UPD Launches Body Camera Policy for On-Duty Officers

All university officers will wear body cameras on uniforms starting March 1.

The Montclarion

Heather Berzak
News Editor

All Montclair State University Police Department (UPD) officers will be required to have a body camera on their uniform when reporting for duty starting on March 1.

“The new practice follows several years of product and operations research and months of intensive officer training,” said Media Relations Director Erika Bleiberg, in the official press release. “University Police will fully deploy the [body-worn cameras] to all 40 of its officers for use when they are on routine patrol or dispatched on calls for service.”

According to Capt. Kieran Barrett of the UPD, there are other universities in the state that currently have body cameras.

“There are other campus agencies that have them in the state of New Jersey, such as Rutgers, Kean University and a few others that are south of us,” Barrett said. “Not everyone has [them] across the United States, and in New Jersey, but we defi...
According to the Chairperson of Theater and dance Randy Mugleston, the test results have come back on the condition of the sewage water, and they vary. The tests showed that some rooms were contaminated and not safe for reoccupation yet. Mugleston was instructed to sterilize all the spaces in the basement one more time before considering to allow access to the campus community.

**Life Hall Sewage Flood Update**

**First floor swamped with sewage on Feb. 5**

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**Monday, Feb. 11**

**Barton Hall:** A female student reported the theft of several items of laundry from the first floor laundry room in Barton Hall. This incident is under investigation.

**Monday, Feb. 11**

**Greek Life:** Police headquarters received a call from an anonymous person who wished to report an incident of hazing on campus. The caller advised that a greek organization on campus was “publicly beating and ridiculing its members.” This incident is under investigation.

**Friday, Feb. 15**

**Bohn Hall:** Patrol officers responded to the ninth floor in regards to a report of a theft. Officers were met by a female student who reported that her North Face jacket was stolen out of the dryer located on the ninth floor laundry room. This incident is under investigation.

**Sunday, Feb. 17**

**Parker Hall:** Patrol officers responded in regards to a report of an odor of marijuana. Upon further investigation, students Essence Leak and Tajanay Etes summoned for smoking in a public building and issued a follow-up court day in the Little Falls Municipal Court.

**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 student who wished to report a theft in the past. On Friday, Feb. 15, 2019, the student reported hanging a purse from the first floor laundry room in Alice Paul Hall. The purse contained several forms of ID, credit cards and gift cards. This incident is under investigation.

**Tuesday, Feb. 19**

**Science Hall:** Patrol officers responded to the first floor in regards to a report of criminal mischief. Officers were met by facilities personnel who reported graffiti written on the inside of a stall in the first floor men’s bathroom. Photographs were taken and the drawings were later removed.

**Wednesday, Feb. 20**

**Greek Life:** Patrol officers responded to police headquarters to take a theft report. Officers were met by a member of an on campus greek organization who advised that she had become aware of some suspicious activity within the organization’s banking, including several unauthorized debit transactions. This incident is under investigation.
Active Minds Educates Students on Websites Promoting Eating Disorders

National Eating Disorder Awareness Week took place from Feb. 25 to March 1

Genesis Obando
Staff Writer

In honor of National Eating Disorder Awareness Week, Active Minds organized events by organizing presentations in hopes of bringing awareness to eating disorders and the ways they are promoted.

Active Minds is a student organization that wishes to increase awareness of mental health issues on the Montclair State University campus. They also work to inform students about mental health counseling and resources that are available.

On Wednesday afternoon, Active Minds held a presentation on "pro-ana" and "pro-mia" websites. "Pro-ana" stands for "pro-anorexia," and "pro-mia" stands for "pro-bulimia." They wanted to share with the students how these websites promote eating disorders as lifestyles rather than illnesses.

Websites like myproanatips.com share tips on losing a lot of weight as quick as possible. It also shares obsessive rituals for doing so. This site claims that "pro-ana" is a diet and lifestyle. Some tips include limiting one’s calorie intake to 700 calories for the first three days of the "diet." Students also discussed their thoughts on the dangers of these websites and the effects these websites can have on young adults. "It’s such a harsh reality. [The websites are] not something that’s really put into the public light," said Ac-tive Minds member Victoria Cipparulo, a senior psychology major. "You don’t always know what it looks like and how deadly it is."

Psychology and justice major Kayla Drozdowski is the vice president of Active Minds. Drozdowski says that most people know about anorexia and bulimia, but don’t know how they are commonly promoted; for example, through "pro-ana" and "pro-mia" websites. Drozdowski also says that people with eating disorders can use the fake support groups on the websites and engage more into their behavior. She thinks students should be more aware of this and how dangerous it can be. "My advice is to report them, so they get taken down," Drozdowski said. "And if you see your friends, family or others engaging in these websites, make sure that they are aware of resources so they can get better."

Students were shocked upon learning about these websites and how they seem to target young adults. They were also told how they can communicate with people struggling with eating disorders.

Behind the Scenes of the Board of Trustees

Student members emphasize importance of role they play in school’s budgeting

Sam Carliner
Staff Writer

A lesser-known position within Montclair State University’s Student Government Association (SGA) gives two students the opportunity to serve as a bridge of communication between the student community and the school’s administration. The two students currently in this position have been working since the start of the fall 2018 semester to build a stronger bridge between Montclair State students and administrators.

One of the trustees, junior psychology major Nikita Williams, feels the position has been hard work but has been worth it. She explained how she and the other student trustee, Cierra Watts, have pushed themselves to be the better advocates for all students.

"Coming into this position and throughout, I’ve always had the idea that I’m a student trustee and I’m a student first. I represent the students as my primary interest," Williams said. "I would sleep a lot more if we just showed up to the meet-ings and called it a day instead of forcing ourselves to learn. I would rather be seen as a stu-dent advocate than just that re-ally young face on the board of trustees."

The board of trustees consists of 13 volunteer members, most of which come from the business world and are in or ap-proaching retirement. They use their background in business primarily to deter-mine how Montclair State will budget and use its money. State law requires all public universi-ties to have two student mem-bers on their board of trustees to ensure student perspectives are considered in financial deci-sions.

Both Williams and Watts have been making use of their position. Upon learning about issues with how the state gov-ernment distributes funding for higher education, they created a network of student trustees at various schools throughout the state, such as Ramapo College and The College of New Jersey.

Their goal is to coordinate a collective push from students at many universities that could convince the state government to better fund public universi-ties and offer more support for students with financial disad-vantages.

