The Montclarion, November 10, 2022

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Montclair State Students Show Lack of Civic Engagement During Midterm Elections

Although some went to the polls on Tuesday, many Montclair State University students stayed home on Election Day. Many were unaware of the candidates and the issues in their own communities and felt discouraged by the current state of politics.

According to research done by the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tufts University, only 20% of young adults in New Jersey voted in the 2021 New Jersey gubernatorial election.

This statistic seemed to continue into Tuesday's election, as many students interviewed by The Montclarion knew little to nothing about the midterms.

Students cited a variety of reasons for not voting, from disenchantment with the political system to other personal obligations. Gabby Isip, a sophomore exercise science major, expressed her belief that her vote didn't matter when compared to the others.

"There are thousands of people that vote," Isip said. "And I don't think that adding my opinion to it would make a difference."

Montclair State did make some effort to get students to exercise their civic duty. The university held voter registration events for the past few months and even chartered a shuttle to go to polling locations on Election Day. However, the shuttles were largely unused.

Lauryn Miqueli, a junior sociology major, expressed her desire for the university to promote and educate students more about the voting process.

"They could have people just handing out flyers or [have] a tabling at the [Student] Center, even posting it more on their Instagram," Miqueli said. "I feel like I follow a decent amount of Montclair [State] Instagram things, I feel like I didn't really see anything."

Although many students interviewed did not vote, some did. Cameryn Martin, a junior physical education major, expressed why he felt it was important to cast his vote and encouraged others to do the same.

"At the end of the day, you have the ultimate say," Martin said. "It's your generation. It's your world. You [got to] live in it. And above all else, you have the ultimate say on how you want your world [and] your country to be [run]."

Thomas Ferman, a junior film and television major, didn't vote due to work obligations, but he recognized the importance that the Gen Z vote will have.

"I would say the way they will affect our generation is way more tech-savvy than ever with social media," Ferman said. "And the fact that we have all the resources we have, we're going to be very educated. And we're going to look back on this past election in the future. And we're probably going to be more informed than previous generations that came before us."
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Montclair State University announced during the last university senate meeting that $27 million dollars is being invested into the Workday app to expand it to the entire campus community and offer new features.

The Workday app is currently used by work-study students and faculty on campus to help them track their hourly pay, work hours and other work-related facilities.

Andrew Mees, the university spokesperson, explained why the university is making this investment solely in the app. "The university already uses the Workday platform for its financial and human resources needs," Mees said. "It will start using Workday as its student records and registration system four years from now."

Mees further explained another reason why the institution is making the investment. "The added capacity in Workday will replace the Ellucian Banner Student System," Mees said. "The contract for that service is nearing its end and the decision has been made that increasing the available capability in Workday will enhance the student experience at Montclair [State]."

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According to Mees, Workday will provide more accessibility. "Students will find it easier to use," Mees said. "Workday also provides improved security and regular enhancements. It will improve performance in areas including tracking and assuring a student's progress towards degree and tracking progress in interdisciplinary programs that may encompass more than one college or school. It will also provide Montclair [State] faculty and staff with a fully integrated view of a student's profile, helping to ensure more comprehensive support."

Some students believe the administration is investing a large amount of money, however, others are hoping the investment will be worth it and beneficial for the Montclair State community.

Sarai Noriega, a senior English major, shared her thoughts on the investment. "I think $27 million is a lot of money for an app, but hopefully it goes [to] good use for the app to give it the most efficient and developed update," Noriega said. 

Noriega is a work-study student here on campus. She currently works as a building manager at the student center information desk. She also shared her familiarity with using the Workday app as she uses it for her work-study. "I use it every other day to track my hours [and] make sure everything matches up," Noriega said. "Adjacent to Workday I also use Humanity so I verify both hours are correct and make sure that everything is matching. Once I submit my hours I am set for the rest of the week."

Arlin Hernandez, a senior family science and human development major, is also a work-study student who works as a building manager at the student center information desk and explained some of the features she wishes to see within the app when the investment goes through. "I use it every other day to track my hours [and] make sure everything matches up," Noriega said. "Adjacent to Workday I also use Humanity so I verify both hours are correct and make sure that everything is matching. Once I submit my hours I am set for the rest of the week."

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"I hope they use the money for better updates towards the app," Hernandez said. "Such as sending more reminders on the app, be able to send text updates or have an easier access to see when we are getting paid. It will be easier for students to see when they work and when they get paid."

Angeline Padilla, a senior exercise science major, said the amount of money being used for the app is insane. "It's a little crazy that the school is investing so much money on an app that not all students will have the privilege to use because some of us don't do work study here on campus," Padilla said. "Mees also addressed that the cost of the app will not cost more than the university's budget."

"This project will not cost more than what staying with the current system would cost," Mees said. "It will be included in the university's operating and capital budgets. [The total cost is $27 million and] it will be spent over 10 years."

Workday will soon be accessible to all students even if they are not work-study students. The new, improved version will launch on December 2022. The university is hoping the community will be satisfied with the changes. "We hope that our campus community will appreciate the fact that we are changing to a system that better serves our students, without increasing the cost," Mees said.
Montclair State music department students and faculty are demanding an increase in practice rooms.

Music Students Are Feeling Played

Montclair State Students Are Demanding More Practice Rooms

Julia Duggan
Guest Writer

Montclair State University music department students and faculty members are annoyed and it’s not just about wrong musical notes. On Nov. 1 a student petition was delivered to the director of the John J. Cali School of Music asking for an increase in practice rooms. The petition was started by a person who chose to remain anonymous by posting flyers around the department with a QR code for students and faculty to sign. In addition to signing their names, people supporting the petition were asked if they had any ideas for finding additional space.

Noah Stevens, a sophomore viola performance major, shared the obstacles he faces when trying to get access to a practice room in the building.

“We need more practice rooms or even just a better system of allotting them for students,” Stevens said. “So, during the day it can be very difficult to find a room for practicing, but what’s more annoying is when you have a small chamber group that’s trying to rehearse and you haven’t been able to reserve a room. And there’s nowhere big enough to fit you so you have to wait until one is available.”

According to Stevens, in order to reserve a practice room a student is required to have a professor be teaching them in a specific room. This means a student cannot reserve a room to practice individually, but they can if they are being taught in one. Professors are also allowed to reserve practice rooms to teach in which means there are fewer available for students to use.

Ryan Haupt, a graduate music performance major studying trombone, shared a similar experience.

“One time I had my lesson and I wanted to warm up beforehand,” Haupt said. “I went through all four floors in the building and there were no practice rooms available at all. So I ended up just buzzing on my mouthpiece outside of the room where my lesson would be.”

Benjamin Baron, the woodwind coordinator at John J. Cali School of Music, says the issue of space can impact a music major’s ability to learn and improve.

“Students need to have access to practice rooms because that is where the improvement happens for them to acquire the necessary skills to earn a living playing music,” Baron said. “Without practice rooms, students can’t develop as they need to.”

Anthony Mazzocchi, the director of the school of music, recognizes that the department is in need of more space.

“There is no one at the School of Music, including myself, who doesn’t believe that more practice rooms are needed here,” Mazzocchi said. “For musicians, empty rooms are a commodity. Most schools of music simply do not have enough and we are no exception.”

Mazzocchi also explained that he will be taking students and faculty’s concerns into consideration.

