Montclair State Students Bring the Heat to Global Climate Strike

Read more on page 4

Crossword puzzle & more on pg. 10 and 11
Correction

A story in last week’s Montclarion about a former advisor of Sigma Pi should have emphasized that the story was based on allegations made from the authorities.

Red Hawk Rap Sheet

Monday, Sept. 16
Barton Hall: Patrol officers responded in regards to a report of theft. Officers were met on the scene by a male student, who reported that the Mezuzah that hung outside of his door had been stolen. This incident is under investigation.

Tuesday, Sept. 17
University Hall: Patrol officers observed a bollard that was knocked down in front of the area. This incident is under investigation.

Wednesday, Sept. 18
Blanton Hall: Patrol officers responded in regards to an ongoing pattern of harassment. Several female students reported being the subject of at least 10 incidents of knock and run, whereby an individual or group of individuals knocks on their door then proceeds to run away causing the students annoyance and alarm. This incident is under investigation.

Wednesday, Sept. 18
Police Headquarters: A female student came in to report an incident of theft in the past. On Tuesday, Sept. 17, the student reported attending class in the Felician School of Business. After returning from class, the student observed that her laptop and Apple watch chargers had been stolen from her school bag. This incident is under investigation.

Wednesday, Sept. 18
Calcia Hall and the Student Center Quad: Patrol officers responded to the area in regards to an incident of harassment. Officers were met on the scene by a female student who reported feeling uncomfortable and scared after an interaction she had with an unknown male. The male engaged the student in conversation and proceeded grab the student’s wrist in an attempt to prevent her from leaving. The student then ran away and contacted police. The student indicated that she did not wish to file a complaint against the male at the present time. The male was escorted off campus by university police without incident.

Sunday, Sept. 22
Police Headquarters: A female student came in to report an incident involving a suspicious person in the past. On Tuesday, Sept. 17, the student reported being approached by an unknown male outside of the Student Center. The male asked the student to go out with him, for a hug and for her phone number. The student said no to the unknown male several times before she finally hid in a bathroom stall in Schmidt Hall in an effort to escape him. The student did not wish to file a complaint at this time, and was offered a student resource card for further assistance.

Sunday, Sept. 22
Parker Hall: Patrol officers responded in regards to an incident of domestic violence harassment. Officers were met on the scene by a female student who reported engaging in a verbal dispute with her male roommate. The student did not wish to pursue charges against the male at this time.

Anyone who has information regarding these incidents is urged to call the police station at T-I-P-S (8477). All calls are strictly confidential.
President Cole and Administrators Expecting Pay Raise After Tuition Spike

Brian Rooney
Assistant Opinion Editor

Susan Cole’s new $600,000 salary is approved after student costs see another increase, sparking frustration among student body.

Following a vote to increase student tuition, President Susan Cole will be receiving another pay raise, resulting in a base income of $587,000.

The last Board of Trustees meeting resulted in a 3.5% pay raise approval for managerial administrators. The pay raise increased President Cole’s yearly salary from $455,000 to $471,000.

Additionally, the board agreed to provide President Cole with a $91,000 performance bonus, as well as a retention bonus of $25,000. President Cole’s salary was increased with 2.7% along with an $88,000 performance bonus last year.

President Cole also receives unpublished automobile and housing allowances, despite living cost-free on university property.

Following a $37,680 tax-free pension payment to her retirement account, President Cole will be given close to $630,000 for the 2019-2020 school year.

Less than one month ago, the board voted to increase student tuition by 2.2%.

Board members explained the increase in tuition and other costs by stating that Montclair State University is one of the most underfunded state schools in New Jersey, and university enrollment has seen a recent spike, a tuition increase was inevitable.

Some Montclair State students believe the money going toward President Cole’s salary would be better spent elsewhere.

Eddy Casey, a junior business major had his own thoughts about what the money should be spent on. “Dining services need to be improved, Sam’s Place is legitimately unsanitary,” Casey said. “If [President] Cole gets free transportation to campus everyday, I should be able to park wherever I want if I pay $315.”

Jordan Lewis, a junior in information and technology major, thought the money could be allotted to dorms or the bookstore.

“Bohn Hall needs its kitchen replaced and air conditioning put in,” Lewis said. “Books for students can be made less expensive. My friend had to pay over $300 for one book and an access code for a class she is taking for one semester.”

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy proposed a 2020 budget of $1.65 billion to directly support higher education institutions in New Jersey, $14 million more than 2019. That new $14 million will be divided amongst New Jersey’s 13 public, four-year colleges and universities, and roughly $1 million will go towards each school.

The board’s vote for the 3.5% managerial salary increase raised the budget for salaries by over $7 million, despite only being given $1 million more than last year by the state.

The total expense budget for the 2019-2020 school year was set at $428.9 million. About 50% of that budget, over $214 million, goes to salary and wages of administrators, professors, faculty and other staff.

In an article from NJ Spotlight.com President Cole responded to Murphy’s new budget by stating, “While I’m grateful for the small amount of money that came that way, truly I am, and for the effort behind it, it’s not enough.”

In-State Annual Tuition

Out-of-State Tuition

A chart demonstrating the in-state annual tuition rates for college students at each New Jersey university.

A chart demonstrating the out-of-state tuition rates for New Jersey university students at different schools.
Montclair State Students Bring the Heat to Global Climate Strike

Sam Carliner
Contributing Writer

Montclair State University student, Michelle Rodriguez, joined an estimated four million people attending the Global Climate Strike. Rodriguez, a senior nutrition major, had not been to any protests before, but felt compelled to attend this one.

“In my circle, I don’t think we’re as involved as we could be,” Rodriguez said. “I’m trying to make that change in my circle. If you’re not going to do it, I want to do it by myself.”

Rodriguez was not by herself. She was joined by her William Paterson University friend, Alba Bidal. Together, they were part of a protest that reportedly took place within 150 countries from all seven continents.

The event Rodriguez and Bidal attended took place in downtown Montclair, New Jersey, at the corner of Bloomfield Avenue and Church Street. The protest, which began at 5:30 p.m., was the second protest in Montclair, New Jersey that day. An earlier protest took place that day at 10 a.m., when students from Montclair High School chose to organize a walkout.

Aside from the Montclair High School protest, there were five students from Columbia High School in Maplewood, New Jersey, who had organized their own walkout, also at 10 a.m. that day.

The students are all members of activist organizations at their school. Jordan Muhammad and Sylvie Schuetz are members of the Students for Justice Club, while David Harper, Laila Gold and Emmy Cramer are members of the Environmental Club. They all had a lot to say about their concern for climate change.

“The climate crisis is the most important issue facing our generation currently,” Gold said. “As high schoolers, we really can make a difference when it comes to climate change, and we need to continue making that difference until we see change.”

Muhammad spoke on the importance of taking action and on the impact she feels activism has.

“Just how a teacher can change someone’s life. One speech and one fact can also change someone’s life,” Muhammad said. “I just so strongly believe that we can’t give up on people.”

The students said they planned their walkout in less than two weeks, and will continue to spread activism by hosting events such as clothing drives, trash pickups and events that help with voter registration.

The climate strike has been widely coordinated by young people. It began with Swedish student, Greta Thunberg, who skipped school every Friday to protest climate change. This was the second globally coordinated strike. The first took place earlier this year in March.

Despite being a movement generally led by young people, those in attendance at the Montclair, New Jersey protest were mostly middle-aged adults and seniors. One senior, Virginia Scott-Fleming, was at the event with her husband and commented that she felt the turnout was large.

“It’s very popular,” Scott-Fleming said. “Usually there’s about 10 people standing here, marching for peace, but this is for climate.”

Many of those at the protest directly criticized the government for not doing enough to respond to climate change. Some people waved signs calling for Gov. Phil Murphy to divest from fossil fuels. A representative from New Jersey Peace Action gave a speech in which he provided statistics on the U.S. military’s whopping number of carbon dioxide emissions and criticized the media’s lack of coverage on climate change.