Williams and Watts have also been trying to get more students to come to the board of trustees annual tuition hearing, which will take place on Wednesday, April 11. The hearing is an op-portunity for students to voice their concerns about the cost of tuition either in person or by submitting comments in ad- vance to be read at the hearing.

To counteract the routinely low turnout, Williams has been emailing student organizations, primarily advocacy and activ-ism-based ones, like Black Stu-dent Union and Feminvolution, to encourage more students to speak at the hearing.

Williams explained the im-portance of having student per-spectives at these hearings. "I think the idea that a lot of students get is that the meetings are just kind of lip service, or that the meetings actually won't impact anything, and I don't think that's true," Williams said. "The board members are either retired or they are in full-time jobs. They don’t come to cam-pus a lot. They volunteer their time. So there is no reason for them to know the ins and outs of being a Mont-clair State student.”

A shadowing program allows students interested in a position at the SGA to meet with people like Williams and observe the work they do.

Williams hopes to see more students running for the posi-tion of student trustee at the upcoming SGA elections. Fathia Balghoom, a freshmen study-ing history, is currently shadow-ing Williams for the positioning and considering running in the upcoming SGA elections.

Balgahoom explained that shadowing Williams has in-creased her interest in the posi-tion. "I know that they’re starting to run and do elections, and I’m debating about running for board of trustees," Balghoom said. "I absolutely love the posi-tion. I love what she’s taught me about what they do."
Cams: Police department acknowledges the fact privacy can be a potential issue with body cameras

Continued from page 1

nishly do have them here in the state of New Jersey, so it isn’t unusual at all.”

In Bleiberg’s press release, University Police Chief Paul Cell emphasized the police department’s effort to maintain transparency and an open relationship with the campus community with body cameras being a key asset in assisting that goal.

Justice studies professor Jon Zawacki believes body cameras will be a good asset for the police department to have when addressing how their officers handle situations.

“I think it gives the naysayers, even the judges, even the prosecutors, even the defense attorneys [the ability to say], ‘Hey, look what kind of job [the police are] doing? Look, it’s on camera,’” Zawacki said. “On the other hand, there’s that small percentage of officers that abuse their authority, and what happens is, they don’t belong there anyway.”

Contrarily, Zawacki mentioned there may be some consequences to the body cameras being implemented.

“My only fear would be the public would be afraid to call [the police] thinking [the footage] is going to be on the evening news on TV,” Zawacki said. “But, when you put everything on the scales of justice, I think [they’re] a good thing.”

When dealing with body cameras, the UPD is aware of the privacy issues that could come into question. According to Barrett, the body camera is only turned on under certain circumstances.

“For incidents such as medicals, such as motor vehicle accidents, crimes that are occurring and crimes that are reported to us and those are all calls for service and are all within the realm of being recorded,” Barrett said. “This is where people live, this is where people work, so it’s not something where we’re surreptitiously recording people and just saying, ‘I’d like to record this person.’ It has to be for a specific incident and those are set forth in guidelines and training as well.”

Following guidelines established by the New Jersey Attorney General, the department developed a policy document that explains protocols on when and how police officers can use the cameras. There’s a tab on frequently asked questions regarding body cameras on the university’s website under the campus police’s page.

Undeclared freshman Max Bastos believes body cameras on officers will eliminate the need to second guess the details of an incident.

“I think body cameras on police officers are a good thing because it will take away any doubts about what happened in a certain time or place,” Bastos said.

On Sept. 6 of 2018, a viral video surfaced of campus police officers making arrests on several students near the Village Apartments. With the protocol they followed, many students questioned if the officers were too forceful in their actions.

According to Barrett, that incident did not play a role in the university’s decision to invest in body cameras. “That incident did not precipitate the buying of cameras, the decision to move forward with cameras [or] speed up the process,” Barrett said. “But I can recognize why some people would say, ‘Oh, you had this incident, now all of a sudden you’re getting cameras.’”

He continued to say that having body cameras may not have changed the outcome of that situation, but may have assisted in providing another perspective on the arrests.

Senior television and digital media major Jasvinder Singh believes body cameras only act as a benefit to the campus community.

“I do believe it is a good idea because it protects not only the police, it protects the person on the other side of the camera, so it protects both parties,” Singh said. “If the police are doing the right thing, they should have nothing to worry about.”

Bleiberg, mentioned in her press release that if people have additional questions on the body-cam policy, they are free to contact Barrett or email the UPD.
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Coca-Cola’s Blind Tasting Event Offered the Classic Refreshment with a Fresh New Twist

Adrian Maldonado Contributing Writer

Montclair State University students waited in line as their taste buds screamed with excitement to try out the new Diet Coke flavors. Montclair State Coca-Cola Campus Ambassador Nicole Fidalgo held a blind tasting event in the lobby of the Student Center. Students had to put a blindfold on to taste and guess five of the new Diet Coke flavors.

Two of the flavors – strawberry guava and blueberry acai – were recently announced in January while the other three – ginger lime, twisted mango and feisty cherry – were announced back in January 2018. At first, many students were hesitant to try out the flavors since a lot of them don’t drink diet soda. However, their minds were changed as soon as their taste buds had the first sip.

Michelle Ramires, a senior majoring in marketing, assisted Fidalgo with the event and shared that she was surprised by how much she enjoyed Coca-Cola’s new flavors considering they are all diet options.

“I was never really a Coca-Cola lover until I tried out the new flavors,” Ramires said. “They are all so refreshing, and you can’t even tell that it is diet soda.”

The Coca-Cola team spoke to over 10,000 people from all over the world for new flavor ideas. From the feedback they got back from their fans, Coca-Cola and their research and development team made and tested over 30 new flavors. However, they only launched the ones that received the most positive response from their consumers.

“I definitely like the cans a lot better,” Brea said. “The different colors makes them pop out more and I’m sure that if those were seen on shelves customers would want to grab them right away. I know I would.”

This very successful event couldn’t have been possible without Fidalgo, a senior majoring in marketing who landed an internship during the summer of 2018 to be a campus ambassador for Coca-Cola. Fidalgo got the job thanks to one of her marketing professors at Montclair State, who would give her internships to apply to every week. Eventually, she was interviewed and got this internship.

Coca-Cola flew her out, all expenses paid, to the Coca-Cola headquarters located in Atlanta. There she trained for a week, got to meet other campus ambassadors from different universities and top leaders from the company, including the president of Coca-Cola of North America.

Her internship consists of partnering with Montclair State Dining Service Marketing Manager Lindsey Anderson to set up different sampling events throughout the semester to promote Coca-Cola and receive students’ feedback and their insights on the products.

