Indigenous People Make Their Voices Heard

Emma Hatcher Has Gone the Distance With Volleyball and the Red Hawks

Wi-Fi Connection Unstable at Montclair State

Reader Feedback

Yesenia Fernandez
Assistant News Editor

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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.

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Carlos Fernandez, a sophomore business administration major with a concentration in marketing, shares how the Wi-Fi connection issues are affecting his academic performance. "The only thing I bring with me to campus is my very own laptop because it carries all my valued school information," Fernandez said. "I type my notes on Google Docs or Microsoft Word, my professors have their quizzes on Canvas this semester and I always use my laptop to get work done, so whenever the internet is out I basically can’t do anything on campus just because all my school work is on my laptop."

Many students on campus believe the reason why the Wi-Fi service has been acting up could be because of the number of students that are now on campus. "I do feel as though the amount of students on the Wi-Fi slows it down, it’s something IT or administration should’ve known about and be prepared for," Jean-Charles said. "We are a school of over 20,000 students. The proper precautions should’ve been made."

Rachel Warner, an enterprise technology services analyst at Montclair State, said the information technology service desk (IT) is working diligently to improve the Wi-Fi on campus. "Information technology is currently implementing numerous technology improvements to optimize our Wi-Fi, strengthen our security and support the evolving technologies our university community uses every day," Warner said. When asked if the Wi-Fi service is affected by the number of students on campus, Warner said IT sees increases in the number of Wi-Fi issues reported at the beginning of every academic term.

"At the start of every semester when the number of students and number of new wireless-enabled devices on campus increases, there is often a related increase in the number of Wi-Fi issues reported," Warner said. "Many times the issues are related to getting a device like a smart TV or game console registered on the network, but sometimes users report a more specific problem like poor signal quality in a certain location."

Many students are hoping that these issues will be resolved soon. "I definitely do wish that this problem is fixed as soon as possible because students need stable Wi-Fi on campus," Ferrer said.

Wi-Fi
Continued from Page 1
Montclair State University’s contract with Chartwells, the company currently running the campus’s dining services, will expire at the end of this year.

Andrew Mees, the university spokesperson, explained the current state of the contract with Chartwells. “The university has given [Chartwells] a one-year extension for the 2022-2023 school year,” Mees said. “We plan to soon issue a Request for Proposals and will conduct a competitive bidding process to find a food service supplier that best fits our needs.”

There have been discussions between Montclair State University and Chartwells regarding how dining services will support the people within it. The contract with Chartwells is not secure towards a multi-year deal and it has been somewhat hectic for the university to find common financial ground with the company. Mees also provided detail regarding the future of Montclair State’s dining services. “Chartwells will be able to submit a proposal should they wish to do so,” Mees said. “Our goal is to have the chosen vendor in place for the 2023-2024 academic year. So, there will be limited, if any, changes to the meal plans or food choices throughout this year.”

With potential change looming, some students shared their thoughts on the current state of dining services. Zion Love-Stevens, a sophomore communication and media studies major is content with the state of things. “I find the general food here great,” Love-Stevens said. “There’s no problem with accessing the food or getting to it and the quality of it is good itself.” Love-Stevens said he would like to see some new dining locations. “Any additional food place here would be great and I’m sure that all students at Montclair [State] would feel the same way in sharing excitement for it,” Love-Stevens said.

Sofia Guzman Cintron, a freshman exercise science major, shared her experience with dining services. “When you first get on campus, the dining services seem slow because everyone is trying them out,” Guzman Cintron said. “I’d say the most annoying things are when there are long wait times and when they are out of what you want.” Guzman Cintron also wishes there were more choices for vegetarian cuisine. “It’s also annoying that there aren’t as many vegetarian options as I’d like, as only vegan burgers are available so it would be nice to see more diversity in them,” Guzman Cintron said. “Also, the labeling online is sometimes incorrect regarding vegetarian products, so it can be confusing.” Jessica Lilly, a junior communication and media arts major, emphasized how the food spot depends on the individual student. “In my opinion, I’d say the best place to eat on campus is Freeman Hall, I really enjoy it here compared to other spots on campus,” Lilly said. “I understand how with other food halls, there is a greater number of students going there to eat compared to Freeman so it is not as hectic.” Lilly also shared how the hours of some food spots on campus are very important to her. “The hours on campus really improved this year. Right now, I feel like the hours for a lot of food places are really good,” Lilly said. “In the event, you miss the hours of one spot, you could try one that is open during the night. Though, some places closing early on Fridays messes me up with the timing.”
Montclair State University’s new provost and senior vice president of academic affairs shared future plans and some of his most recent accomplishments at the institution.

Provost Junius Gonzales started his role at the university with an unusual career trajectory. He has worked and is trained as a researcher, psychiatrist, physician and as a senior vice president of the University of North Carolina system.

During his years in higher education, he has served in multiple roles, including dean of a research institute at the University of South Florida and became the provost of the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and New York Institute of Technology.

As the provost of Montclair, Gonzales oversees the university’s ten colleges and schools, which consist of more than 300 academic programs serving thousands of students.

As a first-generation college graduate of immigrant parents, Gonzales felt inspired to join this institution for its diversity and population.

“I wanted to go to a university that had a large minority student population and a place where I thought there were already many strengths,” Gonzales said. “But really, I think the university could be taken sort of to the next level, what I call a next-level value.”

Gonzales’ main goal during this first year is to focus on improving students’ academic success.

“Everything from advising to new programs to new things to support students, not just tutoring but [new] models of academic coaching, we are trying out,” Gonzales said. “I believe that the graduation outcomes can be even better for students. I believe we have so many talented students [that] should be applying for and winning national awards.”

Gonzales further explained that the success of all members of this university is also crucial.

“The second goal is faculty and staff success and launching new programs to support faculty,” Gonzales said. “This year we have the most full-time faculty searches in five or six years.”

According to Gonzales, Montclair State is currently working on developing more health and interdisciplinary programs. As a designated Hispanic-serving institution, more resources will be provided including incorporating Latino/Hispanic-related courses.

During the first six months of exercising his role as the new provost, Gonzales has been able to achieve a variety of goals.

“I got extra funding to provide awards for undergraduate students to study abroad whether it is two weeks or a semester,” Gonzales said. “We hired a terrific new director of international [programs] and I got extra money to fund coordination and opportunities for undergraduate research.”

The university has also launched new academic programs that were approved by the state of New Jersey.

“I don’t take any credit for this but we have four new academic degree programs that got approved by the state, two masters, one in recording arts and production, one in animation and visual effects,” Gonzales said.

Gonzales believes that students should be the main focus and priority of the university which is why he is always open to meeting with scholars to discuss any issues or concerns.

His next plan is to take Montclair State to a higher level.

“[Montclair State] is a great place [with] lots of little things to fix and big things to fix,” Gonzales said. “But I’m convinced that in five years Montclair State will be even better known on the map beyond New Jersey.”
Eating on campus can be a challenge for a lot of students. It's no secret that Montclair State University has been plagued by dining issues for the past few years. From raw chicken tenders to limited hours at some popular dining locations, students have been more than disappointed by the university's dining services.

However, that’s not to say it’s all bad. The campus does have a few good eats if you know where to look for them. From the best burger to the best place for veg, you know where to look for them. From the best burger to the best place for veg, you know where to look for them.

For one thing, their omelet bar hits the spot after an early morning workout. Plus, they have different made-to-order gel with cream cheese, an iced caramel latte, a box of munchkins or a bacon, egg and cheese on a croissant. There’s a reason why so many students are willing to wait in that ginormous line in the Student Center every day.

Freeman is a sleeper here, but it truly has some good early-morning options. For one thing, their omelet bar hits the spot after an early morning workout. Plus, they have different made-to-order options day to day from blueberry pancakes to breakfast burritos, including a vegan option.

Dining Decisions: How to Make the Most of Eating on Campus

Sal DiMaggio Feature Editor

Eating on campus can be a challenge for a lot of students. It's no secret that Montclair State University has been plagued by dining issues for the past few years. From raw chicken tenders to limited hours at some popular dining locations, students have been more than disappointed by the university’s dining services.

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Burgers: Chili’s and Red Hawk Diner

The main advantages of these two locations’ burgers are the quality of the patty and the weight it has. The sorry excuse for burgers at Sam’s and Freeman taste fresh from a grease fire and are as thin as my meal swipe card. The Red Hawk Diner, even though its hours are frustrating, is one of the favorite places to eat on campus for a reason. The burgers there taste like a burger you would get at any other Jersey diner. Juicy, beefy and well-seasoned, you can’t go wrong here. And of course, you can’t forget the curly fries that come with the burger as well.

Chili’s, being an actual chain restaurant, also has a leg up in the burger game. Not quite as thick as the patties at the Red Hawk Diner, but the Southern Smokehouse Burger at Chili’s is one of my favorite guilty pleasures on campus. The one downside to Chili’s burgers is that they take forever to make, but I’d rather have a good burger that I have to wait for than one that gives me stomach issues and tastes like burnt grease.

Sandwiches: Jersey Mike’s

This choice seems pretty obvious. Known as one of the best chain sandwich shops in the tri-state area, Jersey Mike’s is second to none when it comes to cold-cut sandwiches. Your order is made right in front of your eyes, and nothing is better than a fresh sub. My personal favorite is the number six, roast beef and provolone, made Mike’s Way with mayo. And when I’m in the mood for a hot cheesesteak, the number 26, the Chicken Racon Ranch, is my go-to.

Pizza: The Pizzeria at the Student Center

This addition to the dining locations on campus was much needed after 2Mato was closed due to the pandemic, and it has not disappointed. Sure, it may not taste like your local Italian pizzeria down the street from back home, but it gets the job done, and it sure is better than the pizza anywhere else on campus.

Smoothies: Panera and The Venture Cafe

Smoothies are in the hands of students all over Montclair State, so it felt appropriate to cover where to get your smoothie fix. Although the Smoothie Lab just opened this semester, there still are better options for your smoothie fix. Panera is probably the most popular place for smoothies. They keep it simple with classic flavors like strawberry banana and mango, and they also have the popular healthy option of green passion. In addition to their smoothies, they also have a frozen caramel cold brew drink and a frozen chocolate cold brew which hit the spot if you’re in the mood for something a little more sugary.

Vegetarian and Vegan Options: California Tortilla and Sam’s Place

As much hate as Sam’s Place gets (and sometimes deserves), when it comes to vegetarian and vegan options, this dining hall does a job well done. Sam’s Place has an entire section devoted to vegan meals, with its own staff to prepare them for you. The salad bar at Sam’s is extensive as well, with tons of different vegetables to make your salad colorful and exciting. If you’re looking for vegan and vegetarian variety, Sam’s is the place to be.