“To talk about something, to talk about a cause that you really care about and want to support, it’s all talk,” Rodriguez said. “You have to actually be physically here or do whatever you can.”
Montclair State University is Ready to Help Those Affected by Hurricane Dorian

Kelvin Jimenez Michaca
Contributing Writer

Just several weeks after Hurricane Dorian stormed through the Bahamas and part of the United States and Canada, Montclair State University is ready to help those affected by this devastation.

Hurricane Dorian made landfall on the Bahamas while the Montclair State community was approaching the start of the fall semester. The category five hurricane proved to be relentless when it left more than 70,000 people homeless and caused at least 43 fatalities, according to cnn.com.

On Sept. 21, Montclair State’s student services published an announcement, “Hurricane Dorian Bahamas Relief Donations,” which lists the eligible items for donation and where to drop the items off on campus. The relief drive is a collaborative effort organized by the Student Government Association (SGA), Caribbean Student Organization (CaribSo) and Office of International Engagement (IE).

Ashley Rosario, a sophomore communications and media major, lived in Humacao, Puerto Rico when Hurricane Maria devastated the island two years ago.

“It takes me back [to Hurricane Maria] anytime I see news of destruction,” Rosario said. “To be honest, sometimes the hurricane feels like it happened yesterday.”

Rosario shared how people can help those affected. “Send canned food, anything you can do. At the end of the day any little bit helps,” Rosario said.

Kayla Henry, a senior public health major, who is responsible for public relations for CaribSo, is also involved in organizing the donations.

“There are about a dozen students at Montclair State from the Bahamas, so we want to make sure we are supporting them while they are away from home, and that they feel safe and welcome,” Henry said.

In the days prior to the announcement of the relief drive, organization leaders and administrators were in conversation about helping those affected by Hurricane Dorian abroad and at Montclair State.

Jane Ann Williams, the associate provost from IE, shared that Montclair State is trying to help those affected.

“We are actively working on this and helping our Bahamian students on campus too,” Williams said.

As relief efforts were in the works, it was revealed in a Red Hawk News email to the class of 2020 that the senior trip would be a nine-day cruise to Bermuda, Half Moon Cay and Nassau, Bahamas.

The trip was also announced on the SGA’s Instagram account, sga_msu, where it was met with as much excitement as it did criticism. The post received 309 likes and 27 comments.

One student, under the Instagram username storm-saunders-dittimus, discussed the response from Bahamian students at Montclair State.

“The SGA has been in dialogue with our Bahamian students who have expressed their encouragement to move ahead with the planned senior trip, in support of the Bahamian tourist economy,” Saunders-Dittimus said.

Bahamas is the most tourism-dependent economy in the Caribbean, and tourism accounts for 60% of the Bahamas $9 billion economy, according to cnn.com.

Asia Suggs, an undeclared health major, who is responsible for public relations for CaribSo, in particular.

“A perfect example includes the organization CaribSo, who have been actively collecting supplies for those in need, in the Bahamas,” Suggs said. “They’re spreading awareness through their [social] media page as well as word of mouth.”

SGA, CaribSo, and IE will continue their efforts in retrieving donations from now until Oct. 23.

Montclair State University flyer for Hurricane Dorian Relief Donations

“Send canned food, anything you can do. At the end of the day any little bit helps”

- Ashley Rosario, sophomore communications and media major
University Students Play with Tie-Dye in Honor of Bisexuality Day

On Monday, the Student Center Quad hosted an event to celebrate Bisexuality day. The event had students pick up shirts and soak them in the colored dye of their choosing. The purpose of the event was to give a sense of community to those who identify as LGBTQ, along with those who support the movement.
Join us and learn what graduate school can do for you.

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, October 27, 2019
10:30 A.M. | University Hall

Register Now | montclair.edu/graduate/oh

Montclair State University
On Feb. 14, 2018, a school shooting occurred at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. All across the country, high school students took a stand against gun violence. Elena Perez, 18, was one of those students.

Perez was a student at Lyndhurst High School when the Parkland shooting occurred. Elsa Todd, Perez’s mother, explained what motivated her daughter to start protesting.

“She was deeply impacted by Sandy Hook as a child and, as with many others, Parkland was a tipping point for her,” Todd said.

Perez, now a student at Montclair State University, originally began activism work before Parkland by volunteering for the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI).

“I started working in seventh grade,” Perez said. “I did this presentation at school, and after that I worked at NAMI just raising money.”

After Parkland, she got involved with March for our Lives. Before the march, Todd recalls being concerned for her daughter’s well-being.

“A couple weeks before, I started having misgivings,” Todd said. “I really thought something bad may happen, and while I’m okay taking risks with myself, I’m not with Elena.”

When she discussed canceling their trip to the District of Columbia to join the protest, Perez reassured her mother that this was something she needed to do.

“Mom, if we are afraid to stand up for what we believe in, then we are already dead,” Perez said.

Todd soon realized that activism is her daughter’s calling.

“Since that day, I realized she’s meant to do what she does and clipping her wings would do her, and the rest of the world, a disservice,” Todd said.

After the March for our Lives protest in March of 2018, Perez got involved on a local level in New Jersey. She founded the Bergen County chapter of March for our Lives, and was recently named New Jersey State Director of the organization.

Perez is not only a gun violence advocate, she also cares about LGBTQ issues, racial and gender inequality and suicide prevention.

With her activism work she has had to make some sacrifices.

“I see the sacrifices she makes,” Todd said. “There are, at times, big events, such as her last high school pep rally, which had to be missed because she was speaking at an event or she has to go to D.C. to lobby.”

Despite how serious the issues are, Perez and her fellow activists aren’t all serious all the time.

“I love seeing how the young people involved in activism are really there for each other and are quite silly at times,” Todd said. “They know that they have to be [silly] so they don’t burn out.”

Perez has other hobbies and interests outside of activism. She is also an avid reader.

“I read a lot and I hang out at Barnes & Noble a lot,” Perez said. “The people who work there know me.”

Perez’s favorite is Harper Lee’s classic novel ‘To Kill a Mockingbird.’

Hailey Mayewski is a freshman
at Montclair State, and Perez’s best friend. She recognizes that Perez is making a difference, even through small gestures and acts of kindness.

“Elena is the person that you call when you get a flat tire,” Mayewski said. “She’s always there and willing to help.”

Mayewski has a sense of pride about her friend’s accomplishments.

“Not many people can say that Cory Booker knows their best friends name,” Mayewski said.

“If we are afraid to stand up for what we believe in, then we are already dead.”

-Elena Perez
**Help Wanted**

**$12-$15 hourly / Student Photographer and interior design internship / Montclair**

A high end interior designer in the Montclair area has 2 paid internship positions available. They are looking for a student to work with their team one day per week or even bi-monthly taking detail shots of some of their interiors, and shooting candid shots of them working on client projects. Candidate must have their own camera and own transportation, and be open to some training in using a camera and an editing program like Photoshop. The 2nd internship opportunity would be on the design side, following up with vendors, on orders, helping prep for client presentations, making digital furniture/fabric collages, etc. Must have Photoshop and Microsoft Office experience, be positive, hardworking and punctual. Both positions pay $12 - $15 per hour for both positions, up to 8 hrs a week for each. If interested please contact sarahelizabethdecor@gmail.com

**$3999 / 2007 Toyota Prius - Blue four door**

Car for sale with 105,000 miles. Sell as is - Good condition, State Inspection current, no accidents, brand new battery. If interested, please call or text (411) 302-3522

**$24-$27 / Part Time Home Health Aide/CNA**

An entrepreneur seeking a reliable home health aide for 84 year old mom. Applicant must have 1+ years of experience. Candidate must be available Monday - Friday, 5 hrs daily with a hourly pay rate of $24-$27. If you are interested contact Mr. Edwards (edwards2000@gmail.com) for more details.

**Mother’s helper needed / 3-4 days per week / Montclair**

Looking for a reliable and kind after school babysitter / mother’s helper for two children ages 2 and 4. Responsibilities include helping with dinner; bath time, and light cleanup. Hours are approximately 4:30 pm - 3:45 pm / day. Occasional weekend babysitting as well. Prior experience with children preferable. Please email: jordykreisman@gmail.com with resume.

