This March marks one year since the global pandemic and lockdown due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that altered the way we live dramatically. Montclair State University initially conducted its classes and day-to-day business fully remote until fall 2020, when the university began to offer mixed remote and in-person classes along with clubs and sports being able to practice and meet following safety guidelines.

Now in the spring 2021 semester, there has been a rise of safety guidelines. The pandemic has presented a lot of problems with traveling, looking for housing, and of course, being an international student, going into a new country I don’t know anyone and being all virtual hasn’t allowed me to meet new people or professors,” Katerina said.

Both Bayard and Katerina agree that going virtual has affected their motivation and made it more difficult to balance different aspects of life. “It’s been difficult to balance hours for work and for rest,” Katerina said. “It’s difficult when you have everything in one place. The first month was hard, I was eating, resting and studying all in one place, it’s easy to feel overworked.”

Despite the changes in learning, some students simply miss seeing fellow students’ faces scattered around campus. Sam Angelo, a sophomore business administration major, explains what he misses most about being on campus pre-pandemic. “What I miss most about school pre-pandemic is the amount of people on campus everyday and being able to meet new people,” Angelo said. “Walking around, seeing our campus so packed everyday was an amazing sight to see.”

Angelo is on the Montclair State baseball team and credits his involvement on the team for helping him stay focused on his work and keeping fit for the season. The pandemic has presented changes that not only students had to adjust to, but faculty as well.

Jacqueline Regan, an English professor at Montclair State, discussed that the most difficult adjustment was the switch.
The Montclarion is a publication of Montelican Publishing, Inc. published weekly, except during the 2020 fall semester, examinations, summer and winter sessions. The Montclarion is funded by student fees distributed by Montclair State University and incoming advertising revenue. The views expressed in the Opinion section, with the exception of the Main Editorial, do not necessarily reflect the views of The Montclarion.

The Montclarion has a commitment to accuracy and clarity and will report corrections or clarifications if information is found to be incorrect. To report an error of fact or a Letter to the Editor, email the Editor-in-Chief at montclarionchief@gmail.com.

Information reported in the Red Hawk Rap Sheet comes directly from the MSU Police Department. We do not print retractions to the rap sheet unless information directly from the police report is incorrect. We can print an update to the events only if the newspaper is given access to relevant documents to corroborate the information.

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John LaRosa | The Montclarion

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Montclair State University COVID-19 policy violations continued from page 1

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John LaRosa | The Montclarion

Con...
The Montclarion Wins 9 NJPF Awards With Two For First Place

Rosaria Lo Presti
News Editor

The New Jersey Press Foundation (NJPF) awarded The Montclarion with two first-place awards followed by two second-place awards and five third-place awards in the statewide College Newspaper Contest.

College newspapers around New Jersey select their best articles, photographs and videos each year to submit to the contest. Anything published between March 1, 2020, and Feb. 28, 2021, was eligible for nomination, and the winners were announced on March 17.

Thomas Neira, editor-in-chief of The Montclarion, won a third-place award for the arts and entertainment/critical writing category. He acknowledges the commitment of The Montclarion staff through a difficult time period.

"I’m really proud of all the work our team has done," Neira said. "It’s been a difficult year but the editors and staff have on our team has really helped us overcome all the challenges posed to us. Winning these awards reflects that, and really couldn’t ask for a better team than this one."

Jen Losos, former editor-in-chief of The Montclarion, won a third-place award for her coronavirus/COVID-19 coverage. She is immensely proud of the team for being able to switch so quickly to an online-only publication and reporting completely remotely.

"It was a big challenge, but seeing how hard the editorial staff worked throughout the first semester of COVID-19 proved they were a force to be reckoned with, so I am not surprised they went on to win nine awards this year," Robertson said. "It is humbling and heartwarming to know even after graduating, last year’s hard work on COVID-19 related articles and photo essays is being recognized by the NJPF.”

Jenna Sundel, assistant news editor of The Montclarion, also won the third-place award for her coronavirus/COVID-19 coverage.

"I was so honored to receive this award for my coverage of COVID-19," Sundel said. "The pandemic has impacted everyone’s life this past year, so it was encouraging to know that we are doing a great job covering this topic.”

Casey Masterson is the feature editor of The Montclarion and also won a third-place award for her coronavirus/COVID-19 coverage.

"I’ll be honest, I didn’t expect to win," Masterson said. "We had so many wonderful articles that were submitted this year, but I was honored to be considered a part of this.

Brielle Wyka, video editor of The Montclarion, won a third-place award for her video coverage.

"I know you’ve always wanted to win," Masterson said. "We worked so much later in my career. Wyka said, “I’m so proud of everyone for their consistent hard work throughout a pandemic.”

Samantha Impaglia is the managing editor of The Montclarion and is proud of the team’s consistent hard work through a pandemic.

"Seeing how this team accomplished so much, especially in a pandemic is the best feeling," Impaglia said. "I’m so proud of everyone for their consistent hard work, especially seeing my former sports team writers take home multiple awards, it’s paid off.

Tara George, head of the digital media department in the School of Communication and Television, also said she was moved by the news.

"It’s such an honor to have The Montclarion be recognized by the NJPF for the top moment of the men’s basketball season," Krak said. "Covering sports has always been a passion of mine and to be noticed for my sports work with incredible gratifying. I’d like to thank Ben Caplen and the rest of The Montclarion team for having the trust in me to cover a variety of different sports as it is always a pleasure.”

"I am really proud of all the work our team has done," Neira said. "It’s been a difficult year but the editors and staff have on our team has really helped us overcome all the challenges posed to us. Winning these awards reflects that, and really couldn’t ask for a better team than this one.”

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Residential Students Hit With Restrictions After Spike in COVID-19 Cases

More restrictions were announced to Montclair State University residential students on March 20, as Residential Life contacted students via email. The increase in restrictions comes as transmission levels rise according to unnamed university contact tracers. Up to 40 students have tested positive in the previous week, raising the total to double digits for the first time in the spring 2021 semester.

These restrictions include, but are not limited to, no visitors at all until Sunday, April 11. This also includes those who live on campus, but not in the same building and includes overnight visits. The policy of mandatory required testing every other week is still in effect, with any form of test avoidance meaning immediate removal from residential buildings for the rest of the semester.

The doubling down on restrictions comes as spring break season for colleges and universities across the country begins. Montclair State is one of many colleges opting to avoid a spring break for the spring 2021 semester to stay clear of the potential rise in cases.

Residential Life asserts that none of the cases are from classes or office visits, instead highlighting off-campus visitors in residence halls in their email as possible contaminants for students. These restrictions are no surprise to the small, but significant residential policy on campus.

For Tony Jordan, a junior marketing major who lives in Blanton Hall, the new policies are a new pain.

“To be honest, the school is punishing the rest of us [residential students] for the actions of a few and it’s annoying,” Jordan said. “Like we all get tested a lot and no we aren’t allowed to visit another dorm hall.”

Residents are expected to stay on campus at all times unless they sign waivers with the Office of Residence Life to leave at highly specific times and dates. While good in theory, Jordan asserts it is not completely safe.

“The school is putting their efforts into the wrong thing in order to ‘protect us’ like acting like a self-assessment that most people would lie on anyway is supposed to protect us, and then they threaten to kick us out if it’s not completed,” Jordan said.

Even on the other side of campus beyond The Heights and halls, Clove Road students are still feeling the impact. Unlike on-campus students such as Jordan, Clove Road students are not required to have meal plans. This in turn necessitates grocery shopping and off-campus travel.

Asa Hinson, a junior television and digital media major, lives in Hawk Crossings, one of the many residential buildings on Clove Road. Hinson agrees with the initial policies made by the school, given that they were doing what they could to ensure students were safe. Now she feels it has crossed the line.

“Although COVID-19 is a very serious matter, I feel like the school was extremely ridiculous with its new reinforced rules,” Hinson said. “No one should be getting kicked off campus for leaving as long as students are taking precautions everywhere else. You just can’t keep students hostage, it’s ridiculous.”

The school is working to ensure that there are few venues available for mass gatherings, but as of now has not confirmed if that will be extended to classrooms and laboratories as well. They are tightening occupancy limits for dining hall venues and other indoor gathering spaces.

All students are still required to wear masks in public spaces and practice social distancing, and noninvasive temperature checks stations are in every building and are a requirement to enter.

The office of Residence Life could not be reached for comment.

