Montclair State Faces Lawsuit Over Student Government Regulations

Young Americans for Liberty (YAL), a pro-liberty organization at Montclair State University, filed a formal complaint against the Montclair State Board of Trustees and Student Government Association alleging that some of the school’s policies are unconstitutional and that three students’ First Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment rights were violated.

On Sept. 10, 2019, Mathew Botros, Mena Botros and James Pillion were peacefully protesting outside of the Feliciano School of Business on the issue of gun-free zones. The trio wore orange jumpsuits as they pretended to be prisoners and gained approval from the standard departments. A Montclair State police officer, Sergeant Kaluba Chipepo, informed the students that they were violating the Montclair State Speech Permit Policy because they had not obtained permission to speak publicly from the dean’s office.

As per Montclair State’s rules, anyone who wants to speak publicly on campus must obtain permission at least two weeks in advance. The dean’s office will then assign them a time and place to speak.

The Montclair State chapter of YAL is a class four organization of the student government. The group currently has twenty members, all with varying ideological standpoints.

The case file makes the claim that Montclair State's “Speech Permit Policy” thus grants [the Dean of Students] Coleman-Carter and the Office of the Dean of Students unbridled discretion to grant or deny students permission to speak publicly from the dean’s office. As per Montclair State’s rules, anyone who wants to speak publicly on campus must obtain permission at least two weeks in advance.

“Attorney General Grewal Urges Graduates to Be Fearless and Take Risks”

“Free Speech Should Not Cost Anything”

Crossword puzzle & more on pages 12 and 13
New Year Brings New Minimum Wage Increase to $11 an Hour

Rosaria Lo Presti
News Assistant

New Jersey passed a bill to increase workers’ minimum wage from $10 to $11 an hour in 2019, and it was officially enforced on Jan. 1. of the new year.

The minimum wage is also set to increase yearly by one dollar an hour until 2024, when it will reach and remain at $15 an hour. This new bill directly affects college students who work to afford school and basic living costs at minimum wage earnings.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the largest majority of minimum wage earners are between the ages of 16 and 24, making this topic one of large concern for college students.

Junior animation major Sydney Kramer, a college student, especially because of the rise in prices of things like textbooks and supplies. It definitely helps out a lot to have a little extra money in your pocket.”

While the new legislation will put more cash in the hands of college students with minimum wage jobs, many businesses will struggle to pay for the increase in employee wages. This will decrease the availability of jobs, while at the same increase the cost of goods and services.

Charles Gu, a senior majoring in accounting and finance, works as a resident assistant on campus and believes that the increased minimum wage won’t make much of a difference.

“It’s very hard for midsize businesses to continually pay their workers an increasing wage,” Gu said. “I don’t think it will be a huge impact because employee expense is tax-deductible. It’s not as much as people thought it would be.”

Increasing wages could force owners to minimize hours or hire fewer workers.

“I don’t think that they should keep increasing it. I believe that we should be paid by our value and our ideas, but not our time,” Gu said. “Increased minimum wage will come with cutting hours.”

Red Hawk Rap Sheet

Friday, Dec. 20
Parker Hall: Patrol officers responded in reference to a trespasser at the residence hall. Upon further investigation, officers determined that the individual, a non-student, was prohibited to be on campus. The individual was escorted off campus.

Saturday, Dec. 28
Blanton Hall: Patrol officers responded in reference to an assault in progress. Responding patrol officers investigated the scene and, based on personal statements and injuries to the victim, arrested non-student Lucas Green of Somerset, New Jersey. The victim was provided with resource information but did not wish to apply for a temporary restraining order. Green is scheduled to appear at Little Falls Municipal Court.

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.
Attorney General Grewal Urges Graduates to Be Fearless and Take Risks

Montclair State conferred 665 degrees to graduate students across various schools and disciplines at the graduate school commencement ceremony in the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC).

Among the degree recipients on Friday, Jan. 17 was the honorary degree recipient, New Jersey Attorney General, Gubir S. Grewal; the first Sikh-American to hold the position in the United States.

Grewal was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. After having received the honorary degree, Grewal addressed the graduating class.

“As you walk off this stage with your degrees in hand, know that your journeys are just beginning, that you too may encounter obstacles and adversities that you never anticipated,” Grewal said. “But when one door closes for you, don’t ever be afraid to change course and to open another one. Don’t ever be afraid to follow a path you never before considered.”

Anel Gonzales, business administration major and graduate, explained that it was the connections at the university that made her want to continue pursuing her education.

“It [school] was awesome, I made friends that I still talk to and have very good memories with. The professors and staff have been very helpful, and I would go back again if I need to,” Gonzales said.

Gonzales is one of the many Montclair State students to receive both an undergraduate degree and a master’s degree, a first for members of her family.

“Having a speaker [like Grewal] to talk on diversity gives a lot of new and interesting points of people’s experiences,” Gonzales said. “I am Latina and the first of my siblings to graduate, so I think diversity is very important.”

Janet Dillon-Kowallzic, educational leadership major and graduate, was able to experience a second career in obtaining her degree.

“[I] worked as an EMT and eventually a firefighter with the New York City fire department (FDNY) on the terror attacks of 9/11,” Dillon-Kowallzic said.

It was after having her fifth child that she was inspired to educate herself further.

“[My son] was born with learning disabilities and I decided to go back to school to be able to assist my child and educate myself more,” Dillon-Kowallzic said. “I only had a high school diploma, so I worked through the ropes and got an associate’s, bachelor’s and now my master’s degree.”

