The Montclarion March 31, 2022

The Montclarion

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.montclair.edu/montclarion

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.montclair.edu/montclarion/1562

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Newspapers at Montclair State University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Montclarion by an authorized administrator of Montclair State University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@montclair.edu.
Students With Religious Exemptions Banned From Dorming Starting This Summer

Jenna Sundel
News Editor

Montclair State University announced that students with religious exemptions to the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine will no longer be allowed to live on campus starting this summer.

“Students with religious exemptions are expressing their dissatisfaction with the new policy,” Jared Vigil, a senior molecular biology major, said. “He has a religious exemption because he disagrees with the use of aborted fetal cells during the testing or development of COVID-19 vaccines. He views the policy as religious discrimination.

“There really is no other way to put it,” Vigil said. “It specifically targets people with religious exemptions in an attempt to further coerce my fellow classmates with religious faiths.”

Vigil remains hopeful that students with religious exemptions will be able to convince the university to amend the restriction.

“Religious persecution has happened plenty of times throughout history and I hope this can be another time where we as a religious community may prevail,” Vigil said.

Religious Exemptions continued on Page 3

Students Soar In ‘The College Tour’

Emma Richter
Staff Writer

Montclair State University can be toured all over the world now. Now streaming on Amazon Prime’s “The College Tour” series, viewers can dive into an hour-long tour of Montclair State. Being offered on other streaming platforms as well, such as Apple TV, Roku TV and “The College Tour” app, all eyes are on the school.

Unlike most tours where you are on the school, “The College Tour” episode introduced viewers to a very long journey. By starting this episode was disbursed throughout campus. Administrators, students, employees and a whole production team started their journey back in August. Students, also known as the cast members, were either recommended and asked to be a part of it or volunteered to do so. Nikki-James Soto, a senior studying psychology who is also part of the five-year teaching program, is featured in “The College Tour” episode. Her experience started when her advisor recommended her for the project after getting word about it. She got a feel for an experience, “The College Tour” episode about Montclair State takes you on more of a personal journey as viewers meet students ranging from freshman to alumni who have and still are using Montclair State’s vast programs and opportunities to soar higher.

“The project of creating this episode was more like a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

-Nikki-James Soto

The College Tour continued on Page 25

Students Named All-American

Jack Bartek
Staff Writer

Biezowiecki, Colasurdo, Schmidt, Wilson, Machin, Tobie, Aquino, Sire, Brown. And now, Nickie Carter. After a prolific junior season, the standout guard became the standout guard became the 10th player in Montclair State women’s basketball history to be selected to the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association All-American team.

“I was on the phone with my mom and I started getting tagged in stories on Instagram,” Carter said. “So I’m like, ‘what’s going on?’ Then, I see the photo of me and it said ‘All-American’ at the bottom. And I was like, ‘no way.’”

And I just started crying. That’s been a goal of mine since before I came to [Montclair State].”

For Carter, the honor was a lifelong dream come true, but to her coaches, it was only a matter of time.

“When I visited here in high school, I remember [head coach Karin] Harvey telling me, ‘you come here, we’ll make you an All-American.’ So, for it to happen was unreal,” Carter said.

Nickie Carter continued on Page 36

Page 4: Mr. and Mrs. NASO Pageant Returns

Lynise Oliva | The Montclarion

Montclair State’s dance group, NASO Dance Troupe, performs their piece, “A Love Story.”

Chris Krusberg | The Montclarion

Nickie Carter Named All-American

Students With Religious Exemptions Banned From Dorming Starting This Summer
The Montclarion is a publication of Montelican Publishing, Inc. published weekly, except during the 2020 fall and 2021 spring semesters, examinations, summer and winter sessions. The Montclarion is funded by student fees distributed by Montclair State University and incoming advertising revenue. The views expressed in the Opinion section, with the exception of the Main Editorial, do not necessarily reflect the views of The Montclarion.

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

School of Communication and Media, Room 2035 Montclair, NJ. 07043

Executive Board

Editor-in-Chief
Sam Nungesser
montclarionchief@gmail.com

Managing Editor
Emma Caughlan
montclarionmanaging@gmail.com

Business Manager
Cam Wade
montclarionbusinessmanager@gmail.com

Ad Sales Manager
Caroline Marinari
montclarionadsales@gmail.com

Editorial Board

News
Jenna Sundel
montclarionnews@gmail.com

Feature
Sam Bailey
montclarionfeature@gmail.com

Opinion
Maddye Belov-Boxer
montclarionopinion@gmail.com

Entertainment
Megan Lim
montclarionentertainment@gmail.com

Sports
Corey Annan
montclarionsports@gmail.com

Photography
John LaRosa
montclarionphoto@gmail.com

Social Media Manager
Rose Kershner
montclarionsocialmedia@gmail.com

Chief Copy Editors
Nathaly Martinez
montclarioncopy@gmail.com

Ariel Rogg

Web Editor
Michael Banovic
montclarionweb@gmail.com

Video Editor
Hailey Mayewski
montclarionvideo@gmail.com

Production
Ian Long
montclarionproduction@gmail.com

Assistant Editors

News
Jennifer Portorreal
Carley Campbell
Erin Lawlor

Feature
Sal DiMaggio

Opinion
Avery Nixon
Darian Mozo

Entertainment
Sekhena Sembenu

Faculty Advisor
Tara George

Sports
Matt Orth

Photography
Lynise Olivacce
Julian Rigg

Production
Hannah Effinger

Graphic Design Intern
Crystal Durham

Writers & Contributors

Jack Barbeck
Stephanie Cadet
Sophia Caparros
Gianna Daginis
Karsten Engleeder
Trevor Giesberg
Olivia Grasso
Denise Jugo
Becca Kaufman
Chris Krusberg
Jess Liptzin
Rashidah Manongdo

Daniel Marx
Darian Mizo
Jack Nebung
Alex Pavljk
Mackenzie Reeves-Mason
Emma Richter
Antonio Rizzo
Zack Spangler
Ryan Tullio
Sofia Acevedo Valencia
Sam Wilk

Happy April Fools’!
Check out our spoof section on pages 19-21 for some zesty articles.

Check out our Newsletter!
A sophomore animation/illustration major who chose to remain anonymous said she is a Christian who received a religious exemption because she believes in refraining from any substance that defiles the body in any way. She said the policy will make it more difficult for her to get to campus.

“Instead of me trying to find some way to get to school, it’s going to be easier for me to stay at home,” the student said. “I live 35 [to] 40 [minutes] away and have no way to get here otherwise. I have lived on campus this past two years with no issue. I have gotten tested every week since it became a requirement. As an incoming junior here, it is redundant that this is just now being put into place [and] with such short notice, too. We were given no warning.”

A poll of 136 participants taken by The Montclarion showed that 40% were in favor of the new rule, while 60% were not in favor.

Andrew Mees, the university spokesperson, said the policy is not religious discrimination.

“We are committed to being an inclusive community where all members feel able and secure enough to practice their faith, and nothing in this policy precludes any community member from doing so,” Mees said.

Mees also explained the reasoning behind the policy.

“Previously, we were allowing students who didn’t have a COVID-19 vaccination to live on campus but required them to occupy a single room – often by converting a double to a single,” Mees said. “Now, as demand for housing has increased, the university needs to make more space available. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students who qualify for a medical exemption can reside on campus in the fall and will be assigned single rooms. There is no such legislation that applies to individuals with religious exemptions.”

Mees emphasized the importance of protecting public health on campus.

“While living on campus is a highly desired and positive experience for students, it is a privilege and not a guaranteed right,” Mees said. “In order to have access to this privilege, and to help protect public health, a student must have all required immunizations, including COVID-19 vaccination to live in on-campus housing.”

According to Mees, 146 students applied for a medical exemption this semester and 131 students were granted the exemption. The students who will no longer be able to live on campus represent 1.3% of the residential population.

Marc Hernandez, a junior food system major, is indifferent about the new policy. He believes there should be some leeway for religious exemptions, although some people, who simply don’t want the vaccine, are taking advantage of the exception.

“I feel like they are ruining the stats, I believe that more people on campus are in fact vaccinated, White said. “I just think it’s so ridiculous that the school is threatening students.”

Joshua Almanzar, a junior exercise science major, shared similar sentiments.

“For a campus that talks about inclusivity, that is quite exclusive,” Almanzar said. “I’m a person who is still finding my own religion, in all honesty, so I have no problem with anybody else’s religion.”

Nyla White, a sophomore communication and media studies major, said she strongly disagrees with the restriction.

“I feel like that just boils down to basic principles, like that’s just discrimination at that point,” White said.

White added that she does not think the policy will impact campus health and safety.

“If it’s safety that comes into question, well, if you do the stats, I believe that more people on campus are in fact vaccinated,” White said. “And if the vaccination with the booster shots are proving to keep people safe, then the number of people vaccinated with booster shots should outweigh the number of people who have these religious exemptions.”

Lynise Olivaio | The Montclarion

Joshua Almanzar, a junior exercise science major, said the policy is exclusive.
The Native African Student Organization (NASO) announced their new Mr. and Mrs. NASO on the night of March 27. Different organizations from Montclair State University including Daughta Speaks, Caribbean Student Organization (CSO), Ladies First and Alpha Kappa Alpha and students from different schools came to celebrate not only the pageant but also African and Caribbean culture.

From Formal and Sleepwear to Talents and Royalty, each contestant did not disappoint in the various categories. Participants walked down the runway to Afrobeats and other notable Black singers. The judges were former Mr. NASO Ernst Lozin, and former Mrs. NASO Vivian Odubanjo, along with Tyler Anderson, a senior business administration major, and Na'Dree Stewart, a junior anthropology major. They asked the contestants questions, which played a factor in determining the new king and queen.

From his notable attire to his dance performances, Tommy Robert, a sophomore fashion studies major, filled the runway with exuberance and left the crowd wanting more. He answered the question: How can the world be a better place? “The simple fact is that children are the future of the world, we are the future leaders and if we give them the chance to express themselves, be vocal about their opinions and emotions, the possibilities are endless,” Robert said.

Fatoumata Amar, a senior theatre studies major, expressed the importance of education. "Education is highly important to me because growing up in an African household, it was embedded in me that education is the passport to the future, as Malcom X said.” Amar said. “My grandfather didn’t have the chance to get a proper education. So by getting an education, I am my grandfather’s dream and as well as my future kids.”

Amar graced the runway representing her country wearing attire from Senegal in Africa.

Jalill Philemon, a senior theatre studies major, expressed the importance of financial literacy for young adults. “If there’s anything I could change in America, it would be [to] teach financial literacy in our schools,” Philemon said. “Especially for us [college students] because we are at the age where we’re about to switch over and get our own places. Learning how to budget and put money to the side, learning how to save and say no to certain activities so you can have more fun in the future is important.”

Before the final category and the announcement of the Mr. and Mrs. NASO, NASO’s Dance Troupe performed a dance entitled “A Love Story,” said Mary Olatunji, a senior public health major and one of the dancers of “A Love Story,” said how freeing it felt to dance.

“Honestly, dancing is my happy place [because] you get to be yourself and enjoy the moment so I was excited to dance tonight and the energy in the room was amazing,” Olatunji said.

The pageant closed with the contestants showing off their best-dressed look in the “royalty” category. The executive board of NASO, the judges and contestants came together with the audience to announce Amar as Mrs. NASO and Robert as Mr. NASO.

Amar expressed how happy she felt to represent not only Africa but her country, Senegal. “I really love it because not only am I getting to represent the entire African continent, but I’m getting to represent my country Senegal because a lot of people know Africa but I feel like they only represent the countries that they know,” Amar said. “So by winning Mrs. NASO, I show them that Senegal is in the building.”

Robert said he was excited while preparing throughout the entire process, as it relates to his field of study. He says he’s grateful to celebrate his hard work by winning Mr. NASO.

“I feel amazing, I feel like a trailblazer because I don’t know for sure [but] I believe I’m the first openly gay person to win Mr. NASO.”

Princess Oppong, the president of NASO and a senior business administration major, with a concentration in international business, was pleased with the outcome of the event.

“I think it came out great,” Oppong said. “This pageant hasn’t been done in five to six years. This is the first time we bought it back. My vice president and I were kind of afraid because we haven’t done this in a while. But it actually came out more successful than we thought it would.”

NASO holds their general body meetings every other Wednesday from 4:50 p.m. and welcomed all to attend.
Montclair State Saves Bloomfield College

Bloomfield College, one of the oldest colleges in New Jersey, was on the brink of shutting down before Montclair State University offered financial support for this upcoming year. Montclair State President Dr. Jonathan Koppell announced the week of March 14 that the university will be creating a lifetime for Bloomfield College in its time of need.

