A police officer holds a gun towards the suspect right outside the Center for Environmental and Life Sciences on campus.

Julian Rigg
Assistant Photo Editor

A dramatic scene unfolded Monday morning at Montclair State University after a man in a stolen car was arrested on campus at gunpoint by the Montclair State University Police Department and the Passaic County Sheriff’s Office (PCSO).

As classes went on and tour groups walked by the Center of Environmental and Life Sciences (CELS), officers drew their weapons upon arresting who they later identified as 20-year-old Jason L. Toro, for which The Montclarion was present on the scene. Officers could be heard yelling at the suspect to “get down on the ground,” where they then quickly arrested and escorted him to a Passaic County Sheriff patrol car.

Tina Wu, a first-year Ph.D. student studying earth and environmental science, was an eyewitness to the police activity Monday morning.

“After the guy got arrested, they searched through his car [and] found his wallet, phone and some other files in a folder, and then put them into the police car,” Wu said. An officer on patrol received a LoJack signal at 10:21 a.m., notifying him that a white Toyota Avalon was stolen, according to Bill Maer, PCSO press liaison. The car was located near Webster Road and Stone Street, which is on campus at Montclair State.

The responding officer noted that Toro, who is not a Montclair State student, was accompanied by a woman, who was later identified as 18-year-old Dyasaaa M. Devine-Gonzalez. According to authorities, she is a student at the university. As the responding officer stopped and approached the car, Toro began reversing away from him. Toro refused the officer’s order to stop and proceed to make an illegal U-turn to flee the scene.

Campus police were then notified, and a brief pursuit ensued, which ended in Toro striking a light pole at a dead end next to CELS.

Devine-Gonzalez was not present in the vehicle when it came to a halt. Officers later arrested her after she had fled onto campus.

Toro faces multiple charges, including one count of theft between $500 and $75,000, one count of obstructing the administration of law, one count of eluding law enforcement and multiple motor vehicle summons, according to PCSO. Devine-Gonzalez has been charged with one count of “fiddling in [a] vehicle knowing it was taken without consent of [the] owner,” in addition to one count of resisting arrest.

Passaic County Sheriff Richard H. Berdnik said the Montclair State Police Department was helpful in the arrest of Toro and Devine-Gonzalez.

“The Sheriff’s Office is appreciative of the tremendous relationship it has with the [Montclair State] Police Department,” Berdnik said. The last incident where police drew guns during an arrest on campus was in 2018 on the first day of classes after a fight broke out in the NJ Transit parking lot.
Anyone who has information regarding these incidents is urged to call the police station at T-I-P-S (8477).

Friday, November 5
Panzer Gymnasium: Officers responded to Panzer Gymnasium in regards to a report of an act of criminal mischief. Officers were met on the scene by a university employee, who reported that a fire extinguisher had been removed from the wall, and its contents had been discharged onto the auxiliary gym floor. This incident is under investigation.

Monday, November 9
Freeman Hall: A student reported an incident of harassment from another student while in Freeman Hall. This case is under investigation.
Montclair State is one of the top 25 LGBTQ+ friendly colleges in the nation and provides transgender and nonbinary students with the option to change their name under NEST. However, when systems are rebooted, preferred names are not saved and the original names appear. This often leads to transgender and nonbinary students being deadnamed and misgendered. It can trigger their gender dysphoria, which is when someone who doesn’t identify with their birth sex suffers from extreme depression and anxiety as a result.

Ebony Jackson, the assistant director of the Office of Social Justice and Diversity (OSJD), said this is not an uncommon occurrence on campus.

“Before the pandemic, I’d have a handful of people report these instances,” Jackson said. “[I ask] students if they would prefer to speak to their professors or if I should step in.”

Jackson said most professors are understanding when they are made aware of the situation.

“Whenever I bring this to the professors’ attention, it is never malicious or hateful,” Jackson said. “They just didn’t know.”

Many professors are unaware of the importance of pronouns and how they impact their transgender and nonbinary students.

If they are aware, some are unsure of how to approach the issue without offending their students. However, this is still frustrating for the LGBTQ+ community, Kamal notes.

“None of my professors ask about pronouns, but they always ask about interests,” Kamal said. “Why do they need to know my interests compared to my pronouns?”

Jessica Restaino, the previous director and a current professor in the gender, sexuality and women’s studies department, discussed her experience of realizing this mistake.

“[I went to the] Diversity Summit hosted by the OSJD that brought students, faculty and professors together to talk about LGBTQ+ safety in class rooms,” Restaino said. “A transgender student presented on the importance of asking preferred names, pronouns and even small details about themselves. Restaino says this creates a safe space in class rooms and allows professors to learn more about their students in the process.

[Doing this] starts a disclosed conversation where students don’t out themselves in the classroom,” Restaino said. “Giving this opportunity allows students to tell you something about themselves.”

Restaino also references the importance of staying informed and being open to learning more about these types of things.

“From one professor to another, we are stewed in a culture where we are not aware of these things,” Restaino said. “[Like] the times that I have messed up pronouns [and] I apologized to the student afterwards. I even have conversations with students where I know more about them and it is something you learn from.”

Kamal said using correct pronouns fosters a safer classroom environment.

“I ask professors to acknowledge pronouns and not just preferred names,” Kamal said. “It makes the classroom less anxiety-inducing and I know that I’m safe.”

Jackson offered her advice to professors to avoid misgendering and deadnaming.

“It is not really a difficult issue, but professors need to offer that chance to students to properly introduce themselves,” Jackson said.

Victor Kamal was deadnamed by one of his professors. Julian Rigg | The Montclarion

Montclair is one of the top 25 LGBTQ+ friendly colleges in the nation and provides transgender and nonbinary students with the option to change their name under NEST. How-
Frequent Fire Alarms at Dinallo Heights Leave Students Frustrated

The Montclair State University fire alarms in Dinallo Heights have gone off multiple times since the beginning of the semester, leaving frustrated students standing in the cold and in the dark as to what is going on. Every residence hall at Montclair State is required to have two fire drills with the Montclair State University Fire Safety Team per semester, and Dinallo Heights has already completed both this fall. Despite this, residents have heard the computerized voice on the fire alarm tell them to evacuate more than two times already.

Leonardo DaSilva, a senior jurisprudence, law and society major, and a resident of Dinallo Heights, talked about how the alarms are annoying, but a necessary evil.

“It just sucks [because] nobody wants to get out a couple times a week to do the fire drills,” DaSilva said. “It’s understandable though if there is a fire. People just need to stop cooking in their rooms.”

Some students, like DaSilva, think these drills are occurring because people are cooking too close to the smoke detectors in their rooms. Brent Johnson, the community director at Dinallo Heights, cleared the smoke regarding what has been going on.

“The alarms have been triggered by students smoking in their rooms, shower steam, dust on or inside of HVAC units and small appliance malfunction and misuse,” Johnson said. Johnson also added that within 24 hours of an alarm going off, an email is sent to resident students explaining the cause.

The Residence Life team at Dinallo Heights is doing everything they can to make sure this does not keep happening. Johnson was able to share some of these plans to fix the situation.

“Health and Safety checks are completed monthly by our resident assistant staff to ensure that students do not have items in their room that will cause fires,” Johnson said. “Any students found to be smoking in their rooms go through a conduct process to prevent further instances of the behavior within our halls. Capstone Management has been cleaning out ventilation systems and doing preventative maintenance on HVAC systems.”