“We are constantly engaged in this quest for new space and optimizing the space we have already,” Mazzocchi said. “I appreciate the thoughtful comments included in the petition and I’ll be reaching out to our students and faculty soon to follow up on their concerns.”

Baron also said he is hoping the university will find a solution to resolve this matter soon.

“With a little creativity this problem can be alleviated,” Baron said. “Having space in residence halls would be very beneficial. Walking across campus to Chaplin or Russ Halls can act as an understandable barrier, especially given the weather or time of day. Hopefully, the university can find solutions to help these proactive students work as hard as they desire.”

According to Mazzocchi, he plans to continue looking for ways to increase the number of practice rooms in the music department.

“We’ve worked very hard with university stakeholders to create and share space whenever necessary and we’ve been moving the needle slowly but surely,” Mazzocchi said. “For example, our friends at Russ Hall have paved a way for us to utilize a large practice space in their base- ment just recently. This opened up several rooms and times at Chaplin for faculty and student use.”

Julia Duggan  |  The Montclarion

Photo courtesy of Ryan Haupt

Ryan Haupt says it is difficult for him to practice in the John J. Cali School of Music building.
THANKFUL IS BACK!

Thanksgiving Table • Thankful Wall
Giveaways • Swipe Out Hunger

Don’t forget your Donation for the Food Pantry
*Bring a donation item to help stock the shelves of the
Campus Red Hawk Food Pantry and
spin the wheel to win a giveaway!!

- cereal boxes
- muffins
- pasta
- pasta sauce
- rice
- canned chicken or tuna
- juice
- water bottles
- canned proteins
- healthy snacks
- toothpaste
- shampoo
- laundry detergent
- can openers
- spatulas
- detergent
- sponges
- disinfecting spray

Use your Unlimited Meal Plan or 1 Block Swipe for entry.
Non-Meal Plan holders pay $11.45 for all-you-care-to-eat Thanksgiving meal!
Use Flex, Red Hawk Dollars, Cash or Credit Card to Pay

Community Give Backs
Sharing Gratitude
Thanksgiving Food Favorites
Giving Thanks

Food Hall at Sam’s Place | Tuesday, November 15th | 12pm-3pm
Dineoncampus.com/montclair
Women's rights are one of the most driving issues for young adult voters. After the federal right to an abortion was overturned this past summer, many young women, including college students, have taken a stand to protect themselves. At Montclair State University, there is no shortage of women speaking out about the issue. Female-identifying Montclair State students recognize just how powerful their votes can be in the fight for reproductive rights in the Nov. 8 election.

Lina Nasser, a sophomore business administration major, placed her hopes on her generation, Generation Z, to advocate for progressive change.

“Our generation is more diverse and more open-minded,” Nasser said.

Bella Verma, a sophomore dance major, recognized that her individual vote and advocacy can influence many.

“I think based on who I vote for, it will influence others,” Verma said. “And hopefully make changes in New Jersey for the better.”

While many shy away from the topic of politics, most female-identifying students recognized the importance of Nov. 8 and their vote in a post-Roe v. Wade world. Most understand the importance of their individual vote, but they hope for more like-minded people to make it to the polls in order to keep the state's current stance on reproductive rights, which is in favor of abortion.

Ashley Gialloretto, a senior nutrition and food science major with a concentration in dietetics, said that many take New Jersey’s Democratic blue status for granted.

“I guess I don’t think about it too much, we’re fairly Democratic,” Gialloretto said.

While New Jersey has remained a blue state in presidential elections since 1992 according to a report from Ballotpedia, more conservative views have crept up to the surface in recent years as seen in the 2021 gubernatorial election. Democrat Phil Murphy beat Republican Jack Ciattarelli almost by the skin of his teeth, 51.2% to 48.8%

Ciattarelli almost by the skin of his teeth, 51.2% to 48.8%

“Tarelli had a close 48%, which could be put at risk if conservative-leaning individuals are elected to represent New Jersey’s citizens but also making sure it is accessible and giving resources [that] are publicly known for everyone that wishes to seek it. We must continue to vote in favor of it for that reason.”

Jim Fraser, an adjunct professor of political science, echoed the sentiment that while voting is extremely important, people must also think beyond Nov. 8.

“If we teach people what they should care about, first and foremost, what benefits themselves, then it’s to be expected that a whole host of people will not care about reproductive rights, since they see it as a women’s issue that does not pertain to them,” Sen said.

Sen also emphasized that reproductive rights affect every aspect of our lives and our vote is beyond a piece of paper at a voting center, which is why he encourages all genders and identities to cast their ballot.

“Women’s rights are human rights’ may be a cliche, but it should be self-evident that it’s true,” Send said. “And if one exercises even a modicum of critical thought, it should be quite obvious that reproductive rights intersect heavily with the economy, with healthcare, with climate issues, with just about anything that you can mention. Voting to ensure that reproductive rights are protected in this country is not just the ethically correct choice but the selfish one too, since it benefits everyone, in the short and especially the long run.”

Chelsea Pujols | The Montclarion
Sally Rooney debuted on the writing scene in 2017 and published “Normal People” the following year. The book gained widespread success and a Hulu original series, starring Daisy Edgar-Jones and Paul Mescal. With the book and series alike, “Normal People” has reached many hearts with its complicated, yet simple story.

Connell Waldron and Marianne Sheridan have a connection they can’t quite explain. In high school, Connell is a jock that hangs with the popular crowd, while Marianne keeps to herself. So when the two start seeing each other, Connell is determined to keep it a secret. After a handful of events, they end up attending the same college. Throughout the years of university, they cross paths and always seem to find their way back to each other. Set in Ireland in the early 2010s, “Normal People” is written in the third person omniscient. Readers gain insight into the minds of Marianne and Connell, exposing the entirety of their relationship. It is a character-driven story, exploring them as people, looking into their wants, needs and fears.

Both Connell and Marianne have a tendency to let others control their lives. Connell’s friends’ opinions change the way he approaches Marianne early on in their relationship. It is a character-driven story, exploring them as people, looking into their wants, needs and fears. Set in Ireland in the early 2010s, “Normal People” is written in the third person omniscient. Readers gain insight into the minds of Marianne and Connell, exposing the entirety of their relationship. It is a character-driven story, exploring them as people, looking into their wants, needs and fears.

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Rebecca Bienskie Jackson
Staff Writer

“Normal People” also features heavier topics such as sexual violence, abuse and struggles with mental health. Including these topics in the book helps spread awareness and start discussion. Having Connell and Marianne go through challenging times and cope with many struggles continues the realism in this novel. Rooney takes “Normal People” and uses it as a mirror to reflect on the 21st century dating scene, specifically the newer idea of a “situationship.” How in some cases two people can have an undeniable connection and still not be romantically involved. And even further, how two people can grow distant and yet whether it be fate or a higher power, the universe keeps bringing them back together.

Going in to read “Normal People,” here’s some insight about the writing style. Rooney chooses to exclude quotation marks in her writing. It is a more unique artistic choice in literature that does not come up too often. Personally, I caught on pretty easily. Once I was used to reading the dialogue it became natural and flowed more like a script.

Another heads up, (or for some, a critique) with this book is the fact that there’s minimal plot. The plot is always an important part of a story and often keeps the reader’s interest. Since this is a character story, my own personal motivation for reading was an investment in the two of them.

