez graduated from Montclair State in 2018 with a degree in psychology and emphasized the need for planning ahead.

“Going through school, I didn’t really think about my job prospects too much. In my program, it’s so easy to just get so wrapped up in the academics where thinking of where I’m going to work after university was just a side thought,” Holandez said. “I really wish I spent more time and energy lining up a job in my field right after university and preparing for life after school, but unfortunately I’ve had to resort to working at a restaurant for a little bit while I look for a psychology-related job opening.”

Dan Inwood, a freshman psychology major, shared that he will consider his path more seriously going forward after being informed about the potential for underemployment.

“Since this is all new and a first-time experience, I actually haven’t even thought about what’s next after university,” Inwood said. “Now that you mentioned it, I actually put more thought into it and what I want to do after I graduate. This is actually a pretty good reminder for every student because it’s always good to prepare for the unexpected.”

Sophomore communications major Tanya Tat is concerned about her job prospects but continues to take advantage of online courses to build her resume.

“To be honest, I’m a little scared that I won’t be able to get a job in the communications field for when I graduate,” Tat said. “Obviously, everyone probably has the same fear, but I really do think getting a job after university will be extremely competitive. I’m just constantly thinking of what extra to do to pad my resume and gain more experience.”

Tat hopes her education will further her more than she may believe.

“I’m taking online courses so I can be more familiar with digital-related things, like social media management platforms and website management/creation programs,” Tat said. “I just really hope I can land a job in communications right out of school because I paid a lot of money to do so.”

As much as baristas or customer service associates in your local grocery store are needed, you probably don’t want to resort to working these jobs after studying four years and paying tens of thousands of dollars in tuition.
Help Wanted

$50 / Need help moving boxes, Montclair
Edison

I moved to Montclair several months ago with a PUD. 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 moving some boxes and furniture so I have access to them. I’ll pay someone $50 for it. It should not take long. I would think travel time to Edison and back is about an hour.

If interested please email me at pickdiddy630@yahoo.com.

$50-$250 per hour / Homework Helper / Livingston

Looking for an after school homework helper. Interested in either current student, graduate or retired elementary school teacher, would be ideal. Needed to drive boys ages 4 & 7 to school and back, help with homework, prepare evening meals and stay until parents return home from work. 5 days a week. Will consider live in or out. Email: russelldc67@gmail.com.

$20 Per Hour / SOCCER COACH / MONCLAIR

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 best fit into their schedule and make sense from a geographic perspective. We hire primarily college students. We look for people that have a background in soccer (or other organized sports) are energetic, personal, responsible, reliable and most importantly, GREAT with children. If interested, please email us at jobs@kiddiesoccer.com and send us an email at jobs@kiddiesoccer.com.

$600-$700 / GORGEOUS ROOMS FOR RENT / 7 MINS FROM CAMPUS

Gorgeous rooms for rent in large, clean, recently remodeled home. 7 minutes drive from campus and near the restaurants, cafes, bookstores etc 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 nanettelerner@gmail.com.

$20 Per Hour / Academic Tutor

Current elementary education student or recent graduate, or retired elementary school teacher, would be ideal. Needed to drive boys ages 4 & 7 to school and back, help with homework, prepare evening meals and stay until parents return home from work. 5 days a week. Will consider live in or out. Email: pickdiddy630@yahoo.com.

$18 / Part-time childcare mid-January / Montclair

Responsibilities include picking up at school, transporting kids to activities, helping with homework, playing, and setting up for dinner. Kids are 7 and 12. Regular hours are 7pm-7pm, M-F with an opportunity for a few more hours a week. Please have a clean driving record, patience and positive energy. Previous childcare experience a plus. If interested, contact nanettelerner@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 small 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.meynar@yahoo.com.

$12 / 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 nanettelerner@gmail.com.

Caregiver / Montclair

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

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Cover all the touchdowns, goals, and everything in between.

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The Montclarion Crossword Puzzle and More!

President’s Day Edition

Across
3. The Nickelodeon show “Ned’s Declassified School Survival Guide” takes place at a fictional elementary school named after this president
4. This president is the only one to have received a Purple Heart
5. This president was nicknamed “Ike”
7. This president was supposedly stuck in a bathtub in the White House
8. This president is the only one in history to have never married and stayed single
9. This president was known for his fun bromance with his vice president and for his Portuguese Water Dog, Bo

Down
1. This president was born not far from Montclair State University in Caldwell, New Jersey
2. This president’s head appears on the penny
6. This president has an IMDb page with more than 50 acting credits

President Last Names

Lincoln  trump  kennedy  carter  obama
Bush  clinton  reagan  ford  nielsen
Johnson  eisenhower  truman  roosevelt  hoover
Coolidge  harding  wilson  taft  adams
Cleveland  harrison  arthur  fillmore  hayes
grant  buchanan  pierce  jackson  taylor
Polk  tyler  vanburen  fillmore  mckinley
Monroe  madison  jefferson  washington

*Sudoku*

1  5  7
2  6  3
4  9  1
8  7  9
3  2  4
5  1  6

*For answers to the puzzles, please check The Montclarion Facebook page every Thursday.*
Many of the buildings at Montclair State University have emergency phones attached to them to contact university police.

