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Traffic on Yogi Berra Drive caused by cars leaving Car Parc Diem and the surrounding parking lots.

Traffic Nightmare

Senate Meeting Addresses

Cristal Santos
Staff Writer

Last week, Montclair State University held its first senate meeting of the school year, with the university's traffic problem being one of the major takeaways.

During the meeting, Paul Cell, the chief of police at the Montclair State Police Department, told senate members that they are actively working together with the administration and other towns to ease the traffic flow on campus.

“We are full speed ahead on trying to resolve this for everyone,” Cell said.

Some of the traffic control efforts Cell mentioned were trying to get towns to override the lights for hard-hit traffic areas. They are also seeking out communication from these towns, so they can send a message to students who are driving in when construction is happening. However, Cell said the notices are not being received in a timely manner.

“We are in a situation we’ve never faced before,” Cell said.

Cell said one of the major issues playing a role in the traffic jam is how many students are on campus per day since there is only one main roadway for the majority of cars to leave campus.

Montclair State's student population has rapidly grown throughout the years. This year alone, there are 21,005 students enrolled, including graduate and undergraduate students.

According to Cell, there are over 14,000 students on campus on Monday, with Tuesdays and Thursdays falling just a bit short of that number. Wednesdays and Fridays have the least number of students at about 9,000.

Cell said the administration is working hard to design new roadways to get out of campus, but things don’t seem very bright for the future.

An ongoing legal battle of 16 years between Montclair State and the city of Clifton finally came to an end after the New Jersey Supreme Court denied Montclair State's petition to convert Yogi Berra road into a two-way street. Clifton argued that converting the road, as is, into a two-way street was not a safe thing to do.

Sekhena Sembenu, a sophomore journalism major, is a commuter student, does not own a car and relies heavily on Uber to commute to and from campus.

Concerns on whether or not Uber drivers will want to pick up rides in the future from Montclair State have been raised by several students.

Sembenu added that the traffic congestion is a big issue on campus and the city of Clifton finally worked hard to design new roadways to get out of campus but things don’t seem very bright for the future.

Montclair State President Jonathan Koppell agreed that traffic is a big issue on campus and is something he is trying to resolve.

“We are in deep discussions with the Department of Transportation and the municipalities around to try and fix the lights and the traffic patterns so that it doesn’t hack all the way up onto the campus and create a nightmare for everybody,” Koppell said.

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Red Hawk Rap Sheet

Wednesday, September 29

Blanton Hall: Officers responded to Blanton Hall in regards to a roommate dispute. The student alleged that her roommate had splattered paint on a tapestry and refused to compensate her for the cost, and that her suitemate struck her roommate on the hip with their joining bathroom door. Residence life was notified of the above incidents. The student did not wish to press charges at this time.

Thursday, September 30

Cole Hall: A male non-student was detained outside of Cole Hall for being under the influence of CDS and was issued a summons for trespassing on University property. The male was further assessed at Police Headquarters by medical personnel and transported to Mountainside Hospital for further care.

Thursday, September 30

Harassment: A female student came into Police Headquarters to report an incident of harassment. The student advised that she had been receiving threatening messages through Instagram from a known female, non-student. This case is presently under investigation.

Thursday, September 30

University Hall: A female student came into Police Headquarters to report a theft of a laptop and laptop bag while in the University Hall computer lab. This case is presently under investigation.

Thursday, September 30

Machuga Heights: Officers responded to Gibson Hall to take report of harassment, whereby a male student reported that a known male student yelled a derogatory statement to him out of the passenger side window of a vehicle. The student did not wish to press charges at this time.

Friday, October 1

Freeman Hall: Officers responded to Freeman Hall in regards to a report of a dispute. Officers were met on scene by two female students who alleged that their roommate had threatened to physically strike them, after the roommate became upset over one of the students allowing a male student to utilize the roommate’s coffee mug. The students did not wish to press charges at this time.
Montclair State University hosted a coronavirus (COVID-19) remembrance event at the amphitheater on Sept. 30.

Heartfelt messages were written on paper bags filled with candles to signify the light from a lost loved one. Bags were laid all across the amphitheater, which lit up the stage after the sun had set.

Dr. Dawn Meza Soufleris, the vice president of Student Development and Campus Life, had some words of condolence to give at the event.

"For many of us, we would suffer loss, loss of a loved one, a cherished friend, a neighbor, a coworker, but loss can be in other forms as well," Soufleris said. "The loss of a job, the closure of a favorite restaurant. The inability to do something that we really love to do."

Afterward, Karla Farfan Miguel, the executive vice president of the Student Government Association, came onstage to give condolences.

Miguel mentioned how Latino and Black communities were unfairly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Black and Latino communities were devastated by the coronavirus since the very beginning at disproportionate rates," Miguel said. "This was due to access to care challenges and social determinants of health challenges. Additionally, the previous government administration had made the choice to seek health care during these troubling times hard on the Latino community."

The Rev. Jim Chern from the Newman Catholic Center also came onstage during the COVID-19 remembrance. Chern brought up that it is impossible to forget COVID-19 because it has affected all of us in one way or another.

"I was talking with a few students the other day about this, our [COVID-19] remembrance," Chern said. "There were two responses I got: 'Remembrance? Who could forget it,' and 'I'd rather forget it.'"

After Chern gave his speech, a moment of silence was given for all of those who had lost a loved one during the pandemic. Students found themselves comforting one another, as they had the chance to reflect and mourn those who were close to them.

Finally, Margaret Coleman-Carter, dean of students, came to the microphone to give closing remarks about the special event. She thanked everyone for coming out to help the Montclair State community, and for being a part of something so wonderful to help students and faculty alike.

"It will get better. It's going to get better because we're going to hope and expect that it will be better," Coleman-Carter said.

As the crowds began to dwindle and the sun began to set, the candles inside of each bag began to shine, lighting up the messages each person handwrote.
Montclair State University released its 2020 Jeanne Clery Act on Oct. 1, in which the annual statistics highlight a decline in crimes. Rape assaults, liquor law arrests and domestic violence decreased significantly in comparison to the previous years.

