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THE MONTCLARION

#MSUStudentVoice Since 1928

Volume XXXII, Issue 6

Thursday, October 14, 2021

themontclarion.org

Vice President Kamala Harris Visits Montclair State



Vice President Kamala Harris visited Montclair State University on Oct. 8.

Photo courtesy of Mike Peters

Sam Nungesser
Editor-in-Chief

Montclair State University welcomed Vice President Kamala Harris to its campus on Friday, Oct. 8, where she spoke to New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill and a roundtable of women on the issue of accessible and affordable childcare, which is part of President Joe Biden's proposed \$3.5 trillion spending bill.

The day was unlike any other at the university with a Clove Road closure, police staked out at every corner and the clear abundance of Secret Service wherever one turned. The children at Ben Samuels Children's Center, where the discussion took place, continued to play as everyone else around them prepared for the vice president's

arrival.

Harris began the roundtable discussion by thanking Murphy and Sherrill for their continued efforts to champion many issues on the administration's agenda.

"In these days of so many crises, the true leaders have just been revealed, in terms of having the ability to take on some of the most difficult issues and do it with courage, do it with determination and conviction," Harris said.

She praised Murphy's use of the American Rescue resources, including putting \$100 million of the resources toward childcare in the state of New Jersey, going on to say that our country is strongest when everyone is able to participate.

"We should support, as a society that says that every person should have a meaningful opportunity to work, that [working parents] should have a meaning-

ful opportunity to parent their children, and to participate not only in their community, but in our economy to pursue whatever may be their passions and their dreams," Harris said.

According to Harris, each state has areas where childcare is not accessible, called childcare deserts, and nearly half of New Jersey lives in a childcare desert. In New Jersey, 15% of the average family's income is spent on childcare, which both Harris and Biden believe no one should have to spend more than five to seven percent of their income on.

Harris highlighted the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on women's unemployment in correlation with childcare.

"2 million women left the workforce. And the main rea-

son that many of them did is the unavailability of childcare," Harris said. "And let's be very clear: a working person cannot go to work if they have children if there's no one to take care of their children. It is that basic."

Harris concluded her opening statement by highlighting that the focus on childcare is long overdue and that she has faith in the leaders at the table to bring it to fruition.

"In the larger context, this is also about where we stand in the world," Harris said. "And we are falling behind as a nation, and we need to catch up, and we need to do better."

Shante Palmer, vice chancellor of external government relations for Rutgers University in Newark, was one of the community leaders at the roundtable who had the chance to speak to Harris. Palmer, who

was a Montclair State graduate, said she was there to elevate the talking point of students who work full time in need of childcare assistance.

"Firstly, I was terrified to be in the presence of such powerful and amazing women, as well as the governor," Palmer said. "But talking about childcare and aftercare, before care and the care of our children is of utmost importance."

Outside of the conference room was Tanya Miller, the assistant director of the early intervention program and acting associate director of Ben Samuels Children's Center. She gave her opinion of the Biden administration's efforts to make childcare more accessible.

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THE MONTCLARION

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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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Red Hawk Rap Sheet



Monday, October 4

Student Center: Officers responded to the Student Center on a report of a student shouting vulgar comments to another student. After being advised of their victim's rights, the reporting student declined to pursue charges in this incident.

Tuesday, October 5

Lot 5: Non-student Kamani Paterson Ridely was arrested in the area of Lot 5 for eluding Police, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct and aggravated assault. The individual was processed at Police Headquarters and issued a follow up court date in CJP court.

Wednesday, October 6

University Hall: Officers responded to University Hall room 1120 on a report of a stolen cell phone. This case is under investigation.

Thursday, October 7

Blanton Hall: Non-student Darryin Valme was arrested and charged with defiant trespassing while in Blanton Hall cafeteria area. The individual was processed and released pending a follow-up court date in the Little Falls Municipal Court.

Thursday, October 7

Harassment: A male student came into Police Headquarters to report an incident of harassment. This incident is under investigation.

Friday, October 8

Lot 19: A student reported that their cell phone was stolen from a vehicle in Lot 19. This case is under investigation.

Anyone who has information regarding these incidents is urged to call the police station at T-I-P-S (8477).

Vice President Kamala Harris Visits Montclair State

Continued from page 1

“I think early childhood education and care is very important for families, particularly with families who have children with developmental disabilities or delays,” Miller said. “They need a place where they can have affordable educational resources for their children, as well as therapeutic resources for their children with knowledgeable, caring and nurturing therapists, [a] support team and teachers who are well educated and suited to be in the classroom to meet the needs in an inclusion setting.”

Sherrill spoke highly of Harris’ visit as she left the event.

“It was great to have the vice president here,” Sherrill said. “She reminded us that she has [New] Jersey connections, her husband is from around here. So it was great to have her back to talk about critical issues to New Jersey.”

Across the street, students waited for a glimpse of the vice president as she departed. Claudia Guglielmo, a senior family science and human develop-

ment major, was happy Harris came to Montclair State.

“I’m excited for her to come to campus, I know [Biden] came here a couple years ago,” Guglielmo said. “I know it’s a cool thing for the students.”

Members and supporters of the Make the Road New Jersey organization were there to remind Harris of the Biden administration’s immigration promises. Lyla Salyani, a freshman chemistry major, was one of the demonstrators.

“We want to welcome Kamala Harris to New Jersey, but we also want to give her a reminder as to why she is in office in the first place,” Salyani said. “In her campaign, Biden and Harris both promised that they wanted to give citizenship for all, however, in their time in office, we have yet to see anything pass their desk.”

After the event, a motorcade escorted Harris off the premises as she waved to spectating students from her car window, ending a historic day for Montclair State.



From left to right: Keylor Guzman, Claudia Guglielmo, Courtney White and Gretchen Ruoff await Harris’ departure.

Sam Nungesser | The Montclarion

Students Denied Virtual Option After Testing Positive for COVID-19

Jenna Sundel
News Editor

Montclair State University students missing classes due to coronavirus (COVID-19) fear falling behind in their coursework. Some have asked to attend class virtually through Zoom, but their requests were denied.

Alexis Utter, a freshman dance major, contracted COVID-19 during the first week of classes and did not have the option to attend her fundamentals of speech class through Zoom.

“I was out the first week of school and because I’m a freshman, I felt like I was in the dark,” Utter said. “While I believe it is important to focus on getting back to in-person learning, students who are absent due to COVID-19 [and such] should have the option to Zoom into class.”

Ashleigh Corby, a sophomore journalism and digital media major, also tested positive for COVID-19 during the first week of school and was denied a Zoom link for three of her classes.

“I was really worried about falling behind, especially since it was the beginning of the school year,” Corby said. “Luckily, now I am caught up and healthy. But, I know I had to stay up pretty late once I felt better [enough] to catch up on reading and assignments.”

Leah Dawer, a graduate student studying social work,

asked for a Zoom link while waiting to receive further accommodations from the Disability Resource Center regarding a medical condition. While her request was not related to COVID-19, she said professors denying access to class through Zoom can increase the spread of the virus.

“It is encouraging students to come to campus when they should be staying home,” Dawer said. “While some students may abuse the system, the university needs to assume that most students are honest if they don’t come to campus.”

Margaree Coleman-Carter, associate vice president and dean of students, explained the protocol for when students contract COVID-19.

“I would advise the students to do and follow the Hawk Check instructions,” Carter said. “If you are instructed to stay home, the student will be contacted by a clinician for an evaluation. Faculty are willing to work with students who have been instructed by the health center to remain home.”

Andrew Mees, the university spokesperson, said professors are allowed to provide a Zoom link to students who tested positive for COVID-19.

“A professor is allowed to provide a Zoom link for an in-person course to ensure students who require accommodations are staying on track,” Mees said. “They are simply not allowed to

move the entirety of their in-person course to an online modality until such a decision is made at the university level.”

Mees said it is ultimately up to professors to ensure that students do not fall behind.