Rebecca Serviss | The Montclarion

**OPINION**

**Campus Safety First**

On Valentine’s Day of 2018, 19-year-old Nicholas Cruz took a trip back to his old high school in Parkland, Florida. Not to catch up with old friends and teachers, but to commit murder. Cruz shot 17 innocent people that day but also changed the lives of thousands of others who chose to walk out of their schools and universities a month later.

Together, led by the student survivors from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, a new generation of fed-up students started a movement to hopefully end mass shootings once and for all.

One year has passed since this tragedy, but what is more upsetting is that this was not the only mass shooting of 2018. According to the Gun Violence Archive, there were 340 mass shootings in the United States in 2018. From the start of 2019, there have been over 40 mass shootings including one in Aurora, Illinois last Friday that left six people injured and six others dead.

For most people living in the United States, including students at Montclair State University, the sickening thought of how frequent these tragedies occur makes them wonder what more can be done to prevent this number from growing.

Montclair State is a public university with an open campus, meaning that anyone can come at any time, which isn’t a wrong premise, but there are ways to make students feel safer.

Due to all of the school shootings that have taken place, schools around the country have been on high alert and stepping up security procedures and measures to ensure the safety of their students and faculty.

At Montclair State, there are many resources in which students and faculty can use to get help when they do not feel safe.

One tool is the blue lights, which are located outside many of the academic buildings around campus. Below the lights is a designated phone in which students and faculty can easily contact the University Police Department (UPD). Students and faculty also have access to all of the contact information from UPD on Montclair State’s website, including RAVE alerts sent out to the entire campus community when an emergency arises.

While resources to get in contact with UPD is very easy to obtain and many students and faculty are very thankful for them, there are others who are unsure of what else they can do to protect themselves if an intruder were to enter one of the academic buildings.

According to the New Jersey Department of Education, New Jersey State Law 18A:41-1 requires all New Jersey elementary, middle and high schools to perform at least one fire and one security drill per month.

At Montclair State, there are not a lot of drills that take place except for a few fire drills in the residence halls. Many have rarely witnessed a security or active shooter drill on campus. Students and faculty do not need a drill interrupting classes every month, but some think there should be at least one drill every semester in every building so the campus community is more prepared if such an event were to happen.

In addition to that, many students think there should be another part of student orientation where new members of the campus community are better introduced to these drills and procedures so they can know what to expect.

It is unfortunate that lots of people are worried about tragedies because it seems like a broken record every time another one happens. One of the first steps in fixing the record is to prepare and practice.

**CAMPUS VOICES:**

Do you think it’s a good idea for Montclair State to put in place active shooter drills?

By Rebecca Serviss & Jennifer Losos

“I think we should have [active] shooter drills because it’s being taken place on high school campuses, elementary [school] campuses, and we have a very open policy. Anyone can come to our campus and do anything, [Montclair State University] has a greater chance [of being involved in an active shooter situation] now because we have an open campus.”

- **Danielle Sossi**
  - English
  - Junior

“I don’t really think about that everyday because for me that gives me anxiety. Having an active shooter drill would actually terrify me a lot more and it would give [me] the thought of, ‘Oh, it could potentially happen,’ and that’s very worrying as a person who doesn’t enjoy a lot of sad news.”

- **Trevor Gioia**
  - Filmmaking
  - Junior

“Of course [Montclair State University] should have more active shooter drills because it will increase the safety of the students. [With] active shooter drills, we’ll know what to do if something were to happen because throughout the U.S., there are many campuses that have active shooters, and they don’t know what to do.”

- **Faith Victor**
  - Child Advocacy and Policy
  - Freshman

“I think we should [have active shooter drills.] If [a shooting] were to happen, I don’t think anyone would be prepared for the situation. I feel that people just go chaotic and they wouldn’t know what to do.”

- **Sarah Waffenfeld**
  - Visual Communication Design
  - Sophomore
Gucci’s Blackface Sweater is Going to Take More Than Just an Apology

Gucci recently released an $890 sweater that resembled blackface. The turtle-neck sweater has a pull-up collar with a cutout featuring prominent red lips. Of course, Gucci has apologized and immediately pulled the sweater from the market. Alessandro Michele, the creative director of Gucci took full accountability, even though he claims it was never his intention to make it look like blackface.

Now what am I wondering is, how did this pass through a whole team of executives? Apparently, the design of this sweater was a tribute for an Australian performance artist and fashion designer, Leigh Bowery, known for his extravagant costume designs and makeup.

Bowery’s work is very extraordinary and some might even say a weird style that includes a lot of overdrawn lips, full face makeup and a lot of colors. So why did the designers at Gucci choose a black sweater? At least make the sweater in different colors, right?

They also could have explained the intention behind this project. It is not entirely obvious that it was a dedication to the artist Bowery.

Let me explain how this blackface sweater made it to this far. It is simply because Gucci’s lack of diversity. Gucci is an Italian luxury brand. You would not find one person of color in Gucci stores, even though it is known to have a huge demographic of black customers.

Take the rapper T.I., a loyal customer of the brand for example. He was furious when he discovered the sweater and blasted it all over his social media. T.I. even recorded a diss track against boxer Floyd Mayweather, calling him out on his continued support of Gucci.

In Mayweather’s defense, he does not understand how a temporary boycott will make a difference.

“Wouldn’t you agree to a permanent boycott of Gucci as well as all other merchandise that fall under the kering ownership, such as YSL, Balenciaga, Alexander McQueen and more,” May-
weather expressed on his Instagram.