From 2019 to 2020, rape crimes on campus declined from five to two. Liquor law arrests decreased from 34 to four. Domestic violence in residence halls went from 20 to four cases.

Katie Hyer, a junior journalism major, said the numbers are lower because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. "I think the cases are low because all classes were online-only," Hyer said. "A lot of people were not in their dorms. No one was outside a lot. You had to eat in your dorms and you couldn't eat in the dining halls or anything. No, there were not a lot of people on campus."

Capt. Kieran Barrett of the Montclair State Police Department also explained that the statistics declined because the 2020 academic year was mostly remote. "The 2020 statistics provide a snapshot of crime on campus in a year that was largely remote," Barrett said. "It does not, however, provide a good glimpse into the efforts to maintain a safe campus throughout the year from faculty, staff, students and police. These specific crimes would definitely see a downward trend when the university is closed for in-person."

Although most of the campus crime statistics decreased, some students are still taking precautions to prevent becoming a victim of any type of offense.

Maria Hofmann, a senior journalism major, shared her self-defense methods in case she finds herself in a dangerous situation. "I carry pepper spray, especially when I'm walking at night," Hofmann said. "It makes me feel a little bit concerned, but we have those police blue buttons, which make me feel safe and I know the university does their best at keeping everybody safe."

Only two of the crimes increased. The dating violence numbers went from three to five, while the drug law referrals raised from one to five.

Barrett also encourages the Montclair State community to take advantage of the campus resources if anyone experiences any type of assault.

"At [Montclair State], we want to encourage students and community members to come forward to get the care that they need when an assault occurs and that may include law enforcement, health services, psychological and counseling service as well as accommodations necessary to become a survivor," Barrett said.
The Pandemic and Student Mental Health

Erin Lawlor
Staff Writer

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has caused mental health concerns for some Montclair State University students. Jaclyn Friedman-Lombardo, the director of Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at Montclair State, has seen a rise in students utilizing CAPS from the start of the fall semester.

“We’ve always been a really popular service,” Lombardo said. “Now that students are back, they are utilizing the services as they were before the pandemic and it has been very busy.”

Lombardo explained that there have been several students calling because they are having difficulty adjusting or readjusting back to campus life. Many of the freshmen have to adjust from being in online high school to in-person classes along with college life.

CAPS made a program called Let’s Talk, which has similarly been popular since students have come back to campus.

Montclair State President Jonathan Koppell said he is working to improve CAPS to meet student needs.

“Vice President [Dawn] Soufleris and I have already talked about what we can do to make Counseling and Psychological Services more accessible, more visible [and] better prepared to meet the needs of the students,” Koppell said.

Alec Palumbo, a senior film-making major, is excited to finally be back on campus. Palumbo is six classes away from graduating and couldn’t be happier about finishing these classes in person with hands-on work.

“If anyone can go through college, it is our grade,” Palumbo said. “We were smack in the middle of it and then completely removed from it, so I think my mental health has increased plenty from being in quarantine to back on campus.”

Palumbo turned to eating better and exercising regularly as healthy coping mechanisms and ways to practice self-care. This has helped him a lot after being stuck in a room staring at a Zoom screen all day.

Ilona Soltys, a junior communication and media arts major, has seen her mental health both decrease and increase since being back on campus this semester. She loves being surrounded by everyone on campus and finally seeing smiling faces, but that comes with a ton of stress.

“There is a lot of stress piled on,” Soltys said. “I’m worrying about a pandemic, about my family getting sick and about how I’m going to get to class. [I’m also worried about whether] I can juggle school while also working at the same time.”

Soltys has found alternate ways to help cope with the stresses of being back on campus, including journaling, lighting candles and watching movies.

To find more information about CAPS and its services you can visit their website.

Students practice yoga in the quad.
Meet Dr. Rahjaun Gordon, Director of the Educational Opportunity Fund

Dr. Rahjaun Gordon is the director of the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program at Montclair State University, a state-funded program in colleges across New Jersey that helps low-income and disadvantaged students succeed through financial assistance and guidance throughout their four years in college.

He was promoted to that position this past summer. In his time at Montclair State, he has been instrumental in supporting disadvantaged students and pushing them to succeed.

Raised in Trenton, New Jersey, Gordon came from humble beginnings. All around him, he saw his friends go down the wrong path. “I saw my friends go down the wrong path. All around him, he saw his friends go down the wrong path. I love the staff [and] the students I supervised, but EOF always had something for Special Programs and Gordon’s predecessor and boss, said the reason why Gordon contributes so much to the program to this day is because he is “very ambitious, very talented, a natural leader and innovation-driven.”

“I love working at Montclair [State] in Residence Life. I love the staff [and] the students I supervised, but EOF always had something that got other campus partners involved such as mentor-mentee components, where we can mentor EOF students,” Gordon said.

“So, I naturally gravitated to that when EOF hosted conferences when I was the hall director. I would come just to volunteer to help out.”

Gordon then applied to be an EOF counselor to students in the program and got the job. “I don’t feel that I have ever been lost,” Gordon said. “I am trying to look back at myself and how I got to where I am today.”

Flash forward several years later, Gordon became a hall director at Montclair State. It was there where he first became attracted to the EOF program.

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The time of pumpkin spice and spooky fun has finally arrived. After a scorching hot summer, it's time to cool off and enjoy what nature has to offer. Whether you like pumpkin picking or something scary, there's an activity for everyone, and most of them are within an hour from Montclair State University.

1. Farms View Roadstand — Wayne, New Jersey
   Farms View Roadstand is a great place for a quick little pit stop on your way to pumpkin heaven. Located about 15 minutes from campus, they offer everything from hayrides to a farmers market. Farms View Roadstand has plenty to pick from if you're in the mood for jams, baked goods or apple cider. On the weekends, you can get a hayride, a mini pumpkin and an apple cider donut as part of a $10 deal. It's also a great place to buy food if you enjoy fresh produce and baked goods.

