Montclair State State community questioning the future of the institution and what the merging represents for Montclair State. Devin Sanderson-Raphael, a junior family science and human development major, noted that with the merger, each college could help one another grow in its programs. “My main thought is ‘Are there going to be more students coming to our campus?’ since we are already pretty congested with traffic,” Raphael said. “What would be really exciting is to see how our organizations could grow, specifically with the Office for Social Justice and Diversity where I volunteer. If they don’t have diversity training on campus, we could bring it to them.” Andrew Mees, the university spokesperson, described what the merging would entail for Montclair State students. “Under the new partnership, Montclair [State] students will have additional pathways to earn a degree,” Mees said. “They may also choose to enroll in Bloomfield College of [Montclair State University] to take advantage of a distinctive educational experience: a supportive, small-college environment backed by the resources of a public research university.” Balti Torres, a junior communication and media studies major, shared his experience with colleges joining together. “I definitely think some of the majors are going to move around,” Torres said. “I was a transfer student from [New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT)] who had something similar happen and some majors did move around. It’s going to be interesting to see what upgrades both institutions receive and how that’s going to work.” Lindsey Scheier, a freshman visual communication design major, explained how the opportunities for new programs at both institutions could increase as well.

Merging continued on Page 3
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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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Lindsey Scheier, says the announcement will be very financially important for the professors and educators at Bloomfield College.

Devin Raphael, hopes that Montclair State can assist Bloomfield College in providing programs that students utilize here for their students.
Montclair State University shuttle services provided on campus have become a struggle and a challenge for students who normally use this transportation method to move around campus.

The buses are supposed to run frequently, every eight to 15 minutes, providing transport from dorms to the parking lots and school buildings, starting their routes at 6 a.m. and running until 1 a.m.

However, many students have noticed that the shuttles have been continuously late. Madelyn McCrea, a sophomore psychology major, says she had to wait for a long period of time to get on the shuttle and this influenced her decision to no longer use these services to get around campus. "[I] had to wait 45 minutes for a shuttle and the driver didn't stop at every stop," McCrea said. "Now I don't take the shuttle, it is not worth it."

Toby Shedd, a freshman marine biology and coastal sciences major, had a similar experience and said the shuttles have created a lot of confusion. "The buses run really really late," Shedd said. "Sometimes they show it's not in service and they take people, sometimes it shows it [in service] and it doesn't. [This can be confusing] especially when someone has been waiting awhile for a bus to show up, just for it to not stop."

Pavlos Papadogiorgos, a freshman accounting major, also commented on the shuttle delays. While the buses coming late have not caused him to be late to a class, he says they have interfered significantly with his arrival back home. "I usually get home really late, [at] five, when otherwise I would get home at three-thirty," Papadogiorgos said. Papadogiorgos also explained that as a commuter he has to transfer buses and the shuttles arriving late have not helped. "I have to figure out if I'm going to miss my second bus," Papadogiorgos said. "I've waited for two of them to come, [but] neither showed up and I had to take a different one. On another day, a different bus came 40 minutes later than scheduled."

For other students on campus like Ian Hagen, a sophomore visual arts major, this has been a minor inconvenience. "I've had to wait over 20 minutes," Hagen said. "I have to plan everything else out and leave earlier knowing that buses may delay me. When they do come they are not spaced out. Three show up at once and another [will not] come for a while."

Cheryl Ofloha, an assistant supervisor for parking and transportation services, explains why the shuttles have been running late and hopes this situation will soon be resolved. "The buses are late because of the heavy traffic on Clove Road, which is along the route of all the buses," Ofloha said. "We are operating the same amount of buses that we normally operate. According to Ofloha, at the moment there are no plans to rectify this issue and it is expected that the Clove Road congestion will decrease and buses will go back to being on time once the construction projects on routes 46 and three are completed next year.
Students Acknowledge Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Erin Lawlor
Assistant News Editor

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Montclair State University students gathered at the home of the New York Giants and Jets to make a difference for breast cancer.

American Cancer Society held its annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk on Saturday, Oct. 22, at MetLife Stadium. Montclair State RecBoard formed a team to attend this event and was able to raise $358. Maurice Jenkins, the community service chair for RecBoard and a junior sports communications major, explained what made this event different from last year.

“In my experience, this year’s walk was different because of the location,” Jenkins said. “We went to MetLife Stadium this year and last year was Liberty State Park. The atmosphere was slightly different because we were in a stadium. It was more inclusive. Since I planned it, I got to see it come to fruition.”

Jenkins also described the cheerful atmosphere that took over the stadium.

“There were a lot of people there,” Jenkins said. “They were real go-getters, a lot of people whistling, yelling and screaming. It was a great atmosphere and environment.”

Mirna Kotb, a senior exercise science major, shared her thoughts on why Breast Cancer Awareness Month is so important.

“I have had two family members who were affected by it,” Kotb said. “Personally, I think it is a good way to raise awareness about such a personal cause because so many people get affected by it.”

Students were joined by other New Jersey residents, like Alicia Malatesta, a breast cancer survivor, who spoke about what it symbolizes to be part of events like this one.

“[Walks like these] mean everything to me,” Malatesta said. “It raises money for cancer research and also for our treatment assistance for patients who need help with food and transportation.”

Malatesta was diagnosed last November and is undergoing a double lumpectomy this month. She also shared how she felt during her chemo.

“It is difficult to drive when you’re undergoing treatment,” Malatesta said. “You get really nauseous and dizzy when you’re getting chemo. I haven’t been able to drive for the four or five months I was undergoing treatment.”

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Students come to the EOF Barbershop not only for a free haircut but for a discussion on manhood as well.

EOF Barbershop: Look Good, Lead Right

Sal DiMaggio | Feature Editor

The sharp smell of aftershave hits you in the face as you enter the room. The lights are dimmed, giving off a mellow vibe. You hear the buzz of the clippers, the music playing in the room and the murmur of men talking to each other.

No, this isn’t your local barbershop that’s been around since your grandfather’s age. This is EOF Barber-shop, a new initiative from what was once the Male Leadership Academy (MLA) at Montclair State University. Also known as Barbershop.Edu, the program’s goal is to promote male leadership while engaging students in the process. As students get their hair cut by professional barbers free of charge, they discuss whatever the topic is that day, whether it be mental health or relationships.

The Male Leadership Academy was an organization for male students mainly in the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program to provide men with leadership skills. However, EOF counselor and MLA adviser Jeronimo Valcarcel wanted to elevate the club in order to attract more members and have them get more out of their discussions. And what better way to do that than by offering them a free haircut?

“Sometimes just coming up with $40 for a haircut is pretty expensive,” Valcarcel said. “Not that it would be a burden. So you know what? Let us take that burden from you. Come get a free haircut and have some great conversations.”

And so EOF Barbershop was created. As the advisor, Valcarcel spearheads the students’ discussion but mostly lets the students express their thoughts.

But why create a barbershop on campus, of all things? Valcarcel explained how barbershops have been a place of discussion for men for generations.

