Montclair State University administration sent an email on Wednesday Sept. 22, announcing the priority registration privileges that many students had, including presidential scholars, are officially revoked.

According to the notice, early registration will no longer be provided to some students. This modification of the policy will allow students to have a better access to the courses they need to fulfill graduation requirements.

Students are expressing mixed reactions and many believe this privilege for presidential scholars and other students should not be modified.

Andria Reber, a senior exercise science major, is angry to hear students like her will not have the opportunity to register early.

“Well I’m definitely upset because as someone who did use that every single year for signing up for classes, it did help me a lot in terms of not just getting the classes, but also the stress level,” Reber said. “I knew that there were so many people waiting literally right after lab going straight to their laptops logging in and they wouldn’t even get the class that they wanted.”

Reber further explained that having the advantage of registering for courses ahead of time made it feel like a reward.

“If you are a student who got into the program, that’s because you worked hard for it,” Reber said. “It felt like for me I was getting rewarded for putting the hard work so I can have an easier transition between semesters.”

Jenny Asuzano, a sophomore filmmaking major, said with the change of policy, more students will have a better chance to get the courses they want, but it is not fair for those students who have worked hard to gain this benefit.

“I’m not a presidential scholar, but I do have a lot of friends that are presidential scholars,” Asuzano said. “On one hand it’s nice for me to able to have more of a chance to get into the classes that I want. But at the same time I do feel bad for my friends that are presidential scholars that have gotten to that position and aren’t given [the] extra advantages.”

Abigail Ohlendorf, a graduate student in law and governance, believes there are pros and cons to presidential scholars no longer having this opportunity.

“I think that some students who aren’t presidential scholars, might feel like the scholars have an unfair advantage compared to the other students on campus who don’t get the opportunity of first priority,” Watson said. “So I can understand maybe why the university might make that change, but at the same time, the presidential scholars do lose the advantage that they worked hard for.”

The administration also explained in the email that instead of priority registration, students now will receive an assigned registration time based on class standing for the upcoming academic term.

The Montclarion reached out to the university for a quote but they were unable to provide a statement at this time.
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.

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In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, Montclair State hosted a panel discussion regarding how to be successful at the workplace as a Hispanic individual.

Hispanic/Latinx Montclair State University students gathered for a fireside chat with a panel of professionals from Prudential on Thursday, Sept. 22. The professionals shared their experiences and advice on how to find success as a Hispanic person in the workplace.

The panel consisted of Prudential financial employees Carlos Orozco, Tamara Ogle, Desirée Millán, Rosalia Bernal and Jessica Torres. Leading the discussion was Carolina Torres, a customer solution consultant for Prudential.

The conversation included advice on finances, balancing the pressure of being a first-generation student in a prominent industry, having the confidence to ask for compensation, what stands out in a resume, the importance of networking and more.

A trending topic of discussion among the panelists was the lack of representation of the Hispanic community in prominent positions in the workforce. According to the panelists, Hispanic representation in corporate executive positions is remarkably low.

Panelists suggested that even though there may be low representation, this should not be a deterrent or intimidation for Hispanics in pursuing prominent positions in the workplace. On the contrary, Hispanics should promote the unique qualities they can bring to the workplace.

Millán, a manager at Prudential, highlighted the importance of the Hispanic community. “Our community is important to all of us, so it is very important for companies to understand that and get ingrained in our communities,” Millán said.

Katia Paz Goldfarb, associate provost for Hispanic initiatives and international programs at Montclair State, shared a piece of advice with all of the students in attendance. “The purpose of the event was to encourage all, but specifically Hispanic students of Montclair State to strive for success,” Paz Goldfarb said. “Make them see you, make them hear you.”

During the Q&A portion of the event, Hispanic/Latinx students in attendance were offered an opportunity to network with professionals in the field.
Starting in the spring of 2023, students from Montclair State University's School of Communication and Media will have the opportunity to spend a semester in Los Angeles and gain valuable experience integrating themselves into the media environment.

The immersive residency program, students will live in Burbank, California, intern at a media company and take anywhere from one to two online courses at Montclair State. Alongside this, they will take an in-person course called The Los Angeles Media Industry.

The opportunity will offer a useful contrast to the institutions and media around Montclair State, allowing students from the New York City-adjacent Montclair State campus to familiarize themselves with the people and institutions vital to film and television in Los Angeles.

Todd Kelshaw, associate director of the School of Communication and Media, explains why the program is an amazing opportunity for students. “Students can get a great sense of how LA is different from the NYC media environment, which is of great value in terms of how professional doors can open, not just in internships but also in terms of learning institutions and people,” Kelshaw said.

If accepted to the program, students will have to pay the cost of their Montclair State tuition but would be excused from paying for a meal plan or residential housing at Montclair State. Instead, students will pay $1,600 per month in 2022.

The initial launch of this program is looking mainly at junior film and television majors, though applications are not solely for juniors. Seniors or advanced sophomores are not discouraged from applying.

Kelshaw further explained which students would be the best fit for the program. “Obviously, if [sophomores] need required classes here it would not be great for them,” Kelshaw said. “This first run is ideal for juniors, but as [the residency program] is offered in the future, students will be able to plan ahead and plan schedules around the program.”

Though the program itself is new, previous residency programs have taken students to Puerto Rico, New Orleans and Los Angeles usually for around 10 days over spring break. Keith Strudler, director of the School of Communication and Media, said how important and exciting the program is. “Lots of people have contributed to making this happen,” Strudler said. “I’ve been focused and excited about starting a semester-long LA program as soon as we scheduled our first short-term program out there.”

To help create this, Strudler sunk a considerable amount of time into the process, including research into similar programs at other universities, on-site scouting for housing, along with meeting potential internship providers and instructors for the in-person LA media course.

With the initial run of the program this spring, Strudler is hoping students take full advantage of the opportunity, asking students applying to consider how the program will benefit them and their careers. “[I ask students] to really think about what they would hope to get out of the experience and how they can fully leverage the time in LA, both through the work they do in an internship and the relationships they can build while out there,” Strudler said.

Looking toward the future, both Strudler and Kelshaw believe much can be done to improve and expand upon this first run. Plans to improve flexibility, by offering the semester in the spring and fall, potentially in the summer as well, along with sending larger groups of students, have been discussed.

Other ideas, such as offering more courses in LA, would help to alleviate any scheduling conflicts holding back students from taking full advantage of this program.

In all, the program will look to integrate itself into the existing infrastructure in LA, to establish a real and sustained link between the west coast entertainment industry and Montclair State. "I want Montclair [State] to have a true presence in LA and for employers to recruit specifically from us for internships," Strudler said.

Joe Forbes, a junior sports communication major, says the program sounds like an amazing opportunity. "For me [my] mindset basically is like, 'wow that would be cool,' Forbes said. "[There are] markets that are so big and obviously Montclair [State], is a big [area for] music, film, all that. So it would be for [all of that] but in LA. I mean it's a great opportunity.'

Forbes also says the housing price sounds reasonable. "Knowing how the housing is and how crazy it’s gone, for [coronavirus] (COVID-19) it was very easy to buy a house during COVID-19 those first few months," Forbes said. "Now housing is through the roof because of the economic inflation everything's [going through]. So $1,600 is fair".

The program is selective, with a cap of around 15 students for the spring, but any student in the School of Communication and Media who can show how developing a familiarity with Los Angeles can help them attain their learning goals is encouraged to apply.