2. Tranquility Farms — Andover, New Jersey
   Foodies are warned, this place could be for you. Tranquility Farms has cider, donuts, ice cream, pulled pork, hamburgers, french fries and just about any type of fall food you could imagine. They also host their own petting zoo, corn maze and the best yet: a pumpkin chucking. They have one of the best petting zoos, with several goats, cows, horses, pigs, bunnies, chickens and lambs. Prefer to go during the week? Check out the hayride, the pumpkin patch and the farmers market. They also have cider slushies on tap that are simply delicious and refreshing. Ort Farms is full of local fruits, veggies and baked goods. If you decide to take a trip, the surrounding area is also chock-full of other farms.

3. Ort Farms — Long Valley, New Jersey
   Ort Farms offers a genuine pumpkin picking experience — right from the vine itself. They also offer fun weekend activities, such as a corn maze, hayrides, train rides, a petting zoo, pony rides, an apple cannon and monster truck rides. They have one of the best petting zoos, with several goats, cows, horses, pigs, bunnies, chickens and lambs. Preference to go during the week? Check out the hayride, the pumpkin patch and the farmers market. They also have cider slushies on tap that are simply delicious and refreshing. Ort Farms is full of local fruits, veggies and baked goods. If you decide to take a trip, the surrounding area is also chock-full of other farms.

4. Demarest Farms — Hillsdale, New Jersey
   Demarest Farms is best known for seasonal apple picking, but they have much more to offer. The summer offers peach picking while the fall offers apples and pumpkins. To get to the fields, you take a hayride, which makes for a great photo opportunity before you start picking. There's also a petting zoo, a store and other photo opportunities along the way. New this year, there's a Halloween night show where you drive your car through the 32 acres of orchards. One of the most important things to know for Demarest Farms is that you have to book ahead, as their availability fills up quickly.

5. Sleepy Hollow, New York
   This one is for the spooky folks out there. Sleepy Hollow was made famous by the classic Washington Irving story, “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow,” and we're all in luck because it's just under an hour from campus. The town is a gorgeously haunting site right in the Hudson Valley, offering cemetery tours, spooky shops and great eats. It's the perfect day trip for you and your friends.

New Jersey is one of the best states in the country to experience the fall. We have amazing weather, beautiful scenery and no shortage of things to do. Treat yourself this fall, take a break from your classes and join in on all the fun that the Northeast has to offer.
The Montclair Farmers’ Market Brings Residents Their Fall Favorites

Amanda Alicea | Staff Writer

Small tents filled the Walnut St. Station parking lot of Montclair, New Jersey on Saturday morning. The crisp autumn air circled township residents as they huddled towards the entrance with reusable bags. The smell of spices, sweet treats and warm beverages kissed the noses of locals. The sound of children giggling, bodies bustling and vendors shouting, “Next!” filled the large lot.

Montclair residents scored some of their seasonal favorites this past weekend at the Montclair Farmers’ Market. The market not only had a large variety of seasonal produce for sale, but special food artisans also sold their items and dishes. Locals were able to grab special seasonal items such as apple cider beverages and donuts, pumpkin spice donuts and many different pies ranging from apple to strawberry rhubarb.

Along with a plentiful array of produce, many different kinds of vendors were also present for locals to explore and enjoy. The vendors offered a variety of seasonal spices and blends to custom make their seasonal curries, and offer vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options.

Caitlin Lonergan, the sales and marketing associate of Angel Planet Foods, was eager to bring locals new seasonal products. Lonergan said, “Along with giving vegans and vegetarians fall-inspired dishes, vendors were also donating a portion of their profits to charities and non-profit organizations. “We always like to have a fun twist on our curries,” Lonergan said. “Our most popular is our curry chickpea with sweet potatoes, so we most recently came out with an apple-cinnamon sweet potato curry with chickpeas for a fall twist.”

Lonergan also hopes to inspire more vendors at the market to use more environmentally friendly practices. “We are trying to make waves in the food industry by implementing more eco-friendly business practices and hopefully inspiring other businesses to do the same,” Lonergan said.

Along with giving vegans and vegetarians fall-inspired dishes, vendors were also donating a portion of their profits to charities and non-profit organizations.

Adventure Kitchen is owned by Lyndsey Jones, who began the business from her home. The business sells various seasonal spices and blends to customers at the market. They offer organic, original blends like pumpkin pie spice, hot Hungarian paprika and Mexican sweet blend.

Gabriella Bauer, a long-time customer and friend of Jones, explained that when customers purchase their spices, Jones tries to give back to local charities. “10% of purchases goes to charity and all the products are sustainable and natural. You can smell the difference in the spices,” Bauer said.

Bauer helps Jones sell her spices at the market every Saturday.

Maryssa Geist, a resident from Montclair, has been shopping at the market for nearly three years. Geist's favorite vendor is Everlasting Garden, which sells bouquets, individual flowers and succulent plants.

“The market is inviting and charming,” Geist said. “I tend to go to the same vendors when I stop by the flowers and jams tents.”

Residents can also speak with the market manager, who has a tent set up in the market. Locals can visit the tent with questions or inquire about the Good Food Bucks program. The program allows low-income families and seniors to double their produce purchases. When residents bring their Families First cards to the market, they are given SNAP vouchers. When customers use their SNAP benefits at the market, they receive additional Good Food Bucks which they can use at the market as well. Paul Pinto, the marketing manager of the Montclair Farmers’ Market, is hopeful that the program will bring more families to the lot.

“Residents can actually increase the value of what they’re getting from the government,” Pinto said. “It’s great.”

Montclair residents can visit the market every Saturday for fall favorites until the season is over in November. The market opens at 8 a.m. and remains open until 2 p.m. and residents who get to the market around the early afternoon can expect to enjoy food trucks and live music while they shop. The market is open rain or shine unless the marketing manager states otherwise.
"In America, the President reigns for four years, but Journalism governs forever.” – Oscar Wilde

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The Montclarion Crossword Puzzle and More!

Superheroes Edition

By Kayla Carlamere

**Across**
3. This fictional location is home to many of Gotham City’s “criminally insane” antagonists.
4. What does the abbreviation “DC” (as in DC Comics) refer to?
6. This famous comic book writer has made a cameo in nearly every movie in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.
7. Although this was the 21st movie to be released in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, it was the second movie chronologically.
8. “_____ Metrion Zinthos!” -Raven, Teen Titans

**Down**
1. This hero is referred to as “the First Avenger.”
2. Although raised as an Asgardian, Loki was born part of the Jotunn, a race more commonly known as the ________.
5. After Dick Grayson retired the mantle of Robin, this character became the second incarnation of the sidekick.