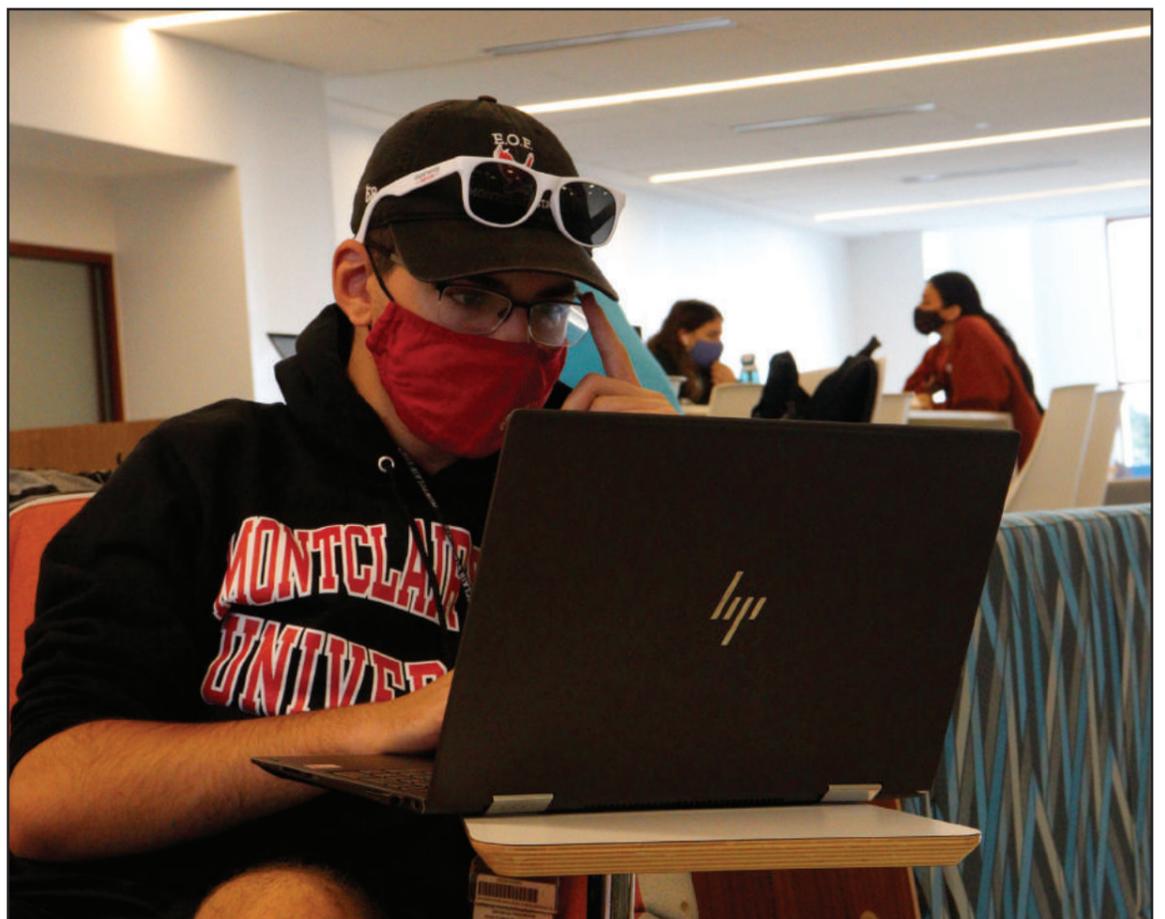
“Should a student be granted an accommodation for any reason, it is the professor’s responsibility to ensure that they stay on

track in a given course and it is up to the professor’s discretion how they facilitate that,” Mees said.

Stacy Gitlin, a professor at the School of Communication and Media, said she gives her students the option to attend class virtually.

“Science and community have given us the tools to com-

bat this pandemic and we should support each other every step of the way,” Gitlin said. “Luckily for me, that just means a little extra time and a simple Zoom link. For others in this country, their contribution is so much more. And I thank them every day for that.”



Sal DiMaggio, a Montclair State student, on his laptop in the School of Communication and Media.

John LaRosa | The Montclarion

Students Take Steps Toward a Cure



Montclair State University students, Jake Hamstra, Madyson Garthly, Shannon O'Connell, Samantha Seiser and Erin Lawlor.

Erin Lawlor | *The Montclarion*

Erin Lawlor
Staff Writer

Montclair State University students participated in the annual 3-mile breast cancer walk at Liberty State Park in Jersey City, New Jersey on Oct. 10.

Montclair State's RecBoard formed a team to partake in Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, an annual walk hosted by the American Cancer Society, and raised \$324 for the cause.

Teni Bello, a junior communication and media arts major, is the community service chair for the RecBoard, a collaboration of students that create, organize, promote and administer events and community service opportunities for the students at Montclair State.

"This is my first event planning on hand with the [RecBoard]," Bello said. "Being able to get a lot of Montclair State University students out there for a good cause is what I really aim for."

Bello explained that the walk is a good way to talk to cancer survivors, connect with family and friends of people who lost their battle and help a great cause.

Samantha Seiser, a junior educational foundations for elementary teachers major,

walked for her mother, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in the summer of 2018 and is now cancer-free after having a bilateral mastectomy in October 2018. After finding out her mother was diagnosed, Seiser says she was shocked and upset, but ready to support her throughout the entire process.

"Events like these bring everyone together," Seiser says. "People that are going through tough times feel that unity with everyone and it helps them know they are not alone."

Seiser was grateful to see how many people came out for the walk and wanted to support people, like her mother, who have been affected by breast cancer.

Montclair State students were joined by members of local communities, all walking together to raise money and awareness.

Madeline Morales Barrett, a resident of Fair Lawn, New Jersey, helped put this walk together with her husband, James Barrett.

The Barretts have been working with The American Cancer Society for 14 years and are excited, after 18 months, to finally be back in person having the breast cancer walk again.

"This helps fund the research

to end breast cancer," Barrett said. "One of the teams made almost \$71,000. [They're] called 'Alison's Army.'"

Viviana Figueroa was diagnosed with breast cancer in February 2020 and just finished her treatment last week. She is very thankful for the breast cancer walk and everyone who is trying to help find a cure.

"It is a nice way to raise money for more research," Figueroa

said. "Thanks to all the research that has been done, I was able to get that treatment."

She is thankful that she can come together with her friends and family and walk for all the others who are battling, as well as herself.

Yaka Rios walked for her aunt, who passed away three years ago from her long battle with breast cancer.

"We do this for her every year,"

Rios said. "It's a good excuse for everyone to get together. It's good to do it for her and we get to honor her memory [this way]."

The Rios family proudly wore their matching shirts in honor of their family member.

For more information for walks in your area or on how to donate, visit: <https://www.cancer.org>



A sea of pink participants as teams walk through Liberty State Park.

Erin Lawlor | *The Montclarion*

PHOTO ESSAY: Rocky's 20th Birthday



Students grab a picture with their favorite bird inside of the Student Center ballroom.

Photo courtesy of Karsten Englander

Karsten Englander
Contributor

To celebrate Rocky the Red Hawk's 20th birthday, students gathered outside of the Student Center on Oct. 5 for a birthday parade, followed by many other fun activities. The line to enter the indoor festivities, located in the Student Center ballroom, was long and filled with the commotion of excited students.

Celebrating Rocky's birthday is the school's way to show its appreciation for all that Rocky does for everyone at Montclair State University. After having a relatively small birthday party last year, the larger crowd seemed to be a welcoming sight to Rocky. The school's bird is usually the center of attention, but on his birthday, the amount of love and appreciation he received from students was far greater than usual, with everyone making sure to show him how much he means to them.

After the parade, everyone met back outside of the Student Center to take pictures with their favorite bird and his family.

Even the youngest of future Red Hawks were there to wish Rocky a happy birthday, and the rare sighting of Rocky's family was definitely a welcome surprise. Rocky is meaningful not only to the students of Montclair State but to their families and friends as well.

Students had the opportunity to pick out a cape of their choice and decorate it with markers. There were also limited-edition Rocky shirts given out to students. Rocky, as always, was working hard to ensure everyone felt welcome and was having fun.

Many students were decorating and showing off their new capes.

During all of the festivities, students were encouraged to take pictures, dance and just have fun with Rocky. Toward the end of the party, Rocky took to the dance floor and began to dance with anyone who wanted to participate. Students laughed and enjoyed celebrating Rocky's special day with him.

To see more photos, check out themonclarion.org



Rocky takes a group photo outside of the Student Center.

Photo courtesy of Karsten Englander



Rocky strikes a pose inside of the Student Center.

Photo courtesy of Karsten Englander



Students with their newly made capes inside of the Student Center ballroom.

Photo courtesy of Karsten Englander

FEATURE

NJ Consignment Store Makes Locals Do a Double Take



From left to right: Nancy Watts, Janaina Gollin, Marci Robins Kessler, Sam Jenkins and Chloe Monaco.

Photo courtesy of Amanda Alicea

Amanda Alicea Staff Writer

Many students at Montclair State University try to put their best fashion feet forward when attending courses or hanging out with classmates. However, it can be difficult for students to be both sustainable and fashionable on a budget. Double Take Luxury Consignment Boutique in Short Hills, New Jersey, is doing just that, aiming to give people high-end fashion they can afford.

Double Take Luxury Consignment Boutique immerses locals into a high-fashion environment with an intimate shopping experience. Jimmy Choo, Giuseppe Zanotti and Tory Burch sit on a shelf in the form of shoes. Christian Dior, Louis Vuitton and Gucci grip to the rack as customers slide the hangers over the metal bars. The neatly organized displays carry a wide variety of designers, all consigned by locals in the community.

The CEO and founder of Double Take, Marci Robins Kessler, had the inspiration to create her own consignment store after failing to find good options in her community.

"I worked in fashion sales in [New York City]. When you work in the garment industry, you accumulate a lot of clothes so I was looking to purge my closet," Kessler said. "I walked into a consignment store and hated it. I put everything back in my car and came home and said to my husband, 'I'm going to open my own consignment store.' That was in 1991."

Since then, Kessler has rebranded the store to give shoppers a more modern experience. Kessler remodeled the store in August 2020 to give the space a fresher feeling and has worked on creating relationships with consignors and customers.

