The Montclarion staff poses for a photo in celebration of their nine awards from the NJPF College Newspaper Contest.

Haley Wells
Editor-in-Chief

February saw the Grammys and the Oscars, but March is reserved for the New Jersey Press Foundation (NJPF)’s NJ College Newspaper Contest.

New Jersey college newspapers select their best articles and news stories during a one-year time period. Anythings published between March 1, 2018 and Feb. 28 was eligible for nomination. Winners were announced on March 18.

The Montclarion saw numerous awards in this contest, landing six first place awards, one second place award and two third place awards. First place awards were given to The Montclarion in the news writing and feature writing categories with “Cold Consequences: The Aftermath of Montclair State’s Snowy Nightmare” and “Tales of Hijabi Women: How a Scarf Can Impact Everyday Life” respectfully. The Writing and Entertainment/Critical Writing and Web Project categories also won gold for The Montclarion with “Orson Welles’ ‘The Other Side of the Wind’: A Great End to His Cinematic Career” and “Juul: The Flavored Flash Drive Frenzy” respectfully. “Student Artist Profile: Joe Baez” also won first place for Online Video. “Coca-Cola’s Blind Tasting Event Offered the Classic Refreshment with a Fresh New Twist” took third place for Online Video.

Staff members that nabbed wins include Editor-in-Chief Haley Wells, Assistant Entertainment Editor Sharif Hasan, Video Editor Mackenzie Robertson and video team member Adrian Maldonado. Contributors to these awards include News Editor Heather Berzak, former Opinion Editor Sunah Choudry, former Entertainment Editor Robert O’Connor, Opinion Editor Rebecca Serviss and more.

The Montclarion would like to thank every member of their staff for contributing and working toward publishing stories for the multiplatform news organization. Special thanks also go out to Faculty Adviser Tara George for always believing in The Montclarion and pushing it’s contributors to do their best. Staff members will attend the NJ Collegiate Press Spring Awards Luncheon on Saturday, April 13, where plaques will be given to the winners of the contest.

Visit themontclarion.org to watch a video on the award recognition.

Ben Caplan | The Montclarion

The Montclarion Jumps for Joy with 6 First Place Wins

University College Lets Students ‘Crash-a-Class’

Emely Alba
Staff Writer

Montclair State University students now have the opportunity to sit in a classroom of their choice for a day thanks to a program created by University College called Crash-a-Class.

Academic Program Coordinator Amanda Cosenza who thinks that Crash-a-Class is a great opportunity for pre-majors as well.

[The professors] opened up their sections of classes to allow for our pre-major students to sit in a lecture where they normally wouldn’t have that opportunity,” Cosenza said. “We have sections in the School of Education, biology and even psychology that are all under 20 students now have the opportunity,” Cosenza said.

Another member of University College who is assisting students signing up is Academic Program Coordinator Amanda Cosenza who thinks that Crash-a-Class is a great opportunity for pre-majors as well.

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Crash: Existing students wish the program was available earlier than this academic year

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According to Cosenza, the Crash-a-Class program is also highlighting new majors on campus, such as the medical humanities major.

Professor of Classics and General Humanities Dr. Mary-English opened up her section of beginning Greek II feels the Crash-a-Class program is giving students the chance to be more open about certain courses.

"In the broadest sense I think it’s a great opportunity for students to come to observe classes and preview the material on subjects they would like to take next semester," English said.

As a result of this program, just becoming available at the beginning of the academic year, some students wish it had been available prior to declaring their major.

Freshman classics major Alyssa Tkac is taking beginning Greek II and feels this program could have helped her understand her major.

"I think it’s a really good idea because when I came to Montclair State, I came in as a classics major," Tkac said. "I have never taken any classes in classics, so I went in not knowing what to expect."

Aside from assisting in major selections, Crash-a-Class is useful in helping students experience certain electives in order to choose a minor and fulfill credit requirements or major-elective requirements.

Senior classics and Latin double major Andrew Maciolek feels...
Blanton Hall residents no longer have to exit the building to cook. In January, the hall officially opened a new community kitchen where students can cook, bake, eat and meet new people.

Blanton Hall Community Director Thea Dyer believes the new kitchen is a big contribution to enhancing the building.

“The community kitchen is a great addition to Blanton Hall,” Dyer said. “We look forward to utilizing this space with the residence life staff and campus partners to provide educational and community building programming that will benefit residents of the building.”

Students waited a significant amount of time for the community kitchen. It was proposed by a previous Blanton Hall council executive board and was designed to assist residents during break times when limited dining options are available.

Funds to complete the kitchen were approved for the 2018-2019 academic year. Now, Blanton Hall is the fifth residence hall on campus to have one. It joins Bohlin Hall, Russ Hall, Dinallo Heights and Macuga Heights.

The kitchen has updated appliances including a magnetic stove, only allowing magnetic pots and pans to be used. However, students are given the flexibility to borrow the building’s cooking utensils or to bring their own.

Junior film major Charlie Wiggins believes the new kitchen is a good amenity but can have its downsides.

“It’s nice to have as an option here, but I don’t think it’s very practical to use that often,” Wiggins said. “Checking out equipment is a bit of a hassle, and there’s no time slots to use it. It’s like first-come, first-serve.”

Unlike the other residence hall kitchens, Blanton Hall has stricter security measures. In order to borrow the cookware, residents must give their student identification card to a service assistant on duty. An assistant then walks with them to the kitchen, and they unlock the cabinets containing the type of cookware the student needs.

One of the kitchen’s strongest benefits is that it’s open 24/7, giving residents the opportunity to cook when many eateries on campus are closed. This allows Blanton residents who are up late studying to not go hungry.
Montclair State Students ‘Flex too Hard’ with Flex Dollars

Emma Richter
Contributing Writer

It’s that time in the semester where classes are getting difficult and affording food on campus is getting even harder. A swipe here, a swipe there and before students know it, they’re only halfway through the semester with a few dollars left in their Flex account.

Balancing out Flex Dollar spending seems to be a constant struggle for a multitude of students on Montclair State’s campus. Many of them find themselves spending a majority of their Flex Dollars within the first few months of the school year. By the time they realize they’ve run out, they either consider adding more money to their accounts or find ways to save money on campus.

As freshman journalism major Sydnie Hoelz bought lunch with her scarce amount of Flex Dollars, she discussed the frequency of her spending.

“I use my Flex [Dollars] probably six out of seven days of the week,” Hoelz said.

In comparison to her first semester at Montclair State, she tried her best to make a strategic plan for her spending in her second semester.

With no anticipation to spend her Flex Dollars as fast as she did, Hoelz is hitting that mid-semester bump in the road where she and other students alike realize just how much they’re really spending.

Freshman psychology major Jessa Cook admitted that she also spent her Flex Dollars too frequently because the food’s quality has made a plan to just save money on campus.

“I think I was more aware [of my Flex Dollar balance] last semester, and now I just eat with my Flex Dollars all the time,” Cook said.

Freshman psychology major Jessa Cook admitted that she also spent her Flex Dollars too frequently because the food’s quality has made a plan to just save money on campus.

“The two dining halls, Sam’s Place and Freeman Hall, are the only options that don’t accept Flex Dollars, she discussed the frequency of her spending.

“Typically, we find customers will use Flex Dollars for food purchases below seven dollars, or for a vending machine purchase, or for that [Dunkin’ Donuts] cup of coffee and donuts as examples,” Robinson said.

Being that Flex Dollars are a popularly used currency on campus, it provides convenience for students to purchase necessities such as books, clothes and even toiletries. All spending options aside, food purchases still continue to be the main reason for the rise of sudden droughts in students accounts.

Sophomore jazz studies major Vito Cakaroglu weighed in on his own Flex Dollar spending patterns, with dining hall hours seemingly playing a factor.

“I would say I use Flex [Dollars] a decent amount, especially considering that I dorm at Montclair [State],” Cakaroglu said. “The dining halls aren’t open at more reasonable times, so you end up using your Flex [Dollars] more often.”

Like other students, Cakaroglu has made a plan to just be more aware of how much he’s spending and where he’s spending it.