Dillon-Kowallzic is a first-generation American and the first to attend college in her family. She honored her immigrant parents by wearing the stoles of Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

“By wearing these stoles, I am representing my heritage and sending a message that if you really apply yourself, there’s nothing you can’t succeed [in accomplishing],” Dillon-Kowallzic said. “Graduating has been a wonderful experience because I’ve been able to show my children that hard work pays off.”
Greek Life has been one of the many topics discussed on the Instagram page. 

@montclairstateconfessions Provides An Opportunity For Students To Express Themselves 

Corey Anann  
Assistant Sports Editor 

We’ve seen plenty of Montclair State University-related social media accounts gain popularity and fame in the last few years. Instagram accounts such as @memesofmontclair and @montclairredchawks have gained quite a following among the Montclair State student body. However, both Instagram accounts certainly haven’t reached the notoriety and fame that @montclairstateconfessions obtained over the last few months. 

The Instagram page, created by Montclair State sophomore Justin Watson, has given students a chance to anonymously air out some of their most private and personal secrets. The account is an open forum for any and all students to submit whatever they please. These submissions range from the memorable moments they’ve had on campus to mature and private matters such as sex, drugs and more. Some have even used this as a way to criticize certain aspects of Montclair State, such as Greek Life, residence halls, other students and more. 

Submitting a “confession” to the account is very simple. Students can go onto Montclair State Confession’s Instagram account and click a Google Forms link at the very bottom of the bio. 

When filling out the form, students must give their major, year and include their confession. Watson does not know who is sending him these confessions, simply because he doesn’t ask for a name in the form itself. 

While many of these posts may come off as bizarre to those who come across them, this hasn’t caused any hesitation from Watson to share these stories out to the world. “When people tell me that they want to post on the page, I try to tell them that this is their page and they can [confess] to whatever they want to,” Watson said. “If people are opening up and sharing their stories, no matter what it is, I’m all for it.” 

Emily Dolan, a freshman television and digital media major, believes the page could be more mindful of what confessions they decide to release to the public. “They shouldn’t be accepting such explicit content and posting it,” Dolan said. “The confessions] could all be lies and even if it’s real, someone could be hurt by the content put out there.” 

Despite the criticism of the page’s explicit content, it is no secret that these bizarre confessions have created a massive following among students. The account has already reached over 3,800 followers, as more and more students have discovered the account. 

Watson’s motivation for creating Montclair State Confessions was to create a community where every Montclair State student can come and share stories, ideas, complaints or whatever they please. He also believes it can be hard to connect with people in college, particularly at Montclair State, which has over 16,000 undergraduate students. “I wanted the page to be a place where everyone can know what goes on around [campus] and stay connected with each other,” Watson said. “I’m trying to bring groups of students together so that they have one common thing to share.” 

Watson’s inspiration for the account came from a friend who attends the University of Buffalo in upstate New York, who mentioned that his school had a similar Instagram page that made an impact on the university as a whole. “When I saw the way the account was being run, it made me realize that a similar idea for our campus had the potential to help students,” Watson said. “Not everyone is comfortable to say what they have to say in person.” 

Kylie Wester, a sophomore public health major, agreed that the page has made some progress in bringing the students of Montclair State together. “I think it’s brought the community together in a sense,” Wester said. “Some of the stories are relatable stories to what others are dealing with themselves.” 

Watson has also expanded the page’s content beyond just confessions. He recently created a “mixer” post in which the goal was to try to help students look for friendships or romance. He also has done polls, Q&As and more. 

Watson ultimately plans to hand over the rights to the account when he graduates. He hopes that whoever chooses to take over the account in the future can continue to carry his vision for the page. “I’ve had plenty of people who say they’ve wanted to even start helping out with the page now,” Watson said. “I have to really trust that person to keep the vision of the page going.” 

He also credited the student body for helping to make his vision for this page a success so far. “When you create something like this, you have to assume the community will give it a chance,” Watson said. “They have, and they are the reason for the success of this page.”
The Memes of Montclair State

This meme pokes fun at the struggle of opening the front doors of University Hall.

Zoe Gleason
Assistant Feature Editor

The Instagram page @memesofmontclair showcases some of Montclair State University’s most prominent issues— from the poor food quality at Sam’s Place to the parking predicament.

This Instagram page is run by two undergraduate students, one computer science major and one public relations major. The duo has chosen to remain anonymous and asked that a pseudonym be made for them. The Mademoiselles of Memes started their page in February 2019 and have just over 3,000 followers.

Students are using the @memesofmontclair page to anonymously voice their concerns about the campus. One post assesses the remodeling of College Hall, and questions why so much of the budget is going toward rebuilding. The original creator suggests this money might be better spent supplying the campus with better food, fixing Sprague Library or making repairs under dictatorial governments.

A meme is defined as an element of a culture, a piece of media or a system of behavior that is passed from one individual to another through imitation, word of mouth or, most popularly, social media.

Images with text superimposed over them are called macros. Most image macros are memes, but not all memes are image macros. Often people will make slight variations to these macros by changing the text to fit their own needs.

In college culture, memes allow students to find common ground with their peers and connect through common structures of feeling. This is similar to the way people bond when they find they enjoy the same book or movie.

“Memes help me relate to people in a way that was unprecedented before our generation,” Alessandro Toxiri, a freshman majoring in business administration, said. “It allows you to learn more about other people.”

Typically, memes are humorous in tone, but occasionally content creators utilize memes to allude to much more serious topics. Memes can be about anything from purposely silly animal anatomy to the lack of elections under dictatorial governments.

Once in a blue moon a meme makes it— sometimes content creators inadvertently produce media that will go viral. Though there are innumerable memes related to Montclair State, “It’s All Here” is by far the most popular.

“We genuinely love Montclair State and truly believe everything is ‘all here,’” The Mademoiselles of Memes said. “We are aware that some memes focus on the issues at our school, but it is meant to be relatable, not a complaint.”