The application for the program is due Sunday, Oct. 9, and can be found on the School of Communication and Media website.
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New Students Share Their Thoughts

Kyle Goldware
Guest Writer

As the 2022-2023 school year has begun and new students at Montclair State University have begun to settle in, the campus WiFi has been struggling with plenty of technical problems. The WiFi tends to go out once a week and at some spots on campus I have had to fall back on using my phone for work. The other's shower head is broken, and it constantly floods the floor. He's also experiencing issues with the campus WiFi. "If you're going to encourage doing gaming.

Coming to Montclair State as a transfer student, Maximilian Anglum, a junior psychology major, shared how his first few weeks on campus are treating him. "The people here are very friendly and it's a very welcoming environment," Anglum said. However, this welcoming environment has problems that are troubling students after less than a month of living here.

"My part of the dorm building [in Stone Hall] has been struggling with our showers," Anglum said. "There are only two showers that work for our part of the building and one is out of order. The other's shower head is broken and it constantly floods the floor." He's also experiencing issues with the campus WiFi. "The WiFi tends to go out once a week and at some spots on campus I am unable to connect at all," Anglum said.

Kendrick Barrera, a junior transfer student and political science major, has been slowly adjusting to his different life on campus. He notices, like Anglum, the flaws on campus such as the WiFi, especially when it comes to gaming. "If you're going to encourage doing that, you should also make it accessible for others to do that too," Barrera said. "I mean I've seen people experience where they couldn't connect to the WiFi [until] two weeks in. How difficult can doing that be?"

Barrera also stated how stressful waiting for work orders can be. "It's like people fill out work orders and call IT and it's like you have to rate them every single time to get one of the simplest answers there is," Barrera said. "And also, what's the point of having a LAN cable in here if it's not even fixed? I filled out a work order, still haven't heard a single thing about that."

A campus with nonfunctioning WiFi can be one of the biggest threats for college students since they frequent-ly use it to work on assignments for classes and other activities. Besides technical problems or issues within the dorms, Barrera commented on what the campus education environment is like for him.

"I'm a political science major, and I see the building I have to take some of my classes at specifically for my major [Dickson Hall]." Barrera said. "I look at that building and I'm like, 'This looks like it's high school,' then you go to University [Hall], [Center for Computing and Information Science] or the [School of Communications and Media]."

Barrera said that he thinks this is because some programs are prioritized over others. "I understand that certain career choices are going to make more money," Barrera said. "But you're going to discourage students from wanting to pursue what they're doing based on the environment they're in, too."

Daniel Bartsevich, an undecided freshman explains how different Montclair State is from his high school. "Back in [my former] college, it was a smaller setting compared to this," Bartsevich said. "This is much more diverse and has a lot of students from different places, and the mode of interaction is always available for different students to meet up and meet new people."

"For me, it's been a great journey so far and everything about Montclair [State] is enjoyable and worthwhile," Emmanuel said.

Based on his experiences so far, Emmanuel said he is having a great time. "In my high school you only had to take one subject at a time, but here you have to take five or six," Bartsevich said. "So it's completely different, and I have to adjust to the schedule of my classes."

Despite the issues these students have experienced at Montclair State, they also had some good things to say. "I haven't experienced any kind of issue whatsoever," Emmanuel said. "It's been a seamless transition into my university life. The people here are nice and helpful too."

Like Barrera, Emmanuel noted many differences between his experi-ence at Montclair State and his one at his former school. "Oh I mean this is a big upgrade," Emmanuel said. "It's a lot more open, a lot more spacious."

Some students have no complaints about their experience at Montclair State. Olamide Oladoyinbo Emmanuel, a junior transfer student and psychology major has had nothing but positive reviews for the university. "I haven't experienced any kind of issue whatsoever," Emmanuel said. "It's been a seamless transition into my university life. The people here are nice and helpful too."

"For me, it's been a great journey so far and everything about Montclair [State] is enjoyable and worthwhile," Emmanuel said.
Tips to Keep Yourself Busy During Isolation

Sal DiMaggio
Feature Editor

Getting the coronavirus (COVID-19) sucks. There's no doubt about that. But what can suck even more is getting stuck in isolation for six days. Talk about boring: you have to suffer alone for almost a whole week, either stuck in your bedroom or worse, in an isolation room in one of the residence halls on campus. Cabin fever can get to a lot of people. You can start to go a bit crazy, itching for something to do.

I would know; I spent the last week in quarantine after testing positive for COVID-19. It was lonely and boring at first, sitting in my isolation room in Dinello Heights, but I quickly found some things to keep me busy. Here are some ways to be productive during your time in isolation:

1. Get schoolwork done.

Yes, I know, the last thing you probably want to do while you're sick is schoolwork. But if you're trapped in your room, this is a perfect chance to get some assignments off your plate. Start working on that essay that's due in three weeks. Complete that Spanish homework that you missed. Getting a head start will cause you less stress later on, trust me.

2. Spend some time doing a hobby of yours.

Been meaning to up your chess game? Now is the perfect chance. Devote some time to something you love doing, whether it's increasing your knowledge of botany or crafting the perfect script for your next Dungeons and Dragons podcast. Or if you don't have a hobby, try something new. You could be really good at memorizing the elements, or something.

3. Get on FaceTime with your friends and family.

Being stuck in isolation can surely get lonely, but thanks to modern technology, we can still see each other's faces, even if virtually. Do a group call with your besties so they know how you are doing. Spend so much time with your romantic partner that you don't want the call to end, and so much time with your mom that you wish your call with her would. Talking to the people you care about will only boost your spirits and make you feel better mentally.

4. Do some mental organizing.

As college students, we tend to have so much going on at once that we can let some things slip through the cracks, like a missed meeting with your advisor or a responsibility for a club you forgot. Use this time to plan out the week or month ahead. Schedule when you have to go grocery shopping or when you do your statistics homework. This way you won't forget to eat or get two hours of sleep a night (both things that I am guilty of, admittedly).

5. Relax.

Take this time to chill. You deserve a well-earned break. Take that nap you've been wanting to take for so long. Turn on the PlayStation and zone out for a bit. Read that book that's been on your reading list for months. Catch up on the news. Whatever it is, make sure your energy is replenished when you come out of isolation so that you can come back into the world ready to go.

6. And finally, focus on getting better.

Take care of yourself. That is the whole reason you are in isolation in the first place. Make sure you have any medicine that you need, from prescription pills to the miracle that Advil is. Cough drops, tissues, thermometer- stock up on anything you might need during your isolation period. Monitor your symptoms, and make sure someone can bring you more supplies if you need. Getting healthy is the most important thing to focus on while in isolation.

Hopefully, these tips will help you get through your week alone as you recover from COVID-19. I know they got me through the soul-rattling cough that I had and the subpar delivery meals from Sam's Place. (Even when you have COVID-19, their burgers still taste like trash). So rest up, take care of yourself and make sure to keep your spirits up. You'll get through this, mentally and physically. You got this.

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Makeup Dupes You Need To Try

Crystal Durhamn
Graphic Design Editor

Makeup dupes are finally taking over the cosmetic industry, unlike in the past, when drugstore makeup was frowned upon. If you weren’t using luxury items like Anastasia brow pomade or Kat Von D eyeliner, it was hard to be taken seriously in the makeup community. But in 2022, makeup artists are now taking a second look at drugstore products.

What once was seen as taboo is now something embraced across all social media platforms. If you are a makeup lover, you have heard countless influencers raving over the holy grails known as Milk Hydro Grip Primer and the Charlotte Tilbury Flawless Filter. For college students, it can be hard to spend 45 dollars on a foundation or concealer. Influencers are starting to push the message that drugstore products are just as effective as high-end cosmetics.

This is where dupes come into play. Makeup dupes are products that are similar to expensive items but promoted and priced through different makeup brands. The Power Grip Primer from Elf Cosmetics is seen as a dupe of the Milk Hydro Grip Primer. This is due to the color, feel and consistency when first applying it to the face.