"Customer service is key," Kessler said. "If I needed my dress zipped up, I'd want someone to help me."

Rachel Tressitt, the regional store manager, also believes in giving customers a personal shopping experience.

"A lot of the staff knows

[customers] by names, they know their size and know what they like or don't like," Tressitt said. "It gives a small business a really close connection to customers."

The boutique also has a team that authenticates fashion pieces before the

shop displays them for sale. Once the team verifies the piece, pricing is set. The team takes many aspects into consideration when authenticating a piece, Kessler mentions.

"We have a really good process of authentication in terms of looking at the

threading, the type of leather [and] the hardware," Kessler said. "It makes the customers feel secure and there are so many dupes out there."

While some of the most-wanted pieces can still be a bit pricey for students, the boutique does offer lay-away options for shoppers. Students can find a great designer piece and place it on hold till they can pay for the item in full.

Tressitt explains that the store also has annual sales where students can get their hands on designer must-haves.

"We usually do the end-of-season sales twice a year," Tressitt said. "Our end-of-season sale for winter is in February and our end-of-season sale for summer is in August."

Shoppers can also sign up for the boutique's rewards program and use the rewards both in-store and online. For every dollar a shopper spends, they receive one point. Throughout the year, the boutique offers double-point promotions to allow customers to earn extra rewards and it offers various tiers of points in which shoppers can apply to their purchases.

Tressitt says the reward program is an enjoyable experience for customers and that they can't go wrong with it.

"Shoppers love that," Tressitt said. "It gives them a little gift for being a loyal customer and makes it fun for them. It's a win-win."

Locals can visit Double Take Luxury Consignment Boutique Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. Students can also make an appointment online if they are interested in becoming a consignor and selling items at the boutique.



The entire team changes the mannequins and window displays weekly.

Photo courtesy of Amanda Alicea



The boutique even consigns vintage jewelry pieces.

Photo courtesy of Amanda Alicea

Just a Bite with Gourmet Bailey: Fall Harvest Bowl



Sweet potatoes are a comforting food that will bring fall into your home.

Samantha Bailey | *The Montclarion*

Samantha Bailey
Feature Editor

I love cooking with fresh, in-season ingredients. One of the best things about fall is all the delicious foods that are in season.

For this recipe, we will be making harvest bowls that utilize leftovers in your fridge and can be meal-prepped in advance.

You'll need a variety of ingredients but I am going to teach you how to make two very important parts of this dish: sweet potatoes and crispy chickpeas.

For the sweet potatoes you will need:

- 3 medium sweet potatoes
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- ½ teaspoon of cumin

For the chickpeas, you will need:

- 1 can of rinsed and dried chickpeas
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste
- ½ teaspoon paprika
- ¾ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¾ teaspoon onion powder
- Red pepper flakes are optional

First things first: preheat your oven because both the sweet potatoes and the chickpeas are going to be roasted in the oven at 400 F.

Chop your peeled and rinsed sweet potatoes into one by one-inch cubes and add them to a medium-sized bowl. Take your olive oil and drizzle it over the top of the potatoes and stir them.

Next, take your measurement of spices, pepper, salt, onion powder, garlic pow-



Parchment keeps the potatoes from sticking to the pan and makes for easy cleanup.

Samantha Bailey | *The Montclarion*

der, chili powder and cumin and sprinkle them across the top of your potatoes. Mix with your hands until they are all evenly coated. Set the potatoes aside while you work on the chickpeas.

Rinse your chickpeas in a colander and drain them. Dry them with a paper towel and place them in a small bowl. Repeat the same process as with the sweet potatoes. Drizzle the olive oil and spices on your chickpeas and stir until coated.

Place both your sweet potatoes and your chickpeas on two separate parchment-lined baking sheets. The potatoes should cook for 30 minutes, flipping them every 10 minutes. The chickpeas should cook for 25 to 30 minutes, depending on how long it takes for them to get crispy.

While those roast, it's time to build the base of your bowl and prepare the toppings. I decided I wanted to do a sautéed, spinach base in mine, but you can use rice, quinoa or even lentils as a base for your bowl.

If you are meal-prepping these bowls, you can use a variety of toppings each day to keep yourself from getting bored. I am using leftover grilled chicken, pita chips, sliced almonds and a drizzle of sriracha as my toppings.

Once your sweet potatoes and chickpeas are done, remove them from the oven and begin to assemble your bowl.

First, layer your base of choice, then add your sweet potatoes and chickpeas as the second layer. Take your toppings

and arrange them across the top of your bowl as you see fit. The best part of this recipe is that it is completely customizable when it comes to the choice of vegetables and proteins you decide to top your bowl with.

This recipe is such a staple for me in my kitchen during the fall. It utilizes ripe ingredients that are the perfect complement to any meal.

The sweet and savory flavors of sweet potatoes, chickpeas and roasted almonds satisfy every craving. You will undoubtedly find yourself indulging in this high-protein, healthy, fall recipe. Until the next bite.

Help Wanted

PART-TIME BABYSITTER

Seeking a babysitter Monday-Friday 3-6pm who can (i) drive our 3 year old from daycare and wait at the bus stop for my 7 year old, (ii) pack lunches, do the kids' laundry, and tidy up after the kids, and (iii) oversee homework. Must be a non-smoker, be vaccinated, be COVID-cautious, and have a clean driving record.

Please contact Vivian at vivian.hadis@yahoo.com for additional information.

BEHAVIOR SPECIALIST

Seeking responsible, reliable, caring, and motivated part-time Behavior Specialist to work with teen with autism. Reliable transportation to the Wykoff, NJ area is a must. 10-20 hours/week (may include morning, evening and/or weekend/holiday - TBD). Salary: \$20-\$30/hr (commensurate with education and experience). Will train and supervise.

Please email gdang0709@gmail.com if interested.

PART-TIME EVENING BABYSITTER

Looking for a fun, energetic part-time evening babysitter for our 3 children (7, 5, and 2.5 yrs). Job would involve picking them up from elementary school in Upper Montclair and daycare at MSU, taking them to after school activities, preparing dinner, and caring for them until we get home from work. We are looking for 3-5 days a week (Mon-Fri) from approximately 4:00 to 7:00 pm. Exact days and times can vary based on our schedules. Interested applicants should have their own transportation and clean driving record, be fully vaccinated, and have references available upon request.

Interested applicants please contact Katie at klivigne@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

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The Montclarion Crossword Puzzle and More!

National Dessert Day Edition

By Kayla Carlamere



Across

- 5. A thick, creamy, custard-like dessert.
- 7. A biscuit-like cake filled with whipped cream and a specific red fruit of which the dessert is known for including.
- 8. A special ice cream based dessert usually consisting of multiple flavors of ice cream, syrups, whipped cream, nuts and fruits - most notably a banana.

Down

- 1. The most popular dessert associated with Thanksgiving.
- 2. Dunkin' _____
- 3. An ice cream filled dessert covered in meringue, often flambéed.
- 4. A layered Italian dessert known for its coffee flavor.
- 6. A type of whipped ice cream that is smoother and dispensed from a machine.

Sudoku

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		1			6			
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Word Search

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- Macaroons
- Popsicle
- Blueberry Tart
- Apple Pie
- Strawberry Trifle
- Angel Food Cake
- Ice Cream Cake
- Cupcakes
- Lemon Meringue Pie
- Carrot Cake
- Cheesecake
- Cannoli
- Snickerdoodle
- Caramel Apple
- Gingerbread

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



Polly Londis | *The Montclarion*

One Month In: So Far, So Good

The first month back on campus for many of us at Montclair State University has had its share of triumphs, trials and tribulations. While many things have changed significantly, much of campus life feels familiar.

This year, instead of settling into a couch, computer chair or comfortable section of the bed for another Zoom semester, students geared up to return to Montclair State's campus. For many people, physically being here is the best part of the return to in-person learning.

The feeling of a fresh start the fall semester brings is truly enhanced by the beautiful scenery on campus. Leaves erupt into stunning displays of flame and ember before dropping to the ground in a pleasantly crunchy blanket. Morn-

ing students feel the breeze on their faces and hear the birds greeting the new day, while afternoon students soak up the mild autumn sunshine and latecomers bask in the chilled hush of nightfall.

Maybe it's because we all know it won't be warm for much longer, or because it feels like a proper semester this time, but this fall seems especially welcome for many people.

Others are happy to be surrounded by friends and classmates again. The simple comfort of being close — but not too close, of course — to people seems hard to appreciate after a while, but when you've been deprived of it for so long, it's surprisingly reassuring. Even if you prefer limiting your socializing to small doses, the relief of seeing peo-

ple other than the ones you've been stuck inside with for over a year is unmistakable.

Some of the more physically involved programs, such as dance and theatre, are especially difficult to facilitate over Zoom. For those students, the joy of inhabiting a performance space feels right. Being in an environment conducive to our work and relationships is vital for the rest of us, too. The energy on Montclair State's campus, the vivacity of student activities and the laughter in the air is proof of this.