Allergen-Friendly Options: Sam’s Place

Again, although Sam’s is known for its issues, it is the only place on campus that has an entire section devoted to allergen-friendly meals. The “Pure Eats” kitchen cooks without any of the top seven allergens including peanuts, tree nuts, gluten and dairy. The meat there is also halal, which is a big plus for any Muslim students. Personally, I find the food cooked there better for your stomach and much cleaner tasting than the main course. A hidden gem in Sam’s Place, the “Pure Eats” section is worth checking out.

The food at Montclair State may get a bad rap most of the time, but with this guide, you should be able to navigate the dining options Montclair State has to offer and make the most of what’s here. Now excuse me while I go to Jersey Mike’s and listen to my stomach rumble as they make my sandwich.
Fall Recipe: French Onion Soup

French onion soup. What more must one say?

Even just the mere thought of jammy onions swimming in buttery broth just brings copious amounts of exuberant joy to even the darkest of winter-loving hearts.

This is a great first soup to master. It takes love, patience and attention with minimal knife work and no raw components. All you need is a good kitchen knife, a cutting board, a deep pot, a wooden spoon and if you want to get really crazy—an oven-safe serving bowl.

It’s a food for the people and what better way is there to coax the masses into the depths of deep autumn than through a classic cross-cultural staple deriving from only a few humble ingredients?

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**Ingredients & Measurements | Serves four to six people.**

- 5 vidalia onions (Any would work in a pinch)
- 2 red onions
- 2 sticks of butter
- 1.5 cup(s) of red cooking wine (If you’re of age, then use the real stuff).
- 1/3 cup(s) of light brown sugar
- 4 cup(s) of beef stock
- 1 cup of chicken stock
- 1/2 cup of chicken bone stock
- Extra virgin olive oil
- 1 loaf of Good Stick Bread
- Provolone cheese
- Salt (season to taste)
- Black pepper (season to taste)
- Red pepper flakes (optional)
- The Super Crazy Secret Ingredient | Soy Sauce (optional)

**Cooking Instructions**

**Step One:** Start by prepping your seven onions. Using a sharp knife, thinly slice the onions and set them aside.

**Step Two:** In a large dutch oven or deep pot set over medium-high heat, melt the two sticks of butter and add a generous glug of extra virgin olive oil to the pot before dropping the heat to medium. Then add the thinly sliced onions to the pot and heavily salt.

Be mindful that while the onions are on medium heat, it will take time for them to cook down, roughly 10 minutes.

**Step Three:** As the onions cook, stir them every two to five minutes while using a lid to contain moisture between stirs to let the onions steam.

After about 10 minutes, the onions should have reduced a little and the liquids of the onions and butter should be visually equal and at a rolling simmer. Drop to medium-low heat and add 1/3 cup of light brown sugar before continuing to cook the onions until they are soft and translucent. Be mindful to stay close and stir for a few minutes.

**Step Four:** Once the onions are soft and translucent, drop the heat to low. Stir every five or so minutes while the onions caramelize. You can keep the lid off by this point. It is important to not burn the onions here. Onions produce a lot of natural sugars when cooked down so keep them moving periodically to maintain from burning or browning too quickly.

If there seems to be too much liquid at this point, don't fret, just remove some excess liquid carefully. This will take time and range depending on the stove. If you feel like you need to raise or lower your temperature accordingly, just try to maintain a simmer. Expect to be near the onions for another 20 to 30 minutes at least.

**Step Five:** When the onions are visibly caramelized and jammy, take your 1.5 cups of red cooking wine and pour it over the onions. Turn the heat back up to about medium or medium-high and cook down for about 10 minutes or until you can't smell any sharp alcohol hints. Maintain a periodic stir.

Then add your four cups of beef, one cup of chicken and 1/2 cup of bone broth. Stir gently to incorporate and then let this simmer for another 15 or 25 minutes.

This is also the time to add seasonings to taste. That would be light salt, a few cracks of black pepper and red pepper flakes if you so desire. It would be here that you could add a dash or two of the soy sauce but be very sparing. The last thing you want is for that date and you invited over to know you've bastardized this elegant French classic with an insane twist (it's our little secret).

**Step Six:** As it simmers this is the perfect time to prep the bread and cheese! Set the oven to broil and then grab your loaf of Italian or French bread (Don't skimp here, go to the bakery section and do it right). Slice the bread into rounds that will fit atop the soup. Place on a baking sheet and lightly coat the slices of bread in olive oil (one round per cup). Place in the oven for one to two minutes or until toasty. Be careful, broilers work fast so keep a constant eye on them.

**Step Seven:** Take the bread out of the oven and let it rest. Around this time the soup should have been simmering long enough to serve. Take a ladle and spoon into a bowl. If you are using an oven-safe croc, place one of the rounds of bread over the soup and drizzle the bread with a slice of provolone cheese before safely putting the bowl back into the oven with a small baking sheet to catch melting cheese for one to three minutes before removing and serving.

**Step Eight:** If you don't have a croc to put in the oven, ladle the soup into any bowl and serve however you'd like, bread and cheese optional.

Then, don't be shy! Burn your tongue because it's worth it.
Book Review: "Verity" Will Keep You Up At Night

Kendra Levendusky  
Guest Writer

Colleen Hoover’s romantic thriller will make you squirm in your seat as you read. “Verity” is a standalone romantic thriller by New York Times bestselling author, Colleen Hoover. The novel is full of manipulation, a morally questionable romance and twists and turns that keep the reader at the edge of their seat.

Hoover has gained popularity within the last few years for her romance novels, but I didn’t know about her until a friend said, “She isn’t your style, but trust me.” So I did. I read her novel titled “Ugly Love” and finished it within two hours during a car ride. It was not only a good read, but I liked how Hoover’s writing style flowed and was easy to digest. After giving my positive review, I was then recommended “Verity” and my perception of Hoover changed entirely.

She had written a fine romance novel, one that followed clichés and made me feel hopeful at the end. “Verity” however, was a completely different ballpark. The suspense tone of the novel made me feel like Verity was after me, the reader. I thought of focusing on her assignment, she tries to uncover the truth about who Verity is and her true feelings toward motherhood.

Jeremy explains to Lowen that Verity is in a vegetative state after surviving a battle with colon cancer and that he is in a vegetative state after surviving a battle with colon cancer and that he is in a vegetative state after surviving a battle with colon cancer and that he is in a vegetative state after surviving a battle with colon cancer and that he is in a vegetative state after surviving a battle with colon cancer and that he is in a vegetative state after surviving a battle with colon cancer and that he is in a vegetative state after surviving a battle with colon cancer and that he is in a vegetative state after surviving a battle with colon cancer and that he is in a vegetative state after surviving a battle with colon cancer and that he is in a vegetative state after surviving a battle with colon cancer and that he is in a vegetative state after surviving a battle with colon cancer and that he is in a vegetative state after surviving a battle with colon cancer and that he is in a vegetative state after surviving a battle with colon cancer and that he is in a vegetative state after surviving a battle with colon cancer and that he is in a vegetative state after surviving a battle with colon cancer.

The suspicious tone of the novel made me feel uncomfortable when I think of it. She did something more impressive—she turned the safety of a fictional world dark and sinister.

While rummaging through Verity’s office, she crosses a manuscript that Verity has written. It’s an autobiography detailing the night she met her husband, the death of her twin daughters and her true feelings toward motherhood.

At this point in the story, I felt sick to my stomach. There were sinister admissions by Verity and Lowen did not trust her. Since this novel was from Lowen’s point of view, it was easy for a reader to distrust Verity as well. Lowen was completely rational; Verity was a threat. Verity was now the enemy in this narrative.

Lowen reads this intimate and twisted look into the lives of the Crawford family which leads her to question if Verity is even paralyzed at all. Instead of focusing on her assignment, she tries to uncover the truth about who Verity is and her true feelings toward motherhood.

Jeremy explains to Lowen that Verity is in a vegetative state after surviving a tragic car accident and that he is in charge of finding an author to continue the work his wife couldn’t finish. Lowen is then invited to stay at the Crawford home to go through Verity’s countless notes in preparation for her drafting. The setting was intentional—there was something creepy and eerie about the Vermont home on the lake. Lowen felt like she was being watched, and as an active reader, I thought I was being watched too.

Lowen started out unsure of herself and was on a mission to complete a series. After discovering the manuscript and forming an intimate relationship with her enemy’s husband, she gains newfound confidence, prompting her to share the gruesome truth with Jeremy. The convincing tone of the novel made me skeptical chapter after chapter. After the climax, the unfolding lies made me feel like Verity was after me, the reader.

Similar to “Ugly Love,” “Verity” was an incredibly smooth read, done in one shot. Once I picked the book up, I did not want to put it down. We witness Lowen’s internal moral battle, her sexual fantasies and a darker, more self-assured version of herself. Lowen’s actions kept me questioning her character and by the end, I was questioning the truth.

Hoover wrote a novel so chilling, that it makes me feel uncomfortable when I think of it. She did something more impressive—she turned the safety and security of a fictional world dark and sinister.

“Verity” is the kind of book that will get you out of a reading slump and leave you wanting more. Hoover’s traditional romantic outline, embroidered with themes of deceit, infidelity and tragedy, made it the perfect ominous read.
CAMPUS DINING SURVEY
Tell us what you think.

Complete the survey for a chance to win $100 Flex Dollars!

dineoncampus.com/montclair
What do you do to balance out your life as a college student?

By Lynise Olivacce
Photo Editor

“I [set aside] my planner and then I look on Canvas to see when certain assignments are due, so I can write it throughout my planner. Wednesdays are my days off so I would do my homework in the afternoon and Facetime my friends at night to catch up since some of my friends don’t [go] here.”

Brianna Bernabe
Freshman
Psychology

“I have an agenda that I write all my class priorities in. Besides that, I keep a schedule for chores to do and only hang out with people for a certain time when I finish my classes.”

Anya Simpson
Sophomore
Language, Business and Culture

“I usually do homework on Sundays and Wednesdays and go to work on Saturdays just to keep things separated. Usually, I see my friends at night, so I can balance school and my personal life. Sometimes it can be hard though with six classes, especially since I’m also a commuter.”

Autumn Micieli
Freshman
Psychology
“I make time for myself and put my mental health first. I would focus on strictly school work, and then after that, I would relax before my next class so I don't get stressed out about everything.”

Herla Garcia
Freshman
Undecided

“I actually just got a giant whiteboard for my room. I write down important things like my day-to-day schedule, even stuff like how much money I’m spending just to keep track. Also, I color coordinate my reminders, the days that I have work and my class schedule.”

Madison Inzinna
Psychology
Freshman

“I decorated my phone by adding different widgets for my calendar, Canvas, and reminders. I feel like I have a lot of stuff going on, so it's good for me to have a set system. Also, I think it's good to not be too hard on yourself because it can be a lot.”