Some students do genuinely believe that everything you’ll ever need can be found at Montclair State. However, this sentiment is not shared by all students. Some people use “It’s All Here” sarcastically as a way to cope with their frustrations.

Emam Hassan is a nutrition and food science major in his senior year. He is not a stranger to using “It’s All Here” as facetious commentary toward the amenities at Montclair State.

“There’s literally nothing here,” Hassan said. “Nearly every time I’ve needed [Montclair State], they’ve failed me. This applies to financial aid, housing selection and bad schedule advising.”

 Responding to an unfortunate situation with “It’s All Here” was a way for students to reclaim the promotional motto. This trend has outlived the initiative itself.

“If you look up ‘it’s all here’ the first thing that shows up is a Montclarion cartoon of parking problems at Montclair State,” Anthony Gachetti, a freshman environmental science major, said.
A bicycle is frozen outside of Hawk's Crossing.

Photo courtesy of Ed DuCoin

The cold weather can make us think of warmer places just like this.

Carmela Winter | The Montclarion

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK
Sophomore attack Julia Maltagliati looks to get past a defender on Jan 21 practice at Sprague Field.

Corey Annan | The Montclarion

Students are berry excited to start a new year.

Jenna Sundel | The Montclarion

Wicket celebrates winter break.

Casey Masterson | The Montclarion
Free Speech Should Not Cost Anything

Last September, three Montclair State University students advocating pro-gun rights on campus had their peaceful demonstration shut down by university police. Earlier this month, a lawsuit against Montclair State was filed by the students, claiming the university restrained their ability to exercise their first amendment right.

No matter your opinion, if you live in the United States, your right to freedom of speech must be protected. It is imperative to the fundamental ideals of this country, as well as to the ongoing progression of its society.

Mena Botros, a Montclair State sophomore and the president of Young Americans for Liberty, led the demonstration alongside two other students. Wearing orange jump suits, the three protestors jokingly supported what they believed to be ironic: recently developing gun control efforts, in particular gun-free zones.

The reason given by the university officer for bringing the demonstration to a halt was that anyone who wishes to hold a political demonstration on campus must obtain permission from the university, who will give them a time and place to do so.

The lawsuit filed by the students claims that the requirement prohibiting them from expressing their own views is a restraint on their first amendment rights. Furthermore, they believe the requirement allows for the university to pick and choose which causes and agendas they believe to be important or not.

Following the 2016 presidential election, Montclair State campus saw a multitude of anti-Trump student protests. Students on both sides of the issue were in attendance, making their voices heard by the other.

These protests were certainly more raucous than the demonstration shut down last September. Despite that difference, the two did share a characteristic in that neither were approved by the administration.

The possibility of Montclair State’s administration choosing which voices should and should not be heard could be problematic. All opinions, including those that may be considered unpopular, should carry the same weight. Anything otherwise directly defies the first amendment and your right as a citizen of the United States.

Moreover, disagreeing with someone because they hold a different opinion than you is not the same as disagreeing with someone because their opinion is inherently dangerous.

In a time where the political spectrum is increasingly polarizing, it is important to have your perspective challenged no matter where you fall on that spectrum.

Being exposed to new ideas and points of view that are unfamiliar is not at all a bad thing, and if you disagree with a philosophy contradictory to your own, so be it.

It is a crucial aspect of what makes a society flourish, that is, each of its members having the ability to safely come together and discuss, decide what they believe individually and go their separate ways without having any philosophies forced upon one another. Additionally, in the event that any specific philosophy is written into law, those who feel wronged reserve the ability to correct it through a democratic process.

Whether you are pro-gun or pro-gun control, pro-life or pro-choice, right, left or anywhere in between, your opinion is still your opinion. No matter what that opinion may be, every American deserves to express it absent from any bureaucratic resistance.
WHAT’S NEW THIS SPRING IN DINING?

New Hours of Operation
Please visit dineoncampus.com/montclair for more details.

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Shawarma Spot food truck menu will available soon in the Red Hawk Diner!

Beyond Meat® options available at Dunkin’ Donuts at the Plaza at Blanton Hall and Grill Nation at the Student Center Café!
Just Because You’ve Got It
Doesn’t Mean You’re Flaunting It

Insisting that someone is “flaunting” their body is not the compliment we think it is.

Adele is known for many things: incredible vocals, sad songs and winning armfuls of Grammys. If you logged onto Twitter during the holidays, you would have quickly forgotten about her musical achievements as thousands of tweets poured in regarding her weight loss. Adele posted two photos of herself smiling at a holiday party and has reportedly lost 100 pounds, which is undesirably a notable change. Seeing the thousands of tweets and articles celebrating and admiring her weight loss was unsettling to me.

Society’s obsession with being thin and praising those with a slim figure, particularly women, is nothing new. The truth is that it’s definitely a problem; I could go on about it all day. Adele’s weight loss epitomizes the issues of how we perceive weight in the growing number of people insisting how beautiful she is now (presumably because she is thinner).

Others commenting on how healthy she is now forget that a slimmer figure does not always equate to a healthier lifestyle. The way that so many people responded to Adele’s weight loss has revealed a deep-rooted issue.

People lauded Adele’s physical appearance by saying she was “flaunting her figure” or “showing off her new body.” These posts were well-intentioned and even meant as a compliment but they’re troublesome for two reasons.

It’s an issue because it shows how we reserve this kind of language to describe the type of body we think warrants confidence. It’s also an issue as the simple act of saying someone is flaunting their body is inherently damaging in and of itself.

The issue with saying that someone is flaunting their figure construes that we only use this kind of language to describe thin people or those who have recently lost weight. In other words, it implies confidence for people who fit our socially constructed ideas of beauty. It’s hard to come across a headline of someone “flaunting” their figure after they’ve gained weight. This is because our society is wildly and unfairly predisposed to think of weight gain as something shameful or bad.