*For answers to the puzzles, please check The Montclarion Facebook page every Thursday.*

**Word Search**

- Scarlet Witch
- Jimmy Olsen
- Vibranium
- Harleen Quinzel
- Wolverine
- Justice League
- Wakanda
- Kryptonite
- Spider-Verse
- Themyscira
- Infinity War
- Star Labs
- Mjolnir
- Starfire
- Shang Chi

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**Sudoku**

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 4 2 8 9
 9 1 4 3 7
 6 5 2
 3 9 4 7
 1 9 6
 7 3 2
 5 4 7
 1 8 5
 8 3
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*themontclarion.org*
On any given day, you can sit at a table near the Sprague Library and watch a steady trickle of people approach the doors of Cafe Diem. Almost every one of them goes through the same progression of actions. They reach for the door handle and pull, only to find it locked. They stare into the darkened interior, squinting as if looking for signs of life and activity. Finally, they flap their hands in exasperation or turn cold, it was always bustling and busy, the long lines moved quickly and food came out at a reasonable pace.

Now that same space is blocked off, inaccessible and as distant as the memories of life before quarantine and social distancing. At some point last year, while the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic transformed Montclair State University's campus into a ghost town, Au Bon Pain quietly shuttered its doors for good.

Emphasis on "quietly," since no announcement was made nor explanation given for the lack of service. These plans certainly sound promising. The question of Cafe Diem's future prospects is on Montclair State's mind, and Dr. Dawn Soufleris, vice president for Student Development and Campus Life, has answers.

"It was supposed to open the last week of September," Soufleris said. "The issue right now is labor. We cannot find enough people to work in dining services."

She is hoping to be able to reopen Cafe Diem by mid-October. This timeframe would allow for employees to be trained and other final preparations to be made to ensure a smooth opening process. With Au Bon Pain gone, what kind of establishment will Cafe Diem become? Soufleris shared this vision with The Montclarion as well.

"We're calling it Destination Dining, and that means it's going to have some very specific things like halal food, gluten-free, kosher [and] vegan [dining options]," Soufleris said. "[All] that is going to be there along with coffees [and other things that you can go in there to get before going into the library] but it will also have hot food and prepared food to go, again with some specifics to meet the needs of the students that have asked for special dining." Soufleris elaborated on how this may change later in the school year.

"That's for now. The hope is that it will evolve into something else, which will be more like potentially having swag being there with coffee and maybe some music and some other things, which would potentially be in the spring semester," she said.

These plans certainly sound exciting and ambitious, but it still seems fairly tentative for now. If workers can be found in what has proven to be a challenging time for servers and the serving industry alike, then Cafe Diem's potential can hopefully be put to good use soon.

Still, it begs the question of why Au Bon Pain needed to close. Some feel Panera Bread is an adequate replacement for Au Bon Pain, and for a time the idea of Panera being offered on campus was exciting to many. But long waits and unmasked workers have seen the novelty wear off quickly. Au Bon Pain's absence is keenly felt, and the empty building feels too much like a symbol of things lost to the calamity of the past year. It has never been more apparent that the uncertainty of the future is truly a collective anxiety, and we could all use some closure, even if it's a mildly apologetic sign on Cafe Diem's door.

"Very devastated. It was very, very great. It was one of the good go-to places on campus, especially one that stayed open at good hours and didn't close too early, so it was accessible at any time for anybody. It does suck because there's not as many options."

Serhenna Bazile
Filmmaking Junior

"I'm pretty upset about [Au Bon Pain] closing, actually really upset. It was really cheap, it was really easy to just go in, run in there and get food. I really hope that they put something good in there and not, you know, a place where I have to spend $20 for a coffee."

Justin Lopez
Musical Theatre Junior

"It was just really convenient after shows and stuff because it was right there, and it took no time to get there between calls. But other than that, it was OK. It wasn't much of an option for what there was."

Sam Bloch
Lighting Design Junior

"I feel that [it] was kind of the place that all the dance majors after our class would go to and hang out. So, it's kind of sad that now we don't really have that place. We have to go to the student center or Blanton or somewhere else to kind of reconnect before our next class, so it's kind of sad."

Andrea Ward
Dance Senior

By Olivia Licini
The ‘Pain’ of the Past

The Montclarion • October 7, 2021 •

DARIAN MOZO
GUEST WRITER

t has been a month since the reopening of campuses for in-person classes here at Montclair State University. It’s certainly something that has excited everyone from the very first day, as after spending almost a year and a half receiving classes at home, we are finally going to be able to get back in touch with our classmates, friends and professors face-to-face.

While it is exciting for people to go back to face-to-face classes, we are forgetting the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is still present in our lives. According to Montclair State’s COVID-19 Dashboard, September alone reflected a total of 131 cases, 121 of which were from students. This means that of the 121 students, those who are taking in-person courses might have had to miss classes along with the important material being taught in each one.

The Montclarion created a 24-hour Instagram poll asking if students were denied a Zoom link to their in-person class despite having a medical reason. Out of the 46 responses, 35% said they were denied and 65% said they were not.

A few weeks ago, three people in one of my classes tested positive for COVID-19. Of course, we were all worried, and our professor even canceled class for the day. However, the following week we all went back to class as if nothing happened — all of us except the three infected students.

What could be the consequences for students in this position who are not supplied with a Zoom link to join class? Without a Zoom link, remote students are left with a skeletal outline of a synchronous course, while their peers have full access to in-depth discussions and other benefits. This isolation could result in absences, incomplete assignments and failed exams due to having missed the necessary material. They may even risk failing the course, which can significantly affect their grades and GPA.

These students are supposed to be finishing their degrees but that means their grades have to meet a certain requirement in order to graduate. How is a student supposed to pass a course if they can’t even attend?

Most importantly, many of these infected students, for fear of losing all the material required for a class or several classes, may feel the need to attend classes while being sick with COVID-19. This poses a serious risk for their classmates and others they come into contact with.

