Montclair State University students are not happy with the “Wednesday is a Thursday Class Schedule.”

Montclair State University students were annoyed with the change of schedule that required everyone to attend Thursday classes on Wednesday.

According to an email sent by the university, the extra day in the calendar allows students and professors to make up for the courses missed on the Presidential Investiture day. Alejandra Leal, a freshman marine biology and coastal sciences major, said the schedule modification affected her work schedule.

“Wednesdays are usually the day that I work [during the] the week so my hours got cut down this week for my next payroll which I need for [you know] tuition and stuff like that,” Leal said. “That's probably the biggest effect that the [change] had.”

Tatiana Jimenez, a freshman biology major, feels her week is impacted by the change.

“It low-key messed up my week because my Wednesday classes are my short classes and my Thursdays are my longest day,” Jimenez said. “And today so far two of my classes which end later have been canceled, so I'm trying to figure out the right situation.”

Liora Steinberg, a graduate student majoring in clinical psychology, said the university should not have changed the schedule.

“I think there could have been a lot of other things done instead without changing the schedule,” Steinberg said. “It could have been done like a half-day investiture or at a time where people don't usually have class, could've been done on a Friday where a lot of people don't usually take classes.”

Steinberg further explained that other solutions should have been considered.

“I feel like it was pointless for them to do that,” Jimenez said.

Matthew Gorring, an earth and environmental studies associate professor, said he did not have any issues with the change, but it was an inconvenience for many students.

“My perspective on [the change] was that a lot of students had jobs and stuff so they weren't going to utilize that time anyway,” Gorring said. “They were like 'well I just can't come' so I told them we were just going to use it as open lab time and if students want to come that's optional.'
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The Montclarion has a commitment to accuracy and clarity and will print corrections or clarifications if information is found to be incorrect.

To report an error of fact or a Letter to the Editor, email the Editor-in-Chief at montclarionchief@gmail.com.

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We do not print articles from anonymous contributors.

The first issue of The Montclarion, then named The Pelican, was published on November 28, 1928.
Montclair State Changes Fall 2023 Academic Calendar

Montclair State University’s office of the provost informed faculty and staff that the Fall 2023 academic term would begin earlier compared to recent years.

An e-mail from Junius Gonzales, the university provost, said the semester will begin on Aug. 28 and end on Dec. 18. The University will be closed on Sept. 4 for Labor Day, Nov. 7 for Election Day and from Wednesday, Nov. 22 to Friday, Nov. 24 for Thanksgiving break.

The modification is said to be an effort to offer optimal instruction and meet the needs of the growing student population and it will provide a greater alignment for the university’s program offerings with the academic calendar, according to the email sent on Wednesday, Nov. 9.

Gonzales also wrote how the calendar adjustment allows Montclair State to “offer more courses on an eight-week schedule that nontraditional students require for continued progress to degree completion and academic success.”

Jaelyn Livsey, a freshman business administration major, spoke about why the lasting days of summer would not make a difference considering the time the semester ends.

“I feel as though it would be beneficial for students because the semester would start at the end of summer,” Livsey said. “So the extra days wouldn’t hurt considering the time the semester ends.

“I feel like it is a good idea to start the fall semester off earlier because we do benefit in the end for the spring semester because we get an earlier start to our winter break, I feel like it’s better that way,” Mejia said.

Cleo Bradshaw, a senior theatre studies major, emphasized how the change would benefit students who live farther from campus or are out of state.

“It think that's great and it makes it super convenient especially because I live two hours away from campus so I have to travel pretty far,” Bradshaw said.

Bradshaw also tied in how some students may have night classes during the time of holiday breaks and the impact that may have on their scheduling.

“I had a night class this year the day before Thanksgiving, so it's super inconvenient when you don't have the time that you need to travel especially for the people who have to travel further to and from campus,” Bradshaw said. “Overall, it should be great for students.”

Shairy Mejia said the adjustment benefits students by having an earlier winter break.

Aileen Diaz Pacheco, said the change’s effects would depend on if the spring semester kept the same schedule it has now.

“I think that's great and it makes it super convenient especially because I live two hours away from campus so I have to travel pretty far,” Bradshaw said.

Shairy Mejia said the adjustment benefits students by having an earlier winter break.

Aileen Diaz Pacheco, said the change’s effects would depend on if the spring semester kept the same schedule it has now.

Jaelyn Livsey, said the timing of the start of the semester would not be a burden on students.
A Peek Into The Future
Administration Addresses Student Media

President Jonathan Koppell met with student media organizations to address some campus issues and concerns.

President Jonathan Koppell and Vice President for Student Development and Campus Life Dawn Soufleris sat down with student media organizations to discuss pressing campus issues.

On Friday, Nov. 18, the two met with The Montclarion, Montclair News Lab, 90.3 WMSC and Red Hawk Sports Network to address students' concerns and discuss some of the many changes they would like to make.

The buzz on campus lately has been about the merger between Montclair State and Bloomfield College. Koppell explained that merging is a part of the university's mission.

“We have a mission to serve the community and to serve students,” Koppell said. “In particular, serve students who are poorly served by many other institutions of higher education.”

Being the only predominately Black institution in New Jersey, Black institution in the state of New Jersey, that's reaching out to students in communities and pockets of communities that many higher education institutions don't try to reach or fail to reach,” Koppell said. “And I see such an institution in danger of collapsing. It seems inconsistent with what we've taken as our mission to simply say 'oh, that's a shame.'"

His first obligation is to his students, staff and faculty here at Montclair State. He made it clear that students' tuition will not be used to keep Bloomfield open. He also said he believes it could solve some issues on campus.

“I think we will be able to do things there that don’t necessarily work here and in fact might even offer part of the answer to the traffic challenge,” Koppell said. “There are certain things that you do there maybe in the evening because it’s got more access to transit and stuff like that.”

Koppell also touched on campus safety and gave his opinion on the recent robbery that occurred at Bohn Hall.

“The goal is to create a safe campus environment,” Koppell said. “We don’t want a gated campus where you have to show your ID to get on, where you have to swipe to get into every room and every facility.”

When it comes to safety, Koppell doesn’t think the campus has much to worry about.

“We were obviously concerned about the incident that happened and are investigating that to see what happened,” Koppell said. “I don’t think that that one incident is an indicator that the campus is unsafe and we have to dramatically change security protocols.”

One of the issues addressed by Soufleris was the work schedule that resident assistants have to follow. Some shifts start at 3 a.m. and last until 6 a.m.

“We're in a bunch of conversations with Residence Life and [University Police] about what's the best method for that 12 a.m. to 6 a.m. time and should it be students there,” Soufleris said. “We're worried about students not sleeping and needing to be on their game in the morning [after working] that overnight shift.”

According to Soufleris, the possibility of getting security guards to take the overnight shift for student assistants is still up in the air.

Another issue brought up by student media was the challenges that students with disabilities face day to day on campus.

These include elevators not working, sinks not being low enough to wash their hands in the bathroom and not being able to get into buildings through the front doors due to the handicapped buttons not functioning.