Da’Nae Dunham
Sophomore
Communication and Media Studies

“I basically keep a schedule on a physical calendar of what to do and when I should get something started. That doesn't just apply to college, it applies to work and my personal life. It's easier for me to write it down because if I type it out, I think I would forget.”

Matt Lee
Senior
Filmmaking
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<tr>
<th>Horoscopes</th>
<th>Producer</th>
<th>Assistant Opinion</th>
<th>Opinion</th>
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<td><strong>Capricorn</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dec. 22 – Jan. 19</td>
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<td>If you’re reading this, that means that you have broken the matrix and can see the truth. We have a very special mission for you this week so read carefully. Tell 5 friends about how much you love the Montclarion and follow it on Instagram.</td>
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<td>I hate to be the one to tell you this, but listening to ‘Bags’ by Clairo on repeat is NOT a substitute for human interaction! Go outside and tweet your friends to see if they want to go get a baked good somewhere, they miss you.</td>
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<td>Don’t let them trick you into ruining your perfect cottage core October! They don’t understand you, and they sadly will never say “you can lead a horse to water, but you can’t get them to drink” — Clairo</td>
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<td>You camp out for a couple of hours. So far, he’s nowhere to be found. You find peace. You can breathe again. Maybe he gave up after all. Wait, what’s that? Hanging from the branch of a tree 50 ft away? A hair piece… Oh God… He’s still here.</td>
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<td>Time is running out as we speak, you must fulfill the prophecy and fall in love in October!!!!</td>
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<td>I know you keep seeing happy couples posting pumpkin picking pics on Instagram, and that it’s making you want to vomit, but it’s okay! The pictures of you in your extremely niche comic-con outfits are giving them the same feeling.</td>
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<td>If you’re feeling a bit down, why not post a picture of you in front of the broadcast tower and caption it with “Guess who’s in Paris!”</td>
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<td>Oh, isn’t there someone else you can annoy? Friends? Family? Poisonous reptiles?</td>
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<td><strong>Taurus</strong>&lt;br&gt;Apr. 20 – May 20</td>
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<td>Fall is here so get out your best pairs of pants, just to prove to the haters that you own pants.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scorpio</strong>&lt;br&gt;Oct. 23 – Nov. 21</td>
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<td>Look, I love that you’re embracing the fall vibes, but ease up on the pumpkin perfume, okay? You smell like the rotting remains of the Pillsbury Doughboy.</td>
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<td><strong>Gemini</strong>&lt;br&gt;May 21 – Jun. 20</td>
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<td>Some troll living under the Blanton Wind Tunnel told me to tell any Gemini I may encounter to stop spending all their flex dollars at Dunkin; they’re never going to make your iced coffee right. Stop wasting your time!</td>
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<td><strong>Sagittarius</strong>&lt;br&gt;Nov. 22 – Dec. 21</td>
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<td>Horoscope Not Found: Abort, Retry, Ignore?</td>
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The Montclarion Crossword Puzzle and More!
Disney and Nickelodeon Shows Edition
By Jenna Sundel

Across
2. This show follows the adventures of the Duncan family.
3. This show was a spinoff of “That's So Raven.”
5. She plays Zoey on “Zoey 101.”
7. Miley Cyrus plays a teenager who is secretly a pop star on this show.
8. This Nickelodeon show is about two stepbrothers and their crazy antics as they get used to living together.

Down
1. This show starred Demi Lovato and later had a spin off called “So Random.”
4. She is the star of “The Amanda Show.”
6. She played Alex Russo on “Wizards of Waverly Place.”

Sudoku

Word Search

d s l i m c c l j v i m e m m b p w a
s l m t u m u q p i d y r v o z k r w b
n z r m n i o k x i m i j y o q c i h h
o v z o k c g d s f u s c c r l a n s x s
e i h w w z r n a g t f k j w k z o f c
d m u k s s c a c v i c t o r i o u s o
d i u t y t m p f a k a j u m c l d y
l t v o h w e c p d m p z u m l k m s b
e t r d h i g a e a d h c n i m x n l
k x e u z j n v l m g o l w d u u y e t
c b e z e t l q x l l g y k f i l d v l
i d i s d j i t y d l t r m l e d w l a i
n l s e u s a n b f j h i h r u r d r u
c a s p e i m c r p x a a g e i v f o p
i s e d l x r k z z m b t k i a t s e
c u j w c x e x s w b a u r r f s t
a u q p j q m i l l o c t r p h f w t y
r q t i o y m l o i y n x j n a w k a m
l f b g r o a z b h f l v j k j t q h c
y q o h s l i y z e c p a k g h t s

Jessie                          Nickelodeon
That's So Raven     iCarly               Fairly Odd Parents
True Jackson VP     Suite Life             Victorious
Girl Meets World     Disney                   All That
Lizzie McGuire
There are many things about Montclair State University that make it appealing for incoming freshmen. Its Spanish Mission architecture, beautiful quad, newly renovated buildings and the adorable deer that make appearances at night, just to name a few. However, not everything is as perfect as it seems.

You start walking to your class, maybe it’s in the Feliciano School of Business, you get there a little early and venture down to the cafe on the lower floor. You get a delicious smoothie and decide to sit down for a bit to unwind or do some work.

But alas, the Wi-Fi on campus that's vital for you to do your work, or scroll mindlessly on Twitter in public so it's less awkward to be sitting alone, is not working. In fact, none of the three networks for Montclair State work. Three different ways to connect to the internet on campus and they all decide to stop working at the exact same second. Now, you're just sitting alone, full of rage and unable to scroll on social media to escape the anxiety of being in public.

After a couple of irritating minutes, it's time for class. You sit down, pull out your laptop for notes and get ready to learn.

Oh, wait. Did you forget? The WiFi doesn't work and probably won't work for at least an hour and a half, maybe more.

Now, your entire class is ruined because the professor is unable to use the internet which is, once again, crucial to your education. You may be able to find other options and get through the class, but it's still quite an annoyance.

After class, you probably want to go to your dorm on campus and relax with a little television. But guess what: the Wi-Fi in your dorm doesn't work either. Now you're left alone with nothing but a Brita, maybe a funny tapestry on the wall and a mattress that makes a good night's rest feel like you've been doing hard labor in your sleep.

Forget watching TikToks to help pass the time, you'd be lucky if you can watch one and have it on loop because it's the only video that will even load.

In all seriousness, the Wi-Fi on campus has been a huge issue for all students and staff at Montclair State this semester. Without access to the internet, where most of our courseware and assignments are, it is impossible to get through the day smoothly.

Not to mention, if you have a hybrid class and you're on Zoom when the internet decides to go down, you miss out on most of your class with no way to participate.

Yes, we're glad that all the dorms have randomly colored furniture that is totally incoherent when it comes to theme and design, but some students simply cannot afford to use their data 24/7. Even if they can, the more data that is used, the less it will work until the month goes on.

So many aspects of our lives are now embedded in our computers and phones. A life with poor internet stability and connection is simply not sustainable anymore.

It's time we start receiving the living and classroom conditions we paid for.
Getting hit in the head, even if it’s not too hard, can cause a concussion. But what exactly is a concussion? According to Mayo Clinic, symptoms of CTE include memory problems, aggression and suicidal thoughts. In an interview with TMZ, Bennet Campbell Donovan, guest writer for The Montclarion, shares his opinion on the topic.

Campbell Donovan
Guest Writer

Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa rolls out of the pocket looking to throw one of his top receivers. He pump fakes, sees the oncoming pressure and not only is he sacked, but is thrown into the ground by Cincinnati Bengals defensive tackle Josh Tupou.

The following camera shot could be best described as Tagovailoa not being able to move for at least five seconds, a scene tough for viewers and players to even watch, which brought an incident with the Buffalo Bills into question.

A video of Tagovailoa circulated on Sunday of him stumbling to the ground after being pushed by Buffalo’s Matt Milano and hitting the back of his head. He returned to the game en route to a victory, but sparked some controversy in whether he should have been allowed to even return that evening.

Why did the Dolphins allow Tagovailoa to play when he was evaluated for a concussion?

Just the week before, he was dealing with the aftermath of his latest injury, former NFL players have been very outspoken on the league and the Dolphins organization itself.

Concussions and chronic traumatic encephalopathy, known as CTE, have been the norm for many deaths of former NFL players. Players such as Nick Buoniconti, Junior Seau and Vincent Jackson, who have passed away, all suffered from CTE.

You may ask, what exactly is CTE? CTE is a progressive brain condition that is thought to be caused by repeated blows to the head and repeated episodes of concussion, primarily involved with contact sports such as hockey, soccer and football.

According to Mayo Clinic, symptoms of CTE include memory problems, aggression and suicidal thoughts. In an interview with TMZ, Bennet Omala, the physician who discovered CTE, said Tagovailoa should step away from the game. Omala states in an emotional plea, “if you love your family, you love your kids – if you have kids – it’s time to gallantly walk away. Go find something else to do.”

Buoniconti, mentioned previously, is in the Pro Football Hall of Fame and won the Super Bowl Championship with the 1972 Miami Dolphins, the only team in league history with a perfect season.

Buoniconti is also a relative of mine, my late grandfather’s first cousin, who also coached football. His children all played soccer because of what happened to Nick’s son Marc, who was paralyzed in 1985.

My brother plays soccer and has already had one concussion. For the past few weeks, the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA) has been conducting an investigation into why Tagovailoa was cleared. It turns out that an independent doctor, not affiliated with the Dolphins or the league, cleared the quarterback.

That doctor has been fired for not doing their job correctly and should be sued for malpractice, but this incident is a huge stain on the NFLPA and its mission.

I’d met through Tumblr as I grew up. The friends I’ve made here at Montclair State University and the strangers I’d met through Tumblr as I grew up. Meanwhile, trans teens are seven point-six times more likely to commit suicide than their cisgender peers out of sheer hopelessness. Holly J.K. Rowling laid out in Harry Potter: if you take a magical child and force them to act non-magical, they’re just going to feel like freaks.

The Wall Street Journal published an article titled “The Tragedy of Transgender Surgery for Kids” that spread further misinformation about what medical transitioning looks like for our children. Trans kids are never put through gender affirmation surgery, they are given puberty blockers that delay the onset of adolescent growth and have easily reversible effects instead. The message broadcasted by these national shortcomings sounds like a general hatred for the existence of trans and nonbinary children. It is had enough

Stop Trying To Kill Trans Kids
Sophia Caparrós
Staff Writer

The Montclarion • October 13, 2022 • PAGE 15
Marvel Studios Presents: Disappointment

Daniel Amorim
Guest Writer

Marvel Studios’ “Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness,” released in May 2022, was a mess of a film that had no clear sense of direction. The story was advertised as a big event in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) but turned out to be a short story with a plot that made no sense and writing that was overall cringy.