Tyreese Barfield, a senior exercise science major and a resident assistant (RA) at Dinallo Heights, gave some perspective about everything going on.

“As these fire alarms progressed, I noticed that people have started to come out later than usual,” Barfield said. “I know the fire alarms are annoying and an inconvenience, but they are there to save lives.”
Students React to U.S. News and World Report Rankings

Montclair State University was recently included in the 2022 Best Global Universities list by U.S. News & World Report.

With a total of 1,700 universities from 90 different countries, Montclair State ranked 1,167 this year with a global score of 35.6 due to its great reputation and having over 300 doctoral, master and baccalaureate level programs.

As Montclair State students and faculty came across the rankings list, they shared some of their opinions.

Gabi Malin, a junior television and digital media major, agrees that Montclair State belongs on the rankings list.

"The diversity alone is outstanding," Malin said. "Not to mention the academics. I picked [Montclair State] for its School of [Communication and Media], and currently being in my third year here, I know I picked the right choice. There is a reason the school’s phrase is ‘It’s all here’, and it shows in the rankings."

Other students had different opinions, and did not think the university deserved a spot on the list. Mike Foley, a junior television and digital media major, believes Montclair State needs to work on treating the students more like people and less like assets.

"We are treated like dollar signs to them, and then they use said dollar signs to make the campus fit the requirements for said award," Foley said. "In all honesty, [congratulations] to [Montclair State], but it doesn’t feel like it’s earned with how their students are treated some of the time."

Andrew Mees, Montclair State’s media relations director, shared a statement on how the university felt about the rankings and what they think helped secure their spot.

"These rankings are based on measures of a university’s reputation in the academic community," Mees said. "They indicate that Montclair State University’s reputation and impact are on the rise."

Mees explained how students at Montclair State benefit from all of the resources the school provides.

"We have been working to expand our research, and we are glad to see that it’s being noticed," Mees said. "As a public-serving university, our research helps to find the causes of and solutions for some of the world’s most pressing problems. Our students benefit by learning from professors who are actively engaged in research and who create opportunities for their students to participate in research."
There's nothing worse than coming home from class to an empty fridge, an empty stomach and an empty mind lacking ideas as to what to make for dinner. Ordering takeout is always an option, but let me give you more bang for your buck and remind you that this recipe is quick, easy to get the hang of and only an air fryer away.

Not only that, but it's also allergy friendly and is a perfect dish for picky eaters — Chicken and Broccoli. You may already have most of the ingredients sitting around, and even if you don't, they can easily be found at your local grocery store. The best part is, this recipe is also extremely healthy.

For the broccoli you'll need:
- 2 cups of broccoli
- 2 tablespoons avocado oil
- 1 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

For the chicken you'll need:
- 1 package of thin-sliced chicken cutlets
- 4 cups of panko bread crumbs
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder

First, heat your air fryer to 400 F while you prepare your chicken and broccoli.

In a bowl, crack two eggs and whisk them together. Then, take a container and pour the 4 cups of panko bread crumbs inside. To prevent the bread crumbs from spilling out, avoid choosing a container that is too low. A long, rectangle Tupperware container should work well here.

Lay your chicken cutlets out on a plate and sprinkle them with your seasonings, evenly on both sides. Once coated with the spices, dunk your chicken in your eggs until completely coated. This may take a few dips. Now, lay your chicken in your bread crumbs and press down. This helps ensure the bread crumbs stick to your chicken. Flip your cutlet and repeat on the other side.

Sprinkle extra bread crumbs on the cutlets to fill in any sparse areas, and repeat these steps for all your cutlets before setting them to the side.

Now, lay your chicken in your bread crumbs and press down. This helps ensure the bread crumbs stick to your chicken. Flip your cutlet and repeat on the other side.

Sprinkle extra bread crumbs on the cutlets to fill in any sparse areas, and repeat these steps for all your cutlets before setting them to the side.

Then, open it back up and add in your broccoli. After about 12 to 13 minutes, your broccoli should be perfectly crispy, so you can remove it. Depending on how crispy you want your chicken, you can leave it to cook for two to five more minutes. I like my chicken super crispy, so I left it for the full five.

Once your chicken is done, add it to a plate along with your broccoli. I used Sriracha as a drizzle on my chicken but a lemon squeeze or barbecue sauce would be a great choice as well. You can also add teriyaki sauce and white rice to the bottom of your dish to give it some more starch and sweetness.

It's hard to go wrong with a simple chicken and broccoli dish. And, the fact that it cooks in less than 20 minutes in the air fryer, makes this dish absolutely unbeatable. Until the next bite.
PJ’s Coffee Brings Southern Comfort Dining to the Northeast

Courtney M. White
Staff Writer

Even if you don’t like coffee, there’s bound to be something for you at any coffee shop. PJ’s Coffee in Fairfield, New Jersey is no exception.

Founded in 1978, PJ’s Coffee is a Southern franchise, started in New Orleans, Louisiana and based largely on “Southern comfort” dining. The location in Fairfield is actually the first to open in New Jersey and the first to open in the Northeast entirely.

The location in Fairfield is right off of U.S. Route 46, just past Willowbrook Mall — a short, 10-minute drive down the highway from Montclair State University. The invite-only opening, mostly done for friends and family, was a huge hit. The soft opening was on Nov. 7, and the grand opening is expected to be sometime in December.

PJ’s Coffee prides itself on having menu items that aren’t similar to other chains, such as Dunkin’ or Starbucks. They have plenty of options and claim to have the best original cold brew, which is made using a special cold brew, drip process, which actually makes it less bitter than other coffees.

Even if you’re someone that doesn’t like coffee, like me, there’s still plenty to choose from. One of their claims to fame is the Granita, which is similar to Starbucks’ Frappuccinos and includes a blend of coffee, sweeteners, mix-ins and ice. They also have tons of tea options.

As for food, the choices go on and on. PJ’s Coffee has many freshly baked goods, and because the shop originally started in the South, one of their most popular food items is beignets. These are a Southern delicacy made of crispy, pillowy dough dunked in powdered sugar. If you’re looking for something different, the shop also has muffins, cinnamon rolls, breakfast sandwiches, bagels and so much more.

When I went, I asked the barista to surprise me with a drink that wasn’t coffee. As it was the friends and family opening, all purchases came with a beignet. I know I got there right on time when I saw the beignets had just been pulled out of the fryer.

The barista made me a Green Tea Mojito Tea Mixer. The drink was a very refreshing blend of mint and lime. I left extremely satisfied. And to top it off, the cup was made completely from recycled water bottles.

As for the interior design of the shop, the purple walls complement the company’s colors very nicely. There’s a lot of space to sit down and relax, too. In fact, it’s so spacious you could easily grab a table and study with friends.

Not only that, but the shop also sells merchandise: everything from T-shirts to mugs. A lot of their coffees and teas are also available to take home. Prices are relatively low as well, which makes them budget-friendly for the average college student.

If you’re looking to stop in, the menu is currently featuring winter drinks with special peppermint and gingerbread flavors. These will be available through the holiday season.

For anyone interested, the shop is also looking to hire college students. As mentioned earlier, it’s close to campus but it is also great in that it comes with flexible hours. Most importantly, you may just be able to try their new items before they hit the market.

Looking to go in and try it? They’re located at 407 U.S. Route 46, Fairfield, New Jersey. There’s something for everyone at PJ’s Coffee.
What’s the dumbest way you’ve ever been injured?

“I just trip over my own feet like a pigeon, and then end up twisting my ankle. Sometimes, I’ll just bump into a wall, or just [knock] my head on the poll. I am very clumsy.”