Of course, being back on campus has its downsides. No doubt many of us didn't exactly miss the stress and cost of commuting, or the inevitabilities of long lines and worsening traffic. Then there's the most obvious obstacle: the

coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is far from over.

Perhaps no other set of issues has divided the Montclair State community quite as much as those brought up by COVID-19. While most people are happy to be back, anxieties persist over infection rates, weekly testing, masks and vaccines. Some insist due to the coronavirus pandemic, Montclair State should have continued to offer as many remote learning options as it did before the return to campus became more certain.

Are we trying too hard to pretend everything is normal? Maybe, but most people are all too aware of the risks we still face to be overly lax about COVID-19. There is seemingly no singular way to move forward in these circumstances, except with caution and measured

optimism.

What feels right for some may feel too rushed or not fast enough for others. With that in mind, it's important everyone's best interests be accounted for. Students and professors have raised issues that should be addressed and actively listened to. Administrators have shown they are willing to enable change, and this needs to continue if we all are to make the best of the current situation.

One month in, many people seem glad overall to be back on campus. Moods are high and the weather is fair, for the moment. Whether or not disenchantment sets in depends on how well students are heard and cared for, by professors, by Montclair State and by each other.

Campus Voices:

How has the first month back on campus been for you?

By Olivia Licini



"It's been pretty great. It's really nice to be in-person after a very long period of time. I'm very grateful to be back in the studio dancing and performing, making art again."

-Jonah Nash
Musical Theatre
Sophomore



"My first month on campus has been good. Definitely difficult after the times of COVID, one of my first times on campus after like a year and a half. But it's been [going] well."

-Lauribel Familia
Television and Digital Media
Senior



"Making friends and getting to know the culture has been all a process of experiencing and adapting. But it's been really fun because people here are very open and the place is really beautiful."

-Adriana Cruz
Musical Theatre
Freshman



"It's super weird as a sophomore because freshman year, we kind of just only knew COVID precautions. So now, kind of going back into college, it's not normal, of course, but [it's] as close as it's been in a few years, [and it] is definitely super weird and daunting."

-Alex Pavljuk
Communications
Sophomore

Why Must I Come Out?



LUCIA LOOZ
GUEST WRITER

Coming out is one of the biggest milestones in an LGBTQIA+ person's life. It is an act of empowerment and ownership of one's identity. When someone comes out to another person, it is an invitation into their true life and selves.

It is often central in current media to involve an LGBTQIA+ protagonist, who tries to navigate the hardships of youth while maintaining their secret. Some of the biggest examples include the films "Love, Simon" (2018) and "The Half of It" (2020). Both protagonists do whatever it takes to protect themselves from their small, conservative towns. Yet they always get their gay, happy endings at the end of their story, living as their true selves with their significant others.

As beautiful as coming out may be, it is not as quick and one-dimensional as many think. Coming out is a process, not only through your selected family and friends but to yourself. Realizing one's sexual orientation, gender orientation or both doesn't mean one automatically accepts their truth.

Stepping away from questioning and identifying oneself leads to an adjustment period. Personally, I needed a month to accept my previous lesbian identity, but only a couple of weeks to accept my bisexual queerness.

Something I needed to learn was that gender identity and sexuality are not always linear. It can be as fluid as water, constantly flowing in different currents, which is something many are not used to. The narrative was always realizing what your identity is just once, and that's the end of your coming out journey. But coming out to yourself more than once has become a more common narrative.

This reflects in both the experiences of LGBTQIA+ celebrities and everyday people. Television personality Jonathan Van Ness thought they identified as a cisgender gay male; however, they came out as a gay non-binary person in 2019, using he/she/they

pronouns. Actor Elliot Page, who has always been an icon within the queer community, came out as a queer transgender man earlier this year.

Many everyday queer people share a common experience of never knowing homosexuality existed and growing up to identify as heterosexual. However, they identify as non-heterosexual and/or non-cisgender orientations later in life.

I personally relate to both experiences, having ignored my attractions and confusion to identify as heterosexual only to realize my attraction to women. I believed I was a lesbian, but two years later, I now identify as queer. Bisexual personally feels too divisive between my attraction to both men and women, therefore, queer is what I am.

The amount of anxiety and exhaustion in planning your announcement is understated in the media.

The protagonist is stressed throughout the film, but they may choose a random day to tell their loved ones the truth. Their families either accept them gracefully, need time to adjust or decide to disown them.

This was the most stressful stage for me. I accepted my non-heterosexual identity in November 2019, ironically before the holidays and New Year's. I decided to wait until after those busy, two months, zoning out during Thanksgiving dinner and helping my family host Christmas. I celebrated my nineteenth birthday, hoping to reveal myself early in the year.

But I couldn't. I was in a strange chokehold combining fear of rejection, uneasiness over saying anything and depression weighing me down. The closet walls closed in and I became claustrophobic.

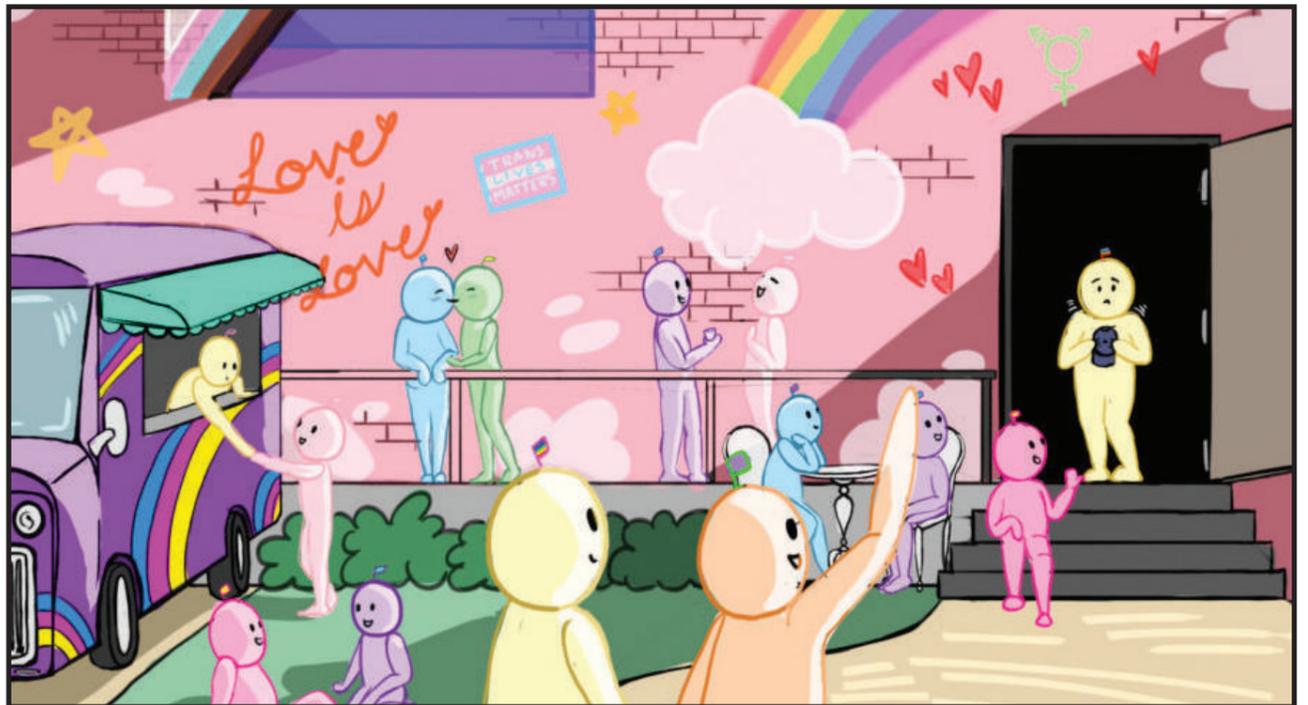
I wanted to break the door down and finally live my proud life, but I wasn't ready. I locked myself inside

and was emotionally drained until I became empty. I came out a month and a half later, and the heavy weight lifted from my shoulders.

No one needs to go through this if non-heterosexual and non-cisgender identities became the norm and were labeled as morally right. No one would need to come out of the closet if there was more advocacy towards LGBTQIA+ rights and the community was truly represented.

The closet wouldn't exist if anything except cisgender and heterosexual wasn't demonized. No one in the community would hide from others or themselves.

Lucia Looz, a freshman public & professional writing and gender, sexuality and women's studies major, is in her first year as a guest writer for The Montclarion.



Sarah Tufts | The Montclarion



Thumbs Up

Elk that had tire stuck around its neck for two years finally freed

Antibiotic that only kills Lyme disease isolated by researchers

California first state to introduce gender-neutral toy aisles in retail stores



Thumbs Down

United Nations expert says North Koreans at risk of starvation due to import sanctions

Bow and arrow attack in Norway leaves several dead

Appeals court reinstates Texas abortion ban just two days after its repeal

Weekends on Campus: Good or Bad?



EMILY SPILLAR
GUEST WRITER

There are around 5,000 resident students here at Montclair State University, which is a large number but definitely doesn't come close to the total number of students, which is around 21,000.