Carley Campbell
Staff Writer

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The office of Residence Life could not be reached for comment.
Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies Program Welcomes New Creative Zine

Lauren Lamantia
Co-Chief Copy Editor

As of recently, the gender, sexuality and women’s studies program (GSWS) at Montclair State University announced that it is in the process of making a collaborative zine with the help of students. A zine, historically known as a small-circulated magazine showcasing creativity of all kinds, has since symbolized the encouragement of unfiltered, honest and raw voices to be heard that are typically not associated with mainstream media outlets. Throughout ages, zines have acted as powerful statements of someone else’s construction. For so many of us we had the experience at Montclair State. “Coming to this school is where I went with this, like coming to this school as a freshman and seeing that there’s a program with this zine with all of these different queer and POC and intersectional voices would’ve been really important for any person who feels any of those experiences to see,” Schwartz said. “It would’ve made them feel safer in our school and more excited about their education. I feel like that was what I was lacking.”

Farley, a junior psychology major who works as an intern for GSWS, expressed how they think the zine can reach all kinds of audiences. “There’s a lot more freedom with content and more range that can be encapsulated into this project because students can come together and sort of write or make art about their own experiences,” Schwartz said. “There’s no kind of central thing that we have to meet. It’s just a community coming together and I’m hoping that this project will foster more community in the GSWS program as well as other programs, we’re hoping to kind of unite.”

Schwartz also continued on their inspiration behind the idea and how it grew from their own experience at Montclair State. “These stories are deeply personal and I hope that readers are able to see themselves in these stories. We are amplifying queer creative expression and it’s important to show our voices through this zine.”

More information on the zine and the GSWS program can be found on Instagram @gsu_msu.
As we reach the year benchmark of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the mental scars left behind on the population are making themselves apparent. Among those affected are Montclair State University students, whose social temperature is taken by the Instagram account Montclair State Confessions (@montclairstateconfessions).

This Instagram account, usually reserved for fun anonymous posts, has received seven confessions of suicidal intent this winter. With rising mental health concerns on the horizon, both Montclair State Confessions and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) want to assure the campus community that there is help available to them.

Montclair State students are aware of the aforementioned Instagram account, but few know who the student behind it all is. Justin Watson, a junior information technology major, is the brains behind the @montclairstateconfessions account, with 298 posts and over three thousand followers, and counting. Watson started the account in order to bring the community together.

“Montclair State Confessions is an Instagram page that I created to help people share their experiences,” Watson said. “It’s for people to get together and make this school more of a community, because this school is more of a commuter school, so some people don’t really know what’s going on inside these walls. So I’m giving people an outlet to voice their opinions and their situations to see how people can connect with that.”

The account is generally the face of fun confessions that range from relationships to raunchy activity. All posts are anonymous, as they are filled out on a Google form. Even Watson does not know the identity of those who post.

Amidst the sea of fun, alarming cries for help have surfaced. Watson has received seven confessions stating some form of suicidal intent. Before the pandemic these messages were rare, but as it rages on these messages have begun to surface.

“It was a gradual thing because right away the pandemic is new to all of us,” Watson said. “Plus we were told it was going to be short, it was going to be like two weeks to a month. Now that it has been a year, you can start to see the effects on people.”

Watson, in a noble effort, made two Instagram videos on the account where he spoke to the larger Montclair State community about mental health issues. The sincerity in these videos is palpable and one can hear from the tone of Watson’s voice that he wants to help his fellow peers.

“The first video I made was because that’s when I first really started to see them [the suicidal messages.] I wanted to put that as a notice that I was starting to see these,” Watson said. “It was more of a personal video, that I’m here, there are people here, there are things available for you. Now the second video is more of a call for action because the first videos I tried to bring awareness to it, but it has only gotten worse. Now, something has to be done and that’s what I’m trying to do right now.”

This is a tall task for one person to handle. Watson has reached out to the University Police Department (UPD) and to CAPS about these confessions. Watson can not provide names, as all confessions are anon-
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ymous, but now he no longer has to handle this situation alone. Receiving confessions like these, while terrifying for others, has also taken a toll on Watson.

“I just like everybody else, so I deal with social and school stress,” Watson said. “Just to see everyone going through what I’m going through and even worse it affects me too. You don’t want to see people go through that, especially if you can try to help them and change it.”

Watson has made a powerful ally to aid him in advising the Montclair State community. Dr. Jaclyn Friedman-Lombardo, the director of CAPS, is happy to work with Watson for the benefit of the campus community’s mental health.

“I think if you have a social media outlet where people talk about suicidal thoughts and feelings, they should be prepared to give them [the students] the proper resources,” Friedman-Lombardo said. “I want him to have support in doing that to make sure the information is safe. I’m happy he’s interested in collaborating because that would be ideal.”

It is important to note that CAPS is in operation, even during the pandemic and still accessible to students in a COVID-19 friendly manner. Services such as group sessions, phone screenings and individual sessions are still available. If the average of six counseling sessions is not enough, students can transition to a group counseling sessions is not enough, and IACS has been approved by the International Association of Counseling Services (IACS) since 2014. There are space constraints for Friedman-Lombardo and her fellow CAPS counselors. Before the pandemic, there were plans to give CAPS more space in the Student Center, but Friedman-Lombardo explained that these plans have been put on hold indefinitely, if not canceled. A standpoint in the hiring process has also left a position vacant within the CAPS offices.

With so much weight on the shoulders of the counselors at CAPS, Watson believes that Montclair State administrators and campus institutions like Residence Life should offer support to the students on campus.

“If you have to tell the RA to do wellness checks, take everyone into the hallway one-on-one to see how they are doing, just check-ins to make sure these people are okay,” Watson said. “Something like that, something small, so there are notes of people who might not be okay, so we know if it is time to step in.”

The larger Montclair State community has also seen suicidal confessions on Montclair State Confessions. Edward DuCoin, a senior film major, noticed these confessions and made the confession a voice for the concerns of Montclair State students. He received these confessions and made the noble stand to aid his fellow peers. In order to fight off the mental fog, Watson wants to remind everyone that you have to fight for yourself during these trying times.

“You got to remember why you came here to begin with,” Watson said. “There’s a goal you came here with. You can’t just forget it, you’ve got to let it push you. Maybe you won’t be able to conquer the whole thing in one try, but try taking little goals and conquering one at a time. I’ll help.”

Mental Health Resources:
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Available 24 hours: 800-273-8255
CAPS: 973-655-5211 (Option 2 after hours)

Dr. Jaclyn Friedman-Lombardo was happy to explain the resources available to students.
Montclair State’s Own Goes From Classroom to On-Set

Emma Richter
Staff Writer

Around their junior and senior years of college, students start to venture out and look for internships, jobs and other potential opportunities within their field. Here at Montclair State University, upperclassmen are doing just that, but because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, internships are no longer the same.

Despite the virus’s best efforts to knock people down, many have managed to stay afloat and regain their footing. One of these people is Montclair State’s very own, Sarah DiPippa, a junior television and digital media (TVDM) major with a minor in business. Even through a computer screen, you will continually find DiPippa in a bubbly mood and always excited to talk about anything.

DiPippa recently had an amazing offer land in her lap: being hired as a health and safety production assistant on a show. Her role was involved in the production of a new drama series, “Ways and Means,” starring Patrick Dempsey. Dempsey is best known for his role in the hit ABC drama series, “Grey’s Anatomy.”

“Sometimes it wasn’t that boring,” DiPippa said. “People were constantly working, and the amount of hard work,” DiPippa said. “I have such a bigger appreciation for it now, [just from] going through this, experiencing the number of hours and the amount of hard work.” DiPippa said. “People were constantly working, even on lunch and people on their walkies, handling issues.”

DiPippa also learned a lot about networking, as she was pushed into rooms with aspiring and accomplished actors and directors. It made her appreciate the financial aspect of shooting production even more from seeing how much goes into a simple pilot episode.

DiPippa’s boyfriend, Ethan Mersing, a junior history major at Montclair State, got a firsthand view of how this internship impacted her.

“She was definitely excited about this opportunity and she was very optimistic about it and did not want to pass it up,” Mersing said. He knows that no matter what she does, she will do it right and work hard for it.

With shooting on pause right now for the CBS production, DiPippa said that the final part of it will resume shortly, but is unsure if she will be a part of it. DiPippa does, she will do it right and work hard for it.

Mersing said.