I must say, I do agree with him on that stance. If they really want to leave a scar, then it should be a protest that tackles all businesses that fail to acknowledge their own racism.

T.I. and several other artists, like 50 Cent and Spike Lee, are now protesting Gucci, demanding they “respect our dollars and value our business.”

I do not blame them. Gucci’s lack of diversity and racism is the reason everyone is outraged. It is unacceptable to have something like this happen, and Gucci claims it was not their intention.

Intention or not, black people did not come this far for a high-end brand to be ignorant of African history and create something so offensive so easily.

Ignorance is not bliss in this case. It is disrespectful and unforgivable.

Another thing I do not understand is how the sweater made it here to the United States. We concluded the Europeans have no insight on African history, but what about when these sweaters were put on the racks in the U.S.? No one took a step back and said, “Wait.”

It did not raise any question marks in any store in the U.S.? The only person who caught it was rapper T.I., and if it were not for him, these sweaters would still be out there. It is saddening.

Prada faced a similar issue back in December 2018. Their Pradamilia products depicted monkey-like figures with black faces and large red lips. An attorney, Chinyere Ezie, spotted the products on her way home at a Prada store in Manhattan.

She expressed her anger on Facebook and when the post went viral enough for Prada to see it, they replied back with another apology and then pulled the merchandise out of stores. Yet another multinational, multimillionaire company that expects to get away with their pretend ignorance. Honestly, besides the fact that all these companies lack diversity, by now I just think they pull this kind of stuff on purpose.

The Oscars Could Learn a Thing or Two from The Game Awards

Each and every year, it seems there is another stir of controversy surrounding the Academy, the most prestigious award show: The Academy Awards.

This year’s plaintiffs include Kevin Hart’s hosting debacle, the sudden surge of both “Bohemian Rhapsody” and “Green Book” as award-season darlings, despite the troubling developmental details behind them, and the public lambasting garnered from the Academy’s proposal of a “Popu-
lar Film” category as well as the announcement that the awards for cin- ematography, film editing, makeup and hairstyling, and live-action short would be cut from the broadcast in an effort to save time.

In fairness, the Academy did withdraw its popular film award – at least for now – and Academy President John Bailey and the board have recently stated they would continue to air every award after the broadcast.

But nevertheless, the Oscars still face plenty of issues and drawbacks, as well as the incontrovertible truth that their popularity and approval has been on the decline for years. The 2018 show had a record-low 26 million viewers, which represented a nearly 20 percent decline from the year before. This is significantly lower than the previous record-holder, of 39 million from 2002.

There is a multitude of reasons behind the ratings’ decline that simply cannot be boiled down to one specific aspect, like politics, but there is little doubt a change is in order. For that change, the Academy might want to take inspiration from a place one might not expect: The Game Awards.

The Game Awards, which have also had their fair share of turmoil, are essentially the gaming industry’s equivalent of the Oscars. It might be tempting to dismiss video games, but the Game Awards are secretly one of the most successful stories out there, with the viewership of last year’s show having a 128 percent increase from the previous year, totaling around 26.2 million streams across multiple platforms.

They do an excellent job at capturing the greatness behind video games and their history, while the Oscars tend to be more of a celebration of themselves rather than an accurate representation of film history.

Instead of focusing on cutting award categories, the Academy should look to be more inventive with new categories like the Game Awards are. Areas like “Best Debut Indie Game” and “Best E-Sports Mo-
ment” could easily translate into a movie-centric vernacular. There are even suggestions for new categories within the film industry, like Christopher McQuarrie, the director of “Mission: Impossible - Fallout,” who suggested a new category for stunt coordina-
tion be implemented.

Adding new awards that are unique can add a fresh twist to the ceremony without feeling like they demean the tastes or interests of regular movie-goers.

Another aspect that could be explored would be the addition of announce-
ments and of revealing trail-
eries that the Academy should at-
tempt to overcome its arrogance and welcome new, modern ways of dis-
cussing films. Doing so will not take away the prestige of the show, only help preserve it. Adapt or die.
**Love in the Digital Age**

Big hearts beat quiet

Love and LED screens are a recipe for emotions, especially when real feelings are expressed online. I must have missed the part of the movie where Rapunzel’s locks turned into a follow back.

There is no place for a hopeless romantic like myself in this day and age. I wear my heart on my sleeve and what you see is what you get on or offline. In my world, I walk among heartless robots who need to be re-programmed.

In other words, people need to put down their phones.

Whatever woman said chivalry is dead must have had her head in her phone while the door was being held for her. But that’s beside the point. It appears boys have met world, but boy doesn’t meet girl the way he did in the show.

This is the real world and time is going by fast, but finding love is a slow process. I have come to learn as times change, so do the rules in which we live. It is no different from this game of love.

But how does this work? A follow isn’t a commitment or maybe I missed that part too. Which brings me to my next point: If it didn’t happen for the camera, then it didn’t happen, right? In this case, if people didn’t see that I followed you then what we have must not be real.

I get it though, we’re growing up and starting to get comfortable with the lives we created for ourselves from watching television. Emotions are fragile, making vulnerability the same as the fear you’d get walking over a bridge made of glass.

On the other hand, what if Apple created an algorithm that could match us with people we’re compatible with by making our phones vibrate when we see them?