Milk Hydro Grip Primer retails for $36 at Sephora, while Elf’s Power Grip Primer retails for $10 at Ulta Beauty. Ashley Lopez, a TikTok influencer posted a video on her thoughts about the Elf Power Grip Primer and debated whether or not it’s a dupe compared to the expensive item.

“The Elf [primer] definitely gets a little bit tackier and stickier, which is very promising,” Lopez explained. “I would absolutely say for $10, this is a great dupe for the Milk Hydro Grip Primer. Go get it.”

When you are trying to choose primers, it depends on the look you’re going for. The tackier the consistency is, the better. This allows the foundation to be applied flawlessly over your pores.

When getting into the base of your makeup routine, it can get very expensive for newcomers on the scene. Many foundation prices range from $40 to $50 depending on where it’s purchased. When Charlotte Tilbury announced their new flawless filter foundation back on March 1, the product checked off every box needed to impress beauty consumers. This airbrush formula created a full coverage consistency that felt weightless on the skin.

The Charlotte Tilbury foundation is sold for $46 in Nordstrom. Over time, this product became up for debate after the launch of the Elf Cosmetics Halo Glow Liquid Filter. The Liquid Filter retails for $14 at Target. Aside from the products themselves, what sets these two products apart are their prices. Both products emphasize their complexion booster components and make it known that no filter is needed when wearing these foundations.

Influencer Sarah Wolak created a TikTok video about the viral foundations and put them to the test. Wolak explained that Charlotte Tilbury’s foundation looks better from afar, but up close you can see her pores. In the makeup community, seeing pores within a full face is never what makes the foundation a go-to product. She emphasizes that this normally doesn’t happen with the Halo Glow Foundation.

“The Elf one adapts to my skin tone better, [and] it’s like a quarter of the price,” Wolak said.

After researching, it is interesting to examine how many dupes come with luxury cosmetics. This pattern is not uncommon within the makeup industry. Believe it or not, a lot of dupes are highly requested over the original products.

Overall, what makes these products more desired by the target audiences are the prices and long-lasting wear of the product. If makeup brands aren’t producing products that fit their target audience, people like young college students will find another way to recreate what they desire for cheaper.
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Who is one of your role models?

By Lynise Olivacce
Photo Editor

“I really do admire Julian Casablancas, he’s the lead singer of The Strokes. He doesn’t play that well, he doesn’t sing that well but he really is so successful and I admire [that]. I admire that he has so much praise despite being so mediocre when it comes to his shows.”

Astrid Le
Freshman
Music Education

“Nyjah Huston because he is built different.”

Brandon Valderrama
Senior
Sustainablity Science

“My best friend [B], passed away but his older sister [India], is a wonderful human being. And despite losing her brother, she has been such a supportive role model for everybody also while taking care of herself, which I think is pretty amazing and she just has a lot of love to give and I admire that.”

Karina McClard
Sophomore
Family Science and Human Development
“My mom is my hero because of how bold she was in moving to America. The way that she came to America [from the Dominican Republic] was by lying to my grandma and saying that she was going to a sleepover but she really got on a plane to America.”

Karen Vega
Freshman
Undecided

“It would be] my sophomore math teacher [in high school]. He was one of those teachers who were really motivational and into their job. Although I was still [bad at it], he would tutor me after school. He even helped me with my SATs and supported me throughout high school, since those years were really rough. Honestly like if it weren't for him, I wouldn't have made it throughout high school.”

Karen Vega
Freshman
Undecided

“My role model was my grandpa. He was the first person to believe in everything I said and wanted to do. He’s the reason why I’m here and studying what I’m studying and doing what I’m doing. For where I grew up and the social status that I grew up in, it wasn't really realistic [to become a doctor] but he always believed that I could do it no matter what.”

Isadora Pedroso
Sophomore
Biology

“My mom is my hero because of how bold she's always been there for me. She had a tough time growing up and coming here to America [from Slovakia] in general. So, I really do take into account her determination.”

Sarah Hrubovcakova
Sophomore
Biology

Flavia Hidalgo
Undecided
Freshman
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Horoscopes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capricorn</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 22 – Jan. 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whenever you get stressed, just try to imagine all your thoughts are stuffed inside a cube and the cube is in a garden but the garden isn’t real and the cube is made of nothing. Now imagine you’re in a library and there’s loads and loads of books, and they represent the cube, and the cube is actually you.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cancer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun. 21 – Jul. 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How many classes did you skip this week? Maybe you should spend less time browsing UrbanOutfitters.com and more time calling the people who care about you. They miss you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aquarius</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 20 – Feb. 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don’t worry Aquarius, the documents you have been forging are not causing anyone harm whatsoever.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Leo</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul. 23 – Aug. 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>You miss your family. You come to grips you may never see them again. Run. Run for your family. Run for your dog with a human name. Keep running. He can’t win. Not like this.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pisces</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 19 – Mar. 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striking out on dating apps? Don’t worry, Pisces, try a new tactic—flirting with the saddest looking people in a coffee shop across the street from a divorce attorney. You’re bound to find someone more desperate than you eventually.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Virgo</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 23 – Sep. 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>You’re an embarrassment to nature, do you know that?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Aries</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 21 – Apr. 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aries are kind and sympathetic? Not when I’m trying to be 600 hot dogs at Costco, they’re not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Libra</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep. 23 – Oct. 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You look like someone who has played Undertale... Have you considered maybe going outside this month? Or this year? Just asking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Taurus</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 20 – May 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you smell that, Taurus? Love is in the air! Actually, no, wait, that’s gas. Please evacuate Science Hall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scorpio</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 23 – Nov. 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WE KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, KANYE. WE LOST OUR QUEEN WHEN THEY POWERWASHED THE SLAY SIDEWALK ART OUTSIDE OF COLE HALL.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gemini</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 21 – Jun. 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please stop drinking that water straight out of the tap in your dorm room. If it looks brown that does not mean they switched everyone’s water over to the world’s largest Coca-Cola reserve, it means you should probably go to a doctor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sagittarius</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 22 – Dec. 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you ever considered that having a sexfood portrait of sheet-metal munching Jackie Kennedy in your room is not normal? Maybe we should switch it out for a better role model like Gonzo from The Muppets, or even Britney Spears. Not my choice though, let me know what you think.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**The Montclarion Crossword Puzzle and More!**

*Disney Channel Original Movies Edition*

By Jenna Sundel

**Across**
6. Demi Lovato's character in "Camp Rock."
8. This movie stars Selena Gomez and Demi Lovato.

**Down**
1. This actress had a leading role in "16 Wishes" and "Radio Rebel."
2. She plays Galleria in "The Cheetah Girls" movies.
3. He plays Troy Bolton in "High School Musical."
4. This movie stars Ross Lynch and Maia Mitchell.
5. This movie is about a group of five high school students who form a band.
7. Sarah Hyland plays Dylan in this 2011 DCOM.