With the way the public reacted to Adele’s photos, it seems as though posting a picture of yourself means you are showing off your body, which places an unnecessary aspect of performance to just existing as a normal human. The photos of Adele were of her simply enjoying a holiday party and doing nothing more than laughing and making a funny face at the camera.

Our bodies do not exist just to look nice for you, so it’s damaging to insinuate that when someone is simply going about their day, they are actively “showing off” how they look for your own benefit.

It’s clear we have a lot to re-evaluate about how we perceive weight loss and our obsession with weight in general. Even when we think we’re being positive, we’re often just perpetuating damaging ways of thinking.

I would like to focus on things other than Adele’s weight, like what does “rolling in the deep” actually mean, anyway?

End Our Endless Wars

The U.S. is moving closer to a war with Iran, which Americans and Iranians alike would suffer from.

Kristen Milburn, an English major, is in her second year as a staff writer for The Montclarion.

Three days into 2020, global affairs were shaken by the assassination of Iran’s top general, Qasem Soleimani, via drone strike authorized by President Trump. Since then, tensions in the region have escalated.

As the irrevocable consequences of war become more concerning for civilians of Iran and U.S. troops within the region, some of the biggest political and media leaders in the U.S. have been spreading narratives that depict conflict with Iran as necessary, even beneficial.

In the Warhawk punditry being platformed by just about every significant news source, there is a lack of nuance surrounding U.S. history with Iran. If provided, this context would make it clear that the U.S. should take no course of action other than withdrawing troops from the region.

Many people on social media cited a Dec. 31 protest at the U.S. embassy in Baghdad as justification for the assassination of Soleimani. President Trump even claimed that Iran orchestrated the protests. No proof of that claim has been offered.

Our government has a history of lying to get involved in foreign conflicts. The most infamous case in recent history being the Bush Administration’s false claims of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, which resulted in a war that the U.S. has been stuck in for nearly two decades.

Just a few months ago, the Washington Post revealed that U.S. military leaders have been lying for years about the state of the war in Afghanistan. It is not a leap to assume that once again, our government is lying to rally support for war.

What many Americans don’t hear is that our history of tensions with Iran started in 1953 when the American government overthrew the democratically elected Iranian Prime Minister, Mohammed Mosaddegh. Since that first act of violence, the U.S. has terrorized Iran, causing chaos within the region.

Even the narratives of Soleimani’s role in this conflict have been distorted to make the U.S. look more justified. Many Americans who likely had not heard of Soleimani a month ago have been quick to spread the talking point that he was a bad person because he killed Americans. Soleimani did kill Americans, but these were not civilians, they were U.S. troops.

While any death during war is devastating, as any unnecessary loss of life is, Soleimani is not a monster for fighting back against a force trying to invade his home.

The U.S. has been illegally occupying countries in the region for decades and has been known to harm, rape and kill civilians and ravage entire towns.

Like the vast majority of people who have experienced devastation as a result of U.S. occupation, Soleimani wanted the United States out.

The people of Iran, as well as Iraq, Afghanistan and many other nations in the Middle East, have a right to defend themselves against the foreign presence that invading their homes.

Just recently, Iraq’s government voted unanimously for the U.S. to leave, but our government is refusing to listen. American troops could stay alive if our government would just bring them home. Instead, they are being left as sitting ducks in a country that just wants sovereignty.

If it was the Iranian military occupying Montclair, turning the new School of Communication and Media to rubble, Americans would likely have no issue with violent resistance to that threat.

Americans should put themselves in the shoes of Iranians. It is not hard to wish for the safety of our troops and still understand that their role in this conflict is that of the aggressor.

Whether it is out of sympathy for the civilians of a foreign country or our own military, Americans must avoid letting this conflict be reduced to “good guys versus bad guys.” Instead, we should demand our government withdraw our troops and end its war crusade in the Middle East, once and for all.

Sam Carliner, an journalism major, is in his third year as a staff writer for The Montclarion.
Earlier this month, Major League Baseball punished the Houston Astros for stealing opponents’ pitch signs during their 2017 championship season. The lengthy investigation concluded with a $5 million fine, a loss of first and second round draft picks in 2020 and 2021 and one year suspensions for Astros manager A.J. Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow.

The only thing they forgot was confiscating the Houston Astros of their World Series title.

In 1919, eight players on the Chicago White Sox were accused of throwing the World Series for money. What is now known as the “Black Sox Scandal” ended with all eight alleged culprits being permanently banned from baseball despite being found not guilty of all counts in court.

Granted, there were various cover-ups, including a suspicious vanishing of crucial evidence within the case that led to the acquittal.

Regardless, none of the eight players, including “Shoeless” Joe Jackson, who supposedly backed out of the fix, could ever play baseball again.

One hundred years later, in what one would think would be a more enlightened game, the Astros are given a slap on the wrist for cheating to win the World Series, a crime I believe to be far more heinous than losing on purpose.

All of the players involved in the cheating scandal were granted immunity by the MLB for their cooperation in the investigation. None of them will be punished. Key players like Jose Altuve, Alex Bregman and George Springer will continue their careers full of success and praise, all ending their time in baseball with no permanent blemish on their career timeline.

Meanwhile, players like Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens are mentioned in lockstep with their use of steroids and year after year fall shy of election into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Rightly so, but all cheaters should be treated equally.

Even Pete Rose, baseball’s all time hit leader, arguably the greatest hitter in baseball history, was permanently banned from baseball after betting on games as a manager, a crime entirely separate from his career as a player. Additionally, he never once put his money against his team, only betting on them to win. He will never be admitted into Cooperstown, and will only be remembered for that unfair absence.