**Reliable After School Babysitter needed / 5 days a week / Montclair**

Looking for a reliable and kind after school babysitter / mother’s helper for two girls (ages 10 and 5) starting asap. Responsibilities include picking up at the bus stop or at school, driving to after school activities in the Montclair area, prepping dinner & light clean up. Possibly more hours available a needed basis. Hours are 3:30/3:45/5:30/5:45 Monday through Friday. Prior experience with children, clean driving record, and use of own reliable vehicle preferred. Please email: mhorowitz7@yahoo.com

**After-School Care / 3 days a week / Cedar Grove**

Looking for reliable child care T, W, Th, 2:40-4:30 for a 13 year old. Includes picking up our son at school in Cedar Grove and bringing him to our home. Must have clean driving record and like pets! Available immediately. Please email ldfranzese@verizon.net.

**$25 hourly / Math tutor needed / Teaneck or Skye**

Tutor needed for 5th and 6th grade material. Please send email to snowball7091@aol.com (Attn Barbara Farkas).

**Seeking a graduate student in Psychology or Education / Teaneck or Skye**

Must have the ability to break down material into small learning outcomes. The successful candidate must have strong skills in posing planning and organizing materials in preparation for an Early Childhood Certification Examination. Please send resume, experience, availability and hourly rate to snowball7091@aol.com (Attention Barbara Farkas).

**In search of an after-school sitter for our 4 y/o son**

Would involve picking up at his preschool by 6pm, driving him home, and hanging out until my husband or I get home from work (usually by 6:45, 7:15 at the latest). We will need the occasional day in September, but by October need M-F. We both work in the city so we need someone reliable and willing to commit. It’s a very easy gig for the right person. If willing/ available, there is also the opportunity for extended hours on nights when we both need to work late. Please contact amandadekker85@gmail.com if interested.

**$150-$250 per week / dog walker needed**

Looking for an individual, to walk dogs, part time, in the Montclair/ Glen Ridge area, starting immediately. Responsibilities include: walks, occasional transport, feed/ water/pooping/picking up/overnight sitting. Candidate must have a love for animals, be reliable, honest and have great references. Hours needed are Monday through Friday, from 11:00am — 2:30pm. Use of own, reliable vehicle required. If interested, please email: errowdick@comcast.net, or text (973) 819-9893.

**$20/HR: Driver/Dog walker needed for Upper Montclair family**

Seeking a responsible person to assist Upper Montclair family with driving 8th and 10th graders from school and to/from sports and music practices, and walking friendly dog. Must have reliable car and good driving record, and strong references. Nonsmoking home. Flexible for weekdays/weeknights, but reliability is critical. Please contact: judgermano@gmail.com.

**$20/ Babysitter Needed, Montclair**

Looking for a reliable and kind part-time babysitter for two children (ages 8 and 10), starting 9/10. Responsibilities include: picking up at school, transporting to and from after school activities, helping with homework, and some light meal prep. Please be a non-smoker who is CPR certified with a clean driving record. Use of own reliable vehicle required. For our part, we are easy to work with and our children are respectful and kind. The schedule is: September-June, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 2:30-7:00, with the potential for an additional day. If interested, please email: tonyquez21@yahoo.com

**$18 / Experienced childcare giver/nanny**

In need of a childcare giver to start work immediately. He/she would be working for up to 5 hours daily. Mon Fri. If interested or for further details, please email: stephen.kamar@outlook.com

**$15-$19 / After school childcare needed 3 days a week, Livingston**

Looking for childcare for a boy and girl (ages 1.1 and 11) starting 9/4/19. Responsibilities include picking up at school, transporting to and after school activities in Livingston and nearby towns, helping with homework (mostly just making sure they do it), and maybe helping with preparing dinner. Both children are easy going and independent, and really good kids. Regular hours are: 3:00-7:30 Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Prior experience with children preferred, use of own reliable vehicle required, and please provide references. If interested, please email: suzaronson@gmail.com

**Part Time Cashier for Local Bakery**

Nicolo’s Italian Bakery and Deli is a local bakery looking for part-time help. The job requires taking care of customers, making change and light cleaning. The hours are Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 8-2. There is opportunity for more hours if requested. If interested please call Nicole 973-454-4861

**ARE YOU IN CRISIS OR STRUGGLING? HEALING, HOPE AND HELP CAN HELP. PEN!**

Please CALL the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 (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.
The Montclarion Crossword Puzzle and More!

NFL Edition

Across
4. A team out of Florida that shares a name with a sea animal.
6. A “large” team out of New York.
7. A team that shares a name with our nation’s bird.
8. This team won the Super Bowl LIII.

Down
1. A team that shares the name with those who live on a ranch.
2. A team out of Buffalo, New York that can also be a person’s worst nightmare.
3. A team that shares a name with parts of an airplane.
5. A team in Pennsylvania that’s name sounds similar to a type of crook.

Sudoku

*For answers to the puzzles, please check The Montclarion Facebook page every Thursday.*
Administrators Get a Raise While Tuition Continues to Rise

Every year when the campus is vacant during the summer, President Cole and the Montclair State University Board of Trustees arrange for a meeting to discuss the state of student annual tuition. As in previous years, state funding for the university continues to dwindle down, putting the cost of running our educational institution on the backs of the students, many of whom struggle to make that end of summer tuition deadline. What makes it harder for them is the fact that tuition was spiked once again this semester.

According to a statement from the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Local 1904 and confirmed a university spokesperson, the board approved a 3.5% raise to multiple university managers including Cole, whose annual salary is now over $600,000.

What many students find hard to understand is how the university is able to award these pay raises with no increase in state funding and multiple construction projects. This leads them to think that these raises are coming out of their pockets.

Student tuition has continued to increase throughout the decade, covering over half of the university’s total revenue. This means that aside from loans and grants, the majority of projects approved by the board is coming from the students, which places a huge burden on students wanting to receive a higher education. Even though tuition at Montclair State is not as expensive as other public colleges and universities in New Jersey, 4.7% of students still have defaulted or failed to pay off their student loans.

The Montclair State student body is composed of a diverse community from different upbringing and backgrounds. There are some students who are fortunate enough to pay their tuition bills and not worry about paying every cent back after they graduate, but there are others who are forced to work multiple jobs and register as part-time students in order to pay per credit and afford to sustain themselves.

While these administrators are well deserving of recognition of their hard work, when students find out about the pay raises along with the increasing tuition, it makes them feel disconnected to the school they love. They want to see their tuition go toward things that they too can benefit from. All of us respect and appreciate the hard work President Cole has done for the university over the past two decades. Without her leadership and support, Montclair State would not have been able to evolve into one of the largest, most prestigious state schools in New Jersey.

We agree that the lack of state funding has severely impacted the way our school runs, but we need to find a way that pays the bills and satisfies the needs of the administration, faculty, staff and of course the students who continue to invest their futures into Montclair State.

We all ask for more transparency between the administration and the student body. Not many students know what goes on behind closed doors and many of them are unaware of where their tuition is going each semester and the reasons it continues to increase.

If students are concerned about where their money is going, they should attend the Board of Trustees’ public session as well as speak up at the annual tuition hearing, which will be held in the spring.

“I commute, so I think paying $12,000 a year to commute is okay, but it's kind of ridiculous because you have black mold in the dorms. [President Cole] getting a pay raise for having a subpar campus for students is kind of a joke, so maybe she should get a raise if she does a better job.”

-Meghan Bonner
Television & Digital Media Freshman

“I personally think that tuition at most colleges is high enough as it is. I'd like it to be lower, but $300 isn't enough to have an affect on me. The administration's pay raise is a little bit excessive, in all honesty. I feel like that could be better used for some of the other people working hard and making the school what it is. Of course I think that [President Cole] should have a good [salary] because she is the president and all, but I feel like that is a bit much as it is.”