Now, let’s be realistic. Love isn’t what we’ve seen in “Hotel Transylvania,” but our children might think it is. It is just another downfall of love in this digital age. Or even worse, they think a swipe is the equivalent of Cupid’s arrow.

It is a new kind of catfish. Only this time our true feelings and intentions are what we hide as we display the superficial. Usernames are how we see ourselves in hopes that others see us the same way or at least accept us and our flaws before we meet in person. It’s a gamble, but love is all about chances.

If I play it safe then I’m making sure this is the real thing, but in due time we’ll both see that these were just wasted years. The gold at the end of the rainbow is a friendship crafted from the storm. That is, assuming the glass bridge didn’t shatter, although more times than not it did. You rushed in too fast and what you thought would last didn’t. What happened to taking it slow?

Do we not play for keeps anymore? Not only is love a risky gamble, but a sport we stopped playing. Unfortu-nately, the digital age has made love a quick hobby to indulge in when we’re bored.

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**Sh*t Happens... Again**

A satire on the Life Hall pipe burst

Earlier this month, a pipe burst in Life Hall left the building filled with human sewage, a foul smell and hopefully a wake-up call. The plumbing movement bonanza occurred on the same day.

Auditions were held for prospective students for the theater and dance programs. If those students were on the fence about attending Montclair State University, their enrollment is now without question.

When I, like the vast majority of my peers, was applying to colleges, whether or not a school was a good fit for me was answered with one simple question: Will this university allow me to have an ongoing relationship with my fees? Whenever I drop the kids off at the water park, I hope that we meet again, but we never do. That is, until now.

A specialist took samples of the contaminated area to test whether that section of the building was still hazardous. The results have yet to come back, but in the meantime, I will have a table set up outside Life Hall selling my own facial samples for profit so people can extract my DNA and clone their very own me.

Pipe bursts are nothing new to Montclair State, but this is definitely the most entertaining one we have seen yet. There have been two different pipe bursts within the past year in Bohn Hall alone. I remember being a lowly freshman when the first occurred during the spring semester of 2018.

'Twas a dark and gloomy day already: Young students filled with optimism and naiveté went about their daily routines as they soldiered on living in Bohn Hall, the neck tattoo of college dorms.

Bohn Hall, of course, can most accurately be compared to pre-Rudy Giuliani Times Square or just Rudy Giuliani today.

I found myself in the lobby when it happened. Water began spilling out of the elevator shaft the same way Bed Bath and Beyond coupons spill out of the purses of middle-aged white women. I was terrified. Ceiling tiles fell from the sky, and what I thought was a sign of the end of the world was actually a pipe burst.

Floods 10-13 remained flooded for days. Hundreds of students were left without housing. However, this disaster did give me some new perspective. Like how our university distributes its funds, or what it must be like living in revolution-era France.

With three major pipe bursts resulting in tens of thousands of dollars in damage within the last year, one would think the university would begin to re-examine the status of its facilities to avoid another incident like this from happening in the future.

However, there are more important things to spend money on, like a $200,000 bronze statue of a bird, or the new, officially licensed Montclair State University parchment paper that comes with your meal at the Red Hawk Diner.

So, with no end in sight to Montclair State’s infrastructure crumbling around its already overcharged students, I believe it is finally time for our school slogan to be updated: “Montclair State University: It’s all here… Even cholera.”

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**Thumbs Up**

Possible Jonas Brothers reunion

Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg returns to work after surgery

Montclair State has a half day on Wednesday

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**Thumbs Down**

Three people are dead after a car crash at a Wayne gas station in New Jersey on Tuesday

Multiple states, including New Jersey, sue President Donald Trump for declaring a national emergency on immigration

Fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld passes away at age 85
Learn from faculty who are renowned in their field, with decades of experience to share. As a certified athletic trainer, you will collaborate with other health care professionals to help physically active people perform, feel and move better.

Join the inaugural class and start your coursework this summer. Study with Hall of Fame inductees and field leaders. Learn to heal and prevent sports-related injuries.

Apply by **March 15, 2019**, at [montclair.edu/graduate](http://montclair.edu/graduate)

For questions and more information, contact program chair **Fredrick Gardin, PhD, ATC, CSCS** at 973-655-7156 or gardinf@montclair.edu.
Student Artist Profile: Joe Baez

Joe Baez is a photographer in his freshman year at Montclair State University, majoring in acting. Baez focuses on portrait photography and conducts shoots for people in New Jersey and New York. He spoke with The Montclarion Video Editor Mackenzie Robertson about his passion for photography and acting.

Q: What sparked your interest in photography?

A: The way that my photography really sparked was that I was just a big fan of memories. Freshman year [of high school] is really where it just struck me that I wanted to start taking photos for the sake of just looking back and being able to say, ‘Wow I relived that moment,’ you know? I didn’t have a really great time, just as a kid, because I was bullied in high school and regrettably at home.

I needed something to look forward to when I was with friends, those little tiny moments that I had. I would basically take these photos, print them out at CVS and I would look back at them and say, ‘Wow, I really enjoyed this.’ Now when I do it professionally, I can say that when I’m taking this photo I had a really intense emotion, and I just think it says that I am living, you know?

Q: How did you end up getting into the Acting Program at Montclair State, given your interest in photography?