“I want to be a resource,” Koppell said. “We are designing a potential co-op with the two institutions that will not negatively impact our school or our students.”

A big concern for many of the Senate Board was where this money was coming from. University spokesperson Andrew Mees explained this.

“In the event we supply any funding to Bloomfield College, it will be taken from the university’s operating reserves,” Mees said. “Keep in mind that this is a secured loan and that Bloomfield’s cash reserves would need to fall below a certain threshold before they can request funding from Montclair [State]. If their enrollment remains stable, they may not need any or all of the funding available via the terms of the agreement.”

Mees explained that this is a win for both institutions.

“This is an exciting opportunity for Montclair [State] to have an even bigger platform to fulfill its mission as a public – and public-serving – institution in New Jersey,” Mees said. “We see this as a win for both institutions and – hopefully – for the communities that we’re dedicated to serving. This is an opportunity to do something really innovative in higher education that advances the breadth of its academic, athletic and arts offerings aligning with Bloomfield College’s long-held mission,” Evans said.

While several things are still being worked out between the two schools, Evans shared that Bloomfield College will conduct classes, engage in NCAA sporting events and hold commencement for the 2023 class of Bloomfield graduates with the help of Montclair State.

Bloomfield is deeply about the history and legacy of Bloomfield College and the extraordinary student population we serve,” Evans said. “Montclair [State] and Bloomfield are exploring pathways that allow Bloomfield to retain its mission and ensure that the Bloomfield legacy and name will continue.”

Melo Thomas, a junior game design and game programming major at Bloomfield College, is glad this happened so she does not have to transfer.

“I’m actually glad it happened,” Thomas said. “I’m supposed to graduate next year, so I was part of the group that was like, ‘do I need to transfer or do I need to stay?’”

Evans is grateful to Montclair State’s board of trustees for taking this important step in making sure Bloomfield College can continue its legacy and complete the 2022-2023 school year.

“This is a monumental moment for all of us who care deeply about the history and legacy of Bloomfield College and the extraordinary student population we serve,” Evans said. “Montclair [State] and Bloomfield are exploring pathways that allow Bloomfield to retain its mission and ensure that the Bloomfield legacy and name will continue.”

In its time of need.

Evans is grateful to Montclair State’s board of trustees for taking this important step in making sure Bloomfield College can continue its legacy and complete the 2022-2023 school year.

“This is a monumental moment for all of us who care deeply about the history and legacy of Bloomfield College and the extraordinary student population we serve,” Evans said. “Montclair [State] and Bloomfield are exploring pathways that allow Bloomfield to retain its mission and ensure that the Bloomfield legacy and name will continue.”
The Montclarion Wins Nine NJPF Awards

Lynise Olivacce
Assistant Photo Editor

The New Jersey Press Foundation (NJPF) awarded The Montclarion with two first place, five second place and two third-place awards in the 2021-2022 New Jersey College Newspaper Contest.

From photography to articles to video, student-run newspapers and digital news organizations from New Jersey submitted their best work that was published between March 1, 2021, and Feb. 28, 2022.

Sam Nungesser, the editor-in-chief of The Montclarion, says everyone has done an exceptional job reporting important stories and is happy to be recognized at the state level. She reflected upon their perseverance despite the obstacle of starting back up again since the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

“As editor-in-chief, I am so happy and proud of all the writers whether they won an award or not,” Nungesser said. “This group has really grown to be like family. And I think that's been really evident through the work we've put out. I'm so happy for everyone and I can't wait to keep doing what we love to finish the year out strong.”

Though moving from online to an in-person environment was a tough transition, she says The Montclarion has improved and it made the team's bond stronger.

“There was so much we needed to organize and learn as a team not only about producing a newspaper but also about each other since a majority of us had never met in person before,” Nungesser said. “However, the fact that we're so close together that much of this trial and error we have been able to do such an amazing job is so exciting and makes everything worth it.”

The Montclarion won two first-place awards in the general excellence category and the photography category for the featured photo in John LaRosa's “Montclair State Students Stand Up to Hate Speech Demonstrators on Campus.” NJPF awarded five-second-place awards to The Montclarion. Carley Campbell's “Resident Students React to Campus Tours” won second place in the COVID-19 coverage category. Sal DiMaggio's “Charles Ezenwanne Raises The Bar for Disadvantaged Stem Students with Award-Winning Lung Cancer Research,” won second place in the biography profile category. The Montclarion also won second place in the feature writing category for Matt Orth's “Former Montclair State Linebacker Sam Mills Inducted into 2022 Pro Football Hall of Fame.”

LaRosa, the photo editor of The Montclarion, won first place in the photography category. LaRosa says he was walking around campus as he spontaneously captured that award-winning moment.

“Right place, right time — that's all I can really say, but I'm grateful to the entire Montclarion team for getting that story out there,” LaRosa said.

Hannah Effinger, the assistant production editor of The Montclarion, expressed how amazing she feels to be a part of the award-winning team.

“All of the writers, photographers and editors work so hard all year long to get these incredible stories out and it's so great that they're being awarded for it,” Effinger said.

Since recently joining the Montclarion, she already feels like she's part of a family, especially working with Ian Long, the production editor of The Montclarion.

“Everyone is so amazing and kind, and it's so cool to see how everyone comes together every week to put together the paper — it's really like a family and it's definitely an amazing experience,” Effinger said. “I love working as an assistant production editor under Ian, they're honestly, like, the best person ever and they're always so helpful and encouraging when I want to try new things within the layout.”

Emma Caughlan, the managing editor of The Montclarion, said how proud she is of the team winning nine awards for the second time in a row. She highlighted their improvement, their friendships becoming stronger and the new ones she made along the way.

“I think that after [COVID-19], this was a really great opportunity for me, personally, to build connections with people that are interested in the same things as me,” Caughlan said. “And not only did that happen but my expectations for that were exceeded and I made friendships with some really awesome people this year. So, I can't think of a group that's more deserving of these awards.”

She says the awards are a great testament to the hard work The Montclarion executed and wants to keep this success path going.

“I'm super excited for all the winners and I'm proud of all of our writers, staff and everyone involved because I think it's been a super successful year,” Caughlan said. “I'm really looking forward to continuing with that excellence and getting even better, and I'm looking forward to being a part of that.”

Tara George, the head of the journalism and television and digital media department in the School of Communication and Media, is the faculty advisor for The Montclarion. She is proud of the team's persistence through the pandemic.

“I'm so proud of The Montclarion team,” George said. “They've done an excellent job of keeping the news flowing through the pandemic and keeping each other going, too. They've got a lot to celebrate.”

The award winners are invited to participate in the NJ Collegiate Press Spring Awards Luncheon on April 9, 2022, where plaques will be given to the winners of the contest.
Students March for Sexual Assault Awareness

Montclair State University students gathered outside of the Student Center on Thursday, March 24 to raise awareness about sexual assaults and harassment on campus, as well as protest the university’s responses to victims.

Protesters carried large signs stating phrases such as “real men take no for an answer,” “my dress does not mean yes” and “our body is our temple, do not take it without consent.”

Once the group started their march, they began chanting messages directed toward the school. “We paid thousands of dollars on this campus,” “we deserve our educations and to be safe while pursuing our education,” “we won’t stand for this no more,” “our voices should be heard and we demand safety for victims at [Montclair State]” and “we demand justice at [Montclair State].”

While walking, the group grew in size, amassing roughly 30 people. After reaching the corner of Susan A. Cole Hall, protesters formed a discussion and support circle, allowing one another to speak up about their experiences. In addition, many students made remarks about Montclair State’s handling of sexual assault reports.

One of the organizers of the protest, Kenia Akridge, a sophomore fine arts major, expressed strong feelings toward the school.

“They need to take victims more seriously and stop dismissing charges in cases for lack of evidence while so many rapists and sexual assaulters post about it on Instagram,” Akridge said. “Change starts with [Montclair State] taking us seriously and there being consequences to actions. The school is willing to take so much in parking fines and put a hold on your account if they aren’t paid, but what do they do with rapists? Nothing.”

Hannah, a junior family science and human development major, who requested to be identified by first name only, was an active participant in the protest and also expressed her concern as a student.

“It’s despicable and deplorable,” Hannah said. “We shouldn’t have to worry about this. It’s said that as a woman I carry pepper spray, an alarm and several keys on me to make sure I’m safe on campus. I want to raise my voice and say listen, you need to take your victims seriously and not silence them.”

Hannah asks the administration to believe victims when they are trying to advocate for themselves.

“Believe them,” Hannah said. “Don’t accuse them of lying, don’t ask ‘what were you wearing?’ or ‘oh, where were you?’ None of that matters. What matters is they had their choice taken away and they need to be heard.”

Hannah also encouraged those who are a victim of sexual assault to speak up for themselves.

“Speak up when you need to,” Hannah said. “I understand that’s not always the easiest thing as you’re experiencing trauma because I also understand, just as we’re saying here, our university often doesn’t hear people who speak up and it may feel useless to you. But the more you speak up and the more people talk about it, the more this conversation will circulate and the faster things will change.”

Greyson Beato, a sophomore visual arts major, played a significant role in the protest, walking at the front and talking to the group. He also discussed his experience contacting campus police for a friend.

“No victim, whether they are male, female or non-binary, deserves to have their voice silenced,” Beato said. “Everyone’s voice must be taken seriously. When I attempted to report a friend’s assailant, the officer told me that the victim must come in personally, but he also dismissed her assault by asking why she didn’t come in immediately.”

Most passing students and faculty simply glanced towards the group and went on their way. However, Jake DiLoreto, a freshman undecided, shouted his encouragement and approval toward the group.

“I am happy to see people spreading awareness about the matter going on at this school,” DiLoreto said. “All I have to say is let’s make a change.”

Andrew Mees, the university spokesperson, said Montclair State is committed to fostering an environment where people feel safe and all members of the community can learn and grow while being treated with respect.

“We take situations involving potential harassment of any kind extremely seriously,” Mees said. “Any claim brought to the university’s attention is thoroughly investigated, and action is taken when appropriate.”
Teni Bello is an Example of Perseverance

Montclair State junior crowned Miss New Jersey Earth USA 2021

Teni Bello always seeks to help people and serve the people through community outreach.  
Photo courtesy of Teni Bello  
In 2018, Bello travelled to Nigeria to distribute care packages to people in need.  
Photo courtesy of Teni Bello

Teni Bello is a junior sports communication major at Montclair State University. In addition to being a student, she is also a model who was recently crowned Miss New Jersey Earth USA 2021.

Her mother, originally from Nigeria, is a single mother of five children. Despite living in poverty, her mother always managed to give the best to Bello and her siblings.

While growing up, Bello was never interested in the world of modeling or pageantry. She loved playing sports like football or soccer with her cousins and had a special place in her heart for track and field.

However, everything changed when Bello received an unexpected letter of recommendation to join an exclusive organization.

“It was around fifth grade. I got a letter in the mail to this organization called National American Miss,” Bello said. “It was talking about how this organization is built towards building young adults and ladies for pageantry.”

In order to receive a letter, however, one must be nominated.

“I got recommended by someone who, until this very day, I don’t even know,” Bello said. “I guess someone who competed in the pageant the year before.”

She began pageantry in 2012 and has been competing every summer since.

Each time, she was improving her skills by learning from the other contestants who made the top five, as well as learning more about the industry.

Without a doubt, the best moments come at the most unexpected times.

For Bello, that event came last year after winning the Miss New Jersey Earth USA title at a time when she wanted to give pageantry a break.

“The day after the New Jersey USA pageant, someone introduced me to this pageant system [Miss New Jersey Earth], and they recommended I should compete for the state pageant literally a week from [that day],” Bello said. “So, I had a week to prepare for that pageant and I was like, ‘How am I going to prepare for a pageant in a week?’

Despite being unsure about competing, Bello won. Winning was both a surprise and a blessing at the same time. It took a whole week to digest the great news for both her and her family, especially for her mother, who has supported her daughter in her pageant career from the beginning, despite facing her own challenges.

In 2018, Bello and her family were evicted from their own house after returning from a trip to Nigeria.

“My mom and I tried to get into the house and it was locked,” Bello said. “We tried to call the landlord and they said we [weren’t allowed to] get into the house no more.”

During that whole week, Bello and her family had to live in her mother’s car, shower in the house of one of their neighbors every morning to get ready for school and eat fast food every day.

[“Me and my brother] would go to school with smiles on our faces and people wouldn’t know what was actually going on,” Bello said.