Diamari Howell
Freshman
Psychology Major

“I got my foot run over by a golf cart. I got an X-ray later, and it wasn’t broken, so it wasn’t a big deal.”

Reagan Loescher
Junior
Sports Communication Major
“I sprained my ankle jumping off the roof of a garage. It was probably eight or 10 feet, and I climbed the fence to get on the roof of the garage, and instead of climbing back down, I thought I could jump off. I thought I broke it, but it was just sprained really bad. I got an X-ray, but had to lie about it because I was very embarrassed.”

Nicole Carbone
Graduate student
Physical Education Major

“I was playing basketball and I twisted my ankle. [As] I was trying to grab the rebound, I landed on somebody else, and my foot snapped. I told my mom and dad about it. They told me [to] take it to the hospital, but I said I don’t like going to the hospital. So, I took some pain relief and toughed it out at home.”

Mateen Olanrewaju
Senior
Information Technology Major

“So, when I was probably in fifth grade, me and my brothers always did extreme ‘X Games,’ like sledding down in our backyard. [Once], we made this incredible ramp that went from our shed. We [also] have this fence, and the other side of the fence is the street. I was the first one to go, and it was incredibly fast. So, I went off the shed and got a lot of speed, and then went up the ramp straight into the street. I went over the fence, and got probably an extra 10 feet into the street. I just laid there, defeated in the concrete. I didn’t even break anything.”

James Lynch
Senior
TVDM Major
Help Wanted

PART-TIME BABYSITTER

Seeking a sitter for a pleasant 8-year-old child who attends public school in Montclair. Care needed weekdays, one hour before school opens (7:10 am to 8:10 am) and one hour after school (6:00 pm to 7:00 pm). The child can play in a park near the school while being supervised or at other locations to be agreed upon. The rate of pay is $16-$20/hr.

Please email dezmill12@comcast.net if interested.

OPTOMETRIC TECHNICIAN

Part time to work in optometrist office in Clifton, minutes away from Montclair State University, as an optometric technician. Willing to train a quick learner who is outgoing, reliable, and enjoys working with and assisting patients. Duties include front desk, verifying insurance, pre-screening patients, and optical sales. All hands on training. All Candidates must be fully vaccinated to apply. $13.50 an hour plus commission.

If interested, please email Dina at newjerseyeyes1020@gmail.com.

PSYCHOTHERAPIST AND WRITER ASSISTANT

This job involves working on a multitude of projects involving my psychotherapy practice, writing projects, related research, and various other tasks.

The ideal candidate will have:
- Excellent typing skills, computer/internet research skills
- Strong writing and interpersonal communication skills
- A car to run local errands (groceries, office supplies)
- Hybrid scheduling on-site (Montclair, NJ) and remote

Hours are flexible (5-6 hours per week). $20 per hour. Must show proof of being fully vaccinated.

Please contact drjanicecohn@aol.com if interested.
The Montclarion Crossword Puzzle and More!

Early 2000s Music Edition

By Kayla Carlamere

Across
4. “We won’t hesitate / To break down the garden gate / There’s not much time left today, yeah” - Rascal Flatts
5. “Don’t want to be a fool for you / Just another player in your game for two” - NSYNC
7. “Oh, baby, when you talk like that / You make a woman go mad” - Shakira
8. “And you fall, and you crawl, and you break / And you take what you get, and you turn it into / Honesty and promise me I’m never gonna find you faking…” - Avril Lavigne

Down
1. “I dug my key into the side of his pretty little souped-up four-wheel drive / Carved my name into his leather seats” - Carrie Underwood
2. “If you liked it then you shoulda put a ring on it” - Beyoncé
3. “That you were Romeo, you were throwin’ pebbles / And my daddy said, ‘Stay away from Juliet’” - Taylor Swift
6. “When the sun shines, we’ll shine together / Told you I’ll be here forever / Said I’ll always be your friend / Took an oath, I’ma stick it out ‘til the end” - Rihanna

Sudoku

Word Search

*For answers to the puzzles, please check The Montclarion Facebook page every Thursday.*
Go Beyond Awareness For Native American Heritage Month

Native American Heritage Month is a time for appreciating, recognizing and paying tribute to the Indigenous people whose land this country was wrongfully founded on.

November is Native American Heritage Month, a time for appreciating, recognizing and paying tribute to the Indigenous people whose land this country was wrongfully founded on.

The history of the relationship between Native Americans and the European settlers who landed on their shores has been notoriously white-washed. Over time, many attempts have been made to erase not only their presence in America, many people know next to nothing about the many attempts have been made to erase not only their presence in America, many people know next to nothing about the

Despite the inextricable relevance of Indigenous presence in America, many people know next to nothing about the history of the specific tribes who live in their region. The Lenape people, also known as the Delaware Tribe, lived and still do live in the area that now encompasses New Jersey, Delaware and parts of Pennsylvania and New York. But when colonists began to arrive in the early 17th century, the Lenape were tricked out of their land by white settlers and forced to leave their homes, ending up displaced thousands of miles away in an allotted area of Kansas. Despite this, almost all of the eligible Delaware men voluntarily enlisted in the Union effort during the Civil War, even as white trespassers stole from them and unlawfully occupied their land.

This is obviously admirable, but Native Americans should not need to be heroes to be celebrated and acknowledged. It is enough that they were here first, as sovereign nations, and still they have not been given the attention or respect they deserve.

Montclair State University has a somewhat turbulent history when it comes to its relationship with Native American heritage and culture. During the 1930s, Montclair State's athletic logo was changed from a simple red “M” to a stereotypical profile of a Native American chief, and the team name was changed in tandem to “Indians.” In August 1989, the logo and name were changed to the Red Hawks.

What’s more, Montclair State and the surrounding area exists on land occupied by the Munsee Lenape tribe. Arrowheads were found on the grounds that became the campus during its expansion in 1917.

Earlier this year, Emily Johnson, an artist of the Yup’ik Nation, shared her experience with a Montclair State PEAK Performance official in a letter addressed to the National Endowment for the Arts. Johnson alleges a violent, defensive reaction from the official after she attempted to begin a dialogue on how PEAK Performances and Montclair State can begin the decolonization process.

Unfortunately, Montclair State’s response served only to defend the official, removing any responsibility from itself as an entity rather than fully acknowledging the humiliating experiences Johnson and others shared.

Clearly, there is a lot of room for improvement, which cannot happen without a desire for widespread change. Knowledge is one of the most potent catalysts for such change, and there are many ways to begin educating yourself.

This year, the Office for Social Justice and Diversity is hosting an Indigenous People’s Challenge, spanning five days. Participants can educate themselves about contemporary Indigenous issues, cultures and societies, as well as learn how to support Native American communities through activism and action.

Montclair State is also offering some spring semester courses that encompass Indigenous studies, such as Native American history, North American, history of Mexico and also American Indian themes, a new English course featuring a variety of writers Indigenous to North and Central America.

There is far more work to be done, beyond acknowledging Indigenous and First Nations people, as well as the myriad cultures that exist beyond most people’s monolithic ideas of Native Americans. Thanksgiving is almost upon us, a holiday which many children were and are unfortunately taught was born of a peaceful meeting between settlers and the Wampanoag people.

Self-education and awareness can come in many forms, from taking a class to getting involved with local Indigenous communities. It also means being aware of the harmful language you may hear or use that promotes false, detrimental ideas of American Indian people and cultures.