Many people are attempting to undercut the severity of the Astros’ crimes by claiming their players still had to hit the ball themselves, and simply knowing what pitch was coming is not much of an edge.

When the ball is firing towards you upwards of 90 miles per hour, detecting the ball’s rotation and the pitcher’s arm slot is the majority of the battle. Every batter in the MLB is a good hitter. They would not be at the highest playing level in the world if they weren’t. It’s players who are able to make those quick judgments correctly and react accordingly who separate themselves from averageness.

In a time where different tactics are constantly being developed to speed up the game and create more offense to raise dwindling viewership, this is a disaster for the sport of baseball, and the MLB should treat it as such.

Brian Rooney, a communication and media arts major, is in his first year as opinion editor for The Montclarion.

Thumbs Up

Yankees legend, Derek Jeter, elected into baseball Hall of Fame

Greece elects Katerina Sakellaropoulou as its first woman president

Bruce Springsteen’s son, Sam, sworn in as firefighter in Jersey City

Thumbs Down

Outbreak of new coronavirus kills 9 people in China

Heavy metal pioneer, Ozzy Osbourne announces he has Parkinson’s disease

The snacking community says goodbye to Planter’s mascot, Mr. Peanut. He was 104 years old #RIPeanut
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| **JOBS AND CLASSIFIEDS**  
**Voice Over / Narrator for online course**  
A specialized occupational safety company is looking for a student with broadcasting, communication, theater/acting major to do the voice over/narration of an one hour on-line safety course that we have developed. We can provide the laptop with the authoring tool and headphones for recording. If you are interested to gain experience in this field and a fee for your work please contact Harry at email: harryx@atlassafety-health.com  

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**$9.50 per hour / Bartlett’s Greenhouse and Florist**  
Looking for weekend help making grave covers 9am-5pm. Bulk of the work is done by December 15th so we can work around exam and project schedules. The address is walking distance from Montclair state (814 Grove Street, Clifton NJ). Contact us at 973-471-6480 if interested.  

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Sitter needed for 8th grade twin boys. After school hours (flexible). Just someone who can keep them on track w/ homework, drive them to a few after school activities and light meals. 5 days a week until the end of December. Ultimately, looking for a sitter in the educational field, and would love to have someone who can keep them focused and on track. If interested, please email cdiambrosio@hotmail.com  

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Tutors 101, LLC is looking for responsible, dedicated, and friendly tutors. You choose your preferred type of tutoring (age, level, subject) and location. Tutor must have a car. Scheduling is flexible. Does not need to be an education major. Work 1-8 hours per week. This position pays $30 – $35 per hour. Undergraduates make $30/hr and college graduates make $35/hr. If interested in tutoring, apply here: https://tutors101.com/tutor-application/. Any questions, email us here: hello@tutors101.com  

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ARE YOU IN CRISIS OR STRUGGLING? HEALING, HOPE AND HELP CAN HAPPEN!  
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!

Spring Semester Holiday Edition

Across
1. A Jewish holiday celebrated in April.
2. An Irish holiday accompanied by a big parade.
4. A day full of love in February.
6. The Christian celebration on a Sunday in April.
7. A May celebration in honor of mothers.

Down
1. On the third Monday in February, we honor these figures.
3. A day everyone dreads involving money in April.
5. We honor a prominent figure in the civil rights movement.

Word Search

*For answers to the puzzles, please check The Montclarion Facebook page every Thursday.*
Films that Flew Under the Radar
in 2019

Stephanie Romano poses in Calcia Hall on Tuesday.

Kristoffer Fernandes | The Montclarion

It's the new year and as much as everybody is anticipating this stacked year of movies from the titans of filmmaking, here are some films that you might have missed and should watch, listed in no particular order.

The Farewell

Sophomore filmmaker Lulu Wang made a big splash this past year with the incredibly realistic and original story presented in "The Farewell." Despite its lack of representation in the Academy Awards this year, the film should be regarded as one of the better films of 2019.

It is reminiscent of a Wes Anderson-type film without trying to imitate it. The way the characters talk to one another, the interesting shot composition and the presence of something mystical in the world of the film are all qualities that both Wang and Anderson share.

This is definitely a film you should watch with a friend, but not with a family member so you can avoid awkward eye contact at the more strange parts of the film.

Climax

Jack Landon
Staff Writer

If you're unfamiliar with Gaspar Noé and recognize his name from trendy film forums then this might be the film to watch so that you can tell your film nerd friends that you “dipped your toe into the delirious mind of Gaspar Noé.”

Noé is known for pushing the envelope in his films, trying to make his audience squirm more than the last one. In “Climax,” he traps the audience in an abandoned building with a dance troupe having one of the scariest acid trips that would make any Phish fan nervous.

The first thing to note about this film is the staging (which is no surprise because the whole cast are professional dancers), which deserves recognition on its own, but Noé combines elaborate dances on screen with wicked camera movements following characters as they slowly descend into madness.

This is definitely a film you should watch with a friend, but not with a family member so you can avoid awkward eye contact at the more strange parts of the film.

A Hidden Life

Terrence Malick is one of the few filmmakers that will always live up to their own hype. With zero nominations this year at the Academy Awards, this straightforward narrative about a German farmer who refuses to fight for the Nazis in World War II is one of the more socially relevant films of 2019.

In this era of films, I don't think I've seen a better use of camera movements. Every camera movement is, for lack of a better word, freeing. It's like you're watching someone just living their life, which is why I think a lot of Americans can resonate with this film.

It puts you in the place of the main character, and the issues he deals with are interesting to compare to what we deal with now.

The long three-hour runtime is daunting, which is why I recommend seeing this in theaters because it will keep you more invested in the movie itself.