Koppell shared his thoughts on the situation and some possible solutions.

“Right now we are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act,” Koppell said. “But that’s the lowest bar. I would like to see the bar substantially higher than just compliance with the law.”

Koppell further explained that the university is looking to make changes but not everything is as feasible as they would like.

“We’ve looked at where it’s feasible as they would like. We’ve looked at where it’s very expensive but it is feasible,” Koppell said. “A lot of those things are expensive. A lot are construction related, whether you’re talking about ramps or other modifications. It doesn’t mean we don’t do them but [they] require pretty significant capital planning and capital investments.”

Koppell is aware of elevator issues and according to him, substantial plans are in the works for fixing some of these issues.

Similarly, Soufleris shared some of the solutions that will help improve accommodations for students with disabilities.

“It is [a] very, very high priority for us to make sure all of our students have as much access as possible,” Soufleris said. “We are trying to make sure at larger events there are sign language interpreters. We want to make sure that our websites are accessible to all and have options to change the font and not have too many pictures that can’t be enlarged.”

Many changes will be taking place, but Soufleris explained that they do take some time.

“It is something that is in the front of our minds,” Soufleris said. “It is something very expensive but it is a priority for the institution.”
Resident Students Fear For Their Safety

Robbery incident has students reassessing university safety precautions

Montclair State Residents raise concerns on campus safety.

Yesennia Fernandez
Assistant News Editor

Montclair State University resident students are concerned about their safety on campus after the Bohn Hall robbery that took place on Nov. 11. Many have been wondering if living on campus is the safest choice.

Pieer Zegarra, a senior language, business and culture major, said he is worried about living on campus after the news of the robbery broke out.

"After the incident, I’m definitely going to take more precautions while I stay on campus," Zegarra said. "You never know when a situation like this can happen again at any part of campus."

The school is home to over 5,300 resident students, living in dorms such as Freeman Hall or The Village. Most of the dorms have an RA (resident assistant) who makes sure students are safe by checking residents in at the front desk, so they know who is going in and out of the building. But some students believe this measure is not enough.

"I believe the school should [implement] more safety precautions because I believe that incidents like this can’t be happening at any college and even more when this is a place that students should feel safe while they are away from home," Zegarra said.

For others, the incident did not raise any worries and they believe residence halls are a safe place. This is the case for Wilfredo Bruno, a senior psychology major, who also dorms in The Village.

"To be honest, I still feel safe, I feel like when we report something serious it is handled right away," Bruno said. "It is just our job to say something as soon as possible. The police department is always on the lookout 24/7, they respond to any call during any time of day or night."

Kieran Barrett, the chief of the Montclair State police department, shared his thoughts about students feeling concerned about living on campus following the Bohn Hall incident.

"The safety of our community members is always our highest priority, but there is no reason to feel there is increased risk to anyone’s safety," Barrett said. "I understand that the fear of crime is real when we have certain incidents, so we always urge community members to be aware of situations and to empower themselves."

According to Barrett, the incident does not necessitate any additional safety measures in the residence halls.

Students grew concerned after finding out that the robbers who were involved in the robbery were also individuals enrolled at the institution. Some students, like Zegarra, believe that one of the precautions the school should do is a background check on students for future reference.

"Although sometimes people should not be judged by whatever they did during their past I do agree some type of ‘check’ should be implemented to know more about the thousands of students that go here," Zegarra said.

On the other hand, Bruno said background checks are a little extreme.

"I think that’s excessive and negligent to our student body," Bruno said. "Especially those who may not feel comfortable doing a background check or those students who don’t know that a background check will not affect them in any way."

Barrett shared his thoughts when asked if the school should implement background checks for future reference.

"Conducting background checks for all students would stigmatize certain students, which is not an environment we seek to create," Barrett said. "Instead we work to ensure the safest possible environment for our community members and educate our community as much as possible. The overwhelming majority of our students and community members make positive decisions every day."
The Latin American Student Association (LASO), Mexican American Student Association (MASA) and the Alpha Zeta chapter of Sigma Lambda Beta joined forces to raise funds for victims of Hurricane Fiona in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic in an event called “El Apagon.”

“El Apagon,” or “the blackout” in English, is in reference to a Bad Bunny song that explains the constant struggles Puerto Ricans live as recurring power outages and political corruption disrupt daily life. What makes the song important is that even though it’s hard to go through the day with this turmoil, Puerto Ricans always have a positive mindset.

Breikissy Mancebo, the treasurer of LASO, felt the need to do something to help her native land, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, in the aftermath of the hurricane.

“The idea originated from the whole situation in Puerto Rico and their social-political issues,” Mancebo said. “Then [Hurricane] Fiona happened and I was like ‘let’s do something where we speak on the issues happening in Puerto Rico and also incorporate the Dominican Republic because they were the two Latino islands who were most impacted by it.”

Stephanie De Dios, the president of LASO, sympathized with Mancebo and decided to organize the event.

“After the hurricane happened, [Mancebo] was really distraught,” De Dios said. “Around the same time, Mexico also had a small earthquake. So, I knew we had the same feeling of ‘what can I do for our countries.’ We are a Latin student association and we are representatives of the Latinos on campus and I really wanted to have a voice for those people.”

The event was held in the Student Center Ballrooms at Montclair State University. Hector Lora, the mayor of Passaic, was invited to the event and talked about the importance of Latino communities in Passaic and other New Jersey cities.

“There are almost 70 million Hispanics and Latinos in the country and two million in New Jersey,” Lora said. “We have so many opportunities to impact every aspect of society and complement our brothers and sisters of different communities and rise up together.”

The mayor donated $1,000 for the relief efforts. Every cent donated will go directly to non-profit organizations, Brigada Solidaria del Oeste (Solidarity Brigade of the West in English) in Puerto Rico and Jompeame (Jump Start Me in English) in the Dominican Republic.

“The idea originated from the whole situation in Puerto Rico and their social-political issues,” Mancebo said. “We made a decent amount of funds, even more in the Dominican Republic since the currency alters when you change dollars to pesos.”

Mancebo was satisfied with her work and is proud of the new perception people have about these Caribbean islands.

“[There] were a handful of people here and some of them didn’t know what was going on and they were informed,” Mancebo said. “We made a decent amount of funds, even more in the Dominican Republic since the currency alters when you change dollars to pesos.”

For more information about how you can help and donate to Dominican and Puerto Rican victims of Hurricane Fiona, you can go to the official LASO Instagram page.
LOVE TO DRAW?
Submit your comics/cartoons
to The Montclarion at
MONTCLARIONPRODUCTION@GMAIL.COM

WANT TO BE PART OF SOMETHING GREATER?
The Montclarion
Write for feature! Fashion writer wanted
Contact Montclarionfeature@gmail.com
The Black Student Union (BSU) hosted its annual Harvest Ball: Natural Blessings at Montclair State University on Nov. 20. The event was held in honor of Black culture, and to give students the opportunity to decompress during the stressful time that the end of the semester brings.