“I would just not use all of your Flex [Dollars] at the beginning of the semester,” Casolaro said.

Spending Flex Dollars is fun and enjoyable until they become scarce and limited. The best thing to keep in mind is that no one is “flexing too hard” on their own; it’s a campuswide epidemic.

Flex Dollar allotment can vary based on a student’s preferred meal plan. Amounts can range from $250 all the way up to $500 Flex Dollars for the year to spend as wanted.

As junior health and physical education major Kyle Phipps and sophomore paralegal studies major Donato Casolaro wrap up their meal at Sam’s Place, they share their thoughts on Flex Dollars.

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“I think I was more aware [of my Flex Dollar balance] last semester, and now I just eat with my Flex Dollars all the time,” Cook said.

Food options including Au Bon Pain, Dunkin’ Donuts, Chili’s, Which Wich, the Red Hawk Diner, Bistro, 2Mato, Chopped and the Student Center Cafe all accept Flex Dollars.

Manager of dining services James Robinson provided specific insight on Flex Dollar spending while overlooking dining activities on campus.

“I would just not use all of your Flex [Dollars] at the beginning of the semester,” Casolaro said.

Spending Flex Dollars is fun and enjoyable until they become scarce and limited. The best thing to keep in mind is that no one is “flexing too hard” on their own; it’s a campuswide epidemic.
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Montclair State University Students Win Big at the 39th College Television Awards

Montclair State University students are the 2019 recipients of the Seymour Bricker humanitarian award and the news category award at the 39th College Television Awards.

Last year, during spring break most students were on vacation, but the students from Montclair News Lab were in Puerto Rico reporting on the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

This is the first time Montclair State students have received these types of awards for their work. According to a statistic provided by the Television Academy Foundation, 25 nominees are selected from over 600 productions submitted by 174 colleges.

The award ceremony was held in North Hollywood, California on Saturday, March 16. Each winning project received a $3,000 cash prize with their award according to the Television Academy Foundation.

Since Montclair State students also won the Seymour Bricker humanitarian award, they will receive an additional $4,000 cash prize with their award.

Junior journalism major and Montclarion staff writer Genesis Obando participated in the trip to Puerto Rico and was able to utilize the reporting skills she’s learned at Montclair State. Obando feels like the nomination is one of the best things that has ever happened to her.

“Just knowing that all of the hard work that I put into this project and also my team’s hard work is being recognized at such a prestigious level, I feel like I could [do] so much now that I’m being recognized this way, but it’s also amazing for the university as well,” Obando said.

Obando believes the trip changed her perspective on journalism. Being in Puerto Rico and getting the hang of reporting was impactful for her.

“Actually doing something makes me appreciate [journalism] a lot more and it just shows how important it is and how meaningful sharing other people’s stories can be for them,” Obando said. “[Puerto Rico’s] also getting the attention that they didn’t even get before and it’s great.”

Another student honored for her reporting done in Puerto Rico is alumna Babee Garcia, the former entertainment editor at The Montclarion and now a freelance journalist.

Garcia shared that this trip connected her more to her roots and her peers.

“I’ve never been to Puerto Rico and my father’s side of the family is Puerto Rican. Learning about the music connected me with my culture,” Garcia said. “Exploring the island for the first time and to be with student journalists and professors within the same career as I would like to pursue made it more memorable.”

Learning of the nomination, Garcia is reassured of her career as a journalist. She originally declared journalism to become a writer, but the trip to the island changed everything for her.

“To hear that I was nominated for a national collegiate award, it’s incredible,” Garcia said. “It reassures me that I made the right decision in choosing journalism and makes me feel proud that I have grown into a versatile journalist with so many skills.”

Professor Steve McCarthy, who is part of the professional staff and a producer at Mont-
This shot is from an organic farm in Lajas. The story was produced by Madjiguene Traore about the Puerto Rican Resiliency Fund, which coordinates relief efforts. A small group of volunteers helped a farmer whose crops were damaged there.

“IT’S UNBELIEVABLE. JUST GETTING NOMINATED IS WINNING, AND THEY DON’T HAVE TO WIN. IT’S A VALIDATION OF ALL THE HARD WORK THEY PUT INTO IT.”

- Professor Steve McCarthy

McCarthy is very proud of his students and wants his students to know that just being nominated for this award is already a win.

“It’s unbelievable. Just getting nominated is winning, and they don’t have to win. It’s a validation of all the hard work they put into it,” McCarthy said. “It also validates the school as a place where we’re going to produce content that is recognized nationally.”

Students who reported in Puerto Rico attend the 39th College Television Awards.

Students from Montclair News Lab accept their award in North Hollywood, California at the 39th College Television Awards.

- Photo courtesy of Babee Garcia
- Photo courtesy of Thomas E. Franklin
The painted mirrors were displayed in an exhibit, bringing students together to share their perspectives and talk about body acceptance.

Annabel Reyes | The Montclarion

Mirrors were painted with student responses to the question, “What do you see when you look in the mirror?”

The Mirror Project: A Reflection of Mental Health

Annabel Reyes | The Montclarion

Mirrors were painted with student responses to the question, “What do you see when you look in the mirror?”

The Mirror Project helped students realize the way they see themselves in a mirror affects their mental health.

The Office of Health Promotion offers events throughout the semester in the hopes of fostering a mentally healthy community.

Annabel Reyes | The Montclarion

During the busy week leading up to spring break, while many college students rushed to pack their swimsuits and escape to a sunny beach for a few days, Montclair State University’s Office of Health Promotion caused students to stop and think.

From Monday, Feb. 24 to Friday, March 1, the Office of Health Promotion hosted Body Acceptance Week, a series of events from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. located in Student Center Ballrooms B and C.

Students participated in and admired the contents of the Mirror Project, an art exhibit where students painted their answer to the question, “What do you see when you look in the mirror?” The responses ranged from humorous to self-deprecating and were displayed on tables for all students to see.

Elena Lymbouras, a graduate coordinator for the Office of Health Promotion, served as a driving force in the event’s success. Along with distributing free T-shirts with the body positive phrase, “Lookin’ Sharp,” Lymbouras shared the Office of Health Promotion’s purpose for making the Mirror Project an integral part of Body Acceptance Week at Montclair State.

“We just wanted to challenge students to think about how they perceive themselves,” Lymbouras said. “Since many students struggle with mental health, the Mirror Project is a way for them to see that they’re not alone.”

The Mirror Project showcased the mirror art of dozens of students from different majors, ethnicities and backgrounds.

Aneta Ostasz, a junior majoring in communication and media arts, was impressed by the Office of Health Promotion’s efforts to spread mental health awareness.

“I think this art exhibit pushes people to recognize the good in themselves and what they like about their bodies because once you start thinking positively, the mental health benefits will start piling up,” Ostasz said.

Many students who painted answers like “self-love” and “happiness” on their mirrors brought to light the way people see themselves in a mirror affects their mental health.

Television and digital media major Gary Brown commented on his initial shock when seeing the diverse answers painted on the mirrors.

“I saw that some people painted the words ‘fat’ and ‘not good enough,’” Brown said. “That was difficult for me to see, but it shows that a lot of people are dealing with self-inflicted body issues and yet here at Montclair State, we are all accepted.”

The Office of Health Promotion has been hosting Body Acceptance Week, including the Mirror Project since 2008. This organization offers a variety of services open to all students as a way of establishing a mentally healthy community.

Their mission is to eliminate the common misconceptions associated with mental health among the student population, increase the amount of culturally aware health services on campus, promote the best practices of health promotion and disease prevention, teach the importance of fostering healthy relationships that lead to academic success and support mental health awareness with theoretical research.
Looking back, Lizette believes the people she surrounded herself with drastically impacted the course of her life. She implored members of the audience to seek out individuals that have common interests and make plans for the future.

This sentiment was echoed by Angela Kellam, Project PRIDE’s coordinator. She believes every person should be encouraged to set goals.

“If you’re always working to attain something, you’re going to be focused on that thing that you want so badly,” Kellam said. “That’s why we can’t just say, ‘Don’t do drugs,’ without also talking about that foundation of who you’re around and what you want to do with your life.”