Fidalgo has held many different events on campus. She had a Fanta event in October 2018 where students got to try out Fanta’s newest flavor, green apple, and watch the popular spooky movie “Hocus Pocus.” She also did a Christmas event where students had the chance to win prizes and take pictures with Santa Claus. In 2019, she kicked off the year with the Diet Coke blind tasting event to introduce the new flavors to the campus.

“I’ve been so lucky to be given this opportunity to work with such an amazing company,” Fidalgo said. “I really look forward to keep on sharing my experience with [Montclair State] and hoping students and faculty get excited for future events that are being planned.”

Fidalgo hopes to be a creative director and continue working with social media or online marketing one day. She sees herself as a team leader in a management position or, hopefully, as her own boss.

Visit themontclarion.org to view a video about the event.
“Circe” is a captivating, fantastical tale following the life of a lesser-known Greek goddess. Madeline Miller’s latest release features Circe, the outcast daughter ofHelios, the God of the sun who sees her as nothing but a nuisance. However, a power brews inside of her that leaves others on edge until one day she turns a mortal into a god with the use of witchcraft. Because of this forbidden action, she gets banished to a deserted island to live out the rest of her days with only the stars to keep her company. “Circe” is a fiery, mythological retelling that is a must-read and will leave readers in awe of the adversity Circe strives through for centuries.

From the moment the book begins, readers are transported to the infamous, mythical world of gods and monsters. Miller reel us into Circe’s life full of strife and mistreatment at the hands of her family and strangers alike before she is exiled for using forbidden witchcraft against others. As she grows older and begins to hone in on her untapped power and potential, Circe uses her magical abilities to either help mortals who visit her island or punish them for their wicked deeds.

Not only do we see Circe’s rise to power but readers will also see well-known gods and villains make appearances as well. Prometheus, the Minotaur and Odysseus’ stories are woven into the narrative of “Circe.” Each showcases their twisted and gruesome origins and how they eventually were knocked down.

In a world full of complex relationships and tales, Miller highlights the gods and goddesses who make the biggest impact on Circe’s life, along with infamous mortals who come to her island’s shore.

What makes the biggest impact in this novel is Circe herself who stands out from the rest of the powerful characters living in this story. She is a flawed goddess who makes mistakes, takes revenge on those who’ve wronged her and falls for the fragility and impermanence of mortals. She is a resilient female lead that rises above her circumstances and makes a name for herself as a goddess and witch.

In a way, Circe is morally gray in the actions she takes and how she punishes the countless array of men who have wronged her. But her character development shines through the narrative. At the beginning of her life, Circe was a meek goddess who was bullied by her siblings and parents, but by the end of her tale, she is a force to be reckoned with and isn’t afraid to stand up for what she believes in.

Miller’s writing is dazzling and brings to life Greek mythology through wondrous prose, complex characters and an epic tale that has only briefly been touched upon in Homer’s “The Odyssey.”

While some readers may get muddled by the vivid descriptions of Circe’s world and the multitude of characters who influence her journey, fans of Greek mythology are sure to fall in love with Miller’s latest release full of witchcraft, myths and a resilient protagonist.

Olivia Paez
Staff Writer

Photo courtesy of Little, Brown and Company

Photo courtesy of Little, Brown and Company
Help Wanted

Help Wanted/Other

with elementary campers. Camp Dates: Ramapo Country Day Camp is looking marcymercer@verizon.net. Marcy at 973-699-0645 or email: experience. If interested, please text or call. Flexible depending on workload/organized and who has patience! Pay-$20-$25 per hour / Homework Helper / Montclair Looking for an after school homework helper. Interested in either current student, graduate or teacher to ideally come to our home Mon-Thurs for 1 1/2-2 hours. Honest, reliable individual, a must. Use of own reliable vehicle is required. Interested, please email Liz at: reedsvick@gmail.com or call: 973-819-9893. Looking for Mary Poppins. Current elementary education student or recent graduate, or retired elementary school teacher would be ideal. Needed to drive boys age 4 & 7 to school and back, help with homework, prepare evening meals and stay until parents return home from work. 3 days a week. Will consider live in or out. Email: russellfeicht@gmail.com $20 Per Hour / SOCCER COACH / MONTCLAIR Kiddie-Soccer conducts soccer programs for preschool age children. Our programs are fun, non-competitive and instructional. We are currently hiring coaches for our upcoming Winter and Spring programs. This is a part-time position. Coaches are assigned to programs that both fit into their schedule and make sense from a geographic perspective. We hire primarily college students. We look for people that have a background in soccer (or other organized sports) are energetic, personable, responsible, reliable and most importantly, GREAT at working with children. If interested, please check us out at www.kiddiesoccer.com and send us an email at jobs@kiddiesoccer.com. $600-$6700 / GORGEOUS ROOMS FOR RENT / 7 MINS FROM CAMPUS Congregate rooms for rent in large, clean, recently remodeled home. 7 minutes drive from campus and near the restaurants, cafes, bookstores etc in Montclair. Must have source of income, whether it’s student aid, work, parents etc. 1st month + 1 month security to move in. Please feel free to text/call me – (201) 204-0592 or email 39ketner@gmail.com. $18 / Part-time childcare mid-January / Montclair Responsibilities include picking up at school, transporting kids to activities, helping with homework, playing, and setting up for dinner. Kids are 7 and 12. Regular hours are: 4pm-7pm, Mon-Fri 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 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. $10/hour Sales Development Associate, WatchFANTOM Interested in learning the world of sales? Then join our fast growing media startup, WatchFANTOM. We are hiring for sales positions in cities like Dallas, Denver, and Kansas City. In this role you’ll work closely with the founder to develop sales materials, connect with potential customers, and implement a sales strategy. At the moment we are looking for someone that can work 10 hours a week, but there is room to expand. If interested, please email zack@watchfantom.com. Caregiver / Montclair Looking for part time help for these girls (ages 16, 14, and 12) starting ASAP! Responsibilities include picking up at school, transporting to and from after school activities in Montclair, light housework, laundry, keeping house tidy, preparing dinner. Our 16 year old has high functioning autism and has therapy 3x a week at home. We have two non shedding hypoallergenic dogs and a fenced-in yard. Regular hours are 2:30-5:30 Monday through Friday, but we are flexible as mom works at home. Prior experience with children is preferred, use of own reliable vehicle required. If interested, please email: katiokupferschmid@icloud.com.