A: Through auditions, I got into the acting program. It was kind of leveled out, so photography and acting are both of my passions. I won’t say which one I will shoot for if there was an ultimatum. It was actually a walk-in when I went for the acting program. I was supposed to go to musical theater auditions, and when I went in there they seemed really caring about my decision when I told them about having to choose between musical theater or acting. So, I took that into account, and I have a lot of friends that kind of influenced my decision.

Q: Does acting influence your photography and has it helped shape you as a photographer?

A: I would say photography shaped me as a person. Acting and photography both have their own aspects, but acting is just more of an emotional kind of thing and photography is saving the moment. I wouldn’t say one shaped me more than the other.

Q: What are you hoping to accomplish with your photography?

A: I’m trying to capture the beauty of every moment. I think that is just a very general thing that a lot of photographers would say. For me, of course, is keeping the memory alive. Even for people that I’ve taken photos of them smiling, being sad or whatever scenario that we are in, and just being able to look back at the day. I think that photographs are really important. I always think, ‘what if the internet just dies?’ If I can’t go back online and all my photos are gone, I have to print them out and I can see that I was there.

Q: Tell me about your favorite or most memorable photo shoots.

A: Feb. 12 was one of my favorite photo shoots. It was a snow day, and it was a little bit of a blizzard. I had three photo shoots scheduled. The first photo shoot was pretty weird, but I liked that kind of weird. We took vintage dresses and then we took a couch out into the snow. It was just a eccentric in that kind of way. I just loved the idea of just playing with different things. I think that was a way of showing myself that I am starting to branch off into my portrait photography.

Q: Do you think your subject helps guide where the shoot is going?

A: I think it definitely depends on the person that I am shooting with. It could be a different vibe or something they would want. My main priority is, of course, capturing the beauty of the model that I am taking photos of. I want them to feel comfortable, I don’t want them to feel like they don’t like the photos. I make sure I check in with them, I show them the photos that I’m taking so we can adjust. I see photo shoots as hangouts because I am getting to know someone, and I don’t want them to feel like I’m a stranger to them.

Q: How has Montclair State helped you build your craft?

A: [Montclair State] has definitely helped my social cues a lot. Just being less awkward, and if it’s just a way to go up to people and [say], ‘Hey, I think you’re good-looking, let’s do a photo shoot.’ That’s just how I started getting connections, and I’ve found a lot of great people here who even just ended up becoming friends through photo shoots. I definitely would say [Montclair State] helped me with social skills and making connections with models.

Q: Do you think your subject helps with that you thought was particularly interesting?

A: One that struck me is actually from Montclair State, her name is Gianni. We did a photo shoot in September. I don’t know how to describe it but it was just a feeling that I had that we were going through the right track in our photo shoot. It was wonderful for me to see because that was her first photo shoot that she has done in like three years. Now I hear that she’s walking New York Fashion Week. It has only been a couple months and now she’s doing prime photo shoots. It’s just nice to see the growth in that.

Q: What are your plans for the future?

A: Overall, my main priority is being happy. Acting and photography I’d like to still keep doing. I still have a great love for it. I’m just hoping to keep the memories alive.
‘Reel Montclair: Academy Awards’ Inspires Students to Watch More Movies

The Film Institute at Montclair State University hosted a preview of the 2019 Academy Awards with leading film critics Stephen Whitty, Stephanie Zacharek, Alissa Wilkinson and Dwight Brown on Monday night. The School of Communication and Media’s Presentation Hall was packed with both Montclair State students and residents of Montclair.

The critics gave everyone their personal takes on the Oscars by expressing their opinions on the nominated movies.

“‘Green Book’ is the one I’m going to go with for best original screenplay because it’s not a story I’ve ever seen before,” Brown said. “It was very organic. If I looked at the political and social stuff, then I probably would’ve talked myself out of that theater.”

The critics shared their analyses regarding the film “Green Book.”

“Protection is fictional. The studio has done enough historical homework to know how to portray accurately what was going on,” Wilkinson said.

Brown went into further detail on the film. “I didn’t like the film about 90% of the way,” Brown said. “It’s not a historical film; it’s about a comedy with two people that existed and what they were generally going through.”

Brown also talked about the praises he had for “The Favorite” regarding the director’s work.

“The director picked a genre that’s so classic and so boring, and pushed it all together,” Brown said. “It’s perfect. The characters were evil, wicked, and they’re doing strange things to each other. They make you laugh.”

Whitty also had some things to say about the nominations. “I think ‘First Reformed’ should win best screenplay,” Whitty said. “I also think Paul Schrader should have been nominated for best director.”

What also made this Oscars preview interesting was how these critics acknowledged other movies they believe should have been nominated.

“I noticed that they never mentioned Michael B. Jordan as one of the nominations for best supporting actor,” Wilkinson said.

Zacharek shared her thoughts on who should have been nominated for best lead actress.

“Toni Collette from the movie ‘Hereditary’ also deserved to be nominated for best lead actress,” Zacharek said. “Her performance was phenomenal.”

These critics addressed a common issue that has been going on with the Oscars when they expressed their disapproval for other nominated films.

“I liked Alfonso Cuaron for what he did with ‘Roma,’ but I found the first half-hour of that film boring,” Brown said. “I had to pinch myself to stay awake.”

Junior filmmaking major Christopher Boncimino expressed how he enjoyed the Oscars preview event.

“I thought it was very entertaining, and I thought each guest had very good insights on the Oscars,” Boncimino said.