The night began with hosts, Na’Dree Stewart, a senior anthropology major and the president of Daughta Speaks, alongside Sofi Nyaanga, a junior psychology major and the president of Ladies First. Stewart and Nyaanga introduced the executive board one by one as they walked down the aisle.

The Black National Anthem was then sung by Kayla Harris, the event coordinator of BSU and a sophomore educational foundations for elementary teachers major. Eyv Matthews, the president of BSU and a sophomore psychology major, then recited a speech explaining how grateful she is to be part of an organization where she can be herself, and explaining how BSU turned from friends to family.

“Starting out at Montclair State last year I felt unfulfilled,” Matthews said. “I was simply going to class, work [and] back to my dorm. But I wanted more than that. I wanted a community I could count on. And I wanted to leave this campus better than I had found it. I wanted to find a network of Black students who I was able to relate to. I’m extremely thankful for the community that I have found.”

Following Matthews’ speech, Fatoumata Amar, BSU’s previous vice president in 2022 and Montclair State alum, recited “Love Letter,” a powerful poem about her “Black King,” also known as her future husband.

The crowd was in complete awe of her future husband through such powerful words. The hosts then spotted different people who would qualify for a best-dressed contest. Whoever received the most applause from the crowd won.

After the best-dressed contest, Jasmine Jackson, BSU’s previous public relations chair and a Montclair State alum, performed her own song, “New Blessing.” She explains this song is “for anyone stepping into their new self-esteem, understanding who they are, and finally figuring out what they’re supposed to be in life.”

As the night came to a close, people ate and listened to a sermon from Reverend Glenmore Bemby, the previous treasurer of BSU of 1978, motivating Black leaders of the future.

“If you have a vision for yourself, and you know that you can do something, you can achieve anything,” Bemby said. “Don’t let anybody tell you that you can’t.”

To honor the night, Tommiana, a junior fashion studies major, gave a toast, giving thanks to the BSU executive board.

“Let them question why you do the things you do, while you do the things you do,” Tommiana said. “Have respect for your family, have respect for your friends, but most importantly have respect for yourself. And on top of that love yourself, because if you don’t do it, no one else will. I would like to give a toast to mastering it, to dreams and to Black success.”

The night ended with people dancing on the stage to Afrobeats, R&B music and a few TikTok sounds. Ike Onyegbule, a junior business administration major and the executive assistant of BSU, said the event exceeded his expectations.

“Don’t let anybody tell you that you can’t.” Onyegbule further explained how Harvest Ball is something that is held for students to “celebrate a great semester, the year, counting your blessings and everything that has been granted to us.”

Harris explained that the meaning behind the name “Harvest Ball” is bringing in the new year and becoming a new version of yourself. She hoped people felt rejuvenated because the end of the semester can be stressful.

“I know [that with] the coming of finals at the end of the semester, people may be feeling run down, but I hope that this event brings people back to life,” Harris said.

To expand on what her fellow e-board members had said, Matthews explained with this event she wanted people to relax as the semester comes to an end, at a time when it feels like you’re moving nonstop. She was happy with what she and her executive board have worked hard on.

“I think it’s important to take time to practice mindfulness and to be thankful for your surroundings and the people who you celebrate with,” Matthews said. “Being part of the e-board, sometimes it’s important to just take a moment and breathe. We also just wanted to bring Black excellence, Black joy, and just being able to enjoy each other’s company and decompres.”

BSU holds its meetings every Tuesday from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. and encourages all to attend.
Students Participate in Annual Dannis B. Eaton Speech Competition

Aidan Ivers | Staff Writer

The Dannis B. Eaton Speech Competition took place on Wednesday, Nov. 16 in Presentation Hall in the School of Communication and Media for the first time since the Fall of 2019. Six Montclair State University students advanced to the finalist level with three of them taking first, second and third place awards along with general awards for advancing as finalists in the competition.

In the past, the competition was a variety of student speeches relating to different topics. This year's speech competition centered around the School of Communication and Media's multi-organization Focus project, which focused on democracy and the high stakes of the 2022 midterm elections.

Dannis B. Eaton, the namesake of the competition, was a professor who taught at Montclair State University for 25 years before passing away in 1992. His honor flows through the competition each year, and Marylou Naumoff, an assistant communication studies professor and coordinator of the Fundamentals of Speech program, spoke about the deeper history of the competition.

"The Dannis B. Eaton Speech Competition has been around since before the School of Communication and Media was even founded," Naumoff said. "It was originally a big event when communication studies was still its own department."

Naumoff also spoke about her experience running the competition and why she believes it is important to hold it every year for Montclair State students.

"When I took over as the coordinator several years ago, I wanted to bring the competition back and open it up to the entire campus because I think speech is such a powerful tool," Naumoff said. "We all have access to it and the ability to use it."

The finalists were given the topic of voting to mix with their own creativity in their speech capabilities. The students' speeches centered around the importance of voting, why civic engagement matters, why democracy matters, why people should or should not vote and an overview of the current overriding two-party political system over smaller parties.

Once the finalists finished their speeches, the judges announced the winners. The top three speakers in first, second and third place won a $300, $200 and $100 prize, respectively. There were also cash prizes for those who did not place in the top three.

Aamani Jenkins, a freshman communication and media studies major and the second-place winner of the competition, shared how participating in the competition was rewarding for her.

"Having most of the finalists in my class, I know how they perform, so it was hard to gauge who would win, but being able to even place feels like a big honor and I know I've grown in my class," Jenkins said.

Jenkins also shared why she was happy to talk about such an important and universal topic relating to those who she cares about the most.

"I felt very passionate about what I spoke about," Jenkins said. "I covered a wide range of topics, each one very much heavily relating to my family, friends and myself. I was very happy and proud of myself to share those messages with tonight's big audience."

Emma Haskell, a freshman communication and media studies major, won the 2022 Dannis B. Eaton Speech Competition.

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Aidan Ivers | The Montclarion

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Aidan Ivers | The Montclarion

It's a really exciting feeling," Haskell said. "I've worked really hard, I memorized my speech, I've been preparing for a while for this so it's a very good feeling."

Haskell continued to talk about why she felt the topic of the speech competition this year was meaningful for the lives of others in the United States and herself.

"I think speaking about voting was really important to me because I voted this year," Haskell said. "Voting in general is important to everybody in our country so I think talking about that tonight helped me get my message out there and show people what it's like to vote and get their voices heard."
Who motivates you to keep going to achieve your purpose?

By Lynise Olivacce
Photo Editor

"I would say my dad. My dad is an immigrant, so he came to this country not knowing any English. He got a bunch of jobs and he didn't even use his degree because it was an architect degree, but he's a software engineer. So he had to completely scrap that, and learn everything new about computer science and IT and stuff like that. That's what mainly keeps me motivated in college especially since I'm also an IT major. So I'm doing the same thing as him."