OTHER ARE YOU IN CRISIS OR STRUGGLING? HEALING, HOPE AND HELP CAN HAPPEN! Please CALL the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (78255) (TALK) at any time to speak to a counselor and get support. You can also connect to the Crisis Text Line by texting “Hello” to 741-741 to be connected to a counselor. All services are free, confidential and available 24/7 for anyone in crisis.

Love to draw? Submit your comics/cartoons to The Montclarion at montclarionproduction@gmail.com.
The Montclarion Crossword Puzzle and More!

Spring Break Edition

Across
2. April showers bring May ____
6. This weather is most commonly associated with spring
7. These change color as the seasons progress
9. The season that starts on March 21
10. The best place for students to hang out during spring

Down
1. Flowers do this in the spring season
3. April ____ bring May flowers
4. Spring, Summer, Winter, Autumn
5. Spring season ends in this month
8. Montclair State has this from March 11 - March 17

Spring Word Search

Sudoku

*For answers to the puzzles, please check The Montclarion Facebook page every Thursday.*
It is the end of February and, as always, on-campus residents at Montclair State University are awaiting the monthly emails from Residence Life in regards to the building damages made in the past few weeks.

Every month, resident assistants and other representatives from each building search all of the lounges, public restrooms and other common areas in each residence hall to make note of any forms of misconduct or damage. Damages can include broken window shades or light bulbs, theft and vandalism.

When an individual causes damage to any public part of the residence hall, the entire living community is notified about it and given a charge for the damage unless the person responsible comes forward. The cost of the damage can range depending on what and where it occurred.

In some cases, these charges are less than a dollar if the entire building or floor is held responsible. However, if it happens in a specific section of a building, the cost increases and can stir up trouble with student accounts, withholding access to grades and even registration.

Many students believe the urgency to take care of these small charges is unnecessary and in some situations they think taking care of them is hard to fit into their schedules. In order to pay off these charges, students are forced to hike over to the cashier’s window at Red Hawk Central or face an extra credit fee.

From the students’ perspective, losing access to final grades for a small fee is not realistic, but if students don’t plan enough in advance and take care of them right away, the charges can begin to pile up and it could be enough to lock them out of registering for classes.

While students living on campus should be held responsible for the damages caused in their residence halls, it should not have to cause students to immediately rush over to Red Hawk Central each month to pay off five cents just to see their final grades. If the damage fees are significant, then they should be taken care of as soon as possible, but the fact that students are quickly being penalized for having a hold on their accounts for less than a dollar is just an additional problem they shouldn’t have to deal with.

There are ideas in which students can pay off the building damages and not have to worry about losing access to parts of their NEST accounts. One way to prevent this is an extra deposit that would be set aside for small damage fees.

Every year on the first day of March, all students planning to live on campus during the following academic year are required to pay a $300 deposit so they can select their living spaces in April before fully paying for housing over the summer.

Some students believe an extra deposit should be added to the total housing rates at Montclair State so it would cover the costs of damages that may occur throughout the year. This way it takes away the stress of paying them off in time. If the full amount is not used during the academic year, students should be reimbursed whatever is left over.

By creating a small fund dedicated to building damages, many on-campus residents believe it can eliminate the frequent trips to Red Hawk Central and the urgency to clear any holds before course registration.

“I think that it is definitely more logical [for residents] to pay a yearly deposit rather than the monthly fees [so] that way you don’t need to worry about it. Let’s say you didn’t have the money to pay for that month, you don’t have to worry about all of these extra charges coming your way.”

- Kristen Bevacqua
Undeclared
Freshman

“I personally think that [paying a yearly deposit] is a good idea because last semester, I had my account put on hold, which threw off registering for classes. If I had a deposit put in, it would make my life so much easier.”

- Allison Supino
Linguistics
Freshman

“I think that [having residents pay a deposit] is very practi- cal. [Having the money all-ready paid] is less of a hassle for [students] to pay [rather than] paying it every single time there’s damage.”

- Moira Teves
Biology
Freshman

“[I think it’s a really bad idea to have a deposit for the monthly fees] because I pay for my entire tuition through loans so I would have to take out even more loans to pay for damages that may not occur.”

- Katt Hoffmann
Psychology
Freshman

CAMPUS VOICES:
Do you think it’s a good idea for residents to pay a yearly deposit for building damages rather than monthly fees?

By Rebecca Serviss
& Jennifer Losos
Senior Residential Parking vs. Snow: A Gift and a Curse

Vague snow parking instructions leaves residents worried/confused

The green, the Netflix and the racism

"Roma" was at a disadvantage the moment you saw it on Netflix. Netflix is an online streaming service, and “Roma” is the first film ever to be nominated from such a streaming platform. The Academy Awards could never abandon the traditional roots of their Hollywood enterprise and allow themselves to open the door for streaming platforms to win such a notorious prize.

How did “Green Book” win best picture and not “Roma”?

According to The Week, it seems likely that Netflix misgivings held “Roma” back. "Many Oscar voters who I talked to truly loved it, but also a bloc voted against it because they didn’t want a Netflix movie to land best picture," said Variety’s Ramin Setoodeh on Sunday. This could explain “Green Book’s” surprise victory.

While “Green Book” managed to win three categories from the Oscars, including best screenwriting, they received major backlash from many celebrities on Twitter because of the context of the movie.

According to Charlotte Clymer, “So, let’s just be absolutely clear: ‘Green Book’ definitely wasn’t the best picture of the year, but it was certainly the most comforting movie for fragile white people who need that sort of thing in our Era of Trump. #Oscars.”

This wouldn’t be the first time Hollywood has tried to whitewash black experiences in order for white people to appear in a more pleasing manner. From my personal observations when watching the Oscars this year, it was a completely different experience from previous years. There were actually more minorities winning awards than there ever has been. But the Oscars has a long way to go.

According to Wbur, "#OscarsSoWhite caught on as some actors vowed to boycott the Academy Awards that year. The campaign gained the attention of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which vowed to double the number of women and people of color in its ranks by 2020." The Academy Awards is trying to be more inclusive but their intentions seem misdirected since they are desperately trying to avoid being associated with the racial hashtag.

This makes sense because “Green Book” won best picture, satisfying their “diversity requirements” in order to prevent any backlash this year.

However, the film didn’t deserve to win because of its storytelling. It simply won to check off a box. There were far better films that were nominated in best picture that deserved to win because of its great screenwriting, directing, casting and overall execution, such as “Roma.”