However you choose to celebrate, The Montclarion encourages students, faculty and staff to cultivate a deeper understanding of what it means to live on Indigenous land.
How Labor-Based Grading Helped Me Find My Voice

Avery Nixon
Assistant Opinion Editor

As an incoming freshman to a four-year university an hour away from my small town in Warren County, I was petrified. My education at a K-8 school was simpler than most. After beginning high school, I began to struggle with my academics.

While I still managed to be in honors classes, have a 3.4 GPA and be enrolled in difficult classes like business law, I was constantly anxious about the workload I would endure at college. Being diagnosed with ADHD, I usually have to put forth more effort than my peers at understanding and remembering material.

After committing to Montclair State University as a political science major on a path to becoming a civil rights attorney, I took a hard look into what and who I wanted to be. As much as I love starting, and finishing, arguments, I just didn’t want to put myself in such a stagnant position with virtually no flexibility in what I can do or create.

Being a lawyer requires no creativity whatsoever unless you need to prove your client’s innocence by saying something like “the glove doesn’t fit,” despite said client fleeing from police with $9,000 cash while wearing a fake goatee and having the victim’s blood on his socks. Now that’s what I call out-of-the-socket thinking.

I decided to take a chance on myself and follow my true dream of becoming a screenwriter for sitcoms, late-night television and movies. In this field, my creativity could flourish and my possibilities would be endless.

On my first day of classes, I attended my college writing course. I thought this class was only going to be about learning the technicalities of professional writing, but that wasn’t the case.

Our professor told us the kinds of writing we would be doing and how we would be graded, which involved a system called labor-based grading. With this system, as long as you turn in your work on time and do the assignments, you will receive a high grade. The workload consists of assignments such as writing discussion posts or drafting an essay.

At that moment, I don’t think I had ever been so relieved in my life. I used to be obsessed with getting the best possible grade for my essays. Now, I didn’t have to worry about the technicalities of writing a professional paper — I could simply write as myself.

Most people would probably think grading solely based on participation and just turning in the work would be a gateway for students being lazy in their writing, but for me, it’s the complete opposite.

Without having to worry about getting a perfect grade, I worked harder on my writing than ever before. Finally, I could write in an individualistic style on a topic I was passionate about. Having so few limitations on what I could put on paper really helped me find a voice. I experimented with turning literacy narratives and rhetorical analyses into my own comedy routine.

Not all of my writing was jokes, but I learned my tone of voice can be quite humorous.

“Just like your last piece, this one has a great voice,” my professor said. “I really could read nearly anything in this colloquial, funny, energetic voice.”

I genuinely feel if he didn’t implement this innovative grading system, I wouldn’t even dare to find a writing style that fits me. I would be too focused on the technicalities and end up with a paper that would probably put my professor to sleep.

My absolute favorite writing crime is sentence fragments. I can’t get enough of them, mostly because when I write, I write as if I’m speaking to a crowd and I want to sound as interesting as possible. Interesting humans don’t speak in MLA formatting unless they’re Mark Zuckerberg, and his status as “human” is debatable, in my opinion.

My experience with labor-based grading has opened my eyes to what my college education can give me. So far, it has made me a risk-taker and an exponentially better writer than I was last year.

If you’re a professor and don’t want to bash your head against the wall from reading the most monotonous collection of essays ever, take a chance on your students and let them explore the possibilities of their own writing.

You might just be surprised at what they can create.

Avery Nixon, a freshmen television and film major with a minor in creative writing, is in her first year as Assistant Opinion Editor for The Montclarion.

Thumbs Up

Missing girl found after motorist noticed her using TikTok hand gesture

Portugal outlaws employers contacting employees after work hours

China and U.S. announce climate cooperation boost at COP26 climate summit

Thumbs Down

Eight dead, hundreds injured at Travis Scott’s Astroworld show in Houston

U.S. inflation rising at fastest rate in three decades

Ghislaine Maxwell to challenge victim’s “faulty memories” as part of her defense
Stop Shaming Me for My No. 1 Artist on Spotify Being the ‘Glee’ Cast

It’s Time to Get Rid of Cancel Culture

C

ancel culture has become very common in our society. If you have no idea what this means, cancel cul-
ture is essentially the practice of calling someone out on something they either said or did that is wrong with the goal of get-
ing them to leave the public eye and go away for some time. Most of the time this applies to celebrities, but it can happen to anyone.

Throughout quarantine, canceling people became a huge thing. This might be because everyone has been locked inside for the past year and a half or perhaps people finally had the time to start realizing what is right and wrong.

When someone makes a mistake, it is normal for people in their comments to send hateful messages and death threats. This kind of situation stays fresh in the mind of the world for a while, not giving any room for the person to even come back to their mistake.

Some celebrities’ actions definitely need to be called out, and they should take some time off to realize what they did wrong and how they can fix it. We shouldn’t necessarily call this “can-
cel” someone though. Instead, we should focus on the fact that someone made a mistake and they are owning up to it, provided they want to remedy what they did.

Canceling someone is not going to help them learn. It will just have them scrambling to make a lame apology so they can be popular again. There should be a way that someone can make a mis-
take without being exiled from the inter-
et.

Making mistakes is a way of growing and learning. When people are scared of making a mistake 24/7, they are giv-
ing themselves no time to live their lives.

This toxic culture should not be pre-
valent to the extent it has been in the past. People should tell the public how, not merely speak up and that they need to think about how their actions might have hurt other people, but extreme measures like death threats are not go-
ing to make them apologize any sooner.

People throw all of their negative energy onto one specific person’s ac-
tions and then forget about it a short time later. What is the point of sending someone death threats if they’re just going to get away with whatever they did anyway?

If we are going to call people out, we need to start treating them like people. Everyone makes mistakes, and just because someone is in the public eye does not mean they are any less of a person than we are. There’s no need to remove these people from the internet and forget that they are humans too.

When people get outraged over something ridiculous, it just makes every instance afterward look like the boy who cried wolf. No one is going to agree that the next person who actu-
ally did something wrong needs to be called out for their actions.

We should stop calling it “cancel culture” altogether and start just say-
ing we’re calling people out for what they did wrong. Canceling someone is not the best way to handle a situation. Letting someone know what they did wrong and giving them time to learn from their mistake is the only way real

Emily Spillar
STAFF WRITER

Sarah Tufts | The Montclarion

What is “Glee”? Is it a show that aired on Fox between 2009 and 2015? Is “Glee” a lifestyle, or a cult of theater kids? The right answer is all of the above.

You might be thinking to yourself, “Why on Earth is this girl writing about “Glee” for her school’s newspaper?” Trust me, there is a reason.

I’ll be the first to say it – “Glee” is horrific. But I’m not opposed to the idea.

In addition to my sadness about the departure of “Glee” from Netflix, I also feel the parture of “Glee” from net.

Everyone makes mistakes, and just because everyone has been locked inside for the past year and a half or perhaps people finally had the time to start realizing what is right and wrong.

When someone makes a mistake, it is normal for people in their comments to send hateful messages and death threats. This kind of situation stays fresh in the mind of the world for a while, not giving any room for the person to even come back to their mistake.

Some celebrities’ actions definitely need to be called out, and they should take some time off to realize what they did wrong and how they can fix it. We shouldn’t necessarily call this “can-
cel” someone though. Instead, we should focus on the fact that someone made a mistake and they are owning up to it, provided they want to remedy what they did.

Canceling someone is not going to help them learn. It will just have them scrambling to make a lame apology so they can be popular again. There should be a way that someone can make a mis-
take without being exiled from the inter-
et.