Growing up, Jack struggled to acclimate socially and turned to alcohol and narcotics to lower his inhibitions. Eventually, he began selling drugs to support his own habit. As a freshman in college, Jack was arrested for distribution of LSD. While on bail he attended AA meetings, eventually getting clean and becoming a mentor for other members struggling with substance abuse. He was seven months sober before his sentencing date, but unfortunately his progress was not enough to deter jail time.

Jack shared that he now realizes he was using drugs and alcohol as a way to cope with underlying mental illness. “I was getting high my whole life,” Jack said. “I didn’t know how to deal with emotions at the time. All I knew to do was get high.”

Edwin’s family was involved in gang activity and exposed him to alcohol at an early age. In order to provide support to his children, he dropped out of high school and started working. His story took a dark turn the night that he proposed to his fiancé. What was expected to be a celebratory evening turned deadly due to a drunk driving accident.

Edwin was behind the driver’s seat involved in a car accident. The entire room held back tears as he informed the audience that his fiancé didn’t make it.

“Going forward, Edwin hopes to honor her memory by continuing to make the right choices and spread awareness through Project PRIDE,” a statement shared.

“Do you want to have a story that’s going to last forever or a story that’s going to last just until graduation?” said Edwin. “I’m bawling my eyes out and I’m not sure how you’re able to do this.”

During the evening, Montclair State community members were given an opportunity to recognize the importance of increasing access to all members of the community. The MSUPGP chapter tutors, incarcerated students in Northern State Prison in Newark, New Jersey by preparing them for the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC), an exam that tests for proficiency consistent with graduating high school seniors. President of MSUPGP Koedi Shakir shared the positive outcomes of volunteering time as a tutor.

“Through this mutually beneficial opportunity, incarcerated students receive educational assistance, which will ultimately assist them in contributing positively in society post-release,” Shakir said. “Tutors acquire skills that can help re-imagine the criminal justice system and further them in their careers upon graduation.”

Shakir is also a first-grade student teacher at Oakwood Avenue Community School in Orange, which has given her more insight into the value of education.

“I have witnessed first-hand the kind of opportunity education can provide and I want to share that experience with students in my classroom,” Shakir said. “I believe knowledge is power, and people can take away materialistic belongings from you, such as your phone, your favorite pair of shoes or even your house, but no one can take away your education.”

Students interested in supporting MSUPGP’s mission of increasing access to education can attend their many events throughout the semester. An information session on becoming a tutor will be offered April 2 in the Center for Environmental and Life Sciences in room 207.
Long Time No Sea: Montclair State University Students Struggle With Financing the Ideal Spring Break

Amanda Alicea  
Staff Writer

Students at Montclair State University are looking forward to a bit of relaxation after a stressful first couple of weeks. Following record-dropping temperatures and new professors, some students are ready for a long awaited spring break. Despite expectations and excitement buzzing throughout campus, students are finding that financing the vacation may be harder than they thought.

Even though people often associate the college vacation with partying and wild getaways, many students are leaving the idea of islands and warmer weather behind as they prepare for midterms and student invoices. Trying not to put too much of a dent in their pockets, students are finding different ways to stay productive during the break while returning home.

When asked about the expectations to plan something big and wild for spring break, freshman biology major Zoelee Hancock shared that she has more realistic intentions.

"There is definitely a lot of pressure to party and go away during spring break, but it’s more practical to go home and work since most students are broke," Hancock said.

While some consider working to maintain paying for their tuition during break, junior art major Devin Nunez looked forward to laying low and relaxing for the week.

"I usually do go away for breaks, but I’m going to be staying home with my girlfriend," Nunez said. "I think that since we do not have too many breaks from school, everyone tries to cram as much as possible into their break if they can."

Freshman nursing major Jenazmin Baez also shared budget-friendly plans for the break.

"I plan on working and chilling in my dorm and taking a break mentally from school, and I also plan on working out more during spring break and eating healthier," Baez said. "People create this pressure like a vacation is necessary but sometimes you just need a break from social pressure."

While she does want to remain busy, Baez said working on herself and mental health is a way to be productive and healthy without spending a large amount of money on partying and getaways. Along with finding ways to stay busy and productive, students are also preparing methods to have a safe and fun vacation during the break, especially being in university. Many horror stories and accidents are associated with vacations because of the partying and wild behavior surrounding it.

Hancock discussed ways to stay safe while having fun.

"It’s always important to know your limits and have one responsible friend and driver if you are going to drink or party," Hancock said. "I also think it’s important to think about your mother and what she would want you to do."

Although it is a vacation, most students are planned on remaining busy with work in order to manage their financial debts and tuition. Despite the university playing a key role in the struggle to go away and have the ideal vacation, students have come up with efficient ways to enjoy their spring break without going over budget and overworking themselves.

It may not be the ideal vacation or luxurious getaway people fantasize about, but a lack of money is not stopping Montclair State students from having fun they can manage and enjoy.
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Wednesday, March 20  |  2:30 – 4 p.m.  |  ADP Center 1143
Wednesday, April 24  |  2:30 – 4 p.m.  |  ADP Center 1143

The application deadline for fall 2019 is September 15.

Can’t attend? Call the Teacher Education Admission Office at 973-655-7696, email us at teadmissions@montclair.edu, or visit us in University Hall, Suite 1180.
HELP WANTED

CHILD CARE

Seeking childcare for two teens (girl, 14, & boy, 16). Responsibilities include some shuttling to & from after-school activities (our car or yours), dog walking, walking, for 20-30 minutes, possible feeding, &/or someone who has recent experience with pet care, a plus. A functioning at the high school level. Look for a dependable, responsible individual, a must. Use of own reliable vehicle is required. Prior experience with children, strong references and own reliable vehicle are required. CPR certified preferred. Must be comfortable with a car and in a pool. If interested, please email rrodwick@comcast.net or call: 973-819-9893.

$25/Childcare, UPPER MONTCLAIR

Seeking childcare for two teens (girl, 14, & boy, 16). Responsibilities include some shuttling to & from after-school activities (our car or yours), dog walking, walking, for 20-30 minutes, possible feeding, &/or someone who has recent experience with pet care, a plus. A functioning at the high school level. Look for a dependable, responsible individual, a must. Use of own reliable vehicle is required. Prior experience with children, strong references and own reliable vehicle are required. CPR certified preferred. Must be comfortable with a car and in a pool. If interested, please email rrodwick@comcast.net or call: 973-819-9893.

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

Regular hours are approximately 3:30am to 4pm, Monday through Friday. More hours are available on weekends and on an as-needed basis, as well as pet-sitting opportunities. Prior experience with pet care, a plus. Honest, reliable individual, a must. Use of own reliable vehicle is required. If interested, please email Lisi At: rdwickclcook47@gmail.com or call: 973-919-0693

HELP WANTED

ADVENTURE

$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 shuffling some hours and furniture. So have access to them. I’ll pay some $50 for the job. It should not take long. I would think travel time to Edison and back is about an hour. If interested please email me at pickles46780@yahoo.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 have 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 john@kiddiesoccer.com.

$600-$800 / GORGEOUS ROOMS FOR RENT / 7 MINS FROM CAMPUS

RENT / 7 MINS FROM CAMPUS

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

$15 / Part-time childcare mid-January / Montclair

Regular include picking up at school, transporting kids to activities, helping with homework, playing, and setting up for dinner. Kids are 7 and 12. Regular hours are 3pm-7pm, M-F with an opportunity for a few more hours a week. Please have a clean driving record, patience and positive energy. Previous childcare experience a plus. If interested, contact nanettelerner@gmail.com.