Thumbs Up

Spike Lee wins his first Oscar

Samsung reveals a $2,000 smartphone that unfolds into a tablet

Ariana Grande plans to return to Manchester to headline the Pride Festival

Thumbs Down

Jussie Smollett suspended from ‘Empire’ for false attack

R. Kelly turns himself in after being indicted on sexual assault charges

New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft charged in prostitution ring in Florida
Marley Goudie is a freshman illustration and animation major at Montclair State University. She is an artist who specializes in drawing. She has also published a children’s book with original artwork and writing. Goudie spoke with The Montclarion Editor-in-Chief Haley Wells about her artistic inspirations and her published book.

Q: How did you get into art?
A: I’ve been doing it as long as I can remember. I didn’t have cable when I was a kid, so I think I needed something to spend time on. My mom was an artist and my grandpa’s an artist, so I think it just kind of was something that came naturally.

Q: How would you describe your artistic style?
A: I like to use a lot of graphic lines and smooth lines and bright colors and things like that.

Q: What are usually the subjects of your art?
A: Definitely mostly people. I think they’re the funnest to draw because there’s so many things a person can do.

Q: What inspires your artwork?
A: I usually draw people, and I think that’s because I like people-watching. People will be doing something in the moment, and it’s kind of like a candid where they look like they’re having fun or it’s something they’re thinking. There’s a lot of interesting mannerisms a person can do, so it’s always interesting to draw a person because it can be new every time.

Q: What kind of writing do you do as well?
A: Well, the first thing I got published was a kid’s book. It was very light-hearted and had a simple message. I’m working on something that’s more of a comedy for [millenials and Generation Z] right now. It’s got, like, some darker themes but for the most part, it’s light-hearted.

Q: What are your plans for after you graduate college?
A: I want to try and live in New York City and work as a freelance artist or work as a storyboard artist under some kind of company that does movies or TV shows or something like that.

Q: Can you describe the children’s book you published?
A: It’s called ‘Outside the Box.’ I did it for a scholarship for the B’nai B’rith [Diverse Minds Writing Challenge]. Basically, it’s a story about letting kids grow up playing with what they want to play with, whether it be stereotypically a boy or a girl’s toy. It’s important to their developmental time to find out who they are, and it’s not healthy if you just keep that down.

Q: Do you have any plans to publish more books?
A: Yes. Maybe not necessarily typed books and things like that, but more like web comics and graphic novels and things like that. Maybe more kid’s books because, obviously since I’m an artist and I like drawing pictures, I think that’s definitely something I want to have a lot of in whatever I write.

Q: How do you hope Montclair State will help further your artistic goals?
A: Montclair [State] has an access to a lot of computers and stuff, [which are] really helpful for learning animation and things. They have really top quality stuff that the professionals use in the real field, so I’m hoping that I get a chance to use the things and develop my skills before I go out into the real world so I have some experience.

Q: Where can students view your work?
A: They can see it on Instagram. I have the start of a website, but most of the time I post on Instagram. I post under a pseudonym, @themetalhiro.

Marley Goudie is an artist who specializes in drawing. She has published a children’s book.

Goudie touches up a drawing she has been creating on her iPad.


Goudie walks through Calcia Hall, where she attends most of her classes as an illustration and animation major.

Goudie creates most of her drawings on her iPad.
Actor Geoffrey Owens Speaks About Actor Life and Using Speech to Invoke Creativity

On a cold snowy day, walking up the ramp to the Feliciano School of Business, carrying Dante Alighieri’s “The Divine Comedy” in one arm and James Joyce’s “Finnegan’s Wake” in the other, Geoffrey Owens made his way to a class of starry-eyed students to speak about writing, presenting and techniques for delivering speeches.

Owens, a humble man with countless talents, agreed to take time and share his life experiences with the students of Montclair State University’s fundamentals of speech class led by adjunct professor Linda Thomas.

Thomas, after watching Owens’ Screen Actors Guild Award speech, was inspired to write a handwritten letter to Owens. The letter Owens received was inspiring and prompted the actor to accept an invitation to speak to a class of aspiring young orators.

The moment he entered the classroom, happy and cheerful, Owens greeted the starstruck students.

Owens, an actor, playwright, director and teacher, notably known for his work as Elvin Tibideaux on “The Cosby Show,” began the lecture with his narrative on the year-long journey with the media and his experiences in writing, presenting and delivering speeches.

Showing the students his novels, Owens explained that his recent, powerful speech given at the Screen Actors Guild Awards is credited to his mastery in managing time limitations and being able to take dynamic pieces of literature, such as Dante Alighieri’s “The Divine Comedy,” and structure them in a way that can be communicated to an audience.

“Being an actor, you study many literary forms of delivering speeches,” Owens said. “Haiku, which is a poem of 17 syllables, in three lines of five, seven and five is a device I have used to convey effective messages to audiences.”

Owens kept talking about his speech structures and how the methods would help the audience understand better.

“It is in this form of speech delivery that the concept of limitations, which is how much time one has to deliver information in a speech, that is decorative in style is very important to master,” Owens said.

Owens, who discussed the importance of understanding and having an appreciation for the dynamic nature of communication, expressed to the class of freshmen, sophomore and junior students the value of having substantial experience with speech composition and delivering speeches through a variety of presentations and literary styles.

Students with notebooks wrote down every piece of information given by Owens. They were excited and encouraged to work on their upcoming classroom speeches.

Thomas, who is currently working with students in perfecting their speech writing and presentations, spoke to Owens about the “Cone of Encouragement” she has created for her students.

“In this classroom, we encourage each other,” Thomas said. “The Cone of Encouragement is designed to inspire and provide a relaxed space for students to develop their public speaking skills.”

Thomas, who works with students to establish strong interpersonal relations and cultivate verbal communication skills, was overjoyed at the atmosphere of creativity and inspiration that transpired between Owens and the room of students.

Carlissa Auguste, a junior biology major and student in the fundamentals of speech class, expressed her gratitude for Owens’ words of encouragement and literary methods to help guide the class.

“As a student, we have ongoing struggles and feelings of uncertainty,” Auguste said. “Today I was encouraged to persevere, no matter how hard life gets. Owens’ testimony was a good boost of motivation for all the students today, and his knowledge in speech and communication in which he so graciously shared today was special and for that I am thankful.”

Leaving the students with optimistic views on life, Owens expressed that through it all, he never gave up.

“Not giving up on my responsibilities, not quitting Trader Joe’s and hanging in there was one of the greatest decisions I made,” Owens said. “The best advice I can give anyone is to hang in there and persevere.”
The 91st Academy Awards Proved to be an Entertaining Night

Sharif Hasan
Assistant Entertainment Editor

From Melissa McCarthy in a rabbit-clad robe and a leaping Spike Lee, to Keegan-Michael Key’s flying entrance, the 2019 Oscars turned out to be a memorable evening.