“Thor: Love and Thunder,” Marvel’s second theatrical release of 2022, was a fun, oddly paced and underwhelming comedy that tried to pull at heartstrings but favored jokes over the minimal character development.

This has been the recent trend of Marvel Studios’ projects for the past few years. Many of Marvel’s projects have come under recent fire for feeling rushed and disappointing, and yet Marvel Studios seems to push the envelope every year to see how much more they can release.

Recently Marvel has upped the number of projects released each year to beat the year prior, but based on the quality of the past few projects, Marvel seems to be stretching itself too thin. From writing to visual effects (VFX), Marvel is holding quantity over quality, and it shows.

With the launch of Disney+ in 2019, Marvel Studios began releasing shows set in the MCU for the service. The first series, “WandaVision,” was met with rave reviews from both critics and fans.

Every week, social media would be taken over by Marvel fans, including myself, theorizing about what would happen and the implications the show would have on the rest of the MCU. “WandaVision” had nine episodes, allowing for the development of multiple characters and using the unique sitcom-parody format to move the story along.

No Marvel show since has garnered the same amount of attention in the public eye, since most use a six-episode format, not allowing enough time for the stories to be fully fleshed out.

While some shows have been fine with six episodes, others really struggled with pacing and keeping their central themes in focus. For example, in the second show to be released, “The Falcon and the Winter Soldier,” the mantle of Captain America is stolen from Sam Wilson, or Falcon, and given to a random white man who is quite controversial.

The central themes of this show call out the American government for years of oppression against minorities. All of this setup is essentially lost in the finale to make room for an overly simple, nonsensical resolution for all of the storylines and a big reveal of a mystery character. Had the show been longer, the central conflict wouldn’t feel rushed to a solution that was a little too convenient.

Now that Marvel Studios can see the success they can have if they spit out content left and right, they are filling up their already crowded schedule.

You would think that they would take a step back and focus more on the quality of their content after their projects received bad reception from fans, but they are actually pushing out more than ever. Instead of keeping their average two-three projects a year, they jumped to nine projects for 2021, and 11 projects for this year.

Marvel Studios also just recently announced their lineup of projects through 2025. This news came just in time to hide the bad press Marvel was getting for overworking their VFX teams.

If the quality of the content wasn’t going downhill, then I would be elated that they are getting more content from Marvel, but I have been a little disappointed by nearly every project that has been released in the past few years.

The fans are noticing, and they aren’t happy. I love Marvel, but I value a good story over the amount of content I get, and right now I’m really disappointed in what Marvel Studios is doing.

Daniel Amorim, a junior film and television major, is in his first year as a guest writer for The Montclarion.

Marvel Studios is Changing for the Better

Matt Orth
Sports Editor

After “Avengers: Infinity War” and “Avengers: Endgame” were released, many fans were uncertain about the future of the universe that was created.

But one of the best things about Kevin Feige, current president of Marvel Studios, is that he always has a vision for the future.

“Spider-Man: No Way Home” was one of the first movies of Marvel’s Multiverse Saga, and it excelled in removing the Tony Stark attachment from Peter Parker and putting together a beautiful Spider-Man story with a few familiar heroes, Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield.

“Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness,” helmed by original “Spider-Man” director Sam Raimi, explored a variety of storylines from Wanda’s love for her children, to Doc, Stephen Strange’s love for Christine, to America Chavez’s journey of using her multiversal powers on command.

Messy and no clear direction? Wanda’s (The Scarlet Witch) “sacrificed” herself to destroy the Darkhold which consumed her and made her cause destruction and almost destroyed the Multiverse.

Thor’s fourth adventure debuted when social discourse around Marvel projects started to take a shift for the worse.

People were discussing how the movies are not amusing, the visual effects (VFX) are rushed and the big connection with the next big villain does not show up.

“Thor: Love and Thunder” was a thrilling movie where Thor learns more about himself, and reunites with Jane Foster who becomes the “Mighty Thor” to prolong her cancer diagnosis.

Eventually, the duo, along with Valkyrie and Korg and some loud goats, help defeat Christian Bale’s Gorr the God Butcher, whose character was chilling but meshed into the humor of director Taika Waititi well. Some say characters were not developed at all, but Thor found who he was, didn’t he?

The introduction of Disney+’s streaming service is a new way to tell the vast stories of Marvel. It has helped to create some incredible shows, like the recent “Ms. Marvel,” where Kamala Khan becomes a young hero thanks to her family heritage and helps to keep her family and community safe from the ever-annoying Department of Damage Control.

In addition, there’s “She-Hulk: Attorney at Law,” which looks at Jen Walters and how she handles becoming a new Hulk along with her normal human self and pokes fun at fans always waiting on the next big thing.

The streaming platform has helped to put out great works like those, and also a chance for people to stream movies shortly after appearing in theaters. Sure, the six-episode format feels a bit rushed at times and puts a lot of pressure on each episode to deliver, but for the most part, it has hit the mark.

And the reports of visual effects workers being overworked with the recent increase of content coming out from Marvel, while the VFX artists are definitely disappointed to read about. But in a report from IGN, Marvel has begun to logically split up the work and lighten the workload for the VFX artists.

You can cherry-pick projects that may not have been as good as others, but many fans recognize that the whole of Phase Four has been pretty solid.

Something that fans have actually noticed and are happy about is the current future of Marvel Studios. Movies like “Deadpool 3” with Hugh Jackman returning as Wolverine and Disney+ shows like “X-Men ’97” which is a direct continuation of the animated classic.

To round out Phase Four, “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever” looks to be a highly emocional story surrounding the death of “Black Panther” lead actor Chadwick Boseman, while introducing anti-hero mutant Namor and Riri Williams, also known as Ironheart.

Thanos’s destruction of the MCU was inevitable. Now, Kang the Conqueror will see us soon in the next installment of “Avengers: Endgame.”

If you don’t like the direction it’s going, and especially if it’s been a few years since their supposed last good project, simply just don’t watch.

Matt Orth, a senior sports communication major, is in his first year as the sports editor for The Montclarion.
“Object of Desire”

by Gabrielle Miller

The bar was dim when Matt walked into it. When he turned his head to survey the bar, he couldn’t see the faces of the people sitting there. He liked that. That meant they couldn’t see him either. It always felt like it was the evening, no matter what time of the day it was. Even when it was a bright afternoon, it always felt like the late evening when Matt came into the bar. When Matt sat down, there was a beer placed in front of him.

“You’re early,” said the bartender.

“No work today,” Matt replied.

“Why’s that?”

“What’s it matter?”

The bartender lingered for a few moments, used to Matt’s unpleasant attitude. He moved away and left Matt alone. Matt didn’t mention that there would no longer be days where he went to work.

Matt gulped his beer thirstily. It felt cool going down his throat and he drank it happily. As soon as he put his empty glass down, the bartender was in front of him again, refilling his glass. Before Matt could finish his second glass, someone sat next to him. He turned his head to see a woman sitting there. She was close enough to see. She smiled pleasantly.

He sat up. “Evening,” he said.

“It’s only three-thirty,” the woman said. Her eyes moved toward his glass and he mechanically gulped his beer. Again, the bartender was there—jerking the tap hurriedly before giving Matt his glass back and moving away again. He hadn’t bothered asking the woman if she wanted anything.

“Do you want anything?” Matt asked leaning over the bar to try and wave over the bartender. “It’s on me.”

“No, thank you,” said the woman. “I’m content sitting here and watching you.”

Matt raised his eyebrows at her, surprised the woman was being so forward. His cheeks were warm and he hoped that they weren’t red. The woman smiled again at him and leaned closer to him. Matt couldn’t help but lower his gaze to eye her body. When he raised his eyes, she looked at him knowingly.

“What’s your name?” he asked her.

“Ginger,” the woman said, leaving her full lips pursed. “But everyone calls me Gin.”

Matt gave a small laugh and the woman licked her lips, propping her head up with her hand. Matt found her incredibly attractive. He had forgotten about his beer.

“Have some more,” Ginger said.

Matt picked up his glass and raised it to his mouth. Ginger put her fingers on the bottom of the glass, making Matt finish the whole thing.

“No, thank you;” she said the woman. “I’m content sitting here and watching you.”

Ginger moved towards Matt’s glass. He didn’t move.

“Drink it,” Ginger demanded.

“I don’t want to.”

“Only for a bit;” Matt said.

“It’ll make your head feel better.”

“Only for a bit;” Matt said again.

Matt stared at the glass. He glanced at Ginger and saw she was still wearing a scowl. The two moved their gaze back to the glass. Matt took it in his hand and drank it without Ginger’s help.

“Good,” she said smiling again. “Have another.”

Melvina stumbled about doing as Ginger said.

“I don’t want it;” he said back in his seat.

Instead of frowning or scowling, Ginger kept her smile. She said, “Kiss me.”

Matt leaned in to kiss her. She put a hand in front of his mouth and nodded at the glass.

“Drink that first.”

He belched. “I shouldn’t.”

“Why’s it matter?”

“Why’s that?”

“Why’s it matter?”

When the bartender came, Matt pulled the glass away from him.

“I’m closing,” he said. “You want another beer before I leave?”

The bar was empty. Only Ginger was left sitting next to him. She nodded.

“Yes,” said Matt.

“Alright.” The bartender took Matt’s glass and filled it again. “I’ll leave the keys for you to close. Leave them under the mat. You know.”

Matt reached into his pocket and handed the bartender his wallet. The bartender fished out Matt’s card, paid his tab and left Ginger and Matt alone.

“Not the first time he’s done that,” Ginger said.

“No,” replied Matt, not wondering how Ginger knew. “It’s not.”

Ginger raised a finger to her nose, as if they were lovers about to go for a walk. Her lips twitched and she said, “You do that a lot.”

“I’ve been doing it a long time.”

“Not for very long I didn’t,” Ginger said.

“I thought it was a good idea.”

“Did you think it was a good idea?" Ginger said.

“I thought it was a good idea.”

Ginger moved towards Matt’s glass. He didn’t move.

“Why ask for another if you’re not going to drink it?” she asked, her tone biting. Matt turned to look at her and saw the smile she had been wearing all night was now gone and had become a scowl.

“I have a hard time saying no,” he said uneasily.

“Drink it,” Ginger demanded.

“I don’t want to.”

“It’ll make your head feel better.”

“Only for a bit;” Matt said.

“It’ll make your stomach feel better.”

“Only for a bit;” Matt said again.

Matt stared at the glass. He glanced at Ginger and saw she was still wearing a scowl. The two moved their gaze back to the glass. Matt took it in his hand and drank it without Ginger’s help.

“Good,” she said smiling again. “Have another.”

“Why’s that?”

“Not the first time he’s done that,” Ginger said.

“I really shouldn’t...” he trailed off. “Not right now.”