In spite of it all, DiPippa still got the most out of her experience, working not just in her field, but in the time of a pandemic, where assisting in health and safety production is now an in-demand profession.
Gourmet Bailey’s Essential Recipes for College Students: Pt.1

Samantha Bailey
Assistant Feature Editor

The spring semester is in full swing and with all of us becoming increasingly busier, I wanted to start sharing recipes designed for college students. These are easy-to-follow recipes that you can execute within a dorm or communal kitchen. You can make these dishes when you’re lazy and still want something delicious. I’m calling the series, “Essential Recipes for College Students.”

It’s only fitting that I start this series off with the meal you start your day with: breakfast. I know many of us college students skip breakfast, but it’s my favorite meal and time of the day. Eating breakfast has been proven to help you stay focused and do better in school, so try this breakfast out and see how you feel afterward.

One of my all-time favorite recipes for breakfast is oatmeal. Oatmeal isn’t just for the elderly, who prefer eating soft foods, it’s for everyone. It has great nutrients to keep you full for hours and fueled for school. Trust me, this easy blueberry oatmeal will be thrown into your daily routine after you try it.

What you’ll need:

-1/2 cup old fashioned oats
-1 cup almond milk (or water)
-1/2 cup frozen blueberries (fresh also works)
-1 tablespoon maple syrup (add additional maple syrup if you like extra sweetness)
-1 teaspoon cinnamon
-1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

Toppings:
- Peanut butter
- Fruit
- Granola
- Nuts

To get started, pour your blueberries, maple syrup, vanilla extract, almond milk and cinnamon into a microwave-safe bowl. Next, pour your oats in and mix them together until combined. Take your bowl to the microwave and cook for 2 1/2 to three minutes.

While you’re waiting the five minutes for your oats to finish absorbing the almond milk, you can prepare for the best part of any breakfast bowl: the toppings. My personal favorite to top oatmeal with is melted peanut butter, cinnamon and additional fruit. It’s the perfect combination of sweet and salty. I’d highly recommend it.

You can also top your oats with more maple syrup and granola. For an extra amount of protein, top your oats with your favorite vanilla yogurt and roasted nuts.

This recipe is college student and dorm room-friendly and it’s totally customizable. It takes less than 10 minutes to make and it will keep you full for all your morning classes. Don’t knock oatmeal until you’ve tried it the “Gourmet Bailey” way.

Until the next bite.
As young Americans move up the educational ladder, they are told from ages as young as grammar school that they must attend college so they can get a job and live a good life.

Well, here we are, but the only thing lying ahead is decades of debt. Meanwhile, a clear, simple solution continues to take a back seat to greed.

For Montclair State University, in particular, over half of students utilize federal financial loans to pay for their tuition, with payments averaging a little over $6,500 per year after graduating. That amount may seem manageable, but for those about to enter a decimated workforce? Nothing.

Up until now and the eerily virus (COVID-19) pandemic, market because of the corona ed economy and desolate job those about to enter a decimate, with payments averaging 4.8% in 2016. How ever, we have learned this past year that everything can sud denly be turned upside down through no fault of our own.

Furthermore, tuition and room and board costs have increased exponentially each year and with state funding and student enrollment for the university taking a hit due to the pandemic, that incline will almost certainly be sharpened. Generally, the average indebted college graduate can expect over 20 years of student loan payments. That comes with no guarantee of a job within the field the degree belongs to or any job paying a wage large enough to satisfy their loans while also paying for rent, utili ties or groceries.

Before the presidential election this past November, The Montclarion endorsed the Democratic ticket of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris and it is with disappointment and frus tration that we acknowledge the Biden administration’s fail ure, thus far, to live up to the standards we advocated for.

President Biden has claimed he would be willing to ex pel student loan debt up to $10,000. However, it has yet to be made clear whether that motion is even within his ju risdiction. Even so, a $10,000 expulsion would only aid 30% of loan borrowers whereas an expulsion of $50,000 would take care of 80% of borrowers. When asked about a $50,000 forgiveness plan, Biden answered, “I will not make that happen.”

Whenever the topic of student loan debt forgiveness comes up, people are always quick to argue how it would be unfair to those who have already paid off their college tuition and student loans and that there is no reason why people in debt now should get a free pass.

That argument is the same as claiming it wouldn’t be right to give people the COVID-19 vaccine because it’s unfair to those who suffered from it.

It is understood that contracting COVID-19 can be a matter of life and death, whether it be for you or for those you may come into contact with, but decades of crippling financial debt carry a threatening risk as well.

Living paycheck to paycheck, just trying to make it to your next payday is not living. It is surviving and no one should have their entire future filled with financial burden and worry because of a decision they were told they had to make their entire lives in order to avoid that exact obstacle.

Generation after generation enters the workforce with dozens of thousands of dollars of debt standing lockstep in the way of a financially stable and, more importantly, mentally stable life.

A $50,000 expansion plan would cost about $1 trillion. Often times, people hear that number and immediately become turned off. The argument is made that money would be more valuable if put toward things like the military or foreign aid or what have you, but what is more valuable than the well-being of the new est members of our country’s workforce? Nothing.

“The cost of student life is very high. I lived in Hawks Crossing and I heard they recently doubled the price to live there. I was of the last people to get it for four thousand dollars a semester and now it’s eight thousand dollars.”

- Dylan Kelly

“The cost of college financially hasn’t been a benefit but re ally what it’s been is more of a cost and not being around people I grew up with. I’m from South Jersey so moving up to the North Jersey to stay at school means I’m away from people that I have known for long peri ods of time and I have to spend more time traveling.”

- Jamil Moris

“It gives me more to think about than what I would have before. In my day-to-day life, I don’t really notice it.”

- Larissa Dirienzi

“It didn’t really affect me because I’m on scholarship so I kind of go to school for free. I think it affects other stu dents especially people who commute because everything is online. The full cost of tuition isn’t worth it especially if you’re staying at home. You can get classes online cheaper.”

- Jose Martinez
LAUREN LAMANTIA
CO-CHIEF COPY EDITOR
themontclarion.org

An article on Bloomberg.com dis
tecting plants, animals—can leach out of the cells and get into
the panels] namely lead and cadmium...[which is hazardous as the metals in
to drop the dead panels into landfills
more convenient for solar companies
cost-friendly, getting rid of them is
turbines. While the panels are e
The real problem is waste.
see a surge in employment in energy-
Gy would eventually become profitable.
Over time, the United States would
mental health matters more than ever.
A year ago this March, the once inde-
sertion in 2021, the waste levels would become
carded after use and left lying around.
turbine blades, which are simply dis-
more green energy, they are expected
tion would be cheaper, leaving more

Ian Long | The Montclarion

EKATERINA ZELENIN
STAFF WRITER

Environmental-
ly speaking, green
energy makes for an incredible solution to our
problems regarding the use of fos-
sil fuels. Putting
a cost, green ener-
gy would eventually become profitable.
Over time, the United States would
see an increase in employment in energy-
producing companies, which in the end
could lead to greater investment.
The real problem is waste.
The most widespread new forms of
green energy are solar panels and wind

Ian Long | The Montclarion

Green Energy, We’re Not Quite There Yet

turbine blades, which are simply dis-
card after use and left lying around.
Nearly 8,000 are coming down over the
next four years. If every country were to
switch to wind energy with each nation
discarding thousands of blades every
year, the waste levels would become
catastrophic.

Luckily, solutions are already being
researched. China, in particular, has
been replacing silicon with perovskite
to create a cheaper panel consisting of
nontoxic metals. Though the solar pan-
els would still be costly to recycle, the
risk of those being left for waste would
be considerably less and their produc-
tion would be cheaper, leaving more
money for companies to recycle the
panels into the incinerators.

When it comes to turbines, 85% of
the parts can be reused or recycled,
but the fiberglass and colossal size of
the blades makes this task difficult to
achieve. Currently, one method of solv-
ing turbine waste is to break down these
blades and press them into pellets or fi-
hiboards used for flooring and walls.
While the companies responsible for
this are still relatively new; with the use of
more green energy, they are expected
to grow in accordance with demand.
As of right now, the top solutions are
still under works and have yet to be
perfected. However, the fact that gov-
ernments and companies have already
found ways to reduce waste from green
energy leaves room for a promising fu-
ture and a bright green light at the end
of the tunnel.

Ekaterina Zelenin, an undeclared freshman,
is in her first year as a staff writer for The
Montclarion.

My Fellow Student Body:
How Are We Really?