This experience strengthened her as a person and helped her willingness to give back to homeless people in similar situations. Winning Miss New Jersey Earth USA 2021 allowed her to help others and become the voice of the voiceless.

Bello has been director of several events for campus recreation such as the Sleep Out event that took place this March at Montclair State. She also created a non-profit organization called Teenersity, a project which helps displaced youth to motivate themselves to work and follow their dreams of getting ahead in life.

Danny Livingston, a senior communication and media arts major, has heard about Teenersity and thinks this concept will make a difference in the future of many young people.

“It’s inspiring,” Livingston said. “It shows how [Bello] is willing to put the work in to assist the future generation for those who are less fortunate.”

Many Montclair State University students like Terry Dickerson, a sophomore journalism and digital media major, have been inspired by the good energy Bello radiates through her projects and goals. Dickerson even had her on her show “The Morning Buzz” on 90.3 WMSC.

“Her perseverance and care for her community really [shined] through during our conversation,” Dickerson said. “I love how she has been able to turn her struggles into strengths, which I believe allows her to be such a great advocate for the well-being of all people.”

Continuing to spread positivity, Bello sends a message to all Montclair State students about fulfilling their dreams and goals, as well as helping in a variety of ways through community service.

“Don’t let what you’ve done define you,” Bello said. “Use your story to help others.”
Anna McCabe Adds Unique Flair to the Creative Field

Samantha Bailey
Feature Editor

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has made us all more acutely aware of the importance of creativity in our daily lives. The next in the line of proactive and creative students is junior visual communication design major, Anna McCabe.

McCabe started her sticker shop at the start of 2021. Since the beginning, marketing her business has been a fun challenge. McCabe uses platforms like Instagram, TikTok and even her own blog to promote her artwork. She likes to design things that she enjoys first and foremost.

"[Designs] really all start out as doodles that pop into my head," McCabe said. "The cow print, I call it the 'Legalize It' sticker, is my favorite design right now."

There are three designs for sale on her website right now, a ‘Legalize It’ holographic sticker, a ‘Legalize It’ matte sticker and a sad clown-cowboy sticker.

Before running her own sticker shop, she sold her designs through a third-party site called Redbubble. Unfortunately, Redbubble wasn’t giving their artists the cut they deserved from each sale.

That’s when McCabe turned from being a designer to an entrepreneur.

"Buying and selling through Redbubble, they really take a huge portion of the money you would actually make if you just started selling the stickers yourself," McCabe said. "I realized I would be making more money if I did all of this myself."

Eventually, McCabe would like to expand her designs, but because she must buy them in bulk from her sticker supplier, it’s the most fiscally responsible decision to keep her designs limited.

Despite not having too many designs for sale, she has seen a rise in sales since she opened her own shop and moved on from Redbubble.

"I feel like it’s a much more personal experience when you sell through your own website," McCabe said. "Especially because I do have a blog, they’re able to get email updates from me after ordering."

The majority of her clientele is from Montclair State. Alyssa Sierra, a junior visual communication design major, had a great experience buying McCabe’s favorite sticker.

"I met [McCabe] through [Montclair State’s] Visual Communication Design department and she was promoting her shop on Instagram," Sierra said. "My experience was great; she was a quick seller with high quality and she even personalized it by writing my name on her thank you cards."

One of McCabe’s favorite parts of shipping her orders is her personalized thank you notes that go inside each one.

"Shipping the orders out myself and writing handmade notes, thanking the people for purchasing from me is really rewarding," McCabe said.

Another customer, junior fashion studies major Aryanna Salmon, had an equally positive experience buying from McCabe.

"She is so thoughtful and gave me a free sticker," Salmon said. "[McCabe] is a kind and underrated person at [Montclair State]. She has an amazing eye for design and everyone must see her work."

Not only is McCabe a talented designer, but she is also an extremely skilled photographer who you can book for photo shoots.

"Having your own website, they really take a huge portion of the money you would actually make if you just started selling the stickers yourself," McCabe said. "I realized I would be making more money if I did all of this myself."

Eventually, McCabe would like to expand her designs, but because she must buy them in bulk from her sticker supplier, it’s the most fiscally responsible decision to keep her designs limited.

The majority of her clientele is from Montclair State. Alyssa Sierra, a junior visual communication design major, had a great experience buying McCabe’s favorite sticker.

"I met [McCabe] through [Montclair State’s] Visual Communication Design department and she was promoting her shop on Instagram," Sierra said. "My experience was great; she was a quick seller with high quality and she even personalized it by writing my name on her thank you cards."

One of McCabe’s favorite parts of shipping her orders is her personalized thank you notes that go inside each one.

"Shipping the orders out myself and writing handmade notes, thanking the people for purchasing from me is really rewarding," McCabe said.

Another customer, junior fashion studies major Aryanna Salmon, had an equally positive experience buying from McCabe.

"She is so thoughtful and gave me a free sticker," Salmon said. "[McCabe] is a kind and underrated person at [Montclair State]. She has an amazing eye for design and everyone must see her work."

Not only is McCabe a talented designer, but she is also an extremely skilled photographer who you can book for photo shoots.

"Having your own website, they really take a huge portion of the money you would actually make if you just started selling the stickers yourself," McCabe said. "I realized I would be making more money if I did all of this myself."

Eventually, McCabe would like to expand her designs, but because she must buy them in bulk from her sticker supplier, it’s the most fiscally responsible decision to keep her designs limited.

Despite not having too many designs for sale, she has seen a rise in sales since she opened her own shop and moved on from Redbubble.

"I feel like it’s a much more personal experience when you sell through your own website," McCabe said. "Especially because I do have a blog, they’re able to get email updates from me after ordering."

The majority of her clientele is from Montclair State. Alyssa Sierra, a junior visual communication design major, had a great experience buying McCabe’s favorite sticker.

"I met [McCabe] through [Montclair State’s] Visual Communication Design department and she was promoting her shop on Instagram," Sierra said. "My experience was great; she was a quick seller with high quality and she even personalized it by writing my name on her thank you cards."

One of McCabe’s favorite parts of shipping her orders is her personalized thank you notes that go inside each one.

"Shipping the orders out myself and writing handmade notes, thanking the people for purchasing from me is really rewarding," McCabe said.

Another customer, junior fashion studies major Aryanna Salmon, had an equally positive experience buying from McCabe.

"She is so thoughtful and gave me a free sticker," Salmon said. "[McCabe] is a kind and underrated person at [Montclair State]. She has an amazing eye for design and everyone must see her work."

Not only is McCabe a talented designer, but she is also an extremely skilled photographer who you can book for photo shoots.

"Having your own website, they really take a huge portion of the money you would actually make if you just started selling the stickers yourself," McCabe said. "I realized I would be making more money if I did all of this myself."

Eventually, McCabe would like to expand her designs, but because she must buy them in bulk from her sticker supplier, it’s the most fiscally responsible decision to keep her designs limited.
What is the biggest challenge you’ve had to overcome?

By John LaRosa, Photo Editor

“Loss. Losing my house to a fire, almost three years next month.”

Leah Ramos
Freshman
Psychology major

“School. It’s always been a difficult thing in my life. I was supposed to [graduate] this summer but class is holding me back.”

Frank Melfa
Senior
Information Technology major
“School. I do find it a little bit hard. I’m actually new to this school, I transferred and it’s my second semester. I’m finding this semester a bit harder because of family stuff that’s going on. I’ve had a recent loss also, so I’m guessing that’s why its making it a little bit difficult.”

Heidalit Vara-Ramirez
Junior
Biology major

“Myself. Self-sabotage, you know, I had a lot of that but I kind of worked through it over the years. And now instead of being like ‘I can’t do this,’ I’ll be like, ‘maybe I can and believe in myself’.”

Ellie Gressman
Sophomore
Public Relations and Social Media major

“Death. The death of my grandma. It took me awhile to adjust without seeing her every day. She lived down the street from me, we liked to take random trips together, we went to random towns, got lunch.”

Tess Coffey
Freshman
Psychology major
HELP WANTED

PART-TIME BABYSITTER

My name is Paul LaCaruba. My family is moving into North Caldwell, but we are long time Essex County residents. My mother is a former Montclair State employee and I was a long-term hockey player at Floyd Hall. We have two kids — a 14 month old girl (toddling around speaking gibberish) and a 3 and 1/2 year old boy (loves playing trucks and building things). They are great together. We are looking for babysitting help in the afternoons from roughly 3-7pm. This would be for 3 days per week, preferably Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

If interested, please email placaruba@gmail.com.

PART-TIME BABYSITTER

Seeking a part-time babysitter/mother’s helper for one or two kids (12 mos and 3 years) in Kinnelon, NJ. Seeking a sitter for spring, summer, and fall with availability within Monday-Friday 11am-6pm (negotiable). The perfect candidate is punctual, communicative and a strong leader. We are looking for someone who is fully vaccinated and has excellent references, infant experience, and CPR certification.

Please reply to 347-870-7757 if interested.

AFTER-SCHOOL SITTER

Looking for after-school sitter for a sweet 4-year-old boy. Hours are M-F 3:30-5:30pm for $20/hr. Must be vaccinated and punctual. Opportunities for more hours and pay are available if desired. Ideal candidate is studying speech therapy or ABA approach as he is in a preschool ABA classroom with delayed communication.

Please reply to 973-495-3670 if interested.

DAY CAMP COUNSELOR & TEACHER

Ramapo Country Day Camp is seeking college students who have an interest in working with kids in their future. Perfect fit for education, psychology, sociology, and nursing students. Group counselor & teaching jobs available. Camp runs from June 27-August 19. Monday through Friday, 9am-4pm. Located 30 minutes from MSU, next to Mahwah, Ramsey, Ridgewood and Montvale.

If interested, visit www.ramapocamp.com and www.ramapocamp.com/staff-application or contact 845-356-6440.
PUZZLES

Teen Dramas Edition

By Kayla Carlamere

Across
5. The life of an everyday high school student and average lacrosse player is changed forever when he is bit by a werewolf one night in the woods. (2011-2017)
6. She seeks out and destroys demons, forces of darkness and—most notably—vampires, employing the help of her friends and allies and still attending high school. (1997-2003)
7. A rag-tag group of teens go on a hunt for a legendary treasure that is somehow connected to the disappearance of a key member's father. (2020-present)
8. They all used to be best friends until one girl in the group went missing—now they are receiving anonymous text messages threatening to reveal their secrets. (2010-2017)

Word Search

Down
1. The privileged teens of a Manhattan prep school still face challenges, especially regarding a notorious blogger who exposes all their secrets and scandals. (2007-2012)
2. A young, grieving teenager’s life is flipped upside down when she meets two vampire brothers after they return home to the small, mysterious Virginia town. (2009-2017)
3. Four teens—a football player, the girl-next-door, the sultry new girl and a cynical writer—living in a small American town help to solve the murder of a fellow high school student, followed by an increasing list of wilder mysteries. (2017-present)
4. A wannabe filmmaker’s relationship with his childhood best friend is strained as she catches feelings for him and they realize things are different now that they are teenagers. (1998-2003)

Sudoku

6 1 5 9
8 5
4 6 7 3
3 4 1
2 1
6 8 5
5 2
9 3 1
6
Why You’ll See Me in ‘The College Tour’

I someone had told me a year ago I would fall in love with Montclair State University, I wouldn’t have believed them – falling in love with your school during a global pandemic is as hard as you might think.

When I was first applying to schools, I knew I would go to a public university, but I definitely did not want to. The environment in my high school made it seem like going to a public university wouldn’t provide nearly the same level of education as private institutions. When I started to immerse myself at Montclair State, I realized how wrong they were.

That’s why when I was approached to represent Montclair State as part of “The College Tour,” a streaming show that lets prospective students take a virtual tour of colleges and universities, it wasn’t even a question.

I started at Montclair State remotely in the fall of 2020. I believe you can’t become attached to a school if you don’t get to know it, so I started putting myself out there through community service projects with the Bonner Leader Program at Montclair State.

In fact, during our first in-person event on campus, I randomly met the person who would soon become my best friend. When I returned to in-person classes as a sophomore, I was so excited I felt like I could skip to class. I’d realized that at Montclair State you can make friends with almost anyone — the friendly atmosphere here is contagious.

I had no reason to be nervous about coming to Montclair State, I just didn’t know what was ahead of me. While getting to be on a show like “The College Tour” is cool, it’s something I wanted to do because if there’s a prospective student trying to find where they’re going to spend the next four years, I’m glad I can be a window into that future. It’s like being able to tell them, “you’re going to enjoy yourself if you take every opportunity that comes at you.”