I enjoyed nearly every aspect of this book. Rooney’s writing style is refreshing, reads quickly and flows right off the page. As I mentioned before, the character work is outstanding and there is such an emotional depth in this book. Readers are rooting for Connell and Marianne and only wishing the best for them. Since this is a character story, my own personal motivation for reading was an investment in the two of them.

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“Normal People” is a romance novel that many college students can relate too. Photo courtesy of Faber and Faber

“Normal People” is a romance novel that many college students can relate too.

Photo courtesy of Faber and Faber
Are you following the dream you had when you were little or is it different?

By Lynise Olivacce
Photo Editor

“Iraíz Galindo
Freshman
Musical Performance

“When I was a child, I really wanted to do something like being on TV – like being a meteorologist or an actor. I just liked the idea of being on TV. But now I’m doing music performance. Which is not drastically different but it still has to do with like, the performing. More like just reaching out to people who are live in front of you.”

“Since I was little I thought I knew what I was gonna do. When I was a little kid, I really wanted to work with animals, and I still do I love animals and I love biology. But as I got older I loved playing music throughout grade school and I’m interested in voice acting. All these options boggled my mind. I’m sort of branching out, and I don't know how to stand still. But I’m taking different classes to figure that out.”

Jakub Brzyzek
Freshman
Undecided

Lynise Olivacce | The Montclarion
“When I was little, I wanted to be a football player. I played football all my life. But during my high school years, the coach kind of belittled me. So I kind of stopped playing. And my new dream is to work at home and become a YouTuber.”

Lynise Olivacce | The Montclarion

“We wanted to be a football player. I played football all my life. But during my high school years, the coach kind of belittled me. So I kind of stopped playing. And my new dream is to work at home and become a YouTuber.”

Eliezer Ramirez
Junior
Information Technology

“When I was little I wanted to be a fashion designer all the way up until high school. Right before college, I changed it because the fashion industry is kind of rough. So I like it more as a hobby rather than a career. But I love screenwriting and fiction writing and want to pursue that.”

Serhenna Bazile
Senior
Filmmaking

“I wanted to be an artist and a few of my pieces were chosen to be displayed in my town hall. But then as I got older, I realized it was more of a hobby and not something I actually wanted to pursue as a career. So right now, I want to hopefully pursue like, either ophthalmology or optometry.”

Elizabeth Chow
Senior
Biology

“Yes, I am following the dream I had when I was little because I’ve always seen myself in college and I’ve always wanted to pursue my dream of becoming a therapist. It is a little bit different because now I do want to become a speech therapist and not just like a clinical therapist, but I do believe that I am following my dreams.”

Isabella Cancel
Sophomore
Psychology

Lynise Olivacce | The Montclarion
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<td>Capricorn</td>
<td>Dec. 22 – Jan. 19</td>
<td>Be careful Capricorn, as we turn back the clocks and darkness strikes early, make sure you get plenty of sunlight so you don't start seeing shadow people. Also, don't rewatch Bojack Horseman season three episode 11.</td>
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<td>Cancer</td>
<td>Jun. 21 – Jul. 22</td>
<td>I know you just got new arm tattoos, but please put a jacket on. The heat wave lasted three days; you're going to freeze to death if you keep pretending that it's not cold any longer. While we're here though, now is a great time to dump your long-term boyfriend. Just saying.</td>
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<td>Aquarius</td>
<td>Jan. 20 – Feb. 18</td>
<td>This November, make sure to do what you need to be happy. Go out for lunch with some friends, buy a pair of brown pants, frolic in a field of freshly fallen leaves, play through your favorite board games, open up a brown pants store, see a loved one, give them a pair of brown pants, explain to your parents that brown pants are not a pyramid scheme and are backed by the blockchain which is a special computer problem that only computers can solve and the future is in brown pants. So just do what you normally do.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pisces</td>
<td>Feb. 19 – Mar. 20</td>
<td>Today's the day. Stand up to your professor who grades attendance. You don't deserve the lower grade for missing class. You only missed because you were emotionally exhausted. And you were only emotionally exhausted because of that professor. And also because you realized you are paying to be emotionally exhausted.</td>
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<td>Leo</td>
<td>Jul. 23 – Aug. 22</td>
<td>You start to go insane. Maybe it's safe? Maybe he's no monster at all? You step out of your shelter. Immediately, a feather boa is around your neck and you are dragged deeper into the forest.</td>
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<td>Virgo</td>
<td>Aug. 23 – Sep. 22</td>
<td>Stop buying concerto bees even when they're ugly! And stop wishing you bought the sweatshirt that was even uglier! Put the designers in their place. We don't all need our days ruined by Taylor Swift's merch brand.</td>
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<td>Aries</td>
<td>Mar. 21 – Apr. 19</td>
<td>Please, for the love of god, put the ting Christmas hat you hand sewed for your roommate's cat down. We're barely two weeks into November, and if I hear the opening jingle from &quot;Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree&quot; one more time, I'm going to jingle all the way to the North Pole and stay there for the indefinite future.</td>
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<td>Libra</td>
<td>Sep. 23 – Oct. 22</td>
<td>I know campus life can be boring sometimes, but please stop taking rides on the Sam's conveyor belt and calling it your &quot;special carousel.&quot; The workers have told you multiple times that you can't ride it, but you continue to do it every Thursday at 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Taurus</td>
<td>Apr. 20 – May 20</td>
<td>Please stop sending passive aggressive messages to your class GroupMe. I am assuming you that absolutely no one is going to answer you. Go take a walk! Pet a dog! Eat some chocolate! I don't care what you do as long as it doesn't involve your definition of appropriate communication with your peers.</td>
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<td>Scorpio</td>
<td>Oct. 23 – Nov. 21</td>
<td>We know what you did...</td>
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<td>Gemini</td>
<td>May 21 – Jun. 20</td>
<td>Halloween is OVER. Move on and STOP scaring your roommate. Their heart rate is higher than it should be as it is.</td>
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<td>Sagittarius</td>
<td>Nov. 22 – Dec. 21</td>
<td>It's almost your season Sagittarius, make the most of the weeks leading up to your birthday by preparing for a holiday themed 5k; or do something fun! Like make five to seven pumpkin pies from scratch in your dorm and beg people to take them because you physically cannot eat any more pumpkin pie. Your choice!</td>
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The Montclarion Crossword Puzzle and More!

Election Day Edition

By Jenna Sundel

Across
3. This candidate ran against Kathy Hochul for governor of New York.
5. He is the president pro tempore of the Senate from Iowa.
6. This New York representative’s nickname is AOC.
7. She has represented New Jersey’s 11th district since 2019.
8. This doctor known for his talk show ran for Senate in Pennsylvania.

Down
1. This former football player ran for Senate in Georgia.
2. She is the speaker of the House from California.
4. He is the Senate majority leader from New York.

Word Search

Election
Midterm
Governor
Senator
Representative
Vote
Ballot
Polls
Sheriff
Education
Economy
Democracy

Sudoku

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Before you start to freak out, no, you didn’t miss any debates between President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump where they interrupt each other 30 times each. That’s a different election, and thankfully, not happening for another two years.

