Montclair State releases Clery Act report

Montclair State University's annual Jeanne Clery Act statistics report was released on Sept. 30, showing increases in rapes, fondling, aggravated assaults, burglary, stalking and dating violence.

The Clery Act is a long-standing federal law that provides transparency for crimes occurring on college campuses across the United States.

The Act was named after Jeanne Clery, a freshman who was raped and murdered while attending Lehigh University in 1986. After Clery's death, her parents found out that 38 violent crimes occurred before their daughter's enrollment and that information was never provided by the institution. In 1990, a law was signed and colleges had to report their annual crime statistics.

Kimberly Campbell will do whatever it takes to support women's soccer

Article continues on page 3

New Jersey Secretary of State visits Montclair State

Jenna Sundel  
Managing Editor

The New Jersey Secretary of State, Taisha Way, visited Montclair State University on National Voter Registration Day to urge students to exercise their civic duty.

National Voter Registration Day was on Sept. 20 and the university participated by signing up voters, a food truck, games on the quad and speeches from Student Government Association (SGA) members, Montclair State President Jonathan Koppell, the CEO of YWCA Northern New Jersey and Way.

Richard Steiner-Otoo, junior earth and environmental science major and SGA president, said the event was a success.

"Tons of students have already registered to vote or have already come up saying that they are registered to vote, which is really exciting and pledged to vote in this upcoming election," Steiner-Otoo said. Megan Murnick, a senior family science and human development major and an organizational liaison for the SGA presidential cabinet, explained why the SGA decided to hold this event. "We have wanted to make sure that voter registration is available to every student on this campus and some students might have a little bit of difficulty knowing how to register or the resources to register," Murnick said. "So we wanted to make sure that we had a day that could be all about registering to be able to vote so you can have a voice in what is happening around us."

Secretary continued on page 5

“If Montclair State University’s goal is to provide equal opportunities to all students, especially those who are disadvantaged by systemic biases, how can we reckon a system that perpetuates exactly the same?”

- ANTHONY FOSTER

continued on page 17

Content continues on page 5...
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.

All submissions to the newspaper become property of The Montclarion. We do not print articles from anonymous contributors. The first issue of The Montclarion, then named The Pelican, was published on November 28, 1928.
Clery Act
Continued from Page 1

According to this year’s statistics, rape went from two in 2020 to seven in 2021, fondling zero to three, aggravated assault one to three, burglary one to five, dating violence six to 10, liquor law arrests four to six and stalking zero to one.

The report also shows a decline in crimes such as domestic violence decreasing from 27 cases in 2019 to eight in 2020 and seven in 2021. Drugs law arrests went from 20 to two.

Capt. Kieran Barrett of the Montclair State Police department said the rising numbers are due to the low amount of resident students that were on campus during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

“In 2020, more than 90% of classes were being conducted either in an entirely remote or hybrid fashion,” Barrett said. “This significantly reduced the number of people on campus at any given time.”

Barrett also explained the statistics are a reflection of the pre-pandemic numbers.

“In addition, the pandemic reduced the on-campus resident population to about 60% occupancy in the residence halls,” Barrett said. “In 2021, the campus returned to full occupancy in the residence halls. While the numbers tend to fluctuate slightly from year to year, these numbers are just a return to pre-pandemic totals.”

According to Barrett, the university police department is doing everything it can to ensure students’ safety on campus.

“While our campus remains a very safe one, that does not mean, however, that we are content with these figures,” Barrett said. “We will continue to work to ensure all of our community members feel safe and supported. That is what everyone who becomes a part of our community or steps on our campus deserves.”

With the increase in sexual offenses, university police and campus life are working hard to educate people on what to do in these situations and encouraging victims to come forward.

“Some of the resources we provide include comprehensive on-campus care for victims of sexual violence, Counseling and Psychological Services, advocates for victims of crime both on campus and at off-campus court locations,” Barrett said. “And as will remain the case, we will continuously assess our community and its needs and implement new and beneficial ways to educate and inform its members.”
Montclair State Ranks Among Best Institutions in the Nation

The Montclarion

Students walking on Montclair State's campus.

Julia Duggan
Guest Writer

The annual U.S. News and World Report 2022-2023 Best Colleges guidebook is out and Montclair State University is ranked high in several categories. The institution is ranked seventh in the nation for graduation rate performance. This ranking is the rate at which students outperform their anticipated graduation rate compared to college students in other schools in the same programs. There are 440 schools sorted for the national categories and Montclair State was selected as the seventh best in the nation. Montclair State earned another national ranking for the six-year student graduation rate. U.S. News and World Report predicted the graduation rate would be at 49 percent but the actual rate is 67 percent. The 18 percentage point difference earned the university fifth best in the nation for graduation rate for public national universities. President Jonathan Koppell explains that the enrollment number is increasing because students are aware of all the benefits the institution provides.

"Students are increasingly drawn to Montclair [State] because they know they will receive a high return on their investment while being part of an inclusive and supportive community built to help them realize their dreams and make a difference in the world," Koppell said. The last national ranking Montclair State earned is 21st for Top Performers on Social Mobility. This category is based on how colleges enroll low-income students and bring them closer to achieving their goals.

In addition, Montclair State earned several state rankings. The university is second in the state of New Jersey for a master's degree in public health. The members of the department are excited since the major is newer. Lisa Lieberman, the chairperson of the public health department, shared the importance of this achievement.

"We are a relatively small but very close-knit program and we are widely successful," Lieberman said. "Our ranking is really important since we are a newer program and it is exciting to be ranked among the best in New Jersey."

Some exciting developments are happening with the public health department. There is a new four-plus-one program to complete an undergraduate degree and a master's degree in five years. There is also a new dual master's in public health and business that takes three years to complete.

Montclair State's master's degree in business administration was ranked fourth in the state of New Jersey and the education program was also ranked second in the state of New Jersey. Many students like Henry Tighe, a junior sports communication major, said this ranking is well deserved.

"This makes me feel great," Tighe said. "We're not going to college for the degree so much as going to school to get a career. I think that seeing it is actually obtainable makes me feel like I made the right choice coming here."

Tighe also believes his classes are doing an amazing job at preparing him for his career.

"I have learned more here in a semester than I have at any other school or university or anywhere really," Tighe said. "I think they're more focused here on actual practical skills and a lot of the staff and faculty have a lot of experience out in their fields which is helpful." Malerbe Gilles, a sophomore biochemistry major, is ecstatic to hear this news.

"That's really cool to hear," Gilles said. "It's really helpful, especially being a biochemistry major; it's really hard to graduate."

Gilles mentioned there is a place to go in the biology department to get help with graduation and getting a job out of college. He believes this is why Montclair State deserves the ranking.

Leo Hashikura, a senior film-making major, was pleasantly surprised by the ranking.

"I am graduating this year," Hashikura said. "I am so ready to graduate, but definitely prepared," Hashikura said. "Maybe that is because Montclair State deserves the ranking." Malerbe Gilles, a sophomore biochemistry major, is ecstatic to hear this news.

"That's really cool to hear," Gilles said. "It's easy to stay on track here and there are a lot of requirements that prepare us." Hashikura said. "It's easy to stay on track here and there are a lot of requirements that prepare us."

Hashikura is ready to graduate and get into the real world and thanks Montclair State for preparing him as much as they did.

"Graduation-wise I am most definitely prepared," Hashikura said. "Maybe that is because I am so ready to graduate, but they have prepared us so much, which is great." Koppell said these results represent the university's value and dedication.

"These results are a testament to the strong work ethic and talent of our students and the dedication of our faculty and staff who support them to ensure they persist, earn a degree and go on to well-paying jobs," Koppell said.
Secretary
Continued from Page 1
Murnick also commented on Way's visit to Montclair State.

“Having the Secretary of State is an amazing honor for everyone at Montclair State to be able to have,” Murnick said. “I can’t even explain in words how awesome it is to have her, but yeah, I’m really excited to be able to meet her today and be able to hear her words of encouragement for all of us future voters.”

During his speech, Koppell shared his feelings on Way’s visit to Montclair State.

“I’m so excited that we have our Secretary of State here today,” Koppell said. “She’s somebody who’s made it a mission to get people voting in New Jersey and I’m fully on board with that mission.”

Koppell also emphasized that voting is just the beginning.

“Voting is the start, but it’s not the end,” Koppell said. “We’re talking about having your voice heard. We never can say who we’re asking you to vote for, but we just want to ensure that our voters understand that voting is the floor to other rights and privileges and career paths.”

Misinformation and disinformation have become prevalent topics in many recent elections. Way highlighted the importance of factual information regarding elections and voting.

“We of course want our voters to not only vote, but we want to ensure that they understand the facts, the truth about the election process,” Way said. “Voters want confidence and they want to make certain that they feel as though there’s integrity in it at all.”

Way also combated the popular notion that voting does not make a difference.

“It’s very important that we build upon legacies and histories and make sure that everyone understands that they are powerful through their voices at the ballot box,” Way said.
"Enchantment of Gardens" Brand Showcases Art and Enviromentalism

Crystal Durham
Graphic Design Editor

Fashion is a popular industry, but it comes with its faults. It can be wasteful, with people cycling through clothing every few months. One brand on campus is working to change that.

Creative, passionate and diligent are a few words to describe the owner and creator of "Enchantment of Gardens." Anacia Sessoms, a sophomore at Montclair State University, is working toward her visual arts degree while taking on the adventures of owning an eco-friendly clothing business.

Enchantment of Gardens launched back in Nov. 2021. While Sessoms first came up with the concept for the business in the summer of that year, she took her time to develop something unforgettable.

"The goal is to make the customer and the audience just love to be around the brand or want to be a part of the brand," Sessoms said.