The Death of Dick Long

"The Death of Dick Long" is definitely one of the better screenplays written in 2019, and its lack of recognition at the Academy is probably attributed to the plot. Daniel Scheinert has finally gotten a second crack at another feature film since his debut feature "Swiss Army Man," which has a great spirit, but Scheinert fails to solidly end the film.

The film delivers an intelligent story that is transcended with terrific performances, witty banter from rednecks and deep characters. The whole cast should have been nominated as everyone had an excellent performance.

Stream this on Amazon with some friends and not a family member. The film, like the characters in it, get weird.

You may not have heard of them before, but these are the unsung heroes of 2019 cinema. Take a break from watching more blockbusters and mainstream films and watch these low-key flicks.
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2019 was a remarkable year for horror films despite being underrepresented in the Oscars. Among the graveyard of unrecognized accomplishments in this year’s nominations lies Ari Aster’s “Midsommar.” The film follows Dani, a young woman plagued by intense grief and a crumbling relationship, who joins friends on a trip to Sweden for the Midsummer festival. The idyllic countryside quickly loses its charm as the terrifying cultish reality of the rituals unfolds.

“Midsommar” is a visually immersive, morbidly humorous and deeply unsettling fairytale that brings nightmarish terror to daylight. Aster and his team handle themes of human grief and familial connection with a genre bending finesse and themes of human grief and familial connection throughout the movie. Emile Mosseri’s cinematography, supporting actor and score. This film received multiple awards and nominations but was unfortunately snubbed at the Oscars, mainly in the categories of cinematography, supporting actor and score. Every shot of the film is beautiful and cinematic. Adam Newport-Berra paints the city with love and heartbreak. Majors gives a spectacular performance as Mont, a character who acted with elegance and passion throughout the movie. Emile Mosseri’s score is the perfect background for Jimmy and Mont’s lives in San Francisco. This is a fantastic movie that definitely should have received recognition from the academy.

Joe Talbot’s directorial debut “The Last Black Man in San Francisco,” tells the story of Jimmy Fails, played by himself. The film explores the true story of Talbot and Fails in the bay city. Living with his best friend Montgomery “Mont” Allen and Mont’s grandfather, played by Jonathan Majors and Danny Glover. Jimmy dreams of one day reclaiming the Victorian home his grandfather built in the 1940s. With Mont by his side, the two best friends skateboard through the streets of San Francisco, watching the city that they love change every day.

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William Beavers
Staff Writer

In “Bad Boys for Life” Will Smith and Martin Lawrence make an impressive comeback. This time, it moved further away from the takedown of drug lords and transitioned to discussions about building families, which makes the Bad Boys more human.

While it is tiring to see the Latino villain stereotype, the film makes up for it with its soundtrack and its friendly moments between the two lead characters and the younger new cast members, played by Vanessa Hudgens, Alexander Ludwig and Charles Melton.

In “Bad Boys for Life,” Marcus Burnett, played by Martin Lawrence, wants to retire and spend more time with his wife and grown-up children, while Mike Lowrey, played by Will Smith, still thinks he can maintain his boy image and bring down the crooks of Miami in fast cars and suave suits.

That all changes when Isabel Aretas and her son Armando Armas, played by Kate del Castillo and Jacob Scipio, attack Mike and begin shooting people who brought down her husband’s drug cartel. Mike and Marcus agreed they would ride together and die together long ago, so now they must embark on one last ride to bring Isabel and Armando down and get their lives back.

From the opening car chase, I knew the usual destruction of the earlier films had come back. But just when I thought some things never changed, I was proven wrong when I saw Marcus’s concerns about Mike. Marcus wants to get away from the violence to be closer to his family, and he doesn’t want Mike getting killed over his vendetta against Armando, since Mike is like a brother to him.

As for Mike, he has a dark past that comes back to haunt him since he got shot. A lot of good people who brought down Isabel’s husband were killed. In those moments, Mike shows his serious side and works to redeem himself.

The younger cast members did well themselves. Hudgens’ character of Kelly is a good shot at gunning down criminals. Ludwig as Dorn is an excellent computer expert and could run and punch in the final battle like he was on a football field. And Melton as Rafe comes off as comic relief when trying to be cool with Smith’s character while assisting with the missions.

When looking at other aspects of the movie, the soundtrack is excellent. The scoring by Lorne Balfe reminds me of Hans Zimmer and Trevor Rabin when it highlights the film’s dangerous and pleasant scenes. The soundtrack includes hip-hop songs performed by P. Diddy, Pitbull and the Black Eyed Peas among others. They’re great to hear during shootouts, car chases and victory scenes.

While I liked the adrenaline-filled moments with the cast and the music, I grew somewhat tired of seeing the usual Latino villain stereotype. In the case of Isabel and Armando, the majority of the film portrayed them as Mexicans whose lives were ruined by Mike, an American, and their only way to move up is through murder. It’s best for people to be aware that they behaved the way they did because they were wronged, not because the film is trying to perpetuate untrue stereotypes.

Overall, “Bad Boys for Life” is the best of the baddest of the “Bad Boys” franchise. Smith and Lawrence still make an excellent duo after all these years. If you want to see two bad boys confront harsh crooks and their humanity, watch “Bad Boys for Life.”
The Safdie brothers bring a new and interesting flavor to the traditional New York crime film. They fall as a result, “Uncut Gems” is a destructive gambling addiction. The film is a cautionary tale of hopeful desperation glistening in the sunken eyes of Howard Ratner, played by Adam Sandler, a delusional diamond dealer, who struggles to balance his home, professional and personal life against the stress cinema and “Uncut Gems” is as abrasive as the city streets it’s set in.