“This old school theme of barber-shop, it was an open space,” Valcarcel said. “People just talk, some crazy things were said. And then you have the older gentlemen with some wisdom there to kind of correct the younger generation sometimes.”

Valcarcel noted that the barbershop vibe has disappeared in recent years, and that he wanted to bring it back as a way to expose male students to those leadership skills.

“I realized that the culture of the barbershop is something that I wanted to recreate,” Valcarcel said. “Initially, I wanted something where the guys could gather around, just sit down, chop it up, have a conversation about life and at the same time you’re getting a haircut.”

“The men who have attended the program’s sessions have spoken about topics such as the importance of having a male role model and one’s own definition of greatness. Vaughn Smith Jr., a senior sports communication major, is one of the students who sat in on one of those discussions.

“I got to learn a lot about a lot of different people, a lot of different backgrounds, coming from a place where I didn’t have my father in my life,” Smith said. “But I still was able to learn different qualities, what it means to be a man.”

Malachi Abernathy, a sophomore undecided, spoke about how he felt the discussions helped him as a man.

“I don’t think there’s a lot of guidance when it comes to leadership,” Abernathy said. “I think [the barbershop is] a very valuable experience [because] we aren’t gonna get that once we graduate. After that, I think you’re expected to just know everything.

The initiative also creates a sense of community among the men who attend, as they get to know each other better through expressing their views. Valcarcel explained how the students grow closer through their discussions.

“Everyone has their own unique, different perspectives and opinions and ways that they think about life, so it’s just an open space for them to really come and feel like they have a voice and they can just share their perspective,” Valcarcel said.

Brandon Bernard Mendez, a junior information technology major, said that the sense of community is what brought him to the program.

“This group really allows you to have an opinion and not get judged for it,” Bernard Mendez said. “It’s a very friendly environment. I trust the people around me, and it’s very different from classes or anything I’ve ever been a part of. So I think that uniqueness is really what attracted me to [this program].”

The program meets four times a semester. There are two more meet- ings this semester, one in CCIS 133 and the other in the Student Center Ballrooms.

Going forward, Valcarcel said his vision for Barbershop.Edu is for it to continue to have an impact on young men across campus. He wants the program to become a space where men know they can have a meaningful discussions.

“I see Barbershop.Edu being a place where men can come together, where it’s a staple of Montclair [State and] of EOF,” Valcarcel said. “Where men come, gather, talk, laugh, be encouraged, be inspired and they really just get challenged by the conversations that we have.”

Abernathy hopes those conversa- tions will encourage other students to take part in the program.

“Maybe those stories can impact other students to be like, ‘Oh, okay, maybe I’ll give it a shot,’” Abernathy said.

Smith also expressed his desire for more students to come to the discus- sions.

“This is a place where people can be reformed [and] refined,” Smith said. “You get to shape up externally, but also internally.”

You can follow EOF Barbershop on Instagram at @eof_barbershop.
Malachi Abernathy, a pre-major sophomore, sits and listens to the discussion while getting his haircut.

Students at the EOF Barbershop listen as the group discusses the day’s topic.

Jeronimo Valcarcel, the advisor for the EOF Barbershop, spearheads the discussion for the session.

Brandon Bernard Mendez, a junior information technology major, talks while getting his haircut.

Vaughn Smith Jr., a senior sports communication major, speaks to the other students at the EOF Barbershop.

Students at the EOF Barbershop listen as the group discusses the day’s topic.
A Screen Print Story: Fashion Designer Tyler Aboagye

Chelsea Pujols  
Guest Writer

Clothes, community, collections and collaboration are all words that encapsulate the ever-growing fashion brand Last of a Dying Breed founded by Montclair State University student Tyler Aboagye and two childhood friends.

Although Last of a Dying Breed is currently reaching over 2,000 followers and has made a profit of over $10,000 in early 2021, Aboagye reminisced about the brand’s origins. The brand has seen much success, as the shirts alone have made over $300 in revenue so far.

“The Captain of my Soul” of the two and expresses the responsibility they both feel to continue to elevate with each release of a collection.

Aboagye credits Moulton as the more “spiritual one” of the two and expresses the responsibility they both feel to continue to elevate with each release of a collection.

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The Last of a Dying Breed website contains a letter written by Moulton explaining his reasoning behind the collection. It reads:

“Moon Girl embodies this inspiration that women provide as mothers, teachers, and nurturers. Acknowledging the value of women and the celestial bodies surrounding us like the moon.”

Aboagye credits Moulton as the more “spiritual one” of the two and expresses the responsibility they both feel to continue to elevate with each release of a collection.

“We always transcend the meaning of individuality with each drop,” Aboagye said.

Although he is not directly involved with the brand anymore, former co-founder and current founder of Fast Life Archive Taj Hughes echoes that sentiment.

“They push themselves every drop to make it better & better,” Hughes said “It pushes me to do the same thing.”

After the first release of the Moon Girl collection in 2020, the brand moved on to the Corrupt World collection, conceptualized by Aboagye. This then birthed the War for Peace collection, which is the brand’s longest-running collection.

The brand has seen much success, as the group’s Renaissance Show on June 18 had a turnout of over 100 people and made over $600 to $700 in ticket sales.

Both Aboagye and Moulton credit their close connection with their communities as part of the reason for their success.

Though Aboagye and Moulton haven’t had to wait as long for success, though, as the shirts alone have made over $300 in revenue so far.

Ohr’s work inspires Aboagye to embrace individuality and believe in his own work. He encapsulates this in the description of the “Captain of my Soul” t-shirt online.

Ohr’s story inspires me to apply meaning to amount to my work regardless of its acceptance by the public as one’s truth and self-expression are crucial to their creative endeavors,” Aboagye said.
George Segal Gallery Hosts Homecoming Art Corner

Roxanne Gribbin
Guest Writer

Homecoming weekend is here and you know what that means! Football games, celebration, food, fun and origami! “Origami?” You may wonder. Yes, The George Segal Art Gallery at Montclair State University put on an “Art Corner” which included origami and coloring for children and their families.

This event was attended by a few families who went to the football game after as a way to escape the chaos and noise by relaxing and getting creative. It offered origami paper and coloring pages with crayons. During this activity, there were two large tables set up in a cozy room. The tables were covered in crayons and origami paper. Inside the gallery, a beautiful sculpture with hanging pink flowers. There were a bunch of prints on the wall of flowers prints.

Art corner was based on one of the exhibits currently in the gallery, “Nothing Under Heaven” by artist Joseph Liatela. This exhibition included art made to represent connection, pleasure and agency within oppressive systems. The art is shown alongside photography done by Andy Warhol and religious art done by Carlo Dolci. This exhibition is open from Sept. 13 - Dec. 11 and is free to view.

A large portion of Liatela’s exhibition was flowers and the kids worked on origami flowers that appeared to be lilies. The Art Corner project related to the gallery and the kids got to see how their own art was similar to a professional artist’s work.

When one steps into the gallery and art room, they can immediately feel themselves decompress and calm down. Art is often a forgotten way to get away from the stressors of daily life.