For those of you who just gave a sigh of relief, this election that just passed was the midterm election on Nov. 8. The midterm elections are not as thrilling as the presidential elections but they still serve a great deal of purpose and importance.

For starters, midterm elections are called such because they happen in the middle of a president’s four-year term. So what exactly does this mean for Americans? Gary Nordlinger, a professor of politics at George Washington University, states, “whoever controls the House or the Senate controls the agenda.”

The House of Representatives and the Senate, referring to Congress’s two chambers, are vital to law-making. The House of Representatives is made up of 435 voting representatives from different districts, rather than states as a whole, and are elected every two years.

The White House defines the House as having “several powers assigned exclusively to it, including the power to initiate revenue bills, impeach federal officials and elect the President in the case of an Electoral College tie.”

If it helps to get a perspective on who people are voting for during the midterms, some notable representatives are the Democrat Rep. for New York’s 14th Congressional District, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and Republican Rep. of Georgia’s 14th Congressional District, Marjorie Taylor Greene.

The upper level of Congress, the Senate, is comprised of 100 senators, two for each state, who serve six-year terms each. The Senate details its responsibilities as “[taking] action on bills, resolutions, amendments, motions, nominations and treaties by voting. Senators vote in a variety of ways, including roll call votes, voice votes and unanimous consent.”

New Jersey’s two current senators are Democrats Bob Menendez and Cory Booker.

Now that we have established what exactly the midterm election is and what positions we voted on, let’s get into what this means for New Jersey.

It’s important that we as young adults who recently got the right to vote utilize our freedom and make a change with our ballot, no matter what side we’re on.

According to the United States Census Bureau, over 60% of registered voters participated in the 2020 Presidential election, the highest voter turnout in 30 years. As for the latest midterm election in 2018, voter turnout was the highest in four decades at 53%.

The Census Bureau further established the increase in young adult voters stating the “voter turnout went from 20 percent in 2014 to 36 percent in 2018, the largest percent-age point increase for any age group — a 79 percent jump.”

Why such a drastic jump? It could allude to many things such as the tense political climate, political commentary pushed on social media and the spark for activism among younger generations.

And where are we now? Young voter turnout was a hot topic pre-election day as we were considered crucial to the success of the Democratic Party.

It is still too early to tell the actual impact that young voters made on Tuesday but the Republican Party was certainly not as successful as expected. What some people may not realize is that the midterm elections hold a lot of power in America and is something that everyone should participate in.

Even though the midterms don’t make as many notable headlines and media coverage, Nordlinger states that it’s important to vote during the midterms because “the overwhelming majority of legislation in the country is passed at the state level, not the federal level.”

While there were no current Senators running in New Jersey, there were 12 different representatives putting up a fight to win their districts. The New Jersey House of Representatives candidates are debating on important topics such as abortion rights, the economy, education and costly living in the state. And other states like Pennsylvania, have similar issues on the ballot statewide.

To those who exercised their right to vote before or on Nov. 8... The Montclarion applauds you. If you did not participate in this election, we encourage you to be ready for the 2024 election and vote. Without your vote, the future of America will not be properly represented and we could all be affected by whoever is elected.

If you care about people’s livelihood as well as your own, register to vote today. You can register to vote online at the Official Site of The State of New Jersey.

What is your top concern as a voter?
By Katie Lawrence, Crystal Durnham & John Bruno

“Just making sure that everything is equal, who you’re voting for is really going to cater to the needs of those that are voting for that person. Make sure everything’s fair among men, women, gender, just that everyone has equal opportunity.”

- Cilez Dacosta
Psychology
Sophomore

“It concerns me that people don’t think that they need to vote when it’s something that’s huge. You can pick someone in charge that will help make things better.”

- Clara Tadrous
Psychology
Freshman

“I guess just everything with the abortion laws that happened, you know, and changes that will happen once voting does come.”

- Jerusa Larancuent
Visual Arts
Sophomore
How often have you heard from a parent that you’re on your phone too much? If you’re like me, you get that comment at least five times a day, or anytime you whip out your phone, never mind that for the previous bunch of hours you were using it for school work. I notice that while I have no problem leaving my phone in a separate room, my mom and dad are never without theirs, so much so that I debate saying that right back to them. It’s time to turn the tables.

According to Leftronic, a tech website, 84% of adults use their phones during work and 75% text and drive. The Denver Post says that the average American spends 11 hours on their phone daily. These statistics may be much higher; after all, how many of you will willingly admit to doing something illegal or seen as negative?

Many of these adults also sleep with their phones and have separation anxiety. I often take extended breaks from my phone, and I’ll simply shut it off, put it in a drawer, and won’t turn it back on for three to four days. Every time I do this, my mom freaks out, wondering how she’ll contact me in an emergency. What happens if I take the car and she can’t call me? I just laugh and enjoy the pressure-free time, where I’m not bound to answer the barrage of texts, calls, and random notifications I experience daily.

I was once at my cousins’ house when WhatsApp, a global texting app, went down. Currently, on a phone fast at the time, I didn’t even realize what was happening. My aunt, in her 40s, was freaking out, almost hyperventilating, unable to reach her friend to ask her a question. When WhatsApp was back up a mere 20 minutes later, she had already forgotten what she wanted to ask, it was so unimportant.

As the generation that grew up with phones, we’ve learned to integrate them into our lives better. Gen Z “know[s] how to fact-check everything they need,” says Forbes. As a generation that thrives off of incomprehensible, absurd memes, we’ve had to fine-tune our lie odometers, something we’ve managed to do much more successfully than adults.

Gen X, Boomers and, to some extent, Millennials all grew up finding information in print. Books and newspapers were the information disseminators of the day. These mediums didn’t allow for just anyone to write something; they often had to be fact-checked and or edited, ensuring the integrity of the reports. However, now with the advent of social media, everyone has a platform, making it much easier to create and spread misinformation and disinformation. Pew Research Center reports that about one-third of Americans get their news from Facebook, while over 50% of Twitter users regularly get their news on the platform. The nature of social media creates an echo-chamber, one that adults are not used to accounting for when getting their news. This means they still take the news at face value.

I don’t deny that I hear about world events from social media. I love Tumblr, for the zaniness and inane “news and facts” I get there. But before I tout this new information as truth, I take the time to research and see what the real world has to say about it. Otherwise, these tidbits get stored in my head as something that may be true but is just as likely to be wrong or a joke.

It’s time for adults to look in the mirror. Gen Z may use our phones often, but not any more so than adults spend on theirs. And while screen time may be up globally, Gen Z knows how to self-correct, so that our intake does not lead to the disastrous results that adult over-usage does.

Aliza Rhein, a freshman sociology major, is in her first year as a staff writer for The Montclarion.
I was in class with a professor who said their class was difficult because we had to do something school had ripped out of us. We had to have an opinion.

I understand what they were trying to get at, that we should think critically about how we come across and articulate our ideas by wrapping up our thoughts into a sound argument. It was this particular skill, they said, that seemed so simple yet quite difficult to cultivate.

I kind of disagree with that statement, but not the entirety of it.

Social media platforms are filled to the brim with people’s opinions and voicing one’s thoughts is certainly not the problem. It’s the actual ownership and possession of the opinions that we seem to lack a lot of the time. Anonymous accounts are what create this issue in the first place.