This eco-friendly sustainable clothing brand keeps its consumers in the loop when it comes to saving the planet. This brand brings a unique touch to the consumer's eyes. Rather than ordering a whole new catalog, Sessoms upcycles clothing pieces from second-hand stores and gives them a new purpose.

"I create them into artsy-looking tops, bottoms, skirts, legwarmers, hats, like anything you can think of," Sessoms said. "I really just wanted to make sure I'm helping the environment as well as being someone who can create something without feeling like I'm harming something."

A common trend in the fashion industry is fast fashion, or taking ideas from trending models or celebrities and making them into pieces that only see the light of day for a short amount of time. Sessoms mentions that she doesn't see herself stepping away from her upcycling niche, no matter how popular fast fashion becomes.

"I do not want to have fast fashion within my brand at all," Sessoms explained. "I'm really against that stuff, so that's why I really decided to upcycle pieces." Enchantment of Gardens gives an artistic aesthetic to each piece created. Whether it's a pair of pants, a tote bag or a crop top, each item holds a story behind its hand-painted artwork. Sessoms plays around with her love of nature by incorporating different sceneries into each piece. Her designs are a mixture of contrasting paints and whimsical faces.

Back in April of 2021, Sessoms launched her first tote bag collection called, "The Gardens." The collection consisted of hand-painted tote bags that were showcased in a photography series of her own. It also holds a special place in Sessoms's heart.

"This tote bag is my favorite," Sessoms said. "It was the first tote bag that I ever created for my brand, symbolizing the internal transformation of life."

Enchantment of Gardens is known for giving a joyful feeling to the consumers. Arely Reyes, a freshman undecided, loves the clothing brand because of its originality.

"I love how her brand pops out," Reyes said. "It's so creative and unique. It's amazing."

Jajone Cuff, a senior television and digital media major, shares why Enchantment of Gardens is creating a new conversation for the nature that lives around us.

"I really like how the garden is a core element of her pieces," Cuff said. "Nature is all around us and I think people who are so busy with their lives don't take the time to surround themselves with nature as much as they should." When scrolling through the brand's Instagram, items like her Sun Rise Rooftop skirts and time wrap mare jeans play off of the art of nature.

Sessoms pushes herself to create pieces that make people feel like their own artists. Whether she is creating handbags, custom design jeans or crop tops, she is in tune with her target audience and the trends of the time.

"I always want the customer to feel like their own unique artist," Sessoms said. "While I'm creating my pieces, I take into consideration what others would like to see me create."

Sessoms does not only use her artistic abilities for designing clothes. After a long week of work and school, she relieve stress by tapping into her inner artist for self-care purposes.

"When I'm in a rut or really stressed out, I tend to create a lot," Sessoms said.

When discussing the brand goals for the future, Sessoms hopes to one day be a designer in New York Fashion Week and create her own boutiques in the New York area.

"I would like to be a designer at New York Fashion Week. I feel like it could happen, especially now that you can apply and walk in different shows," Sessoms said. "Another goal for me is to be located in New York City, whether it's to have a boutique or work in the industry."

As the school year continues, there is nothing but greatness in store for the owner of Enchantment of Gardens. If you want to see more of Sessoms's clothing business journey, you can follow Enchantment of Gardens on Instagram at @enchantmentofgardens.
Socialism Club Hopes to Spark Change on Campus

Laura Tamayo
Guest Writer

For any socialists at Montclair State University wanting to unite with like-minded peers, now is the time. This semester, the Socialist Club is on the rise and looking to make a change on campus.

Riley Fluharty, a sophomore history major, is the club’s founder and president. Fluharty has been interested in socialist politics for most of her life. Being educated on socialism and interested in its philosophy over the years, Fluharty decided to start the Socialist Club because she wants to educate other students on socialist theory and its philosophy.

Fluharty has been at the forefront of getting the club up and running and working out the kinks. She shared why socialism is important to her.

“You live in a society, you witness [the ills] and you witness your own oppression and [the] oppression you do to other people just by existing,” Fluharty said. The Socialist Club’s goal on campus is to build up a network of people who are either new to the idea of socialism or already familiar with it. Fluharty explained what the socialist philosophy is.

“Socialists believe that capitalism is inherently exploitative,” Fluharty said. “The way we conduct business and the way countries interact with each other is all means exploitative and only works to serve those who are already in power. Some policies popular with socialists include universal healthcare, universal work programs, an end to homelessness and massive drug and police reforms.”

Conor Curtin, a sophomore philosophy major, is the club’s vice-president. He explained why students should get involved with the club.

“[Students should join] to organize and teach people specifically about theory and [about] what socialism is because a lot of people have a very skewed perception of socialism and I think the most important thing you can do is to get out there and show people [that socialism] is not a scary thing,” Curtin said. “Students who attended the student involvement fair might have seen the Socialist Club at their first event on campus. The club is focusing on organizing and building strength in numbers.

When asked what questions she frequently receives about the club, Fluharty shared that she gets general questions like if they support communist regimes of the past and present.

“No, we don’t,” Fluharty said. “We’re not a Stalinist club and are not supportive of the Communist Party of China.”

Devin “Ire” Triple, a sophomore business administration major with a concentration in management, is the Socialist Club secretary. They discussed different methods the club is using to spread the word on campus.

“[Fluharty] put posters everywhere,” Triple said. “Every time I turn a corner, I see a poster and I’m like, ‘Jesus Christ, how did she get it there?’”

The club plans to get the word out about events and meetings through the club’s Instagram page and students are welcome to direct message Triple on the platform as well. The club also communicates through Discord and Fluharty sends e-mail reminders for meetings or general information. Students can sign up for e-mails at the meetings.

During the meetings, students should expect to discuss and connect the readings, provided by Fluharty, to the real world. Some philosophers the club is planning on discussing are Karl Marx, Huey P. Newton, Friedrich Engels, Leon Trotsky and Angela Davis. Members should expect a laid-back and inviting space in which they can participate in engaging discussions and ask any questions they might have.

The club is hopeful it will draw in a diverse group of students from all walks of life. They hope to attract students of different races, gender identities and backgrounds. Currently, the club meets at 6 p.m. every other Friday in University Hall. The club’s Instagram handle is @msu.socialism.
Smoothie Lab Experiments with Healthier Alternatives

Fruity, fresh and fun are all words that come to mind when one thinks about smoothies and acai bowls. These healthy treats are great for anyone who wants to get some energy for the day but don’t want all the processed sugar, carbs or fat that most snacks have. Eating healthy for college students is notoriously hard, but has Montclair State University found the answer to that problem?

This semester, the university’s dining services opened up Smoothie Lab, a location on the Student Center Patio for the Montclair State community. The announcement of this new option generated a lot of buzz from students, as many were excited about having an option reminiscent of Playa Bowls.

Before this semester, healthier options on campus were limited, with only two locations, Panera and the Venture Cafe, offering a handful of basic smoothie options. Otherwise, you were left with the stomach-destroying choices at Panda Express and California Tortilla, or you could risk getting food poisoning from one of the dining halls on campus. Either way, your body sure won’t be thanking you later.

So when students heard that Smoothie Lab was coming to campus, many were glad that they would have a healthier option to turn to. That, plus the passion many students have for stores like Playa Bowls, equaled high expectations.

Let’s begin with the elephant in the room: the smoothies. Now, options are limited: Smoothie Lab only offers four different smoothies. For a place with the name that it does, one would think that there would be more of a variety in smoothies.

I’ve had two of the smoothies: the Elemental Smoothie and the Reactor Smoothie. The Elemental was a mix of orange juice, strawberries, banana, pineapple and honey. I was looking forward to this one, as I am a fan of all the ingredients in this drink.

I don’t know if it was the ratio of ingredients in the smoothie or just the potentiency of the ingredients, but the orange juice and the pineapple completely overtook the whole thing. The rest of the fruits had no impact on the taste of the smoothie, and the pineapple was so strong that it left an acidic aftertaste in the back of my mouth. It was average, but I certainly wouldn’t get it again.

I liked the Reactor smoothie much better. This was right up my alley, with a combination of blackberries, bananas, acai, rice milk and honey. But although this was good, it was a bit boring. Much like the Elemental Smoothie, I didn’t taste much else besides the blackberries and acai. All in all, the smoothies are trying to do too much while accomplishing very little.

Now let’s move to the acai bowls. I opted for an item called Bowl-tonium, and I fell in love with it right away. With an acai base, bananas, granola, mini chocolate chips and sunflower seed butter, it was a match made in heaven for me.

The two other bowl options at Smoothie Lab. Berry-ology was a blend of acai, blueberries, strawberries, bananas and granola, while Bowl 2.0 contains acai, mango, pineapple, blueberries, chia seed and granola.

The prices are a bit expensive at Smoothie Lab. Each smoothie cost $6.50, which is more than both the smoothies at Panera and the Venture Cafe. Additionally, each acai bowl costs $9.50. Students can add extra items to their smoothie or bowl, but for $0.99 per additional ingredient.

Taliyah Bacon, a freshman public health major, said that she was surprised to learn that the Smoothie Lab was a dining option.

“I was a little bit shocked,” Bacon said. “I never really heard of anything of any smoothie places [on campus].”

Some other students weighed in about Smoothie Lab. Genesis Garcia-Morales, a sophomore visual arts major, said that she preferred Panera’s smoothies.

“I actually taste a strawberry in the banana when I order [the smoothie at Panera],” Garcia-Morales said. “[In the Elemental] I only tasted the orange juice and the banana.”

Garcia-Morales also expressed her happiness that there was now a healthier option for students.