During my time at Montclair State, I’ve had the opportunity to do things such as help rebuild homes, assist in facilities for people with developmental or physical disabilities and feed the homeless in Atlantic City. Through the course of these service projects, I formed a family-like bond with my fellow Bonners as we put our efforts into causes bigger than all of us.

Looking to the future, I can’t imagine having a career that doesn’t involve me giving back to the community and watching people grow. The only way we’re going to become the best version of society is if we take care of our communities, and Montclair State helped me see that.

Even if community service is not your thing, the environment Montclair State provides for its students is an experience any young adult can benefit from. I’m now a sophomore and have already become so much of the person I’ve dreamed of becoming, and I can’t wait to tell prospective students about it on “The College Tour.”

Sam Wilk, a sophomore psychology and gender, sexuality and women’s studies major, is in her first year as a guest writer for The Montclarion.
Montclair State University has found itself in the midst of a necessary uproar over the administration’s egregious response to sexual violence. It’s repetitive, but still true to say many students feel as though their voices aren’t being heard. Even worse, some claim they are being silenced altogether.

The Office of Residence Life, popularly referred to by students as ResLife, has been at the center of a controversy regarding its own response to reports made by Resident Assistants (RAs) on behalf of students who have been sexually harassed or assaulted. On March 24, the Instagram account @montclarionconfessions made a post detailing an anonymous account made on behalf of another person. It reads, “[My] friend was sexually harassed and assaulted in her dorm room last year, and when her RA told [reslife] about it they fired her RA and never reached out to her. My friend no longer goes to [Montclair State].”

If this is true, it is a horrifying and negligent response on the part of ResLife and its management which only further validates the increasingly common sentiment that Montclair State does not value its students’ wellbeing or safety. It also constitutes an incredibly blatant violation of Title IX regulations.

Administrators at the Office of Residence Life did not respond directly to a request for comment on this issue. Instead, university media relations director Andrew Mees offered a statement, some of which is copied and pasted verbatim from previous responses:

“To protect the privacy of all individuals involved and to comply with laws regarding privacy, the university cannot comment on personnel matters or any individual case of harassment or assault,” Mees said. “However, we can say the university is committed to fostering an environment in which people feel safe, and one in which all members of our community can learn and grow while being treated with respect.”

“We take situations involving potential harassment of any kind extremely seriously. Any claim brought to the university’s attention is thoroughly investigated, and action is taken when appropriate. Any retaliation, of any kind, in a situation like the one you are referencing, would be a violation of Title IX regulations, and would not only be illegal but would contradict the university’s values.”

Yes, it would. The Montclarion would like to take this opportunity to remind the university that as a public institution that receives federal funding, they are obligated to comply with Title IX to maintain that eligibility. The penalty for failure to comply with Title IX is loss of said funding, which would probably be a far more effective motivator for Montclair State to get its act together.

Students are bound to get into bad situations, but heaven forbid the university loses any means to pay off the debts from building Car Parc Diem or fighting a fruitless lawsuit.

This allegation, besides being disturbing of its own accord, feeds into a larger, more sinister depiction of the ResLife administration and its treatment of its student employees. In the resident assistant job description sheet, there is a clause amongst certain employers, usually government agencies who deal with potentially sensitive information. But in recent years it has come under fire from organizations such as the University of Florida’s Brechner Center for Freedom of Information.

A 2019 study by the Brechner Center concluded that private-sector employees have the right to speak to the press under the National Labor Relations Act. As students, it’s debatable what category RAs fall into, but students and employees at public universities are protected by the First Amendment.

So, either way, the stipulation in the RA contract could be considered legally questionable at best and unconstitutional at worst. It raises the obvious question of why exactly ResLife is so concerned its employees might say something negative about its administration or the university in the first place. But it also potentially obstructs a vital means of transparency regarding what goes on in ResLife.

After all, ResLife has no way of knowing whether a student employee’s statement to the press will “reflect negatively” on them unless they specifically ask them what they plan to say, and the clause does continue to say employees must ask for specific permission if they wish to speak to the press. This means the only transparency happening is between employee and employer, and whether it goes farther than that is entirely up to those whose sole interests lie in protecting their collective reputation.

Maybe it’s largely due to the current controversy playing out on campus, but this entire thing stinks. One way or another, no matter what Montclair State decides to do in the name of preserving its image, the truth will out. No one can be silenced forever, especially when other voices join them.
### Disney is Disempowering the Next Generation

**SOFIA ACEVEDO VALENCA**

Disney CEO Bob Chapek has been under fire from activists and staff members alike for his slow, lukewarm response to Florida’s Parental Rights in Education Bill. More accurately dubbed as the “Don’t Say Gay” bill, this proposal involves a statewide ban on LGBT+ instruction in grade schools, thus endangering queer children, queer teachers and their allies. To fan the flames, Disney also funded every single one of the bill’s sponsors, though that funding has been paused as of March 11.

On March 7, Chapek apologized to his LGBT+ employees for his long held silence. He’s an excerpt from his memo that caught my attention.

> “We all share the same goal of a more tolerant, respectful world,” Chapek said. 

> “Where we may differ is in the tactics to get there. And because this struggle is much bigger than any one bill in any one state, I believe the best way for our company to bring about lasting change is through the inspiring content we create, the welcoming culture we create and the diverse community organizations we support.”

Reading this gave me some of the most intense second-hand embarrassment I’ve experienced in a while.

Firstly, “any one bill in any one state” is not something to scoff at, especially when it has vast potential to harm an entire state’s education system and has already been unilaterally endorsed by its governor. This “one bill” proposes to alienate queer and questioning children, and breed homophobic and transphobic ideas—after all, banning a topic from the classroom insinuates that something is wrong with it.

If these students do not feel seen, they will never have a chance at feeling heard, which directly conflicts with Disney’s pledge to “empower the next generation.”

Secondly, the idea that the Walt Disney Company does not have a large enough political and social platform to actively combat the “Don’t Say Gay” bill is willfully ignorant. According to the University of Miami, the population of Orlando has increased over six times since Disney World’s opening 50 years ago; the park attracts 50 million visitors annually and employs 70,000 staff members. It also largely contributed to the $75.2 billion earned by Orlando’s tourism sector in 2019.

Chapek’s phrasing depicts Disney as a humble art studio, rather than a media giant that has a chokehold on America’s entertainment industry—rather than a company that has been instrumental to Florida’s economic growth since its theme park’s inception. Storytelling is powerful, but Disney clearly has the money to provide support in a far more actionable, concrete way.

Lastly—and certainly not least of all—while Disney has been making great strides in their representation of diverse cultures, they have done very little for sexuality and gender identity. They only have a handful of openly LGBT+ characters in their movie lineup, and all references to these characters’ sexuality are fleeting.

Le Fou, from the live-action remake of “Beauty and the Beast,” served as Disney’s “first openly gay character” by throwing some wistful glances at Gaston, and having (genuinely!) two seconds of on-screen, out-of-the-closet time in the film’s final scene. The rest of their token gay characters mainly stay in the background.

To oversimplify, Disney has a lot of work to do if it actually wants to prove its allyship.

Sophia Caparros, a junior animation and illustration major, is in her first year as an illustrator for The Montclarion.

---

### The Bigoted Rhetoric of Right-Wing Legislators

**SOPHIA CAPARROS**

Anyone up to date with current events in America has heard of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson’s confirmation hearings as a Supreme Court nominee. One would expect the questions asked to Jackson to be focused on her qualifications or capacity to serve as a Supreme Court justice. Instead, a few Republican senators have resorted to unreasonable behavior, manipulative tactics and an overall lack of decorum.

These trials and tribulations that a Black woman like Jackson must go through only serve as tools for Republicans to tear her down, get a handle and do the bare minimum to combat child predators. Labeling Jackson as a sex offender sympathizer is a pathetic attempt at attacking her character. If Hawley wants to keep sexual aggressors from making life-changing decisions for our country, examining the multiple sexual assault scandals of some of the Supreme Court justices would be a good place to start.

Then again, that wouldn’t make him any less of a hypocrite and liar. Cruz also tried to taint Jackson’s reputation with the book “Antiracist Baby” by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, one of the titles on critical race theory allegedly taught at Georgetown Day School, whose board Cruz is on. I found it most disgusting when Cruz found it appropriate to ask her if she thought babies were racist as he vigorously fiddled with poster-sized pictures of the children’s book. The inconceivable line of questioning drew a long pause from Jackson, who likely contemplated why a woman of color who has excelled at every single level of her field of work such as herself had to sit there and listen to Cruz spill the most horrendous verbal vomit in existence.

It’s a surface-level assessment of what insecure men really think of independent and strong women. Republican senators are attacking Jackson even though she is more qualified than most of the Supreme Court justices, feeling threatened by her success and composure at their constant attacks.

Most importantly, they’re afraid of what her addition to the Supreme Court would mean for key constitutional issues. If you haven’t gotten the chance to see anything other than the tramwreck of the Republican senators questioning of Jackson, here’s a transcript of Jackson and Democratic Georgia Sen. Jon Ossoff having a professional discussion about key Constitutional protections.

President Joe Biden’s nomination of Jackson is an attempt to make the Supreme Court mirror the diversity of the American people, the bastion of racism and sexism that she had been subjected to by many Republican senators show that they’re not invested in respecting or giving minority groups a voice. Jackson deserves a fair chance and the treatment of any other Supreme Court nominee.

Sofia Acevedo Valencia, a sophomore television and film major with a minor in creative writing, is in her first year as a staff writer for The Montclarion.
A No-Fly Zone over Ukraine Would Prove Disastrous

On March 7, the Guggenheim Museum in Manhattan was filled with protestors throwing hundreds of paper airplanes off the museum’s spiral inner rampway in support of a no-fly zone over Ukraine. A hollow, bizarre gesture, albeit backed by popular demand, would prove far too disastrous than any of us can handle, and it’s naïve to assume otherwise.

A CBS News/YouGov poll conducted between March 8 and 11 showed that 59% of people said they would support a no-fly zone. But according to research by the TRIP Project, only 7% of polled international relations experts advocated for imposing a no-fly zone, the most unified response from their experts.

Why are experts so opposed to a no-fly zone? First, having to shoot down Russian planes is a high-stakes move for NATO to make, undoubtedly dragging us into World War III. The logic is essentially this: it’s going to happen eventually, so why not handle it now? But Putin’s initial strategy has so far been unsuccessful. The West couldn’t have guessed the strength of the Ukrainian resistance and Russia has suffered unforeseen consequences.

On March 11, The Washington Post reported that Russia has yet to achieve air superiority, which would be decisive in their victory, and the Ukrainian military released a statement via Facebook listing Russian military losses. In other words, the Russians were unprepared for the resilience of the Ukrainian people. This doesn’t mean that Ukraine will decisively win the war, but the initial strategy of invasion is failing. This is also why Putin is threatening the nuclear option in Ukraine which would force American and NATO allies to become more involved than they’re currently willing to be.

Although it’s unclear if Ukraine will win, Ukrainian officials have announced they’re inching closer to peace talks with Russia, hinting that Putin must be way over his head to now turn to diplomacy. Since the Ukrainians are putting up a brave and sustained fight and have also received immense support from NATO, they are not going to give up any time soon.

If diplomacy and negotiations are becoming more feasible, then why are still so many in support of an escalating no-fly zone? For starters, Putin’s war crimes are indefensible; his military has bombed a maternity hospital, schools and countless apartment complexes, killing thousands of civilians and even children. For Americans, especially those who purport our nation to be the universal standard of freedom, killing thousands of civilians and even children are indefensible; his military has bombed a maternity hospital, schools and countless apartment complexes, killing thousands of civilians and even children.

For Americans, especially those who purport our nation to be the universal standard of freedom, killing thousands of civilians and even children are indefensible; his military has bombed a maternity hospital, schools and countless apartment complexes, killing thousands of civilians and even children. For Americans, especially those who purport our nation to be the universal standard of freedom, killing thousands of civilians and even children are indefensible; his military has bombed a maternity hospital, schools and countless apartment complexes, killing thousands of civilians and even children.

People also doubt if Russia will uphold these negotiations, but now is not the time to allow emotion to override safety. As Putin’s army suffers heavy losses, he’s learning a lesson in what will happen if he continues this war. If he eventually planned to invade a NATO country, then the resistance from Ukraine is only a taste of what’s to come, where the consequences from NATO will be even more disastrous for him and for everyone.

The threat of World War III or nuclear war is and should be enough to reject a no-fly zone. Perhaps Americans don’t realize just how infeasible nuclear war really is. With the strategy of mutually assured destruction, a nuclear war could mean the destruction of the U.S. and Europe, including Russia which could then trigger a mass extinction of all humanity.