-James Klim
Filmmaking Junior

“I think that the [administrators] at this school don't really need or deserve that money. There are a lot of infrastructure issues at this school that need to be addressed that could [use] that money. We should have one of these [new] buildings be dedicated to advising and have these advisors be professionals that know exactly how to get students [to graduate] as quickly as possible, rather than making it a maze of bureaucracy that people need to work through.”

-Matthew Discala
Filmmaking Junior

“I think with the administrators pay raise, that money could be used to benefit the campus more, especially since our tuition is going up. It’s a little unfair to see that the administrators are getting paid more yet there are so many things on campus that could be improved. For example, there could be more parking lots on campus for students because there is a lack of parking. They could also use the money for the advising department because I’ve heard from several students that that’s an issue as well.”

-Aneta Ostasz
Communication & Media Arts Senior

“Administrators get a raise while tuition continues to rise.”

By Tre Cameron

Campus Voices:
What do you think of the university president’s pay raise?

Alexis Kitchmire | The Montclarion

PAGE 12 • September 26, 2019 • The Montclarion

themontclarion.org
What You Should Know Before You Vow to Vape

Nine deaths and counting relating to the use of electronic cigarettes and popular oil flavors

The rapid pace of technology has changed the way people are smoking forever. Some millennials view old tobacco for what it is, not for what it was. I used to smoke cigarettes as a nervous habit and I weighed a whopping 99 pounds. My older sister is the owner of Terrapin Intuitiva, a dispensary based in Puerto Rico, so I have an understanding of how it operates. Last week, New York became the second state behind Michigan to officially ban flavored e-cigarettes and cartridges as an emergency action, due to the surge of vaping-related illnesses and seven known deaths. The most recent death took place in California, and New Jersey is now also considering a total ban on all e-cigarettes.

In response to bans, vaping dispensaries have been quick to respond. Instead of a total ban, I would advise individuals to stop buying oils from unknown sellers and purchase only from a dispensary. Too many people depend on a dealer for oils instead of going directly to the source. You cannot trust what a “street salesman” is giving you because the amount of THC in milligrams could be wrong or the product might include an entirely new substance not safe to consume. Each product utilized in a dispensary goes through an extensive evaluation and testing before customers can consume it. Although going directly to the source is more expensive, remember you are paying for quality, not quantity. When you buy these products from an unknown seller, you could be putting your life at risk trying to get deals on cartridges. I think the government should crack down on illegal black market selling of oil products by setting a quality standard or rules and regulations. As a result of this action, people would be forced to buy directly from dispensaries and promote their practices.

I do not believe officials should outlaw vaping when it has benefits for different types of individuals with anxiety, muscle pains or chronic illnesses that become therapeutic along with other treatments. Others may just want to avoid the tar from tobacco cigarettes. If anyone is interested in vaping or cigarettes then I would advise them to do their research and educate themselves on the differences between THC and CBD, and figure out how much is safe for your body to consume. There are obvious differences between a half and a whole gram of these substances and it is a good idea to look up local dispensaries and what they offer. Before vaping, read the measurements on the label and learn how that affects your body.

Do not use something before educating yourself in every aspect. Your friends could be offering false information on the effects or consumption. Most importantly, if you do not like it, or how it makes you feel, do not use it at all.

Trinity Corney, a journalism major, is in her first year as a contributing writer for The Montclarion.

“Do not use something before educating yourself in every aspect. Your friends could be offering false information on the effects or consumption.”

- Trinity Corney, Contributing Writer

The War Between My Mind and My Body

When I was 12 years old, my parents and I took a weekend trip to Long Beach Island. We were staying in a hotel room that was located directly above the hotel’s nightclub. For whatever reason, the sound of the bass blaring below me created a sense of overload and I suddenly couldn’t breathe. I was suffocating and I didn’t even know how to respond when my dad asked me, “What’s wrong?” Was I sick? Was I dying? It sure felt like it.

I had this overwhelming feeling that I was going to die right then and there. I genuinely thought my heart was stopping. If only I knew this was going to be something I would have to deal with for the rest of my life: anxiety. When I reached college, I was dealing with daily panic attacks and debilitating anxiety that interfered with my relationships, friendships and my health. I couldn’t bring myself to eat anymore and I weighed a whopping 99 pounds. It wasn’t until that point where I broke down to my mom and asked to get help. My therapist diagnosed me with generalized anxiety disorder (GAD), panic disorder and a phobia.

I think what many people fail to realize is that anxiety isn’t simply a nervous feeling you have before an exam. Anxiety is the overwhelming feeling of fear of the unknown and losing control of yourself and your emotions. I struggle to do simple tasks without overthinking my every move and action. Anxiety destroyed some of my relationships and friendships because I could not help but feel the people I loved most were tired of me, and that it was my fault. It made me miss out on life-changing experiences because I was too afraid to travel, warning that I would have a serious panic attack away from home and not know what to do. Last year I decided to create a mini-documentary film on teen suicide loss which led me to the Torres family. I met Jeff and Jerri Torres, the parents of Madison Torres, a beautiful 16-year-old girl who committed suicide in 2015.

I went into this assignment hoping to get filmmaking experience, but I gained so much more. Jeff and Jerri Torres were open with me and introduced me to their daughter through the memories they have. I came into their home as a stranger wanting to tell their story and they showed me nothing but love and kindness.

These parents taught me that there is nothing shameful about speaking up about your mental health, they encouraged it. They taught me that mental health should not be this taboo thing people sweep under the rug. I’ve come to realize that by not talking about my anxiety, I am doing a dis-service to people who are silently struggling, like I was.

I am a firm believer that everything happens for a reason, and meeting Jeff and Jerri Torres changed my life. I have never met such positive and supportive people despite all that they’ve been through.

They made me a stronger person, whether they know it or not. Before meeting them, I would have never written this, but they gave me the courage to do so.

Anxiety does not disappear overnight, and I have come to terms with the fact I will deal with this for the rest of my life, but I am okay with that. I have spent enough years hating the way my mind works and hiding my anxiety, which caused me to feel shameful and embarrassed.

I now realize that having anxiety is nothing to be ashamed of, this is just apart of who I am. It took me my whole life to accept who I am and feel good about who I am. I’ve learned how to take back control of my life and live the way I want to, not the way my anxiety forced me to. I am not imprisoned by my anxiety, I am conquering it day by day and learning to be proud of who I am.

Mackenzie Robertson, a television and digital media major, is in her first year as managing editor for The Montclarion.
The first time I saw a cisgender person display their pronouns with she/her on their Instagram biography, I was utterly confused and disappointed in them. This was someone who was known to be socially conscious and politically correct.

I remember my first thought was, “Isn’t that problematic? Is it really in her right to say her pronouns when she is visibly and openly cisgender?” This just goes to show how little I understood gender expression, gender identity and the whole idea of pronouns at the time.

We are living in a time where the Merriam-Webster Dictionary added “they” as a singular pronoun, even though it is debated whether or not it is grammatically correct in many college English departments.

Although there are disagreements about its uses, there is growing acceptance for gender expression and identity that is finally being implemented into larger institutions. Many of my professors are asking students what their pronouns are and if they would like to be called by a different name. However, even with representation and more awareness, there is still an overwhelming amount of violence and prejudice toward transgender and gender non-conforming people.

As of Sept. 13, the Human Rights Campaign recorded 19 deaths of trans women caused by fatal violence so far this year. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the life expectancy of transgender women is 35 years old.

There are high rates of disproportion al violence towards transgender women of color, with many other intersectional factors being to these rates (racism, homophobia, sexism and transphobia). According to the CDC, although there is a growing acceptance of gender expression and identity, there is still a high rate of discriminatory action toward transgender and gender non-conforming people.

Some of us may fall into the trap of transphobic thinking without even realizing it. For example, I was at the mall and I overheard a group of girls discussing whether or not a person in the distance was a man or a woman. This is inherently transphobic and no one can ever conclude what someone identifies as unless they tell you.

We have to collectively change how we perceive gender expression and gender identity. We have to unlearn that gender expression does not equate to gender identity and that sex does not equate to gender. It is time that we start participating and finding ways to help our transgender and gender non-conforming friends.