Jajoné Cuff, a senior television and digital media major and a public programming intern with the gallery, explained why she believes it is important that the art gallery hold events like these. “I think art is subjective, so people are able to make their own interpretations of art,” Cuff said. “I think art is all around us, and I think people don’t realize that people are art [and] places are art.” Art is interpreted differently by students at Montclair State.

Ethan Ferraro, who is currently in elementary school, was one of the children who attended the art corner. When doing art projects in school, he works on projects that help him learn about the world. “I usually like to draw things, I usually draw like flags and maps,” Ethan said. This has helped expose Ethan to the world around him, and also has given him a nudge toward a possible career path.

“I think I want to be a social studies teacher because I am really good at social studies,” Ethan said. Jarryn Ferraro, Ethan’s mother, spoke about her experience with art throughout the pandemic.

“Before the pandemic, my son used to go to an after-school art program, which they stopped unfortunately but then, they had an online thing which was nice and they did that through the library,” Ferraro said.

Ferraro was just happy to let him express himself. “I hope it opens their mind and lets them express their feelings if they are feeling anything,” Ferraro said. Art can impact kids by giving them a safe way to express themselves.

The Art Corner was a great way for children and their families to have fun and relax during homecoming weekend. The kids enjoyed learning about how to do origami and seemed very engaged in their art work. Hopefully, there will be another art corner at next year’s homecoming for kids to enjoy.
What’s a lesson that took you the longest to learn or unlearn?

By Lynise Olivacce

Photo Editor

“Feeling that I needed to conform to European ideals and standards of what one feels is acceptable, like a professional look for instance. Trying to conform to something that wasn't created for me or wasn't meant for me, just created a lot of tension and hate and hurt. And in unlearning that, [I'm] beginning to find out about myself, discover who I am, what I actually like, how I'm going to be presented in the world and what that means for me.”

“That I don't need closure. Closure is an option and I don't think you need it because if I went through something that was harmful for me, why would I want any further explanation if the event itself was the explanation that I needed.”
“Probably just the feeling that you’re not good enough and waiting for someone else to do something. And just that you yourself can do whatever you want to do.”

Emily Pipes
Junior
Political Science

“You have to do the hard work in order to finish.”

Matthew Salazar
Junior
Mathematics

“That you are not responsible for your friend’s emotional baggage. And it's not up to you to be a mediator, even though sometimes friends will feel entitled to that sort of emotional intimacy. And that’s only if you let them, and it's important to establish boundaries because when the lines are crossed, it can be too late to look back.”

Catalina Garcia
Senior
Psychology

“Forgetting. I struggle not with people in general, but with forgiving myself for things. I can be very hard on myself so it's just good to be nice to yourself and then be positive when a lot of things can be negative around you.”

Emily Martinez
Junior
Business Administration
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<th>Horoscopes</th>
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<td><strong>Capricorn</strong> Dec. 22 – Jan. 19</td>
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<td>Did you get a new shampoo? Your hair smells different when you sleep now?</td>
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<td><strong>Cancer</strong> Jun. 21 – Jul. 22</td>
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<td>I know you’ve been on the search for the adult Happy Meal Grimace toy at McDonalds, but have you ever considered putting your money into things that matter? Like a savings account, or a life-size cardboard cutout of Christian Bale.</td>
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<td><strong>Aquarius</strong> Jan. 20 – Feb. 18</td>
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<td>Attention! There may be a coup brewing in The Montclarion! If you’re smart, join us now! But don’t tell our advisor or Editor-In-Chief Emma! Keep it between us!</td>
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<td><strong>Leo</strong> Jul. 23 – Aug. 22</td>
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<td>You’re starting to starve. Your stomach is growling. It’s been a whole week and you are on the verge of death. You wonder if it’s safe to find new shelter, however, you’re hallucinating too much to even get up. You pick up some dirt and eat it. “Tastes like strawberries…” plays in your head. You can never escape him and his words.</td>
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<td><strong>Pisces</strong> Feb. 19 – Mar. 20</td>
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<td>This week, do some soul-searching on the New York City subway. That mysterious, pungent smell that permeates every car will unlock new fight-or-flight instincts.</td>
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<td><strong>Virgo</strong> Aug. 23 – Sep. 22</td>
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<td>Please limit your morning-scream to 30 seconds maximum. It’s waking up your roommates and they’re concerned for your well being. Your mom is on her way. Before she gets here, maybe wash your sheets? Your room is beginning to smell because of them again.</td>
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<td><strong>Aries</strong> Mar. 21 – Apr. 19</td>
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<td>Fellow Ariens Mariah Carey has been thawed out for the Christmas season! Follow in her footsteps by maybe not being so cold toward everyone.</td>
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<td><strong>Libra</strong> Sep. 23 – Oct. 22</td>
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<td>Change your phone wallpaper. Why is it a picture of yourself? Weirdo.</td>
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<td><strong>Taurus</strong> Apr. 20 – May 20</td>
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<td>Why do you keep wearing that Rowan University sweatshirt all around campus? Aren’t we good enough for you?</td>
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<td><strong>Scorpio</strong> Oct. 23 – Nov. 21</td>
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<td>I need you to go to the Fairfield Target, go into aisle C33 and pick yourself up a Lego Star Wars Advent Calendar. I know it’s barely even November, but you can never be too early.</td>
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<td><strong>Gemini</strong> May 21 – Jun. 20</td>
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<td>Ew, are you seriously going to go outside looking like that? What’s wrong with you? Uncle Dave, seriously, you have to put some clothes on.</td>
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<td><strong>Sagittarius</strong> Nov. 22 – Dec. 21</td>
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<td><em>fart noise</em></td>
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Across
2. This app hosted live interactive trivia shows where winners split a cash prize.
6. This 2011 app features an explorer trying to outrun a group of demon monkeys.
7. This 2012 game has a main character named Jake who is running from an inspector.
8. The goal of this game is to move a character across busy roads, rivers, train tracks and other obstacles.

Down
1. This game was released in 2013 and quickly became a hit, but was taken off the App Store in 2014.
3. This game was released in 2012 by King and has been downloaded over 2 billion times.
4. This 2016 game uses GPS and augmented reality to guide players to collectable virtual creatures.
5. The goal of this 2009 game is to destroy green pigs and it was later made into two movies.

Sudoku

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By Jenna Sundel
Mustering Positive Masculinity: The Montclarion on Movember

**EDITORIAL**

Men, despite only making up just about less than half of the United States population, accounted for close to 80% of suicide cases in 2020 alone. This statistic is jarring and often overlooked when it comes to conversations about masculinity and mental health among other poignant and focused wellness efforts.

We, at The Montclarion, want to bring focus to this interpersonal epidemic in hopes to provide a nuanced and valuable understanding of National Men’s Health Awareness Month, or as it’s better known, Movember, and the importance of checking in on the male population.

Movember is an amazing movement that has provided many opportunities and lifelines for men seeking a sense of community and empowerment amongst themselves and other male peers.

Take this month in stride and abandon any potentially unconscious toxic masculinity traits and tendencies. Support your fellow male-presenting friends, colleagues and partners and grow a mustache, talk with your peers, speak with a professional, self-screen for easy-to-spot cancers and love yourself just a little bit more this November.