PERSONALITY

IS EVERYTHING IN ART AND WRITING

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Across
2. If you find a four-leaf clover, then you will be ____
3. The month St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in
4. A traditional Irish dance
6. A popular elf-like creature that loves gold coins
7. After it rains, this forms in the sky

Down
1. What can be found at the end of a rainbow
2. The best cereal to have on St. Patrick's Day
3. The most popular color on St. Patrick's Day

Spring Word Search
- Clover
- Rainbow
- Leprechaun
- Bagpipes
- Green
- Lucky
- Patrick
- Irish
- Parade
- Shamrock
- Jig
- Magic
- March
- Potatoes
- Cabbage
- Seventeen
- Tradition
- Gold
- Wish
- Coins

Sudoku

*For answers to the puzzles, please check The Montclarion Facebook page every Thursday.*
It’s All Under Construction, but Not All Is Being Fixed

One of the first sights a future Red Hawk gets on a campus tour of Montclair State University is the seamless uniformity of some of the surrounding buildings. Many of them follow the same exterior pattern of white buildings and red roofs.

Another aspect of these buildings that will catch their eyes is the fact that many of them are relatively new to the campus community, including the Center for Environmental and Life Sciences created in 2015, the School of Nursing created in spring 2017, the School of Communication and Media which opened its doors in the fall of 2017 and the Center for Computing and Information Science in 2018.

All of these new additions to Montclair State put it at the top of college lists for many incoming students, but there is one concerning aspect people spot during a tour that might put their commitment on hold as they question, “What about the other buildings?”

New buildings are continuously being built, but at the same time, many notice that others are being neglected. Just this semester, there have been two major building problems that occurred that could have been prevented if more thought was put into maintaining them.

On the first day of classes back in January, students were alerted about a flood that occurred in Bohn Hall, causing many classes that were scheduled to be held there to relocate.

A few weeks later, there was a sewage leak in Life Hall that flooded the area with contaminated water, which University Facilities deemed unsafe and caused thousands of dollars in damages.

With major problems like these instances occurring around campus, there are other minor touch-ups that students believe are necessary for their safety. One example can be seen on the ceilings in many of the classrooms in Dickson Hall.

As students take a glance at the ceiling tiles, many of them notice that some are either missing or look loose. While this may not cause a lot of damage to the building, if one of those tiles were to fall on someone, it could cause injuries, including concussions. These small problems go unnoticed which can lead to future incidents, possible injuries and costly repairs. Many students believe these repairs should be made before future projects are scheduled.

One important thing students want to be getting out of these construction projects is safety improvements. After all of the major and minor incidents that have occurred in the past few months, they hope it is being thought of when these decisions are made.

However, there are also still current construction projects in Richardson Hall, Calcia Hall, Russ Hall, Bohn Hall, College Hall and another on the way for University Hall.

Last month, The Montclarion News Editor Heather Berzak reported that $4.5 million is set to be approved to repair the exterior of University Hall. While the university believes these repairs are necessary because the building is deteriorating, students believe otherwise.

Many students agree the 110-year-old College Hall deserves a well-needed rejuvenation, but others question the fact that their tuition for the next school term is going toward fixing the exterior of a 15-year-old one. They might feel their money could go toward better things, like improvements that benefit them and minor interior touch-ups that make the buildings safer.

Students aren’t completely against the idea of continuing to expand and renovate the university, but they feel like they’re not getting a lot out of what is currently on the future project list.

The campus community is encouraged to speak out about their concerns when it comes to these projects, especially at the yearly tuition hearings. For those who want to know where their money is going next semester, they should listen in at this year’s hearing on April 10.

“I think it is super important for other buildings to be renovated before new buildings are put up because, for example, Bohn Hall really needs air conditioning. I lived there, and it was awful in the summer. I also think buildings such as Webster Hall and Dickson Hall could use an upgrade as well.”

- Cat Lowe
English Sophomore

“I think that it would be a lot more convenient for students if [the university] fixed what the buildings already have. If the university was to focus completely on building new things, it would take the focus away from what already needs to be addressed, and it’s just adding new problems and new things to worry about.”

- Amanda Fantasia
Television and Digital Media Junior

“I think if there are problems after the construction is done, then absolutely, all [current] problems should be taken care of, but if there are problems after construction then they should [also] be taken care of.”

- Austin Elliott
Audio/Sound Design Sophomore

“The university should [fix current problems] because why waste money on new buildings if they can’t fix current ones? It’s wasting unnecessary money and it’s wasting more time also.”

- Cassandra Wickowski
Undeclared freshman

Do you think the university should fix current building problems before starting new construction projects?

By Rebecca Serviss & Jennifer Losos

CAMPUS VOICES:
SHARIF HASAN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

TRAGEDY STRUCK A NEW ZEALAND MOSQUE ON MARCH 15 IN THE FORM OF A RATIONAL MUSLIM SHOOTING. THE 50 DEATHS THAT WERE TOTED IN THIS ATTACK ARE THE LARGEST SHOOTING IN THE SMALL ISLAND NATION AND PUT THIS TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE PROPORTIONAL POPULATION EQUIVALENT TO THE 9/11 ATTACKS IN THE UNITED STATES.

It seems like every week there is yet another report of something like this happening across the globe. There seems to be growing everywhere, and no community seems to be safe.

Not in New Zealand.

This island has a population of about 4.8 million people and about 1.2 million firearms and has not had a mass shooting since 1997, until this past Friday. This was the perfect opportunity as Trump had a chance to condemn these terrorists, but Trump decided to quickly move past the subject.

He played it safe with this reaction, but it is time to stop the nonsense. Guns are not the problem. Extremism is the problem. In all facets of society, people are pulled into extremist ideologies, right and left alike. It is disgusting that when tragedy strikes we have to run to our respective sides and we have to argue and fight.

What the terrorists that commit these heinous crimes want. They want division and divisiveness. They want people to take a look around at the other side and we have to stop them. They need to put an end to his xenophobic rhetoric that acts as fuel to white nationalist beliefs and take action to help stop them from happening again.

Sharif Hasan, a communication and media arts major, is in his first year as an assistant entertainment editor for The Montclarion.

AJ MELILLO
JOURNALISM MAJOR, IS IN HIS SEC- OND YEAR AS AN ASSISTANT OPINION EDITOR FOR THE MONTCLAIRON.

Shaid Owens, a political commentator and former leader of the Brexit movement, was turned into a political debate with anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant statements that prove the theory that the attack was racist. As president of the United States, Trump has a position as the leader of our nation to condemn white supremacist and nationalist behavior and show them their racist beliefs are not welcome. If Trump refuses to take responsibility, then these people will continue to think that their minds are acceptable because the country has endorsed this on its own.

Response to the attack, Trump gave his “warmest sympathy and best wishes” to the people of New Zealand. He played it safe with this reaction, but it is time to stop the nonsense. Guns are not the problem. Extremism is the problem.
Connecting the World Through the Power of Social Media

I never understood why older generations consistently wrote opinion articles complaining that social media was making us more antisocial. We have been bombarded with photos of younger generations with their heads pointing down as they type away on their phones, which people claim isolates them from one another. I’ve never resonated with this opinion. For me, social media has allowed me to make more connections and friendships than I could have in real life or offline.

Back in high school, I felt utterly alone. I didn’t connect with students around me who were into cheerleading, football, music and other things that didn’t interest me. Instead, I turned to social media in hopes of finding people who are into the same things opinion writers love to harp on. I thought of sharing selfies and people tweeting about what they’re currently eating, the stereotypical things opinion writers love to harp on in order to make fun of our tech-savvy generation. Little did I know that I would form friendships on Tumblr, YouTube and Instagram all because of our collective love for books and pop culture.

Through social media I found my niche, as others can, too. There is an endless array of communities that you can join to share your thoughts and ideas with others who are interested in the same things.

I never saw social media as a place that isolated me from others. Because I decided to talk about books online, I have met other book bloggers in real life, forming both online and offline friendships with them.

I used to see social media as this scary space where shadowy strangers can contact you, but over the years, I learned to embrace its potential. While it allows people to isolate themselves from conversing with others around them in a waiting room or in classes, it also gives others the chance to make connections they may not have been able to make with those in their neighborhood.

Social media provides us with communities and friendships that have the potential to change our lives for the better. I’m not embarrassed to say that I love social media. It has allowed me to make more friends than I ever imagined, and I am forever grateful for that.