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**Sudoku**

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  6
9 7 8 3 5 1
  7 8 3
2 8
4 1
5 6 2 9
3 6 7
6 1 5 2 8
5 7 3 9 4
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**Word Search**

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t j d z m d j m f m s x m j j f j n s n
h i l b n z h v n m l q t t v r a q t q
 e o c c i g l a t s o n j z e e a m v h
d b m l p c w g c j i k g k v h y i x a
q j m x m l u t n t q c u a r t v t k s
z z e q b q o i w u b g s x o r b m c
l k w d j q w u w h b m v b o r w h f s
 l o p y a d r i a h d a b d s b g i t n
 e l l i t g y r b n z z f o w n h n y b
 m h e n c b v d i e c p j i c e a o u w
 o c b i d m o v i e x z l o a d y d p d
 n t e g e r y e n s i d f s n q y e f k
a s r z g k z x i u n r t e a z a o d z
d d o l x b o f w x e z c v n k a o w n
e s i j e d r r f n o s a o j o s a m p
m y d c q r e l e p e j p p v m f r z j
o s a v j p q m a d x i c o p e d b h k
u r r j p y i d l a r r v g e e j j q q
t j m f m e g r l a j e j e l g d m d e
h k w v s n w o t n e e w o l l a h b y
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**Movie**
- Zapped
- Jump In
- Frenemies
- Bad Hair Day

**Disney**
- Den Brother
- Lemonade Mouth

**Frenemies**
- Radio Rebel
- Descendants

**Bad Hair Day**
- Halloweentown
- Nostalgic
Mandatory for all activities in-Wearing masks used to be-wear masks.

As another school year kicks

in their dorms and many other

students should

Mila Spoljaric

Should We Still Be Wearing Masks Upon Request?

Most high schoolers yearn for the college experience that is often depicted as a period of adulthood, partying, making friends and taking classes you actually love. Nonetheless, that is not the experience most of us got during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Students stayed six feet apart from their peers, couldn’t leave campus or have friends in their dorms and many other consequences that ruined the college experience. As another school year kicks off, still enduring the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we now find ourselves in a predicament of whether we should return back to normal as the pandemic was traumatic for all of us.

However, the other side of this makes a compelling argument.

For starters, we live in a world where there have always been immunocompromised people. For the most part, those people would have to adjust their life to go out in the world, but typically the non-immunocompromised have not made adaptations for others around them.

Some people may believe that if you are the one at risk of becoming very ill or even dying, you should stay home.

Does everyone feel that way? Absolutely not, but with the mandate being lifted, do those students get a choice on whether they’ll wear one or not?

Some students may feel as if the COVID-19 pandemic is over and they just want to return back to normal as the pandemic was traumatic for all of us.

Wearing masks is not the most ridiculous request ever heard. COVID-19 did not disappear from our lives and neither did the responsibility of keeping our peers safe.

Students are still testing positive for COVID-19 and we’re all pretty confident that no one is dreaming every night, giggling in their jammies, that maybe they’ll finally get the virus from someone in class.

Quarantining for the virus is way more of an annoyance than wearing an almost weightless mask. Imagine missing a whole week of classes and what that’ll do to your grades, understanding of the material and the workload you have to make up.

The possibility of outcomes from not wearing masks is just not worth it in the end. Immunocompromised students deserve the typical college experience just like the rest of us. We have a duty to protect ourselves and our classmates who may be at risk.

So, if a professor requests you wear a mask, do the adult thing and wear one. If you won’t wear one for yourself, wear one for those whose lives may depend on it.

“Do you think students should wear masks upon request by professors?”

By Katie Lawrence

“I personally believe that it’s a student’s decision. I personally believe that students shouldn’t wear masks because we’re back to normal and it’s normality.”

- Chris Manzano

Nursing

Freshman

“I think it’s a person’s choice and if they’re vaccinated they don’t have to. But you know, if someone is sick, they should be considerate and still wear it.”

- Maria Morales

Asian Languages and Cultures

Freshman

“If the professors themselves feel uncomfortable with students not wearing a mask, and then they ask the students to wear masks, I suppose students should, because it might be for their own protection.” “I think it’s a person’s choice and if they’re vaccinated they don’t have to. But you know, if someone is sick, they should be considerate and still wear it.”

- Patrick Horvat

Music Education

Junior
I should not be shouldered by the users of the future of the American racial dilemma. It's a quick fix, but it certainly is not the way to address their racial biases. Replying to a thread of discussion rebutted and shut down, it is a reminder of how America really doesn't know how to address a particular aspect of the race of mythical creatures.

As companies release teaser trailers, people quickly react to these trailers, thinking that sort of role, intentional or not. Humans make stories about everything, and humans like to take in and process information. They that being said, movies geared toward children should appeal to them in a variety of ways, including offering them a sense of empowerment, wonder and reassurance. Indeed, they could also be a magical underworld princess, and mystical beings who look like them do exist within the realm of children's fairytales. While it's true these plots are not do, they lock with no method of opening them without replacing the battery. Facilities will sometimes take days or even weeks to replace the batteries, forcing students to find alternatives to perform basic bodily functions and hygiene.

Last semester, the co-ed floor that I lived on had been without a women's bathroom for roughly a week, forcing the female students who pay $4,500 a semester to live here to either go to another floor to use the bathroom or sneak into the men's bathroom. Again, this leaves students vulnerable to sexual harassment and assault.

On the flip side, the keypads will frequently run out of battery and when they do, the keypads will frequently lock on the door. In theory, not a bad idea, but in execution, leaves a lot to be desired. Each bathroom in Bohn Hall has a keypad lock to ensure that only girls can go into the girls' bathroom, and only guys can go into the guys' bathroom.

Never mind the increasing prevalence of nonbinary students on campus, but despite this measure, it's been alleged on the popular Instagram page @montclairstateconfessions that men have entered the women's bathrooms on many occasions, which is a major liability and leaves students incredibly vulnerable to sexual harassment and assault. On the flip side, the keypads will frequently run out of battery and when they do, they lock with no method of opening them without replacing the battery. Facilities will sometimes take days or even weeks to replace the batteries, forcing students to find alternatives to perform basic bodily functions and hygiene.

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In fact, it can construct, reinforce and change the very ideas in society it occupies traditionally white spaces. Has this been omitted from the film for so long, is pushed aside, as all they manage to counteract are veiled feelings about Black and people of color characters occupying traditionally white spaces. Does the world children live in acknowledge and celebrate people who look like them? Furthermore, do children’s movies really need to appeal to grown-up concerns? For example, the politically-correct terminology for the evil villain, rather than calling them the “evil sea witch”? Simply put, no.

When such events occur, it reminds us to reflect on how we challenge our perceptions of race. Such events act as catalysts to stir discussion, not just within the film industry, but in our local movie theaters too. Cultural change normally follows policy change; and so we are witnessing the gradual, tremulous progression of a cultural shift. Shifts don't occur linearly to the term suggests, but rather as a push-and-pull of opposing forces. This is one example where we witness a natural and well-organized process for pursuing such attempts.

Although one movie may or may not be the tipping point, it is certainly indicative of the fact that how we react to issues of race has not really changed from when the racial issue was first born.

There will be some who champion progressive endeavors, others who are repulsed by said “forced agenda,” and those in the middle who don’t know what to think. The delivery in which we express our thoughts varies with each generation. But more importantly, perhaps, is how we navigate it all.

This, I argue, is what defines the times. My hope is that we are especially resilient and passionate about sustaining such projects, as we firsthand witnessed the spillage of racial violence that accompanied the already-tenaciously-resistant community. Be that as it may, it is projected that more racially-inclusive media is to follow? Will stronger representation soon become a part of your world? We shall see…

I believe what we are witnessing is nothing new. Today, it’s with a movie. Tomorrow, it may be with a book. The controversy occurs for the same reason other diverse initiatives undergo similar scrutiny. It makes white people uncomfortable. Even more so, it's deconstructing and eradicating the “norm” that cocooned us for so long.

Reboots and live-action remakes are coming at us from all angles, with popular titles such as “The Little Mermaid” and “The Lord of the Rings” gaining traction. As companies release teaser trailers, people quickly react to these announcements.