By actively participating in a cultural shift of accepting pronouns and normalizing them, we can help create a more inclusive society where transgender and gender non-conforming people not only feel safe, but are safe. A small but impactful thing we can all start doing is sharing our pronouns.

Wherever and whenever you can, including email signatures or social media biographies, use your pronouns. Doing this creates a respectful space for transgender and gender non-conforming people while also not “ outing” themselves when introducing their pronouns.

In terms of donating and supporting organizations that can help with injustice toward transgender people, consider the American Civil Liberties Union, which helps defend and protect the rights of many minority groups in the United States.

“We have to change collectively as a society on how we understand gender expression and gender identity.”

-Joni Mae De Los Santos, Contributing Writer

Concerning Editorials and Columns

Main editorials appear on the first page of the Opinion section. They are unsigned articles that represent the opinion of the editorial board on a particular issue. Columns are written by individuals and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Montclarion staff.
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The Wellmont Theater announced their partnership with the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris Inc. (MHA) on Aug. 28, to honor National Suicide Prevention Month this September.

According to saved.org, suicide is the second leading cause of death in youth ages 15-24, making it an important issue for students. The goal for the venue is to work with the organization to raise money and provide resources for those affected by mental health related issues.

Assistant feature editor Teresa M. Gomez interviewed the director of artist and customer relation at the Wellmont Theater, Carly Wolfson.

Q: The Wellmont Theater's partnership with the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris Inc. was created to help prevent suicide and raise awareness for September's National Suicide Prevention Month. What is the overall goal and outcome of this amazing partnership?

A: Symptoms of mental illness are prevalent throughout the entertainment industry, as well as the demographic of our concert-going patrons. During the month of September, we'll have resources and information regarding suicide prevention at our events. We think it's important to shine a light on this important issue and let the community know where they can find help.

Q: Throughout September, audience members will have access to suicide prevention resources. Specifically, what kind of resources are there?

A: Free materials will be handed out in the lobby at September shows from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) and the MHA. This includes a suicide resource calendar, toolkit for high schools and prevention and assessment wallet cards. Members of the MHA, located on S. Fullerton Ave., will also be available to talk with at select shows.

Q: Will any interested parties have the opportunity to access these resources after September?

A: Free resources are available to request on SAMSHA’s website. I also encourage the local community and students to reach our directly to our wonderful partners at the MHA at 973-509-9777 or info@mhaessexmorris.org.

Q: Where specifically can people go to donate?

A: Donations can be made in our lobby at shows, at our box office or added to your ticket purchase online through Ticketmaster.

Q: Why is it important to end the stigma surrounding mental health?

A: It creates a toxic environment. Many people suffering from mental illness stay silent and do not seek help and treatment because of shame and fear. We must act to change this with compassion.

For more information, visit www.wellmonttheater.com and donate. The Wellmont Theater will be making $1 contributions for tickets purchased through Ticketmaster and the MHA will match a portion of the proceeds.

The Wellmont Theater announced its partnership with the MHA of Essex and Morris to honor National Suicide Prevention Month.

Carly Wolfson is the director of artist and customer relation at the Wellmont.
2019 has undoubtedly been a year full of reboots and comebacks in the world of entertainment, and yes, this does go beyond Miley Cyrus trimming her hair last summer to resemble her former Hannah Montana wig. Kids who grew up in the 90s and early 2000s have practically jumped into their Deloreans and are arriving back to a time before “Netflix and chill.” Here are some of the best television revivals to come in 2019:

Gossip Girl

Look out Upper East-Siders, a reboot is coming. Nearly 12 years ago, a group of elite private school kids took the television world by storm in a series that had viewers wishing they could buy clothes without looking at the price tag. “Gossip Girl” was one of the first social media-promoting shows back in 2007, as it followed New York City’s most dramatic, young socialites who had their every secret and detail documented for the world to see by none other than Gossip Girl herself. This past summer, a long overdue reboot was announced to be in production, which plans to use the same writer as the original show. What’s different this time? It allegedly takes place years later and follows a completely new generation of socialites. While main characters Blair Waldorf and Serena van der Woodsen will be missed, it’s extremely likely that Gossip Girl won’t lose its ability to suck people into its storylines.

BH90210

If you grew up in the 90s, there is no doubt that you remember the “Beverly Hills, 90210” buzz. Whether it was the drama off-screen or the drama on-screen, 90210 paved the way for TV shows to air more progressive and realistic storylines. Airing from 1990 to 2000, the show captivated and related to its young audience ranging from their early teen years to their mid-20s. In the wake of fellow castmate Luke Perry’s death, the original cast had reunited nearly 30 years later to create a reboot that had their own spin on the show. In this reboot, they each act as themselves, the actors, attempting to put together a reboot of Beverly Hills, 90210, and poke fun at the rumors and drama that had consumed their lives as young adults in the hilarious and binge-worthy six episode series.

Lizzie McGuire

Some may remember her as one of the earliest bitmojis, and others may remember her singing onstage after falling for an Italian popstar. Either way, if you grew up watching early 2000s Disney Channel, Lizzie McGuire can definitely be credited with helping you cope with every awkward stage you experienced growing up. If you happened to be one of those who idolized this show, you’re in luck because it’s back, and yes, Hilary Duff herself is reprising her role as Lizzie. The reboot focuses on a grown-up Lizzie McGuire in her early 30s attempting to navigate her way through life in New York City, which sounds like something a lot of Montclair State University students may relate to in particular. The show isn’t set to air until 2020 on the new Disney+ streaming site, but likely won’t be something you want to miss!

Saved by the Bell

Zack Morris and Kelly Kapowski became everyone’s first crushes during their run on Saved by the Bell, and remained their crushes for years to come. The show followed a teenage boy named Zack, played by Mark-Paul Gosselaar, and his tight knit friend group as they journeyed through Bayside High School. Recently, it was revealed that Saved by the Bell will be rebooted through a new streaming network, Peacock. Mario Lopez and Elizabeth Berkley confirmed that they will be reprising their roles as A.C. Slater and Jessie Spano, respectively. It is not yet known whether or not the other members of the original cast will be involved, however, we hope they’ll pick up their Zack cell phones and join in.

Whether you were an 80s, 90s, or 2000s kid, the world of television surely won’t disappoint in these upcoming months. While these are just some of the most anticipated reboots, there is no doubt that we are living in an age where they won’t be the last. On that note, buckle up and put on your binge-watching shirt, because TV’s about to get good!
Switching Gears: Upcoming Nintendo Switch Games Releasing This Fall

This fall, Nintendo has a great lineup of Nintendo Switch games that fans are excited to get their hands on. Some of these games are newly released while others will release in the upcoming months. Let’s take a look and preview some of these anticipated games for the Nintendo Switch library.

The Legend of Zelda: Link’s Awakening
Released on Sept. 20, “The Legend of Zelda: Link’s Awakening” is a remaster of the original GameBoy game from 1993, where the hero Link is washed ashore on a strange island. In this game, Link must collect magical instruments across the land and awaken the Wind Fish in order to successfully escape the island. The original game is a masterpiece and fans have been extremely excited about the remaster for its detail.

Ni no Kuni: Wrath of the White Witch
Also released on Sept. 20 is the Studio Ghibli art style role-playing game “Ni no Kuni: Wrath of the White Witch.” Players take on the role of a young boy named Oliver, travel through a different world in order to stop the evil within it and save Oliver’s mother before it’s too late.

Dragon Quest XI: Echos of an Elusive Age
Releasing on Sept. 27, “Dragon Quest XI: Echos of an Elusive Age” is a turn-based adventure where you play as The Hero and explore the kingdom of Erdrea. This game can be played in stunning 3D or, for a more nostalgic feel, it can be played in 2D 16-bit versions of areas from popular entries in the series like “Dragon Quest IV” and “Dragon Quest VIII.” With The Hero’s inclusion in Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, players now have the chance to get to know The Hero’s background and story.