Such imprudence will cause an increase in the number of sick people both inside and outside the campus. Professors for in-person courses should be more flexible and offer other options for those who, because of COVID-19, are not able to attend their classes. It is patently unfair to exclude students who are unable to come to class since they are still paying for the course and should be able to attend however they can.

We have all already spent a great deal of time using Zoom as our main tool to take classes, get in touch with our professors and meet new people. Now, to help all the students who cannot join us in face-to-face classes due to COVID-19, we can still utilize Zoom to a lesser extent.

Andrew Mees, a spokesperson for the university, outlined the guidelines regarding what is to happen if a student falls ill with the virus, saying professors may provide Zoom links as they are simply not allowed to change the entire course modality from in-person to online.

“While professors may elect not to provide a Zoom link for a variety of reasons, it is expected that professors work to identify options for their students to acquire course content missed related to a COVID-19 diagnosis,” Mees said.

Zoom classes wouldn’t only benefit the infected students who have to stay home but also professors, who would have an easier time teaching both in-person and online. This option would also allow those students who are currently attending in-person to feel more comfortable about being at school. This fight against COVID-19 is not over yet. Students and staff should not let their guard down and must continue to take necessary precautions to protect themselves. We all, as a community, have a responsibility to take care of ourselves as well as the people around us.

Everyone’s health matters, and simply giving someone an absence is not an adequate solution to this problem. Professors must help and empathize with those who are having a hard time and support them academically.

I have always believed the Montclair State community is united, and now we need to be united more than ever, whether we’re learning from home or coming to campus.

Darian Mozo, a junior journalism major with a minor in linguistics, is in her first year as a guest writer for The Montclarion.

Thumbs Up

YouTube bans anti-vaccine misinformation from its platform

International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees union authorizes strike for better wages and working conditions

Adele announces new song, “Easy On Me,” coming Oct. 15

Thumbs Down

Altercation at Cuban Pete’s ends in gunfire; thankfully, none injured

Oil spill dumps 126,000 gallons of crude oil into Pacific off the southern California coast

Twitch confirms major data breach

Anais St. Amant | The Montclarion

The Montclarion
Concern over abortions becoming illegal again has been somewhat alleviated throughout the decades due to protective measures placed on women’s healthcare. However, with the recent enactment of the Texas abortion law, women are fearing for their rights once more.

The Texas abortion law, known formally as the Texas Heartbeat Act, was passed on Sept. 1. The Texas Heartbeat Act prohibits abortions as soon as cardiac activity is detectable, which is about six weeks along in pregnancy. Six weeks equates to only a two-week late menstrual period, barely enough time for a woman to realize they’re pregnant and then decide whether to get an abortion.

Many states have tried to implement a law like this before, but have been turned down by federal courts on numerous occasions. This is because of pro-choice groups and abortion centers arguing against this outlandish law. However, due to many anti-abortion groups coming together and showing their support for the law, it was able to be passed.

This law also states that someone who reports an abortion or abortion clinic can receive up to $10,000. Many abortion clinics have agreed to stop practicing due to this law, which means safe abortions are basically not an option anymore. However, that doesn’t mean people won’t try to do it on their own and potentially get sued for it if someone were to ever find out.

Dr. Alan Braid, of San Antonio, Texas, was the first to admit to performing an abortion after the law took effect. He was aware of the legal consequences that would take place when he decided to act, but he wanted to prove to the Texas Supreme Court that the law was outrageous. Braid is currently being faced with a lawsuit because he performed this abortion.

Women practicing abortions on themselves is very dangerous. According to the Guttmacher Institute, illegal abortions cause around 8% to 11% of all maternal deaths, which converts to about 30,000 deaths per year. Women who live in Texas who are seeking an abortion after the six-week mark have the option of either leaving the state to get one or to practice an illegal abortion.

However, there are many people in Texas who don’t have the ability to travel out of state to an abortion clinic that will provide the service for them. For these people, an unsafe or illegal abortion will most likely be the only option, which could be deadly.

After the passing of the Texas Heartbeat Act, many people are questioning what’s next and are worrying for their rights. If Texas was able to pass a law like this, what does it mean for other states? As of right now, Florida is also looking at an abortion law that would mirror the one passed in Texas. There are many government officials currently opposing this law, but right now, women’s rights are being rescinded at an alarming rate.

It’s very important for women to have access to safe abortions. In cases of rape or incest, a woman should not have to be forced to have a child they never wanted. A woman’s financial situation also might come into play when deciding to get an abortion or not. If they aren’t able to fund nine months of countless doctors visits plus a lifetime of support for a baby, then they should be able to choose not to have that child.

No one is asking for everyone to support abortions. Many women say they would never get an abortion, but that doesn’t mean the option should not exist for others. Every woman deserves this choice, and because of this law, many women are being denied that choice.

You can help fight these oppressive laws by giving to Planned Parenthood’s Action Fund. For more information on abortion rights, you may also visit the website for the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL). Both foundations are seeking donations as well as volunteers.

Emily Spillar, a freshman journalism major, is in her first year as a guest writer for The Montclarion.
Have a thought about on campus or off campus matters?
Write for Opinion!
Email:
montclarionopinion@gmail.com

Room 2035, School of Communication and Media in Upper Montclair, NJ, 07043

Parking and Fees
Campus Activities
PHOTO ESSAY: WMSC Members Celebrate World College Radio Day 2021

Members of 90.3 WMSC, Montclair State University’s radio station, all came together to celebrate World College Radio Day.

This 34-hour event spanning three separate days covered all sorts of events, each with a love for all things radio, and of course, music.

Many of the students were running on less than three hours of sleep according to associate program director Ben Petruk, a junior journalism major. Some of the students even slept on the floor of the WMSC office.

Special guests included Paterson Mayor André Sayegh, members of the PIX11 News team and two featured artists from growing bands.

“The Morning Buzz,” WMSC’s hard newscast and talk show, began at 7 a.m. and broadcasted from both the recording studio and a table outside of the School of Communication and Media (SCM) in near-freezing weather. It was manned by the show’s producer, Kenny Horn, a senior television and digital media major, and assistant producer, Kyle Pepitone, a senior animation major. Both Horn and Pepitone had purple fingertips by the time the broadcast finished at 9 a.m.