“I think it’s like a good thing that they’re opening smoothies [because] not many people are able to eat in the morning,” Garcia-Morales said. “And I think the smoothie is a good thing to give you energy, especially if you have like a test or something like that.”

The Smoothie Lab is open Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and is located at the Student Center Patio.
THE WORLD WITHOUT NEWS WOULD BE...
Who is one of your role models?

“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.”

Brandon Valderrama
Senior
Sustainability Sciences

“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 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 through high school.”

Flavia Hidalgo
Undecided
Freshman

My role model would be my mom because 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

“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

Sarah Hrubovcakova
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Isadora Pedroso
Sophomore
Biology
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<th>Horoscopes</th>
<th>Hannah Effinger</th>
<th>Colin Luderitz</th>
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<td>Dec. 22 – Jan. 19</td>
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<td>Oh boy! A capricorn! “Pessimistic, greedy, cynical, fearful, ruthless in achieving a goal, rigid and miserable.” Just my type!</td>
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<td>Let’s do some self-reflection this week; if you have to keep defending your significant other’s actions to every single one of your friends, maybe it’s time to open up your listening ears and hear them out a little bit!</td>
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<td>I feel like if you’re an aquarius, you must like marine life or something. If you don’t, don’t tell me. Let me hold on to the magic.</td>
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<td>You find a shallow cave in a pile of rocks to take shelter in. You can lass here for a day or two and wait for him to give up. How is he still chasing you? Is he some sort of mutant? Suddenly, you see a feather boa blowing in the wind 20 feet from your cave. He is near.</td>
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<td>Pisces, now’s as good a time as any to start plotting your revenge. If you don’t have a motive for revenge? MAKE a motive for revenge. Mercury is out of retrograde and your fury will put it back.</td>
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<td>This week is a week for healing. Read Jennette McCurdy’s new book! Scream into a pillow! Build a life size ceramic sculpture of your head and throw it off of CarPac! Whatever you feel like doing this week, just do it! You deserve it.</td>
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<td>Please stop reading the Montclair State University confessions hoping one of them will be about you and please just go outside.</td>
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<td>Sep. 23 – Oct. 22</td>
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<td>Bravery is just dumb. Maybe you should run away more.</td>
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<td><strong>Taurus</strong></td>
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<td>Welp it’s Oct. and that means the cold is here! If you happen to see a scrummy bungly (little creature) shivering outside BRING THEM IN. If you’re cold, they’re cold.</td>
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<td>Sorry your birthday month has been so rainy and gloomy! At least it suits you well! Xoxo.</td>
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<td>Hey Gemini did you know that you have rights? Constitution says you do! And so does Steve Lacy. Steve believes that unless proven guilty, every Gemini in this country has great taste in music.</td>
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<td>Put down the Peach Nectarine Redbull, drink some water and take a nap. Please. Your internal organs c’ed us on their email to CAPS concerning your well being.</td>
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Across
7. This show features children competing in beauty pageants.
8. This Netflix show follows realtors at the Oppenheim Group in Los Angeles.

Down
1. The winner of season one of “American Idol.”
2. This reality show franchise includes versions based in New Jersey, New York and Atlanta.
3. This show features singing celebrities in costumes disguising their identity.
4. This reality show host’s catchphrase is “make it work.”
5. She has hosted “America’s Next Top Model,” “America’s Got Talent” and “Dancing With the Stars.”
6. This show follows a competitive dance team coached by Abby Lee Miller.

Sudoku

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Word Search

Stars
Bachelor
Todd Chrisley
The Amazing Race

Drama
Honey Boo Boo
Big Brother
The Circle

Reality
Rupaul
Reunion
Love Is Blind
Opinion

Montclair State, Keep Your Promise To Presidential Scholars

EDITORIAL

In a surprise announcement last Wednesday, a handful of Montclair State University students lost their priority registration. Some students didn’t even get the chance to find the statement in their email. They found out through the front page of The Montclarion instead.

Montclair State is changing its policy to give students a fair chance at registering for classes. In theory, this idea doesn’t sound completely horrible, but it does have a few flaws.

Montclair State did not disclose exactly which groups are not receiving priority registration anymore. To The Montclarion.

Comments on The Montclarion's Instagram post, such as, "majority of the Presidential Scholars have found out through the newspaper and we are not happy," and another saying to impeach President Jonathan Koppell made it clear that many students are irritated with the administration’s decision.

To make matters worse, the university didn’t even give students a heads up the previous year or over the summer as they made the announcement weeks before registering for spring 2023 classes.

This whole ordeal may not seem like such a big deal to those who never had priority registration, but it is quite a disappointment for those who have. For example, the Montclair State presidential scholars.

By Montclair State’s own definition, “Montclair State offers merit-based Presidential Scholarships for high achieving incoming first-year students. Presidential Scholarships are highly competitive and awarded based on your academic achievement in high school.”

The presidential scholars are some of the most hard-working academics at this school who put time and effort into their education. You would think Montclair State would still want to accommodate these students and reward them for proving themselves to be great students, but sadly, Montclair State stripped them of one of their best assets.

It’s not as simple as just taking away one of their benefits. Some presidential scholars have chosen to go to Montclair State instead of another school because of advantages like priority registration. Their decision was based on the promises given to them by Montclair State and now the university is taking it away just like that.

Not all hardworking academics were deprived of priority registration. Unlike presidential scholars, students in the honors program may still enjoy their benefits. The honors program requires a separate application when applying to Montclair State, taking extra classes and having impressive academic achievements such as getting 1250 on the SAT.

Both presidential scholars and students in the honors program have remarkable feats in the academic world, so why take away one’s perk and not the other? Student-athletes are also still able to sign up for the classes they want due to their need to be at practices and games. However, athletes are not more important than academics. Both should be treated as equal as they are both essential to Montclair State’s student body.

We, The Montclarion, ask Montclair State’s administration to rethink their abrupt decision and to commit to the promise they made to presidential scholars when they decided to attend this university. Instead of taking away priority registration effective immediately, wait to implement it on next year’s incoming freshmen. By doing this, all the current students will get their promises fulfilled until their academic career at Montclair State is finished.

If you want to change the policy, that’s fine, just don’t punish your current students in doing so.

Campus Voices:

What do you think about the university revoking priority registration for some students?

By Katie Lawrence & Mila Spoljaric

“I think that everybody should have equal opportunities to register for classes, and I don’t think this should be dictated by which club or which scholar you are. And I think this is just a part of being equal in this school in the community of Montclair [State].”

-Selman Ekici

Computer Science

Sophomore

“I was one of the students with a priority and I feel like it’ll be more complicated for me to get into the classes that I want. But if it’s for the better of other people, I think it’s good. However, I would like to have my priority back.”

-Melissa Jaime

Business Administration

Sophomore

“I think it’s kind of upsetting because when I came here, I heard I was gonna get that, since [I had] one of the scholarships that now lost it. I’m kind of just upset because I was really looking forward to being able to do that.”

-Kaden Zofrea

Undeclared

Freshman
Consider this, you’re a student from a poor, inner-city neighborhood. Your parents barely scrape by, and 61% of Americans, live paycheck to paycheck. You spend your whole childhood under the boot of oppressive poverty.

Then you get the golden ticket, you qualify for substantial student aid, and going to college is now an option. A chance to move up the economic ladder. Your grades are okay, not great, but neither were your teachers. You didn’t get the presidential scholarship, but plenty of others make it worth it.

You made it, and you’re enrolled. It’s registration time for the spring semester. Maybe you need a particular professor, or maybe you have a particular study in mind. Oh, the opportunities.

What will you choose? It’s too late. Those who thought registration devoured it all. Many of whom are presidential scholars.

Some presidential scholars, of which I’m a part of, feel like royalty. We feel entitled. Presidential scholars have worked hard for their position. Fresh out of high school, those with an unweighted 3.4 to 4.0 GPA qualify. As a reward of high school, those with an unweighted GPA rewarded. Presidential scholars have an edge over those of more affluent ones.

High school grades are primarily determined by the conditions of the school, not the students themselves. Independent of the student, high school grades should not be the factor giving students privileges that hurt others.

High school grades are primarily determined by the conditions of the school, not the students themselves. Independent of the student, high school grades should not be the factor giving students privileges that hurt others.

The defense of presidential scholars over the rest of the student body is a system that unfairly hurts others.

While I understand that content creators must find ways to make their content entertaining, these mediums feel reductive and, frankly, dehumanizing.

The Montclarion - October 6, 2022 - PAGE 17

We Don’t Need Another Jeffrey Dahmer Story

Karina Florez
Staff Writer

Anyone who’s ever delved into the world of true crime media has heard of Jeffrey Dahmer, one of America’s most notorious serial killers. His story has been told time and time again, and now Netflix has added a different one to the Dahmer canon. This time, telling the story from the victims’ point of view.

The series, appropriately titled “Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story,” doesn’t shy away from the truly horrifying details of Dahmer’s crimes and the events that led him to become a serial killer.

However, like every true crime story under the sun, it has been sensationalized and glamorized to the point where the victims and their families are an afterthought, sometimes not even thought about.

With this, one has to ask themselves, how do you consume true crime content ethically? Is it ethical to make money off the deaths of others?

True crime has changed dramatically since its inception, but in recent years it has taken its way to YouTube, where the Daily Beast reports people posting on makeup or eating mukbangs while talking about these very real things.

While I understand that content creators must find ways to make their content entertaining, these mediums feel reductive and, frankly, dehumanizing.

As a result, I must ask this question: How do you consume true crime content ethically? Is it ethical to make money off the lives of others?

Now, let’s talk about the story. “Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story,” doesn’t shy away from the truly horrifying details of Dahmer’s crimes and the events that led him to become a serial killer.