What do a lot of these have in common? The uproar over the race of fictional characters. Or more specifically, the race of mythical creatures. On the surface, it appears to be a severe reaction from blatantly racist people. We already expect nothing short of bitter criticism from them. Yet, it is indisputable to say that this industry is an excellent medium for facilitating and accomplishing such changes, and it has certainly taken on that sort of role, intentional or not. Humans make stories about everything, and humans like to take in and process these stories.

That being said, movies geared toward children should appeal to them in a variety of ways, including offering them a sense of empowerment, wonder and reassurance. Indeed, they could also be a magical underwater princess, and mystical beings who look like them do exist within the realm of children’s fairytales. While it’s true these plots are not real, the impact such media has on children does exist, affecting the way they see the world.

As arguments of consistency and accuracy are made, points about intentional and maintained exclusivity are missed. Discourse about the multi-fold importance of representation, which has been omitted from the film for so long, is pushed aside, as all they manage to counteract are veiled feelings about Black and people of color characters occupying traditionally white spaces. Does the world children live in acknowledge and celebrate people who look like them? Furthermore, do children’s movies really need to appeal to grown-up concerns? For example, the politically-correct terminology for the evil villain, rather than calling them the “evil sea witch”? Simply put, no.

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Colin Luderitz
Assistant Opinion Editor

B ohn Hall, being a freshman dorm, is many resident students' first impression of their time at Montclair State University, which makes it that much more unfortunate that one of the key aspects of any living space is handled so poorly: the bathrooms. Despite pretty much everyone who lives on campus being grown adults with the ability to vote in elections, many of Bohn's residents seemingly need a hand with potty training. Until then, residents are ly need a hand with potty training. For starters, cleanliness. De-
Most people who are involved in music extracurriculars in high school have had “the talk” with their parents—the one where they are persuaded to pursue a safer career. They’re told that despite music and the arts being their passion, it never hurts to have a backup plan.

I listened to my parents early on and realized that music wasn’t for me in the long run, so I decided to go to Montclair State University’s School of Communication and Media. I ended up really enjoying my major, but all of last year, it felt as if something was missing.

Universities have so many clubs for so many different people, and yet I always felt left out from anything that related to me musically. When it comes to the arts, more specifically music, non-majors are left in the dark. Montclair State has so many wonderful music programs but it seems as if not many people outside of the John J. Cali School of Music know about them.

I came to Montclair State knowing I wanted to still be involved in a music extracurricular despite having no future career in the arts, but I figured it wouldn’t be a challenge considering how acclaimed the hundreds of clubs and music programs are here. I walked aimlessly around on Red Hawk Day, scanning each table hoping for a club that could relate to my interests.

When I tried to see what musical clubs I could get involved in at Montclair State, I was met with many roadblocks. It seemed as though the only way to be involved was if you were an arts major, or had some connection to it in some way. I had heard about Chorale from a friend at Montclair State but figured I was unable to join due to being a non-major. Upon further investigation on Montclair State’s website I learned that, technically, I was able to be involved by enrolling in the class and completing a vocal hearing.

During Chorale’s first rehearsal, Heather Buchanan, director of choral activities at Montclair State, asked who amongst us were non-music majors. Around eight hands were raised out of the 150 students in the room. Ever since joining Chorale, I felt like I was immediately welcomed and encouraged to be there, despite my major.

I was so happy to be performing music again, especially since not having been involved in anything since high school.

This raised a question for me: Why is it so difficult to find out about ways to be involved in the John J. Cali School of Music here on campus? Greek life, intramural sports teams and other clubs here at Montclair State consistently advertise their programs in the hopes of new members. I believe that if John J. Cali School of Music did this as well, not only would students within the College of the Arts get involved more, but so would a wide range of students in so many different programs.

I am a transfer student here, and already feel more involved and happier than I ever felt at my last school. Chorale has allowed me to continue my favorite activity from my childhood, while still being able to focus on a different career path in my adulthood.

I truly think Montclair State has an extracurricular for every student, and if they were all fully advertised, so many students could keep their hobbies and passions alive, despite their differing majors.

Allison Vlkovic, a sophomore communications and media major, is in her first year as a guest writer for The Montclarion.

Allison Vlkovic
Guest Writer

Non-Music Majors Should Have More Access To Music Extracurriculars

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Land Ho!

By Alex Pavljuk

The waves danced slow and steady under the hull of this once English schooner now loaded to the gills with armaments of war, ancient treasure and scurvy-ridden sailors.

The taste of rum still tickled the tongue of young Desmond Cutler. He hadn't had but a drop since their last docking ashore in Bermuda three nights ago. Now, laid down in a shabbily constructed hammock of mostly dirty linens, he gently swayed back and forth atop the riggings of the mast amidst the warm Southern Atlantic breeze.

After many months away from the taunting shores of the mainland, Desmond couldn't help but long for a night where he didn't need to fight for the floorboard closest to the ship's only cook, Johnny Stale-Bread, and his missing hand outfitted with, not a hook, but a wooden spoon. The men fought for this rich plot of wood so that, while the rest of the vessel shook and shivered in the ghostly night's breath, one or two lucky sailors could be kept warm from the smoldering embers which maintained Chef Stale-Bread's 14-and-a-half-year stew which he never seized stirring, even amid an enemy boarding party.

Yet, his rest was not for long as a warning shot from not so far away splashed its presence upon the sailors below.

“Spanish galleon off the starboard side! Lock down all buckles and cannons, yee scrappy sea dogs!” yelled Captain Sandy Snake Eyes. His commanding howls blowed from the stern of the ship as he plowed through the doors of his quarters.

Before Desmond could shake himself from this waking night terror of incalculable odds, a broadside cannon from the hull of the schooner released a shot that splintered a chunk off of the approaching ship's main deck. The sailors cheered tentatively as the once sleeping giant now swayed itself from a position of patience to a now enraged and scornful sentence of death.

Desmond swallowed sharply and closed his eyes, for a vast wall of fire and iron came flying across the bridge of the ship striking what seemed to be everything in its path. The masthead, which he clung to, cracked in the barrage and dropped him down and into the air where he hung upside down. His left boot was trapped in the tangle of now splintered ropes and riggings which left him suspended amongst the smoke.

With each passing blow, the sailors transcended into the great beyond where Davy Jones would be waiting with a deathly smile.

As he swung and swayed, a small mirage in the distance glistened with hope. The fire and charcoal of this once floating vessel now met with the salty waves of its path. The masthead, which he clung to, cracked in the barrage and dropped him down and into the air where he hung upside down. His left boot was trapped in the tangle of now splintered ropes and riggings which left him suspended amongst the smoke.

“Land Ho!”

Two hours after the sinking, and three since the Spanish Galleon had plundered the already once plundered treasures and treats of the scornfully sunken schooner, Desmond Cutler washed ashore the glorified sandbar and ancient reef graveyard.

The sun was getting low and the pinkish-orange hue of cresting end-of-day sky exuded unimaginable life across this perceptively lifeless rock in which the shipwrecked sailor found himself. The tide, which still was coming in, washed over Desmond, who floated there in wonder.
"The Octopus’ Garden Episode: 3" - Sophia Caparros

“Out Of This World” - Maxwell Best

“If I Die Young” - Avery Nixon
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
Students React to “The Little Mermaid” Trailer

Leighasia Wesley
Guest Writer

Anyone who isn’t a complete stranger to the internet has heard of the official Disney trailer of the live-action “The Little Mermaid” movie coming to theaters on May 26, 2023. Posted Sept. 9, the trailer shows that our beloved Ariel will be played by actress Halle Bailey. The number of viewers skyrocketed ever since the release, reaching well over 16 million views only five days later.

However, the views are not the only thing increasing. Just three days after the trailer hit the Internet, it already received more than 1.3 million dislikes; the likes are only a mere percentage of the dislikes. A lot of fans are not at all happy with this trailer.