Little Town Hero
Releasing on Oct. 16, “Little Town Hero” is a story set in a secluded village on the edge of the world. There is only one gate leading outside of the village that is heavily guarded and no one is allowed to leave. The player’s protagonist has to fight peculiar monsters that sneak inside the village as he discovers the secret of the village and how the monsters came to be. With a soundtrack created by Toby Fox, the creator of “Undertale,” and published by Game Freak, the same company who published “Pokemon,” this game appears to be promising.

Luigi’s Mansion 3
Releasing on Oct. 31, “Luigi’s Mansion 3” is the perfect way to spend Halloween. Explore the spooky hotel and try to save Mario and friends from the ghosts who haunt it. This cowardly hero needs all the help he can get to make it through the haunted mansion. However, Luigi does have the help of an all-green doppelganger made out of goo named Gooigi, and the upgraded Poltergust G-00, a vacuum used to defeat the ghosts.

Mario and Sonic at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020
Celebrate next year’s Olympic Games with “Mario and Sonic at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.” With over 30 action-packed 3D and classic 2D sports games, people can play as characters from the Mario and Sonic series, challenge friends and compete head-to-head to see who will take the medal home. This game is set to release on Nov. 5.

Pokemon Sword and Shield
In “Pokemon Sword and Shield,” releasing on Nov. 15, the player can travel through the Galar region and encounter brand new Pokemon. Explore what the region has to offer by traveling through luminous caves, snowy terrains, dry deserts and vast open areas. Battle with different Pokemon trainers in order to become the next Pokemon champion. Like previous games in the series, the two versions will be slightly different, containing different Pokemon to catch and trainers to battle.

The future looks bright for Nintendo fans as Nintendo continues to deliver great quality games. Hopefully Nintendo can keep this momentum going at a steady speed. Expect to see reviews of some of these games in future issues of The Montclarion.

To see the full lineup of upcoming Nintendo Switch games, check out https://www.nintendo.com/games/coming-soon/.
The ‘Mario and Sonic’ Rivalry Makes a Global Return for the Tokyo Olympics

After the release of “Mario and Sonic at the Rio Olympic Games 2016” for the Nintendo Wii U, many have speculated a “Mario and Sonic at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games” announcement at E3 2018. This title was never confirmed and has left fans like myself wondering, “Have Nintendo and Sega already given up on the franchise?”

Fast forward to today and it is safe to say that the two iconic gaming companies have not given up on the project just yet. It was at E3 2019 when Nintendo announced the sixth entry to the series bearing the title, “Mario and Sonic at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.”

While the first look showcased new Olympic events such as sports climbing, skateboarding and surfing, the biggest reveal was a new mode featuring the characters in an 8-bit and 16-bit art style. It was shown very briefly, so no one knew what it was at first glance.

However, a separate trailer revealed it to be a new 2D classic mode where players can experience arcade-like Olympic events, similar to that of the Nintendo Entertainment System’s “Track and Field.” Some new events shown were the 10-meter platform, volleyball, long jump and what I am most excited for, the marathon.

In addition to these classic events, dream events make a return, but don't seem to be as prominent as in previous titles such as “Vancouver 2010” and “London 2012.” As of today, “Mario and Sonic at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020” will feature dream racing, dream shooting and dream karate. It has not yet been confirmed if Nintendo and Sega will be adding more dream events for future downloadable content.

Players are also able to turn off motion controls in the game. This is a huge benefit for those who are not long jump and what I am most excited for, the marathon. who have never experienced a problem with motion controls, but I do agree they are not necessary for all events. I am sure many people will have a fun time exploring which option works best for them.

In terms of story mode, Mario, Sonic and Toad will be interacting in the video game world while Luigi and Tails will be stuck outside, exploring the real world to gather clues. Despite it sounding a bit cheesy, the new story mode seems promising and looks to have more depth than the previous console entries.

The most interesting news is that Mario and Sonic will finally enter the competitive scene. Players are now able to compete in online ranked matches. They will be paired up with other players who share the same skill levels. Depending on the event, there can be between two and eight players competing at the same time.

In contrast, the game will feature a casual online mode, and a local wireless mode in case players are not in the mood for intense challenges. Additionally, the game plays in both tabletop and handheld mode.

Overall, Nintendo and Sega hit this title out of the virtual ballpark. “Mario and Sonic at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020” seems to have enough content to keep consumers playing the game for a long time. It will be an appealing title for many, as the game incorporates an array of options for players, such as the unique events and the different controller layouts.

“The Olympic Games Tokyo 2020” is now available for preorder and is set to be released worldwide in November, exclusively for the Nintendo Switch. More information on the game, such as new characters and new events, may be revealed over the next few weeks.
Celebrating the 15th Anniversary of Green Day’s ‘American Idiot’

Let’s take a look at the meaning behind the band’s title track, “American Idiot.” When it came out in 2004, it was nominated for record of the year, and with good reason. This song is representative of the opinions and feelings experienced during Bush’s re-election and how the American people are controlled by biased media outlets. Armstrong sings, “don’t wanna be an American idiot, one nation controlled by the media,” sung with his famous angry delivery. His lyrics are fueled with discontent and anger, further expressing how he didn’t want the nation to be run by those with harsh and conservative “redneck” values.

The outrage that we have been experiencing in our country during Trump’s presidency makes this track more relevant now than ever. It’s arguable that our current president could be deemed an “American Idiot” by a large amount of people. This song has a new sense of importance with a message that remains universal. In the Trump era, the significance of this song is heightened, as an overwhelming amount of people despise our president, fighting for a better figure to run our country in the coming election. Though many songs on the album are open to interpretation for the listener, each song was written with clear intent and meaning, contributing to the punk rock opera that one experiences while listening to this album.

The song “Holiday,” which talks about the wars in Iraq and Bush’s power-hungry mindset, contains overlapping references to one of the albums’ characters, “Jimmy,” who breaks free from “idiot America” to go enjoy his holiday. This is just one of the sophisticated storylines that the album features. American Idiot also features a character named “Whatshername,” a girl Jimmy falls in love with because of her rebellious nature.

In short, each song on the album contributes to the narrative, focusing on the fictional character, Jimmy, and his life. Every song alludes to personal issues, opinions and beliefs that the band members have dealt with in their own lives. That being said, this album is timeless and extremely relatable. It’s only fair to celebrate a masterpiece bursting with lyrical sophistication that is simple, yet effective and catchy. Anyone can relate to Green Day’s sense of oppression toward social and political issues to this day. This album is truly a period piece that will evolve and continue to adapt to current happenings in the world, even 15 years from now.

Grace Giamo
Contributing Writer

When Chance, an American bulldog, Shadow, a golden retriever and Sassy, a himalayan cat, are left to stay at a family friend’s ranch while their owners are on vacation, a misconception leaves the unlikely trio to think they have been abandoned. Refusing to allow themselves to be left behind, the trio goes on an eventful and adventurous journey through the wilderness to try and return home, hundreds of miles away, in the movie “Homeward Bound.”

This family-friendly movie is the perfect movie to watch with the whole family or even if you just have a furry friend that you love at home. The movie follows three very different sets of personalities, making each animal stand out in the group. This feel good adventure comedy leaves you on the edge of your seat and will leave you rooting for the trio on their whole journey.

- Jen Losos
Chief Copy Editor

‘Babe’
on Starz

After winning a baby piglet at a fair, a farmer brings his prize back to his farm. The piglet, named Babe, finds a motherly figure in Fly, a border collie who herds sheep on the farm. Babe soon discovers that he too can herd sheep, much to the chagrin of Fly’s husband Rex, who believes that pigs cannot herd sheep. Now Babe must overcome these obstacles and his doubters and prove to all the animals on the farm that there is much more to a pig than meets the eye.

This 1995 film is an adaptation of the 1983 novel by Dick King-Smith and was released to financial and critical success, earning seven Oscar nominations including Best Picture. This inspiring film is a great watch for the whole family as its message to this day remains timeless: you can be whatever you want to be.