Marino Victoria
Freshman
Information Technology

"I guess [I motivate] myself. I have a very strict routine that I go through. So if I don't do it, then I kind of fail for the day. When it came to my grades and stuff in high school, I was working two, three jobs at once. So my grades started slipping because I was providing for my house. So doing all of that, my grades started slipping and I was like, 'Do I really need to go to college? Because if I leave who's gonna pick up all the slack [while I'm] gone?' My counselor then told me about the benefits of college. So yeah, I picked it back up. I talked to some of my teachers my junior year and then my grades came back up and here we are."

Dante Pearson
Freshman
Information Technology
“What motivates me is making my parents proud because they provided for me for so long, so I want to be able to return that in the future.”

Laila Wright
Sophomore
Psychology

“I would say my roommate as well because we have similar interests and we’re able to feed off of each other’s ideas, especially when it comes to music.”

Skylar Trott
Sophomore
Recording Arts and Production

“My dad because in his first year of college he basically did really bad. And he struggled financially. But then his second year he completely turned everything around. I didn't really do well in my first year either. But right now as a sophomore, I'm doing really well. So my dad is my inspiration to pursue my purpose in life.”

Charlotte Grossman
Sophomore
English

“Probably my roommate. We’re in the same major, so we’re able to motivate each other to get a lot of work done. I feel like we’re like the same person copied and pasted and we help each other grow as a person. We were friends last year and since then she’s been a really big support system for me.”

Abby Smith
Sophomore
Recording Arts and Production
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| **Capricorn**  
Dec. 22 – Jan. 19  
Hey Capricorn! You're looking a little hungry, Here, have some of my fresh mozzarella cheese that I buy in bulk. Yes, I eat it like an apple as a snack. |
| **Cancer**  
Jun. 21 – Jul. 22  
I have never seen a human being consume as much Fresca as you do. Really. Like where does it all go? Does The Coca-Cola Company own exclusive rights to a bonus bladder where you store all that citrusy goodness? |
| **Aquarius**  
Jan. 20 – Feb. 18  
Did you do your professor's job this week and teach the class a lesson? And then get graded for it? And you aren't even an education major? Did you tell your therapist about it? The stars think you should. |
| **Leo**  
Jul. 23 – Aug. 22  
You finally reach your destination. There's a throne of skulls held together by cheap looking sequins that don't match in color theme at all. This is where you die. |
| **Pisces**  
Feb. 19 – Mar. 20  
This week, take some time to look inward and you will find: HA. DID YOU THINK THIS WAS GOING TO BE A NORMAL HOROSCOPE? Just go buy a clarinet or something idk. |
| **Virgo**  
Aug. 23 – Sep. 22  
Life Hack: Next time your Professor mentions the final exam in class, scream “NIGHTMARE NIGHTMARE NIGHTMARE” at the top of your lungs. I heard 95% of Professors cancel the exam within two hours of hearing this little ditty. |
| **Aries**  
Mar. 21 – Apr. 19  
Would it have killed you to wash a single dish after Thanksgiving dinner? I spent HOURS laboring over this stove and you can't squirt a little Dawn on a plate and scrub for thirty seconds? The stars are begging you to have an ounce of decorum. |
| **Libra**  
Sep. 23 – Oct. 22  
The next couple weeks, take some time to notice which of your neighbors have service animals. Next time there’s a fire drill, see if they were able to get their animal who hides from alarms to get out from under the desk and out the door. If they were, BOW DOWN TO THEM THEY JUST WON THE GREAT WAR. Bonus points if it was a cat in a carrier. |
| **Taurus**  
Apr. 20 – May 20  
Go see Mark Mylod's The Menu & Luca Guadagnino's Bones and All in theaters this week; then let me know how appetizing the Sam's Place meat station looks to you. |
| **Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 – Nov. 21  
Hey Scorpio! How was your Thanksgiving? Look, I swear that no one’s gonna BLAME you for what happened - but I can guarantee they'll never forget either. |
| **Gemini**  
May 21 – Jun. 20  
If you had a dream that your professor sent you out into the forest in the snow and comes out every hour to pour buckets of cold water on you, it might be time to go to the dean. Or to therapy. |
| **Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22 – Dec. 21  
The stars are telling me that your turkey was drier than your DMs and your overall Thanksgiving dinner was unseasoned. Do better, Sagittarius. Garlic powder goes a long way. |
Across
1. Contestants on this show try to match their answers with a panel of celebrities.
3. On this game show, contestants are given an answer and they have to respond in the form of a question.
5. This game show is hosted by Pat Sajak and Vanna White.
6. This game show is currently hosted by Wayne Brady.
7. This game show features fun games like Plinko, Pay the Rent and Rat Race.
8. Contestants on this show can win $1 million if they pick the right numbered case.

Down
2. He hosts “The $100,000 Pyramid.”
4. This game show was rebooted this year with Keke Palmer as the host.

Sudoku

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Word Search

| a x p e c w s t e k r a m r e p u s u x |
| r t y c t w h x m x a k l e g n c b s |
| t g e h l d z s y r n a k q g p s l a s |
| s p d y g d h g p a y z h y w d f q i e |
| w w i p y k t m y z f m j c g a m e s |
| c m m c q x k l h l k b r o e l x y x |
| o h o l l y w o o d g a m e n i g h t l |
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| j t y x k e v a k y l c v f r u s r b z |
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Paid job opportunity! Window painter/artist needed as soon as possible to paint 3-4 windows at a retail store in Morristown. Contact Laura at 973-610-2788 (mobile/text).
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Students could not be more thankful for a much needed break from the semester. Last week, Montclair State University students enjoyed their Thanksgiving break and got a nice long weekend to spend with their loved ones.

However, not all is as relaxing as it seems. Montclair State announced that after Thanksgiving break, our Thursday classes will now be held on Wednesday as well as Thursday.

They stated in an email to faculty and students, “Just a friendly reminder that the following are scheduled class make up days due to the shortage of Thursday class meetings. The University has made a provision for Thursday class content to be made up accordingly.”

While to administrators this doesn’t seem like a big deal, for some students this is a massive inconvenience.

For starters, everyone’s schedule has been set. Unlike high school, it’s not as easy to just switch classes around for the day because everyone would be in school anyways.

As The Montclarion, Wednesdays are a huge work day for us and when we hold our general body meetings. Now, our staff will be discombobulated with everyone coming in and out to go to their classes.

Obviously, we are not the only ones affected. Other students have other responsibilities they have to take care of or have jobs on Wednesdays.

With the way classes are scheduled, pairing up on Mondays and Thursdays as well as Tuesdays and Fridays, a lot of students have the day off on Wednesday. Wednesday is the perfect day to schedule a shift or have the day off to do projects.

For people who schedule their shifts every Wednesday, they now miss a day of pay just to do the classes that they will have the next day. That could be a whole $50 or more taken from one’s weekly paycheck.

Honestly, the post-Thanksgiving schedule is a huge inconvenience and makes little to no sense logically. Now, because of one Thursday missing from our schedule, we now have to miss our Wednesdays and have two Thursdays back to back.

We don’t even get a makeup day for Friday, which we also missed for Thanksgiving break.