A

as the spring
semester begins
again and stu-
dents living at
home get a sem-
blance of the col-
lege experience
through a blue-
dimmed com-
puter screen, they
can’t help but feel at a loss at times.
Due to the lack of social interaction
and stripping away of what was sup-
posed to be our roaring 20s, students
like myself can’t help but feel defeated
by endless days turned into nights
thinking of what will happen in the
months to come.

With students now facing all sorts of
challenges the world has piled on top of
us within the past year, attention to our
mental health matters more than ever.
A year ago this March, the once inde-
sic life we had on campus
was pulled right from under us after
spring break. How do students now
living at home strive each day to re-
build a life they once had? Our simple walks
around campus are now replaced with
the same sidewalks we stepped on
walking to the grade school bus.
Along with feeling as if we were sent
back to the days before we even started
college, students are faced with trying
to continue to grow in places we’ve out-
grown, striving to be the adult versions
of ourselves in environments we have
moved on from. This reality is hard to
face as we balance online classes, extra-
curriculars and a personal life.
The emphasis on mental health
among students needs to be recognized
and talked about more openly in class-
rooms, meetings and among each other
more than ever. It needs to be normal-
ized to ask someone in your class if they
are okay and even more normalized to
be able to email your professor that you
are not in the best headspace mentally
to attend class.
It is important to keep in mind as we
continue the school year that no
one truly knows what happens behind
the faces we see on our screens every
week; but it is crucial that we at least
reach out to your classmates and peers
if you see signs of mental health issues
in someone you have encountered and
ask them how they’re doing instead of
ignoring what may just seem like them
being withdrawn from class.
In reminiscing on the times we did
share meeting friends for lunch at Au
Bon Pain and staying up way too late in
our dorm rooms, we can look for other
ways to make each other feel less alone
by simply being there in one of the most
challenging times of our lives.
We will get through this time of un-
certainty and look back in a couple of
years at the students starting their own
college experience, thankful we did ask
if that classmate was okay.

Lauren Lamantia, a senior English major,
is in her first year as co-chief copy editor for The
Montclarion.
New President, Same Old Mistakes

After any presidential election, there is always a feeling of hope that maybe these next four years will be better than the last. Regardless of political party or affiliation, the wish for a better future and better country should be the main goal for any incoming president. While we may have just elected President Joe Biden, his first month in office has made me anything but hopeful.

Each time a new story is put out in reference to a decision by the Biden administration, whether it be about immigration reform or tensions in the Middle East, I find myself humming Tame Impala’s “New Person, Same Old Mistakes.”

President Biden seems to be evading the harsh criticism from media outlets typically seen during the Trump administration by simply being anyone but Donald Trump. On Feb. 22, President Biden opened a child detention facility for migrant children in Carrizo Springs, Texas. Trump opened many of these facilities during his presidency and was immediately criticized by me and was immediately criticized by media outlets ranging from Elle Magazine to The New York Times for treating children like prisoners.

It seems the Biden administration forgot their campaign promises to undo any hard-line immigration reform put in place by the previous administration and instead reopened something that Trump himself implemented. The idea that this detention facility will move away from a “law-enforcement approach” as stated by Mark Weber, a spokesperson for the Department of Health and Human Services, and instead focus on child welfare is simply unrealistic.

Biden has simply slapped a new sign over the old one and expects the same media who criticized Trump to ignore the fact that regardless of intentions, a child in jail remains a child in jail.

Another “old mistake” within the Biden administration came on Feb. 26 with the authorization of yet another Syrian airstrike aimed to send a strong message to Iranian militants and their supporters.

With promises of bringing diplomacy back to the White House, President Biden has again gone back on his word and continues the age-old American tradition of bombing the Middle East in search of peace.

I am in no way supporting the actions of Trump, but his attacks were widely condemned by the media. Other than a few select newspapers like NPR and AP News, the story came and went and was forgotten almost instantly. Biden has once again escaped the hellfire awaiting him by just being silly, that is, old Biden and not a loose cannon Trump.

There is a pattern developing and it is one that will be increasingly hard to change: the further we progress into Biden’s presidency. We need to hold presidents accountable for their actions regardless of their political party.

Simply being different than the last does not allow for the same errors to be repeated. Ignoring and excusing the actions of an administration because “things could be worse” is the worst possible way to pave a better future. I want to remain hopeful and believe President Biden will take advice from progressives and not turn into another factory model president. However, I am reminded of the lyrics from Tame Impala’s song, “Make It Easy to Digest.” But maybe your story ain’t so different from the rest.

Brooke Alvine, a senior history major, is in her first year as co-chief copy editor for The Montclarion.
Montclair State University resumes athletic competition with limited fan attendance

The Montclarion wins nine awards at NJPF College Newspaper Contest

Montclair State President Susan A. Cole announces anticipation for normal Fall 2021 semester

Asian American community targeted in shootings in Atlanta, GA spas leaving eight killed

Mass shooting in Boulder, CO leaves ten killed, including one police officer

Two species of African elephants nearing extinction as rates of poaching and habitat damage are on the rise

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The Montclarion

Write for feature! Fashion writer wanted

Contact Montclarionfeature@gmail.com
Casey Masterson  
Feature Editor

I have been a fan of Marvel Comics since I was a kid. So naturally, when the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) came about, I was ecstatic. I have my issues with the MCU and their comic accuracy, but overall, you will never find me skipping out on a movie. “WandaVision,” a new Disney+ series, has provided fans with a fun, tragic and Easter egg-filled look into the lives of two underused MCU characters. As a lifelong fan of MCU, I’m partial to the Hulk and Doctor Strange, but the Avengers are also a favorite of mine. It was a delight seeing them on the big screen, but it was always left wanting more.

Comic inaccuracies aside, some characters, such as Wanda, played by Elizabeth Olsen, and Vision, played by Paul Bettany, were given the sideline. Despite them being such powerful assets, this choice gave more screen time to Iron Man and Captain America, played by A-listers Robert Downey Jr. and Chris Evans. I was excited to see that Wanda and Vision were finally being given their fair share of attention. For those of you who are comic lovers, I feel the need to point out some issues with the MCU and their comic accuracy, but overall, you will never find me skipping out on a movie. “WandaVision,” a new Disney+ series, has provided fans with a fun, tragic and Easter egg-filled look into the lives of two underused MCU characters.

“WandaVision” starts out as a cute comedy, but slowly devolves into a rather dark tragedy. The full extent of Wanda’s powers are finally explained as we explore the town of Westview, where the series takes place. Vision is left to wonder both how he got to Westview and what is happening as the idyllic society starts to unravel.

As much as I loved this series, there were things that I found fault in. The MCU has a red herring problem, where they dangle comic references in front of fans before turning it on its head. In this show, the red herring is cinematic rather than comic-based and has the potential to leave a bad taste in the mouths of avid MCU fans. Comic lore is often ignored in the MCU, but toying with the hopes of habitual viewers would finally give them a taste of the comic fan’s misery.

I cannot tell you what this twist is, but I will say it left me highly disappointed. This red herring had such amazing potential to only end in a joke. This is not unlike the twist in “Iron Man 3,” where the comic villain Mandarin is revealed to be an actor. With that being said, there is far more that I like about this show than not. One of the most common tropes are the references to other sitcoms. From “Bewitched” to “Modern Family,” the series parodies beloved American sitcoms. It’s fun to catch the references and even more fun to play “guess the show.”

My favorite part of this show is the dark aspect. Although initially subdued, darkness rears its ugly head and distorts the perfect world Wanda and Vision inhabit. Dark themes start as a whisper before they turn into overwhelming cries.

I’m no stranger to horror appreciation in The Montclarion, so it is sufficient to say that I was pleased with many of the show’s horror elements. To say what exactly was scary, however, would spoil the fun.

“WandaVision” is ultimately a show about grief and how people deal with it. This is something that most can empathize with, if not relate to their own experiences. The complex subject matter makes it hard to pin down one person to blame in the series, as it is pointed in unexpected directions.

The Easter eggs, which are hidden references to the Marvel comic book series, are an important part of “WandaVision.” Most of these are given in the form of commercial breaks within the show, like the Strucker watch or Nexus depression medication. There are also more overt references, such as the Darkhold, a fictional grimoire stored in Sanctum Sanctorum in the comics.

This series may prove to be more than casual enjoyment. With so many connections and a few loose hanging threads, there is a strong possibility that “WandaVision” will be required viewing to understand upcoming Marvel films such as “Doctor Strange: Multiverse of Madness.” Olsen is slated to appear in this movie and many are speculating if the two MCU creations are connected, especially due to Doctor Strange’s notable absence from the series.