One war in Ukraine is significantly less disastrous than either World War III or a nuclear war that affects the entire planet and we should never underestimate Putin’s ability to pursue the nuclear option even though it may feel like he’s holding us all hostage with his threats.

So perhaps what these paper airplane throwers at the Guggenheim fail to realize is that a no-fly zone involves shooting down Russian planes, and a no-fly zone undoubtedly leads to World War III which pushes us even closer to nuclear war.

To quote Twitter user @yurirando, “I cannot think of a more [American] thing than bourgeois freaks demanding nuclear war by throwing children’s toys on the ground for someone else to pick up.”

Daniel Marx, a senior English and French major is in his first year as a guest writer for The Montclarion.
“The Dinner Date” – Alex Pavljuk

“Oh bless his heart,” said the older server, who smelled of cigarettes and fryer oil. She and another server watched a young man sitting alone at a table set for two. “I wonder who he’s waiting on?”

The small and wobbly cocktail table was situated in a dark corner of the dining room just around the bend from the bar. The glow of red-tinted lamps shrouded the man, who tapped his fingers on the thinly laid plastic sheet that covered a white linen table cloth. His fingertips chased the shadow of a small candle that illuminated from the bottom of a glass which probably would have made more sense holding flowers.

Sighing deeply he looked down into his plate of antipasto, searching between the rolls of provolone and ripened green olives for an answer as to how this could have happened again. He rubbed his eyes gently. The young man checked his watch. It was 9:47.

“You don’t you go talk to him?” the older server said before hitting her chest to try and keep a cough in. “I know infatuation sweetie, you’re certainly given him the look.”

“You don’t know what you’re talking about, Robyn,” the younger one said softly. Now Robyn was the one whose eyes rolled. Slyly, she shifted the cart out of the way.

“Go out there and flirt...or don’t, what do I care?” She then coughed despite her chest-patting routine. “I’m gonna get another smoke.”

Unsure of herself and her disheveled work attire, she gently fixed the short white tie that tucked into the crevasse between the third and fourth buttons on her dress shirt, which was actively sporting a stain from their weekend special, rigatoni in red with spicy braciole.

Breathing deeply, she stepped forward towards the empty chair. She stood only a foot from him, just the short length of the table separating them.

“Would you like another glass?” she asked softly. A moment passed before he noticed she was there, and he looked up from his plate.

“Oh, no...no thank you miss.” He tried to keep his short and stabbing breath to himself. “I...I think the check is probably okay actually,” She nodded, unsure of how to climb back from this. She turned but only made it half a step.

“When were they supposed to be here?” she then asked abruptly, swinging around to face the man. He looked at her, in disbelief at the beauty that was locked behind her eyes.

“This isn’t the first time this has happened, huh?” His head fell again. “It’s okay, I’ve seen you here before. Same person?” He nodded. “Don’t let me tell you how to live your life but if the same girl keeps sticking you up but insisting that she still wants to see you,” she paused and looked around, “she just wants to keep a nice, and...really cute guy like you on the line,” She leaned in. “It’s just not fair.” Their gaze now locked. “Wha...what’s your, your name?” he stuttered.

Before she could get the words out a set of freshly manicured fingers crawled over his shoulder.

The arrival of this disembodied phantom was unexpected. Slowly the waitress slinked away amidst reluctant salutations, shoulders pressed to the floor with embarrassment.

He watched her walk away, gaze transfixed still. Every time she came back out to bring them something, he couldn’t take his eyes from her. Discontent and utterly deflated, she walked back over with a supportive pat from Robyn. Arriving at the table to collect the check, which was left beneath the salt and pepper shaker, she lifted the receipt. At the bottom, it read:

Call me, my name is Arthur and I’d rather buy you a drink.
Nicki Minaj Reveals Herself as Rocky the Red Hawk

Hannah Effinger
Production Assistant

The Montclair State University community has been Rocky-ed by artist Nicki Minaj's most recent Instagram post. In the post, Minaj addresses recent rumors that she has taken up a side hustle as Montclair State's beloved mascot, Rocky the Red Hawk.

"The rumors are true," Minaj said.

The announcement comes shortly after images emerged of Minaj on Montclair State's campus riding in the Team Rocky golf cart shortly after the mascot made an appearance at the Student Center. Many believed Minaj to be in the Rocky suit but were given no official confirmation from the university or Minaj until her post on March 31. Students shared mixed reactions to this news.

Carly Delucca, a junior sustainability science major, said she is a big fan of Minaj and is looking forward to her becoming a part of the Montclair State community.

"I'm really excited about it," Delucca said. "Her verse on 'Monster' is such a slap, so next time I see Rocky I'm going to beg her to perform it.

Monica Smeraldo, a senior visual communications design major, shared how happy this announcement made her.

"When I found out that Queen Nicki was in fact the talent under Rocky's hood, everything suddenly made sense," Smeraldo said.

Smeraldo was very emotional and began crying as the full weight of the announcement hit her.

"I welled with tears in my eyes and my heart to know these two icons of our generation are one and the same," Smeraldo said through tears.

"I'm not ashamed to cry at this beautiful Hannah Montana moment for our school."

Meg Pernica, a senior fashion studies major, said she has always had a close relationship with the bird, yet was shocked by the news.

"Rocky has been my best friend since freshman year," Pernica said. "But he's never felt safe enough to let his true colors show until now.

Pernica had noticed a change in Rocky's behavior whenever Nicki Minaj played but did not correlate the two until now.

"Rocky's always been quiet, unless Nicki Minaj's greatest hits are playing," Pernica said. "When I found out he was indeed Queen Nicki, I was shocked, scared, but I finally understood why he knows every word to 'Anaconda.'"

The university has declined to comment on the situation.

DISCLAIMER: All articles on Pages 19 through 21 are April Fools' Day articles. Though they may relate to real people or events, they are not factual.

SPOOF

Montclair State Student Watches ‘March of the Penguins’ 82 Times

Zachary Abbruscato
Guest Writer

How far would you go for your favorite movie of all time?

Let's be honest with ourselves, we all have our own favorite movie. But how many times would you watch that movie? Or rather, what would you do for your favorite movie?

Junior Maggie Aube is in love with the film “March of the Penguins.” So much so that she has watched the film 82 times.

"82 times?!!" you say, "That's just the number I have so far. I'm gonna go crazy-gaga whenever Nicki Minaj plays it," Delucca said. "Her verse on 'Monster' is such a slap, so next time I see Rocky I'm going to beg her to perform it."

When I asked Aube why she had watched the film 82 times considering she adored this movie, let alone enough to watch it 82 times.

Senior communication studies major and longtime friend Tina Petriello defended Aube.

"I can't justify her watching the film 82 times considering I haven't seen it," Petriello said. "The fact that she has counted through is concerning, but that doesn't mean I'm not going to stand by my friend and her favorite film."

"Listen I cannot stop thinking about those penguins and their bravery," Aube said. "Not all heroes wear capes, and that also reigns true for our flightless allies."

When I asked Aube why 82 times specifically, she said, "That's just the number I have so far. I'm gonna go crazy-gaga after my 83rd watch though.

As a theatre studies major at Montclair State, Aube has always prioritized a good work ethic and strong leadership skills, much like the emperor penguins who must lead their herds through the -80 degree Fahrenheit weather in the Arctic.

I always felt this was the reason Aube was so attached to these penguins. When asked about this, she just told me "to shut up."

I figured if Aube was going to keep these questions from me, I would ask the people around her to figure out why she adored this movie, let alone enough to watch it 82 times.

Senior communication studies major and longtime friend Tina Petriello defended Aube.

"I can't justify her watching the film 82 times considering I haven't seen it," Petriello said. "The fact that she has counted through is concerning, but that doesn't mean I'm not going to stand by my friend and her favorite film."

To follow up with this, junior theatre studies major Zoe LeRose revealed how far Aube's attachment to the movie goes.

"She has given names to the penguins as if she knows them," LeRose said. "One of them I think is Dimitri, the father emperor penguin."

While everyone I interviewed had not experienced the film with her, junior family science and human development major Angela Rose Massa has noticed Aube's mood after watching.

"I, unfortunately, have never had a chance to watch ‘March of the Penguins’ with [Aube]," Massa said. "But one time I hung out with her right after she had finished, [which] I think it was her 44th rewatch, and she was just in such a high, godly place after so recently finishing her favorite film. Like she was floating after watching this movie."

Some professionals might tell you watching the same thing over and over again might not be the greatest thing for the brain. But that is not going to stop Aube from making 82 viewings 83, which is the next big milestone in her “March of the Penguins” journey.

Senior filmmaking major and ally Vick Gonzalez relates to Aube's venture.

"I spent all of 2020 watching The Muppets Movie, 20 times, so I respect her endeavors," Gonzalez said. We are all rooting for Aube and her march with the “March of the Penguins.”

Montclair State Student Watches ‘March of the Penguins’ 82 Times

Hannah Effinger
The Montclarion

Nicki Minaj poses in the Rocky suit. Hannah Effinger | The Montclarion

Aube and her prized possession, her “March of the Penguins” official poster. Hannah Effinger | The Montclarion

PAGE 19

The Montclarion • March 31, 2022 • PAGE 19
Alpha Chi Rho Secretary Taking Taylor Swift to Fraternity Formal

Samantha Bailey
Feature Editor

UPDATE: Corey Annan did in fact bring Taylor Swift to formal.

Can you imagine how it would feel to take your celebrity crush to your school event? Senior television and digital media major Corey Annan is about to do just that.

At the start of the semester, Annan knew he had to do something memorable for his last few months at Montclair State University. He asked his friends in his fraternity for ideas to help spark something in his brain. One of the brothers asked, “How crazy would it be if we got a celebrity to come to our formal?” And that’s when Annan knew exactly what to do.

As a long-time Taylor Swift fan, he knew there was only one celebrity he’d want to accompany him as his date.

“I’m always listening to her,” Annan said. “In my car, on my walk through campus and especially if I’m on AUX at a party.”

Now that Annan knew who he wanted to ask, he had to figure out how he would ask her.

He then realized the best way to do it was through social media.

“I had seen people ask other celebrities to prom on social media and they always got a lot of attention,” Annan said. “That had to be the only way to get [Swift].”

Annan coerced his friends from The Montclarion to help him create a TikTok to Swift’s song “You Belong With Me.” He ended the video with a sign that read “Will you go to formal with me?”

Within a few days, Annan’s video had reached over 2 million TikTok accounts and racked up 600,000 likes. The comments were encouraging; many people were tagging Swift or saying how much they loved the video.

“I owe a lot of the attention I was getting to my TikTok audience,” Annan said. “They really helped me.”

After a few weeks, Annan almost forgot about the proposal, until he was on Twitter and saw that Swift had retweeted his video with the comment “I LOVE this! #Swifties are the best.”

Annan, naturally, was freaking out. He immediately tweeted back to Swift a thank you message.

Another couple of days had passed when he then received an email from Taylor Nation, Swift’s PR team. He was so surprised when he read the message.

“Taylor’s team basically reached out and said that Taylor would love to accompany me to my formal,” Annan said. “They asked for my school name and the date of the formal. We went back and forth with emails and then they sent me her flight confirmation and a personal note from Taylor saying how excited she was to go and that she’s never been to a dance before.”

In a few short weeks, Annan will be walking into his fraternity formal with his lifelong crush. He’s excited to dance with her, especially to one specific song.

“I’m going to ask the DJ to play [Swift’s] song ‘Lover’ so we can dance to it,” Annan said. “You never know what may come from it.”

Taylor Swift poses with Corey Annan at a fraternity event. Hannah Effinger | The Montclarion

Rocky and Roxy: More than Siblings?

Maddye Below-Boxer
Opinion Editor

Exactly how long has this incestuous tryst been going on? As the saying goes, “birds of a feather flock together.” But is that all they do?

Rocky, Montclair State University’s beloved mascot, comes from a rather large extended family who seem to have a history of dysfunction. Rocky’s demented-looking cousin, Ricky, a cloistered shut-in who apparently only leaves the confines of the nest once a year. But Rocky is far from the most disturbing family secret the Red Hawk family has.

Roxy, Rocky’s unnaturally red sister, seems to be more than family to Rocky. The pair have been seen wing-in-wing together more than once on campus, and Roxy features exclusively in Rocky’s Valentine’s Day posts on Instagram.

What’s more, Roxy used to be known only as Rocky’s girlfriend. But at some point, she was given her own branch on the family tree and now sits perched uncomfortably close to Rocky, both literally and metaphorically.

Apparently, the two lovebirds haven’t gotten the memo that
Meet The Red Hawk Female Football Player Who Has An Iron Leg

Samantha "Iron Leg" Nungesser is probably built more like a collegiate offensive lineman than a kicker.