This could probably be alluded to the fact that students also missed a Thursday due to President Jonathan Koppell’s investiture on Sept. 15 earlier this semester. One could argue that was also a waste of a day as well and could have been just optional to go to class or not.

Not to mention the fact that the whole point of changing our class schedules was to extend common hour for clubs and now this predicament is intruding on that fact. College activities and clubs are just as important as classes are and shouldn’t be disregarded in this situation.

Some rely on a daily routine to have some semblance of structure in their lives. It is disrupting work shifts, class schedules and extracurricular activities. A student’s life is not only their academic course load.

While we can’t change the schedule now as it has passed, for future years, the administration can take these points into account and just let a day off be a day off with no consequences.

- A'Lysai Robinson
BFA Acting
Junior

- Daniel Fuwape
Computer Science
Freshman

- Nicky Vidal | The Montclarion
Dickson Hall Needs Revamping

Aliza Rhein
Staff Writer

Growing up near Montclair, New Jersey, I remember coming onto Montclair State University’s campus for various events such as use the ice skating rink, for sporting events, or to visit as a child. I would see the stately buildings and was enamored. I dreamt of when I would be old enough to go and learn with the adults in Montclair-State’s grandiose halls.

When I was accepted, I was elated as my childhood dreams were now real.

But as soon as I arrived in Dickson Hall I noticed, unlike the other buildings on campus, Dickson was old, broken and clearly past its prime and due for renovations. A cursory glance at the squat building showed that it had previously undergone some shoddy renovations, leading to only half of the building sporting third and fourth floors, sometime in the prehistoric era.

After one class, I went to plug in my dying laptop. To my dismay, I had to try three outlets until I found one that worked.

I also noticed that for some reason, all of the outlets in Dickeson were placed upside down, as well as not located in strategic locations. This often makes it difficult to keep up in class, as I have to carefully calculate how much juice I have left, and whether it’s worth following along online with whatever is being taught, dependent on when and if I will successfully find an outlet to charge my device.

In comparison, I once entered Feli ciano School of Business, where multiple outlets were gracing every table, not even just every wall. I wondered why those of us learning humanities were less fortunate and deserving of up-to-date technology.

In between my classes, like many students, I would like to find a nice, quiet study space. If I only have a 25-minute break, it’s not worth walking to the library or Cafè Om to do work, as I would need to walk there and unpack, which would take up to five minutes, and leave after 15 minutes in order to have enough time to pack everything, walk back over to Dickson and make it to my class on time.

Despite the obvious need for study lounges, Dickson doesn’t have any designated, a necessity that’s found in almost every other hall on campus.

Instead, students in Dickeson are left to fight for the sparse amounts of seats littering the hallway, or remain in the classroom from their previous class, hoping that there are no other classes taking place at the time.

Additionally, the rooms in Dickson are labeled confusingly, so much so that I once went on a 10-minute scavenger hunt to find room 205, just to find it hiding across from the 280s. I even had to interrupt several people in their offices to get directions.

The room numbers follow no logical order, creating a maze-like confusion. Attempts to curb this are evident by the signs pointing in various directions to direct people to whichever wing they’re looking for but are inhibited by the often contradictory nature of the signs themselves.

Once inside any given room, either the A/C is blasting, or the heat is turned way up. This is due to the old heating and ventilation systems that have never been updated.

However, some rooms are naturally colder or warmer depending on their location and this universal temperature system causes discomfort as it doesn’t take into account different room’s tendencies.

It’s time for Montclair-State to do better. Dickson Hall needs renovations and updated technology, yesterday. The administration needs to show that they care about all of their students, not just those in certain colleges. They need to demonstrate that the humanities matter too, and take appropriate action to do so.

Aliza Rhein, a freshman sociology major, is in her first year as a staff writer for The Montclarion.

Let’s Talk About Fatphobia on Campus

Lucia Looz
Staff Writer

Let’s start Sam’s Place in the fall of 2021.

I walked to one of the stations and asked for roasted potatoes. The worker gave me a Scoop’d two to three potatoes. I politely asked for more and she gave another two to three. I silently held my plate in front of her and before I said anything, she loudly said, “More?” She scoops five to six potatoes and I tell her I don’t need any more.

Sarcastically, she says, “Yeah, you don’t need more.” I nervously laughed and walked away, not realizing what she meant until I sat down. She hesitantly gave me potatoes because of my size, not because I asked for a lot of them. She was shocked I asked for more like I wasn’t ashamed or I wasn’t watching what I ate, and then mocked me.

I angrily chewed my potatoes and texted my friends that I was just fat-shamed.

Fast forward to Sam’s Place this fall. It was actually last week.

I waited in line at the station closest to the entrance. I told the worker I would like white rice and lo mein, no sweetness and sour beef. He scooped my food onto my plate, smirked to himself, and said, “So, I’m taking a survey. A lot of people are just asking for rice and noodles, and no beef. Why is that?” I shrugged my shoulders, not knowing what to say. “Because these are two starchy and no meat. Why don’t you want meat?”

As soon as he said starchy, my face fell. I knew where he was going with this. “I just don’t like sweet and sour meat,” I coolly said, and he tells me, “Thank you.” I grab my plate and walk away with my hand in a fist. He didn’t ask the skinny girl in front of me about her plate, but he asked about mine. How convenient.

I went to the same station the next day and it had a different worker. I asked for potatoes and zucchini, no shredded pork. She was silent before she asked, “Are you a vegan?”

“No,” I replied.

“Are you a vegetarian?” she said.

“No,” I said again.

“Then why no meat?” She sounded offended.

“I don’t like shredded pork,” I hesitantly said.

She faked an “ah” and handed me my plate. I left the station, internally cursing her out. Did I get fat-shamed two days in a row? Screw that.

I angrily chewed my potatoes and texted my friends that I was just fat-shamed.

Now I am harassed because of my weight.

I haven’t even mentioned what random guys say in the laundry room and the sidewalks, but that’s for a different article.

But the answer is fatphobia. People mock my body and the food I eat because I am fat.

They feel like I am a joke. They feel I am unworthy. They feel like I am a freak of nature in their eyes.

But I write this article to declare, as a fat person on campus, I am sick of the inconsideration and the harassment. Do better, Montclair State University, especially Sam’s Place.

Lucia Looz, a senior public and professional writing gender sexuality and women’s studies major, is in her second year as a staff writer for The Montclarion.
I OK’d Elon Musk’s Purchase Of Twitter; I Don’t Regret It

Peter Guziejewski – Guest Writer

F ormerly this year, Elon Musk made Twitter an offer it couldn’t refuse. His proposal to buy the company for $44 billion, or $54.20 per share, was initially viewed as a joke. Not only was it a considerable overvaluation of the company, but it also included the number “420,” a reference to marijuana that has gotten Musk in trouble with the Securities and Exchange Commission in the past.

As time went on, the seriousness of his offer became evident. The Musk takeover received the blessing of the company’s board and co-founder Jack Dorsey. The fate of Twitter eventually made its way to a vote by its shareholders, who approved the deal.