The bartender simply shrugged and turned away. Ginger frowned.

“Have I done something wrong?” she asked.

Matt shook his head. He was starting to feel drowsy. He knew if he spoke it would only turn into incoherent babble. He had to use the restroom but knew he’d stumble and fall if he tried to stand up. Ginger put her hand on his back and Matt rested his head on her arms. Everything was so dim around him, adding to the drowsiness he was feeling.

He closed his eyes, and suddenly, Matt was lifting his head and blinking at the bartender.
by Mickey Caso

It's been like this for days, weeks…months? I don't know, time hasn't felt real for a while. My skin is ice cold and I think my blood has stopped flowing. I can barely look at myself but I know I'm as pale as the room I'm in.

This room is horrifying and the bright whites hurt my eyes. This bed feels disgustingly uncomfortable in a way where you can't even escape with the sweet release of sleep; moving with bruises and holes strewn about my body hurts too much to even verbalize. I can feel my cells resurrect when I form thoughts, and I can feel them die again and dig their graves throughout my body.

I'm not strapped to this bed, but I can't move. I am not physically chained, but I can't move. I am not physically chained, but I am here. They're the only reason why I'm incompletely surviving, I need to see them. I can't bear my name, I can't. I can only remember my wife and my children, but they're not kidnapped or drugged a while ago, or something of that sort. When I try to remember my name, I can't. I can only remember my wife and my children, but they're not here. They're the only reason why I'm incompletely surviving, I need to see them.

Every once in a while they come in. They come in dressed in all white, they move lightning fast from the door to my bed, to further entrap me here. To drive the point of me never returning home by plugging instruments into my veins and giving me false reassurance. They don't even have faces. Everything is a blur, it's all been incomprehensible.

These creatures in their human clothes tell me my family will be here soon, but I know they're lying. I know they will feed me with false promises to get me to calm down, but I am not calm. I am locked in my fleshly prison and my body vibrates for freedom regardless of my immobility. I need to get out, but I can't.

They allow the other creatures to come in, they mock my sobbing for hours then leave. They look similar to them, dressed in clothes of various colors.

I miss my family. What have they done with them?

The chill of the fluids they pump into me to initiate docility starts to hurt. It feels like ice then lava is being poured into my veins, I'm being tortured. I scream and I scream and nothing happens, they don't flinch at my displays of anguish, they have no empathy, they just need me to suffer.

“Why?” I cry to the creatures. “Why are you doing this to me? What have I done? Let me go!” I scream and I sob until my ribs hurt and my guts feel like they're twisting. It feels like an hourly occurrence that this happens, but I can't even tell how long it's been.

They smile at me, “We want to help you, Steven.”

“I don't know who Steven is, I don't remember my name but I know that's not it. My sobbing throughout the room and my words are left for the walls to feel. It seems as if years have passed maybe, decades. I don't know, I'm still in this room. I'm still in this f*****g room.

I've lost hope, and the creatures have noticed. The drugs are more violent and more frequently being pumped into me. My arms are sore, my body is filled with bruising and I wish they would just let me die.

The others still come into this room, to mock my sobs, I have stopped crying and they have not. They stand in the corners of the room and pretend to feel for me, I know they feel nothing. If I could stand I would kill them. All of them.

The door opens and the creatures and the others are in the room together, seemingly conspiring, which they do rarely but it's been more frequent. It makes me wonder when they will finally kill me, and I hope it's soon.

“What's happening?” I think I can hear one of them say, but everything is blurry, noises and sight.

It's hard to blur the colorless hue of the room, it's hard to picture any other color but that achingly bleakened one the room shouts.

But the pale does look different towards the center of the wall in front of me, it looks brighter and it's hurting my eyes even more. Yet, once it shines, my bruising does not seem to hurt, my eyes don't feel like they're forcing a close; the invisible shackles on my arms and legs are seemingly lifted.

I'm horrified to stand up, partially because I don't want my legs to collapse and I don't want them or the others to hurt me. But I'm drawn to the light.

But they don't, they don't hurt me. One of them comes near and they support my arms, the others are not wailing and I am up. I'm alive.

The white hole in the wall has gotten wider and brighter, and it's calling for me. I step into the wall and my wife is there. My wife!

“I missed you, I missed you so much, I don't know where I was I,” she began. She puts a finger to my lips.

“Hi, sweetie,” she says and holds my face. I embrace her and my head nuzzles into her neck, I have not stopped crying. My two children are beside her, Jack and Nathan.

“I-I missed you too, it's okay to go,” she says. There are tears in her eyes and she's smiling. I look down at my hands that are now holding hers, the wrinkles and liver spots are gone.

“I don't want to go, will you come with me?” I look back at the glowing white hole in the wall. “I'm scared, I don't want you to leave, I don't want to leave you.”

“Yes, I will, and I will never leave you,” she says and I melt into her. My eyes grow heavy in a warm way and I feel nothing, happily. She grabs my hand and we walk into the light.

I feel no pain, just my wife. Just love. Something I assumed was long gone, but I was wrong. The faint sound of the others wailing is behind me, but I don't look back. I hope they'll miss me.

"Forgotten" By Abbi Erbacher

Your first love is bound to be your first heartbreak. Your first heartbreak, your first lesson. Your first lesson turned success until one day you forget your first love altogether. I mean they were supposed to be the one to protect you. They were supposed to help you with your first steps, teach you your abcs. And now they're all but forgotten you too.

They were supposed to lift you onto their shoulders. Not push you further into the ground.

They like to say your father is your first love. I would love to see who nurtured that love to its fullest potential. Because it wasn't my first love.

My first love was my first heartbreak.

Way before I should've known what it was like to be let down.

My first heartbreak was my first lesson.

Way before a lesson should've been taught.

My lesson turned into my first success.

Now to whom do I show success?

"An Ode to a Girl I Will Never Talk to" By Delilah Summerer

Unfair in ways Of which my attention was captured

In the presence of her beauty
I become a Victorian man
Society's standards are her socks
And her sheer essence is her ankles.

Eyes that sparkle under stadium lights
Compassion and complication compared to no other
I know that my situation is compromised
Every time she enters my proximity.

"Martia" I say, filled with immense joy, I think I'm crying.

We're in another room now, it looks like the pale room, but different. It's happier, I can feel it. Martia's wearing the blue prom dress she wore when I took her to prom in '63. She's smiling and twirling around in the dress that could not possibly look better on anyone else.
“Be a Friend” - Zofia Przedworska

“The Octopus’ Garden Episode: 5” - Sophia Caparros

“My Dog Went To Hell” - Andy Cook
Afro-Italian Sensation Amir Issaa Visits Montclair State

Amir Issaa stood center stage at Montclair State University’s John J. Cali School of Music on Oct. 3. The crowd was in awe of Issaa’s talent and how he was able to uniquely evoke today’s political issues through his craft — rapping. Issaa’s words take listeners on a journey of immigrants, the wrongs of racial inequality, exclusivity and the plights of growing up in a low-income family.

The path to Issaa’s rising success wasn’t easy. The Afro-Italian’s poetry reflects the difficult path he had growing up into the man he is today. Issaa’s father was incarcerated in front of him at three years old, living in Rome, Italy. A mix of emotions formed within him as a result of the racism and xenophobia he endured with his mother and siblings by his side.

As a means to escape from his harsh reality, Issaa would leave his small room to ride on his skateboard around town and write with Rome’s graffiti crew, The Riot Vandals. But he wasn’t fully satisfied until he encountered the world of rap.

“I felt like I was in a cage with the situation I was in,” Issaa said. “But when I listened to rap music for the first time, it changed my life. And I started to tell my story.”

Out of his hardships, Issaa became a powerful force who shares his testament without hesitation. He navigated life through hip-hop and felt comfortable in a community that finally accepted him for who he is.

Rap is a “universal language,” according to Issaa, and is inspired by Black innovation. However, the content of his music is different and specifies his personal stories in Italy.

The emerging hip-hop artist published his first solo album, “Vita di Prestigio,” and more notable singles that follow. But one single he holds dear to him is “Questa e Roma,” a personal and alternative piece about Italy’s capital. It has reached over 400,000 views on YouTube.

In between the lines that describe the rough predicaments that life threw at Issaa, there are words that shine a glimpse of hope and inspiration despite his circumstances. Issaa encourages people not to feel confined by their past. His workshops, “Potere alle Parole” (beat and rhymes against discrimination), enforces people to see rap as a simple tool that keeps the flame of stories that need to be told. Issaa further extends his craft to highlight societal issues that pinpoint racial injustice and how stereotypes and prejudices feed discrimination.

“I teach to the kids and to the people to use words to express themselves and that rap music has the most simple technique,” Issaa said. “Some kids have a vision of rap as something [of prestige]. But people don’t realize that rap literally stands for rhythm and poetry.”

One of his pieces, “Non respiro” (I can’t breathe), refers to his beliefs, as it sheds light on the death of George Floyd. Issaa’s passion for explaining the political climate in the world doesn’t stop there. He is the author of an award-winning autobiography, “Vivo per questo” (soon to be released in English as: “This Is What I Live For: An Afro-Italian Hip-Hop Memoir” in 2023), which is a testimony to the adversity and imagination of “second generation” Italy. His book, “Educazione Rap,” highlights his experiences speaking at universities, schools and prisons and it addresses rap through a poetic, linguistic lens.

To make his goals a reality, he collaborated with Save the Children, Centro Astalli, the Community of Sant’Egidio and National Office against Racial Discrimination (UNAR). The activist took part in “New Italians,” a campaign for citizenship for children of immigrants in Italy, by visiting the President of the Republic, making petitions and writing songs that focus on this important issue.

“My hope for people when they are listening to my music is to never give up,” Issaa said. “If you’ve been in a hard situation like me, I’m proof that you can evolve as a person.”

As Issaa closed his performance that night, people rushed for his autobiography. People like Victoria Povolo, a junior biochemistry and Italian major, was one of those people. Alessandra Bontia, a senior television and digital media major, was one of those people.

“Seeing the passion he has [for] performing his message makes it so much more touching,” Bontia said. People like Victoria Povolo, a junior biochemistry and Italian major, appreciate that there is actually a message in his songs.

“I thought it was nice to get the younger kids in America involved with what he had to do,” Povolo said. “His purpose in rap is a good way of making kids aware of the issues that are going on today, instead of just rapping about materialistic things. It doesn’t feel like he’s lecturing you, he’s smart with what he does.”

Sticking to his truth, Issaa continues to take a stance unapologetically against the animosity that pollutes the world through his powerful words.

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“I thought it was nice to get the
Indigenous People (continued from Page 1)

It was a historic evening for Montclair State University as people came together to celebrate Indigenous People’s Day for the first time on Oct. 10. The ceremony kicked off commemorating Montclair State’s new Native American and Indigenous studies minor and honored Indigenous people’s heritage.