I am not attempting to reprimand our usage of social media nor insinuate that we lack the confidence to ever own up to our ideas. Instead, I think we get to encounter a lot more ideas than the generations before us.

We have a lot more things to process because it comes at us fast, in large quantities and in a variety of flavors. You could argue that coming up with an original idea has gotten harder because we encounter so much content all the time. It all mushes into each other and people then begin to mirror other people’s work.

Is it suggested then, that most of our ideas have already been thought of? Is it worth trying to have an “original thought” for the sake of appearing like an individual to claim the title of “self-thinker?”

Perhaps a more substantial question lies here. Does it even matter if we come up with an original thought? Critical thinking is not necessarily sionately defending something that has been proven true, but rather making an idea make sense to you.

Whether we are coming to the same conclusions about the world as the people before us is debatable. If that is an inherently negative thing, as it is usually framed, is even more questionable.

Spending even a handful of minutes on social media will expose you to various topics that may reappear on your feed. How much we pay attention to an issue relies on how much time we spend interacting with it.

As a result, I believe technology has enabled us to express our views a lot easier as it offers multiple virtual spaces for us to interconnect with others. However, scrolling through endless online discussions can drain us and hamper our ability to think about what it is we are reading about.

The notion of “lacking ownership” of our ideas online versus real life is something I have seen in either case.

What differentiates people who can “own” their ideas in real life versus those who burrow under their phones? Well, where an individual sees themselves and how they view their role in the world is significant in the relationship between their online and real life behavior. How we navigate the real world versus the online one and how those contrasting etiquettes affect one another might become more clear with time and age.

For the most part, we can converse in civil ways and bring forth different arguments that make for an overall animated discussion. From the classroom to the cafeteria, I would say I observe this pretty often.

There will always be people who make charged comments or intentionally spur emotions. But I believe that because we encounter this often on social media, our generation does a pretty good job of maneuvering about it in the real world.

If you ask me, I think that makes us pretty savvy.

Sofia Acevedo Valencia | The Montclarion

Cassandra Michalakis, a sophomore biochemistry major, is in her first year as a guest writer for The Montclarion.

Classifieds

Seeking a babysitter for an 8 year-old in Little Falls, walking distance from MSU. We would like someone to be with him when he has half-days or days off from school, as well as occasional weekend/date nights. We are looking for someone to play/interact with him (no screens) and manage playdates. If you are interested and available, please contact me at babysitting@talaga.name.
"The Information Was Yours in the First Place"
by Gabrielle Miller | Contributor

"Can you believe she said that?" Shelly's voice was too loud. "I swear, I'm going--"

Mr. Lafayette and his assistant, Shelly, were leaving an interview. Mr. Lafayette didn't do them often. The interviewer had grilled him and pushed his back against the wall. It was said to be a very damning interview.

"Stop it, Shelly," said Mr. Lafayette. He looked at the driver who wasn't paying any attention. "You never know who is listening."

Shelly went quiet, still seething. Mr. Lafayette felt her anger radiating off her but was able to keep himself appearing calm. It was only when they were inside his office that Mr. Lafayette loosed his tie and unleashed his anger.

"She doesn't understand who she's dealing with! How dare she!" he thundered. He turned to Shelly: "Put a PI on her. Get someone to go through her trash."

"You didn't trust that driver?" she asked.

"Are you listening? Just do as I ask! Find something I can use on her."

Finally, Shelly left. Mr. Lafayette sat at his desk and reached into his lower desk drawer. Hours went by.

"Sir...?" Shelly poked her head in the door. "Are you still here?" Her hand hovered over the light switch.

"Stop! Don't touch that!"

Shelly pulled back her hand. She came into his office holding something but Mr. Lafayette couldn't make out what it was in the dark.

"Why are you sitting here in the dark?" she asked, sitting at the edge of his desk. She leaned in, squinting. "What is that you're drinking?"

"Never mind that, Shelly."

"I thought you didn't like being under the influence, sir. It's the government's way of making sure we're not thinking straight."

"I'm alive. I finally get up, no longer under the spell of your pendulum. You walk off.

Reality is ugly, I don't want it to stain your pristineness. I don't think I want to snap back to reality."

"The Performer"
by Jay Garcia | Contributor

Am I alive?

You walked across the stage with confidence. I watched you perform with every bit of energy in your body being poured out before us. I'm in awe, you have me in the palm of your hand. My eyes are locked onto you. The whole world is blurry, yet you're the only clear thing in front of me.

You take a bow after the show. I'm hypnotized.

I can't even applaud, I'm still under your spell. I don't think I want to snap back to reality. Reality is ugly, I don't want it to stain your pristineness.

You walk off.

I finally get up, no longer under the spell of your pendulum.

I'm alive.

Where do you want to run off to?"

"Nowhere, sir," whispered Shelly. "You're just hurting me."

Mr. Lafayette looked down at their hands. He let go. Almost instantly, Shelly stood up. She ran out of the room quickly. Mr. Lafayette only gaped at the door. Shelley was in the other room, hovering over her laptop.

Despite Mr. Lafayette's previous directions not to, Shelley searched his name. She looked through the articles with dismay. Then, she ripped the sticker covering her laptop's website clean off.

Suddenly, Mr. Lafayette came bursting out of his office.

"Shelley! Turn that thing off!"

"Sir, I only...Ah!"

Mr. Lafayette grabbed Shelley's laptop and threw it to the ground. He smashed his foot down on it. "And what have I told you about the internet?!"

"Sir, I think you should," Shelley paused, sucking in a nervous breath, "I think you need to lie down."

"Are you leaving me, Shelley?"

"No! No, sir.

Because if you're planning to," said Mr. Lafayette, "I would have to end your life. No one can know what you know."

"What? Wh-..." she trailed off. "Why would you need to do that?"

"I just told you!" Mr. Lafayette took both her hands into his. "Now, you're not leaving me, are you?"

Shelley moved her gaze to the laptop. It wasn't broken. The camera wasn't covered anymore. Her fingers itched, twitching slightly to reach for it.

"Of course, I'll stay with you, sir."

"The Performer"
“The Best Version of Me”  
by Anexis Matos / Contributor

I buried you.
Destroyed you.
Why are you here?
Quiet.
Weak.
Unsafe.
Why are you here?
I'm back to being you, the version of me I never wanted to be.
Quiet.
Weak.
Unsafe.
but here I am.
Here you are.
You hold my hand.
Your is soft.
You are a child.
Your smile is warm.
You offer me kindness when I don't deserve it.
I've abandoned you.
Pushed you away.
Buried you.
Destroyed you.
I made sure
You stayed in my past.
You were weak.
I needed to be strong.
Your voice is soft when you ask me what's wrong.
You touch my shoulder and kneel beside me.
I tell you I'm lost and have nowhere to go.
I've been lost for some time now, letting others guide me to the destination they wanted.
That I wanted at some point.
I realized too late how easy it was to get rid of me.
The same way I got rid of you.
You extend your hand.
I hesitate, staring up at you. Why offer your hand when I abandoned you?
I take it and you help me stand.
I was wrong.
You're not weak.
You just may be the best version of me.