One of those, and the most important as of this month, is the available focused and specific men’s health screenings and consultations provided by the University Health Center. All of these resources, as well as those present off campus, are significant first steps toward embracing and acting on positive masculinity.

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What is Montclair State Doing to Protect Its Students?

Mads Boyce
Staff Writer

For those who are not aware of what the Clery Act is, it’s a longstanding federal law that provides transparency for crimes occurring on college campuses across the United States. Here at Montclair State University, ours was recently published. The Act is named after Jeanne Clery, a freshman who was raped and murdered while attending Lehigh University in 1986. After Clery’s death, her parents found out that 38 violent crimes occurred before their daughter’s enrollment and that information was never made known to the University’s attendees. The law was put into place in 1990.

In The Montclarion’s article on the 2021 report, the information provided shows cases have drastically risen since the last published report in 2020. Taking into account the lack of residents on campus due to the pandemic, the rise can be attributed to that. But, hearing how unsafe we are due to the number of cases on campus is terrifying.

Within the article, there seems to be a bunch of empty promises coming from Montclair State University police. Deputy Chief of Police Kieran Barrett comments on the numbers, shares resources available to students and ensures that the police department is working to make our campus safe, but he does not specify what is being done to prove these statistics.

You hear so many sexual assault cases coming from universities of all sizes and having it come so close to home is concerning.

There are ways to prevent this and to make the statistics lessen, but there seems to be none happening here. The promotion of on-campus resources is so heavily pushed, but what exactly will our school be doing to keep us safe?

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Following this, many actors and actresses turned to social media to spread awareness about antisemitism and the effects of West’s words. However, celebrities are not the only ones speaking out against West.

Several companies such as West’s talent agency, Donda Sports agency, and Balenciaga have ended their partnerships with West. Even Adidas ended their contract with him after he bragged “I can say antisemitic things, and Adidas can’t drop me.”

The responses to West’s derogatory posts have not all been positive. Amplified by West’s words, an anti-semitic white supremacists group hung banners reading “Kanye is right about the Jews” and “VAX THE JEWS” over various neighborhoods.

The group also raised their arms and performed the Nazi salute several times while standing with their signs above the freeway.

West is hatred speech inspired this group as well as many others to spread hate and antisemitism. If we do not speak up against this, we risk allowing the spread of hate speech and false information and helping to incite violence against the Jewish people.

Following his posts, West was interviewed by several media outlets, one being Drink Champs, where he continued his hateful rhetoric. He stated that he believes the Jews control the media, in an attempt to turn the Jewish people into villains and inspire brutality against them.

Just recently West was interviewed again, this time by Piers Morgan on his talk show, “Piers Morgan Uncensored.” In the interview, West was asked if he felt sorry about what he said in his hateful posts about the Jews. West responded, “No, absolutely not.” Morgan proceeded to ask him if he knew he was being racist toward Jews since he claimed that he has suffered due to racism, to which he responded, “Yes obviously, that’s why I said it.”

West has repeatedly bashed the Jewish people and has shown no remorse or growth since, yet we continue to give him a stage to speak on. We continue to allow him to spread misinformation and hate speech. In another interview with TMZ, West was asked how he felt about people trying to cancel him. To this he responded confidently saying, “I’m here, what are we talking about, we’re here and we ain’t goin’ nowhere.”

We continue to enable him and give him a platform to speak words filled with hatred and lies.

So many antisemitic crimes happen every day worldwide to innocent people, just because they are Jewish. Many people are misinformed on this issue, probably because they are receiving their information from people like West. We will never progress from these issues if we continue to give people like West a platform to spread hate and violence.

Words are so powerful and can be dangerous to society. We must use them to spread kindness and awareness. We must use them to fight back against those who choose to say harmful things. Don’t be silent, stand up for what is right.

Kanye West Spreads Anti-Semitism and Hate Through Social Media

Samantha Gross
Guest Writer

When I was growing up I was told many stories about my grandfather’s time in the Holocaust. I heard of the hardships and terror that he endured all because he was Jewish. To this day people are still berated and attacked for being Jewish.

I was recently shopping when a man walked over to the woman checking out next to my mother and me. He asked her if she was Jewish. When she said yes he began to get closer to her repeating the words “you killed my people.” Security was called and the man proceeded to say “you killed my people.” Security was called and the man proceeded to say “you killed my people.”

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I got surgery a few years ago that. My old nose had crooked, hooked noses that. Sleeping Beauty would not wake up. I was young and impressionable and. curve. This started way back—when I simply do not have the strength. and we have come from. From what we embraced our physical features and not be so desperate to change them? Would people become more comfortable in themselves? If we changed the story and gave ethnic noses more representation, would many women feel less ashamed of the way they looked?

These are questions I can’t answer. What I can answer is what I would do if given the option for a nose job now. Would I be so eager to get it done? Would I still cry if I was told I couldn’t? I don’t think so.

In any situation, with any insecurity, I believe we have to convince ourselves we are beautiful, even if we don’t feel that way. It’s the only way to not feel bad about ourselves all the time. When faced with the reality that I would not be getting a nose job, I had to settle into this fact.

While, yes, I still wish my nose was a bit straighter. I kind of think the little bump I have is cute now and there are pictures where I actually don’t despise it. When I simply do not have the strength. and we have come from. From what we embraced our physical features and not be so desperate to change them? Would people become more comfortable in themselves? If we changed the story and gave ethnic noses more representation, would many women feel less ashamed of the way they looked?

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“Peace and War”
by Abbi Erbacher | Staff Writer

The fight for Peace
is a constant battle
a game of tug of war over a pit of despair.

The fight for Peace
there never seems to be a point of rest.

Peace is never attainable when stuck under the grasp of War.
I only stay in the depths of the trenches for Peace.

There is never Peace without War.
War has never left room for me.

We make a perfect storm, a battle for justice.

Peace sits there, eyes bouncing back and forth like a tennis match.
Peace refuses to speak upon any subject,
Unaware that he is telling me all I need to know.

I’ll continue to fight for Peace,
A subtle refusal to succumb to War.

“Killer”
by Alex Pavljuk | Fiction Editor

March of 1967, somewhere outside of Las Vegas.

A man drove down an empty road on the outskirts of Las Vegas, Nevada. His hand hung from the steering wheel as he pulled over behind a stopped Volkswagen Beetle on the side of this desolate county highway. The car, which was rusting from the top down, was being used as a safe space for some out-of-their-mind 17-year-old. The man turned the radio up rather than down and stepped out of the car.

Despite it being mid-day there wasn’t another soul on the road.

The beating heart of this eternally dying desert thumped manically with each passing step as he approached the passenger side window of the Beetle. He looked inside to see the kid slumped and glazed over.

The man tapped the window with three knocks. The young kid on the inside stirred for a moment while rubbing his temples. After a moment he glared up at the haunting stature of this mysterious man. He jumped and began screaming hysterically. The drugs had already consumed him.