Making mistakes is a way of growing and learning. When people are scared of making a mistake 24/7, they are giv-
ing themselves no time to live their lives.

This toxic culture should not be pre-
valent to the extent it has been in the past. People should tell the public how, not merely speak up and that they need to think about how their actions might have hurt other people, but extreme measures like death threats are not go-
ing to make them apologize any sooner.

People throw all of their negative energy onto one specific person’s ac-
tions and then forget about it a short time later. What is the point of sending someone death threats if they’re just going to get away with whatever they did anyway?

If we are going to call people out, we need to start treating them like people. Everyone makes mistakes, and just because someone is in the public eye does not mean they are any less of a person than we are. There’s no need to remove these people from the internet and forget that they are humans too.

When people get outraged over something ridiculous, it just makes every instance afterward look like the boy who cried wolf. No one is going to agree that the next person who actu-
ally did something wrong needs to be called out for their actions.

We should stop calling it “cancel culture” altogether and start just say-
ing we’re calling people out for what they did wrong. Canceling someone is not the best way to handle a situation. Letting someone know what they did wrong and giving them time to learn from their mistake is the only way real
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Student Artist Profile: Shane Ashen

Darian Mozo
Staff Writer

Shane Ashen discovered his love for music in his junior year of high school when he learned to play the piano. Not long after, he started doing covers of songs and instrumentals before eventually joining a band as the keyboard player. Needless to say, this quickly turned into a lifelong passion for him.

A junior television and digital media major with a concentration in audio and sound design, Ashen is a singer and musician who plays the piano and guitar and also writes his own songs. He has performed live throughout New Jersey in many different places, including Cliffside Park, Ridgewood, Wyckoff and more.

His most recent single, “Snowbird,” was released on Sept. 21 and can be heard on YouTube and Spotify.

Ashen spoke to The Montclarion staff writer Darian Mozo to discuss his music.

Q: Was there a moment or a person that motivated you to follow your dreams of being an artist?
A: [While] I was learning to play the piano and do music, I started listening to the band Coldplay, specifically the song “Yellow.” I fell in love with the song. Ever since I heard a song I truly love, it made me want to start creating my own music.

The band [I was in] was my biggest inspiration to get into music. I loved playing with them; they were like a second family for me. When the band broke up, I found myself in this weird stop where I wasn’t sure what to do.

There was a point where I didn’t consider myself a singer or didn’t think I would [still do it].

Now, the more I play, the better I get and the more confident I feel. Everything is about confidence.

Q: How would you describe your music?
A: I describe my music as a singer-songwriter alternative and [also as] melancholic. I think my music is more on the melancholic side, [as] I like writing sad music. Most of the inspiration for that music comes from real events, things that happened [to me]. Most of my favorite songs I wrote are drawn from direct experiences.

Q: What was the meaning behind your new song “Snowbird?”
A: This song is about being in a situation with someone where they want to get your attention. Maybe you don’t have all the focus on them yet, but they do everything to get you to notice them. Once you finally start to want them the same way they wanted you, they pull away because they got what they wanted. You feel [like] a piece of you just left away.

Q: How do you feel Montclair State has helped you with your music career?
A: Here at Montclair State University, I’ve noticed the friendliness of the students. Everyone helps each other with the classes, and even by just walking around campus, I feel it’s more approachable.

I met people who also write music or have show opportunities. Montclair [State] has events such as Open Mic [and other] different shows, which is great because it gives me and other people the opportunity to showcase their music. Here, I’m happier.

Q: How do you see yourself in 10 years?
A: I see myself [having] more people listen to my music, [and] a lot more songs released. Maybe an album. I see myself playing bigger shows and venues than I am now.

I would be happy having a successful studio where I can help people and produce [music] for them. Helping people is a good feeling. You see the excitement on people’s faces when their vision is coming to life, and it genuinely makes me feel good to help. This is what I really want to do, and I am not accepting another fate outside of music.

Q: What advice would you give to all those people who love music but haven’t taken the initiative to pursue that dream yet?
A: If you want to do it, you have to be very consistent. Start small because [it’s] a very long process. When I first started, I was nervous waiting to perform a show. Now, [it’s] not a fear but excitement. The more you do it and the more you expose yourself to it, you would be so much more confident in performing.

As long as you’re authentic, people will hear it and listen to it. People enjoy seeing passion in people. When you see passion, it draws other people into what they do, [too].

To keep up, follow @shane.ashen on Instagram so you don’t miss any of his new content.
WMSC’s Anabella Poland Wins Prestigious College Radio Award

Continued from page 1

Erin Lawlor
Staff Writer

Anabella Poland (far right) is the general manager of WMSC.

Poland’s primary role at WMSC is to oversee the license of the station, making sure the rules and regulations of the radio are met by each and every student there.

“Those students are looking for guidance,” Poland said. “I teach them management, how to lead and also content — reaching outside of their comfort zones to produce the best content they can.”

Poland’s favorite part about working at the station is seeing a person’s trajectory from when they first start to their final show on the air.

To say Poland is extraordinary would not do her justice; Ben Petruk, associate program director and junior management, how to lead and also content — reaching outside of their comfort zones to produce the best content they can.”

Petruk also believes Poland is beyond deserving of the Joel Willer Award.

“This award just signifies all of the radio things she has done for us,” Petruk said. “It doesn’t mention how much she inspires us off the radio, as well.”

Kaya Maciak, a senior communication and media arts major, is the station manager at WMSC. Maciak says Poland has had a huge impact on her time at Montclair S.

“(Poland) has been my biggest influence and mentor throughout my entire college career,” Maciak said. “And she has never even been my professor.”

Maciak goes on to mention that what makes Poland more special is her extending compassion outside of the station.

“Not only is she an extraordinary, exceptional mentor, she’s also a friend; Maciak said. “If you ask every student leader one of the main reasons as to why they are a part of the station, aside from their craft, (they will say) it’s [Poland].”

Kenny Horn, a senior television and digital media major, is the producer of “The Morning Buzz.” Horn, who was very intimidated when first starting at the radio station and never knew it would be this important to him, describes Poland as the heart of the station.

“(Poland) can tell everybody what they’re good at before you can even tell what you are good at. And, she helps you get good at it,” Horn said. “She is the reason we are the best station in the nation.”

Along with the Joel Willer Award, Poland wanted to highlight the awards the students won at the College Broadcasters, Inc. Awards, as well. This includes best audio special broadcast, best comedy, second place for best audio documentary, third place for best newscast and fourth place for best station imaging, fourth place for audio documentary, third place for best newscast, third place for best newscast and fourth place for best hard news reporting.

Kenny Horn, a senior television and digital media major, the producer of “The Morning Buzz.”

Top Picks to Stream

Rom-Com Edition

‘While You Were Sleeping’ on Disney+

Directed by Jon Turteltaub, “While You Were Sleeping” is an underrated gem that just oozes likability. Set during the holiday season, Sandra Bullock stars as Lucy Mod- eratz, a lonely transit fare token collector who longs for a regular commuter. Peter, played by Peter Gallagher. Rescuing him after he is mugged, a misunderstanding results in his family believing that she is his fiancé.

Deciding not to tell the truth right away, Lucy is quickly welcomed with open arms by Peter’s eccentric family, with the secret bringing the family closer together. Things get complicated for Lucy, however, when she starts to develop feelings for his suspi-cious brother, Jack, played by Bill Pullman.