“The Closest She Would Get”  
by Erica McDonald / Staff Writer

Slowly, she slips her sweatshirt back on over her head and pulls her sweatpants up her legs. She walks over to the bed and gently lays down, careful as to not disturb him. She takes all of him in this moment. She studies his serenity. The way his chest expands and collapses with each soft breath he takes, and the quiet snores that leave his slightly parted lips. The way the light from the television reflects off the softness of his face. The way his eyebrows occasionally twitch, causing her to wonder what he dreams of. Moments like these are everything to her. Taking him in during the calmest part of their day allows her to remember everything he means to her. They allow her to just see him as he is, to see him at his most vulnerable. He often put up such a tough front, she rarely got to see this. He tries so hard to maintain his masculinity, to be strong for the rest of the world. His walls almost never fall. This was the closest she would get.

“Concept Hippie”  
by Alex Pavljuk / Fiction Editor

April of 1967, New York City

It was an early Saturday morning and a 19-year-old kid sat on a bench dazed out of his mind. His eyes rolled back, and his mouth was agape. On his shirt, a name tag that read “Julien.”

Despite having just gotten off of the night shift, he had already bought and dropped the acid-dipped cigarette he purchased from his favorite dealer. The same dealer who just so happened to supply a plethora of hippies, junkies, dreamers and hopeless lovers from as far as the eye could see down Broadway.

Despite this dealer’s less-than-subtle fixture within the fabric of the community, for some strange reason, the fuzz just couldn’t seem to find him. Crazy considering all of the psychedelics flowed right out the back of his brightly painted orange 1966 Volkswagen bus with a driver high on his own supply most of the time.

Regardless, Julien was a bright kid; he was an aspiring poet with a very promising drug problem. His hair was shaggy. Nothing crazy, just unkempt and curly. He wore a light brown button-up shirt that was unbuttoned halfway exposing his chest with one sleeve rolled up.

In the distance, a strange man waved and skipped amongst the crowd toward him.

“Jules!” the man shouted as he made his way toward Julien who was already too far gone to respond with any bit of common sense.

“Stay at bay.” Julien said with haste, the man sat down next to Julien and shushed him.

“Jules, Jules, it’s alright my friend. Johnny? Huh, remember me? I live two doors down from you, we had drinks the other night,” Julien looked at the man with the utmost confusion and fear. To Julien’s wondering eyes it was a fearful sight. Johnny’s face, which melted at that moment, left only his disembodied skull to continue the conversation.

“It’s okay Jules, if I was as messed up as you are right now, I would be going bananas,” he said before chuckling and then looking around. “But listen, someone came by the apartments looking for you. It’s probably nothing. I just thought I should let you know.” Johnny looked around again and then stood up, “I’ll catch you later Jules, too many eyes.”

As Johnny walked from the bench Julien reached out to stop him and tumbled forward onto his stomach. Johnny was gone, and the drugs were setting in.

****

It was around 12 noon and Julien was stumbling around Washington Square Park like a crazed hooligan with a bum leg. His head was spinning and his mind was racing. The cars that had been passing by behind the archway which sat on the edge of the park began to fly and the people walking through the park all began to yell and twitch wildly.

“Get away from me!” Julien yelled as he began jumping up and down while tip-toeing simultaneously trying to avoid the people.

Johnny rushed by, what seemed like, hoards of profoundly calm people and ran into traffic.

To Julien, the cars floated up and over him despite the competing reality in which he was seconds away from death. He rushed down the street bumping into people while mumbling inaudible phrases.

He stumbled through the streets avoiding the light of the sun like a vampire fearing it may melt him like Johnny’s face.

He jumped under awnings and dodged and weaved through allies. Julien stopped himself short as he was halfway through the cavernous cove deep in the heart of this concrete jungle. After a moment he heard something scratching at the manhole cover behind him. He turned with fear dripping down his face. Then, from the depths of darkness, Julien watched as a giant misshapen and undead rat popped open the cover of a manhole and crawled out toward him. He looked around frantically for some way to escape this hauntingly foul beast.

Down the alley a ways was a rusty beach bicycle. Julien ran to it and hopped on, he peddled down and skidded out onto the sidewalk. The rat, in his mind, still followed him. Julien looked at the manhole cover with the utmost confusion and fear. To Julien’s wondering eyes it was a fearful sight. Johnny’s face, which melted at that moment, left only his disembodied skull to continue the conversation.

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He rose to his feet. Slowly he ascended upstairs while tripping on nearly every incline and flinched at every sound.

When he finally managed to arrive at and open the door, he collapsed inside. He fumbled and wormed himself all the way to the tattered bed.

It was 2:00 in the afternoon, and it took him only two hours to get home after he dropped it. It was a new personal best.
“Childhood Wonder” - Alex Pavljuk

“Octopus' Garden Episode Seven” - Sophia Caparros

“Cover Redesign” - Haddie Lyons

“Childhood Wonder” - Alex Pavljuk
The Native African Student Organization (NASO) formed an unforgettable night in honor of their 21st annual Sankofa celebration at Montclair State University on Nov. 5, the theme being "A Traditional Wedding.

The current executive board of NASO played bridesmaids with their dates as a means to mirror a traditional African wedding. Sankofa is a significant symbol of a principle derived from the Akan people of Ghana, which means to learn one’s roots and heritage in order to progress in the future and know your present self.

The sold out event began with the hosts, Na’Dree Stewart, a senior anthropology major and the president of Daughta Speaks, alongside Tommiana, also known as Tommiana, a junior fashion studies major and vice president of the Black Student Union and currently Mr. NASO, being carried down the aisle. The groom, Francis Oppong, the president of NASO and a senior business international major, introduced by the hosts, walked down the aisle with the groomsmen, which led to Oppong dancing in the center of them.

Oppong explained Africa is more than just what others might perceive and hopes that this event enlightened people on the beauty of Sankofa and Africa.

"Africa is always seen as the bottom of the chain," Oppong said. “But I hope people see, from our food to our music, our custom made attire, the movement of how we dance, that what we do is beautiful and important. We are more than what people say. Everything that our culture brings is different – in a good way."

He continued to explain his purpose in further connecting Montclair State to African culture.

“I really hope Montclair sees this and sees what our organization is about.” Oppong said. “Not just African culture but other cultures as well. To me, we are all one. We want to help push Montclair State further so people can recognize the diverse cultures at Montclair State.”

Fake $100 bills were thrown at the bridesmaids, bride and groom, also known as “money spraying,” which derived from the Yoruba people in Southwest Nigeria, symbolizing good fortune, happiness and a demonstration of people’s affection.

The hosts introduced each member of the executive board as they danced down the aisle as bridesmaids with their dates, all while the crowd cheered them on.

Before the bride made their entrance, sophomore public health major Jasmin Owusu-Ansah, a dancer of NASO’s dance troupe, then performed an Adowa dance, a notable traditional dance that allows a dancer to express their emotions through their hands and feet.

The crowd then stood up as the bridesmaids led the bride, Mary Olatunji, a first year public health graduate student and former member of NASO’s executive board, covered in a purple veil and a custom made dress, down the aisle to be revealed as the groom uncovered her from her veil and they danced together.
The founder of NASO, Kwaku Amo, then shared a few words about how grateful he is for how NASO expanded into something great, and encourages them to keep spreading the significance of African culture.

"Wow," Amo said. "21 years ago I started NASO, the Native African Student Organization, and I never knew it was [going to] be like this. Tonight, if you came to learn about African culture, you did. This is African culture. In everything you want to do, once you put your mind to it, you can do it. Tonight, you did bring it up. And I’m so proud of you."