The kid looked on in horror as the man outside of the car now pressed a gun to the glass. The acid-induced neurosis engulfed him more. He was sweating profusely and screaming louder and louder, he tried to talk but he was trapped inside his own mind. The kid grabbed a suitcase that sat in the passenger’s seat and hit it against the window repeatedly until it shattered.

Then, crawling out of the broken window, he fell onto the road and began bleeding from the glass shards now piercing his palms and knees. The man moved around the car to be closer to the feverish boy. The young kid crawled out to the middle of the road while he attempted to stand. The hot tar felt as if it was melting beneath him.

Completely lost in this daytime night terror, he rolled onto his back twitching and turning as foam dripped from his mouth. He was having a seizure. Too many bad drugs mixed with any hint of fear could kill anyone in such a trance.

The killer lined up his shot.

The man placed the gun to the boy’s forehead. With no ounce of remorse, he pulled the trigger and put the teenage dreamer out of his misery. The man walked to the shattered glass next to the vehicle where the suitcase sat. As he picked it up he wiped off any debris gently and then made his way to the car.

As he sat back in his seat, he clicked open the suitcase. All of the narcotics, booze, uppers, downers, psychedelics and grass were accounted for among other things. That was except for the few laced blotter sheets of acid that would have killed the boy even if the man wasn’t here to recover the goods.

He shut and locked the suitcase before throwing it in the back seat. He put the car into gear, twisted the dial to a new station and then sped away while clipping the lifeless body.

The man was on his way to the strip to collect his reward.

“Homesick/Schoolsick”
by Paige Santos | Contributer

From a familiar front porch
In a gloomy wind tunnel town
Where no one seems to stick around
Tell yourself you belong here
The overcast sky’s crystal clear
Tell yourself you’re satisfied
Cross your fingers, tell a lie

81 miles north
From the place where I was born
Where I crawled, walked, ran, drove
But nowhere feels like home
A guest in the walls I painted
A suitcase never fully unpacked

What if I can’t take it?
What if I don’t want to go back?
Can I hide here under the covers?
I’m tired of acting my age
Can you check my closet for monsters?
I’ve been terribly afraid

Can I lay here in the grass
And watch all of the stars
And listen to the cars
As they’re speeding past

Orion keeps careful watch
With an arrow nocked
The cicadas sing me to sleep
And so I drift into my dreams.
“The Terminator”
by Erica McDonald | Contributor

She sat at the edge of the bed. The sun had just barely risen, and the coolness of the morning dew had made its way into the apartment and cast a chill throughout the small space. Goosebumps rose on her exposed skin which is just her legs. His sweatshirt hung on her petite frame. It was always too big for her, and it felt even bigger now. The emptiness of the bedroom hit her when she reached for him, only to feel the softness of her tear-stained pillow instead of his skin. She reached into the pocket and pulled out a carton of cigarettes. She didn’t smoke before, but most days, the nicotine soothed the ache she felt deep in the center of her chest for just a moment.

You never think these things will happen. One moment you're so happy. You're on top of the world. Next, you are a shell of a person. You perform mundane activities to get from one day to the next. You take what you have for granted while you have it because you think it’s forever, but it’s not. Nothing is. Especially not people. People are the least permanent of all. They come and go as often as the seasons do, yet for some reason each time it surprises you. Until the next person comes in to try to grieve, but it’s almost never done right.

This apartment never felt like it was hers, and now that she was the only inhabitant, she felt more like a stranger in her own home than ever. Each step she took within those walls felt like trespassing. In this moment, in the quietness of her solitude, the cars driving by and the rain against the windowsill were almost deafening. That and her thoughts. It never made sense how you could think so much, yet also think of nothing at all.

Nevertheless, she did what she had to do. She put on her clothes and headed to work. This is what is necessary to survive the day. She comes home and goes to bed and does it all again the next day. Each night she laid in bed second guessing her choices. This wasn’t how it was supposed to be. She never meant to entangle herself in another being the way she did. She was supposed to be able to be fine on her own as she always was before him. What was it about this one that left her in shambles? She had been with others before, and when they left, she moved on to the next. It was simple. She had a job to do, and she couldn’t let feelings get in the way. Feelings that weren’t supposed to be able to be felt by her, but she couldn’t tell Them that. They would terminate her, and despite her current state, she wanted to live. She really did.

Imogen’s face burned as she opened the door to her apartment building. The frigid air and the wind are no friend of hers. Her slicked back ponytail left her exposed ears an intense shade of red, and her turtleneck was becoming itchy. She stuffed her hands in her pockets and started on her usual path to work. New York City was the fifth city she lived in in four years. It didn’t look much different than the others, but, God, did it feel different. Despite the constant ache in her calves and unbridled anger that came from walking the streets of the city, she felt so free and inspired here. This was the longest she had ever stayed in one place. Two years she had been here already, and so far, The Company had made no requests to have her transferred, and she didn’t mind it one bit. Imogen’s trek was about five minutes (six minutes and thirty-seven seconds, to be exact), and gave her the chance to get her thoughts together before she entered work. The Company’s excuse as to why they put her in a building so close to headquarters was so she could get there on time to do, and she couldn’t let feelings get in the way. Feelings that weren’t supposed to be able to be felt by her, but she couldn’t tell Them that. They would terminate her, and despite her current state, she wanted to live. She really did.

When Imogen was assigned to Charlie, she knew what to expect. This wasn’t anywhere near her first assignment, and she was used to giving herself to these people with no strings actually attached. She had a routine: figure out their day-to-day life and bump into them “accidentally.” Then, go on a date. There was never an instance where she was unsuccessful. They always fell for her. And she always made it out unscathed. Until Charlie, at least. When Imogen came to New York, she knew very little about Charlie. He was quite off the grid, so researching him was a difficult task for her. The difficulty was kind of intriguing to her, though. The easiness of social media was boring, finding out everything about a person in a heartbeat required little effort on her end. The ones who made her work harder, work smarter—those were the most memorable ones.

As Imogen reaches the familiarity of her work building, she shakes her thoughts away. Despite her job relying on her hiding her true emotions, if she thought about Charlie, she knew it would be evident on her face that she was hurting. Her whole body aches with the emptiness of him no longer being in her life. She is hurting and grieving, and if she let that in at work, she would never be able to reel it back into her coat pocket. She reaches into her jacket pocket and grabs her ID card, holding it in front of the scanner at the door before entering. A blast of warm air hits her, pleasantly washing over her and relieving her from the harsh winter air. After an elevator ride, she reaches her desk where she finds a folder marked “Confidential,” and sighs as she sits to open it. She knows this is her job. This is what she has to do, but how can she pretend to fall in love with someone new when she’s still in love with someone else? She’s never faced this problem before. Imogen has always kept her heart out of the equation.

Illustrations
by Aniela Gajano & Avery Nixon
“Evil Sea Witch” - Sophia Caparros

“Ribbons” - Avery Nixon

“Housewife” - Haddie Lyons
Swift has achieved another piece of pop perfection with "Midnights."

Swift touches on self-loathing, regret and loss in her album.

Swift has raspier moments in songs like "Anti-Hero."