During “The Morning Buzz,” Anabelia Poland, WMSC’s general manager, told the students that the PIX11 News helicopter was about to fly over the SCM to greet them. Everyone waved, danced and cheered as the helicopter hovered over the university.

Shortly before 9 a.m., Horn was surprised by Sayegh, who guest-starred on the show. Horn received a special proclamation certificate, which officially recognized World College Radio Day as a day of special observance for the city of Paterson.

After “The Morning Buzz” had ended, the team’s makeshift karaoke golf cart was set and ready to drive around campus. Members of the station sang songs by Mötley Crüe, Bon Jovi and Bob Dylan along with other students and faculty around campus.

Around 11 a.m., WMSC had two special guest stars perform live music: Miles Dellaha of the band See Plus and John Anthony Rodriguez of the band 54 Ultra.

With time left over, members of WMSC played some of their original songs, as well as covers of songs such as “Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)” by Green Day.
By Green Day, Tara Cicchetti, a senior sociology major; Jake Goetz, a junior television and digital media major, along with Petrak and Pepitone, all performed live on the air.

Other events were held throughout the day. Notable ones included Battle of the Vinyls, an airing of the pre-recorded original musical, “The Nightmare Before World College Radio Day,” put together by the WMSC students, a Dungeons & Dragons tournament and a dodgeball tournament held in the Student Recreation Center.

Students at the station worked tirelessly in preparing and executing the event, but despite their exhaustion, nearly every face was accompanied by a smile all throughout the day. For most people there, radio and music is their passion, and that undoubtedly shined through during World College Radio Day.

To see more photos, check out themontclarion.org
Revisit ‘The Sopranos’ in ‘The Many Saints Of Newark’

David Chase, the creator of HBO’s critically acclaimed, award-winning show, “The Sopranos,” brings fans back to where it all started for the notorious Anthony ‘Tony’ Soprano in the prequel film, “The Many Saints of Newark.”

Taking place in the late 1960s and into the 1970s, Chase takes us into the early years of Tony (originally played by James Gandolfini) and showcases the influences and environment that shaped him into the feared mob boss fans of the show know him as. Growing up in Newark, New Jersey during the riots of 1967, Tony is on his way to becoming a man as his mob family faces rival gangsters in a race-torn city.

The film is packed with crime, violence and a lot of Italian-American slang, making an entertaining watch for both fans and those unfamiliar with the HBO series.

While the first half of the film keeps the audience at the edge of their seats, the story begins to plateau through the second act and falls short in the final act. The compelling build-up feels like it could lead to a satisfying conclusion, but instead, the ending is abrupt and anticlimactic.

In fact, the overall story does not feel very connected to the film’s tagline: “Who made Tony Soprano?” Teenage Tony, portrayed by James Gandolfini’s son, Michael Gandolfini, looks up to his Uncle Dickie Moltisanti, played by Alessandro Nivola, who helps run the family business and personal business behind closed doors.

The film implies that Uncle Dickie is the main influence in the making of Tony, but he is only really seen giving talks to young Tony about staying in school and not putting too much stress on his mother by acting out. All of the mafia action done by Uncle Dickie is handled away from his nephew. He is never the direct cause or clear influence of Tony’s mischief, which he appears to do of his own volition.

Despite this, following Uncle Dickie’s story is a wild ride for viewers, and it does not disappoint.

The film’s period setting makes for a stellar set design that will excite natives of New Jersey, especially those located in the Northeastern region. “The Many Saints of Newark” pays tribute to settings from the original series while also offering a fresh look at the new setting.

Playing over the riot scenes is audio of revolutionary poet Gil Scott-Heron’s “Your Soul and Mine.” The use of this poem’s recitation combined with the set design not only perfectly aligns with what is happening on the screen, but it encapsulates the events that occurred nationwide during the long, hot summer of 1967.

Another element of the film that viewers can find enjoyable is the characters’ dialogue. The way the slang was executed by the actors will surely put a smile on your face and even make you chuckle.

The Sopranos are a big family and have plenty of phrases used in most Italian-American households. Words such as “mannaggia,” which is said when someone is annoyed or frustrated, or “gagootz,” which is what Uncle Dickie regularly calls Tony, give the audience a feel of the ways of a typical Italian-American family in New Jersey or New York.

“The Many Saints of Newark” features a brilliant set design, stunning cinematography and exceptional performances by its cast. It is suitable for fans of the classic series, as well as newcomers, although they may miss a lot of the references and Easter eggs throughout the film. However, the story’s disconnect from the main point and abrupt conclusion may leave viewers dissatisfied and wanting more.
‘The Outpost’ Captivates With a Rich Plot Rather Than High-Budget Effects

Kayla Carlamer
Guest Writer

News came in mid-September that “The Outpost,” an indie fantasy series on The CW, would be canceled after four seasons.

With elements of science fiction, girl power and an amazing cast, “The Outpost” follows Talon, played by Jessica Green, a hero with mystical powers emerging from a tragic past. After finding sanctuary in the Gallwood Outpost, “the farthest edge of the realm,” a discovery leads her on a hunt for revenge on those who slaughtered her entire village when she was just a child.

The current season of “The Outpost” picks up where the last season left off, with the Gallwood Outpost in need of a new leader and all signs pointed to Talon. It incorporates past antagonists, shifts in power dynamics—a new need for enemies and a new need for friends—and ensures characters undergo development.

The amazing plot of “The Outpost,” in addition to its well-developed characters, tear-jerking deaths, humor, magic and science, is buried by its reputation as a show of low-budget effects. However, this season encountered a new need for effects, as it introduced two new races, the “Kahvi” and the “Gods,” both of which have unique features and powers. The effects used were still not on par with those you may see in a Marvel movie, but it was ensured they were not too distracting or fatuous and still able to play a role in a thrilling fight scene without seeming out of place. They were better executed this season than in past seasons and never distracted from the story, which is the leading force of the finale just as it had been in all other seasons.

Overall, the driving plot of the current season is a climactic moment built up from season one, which would have perfectly fit within the finale of the series, as the characters face the most notable opponents yet.