This was the first ceremony to not have a host since the infamous 1989 Academy Awards, and there was much concern centered around this. Surprisingly, being host-less was not a problem at all. The show began with a hilarious introduction given by the talented Maya Rudolph, Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, who all gave the show an energetic start.

The first award of the night was given to Regina King for her amazing supporting performance in “If Beale Street Could Talk.” King gave an emotional speech and thanked her supporting mother who sat teary-eyed in the audience.

Helen Mirren and Jason Momoa, an unlikely yet interesting pairing, both dressed in pink, presented the award for best documentary to “Free Solo,” followed by an enthusiastic bellow of support from Momoa. “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse” won best animated feature film and Alfonso Cuaron’s “Roma” won best foreign film.

“Black Panther” managed to nab two back-to-back awards for production design and costume design, making Ruth Carter and Hannah Beachler the first black women to ever win in these categories. Ludwig Goransson also won for best score for “Black Panther,” giving the Marvel film a total of three wins.

The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences recently announced that the winners for best cinematography, film editing, short films and makeup and hairstyling would be awarded during the commercial breaks of the show. Soon after, the Academy changed their minds due to backlash.

Cuaron received an Oscar for cinematography for “Roma,” best editing was given to “Bohemian Rhapsody,” “Skin” took home the Oscar for best short film and Pixar’s “Bao” won best animated short film. All of these awards were graciously accepted by the winners on stage.

Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper gave a passionate live performance of “Shallow” from “A Star is Born,” and the song ended up winning the award for best song, gifting Gaga with her first Oscar.

Olivia Colman won best actress for “The Favourite,” surprising many who expected Glenn Close to win after her seven Oscar nominations. Colman gave a memorably hilarious speech, thanking Gaga and promising her children at home, “This is not gonna happen again.”

Gary Oldman and Allison Janney presented the award for best actor, which was given to Rami Malek for his performance as Freddy Mercury in “Bohemian Rhapsody.” Malek thanked his mother who was sitting in the audience and his late father. Malek proudly said, “I am the son of immigrants from Egypt. I am a first generation American.”

Mahershala Ali unsurprisingly won best supporting actor for “Green Book,” and the film won for best original screenplay and shockingly took home the Oscar for best picture. Spike Lee, who proved to be unenthusiastic for the success of “Green Book” won his first Oscar for best adapted screenplay for “BlacKkKlansman,” jumping into the arms of the presenter, Samuel L. Jackson.

What began as a show filled with skepticism and uncertainty before the night even started, the 91st Academy Awards turned into a ceremony of laughs, surprises, emotions and recognition for excellence in the art of filmmaking.

There was so much that could have gone wrong for the night, and even if some might disagree with the Academy’s decisions for some awards, this year’s Oscars was definitely an enjoyable one. If the Academy ends up using a host for next year, although I think the show went perfectly fine without one, I hope they give Amy Poehler, Tina Fey and Maya Rudolph a call.
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IT’S TIME TO INSPIRE. BECOME A TEACHER.
Anyone who has ever wanted to attend the Oscars could have made their dream a reality at Montclair State’s Video Production Club Oscars party.

Although the Oscar ceremonies of recent years may have been shrouded with controversy, Montclair State University’s Video Production Club (VPC) did not disappoint with its fifth annual Oscars party. The event took place in the Student Center Ballrooms between the hours of 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. on the evening of Feb. 25. While one may cringe at the almost five-hour runtime, showing up was worth every minute.

The first couple of hours were spent at seated tables as everyone got acquainted with each other, took pictures and enjoyed the great buffet that was laid out for attendees. Through the chattering and camera clicking hummed a relaxing jazz soundtrack that resembled one from a vivacious jazz club.

Later, as the clocks struck 8 p.m., everyone moved to the front of the ballroom to seats very similar to those at the actual award show. Through commercial breaks, guests were treated to an entertaining lip-sync battle between the members of the VPC, as well as awards for things such as best editor, best cinematographer and most photogenic.

One of the many awards that were given out that night included best organization attendance for the Montclair State club that has had a standing collaboration with the VPC in the planning of the event, which ended up going to MSU Acapella. Natalie Shephard, a senior child advocacy and policy major as well as president of MSU Acapella, said the close relations and mutual members allowed for an easy partnership between the two clubs.

Andrew Amiano, a senior television and digital media (TVDM) major and the vice president of VPC, spoke of how he enjoys the “come and go” feeling of the event. He praised his fellow team members of the VPC as well as other clubs, including MSU Acapella for their achievement in putting the event together — from setting the tables to spreading the word to students all around campus.

Amiano went on to mention that it hasn’t always been easy to plan the annual event, revealing that last year the Oscars fell on spring break. However, he and his team insisted on carrying on the tradition.

“We actually held a smaller version of it, maybe a third of the size of all this, in the lobby of the School of Communication,” Amiano said. “Still the same deal, watched the Oscars and had a bunch of food.”

Just as it has been a standing tradition for attendees of the Academy Awards to dress their very best, VPC members and many other Montclair State students also came dressed up as if they were ready to walk the red carpet.

“What’s the point of having an Oscar party if you’re just going to come in jeans and a T-shirt?” Amiano said. “We don’t want to pressure people, but at the same time, we’re going to pressure people.”

Dillion Hoffman, another member of the VPC, spent the night taking pictures of anyone who stepped in front of the party’s own red carpet. While having the photo booth has been part of the Oscars party for at least four years, according to Amiano, this year marked the first time that Hoffman took over from behind the camera.

The TVDM sophomore said he takes behind-the-scenes pictures at club shoots and other events. It only seemed natural for him to step in as the residential paparazzi.

The VPC’s decision to host an Oscars party all those years ago has paid off. The event had a great turnout of not only fellow club members but other Montclair State students and even everyone’s favorite mascot, Rocky the Red Hawk.

Everyone who stepped into the Student Center Ballrooms that night did not leave disappointed. The evening was filled with laughter, a far cry from the controversy of the real Oscars that was playing out on television for everyone’s entertainment.
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**Top Picks to Stream**

**Coming-of-Age Movies**

*‘Eighth Grade’ on Netflix*

**Photo courtesy of A24**

“*Eighth Grade,*” written and directed by Bo Burnham and starring Elsie Fisher, follows 13-year-old Kayla in the final week of eighth grade. Kayla, who is voted “Most Quiet” by her classmates, stumbles through a number of awkward interactions as she tries to make friends and end her middle school years on a high note.