- Thomas Neira
Entertainment Editor

Talking Animal Movies

‘Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey’ on HBONow

You’ve probably thought nothing more of “Wake Me Up When September Ends,” other than the fact that it perfectly describes how you feel due to the pressure and stress at the start of the new semester. Sounds about right, doesn’t it? However, the message is not that simple.

Often referred to as some of the pioneers of emo and punk rock, Green Day has blessed us with their hard-hitting anthems, lyrical genius and unequivocal cool factor. They are no strangers to telling the world how they feel about social and political issues, especially if those opinions are controversial.

On Sept. 20, 2004, Green Day’s concept album “American Idiot” was released, featuring mega hits such as “Holiday,” “Wake Me Up When September Ends” and “Boulevard of Broken Dreams.”

Despite heavy radio play, these songs contain some of the most brilliant lyrics of the early 2000s, containing messages that are often overlooked due to Billie Joe Armstrong’s mesmerizing vocals and the band’s famous guitar riffs. What most people don’t know is that American Idiot was written with a sense of anger during Bush’s presidency and their frustrations with media portrayal. 15 years later, Green Day’s semi-autobiographical album can be applied to fuel the anger that those today are experiencing in the wake of Trump’s presidency.

- Jen Losos
Chief Copy Editor

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on Starz

After winning a baby piglet at a fair, a farmer brings his prize back to his farm. The piglet, named Babe, finds a motherly figure in Fly, a border collie who herds sheep on the farm. Babe soon discovers that he too can herd sheep, much to the chagrin of Fly’s husband Rex, who believes that pigs cannot herd sheep. Now Babe must overcome these obstacles and his doubters and prove to all the animals on the farm that there is much more to a pig than meets the eye.

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- Thomas Neira
Entertainment Editor
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‘Wu-Tang: An American Saga’ is Worthy of the Hype

Trinity Corney
Contributing Writer

“Wu-Tang: An American Saga” is a nostalgic, yet grimy and real experience that examines the perspective of young black men from Staten Island trying to climb out of the hustling trenches in the streets to pursue music. While this series is “phat” for old fans of Wu-Tang Clan, it has faults that make it confusing for Wu-Tang newcomers. The rap collective Wu-Tang Clan, formed in Staten Island in 1992, is continuing to make waves nearly 30 years later with a feature series created by group members RZA and Alex Tse.

“Wu-Tang: An American Saga” premiered on Sept. 4, and is halfway through the series, with five episodes already aired on Hulu streaming service. This biographical drama explores the lives of original members during the early crack epidemic that spanned between 1984 and 1990. The name “Wu-Tang” was inspired by “Shaolin and Wu-Tang,” a 1983 Hong Kong martial arts film. The cast is seen watching these movies in early episodes together as a pastime.

The cast includes Ashton Sanders as Bobby Diggs, Shameik Moore as Sha, Dave East as Shotgun, Siddiq Sanderson as Dennis D-Love, TJ Atoms as Ason, Julian Martinez as Divine and Marcus Callender as Power.

Although the cast did an amazing job, I would recommend the documentary “Wu-Tang Clan: Of Mics and Men” on Showtime for those who are unfamiliar with Wu-Tang Clan. The film offers a better understanding of the history behind each member and their personalities, and allows viewers to fully immerse in the music and the meaning behind it.

Throughout the series, each individual character struggles to overcome adversity in their personal lives. Those struggles eventually drive the men together to form the most influential group in hardcore rap history.

The audience constantly views each character’s dimensions through a fresh lens. Because a new layer is added to members of the group every week, we see their actions and behaviors evolve.

One of my favorite characters in the series is Ason, aka Of Dirty Bastard. His personality is illustrated with comedic rhymes and attitudes throughout the series. Of Dirty Bastard was known to be a weird rapper who started the movement of “crazy-looking rappers” that are commonly seen in today’s music industry, such as Lil Pump, Lil Uzi Vert and Blueface.

The fashion and dialogue in this film feel genuine. It is entertaining to watch some characters say “Yo Bo” or “Nah mean” and other phrases that allow viewers a look into what that time period was like.

There is a truthful depiction of public houses during the crack epidemic, and of the war between Stapleton vs. Park Hill, or “Killa Hill.” The feud between these two is as fierce as the Capulets and Montagues in “Romeo and Juliet,” only without the romance. They cannot stand each other and are willing to kill each other, by any means necessary, for reputation and respect.

Certain themes of this series strikes a chord in today’s society, like the socioeconomic factors that push characters like Bobby Diggs to focus on producing music and bringing people together, who normally would not be able to escape selling drugs. The series also touches lightly on police brutality and the perception of law enforcement.

This series teaches lessons on how to handle your business and not depending on others to get things done. The biggest lesson to take away from this show is that everyone will be by your side when times are good, but when things change, there may be no one left.

The lack of timelines in the show can be disconcerting. The show can be hard to follow if the viewer was not born around that era. As the episodes continue to drop every Wednesday, they gradually get shorter, which is frustrating especially after big moments. You may be left wanting more than 10 episodes at the end of this fascinating series.

Even though this series is not perfect, it is worth watching in order to learn about New York in the 1990s and how the Wu Tang poets became the masters of the mic for generations to come.
"In America, the President reigns for four years, but Journalism governs forever." – Oscar Wilde

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This Week In Red Hawk Sports

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<td>SAT 9/28</td>
<td>Women’s Volleyball vs. Baruch College</td>
<td></td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Football at Hobart College</td>
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<td>Women’s Soccer vs. Rowan University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Women’s Volleyball at St. Joseph’s College</td>
<td></td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Field Hockey vs. Washington and Lee</td>
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<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Men’s Soccer vs. Rowan University</td>
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<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>SUN 9/29</td>
<td>No games</td>
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**Women's Volleyball**

- vs. New Jersey City University: 3
- vs. Rutgers-Camden: 0

**Men's Ice Hockey**

- vs. Rider University: 7
- vs. The College of New Jersey: 3

**Women's Soccer**

- vs. Medaille College: 0
- vs. Vassar College: 0

**Field Hockey**

- vs. Baruch College: 6
- vs. Vassar College: 0

**Men's Soccer**

- vs. Keyston College: 1
- vs. Rutgers-Camden: 2

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**No. 10 Ranked Montclair State Field Hockey Narrowly Defeats Gwynedd Mercy**

Fourth quarter goal by Cimiluca secures game for Red Hawks

Corey Annan
Assistant Sports Editor

Coming off of a disappointing 1-0 shutout loss to No. 6 Vassar College, the Montclair State University field hockey team had a lot to prove coming into a tough matchup with the Gwynedd Mercy University Griffins.

“Today was about proving ourselves, and we wanted to do that via winning by multiple goals today,” Elizabeth Cimiluca, a junior forward and midfielder, said.

This was not necessarily the case, as the Red Hawks would need a late score from Cimiluca to secure a 3-2 win over the Griffins on a humid Saturday afternoon at Sprague Field.

The Red Hawks quickly got on the board in the 7:18 minute mark of the first quarter, as junior forward and midfielder Yael Tonah scored her first goal of the season off a beautiful pass from Cimiluca.

However, the real story of the first half was Montclair State’s defense, as they pitched a shutout in the first half, despite seven shots and four penalty corners by the Griffins.

The Red Hawks star senior goalkeeper Nicole Andriani was outstanding in the first half, as she recorded five saves despite consistent offensive pressure by Gwynedd Mercy.

The second half proved to be much more eventful than the first, and the Red Hawks defense took a huge step back as the Griffins began to convert on penalty corners.

In the 36:36 minute in the third quarter, as senior forward and midfielder Maddie Freeman would catch the Griffins defense off guard. Freeman made a great assist to sophomore forward and midfielder Katelyn Osterlind, as Osterlind scored to make a 2-1 game.

The Griffins wasted no time tying the game. Nine seconds after Osterlind’s goal, Gwynedd Mercy would slice through the Red Hawk defense easily, as senior attacker Teri Sherwood made it a 2-2 game with less than five minutes remaining in the third quarter.

Red Hawks head coach Eileen O’Reilly believes that bad communications on both sides of the ball were at fault for the Red Hawks breaking down defensively.