Hannah Effinger | The Montclarion

Corey Annan
Sports Editor

At 6'2, 260 pounds, Samantha "Iron Leg" Nungesser is probably built more like a collegiate offensive lineman than a kicker, considering her arms and legs have been compared to tree trunks. However, these "tree trunk" legs have led scouts to consider her as a first-round pick in the upcoming 2022 NFL draft. The senior journalism major from Ocean Township, New Jersey is looking to become the first female football player to compete in a professional men's football league.

"It's been a dream of mine to play in the league ever since I got plastic surgery on my body to make myself look like a bodybuilder," Nungesser said. "Playing at the highest level gives me the chance to show off my god-given talent and make a ton of money."

Despite receiving multiple Division I offers, Nungesser was deemed ineligible to compete at that level due to getting suspended for stealing students' lunch money. After that, the only schools that would contact her were Division III institutions.

"I chose Montclair State because I wanted to stay close to home," Nungesser said. "Plus, I heard they had an amazing journalism program, which is my backup plan just in case I don't become the greatest NFL kicker of all time."

Certainly, Nungesser will be a highly touted pick after compiling one of the greatest seasons by a kicker in Red Hawk history. She smashed numerous program and national records as a Red Hawk, including field goals made in a game (7), field goals made in a season (38) and field goals made (79).

"Being the first girl kicker to start at Montclair State is such an honor, but honestly, I expected myself to have this level of success," Nungesser said. "My plastic surgeon told me that my iron leg would take me far in life, and here I am as a woman amongst boys in Division III. It's a dream come true."

While "Iron Leg Sammy" may come off as a very stoic figure, teammates and coaches have mentioned that she can get very "vocal" before games. "We were warming up on the field prior to our conference championship game and I saw Sam screaming the lyrics to 'Champagne Problems' by Taylor Swift while stretching," special teams coordinator Mike Palazzo said. "While this creeped me out at first, she eventually made me listen to the whole 'Evermore' album and it made me a Swiftie. She converted seven 80-yard field goals that day."

With all of the illustrious moments Nungesser has had in her football career thus far, her favorite memory as a Red Hawk may surprise you. "My favorite memory was when I got the boys to watch 'Bridgerton' and they all cried when Daphne and Simon finally fell in love," Nungesser said.

Meet Rocky and Roxy (Continued from Page 20)

they are in fact related by bird blood, because I thankfully don’t know any siblings who act the way Rocky and Roxy do. One member of Team Rocky, who chose to remain anonymous due to the long-term psychological damage they have suffered, came forward with their own story.

"I chose Montclair State because I was out on campus with the team for Valentine's Day, so Roxy was there," the source said, talking around the cigarette between their lips. "As we went back to the golf cart, I was walking behind Roxy and Rocky, and I saw them caressing each other’s tail feathers. I honestly couldn’t believe what I was seeing."

They are not the only one who’s been affected by this disturbing relationship. I reached out to Rocky and Roxy’s respective families for more context. Rocky’s parents refused to speak with me, and Roxy’s father openly wept into the phone for over three minutes before hanging up.

Exactly how long has this incestuous tryst been going on?

How are we to comprehend the moral conundrum of two lovers who have become siblings through forces outside of their control?

What makes this all the more unsettling is the age gap between Rocky, who turned 20 this past October, and Roxy, who is seven. Please, for the love of all things good in this world, someone tell me age works differently for birds. Of course, everything is different for birds. Who am I to judge Rocky and Roxy based on my most anthropocentric standards of an acceptable relationship? Is there something we can all learn from here?

Nah, probably not.

DISCLAIMER: All articles on Pages 19 through 21 are April Fools’ Day articles. Though they may relate to real people or events, they are not factual.
SPORTS WRITERS WANTED!

E-Mail: montclarionsports@gmail.com

Room 2035, School of Communication and Media in Upper Montclair, NJ, 07043
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
Becca Kaufman
Guest Writer

Montclair State University students, alumni and staff will have the opportunity to witness the soft launch of The School of Communication and Media’s (SCM) new streaming platform — Hawk Plus, the week of April 11.

When we hear the words “streaming platform,” the first thing that comes to mind is likely one of those which you already use on a daily basis as a means to procrastinate your schoolwork. But what if you could procrastinate just as well (if not even better) while tuning into some of the best media Montclair State has to offer?

Most students at Montclair State know what it’s like to jump all over different social media platforms, YouTube pages and live streams to see their friends in their shining moments. In seeing this issue students know all too well, professor and clinical specialist at the SCM Mark Effron took the initiative to give students exactly what they needed.

“I was thinking about all of the different forms of media we have on campus,” Effron said. “And it occurred to me that there wasn’t one place where it all comes together.”

Whether it be a football game, a live performance at Alexander Kasser Theater or one of the many special events on campus, with a schedule packed with classes and hours of studying, it can feel impossible to be everywhere at once.

Hawk Plus presents the perfect solution to this frustrating situation — a place where students will not only be able to live-stream their favorite things but a place to look back to and watch Montclair State media whenever they please.

“This is an absolute game-changer, especially for the many students whose families rarely get to see their moments of stardom while they are away at college. As Hawk Plus starts up soon, students will be able to start viewing live-streamed events all over campus, listen to WMSU’s “Morning Buzz” and catch up on all on-campus athletics with Red Hawk Sports Network’s “Inside the Nest.”

This new service has not only opened up the opportunity for students to watch their five seconds of fame 100 times over, but it creates a plethora of opportunities for students inside the SCM as well.

Senior television and digital media major Joseph Giordano, a Hawk Plus intern, received an irreplaceable experience of learning and growth while working on this project.

Giordano was able to fully learn the ins and outs of what goes into launching a streaming service (not to mention one of the first launched within a university). His role in this project has been nothing short of crucial as he continues to spend his time searching for and providing content for Hawk Plus.

“Students will finally be able to have one place to view all of these things that they’ve been continuously producing,” Giordano said.

“Hawk Plus is going to be a great opportunity for Montclair State students to get involved in,” Breyta said. “To say you’re working on a streaming service is amazing, especially in college. Hawk Plus is going to prepare students to work for companies like Disney, Paramount and Hulu, and I think that sets us apart from many other universities.”

As Hawk Plus launches in the next couple of weeks, students can look forward to accessing all kinds of media on campus — some they may not have even known existed. You can keep up with the new streaming platform on their Instagram, Twitter and Facebook accounts @hawkplustv.

Hawk Plus Makes Its Debut

Montclair State to launch one of the first university-based streaming services.
Soto was not at all hesitant to be a part of this experience and her whole family is excited to see her on TV, but she also hopes it will impact future and current Montclair State students. "I think [‘The College Tour’ episode] will definitely add some Red Hawk pride into a lot of students," Soto said. "And I think people will see it and be like, ‘That’s my school.’"

The outline of the episode consists of each cast member running their own segment. Highlighting all Montclair State has to offer in just an hour isn’t such an easy task, but Lehren worked on the logistics of the project. Lehren wore many hats during the process. Having to cast students and alumni, work with them on their scripts, be present during the filming, help out in the editing process and plan the watch party, there is no doubt Lehren was a big contributor to the success of the episode. Lehren shared why Montclair State decided to say yes to this episode.

"The university’s admissions office pivoted to virtual tours and open houses, and when Montclair [State] was approached by ‘The College Tour,’ we saw a great opportunity to reach even more prospective students around the country and world by partnering on this project and taking advantage of all the streaming platforms," Lehren said. Another inspiring student featured in the episode, Jack Barteck, a senior television and digital media major with a concentration in sports media and journalism, did a segment on what he knows best — sports.

Montclair State capitalized on its ability to reach audiences anywhere at any time to show them exactly what the Red Hawk experience is like. But most of all, they made sure to expose what makes Montclair State what it is. Students’ voices, smiles, experiences and success is what drive the entire episode and campus itself.

The episode was celebrated on Thursday, March 24 with a “watch party” at the School of Communication and Media that invited cast members and family, faculty and even Rocky the Red Hawk. It is now streaming on all platforms, including YouTube, which is linked on the Montclair State University website. "The College Tour" of Montclair State is destined to make current and future Red Hawks soar to greater heights.
That’s a Wrap for ‘The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time’

Olivia Grasso
Guest Writer

When I heard Montclair State University was doing a production of “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time,” I knew I had to see it, having been a part of my high school’s rendition my senior year.

“The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time” by Simon Stephens is a play about Christopher, a young neurodivergent boy. After discovering a dead dog in his neighbor’s yard, he sets out to investigate the case. Montclair State’s Department of Theatre and Dance put on “Curious Incident” last week with five showings between March 18-25 in Memorial Auditorium.

In this show, projections are usually used to display what’s happening in the protagonist’s mind. When I got word projections were not being used for Montclair State’s production, I was disappointed. Hence, I went into the performance with my expectations low and my mind open.

The stage was bare, but I could see the layout: three massive LED bars running along the proscenium arch, breaking the stage into three sections, from upstage down. There were also a few strings of Christmas lights on the back wall, forming a constellation-like pattern.

One of the best parts of “Curious Incident” is the versatility of the ensemble. In this production, the ensemble acted like an extension of Christopher’s mind, with perfect choreography. Where Christopher, played by Andrew Linden, a junior theatre major with a concentration in acting, could not express himself, the ensemble did. When Christopher discussed his dreams of becoming an astronaut, the ensemble carried him. They acted as the sea when Christopher remembered his mother at the beach.

Another aspect I immediately loved was the set design, which is meant to remain simple for this production. Montclair State’s design team used four movable pieces consisting of two large cubes with two sides cut out, two massive right triangular prisms, one with a staircase through the center and one without that acted as a simple ramp. This design illustrates Christopher’s thinking process — how he breaks down complicated situations and settings into just a few cubes and triangles. The simplicity forces audiences to use their imaginations in settings like a subway platform or a police station.

The mastery of this set design becomes apparent at the end of the show. After bows, Christopher does one more scene in which he demonstrates how he completed his favorite math problem in his A-level exam. Most productions use projections to display the problem, but Montclair State utilized the set pieces. The math problem involves a right triangle, so in his explanation, Christopher sits atop the staircase on his right-triangle set-piece and discusses the Pythagorean theorem. It was so simple, but this final scene made the entire design make sense. Needless to say, I was blown away.

Even with all these beautiful aspects, such as the picture-perfect visuals and attractive costumes, my complaints lie with two things: the accents and audio. The actors’ British accents were slightly inconsistent, but this did not distract from the show. My second minor complaint is in cueing of the microphones. At some points, it seemed like the audio engineer had turned off the actor’s microphones in between their lines while the actor was onstage. It only happened three times and was easily recovered, but this was a problem I have seen before in Montclair State productions. I have never seen this done before in other shows, and I was quite confused as to why this is common practice here.

All in all, Montclair State’s production of “Curious Incident” blew me away. It scored a 9.5/10 on my scale, and the only reason it wasn’t a 10 was that it wasn’t produced by my high school. To all involved in this show, I commend you, and I’m jealous I couldn’t be a part of this amazing production.
The 94th Academy Awards marks the return of hosts, live performances and live television drama. In last year’s show, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic prevented many of the ceremony’s routine production arrangements from happening, which resulted in the Academy Award’s lowest ratings in history.

Thankfully, producers took major notes from last year’s flop ceremony to make this year’s show better, and it paid off.

The 94th Academy Awards were hosted by Wanda Sykes, Regina Hall and Amy Schumer, who volleysed off skits and comedic bits throughout the show. This is the first time since 2018 the show has had hosts and the first time in history three women hosted the ceremony.

The show opened with legendary tennis champions Venus and Serena Williams introducing a performance by Beyoncé of “Be Alive” from the film “King Richard,” which was nominated for best original song. This is Beyoncé’s first live performance in two years, and unsurprisingly, she did not fail to blow audiences away with her amazing vocals and unmatched presence.

Academy Award winners Daniel Kaluuya and H.E.R. presented the award for best supporting actress, which was given to Ariana DeBose for her portrayal of Anita in “West Side Story.”

In last year’s show, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic prevented many of the ceremony’s routine production arrangements from happening, which resulted in the Academy Award’s lowest ratings in history.

Thankfully, producers took major notes from last year’s flop ceremony to make this year’s show better, and it paid off.

The 94th Academy Awards were hosted by Wanda Sykes, Regina Hall and Amy Schumer, who volleysed off skits and comedic bits throughout the show. This is the first time since 2018 the show has had hosts and the first time in history three women hosted the ceremony.