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I have many religious friends. I know one that will tell me straight to my face, “Homosexuals should not be allowed to marry.” Although he would sugarcoat it, conceding they can have a “civil union.” Though I consider him a close friend despite our differences, he should understand why others may not. Western society views religion as a protected class among categories like race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability and age. Religion as a protected class is wrong. Unlike the others, religion is a choice. You don’t choose your race. You don’t choose your age. But my good friend chooses to believe I will go to Hell. And if he were in power and I were gay, I would not be able to get married.

Of course, few people go into religion seeking these views. Some people are born into it and some are forced into it. Most people just want a community and who would blame them?

Many people are currently isolated. We are much more socially isolated as we have ever been. Interestingly, The Conversation reports that having fewer friends turn to in need has gone up while reports of loneliness have gone down. Social media has made it easy to communicate with people, but there’s little friendship you can glean from a forearm.

Head Snap. It makes perfect sense why some people choose to be religious. God offers a friendship that few others can match and he provides unconditional love. Unconditional love while we sinners burn in Hell. Religion can also be a force for good. Religious charities help the poor when the government is preoccupied with other, more frivolous, things. It also seems to be beneficial for our physical health as Forbes reports that religious people had better health outcomes, and less anxiety, among a host of other benefits.

But religion is also negative. People use religion as a shield against their irrefutable fear of the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines. People say, “I will not use a vaccine developed from aborted fetus cells.” This is an understandable statement. If you honestly believed people were murdered to test whatever you were using, would you still use it? Maybe. According to the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and The North Dakota Department of Health, if you’ve had the chickenpox, Hepatitis A & B, Typhoid, Measles-Mumps-Rubella, polio, rabies or shingles vaccines, you already have. WebMD also reports that if you’ve ever had Tylenol, Pepto Bismol, or ibuprofen you can thank fetus cells for your recovery.

Let’s not pretend that religion hasn’t used too often as a cop-out for things we don’t like. Don’t want homosexuals to get married? Religion. Don’t want to be vaccinated? Religion.

If you go to a public university where people are immunocompromised and cannot get vaccinated, it’s not their choice due to their medical condition. If you want to get vaccinated, you have that choice, you have that privilege and that duty.

Welcome to college, everything you believe is a choice. And, if you believe in nonsensical drudgery that hurts others, you should expect consequences. Compassionate consequences.

Montclair State University offers a lifeline for people who claim religious exemption from the vaccine. You cannot dorn, you cannot participate in sports, but you can attend your classes like everyone else.

In a world where college education could be the difference between poverty and a living wage, we are offered a lifetime of rather useless education there? There is no exception at all. If my faith told me I couldn’t be in a class with women, would the college make an exception for me? Doubt it.

I still have religious friends and I cherish them deeply. We cannot alienate those who believe differently from us. We’re no better if we do. But it’s wrong to use your faith in your religion as an excuse to oppress others.

Colin Luderitz, a sophomore public policy major, is in his first year as a staff writer for The Montclarion.

The Montclarion
Hannah Effinger | The Montclarion

Religion Is Not an Excuse To Control Others

Anthony Foster
Staff Writer

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Anthony Foster, a freshman public policy major, is in his first year as a staff writer for The Montclarion.

Physical Media Is As Important As Ever in 2022

Colin Luderitz
Assistant Opinion Editor

Over the past 20 years, the way we consume media has entirely changed.

For the most part, the days of DVDs and CDs are over with the rise of streaming services like Netflix and Spotify. However, despite the rapidly changing landscape, physical media formats are still far more important than many people will ever realize, coming in the form of media preservation.

Warner Bros. Discovery (WBD) has made headlines as of late with their high-profile cancellations of HBO Max projects in development such as “Batgirl” and “Scoob! Holiday Haunt”, but what slipped under the radar is the original films and TV shows that had already been on the service for quite some time being removed, such as Seth Roiger’s dual role comedy “An American Pickle” or the pandemic heist comedy “Locked Down”. These films are now almost inaccessible because when it comes to streaming, you own NOTHING.

You pay a fee every month for a license and little else. If a streaming service decides to remove something, odds are it could be gone forever, like Olan Rogers’ “Final Space.” Even a fan of a show that has been written off by WBD, and it could be gone forever, like Olan Rogers’ “Final Space.” Even a fan of a show that has been recently canceled, you may no longer be able to view that film is if you own a physical copy.

This goes for music as well. Albums like Da La Soul’s thrilling debut “Three Feet High and Rising” are nowhere to be found on services like Apple Music or Spotify, and famously, Taylor Swift once pulled “1989” and, later, her entire discography from Spotify due to her feeling artists weren’t compensated fairly. And, unfortunately, I feel obligated to mention that Kanye West released his album “Donda 2” exclusively through his Stem Player to combat the same issues.

Physical media also simply offers more than streaming. In addition to an array of DVDs or LPs looking gorgeous when they’re lined up on a shelf, physical releases simply offer more content, in the form of special features on DVDs and liner notes on CD and vinyl releases, that goes for music as well. Albums like Da La Soul’s thrilling debut “Three Feet High and Rising” are nowhere to be found on services like Apple Music or Spotify, and famously, Taylor Swift once pulled “1989” and, later, her entire discography from Spotify due to her feeling artists weren’t compensated fairly. And, unfortunately, I feel obligated to mention that Kanye West released his album “Donda 2” exclusively through his Stem Player to combat the same issues.

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This is all not to say that streaming is inherently awful—truth he told, it’s one of the greatest inventions of the 21st century. In many ways, these art forms have now become democratized, with pieces that had been previously overlooked now getting a second chance in Netflix’s Top 10.

Streaming also gives artists more flexibility to fix things that slip through the cracks, such as Lizzo recently tweaking the lyrics on her song “Good as It Gets” after discovering one of the terms she used is actually an ableist slur, or Elliot Page’s headline being removed and replaced in the opening credits of “The Umbrella Academy.”

This same flexibility, however, is also used for the censorship of older films so corporations can avoid accountability. “Toy Story 2” was quietly censored upon the launch of Disney+, removing a joke about sexual misconduct from the blooper reel during the credits.

The joke was tasteless, even in 1999, and is made even worse with the knowledge of director John Lasseter’s own misconduct, but it’s not right to just wipe it off the face of the earth without acknowledging the cringe, the cringy turn for the characters to accept the sins, rather than sweep them under the carpet.

Overall, streaming will always be an incredible way to discover new art, but if you truly love that art, you’d better get your hands on a physical copy before an executive decides you can’t anymore.

Colin Luderitz, a sophomore television and film major, is in his first year as the assistant opinion editor for The Montclarion.
The Israel-Palestine Conflict: Misinformation Is Deadly

Aliza Rhein
Guest Writer

“Go back to where you came from,” the sign blinked at me harshly. This wasn’t the first time I’d been told to go back to my home.

The problem, however, was that the person instructing me to do so had given a contradictory directive of returning to Israel while simultaneously demanding I leave. I’d like to note that these words are often issued by people most definitely not in their native land.

The Jewish people have frequently been the scapegoat for a lot of things. In fact, it’s our most natural position in the world. But when the United Nations (UN) voted for the Israeli state to become official in 1948, the power dynamic changed for the first time in history.

This was not without repercussions.

“Tensions between the two peoples grew when the international community gave Britain the task of establishing a ‘national home’ in Palestine for Jewish people,” BBC reports. “For Jews, it was their ancestral home, but Palestinian Arabs also claimed the land and opposed the move.”

The subsequent UN Resolution 181 attempted to create two states in order for the two peoples to co-exist peacefully, but it was rejected by the Arabs. Nonetheless, with the backing of the UN, Israel declared independence and the Arab League declared war.

Attempts at peace have been plentiful, but progress on that front remains scant.

However, in recent years, everyone and their mother has an opinion on a solution.

I’ve been noticing more and more hate as time goes on. Whether that was because of a 11-year-old during the 2014 skirmishes I wasn’t online or because we’ve gotten more polarized, but from what I’ve experienced, calls for the death of Jews and Israel have become more prevalent.

Another thing I’ve noticed is that most of the hateful comments I’ve seen have been due to misinformation.

This tends to be the case and it has real-world consequences. Such as someone who put a swastika on my family’s car which severely scared me, and that’s coming from someone who doesn’t speak easily.

Was that related to a surprise active shooter drill in my Jewish private school? I can give a definite yes and the fact that those drills are becoming more common says a lot about the antisemtism upickt on its own.

I try not to engage with people who chant for my death, especially those nameless, faceless trolls who frequent Instagram, but of the few I’ve interacted with, not one could give a correct definition of Zionism.

Zionism has many branches and types, but it all boils down to “the movement for the self-determination and statehood for the Jewish people in their ancestral homeland, the land of Israel,” according to the ADL, a civil rights group working to end the defamation of the Jewish people. Supporting Zionism in this sense is just an acknowledgment that everyone wants a place to call home and the Jews would like our home to be where it has always been.

Instead, I’ve seen huge, influential accounts add to the fray, often creating posts that give an overview of what’s going on without the proper historical context. Comments on these posts are simply saturated with hateful rhetoric toward Jews, globally, not just in Israel.

In an odd, almost inconceivable twist of irony, these accounts have decided to protect Jews, failing to realize it is the violence created by voices against Palestinians and Israelis versus the violence created by voices unheard and displeased.

I’m not naive enough to think that this one talk will solve the issue at hand. I also don’t think that I, a 19-year-old girl, will be the one to come up with the solution right now.

I’ve witnessed one interaction in which someone was open and willing to learn. The person in question listened to me explain what Zionism meant to the Jews. They allowed me to have a say in what Zionism means. For the record, no other minority has to get approval for a movement’s definition from anyone aside from the movement.