Throughout the week, there are

different events hosted for students, and campus life is pretty exciting. There are always a bunch of people on campus and it doesn't feel empty at all.

Montclair State is known to be a "backpack school," which means students pack up and leave every weekend. This cuts down the resident population by almost half. There's a vast difference in walking through the campus on a weekday compared to weekends. Since the school is filled with mostly commuter students, when there are no classes on the weekend, the campus is pretty much dead.

One of the strangest parts about living on campus and being here for the weekend is when food becomes more limited than it is during the week. The only available spots to eat are the dining halls and the Blanton Hall food court, while the Student Center and Panera close down. This gets a little annoying because residents are still on campus, so why can't these places be opened, too?

Sam's Place, one of the dining halls on campus, closes at 8:30 p.m. on the weekends, and Freeman Hall, another



Zack Spangler | *The Montclarion*

dining hall, closes at 7 p.m. At 9 p.m., Bistro 62 opens, which is basically another dining hall where you can order your food either on GrubHub or in person and take it to go.

However, at Bistro 62, you need to use either flex dollars, meal blocks or your own funds. You are not able to use meal swipes, which all freshman residents have an unlimited supply of.

On weekdays, Sam's Place doesn't close until 9:30 p.m. and Freeman doesn't close until 8:30 p.m. The weekend hours for these dining halls could probably be extended, considering most students stay up later on these days and might get hungry.

Despite this, during the weekend it can be nice to stay on campus. There are different events hosted for the resi-

dents who decide to stick around, and they're genuinely fun. For example, this weekend there is a Friday night fire pit, which happens mostly every week, and that same night, there will also be mini-golf. On Saturday, there's a day trip to Stony Hill Farm.

Another perk of campus life on the weekends is being surrounded by other people in your residence halls. A lot of residence halls host events for students living there to attend.

Machuga Heights, one of the residence halls on campus, recently hosted a speed-friending event that students could attend to meet new people in their residence hall. Attending these events is a great way to potentially make new friends.

Even if there's not a lot to do campus-

wise, you and your friends can always hang out and have fun on your own. The campus shuttle goes off-campus on the weekends to Clifton Commons, which has a Target, Applebees, Barnes and Noble, AMC Theaters and so much more. This is a fun perk that Montclair State has for residents, usually only on Saturdays.

Campus life on the weekends definitely fluctuates, and the level of activity depends on what events are taking place. If you don't attend the campus events or spend time with friends, your weekends on campus will be pretty boring. The weekends are ultimately what you make of them.

Emily Spillar, a freshman journalism major, is in her first year as a guest writer for The Montclarion.

There is No Separating the Art From the Artist



AVERY NIXON
GUEST WRITER

Problematic celebrities are not a new concept. We have always dealt with the famous being involved in scandals, gossip and outright ignorant and severe actions, even crimes. But can we still support their craft without supporting the

person themselves? Absolutely not.

Every time you engage with a song, film, show or any sort of entertainment, someone is making money. Each stream, play and buy will make the creator a pretty penny to go spend on a new yacht or whatever else the insanely rich are into these days. How can anyone throw money at someone and then tell the world they don't condone their actions?

This may not come as a shock, but money and power are huge enablers for horrible people to do horrible things. Wealth lets the rich treat major crimes like parking tickets, and power means they can do whatever they please. This is why we hear about so many male celebrities being rapists and guilty of sexually based crimes.

This unstoppable mindset the wealthy have, which makes them think they can do more than the lower classes just because they have money and connections, is extremely dangerous.



Ian Long | *The Montclarion*

The power imbalance of a production assistant and a star of a movie is so vast that in a situation where the actor preys on the assistant, they may feel too scared to speak out for fear of losing their job. We need to put our collective foot down and make it clear to the entertainment industry that we will not be consumers of products that were built on abuse.

Take Louis C.K. for example. His career was demolished when he was accused of sexual harassment, which he admitted he was guilty of. Now, he's back to performing in Madison Square

Garden with a set described as "gross" and "unapologetic." Clearly, with his cult-like following still supporting every move he makes, he didn't suffer that much from his initial "canceling."

How are we to feel content with this man being back in the industry and possibly being a repeat offender?

The only way to truly prevent these people from causing pain to those who are less protected is to completely shut them out of the spotlight. When an abuser loses their fan base, jobs, sponsorships and multi-million dollar income, they are less able to commit

more heinous actions against those who aren't as protected as them.

Don't stream their songs, go to their movies, see them in concert or buy their merchandise. There are enough albums and movies to be enjoyed that don't enable rapists.

Everyone has an artist they once loved but were ultimately revealed to be horrible human beings. If we as a society can't stand up for victims of the top 1% by simply not throwing our hard-earned money at them, we have failed.

For me, cutting off my support for the artist I once enjoyed by not giving him any more money and attention was one of the easiest things I could do in support of those who he hurt. I'll never understand why it's difficult to support victims, even if it means we can't listen to a certain song.

Please consider the effects of what and who you support, and what it means for the victims and for their lives. Rest assured, there are still good people out there to support and enjoy that haven't made someone else's life a living nightmare. If you don't know where to look for some happy and safe entertainment, you can always watch a compilation of Paul Rudd repeatedly pranking Conan O'Brien with the same clip from the 1988 movie, "Mac and Me."

Avery Nixon, a freshman television and film major with a minor in creative writing, 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



Student Artist Profile: Gabby Meza



Gabby Meza is a junior dance major.

Photo courtesy of Avery Nixon

Avery Nixon
Guest Writer

At only three years old, Gabby Meza found the love of her life.

What started as her mother trying to find an activity for Meza turned into so much more: the aspiration of being a professional dancer.

As time went on in Meza's life, however, she found that dance wouldn't always just be cute tutus and getting to jump around onstage. Dance is a competitive, intimidating, mentally and physically challenging field of work.

None of that has stopped Meza, whose remarkable talent and drive has led her to Montclair State University, where she is now a junior dance major with the ambition of breaking out into the dance industry.

Meza has danced at four studios, two professional dance companies and is a Zumba instructor at Montclair State. She has scored leads in her dance recitals, solos in dance showcases and access to prestigious dance summer intensives. Not everyone can say they have that much on their resume all before turning 20 years old.

Charissa Poklikuha, owner of 5-6-7-8 Dance and a former teacher of Meza, is proud of Meza and how far she has

come.

"Gabby has grown so much as a dancer throughout the years," Poklikuha said. "She has always been very focused and practices a lot. She's had a passion for dance ever since I met her as a 4-year-old. She's a natural performer."

When she's not on stage, Meza works multiple days a week while still focusing on schoolwork and attending rehearsals for hours after classes end. Her work ethic and ability to stretch herself out to so many different commitments in a single week show she is a perfectionist and that her kind yet impenetrable heart will always lead her to be successful in her passions.

But all that success comes with a cost.

While dance is her greatest love, it is also one of her greatest foes. The dance industry poses a challenge for many dancers, as it can be extremely draining.

Meza notes the relation between dance and mental health, revealing she often forgets how far she has come because she is so focused on improving.

"It can really put you in the mindset of how you're not good enough and can be damaging for self-esteem," Meza said.



Meza has danced at four studios, two professional dance companies and is a Zumba instructor at Montclair State University.

Photo courtesy of Avery Nixon



Meza shows off her angel jump.

Photo courtesy of Avery Nixon

A lot of dancers are faced with the demand of needing to have extremely thin and petite bodies. This contributes to many body image issues in young girls who hope to become professionals.

"There was an artistic director who told my parents I needed to lose weight even though I was only 135 pounds," Meza said. "I think dancers have too much pressure on their bodies to be 'perfect,' but in reality, everyone is created and developed differently. We're all human."

Meza wishes for a future in the dance industry with a more diverse environment that is accepting of all types of dancers.

With most of Meza's mental struggles coming from a lack of self-confidence, her older sister, Diamond Meza, a dance teacher at 5-6-7-8 Dance, reassures her sister and all young dancers that they are so much more than they perceive themselves to be.

"I wish she could see herself through the eyes of others and know how great of a dancer she is and how beautifully she performs," Diamond Meza said.

While dance is a tough world to be in, it is still Meza's favorite thing to be a part of. Dance is an escape from her personal problems and gives her the

chance to express her feelings and play different characters of her choosing.

Meza wants those who truly love the art of dance to not let the struggles of it discourage them. She encourages everyone to go for their dreams no matter what and offers advice to the younger generations of students who will soon enter the world of adulthood.

"Pursuing their dreams is so much more worth it than to pursue a career for the money," Meza said. "If you do what you love, you won't work a day in your life."

Following your dreams, even if it is in a competitive field, is an important concept Meza wants to share with the world. Being a dancer doesn't guarantee her money or a job after college, but she knows that's where she'll be the happiest.

"It's going to take a toll on your mental health and it's physically draining," Meza said. "But if it's what you love, it's more than worth it."

After Meza's journey through growing up and learning about what it takes to succeed in the industry, she is certain one day we will all see her on stage living her dreams.

If there's anything to take away from Meza's wisdom, it's that it will always be worth it to pursue your calling, even if you have to fight for it.