The show opened with legendary tennis champions Venus and Serena Williams introducing a performance by Beyoncé of “Be Alive” from the film “King Richard,” which was nominated for best original song. This is Beyoncé’s first live performance in two years, and unsurprisingly, she did not fail to blow audiences away with her amazing vocals and unmatched presence.

Academy Award winners Daniel Kaluuya and H.E.R. presented the award for best supporting actress, which was given to Ariana DeBose for her portrayal of Anita in “West Side Story.”

In last year’s show, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic prevented many of the ceremony’s routine production arrangements from happening, which resulted in the Academy Award’s lowest ratings in history.

Thankfully, producers took major notes from last year’s flop ceremony to make this year’s show better, and it paid off.

The 94th Academy Awards were hosted by Wanda Sykes, Regina Hall and Amy Schumer, who volleysed off skits and comedic bits throughout the show. This is the first time since 2018 the show has had hosts and the first time in history three women hosted the ceremony.

The show opened with legendary tennis champions Venus and Serena Williams introducing a performance by Beyoncé of “Be Alive” from the film “King Richard,” which was nominated for best original song. This is Beyoncé’s first live performance in two years, and unsurprisingly, she did not fail to blow audiences away with her amazing vocals and unmatched presence.

Academy Award winners Daniel Kaluuya and H.E.R. presented the award for best supporting actress, which was given to Ariana DeBose for her portrayal of Anita in “West Side Story.”

Academy Award winners Daniel Kaluuya and H.E.R. presented the award for best supporting actress, which was given to Ariana DeBose for her portrayal of Anita in “West Side Story.”

Academy Award winners Daniel Kaluuya and H.E.R. presented the award for best supporting actress, which was given to Ariana DeBose for her portrayal of Anita in “West Side Story.”

Academy Award winners Daniel Kaluuya and H.E.R. presented the award for best supporting actress, which was given to Ariana DeBose for her portrayal of Anita in “West Side Story.”
Dearest Readers, ‘Bridgerton’ Season Two Does Not Disappoint

Sam Nungesser
Editor-in-Chief

Gentle reader, the social season is upon us once again and I can assure you, you won’t be disappointed.

“Bridgerton” season two has returned to Netflix accounts across the land, this time telling the story of the eldest Bridgerton sibling, Anthony (Jonathan Bailey) and his slow-burn romance with Kate Sharma (Simone Ashley).

Those like myself, who simply couldn’t wait to find out what came next in the “Bridgerton” saga and read all eight books ahead, are aware that “The Viscount Who Loved Me” is certainly a contender for the best romance story out of the eight siblings, who each have their own book — and hopefully their own season of the show in the future.

Looking for a dutiful yet intelligent wife to bare the next generation of Bridgerton nobility, Anthony assures himself he will not marry for love. When the Sharmas come to town, Anthony takes notice of the younger sister Edwina Sharma (Charithra Chandran), who matches each of his standards for the perfect future viscountess.

However, her quick-witted and over-protective older sister Kate, who has already reduced herself to a spinster at a mere 26 years old, must approve. After she overhears Anthony’s ill-willed intentions to find a wife from Kate, thus forcing them into bonding between the two as Anthony attempts to remove bee venom from Kate, thus forcing them into a marriage, which puts Edwina, who never really cared for the viscount, on the back burner. Though the bee scene is present in the series and is one of the first hot and heavy interactions between the two, he makes it all the way to the altar before a heartbroken Edwina realizes he is in love with Kate.

It takes way too long for Anthony and Kate to actually share their first kiss, let alone get together. The series left out many important scenes vital to their romantic development. I looked forward to seeing more of their romance as a couple but was deprived of that until the last couple of episodes.

Though, it must be noted that while it felt like forever for the two to admit their love for one another, the sexual tension and burning chemistry between their prolonged glances and almost kisses is enough to leave you breathless, which makes it all the more beautiful when they finally do get together.

The show also cuts out much of Kate’s backstory. In the book, she has panic attacks during thunderstorms due to seeing her mother pass away from a sting. I could see how cackling this back ground into a short eight episodes could prove difficult, but cutting out Lady Featherington’s unnecessary storyline could have freed up some time for that.

On the contrary, a Featherington subplot I can get behind is Penelope’s (Nicola Coughlan), or should I say Lady Whistledown. After season one’s big reveal, we get to see just how Penelope pulls off being the infamous gossip columnist. Coughlan does an amazing job playing the obedient daughter in yellow while simultaneously portraying the sharp-tongued writer in her spare time.

While the Duke of Hastings (Regé-Jean Page) is certainly missed, the chaos that is the Bridgerton family lives on, making anyone wish they had seven other siblings to lean on. From the iconic Pall Mall scene, which is one of the early signs of flirtations between Anthony and Kate, to episode seven’s dancing scene with the Bridgertons, Lady Danbury and the Sharmas, the high-energy moments between all the characters are some of the best.

The music in “Bridgerton” continues to be a wow factor. Similar to the first season, almost all the music is an orchestral rendition of a modern pop song. From Madonna’s “Material Girl” to Miley Cyrus’ “Wrecking Ball,” the mesmerizing sound of the songs we know and love in the form of a string quartet adds undeniable flair to each scene in which they are played.

I couldn’t help but find myself excited when they dropped Easter eggs from future Bridgerton sibling love stories, which executive producer Shonda Rhimes said we will see all eight of, though it may not be in the exact order as the book series.

We officially meet the leading man from “To Sir Phillip, With Love,” which tells Eloise’s romance story. We also begin to see the hopeless romantic side of Benedict, something we can see more of in the book “An Offer From A Gentleman,” and hopefully next season. And for those who can’t wait, Penelope’s heartbreaking dismissal from Colin is further explored in the book “Romancing Mister Bridgerton.”

While “Bridgerton” season two differs vastly from its predecessor in terms of streaminess and haste to marry, it certainly tells just as beautiful of a love story. For those of us who binged it in one day, we can now look forward to season three. Until the next social season, gentle reader.
**‘X’ Is Rated R for Good Reason**

A24 has become notorious for its cutting edge takes on horror, and its newest film "X" is no exception. I will warn you: this film is rated R for good reason and for more than just the violent deaths. So please do not sneak your younger siblings in unless you want to accidentally scar them mentally for the foreseeable future.

Directed by Ti West, who has directed horror fan-favorites like "The House of the Devil" (2009) and "V/H/S" (2012), "X" finds its cast in the middle of Texas with nothing but a van, a camera, an obnoxiously large boom mic and a dream to create a beautiful adult film. Throughout the movie, we follow Maxine (Mia Goth), Lorraine (Jenna Ortega), Bobby-Lynn (Brittany Snow), Jackson (Kid Cudi), Wayne (Martin Henderson) and RJ (Owen Campbell) as they use a rented barn to shoot their film. The couple who owns the barn, Howard (Stephen Ure) and Pearl (Goth in prosthetics), slowly catch onto what they’re up to inside.

The cast is stellar (with Goth slaying a camera, an obnoxiously large boom mic and a dream to create a beautiful adult film). As with any good story, our antagonist’s chest for a little too long (they are an anonymous source named “A.” While you rooting for survivors yet excited when someone bites the dust, and the concept is interesting enough to leave you wanting more.

As with any good story, our antagonists directly embody the anxieties of the protagonists. West artfully enforces this by parallelly the film within a film shots with what is happening with our cast in real-time, allowing the audience to begin to empathize with Howard and Pearl, if only for a few moments before chaos ensues.

Within this, we also get a deeper commentary on the relationship between the Church and a more modern times than I can count on both hands, but she has an equivalent grasp on religious teachings to the man preaching on the TV in Howard and Pearl's home.

A strength of “X” is its freshness. Sure, there are a million horror movies out there set in the middle of nowhere in the ’70s, and sure, I’ve seen many where the camera lingers on a woman’s chest for a little too long (they are shooting an adult film so I’ll let this one slide) but none quite like this.

“X” does give a few tasteful nods to the classics like “The Shining,” “Alligator” and “The Texas Chainsaw Massacre,” but none of these stand out too much within the context of the film. The gore isn’t too bad; it honestly surprised me how much I was able to keep my eyes open throughout the film.

Within this, we also get a deeper commentary on the relationship between the Church and a more modern times than I can count on both hands, but she has an equivalent grasp on religious teachings to the man preaching on the TV in Howard and Pearl's home.

A strength of “X” is its freshness. Sure, there are a million horror movies out there set in the middle of nowhere in the ’70s, and sure, I’ve seen many where the camera lingers on a woman’s chest for a little too long (they are shooting an adult film so I’ll let this one slide) but none quite like this.

“X” does give a few tasteful nods to the classics like “The Shining,” “Alligator” and “The Texas Chainsaw Massacre,” but none of these stand out too much within the context of the film. The gore isn’t too bad; it honestly surprised me how much I was able to keep my eyes open throughout the film.

The diversity of means of death was refreshing, as the last time an alligator killed someone in a horror movie was probably the ’80s. And short of the elderly sex scene, there isn’t much that made me regret housing down all that popcorn.

The film currently has a 96% on Rotten Tomatoes, but it seems A24 was already confident in the success of "X" as you stay until after the credits, you get a sneak peek of “Pearl,” a prequel to "X" set during World War I where Goth returns to the ranch, this time as Pearl.

I, for one, am extremely excited to see what West and Goth do with the film, and I recommend seeing “X” in theaters as soon as you can, just probably not with your parents.
A Look Into the Making of ‘SOUR’ in ‘Olivia Rodrigo: Driving Home 2 U’

It’s hard to remember when Olivia Rodrigo wasn’t a household name, winning countless awards and beating out A-List superstars.

On a tour of the west coast desert and mountains of Utah on grainy film, we are brought “Olivia Rodrigo: Driving Home 2 U” on Disney+. This film is Rodrigo’s musical documentary that takes viewers through her rise to fame and the making of her hit debut album, “SOUR,” all while giving us live performances and new renditions of the songs we’ve grown to love.

Rodrigo also dives deeper into the explanation of why the album was created.

As most pop culture vultures know, Rodrigo and her co-star, Joshua Bassett, dated and had a nasty breakup. He then allegedly quickly moved on to fellow Disney Channel starlet, Sabrina Carpenter, also known as “that blonde girl.”

All three stars have made music about the situation following Rodrigo’s debut single “Drivers License,” a worldwide phenomenon.

Rodrigo explains the album wasn’t to profit off drama or to poison Bas-sett’s new relationship but to make her feel less lonely while at her heart’s rock bottom. In fact, these songs were written before her world-renowned fame, and she never expected “Drivers License” to reach the heights it did.

We also get a sneak peek at an unreleased song with critically acclaimed producer Dan Nigro, who has worked with stars like Taylor Swift and Conan Gray, where Rodrigo cringes at how sad she used to be.

Rodrigo’s commentary is perfectly accompanied by exciting live performances and footage of her road trip throughout. The aesthetic is much more pleasing than someone just filming a tour bus or footage from a recording studio like previous artists’ documentaries.

While the documentary is not just Rodrigo filming her thoughts and recording the album with her phone, it is still just as personal. Rodrigo and her team do a great job of creating an aesthetic, professional documentary and performances that still capture the personal aspect of the songs.

What makes everything even more perfect is the fact that the documentary comes right before Rodrigo embarks on her world tour for “SOUR.” It’s a perfect way to integrate the album back into pop culture and allow viewers to see something new and innovative about an album they’ve been listening to for almost a year. Each song performed incorporates something new for fans who have the originals memorized perfectly.

Another personal favorite performance of mine is Rodrigo’s angsty “Good 4 U” accompanied by a string orchestra in the middle of a desert at sunset. It’s fun to see how our favorite music comes about and how it is all pieced together.

We know Rodrigo is no one-hit-wonder and is a pop-star staple who will stay for years to come. This documentary just made me even more excited for her to release a smash hit once again.
THE MONTCLARION

Write for Entertainment!

Reviews ♦ Music ♦ Video Games ♦ Movies and TV ♦ Theatre ♦ Student Artist Profile

E-mail: montclarionentertainment@gmail.com

ROOM 2035, SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA IN UPPER MONTCLAIR, NJ, 07043
Tristin Konen and lacrosse were a match destined for great things. The senior midfielder for the Montclair State University women's lacrosse team is having a historic season. Her work ethic and love for the sport continues to allow her to improve her skills.

Konen is currently leading the team this season with 22 goals in the first eight games. She is also ranked top 10 in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) with 2.75 goals per game.

She has been playing well on both sides as she's also leading the team in caused turnovers with 14 and is top 10 in the conference in that category as well. This rise to the top has been well-earned as she has conquered many obstacles along the way.