One large account dedicated an entire 10-page post to what they think Zionism means or do serve a say in what Zionism means. For the record, no other minority has to get approval for a movement’s definition from anyone aside from the movement.

The conversation—because that’s what it was, not an attack nor a vicious, hurtful debate—left me feeling hopeful.

We hadn’t come to a solution. We weren’t single-handedly solving the crisis, but our talk was productive in terms of facing the problem.

Suddenly, instead of pitting Palestinians against Israeli Jews, we changed the issue to Palestinians and Israelis versus the violence created by voices unheard and displeased.

I’ve seen the ugly effects of misinformation firsthand. I’ve seen what open dialogue can do for a cause and completely shutting out one side, either side, will not be the way to peace. Only combating lies with truth will help achieve the ultimate goal we both want, peace for all.

Aliza Rhein, a freshman sociology major, is in her first year as a guest writer for The Montclarion.
The Grass Didn't Grow Yet

By Alex Pavljuk

There was a soft whistle that danced across the cool fall air. The orange hue of this receding late-day sky matched that of the leaves which covered the ground around Clay. He sighed deeply, entranced by the setting sun, all of his life's worries and wonders felt as if they were on a chariot heading farther and farther away each and every day that he watched the sun fall so far away.

Amidst his trance, a colleague approached him from behind. He stood next to Clay and, with a rake and shovel in hand, cleared his throat.

"You're on the clock, okay?" The man looked over at Clay, who still watched every last ray of shine set behind the valley which extended the setting sun by an extra few moments, "Clay?"

"Yeah, Umh, yeah. Okay?" He shook himself from the daze and glanced over at the man. His janitorial jumpsuit was caked with dirt and grass stains. Clay missed the worst of it early this morning when he left his previous shift 14 hours earlier. The rain had only just dissipated an hour or so ago, thus sparking the orange and pink sky. The man nodded and turned to walk away. Clay thought for a moment and then pivoted to look at the man who began to disappear within the mounting fog of this autumnal evening. "What do I need to do tonight? Ya know, like, anything special?" The man looked back and paused.

"You're a grave digger. Clay. Just dig graves."

****

Those last words struck with Clay who now was in the midst of his seventh hour on the clock. He contested those words.

"I'm not just a gravedigger," he muttered softly to himself as he gently brushed leaves off of the edge of the cemetery. "I do more than just digging ditches, I plant flowers, I mow the grass, I rake leaves, clearly I, umh, I polish the mausoleum placards and yes I also happen to..." His words and stride tapered off sharply and solemnly. "Happen to see people standing in the middle of the graveyard alone..."

In the distance, a woman dressed in her Sunday best stood waist-deep in the fog. Clay, spooked at the sight, slowly approached the woman who was reading the name of the grave in front of her.

"May I help you, miss?" Clay asked with a slight shake in his voice, "I don't mean to be frank, but the cemetery closed some time ago. How did you even get in?" She continued to look down at the headstone.

"Do you happen to have the time?" she then asked. Her voice was delicate but firm, a tone that seemed like it never had felt the betrayal of a winter's cold on the back of the throat. Her skin was pale, but then again her hair, or at least whatever ends of it peaked out of her silk scarf which wrapped around her head like Audrey Hepburn, was blonde, thus her pale complexion was of no surprise. Maybe it was just the bluish autumn moonlight that made him make a double take.

"Uh, yeah, certainly. Clay glanced down at his watch. "It's umh, it's half past three," he said softly. She squinted her eyes while looking at him and she pressed her tongue against her bottom front teeth.

"Are you sure?" she asked with confusion in her voice. She sighed sharply and then reached quickly for Clay's wrist to examine the hands of his clock, "How peculiar..." she muttered softly to herself. Clay looked upon her with intrigue and yet still unease.

"Again, I am so sorry but the cemetery is closed, however, I'd happily walk you to the gate if you could just follow me," Clay began to step back towards the road but the woman did not budge. She stood transfixed at the headstones which surrounded them. Her eyes made calculating glances.

"My husband. I believe my husband is buried somewhere around here...I just..." she uttered a soft and painful chuckle, "I just can't seem to remember where we buried him." She turned her head towards Clay with tears billowing in her beautiful blue eyes, "Could you help me find him?"

"Yes, Paul Pasley."

"Charlotte Pasley," she paused, "well, formerly Charlotte Pasley," she said softly.

"You're a grave digger, Clay. Just dig graves."
The Wrong Guy

by Luke Cadman

On a dusty road sandwiched between two cornfields somewhere in Nebraska, two brothers stood beside their car in the breakdown lane sharing a cigarette. They each took a puff or two and then handed it to the other, although neither seemed to be enjoying it. Around them, the wind blew, and the only sounds that could be heard were the rustling of corn and the muffled sound of a man with collapsed lungs trying to scream. Both brothers, seemingly oblivious to the noise, were bickering the way that only family can.

“We hit the wrong guy.”

“We did not get the wrong guy.”

Carl looked over at his brother with tired eyes. Even though both were a few cards short of a full deck he was probably a little closer than his brother. This whole thing was rapidly spiraling out of control, and Billy being in denial wasn’t helping anything.

“Billy. Listen. I’ve got the description right here and he matches none of it. We were supposed to hit a 63-year-old fat man wearing a red shirt. This guy’s in his 30s and looks like he’d barely weigh a hundred pounds soaking wet.”

“Yeah, but bro, he’s wearing a red shirt.”

“HE’S NOT WEARING A RED SHIRT HE’S WEARING A WHITE SHIRT THAT HE’S BLEEDING THROUGH.”

Billy gave another cursory glance at the broken figure in front of them who had apparently given up on screaming and was instead looking at them both with undisguised hatred and a surprising amount of lucidity. His shirt was mostly red but, Billy hated to admit, had a lot of white patches on it. As he watched, one of them changed from a dirty off-white to a bright crimson maroon, and this more than anything else convinced him that he was probably wrong.

“Okay, okay. Well, what are we gonna do about it, bro?”

“Well, I guess we’d better finish the job and vámonos. If we hit it and start driving we might be able to get outta Nebraska before this schmuck is discovered. Julio’s going be awfully mad but, what’s done is done.”

With this decision made Carl flicked the cigarette butt into the cornstalks and started to make for the car, only to notice that the screaming had been replaced by a faint, pained voice.


Both brothers looked around startled. The man, who looked more like a pile of ground beef than a person, had somehow managed to gain enough composure to speak. Although they would never know it, the unfortunate victim’s name was James Steiger, father of three and he’d only taken up walking recently at his doctor’s suggestion. He’d been told that it would help him live a longer and fuller life. Lying in the headlights of the Sullivan brother’s car and slowly bleeding out, James found himself thinking that this claim had been bulls*t of the first degree.

This, and many other thoughts, flashed through James’ mind as he watched Carl approach him in a solemn manner. In his hand was a wicked-looking stiletto blade with a bone handle, and on his face was an embarrassed, “aw-shucks” grin. Finally, after what seemed like an eternity, Carl closed the gap between them and crouched by James’ head.

“He…lp.”

“Geez buddy, I wish I could but I’m afraid it’s not in the cards. If wishes were fishes then…well, they’re not and I guess that’s all that really matters. Well, anyway, me and my brother over there have to start heading out so I’m afraid we’re going to have to finish this up. I’d say this is gonna hurt me more than it’s gonna hurt you, but I think we’d both know that would be a lie.”

James was aware of the wicked-looking knife slowly descending upon his throat, and then he was aware of nothing at all.

October

by Nick Najarian

Oh baby those leaves sure are brown!
Can you believe how brown the leaves are getting?
Truly the brownest leaves I’ve ever seen.
Oh look, is that a brown leaf?
Brown leaves. (They’re brown)
Every leaf is so brown! Wow!
Really impressive how brown these leaves have gotten.

Montclair State University

by Nick Najarian

Man what a beautiful campus!
Oh boy, this campus sure is beautiful!
Never a dull day on this beautiful campus!
Today I think the campus is beautiful!
Can you believe how beautiful campus is?
Lamer campuses don’t look this beautiful.
Amazing how beautiful our campus can look
I truly think this campus is beautiful!
Really really really beautiful campus!
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
The Programming Board of the Student Government Association (SGA) at Montclair State University held volume three of Student Life at Montclair’s (SLAM) comedy series with special guest comedians Rashaun Reese and Chico Bean on Saturday, Oct. 1st. The night was a fun way for students to laugh and have a good time.

Richard Steiner-Otoo, a junior earth and environmental science major and president of the SGA, explained the event.

"[The event] is a comedy show, the third comedy show that SLAM has done," Steiner-Otoo said. "[Students] are going to see two artists, one of which is Chico Bean, who is very popular for being a cast member of ‘Wild ‘N Out,’ so we are really excited to get some good laughs today.

Students were looking forward to the performance for a variety of reasons.

Jade Hunter, a senior film and television major and the director of the Programming Board for SLAM, commented on the event’s return.

"Last year due to [COVID-19], we couldn’t have one unfortunately," Hunter said. "So [this is] just bringing back old traditions."

Maggie Aube, a senior theatre studies major who volunteered to give t-shirts away to people during the event, shared her excitement.

"I’m really excited to see the comedians perform," Aube said. "I think this is an event that hasn’t happened in a while, and I think it’s going to be really great to bring everyone out on a Saturday."

Tara Mastroianni, a senior exercise science major, spoke on her excitement as well.

"[I’m looking forward to] just laughing," Mastroianni said. "Hopefully this is something that can ease the stress from [school] and everything, and I think laughing is such a good thing."