‘What If...?’ Opens New Doors for the MCU



Peggy Carter, voiced by Hayley Atwell, becomes Captain Carter in the first episode.

Photo courtesy of Marvel Studios

Adam Kaunfer
Guest Writer

The Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) has become a gateway for many fans, introducing a vast universe full of exciting stories and characters through 25 films and several television and streaming series.

The newest of these series and the first animated entry in the franchise, “What If...?” on Disney+, seeks to go even further by establishing a multiverse with alternate timelines based on the notion of what would happen if certain elements in the MCU films were different. The result is ultimately a fun series that takes some unique turns.

The first episode introduces viewers to The Watcher, voiced by Jeffrey Wright. He narrates the show, explaining to the audience how several of the movies would have played out differently. Such scenarios include if Peggy Carter took the super serum to become Captain Carter instead of Steve Rogers becoming Captain America, if Tony Stark was rescued before he had the opportunity to become Iron Man and if Ultron, the antagonist of the second “Avengers” film, succeeded in his evil goals.

Each episode has its clever moments, twisting the movies with elements of fun and, in some cases, horror.

Of the nine episodes, the fourth and

fifth are particular highlights. In the former, we see what would have happened if Doctor Stephen Strange didn’t injure his hands, but instead, went off the deep end from losing the love of his life. The latter centers on a zombie apocalypse happening around the same time that the events of “Infinity War” went down.

Another fun episode consists of a variant of the God of Thunder, Thor, not as humbled as his counterpart in the films had become, essentially throwing a huge party on Earth. After multiple heavy storylines, it is nice to see a story that simply proves to be a light breather.

While each episode is established as a stand-alone story, they are tied together in an interesting manner in the last two episodes of the season. It is what one might expect, but it still works in crafting a fun finale.

The impressive animation for “What If...?” is headed by Stephen Franck and produced by four studios: Blue Spirit, Squeeze, Flying Bark Productions and Stellar Creative Lab. Done with cel-shaded computer-generated imagery, the show is meant to resemble the illustrations of a comic book. It’s a unique style, and it aids the action sequences in creating excitement and a certain flair.

Most of the cast members from the movies return to voice their characters.

Of the returning actors, the standouts include Hayley Atwell as Peggy Carter, Benedict Cumberbatch as Doctor Strange, Chris Hemsworth as Thor and in one of his final performances, Chadwick Boseman as T’Challa. Cumberbatch, in particular, gives a chilling performance as Doctor Strange in the aforementioned fourth episode. One feels for his loss but also cannot bear to see what he turns into.

Quite a few characters are recast, however. One standout in this area is Hudson Thames, who takes over for Tom Holland as Spider-Man in the zombie apocalypse episode. Not only does Thames nail Holland’s American accent, but he also conveys the proper emotion to Peter Parker’s plight. Lake Bell, Josh Keaton and Mick Wingert also do solid voiceover work as Natasha Romanoff, Steve Rogers and Tony Stark, respectively.

“What If...?” is an exciting, smart series that goes a long way in adding to the MCU. The franchise has been trying to introduce a multiverse concept, set to come to a head in the upcoming “Doctor Strange” sequel, and this shows how much potential the concept has to tell an exhilarating story.

The show has been confirmed to return for a second season, and there are plenty of new possibilities the team at Marvel Studios could venture into. It all depends on one question: What if...?



Doctor Strange, fueled by grief, tries to rewrite a tragic course of events.

Photo courtesy of Marvel Studios

Top Picks to Stream

Mental Health Awareness Edition

‘The Perks of Being a Wallflower’ on Amazon Prime Video



Photo courtesy of Summit Entertainment

In writer and director Stephen Chbosky’s “The Perks of Being a Wallflower,” we follow a main character known for being on the sidelines.

The adaptation of the novel dives into the hardships of Charlie, played by Logan Lerman, a high school freshman who just came from a mental health care institution after suffering from depression and PTSD. Charlie previously lost his friend to suicide and now has to face high school as the “awkward loner who was hospitalized.”

He learns to live again when he befriends step-siblings Sam and Patrick, played by Emma Watson and Ezra Miller.

While Charlie navigates the newfound friendship, the troubles of his life come back to haunt him. Throughout the movie, we get glimpses of his backstory and what is happening deep down inside of him. This film provides insight into the life of a kid growing up with mental illness and how it unravels, then heals.

- Avery Nixon
Guest Writer

‘A Star Is Born’ on Amazon Prime Video



Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

“A Star Is Born,” a 2018 remake of the 1937 film, is a musical drama film that explores the struggles and successes of a couple as they pursue their careers and a relationship at the same time.

Jack Maine, a famous musician portrayed by Bradley Cooper, meets and falls for Ally, played by “Bad Romance” singer, Lady Gaga. Since he is already well-established, Jack uses his platform to help Ally gain traction and create her own name as an original artist. As Ally is shown succeeding in her rise to fame, Jack is simultaneously shown to decline in popularity as his struggles with drug and alcohol addiction, as well as shame, take hold of him and lead him to spiral downward.

The film invites viewers into the vulnerable dynamic between the two musicians, while still remaining close to its message of how mental health issues impact people and their relationships on a daily basis.

- Megan Lim
Entertainment Editor

Fans Enter Justin Bieber's World in His Newest Concert Film



"Justin Bieber: Our World" is a concert-based film released on Amazon Prime Video.

Photo courtesy of Amazon Prime Video

Sekhena Sembenu
Staff Writer

Justin Bieber, a pop sensation and Grammy Award-winning artist, took the stage on New Year's Eve in 2020 for the first time in three years.

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic soared throughout the world, everything continued to shut down and artists in the music industry like Bieber became innovative.

With the assistance of his team, Bieber assembled a live concert for only 240 guests on the roof of the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles, California, one of the locations hit hardest by COVID-19.

Since most people were in lockdown, the concert was livestreamed worldwide by T-Mobile and was also documented. It is now known as "Justin Bieber: Our World," available on Amazon Prime Video.

As an audience, we always want to know what's going on behind the scenes. "Justin Bieber: Our World," produced and directed by Michael D. Ratner, gives us insight into just that

as Bieber takes us backstage into his career and personal life while he and his team prepare for the concert.

The film begins on Dec. 1, 2020, as Bieber vlogs himself getting ready for rehearsal.

Designed to share his experiences, the vlog feels intimate and personal for the fans.

From the placement onstage and dance moves to lighting and sound, watching Bieber and his team intensely rehearse the show from top to bottom for hours, all while wearing masks, is quite remarkable.

Though rehearsals are shown to be on track, they eventually hit a roadblock when the creative director and lead choreographer Nick DeMoura tests positive for COVID-19.

The virus was just one of the many setbacks for the entire crew. With 11 days left until the concert, a rare storm paused their stage construction plans and dampened rehearsals.

Despite these unexpected events, the dedication and loyalty of the teams, from production to the band, played a

pivotal role in the show's success. Observing Bieber throughout the film, you can see his efforts to surround himself with people that reflect who he wants to be and how he wants to feel.

For instance, his wife, Hailey Bieber, is shown by his side. She has kept him grounded, contributing hugely to his mental well-being and his drive to achieve continued success.

The film documents a positive phase in Bieber's life, which is vastly different from the Bieber of the past who was plagued by controversy. His songs now instead reflect his new, happily married life.

The concert itself is incredible.

Even though many were watching through a screen, one felt like they were there as Bieber performed all his greatest hits, including "Boyfriend," "Anyone," "Holy," "Lonely" and, of course, the one and only "Baby."

The energy through his 21-song set only continued to increase. There is no doubt his audience was impacted by his vocal artistry and the execution of the entire show. I myself had chills

running through my body.

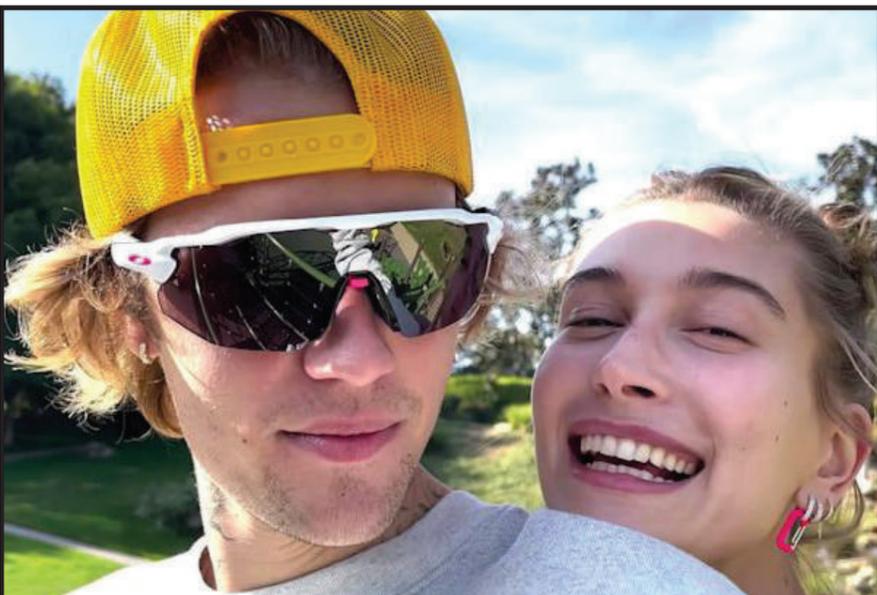
The several cameras that allowed the audience to see different angles of the singer, dancers and stage are definitely noteworthy in creating the high-quality production.