Overall, “WandaVision” provides an interesting insight into the lives of formerly underappreciated members of the Avengers. If you have a Disney+ account, I highly recommend giving this series a watch.
Donald Petrie Speaks to Montclair State Film Forum Class

Anandaji Cruz Rosario
Contributing Writer

Donald Petrie, the director of iconic romantic comedies such as “How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days” and “Miss Congeniality,” dropped in to speak to Montclair State University’s virtual film course on Tuesday, Feb. 23.

Listening to Petrie speak on his growth as a director was inspiring as I realized that the man behind the classic films was once just a college student who, at the time, did not know his path until he started acting towards his interests, just like many of us.

Petrie has directed many movies over the last few decades that will forever remain in the hearts of romantics. “My movie is like a party,” Petrie said. “I’m the host. You’re my guest.”

I remember watching “Miss Congeniality” and loving the fact that Sandra Bullock plays a fierce and competent woman in a man’s world. Petrie’s films gained such traction due to his tenacity to promote strong, autonomous women through his lead characters.

In “Mystic Pizza,” three young women go around societal norms to find their own identity and make their own paths without being stereotyped. In “How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days,” a young journalist, played by Kate Hudson, wants to write about politics instead of men and handbags. In “Little Italy,” a young overachieving chef wishes for bigger things to happen in her career.

These films all exhibit different types of women in different job professions, cultures and environments, and they all have one thing in common: by the end of the film they find themselves in whatever way possible.

Throughout the class, Petrie told stories about his life and gave tips on making decisions,“Groves said. “He was more than willing to answer any questions the class brought up and I hope he comes back to Montclair [State] soon.”

An interesting fact he shared with the class was that he was not the original director of “Miss Congeniality.” After receiving the original script, which was simply a comedy about pageants, he decided he did not like it. Five drafts later, he finally said he wanted a Mel Gibson, tough as nails, little, crazy FBI agent and that in order to do a man’s job in a man’s world, she would need to go undercover.

From there, Petrie said all they did was write and shoot.

Isabella Wnek, a sophomore communications and media arts major at Montclair State, spoke highly about the director.

“I found Donald Petrie to be a very passionate and enthusiastic director whose greatest effort is to create critically-acclaimed projects,” Wnek said. “I really liked how he values each of his crew and cast members to create the best film he possibly can.”

It is evident that Petrie was meant for show business, as he says he loves the spontaneity of his job and the fact that every single movie is a new story even if we all know the guy ends up with the girl. According to him, he likes his work to have some kind of grounding to reality, even in the humor.

“At the end of the film they find themselves together. The show will have you laughing one minute and crying the next. If you are in need of a pick-me-up or a simple reminder of how much you love your best friend, be sure to check out one of Netflix’s latest dramas, “Firefly Lane.”

The ten-episode series follows Tully Hart, played by Katherine Heigl, and Kate Mulgrew, played by Sarah Chalke, as they navigate through 30 years of friendship together.

Beginning from 14 years old and lasting until their early forties, we see the highs and lows in which this dynamic duo endures together. The show will have you laughing one minute and crying the next. Also, the interesting editing format will keep you consistently engaged.

Check out the full review on The Montclarion website.

Alex Centeno
Staff Writer

Top Picks to Stream

Best of March Edition

‘Zack Snyder’s Justice League’ on HBO Max

DC fans are in for a treat. After previously needing to step down from the original film as director, DC has allowed Zack Snyder to release a new four-hour-long “Justice League” film. “Zack Snyder’s Justice League” brings justice to the film as it changes almost everything that the 2017 version did and you can stream it now on HBO Max.

It takes a much darker route while having some light-hearted moments. With better story arcs for other DC heroes such as The Flash and Cyborg, while also moving further with Batman and Superman’s storylines which were previously shown in “Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice,” this film will not disappoint.

“Zack Snyder’s Justice League” mainly stars Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, Cyborg, The Flash and Aquaman as they team up to face off against the antagonist, Steppenwolf.

For the full review, check out The Montclarion website.

Alex Centeno
Staff Writer

‘Firefly Lane’ on Netflix

If you are in need of a pick-me-up or a simple reminder of how much you love your best friend, be sure to check out one of Netflix’s latest dramas, “Firefly Lane.”

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Check out the full review on The Montclarion website.

Sam Nungesser
Entertainment Editor

The Montclarion • April 1, 2021 • PAGE 15
WMSC Recognized Nationwide with Four Awards

Megan Lim
Assistant Entertainment Editor

Students and their organizations are not unfamiliar with the struggles of online conferencing platforms, but even lagged internet connection, defensive sound and other nuances could not hinder the joy of Montclair State University’s college radio station WMSC when they recently won four national awards.

WMSC joined together for a Zoom viewing party of the 2021 Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Media Awards on Saturday, March 6, where they were announced winners of four out of 12 nominations.

The first of the six boxes in the Zoom call, outlined with a bright green light, captured WMSC General Manager Anabella Poland’s voice as it rang with excitement.

Poland’s quick internet connection allowed her the privilege of hearing many of the night’s awards ahead of her team, including WMSC’s win of Best College Radio Station in the Nation out of colleges with more than 10,000 students.

By also serving as faculty advisor and continuously collaborating with students, administration, faculty and alumni to establish WMSC’s presence, Poland had the personal satisfaction of overseeing the organization’s operation leading up to the award.

Those collaborating with Poland at the station feel that her guidance is what motivated them to step up and overcome the difficulties of remote operation during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

News Director Louis Biondolillo, a junior television and digital media major, expressed how grateful WMSC was to have Poland by their side.

“If it wasn’t for her, no one would have pushed us to produce our best content,” Biondolillo said. “And we would not have this award either.”

Poland has dedicated her mission solely to the students of Montclair State by enabling their skill development in radio programming and production. “Their development and ability to grow confident into the broadcast arts is my product,” Poland said. “And these wins confirmed that when you know your mission and vision, it is easy to create a successful roadmap for your operations.”

Poland feels the achievement signifies she is where she is meant to be, identifying each student’s unique strength, mentoring it and nourishing it.

One of these students includes Station Manager Josh Tirado, a senior television and digital media major with a concentration in audio and sound design, is astonished that WMSC Rewind was recognized through the award for Best Use of Sound Effects. Tirado also won Best Program Director for his time holding the position last semester.

Along with the title of program director came Tirado’s personal responsibility to the station, working over 20 hours a week. This included managing content, overseeing more than 20 shows and training apprentice DJs, which he balanced amid his obligations to classes and life during the pandemic.

Tirado recalled his times editing audio and collecting award submissions in the WMSC office until 3 a.m. “Each year we’d get a good amount of nominations out of the thirty plus pieces we’d submit, but we’d never win the big one,” Tirado said. “So to finally take home this award in my final year with the station is like poetic justice.”

Tirado’s contributions to WMSC’s success do not go unnoticed by his peers. Associate Program Director Ashley Koutras, a junior television and digital media major with a concentration in audio and sound design, is astonished by the time and effort Tirado puts into the organization.

“He is so dedicated to the station, it’s crazy,” Koutras said. “I wouldn’t be able to pick another person for [station manager].”

In hoping to one day become station manager herself is current Program Director Kaya Maciak, a junior communication and media arts major.

Maciak won Best Business Director in recognition of her time last semester leading the newsletter, drafting press releases, planning and executing events and taking on secretarial work and countless other tasks.

Maciak’s capability and dedication to WMSC are evident to those who work alongside her.

“She is very on top of things and has always been like that,” Koutras said. “If there’s anything to do with the station, she knows it.”

Maciak views her and the team’s achievements as a testimony to their hard work, as well as indicative of the potential she will have in the media industry in the future. She thanks her closest friends at the station for their support and emphasizes the talent and intelligence of each student leader.

“It’s been such a privilege to work with a tight knit family,” Maciak said. “Because they inspire me every single day.”

The intimate, familial environment created at WMSC, in combination with each member’s spontaneity, creativity and steadfast commitment to the success of the station, has resulted in nationwide recognition. But more importantly, it yielded an even more inspired, passionate group of students ready to use these accomplishments as fuel to continue producing exceptional content they are proud of.

With the same work ethic, tenacity and zeal as the past semester, it is no surprise that WMSC is already setting new goals and has their eyes on future prizes.

When asked what he would like to say to his fellow team members on their achievements, it’s safe to say Tirado’s response is representative of WMSC’s unmistakable determination.