- Adam Kaunzer
Staff Writer

‘Love, Rosie’ on Amazon Prime Video

“Love, Rosie” is a 2014 romantic comedy starring Lily Collins and Sam Claffin, who play Rosie and Alex, respectively. Having been best friends since they were 5 years old, Rosie and Alex develop feelings for each other that they never confess. After their plans to go to college together are ruined, the once-inseparable friends are constantly thrown obstacles that keep them apart.

The movie is unique for its genre in that it shows various points throughout the characters’ lives, allowing us to watch them grow.

Various tropes are used throughout the movie, such as best friends to lovers, unrequited love and the “will-they-won’t-they” cliche. It is an emotional rollercoaster with the ability to make viewers laugh and cry at the same time. The main actors are also a personal highlight, making one care about the characters enough to yell at them through the screen.

Not only is the movie great, but it is incredibly rewatchable.

- Kayla Carlamere
Guest Writer
‘Look Who’s Coming to Dinner’ Invites Audiences To Look Around the Table

Megan Lim
Entertainment Editor

“Look Who’s Coming to Dinner,” a dance-theater production that took place from Nov. 4 to Nov. 7 at Montclair State University’s Alexander Kasser Theater, with choreography, installation and direction by Stefanie Batten Bland, paid tribute to the ideas of love and acceptance presented in the 1967 film it drew inspiration from, “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner.”

While there is no linear plot to the performance, “Look Who’s Coming to Dinner” follows similar ideas to the original film, which tells the story of an inter racial couple, portrayed by Katharine Houghton and Sidney Poitier, seeking their parents’ opinion on their plans of an impromptu marriage.

Those with a stake in the decision are invited to a dinner where both sides of the betrothed not only meet one another for the first time but are forced to give a final decision on their relationship. Those with a stake in the decision are invited to a dinner where both sides of the betrothed not only meet one another for the first time but are forced to give a final decision on their approval of the interracial couple's decision to marry.

“Look Who’s Coming to Dinner” proposes the same message, through the movements of seven dance artists, each portraying characters striving to achieve acceptance of who they are. The 60-minute runtime is riddled with discrimination. Through these experiences, they remain hopeful and fight to earn a place in a society that is accepting of them, represented by a seat at the dinner table, one of the show's only props.

With difficult themes being explored through dance and movement, accompanied by striking music from Paul Damian Hogan, Bland aimed to challenge the destructive habit of creating boxes for people that often limit identity. She instead encourages a more open-minded attitude.

“I think we often are using those identity boxes to help, and I think we imagine them to be ways of embracing more, but they’re still boxes that we still have to break through,” Bland said. “So, we were able to take those themes and translate it into a live format. And in particular, taking what a dinner experience is — taking that actual table and transforming that into vehicles; transforming that into doors; entryways of access.”

David Lee Parker, a collaborating dance artist in “Look Who’s Coming to Dinner,” feels the table is the main component to communicating Bland’s vision.

“I hope it would encourage the audience to think about who they sit around [with] on a day-to-day basis,” Parker said. “[Bland] brought in a really diverse cast, and I believe that was intentional. And, I think it allows us to reflect. You know, a table’s a very common thing. We gather around a table for dinner and have lunch or hang out with friends. I think she was aiming for this idea of making the audience think about who they are sitting around. ‘Why? Why Not? Is it important to you?’"

Parker also feels much of the performance is up for the audience’s interpretation.

“But, just know that when watching a dance or interpreting art, especially with [Bland’s] work, it’s more about invoking thought and emotions, and then allowing that to make sense of the piece as a whole,” Parker said.

Manipulating simple elements of light and minimal props, “Look Who’s Coming to Dinner” leaves much room for audiences to form their own opinions as they witness a raw combination of dance, music, sound effects and most importantly, emotion.

Nina Schrock, a senior psychology major at Montclair State, watched the original film “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner” and enjoyed deciphering its live adaptation.

“It was such an original interpretation of the movie,” Schrock said. “I thought that it was the most creative [work] that I have ever seen in a theater.”

Through the utilization of dance and theater, “Look Who’s Coming to Dinner” successfully reworks the original intent of its film counterpart, “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner,” urging those in the audience to contemplate their relationships and views of those around them.
‘Eternals’ Almost Reaches Ambitious Heights

Adam Kaufner  
Staff Writer

With each new entry, the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) grows in scope and population. The newest film, “Eternals,” goes for a story spanning thousands of years as a group of immortal beings shape history and civilization on Earth while having to stop an old foe from reemerging and destroying the planet.

Director Chloé Zhao, known for her work with the film “Nomadland,” certainly showcases a lot of ambition as she tries to create something different from previous entries in the franchise. The film excels in the technical aspects, and there are quite a few entertaining moments, but the story and ensemble characters do not do enough to keep the audience fully invested over the two-and-a-half-hour runtime.

Nonetheless, this is a gorgeous film to look at. Zhao and director of photography, Ben Davis, create some really impressive shots, particularly of beautiful sunrises and sunsets, allowing the audience to appreciate the action and quieter moments.

Davis is no stranger to the MCU, having also worked on “Captain Marvel” and “Guardians of the Galaxy,” and continues to showcase an eye for comic-book action. The action in “Eternals” does its job of being exciting. The score by Ramin Djawadi is also quite solid and adds a lot to the proceedings.

Ensemble casts, such as the one that comprises “Eternals,” are fun, and with a large group of characters, the audience can see who works off of each other particularly well and determine which members of the team they like spending time with.

While “Eternals” is primarily an ensemble film, Sersi, played by Gemma Chan, receives the most focus. Richard Madden and Lia McHugh also get a decent amount of screen time as leader Ikaris and forever-young illusionist Sprite, respectively. They and the other actresses and actors, including Angeline Jolie, Salma Hayek and Brian Tyree Henry, do well in making their characters somewhat sympathetic.

However, there are a lot of characters to juggle, and the script does not do much to develop them throughout the movie.

The Avengers, the stars of many of the previous ensemble Marvel movies, were introduced individually or in somewhat smaller groups. When they came together, it was built up, and the audience had the proper amount of time to get to know them throughout the previous films. In contrast, the Eternals are brand new in the franchise, and there is not the same connection to most of these characters because the audience has not spent enough time with them.

The real standout of the film is not an Eternal, but the valet of one. Karun, played by Harish Patel, provides the necessary comic relief as the assistant to Kumail Nanjiani’s Kingo. A short subplot involving them trying to make a documentary about the Eternals’ adventure proves amusing, helped by Karan’s never-ending supply of video cameras.

The fact that these characters are immortal leads to the narrative jumping back and forth between the past and the present. This has potential in showing how the team is affected by this and the rules of their status, but beyond one devastating scene featuring Henry’s character, Phastos, and Hayek’s character, Ajak, it does not feel entirely reached.

“Eternals” is not a bad film by any stretch. It is competently produced, and all the technical aspects come together to create a spectacle that should satisfy moviegoers looking for a fun time.

However, the large cast does not get the proper amount of screen time and development to make them completely worthwhile in future MCU works, so the possibility of them becoming more interesting in later escapades is certainly there, whether on their own or as a team.
The Best Jaw-Dropping Plot Twists in Cinema

Avery Nixon
Assistant Opinion Editor

If done correctly, a plot twist makes a good script a great one, turning a writer's work from clever to genius. The best plot twists are the ones that leave viewers completely blindsided by its reveal, making them want to go back and watch the movie again to try and spot the clues. Without spoilers, so you can enjoy these for yourself, here are some movies with the best plot twists.