A couple weeks ago, assistant coach Sarah Burkarth talked about how skillful the team and Konen are. Burkarth, who was the head coach at Wilkes University, is in her first season at Montclair State.

“I think Konen, [Rhiannon] Brown and a few others have the fastest shots I've seen,” Burkarth said. “They are super talented and all of them have a great IQ for the sport.”

Konen started the sport at an early age as she grew up in a lacrosse household where everyone was an athlete. Her dad and two brothers played in college and her sister currently plays in high school, while her mom played field hockey in college — the other sport Konen played in high school.

Choosing which sport to play in college was a fairly easy decision for the multi-sport athlete as she said she always wanted to play lacrosse.

Her brothers are the reason for that. Growing up they all played together trying to improve one another. This came along with some humorous drills such as when her brothers taped her hands to a lacrosse stick so she could get better at catching the ball.

“My brothers were locked in on lacrosse right away and I wanted to be like them,” Konen said. “I really looked up to them when I was younger so I wanted to follow in their footsteps.”

She arrived at Bridgewater-Raritan High School where she helped lead her team to a state championship and a Tournament of Champions title — the same titles her brothers won.

After high school, Konen made an immediate impact at the college level for Albright College, where she was top five on the team in goals. A year later though, wanting to go to a bigger school while also being closer to home, Konen found herself at Montclair State.

However, her impact on the Red Hawks had to wait. In 2019, Konen found out she had a thyroid disease called Hashimoto's disease. She missed the season while in recovery that year.

“It was, like, months that it went on and I just didn't feel like myself,” Konen said. “I couldn’t run or do anything so that whole year was a pretty big struggle.”

After finding medication to get her thyroid under control, she wasted no time getting back onto the field. However, that is when the coronavirus (COVID-19) hit, which was a major struggle for someone with an autoimmune disease. Then, the 2020 season would soon pay off in the 2021 season. She helped lead her team to their first win over The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) in program history. She also captured a First-Team All-NJAC honor, leading her team with 32 goals on the season and a conference finals appearance.

“Last year when we were in the playoffs and won the semifinals of the conference, it was such an exciting game,” Konen said. “Knowing we were getting a chance to go to the championship game was a super exciting feeling and I hope we get back to that this year.”

Senior midfielder Amber Gonzalez spoke to Konen's character as a player.

“Everyone is going through something in the games, but when I see the way Tristin plays through anything and her emotions on the field, it’s just great have out there and to play alongside her,” Gonzalez said.

Her teammates will be the first to say that Konen’s success in 2021 had only made her want to get better. According to Gonzalez, Konen’s perseverance really resonated with the locker room.

“I see the energy she brings in games and the passion she has, it really helps push the team,” Gonzalez said. “She always is the first one into practice and the last one out. It’s something that the rest of the team really feeds off of.”

Konen believes it goes both ways with her and her teammates.

“They all push me,” Konen said. “I love getting to play and practice with all of them.”

This season, Konen is hoping to help lead her team back to the conference finals where the Red Hawks were just a year ago. She has a clear mindset this season as one of the leaders on this team.

“I just want to lead by example,” Konen said. “I want to be able to show the younger players what it takes to win and how to work hard.”
The Montclair State women’s baseball team is the newest club sports organization on campus.

since she was five years old, exclusively Robinson has been playing baseball coach, general manager and athlete. the triple threat, sporting the monikers of exercise science major Sabrina Robinson,

The sense of community established those traditional beliefs.”

“I believe it’s irrational to limit a sport’s ics.

Y azemin Yilmaz feels passionate about Sophomore film and television major alik.

“The trip out to California was a pivotal moment that allowed these women to really click and establish stronger chemistry.

When asked about her favorite part of the trip, freshman animation major Alex McClintic said they had the most fun playing in the second game of their doubleheader versus the University of Washington.

“Went nervous anymore,” McClinic said. “We were all cheering for each other and trying our best.”

“A few players also reached career milestones while out west. Having never played baseball before, Emily Struble made it onto base for the first time, hitting a double and earning an RBI. She recalled the “indescribable feeling” of looking over into the dugout and seeing the whole team on their feet cheering her on.

Venturing into the world of base ball after only playing hockey can be a challenging transition, and even though she joined late, Struble was grateful for the environment that welcomed her.


Senior history major Jane Pettit said the team got to visit landmarks such as the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and since she had never traveled outside the East Coast before, the trip to California was an adventure she will not forget.

Pettit explained how the team em phasized the importance of companionship and camaraderie while on their trip in fun ways.

Being in a city and state many of the players weren’t familiar with, they used a buddy system, kind of like little kids … It worked, as silly as it sounds,” Pettit said. “[It] made us closer as a team.”

McClinic appreciates the little mo ments of the trip that allowed them to get to know their teammates better.

“My really liked getting to look out of the hotel balcony at the stars with some of the girls and talk about con stellations and different things about life,” McClinic said, chronicling a few other notable bonding moments that strengthened the connection between her and her teammates. “It was a re ally peaceful moment [among] all the other business of the trip.”

The club plans to continue scheduling scrimmages with other women's baseball teams and plans to host clinics for young female athletes, contributing to the ultimate goal of ushering in a new era for America’s pastime, with many fans of the sport and even Robinson herself hoping that women's baseball will become officially endorsed by the NCAA in the future.

“When I was younger, I never saw a future for my baseball career,” Robinson said. “I had to make it myself, but I want younger girls to be able to see they have a future in the sport.”
Ali Cavallaro Is In The (Pitch) Zone
And Nothing Is Stopping Her

Cavallaro threw her first career no-hitter earlier in March

Matth Orth
Assistant Sports Editor

One of the biggest accomplishments any pitcher can get in any level of baseball and softball, other than a perfect game, is a no-hitter. Every batter that comes up to the plate never reaches first base, whether by a strikeout or a play in the infield or outfield.

For junior pitcher Ali Cavallaro of the Montclair State University softball team, she threw a no-hitter that consisted of 12 strikeouts on March 7 against Gwynedd Mercy University, a season-high for her up to this point.

Throughout the whole game, the ace had no idea this was even conceivable.

“One of my teammates told me after the game that I threw a no-hitter,” Cavallaro said. “It was an awesome experience and something I will never forget, but I couldn’t have done it without my team; they have my back on every play.”

This is a testament to how humble of an athlete Cavallaro is. Nothing to her is an individual effort. Everything is done together as a team, and Cavallaro prides herself on this sentiment that all Red Hawks, be it in the field or on the mound, is one of the best teams in the conference — led by one of the most humble softball players around.

Senior pitcher Kayla Volante gave her take on Cavallaro’s first season. But while the accomplishment was recognized by Cavallaro, she again attributes outside help for her success.

“Your have to work [hard] every single day at practice, and I work with coach [Anita Kubiak] every day,” Cavallaro said. “I am super happy to hit that milestone and I can’t wait for more.”

Sophomore outfielder Kayla Cosentino cannot wait for more outs and fewer runs every game Cavallaro is pitching, and she is grateful to have such a solid pitcher when it comes to their offense.

“Because we have [Cavallaro], she is such a strong asset to the team,” Cosentino said. “We are able to take the energy that she has and match it to our bats.”

Their offense is one of the best in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC). As of March 27, the Red Hawks lead in hits (172), doubles (40) and runs batted in (106), just to name a few. The combination of the ferocious offense and the consistent pitching from players like Cavallaro explains why they are one of the best teams in the NJAC, and recently had a six-game winning streak.

Cavallaro’s strong energy did not enhance the team right away when she first started in 2020. Due to a decent amount of senior pitchers on the team, Cavallaro never got a chance to play when the season began. Along with all other sports in the NJAC, the softball season got shut down in the spring of 2020, but Cavallaro did not let that get her down.

“Once [COVID-19] hit, I took that as an opportunity to better myself and work on my pitches,” Cavallaro said. “We had group lifting three days a week during the offseason, so we all worked very hard. And all of the girls were very close with each other.”

Her performance the next season helped her win the Second-Team All-NJAC as well as a weekly rookie honor. With an 8-4 record, Cavallaro learned a lot from a unique 2021 season.

“Last season was very different since we didn’t nearly play as many games as we do this season, so you have to play every game like it’s different,” Cavallaro said. “I know I have a great defense behind me, and they’re there for me every pitch, and I couldn’t do it without them.”

This season, Cavallaro continues to improve and become one of the top pitchers in the NJAC, with 66 strikeouts and seven wins already, Volante is proud of her progress from a lower-string pitcher to a reliable ace.

“[Cavallaro] didn’t really see the field at all when we went down to Florida [in 2020], and she was struggling a bit to prove herself,” Volante said. “And then the next year, she had to step up because a lot of pitchers left the team. And she basically figured it out.”

During a month where all women are recognized for their accomplishments, even though it should be every day, Cavallaro has become a pinacle for the Montclair State softball team. And while the eyes of fans usually wander to the male sports, Cavallaro believes this isn’t the case with her team.

“I think [the softball team] gets a bunch of attention and I think that it’s awesome,” Cavallaro said. “Our team loves it.”

Regardless, the softball team will always accept more fans and support as they start another winning streak and continue their run towards another conference championship — led by one of the most humble softball players around.
9 Performers, 80 Oranges, 7 Watermelons.

“Juggling becomes flights of inspired poetry, musical choreography with strong dance elements, crazy-comedy surrealism, breathtakingly dexterous virtuosity, darkly absurdist drama. Gandini opens windows in the mind.”

— ALASTAIR MACAULAY, THE NEW YORK TIMES
Carter attempts a shot over NJCU defenders during the NJAC semifinal contest.

Chris Krusberg | The Montclarion

Nickie Carter (14) finished just shy of 1,000 career points this season.

Nickie Carter
(Continued from Page 1)

In her freshman year, Carter got her career started on the right foot, leading the team in scoring at 17.0 points per game. She helped propel the Red Hawks to the best record in the conference and a spot in the NCAA Division III National Tournament.

She would go on to become just the third player in program history to be named D3hoops.com Atlantic Region Rookie of the Year.

Harvey knew from the very beginning that something like this was bound to happen.

“We knew when we recruited [Carter] that she was going to be a special player,” Harvey said. “Her scoring ability is quite different than any player I have had in my program.”

After her breakout freshman season, Carter seemed primed to ascend even higher in her sophomore year. However, amidst a shortened, 10-game season, due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, she faced many roadblocks—both physical and mental, as she worked back from an off-season injury.

Carter only started one game, averaging 8.6 points per game. Despite her struggles, the Red Hawks made it all the way to the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) championship, where they would fall to New Jersey City University, a game in which Carter delivered her only 20-point output of the season.

With the graduation of NJAC player of the year and the Red Hawks’ latest WBCA All-American, Taylor Brown, Carter needed to regain her freshman form.

“[Brown] led by example,” Carter said. “She pushed me to want to be better and she had so much confidence in me, I didn’t want to let her down.”

The Red Hawks certainly didn’t start the way they had hoped, losing four of their first five games, their worst start since the 2010-11 season. It coincided with Carter finding her footing. In those five games, she netted just 10.2 points per game, shooting 34% from the field and 19% from three.

“Mentally I was still like trying to build my confidence back up,” Carter said. “So that was a little bit tough, and you could see that in the beginning of the season. I really just needed to get out of my head. That was the most important thing. I just started playing basketball and I think that’s what made all the difference.”

Once Carter had that figured out, everything changed. Over the final 19 games of the season, she averaged 18.8 points per game, shooting 41% overall and 40% from three. She finished the year second in the conference in scoring and field goal percentage, culminating in her second career All-NJAC First-Team nod.

She amassed two 30-point performances, including the second-highest individual scoring game in program history (34 vs. Rutgers-Newark on Feb. 9), and seven games with 20-plus points. She finished the season just 67 points short of the 1,000-point plateau, and with two years of eligibility remaining, she seems certain to become the 22nd player in program history to reach the mark.

Assistant coach and former two-time All-American for the Red Hawks, Katie Sire, said it came as no surprise to see Carter have such success.

“Becoming an All-American is not something that comes easy,” Sire said. “It takes a lot of commitment in the off-season, constantly putting in extra time, showing up consistently on a day-to-day basis and a whole lot of mental toughness. [Carter] embodies what a true ‘gym rat’ is and is constantly elevating her game to the next level. I see a lot of similarities in myself and her and look forward to continuing helping her grow as a player.”

As the list of accomplishments continues to grow for Carter, Harvey says there is just one more hill she must climb.

“The biggest thing left for [Carter] is to win a championship and go to the NCAA Tournament,” Harvey said. “I believe we will be there in the next two seasons and that will be the exclamation point on [Carter’s] career.”