The film truly shines in its plummy teen awkwardness. Kayla is a character we all once were but rarely see onscreen. This isn’t a coming-of-age film focused on the same glossed over themes we’re used to seeing. “*Eighth Grade*” is a great coming-of-age film to stream because it’s a film that takes us back to our cringey middle school days whether we want to remember them or not.

- Kristen Milburn
  Staff Writer

*‘The Edge of Seventeen’ on Netflix*

**Photo courtesy of STX Entertainment**

Directed by Kelly Fremon Craig, “*The Edge of Seventeen*” is a coming-of-age story about an awkward teenage girl whose life turns into chaos after her best friend stumbles “Most Quiet” by her classmates, stumbles through a number of awkward interactions as she tries to make friends and end her middle school years on a high note.

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- Kristen Milburn
  Staff Writer

**Nintendo of America President Retires and Leaves the Company in the Hands of Bowser**

The Nintendo of America President Reggie Fils-Aime uploaded a video on social media announcing his retirement on Thursday, Feb. 21, sharing a bittersweet moment with fans after working at the company for more than 15 years. Fils-Aime is set to be replaced by Doug Bowser, the senior vice president of sales and marketing of Nintendo of America — not to be confused with Bowser, the main antagonist from the Super Mario gaming franchise.

“Nintendo owns a part of my heart forever,” stated Fils-Aime in the press release. “It’s a part that is filled with gratitude — for the incredibly talented people I’ve worked with, for the opportunity to represent such a wonderful brand and most of all, to feel like a member of the world’s most positive and enduring gamer community.”

Fils-Aime continued to explain how beneficial it will be for his personal life as well. “As I look forward to departing in both good health and good humor, this is not ‘game over’ for me, but instead ‘leveling up’ to more time with my wife, family and friends,” Fils-Aime said.

Fils-Aime started working at Nintendo in 2003 as the executive vice president of sales and marketing, and it wasn’t until 2006 that he was promoted to president and chief operating officer. Fils-Aime became a well-known celebrity in the video game community ever since he was introduced to the fanbase at the Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3).

In 2004, Fils-Aime instantly became the most iconic face of the company with his charming and charismatic personality. Under his leadership, he oversaw the marketing of Nintendo of America — not to be confused with Bowser, the main antagonist from the Super Mario gaming franchise.

The new face of the company will be Bowser starting on April 15. He started working at Nintendo in 2015 as the vice president of sales to then being promoted to senior vice president of sales and marketing. Bowser worked as an executive for Electronic Arts Inc. and recently as the vice president of global business planning. He also had various leadership roles in Asia, Latin America and the U.S. for the company Procter & Gamble.

Bowser currently oversees sales and marketing at Nintendo, which includes the Nintendo Switch, the fastest-selling video game console in only 21 months. With his new position, Bowser is making sure to keep Nintendo’s current momentum of sales going and for a seamless transition in company leadership.

“It has been my great fortune to work with and be mentored by Reggie for four years at Nintendo of America,” stated Bowser in a press release. “And rest assured, we will continue to build on his work to evolve and expand our brand, furthering Nintendo’s global mission of creating smiles. There are millions more of those to come.”

Different video game companies joined fans on social media to not only grieve but also to congratulate Fils-Aime on his retirement. Shawn Layden, former president and CEO of Sony Interactive Entertainment America, reached out to Nintendo on social media to share his gratitude for Fils-Aime.

“Reggie, thanks for all the games and your leadership in our industry. We are a better and brighter place for your wisdom and efforts. With appreciation and best wishes from all your friends @PlayStation,” wrote Layden on Twitter.

Phil Spencer, the current executive vice president of gaming at Microsoft, also reached out to Nintendo to share his adieu to his friend Fils-Aime.

“All the best to Reggie Fils-Aime on the next phase of his life and career. Great leader, industry partner and friend,” Spencer said.

Like many companies, fans and friends say farewell to the former President of Nintendo Fils-Aime. They also welcome Bowser with heartfelt messages in hopes that he keeps spreading Nintendo’s values for generations to come.
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THE WORLD WITHOUT NEWS WOULD BE...

Photo courtesy of wikipedia.org.
In 2014, HBO announced that they were making a new anthology show titled “True Detective.” When the first season premiered, it received a tremendous amount of praise and went on to be nominated in awards shows. Five years later, season three premiered and showed audiences why it has gained its reputation for being a great series.

The premise of this season follows two detectives, Wayne Hays and Roland West, who try to uncover a bizarre crime which involves two missing children. The season tells its story in three different timelines— when the detectives are trying to solve the case, when the case gets reopened and where they are old men in the present. As the season goes on, the viewer learns more about characters’ motivations and dark secrets start to unravel.

I consider the first season to be one of the greatest achievements in television ever. The season alone is one of my personal favorites. Season two ended up being a massive disappointment, only being average at best. With that being said, any anticipation for season three was still very high because this time around, Mahershala Ali was the star and the trailer looking promising. I am happy to report that season three is a fantastic season with thrilling moments, excellent performances and a compelling story.

The performances are at the top of their game, with the standout by far being Ali. Ali recently won the Academy Award for “Green Book” on Sunday, and he is in conversations to win an Emmy for this role. His performance as Detective Wayne Hays requires a lot of emotion and subtlety. To say that he pulled it off perfectly would be an understatement.

There are plenty of scenes where there are conversations that Ali has with his wife, son and partner. The scenes are perfectly executed. It’s as if one is not watching performances, which is the highest compliment I can give to an actor. Every other performance is top notch, but he has Ali.

As a crime drama, it’s investing to watch. It is not a fast-paced show; it does take its time with characters and unraveling with what is going on, but the pacing fits the narrative. The way the story was told in three different timelines was smart. It would not have been as effective had it been a show that started from the beginning until the end.

There are cliffhangers that happen and things in the past that are brought up occasionally that isn’t delved into until later. Sometimes it can get confusing which timeline you’re in but after the third episode, I was able to tell which timeline was being shown.

Additionally, there are some intense sequences, one involving a shootout that is incredibly realistic. With-out spoiling anything, some of the twists and turns do lead to some heartbreaking outcomes and realizations. While there isn’t necessarily an action-packed finale, I thought the way it came together was great.

The only flaw that I do have with the season is that at times it can drag just a bit. Overall though, season three is a season that has a lot to offer. It is a huge step up from the second season.