Filled with a lot of energy, some students ended up dancing along to the music played by the DJ while they were waiting for the event to start. Students were even given the opportunity to dance battle on stage for an opportunity to meet Chico Bean as the event went on.

Reese came on stage to warm up the students for Chico Bean, interacting with students and keeping the crowd lively until it was time for the headliner to take the stage. Eventually Chico Bean came, and the students erupted in applause. He went on to perform for an hour, keeping the crowd entertained and laughing throughout his entire set. At some points he even offered students advice and took suggestions from the crowd on topics of discussion.

The comedian also gave the audience a chance to ask him questions about “Wild ‘N Out,” his career and advice from personal experience. Chico Bean ended the night by bringing a few lucky students up on stage to play a popular game from the show called “Family Reunion.”
Chico Bean is a cast member of “Nick Cannon Presents: Wild 'N Out.”

Chico Bean brings students up on stage.

Students dance battle for a chance to meet Chico Bean.

Rashaun Reese interacts with the crowd.

Rashaun Reese introduces Chico Bean to the crowd.
‘Blonde’ Is a Purposefully Distasteful Torture Film

You’d think that by now I would have learned not to watch everything my favorite actors star in, but in reality, I just wanted to see how much nerve Netflix had in taking advantage of deceased people and their suffering. Whatever you’re imagining “Blonde” to be, I can assure you it is 10 times worse.

New Zealand-Australian film director Andrew Dominik brings audiences the pseudo-biographical psychological drama based on Joyce Carol Oates’ “Blonde” novel, which is a fictional work that loosely recreates Marilyn Monroe’s life.

Ana De Armas stars as the famous movie star, who goes through a traumatic childhood, rises to fame and becomes one of the most prolific celebrities in the world.

“Blonde” explores her tumultuous life in front of the cameras and Monroe’s marriages to baseball player Joe DiMaggio (Bobby Cannavale) and playwright Arthur Miller (Adrien Brody), as well as her romance with former American president John F. Kennedy (Caspar Phillipson).

Still, this is not without Monroe’s fair share of lifelong trauma that is explicitly depicted and abused by Hollywood once again.

In her 34 years of living on this earth, I’ll be willing to bet you everything I own on the fact that De Armas has not cried as much as she did during the filming of “Blonde.” This is not surprising, as the film goes through Monroe’s most painful, public moments and tries to exhibit them in an aesthetic but quite grotesque way.

But since the “Blonde” movie budget was $22 million, I wouldn’t want all of that effort put into making another film that sexualizes and erases who Monroe really was, instead of letting her soul rest in peace. Let’s highlight what’s salvageable.

The cinematography was absolutely beautiful and artistic, especially the multiple camera angles and the change from black to color throughout the film. Even though I was on the verge of screaming my head off and certain scenes will burn my eyelids for the rest of my days, at least the content kept me engaged. Sadly, that’s all I can say about the creative decisions for this film.

I must say, De Armas’ acting was impeccable and earth-shattering. To be completely honest, I have only good things to say about her personal portrayal of Monroe. However, it was hard to enjoy any of it when I felt nauseous and uncomfortable for the entirety of the film.

I thought we were past portraying domestic abuse and sexual assault against women, or anyone for that matter, in pop culture. This says a lot about director and screenplay writer Dominik, who tries his hardest to carefully craft the most traumatizing and disgusting scenes for shock value. The sex scenes are offputting, unnecessary and out of place. It’s like he took every possible male fetish into a melting pot and put together a monstrous, despicable piece of media disguised as art.

I truly don’t understand what being spoon-fed gender-based violence is going to do for a film besides terrorize the audience and, for those of us who don’t hate women, expose you for being a sexist pig.

I would have loved for this film to have been an actual Monroe biopic and not some lazy fiction piece that actively profits from the romanticized version of a woman that was exploited her whole life. The film paints Monroe out to be this stupid, delicate woman that serves as a manic pixie girl dream to the men in her life.

Anybody that claims to genuinely enjoy this sick and twisted male fantasy is someone you should stay away from. In fact, I am begging you to save three hours of your incredibly precious life by not watching this movie.

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If I knew I was going to have to watch torture porn and talking fetuses, I would have reminisced when pro-lifers celebrated Roe v. Wade’s overturn instead.
BLACKPINK’s ‘Born Pink’ Is Not Hard to Love

Faith Amero
Guest Writer

As someone who knows little about South Korean pop music, BLACKPINK’s sophomore studio album, “Born Pink,” was the perfect introduction to the genre.

This album has four songs fully in English and four consisting of both Korean and English lyrics. The tracks on the album have similar pop and hip-hop rhythms, but each song brings a different vibe; elements like traditional Korean instruments, retro and disco beats or EDM bass lines are used throughout.

BLACKPINK, when composing and writing songs, wants you to understand the message of a particular song. All the tracks on this album promote love, confidence and unity with a dash of telling off the haters and doubters.

Prior to the album’s release, BLACKPINK collaborated with the video game “PUBG Mobile,” and released their song “Ready for Love” on July 29 as a promotional single. An animated music video for it was dropped on YouTube. The song now appears as part of the album’s streaming on Spotify, YouTube, Apple Music and Google Play. It is also available for download on iTunes and Google Play.

“Born Pink” is now available for pre-order, pre-save, pre-add and pre-sale on iTunes and Google Play.

Since the release of this album, I’ve been a BLINK. Listening to “Born Pink” opened the door for me to listen to more K-pop music other than collaborations, such as “Left and Right” by Charlie Puth featuring Jung Kook from BTS, or songs playing on the radio like “Dynamite” and “Butter” by BTS.

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Content: The wordsmith’s love interest, Mylene Cruz (Herizen Guardiola), has the voice everyone on the street talks about. She longs to make it out of the Bronx. The music-driven drama follows her facing the duality of continuing being someone trying to make a name for themselves.

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Content: "The Get Down" illustrates the life of a young man in the 70’s, Ezekiel “Zeke” Figuero (Justice Smith), aka “Books,” trying to make a life for himself out of the Bronx. The music-driven drama follows him facing the duality of continuing being someone trying to make a name for themselves.

"The Get Down," or attending Yale University and many other opportunities as a ticket out of the Bronx. The wordsmith’s love interest, Mylene Cruz (Herizen Guardiola), has the voice everyone on the street talks about. She longs to make it out of the Bronx and become like the star she admires dearly, Misty Holliday (Renee Elise Goldsberry). From clubs to meetings with producers, Mylene and her two friends travel around New York doing everything they can to make a name for themselves.

Executive producer Nas crafts the two-part series of what Black and Hispanic people might face in low-income communities. It spotlights the struggle of someone staying in a toxic cycle due to a lifestyle pulling them back, but also someone trying to make it out of an impoverished community in a society.

Lynise Olivacce
Photo Editor
Kevin Olivieri
Staff Writer

Kaley Cuoco and Pete Davidson
lead a melodramatic Groundhog Day
romantic comedy.

I never knew what the term "meet
cute" meant before, but after watch-
ing the film of the same name, I can
assume it is when two people meet for
the first time under an unusual, humor-
ous or even "cute" circumstance.

This is what happens when Sheila
(Kaley Cuoco) and Gary (Pete David-
son) first meet at a bar at the opening
of the film. Once they connect, you get
swept up in a quickly blossoming rela-
tionship on just the first date.

That is until Sheila starts to relive
that same date over and over again.
We find out Sheila is from the
future and able to relive the same day
thanks to a tanning-bed time machine
she found in a nail salon. The reasons
behind her going into the nail salon
and even getting into the time machine
get explained later on in the film, but at
the moment when Sheila first men-
tions the idea she is from the future, I
was just as confused as Gary. I could
not tell if she was being serious or not.
I guess my confusion comes from the
fact I was not expecting this from a
romantic comedy starring Davidson
and Cuoco.

I was skeptical of this pairing be-
cause I did not know if the two could
pull off being a romantic couple, but it
ended up working thanks to Davidson's
charm and likability. I have to give
credit to Cuoco as well. Her comedic
timing actually surprised me and cre-
ated a lot of laughs in the movie.

Davidson's character, like every
character he plays in a film, is semi-
based on his real life. For example,
Gary mentions his dad being dead,
something Davidson has discussed as
long as he's been working. It makes
sense why he decides to stay with char-
acters true to himself since the real
him is so enjoyable.

My favorite scenes ended up being
every time Sheila and Gary went back
to the Indian restaurant, and that is
due to both the chemistry between
Davidson and Cuoco and the way the
director captured the gorgeous lights
hung throughout the restaurant.

When the "Groundhog Day" effect
starts to get annoying to Sheila, that is
also when I started to feel fatigued by
the whole thing. Sheila and Gary start
to get sick of each other, and Sheila re-
fers to this loop of the same date over
and over as a "whirlwind of hell," and I
agree with her; it gets tiring.

However, the film starts to pick up
again when Sheila explains to Gary
she has been a fixture in his life for a
long time thanks to the tanning-bed
time machine.

When Gary starts threatening
her with wanting to stop reliving the
same night, Sheila reaches a point of
vulnerability that many can relate to.
Sometimes we just want to keep reliv-
ing the days that made us the happiest
because we're scared of what is going
to come next in the future, making us
nostalgic. If there is change involved,
it's often easy to stay in a repetitive
cycle.

Just like my skepticism for a lot of
things involved in this movie, Sheila's
own skepticism is stopping her from
continuing with her life. Her anxiety
and nervousness are shown, and it
intensifies as the film goes on.

Coming in at just under 90 minutes,
the movie's conclusion came quicker
than expected. I felt like it ended too
soon and I wanted more. The repetitive
storyline doesn't always work as it is
easy to get tired of, but I'd still recom-
mend it because of what's going on
between Sheila and Gary.