“They were very knowledgeable.”

Boncimino also shared that there was nothing he disliked about the event and what his favorite topic was that the guests discussed with each other.

“I was specifically interested to hear the topics they were saying on the background and the pre-tent of their disposition and expertise that I wasn't aware of, specifically the controversy of the Oscar films,” Boncimino said.

Filmmaking major Jacob Baldy expressed the enjoyment he had in this event and then went further to speculate what film will win best picture.

“In all honesty, I predict ‘The Favourites’ is going to win best picture because it kind of took such a boring genre and turned it on its head,” Baldy said. “As well, Yorgos Lanthimos really deserves the award for bringing such an interesting story and making it his own. Plus, the way it was shot was just amazing.”

This event definitely impacted the way many people watch movies.

Filmmaking major Jo-el Gordon came to the event and enjoyed the topics the critics discussed.

“The event was fun. We were able to talk about the current issues with the Oscars and the slow shifts on old movies versus new movies,” Gordon said. “[There are] a lot of changes going on.”

Gordon’s favorite point in the discussion was how the critics were very realistic in their analyses of the movies nominated rather than consistently being optimistic.

“They saw the bigger picture on ‘Black Panther’ being nominated for best picture, where basically it’s not an aspect of a mainstream movie getting in, it’s an aspect of broadening the horizon of what could be considered best picture,” Gordon said.

“The Film Institute at Montclair State was very pleased to host discussions with the film critics about the upcoming Oscars. They are also hosting the upcoming event, Sundays with William Goldman, on Feb. 24 at 2 p.m. Seats can be reserved on The Film Institute’s website.
**Top Picks to Stream**

**Best Picture Winners**

*West Side Story* on Netflix

*The Departed* on Netflix

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**The Console Wars: Nintendo’s Future is no Guarantee**

Javier Reyes
Assistant Entertainment Editor

Nintendo held another one of its traditional “Nintendo Direct” presentations where they revealed some of the upcoming projects fans can expect in the future this past week. The presentation, aside from the disappointing lack of news on updates on franchises, like Animal Crossing and Pokémon, was a mostly satisfying affair.

The Nintendo Switch-exclusive “Marvel Ultimate 3: The Black Order” is certainly a major release. If you did not know, anything Marvel-related tends to sell decently well, plus the announcements of “Super Mario Maker 2” and a remake of “The Legend of Zelda: Link’s Awakening,” the latter of which looks devastatingly adorable.

However, Nintendo was not exactly in a desperate situation, considering both the sales of the Switch were some of the highest throughout one year of any console generation and the massive success that “Super Smash Bros. Ultimate,” which launched this past December, has obviously been. While it is true that Nintendo has made tremendous strides forward and can seemingly do nothing wrong to upset the gaming audience at large, something can often be at its most vulnerable when at the height of its power.

While fans of Nintendo have been satiated by the fact that this movie is based on a true story, the fact that most of the characters were given their own identities are revealed.

The best observation, which has been the fairest of all, was the question to ask. “Cyberpunk 2077” have exhibited? These are fair questions to ask, but can they carry your system? It does not mean they can be financially lucrative. Of course, mainline Mario and Zelda entries will always be relevant, but can they carry your system? It is difficult to say, especially when you look at their competition.

Sony’s PlayStation brand is as strong as ever, with exclusive titles like “Spider-Man” that will certainly have a sequel and “God of War” that were some of the best selling games of 2018, as well as a war chest of studios. These include Bend Studios, who are currently working on the upcoming “Days Gone” title releasing next month; Guerrilla Games makers of “Horizon Zero Dawn,” San Diego Studios, the folks behind the “MLB: The Show” series; Naughty Dog, the masterminds behind the “Uncharted” series; and “The Last of Us,” which might be arguably the best developers in the entire industry.

In terms of Microsoft, the Xbox brand is not nearly as prolific as PlayStation’s right now, but franchises like “Halo” and “Gears of War” still carry some weight, albeit significantly less now than before. Most importantly, Microsoft has been making moves to acquire other studios and talent as well as starting their own brand new studio from the ground up called “The Initiative” in order to make more of an impact down the road.

The point of all this should not be to say that Nintendo is in bad shape. They are doing quite well, but there are still some fair criticisms to leverage against them.

For starters, their main competitors, Sony and Microsoft, are clearly gearing themselves up for a launch of their new systems. When the two companies inevitably reveal what they have been working on, there is the possibility the next generation could make the Nintendo Switch feel antiquated. After all, the Switch, which struggles to run a game like “Fortnite” that can even be played on a cellphone, is not capable of the same technical prowess of the Xbox One or PlayStation 4.

The counter, of course, would be that Nintendo is not trying to compete with PlayStation and Xbox on that level, but instead being the counter-programming that casual gamers would better favor. Still, at what point does something become so primitive that even the most casual of gamers begin to give in to more advanced and cinematic experiences? Will there still be the same level of interest in franchises like Kirby, Animal Crossing or Metroid in comparison to the potential that projects like “Cyberpunk 2077” have exhibited? These are fair questions to ask.

The other observation, which has been the narrative surrounding Nintendo for a while now, is whether or not it is important that they put more stock into developing a major new franchise. Nintendo franchises and characters are largely recognizable by even the most casual of fans, but that does not mean they can be financially lucrative. Of course, mainline Mario and Zelda entries will always be relevant, but can they carry your system? It is difficult to say, especially when you look at their competition.