Brianna Subero, a junior business administration major with a concentration in international business, noted that when some people are used to something being a certain way, it’s quite easy to become upset when sudden changes are made.

“I personally think some people are upset because there’s already the cartoon version out and [Ariel] doesn’t look like what’s portrayed in that,” Subero said.

Keaoh Gonzalez, a freshman visual arts major, added to this idea.

“I think people are hating on this trailer because it’s not their ideal princess or what they imagined since Ariel in the cartoon is white and red-headed,” Gonzalez said. “I don’t think they were expecting a black woman to play the role.”

But representation is a very important aspect to people all over the world, which Michaela Sokolowski, a freshman film and television major, spoke about.

“What we need is representation,” Sokolowski said. “We need different kinds of things going out there.”

In a world that is so diverse, seeing different types of people in the spotlight of popular shows and movies is what many people, like Richard Steiner-Otoo, a junior earth and environmental science major and executive president of the Student Government Association, love to see.

“I think that it is actually very beneficial, that sort of representation, especially in a world that can be so dynamic,” Steiner-Otoo said.

Although “The Little Mermaid” trailer continues to receive so much negativity on a daily basis, there is still so much positivity behind it. Along with clips of the trailer taking over the internet, there are also reaction videos of young children of color, more specifically little Black girls.

“I love seeing the videos that are all over my TikTok of the little girls happy to see someone that looks like them in a movie like this,” Subero said. “So I honestly think it’s what was needed.”

When kids witness people who look like them take on roles the way Bailey did as Ariel, it raises hope that they can do anything they want. They can finally see themselves as this character they always watched and adored, and hopefully one day, they can shoot for higher opportunities because they truly believe they can.

Gonzalez expressed how she looks forward to seeing “The Little Mermaid.”

“Just from the trailer, it looks so beautiful, and I love the song, so I am really excited to see it,” Gonzalez said. “I’m sure all the little girls who reacted to the trailer are happy to see it, too. We can’t wait to see how wonderful this movie turns out to be.”
Noah Cyrus' debut album, "The Hardest Part," was released on Sept. 16, 2022.

With vulnerability embedded in every lyric partnered with authentic Nashville instrumentation, this record radiates Cyrus. The first single Cyrus released back in April of this year, "I Burned LA Down," introduces us to the heartbreak she suffered.

"Oh, embers in the dark / Can look just like shooting stars / To a hit, broken heart / Oh, I wish I hadn't burned this city down / Cause you didn't care / No, you didn't care / Yeah, I burned LA down, and you left me there / Oh, you left me there," Cyrus sings.

The metaphorical flames Cyrus ignites represent how betrayal can lead to destructive desires.

"I barely recognize you when you wake up in the morning / Must be someone else's eyes that I look into everyday night / You're only kind when you're all f***ed up / You're only mine till your high is gone / But I wish you'd still love me when your drugs wear off in the morning," Cyrus sings.

She also utilizes her tone to accentuate her message, like her fragile delivery of "My Side of the Bed," representing her insecurity.

"You shifted your weight in the seat / I thought you were leaving me / But I'm just too fragile to speak / There's something broken in me," Cyrus whispers.

Cyrus's vulnerability in this song gave me chills.

"We all want the same thing / To love and be loved / It's a hard pill to swallow / That you're not enough / So I put on my coat / The world's cold, and it's rough / And if you're gonna make it / You gotta be tough / But I'm not," she sings.

During this period of weakness, Cyrus, fortunately, was able to rely on none other than the "father of the century" Billy Ray Cyrus. We all know and love him for the wise words he shared in Noah's opening track, "Noah (Stand Still)."

"Just stand still and watch the sun rise / That's what it's all about / Just stand still and watch the sun rise / Oh, I wish I hadn't noticed before. The one-liners are very quotable.

"Happy Endings" tragically lasted for only three seasons during its original run on ABC. Luckily, it had a slight resurgence during the pandemic and is finally getting some of the recognition it deserves.

The humor on the show is incredibly witty. Every single time I watch it, I catch something I hadn't noticed before. The one-liners are very quotable.

"Great News" on Netflix

Great news: I have another underrated sitcom to recommend. "Great News" follows a news producer, Katie (Briga Heelan), who faces her worst nightmare when her overbearing mother, Carol (Andrea Martin), decides to get an internship at the same fictional show Katie works at, "The Breakdown."

This series only lasted two seasons but still managed to stake its claim as one of my favorite shows. Not only is it hilarious, it also provides some meaningful commentary on today's media landscape without ever feeling too serious.

The strength of this show is its focus on Carol Martin, a seasoned performer, known for movies like "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," and she makes Carol funny, relatable and lovable. You can't help but root for her as she finds her footing in the newsroom.

I also really enjoyed the relationship between Katie and her boss Greg (Adam Campbell) and the hilarious dynamic between Portia (Nicole Richie) and Chuck (John Michael Higgins), who are both anchors on "The Breakdown." This show constantly delivered and kept me laughing the whole time.
Hannah Effinger
Production Editor

Netflix’s “Do Revenge,” starring Maya Hawke and Camila Mendes, has renewed my faith in fun teen comedies. “Do Revenge” follows the mysterious new kid, Eleanor (Maya Hawke), and exiled queen bee, Drea (Camila Mendes), as they come together in order to get revenge on their respective exes who have ruined their lives. To best execute their plans and avoid suspicion, the girls decide to do each other’s revenge while still coming together to watch the chaos ensue.

The wrongdoings committed against both Drea and Eleanor by their exes are sensitive yet realistic issues: an intimate video of Drea is leaked, and Eleanor is falsely accused of being a predator after coming out as gay to someone she trusted. But this movie handles both topics with absolute grace.

After the absolute train wreck that was Hulu’s “Crush,” I’ve been skeptical of any streaming service movies advertising the inclusion of gay characters within their storylines. I was honestly a little concerned after seeing what Eleanor is seeking revenge for, but it may be the best representation I have ever seen in a teen comedy movie. It’s realistic, doesn’t revolve around someone being outed and Eleanor is given a full storyline with a female love interest.

On the other hand, Drea’s situation is also handled in a realistic yet delicate way. She becomes a social pariah for the video while her ex becomes the poster boy for feminism on their campus.

The story frames the pair so well that you can’t help but root for Eleanor and Drea even if you know they’re a little crazy for creating these elaborate plans to ruin lives. There’s something so satisfying about seeing someone get what’s coming to them — even if it’s not the most ethical thing to destroy someone’s life, it seems so justified within the context of the story.

Though it’s to be expected at this point with the way Netflix is scrambling to stay relevant, the cast list for this movie was actually kind of crazy. It seemed like Netflix made a list of every actor on their payroll and picked out of a hat who to email to the cast. And you know what? It worked. It was fun to see all these familiar faces out of where we would normally see them, most notably getting to see Mendes free from the shackles of Veronica Lodge in “Riverdale.”

Mendes was born for this role. She’s able to effortlessly be a campy mean girl, definitely channeling the best parts of her “Riverdale” acting skills for the less serious parts of this role. Hawke was just as good. Though seeing her mostly ditch the awkward Robin from “Stranger Things” act was so refreshing, it felt like she was finally able to have a more well-rounded, well-written role, which she deserves.

The two actresses have impeccable chemistry. I genuinely found myself laughing in almost all the scenes they share: their comedic timings complement each other so well that it would be hard to not enjoy their performances individually and as a duo.