Olivia Paez, a journalism major, is in her first year as an assistant copy editor for The Montclarion.
Join us in conversation

with Bobbi Brown, cosmetic and wellness guru and author, and speaker Jillian Pransky

Followed by an expo attended by companies showcasing their products and services

HEALTH & WELLNESS EXPO

March 25 | 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. | The Conference Center at University Hall

For more information, questions and to register, please visit montclair.edu/nutrition-and-food-studies/health-wellness-expo/
Peak Performances brought the classic musical “Guys and Dolls,” directed by Gary John La Rosa, to Montclair State University’s Alexander Kasser Theater between March 2 and March 8.

Originally written by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows, this musical from Broadway’s golden age follows gambler Nathan Detroit as he makes a bet with Sky Masterson that he cannot get the devoted missionary Sarah Brown to go with him to Havana, while Nathan’s fiancé, Adelaide, tries to finally tie the knot with him after 14 years.

This was the first time that I had ever seen the show, and I am stunned at how well the cast and crew did. The lighting was amazing, as well as the costumes and choreography. It quickly became one of my favorite musicals.

Every musical number was full of life, such as the number “Guys and Dolls,” led by Nicely-Nicely Johnson played by Thomas Beebe, and Benny Southstreet played by Patrick Sharpe.

It was an entertaining number, visually and vocally. Then there was the number “I’ll Know” performed by Jackson Glenn playing the role of Sky Masterson, and Brigitte Francis as Sarah Brown. This was a back and forth piece that showed the two different dynamics of the characters. A humorous but heartfelt number dedicated to finding love, I was impressed at the feeling that these performers put into their characters.

Toward the end of the aforementioned song, as Sarah Brown slapped Sky across the face for kissing her unexpectedly, members of the audience audibly gasped. The surprise of it, mixed with the overall silence and witty remark from Sky, was enough to feel the slight animosity between the two.

That was not the only time the show brought up a reaction from the crowd. Being mainly a comedy, the comedic timing of the show was fantastic. Some of my favorite scenes had no lines at all. The silence and body expressions were enough to get the audience laughing, which occurred countless times throughout the performance.

Another number I felt was a highlight of the show was “Sit Down You’re Rocking the Boat,” performed by Thomas Beebe and the rest of the cast. With just about the entire cast there on stage, it felt lively.

Musical numbers were not the only part of the show that blew me away. The costume design was beautiful. They fitted each character well and were colorful, but subtle enough to draw the focus of the eye while also not being the complete center of attention.

Since love is also the backdrop of this show, there were times throughout where, even though subtly humorous, the desperation to find it was still there. Sky risks thousands of dollars in his last effort to uphold his end of the bargain to Sarah. I felt for him and the way he would put all of his wealth on the line for her.

Even though the show contains many energetic and emotional lyrical numbers, the choreography does not fall short, such as the fantastic crapshooter’s dance.

For many students, this show was their way to look back at their acting career. Brigitte Francis shared her thoughts as she ends her senior year at Montclair State. “Playing Sarah Brown in ‘Guys and Dolls’ has been one of the biggest blessings of my entire college career,” Francis said.

“This role brought about so much freedom in my acting that I will carry with me into every audition, every callback, every rehearsal and every performance from this day forward,” Francis said. “I am deeply thankful for every single person involved with this show and will carry this one close to heart.”

The director Gary John La Rosa was enthralled to be working with this cast and crew again, previously having done Aida and Hair. He mentioned that the scale of the musical was challenging, with close to 200 people working on this production. “I love working with the students,” La Rosa said. “They are a well-trained and talented group.”

“Guys and Dolls” was beautifully done by the students of Montclair State. The show ran from March 2 to March 8, so hopefully, you all got a chance to witness for yourselves just how talented our school’s students are.
And the Award Goes To...

RecBoard Grammy Bingo

While Drake, Cardi B and all of Montclair State University’s students’ favorite artists were at the Grammys, students received a special invitation to a Grammy bingo party hosted by RecBoard. The event took place on Feb. 27 in the Student Recreation Center inside the basketball courts.

There were a series of rounds creating different letters, and if students called out “Bingo,” they received an extra raffle ticket in addition to the one they obtained at the door prior.

Students were able to put the raffles tickets into several different prize bags. Prizes varied from a record player with a vinyl record included to a Google Home to Apple Airpods. The grand prize was a pair of tickets to the Governors Ball music festival in New York City.

If students weren’t lucky enough to collect extra tickets, they still had the opportunity to buy additional raffle tickets for $1. Students were also able to purchase extra bingo boards for $1 to up their chances.

RecBoard President Linda Mozdzen explained where the proceeds were being distributed.

“All proceeds are going to Relay For Life and not into my bank account,” said Mozdzen jokingly.

Relay For Life is a movement as well as a fundraiser to help those suffering from cancer.

RecBoard is a student-run organization with the motto “Have Fun, Get Involved, Make a Difference.” RecBoard Vice President Ivy Jane Dimaculangan emphasized making a difference by raising money for Relay For Life.

“We didn’t want any plain old bingo,” Dimaculangan said. “At the rec center, we love to go above and beyond.”

RecBoard stayed true to this statement as it served refreshments and had a DJ playing all the students’ favorite tracks. For this event, the organization thought about how it could incorporate fun as well as fundraising.

“We were sitting in our executive board meeting, and we were thinking one thing that students are really into,” Dimaculangan said. “We realized that students were really into music.”

The Grammy Awards is an iconic night for music so members decided this would be the right theme.

Having done bingo events in the past, RecBoard came up with great prizes with the help of its leadership team: A group of students who show initiative to go the extra mile by sitting in e-board meetings. The most highly requested prize at the end of the night was a pair of tickets to Governors Ball as well as the Airpods and other cool prizes, such as a CD collection of some favorite Grammy stars. All of the tickets put in the black bags were put together to determine the winners for the music festival tickets.

Montclair State students had a great time winning cool prizes and listening to their favorite tracks. Amazon Prime student ambassadors also were a part of the fun event, calling out rounds of bingo and giving away T-shirts. They also gave students codes to save on their next Amazon purchases.

Students’ favorite artists may not have been at this event, but the stars were the students that attended, and they had a great time screaming out, “Bingo!”
Rapper Lil Baby is Bringing ‘The New Generation Tour’ to the Wellmont Theater

Atlanta rapper Lil Baby will be performing at Montclair’s Wellmont Theater on Tuesday, April 9 as part of his “The New Generation Tour.” Lil Baby will be joined by hip-hop duo City Girls and rappers Blueface, Jordan Hollywood, Marlo, Rylo Rodriguez and 42 Dugg.

“The New Generation Tour” kicked off on March 13 in Houston’s Revention Music Center. Its 25 dates include stops in Dallas, Denver, Chicago and New York before culminating in the rapper’s hometown of Atlanta on April 20. The Wellmont Theater will be the 18th stop of the tour.

Lil Baby, whose real name is Dominique Jones, was born in the rap music dominated area of Atlanta, which is known for producing some of hip-hop’s most influential artists. Gucci Mane, Future, 2 Chainz and Young Thug are some of the rappers hailing from the southern state, along with partner-in-crime Gunna, who Lil Baby credits as a major help in the start of his career.

The 24-year-old rapper is currently in the midst of one of the best stretches in his young career, quickly establishing himself as the new breed of trap music.

On May 18, 2018, Lil Baby, a member of the Quality Control label roster — which also counts rappers Migos and Lil Yachty among its ranks — released his debut studio album, “Harder Than Ever,” which included the hit single “Yes Indeed” featuring Drake. Since then, Lil Baby’s career has taken off to the point where he’s dropped two major projects since, “Drip Harder,” a joint album with Gunna that included another Drake collaboration, “Never Recover” and most recently “Street Gossip,” released on Nov. 30, 2018. The young rapper released a whopping three major projects in 2018 and is now preparing for his second headlining tour, following his 2018 “Harder Than Ever Tour.”

Lil Baby began making noise thanks to his 2017 breakout hit “My Dawg.” A track on his “Harder Than Hard” 2017 project — followed up by more hits like “All Of A Sudden” and “Freestyle” from his “Drip Harder” mixtape released during the same year.