Students presented the formal adoption of Montclair State’s native land acknowledgment, the first among New Jersey colleges and universities. Following the statement, President Jonathan Koppell shed light on the significance of land acknowledgment and his personal experience in learning tribal cultures as well as policy issues affecting tribes during his time in Arizona.

"Working with leaders of tribal nations and their 23 recognized federal tribes in Arizona, I was really moved by the ability of leaders to operate in the present while being conscious of the injustice of the past, operate in the present with an incredibly constructive perspective and work towards the betterment of their people," Koppell said.

Former Montclair State student and member of the Nanticoke Tribe, Brianna Dagostino, spoke about why Indigenous People’s Day is something that should not be taken lightly. While Dagostino is happy that Indigenous people are now federally recognized, she begs the question of why it took a good amount of time to do so due to the “racist and Eurocentric past.”

“Indigenous peoples day is a day of recognizing the Indigenous people of America,” Dagostino said. “But it’s also a day of mourning the ancestors that we lost when Christopher Columbus came over and enslaved and massacr ed the Indigenous tribes of The Caribbean. While I’m happy that [Indigenous People’s Day] has finally become a federal holiday, I’m appalled that it took this long for the government to realize how racist Columbus Day was. It is time for all of us to recognize and respect the people who nurtured this land that we call home.”

Dagostino continues to ensure that Indigenous people are well-respected and represented and thanks Montclair State for taking that step forward. Urie Ridgeway, the host of the ceremony and member of the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribe, told the meaning behind each performance. In between performances, Ridgeway would explain the history of Indigenous people and erase the stereotypical assumptions about them. Ridgeway tells the audience to pay attention to the details in the performances. The Red Blanket Singers told the story of Indigenous people through different dances and songs.

“The women would pack up the tepees, and they will follow those buffalo herds going to a new place to set their camp,” Ridgeway said. “The tall grass was there so they would send out dancers to go and stomp it down. Now watch them as they’re out there dancing, watch that balance; what they’ll do with the left foot, they will do with the right foot or vice versa. They keep that balance. They keep that harmony.”

Even though the music of the Red Blanket Singers doesn’t have lyrics, there is rhythm that holds meaning.

“When our tribes got together they were forced off our vans,” Ridgeway said. “You didn’t know each other’s languages. So a lot of our songs would be just vocals. So we can sing together.”

It was an unforgettable learning experience for some and enjoyable for others to see Indigenous culture and traditions come alive.

Christina Chalmers, a junior medical humanities major, was grateful to see more representation of Indigenous people in America.

“I felt like I was basically reliving the memories,” Gonzalez said. “It was nice to see more native peoples in the U.S. and New Jersey represented and being very vocal about our history and bringing to light some of the issues that we have been facing.”

Duncan Munson, a grass dancer, hoop dancer and singer, wants people to keep one thing in mind.

“Remember that we’re still here and not a thing of the past,” Munson said. “Our songs and our dance styles may be old, but we’ll be able to share and showcase them on a much larger scale and with a voice of our own. It’s not something you read in a history book; it’s from people of today.”
Student Artist Yak Ferstenberg’s Short Film Reignites Fall Romance

Jackie Memoly
Guest Writer

Yak Ferstenberg, a sophomore filmmaking major, comes to life while directing his upcoming short film, “Miranda and Arnold’s Tango.” The film was shot at Montclair State University’s psychic fair, an event held on campus, giving insight into students and staff’s ever-compelling fate, which inevitably becomes a plot device in the love story crafted by Ferstenberg himself.

Inspired by Ferstenberg’s own experiences, the short film revolves around a student named Miranda (Elise Ramaekers) with a history of unsuccessful attempts at romance. Her friend sets her up on a blind date with student government president Arnold (Tyler Diminick), though she quickly finds he is dry and robotic. Her patience is tested as they both try to forge a meaningful connection, propelled by psychic omens along the way like a business card inscribed with the words, “You know what to do.”

Ferstenberg spoke on what pushed him to create his film.

“The original [psychic] fair I went to, that was the main inspiration for this,” Ferstenberg said. “Last year [there] was such a long line, and I thought to myself, ’Man, people are waiting [so long] just to see psychics, just for five minutes of pleasure.’”

Thus, the idea for the film was born. But it didn’t end there. Months of preparation and productivity have gone into the production of this film and will continue even further.

“I finished writing the first draft of this script in December of last year,” Ferstenberg said. “This script is very personal. It’s a way of expressing myself. I thought there’s a lot of innovation in this film because no one’s really done this before.”

He continues with the creative liberties he’s taken since the early stages of pre-production up to today.

[The film] breaks all the rules of any kind of film to [a] convention that you’d find,” Ferstenberg said. “These are fictional characters in real life. The only way this was going to be achieved was at this fair, with this line, with these tables. This is perfect.”

Jacob Kelly, a senior film and television major and the assistant director of the film, manages his own filmmaking company and often collaborates on and oversees student productions.

[Though] it’s not the professional atmosphere I’m used to, it’s nice to see people who are excited to make films,” Kelly said.

He notes that passion is necessary behind all filmmaking in order to produce a noteworthy viewing experience.

“Film is a super art of all types of forms,” Kelly said. “It’s going to be a very individual experience. I think everybody should see this. It’s going to be very special — if not to [Ferstenberg], then to somebody.”

And luckily passion is not absent here at Montclair State. While filming, Rocky the Red Hawk even made a surprise appearance. The actors of both Arnold and Miranda had to rely on their improvisation skills to heed the interruption, but they were amused by the encounter.

“I’m so happy that Rocky interrupt-ed one of our takes,” Ferstenberg said. “That was so funny, and hopefully I’ll put that in the film.”

Personality and flexibility are key to creating impactful media, be it from the cast themselves or the director and crew. But even with setbacks, cinematographer Jake Tannenbaum, a junior filmmaking major, sees the benefit in this.

“Montclair State gives people an opportunity to try different things out with other people who don’t have a lot of experience,” Tannenbaum said. “There’s no damage done; it’s safe.”

Junior communication and media studies major Marcus Moore, who works on set as a boom operator, agreed.

“Everyone who wants to create something should be able to,” Moore said. “And that, in [and] of itself, makes [this film] worth being seen.”

Unfortunately, some unexpected obstacles arose amidst filming, and production had to cease, but it will inevitably resume again in early November and will be finished around mid-December. Additionally, around winter break or early January, the short will be circulated for public viewing to a few local film festivals including Montclair State’s “Silver Slate.”

Be on the lookout for Ferstenberg’s short film reigniting a compassion-ate, artful warmth as days trickle into winter.

“I have a voice,” Ferstenberg said. “And I believe my voice needs to be heard.”

Junior communication and media studies major Marcus Moore works as a boom operator.
For all my influencers out there, TikTok sisters Charli and Dixie D’Amelio are back with season two of their Hulu series, “The D’Amelio Show.”

In case you didn’t tune in—I don’t blame you—season one zeroed in on the struggles the sisters faced while transitioning from their quiet, suburban life to overnight Hollywood stardom. The internet’s toxic energy played a huge part in prompting viewers to grow sympathy for them.

And with season two making its entry, it’s safe to say nothing has changed except for the fact that it’s a failed attempt of “The Kardashians.”

Now that we’re midway through the season, I wish I could sit here and say the first four episodes were all unique and shined a light on different aspects of their lives, but when I tell you it’s like sitting and watching your clothes in the washing machine spin 20,000 times in the same exact direction—it’s that boring and I’m not even exaggerating.

All the episodes thus far discuss one of three things: Charli’s secret singing career, moving out and Dixie’s breakup with everyone’s TikTok crush, Noah Beck.

There isn’t much to discuss other than that. The moving out aspect happened to be the most comical thing, believe it or not. You have a 17-year-old, at the time, and a 20-year-old casually touring 5.5 million-dollar mansions. Let that sink in.

I understand that the rise to fame, especially overnight, isn’t easy as it comes with many ugly truths, but if you’re trying to get viewers to sympathize with you, this is the wrong route to take.

It’s just very inconsistent, impractical and not entertaining, but as a viewer, you can’t help but laugh due to the fact that it’s a pure mess.

To make matters worse, each scene felt like it was 25 minutes long. As a viewer, you can tell the producers kept asking the same exact questions but in a million different ways. It’s one of those situations where one knows they should cut off the conversation, but the other just feels it’s necessary to continue it.

The cherry on top is the insert of their parents, Marc and Heidi D’Amelio, whose opinions just add to the repetitive cycle.

The showrunners might as well have turned it into a documentary, but even then, I have yet to see a documentary with scenes that long.

And at this point, if you’re struggling to write a 10-page paper, take notes from this series because they seem to be the masterminds at it.

Even though the reality series has practically no depth or clear purpose (something the showrunners need to figure out IF it gets renewed), I do commend the family for putting their lives out in the open. No one ever said it was a walk in the park to have cameras on you 24/7, especially at such young ages.

If you’re a D’Amelio stan, then you might find more in this series to enjoy. But one thing’s for sure, it’s lacking the necessary ingredients to even reach the status of “The Kardashians.”
Danny Krastek
Guest Writer

Nobody can out-Bowie David Bowie, and “Moonage Daydream” truly understands that. Bowie did so much during his life, constantly changing from persona to persona, musical style to musical style. From Ziggy Stardust to the Thin White Duke, from glam and soul to pop and prog, it seems as if it would be impossible to capture his entire life within a single biopic.

So instead, they didn’t even try. Yes, “Moonage Daydream” is a documentary, but it was not billed as such leading up to its release, and it isn’t a documentary in the traditional sense. You really won’t learn anything new about Bowie from watching this. There are no talking head interviews of people reflecting on their time with the singer.

Rather than spitting facts and information at you, director Brett Morgen uses archival interviews, concert footage and home videos to craft a tapestry of light, color and sound that really puts you inside Bowie’s mind and creative process.

I’m not a stranger to crying in movies; it actually happens a lot more than I’m willing to admit. Usually, the tears don’t come until the end of a movie. But with this film, my eyes were getting misty after Bowie stepped on screen for the first time.

We see footage from various tours of his, including the Ziggy Stardust Tour, the Stage Tour and the Serious Moonlight Tour, which brought Bowie to his commercial height. We see archival interviews as well, but the most insightful footage used in “Moonage Daydream” has to be the home videos, which makes the whole ordeal so much more personal than a standard documentary.

The film is, of course, decorated with a slew of Bowie classics. All the songs you’d expect are here, “Space Oddity,” “Let’s Dance,” “The Jean Genie” and “Life On Mars?” are featured pretty prominently. However, much to my delight, they also pull out a ton more obscure tunes, and this variety results in tracks like “Cracked Actor,” “Warszawa,” “Hallo Spaceboy” and “DJ,” getting a lot of time. Breaking loose from the songs you would expect to be featured in a Bowie documentary gives it a unique feel rather than basically being a greatest hits album in movie form (in other words, it’s the anti “Bohemian Rhapsody”).