This season also includes so many callbacks to past episodes that I would have believed the production team knew of the show’s cancellation. But seeing how they have confirmed they did not know, the ending is expected to be true. Though it doesn’t look promising, fans of the show can only sit back and see how the tale goes.

“A Cinderella Story” has everything a classic movie of the early 2000s portrays: chatting services on giant computers, “I’ll Be” by Edwin McCain and a kissing scene in the rain between the unpopular girl and the popular guy in the middle of the homecoming game. Stream it now on Netflix.

With homecoming right around the corner, now’s the time to raise your school spirit by watching none other than a football-themed movie like “The Game Plan.”

This film tells the heartwarming, funny story of Joe, a football player played by Dwayne Johnson, and how he suddenly comes to meet his biological daughter, Peyton, played by Madison Pettis.

“The Game Plan” follows the unlikely duo as they begin to develop a true connection with one another while also maintaining their own personal interests of football and ballet. Packed with talk of sports and laugh-out-loud moments, this family comedy film is sure to get viewers excited for the energy and enthusiasm that surrounds homecoming.

With a Rich Plot Rather Than High-Budget Effects
SPORTS

Volleyball Riding On A Hot Streak
After Slow Start To Season

The team has recorded seven straight victories in the last two weeks

Ryan Nussbaum
Contributing Writer

After a slow start to the 2021 season, Montclair State University’s women’s volleyball team has finally found its footing. After defeating Kean University in straight sets on Sept. 23, the Red Hawks haven’t looked back as they are currently on a seven-game winning streak, with none of those matches going past three sets.

At the beginning of the season, not many could have predicted the team’s recent success. Montclair State began their campaign with a 2-6 record.

Senior right side Victoria Tennon credits the stunning turnaround to strong leadership from the team’s seniors.

“We started off a little bit slow in the beginning of the season,” Tennon said. “I feel like we have good captains and seniors on the team, so we were able to stay together and lead the younger girls on and off the court.”

So far this season, Tennon has contributed 61 kills, along with 27 digs to the squad. The team’s five seniors have had a tall task, leading a young team with 27 digs to the squad. The team’s five seniors have had a tall task, leading a young team.

“Everyone’s positive, everybody is loud and jumping up and down,” Tennon said. “Everyone is good at being vocal [during games] whether we’re on or off the court. We just have really good chemistry on this team. It just makes it easy to stay positive.”

But what sets the Red Hawks apart is their stellar defense. Montclair State is currently second in blocks (100.5) and digs (64) in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC). In a match against Rutgers-Newark on Sept. 28, the defense allowed a mere 18 kills through three sets.

Tennon believes a strong defense makes a huge difference on the court.

“Our defense is very important [to our success],” Tennon said. “I feel like it is one of the most important parts of the game of volleyball. It shows that we are dominant and want to keep that ball on the other side of the court.”

Senior outside hitter Leah Higgins has been key to the Red Hawks’ offensive success, giving the team 139 kills so far this season. She credits the team’s communication, high energy and vocality for the recent string of victories over the last two weeks.

“Everyone just hustles for every ball,” Higgins said. “Everyone’s making a point to get to every ball. We want to come into every single game and make a statement.”

What a statement they have made. The last two games have been won dominantly, with senior outside hitter Carly Waterman leading the way with 11 kills and five aces, meanwhile, Higgins recorded 10 kills and put Montclair State over St. Joseph’s College in straight sets.

Senior setter Delaney St. Pierre recorded 31 assists that match. The Red Hawks allowed only 38 points in all compared to their 70 points scored.

Later that day, Montclair State defeated Neumann University in three sets. The team put up 10 blocks and easily added another win to the streak.

Another factor to consider is the Red Hawks’ focus and determination during practice and training. Higgins emphasized that they do not take practicing lightly, even during a big winning streak.

“We always try to play as tough as we can,” Higgins said. “We put ourselves in high-pressure situations during games so that way we don’t feel the pressure going into a game. We try to keep our mentality in practice sharp and game-like so when we go onto the court we have no surprises.”

Higgins makes it clear that the volleyball team is looking ahead to the second half of the season and thinking about how they can further improve, as the bulk of their conference schedule lies ahead of them.

“We just have to keep communicating,” Higgins said. “We have to keep our energy up this week, be confident in ourselves and our teammates and having the drive and desire to win every single match.”

Montclair State will look to extend their winning streak as three of their next four games will be at Panzer Athletic Center.

The women’s volleyball team is riding on a hot streak after a 2-6 start to the season.

Photo courtesy of David Venezia
THE MONTCLARION

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Room 2035, School of Communication and Media in Upper Montclair, NJ, 07043
Football Prepares For Highly Touted Showdown On Homecoming

Red Hawks will take on TCNJ in one of the most anticipated games this season

Jess Liptzin
Assistant Sports Editor

In just a few days, the Montclair State University football team will take the field in one of the most anticipated football games in over a year.

This year’s homecoming game will be against The College Of New Jersey (TCNJ), who currently hold a 2-2 record this season. After a virtual homecoming in 2020, the Montclair State football team will take the field in one of the most anticipated games this season around.

Senior defensive back Brennan Ray understands the magnitude of this game and the opponent for the upcoming matchup.

“When we play New Jersey teams, we don’t like to lose to them,” Brennan said. “We take pride in being a [New Jersey] football team.”

The Red Hawks are coming off a 27-7 loss against the 14th ranked Salisbury University. After going down 27-0 at the half, Montclair State came out and left Salisbury scoreless in the entirety of the second half. Despite the struggles the team had on both sides of the ball, Ray knew that the Red Hawks weren't going down without a fight.

“Coach came up with a new game plan and we were excited about it,” Ray said. “We came together and came up with a totally different game plan on how to attack the offense and it ended up working really well.”

That loss dropped the Red Hawks to a record of 0-1 in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC). They can change that this weekend, as with homecoming, the moment may be set up perfectly for it to happen.

Ray understands what is at stake for the team and what is needed to change the trajectory of this season. He and the entire football team play for moments like these, so it’s only a matter of executing the game plan in their eyes.

“We have a lot of work to do this week and we are excited,” Ray said. “Especially with it being homecoming, we want to put on a show for the fans and everyone on this campus that’s going to be there.”