“We did it,” Tirado said. “Keep up the hard work. Let’s go back to back [with awards].”
Mountain V Productions Provides Professional Film Experience for College Students

Alex Centeno
Staff Writer

Mountain V Productions is a film and television production company specializing in the creation of high-end, quality content delivered through the collaboration of its founders and college students, many of whom come from Montclair State University.

The company was founded in 2019 by Michael Bergendorff after having a career in business administration, sales and marketing for over 15 years. Despite no prior exposure to the film industry, his knowledge and business experience gave him the ability to develop the production company in Denmark.

In 2020, Bergendorff became a marketer and producer for Mountain V Productions. He then partnered up with Matt Barbieri, who graduated from Montclair State in 2010 with a bachelor’s degree in psychology. Barbieri later decided to pursue a career as an actor. It was not until he joined Mountain V Productions that he strengthened his profession in acting and producing, while simultaneously focusing his talents on writing short and feature-length screenplays.

"Partnering with Mountain V Productions has been an amazing experience," Barbieri said. "I am so proud to work with fellow Montclair [State] students and graduates who know how to collaborate well with respect and professionalism."

Together, Bergendorff and Barbieri have agreed to place a company philosophy concerning gender equality on the independent film productions coming out this year.

After their first production in the US, they have supported writer-producer and director students from Sarah Lawrence College by forming contracts with writers and consulting with them on thesis projects for optimizing production and reducing cost.

The company has since then expanded its network by hiring writers and editors across the US and Europe, while also growing their network for distribution agreements. Mountain V Productions gathered a crew of college graduate students, some from Montclair State, through job applications from LinkedIn and from official IMDb pages or referrals.

The company puts considerable time into pre-production for each project in order to create their content in a steady and swift manner, while still maintaining convenience for both the cast and crew. Even during these complicated times with the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Mountain V perseveres in growing as a company by having made two independent short films in 2020, "Pandemic Fix" and "Gateway City - Last Chance," both created under the safety regulations put in place by New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy.

These short films have been submitted to various film festivals. The first film, "Pandemic Fix," received a nomination for Best Comedy Short at the Indie Short Fest in Los Angeles and an honorable mention for Best Comedy at the New York Movie Awards.

The second film, "Gateway City - Last Chance," has received several honorable mentions including Best Indie Short by the Florence Film Awards. The film also won two awards for Best Director at the New York Movie Awards, as well as Best Male Foreign Actor at the CKF International Film Festival.

The Hollywood Gold Awards nominated Brendan Laird, who recently graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a film degree, for Best Post Production Sound for his work as sound mixer on "Gateway City - Last Chance."

"Mountain V Productions helped me get started on my career and helped me rekindle my passion that was waning for a few months," Laird said. "I am excited for the many productions that are in the horizon."

Laird has a passion for filmmaking and appreciates Mountain V for allowing him to show his full potential.

"Since working on those projects, I have been able to find more work than I was anticipating," Laird said.

After applying through LinkedIn, Chris Kong, a senior filmmaking major at Montclair State, has worked with Mountain V Productions as a crew member for their last two short films and was working with them on a project currently in development.

"It is a great opportunity to be able to find work from Mountain V in this field after graduating," George said. "They’re definitely aiming high in the industry."

The company has reserved plans to make more films and documentaries for 2021 and beyond. They even have another short film currently in production.

Mountain V Productions opens the door for filmmakers from Montclair State and other colleges to further pursue their passion in the art of filmmaking.
‘Framing Britney Spears’ Gives Fans a Taste of a Poisonous Paradise

James Griffin
Contributing Writer

“Framing Britney Spears,” the sixth episode of “The New York Times Presents,” premiered Feb. 5 on FX and Hulu, giving its audience a glimpse into the tumultuous life and career of the reigning princess of pop, Britney Spears. The episode spans from her beginnings to the current court battle against her father, Jamie Spears, to remain in control of her life.

The documentary revolves around conservatorships, a legal concept the documentary defines as, “a person, official or institution designated to take over and protect the interests of an incompetent.” Though unfamiliar to most people, Britney Spears understands the term all too well as she has been under one since 2008.

Despite being unauthorized by Britney Spears and her team, the documentary is well-informed and carefully differentiates fact and speculation. This is due to the many interviews conducted with people who worked closely with the singer, in addition to reporters, legal experts and activist fans of the #FreeBritney movement and popular Instagram account “Britney’s world.”

A major key to the entertainment, credentials and heart of the documentary is Britney Spears’ bubbly and sweet lifelong friend and former personal assistant, Felicia Culotta.

Culotta’s description of Britney Spears and the memories they shared brings the audience into their relationship. The unseen personal photos and tour memorabilia around Culotta’s home and office are truly a work of art. The unseen personal photos and tour memorabilia around Culotta’s humble home convinces the audience that she genuinely loves and cares about the pop star, allowing us to trust her and the documentary itself.

Going beyond just entertaining and informing audiences, the film has majoredly influenced the public’s realization of the singer’s early career into the first half of the film. The events documented were satisfyingly organized into segments titled by the year that they happened, gradually building up the drama and anticipation for the inevitable downfall to come.

The footage of performances and lighthearted interviews about the success of the singer’s earlier days sets a powerful contrast against the terrifying and cringeworthy footage that capture her being swarmed by paparazzi. It is incredible to hear such rare insight from retired paparazzo Daniel Ramos, who admits that getting sucked into the business made him lose empathy for celebrities.

One of the most significant shots in the documentary features former Senior Director of Marketing at Jive Records, Kim Kaiman, who also discussed an unpleasant interaction with Jamie Spears. After sharing, the camera cuts back to reveal she and other interviewees were filmed in front of a tiny backdrop in a big, empty, dingy studio warehouse. This is in contrast to the bright, natural lighting against the wall covered in greenery and colorful flowers, which originally led viewers to believe filming occurred outside in a lovely garden.

Only lasting for a second, this shot is a powerful visual metaphor for the ugly truth behind the carefully curated, beautiful image of Britney Spears.

Between discussing moments of Britney Spears’ well-being and courtroom failures are clips of silly videos and posts the singer is known for sharing on social media. The shiny, happy image she shares with fans balances with the less fun conservatorship drama to create ambivalence.

The documentary powerfully creates a confusing perspective on the situation: what was once considered socially acceptable in the media has changed.

The documentary wisely makes a point to show how far the media and society has come when discussing mental health and treating celebrities. In 2007, the world only voiced what was wrong with Britney Spears and rooted for her unraveling. Everyone who watches this film must thankfully say to themselves, “this would never happen today.”

With so much information to fit into a run time of one hour and 15 minutes, the editors succeeded in concisely incorporating the highlights of Britney Spears’ early career into the first half of the film. The events documented were satisfyingly organized into segments titled by the year that they happened, gradually building up the drama and anticipation for the inevitable downfall to come.

The filmmakers could have greatly benefited from including easy to understand legal jargon surrounding the court battle. The documentary wisely makes a point to come into their identity and overcome the stigma of mental health. However, it added to credible sources of former backup dancer Kevin Tanchuzen and conservative-specialized lawyer Adam Stirensaid’s refreshing portrayal of Britney Spears as a creative, capable and competent artist.

The documentary was well-intentioned and well-executed, but is limited by its time frame. It is easy to forget that such a monumental topic and popular film is only an episode of a bigger, unrelated series. The story requires more opportunity to make an impression, which an hour and 15 minutes does not allow.

Luckily, the film’s success sparked an upcoming Netflix documentary centered around the same topic that has potential to be even bigger.

“Framing Britney Spears” successfully enlightens audiences on Britney Spears’ conservatorship situation, as well as conservatorship abuse, mental health stigma and the toxicity of celebrity culture. Hopefully soon, Britney Spears will be able to further enlighten us on these issues.