Weaving intelligent comedy in the seams of a gritty crime drama, the Safdie brothers deliver a unique period piece, the seams of a gritty crime drama, the Safdie brothers manage to build a tension that keeps audiences engrossed. It is a relentless action-packed roller coaster that constantly raises the stakes making for poignantly cathartic.

The capacity to empathize with Howard is completely accredited to Sandler’s performance and is what carries the success of the narrative. The desire for Howard to succeed is coupled with sick satisfaction of watching him navigate his failures, creating a tumultuous relationship that keeps the constant action in the film interesting. Sandler is met by a number of other impressive performances from Julia Fox, Idina Menzel and former basketball player Kevin Garnett.

The Safdie brother’s nihilistic voice tells a fable that illustrates the price of desire which can only culminate in devastating relief. “Uncut Gems” is a visceral white knuckle experience that will put viewers in a sweat, capturing the excitement and anxiety of watching a high stakes sports game for the entirety of its two-hour duration.

If you are not a fan of the New York City subway system, “Uncut Gems” may not be for you. It is dirty, loud and relentless. But, if you can get past the rattling train cars and crude yelling of locals, within the mess of crossed lines, it is a relatable and emotionally rich story of human experience.
Men’s Swimming Eager to Dive Into Remainder of Season

Young team lead by Golovin keeps their heads held high

Despite a 2-6 record, the Montclair State University men’s swimming and diving team have made the best out of a tough situation.

The team has only fielded a 12-man roster for most of the season, with seven of them being freshmen. With a young but promising core, the team has taken some tough losses early in the season as they began by losing four of their first five meets.

However, senior captain Kevin Gibson is pleased with the amount of progress the younger swimmers have made. “I think they’ve done really well adjusting to the team,” Gibson said. “They’ve been pushing each other very well during practices and keeping their spirits up.”

This has led to notable improvements, as Gibson mentioned that many of the younger swimmers on the team have reached personal records throughout the season. “The biggest surprise of the season really came from all the freshmen on the team, especially when they all pumped out really fast times and even best times by a large margin at dual meets,” Gibson said.

One freshman who has certainly pumped out some fast times is Samuel Golovin. He has continued his spectacular first-year campaign with times among all New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) competitors in the top 10 in the 100 butterfly (52.96) and 200 butterfly (1:57.89).

Golovin has bigger goals set out in mind though. “Making it to the NCAA Championships in March is my main individual goal heading into the end of the season,” Golovin said. “I want to be the person to do that for my team.”

The team recently came back from their annual winter training at St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands a couple of weeks ago. While the team was at St. Croix, they not only endured rigorous swimming practices throughout the morning and afternoon, but also intense cardio sessions.

Golovin reflected on a particularly tough moment for the team during their training at St. Croix. “There was this one running course that we did called ‘The Beast,’” Golovin said. “It was on a high elevation and it was all uphill running. It was insane.”

The rigorous training at St. Croix has paid dividends. The Red Hawks earned a convincing 113-83 victory over the FDU-Fordham Devils on Jan. 14, just a few days after their training. They also competed very well in a tough loss against Ramapo College, 152-110.

With the dual meet season coming to a close, the Red Hawks are focusing more on improving themselves as swimmers and divers, rather than wins and losses. “Our times are right there with the top-tier teams that we lost to,” Golovin said. “We just don’t have the numbers to compete with these schools.”
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Men’s Basketball Pushes for Playoffs with High Hopes for New Coach

Team looks to end strong before going into postseason

Midway through the season, Montclair State University's men's Basketball team has an 8-8 overall record. The team sits in third place in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) with a 6-3 record and eight games to go.

Newly hired head coach Justin Potts has adapted to the new style of play, and so far players have responded positively.

The team started the season traveling outside of New Jersey to Oregon and Virginia, where they won and lost a game in each state. One of the biggest highlights of the first half of the season came on Nov. 26, when the team played their first NJAC game at William Paterson University.

A back-and-forth battle between the two led to a late shot for William Paterson to send the game into overtime. The overtime game was capped off with Red Hawks senior guard Akbar Hoffman's game winning shot from the top of the key with three defenders surrounded by him.

This buzzer beater landed Hoffman on ESPN's top 10 highlights, with a 41 point performance and an amazing finish to the teams first NJAC matchup of the year.

The team went on to win five straight games against key NJAC opponents, finishing off mid-season 7-3. With this came a lot of improvement to be made in 2020.

Throughout the season, senior leadership has played a big role, with the top four scorers being all seniors. Hoffman leads the team, averaging almost 18 points per game. The other three seniors, guard Nate Nahirirey, forward Jalen Parham and forward/center Eddie Emedoh each average between 10 and 11 points per game.

The new year started off rocky, with the team losing five out of six games. They still hold on to third place in the NJAC conference and are only two games back from the leader, Stockton University.

The men’s team is coming into a home stretch of NJAC matchups with the second best offense in the league, averaging 80 points per game. They also lead the league in 3-point field goals made, averaging 11.2 a game.

The importance of offense plays a major role for Montclair State. They strive to force turnovers during the game and transition to get open shots and 3-point attempts.

The team plays a deep rotation of players off the bench that contribute to valuable minutes and have come up big in close games.

The team's final nine games are against NJAC opponents. William Paterson will come to Panzer Gym on Jan. 22, setting up another intriguing matchup after the previous game was won by Montclair State on Hoffman's game winner.

Two important matchups come in February, when first place Stockton and second place Rutgers-Newark make trips to Montclair State that can impact NJAC standings immensely.

These games give Montclair State the opportunity to move up in the standings with each matchup. Home court will give the Red Hawks a strong advantage, with five out of their nine final games being played at Panzer, where the team excels.

This final stretch will be a true test for Coach Potts. His team plays with a fast tempo and with a full-court press that has been adapted well by his players.