Some viewers may find the documentary's structure unappealing since it jumps and overlaps between the live concert and behind-the-scenes tapings. Others may feel that the lengthy footage of the performance overshadows the short clips of Bieber's everyday life, as it is a concert-based film.

Overall, the documentary shows Bieber echoing the coming together of this concert amid the pandemic turmoil.

"Being able to provide a service and share my gifts to bring some happiness to people during such a sad and scary time has meant the world to me," Bieber said in the film.

No hurdles were insurmountable for Bieber during the event. Just like always, his immense talent was at the forefront and he didn't fail to impress.



Justin Bieber and Hailey Bieber spend quality time together before the concert.

Photo courtesy of Amazon Prime Video



Bieber and his team intensely rehearse the concert for hours.

Photo courtesy of Amazon Prime Video

NEW JERSEY

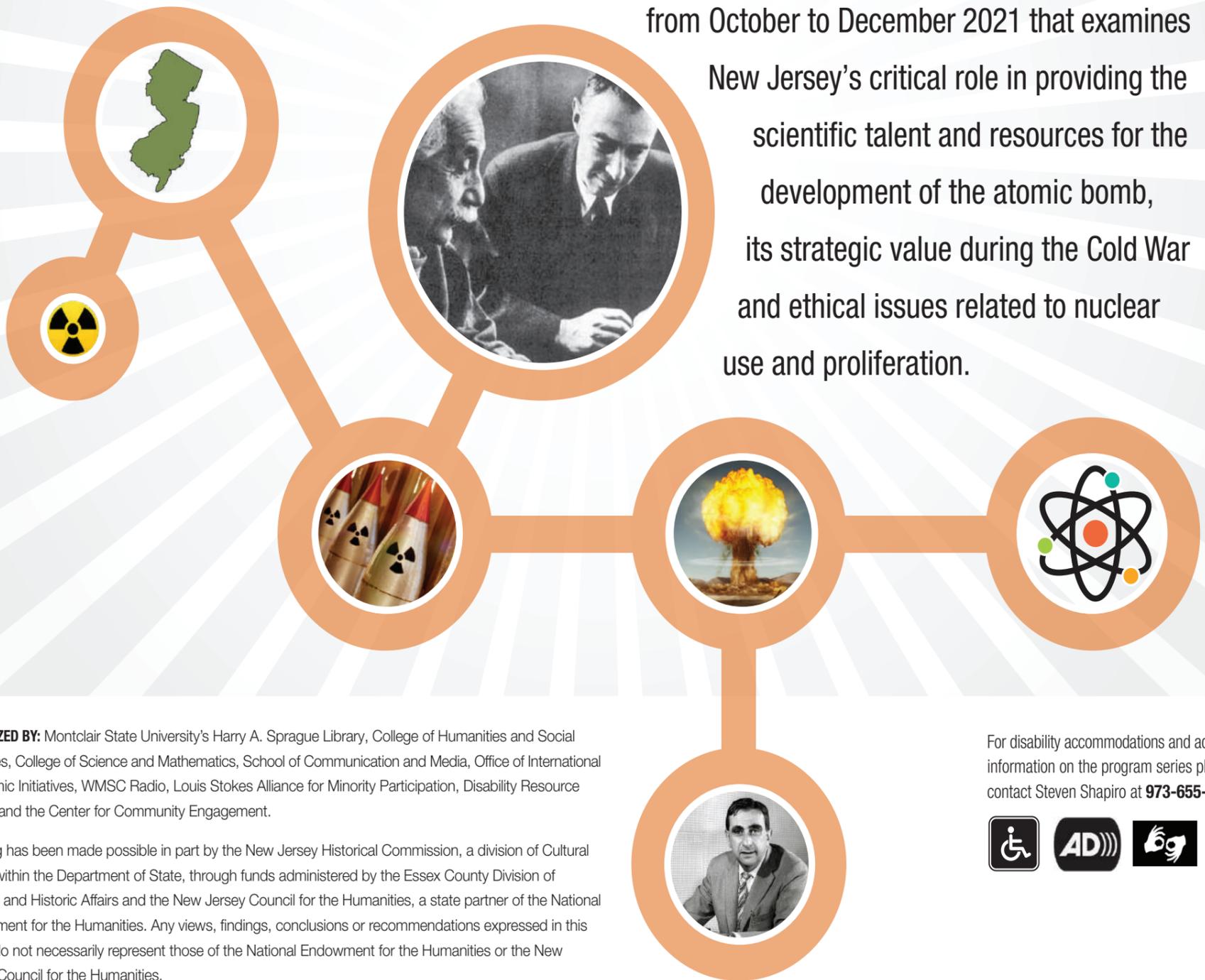
And the Birth of the

ATOMIC AGE

Last year was the 75th anniversary of the creation of the atomic bomb. Recognizing this important milestone in human history, Montclair State University has organized a series of free public events

from October to December 2021 that examines

New Jersey's critical role in providing the scientific talent and resources for the development of the atomic bomb, its strategic value during the Cold War and ethical issues related to nuclear use and proliferation.



ORGANIZED BY: Montclair State University's Harry A. Sprague Library, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, College of Science and Mathematics, School of Communication and Media, Office of International Academic Initiatives, WMSC Radio, Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, Disability Resource Center and the Center for Community Engagement.

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For disability accommodations and additional information on the program series please contact Steven Shapiro at **973-655-7153**.



Additional support has been provided by the Montclair Society of Engineers, NJ Peace Action, IEEE North Jersey, Montclair TV34, Livingston Historical Society, Livingston Public Library, Passaic County Community College – STEM Program and Clifton Public Schools.



For more information, visit montclair.edu/csam/nj-and-the-birth-of-the-atomic-age

Everyone (visitors, students, employees, etc.) who attends in-person events on-campus needs to complete Hawk Check (www.montclair.edu/redhawk-restart/about-hawk-check), bring proof of vaccination (or a negative COVID test within the last 72 hours if unvaccinated) and wear a mask.

**This Week In
Red Hawk
Sports**

THU 10/14

Women's Volleyball at William Paterson University
7:00 p.m.

FRI 10/15

No games

SAT 10/16

Women's Volleyball at Hunter College (Tri-Match)
10:00 a.m.

Women's Cross Country at Border Battle
11:00 a.m.

Women's Volleyball vs. Mount St. Mary (Tri-Match)
12:00 p.m.

Football at Christopher Newport University
1:00 p.m.

Women's Soccer at William Paterson University
1:00 p.m.

Field Hockey at York (PA)
2:00 p.m.

Men's and Women's Swimming & Diving at The College Of New Jersey
2:00 p.m.

Men's Soccer vs. William Paterson University
7:00 p.m.

SUN 10/17

No games

MON 10/18

No games

TUES 10/19

Men's Soccer at RIT
7:00 p.m.

Women's Volleyball at Misericordia University
7:00 p.m.

Field Hockey at Kean University
7:00 p.m.

WED 10/20

Women's Soccer at Mount St. Mary
5:00 p.m.

CBS Sports Employees Visit Montclair State

Harold Bryant and Adam Zucker make a special appearance on campus



(From left to right) Harold Bryant, Adam Zucker and Keith Strudler answer student questions at Presentation Hall.

John LaRosa | *The Montclarion*

Jess Liptzin
Assistant Sports Editor

Montclair State University's School of Communication and Media's (SCM) next-level plan kicked off with their sports portion of the SCM 2.0 celebrations.

Broadcasters, radio broadcasters, journalists and so many more were greeted with CBS Sports: A Conversation with Studio Host Adam Zucker and Exec VP/Exec Producer Harold Bryant.

Held in the Presentation Hall of the SCM, Zucker and Bryant came to speak with the students of Montclair State, giving them a behind-the-scenes and an inside look into the business aspect of sports television. This included helpful tips for talent on-air as well as getting a job and moving up in the ranks.

Bryant, who is now executive producer and executive vice president for CBS Sports, has been with the company for 23 years, working his way up through his exceptional work ethic and determination. Even as a successful man in the business, Bryant mentioned how he

is constantly looking toward higher aspirations and more challenges.

"It's been a long run where you start off as a mid-level production person and eventually I let my work speak for itself," Bryant said. "Always prepared and always thinking of what's the next thing, what's the next technology, what's the next story we are going to tell. 'Executive Vice President' is a big title, but in the long run, it is about putting on good content, good stories, games and events that people like to see. It's a passion of mine."

Zucker works at CBS Sports as a reporter and anchor for weekly sports shows. He told students how much he enjoys his work, saying it is a friendly environment in the sports media industry. He also talked about how they are constantly striving to be innovative with content and are working hard to reach more viewers.