‘Midnights’: Never Ever Ever Doubt Mastermind Taylor Swift

Emma Caughlan
Editor-in-Chief

Just over two months ago, Taylor Swift announced her tenth new studio album "Midnights" on the stage of the 2022 Video Music Awards as she accepted her award for video of the year. This announcement unleashed what you might call mayhem for Swifties. Swift is known for Easter eggs and hints for her fans, and the promotion for “Midnights” was no different. After nine “Midnights of Mayhem” and an elaborate Thursday Night Football commercial, the album was finally dropped on Oct. 21.

Now, this is where I feel I must be honest with you all. As I sat on our Production Editor Hannah’s floor listening to “Midnights” for the first time, I was extremely disappointed. Then I listened to it in the morning (post “3am Edition”), and I still wasn’t happy. Then again, in my car as I drove home, still not getting it. I shared my unhappiness with my sister, who was feeling similarly, and she said, “It’s Taylor Swift, so it’s probably genius and we just don’t know it yet.”

She was right. I listened to it for the fourth time, and something clicked. Or I should say, Swift dropped a giant clock on my head, and I finally woke up.

Swift has achieved another piece of pop perfection with "Midnights." Her vocals are deeper and more striking than ever. The melodies stick with you even if you don’t realize it at first. It is filled with harmonies and details that make it impossible to not want to hear it on vinyl (maybe not on four different ones, though). And her storytelling and emotional lyricism are as effective as ever.

This is a much darker album for Swift, especially the last seven songs featured on the “Midnights (3am Edition).” She touches on self-loathing, regret and loss. Some of her saddest songs are in the latter part of this album.

“Bigger Than the Whole Sky” is about a devastating loss; some are even speculating it could be about a miscarriage.

“Did some bird flap its wings over in Asia / Did some force take you because I didn’t pray / Every single thing to come has turned into ashes / ‘Cause it’s all over / It’s not meant to be / So I’ll say words I don’t believe / Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye / You were bigger than the whole sky / You were more than just a short time,” Swift sings.

The other heart-wrenching song is “Would’ve, Could’ve, Should’ve.” All I can say about this song topic wise is: John Mayer sucks. Writing wise, this is an exquisite song, and Swift doesn’t hold back in vocals either. Her voice is at her smoothest when she sings “Give me back my girlhood, it was mine first.” This contrasts raspier moments in some earlier songs like “Lavender Haze” and “Anti-Hero.” This is a new tone I am completely on board with for Swift.

Some other highlights include “Maroon,” “Bejeweled” and “The Great War.” “Karma” is also worth mentioning, especially after the last couple of weeks a certain antisemitic troll is having.

This album may not have been the 1970s folk rock James Taylor and Carole King tribute I was hoping for, but “Midnights” is yet another success from Swift. I will never doubt her again. Swift is the “Mastermind” after all.
Concert (continued from Page 1)

Willow Bradley, a freshman exercise science major, was one of the first people in line. She admitted to feeling excited and energetic, mainly because of the positive atmosphere among the people even before entering.

“I think the vibes are going to be good,” Bradley said. “I feel everybody here is here to have a good time.”

For many others, this event was the perfect opportunity to take a little break from the stress of school. Constance Lemon, a freshman computer science major, said she was grateful to SLAM for organizing fun events for the students to enjoy.

“I’m happy I’m able to distress because midterms really stressed me out,” Lemon said. “I’m ready [to] just have fun, dance and not worry about any work.”

As the doors opened, all the seats were quickly taken and in less than 20 minutes all the front rows were full.

It started with the performance of various talents, which raised the mood of the event with their music. Also, a DJ played several catchy mixes with different genres of music. Most of the attendees got up from their seats to sing and dance non-stop.

As a spectator, one could feel the adrenaline rushing as soon as the DJ announced the first artist.

First to take the stage was Jacquees. He began to sing, which caused great excitement in the audience, as the shouts of happiness were heard throughout the stadium. The rapper began his performance singing his most popular songs, including “B.E.D.,” “You,” “You Belong To Somebody Else” and “Who’s,” along with others. The crowd couldn’t stop screaming, jumping and taking pictures and the flashing phones lit up the front rows.

One of the night's highlights, according to some in the audience, was seeing Jacquees move along with his two side dancers. Another highlight was the songs themselves, according to Maya Savoy, a junior journalism and digital media major, who watched the concert from the front row with her friends.

“I think Jacques had a great setlist,” Savoy said.

During the last few minutes of his presentation, Jacquees took a few seconds to say “I love you” to the entire audience before leaving the stage. The second artist was the long-awaited rapper MoneyBagg Yo. Many big fans of his music said they were pleased to finally be able to attend this event just to see him perform. His setlist included songs like “Me Vs Me,” “Wockesha,” “Time Today” and “U Played.”

Anthony Sandin, who accompanied one SLAM's executive board members during the event, enjoyed the performance as this was his first time at a concert.

“It was really good,” Sandin said. “I came here because I’m a big fan of MoneyBagg Yo. It was a really good experience.”

The biggest moment of the night, and the least unexpected, was when MoneyBagg Yo approached the audience and interacted with them. He took this opportunity to sing to the audience, sign autographs and take pictures with his fans.

But when it looked like the show was about to end, MoneyBagg Yo and his team threw 20 and 10-dollar bills into the audience. It caused a little chaos, but it turned out to be very funny and exciting, especially for those who did get some cash like freshman psychology major Gabriella Liriano.

“I had a lot of fun,” Liriano said. “My favorite part is when I got 20 dollars from one of [MoneyBagg Yo’s] friends.”

The concert was undoubtedly a great event with a great atmosphere, good music and above all, a visit from two great artists who will remain in the minds of all participants as one of their best college memories.
Faith Amero  
Guest Writer

Michael Smith has held job titles such as production manager, second unit director, assistant director and producer. But he came to Montclair State University’s Film Forum on Oct. 18 as a director.

Smith began his career working on films and television shows like “The Sopranos” and Woody Allen’s film “Man On The Moon.” In 2007, he was given his first directing opportunity on the set of “Law and Order: Criminal Intent.” More recently, Smith has directed episodes of television shows such as “Bull” and “Law and Order: Special Victims Unit.”

He has also worked on shows like the previously NBC, now Netflix series “Manifest,” where his work as a director does not go unnoticed as the forum’s viewing was season three, episode four, “Tailspin.”

In addition to the showing, Smith discussed his background working in the industry and how he got his start.

“I never imagined I’d be doing this,” Smith said.

Smith said he thought you needed to have connections in order to break into the industry. But even with his parents working as a teacher and a lawyer, two occupations unrelated to the industry, he remains grateful for the opportunity he has been given.

Mackenzie Guarascio, a junior film and television major, was able to relate to the director since both are from Long Island, New York. She took notice of Smith’s way of moving up in production.

“I was interested in how [Smith] was able to go through the ranks,” Guarascio said.

When discussing his work on “Manifest,” Smith described “Tailspin,” as well as the episode before it, “Wingman,” as the most difficult to film because it was done during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. At one point, he was directing over Zoom.