Afterward, emerging African artists performed their current and upcoming singles.

Center stage, the bride and groom then shared their first dance together, followed by dance performances from NASO’s dance troupe.

The night came to a close with an afterparty and people eating food from different African cultures.

Stewart, not being from Africa himself, still felt he has been greatly impacted throughout the night. The host explained that the crowd’s energy was contagious and loved that he was able to keep the energy while being informed of African culture in an intriguing way.

“I feel like this event turned out so well, and everybody was so affectionate and amusing,” Stewart said. “I feel like everybody needs to learn, appreciate and respect Africa. I feel like others were able to embrace their African culture, and this event was great at giving people a safe space to have a good time.”

Tommiana was happy to see people of different backgrounds come together to honor and assimilate the nuance of African culture.

“Being African is very important to me, and I’m sure it’s important to my peers as well,” Robert said. “Seeing all of our peers, even those who aren’t African, all come together to celebrate our traditions makes me really happy. I hope people’s perspective of Africa is broadened because we’re one, we’re a unit and we stand strong together. Even if you’re not African, we all need to work together to create peace and harmony.”

Sankofa was fulfilled that night and captivated African heritage to keep its significance alive, for future members of NASO and upcoming generations to learn and look back on.

NASO holds their meetings every other Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. and encourages all to attend.
Student Artist Profile: Jack Powers

Claudia Martillo
Staff Writer

After first hearing Jack Powers perform at the Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies Zine event last May and getting an exclusive first listen at his new EP, “Jack Flowers and The Petal Tones,” which was released on Oct. 20, I was eager to learn more about his experience as a musician.

Powers is a senior music education major at Montclair State. Powers envisions their future as a music teacher and believes their experience as a musician will help them with students.

“Music is a way to create an original sound by taking inspiration from others, according to Powers. “What I love most about songwriting is that it’s an opportunity for me to take my influences and put them together in a way that doesn’t exist right now.” Powers said.

Powers also emphasized that songwriting is a form of self-expression. They’ve come to realize songwriting is that it’s an opportunity for me to take my influences and put them together in a way that doesn’t exist right now.” Powers said.

“My future plans are to keep writing, keep recording and keep playing live,” Powers said. “I also love teaching. There’s so much value in teaching your students about songwriting and how to be in a band.”

As a music teacher, they aim to focus on production, creativity, songwriting and popular styles of music.

Ryu first met Powers in their freshman seminar class and saw them play in different recitals and performances. Ryu was asked to join the band at the end of February 2022 and has loved being in the band since.

“I feel extremely lucky to be a part of this because [Powers] is not only easy to work with but easy to work off of as well,” Ryu said. “I’m surrounded by four other super talented creatives, and words can’t describe just how inspiring it is.”

Powers talked of how they love to create and perform. “There’s something to be said about when you’re performing and the whole room is there just listening and they’re in it,” Powers said. “You’ve created this energy that everybody is in.”

A lot of their inspiration comes from bands like The 1975, The Strokes, Green Day and Her’s. Nuzzetti met Powers through their major and they quickly became friends. Nuzzetti describes their music style as a mix of a variety.

“All these genres require very different roles and responsibilities as performers and [Powers] is always aware of what that role is or actively making strides to understand that role,” Nuzzetti said. “They are able to adapt quickly, and they think incredibly critically about all of their musical roles and decisions.”

Music is a way to create an original sound by taking inspiration from others, according to Powers. “What I love most about songwriting is that it’s an opportunity for me to take my influences and put them together in a way that doesn’t exist right now,” Powers said.

Powers also emphasized that songwriting is a form of self-expression. They’ve come to realize songwriting is a form of self-expression. They’ve come to realize songwriting has a deeper meaning for them. “It gives me a really awesome reflection of how I feel about things where I don’t really know what the song is about until months later,” Powers said. “It’s kind of like a journal in a way.”

Ultimately, Powers envisions their future as a music teacher and believes their experience as a musician will help them with students.

“My future plans are to keep writing music, keep recording and keep playing live,” Powers said. “I also love teaching. There’s so much value in teaching your students about songwriting and how to be in a band.”

As a music teacher, they aim to focus on production, creativity, songwriting and popular styles of music.


Stay up to date with the band @thepetaltones and @jackpowers.mp4 on Instagram.
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‘Furia’ Has Regional Debut at Alexander Kasser Theatre

Stephanie Arias
Guest Writer

“Furia” made its regional debut at Montclair State University’s Alexander Kasser Theatre on Nov. 3.

Lia Rodrigues, artistic director and choreographer, opened the night by encouraging everyone to move to the center of the theater. As the lights went down, there was a moment of silence in the dark. With musical excerpts of “traditional songs and dances of Kanak, New Caledonia,” according to the PEAK performance program, playing in the background before increasing in volume, the performance commenced.

Several images popped into my head throughout the performance, as if someone were holding a sign with specific words on it and walking amongst the dancers. I saw agony when two dancers, who were visibly close to each other, were separated with one being dragged away while struggling. I saw anguish when they all huddled together, looking up at the center of the theater. As the lights went down, there was a moment of silence in the dark. With musical excerpts of “traditional songs and dances of Kanak, New Caledonia,” according to the PEAK performance program, playing in the background before increasing in volume, the performance commenced.

Some moments stood out as high lights, where one dancer would climb on top of another, stacking themselves upon one another, with musical excerpts. “Furia” is immersed in an unequal country, where indigenous peoples continue to be massacred, where education and the arts suffer from censorship and a total lack of resources. Perhaps with our insistence on continuing to create, we are a small firefly light.

Jenny Asuzano, a sophomore film and television major, said they didn’t know what to expect from the performance. Although they did not know much about dance, they wanted to learn more. “It was absolutely, positively not what I expected,” Asuzano said. “I was surprised with how bold the choreographer was, and it really was put together beautifully. Definitely left the theater confused, but it still was absolutely an interesting experience.”

Senior film and television major Sofia Ambrosio, who attended with professor Christopher Parker as part of the creative thinking class, explained her perspective. Ambrosio noted some audience members left feeling very “skeptical.”

“I think their performance was an experience full of emotions - that is every kind of emotion,” Ambrosio said. “The performers’ facial expressions and body movements worked together to create an experience for us. I would say a word to describe this show is primal.”

Parker also shared their thoughts on the performance.

“The dance metaphor was quite an expression of our world now and in the past,” Parker said. “All of these works together in ‘Furia’. But I enjoyed it and it fits in as a different kind of music.”

Rodrigues explained the intended meaning behind the show.

“[The performance was] much more about establishing relationships, contact, emotions, without necessarily knowing how to name them,” Rodrigues said. “‘Furia’ is immersed in Brazil, this extremely racist and unequal country, where indigenous peoples continue to be massacred, where education and the arts suffer from censorship and a total lack of resources. Perhaps with our insistence on continuing to create, we are a small firefly light.”

Editor’s Choice

“Scaled and Icy” on Spotify

Under the radar to most people, The Score is a rock band from Los Angeles, California. Duo Eddie Anthony Ramirez and Edan Dover's third and latest full length album, “Metamorph,” is heavy and full of emotion as it goes deep into mental health issues. The keyboard and percussion, blended with Tyler Joseph’s vocals and rapping, create a mysterious, heavy feeling. It takes listeners back to past albums and into future ones as well.