Lil Baby has now gone “Global” — the auspiciously named single from his “Street Gossip” project that he has already performed on multiple late night shows, such as “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon” and “Jimmy Kimmel Live,” along with making multiple music festival lineups.

The way Lil Baby came into the rap game and quickly established a name for himself has even caught the attention of hip-hop veterans like Future. In a recent interview with Los Angeles radio personality Big Boy, the “Mask Off” rapper said that Lil Baby and Gunna are the “GOATs” of trap music.

“I already did what I did. I’m solidified. I’ve been the trap GOAT,” Future said in the interview. “[Lil Baby and Gunna] are right now. They them dudes.”

Having an artist of Future’s stature calling Lil Baby the “GOAT” of trap music certainly has to mean something, but Lil Baby is not letting all the hype get to him.

Prior to the announcement of Lil Baby embarking on his own tour, there was speculation over whether he would join Travis Scott and Sheck Wes on the “Astroworld” tour’s U.S. second leg of which Gunna was part of during the U.S. first leg.

However, Lil Baby is headed on his own tour. The same goes for Gunna, who is not part of the “Astroworld” tour’s second leg and instead will be headlining his own tour, the “Drip or Drown 2 Tour,” which will also be coming to The Wellmont Theater on Thursday, April 25.

Catch Lil Baby at The Wellmont Theater on Tuesday, April 9, as “The New Generation Tour” makes a stop in Montclair. Ticket prices are $29.50, $39.50 and $59.50 and can be purchased on The Wellmont Theater’s website or at the box office located at 5 Seymour St. in Montclair. Doors open at 7 p.m. with the show set to start at 8 p.m.
Is your favorite on the list? Music is everything to me. It might not be that way for everyone, but I can say with confidence that music is the language we all understand. It colors our wildest nights, gives life to the memories we create with the people we love the most and acts like a friend when we feel alone. I’ve always loved music because it makes me feel whole and provides an opportunity to bond with others. Who doesn’t love music? Haters are hard to come by.

I’m definitely the person that all of my friends and family come to when they need new music to listen to. Since I am constantly listening to playlists, albums and new artists, I have come across many who have changed me indefinitely. It has made for some great conversation with other people along the way.

Recently, I have been making it a mission to listen to albums start to finish – no skips – to fuel my ongoing search for a list of albums that I consider “all killer, no filler.” However, I have found that asking others what their favorite “all killer, no filler” albums are is not only fun but has allowed me to expand upon my own taste and discover new artists and songs that are, well, “killer.”

I decided to send a short survey to students at Montclair State University, asking what their favorite “all killer, no filler” albums of all time are and to let me know what song on that album is their favorite. I gathered your responses and was pleasantly surprised by the variety of genres and artists. Then I started listening, and man, did I come across some really great ones.

I asked. You listened, and so did I. Hopefully, this fun little venture of mine can bring you to a new song, artist or album that you don’t have to worry about skipping through. I also made a playlist on Apple Music with all of the songs that students suggested from their favorite “no skips” album. Enjoy!

Grace Giamo | The Montclarion

Grace Giamo
Contributing Writer

All Killer, No Filler Albums

“Swimming” is the 2018 album by Mac Miller.}

“Shallows” is the 2019’s best original song, “Shallows.”

The soundtrack from “A Star is Born” Photo courtesy of Interscope Records

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Grab Your Sword and Shield and Set Off on Your Next Pokemon Journey

Adrian Maldonado
Staff Writer

Pokemon fans have patiently been waiting for the first look of a new game ever since E3 2017, when the CEO of The Pokemon Company, Tsunekazu Ishihara, announced that the next mainline game in the series was in development for the Nintendo Switch. On Pokemon Day, Feb. 27, Game Freak and Nintendo held a seven-minute direct, introducing the eighth generation of the new Pokemon games, “Pokemon Sword” and “Pokemon Shield.”

The first look at these two new RPGs showcased that these games are set to take place in the beautiful Galar Region where you can explore snow-covered mountains, steampunk cities, vast open fields, gem-filled mines, battle in different stadiums and gyms in order to reach the Pokemon League and become the next champion. The Galar Region seems to be inspired by the United Kingdom because of the structure of the map and similarities.

Montclair State University junior communication and media arts major Kirk Coronacion plays “Pokemon: Let’s Go Pikachu!”

Montclair State University junior Kirk Coronacion says, “I'm looking forward to seeing more of the new Pokemon and what the new stadiums will offer.”

With the release of the spinoff games “Pokemon: Let’s Go, Pikachu!” and “Pokemon: Let’s Go, Eevee!” back in November 2018, this showed fans what the Nintendo Switch is capable of. They were so excited to see and finally learn about the new mainline Pokemon game titles.

However, many were disappointed to see the new mechanics that were introduced in “Pokemon: Let’s Go,” such as Pokemon following you around and seeing the Pokemon in the over world instead of random wild encounters that were removed for “Pokemon Sword” and “Pokemon Shield.”

The removal of old mechanics gives these games a chance to introduce new mechanics. This is still the very first look at these games. The game footage is not final, as stated in the direct. There are still many new features waiting to be announced as the developers are still trying out new ideas.

“As we work on the development of these games, our goal is to create the greatest Pokemon experience yet,” said Director of Pokemon Sword and Pokemon Shield, Shigeru Ohmori. “We’re challenging ourselves to try new things while still preserving what makes Pokemon special, so we hope you’ll all be looking forward to the adventures awaiting you in the Galar Region.”

“Pokemon Sword” and “Pokemon Shield” are both available for pre-order and are set to be released worldwide in late 2019. More information on the story of the game, new characters and never-before-seen Pokemon, including the legends of these games, are expected to be released in the near future.

New Pokemon logos are created for each game.

The game’s male protagonist throws a Pokeball, ready for battle.

New characters are created for Pokemon starters.
‘Captain Marvel’ Soars Higher, Further and Faster

Two days before Brie Larson, the star of “Captain Marvel,” surprised audiences at the Clifton Commons theater to serve popcorn and discuss the movie, I sat in the same theater, shoving my face with popcorn, anxiously awaiting Marvel’s first female-led film.

The excitement for the film was palpable as “Captain Marvel” earned $455 million during opening weekend. Captain Marvel’s origin story is inspiring and feminist without being too cavalier in its messages, proving that the Marvel Cinematic Universe is in good, proton-blasting hands.

Larson plays Vers, a warrior on the planet Kree, a humanoid planet in a distant galaxy at war with shapeshifting creatures called Skrulls. Vers lost her memory in an accident that also gave her the ability to shoot proton blasts from her fists. She spends the movie piecing together her past in between fighting Skrulls, falling through the roof of a Blockbuster video store in a well appreciated nod to the film’s ‘90s setting and teaming up with S.H.I.E.L.D agent Nick Fury to protect Earth from Skrull invasion. All in a day’s work.

Viewers expecting the film to mirror the overt themes of love and good-heartedness in “Wonder Woman” may be surprised by Larson’s portrayal of Vers as sarcastic and quick to anger, but her choices ring true as Vers adds humor and dimensionality to the film.

In an early action sequence, a Skrull roars in Vers’ face, and Vers responds with a sarcastic mimicked scream before knocking him over with one solid punch. She can deliver dry jokes just as quickly as she can throw punches, affording her a wit not often seen in female characters.

It is this confidence and underlying sarcasm that make Vers a Marvel hero unlike any other. She does not grapple with the importance of her work or the pressures of saving the world. She feels no hesitation in donning a super suit. She does not question whether she can be great, only how to be great.

As an audience member, it is refreshing to see a superhero you know will ultimately prevail skip the ‘Do I really have what it takes?’ storyline in favor of a more complex character arc: that seeks to reveal how Vers can be great, not if she can be.

Vers becomes great through the support of those around her. Samuel L. Jackson’s de-aged Nick Fury offers Vers advice and a witty partner, and Lashana Lynch delivers a standout performance as Maria Rambeau, a friend from Vers’ past. She reminds Vers that she was strong even before she could shoot fire from her fists, which propels the plot forward and adds a touching example of powerful women lifting each other up.