I was one of the approximately 98.6% of shareholders who voted in favor of the acquisition. I did it for one reason: Their business model still needs to apply to everyone to ensure Twitter is home to many accounts that post explicit content, yet insulting someone with a kindergarten-level intelligence has gotten people banned from the platform in the past. I’ve seen it often happen to accounts within the tech sphere and now those of some accounts are coming back.

One should also pay attention to the high-profile cases, especially since these could end up being the Achilles heel for Twitter.

In a tweet from Oct. 28, Musk announced that Twitter would create a content moderation council. Unfortunately, the tweet wasn’t clear on this council’s role. Still, it promised, “No major content discussions or account reinstatements will happen before that point. Access to West’s account was reportedly restored shortly after Musk gained control of Twitter, but in a tweet, Musk claimed that it had been restored prior.

Musk had previously said, “If in doubt, let the speech exist.” In regards to content moderation. While I generally agree with this, there does need to be some moderation guidelines that apply to everyone to ensure Twitter doesn’t evolve into a platform unattractive to most of its users.

Of course, these aren’t the only issues Twitter faces. In addition to many others, their business model still needs to be profitable, and content moderation needs to be more reliable. But the improvements we’ve seen signify the platform is getting better.

Changes won’t happen overnight, but I’m confident we will see a more user-friendly Twitter over time. Hopefully, users will stick around to see it.

Unlike banning, restricting is typically a temporary measure that would block an account from posting but wouldn’t remove the account or its tweets entirely. Access to West’s account was reportedly restored shortly after Musk gained control of Twitter, but in a tweet, Musk claimed that it had been restored prior.

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Peter Guziejewski, a sophomore social media and public relations major, is in his first year as a staff writer for The Montclarion.

Why The 2022 Midterms Were A Historic Election

Claudia Martillo – Staff Writer

T hough it can be easy to feel as if voting has no impact, it remains an essential part of the functioning of the government and for movements that advocate for racial justice, reproductive rights and anti-gun violence.

These midterm results demonstrate that there are officials who strive to improve the lives of people in the U.S. The LGBTQ+ Victory Institute, which is committed to increasing the amount of openly LGBTQ+ officials in all levels of government, reported that this election witnessed a “rainbow wave” with a record-breaking number of LGBTQ+ candidates.

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“Mitya”  
by Delilah Sommerer | Staff Writer

Dimitri missed walking through the streets of Greece, letting the summer heat rake through his clothes, the wind flowing around him before heading off to flutter through the treetops.

Iceland was nothing like that. Part of it was that it was February. Snow covered the ground. Cold smashed his ears, wrapped around his body, leaving him more of an icicle than a boy. Was he a boy? He was 18, boyhood ripped from him.

The people who kidnapped him called him Mitya. That wasn’t his name. His parents named him Dimitri, yes, but his Yiayia called him Dima or Astros. He was more Greek than Russian. It felt wrong to be named in a language he had no intent of visiting. He was not Mitya, the person brought in to help Ren spy on people. He was Dima, who wanted his best friend and his Yiayia to watch movies with him. He wanted to go home.

Wind pushed his face, making him take a few steps back. There was supposed to be a car coming. There was supposed to be a car, and he was supposed to call Ren and report about it.

He cursed. The cold had never bothered him this badly before, but he had never been in such a cold like this, and for such a long time. If he did this right, he would be released without consequence. That was the only thing keeping him going right now.

Bright lights flashed his eyes. He took a few steps back, making sure to keep his eyes on the road. A moped slowed down to a crawl, braking perfectly next to him. It was two of the targets.

One was the main target, Felix Haki Toako. A lot must have happened over the course of the day. His hair was freshly pink, a sharp contrast to his dead orange hair from yesterday. And his lip! He had a lip piercing, bound to be freezing from the cold. His eyes were grey like the clouds above, and his hair was tousled over his ears. He... he didn’t look like what Ren had told Dima he would look like. He looked young, Alive. Fun.

The other target was Han Reese, the one Ren didn’t understand. At all. Their helmet was strapped tight to their head, cherry red hair grazing their neck in terms of length. As Felix stopped the moped, they removed their arms from his waist and put their glasses on from their pocket to see why they had stopped.

“Have you seen a woman,” Felix said taking his hands off the handle bars to mime as he spoke, “Kinda... flying about? Like, wings on her sneakers? Kinda Hermes/Namor vibes?”

“Super thick hair?” Reese offered, “Pale blonde to the point it’s white?”

Their descriptions of Ren made sense. They didn’t say her cold eyes, or her long limbs that reminded Dima of a deer of some sorts. They wouldn’t talk about her smile during battle, how her lips dripping with blood haunted Dima’s mind. Why would they? Why would they know what he did?

“Sorry,” Dima said, accent terrible. He spoke Icelandic unwillingly. “I haven’t seen her.”

He was supposed to point them down the direction of the warehouse. He was supposed to urge them to hurry. He was supposed to be a lot of things.

In his moment of defiance, he added, “Did you check the college and... that area?”

The response made him smile. Felix began blinking like his life was going to end. Re-eese, oblivious to this, said, “Felix and Chris scoped the club ou-”

“We don’t have to talk about it,” Felix said. His chest visibly took a few breaths before his eyes locked with Dimas. “Thank you for your help. Sorry for wasting your time...”

He held the last word out, so Dima said, “Dima. Dimitri Jones.”

Something clicked in Reese’s mind. It was comical, the way they raised their head, the way their shoulders rose as their lungs filled up with more air than they needed. Did they actually know who he was? That he used to be a director before the Gilas brother kept him in this frozen place? That he left one friend to see another, and now he was paying for it? Not that he blamed Hymir. Not that he blamed Felix’s brother.

Did Hymir know?

“Thanks. We’ll be on our way.” Felix sped the moped off, not bothering to wait for Reese to put their glasses back in their pocket. They were out of sight within a moment.

Dima fished his phone out of his coat pocket. He wasn’t slave to memory just yet. Ren picked up on the third ring. “You were wrong,” Dima said, a smile finding a way onto his face.

“What, Mitya?” “You were wrong. They came on a moped.” Ren scoffed. “Felix... Felix is different. He doesn’t carry himself like a broken man. Either your ego is too big or your information is outdated.”

She swore at him. She cursed at him. She promised to bury him under the snow and let his body be discovered with the blooming flowers.

For once, he wasn’t Mitya when she was talking. He felt like himself again, for the first time since stepping foot in Iceland. He was Dima, and feeling like Dima felt good.

“Carpenter Poem”  
by Erica McDonald | Staff Writer

I took down my walls for you

Feeding you my life brick by brick

Building you up as I tore myself down

And even though I had never asked

I’d expected you to do the same

But now I live in a house with no walls

My foundation is cracked and I feel myself

Sinking deeper and deeper into the black hole forming at my feet

Calling me in.

“My Sunshine”  
by Aamani Jenkins | Contributor

Does the Sun know she blazes too brightly?