Being that Montclair State didn't have an in-person homecoming last year due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, this game has been a long time coming for many. For the underclassmen, it'll be their first time.

Assistant Sports Editor

Kevin Murrugarra | The Montclarion

The seniors and juniors have been able to reminisce on their past homecoming memories as they hope to bring that same energy into this year’s game. Junior tight end Cameryn Martin remembers his first homecoming game back in 2019.

“I remember my freshman year we played against [Christopher Newport] and overall the environment was nuts, unmatched and unrivaled,” Martin said. “There’s something about homecoming, it’s really going to be something special and to be under the lights too, the excitement is definitely there.”

The last time Montclair State football played an evening football game, they won the 2021 NJAC North Championship. This time around, they hope to defeat TCNJ and turn their season around.

Martin realizes the stakes at hand and believes in his teammates to get the job done.

“Confidence-wise we believe in each other, we know the best has yet to come,” Martin said. “It’s really a matter of [whether] we put it all together and come out of the gates fast like we did against Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI).”

Montclair State comes into the game on a four-game winning streak against TCNJ, winning nine of the last 12 games. It'll be the rivals’ 87th meeting in which Montclair State has taken 55 victories in the series. Piecing together these storylines makes for a matchup that both teams have been waiting for over a year.

The overall homecoming day will be filled with sporting events as well as a pregame show from the Red Hawk Sports Network from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. That will lead into kickoff at 6 p.m., where it’s expected to be a frenzy of Red Hawk fans ready to cheer on their football team.

Kevin Murrugarra | The Montclarion

The Red Hawks are currently sitting at a 1-4 record.

Senior defensive back Brennan Ray has tallied 36 tackles this season.
COME HELP US OUT

The Montclarion

Room 2035 School of Communication and Media
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Makai Mickens: A Red Hawk Running Back
Force To Be Reckoned With

The Monmouth County native has been the driving force of the Red Hawks’ running game

Sam Nungeesser
Editor-in-Chief

When people hear the name “Makai Mickens,” anyone in the Monmouth County, New Jersey area will boast of his athletic excellence in football, even those who raved that of the now Montclair State University sophomore running back.

Mickens has a way about him that makes even the people who don’t understand the sport say, “Wow, he’s good.” I would know; I’m both from Monmouth County and I don’t fully understand the sport.

Mickens, who was born and raised in Bridgeport, Connecticut, moved to Red Bank, New Jersey in the fifth grade, where he went on to play high school football at Red Bank Regional just four, short years later. As for when he got his start, Mickens began the game at the prime age of seven, when he played with his older brother on the team above his age group.

“My brother and I were always close so we were always together throughout [football],” Mickens said. “And obviously, playing with older kids made me [the] better player that I am today.”

Mickens credits his father for starting him in football. He says he played many other sports before deciding that football was the one that would stick.

“My dad was a football player and it wasn’t pushed on us, but it was obviously a given thing,” Mickens said. “And I was just naturally good at it. I have played everything: football, basketball [and] baseball. But football was the one that I excelled at a little bit more than everything [else].”

After graduating from Red Bank Regional in 2020, Mickens took the following fall semester to attend East Coast Prep in Massachusetts before following in his older brother’s footsteps in attending Montclair State, which he began in spring 2021.

According to Mickens, playing a shortened spring season due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic made it difficult to get to know his teammates. He says this year he was able to make a much bigger personal connection with the other players on the team.

“That personal connection, when it comes to football, is very important because it obviously makes all the players play harder than they usually would if you don’t really know a stranger just coming in,” Mickens said. “It’s, like, literal going in to fight every game with somebody. There’s not another sport as physical and as mental as football is.”

However, the road to playing college football was not always the easiest for Mickens. In the summer before his senior year of high school, he ended up tearing his ACL, MCL and meniscus, leaving him with a doctor’s sentence that told him he would miss his entire senior season. With that not sticking well with the seasoned player, he decided to spend four months rehabbing, eventually getting back to playing in the final four games of the season, and even scoring several touchdowns.

“The big mental barrier was probably the toughest thing I’ve had to go through in my entire life and knowing that I’m still standing and doing what I still want to do is a big accomplishment for me,” Mickens said.

Mickens recognizes Montclair State’s athletic trainer, Rob Lindenbaum, and his team for keeping him both mentally and physically well in preparing for games. Lindenbaum says Mickens’ commitment to the program and the team makes him stand out.

“Makai sets goals and follows through with them,” Lindenbaum said. “His desire to get better and continue to remain healthy makes him an ideal patient and great to work with. He is everything you want from a student-athlete: dedicated, respectful and hard-working.”

So far this season, Mickens has had a combined total of 401 offensive yards receiving and rushing, three rushing touchdowns and one receiving touchdown. He recalled scoring his first touchdown of this season against Salve Regina University.

“I was just screaming, trying to get the crowd going after that,” Mickens said. “It’s just really an amazing feeling.”

Mickens’ favorite part about being a Red Hawk is the tight community feel that comes along with it.

“I like the crowd,” Mickens said. “I like everybody cheering. That stuff just pushes me. Because I’m an emotional player and I feed off the energy so all that stuff gets me going.”

Running back coach John Straniero prides Mickens on his work ethic and leadership qualities.

“He is a tough kid and you see that when he plays,” Straniero said. “He runs hard and competes in everything he does. You can also see that he is just having fun out there and always has a smile on his face.”

So far this season, the Red Hawks are 1-4 and Mickens says although the losses are heartbreaking and the team can only look forward to future games, he takes those losses differently than the average fan might expect.

“Winning is fun and everything but losses kind of teach you a lot more than winning does,” Mickens said. “That feeling of losing when you believe you almost have it always sticks with me. It sticks with me way more than a win does, or, like, an amazing game does.”

Mickens is majoring in biology, and in the future, he hopes to get his degree and become either a chiropractor, an athletic trainer or an athletic therapist. As for right now, the football player wants to continue to excel as a running back for the Red Hawks.

“I want to keep getting that personal best higher and higher and higher,” Mickens said. “I just want to make sure I’m in a high, positive level for everything so I can benefit on my team in order to get the win.”