It is important to note that even though this is season three for the series, one does not have to watch the first two seasons to understand it. There are different stories, actors and characters. Although there is a brief reference to the first season, there is no relation. I would highly recommend anyone who has HBO and hasn’t checked out the show to do so.

Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem are Talk of the Town in ‘Everybody Knows’

Diego Coya
Staff Writer

Mahershala Ali and Stephen Dorff star in the new season of “True Detective.”

Photo courtesy of HBO

The acting and setting of Bardem’s final scene, a close-up shot of him in bed alone with nothing but the sound of a rusted screen door being moved by the wind, is a moment to meditate on. It is moving and the end is satisfying in the way it left you guessing. The crucial questions in the plot are answered and the story’s incomplete moment, when Laura’s sister is presumably relaxing who she believed abducted Irene to a family friend, gives the feeling that the movie has come full circle and now lives up to its name. Everybody knows the truth, yet nobody ever comes forward about knowing it. In a small town where gossip is what keeps the inhabitants from the doldrums of rural life, truths hurt more than they heal.

Additional praise must be mentioned for the decision to maintain the movie’s original language when carrying over to the United States. A voiceover in English would have destroyed the passion and thoughtfulness the actors portrayed. Also, the soft “s” that peaks through in the actors’ dialogue is unique to Spain and a necessary nuance in authentication—a minute detail that the director did not overlook.

As in most subtitled films, the words were not translated verbatim, but that left nothing wanting toward the enjoyment of the movie as a whole. With multiple award nominations and an award win, “Everybody Knows” is more than just another kidnapping film, masquerading as a deep, thoughtful crossroads film. It never seemed to fall into the traps of its trope. However, the rather rushed ending should have been shown the same care as the rest of the film. A few more minutes of dialogue or character development would have left the movie feeling more like an A than a B as other reviews suggest.

Nonetheless, “Everybody Knows” is worth watching and should be seen before it leaves theaters.

Gabrielle Igartua
Contributing Writer

A live band plays into the late hours of the night and everyone is dancing in the courtyard of a country estate. Raucous laughter fills the house as people with drinks in hand stumble in while the rain beings to fall. The power goes out and the sister of the bride discovers her daughter, Irene, is not in her bed. Someone has disappeared without anyone seeing her leave.

As the start, Oscar award-winning director Asghar Farhadi sets a warm scene of a family gathering for a wedding in the wine country of Spain. The party turns sour when Laura (Penelope Cruz), discovers her daughter has been kidnapped. Laura’s old flame Paco (Javier Bardem) is quick to aid in the search.

Character complexity builds layer upon layer as old men in the present. As the season goes on, the viewer learns more about characters’ motivations and dark secrets start to unravel. The acting and setting of Bardem’s final scene, a close-up shot of him in bed alone with nothing but the sound of a rusted screen door being moved by the wind, is a moment to meditate on. It is moving and the end is satisfying in the way it left you guessing. The crucial questions in the plot are answered and the story’s incomplete moment, when Laura’s sister is presumably relaxing who she believed abducted Irene to a family friend, gives the feeling that the movie has come full circle and now lives up to its name. Everybody knows the truth, yet nobody ever comes forward about knowing it. In a small town where gossip is what keeps the inhabitants from the doldrums of rural life, truths hurt more than they heal.

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"In America, the President reigns for four years, but Journalism governs forever.” – Oscar Wilde

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It was a cloudy Saturday afternoon with a brisk breeze and a deafening chant from the hyper crowd at Sprague Field. The Red Hawks men’s lacrosse team put up a decent fight, but they surrendered their second straight game to start the season.
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Student Athlete Profile: Rashon Wade-Taylor

Sophomore athlete shines for the men’s rugby team ahead of upcoming season

Sabrina Impaglia
Assistant Sports Editor

Rashon Wade-Taylor explained a bit more about the sport and what it entails.

“Rugby is a sport with great endurance and a lot of physicality,” Wade-Taylor said. “It includes running, passing and kicking all in the attempts to score against your opponent.”

The physicality of the sport makes it difficult for a lot of players, but Wade-Taylor, as well as his teammates, still love to play.

Wade-Taylor explained the team is like a family and this contributes to their success. Team chemistry is vital for a successful team, especially when not many players have all the knowledge they need about the sport.

“There’s not a day I don’t spend time with someone from the team,” Wade-Taylor said. “It’s awesome. We all are so different but love each other for authenticity.”

The team is made up of a variety of players with a variety of experience under their belts, but this does not stop them from being committed and wanting to play their best during every game.

“The rugby team is full of determined and athletic people,” Wade-Taylor said. “We know when to take a break, and it is truly a family connection.”

One of Wade-Taylor’s teammates, freshman Zaid Hussein, talked about the impact he has made on the rugby team.

“Rashon’s a real goofy guy who can be smart as well,” Hussein said. “He wants our team to be a unit of character and hopes to help every individual on the team grow as well as himself.”

As for the upcoming season, Wade-Taylor talked about some team goals that will help them out a lot this season – the more players they have the better.

“Our upcoming season is looking promising,” Wade-Taylor said. “We have a couple new recruits, and they are learning quickly.”

Wade-Taylor has some individual goals as well, ones that will help him better himself as well as the team – the more experience he has, the better.

“I want to become better as a rugby player so I have more to teach the beginners,” Wade-Taylor said.

Knowing your strengths and weaknesses is essential for being a great player. Wade-Taylor knows what he excels in and what he needs to work on in practice.

“My strengths are definitely being a team player, passing, running and tackling,” Wade-Taylor said. “My weaknesses are communication and self-placement.”

Outside of playing rugby, Wade-Taylor is very goal-oriented and wants to better himself as a person overall. He wants to be successful both on and off the field.

“I really like to learn the skills that are essential for the future,” Wade-Taylor said.

He also explained some of the specific goals he would love to accomplish during this semester and in life in general. His goals do not focus on just rugby, which is a smart mentality to have for a student-athlete.

Having balanced goals and being able to work with that is what makes a student-athlete successful.

“Having balanced goals and being able to work with it is what makes a student-athlete successful.”

To connect his goals to the sport he loves to play, Wade-Taylor talked about how rugby can help him reach all of his goals.

“Rugby is just another way to stay disciplined, which reinforces the habit of getting better all the time and hitting goals,” Wade-Taylor said. “Every time we practice I want to learn something new or enhance my skills. Every day is a day to get better at something in my opinion.”

Make sure to check out Wade-Taylor and the rest of the rugby team in their upcoming season.