"Meet Cute" shows how some
people really are destined to meet each
other, whether that might be for one
instant or for a lifetime. It does a good
job at being simple in a silly, though
sometimes confusing, way. Even in
what may seem like a never-ending
mess, it still feels warm and welcom-
ning. As Sheila says a few times in the
film, "It's okay for things to be messy
sometimes."
‘Avatar’ in 4K, 3D, HDR and HFR is, Unfortunately, Still ‘Avatar’

James Cameron’s “Avatar” is the highest-grossing film of all time, in no small part due to the fact no one had seen anything like it in 2009. And now, in 2022, it’s being re-released to drum up excitement for the forthcoming sequel, “Avatar: The Way of Water,” and it has gotten a new coat of paint to keep it looking fresh 13 years later.

That coat of paint doesn’t include any touch-ups to the screenplay - the bad guys are still looking for “unobtainium” - so whatever mileage you got with “Avatar” in the past will likely not change here. But the technology used to bring the film back to theaters is incredibly fascinating.

So what are 4K, HDR and HFR?

4K is resolution; four times the resolution of the HDTVs that exploded in the mid-to-late 2000s. “Avatar” is now in 4K, despite having been shot, edited and had all visual effects rendered in 2K. How could that be?

Cameron hasn’t said much on the matter, but little artifacts in this new edition indicate that this is upscale. This is hardly new technology; you can find plenty of AI-upscaled videos on YouTube, but it’s never been done with a live-action film on this scale. If I had to guess, it’s likely using the same technology Pixar developed to release their animated films in 4K, but again, “Avatar” is live-action.

As far as how it turns out, well, the mileage varies. Close-ups of faces look a little more artificial and smeary. Shots with the background in soft focus have strange, sharpened bokeh. But for the most part, it’s impressively subtle and adds to Cameron’s legacy of pushing the boundaries of technology in film.

HDR, short for High Dynamic Range, has everything to do with color. In layman’s terms, it’s about how bright the bright stuff can get and how dark the dark stuff can get. Depending on the artist using the technology, it can create a more vibrant, saturated image, or a more subtle, lifelike image. “Avatar” leans toward the latter, bringing the world of Pandora to life with just an extra taste of realism, with the bioluminescent aspects of the planet making for the most impressive change, shining even brighter than they did before with a newly brilliant level of contrast.

The most experimental bit of tech here, however, is HFR, short for High Frame Rate. Almost any theatrical film you’ll see runs at 24 frames per second, which has a specific, “cinematic” look, but over the past 10 years, certain filmmakers have tried to bend that rule. Peter Jackson famously shot his “Hobbit” trilogy in 48 frames per second, to mixed reviews. Ang Lee tried his own hand at a pair of HFR films, shooting the films “Billy Lynn’s Long Halftime Walk” and “Gemini Man” at an even higher frame rate of 120 frames per second, which also received mixed responses, placing those films in a strange uncanny valley.

That brings us back to “Avatar,” which was not shot in HFR, and the new sequences that use it have been generated by AI, much like the 4K upscale. And note that I said “sequences” because the entire film doesn’t run at 48 frames per second, just a number of hand-picked shots where the constraints of 24 frames per second affect the viewing experience. HFR is the one major flop of this remaster, aside from the fact that it’s still “Avatar,” and I spent my Friday night watching it instead of seizing what’s left of my youth. It’s quite jarring and doesn’t improve the viewing experience enough to justify getting pulled out of the film every time things start moving at an unnatural speed. It’s a big swing, and it’s executed far better than past attempts, but it’s still not quite there.

Overall, I still really don’t like “Avatar,” but this remaster is unlike anything I’ve ever seen. For fans of the original, this re-release is the best way to see the film, but if you’re not already a Na’vi devotee, steer clear.
I really want to like Kevin Smith. Born and raised in New Jersey, Smith became a true rags-to-riches story when his first feature film, “Clerks,” took Sundance by storm and his subsequent films were just as raunchy, bold and charming. There were few comedy filmmakers with a voice quite as striking as Smith throughout the 1990s. Unfortunately for Smith, it’s 2022. Since the turn of the millennium, Smith’s distinctive voice has become something of a nagging whimper with films that are only intermittently funny or almost intentionally bad, which brings us back to “Clerks III,” the second film Smith has made since his 2018 heart attack that heavily inspires this third installment.

But unlike Smith’s incredible recovery, this film is dead on arrival. Unless you share his devotion to pop culture, his home state and his own films—even if you do share that devotion—the film comes across as self-congratulating, to put it kindly. The film’s premise centers around Randal Graves (Jeff Anderson), former video store employee and co-owner of the Quick Stop who suffers from his own heart attack. This gives him a new lease on life and inspires him to make an autobiographical film entitled “Inconvenience,” which is, unashamedly, just the original “Clerks.” Smith seemingly refuses to break new ground with this film. The humor boils down to referencing better movies and shows while summarizing them with profanity—several references to “The Mandalorian” are particularly distracting. Smith has already made a more heartfelt love letter to independent film in the form of his 2008 film “Zack and Miri Make a Porno.” Despite whatever Smith says about the film, this isn’t a love letter to cinema, independent or otherwise. This is a love letter to his own career devoid of any of the prowess that started it.

As far as performances go, the cast heavily struggles with many comedic beats. Save for a shockingly heartfelt monologue in the film’s third act, Brian O’Halloran as Dante Hicks is definitely not even supposed to be here today. He delivers every sentence like he doesn’t quite know how it’s going to end. Anderson as Randal fares a bit better but shares the same lack of confidence in delivery which makes the lines that are already barely funny, downright pathetic.

The direction of the film also leaves a lot to be desired, especially for a director like Smith who has been in the industry for almost 30 years at this point. Lighting is flat and uninspired. While a film like “Clerks” doesn’t need to be a contender for best cinematography, it’d be nice if it was at least pleasant. The blocking also makes for a lot of awkward moments that could have been avoided with an ounce of forethought. Ultimately, the film pulls itself together in the third act, getting surprisingly emotional and thoughtful as it stops being about self-congratulation and more about the characters audiences fell in love with over the past 28 years. However, it’s too little, too late for “Clerks III.”

I’m very happy for Smith and I’m glad he ended this trilogy on his own terms, but this trip to the Quick Stop is mostly skippable.
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ROOM 2035, SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA IN UPPER MONTCLAIR, NJ, 07043
Men’s Ice Hockey is Full of Extended Bonds and High Hopes for Playoffs

Matt Orth  
Sports Editor

For senior captains Cary Collucci, Ryan Martinez, Mike Miller and goalie Ondrej Smalec, their love for the game of hockey started at a young age, which has helped translate to the current success of the Montclair State University ice hockey team.

“My dad was basically the main reason,” Collucci said. “Growing up in this area, he never got a chance to play, but he had a huge love for the game from his family, and he put me on skates when I was really young. And when he got me a pair, he got himself one and we went in together. And by the time I was six years old, I had a stick in my hand, and was doing hockey development right over at the [Montclair State Ice Arena].”

Despite meeting up at Montclair High School, the bond between these four guys started at the beginning of their college journey. And now in their final year being a part of the Red Hawks and playing at the Ice Arena, they are currently putting together one of their best seasons in recent memory.

The squad is at a 3-1-1 record and recently had two huge wins against Marist College and recently had two huge wins against Marist College and Central Connecticut State University at the Ice Arena, so if you want to bundle up at the rink and want to bundle up at the rink and maybe have some chicken noodle soup to keep warm and cheer on the team, you may want to come.

Smalec started waking up at five in the morning because of years ago I started waking up at five in the morning because of practice, and now he has solidified himself alongside the other three players as someone to look up to, and he mentioned that the only person he has to impress, other than his team, is himself. But the relationship, not only between these four leaders but a lot of the members of the team, has grown considerably this season.

Senior forward Matthew Smalec focuses on why that play was so good. For Smalec, who in their last game made 29 saves off 32 shots, he has a routine that has been set in stone for good reason.

“I’m a very ritualistic person, and if you ever meet another goalie that is in a good sequence of games in their career, they always remember what they did in that one day and why they must have had a good game because of that,” Smalec said. “A couple of years ago I started waking up at five in the morning because I had trouble sleeping sometimes, and then I had a really good game. And I was like: ‘You know what? Let me keep doing this.’”

And ever since the senior goalie started waking up before the sun creeps up into the sky, he has solidified himself alongside the other three players as someone to look up to, and he mentioned that the only person he has to impress, other than his team, is himself. But the relationship, not only between these four leaders but a lot of the members of the team, has grown considerably this season.

Senior forward Ryan Martinez focuses on why that play has made them a great team.

“The atmosphere, in general, has not been done since before the four captains even stepped foot at Montclair State as students.

And for the past four years, every day during the season has started pretty early for the whole team. Practices usually start at the crack of dawn, usually around six in the morning. For Smalec, who in their last game made 29 saves off 32 shots, he has a routine that has been set in stone for good reason.

“I don’t always have to impress,” Miller said. “But [Rob Martinez] does a good job of preparing us for what’s going to happen outside of college. And it’s all about hockey. It’s about letting us grow as people and giving us life lessons and taking it day by day.”

With specifically the offensive game plan that Rob Martinez puts into play every game, the team definitely has to take everything gradually. The team is not exactly scoring five-plus goals every game, but rather relies on an aggressive defense and elite play from Smalec at goal.

Senior forward Ryan Martinez focuses on why that play has made them a great team.

“The atmosphere, in general, has shifted,” Ryan Martinez said. “The past few games we have been within one or two goals and the games we did lose, we lost in overtime to Rider [University] and [Eastern Connecticut State University], both of those were close games. We identify as a more defensive team, and when we score goals, we score goals.”