But he stressed the importance of organization as he brought with him a large binder with every script, note, blocking sheet and drawing for camera positions for these episodes. Film Forum professor Roberta Friedman can attest to this trait in Smith as she describes him as “both talented and extremely prepared and organized.”

Smith brought a binder with every script, note, blocking sheet and drawing for camera positions for episodes in “Manifest.”

Kaila Houghton, a senior film and television major, says she is going to remember Smith’s advice about organization.

Kaila Houghton, a senior film and television major, said this resonated most with her.

“ ‘I’m really going to take away being organized from this because look how far [Smith] has gone,’” Houghton said.

And he showed us how organized he was, so I think that is really going to stick with me in the future,” Smith said. “And I also described the visuals he developed for “Tailspin.” He stated he does not look to change anything about the show; he simply puts his own spin on the episode to make it his own.

“I look to take it to a slightly another level,” Smith said. “You don’t want to reinvent the wheel; that’s a common expression used in our business.”

Smith really does make the episode his own by bringing his visions to life with the help of the cast and crew. He explained how he draws out scenes and uses a finder to get an idea of what the audience will see on screen. He also ensures the vibes on set are fun and light with no yelling or stress and good pacing. This is all correct, according to Friedman.

“[Smith] is personable,” Friedman said. “[He] works well with actors and develops a connection with them as well as with his crew.”

Not only is he personable with cast and crew according to Friedman, but he is also personable with Montclair State students. After the viewing and questions, students came up to continue talking with him.

As students asked questions, Smith left an important piece of advice. “Smart people borrow, genius people steal,” Smith said.

He was implying that you can use an established technique but are technically not stealing from another work of cinema. You could even take techniques from Spielberg and Hitchcock and reinvent them to make them yours.
Daniel Craig might be more ridiculous in this movie than in the original.

“Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery” Shows At Montclair Film Festival

Danny Krastek
Staff Writer

2019 was a pretty fantastic year when it comes to movies. We got an unbelievable amount of classics that year, one of the most beloved was “Knives Out,” directed by Rian Johnson and featuring an ensemble cast including Daniel Craig, Ana de Armas, Jamie Lee Curtis and Christopher Plummer.

Three years later, and after nearly half a billion dollars spent by Netflix, the sequel, “Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery,” has finally come to our very own Montclair Film Festival, two full months before its release to the general public on Netflix.

Let me first say that it was a ton of fun to watch this in a packed room of film lovers. I didn’t get to see the first one in theaters, so getting to see Craig’s southern-accented detective Benoit Blanc prance across the screen for two hours was absolutely delightful.

While “Glass Onion” perhaps does not reach the heights of its predecessor, it definitely has hilarious moments and is absolutely worth a watch.

Craig is joined by a celebrity cast including Edward Norton, Janelle Monae, Kathy Bostic, Dave Bautista, Kate Hudson and Leslie Odom Jr., with surprise guest cameos by Ethan Hawke and Hugh Grant, the latter of whom got a decent applause (which I contributed to, don’t worry) when he showed up for one scene.

The film involves billionaire Miles Hawke and Hugh Grant, the latter of whom got a decent applause (which I contributed to, don’t worry) when he showed up for one scene.

The film involves billionaire Miles Hawke (Norton), who invites some of his close friends to his vacation island for a weekend. One of the guests is Miles’ best friend, Benoit Blanc (Craig), who invites some of his close friends to his vacation island for a weekend. One of the guests is Miles’ best friend, Benoit Blanc (Craig), who shows up for one scene.

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Pickleball is Gaining Popularity Across the Country and at Montclair State

Ryan Nussbaum  
Staff Writer

America’s fastest-growing sport has come to Montclair State University. Pickleball has picked up momentum in recent years and now the game has taken over the Montclair State tennis courts, where there are now several courts set up.

For those unfamiliar with the sport, pickleball meshes together elements of tennis, badminton and ping pong to create an easy-to-learn and fast-paced sport. The ball resembles a Wiffle ball and the paddles can be compared to oversized table tennis paddles. However, the gameplay is unique amongst racquet sports, as it emphasizes the short game and finesse over the power and speed of its more established cousins.

The pickleball community has been growing locally as well. Montclair Pickleball holds tournaments and clinics which have now expanded to campus. Montclair, NJ native Aaron Reznik co-founded the organization in 2020 and serves as its co-director. He said he grew up playing tennis before finding pickleball in college after befriending one of the country’s top players.

“When I went to the University of Maryland freshman year of college, I met a kid named Ben Johns who told me he started playing a sport called pickleball,” Reznik said. “I said ‘Uh huh’ sounds kind of weird,’ but then a year later he became number one in the world. It took him three years to convince me to play [and] when I did, I fell in love with it.”

Pickleball has had a rapid expansion over the last two years. According to a 2022 report from the Sports & Fitness Industry Association, the sport has grown by nearly 40% since 2019. Over 4.8 million Americans now spend their time improving their backhands, volleys and dinks on new courts that are being built in many places.

Richard Livornese Jr. helped coach a beginner’s clinic on campus and is an avid player. He picked up the game three years ago and seemingly hasn’t put the paddle down since, competing in tournaments regularly in addition to coaching. He says that one of the best aspects of the sport is that anyone can pick up a paddle.

“Pickleball is a game that can be played by anyone at any age by anybody,” Livornese said. “It’s universal which is so amazing. My dad is 61 [years old] and he can play competitively. There’s no sport like that. I played lacrosse and football when I was growing up. Once you’re 30 [years old], no one is playing anymore, it’s too hard on your body. [Pickleball] is a life sport.”

During the clinic, players, the majority of which have never touched a paddle, learned rules, basic skills and strategy. Livornese said the laughter and conversations between players are part of what makes the game special.

 “[Pickleball] is so social,” Livornese said. “You get to talk and hang out. It’s not just a game that you’re just playing, it’s also [somewhere] you have fun and it’s a good time.”

Those who are getting into pickleball are not just high-level athletes but rather a wide variety of people looking for a way to get active. Unlike tennis, pickleball is at its best when played as a doubles match, making it fun to play with a group of friends. Livornese said the inclusiveness of the game makes it appealing.

“I’ve been playing a while and that joy doesn’t go away, it only gets deeper,” Livornese said. “I play all the time, like every day as much as I can. There’s no doubt that when people try it they’re not going to like it. There’s no reason not to. You don’t have to be the best athlete in the world, you don’t have to be in the best shape in the world. You don’t have to be tall or fast or anything, just be yourself and have fun.”

The game has grown on the professional level with big-name athletes such as LeBron James, Kevin Durant, Tom Brady and Kim Clijsters buying into Major League Pickleball (MLP) expansion teams. NBA legend Dirk Nowitzki even plays in several events. But Reznik says that pickleball will continue to grow simply because the game is fun.

“I think celebrities getting involved are nice pieces of the puzzle,” Reznik said. “I think that in general, what’s going to continue to grow the sport is the sport itself [and] the fact that anyone can play regardless of [their] background. Things like celebrities playing, these tours and pro tournaments coming up shed a little more light to the sport and wake people up to the sport but for me, it’s about people trying and falling in love with the sport. In the future, pickleball is going to be a top three most participated sport in this country and we’re doing our best to help lead that.”