"[On] our weekly conference call that we have on Wednesday heading into Saturdays, our producers always said, 'Hey we tried it,'" Zucker said. "Our producers are encourag-

ing us to try things, try cool new stuff and have some fun with it, and we do have fun."

Jack Barteck, a senior television and digital media major, benefited greatly from this event, given this is exactly what he wants to do after graduating college.

"I think it is really cool hearing about industry professionals that have had so much success in the field," Barteck said. "I want to have the same success. Nothing can replace the wisdom of the people who have done it."

The SCM has been growing its sports media curriculum by creating a new major called "sports communication." This lined up perfectly with the campus' latest guests.

Campbell Donovan, a senior sports communication major, attended the event, and with his newly declared major, it was the perfect opportunity to speak with these decorated minds. He is currently a broadcaster for the Red Hawk Sports Network (RHSN) and is trying to learn as much as possible from the resources given by the university.

"I got to learn from the people I admire," Donovan said. "I got to know about broadcasting and working with the Red Hawk Sports Network. It helped a lot."

Barteck is also a member of the RHSN and is the sports director at WMSC, Montclair State's radio station. He is very thankful for what the SCM has to offer and is proud to be a part of the program that is constantly growing and wanting more for its students.

"I don't think it gets the

credit it deserves on a national scale or even a regional scale," Barteck said. "Montclair State is etching its name in the country as one of the great broadcasting schools. [Even] Zucker said it – the opportunities you can get here are some of the best – [and] Montclair State has just done a great job."

Montclair State has revamped the television and digital media production aspect of the school over the past few years. Not only through RHSN, but through other organizations such as Montclair News-Lab. Students get the chance to learn how to work in a control room and also get to build on their skills as an anchor, reporter, camera operator and other related opportunities.

Bryant went on to express why it is so important that these young sports fans go into this industry considering the countless opportunities available.

"It is a great industry and there are so many avenues," Bryant said. "We came out of this pandemic and went 'Oh, there are so many jobs right now.' We are in this business not only to put on these great broadcasts but also to bring more people into this industry."

Getting to see and hear top-tier professionals in the sports journalism field is not something you experience every day, and Montclair State students showed their gratitude as they attentively absorbed every bit of information. With both Zucker and Bryant having a great relationship with the university, it just goes to show how many opportunities await sports communication majors.



Harold Bryant sits on stage at Presentation Hall.

John LaRosa | *The Montclarion*

SAT 10/9

Red Hawk Recap

SAT 10/9

Red Hawks Field Hockey: 1
Lebanon Valley College: 2

Red Hawks Women's Soccer: 0
Stockton University: 1

TUES 10/12

Red Hawks Women's Volleyball: 3
Stockton University: 1

WED 10/13

#8 Red Hawks Men's Soccer: 1
Ramapo College: 0

#9 Red Hawks Men's Soccer: 2
Stockton University: 0

Red Hawks Football: 9
The College Of New Jersey: 14

PHOTO ESSAY: Homecoming Game 2021

A look at the best moments of Montclair State's homecoming football game



Junior wide receiver Clarence Wilkins tries to come down with the catch over a TCNJ defender.

Chris Krusberg | *The Montclarion*

Chris Krusberg
Contributing Writer

The Montclair State University football team held their annual homecoming game last Saturday night against The College Of New Jersey (TCNJ). However, this was no normal homecoming game, as this football matchup had plenty of festivities surrounding it.

A live band performed in the parking lot right outside Sprague Field and the Red Hawk Sports Network held their first-ever live show prior to the game.

At halftime, the Red Hawks recognized the achievements of the 1970 Montclair State football team, which was celebrating the 50th anniversary of their Knute Rockne Bowl game victory.

Soon after that, the Montclair State

cheer and dance teams performed their respective routines, ending with thunderous applause from the supporting crowd.

As for the result, the Red Hawks were defeated by TCNJ in a gut-wrenching fashion by a score of 14-9. Senior quarterback Ja'Quill Burch led a late, fourth-quarter drive down the field, but unfortunately, could not convert the game-winning touchdown pass to graduate student and wide receiver/defensive back Zahir Wilder. The Red Hawks have fallen to a record of 1-5 on the season and 0-2 in New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) play.

To see more photos, check out themontclarion.org



(Left to right): Seniors Jon Kociban, Jess Liptzin and Jonathan Edmond were part of the Red Hawk Sports Network live show.

Chris Krusberg | *The Montclarion*



Senior linebacker Adens Georges moves the ball upfield. Chris Krusberg | *The Montclarion*



There were a few live performances near Panzer Hall.

Chris Krusberg | *The Montclarion*

Carlie Van Tassel And Her Journey From One Type of Hockey to Another

Van Tassel has put on a show for the Red Hawks as the team's leading goal scorer



Carlie Van Tassel is currently in the top 10 for goals in the conference, and is in fourth place for game-winning goals.

Trevor Giesberg | *The Montclarion*

Matt Orth

Assistant Sports Editor

Considered to have one of the most dangerous shooting strokes in the conference, Carlie Van Tassel, sophomore forward and midfielder for the women's field hockey team, has dazzled on the field so far for Montclair State University and is taking the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) by storm, with 11 goals and 23 shots on goal.

Van Tassel does not want to take all the credit for the team's success, though. As with all of the teams here at Montclair State, everything is a group effort. Van Tassel makes it clear she could not have done any of this without the other players.

"I think the team around me is what's helping me score all of these goals; us working together is such a big thing," Van Tassel said. "We have been working on our communication constantly during practice, and no matter what, we always stay positive."

Some of her teammates are often in awe of her offensive abilities, such as freshman midfielder Gab Maisto.

"She has amazing touches in the circle that sometimes you say to yourself, 'How did she even get a touch like that on the ball?'" Maisto said. "She is very

good in [1 v 1 situations] and is always able to find the backboard of the goal and make it look effortless."

How did Van Tassel get to the stage she is in today? By leading the Red Hawks game-by-game and continuously moving down the field regardless of any opponent she faces. It all started with family — another key component of Montclair State's sports teams. While she and the team share a close bond, Van Tassel's parents and sister are her main motivation.

"My family is everything to me. When I was looking at colleges, there were not a lot of options for me with [ice] hockey, so my mom told me to try out field hockey," Van Tassel said. "She pushed me towards it, and I fell in love with the sport ever since I started playing."

Yes, Van Tassel's first foray with hockey was not even field hockey. She started playing ice hockey at a young age and even became one of the co-captains of the boys' ice hockey team at her high school in Vernon, New Jersey. While field hockey and ice hockey both utilize sticks and share the purpose of scoring goals, these two sports are played on unique terrains and have completely different rules.

Van Tassel does not mind the shift in playstyle though. This prior experience has helped mold who she is as an athlete.

"Having different experiences and to draw from different things from over the years, and applying that at a college level has really helped me out a lot," Van Tassel said.

The athletic ability did not just show up at Montclair State as Van Tassel was dominant on the field for her high school field hockey team as well. Her team was First Team All-Area twice, Second Team All-Area and All-Conference during her junior year, and in her senior year, reached First Team All-Conference. She was individually named NJ Herald Field Hockey Athlete of the Year and also named All-West Jersey in her final year of high school.

As Van Tassel says, high school is a completely different environment than college, but she uses it as another experience to help her continue to play well for Montclair State.

"Everyone was in class together and we saw each other all day, every day," Van Tassel said. "Here at Montclair State, we do see each other a lot, but I feel like we have to be that much closer to each

other now because we only get a few hours every day. We always have to make the most of that time and be productive in practice and team building."

Van Tassel has already had some time as a sophomore to really develop a connection with the other women on her team, but in her freshman year at Montclair State, it was a rough time to be around anyone due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Fall sports were shut down and everyone was playing in the spring, including field hockey. But surprisingly, Van Tassel learned a lot out of making the most of the current situation at hand.

In the team's three games last spring, Van Tassel recorded two goals and one assist, enough to be awarded the NJAC Rookie Of The Year award.

"I gained so much over that season during [COVID-19], because all my teammates and I were doing was practicing," Van Tassel said. "For some of the projects I was doing for school, I was talking about how much extra time we had to prepare and that pushed us a lot further. It helped us when a lot of other teams were not doing anything."

As a star player, being coachable and receptive to change

is necessary to grow your game. According to Maisto, Van Tassel never shies away from it.

"If there's something that needs to be fixed or changed, you don't have to hesitate to go to Carlie because she's always open to have a conversation about a situation as she's very open-minded," Maisto said. "I think her attitude contributes to her own success because she's willing to do whatever it takes to put the ball in the back of the net."

Just recently, Montclair State played at homecoming against Lebanon Valley College (LVC), which felt like a back-and-forth game the whole time. Tori Sutura, freshman forward and midfielder, scored her third goal thanks to an assist from Van Tassel. The game ultimately ended up in a 2-1 loss thanks to a goal from LVC late in the fourth period.

Van Tassel has some big shoes to fill during her next few years at Montclair State, but with the stellar performance she puts up every game, such as scoring at least one goal in her first five games of the season, the team has a bright future. And it all starts with Carlie Van Tassel leading the charge against her opponents.