“Saw” (2004, Available on Hulu)

From the vision of director and creator, James Wan, comes the first and best installment in the “Saw” franchise. Lawrence Gordon, played by Cary Elwes, and Adam Stanheight, played by Leigh Whannell, awaken in a horrifically dirty bathroom, chained to pipes on each side of the room. Without a single memory of how they got there and a dead man laying on the floor between them, the two strangers have to come together and find a way to escape a serial killer’s trap before it’s too late.

“The Village” (2004, Available on Hulu)

Bryce Dallas Howard and Joaquin Phoenix shine in the lead roles of Ivy Walker and Lucius Hunt in one of director M. Night Shyamalan’s greatest movies, “The Village.” It tells the story of a remote village in the 19th century surrounded by terrifying monsters that keep the people isolated within their community. Conflict arises when a villager falls ill and a mission is put in place to leave the boundaries and venture outside to find her help.


With a dynamite cast of Hugh Jackman, Christian Bale, David Bowie and Scarlett Johansson, “The Prestige” tells the tale of a feud between two magicians in England during the late 1800s. The rivalry begins when one of them is successfully able to perform the impossible: teleportation. The fight to be the best magician known to man brings them to the brink of losing it all.

“Now You See Me” (2013, Available on Hulu)

While on the topic of magician mystery movies, “Now You See Me” is a wildly fun crime-thriller. An anonymous leader brings together four magicians, led by the illusionist J. Daniel Atlas, played by Jesse Eisenburg, to form the ultimate team, the Four Horsemen. Their mission is to steal the money from the wealthy and corrupt and redistribute it to people in need. Their obstacle, FBI Agent Dylan Rhodes, played by Mark Ruffalo, is right behind them, watching their every move.

“The Others” (2001, Available on Amazon Prime Video)

Nicole Kidman stars as Grace Stewart, a mother caring for her children as she longs for her missing husband in the midst of World War II. As Grace watches over Anne, played by Alakina Mann, and Nicholas, played by James Bentley, who have a rare disease that leaves them unable to go in sunlight, they begin to experience paranormal activities within their new home. Director Alejandro Amenábar’s highly-praised film comes from the adaption of “The Turn of the Screw,” an 1898 horror novella by Henry James.

“Shutter Island” (2010, Available on Netflix)

Martin Scorsese is known for directing “The Wolf of Wall Street,” the famous movie starring Leonardo DiCaprio, but the pair brings something vastly different in “Shutter Island.” This very dark thriller, set in the 1950s, stars DiCaprio and Mark Ruffalo as U.S. Marshal Teddy Daniels and partner Chuck Aule, respectively. They set off to Ashecliffe Hospital on Shutter Island to investigate the disappearance of a woman who was guilty of drowning her three children.
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Montclair State Dining

STUDENT TOWN HALL OPEN FORUM

Speak directly with the Montclair State University Dining team & representatives from Chartwells

– this is the time to voice what you want to see on campus with the team that can get it done.

Tuesday, November 16th
3:00pm at University Hall, 1060

Register at: tinyurl.com/MSUDiningTownHall
or Scan the QR Code to register
This Town Hall is open only to Montclair State University students. Pre-registration is required.
This Week In
Red Hawk Sports

THU 11/11
Men’s Basketball vs. Brooklyn College
7:00 p.m.

FRI 11/12
No games

SAT 11/13
Women’s Cross Country at NCAA Regionals
TBA
Men’s Soccer vs. Gordon College (NCAA First Round)
1:00 p.m.
Men’s Basketball vs. DeSales University
1:00 p.m.
Football at Keen University
1:00 p.m.
Women’s Basketball vs. Washington College (Md.)
4:00 p.m.
Men’s Ice Hockey vs. Clarkson University
8:00 p.m.

SUN 11/14
Men’s Ice Hockey vs. Clarkson University
10:20 a.m.
Women’s Basketball vs York (PA) or PSU-Abington
2:00 or 4:00 p.m.
Men’s Soccer vs. NCAA First Round Winners
3:00 p.m.

MON 11/15
No games

TUES 11/16
No games

WED 11/17
Men’s Basketball vs. Valley Forge
7:00 p.m.

Powerhouse Women’s Rugby Team Celebrates a Return to the Pitch

Meet the club sports team that went on a three-year undefeated streak

Ryan Nussbaum
Staff Writer

Montclair State University fields 18 Division III varsity athletic teams. But, one of the biggest success stories can be found at the club level. That’s where the women’s rugby team comes in.

The team, nicknamed the Lady Revelers, has experienced a meteoric rise since the team’s inaugural year in 2014. Montclair State captured back-to-back Tri-State Central Division Championships in 2018 and 2019. The Lady Revelers became the first club team at Montclair State to make the move from Division III to the more competitive Division II. For three years, Montclair State carried an undefeated record.

Players come from all different types of athletic backgrounds and experience levels. Many players have never even played in a match, let alone seen one. Head coach Anna Gildea, however, welcomes new players and builds on what they already know to help them learn to play rugby.

“People come from different athletic backgrounds and experience levels. Many players have never even played in a match, let alone seen one. Head coach Anna Gildea, however, welcomes new players and builds on what they already know to help them learn to play rugby.”

Johnson says the sport can be therapeutic.

“You take all your anger out on all of your hits. You take out all of your anger on runs. It’s a super physical sport.”

Though Hermanns was attracted to the sport because of the physical nature of the game, she feels passionate about it because of the visible bond between the players, too. “It’s a sport that requires you to be so close to your teammates,” Hermanns said. “That really made it so much better. It’s the family aspect.”

The relationships between each player off the field translate to how well they play on the field, Hermanns explains.

“Having a relationship [with each other] on and off the field are two different things,” Hermanns said. “But, we like to combine those because if you like each other off the field it translates onto the field and we play so much better.”

This fall, the Lady Revelers returned to the pitch after the 2020 season was canceled due to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The team was able to stay in shape through practices and an inner-squad showcase match, but could not compete against other schools, which took a toll on players like Johnson.

“It was rough,” Johnson said. “I missed it a lot, and I missed hanging out with my teammates the most.”

According to Gildea, the 2021 fall season was in jeopardy as well.

“At the beginning of the year, we weren’t sure if we were going to be able to have a season due to [the COVID-19 pandemic],” Gildea said. “There were recruiting difficulties and very little people at practice. We were able to turn that around, however, and managed to get a full team together.”

After another undefeated regular season, the Lady Revelers lost their first match in three seasons, falling to Fairfield University 29-24 in a hard-fought, mud-filled conference semi-final contest. The 2021 fall season might not have ended with another title, but the Lady Revelers had much to celebrate.

The return to play served as a return to normalcy for many players. The team’s sophomores were able to get their first taste of real in-game action.

The local rugby community is known for being competitive on the field and incredibly respectful off of it. After matches, many players can be seen hanging out and cracking jokes with each other. The bond each player has with one another is unlike any other, Johnson believes.

“There’s not a sport like [rugby],” Johnson said. “You’re never going to be able to go on a field and absolutely beat the crap out of someone and remain friends with them off the field, [let alone] hang out with the other team after. Every other sport I’ve played, it’s about [competition], so the chemistry is not the same. The [rugby] family is everything.”
Field Hockey Looks to Bounce Back After a Disappointing End to the Season

Red Hawks look to rebound in 2022 after a losing season in tough NJAC Conference

Matt Orth
Assistant Sports Editor

Despite a fairly young and inexperienced roster on the Montclair State University field hockey team, the coaching staff still believed the team was talented enough to have a lot of success this season even against the juggernaut teams in the conference like Rowan University and Kean University.