“I know at some point she will tell her story,” Culotta said at the end of the documentary. “Everything will fall into place.”
"In America, the President reigns for four years, but Journalism governs forever." – Oscar Wilde

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**This Week In Red Hawk Sports**

<table>
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<th>Day</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tr>
<td>THU 4/1</td>
<td>No games</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI 4/2</td>
<td>Football vs. William Paterson University</td>
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<td>SAT 4/3</td>
<td>Baseball at Ramapo College</td>
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<td>11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Women’s Lacrosse vs. The College of New Jersey</td>
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<td>Softball vs. Stockton University</td>
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<td>Women’s Basketball vs. New Jersey City University</td>
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<td>Men’s Lacrosse vs. Stockton University</td>
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<td>MON 4/5</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUE 4/6</td>
<td>Softball at Rutgers-Newark</td>
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<td>3 p.m., 5 p.m.</td>
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<td>Women’s Lacrosse at Kean University</td>
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<td>4:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED 4/7</td>
<td>No games</td>
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**Red Hawk Recap**

- Red Hawks Baseball: 12
  - New Jersey City University: 3
  - William Paterson University: 6
- Red Hawks Volleyball: 3
  - Kean University: 0
  - Stockton University: 0
- Red Hawks Men’s Lacrosse: 2
  - Kean University: 0
  - Stockton University: 8
- Red Hawks Field Hockey: 0
  - Stockton University: 2
  - Kean University: 0
- Red Hawks Women's Soccer: 0
  - Stockton University: 0
  - William Paterson University: 0
- Red Hawks Baseball: 11
  - New Jersey City University: 10
- Red Hawks Men’s Soccer: 4
  - Stockton University: 4
  - William Paterson University: 1

**Brown’s Shot of the Year Leads to NJAC Championship Appearance for Women’s Basketball**

Red Hawks will face NJCU in NJAC Championship Game

The Red Hawks huddle up before their Feb. 12th contest against Kean University.

There's 31 seconds on the clock. The Montclair State University women's basketball team is clinging to a one-point lead against Kean University. Senior guard Taylor Brown catches a pass at the top of the arc, then takes a step and shoots. With the ball in the air, the Panzer Athletic Center holds its breath.

The limited capacity gymnasium erupts as the three-ball swishes through the net, marking the last points scored in the game and the final nail in the coffin. The Red Hawks 56-52 victory sealed their trip to the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) championship game for the second year in a row.

Senior guard Taylor Brown hit the game-winning shot against Kean. Photo courtesy of Julia Radley

Trent Freeman
Contributing Writer

Trent Freeman wrote about a 31-second shot that cemented the Red Hawks' win over Kean University.

“Trent Freeman told me to shoot all game.”

The women’s basketball team willed that shot to go in just as they willed themselves to the championship game. This win marks their eighth straight victory and their fifth at home.

The Red Hawks played their best when the whole team was involved. This was in part due to head coach Karin Harvey’s message at halftime when Montclair State left the second quarter down 27-23, having only scored one point in the last five minutes.

“Coach was just saying we never played like that,” Red Hawks freshman guard Kendall Hodges said. “It was an individual game; we didn’t look like Montclair State women’s basketball and we didn’t feel like it either.”

Hodges led all scorers with an impressive 16 points, including the first of the game by either team by knocking down a wide-open three. The freshman also accrued five rebounds and two steals to her credit.

Montclair State benefited from stellar defensive play all game. The leader of this disruptive unit was junior guard Trisha Peterson. Peterson racked up five rebounds, two blocks and led the Red Hawks with three steals.

“My mindset changed a lot this year as far as defense goes,” Peterson said. “I knew this game when (Taylor) got into foul trouble, I knew I needed to step up and really bring the intensity on defense.”

Key contributions and hustle plays from junior guard Julia Sutton helped keep it close when Montclair State struggled. Entering the contest, the Red Hawks’ scoring leader rallied two steals and a handful of taken charges.

Though the gym was at limited capacity, you would not know by the volume of those in attendance. The fans in the stands made themselves heard and it was not lost on the players. “The stands weren't completely filled but they might as well have been,” Hodges said. “The family that came out to this game, they’re the best. They’re the best fans.”

The women’s basketball team will host New Jersey City University in the NJAC Championship game on April 3rd. Harvey believes this year will have a different conclusion than last season, when Montclair State lost 64-54 to Rowan University. “We choked... let’s be honest,” Harvey said. “I think this team is different, they've worked really hard and win or lose we won't choke. I can guarantee you that. These guys are tough.”

Red Hawk Recap

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  - Stockton University: 0
- Red Hawks Men’s Lacrosse: 2
  - Kean University: 0
  - Stockton University: 8
- Red Hawks Field Hockey: 2
  - Stockton University: 2
  - Kean University: 0
- Red Hawks Women’s Soccer: 0
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Photo courtesy of Julia Radley

Photo courtesy of Julia Radley

Photo courtesy of Julia Radley

Photo courtesy of Julia Radley
THE WORLD WITHOUT NEWS WOULD BE...
Head Coach Karin Harvey’s Legacy Only Grows with Her 300th Career Victory

A look at her legacy at Montclair State University

On Feb. 12, when the buzzer sounded and Montclair State University women’s basketball won their third game of the season against Kean University, it was also a memorable night for head coach Karin Harvey. Having been a head coach for 14 seasons has culminated in 300 career victories.

The moment after she won the game was what really defined this milestone for her. The entire team had created posters for the end of the game and were happy to be a part of their coach’s historic win. In fact, they seemed just as excited about the accomplishment as if it was their own.

Harvey said it was a great experience and that it felt good to look back on the events leading up to this moment.

“When you accomplish something like that it gives you an opportunity to reflect back on your years,” Harvey said. “What I really think about is all the players and the coaches that I have worked with over my time. It’s a nice trip down memory lane.”

It all started in 2006 when Harvey was first given the opportunity to be head coach of Drew University’s women’s basketball team. To this day, the 2006-07 season is the program’s greatest season, in her only year as Drew’s head coach.

The next season, she started her reign as the Red Hawks’ head coach. She brought along one of her players that Drew team as well. Courtney Cunningham, the associate head coach of the team, has been by Harvey’s side for 13 seasons now.

“She had something that most of the coaches I had throughout my life just didn’t have,” Cunningham said. “She had that drive and ability to make a team so much better than they were. Just the individual talent a team had... she could really up it.”

That Drew team still holds a special place in Harvey’s heart, along with the 2015 Red Hawks women’s basketball team that made the Final Four. Recently, a former star player from the 2015 team returned to the program, as Katie Sire joined the coaching staff as an assistant coach/recruiting coordinator.

“Transitioning from one of her players to now [being] her assistant, one of the things I’ve noticed that coach Harvey consistently brings to her teams is how much she cares and always has her players back,” Sire said. “Coach Harvey does a great job at building relationships with her players which makes for a more enjoyable team environment every day.”

Harvey’s coaching style is unique. She is able to draw the line between a respectful coach and a friend for someone to talk to, allowing for a team dynamic unlike any other.

Senior captain and guard, Taylor Brown, appreciates what Harvey always brings to the team outside of basketball.

“She did a really great job of showing me what it is like to have a coach, but also a really great friend,” Brown said. “She cares about what is going on in our personal lives and makes sure we know that we can go to her for anything.”

This played a major role in the bonding of the team and making sure all coaches and players understand each other. This is also part of the reason behind Harvey’s success in the standards she and her coaches hold for their teams.

“Regardless of the talent level, or what players we return, or how experienced the team is, she always demands the same thing from each team,” Sire said. “We have our philosophy [Defend, Rebound, Run] and she gets every team to buy into that mindset, as well as play hard. She knows that’s how she can have success with different teams year after year.”

Harvey would say it herself, that this was not just her win, but that it belongs to everyone who has played a major role in the teams she has coached. From coaches to players to medical staff, especially this season, it is all a team effort from both Drew and Montclair State.

“All of them have helped in one way or another,” Harvey said. “Courtney has been my assistant for 13 years so the impact that she has had on the program you can’t measure. Another is Brian Sampson, a former assistant. There has been a ton of players throughout the program and throughout my time that have just had a huge impact.”

The relationships made through coaching is what Harvey has cherished along the way. It is what keeps her motivated and wanting success for every one of her players as much as they do. Her ability to push players beyond their limits is one of a kind and a crucial reason for her 14-year streak of winning seasons.

In that time, she has nearly a .750 winning percentage and seven NCAA Division III Tournament appearances. She has been the conference coach of the year six times and is a five-time Women’s Basketball Coaches Association Regional Coach of the Year. She has also coached multiple All-Americans.

“She’s never really content when it comes to getting better,” Cunningham said. “I think what’s really unique in all of her years, even with her success she always finds a way to be better.”

Even during this coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic-stricken season, Harvey and the team overcame all obstacles to clinch the number one seed in the New Jersey Athletic Conference tournament. Her success is still continuing this very second while her 300 wins is a thing of the past.

However, it is those accomplishments that not only allow you to celebrate, but as Harvey mentioned, an even more rewarding feeling is a chance to reflect on the people and journey it took to get here.