So far, the Red Hawks have definitely been scoring goals, as they have 18 goals throughout six games so far, an average of three a game. For a team that focuses on their defense more than their offense, that is pretty solid.

The team’s next game is on Friday against Sacred Heart University at the Ice Arena, so if you want to bundle up at the rink and maybe have some chicken noodle soup to keep warm and cheer on this team on the rise to something great, the support is always appreciated.
THE STATS BEHIND FIELD HOCKEY’S WINNING STREAK

6 Their winning streak as of their win against Ramapo on Saturday. They started the season 0-4.

19 How many more saves the Red Hawks have over their opponents, led by senior goalie Lauren Pickul.

7 The amount of different players that have a goal for Montclair State.

62 The amount of saves the Red Hawks have on the season, leading the NJAC.

5 The amount of goals junior forward Carlie Van Tassel has on the season.

1 The rank Van Tassel has in the conference for game winning goals.

6.2 The saves per game that Pickul has accumulated, which ranks 2nd in the conference.

16 The number of underclassmen on the Red Hawks, which doubles the number of upperclassmen.
Kimberly Campbell
Continued from Page 1

Campbell had a stretch of three straight games where she had a goal in each one.

Campbell emphasized how well the Red Hawks play together.

“One of the assistants told me last night that [Campbell] was really sick,” Naughter said. “She wasn’t taking the night off, but it’s not because she wanted to build her stats, but she wanted to be there with her teammates and to be able to win the game.”

Campbell was playing with a slight cold and a lingering hamstring injury throughout the game against Farmingdale State College on Sept. 22, which ended in yet another victory for the Red Hawks, partially because of the hardworking play by Campbell and the team in general.

“I have been having a lingering hamstring injury and I felt sick with the change of seasons,” Campbell said. “I went through with it because everyone plays for each other and they’re there when I’m not 100% there.”

An injured athlete may be considered to many as inefficient due to not being able to play at their full potential. But Campbell is as versatile as they come, an athlete who is ego-less, and one that fits right into the team. When she’s not there to score goals in the forward position, she’s in the midfield creating opportunities and pressuring the opposing team.

“This is a team that’s an ego-less offense as a coaching staff and we know we’re not on our winning streak without [Campbell’s] work rate,” Naughter said. “She does a really good reading and picking off passes when it’s needed most. Playing against [Campbell], you can never be relaxed.”

Campbell, in the early stages of the current season, has shown how much of a threat she can be to offenses. Going into three consecutive games this season from Sept. 7 to 17, Campbell recorded a goal for each game. Especially when it mattered most. Playing long minutes and controlling the tempo in the attack for all games, she showed she is a force that isn’t to be reckoned with.

“It was surreal when I had that going [goal streak], those games that I scored in too,” Campbell said. “I feel like those were important for the game too.”

Campbell scored a goal in the closing minutes of a win against Ursinus College resulting in a 2-1 result, and as much as Campbell deserves the praise, she goes on to show how selfless she is and instead congratulates her teammate senior goalkeeper Haley Martin for her stunning save.

Yeah I scored but then not so long after [Martin] is making an ESPN Top-Five save to keep us winning,” Campbell said. “It’s always what you see on paper, but there’s so much more behind it and that’s why I love this team.”

Campbell, as significant as she is to this team, does not speak out about it, but she makes up for it by keeping the team in line when it’s under pressure.

“She’s one of our older kids and she has a ton of experience playing for me,” Naughter said. “She’s a kid that does a good job settling us and relaxing us, a team that needs it.”

Campbell feels right at home with the Red Hawks compared to her previous school. And everyone is excited to see what she accomplishes next on the pitch.

“The difference between the two teams [Ithaca and Montclair State], is this team just feels like you’re playing with a family,” Campbell said. “Everyone is playing, not for themselves, but instead, everyone’s playing with and for each other, which is one of the main reasons we’re [10-0] right now.”
Catherine Carnevale is Juggling New Responsibilities as an Assistant Women’s Soccer Coach

The former player from last season is helping the Red Hawks with their undefeated start

Thomas Gaffney
Guest Writer

Just one season after she graduated from Montclair State, Catherine Carnevale is still a part of something special with the women’s soccer team.

The Montclair State University women’s soccer team has started the season red hot, winning all 10 matches and winning first place in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) Tournament.

Head coach Patrick Naughter isn’t the only person to contribute to this outstanding start. There are three other names on this coaching staff, all three past players and one only recently graduating just last year.

Catherine Carnevale, who was a part of the 2021 squad that played in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) Tournament, saw the open job position and took the opportunity. With Naughter going into his 13th season as head coach, he needed a group that could help him, not just with soccer, but with the connection between the players and himself.

“I wanted to bring in people who were passionate, knew the game, who cared about the kids,” Naughter said. “I know it’s really important to have coaches who they can relate to and connect with. It’s been a long time since I was a college kid, so that’s one of the things that’s becoming increasingly difficult to relate to them on a non-soccer basis.”

Naughter also had a ton of praise for the former player and knew right away she would be a perfect fit for the coaching staff.

“They have someone like [Carnevale] who knows these kids, [I know] what kind of player she was, what teammate she is and what kind of person she is, it was a no-brainer,” Naughter said. “[Carnevale] has a ton of experience when it comes to Montclair State women’s soccer, playing for me, playing here, coming to school here and she’s one of the best players to ever play here.”

During Carnevale’s playing time at Montclair State, she was named to the Second-Team All-NJAC team three times, named to the First-Team All-NJAC team and in that same season in 2020, she won NJAC Midfielder of the Year. With all of that success, she wanted to continue her involvement with the team.

“It kind of just worked out perfectly,” Carnevale said. “I knew that all the other coaches left, [but] I still wanted to be a part of the program in some way because I loved it here.”

Carnevale isn’t just a soccer coach. She juggles being a coach and also being a full-time nursing student at Caldwell University. Even with the prior experience of being a student-athlete at Montclair State, it was tough to navigate at first for Carnevale as a coach.

“It’s definitely hard, the first couple weeks were an adjustment,” Carnevale said. “Being a student-athlete prior, I needed to figure out how to balance both. So I go to school in the morning then I come here for practice and then I have to figure out when to study [and] do the homework.”

Moving into the next phase of life is difficult for anyone but for Carnevale, she still has that Red Hawk mentality and so far she is figuring it out once again as a part of the women’s soccer team. When she finds the time to be on the field, Carnevale loves seeing how the first-year players are improving so quickly.

“I wouldn’t say it reminds me of myself, but especially the freshmen that step up and just watch them be a key player on the field,” Carnevale said. “Also, playing with some of the older kids and watching them grow is more rewarding than comparing me to them. Just seeing individual success and like as a team, being 10-0. I never had that, so it’s awesome in that way.

The Red Hawks have only conceded five goals on the season compared to their 22 goals against opposing teams. Naughter had lots to say as to why this team and its coaching staff are 10-0 to start the 2022 run.

“The team has defended really well, pressing the ball and making the [other] team very uncomfortable,” Naughter said. “We move the ball really well, lots of kids are able to attack, so I think it is a pretty diversified attack and they’re just [a] really hard-working group overall.”

Being one of the best players to play not only for the Red Hawks but also for the NJAC, Carnevale has left a stamp on her playing career. Now, she looks to continue to leave a stamp on her coaching career here at Montclair State. And winning all 10 games in your first season as a coach is a pretty good start.
Tori Sutera Finds Her Confidence

Ryan White
Assistant Sports Editor

A breakout season for sophomore Tori Sutera is officially underway.

As a freshman, Sutera scored just three goals which is impressive considering she spent the year, like most freshmen, fighting for a role and learning what field hockey is like at the collegiate level.

Through 10 games in 2022, the young forward already has four goals and two assists and has helped jolt the Red Hawks into their six-game winning streak.

For Sutera, the biggest difference between this year and last has been her confidence.

"Last year I was a little unsure of myself and I would get down on myself a lot but this year I've realized that the little mistakes don't matter and if I push past them, then I can do great things," Sutera said. "So that and then also, my teammates lifting me up, my coaches lifting me up has been a big help too."

What Sutera brings to the team is rare. Her ability to attack the outside while using her speed to cut the ball in along with being a tough one v. one defender makes her very valuable.

O’Reilly believes her style of play is a great example for the rest of the team and that it helps set up scoring opportunities.

"I think that she has really led by example with, even though she's a forward, she plays really good one v. one defense and when you think about field hockey, the closer that we can win the ball to the circle where we're trying to score, the easier it's going to be to score," O’Reilly said. "So when you have forwards like [Sutera] who are really good one v. one defenders, it sets up a lot of good scoring opportunities."

It’s safe to say that Sutera has found her role with the team and home at Montclair State University. She knew at first glance during a visit back in 2021 on a cold Sunday in Feb.

"Out of all the tours I did, when I came to Montclair [State] it felt like the best fit for me," Sutera said. "[It had] the most home-y feel and I had the best connection with the players I got to meet and the coaches. When I came to Montclair [State], I think that’s when I knew, and then when I looked into the programs for education, they matched with my interests."

As of now, things are flying high for Sutera and there is still a lot of time and room for growth.

A big motivator for Sutera is hearing O’Reilly talk about past Red Hawks and she wants to one day be one of the players that’s talked known to future teams.

"Hearing coach [O’Reilly] talk about the players on the team before my time pushes me a lot because I want to be one of those players that she talks about when I leave," Sutera said. "There’s actually another Tori that was on the team before me that [O’Reilly] talks about and how much she improved throughout her four years here and I would love to be the next Tori that she talks about."

Sutera says her confidence has increased this year and that has helped her play on the field.

Photo courtesy of MSU Athletics