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The point of all this should not be to say that Nintendo is in bad shape. They are doing quite well when you consider where they were just a few years ago.

However, the next generation of consoles combined with their lack of a substantive new franchise might mean they are due for some regression in terms of the whole “console wars” narrative. It is good to see Nintendo make a comeback, but it might take some time before we know if they will remain in the spotlight for good.
“In America, the President reigns for four years, but Journalism governs forever.” – Oscar Wilde

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This Week In Red Hawk Sports

THU 2/21
No Games

FRI 2/22
Women’s Swimming vs. Metropolitan Championships
TBA

Men’s Swimming vs. Metropolitan Championships
TBA

SAT 2/23
Men’s Swimming vs. Metropolitan Championships
TBA

Women’s Swimming vs. Metropolitan Championships
TBA

Women’s Lacrosse vs. York College of Pennsylvania
12:30 p.m.

Men’s Lacrosse vs. Dickinson College
TBA

SUN 2/24
Women’s Swimming vs. Metropolitan Championships
TBA

Baseball at University of Scranton
11:30 a.m.

Baseball vs. Misericordia University
2:30 p.m.

MON 2/25
No Games

TUE 2/26
No Games

WED 2/27
Baseball vs. Lehman College
3:30 p.m.

Women’s Lacrosse vs. Stevens Institute of Technology
5 p.m.

Men’s Lacrosse at Vassar College
5 p.m.

Editorial: Montclair State Football Deserved to be in a Bowl Game

For many teams, an 8-2 season would be a highly successful season with the likely chance to play in a bowl game. The Montclair State University Red Hawks football team was left out of the bowl game picture, and many were shocked to see teams with worse records and weaker schedule strengths get invitations to bowl games.

This is the case simply due to the fact that Montclair State is no longer a part of the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC), a conference that sponsors bowl games and other post-season tournaments for sports, such as football and basketball.

Montclair State was once in both the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) and the ECAC but decided to become a full-time NJAC member several years ago. Most member schools don’t consider the ECAC their main conference but are affiliated with the conference in at least one sport. This gives them a chance of playing in some kind post-season game/tournament if they don’t qualify for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament.

According to players, such as sophomore offensive lineman David McDevitt, being in the NCAA tournament is the main goal. “Playing for the national championship is something that we work so hard for in the offseason,” McDevitt said. “We want to try and get in every single year.”

Montclair State once had the benefit of being able to compete for both a national title and ECAC bowl game. According to Robert Chesney, interim director of athletics at Montclair State, the athletic department cited the need for better competition, and they later became a full-time member for NJAC in the mid-2000s. The departure from the conference basically prevented them from making any bowl games since the NJAC does not sponsor them. However, the benefits of being in the ECAC clearly outweigh the negatives.

Although it is well known that teams that usually compete in the ECAC bowls aren’t exactly top-tier teams, leaving the ECAC only took away another goal the team could potentially accomplish in making a bowl game. By giving these guys another way to be a part of the postseason, it could only motivate them more.

With the current landscape of the NJAC conference, the only real way to make it to the national tournament is to win the conference. The conference has only gotten tougher throughout the last couple of years, with teams such as Farmingdale State College and Salisbury University dominating.

Next season does look promising for the Red Hawks to win the conference, with several returning starters on both sides of the ball. Even though they may not win the conference every year, the team should be at least be rewarded with a bowl bid if they have a decent record.

Players, like freshman offensive lineman Michael Abraham, believe the team was overlooked all season long, particularly when it was overlooked all season long, particularly when it came time to the postseason.

“You can ask anyone on this team and they’ll agree we deserved to be in the national playoffs or even a given a bowl bid,” Abraham said.

By rejoining the ECAC, it could also give the fans something to look forward to as well. I know plenty of Montclair State football fans would make the trip down to watch their team play in the ECAC bowl games, which are dispersed across the mid-Atlantic region of the country. It would not only give the players something to be excited for but also the best football fan base in Division III.

While I do understand the hefty financial costs of being in a bowl game – game fees, hotels and food – we also need to take into account how hard the football team has been working to bring the team back to prominence. The funds needed for the bowl games could be raised through the athletic department and the university itself. Money should not be an issue when it comes to the bowl games, considering the team regularly sold over 1,500 tickets for their home games this season.

From spring camp to the last game of the season, the program has really worked its tail off and has revitalized a program that was once stuck in mediocrity. Unfortunately, this year’s 2018 Red Hawks will have nothing to show for their terrific football season and that is simply unfair.
The Montclair State University men’s and women’s track and field teams traveled to the Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex in Staten Island, New York on Monday, Feb. 18. The teams competed in the 2019 New Jersey Athletic Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships. The men’s team placed fourth overall and the women’s team placed sixth.

Men’s & Women’s 2019 Indoor Track & Field NJAC Championship Meet

Photo essay by Ben Caplan

Freshman Daryl Miller (lane two) and George Alexandris (lane four) cross the finish line in the 60 meter dash. They finished in fourth and fifth place respectively.

Junior Sylvia Zawistowska runs hard through her leg of the 4x400 meter relay.

After winning the 4x400 relay, junior Jack Rosen (left), junior Brandon Rizzo (top), freshman Darrin Leonard (right) and sophomore James Fox (bottom) pose on the podium with their First Team All Conference plaque.