If I did have to make a critique of “Moonage Daydream,” it would be that Morgen placed too much emphasis on the singer’s earlier work from the 1970s and 1980s. His 1990s work was only briefly touched on, and his work in the 1960s, 2000s and 2010s was barely mentioned once. A little more time fleshing out these less iconic moments in his career would have gone a long way, seeing as those are the parts of his career that are the least notorious to the general public.

Even though we don’t get much information about his career outside his glory era, casual fans and diehards alike will learn much about the singer’s creative process and hobbies outside of the realm of music. We see him paint, create sculptures and act on both stage and screen, including his run in the Broadway play “The Elephant Man.” Bowie’s versatility is already well known through his adaptation of various musical styles, but being able to see him channel other art styles is incredibly refreshing and adds another layer of depth to this immense portrait of a film.

This is absolutely a film to watch in theaters, letting the sights and sounds wash over you. It’s a film made for the big screen, from the way the images pop to the incredible sound design. It truly is beautiful and a special experience and it easily soared into my top 10 of the whole year.
5 Seconds of Summer Wows With ‘5SOS5’

Madison Boyce  
Guest Writer

The four-piece group from Sydney, Australia under the name of 5 Seconds of Summer is back at it again for their fifth record. They soared to new heights with “5SOS5,” a 19 track album released on Sept. 23.

Wowed from the beginning, the album starts with “COMPLETE MESS” and “Easy For You To Say.” Both of these tracks provide a draw into the rest of “5SOS5.”

The draw is there because of the build-up sonically within the combination of vocals and guitars provided by frontman Luke Hemmings, drums by Ashton Irwin, bass by Calum Hood and guitar by Michael Clifford.

Though I miss the self-titled era of 5 Seconds of Summer from their 2014 debut album, these two tracks greatly excite me for what’s coming from the band.

“Myself, & I” is an anthem about being able to overcome everything by yourself, a message that resonates with me as a freshman in college far away from my comfort and support back home.

Certain lines constantly replay in the back of my head to get me through the day.

“I did not need your help / Now it’s just me, myself and I.” Hemmings sings.

In the following track, “Take My Hand” (Joshua Tree Version), the repetition of a particular line provides a blanket of comfort to the listener.

“Take my hand, now and forever.” Hemmings sings.

As a long-time fan, I viewed it as having 5 Seconds of Summer by my side throughout life’s ups and downs. Having 5 Seconds of Summer by my side throughout life’s ups and downs.

Hemmings sings.

“I don’t wanna get older / Without your head on my shoulder.”

Another shock on this record was with the track “HAZE.” The shock factor comes from the fact that Irwin, the band’s drummer, has a verse where he is the one doing the vocals.

“My first experience hearing “BLENDER” was when they played it live in Washington D.C. on the “Take My Hand World Tour.” This was easily my most anticipated track off the record.

“You Don’t Go To Parties” provides the same Irwin vocals that fans like myself highly enjoy. The raw and deep-cutting rasp in his voice is so enjoyable.

With catchy lyrics, incredible instrumentals and flawless vocals, 5 Seconds of Summer wows listeners with “5SOS5.” The quartet hits the nail on the head for everything that makes for the perfect release. Branching off their previous releases, 5 Seconds of Summer most certainly gave their all. So if you haven’t listened to “5SOS5” yet, do yourself a favor and check it out.

“5SOS5” is a 19 track album released on Sept. 23.

Miriam “Midge” Maisel (Rachel Brosnahan) is the picture-perfect housewife. She keeps the house in tip-top shape, always looks perfect and can cook the best brisket. Despite this, her husband, Joel (Michael Zegen), leaves her for his secretary, blowing up her perfect life. After drinking an entire bottle of wine, Midge walks on stage at the Gaslight Cafe and rants about her husband, his ditzy secretary and the rest of her dysfunctional Jewish family. This leads her to Susie (Alex Borstein), a quirky, grumpy, wannabe talent agent who thinks Midge could be the next big thing in comedy.

This show is all about the small details. The costumes, sets and impeccable music bring you into the romance of 1950s New York. It’s a creation of Amy Sherman-Palladino and Daniel Palladino, so if you are a “Gilmore Girls” fan, this show is definitely for you. Everything great about “Gilmore Girls” is refined to perfection in “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel.” Needless to say, the writing is superb.

The acting is another highlight of this series. Brosnahan and Borstein’s on-screen platonic chemistry is some of the best I’ve seen. They are closely followed by Tony Shalhoub and Marin Hinkle as Midge’s parents.

This is a wonderful story that shows a strong woman doing what she loves and breaking the barriers of patriarchal and antiquated world around her.

‘Wild Creatures’ on Spotify

One of the greatest flukes in the music industry is that Neko Case is completely unknown. “Wild Creatures” is Case’s seventh studio album, consisting of some of her greatest works from her first eight albums and one new song “Oh, Shadowless.”

I had the privilege of seeing Case live last month, and she has the best vocals I’ve ever heard and does it effortlessly. Her earlier works have a more country/folk feel to them, but her new stuff is much more alternative/indie and reminiscent of her work with the band The New Pornographers.

Her lyrics haven’t changed much in the last 20 years as Case was way ahead of her time with her dark, playful and sometimes androgynous lyrics. Several of my favorites are featured on “Wild Creatures,” including my all-time favorite: the mournful, somber “I Wish I Was the Moon.” This album is perfect for an autumn evening drive, so roll down your windows, turn the volume up and fall into Case’s warm and crisp ballads.

- Emma Caughlan
Editor-in-Chief
Allison Vlkovic
Guest Writer

Joe Keery, known for playing Steve Harrington in “Stranger Things,” does more than just fight demogorgons and flaunt his perfect hair while doing it. Under the stage name Djo, Keery released his second album titled “Decide” on Sept. 16. After listening to it on repeat, it is easily one of my favorite albums from 2022.

“Decide” is an indie alternative album composed of 13 songs. Keery was inspired by iconic musicians such as Tame Impala and Talking Heads throughout the planning stages of this album. His unique style has a futuristic and psychedelic feel that kept me enticed and intrigued for its entirety.

The album begins with “Runner,” which deals with the topic of change, similar to the other songs. 

“Love and hate decide / Money grows and dies / People never change / But I have to try,” Djo sings.

Each song shares a related message about how everyone goes through some type of transitional period in their lives, usually around their mid-20s, and how this period made Keery the person he is today.

“Fool” is the fourth track on this album, opening a new idea to the album as well as a new sound. This upbeat and catchy tune expresses the nostalgic foolishness of young adulthood, going the extra mile for a person who only sees you as a fool.

This is followed up by “End of Beginning” shortly after. My favorite of the album, this song has been on repeat in my headphones for the last two weeks. Not only does this song introduce the listener to Keery’s killer pipes, but it gives off a bittersweet feeling that is exhibited through the purity and honesty within his lyrics and voice.

“And when I’m back in Chicago, I feel it / Another version of me, I was in it / I wave goodbye to the end of beginning,” Djo sings. Keery talks about his difficulties moving away from his hometown of Chicago and growing into adulthood. This raw piece of Keery doesn’t always come out so easily within his music, making this song more sentimental than some others on this album.

Like most albums, not every song is a 10 out of 10; some can drag. “Climax” and “Half Life” come to mind when considering that. Both of these songs seemed mediocre when compared to the other songs within “Decide.”

“I Want Your Video” is a fun, upbeat and danceable song that can be catchy for any listener. This seventh beat off of the album completely contradicts songs such as “Go For It” and “Climax,” making it stand out as an easy favorite.

The next song, “Change,” was released by Djo as a single on June 22. This song got a lot of attention and released Djo’s new look and sound that was to come with “Decide.”

The album concludes with “Figure You Out” and “Slither.” These two songs talk about moving forward, attempting to leave whoever you were in the past and dealing with what you have made of yourself up until this point in life.

“We all wanna be someone / At the end of the day,” Djo sings in “Slither.”

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These are the last lyrics of the album and they completely sum up the idea of “Decide.” As an actor, Keery has so many different personas, and yet at the end of the day, “Decide” shows he is just a man from Chicago who had to choose who he truly wanted to be, navigating life as a young star.
‘Reboot’ Coolly Mocks Modern Sitcom Revivals

Toan Le
Guest Writer

Meta jokes and a delightful cast make Hulu’s “Reboot” a worthwhile take on how Hollywood revives sitcoms.

The series revolves around Hulu’s executives rebooting an old sitcom from the 2000s called “Step Right Up,” a show about a man living with his wife, her son and her ex-husband under the supervision of a new, edgier show-runner, Hannah (Rachel Bloom).

All the main stars return for the fictional family; the cast includes Reed Sterling (Keegan-Michael Key), Bree Marie Jensen (Judy Greer), Clay Barber (Johnny Knoxville) and Zack Jackson (Calum Worthy). Things take a troublesome turn, however, when the old show-runner, Gordon (Paul Reiser), appears and reverts the sitcom to its traditional, friendly roots.

At its core, the series puts itself forward as a satire about Hollywood running out of original ideas, utilizing what’s already established to regain viewership. It sheds light on why reboots (especially comedies) are so endearing and fun for Hollywood executives to sign off on — old glory never dies.

Casual witticism and funny commentary are played out intelligently through the dynamic intensity of generational gaps. Old characters are brought back to revive the original chemistry, even if some unresolved conflicts resurface.

All of this leads to a hilariously complex workplace where everyone tries, and sometimes fails, to maintain civility.

The show does add elements of dynamic relationships between co-stars and crew members to instill some modernized dramatics. Nothing is too heavy, so the comedy still stays on the light side of things.

The true treasure of the show is its observation of the evolution of comedy. Gordon and his old writers are uproariously dumbfounded by today’s comedy landscape, especially about its progressive nature, which makes for some for some exemplary commentary. Even the interactions between the newer generation comedy writers speak volumes about how outdated traditional comedy is.

Most sitcoms in the 2000s were filled with corny jokes and slap-stick comedy. By addressing how comedy is now more grounded and dramatic, the show accomplishes the social commentary aspect while letting itself be as silly as it can — within the realm of reality of course. The combination between the old and the new does elevate the show from being just another woke half-hour comedy.

The cast undoubtedly has amazing chemistry with each other. From Key’s dramatic Reed to Worthy’s oblivious Zack, the ensemble outstandingly carries the show up to its high quality. All the actors have a background in network comedy, so the interactions between characters and situations become more appreciative and entertaining.