Does she know how I wish for her “goodbye”?

Does the Sun know the shadows she casts or are they out of her sights?

Do the Clouds keep her blind to the things she causes or

Is her ignorance intentional?

Pulling fleeces over her own eyes

And if neither were true and she finally noticed

Would she care?

Care that tides only love the parts of her reflected by the moon?

Care that the rain comes down to Earth in blades

On their grand escape from the Sun's cloudy grasps

Trying to cool the scorching paths she abandoned below?

Can she see she leaves me wrecked?

Or perhaps she already knows

She knows of her rays scorching sting and burns on because of it

She accepts her cloudiness as facts to avoid her own judgements

I may only exist if I’m bearing the consequences of sunshine.
“Closer To Heaven, The Prologue (Part 1 of 5)”  
by Izzy Love | Contributor

Fifty years from today, whenever today might be, the country bustles in a new era. Within a loose gripped bureaucracy, society trudges forth. But each step forward is two steps back.

The night sky was clear for miles, with brilliant stars smeared in traces of cosmic dust that bore down on flat fields below. A small plane crossed the underbelly of the stratosphere. Its lights flashed; the path behind revealing aimless direction.

“You did say you’d been in this area before, correct?” Zimmerman asked, hovering behind the pilot’s seat. In the back, he could hear his ski bag clatter with the plane’s abrupt movements. He bit his lip. Surely, this kid had to know something.

Beneath them was a sprawling Idaho landscape. Miles upon miles of empty farmland, small towns, and just about as much excitement as anyone could get from either of those. Or so Zimmerman had been told. The remarkable Rocky Mountains were only thing that could’ve lured him to such an area. Sure, he could’ve gone to the Alps for a fraction the travelling back home. But there was no adventure like the great West. And he be damned if such a fantastic spot had been left untraveled by him.

Zimmerman was a sturdy man with a distinctly English voice. The pilot, on the other hand, bore a perturbing gut and was young enough to be halfway through college. Even if he looked far younger than that.

“I said I have. I’m just... looking for a shortcut,” the pilot assured with a cracking voice. The trip between the Northern Rockies and Boise International seemed suitable enough for a rookie pilot. And he had repeatedly assured himself throughout the voyage that he wouldn’t have been hired if the client sensed he wasn’t as good as he claimed to be. The pilot had scarcely been this far upstate before, at least not from the air. When he’d been hired, he figured he could figure things out by takeoff. But now, it seemed, the seams were starting to burst.

“Need I remind you my next flight leaves in less than six hours? And unlike you, it doesn’t run on my watch.” Zimmerman emphasized with a glare that the pilot could feel bounce off the back of his neck.

Mentally, he sneered. Why don’t you take your tea and crumpets and shove it up your—

But before he could respond aloud, a continuous beep emitted from the plane’s console. Bold red letters flashed across the GPS monitor: TERRAIN WARNING.

Zimmerman squinted. “What’s wrong?”

“That can’t be right,” the pilot remarked, blinking to make sure he was looking at the screen correctly. The very one that was warning him of something impending also showed nothing in sight before him. Just smooth plains of grass. “According to this we’re approaching something very big.”

“How can that be? We’re in the middle of nowhere,” Zimmerman indicated out the black windshield. For the first time, the Pilot was inclined to agree.

The beeping steadily grew faster, more incessant. If it wanted to warn them of the air so badly, it was doing too good job of it. The pilot couldn’t help but be reminded of a small dog whining, almost whistling, for its master to hurry up and take it outside.

“It could be a bug in the system. Maybe it’ll sort itself out if I just—” The plane gently drifted to the left. Hopefully just enough to ‘avoid’ whatever false obstruction was out there.

But it didn’t. The one note beep continued, pushy as ever. Zimmerman swore the gaps between the sounds were getting far and few in between. Almost making it a monotonous sound.

Now the pilot was getting worried. He considered that an oncoming bird was being detected completely wrong until abandoning the idea. The computer would have to be several pieces before making an error that grievous. There really couldn’t have been anything out here, could there? Sure, the technology for invisibility was starting to find its footing, but surely someone wouldn’ve warned him before he left, right? Maybe he had strayed farther from the route to Boise then he’d thought.

Before he could run through any other ideas, every question and concern answered itself in a heartbeat. Accompanied by a loud deep rumble, the plane was suddenly thrown into a rough fit of turbulence. Zimmerman lost balance, falling rear first onto the cabin floor. The pilot clutched the armrests, straining to keep from being forced from the seat. After a few seconds, the turbulence stopped. But to both occupants, it may as well have been five minutes. The pilot quickly regained his senses, reaffirming control as Zimmerman hobbled up on one knee. Both were just in time to see light dissolve upon what seemed to be the top of a tower of sorts. Gold reflected brilliantly back on them, momentarily making whatever shape it was into a mere blur of light.

Neither could take in the sight before the pilot swerved violently around it, narrowly missing the...whatever it was. Once again, the two were thrown about. Zimmerman able to balance this time, gripped the back of the pilot’s seat hard enough to penetrate the leather. The plane stayed cocked at nearly ninety degrees before abruptly dropping upwards.

Was that a cross? Zimmerman wondered as he came to his senses. But before he could question any further, a splotch of green dominated the windscreen’s field of vision. The plane hurtled towards it faster than the pilot could react. In the microseconds before colliding, both pilot and passenger realized where they were and had the horrible clarity of what they’d stumbled onto.
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Tony Award Winner Myles Frost Visits Montclair State

Broadway Star Reflects on journey to 'MJ: The Musical'

Emulating Michael Jackson's charm, dressed in an all black suit with reflecting gold accents and dazzling jewelry, sits Grammy nominated and Tony Award-winning artist Myles Frost. The energy was contagious that night at Montclair State University on Nov. 29 as the crowd was anxious to hear what the star of "MJ: The Musical" had to say.

Making his way to Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony (EGOT) status, the recently signed artist to United Talent Agency (UTA) talked about his success in broadway shows like "Legally Blonde," "Cinderella" and eventually "MJ: The Musical." His innate talent was always there, but he explains the path to his rising success wasn’t easy.

Born in Maryland, Frost attended a predominantly Black school in Prince George County up until eighth grade. The epitome of Black excellence, Charmayne Strayhorn, Frost’s Mother, sought a better education and moved him to the city of Gaithersburg with a predominantly White and Asian population.

Before Frost landed the role as Jackson, he played different roles throughout high school that taught him many things along the way. Adapting to a new environment can be difficult because of the change that comes with it. As for Frost, while transitioning to a predominantly White institution (PWI) he emphasized that he felt ostracized in the environment he was in.

"Just to put it bluntly, I didn’t know how to interact with White people," Frost said.

As Frost tried to navigate through his new environment, he constantly found himself in the school’s chorus room – just him and a grand piano. During lunch, a White teacher approached him and stated, "I hope there’s a voice behind that beautiful piano playing because we need more Black kids for this musical we’re doing."