Unfortunately, throughout this whole season, which started with their first two games being called off, the field hockey team could not find their stride and maintain any form of momentum. The Red Hawks finished with a 6-10 record, including a six-game losing streak to finish off the 2021 campaign.

Freshman forward Tori Sutera was one of the bright spots for the team, scoring three goals and having eight shots on goal in only her first season. She believes that having good performances and high morale coming off the field? ‘What is your purpose at practice [and] she brings very strong confidence to games, which allowed her to be a scoring threat in all of our games this season.’

O’Reilly also wants to see Van Tassell expand on her leadership skills and lead her teammates even further heading into the next season. Van Tassell helped lead her team to victories against opponents like Stevens Institute of Technology, DeSales University and a conference foe in William Patterson University. She was also recently named to the All-NJAC Rookie of the Year last season.

But although the field hockey team will be returning with a lot of good players heading into 2022, the team will also be losing some great senior players like Evin Stewart, Mad- die Spolarch and Zoe Musick, who helped assist with one of Maisto’s three goals in a game versus Gwynedd Mercy University earlier in the season. Musick, the senior midfielder, spoke on how connected the team is and how that helped in games and practices.

“I think the most telling thing this season was our team chemistry,” Musick said. “We had such a great group of girls from freshmen to sophomores to juniors to seniors, and I think we all worked really well together this season.”

Another crucial thing Musick mentioned that helped the team’s energy during games was having people in the stands again. In the shortened 2020 season, the home bleachers were left empty due to protocols set forth because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This season, people were filling the stands again, and to have that momentum back was nice for the field hockey team, Musick says.

For every home game we had, it was awesome to see other athletes, students and parents come out and watch our games,” Musick said. “The more filled the stands were, the more pressure it felt like an exciting game. And as a senior, seeing that was cool because as you grow throughout the years and meet people, those connections are more meaningful.”

While this season did not end the way anyone in the women’s field hockey team wanted it to, a new resurgence of energy can already be seen within the players. Practices and workouts have started already, and a lot earlier than usual in O’Reilly’s offseason schedule. This time, O’Reilly says, one thing she is going to focus on is purpose.

“I think toward the end of the season, we lose sight of our purpose,” O’Reilly said. “So, that is something I want to put emphasis on going into next season, [in terms of] asking things like, ‘What is your purpose at practice or training or field?’ If we can become more rounded when it comes to our purpose, that is when we will start to see small improvements.”

The Red Hawks finished with the program’s worst record in a full season since 1999.
Season Recap: Women’s Soccer Misses Out On Back-To-Back NJAC Gold

The Red Hawks fall short of their expectations, but still make the most of a great season

Assistant Sports Editor

Throughout the entire season, many storylines and questions were facing the Montclair State University women’s soccer team. People wondered not only if the Red Hawks could claim back-to-back conference titles, but if they could also win the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) Championship in a normal soccer season without the coronavirus (COVID-19) playing so much of a factor in wins and losses.

So, when the Red Hawks were shut out by Rowan University (1-0) in the conference semifinal tournament on Nov. 2, it was a very bitter feeling for these players to deal with considering how much success the team was riding on heading into the postseason.

The Red Hawks had a tall task ahead of them with only four games remaining in the regular-season schedule, having to win the rest of the way to clinch a first-round bye in the NJAC Tournament. So, what did they do? Win the four games they needed to, including a 2-1 nail-biter win over Rowan on Oct. 23.

With the late-season surge, the Red Hawks clinched the second seed and the first-round bye. They had a storystorybook showdown at MSU Soccer Park against the Profs, a team that previously held the no. 2 seed prior to their regular season contest.

Unfortunately, Rowan scored an early goal in that contest and never looked back. And with that, the season was over. While the Red Hawks would love one more game, head coach Patrick Naughter helped put things into perspective.

“You’re always going to want one more game, whether it’s to get in the NCAA tournament [or something else],” Naughter said. “Likewise, if you win in the first round, you’ll want to win the second round. It’s always going to end in disappointment.”

However, on the bright side of things, the Red Hawks once again had a successful campaign. Montclair State finished with a record of 12-5-3 and landed seven players on the NJAC All-Conference Team.

Just months after winning the spring 2021 NJAC Title, the Red Hawks had only five months to prepare for the fall season. The short offseason did have its advantages though, according to senior defender Laura Noseworthy, who was also a Second Team All-Conference selection.

“Starting off, I was really confident in our preseason because I feel like everyone came back off of the NJAC win in the spring, and everyone was super excited to get back and all be together,” Noseworthy said. “I feel like that energy translated early.”

The team was led by the exciting duo of sophomore midfielder Aileen Cahill and transfer graduate student Zoë Steck, with Cahill winning NJAC Offensive Player Of the Year and Steck leading the conference in points at the end of the regular season. Both players were All-NJAC First Team selections this season.

Their strong offensive presence along with a defense Naughter called their “bread and butter” at the beginning of the season made for one of the stronger teams in the conference this season. This included a defense led by three All-NJAC performers: Noseworthy, senior captain Catherine Carnevale and freshman Emni DeNovellis. This defense also benefited from a goalie crew led by junior Haley Martin that has risen to the occasion plenty of times.

Still, the strongest attribute of this team was the chemistry amongst the women. Players were interchangeable as starters or bench players. It was their depth and unselfish play that enabled the team’s success.

A perfect example of how good this team’s chemistry was when Naughter had to miss the team’s Oct. 23 game against Rowan, as his wife was in labor. A game with high seeding implications on the line relied on the Red Hawks to be on the same page at all times, especially without their head coach at the game being able to change their strategy in the most effective way possible.

However, this team once again rose through adversity. After Rowan had tied the game late in the first half, the Red Hawks played lights out defense the rest of the way as Carnevale would sneak in a goal in the 51st minute to win it.

Steck explained that it wasn’t a single person carrying this team, but a collective feeling amongst the players.

“We saw a lot of individuals get recognized, and that was awesome, but at the end of the day it was a total team effort,” Steck said. “Every single person really contributed. That is what really kept us going as a team. It was so special to see.”

The memories the Red Hawks made this year will last these seniors a lifetime. In a rematch of last season’s NJAC Championship Game against Rutgers-Camden on Sept. 18, Steck recorded a game-winner seconds into overtime.

“I’m going to remember the Rutgers-Camden overtime goal for the rest of my life,” Steck said. “The goal itself, the game, the dogpile at the end and just seeing everyone’s faces.”

This display of excellence on the field was translated perfectly and made possible by the chemistry formed in the locker room on day one. The seniors and leaders on this team clearly understood that and strived to have a tightknit bond with each and every player. Noseworthy believes this was always the team’s goal, and if anything, the most important one, too.

“As my [teammates and I] became upperclassmen, we had this idea we wanted everyone to be together, especially the underclassmen,” Noseworthy said. “We wanted them to know we were there for them. Everyone was able to talk to one another and build these bonds, which ultimately created the opportunity for us to be so close on and off the field.”

And while missing out on back-to-back conference titles stings, Steck says this 2021 women’s soccer team has plenty to be proud of.

“From start to finish we stayed true to who we were as a team,” Steck said. “A team that could fight with anyone, work harder than anyone and be the best for each other on the field. At the end of the day, regardless of how our season turned out, I think that’s what we will take away.”

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