The well-explored friendship between the two women feels natural and serves as a superior alternative to the overdone and often underdeveloped love story in many superhero movies. Their easy relationship roots the film in its feminist values without being too over the top. Rambeau subtly reminds Vers that she is strong not despite of but because of her emotions.

As a human woman, I’m familiar with people telling me my emotions are holding me back, so when one of Vers’ adversaries told her to stop fighting him with her emotions and to fight in a way that he found to be honorable, I almost cried when Vers coolly responded with, “I have nothing to prove to you,” before proton blasting him out of frame. Again, it was a clear and succinct display of female empowerment without being overbearing.

While Vers journey to piece together her past on earth is well-developed, the Skrull war storyline is noticeably weaker. It is never explained why the Kree and Skrulls are at war, which makes it difficult for audience members to become truly invested in the war that is supposed to serve as the catalyst for the story. The lack of audience investment in this arc makes the twists lackluster and unable to fully achieve the reaction they were intended to.

I had high hopes for Marvel’s first female-fronted movie, and I was not disappointed. It might not blow minds like “Avengers: Infinity War,” but “Captain Marvel” soars higher, further and faster with complex characters and a strong feminist foundation. Now all we have to do is wait for “Avengers: End Game” to see just how high Captain Marvel can fly.
Coen Brothers Movies

“The Ballad of Buster Scruggs” is an anthology western film written and directed by Joel and Ethan Coen. The six unique stories explore the comedy and tragedy of the American West. This film has an all-star cast that includes James Franco as an outlaw that just can’t seem to be executed properly, Tim Blake Nelson as a singing gunslinger moseying through the Wild West, Liam Neeson as a grim impresario profiting off of a talented quadruple amputee, Tom Waits as a committed prospector searching for gold and more.

The Coen brothers’ newest film is both dark and silly, and many times extremely violent. “The Ballad of Buster Scruggs” is a great movie to stream for those who are fans of the brothers’ past work, and those who enjoy the Western genre.

- Shafir Hasan
Assistant Entertainment Editor

No Country for Old Men

“No Country for Old Men” is based around a failed relationship. Of Cake” is based around a failed relationship. It almost feels like a parody of a Weezer song. The lyrics feel disjointed.

“Living in L.A.” is an interesting song. It almost feels like a parody of a Weezer song. The lyrics feel disjointed, as if lines were pulled randomly from a hat and are connected by a very generic chorus.

“I’m Just Being Honest” and “Too Many Thoughts In My Head” are probably the closest to actual rock songs that you’ll find on “Black Album.” Like many of Weezer’s best songs, they are personal stories about events in Cuomo’s life, which are always slightly awkward and dorky but also incredibly endearing.

While I really like the majority of the songs on “Black Album,” the album as a whole leaves something to be desired. The alternative rock sounds of previous releases seem to have been replaced entirely by a tamer synth-pop sort of sound. While this experimentation is important for a band with such a long history, the lack of driving alt-rock tracks gives “Black Album” a lack of drive or momentum.

Past Weezer releases have often had an encompassing message, such as “Pinkerton’s” personal tales of frustration and isolation or “Red Album’s” cries of longing for the nostalgic past. Instead, “Black Album” is a collection of 10 seemingly unrelated songs, connected only by a common sound and a vague disdain for those who want Weezer to make music a certain way.

With two self-titled albums already released this year and with two more releases not far off, Weezer seems to be looking for a big comeback. While “Black Album” isn’t a perfect record, it does show a willingness to experiment with new sounds and the potential for self-reflection. The pieces don’t fit together into anything mind-blowing, but the individual songs themselves are all enjoyable.

Weezer plays a show at the City of Trees Festival at Bonny Field in Sacramento, California in 2016.

Thomas McNulty
Staff Writer

It was 25 years ago that Weezer first arrived on the rock scene with their self-titled studio debut that has since come to be known as “Blue Album.” After a quarter of a decade filled with hits and misses, frontman Rivers Cuomo and his pals show no signs of slowing their roll. After releasing their self-titled cover album, “Teal Album,” earlier this year, Weezer has finally released their 13th album, dubbed “Black Album.”

Despite its ominous title, “Black Album” still sounds very much like Weezer. Its 10-song track list consists of several catchy pop numbers, with a few of them leaning heavily into synthetic sounds. The lyrics are fun with the dark wit and angst that should be expected from Weezer, mixed with some commentary on the band’s current place in the world.

The album feels very self-aware, with a number of songs making reference to the band’s recent return to the spotlight and many fans’ longing for an album more similar to their first couple of releases. Multiple tracks have dark lyrics that are contrasted by their upbeat pop melodies, but this is much less a feature of “Black Album” specifically and more of a staple of Cuomo’s writing style.

Lyrical, the only thing that makes “Black Album” stand apart from Weezer’s previous albums is the explicit language, something that was previously foreign in the band’s discography. This fails to make the album feel more mature, but it is an interesting bit of experimentation that gives this album some unique character.

The album’s opening track, “Can’t Knock The Hustle” is an incredibly catchy tune that blends a funk sound with some incredibly self-deprecating lyrics. The narcissism of social media seems to be the topic of discussion here, as Cuomo invites listeners to, “Leave a five-star review, and I’ll leave you one, too.”

“Zombie Bastards” is a direct message to a vocal part of Weezer’s fan base, who long for a new album similar to the band’s earlier releases. With lines like, “If I die means I lived my life / And that’s much better than hiding in a hole,” it’s very clear that Cuomo has no interest in just reanimating an old album. He’s determined to keep evolving and changing, not shuffling around like a zombie.

“High as a Kite” and “Piece of Cake” are also stand-out tracks. They are two very upbeat and poppy songs that tackle dark and serious subject matter. “High as a Kite” deals with the need to escape reality entirely, due to having no sense of self-worth or value, while “Piece of Cake” is based around a failed relationship.

“Living in L.A.” is an interesting song. It almost feels like a parody of a Weezer song. The lyrics feel disjointed, as if lines were pulled randomly from a hat and are connected by a very generic chorus.

“I’m Just Being Honest” and “Too Many Thoughts In My Head” are probably the closest to actual rock songs that you’ll find on “Black Album.” Like many of Weezer’s best songs, they are personal stories about events in Cuomo’s life, which are always slightly awkward and dorky but also incredibly endearing.

While I really like the majority of the songs on “Black Album,” the album as a whole leaves something to be desired. The alternative rock sounds of previous releases seem to have been replaced entirely by a tamer synth-pop sort of sound. While this experimentation is important for a band with such a long history, the lack of driving alt-rock tracks gives “Black Album” a lack of drive or momentum.

Past Weezer releases have often had an encompassing message, such as “Pinkerton’s” personal tales of frustration and isolation or “Red Album’s” cries of longing for the nostalgic past. Instead, “Black Album” is a collection of 10 seemingly unrelated songs, connected only by a common sound and a vague disdain for those who want Weezer to make music a certain way.

With two self-titled albums already released this year and with two more releases not far off, Weezer seems to be looking for a big comeback. While “Black Album” isn’t a perfect record, it does show a willingness to experiment with new sounds and the potential for self-reflection. The pieces don’t fit together into anything mind-blowing, but the individual songs themselves are all enjoyable.

Photo courtesy of Netflix

Photo courtesy of Netflix

Photo courtesy of Netflix

Photo courtesy of Crush Music and Atlantic Records

“Black Album” portrays itself as dark and rustic, a more mature Weezer for today’s sensibilities.

Photo courtesy of Picadew via Flickr

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**THU 3/21**
- Softball vs. Centenary University 3 p.m.
- Baseball at Lehman College 3:30 p.m.
- Softball vs. Centenary University 5 p.m.

**FRI 3/22**
- Softball vs. Keene State College 2 p.m.
- Softball vs. Keene State College 4 p.m.

**SAT 3/23**
- Baseball vs. Oneonta 11:30 a.m.
- Women’s Lacrosse vs. Rowan University 1 p.m.
- Student-Athlete Day

**SUN 3/24**
- WLAX at SUNY Geneseo 1 p.m.
- SB vs. DeSales University 1 p.m.
- BB vs. Neumann University 2 p.m.
- BB vs. DeSales University 3 p.m.