The scene stealer, however, goes to Greer’s playful Bree. Her character shines whenever she is on the screen, leaving at least a couple of memorable moments in the series. Greer brings the absurd and lighthearted humor out of her character. Even when her character is being devious and destructive, Greer is a joy to watch.

The show still needs some improvement as the beginning has a slow pace with the story giving a predictable impression. Characters are still in the early phases of development, and most of their qualities are just repeated tropes that exist in every sitcom.

However, as the series progresses, plot lines become more proactive and humorous. Characters become more unpredictable as the main ensemble taps into the wildness of today’s society, using humor as a means to point out the obvious. The show’s comedy (and heart) also grows more elegantly with each episode, planting more seeds and love for a brighter future.

All credits do go to the creator of the show, Steven Levitan. With his works on “Modern Family” becoming so impactful over the last decade, “Reboot” is thriving for that same intensity, just maybe not at the beginning.

“Reboot” does make for some excellent showing of how Hollywood goes about sitcom revivals. The charismatic cast smartly extracts as much comedy as possible to elevate the given materials. Though the show does have its flaws and a slow pace in beginning, with time, it will become the next “Modern Family” for a new generation.
Kylie Prendergast is on the Fastbreak to Greatness in Her First Year

The freshman forward has adjusted quickly and has taken the conference by storm.
Marlon Pollard Has Been Lending His Wisdom to Men’s Soccer for Two Decades

From star player to star assistant coach, Pollard has helped shape the culture of the program.

Assistant coach Marlon Pollard says it hasn’t felt like he has been coaching for that long and he looks forward to it every year.

“[Pollard] teaches you that fitness is a big piece of the game,” Tumelty said. “It just gives more confidence and with that, you play better.”

The incoming freshmen get no days off either, as Pollard recognizes how the team starts him in just his second season. He emphasized to every new year of coaching.

“Records aren’t meant to be up beaten or broken. Montclair State gave me a better life and made me the person I am now.”

Assistant coach Marlon Pollard spoke to Pollard’s emphasis on fitness when it comes to the game of soccer.

Head coach Todd Tumelty spoke to Pollard’s emphasis on fitness when it comes to the game of soccer.
Men’s Club Volleyball is Revived After COVID-19 Shuttered Their Progress

Men’s Volleyball Club team member Matthew Rivera is elevated after scoring a point during the game.

Yezenia Fernandez
Guest Writer

From being started by a group of students in the spring of 2019 to going to tournaments and making it to the finals last semester, the men’s club volleyball team at Montclair State University has been going strong since day one.

They exceeded their expectations when the semester started. Their roster is double the number in comparison to 2019, and their tryouts this past September were extremely successful. President of the team and senior outside hitter/right side hitter Tyler Tavernier was glad to see the expansion.

“There were actually more boys that tried out this semester than last semester, we had more than 40 boys try out in comparison to last semester which was 20 boys,” Tavernier said. “It was amazing to see more boys being interested in joining the club.”

Senior defensive specialist and libero Jorge Ascencio had the thought one day to start something special.

“It was me and a few of my playmates who had the idea of starting the men’s volleyball club,” Ascencio said. “We thought it was a great idea to start one because Montclair [State] didn’t have one at the time.”

Montclair State never had an official men’s volleyball team or club here on campus before, but the school does have a varsity women’s volleyball team. Ascencio gave his take as to why.

“Although it took us a year to get the club established, we never gave up on the sport and team,” Ascencio said. “We are all glad we didn’t because we are proud of how we are today.”

From the start of 2021 to today, the club has had numerous victories. During the fall semester of 2021, they were in the Stockton tournament, and after facing different universities from around the state, they made it to the finals.

They won their first-ever home game as well against the University of New Haven.

With this season underway, the team has doubled the roster which allowed them to have two teams, an A team and a B team. Recruiting helped the club become more known on campus.

The club is built on dedication, determination and brotherhood. With no coach or advisor, the whole team is relying on one another when it comes to raising money for their own uniforms, and their own transportation to games and they are all doing this while being full-time students at the university.

The men’s volleyball club recently had a “Pie Us” fundraiser to help raise money for their club, a fun way to get exposure and more attention to the team.

“We hope our name gets out there,” Tavernier said. “I want to come back and see the club become an official men’s volleyball team.”

The team started playing games in the fall of 2019, but they were minimal. Spring 2020 was their “first official season” but the coronavirus (COVID-19) shut it down and the club, unfortunately, couldn’t get their first real season as a team. Ascencio is happy everyone stuck with them through the process.

Yezenia Fernandez
Guest Writer

One of the players getting pied at the men’s volleyball club Pie Us fundraiser.

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In the next semester, they defeated Stevens Institute of Technology, Princeton University and Drexel University.

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Ian Carter Treats Coaching Football And Track & Field As A Blessing Rather Than A Challenge

From outside linebackers to javelin throwers, Carter is heavily involved as a coach.

Wyatt Ladieri
Guest Writer

Coaching is a large responsibility and dealing with student-athletes on a daily basis can be challenging and push someone to their limits, but for Ian Carter, coaching is a blessing.

For four years, Carter has been the head track and field coach for the women's and men's teams at Montclair State University. This year he was offered a position on the football team. He accepted this offer but would continue to coach track and field at the same time. Carter saw this not as a challenge, but as an opportunity.

“They asked me if I would be interested in helping out and I thought it would be a great opportunity for me to diversify myself,” Carter said. “It’s been really nice this year to come in and see how a different program is run. I think it will be beneficial for me to evolve as a coach.”

Carter was named as the outside linebacker coach, a position he is familiar with, as he played it in college for the Ramapo College Roadrunners. He has used his past football experience to connect with his players. These connections have made his first season go much smoother than expected.

“Player-wise I’ve made some really good bonds on the team,” Carter said. “Players like Al Woods, Jake Colon, Nick Burgess and Jazz Merricks, those guys have made it easy for me to transition over.”

Junior defensive back Woods spoke on his personal connection with Carter and described how he has been able to regain his confidence under Carter’s coaching.

“I struggled at the beginning of the season with confidence in myself, and he helped me instill that [back] in myself,” Woods said. “It was more one-on-one stuff and just pulling me aside and going ‘I was there too, I was in your shoes before’ and just walking me through it and talking me through it.”

Carter’s ability to relate to his players has created strong chemistry amongst the position group, and his rapport with his players has been getting noticed by other coaches, particularly associate head coach Mike Palazzo.

“He’s great with relating to the kids,” Palazzo said. “As a former college player, even though it wasn’t at Montclair State, he knows what those guys are going through day in and day out. He knows what they are doing and what they are expected to do. He’s a third-down player and going ‘I was there too, I was in your shoes before’.”

Woods said, “Carter’s ability to make people feel comfortable around him is a huge plus.”

Carter certainly knows the work it takes, and he has made hard work a key point in his coaching, constantly preaching the value of showing up each day and giving your all.

“I try to bring that intensity each and every day and let them know [that] every day counts, every day you don’t get back,” Carter said. “Time never moves backward; it’s always forward. So take advantage of each and every day you come out here.”

While Carter maintains a good relationship with his players, they definitely understand the level they are expected to play at. These expectations have fostered a great culture amongst the group, with a “next man up” attitude being cultivated.

“I would say in our position group we have a lot of guys that know what they are doing, and we have a lot of depth,” Woods said. “I had to move from outside [linebacker] to inside [linebacker] and [Colon] stepped up a lot.”

Carter hasn’t just made bonds with his players, he’s made bonds with other coaches too. None more obvious than with the previously mentioned Palazzo, who has been crucial in making the transition as smooth as it can be.

“We’ve been friendly and close for years, it’s been great because he knows me,” Palazzo said. “It wasn’t like I had to introduce him to coaching and introduce him to me. He knows who I am, he knows what we’re trying to do on defense and he’s a great person to have on the staff because he’s a great part of the operation.”

Halfway through the season, Carter has enjoyed every minute he’s been on the staff. He views this whole experience as truly special.

“Surreal, I think back to where I was four years ago around this time and to see where I am now, it’s just a blessing man,” said Carter.

But to Carter, he’s just getting started. There’s a lot more work to do, and he’s the man to do it.

“I’m just excited, but I’m hungry for more,” Carter said. “I want more. I want to strive for greatness with whatever I do and continue to push these kids to be the best they can be. I think that’s what my calling is.”
Emma Hatcher Continued....

“From living in Germany to South Korea to Florida, she always knew she wanted to come to the beautiful state of New Jersey to become a Red Hawk. ‘Montclair [State University] is one of the colleges that had my major, and the campus is just absolutely beautiful,’ Hatcher said. ‘I also wanted somewhere where it was cold because I have been living in the heat for the past couple of years. Ultimately when I came up here, everyone was so friendly and welcoming. I just felt like this is a place for me to be.’

Hatcher has been phenomenal during this 2022 season, and she is not slowing down. Not only does she place within the top three in assists on the team, but she is also already becoming an important player alongside graduate students Leah Higgins and Delaney St. Pierre.

‘I feel that the whole team has been absolutely fantastic,’ Hatchet said. ‘We are all putting in a lot of work. I honestly wasn’t expecting to be playing as much as I am playing now, but how everyone connects as a team is awesome to see.’

Head coach Eddie Stawinski had lots to say about Hatcher and her breakout freshman season.

‘She’s a very good overall all-around player’ Stawinski said. ‘She comes from a very good club down in Florida and has a very high volleyball IQ. She was a player we started to move around in different positions; she settled very well in the libero position. Right now, she’s doing a really good job defensively, and she’s also good at passing.

I always knew she was going to be a big contributor to our team, it just so happens she’s taking over this position, and she’s doing a really good job.”

Stawinski also has lots of praise for how quickly she has become one of the most valuable members of the volleyball team.

The fact that she has been able to contribute to the college level very quickly is something I’m very happy about,” Stawinski said. “With experience, I thought it would take a little time. Still, she felt comfortable in that position; she’s played so hard and has done really, really well. Last night [against New Jersey City University] she just had 21 digs, which is another great mark. It just shows how hard she works and the training that she does, staying after practice for some extra reps, and those are all the things that contribute to her playing at this level early on.”

Both coming in as freshmen, middle blocker Mia Capriglione and Hatcher have been making their mark early on with the Red Hawks. Capriglione is all for what Hatcher has done so far with the program.

‘I feel good, I’m really good friends with [Hatcher] and she’s doing an awesome job,” Capriglione said.

Capriglione also mentions that Hatcher is not just her teammate on the court but one of her friends outside the sport of volleyball.

‘We both live in Machuga [Heights], we’ve been spending a lot of time together and we love to help each other with our chemistry homework,” Capriglione said.

Just in her first year, Hatcher has been an outstanding player for this Montclair State women’s volleyball team. While she spent eight years overseas and four more years in Florida, she still found a way to be a Red Hawk. And with only more room for improvement, it’s possible her play could be a topic of worldwide discussion.