Harvey and Katie Sire hold up their individual awards given to them in the 2016-2017 season.
Corey Annan
Sports Editor

While numerous athletes at Montclair State University decided to take their fifth year of eligibility this season due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic canceling their previous season, former women’s lacrosse player Kyle Graver chose otherwise.

“I was upset about our season being canceled but I also wanted to get my career started,” Graver said. “I talked to my coaches, parents and my fellow captains [Sydnee Sapp and Amanda Maguire] about it and we decided it was best to move on.”

So, she did just that. Graver, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry but is considering further education, is connected with a program that she felt was best to move on.

Former three-time captain hopes to make an impact as a coach

Graver is introduced as a starter during the team’s 2020 season opener against Farmingdale State.

Graver is introduced as a starter during the team’s 2020 season opener against Farmingdale State.

When a recently graduated player becomes a coach, one might wonder how their relationships with their teammates might change. For the players, it could be an awkward adjustment seeing your former teammate coaching you up on the sidelines during games and practices.

“I feel like my relationship with my former teammates isn’t very different,” Graver said. “I’ve always seen myself as the same person. My friends on the team don’t view me any differently either, but they also wouldn’t disrespect me and they listen to what I have to say. I know these girls and what they are thinking in their heads. When someone is down about having a rough day, I can be more personable with them.”

Graver explained how she uses her experience as a player to discuss strategies and game plans with the team.

“I feel like I understand the team dynamic more than other coaches because I competed with them,” Graver said. “As a player, I always had confidence in and acted as an extension of the coaching staff on and off the field. Now we are lucky to have her on the sidelines.”

Graver got the official position as assistant coach in October 2020 and has successfully made the transition from player to coach. Not returning for her fifth season was something that weighed heavily on her mind at first, but coaching has allowed her to stay connected with a program that she cares deeply about.

“I could see myself coaching here and there in the future; and getting a coaching job at a program like ours is going to be helpful in the long run,” Graver said. “But as for me coming back to the sport, I wasn’t totally ready to give up on lacrosse. My best friends are on this team.”

As for her coaching experience thus far, Graver has loved it. As a coach, she can give more of a player’s perspective on the game that’s easier for her former teammates to grasp.

“Because I’m so newly out of lacrosse, it’s easy for me to take what I would do in a game situation and relay it to other people,” Graver said. “I think the girls on the team respect what I have to say because they know what I would do on the field.”

When a recently graduated player becomes a coach, one might wonder how their relationships with their teammates might change. For the players, it could be an awkward adjustment seeing your former teammate coaching you up on the sidelines during games and practices.

“For a young coach, it can be tough coaching you up on the sidelines during games and practices. For a young coach, it can be tough not to only earn the respect of the girls on the sidelines, but also maintain a professional and personal relationship with them.”

Graver explained how she uses her experience as a player to discuss strategies and game plans with the team.

“I feel like I understand the team dynamic more than other coaches because I competed with them,” Graver said. “As a player, I always said that my strongest asset was my game sense. Bringing that into coaching is all you really need. I see the game from a [player’s perspective], so I know that it will help the players when I can relay that message to them during practice and off the field.”

Meghan Mahlstadt was the only senior from last year’s team to return as a player in 2021. She and Graver have been best friends throughout their playing careers and were both captains last season.

Mahlstadt believes that her coaching style works very well with the team.

“Kyle’s personality on and off the field isn’t much different in my opinion, which I respect,” Mahlstadt said. “She doesn’t try to sugarcoat anything or pretend to be a big scary coach just because she has the title of one. She is fun and happy when it’s appropriate and professional in the right situations and is authentically herself every day.”

The Red Hawks entered the 2021 season having never won the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) in their program history. They also have not won a conference title since 2013. This a goal that the team has their sights set on with most of their start-
ers returning.

While the entire team hopes to achieve their dream of winning an NJAC title this season, Graver’s biggest priority is making sure the players leave the program with no regrets.

“For the players, I want to make sure that they are making the most of their opportunities and time here,” Graver said. “For the players, I want to make sure that they are making the most of their opportunities and time here.”

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“For the players, I want to make sure that they are making the most of their opportunities and time here.”

Graver said. “Once it’s gone, it’s gone and you’re never going to be able to get it back. There are girls on this team who never really had a shot, whether [that be because] they were injured or had other circumstances. They are going to be known this year. So many of our big stars have left and it’s their time to shine. I want to make sure that they get that spotlight.”
Erin Blanchfield starts with a background in Brazilian jiu-jitsu. She is from Elmwood, New Jersey, but is fighting out of New York City and Renzo Gracie Academy. At just 20 years old, Erin Blanchfield is in the flyweight weight class (125 lbs.) and fights in the Invicta Fighting Championships division.

She currently is on a three-match winning streak after defeating BROGAN Walker-Sanchez in her last fight on July 30, 2020, by unanimous decision at Invicta FC 41.

Erin Blanchfield started with mixed martial arts at a young age. At only seven, she started training in jiu-jitsu and competing in kickboxing and grappling tournaments.

“I got into martial arts when I was 7 years old,” Erin Blanchfield said. “My brother was training and I went in to watch him and was offered a free class. I fell in love with the training and got into competing soon after.”

Erin Blanchfield’s upbringing was different from other kids her age, as her focus was on MMA fighting.

“My childhood was different in the sense that I never played any school sports,” Erin Blanchfield said. “I spent a lot of my time training, competing and my family and I would travel in the summers to visit other gyms in California and Florida.

Being surrounded by MMA fighters throughout her childhood inspired her to pursue a career in the sport.

“There were always MMA fighters at the gym I trained at growing up,” Erin Blanchfield said. “I always looked up to them. Once the UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship) opened up women’s divisions, I knew fighting MMA was what I wanted to do.”

Currently, Erin Blanchfield is training six days a week. Luckily, her trainers have been familiar faces for years.

“I’ve been training with my striking coach Auggie Matias since I was 15 and my jiu-jitsu coach Frankie Roberts since I was 16,” Erin Blanchfield said. “They both have cornered me in all my professional fights and I couldn’t thank them enough.”

Erin Blanchfield remarked that both Roberts and Matias have been instrumental to her success as a fighter.

“They both have helped me become the fighter I currently am and are always pushing me to become the best athlete I could be,” Erin Blanchfield said. At just 18-years-old, Erin Blanchfield’s first fight was a huge stepping stone in her career. It was the only fight she had in the Fighting Championships division.

“Once I was in the fight I was just going on autopilot,” Erin Blanchfield said. “We trained for every scenario and I was able to win the fight via first round TKO [technical knockout].”

Even though fighting is extremely important to her, so is school. Erin Blanchfield attends Montclair State University as a television and digital media major with a concentration in sports media & journalism. She hopes to be a commentator after her MMA career is over.

Balancing her career and college is difficult due to her busy school and MMA training schedule.

“Time management is huge with balancing both school and fighting professionally,” Erin Blanchfield said. “Montclair State University has a lot of class options so I usually can get a schedule that fits around my training schedule. It takes a lot of work and discipline but it’s worth it.”

Neither of Erin Blanchfield’s parents, George and Betsy Blanchfield, attended college. While they were not able to further their education, they are thrilled that she decided to do so.

“We were happy that she had the opportunity that we did not have,” Betsy Blanchfield said. “We are overjoyed that Erin is pursuing her college degree as its value is second to none.”

Erin Blanchfield’s family is a valuable support system for her. Her father even gave her the nickname “cold-blooded”.

“Many of the competitors would have nervous energy and emotions but Erin always seemed to be in a very calm state of mind and have a remarkable poker face before, during and after the competitors,” George Blanchfield said. “Because of her ability to stay calm under all circumstances, we would jokingly say she had a coldblooded approach which stuck.”

Erin Blanchfield’s next fight is set to take place soon. Invicta is a part of the UFC, which means that it has the potential to become a championship fight.

“I am not sure that if I win my next fight I would get into the UFC,” Erin Blanchfield said. “Fighters never really know when they will get into the UFC. The UFC matchmakers call fighters at my level when they need a replacement fight or short notice fight. It is pretty random. So I just need to keep fighting and winning until I get that call.”

Her goal is to fight Valentina Shevchenko, who is the number one fighter in the flyweight division; but for now, she is focused on making it to the pinnacle of MMA fighting.

“The time and effort is going to pay off.” Erin Blanchfield said. “It would mean a lot to me to become a UFC fighter. It has been a goal of mine since I was a young kid and I’m working at it every day.”