I will absolutely not give you any spoilers, but the plot twist of the movie is insane. I thought I had figured it all out about 20 minutes in, but to my surprise, it was so much more than what I had expected, and I absolutely loved it. In less serious news, this masterpiece also gives us the second-best cover of “B*tch” by Meredith Brooks in the past 10 years, only coming in behind Sue Sylvester’s rendition from “Glee.” It also includes a weird wall portrait of Jackie Kennedy for some reason that I do not understand but do respect if not only for the meme.

Though I think it’s needless to say, I really enjoyed this movie. From the tasteful amount of British people, to the c-word usage, to the incredibly attractive cast, this film might as well have had my name written all over it. It’s fun and fresh in a way I had forgotten existed, and it gives so much representation to self-described insane people everywhere.

If I still haven’t fully convinced you, “Do Revenge” is still sitting at number one on Netflix’s movie charts (and for good reason), so now’s a good time as any to cross it off your watchlist.
Primarily set in 1940s Georgia, this story follows two lovers, Bayou (Joshua Boone) and Leanne (Solea Pfeiffer), who open our story, bonding over being outcasts in their community. Bayou, a 17-year-old mama’s boy, suffers from always remaining in the shadow of his older brother, Willie Earl (Austin Scott), who is talented at playing the trumpet, much like their aspir- ing musician father. Leanne, a 16-year-old light-skinned beauty, on the other hand, is cast out by her community, referred to as “Bucket” by her peers as she was abandoned by her mother on a fateful day, their romance is shattered and inevitably falling in love. One rather the stakes are literally life and death as the circumstances revolve around racism. As Leanne passes for a white woman, her relationship with Bayou becomes more than just a familial restricted relationship. I don’t nor- mally jump the gun to watch a drama that revolves around romance, but this film really captured the hardships of loving in a time of segregation, a per-

The film spans two hours and eight minutes. For me, it did not feel long, but the drama certainly presents stereotyes you’d expect from Hollywood, dare I say “Oscar fishing.” But I was still very pleased with Perry’s execu-
tion and directional choices in this film.

For the next 80 minutes, the movie continues to dive into the forbidden romance of the two while also further-

Bayou (Boone) and Leanne “Bucket” (Solea Pfeiffer) bond over being outcasts. Photo courtesy of Netflix

‘A Jazzman’s Blues’ Is a Dramatic Tale of Forbidden Love

Andrew Cooper
Guest Writer

Tyler Perry is best known for creating and portraying the comedic elderly woman, Madea “Madge” Earlene Sim-

ons, as well as producing countless films and television shows, so when sitting down to watch his latest film, “A Jazzman’s Blues,” I was surprised to learn it was a dramatic tale of forbid-
doned love.

The plot also does not hold back. It’s clear Perry has moved out of his comfort zone. Rather than laughing hysterially by the end of this film, I was instead in tears. I was emotionally drawn into this relationship between Bayou and Leanne, whose romance has been compared by critics to the relationship in “The Notebook.” The film was filled with intense melodrama and twists that had you rooting for the couple the whole time. For me, this romance was even better than that of “The Notebook,” as I finally got to step away from the white-washed Romeo and Juliet forbidden romance and triumphs and tribulations of a relationship with awful timing.

However, what I believe makes this story much more compelling is that it’s not just timing for these two lovers, but rather the stakes are literally life and death. As Leanne passes for a white woman, her relationship with Bayou becomes more than just a familial restricted relationship. I don’t nor-
mally jump the gun to watch a drama that revolves around romance, but this film really captured the hardships of loving in a time of segregation, a per-

And the movie dealing with frustration toward one another.

The film certainly has no trouble with pacing and creating compelling characters played by a cast that puts on a convincing performance.

For those of you who are music lovers, you’d certainly love the rhyth-
ic pieces of Aaron Zigman’s cultur-
ally rich score. Of course, with the music arranged by trumpeter Terence Blanchard, he and Zigman shape a soundtrack that provides a soulful feeling. Boone’s performances in many of these numbers also stand out and Debbye Allen’s jubilant choreography heightened my placement in this 1940s cinematic experience Perry creates.

Overall, this is my favorite piece of content by Perry as I felt it came from a place deep in his heart. Knowing Perry’s background, this was a new step for him, and he certainly found his voice in this genre.
Club Men’s Soccer is Improved, Expanded, and Ready to Take Advantage

With a newly hired head coach, the squad looks to become even better than before

Head coach Besnik Bekteshi not only wants his players to grow on the field, but also off the field.

Building gradually. That’s what the Montclair State University men’s club soccer team has been doing over the last couple of seasons. Over the years, the team has lacked structure, stability and ambition. However, the tides have slowly been turning.

The current president of the club, senior forward Randy Shaller, said the club has made changes for the better and it’s not to put shade on any of the previous members, but to show how far they have come as a team.

“Back when I was a freshman, the team lacked a lot of structure and a lot of organization,” Shaller said. “We did not have a coach or anyone that officially ran practices.”

Because club sports are primarily student-run, not having a coach or someone who is clearly in charge can cause some controversy.

“Those boys are all incredibly hard-working,” Bekteshi said. “They all want to participate and they all put in effort every time, it’s really nice. They are a nice bunch, they have good dynamics and chemistry amongst each other, and whatever happens today or any other day, I enjoy working with them.”

Some other notable differences for the club now include having their first spring season in club history and having their first ever pre-season, which was three days with a fitness test at the end. They also partnered with a local Chipotle to raise money for dues and had everyone try out again to get the most competitive team possible this fall season.

Having a spring season is something the club has always wanted to do but for some reason, the pieces never connected and it didn’t happen until the 2022 season. The spring season was only a handful of friendly matches with the Red Hawks finishing at 2-2 but, according to senior co-captain and defender Gabe Agudo, it was successful.

“Tough defeats but at the same time we were just clicking and trying new things,” Agudo said. “This was also the first season with our very first coach. But overall, I think it went very well. Having a coach and the team focused and gelling together was something I wished for since the start of my first year in 2019.”

With all of the changes to the club and with the season underway, Agudo loves where the current state of the club is and where it’s headed.

“It feels like we’re a family,” Agudo said. “We are a brotherhood that wants to succeed. We want to thrive for the best, we want to win everything this year. It’s been a pretty rough three years, the structure wasn’t built, and we needed to rebuild it. We made a castle with our team and now we’re trying to conquer it.”

The team is currently undefeated with a record of 2-0-1 to start the fall season with wins over Seton Hall University and Rutgers University, and Agudo is extremely satisfied.

“We have better players, more focused players, we are now more focused with a coach,” Agudo said. “We are just gelled together now. We’re able to work together now and work in harmony.”

There is no doubt that it has been a steep climb back up to the top of the ladder and because of that climb, the Montclair State men’s soccer club is back to where it wants to be.
THE STATS BEHIND MEN’S SOCCER’S HOT START

16
THE TEAM’S RANK IN THE D3SOCCER.COM TOP 25 POLL.

21
THE TEAM’S RANK IN THE UNITED SOCCER COACHES POLL.

325%
THE PERCENTAGE OF GOALS THAT MONTCLAIR STATE HAS OVER THEIR OPPONENTS.

1
THE AMOUNT OF GOALS BORIS DEL VALLE HAS ALLOWED SO FAR THIS SEASON IN FIVE GAMES.

8
THE AMOUNT OF PLAYERS THAT HAVE SCORED GOALS FOR MONTCLAIR STATE.

4
THE NUMBER OF GOALS ALLOWED BY THE RED HAWKS, WHICH IS SECOND LOWEST IN THE NJAC.

33
THE AMOUNT OF SHOTS BOTH JOSIAH CRAWFORD AND AMER LUKOVIC HAVE SO FAR IN THE SEASON, WHICH ARE TIED FOR 2ND IN THE CONFERENCE.

46%
THE PERCENTAGE OF SHOTS THAT ARE ON GOAL.