Beginners clinics are offered Mondays and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. More experienced players can sharpen their skills during intermediate programs Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. For those looking to hop into games, open court sessions are held Thursdays at 7 p.m.
Haley Martin Has Become a Force Behind the Net For Women’s Soccer

Heading into the conference playoffs, the senior goalkeeper is continuing her elite play

Matthew Gomez
Staff Writer

The Montclair State University women’s soccer team continues to improve their record standing at 15-1, with a 7-1 record in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC). This wouldn’t be possible without the defense put forth by senior goalkeeper Haley Martin. Throughout their 16 games, the goal difference versus opponents stands at 42-8. The most goals allowed in a single game was a 3-2 victory over The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) on Oct. 15.

Martin is one of the major reasons the Montclair State women’s soccer team defense is as strong as it is. She gives vocal support for when the team needs direction as well as making those crucial saves to keep the winning streak rolling.

Martin, having two seasons in the starting lineup under her belt, has been able to step up as the veteran of the team. Those in attendance at the women’s soccer games, experience the immense pressure and goal festivals that the Red Hawks have against opponents. But this wouldn’t all count without clean sheets and coverage from the defense. Martin has amounted to a total of nine clean sheets this season, already three more than last season.

“You always want a clean sheet, especially defensive players,” Martin said. “That work that we put in the preseason is letting us have that success we have right now.”

Sophomore forward Emmi Denovellis, being one of the strongest in the defensive line, is the last stop for the opposing team before it comes to Haley Martin. The nine clean sheets at goal for Martin were supported by the defensive line, but still a highlight for Martin through her communication and leadership skills.

“Martin is the first player to see everything on the field,” Denovellis said. “She’s our form of communication and that’s a great key to our success. Her leadership has been very key to the team this year.”

The difference between this season and last season is significantly. From the goal difference to the chemistry, and to who stepped up when it mattered most. Martin has been able to keep things afloat for this team and quiet in the backline. While things are looking strong in the front of the pitch for this women’s soccer team, it doesn’t necessarily mean Martin, as a goalkeeper, isn’t capable of helping.

“It’s estimated that soccer players during a match of 90 minutes run an average of seven miles per game. The heart and ambition that this women’s soccer team plays with needs more than just training to provide that full strength and Martin is there to give that extra push.”

“You gotta be vocal, especially on a team like this which is so defensively strong,” Martin said. “My role isn’t so much shot blocking as it is keeping my girls pushing for the 90 minutes. You’re not doing much physically so you [got to] be a support system.”

This role didn’t come easily to Martin. It’s as essential as any other and if anything a lot more competitive. Martin goes into a game focused on knowing what has to be done. On days where it’s busy at the net, that’s when Martin shines.

A highlight game for the goalkeeper was the match against TCNJ, which was not easy for the Red Hawks. This game was what was hopefully the most defensive-threatening game for Martin. TCNJ had a total of 24 shots this game, and Martin did what she does best and saved six shots that were on target. A game this hefty for a goalkeeper is something that she looks forward to.

“A lot of the work we do is behind closed doors and no one really sees it,” Martin said. “So when you have those games when it’s three shots on goal it’s a bit more nerve-racking because I should make those three saves.”

Martin can be seen as the strong head of the team and the strong point. Without knowing the goalkeeper, the opposing team can be intimidated and get the wrong impression. But Martin is as uplifting as they come.

“I feel like you have to have a conversation one on one with [Martin] to really know her,” Denovellis said. “She’s so bubbly and happy. She’s never serious and it always reminds you to never take life too seriously. Everyone needs a Haley Martin.”

Haley Martin has amassed nine clean sheets in her senior season.
The Montclair State football team looked to improve its lackluster record and find a win in their conference mark on Homecoming Saturday, October 29.

But with a missed extra point after a rushing touchdown by sophomore quarterback Mason Murdock, the Red Hawks fell to the Captains of Christopher Newport by one point, 14-13.

The day was filled with events going on throughout campus, from the tailgate outside of Freeman, to before the game where Sam Mills was honored and Head Coach Rick Giancola and Melanie Mills, Sam’s wife, gave speeches on his behalf.

The game started off strong for the Montclair State defense, with graduate student defensive back Mike Ramos forcing a fumble on the opening kickoff. The Red Hawks could not capitalize on that play, but later in the game, sophomore linebacker Nicholas Burgess picked off the Captains and ran down to the other end of the field for a touchdown.

The Red Hawks could not produce too much offense, which helped the Captains capitalize. After Christopher Newport had a downed player, who was eventually stretchered off, Montclair State had their mistake at the end of the game, the Captains add to their undefeated conference record, and the Red Hawks looks to end their season on a good note.
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Heartbreaking Homecoming Loss

Matteo Macolino
Staff Writer

Another heartbreaking loss for the Montclair State University football team. The Red Hawks fell to the Captains of Christopher Newport University 14-13 in their homecoming game. They now fall to a 2-6 record and remain winless in the conference at 0-4.

Christopher Newport drove 41 yards down the field in seven plays to score a one-yard rushing touchdown, leading 7-0 in the first quarter. The score remained 7-0 until sophomore linebacker Nick Burgess caught an interception and returned it 85 yards to tie the game with less than a minute to go in the first half.

After a scoreless third quarter, Christopher Newport scored a late touchdown in the fourth quarter to retake the lead. The Red Hawks were able to answer back with a touchdown with two minutes and 18 seconds left in the game, but a missed extra point would be the deciding factor.

Despite the loss, the team put in a valiant effort for all 60 minutes, never backing down, which has been the story of the season.

Associate head coach Mike Palazzo spoke on the team’s performance.

“I feel for the kids, they’ve been working hard,” Palazzo said. “They don’t ever quit and that’s something I really respect about those guys. My heart breaks for them because it’s a tough loss and a couple of plays [go] the other way and it’s a comfortable homecoming win.”

There were some noteworthy performances on all sides of the ball. Special teams started the game off by recovering a fumble on the kickoff forced out by team captain graduate student Mike Ramos. Senior running back Abellany Mendez led the rush game with 14 carries for 81 yards. Burgess put on a show with a total of 11 tackles, one and a half sacks and an interception returned for a touchdown.

“Our defense is all about making big plays,” Burgess said. “It felt pretty good to be able to make a big play for the whole team.”

Putting the game aside, it was a special day for Montclair State as it was homecoming and a special ceremony honoring alumnus and recent inductee to the Professional Football Hall of Fame, Sam Mills. It was a different energy today. The crowd was in it, the crowd brought the energy, [it] was the best crowd I’ve had since I’ve been here. It definitely electrifies the offense and defense.”

The Red Hawks look to refresh heading into next week as they go on the road to face Rowan University.

“We just [got to] come in and focus in on the next opponent,” Palazzo said. “Wipe the slate clean this week and dial in on our next opponent.”

With only two games left in the season, the mindset is to keep pounding and end the season on a high note.

“The mindset is always keep pounding,” Burgess said. “We have two more games left, two more weeks left. All that matters is making every single moment count and obviously finishing strong with two wins.”