The starting track, “Victorious,” leads off strong with an energetic flow that gets your blood pumping just from listening to it. The rest of the album is a winner as well. Whatever the band comes out with next, it will be sure to build off the success.

“Good Day,” even with its upbeat beat vibes. The album starts off with “Good Day,” a peppy and bouncy tune that lifts the listeners’ spirits. “Saturday,” a lead single off the album, is another example. With Changes that make you want to dance, it’s fair to say Twenty One Pilots showed they are capable of more than their typical content.

But just because the album has some optimistic songs doesn’t mean it’s without meaning. There are a few tracks that are more serious and similar to songs on older albums, and it creates an interesting contrast. “Good Day” even with its upbeat tune, still talks about some pretty serious topics. “Redecorate,” the closing song of the album, is heavy and full of emotion as it goes deep into mental health issues. The keyboard and percussion, blended with Tyler Joseph’s vocals and rapping, create a mysterious, heavy feeling. It takes listeners back to past albums and into future ones as well. Whatever the band comes out with next, it will be sure to build off the success.

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PHOTO ESSAY: Men’s Soccer Held Scoreless in Heartbreaking Loss to Rowan

Wyatt Lardieri  
Staff Writer

The 2022 NJAC tournament final ended in disappointment yet again for Montclair State University. After getting upset by Rowan University last year in the semifinals the Red Hawks looked to redeem themselves and claim the title. This year’s matchup with Rowan was on an even bigger stage as the tournament trophy and an automatic bid in the NCAA championship were on the line.

The Red Hawks fell short. Montclair State, the clear favorite, fell to Rowan 3-0 and watched as the Profs raised the trophy. Led by freshman midfielder Davide Caputo’s hat trick and a rock-solid defense, the Profs won their sixth NJAC championship. All three of Caputo’s goals would come in the second half. The first coming in the 78th minute, Caputo’s goal ignited the Rowan team and forced Montclair State to push higher up the field. Caputo’s second would come 10 minutes later in the 88th minute. The second goal visibly frustrated the Montclair State team and it was clear the Red Hawks felt defeated. Just one minute later, Caputo would finish his third goal and complete the hat trick.

The game was fast and physical, as both teams started the game flying. The game featured a total of eight yellow cards, four issued to each team. Montclair State could still receive a bid into the NCAA tournament, however, they would have to do so through the selection process.
Two goals from Rowan University in the first half was just enough to get past the Montclair State University women’s soccer team in a wild New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) championship.

Two goals from Rowan University in the first half was just enough to get past the Montclair State University women’s soccer team in a wild New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) championship.

With the win, the Profs automatically qualify for the NCAA tournament while the Red Hawks must wait until the NCAA Selection Show, which is on Monday at 2 p.m., to see if they receive an at-large bid.

The NJAC championship featured two very different halves. For the majority of the first half, the game was being played on Rowan’s terms. They controlled much of the possession and Montclair State struggled to move up the field.

In the 29th minute, sophomore midfielder Sarah Bergan for Rowan put in a great ball off of a corner toward the back post to sophomore defender Emma DeMaise, who headed it back across goal to senior forward Nina Carlson who finished it.

On another corner just 10 minutes later, the Profs doubled their lead as Bergan found DeMaise for a header into the back of the net.

In the second half, the Red Hawks very much flipped the script and started to dictate the pace of play, especially later in the game.

It wasn’t until the 78th minute that Montclair State would score and it was by junior midfielder Aileen Cahill after receiving a pass, turning and firing a rocket past the keeper to cut the lead to one.

The Red Hawks kept the pressure on and created a couple more opportunities but, in the end, it was too little and too late.

Cahill scored late in the game but it wasn’t enough to beat the Profs.
Senior defensive lineman Dimitri Pali has accumulated a lot of conference accolades with the Red Hawks.

Red Hawk Sports Network Puts on Biggest Production to Date During Homecoming

A lot of people were involved in putting together this first-of-a-kind production at Montclair State. Photo courtesy of Stefania Bostnick

Jason Naccarella ran the show in the control room alongside help from professors Vernard Gantt and Stuart MacLelland. Photo courtesy of Thomas Gaffney

Ryan White Assistant Sports Editor

The Red Hawk Sports Network (RHSN) keeps on leveling up.

For the second straight year, RHSN held a live show during the homecoming football game at Sprague Field, and this year the team made it even better. This time around the team partnered with Broadcast Media Operations (BMO) and by doing so, it gave RHSN more confidence and all of the help they needed. Junior RHSN intern and co-host of the live show Matt Bruchez thought BMO helped make things more comfortable for them.

“Pairing up with BMO pretty much knocked out any possible scenario where we felt like there was going to be a problem,” Bruchez said. “Having so much manpower and having access to that control room, made us all feel really comfortable with the way things were going to go.”

For the live production, plenty of new equipment was used, like game monitors and a cough button added to the booth, wireless cameras used for sideline reports and action right on the field, a jib used for more creative shots and the use of the control room to live switch shots and play pre-recorded packages.

Being able to host a show has wanted to do for as long as he can remember and he’ll never forget about his first chance.

“It felt so surreal,” Bruchez said. “We’ve had live broadcasts but, since that was the first live on-camera show, the adrenaline and rush that you get on live television is one like no other.

Last year I was able to do sideline reporting live and so that was a little taste of it because it was a lot shorter than, obviously, this show was so I really enjoyed it and it was one that I’ll never forget.”

Also making her live show hosting debut was sophomore RHSN intern Gianna Daginis. The duo was responsible for the pre-game show, which started an hour before kickoff, half-time and post-game.

The idea of hosting such a massive show scared Daginis at first but the preparation is what helped get her through it.

“It was very scary at first,” Daginis said. “The idea of hosting scared me a lot because I knew how big of a deal this show was and I thought ‘What am I doing here?’ But, working so closely with [Bruchez] to write our script and the three of us, Jason [Naccarella], [Bruchez] and I sitting at the table writing, the rehearsals that we did. We were nailing the time stamps almost exactly when [Bruchez] and I were doing a run through like two days before, the day before. And then being on that stage, it wasn’t scary anymore.”

The show also included two sideline reporters, junior broadcast intern Brandon Marrazzo and senior broadcast intern Cathryn Pace. They were responsible for finding stories on the fly along with conducting live on-camera interviews with whoever they could.

RHSN aims to make their environment just like a professional setting and senior production intern and producer of Inside the Nest Nacarella believes it gave them real experience.

“It was produced and set up so professionally,” Nacarella said. “It gave all of us such a great look at what the professional environment of something of this caliber is really like. And I was just so grateful to have the experience.”

Nacarella was the main director for the live show and he was responsible for overlooking everything that was going on along with making sure everyone was doing their job efficiently.

Communication among everybody and every group involved was the key according to professor Stacy Gitlin.

“The great thing about what we did was that everybody was talking to each other,” Gitlin said. “Everybody was working together towards the same goal and everybody understood that we were all in it together. And that is overall, the best thing about it.”

Ever since its inception in the fall of 2019, RHSN has continued to expand and improve. With the way things are going now, the organization is well on its way to becoming one of the premier sports media spots for Division III in the country. And more of these live productions will definitely be in the works.