JUSTIN GOLDBERG
PHOTO BY TREVOR GIESBERG
Roller Hockey Returns After Two Years of Uncertainty

After 933 days of waiting and uncertainty, Montclair State University’s club roller hockey team finally looks to roll into training camp for their long-awaited comeback season.

After 933 days of waiting and uncertainty, Montclair State University’s club roller hockey team finally looks to roll into training camp for their long-awaited comeback season, thanks to the hard work and dedication of those who’ve been with the organization since the beginning.

During their inaugural 2019-2020 season, the Red Hawks tore through their regular season schedule with a record of 10-5, as well as state and regional tournaments, and were gearing up to play in the 2020 National Collegiate Roller Hockey Association (NCRHA) tournament. Team co-founder, first-year head coach and former player Zach Davis, said that it was a dream come true for him and co-founder Garret Negron.

“It was [Negron’s] vision,” Davis said. “We tried starting an ice hockey team at Rutgers University. Newark when we were both there and we ended up both transferring out and we said ‘Alright, let’s start a roller team.’ We came here and got it kickstarted, we brought in some people who really helped us bring it a long way.”

Unfortunately, due to challenges caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the tournament was unceremoniously canceled. Davis remembered the confusion and heartbreak he felt when the season was canceled prematurely by the onset of the pandemic.

“We didn’t know what exactly was going on, just like the rest of the world,” Davis said. “We were a little upset because they kept pushing back Nationals a couple of weeks and kept saying that they were going to put in new safety protocols but a week later we got the call that it was canceled. It was heartbreaking because we put in a lot of effort and the odds were against us.”

The conference the team plays in, the Eastern Collegiate Roller Hockey Association (ECHRHA) Division III, did not schedule games during the 2020 season. In addition, university policy kept the team together, several key players either graduated or transferred to other schools which played through the pandemic. In addition, the team was without a coaching staff. The program looked to the club’s origins to solve both of these issues. Davis went from player to head coach to provide stability behind the bench.

Montclair State brought in Santo Competiello as an assistant coach. He’s been involved with roller hockey ever since he first picked up a stick while growing up in Brooklyn, New York. He played for several semi-professional clubs as well as Team USA’s 23 and Under squad. He said he met Davis and Negron as players before the club was founded.

“I met some of the [Montclair State] kids at the local rink in North Arlington,” Competiello said. “And I met Davis and Negron at open hockey. At the time I was in my prime playing [with] Team USA and playing pro and they wanted to develop as players and I took them under my wing.”

Competiello was originally set to be the program’s first head coach but could not take the job due to work and other time restrictions. But when asked to help out this year, he accepted. In addition to securing wheel deals that lower the cost of playing, Competiello also said he plays a key role in recruiting.

“In our local area, if you’ve been playing indoor roller hockey, everyone knows each other,” Competiello said. “[We] also try and recruit the ice hockey kids that still want to play at a competitive level.”

As training camp gets underway, the team’s roster is deeper than ever, fielding a mix of roller hockey veterans and promising former high school ice hockey players making their debut. Co-founder, captain and senior defenseman Negron said he hopes to pass down what he’s learned to the next generation of roller hockey players.

“As the returning captain, I feel strongly equipped to lead a team of new players,” Negron said. “The two years between seasons have given me time to grow playing semi-pro and tournament hockey. The game has truly slowed down for me and I want to use my skills to develop the immense talent in this program.”

Despite the challenges, expectations for the Red Hawks are still high. Negron said the team looks to replicate their past success.

“This season I expect a similar turnout as the 2020 nationals run,” Negron said. “Our program lost some great players during our downtime but the players we gained can easily match that level.”

Negron said that he is excited that all of the team’s hard work through the pandemic is finally going to pay off when the Red Hawks open up their season in the coming month.

“The return of the roller hockey club means everything to me,” Negron said. “We built this program back in 2019 and had all the pieces to win a championship. To get the message that the 2020 Nationals tournament was canceled was beyond heartbreak. After three years of downtime, we were finally able to field a full, competitive team and I couldn’t be more excited to roll this season.”
SPORTS WRITERS WANTED!

E-Mail: montclarionsports@gmail.com

Room 2035, School of Communication and Media in Upper Montclair, NJ, 07043
Senior defensive lineman Dimitri Pali has had plenty of accolades throughout his career. He led the Red Hawks in sacks in 2021, was named First Team All-New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) and was NJAC player of the week in his first year at Montclair State University back in 2019, just to name a few.

However, there's a lot about Pali that you may not know. Details that are vital to his current and past success. And in terms of football, it all starts back in high school with a certain influential figure.

“I’d say my biggest inspiration was really my high school coach,” Pali said. “Funny thing is he had the same name as my [defensive line] coach right now, coach Bill Walsh. He passed away due to ALS [Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis]. He was a big part of me. He was like a father figure to me. So, I really looked up to him. He really pushed me on my journey. He saw that I could be better. I was in the gym every day working with him.”

One of Pali’s current teammates and roommate, graduate student defensive back Mike Ramos, has been with Pali every step of the way at Montclair State.

“When [Pali] first came in, he was always very quiet and I didn’t talk to him that often,” Ramos said. “[But] from the first day, I saw how much talent he had and I was glad he was one of us. He put in so much extra work in the off-season to get to where he is now. He is now one of my closest friends and roommates and I’m grateful to have grown on and off the field with him. I’m excited to see him continue to make plays for us on the defensive side of the ball.”

One thing that was consistently made clear about Pali is that his passion for football and his work ethic is special and unlike any other players on the team. Associate head coach and recruiting coordinator Mike Palazzo detailed exactly how much work Pali puts in when it comes to conditioning and getting his body in shape.

“The most impressive part about [Pali] was the off-season training that he does,” Palazzo said. “He really knows how to take care of his body and he’s so physically strong. Some guys don’t know how to train and they just try to lift heavy weights. [Pali] stresses his flexibility and functional training.”

Pali was also voted as a team captain for the 2022 season, which is a huge accomplishment for any member of the Montclair State football team. Palazzo said Pali’s teammates knew that he deserved it this season.

“This year [Pali] was voted as a captain by his peers,” Palazzo said. “This is a very deserving award because while [Pali] is quiet, he’s a leader in how he approaches the game. He’s very passionate and he’s willing to grow not only as a player but as a leader. I’ve really enjoyed watching [Pali] develop into these things.”

Before his success with the Red Hawks, Pali was a transfer from East Stroudsburg University down in Pennsylvania. Palazzo fought hard to get him onto the squad.

“He was a late recruit for us,” Palazzo said. “[I] found out he was leaving East Stroudsburg and I didn’t get ahold of him right away. I was persistent and finally got him on campus. I believe in late May and we got him to commit shortly after.”

Pali was not feeling his prior school, but when he came to Montclair State, it felt like he was at home.

“When I first got here, it was different from my old school,” Pali said. “I went to East Stroudsburg. I played there during my freshman year. It didn’t really work out. I entered the transfer portal and [Palazzo] hit me up. He [said] ‘Hey, what would you think about coming to play at Montclair State?’ I [said], ‘Alright!’ I came up for a visit and I talked to [head coach Rick Giancola], it was a great conversation. I loved it. I was like ‘Alright, I want to come here.’ I love the campus, it’s a beautiful campus. There’s a great culture here.”

This may be Pali’s senior year at Montclair State, but it’s safe to say that given his leadership and athletic ability, nobody wants to see him go anywhere else anytime soon.

Palazzo had a straightforward message for Pali for the future.

“I really hope he comes back next year,” Palazzo said. He’s probably close to graduating but has a year due to [the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic], so fingers crossed. [Pali], if you read this, let’s run it back.”