The team flourishes with multiple players and sometimes uses all 10-15 players to win games. There is a lot of important basketball left to be played for the Red Hawks men’s basketball, who look to make another playoff run.
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Women’s Basketball Bounces Into Spring Semester on Seven Game Win Streak

Head coach Karen Harvey leads team to victories

Sophomore guard Rylee Mulligan looks to shoot against Kean University on Dec. 7.

The Montclair State University women’s basketball team has had a successful first half of their season, standing currently at 12-4 overall and 7-2 in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC). This past weekend, the team beat Stockton University 52-43 to extend their win streak to seven games overall and four straight wins in the NJAC.

Over winter break, the team hosted Hartwick College, York College and Bethany College, which brought the return of former Montclair State assistant coach, Brian Sansom, for the Montclair State holiday tournament. The Red Hawks dominated Bethany in the first game 71-29 and further advanced to the championship game where they beat York, 67-54.

The team’s seven-game win streak is a testament to how hard the Red Hawks have been working since preseason and how well the team plays together. Even when the team loses a game, the score margin has been small with the team giving it their all until the end.

On Dec. 14, the team hosted The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) where the Red Hawks tied the game on the buzzer to go into overtime. Unfortunately, TCNJ won the game 64-62 on a buzzer-beater, but this was a game that showed that the Red Hawks never give up and fight until the very end.

Although the team’s success has been a group effort, there have been some standout players this season, one being freshman guard Nikki Carter, who was named the NJAC rookie of the week. Carter currently leads the team in scoring average in the NJAC with a 15.1 average and is ranked fifth overall in the conference.

Teammate and senior forward Alex McKinnon is behind Carter with a 12.2 average and is ranked 11th overall in the conference. McKinnon has also been having a successful senior season and was named NJAC player of the week.

“We have to keep showing up and playing hard every single game and for every possession,” McKinnon said. “The NJAC is a tough conference and no games are given, so we have to work hard in practice and stick to our basics to continue the streak.”

McKinnon has also been accepted into the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) “So You Want To Be A Coach” program, which helps female college athletes who aspire to be coaches someday. This program will provide her with professional development and career advancement through education, skills enhancement, networking and exposure opportunities. McKinnon is the second Red Hawk in history to be selected for the program, the last being Kisandra Ayanbadejo in 2011.

When asked about the seven-game win streak, McKinnon was proud of her team’s accomplishments.

“It’s a great feeling,” McKinnon said. “Things are clicking for us on offense and I think we are playing consistent defense. We are playing like a team and everyone is involved in every play.”

The Red Hawks are back in action this semester to see if they can continue their unbeaten run.
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Men’s Ice Hockey Pushes For Playoff Spot With Four Games Left

Samantha Impaglia
Sports Editor

The Montclair State University men’s ice hockey team has some important games coming up as their 2019-2020 comes to an end. The team is pushing for playoffs with four games left; two home and two away. Two wins will secure them a playoff spot, something the team and head coach Robbie Martinez have been striving for all season.

The Red Hawks started off the season strong with a 7-3 win against The College of New Jersey. Freshmen forwards Mike Miller and Billy Parsley scored two goals each, while sophomore defenceman Ryan Martinez had a goal and two assists and junior forward Shawn Meneghin had four assists. Sophomore goaltender Ondrej Smalec had a strong start in the net.

Despite this positive start, the team has since struggled to secure wins and find ways to score. With a home-based start to the season, the Red Hawks were pressured to try to win important games at Floyd Hall Arena against tough teams like University of Delaware and Marist College.

“Overall I feel like the season was a little misleading being that we won our first game by a landslide,” Miller said. “Then the second game reality set in place for us being such a young team. I think it kind of caught us off guard. A big part of our playoff push is going to be our defensive game.”

The team knew some changes had to be made in order to push for a playoff spot. Smart switches like moving Martinez from forward to defense has given some depth to the team. While the defense improved, the goalkeeping took a hit when starting sophomore goaltender Danny Porth tore his ACL six games into the schedule. This forced Smalec to step up and bear an unrealistic workload, facing tough division rivals like Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Nevertheless, Smalec bared down and gave it his all for the Red Hawks.

Two games have been especially momentum changing for the team this season. Porth ended up coming back after resting five games, knowing his team needed help in order to grab a playoff spot. A 2-2 tie against Sacred Heart University and a 1-0 shutout over St. John’s College showed the team they can be worthy of a playoff spot, both in which Porth played on his injury.

Steve Ramos, a sophomore defenceman for the Red Hawks, has high hopes that his team will make it to the playoffs.

“Coming into the second half of the season is always a little more difficult,” Ramos said. “It’s a long season and with guys being banged up it could be a struggle. However with the group of guys we have there’s no doubt in my mind we can make this playoff push.”

Ramos went on to discuss where the strengths of the team are.

“Goaltending has been without a doubt the anchor of our team this season with Porth and Ondrej,” Ramos said. “Offensively is where we have our most trouble, but if we play our systems correctly that’ll come. We just have to bare down for the next couple weeks and get it done. No excuses.”

Many players have stepped up this season, including Miller, Martinez, Porth and Ramos. They will play at Marist College Saturday, then Central Connecticut State University on Feb. 1. The Red Hawks will end the 2019-2020 season with a two game homestand, playing Army and lastly Sacred Heart. It will be an intense, but hopefully rewarding, end to the regular season as they are pushing for the playoff spot.

Miller discussed how he thinks his team should play in order to make the playoffs.

“Everyone needs to dial in and play the best defense we can,” Miller said. “The offense will come and we will get our chances but it has to come from the backend first. We have to pick up as many points as possible in our remaining games if we even want a chance to make playoffs and prove to ourselves that we are not giving up.”