“Communication issues have been a consistent pattern for us throughout the season,” O’Reilly said. “This is the biggest thing that we have to improve on moving forward.”

Despite these issues on the defensive end, Cimiluca would once again make a huge play as she scored a late goal. At the 52:42 mark in the fourth quarter, she gave the Red Hawks a 3-2 lead. Montclair State would play solid defense for the last seven minutes of the quarter to hold off the Griffins in what was a thrilling game.

Although the Red Hawks created multiple opportunities for themselves through-out the game via penalty corners, coach O’Reilly believes her team failed to convert on many of these opportunities throughout the game.

“We have to start scoring on balls that are near the post, and we preach that day in and day out,” O’Reilly said.

Despite a sloppy second half for the Red Hawks, the team has proven they can win under pressure and can reverse momentum at any given time.

This will be important as they go into New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) play later in the season.

“I think we love pressure, and it really makes us play better,” Cimiluca said. “We are excited for NJAC play because we can finally show the conference and the NCAA what we are made of.”
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Red Hawks Blank Rutgers Camden 3-0
for Fifth Victory of Season

Women’s soccer looks to continue five game win streak

Senior forward Emily Beenders wrestles a Rutgers defender for the ball.

On the vast turf of the Montclair State University soccer field, a vital matchup against the Rutgers women's soccer team and the Rutgers-Camden Scarlet Raptors was held on Saturday, Sept. 25.

The team was coming into this matchup with a respectable 4-2-1 record, while Rutgers-Camden maintained a 0-5 record, being in dire need for an important victory.

Montclair State knew that the Scarlet Raptors needed this win, therefore this would be an extremely difficult match due to Rutgers-Camden's back against the wall. The most important part about playing a desperate team like Rutgers-Camden is not to allow a quick, explosive start in the beginning of the game.

The coaching staff for the Red Hawks knew a bottling-up defensive tactic would spell perfection against Rutgers-Camden.

"Rutgers-Camden was going to start fast and aggressive and we needed to be aggressive as well [and as] often and early defensively in order to stop them," Patrick Naughter, the Montclair State women's soccer head coach, said.

At 1 p.m., the ball was kicked off and Rutgers-Camden pulled their offensive threats across center field to create chances on the Montclair State sophomore goalkeeper, Lindsay Freewalt. At the beginning of the match, offensive talents for the Scarlet Raptors such as their captain, sophomore defender Breana Winder, were flowing with passes across and perfect chemistry.

However, the defense of the Red Hawks were standing and acting like a fortress. Defenders, such as sophomore Laura Noseworthy and freshman Samantha Senatore, visibly blocked shots and sent them to center field with great velocity, allowing no shots on Freewalt.

This set up the attackers for Montclair State such as junior Kaitlyn Scrivanich and senior Emily Beenders. The two were able to attack the fatigued defense of Rutgers-Camden and were able to split across the field with great speed and dexterity, including some shots on goal.

The Scarlet Raptors sophomore goalkeeper Natalie Eberhardt was able to stand to the task and shut down the four shots by Montclair State, despite their great quality. The first half went scoreless.

Despite the goose eggs on the scoreboard, coach Naughter knew that his team needed to stick to the playbook by passing the ball through open lanes, avoiding costly turnovers and relying on their defense to create turnovers.

"I knew that we had to stick to the game plan and we would be fine," Naughter said.

The Red Hawks would be solid when they finally scored a goal, seven minutes into the second half. Sophomore midfielder Lindsay Bathmann broke the ice with a brilliantly aimed shot past the wickets of the Eberhardt, fed by a brilliant pass by junior forward Maddie Musico. Two minutes later, the Red Hawks scored a well-timed goal by Senatore off of a pass by Beenders.

Another peculiar incident happened three minutes later when a dangerous tackle occurred near midfield and Scarlet Raptor sophomore midfielder Amanda Giordano was flagged with a yellow card, clamping further pressure on Rutgers-Camden. The final nail in the coffin was a heat-seeking missile of a shot fired off the foot of Scrivanich, with assists from sophomore midfielder Emily DeGeyter and freshman forward Tori Rolls in minute 62.

Freewalt did her job along with the backs in front of her completing a sensational shutout and slamming the door on any whispers of mediocrity around this team. The rumors are true, the Lady Red Hawks soccer team is for real.

Peter Fifoot
Staff Writer
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Student Athlete Profile: Emily Degeyter

Emily Degeyter has been a part of an underdog status at Montclair State University her first two seasons with the women's soccer team as a midfielder. She, along with her stellar team, have risen to success in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) and have come back from many difficult deficits.

Degeyter strived to be an exercise science major as a freshman, but after her first year she decided to change her major to biology. She feels that she can connect with the material taught in classes like anatomy and physiology and wants to do something with this major later in her life.

For some students on campus, being a freshman may not be as scary or intimidating as some think it is, considering it is their first time in an entirely new place. Degeyter was one of those freshmen, but now that she is switching majors, the balance has been a bit lost. "I would say that last year, it was an easier time balancing everything I was doing," Degeyter said. "This year, trying to switch my major has proven to be a challenge because the classes that I'm taking are really difficult, so being four weeks into the semester, I still haven't found that balance and haven't found time for myself."

Degeyter went on to talk about the importance of "me-time." "Along with school and soccer, I'm going through the motions right now," Degeyter said. "Having time for yourself is something so essential for athletes." Degeyter even tries to tie in self-care into her daily schedule, but socializing, winding down and finding people with similar interests and beliefs is also something she takes pride in here on campus. "I like being involved with people who believe the same things that I do," Degeyter said. "There's this place called the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), it's a different part of inter-varsity, like a club on campus, where the athletes believe in Jesus Christ. We come together and talk about the things that we struggle with at the same time."

Degeyter was born into a soccer family and played for her whole life. From her own account, she didn't choose soccer; soccer was chosen for her. "I didn't even have a choice," Degeyter said. "My dad actually played here, and I knew it was going to be a family thing from the start."

In order to truly understand where this drive for soccer came from, Degeyter went back to her time at West Morris High School. "It was definitely a transition from anything I have experienced," Degeyter said. "Playing with people that are four years older than you, the gap of age level and maturity in high school was a lot different. It allowed me to grow more as a player and stand my ground."

Coaches are a huge part of any athlete’s life when being guided in sports and in life. For Degeyter, it was about being pushed mentally and unlocking another key to her athletic development. "I have to give my coach a lot of credit, he introduced a mental toughness aspect that I never heard of before," Degeyter said. "He was traditionally a wrestler and brought that aspect into soccer. It definitely challenged me, not just to grow in the physical game, but also the mental game."

There are many aspects of college life, one potentially being academics. This can be a challenge, and Degeyter highlighted the bumpy road she had to go through to get to where she is today: "I got recruited through club, but I never thought [Montclair State] was going to be an option for me," Degeyter said. "Both of my parents graduated from here, and I didn’t want to come here because of that, but it ended up working out. Coming into the season, I knew starting spots were not guaranteed, and I knew I had to work hard for everything because nothing was going to be handed to me."

Degeyter scored her first goal of her freshman season against Stockton University last year. She talked a bit about that game, and how excitement was not the first thing on her mind after the goal. "I just wanted to get the ball back and try to score another goal, it was almost like relief," Degeyter said. "I remember running the ball into the back of the net, and trying to pick it back up and run back to the starting line and get it going again."

Degeyter talks about how the perseverance of her team makes her proud to be a part of it. "The way we always came back is incredible," Degeyter said. "We scored in the last 10 seconds, or the last second in so many of our games this year, so that shows that we’re a team that doesn’t stop fighting in the last minute."

Even with earning a spot on the All 2nd Team in the NJAC and Rookie of the Week last season, Degeyter is not letting glory get to her head, but rather is using it to push herself to be a better player. "It definitely motivates me to work harder every single time because this year is a fresh start," Degeyter said. "It’s a new year, there’s new people and a new team surrounding you. You have to prove yourself every single second, not just for yourself but for the team in general. Every single person has to contribute in order to be successful."