**MON 3/25**
- No Games

**TUE 3/26**
- Softball vs. Hunter College 3 p.m.
- Softball vs. Hunter College 5 p.m.
- Men’s Lacrosse at Stevens Institute of Technology 7 p.m.

**WED 3/27**
- Women’s Lacrosse vs. Colby College 3 p.m.
- Baseball vs. DeSales University 3:30 p.m.

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**Men’s and Women’s Swimming: Season in Review**

Swimmers hit new highs as they look forward to next season

From left to right: Seniors Mick VanOosten, Kevin Gibson and Kevin Clauss pose for a photo at a meet.

*Photo courtesy of Mick VanOosten*

Corey Annan
Assistant Sports Editor

Often overlooked with regards to some of the top athletic programs here at Montclair State University, both the men’s and women’s swim teams have proven this year that they are an emerging threat in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC).

For the men’s squad, a 3-5 record may be frowned upon when you look at just their season. However, the team has had a fairly tough schedule this season, featuring two Division I opponents in Seton Hall and Monmouth University, and the eventual NJAC champions, Rowan University.

However, Montclair State did have quality conference wins over teams such as Ramapo College and William Paterson University to finish the dual meet season off.

Senior captain Mick VanOosten, who specializes in the freestyle and backstroke events, agreed that competing against these strong programs helped motivate them later in the season.

“Swimming in these faster and competitive [dual] meets only motivated us to get better,” VanOosten said. “We wanted to beat those guys at Metropolitan Championship.”

Speaking of Metropolitan Championships, the team did not disappoint, placing sixth out of 14 teams in a very competitive championship meet. It was highlighted by a fifth-place finish from the 400 freestyle relay led by seniors Charles Cobo and Kevin Henningsen, as well as freshman Greg Karback and senior Hunter Romanowski.

Along with the three seniors, the men’s team will face an additional loss of six seniors to graduation next year, including Kevin Clauss, who holds the record for the 100 backstroke. Many of these seniors have played an integral role to the team this season, and many underclassmen will have to fill the void next season.

VanOosten believes the team is in good hands with the returning swimmers coming back, citing swimmers such as senior Kevin Gibson and freshmen Karback and Lazzaro Valades to help lead the team next season.

Brian McLaughlin, head coach of the men’s and women’s swim programs, has maintained realistic expectations for the men’s program heading into next season.

“We have two diving teams here at Montclair State. Speaking of the coaching staff, McLaughlin also maintains that his supporting coaches, Krystlin Swift and Jenny Ullman, have done a great job with her,” McLaughlin said.

As for the future, the team looks to be in good hands with swimmers such as junior Maddie Franke, sophomore Emily Rothamel and freshman Taylor Waddleton all stepping up big time this season for the team. Franke broke the 50 freestyle and 100 freestyle records this past season, and her times have dropped tremendously.

Waddleton has credited the coaching staff and the quality training they have provided the team.

“She has had a plethora of accomplishments and awards to her name, including countless Diver of the Week and All-Conference selections. She will be returning to the Division III Northeast Regional Championships in hopes of qualifying for nationals for the second straight year.”

However, her most recent accomplishment, winning Diver of the Meet at the Metropolitan Championships, only adds to her amazing legacy here at Montclair State.

As for the women’s program, the team has easily been one of the most under-rated athletic programs that Montclair State has had. After having a highly successful season last year, the women’s team finished with a respectable 5-3 record with a 4-1 record in conference play this season.

The dual meet season was highlighted by a signature win over powerhouse The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), 161-128. This was one of the biggest wins of the seasons, considering TCNJ is a perennial regional power in swimming as well as in the NJAC. This was the second straight win against the team after breaking a 30-year win drought against them last year.

The team was highly talented from top to bottom, but the main star of the team was diver Grace Nielsen, one of the best female athletes here at Montclair State. She has had a plethora of accomplishments and awards to her name, including countless Diver of the Week and All-Conference selections. She will be returning to the Division III Northeast Regional Championships in hopes of qualifying for nationals for the second straight year.

However, her most recent accomplishment, winning Diver of the Meet at the Metropolitan Championships, only adds to her amazing legacy here at Montclair State.

Her secret to success? Consistency.

“Staying consistent has always been my key. I’m just always trusting in the training and process,” Nielsen said. “My coaches have been pushing me to do things that they’ve known that I could always do.”

Speaking of the coaching staff, McLaughlin also maintains that her supporting cast has been exceptional.

“We have two diving coaches, Krystlin Swift and Jenny Ullman, who have done a great job with her,” McLaughlin said.

As for the future, the team looks to be in good hands with swimmers such as junior Maddie Franke, sophomore Emily Rothamel and freshman Taylor Waddleton all stepping up big time this season for the team. Franke broke the 50 freestyle and 100 freestyle records this past season, and her times have dropped tremendously.

Waddleton has credited the coaching staff and the quality training they have provided the team.

“I’ve had problems swimming smarter rather than harder during meets, but the coaches have helped me swim a lot smarter in meets this season,” Waddleton said.

With the loss of only two seniors this year, Franke believes this is just the start of big things to come for the women’s swim program.

“Going into next year we now have the confidence to beat teams like Ramapo and TCNJ, and [and look forward] to even giving Rowan a run for their money at NJAC title,” Franke said.
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“In America, the President reigns for four years, but Journalism governs forever.” – Oscar Wilde

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New York Red Bulls II Defeats Swope Park Rangers, 3-1, in Season Opener

Two goals by Barlow lifts Red Bulls II at MSU Soccer Park

The New York Red Bulls (NYRB) II defeated the Swope Park Rangers, 3-1, in their United Soccer League (USL) Championship season opener at MSU Soccer Park. A brace from Tom Barlow and a goal from Marcus Epps secured the three points for NYRB II who started the season in dominating fashion.

NYRB II's first game of the 2019 USL Championship featured a rematch of the 2016 USL Cup Final against Swope Park Rangers – sporting Kansas City's USL affiliate – which resulted in a 5-1 victory for John Wolyniec's men. Saturday's encounter marked just the second time the two sides faced each other.

Early in the first half, NYRB II quickly dictated the pace of the game and presented a constant threat to the Rangers' backline. Within the first 15 minutes, NYRB II had an astonishing five shots on target, with none of them being converted to a goal. The first 15 minutes also featured a NYRB II side that proved too much to handle for the Rangers, with constant counterattacks and dominant ball possession, along with Epps having the backline on their toes with constant runs.

The Rangers struggled to keep the ball when it was in their possession and quickly lost it due to a lack of communication that went from the backline to the midfield. Still, the game remained scoreless with NYRB II failing to put the ball behind the back of the net. The finishing problems continued in the 25th minute when Florian Valot provided Barlow with a slick through ball, leaving him one-on-one against Rangers goalie Eric Dick inside the box, again resulting in another grand save.

Barlow's luck changed one minute later when Epps provided a through ball from midfield, with Barlow beating Rangers' backline to the ball, then beating Dick to the ball to then shoot toward an empty goal. The Rangers' only shot on target lead to a goal when Jerome Mbekeli made his way past a struggling Allen Yanes, delivering a cross from the right flank to Felipe Hernandez who fired a first touch shot from inside the box passed NYRB II's Evan Louro.

The second half featured a NYRB II side that looked to seal the game once and for all, avoiding to start the season letting points slip at home, a problem the team suffered last season due to allowing last minutes goals at MSU Soccer Park.

After an incredible display in the first half in which Epps tallied an assist and created multiple opportunities to score, Epps was rewarded with his first goal of the season and first goal as a NYRB II player in the 53rd minute.

NYRB II scored three goals in their season opener at MSU Soccer Park.

For the remainder of the game, NYRB II continued to create opportunities but ultimately settled for the 3-1 victory in front of a crowd of 727 spectators at MSU Soccer Park. NYRB II's next game will be on Saturday, March 24th against Nashville SC at MSU Soccer Park with kickoff set for 1 p.m.

NYRB II's next home game is March 24 against Nashville SC.