Junior Matthew Carmichael breaks out of the pack at the beginning of the men’s distance medley relay.

Freshman Gianna Dilascio runs the third leg of the women’s 4x800 relay.
Women’s Basketball Season Concluded
By Upset Playoff Loss to Kean

Wirsing scores 17 points in first-round loss in NJAC tournament

Sophomore guard Kim Calloway (13), junior forward Alex McKinnon (21) and senior forward Donomique Wirsing (25) discuss the game plan as they walk back onto the court during their game against Kean University.

The third seed New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) Montclair State University women’s basketball team’s season ended Saturday afternoon. This came after a difficult playoff loss against sixth seed NJAC opponent Kean University, 72-67, in the first round of the NJAC tournament. With this loss to Kean, the Red Hawks ended their sixth consecutive grip of the NJAC Championship.

Kean freshman guard Shannon McCoy had another sensational game against the Red Hawks, scoring 29 points including two crucial three-pointers in the fourth quarter. In addition, Kean junior forward Cindy Foresta scored 16 points, 12 rebounds and had four steals. Junior guard Payce Lange had 16 points and three rebounds.

On the other hand, Red Hawk senior forward Dominique Wirsing had an extraordinary performance of 17 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks. Red Hawk sophomore guard Kim Calloway also had 15 points and nine rebounds.

Heading into the game, the Red Hawks looked to respond after an unsatisfactory home loss to Rutgers University-Camden on Feb. 13. Not only that, but the Red Hawks were also looking to get their revenge against Kean. Last time these arch rivals played against each other was on Jan. 28 at Panzer Athletic Center. Kean won the game 83-65 behind McCoy’s 30 points and seven rebounds.

Calloway spoke about the loss to Kean.

“I think we are okay, as long as we competed today,” Calloway said. “It definitely sucks to lose, of course. However, we competed and I’m proud of our girls.”

Wirsing also commented on the game.

“I’m really proud of my team and we’ve come a long way this season. No one even thought we would make this far,” Wirsing said. “I think everyone hates to lose, but I’m really proud of what we did today.”

In the first quarter, the Red Hawks were down 16-12. The Red Hawks started to show some urgency during the quarter by some threes from Calloway and junior forward Alex McKinnon to give the Red Hawks an 8-6 lead with over five minutes left.

Afterward, Kean answered back from two consecutive threes from McCoy and Kean sophomore guard Casey Fiallault. Late in the quarter, Calloway led a tremendous fast-break layup to put Kean’s lead to four.

Offensively, Foresta pushed the pace for Kean and enlarged their lead to 22-14 with 6:50 remaining in the second quarter from two layups plus two attempts from the foul line. With over three minutes left in the quarter, McCoy drained a three to make the score 32-22 for Kean.

The Red Hawks went on an 8-3 run after Wirsing converted a three, followed by Red Hawk freshman guard Julia Sutton connecting a layup and launching from downtown. Kean had the lead at halftime by five.

Despite the Red Hawks’ big height advantage over some players on Kean, they were out rebounded 22-12. Throughout the half, Calloway and Wirsing led the way for the Red Hawks on offense with each scoring nine points. Meanwhile, McCoy had 13 points while Foresta scored 10 points and five rebounds.

In the third quarter, the Red Hawks opened with a 10-2 run. It was the Red Hawks first lead of the game since the first quarter. Red Hawk sophomore guard Cerys MacLelland made two straight layups to give the Red Hawks a 40-37 lead with less than six minutes left.

Midway through the quarter, McCoy gave the lead back to Kean from back-to-back layups. With 2:11 remaining in the quarter, McKinnon scored in the paint to tie the score 48-48. Later on, both Foresta and Calloway traded each other from downtown to even the score 51-51.

At the end of the period, Calloway suffered a serious injury, as she was grabbing on to her shoulder. As Calloway was lying on the court, she was screaming in intense pain. Calloway discussed what transpired.

“Yes, I dislocated my shoulder, but I’m fine,” Calloway said. “Just get better for the off-season.”

Luckily, Calloway was able to proceed.

At the beginning of the fourth quarter, the Red Hawks had some momentum by a mid-range jumper, followed by Red Hawk sophomore guard Taylor Brown draining a three to give the Red Hawks a 5-0 run over with eight minutes left in the period. Nevertheless, Kean came back and scored six unanswered points to regain the advantage. The lead changed twice before McCoy hit a three to make the score 62-58 Kean.

After Wirsing converted a layup to put Kean’s lead to two with more than five minutes left. McCoy would yet again drain another three to extend Kean’s lead to five. Once McCoy went to the foul line and failed to score two free throws, MacLelland made a layup with 2:52 left. Down five with 1:04 on the game clock, Brown hit a crucial three to place the notch 67-65.

Subsequently, Wirsing hit two huge free throws, giving Kean a 68-67 lead while 46 seconds left on the clock. Unfortunately, it wasn’t enough for the Red Hawks as Kean would convert on four of six from the foul line and finish the game victorious.

After the game, Wirsing deliberated how the Red Hawks would like to bounce back and move forward for the upcoming 2019 season.

“I know all the Red Hawks will be in the gym as soon as they can,” Wirsing said. “They’re going to be a strong team next year, and I’m really excited to come back and watch them play.”