Frost was seen as the "Token Black Kid" who was deliberately there to create an illusion of diversity. What many fail to realize is diversity and inclusion are interconnected concepts but a long way from interchangeable.

Frost talks about what he had undergone while on his way to playing the title role in "MJ: The Musical."

"That's never something that I've ever talked about or ever discussed," Frost said. "Depression, suicide, anxiety – none of that growing up. I mean I've known about it, but it's not something we talked about in our household or in our communities."

The topic of mental health is something that is not prevalently applied enough in the Black community. It is often ingrained in Black women to be strong. To have thick skin. For Black men not to cry. It is an ongoing battle to have more Black therapists who know what it's like to be Black in a White man's world.

Society frequently sees Black people, who are often the blueprint in many aspects, as a threat – consciously and subconsciously. Frost, however, elicits for one to keep moving forward through mostly their actions instead of their words.

"There's always going to be somebody younger than you who's on your a**," Frost said. "The more you realize and acknowledge that and stay ahead of the curve, the longer you will last in this business and that’s what [Jackson] did and that is what I appreciated about [Jackson]."

To read the full article, go to themontclarion.org
On Nov. 15, the Recording Academy announced their nominations for the 2023 Grammys.

**Students React to the 2023 Grammy Nominations**

**Kevin Olivieri**  
Staff Writer

It's that time of year again. Award season has officially started, and the 2023 Grammy nominations announcement is the beginning of it all. On Tuesday, Nov. 15, the Recording Academy announced their nominations for all categories on a livestream that featured presenters like Olivia Rodrigo, Machine Gun Kelly, John Legend and Smokey Robinson. As always, the nominations created a buzz online as many shared their thoughts and opinions regarding what got nominated, who they predict will win or who got snubbed.

The usual artists the Recording Academy loves like Adele, Kendrick Lamar, Beyoncé and Brandi Carlile all had a good Tuesday. Beyoncé ranks at the top with nine nominations, including album, record and song of the year. Her number of nominations now ties her with her husband, Jay-Z, as the most nominated acts in history, with 88 each. Following behind Beyoncé is Kendrick Lamar with eight nominations and Adele and Brandi Carlile with seven.

Montclair State University students shared their thoughts about the nominations and the Grammys overall.

Rashel Gonzalez, a junior family science and human development major, is rooting for Puerto Rican rapper Bad Bunny.

"I feel like it’s not even just because he'll make history with that, but I feel like it is well deserved from the attention grabbed from the English-speaking community as well,” Gonzalez said. Bad Bunny has made history with his album "Un Verano Sin Ti" as the first ever Spanish-language album to be nominated for album of the year.

Gonzalez is also impressed with Beyoncé's accomplishments this year. "I feel like that's bada** because she's a mother and everything with like three kids now,” Gonzalez said.

Nikki Lopez, a junior majoring in business and human development major, feels the Grammys have to wait until Feb. 5, 2023, to see who wins. Which will surely create an even bigger conversation.

Kevin Olivieri | The Montclarion

Junior psychology major Nikki Lopez feels the Grammys have turned into a joke of some sort.

Mackenzie Horvath, a junior environmental science major, doesn't listen to many of the nominated artists, but she believes that popularity will and should play into who ultimately wins.

"Adele, I've listened to a lot over the years," Horvath said. "I think she's very talented. But not that her time has passed because I don't think it has, but at the same time, Harry Styles is the hot, new big thing this year. So I think that there's a very high possibility that he will win, and I do think he deserves to win."

She feels similarly about Taylor Swift who is nominated for song of the year for her song "All Too Well (10 minute Version) (Taylor's Version) (From the Vault)."

"She's also another one like Harry Styles," Horvath said. "Just a big influence on our generation."

As always, the Grammy nominations have created a mixed bag of emotions and thoughts from the public, who now has to wait until Feb. 5, 2023, to see who wins. Which will surely create an even bigger conversation.

Kevin Olivieri | The Montclarion

Editor’s Choice

‘Everything Everywhere All at Once’ on Hulu

The 2022 comedy-drama “Everything Everywhere All at Once” lives up to its name as the absurd film quite literally shows its characters experiencing everything, everywhere, all at once as they shift between versions of themselves in the multiverse. In particular, it centers around Evelyn (Michelle Yeoh), a Chinese American immigrant who lives a stressed but normal life as a laundromat owner. That is until it suddenly becomes her responsibility to tap into the many different versions of herself across different universes in order to prevent an equally powerful being from destroying the multiverse as a whole.

As Evelyn attempts this mission, we see her bounce between being an actress, a cook, a martial artist and many other lifestyles as she taps into these talents to defeat the all-powerful being. But along this action-packed, preposterous journey, she also navigates struggling relationships with her selfless husband, Waymond (Ke Huy Quan), and depressed daughter, Joy (Stephanie Hsu). The combination of these storylines makes for a laughter-fueled but surprisingly tear-jerking experience with lasting lessons on life and love.

'Ruth B. has received a lot of love for songs like “Dandelions” and “Lost Boy,” but one of her most recent singles, “Paper Airplanes,” has yet to reach the same level of attention. The tune comes from Tyler Perry’s film, “A Jazzman’s Blues,” which tells the story of a young couple trying to build a relationship in the south during the 1940s.

If you’ve watched the film, every word in “Paper Airplanes” suddenly gains a new, harder-hitting meaning that is telling of the couple’s experiences, whether it be their happier, innocent time of falling in love and getting to know one another or their painful separation by tragedy. The song is worth getting through to the end of the movie just to hear.

But even without any background knowledge of the story it accompanies, the song still stands on its own as a powerful ballad that highlights all the raw emotion in Ruth B’s voice, as well as an intense love that never dies down.

- Megan Lim

Entertainment Editor
Leading Player Maggie Likcani was part of the memorable finale of “Pippin.”

Stephanie Arias
Staff Writer

“Pippin” had me on the edge of my seat from the moment I stepped into the theater until the moment I opened the doors to leave. Everything about the show was “big”; the set was beautiful, the costumes were amazing and the overall performance shown by the actors, especially the finale, brought the extravaganza to a whole new level. Peter Flynn, the director, shared insight into “Pippin” and some challenges of how he wanted to tell the story.

“Pippin is very simple with not a lot of story there,” Flynn said. “And so it really takes a specific eye as far as ‘how do we want to tell the story?’ And what's going to make it not only clear to the audience but compelling for the audience to stay and be a part of the show? One of the challenges was to try this new concept and see how we can treat it through Stephen Schwartz and Bob Fosse’s original play.

It was a performance within a performance. The character Pippin, played by junior musical theatre major Jonah Nash, is the son of King Charlemagne, played by senior musical theatre major David Hartway. He is always chasing this feeling he has of ‘Then you got the show!’ That was the performance in front of them while also having moments they are called to be included in the show. The performance might have been confusing at some points, but every time I thought I would be left behind in the story, details would later pop up to connect me back to the show’s meaning.

The performance is that the audience is a part of the show in ways that cannot be said for other productions; this is one of the things that stuck with me even after it ended.

The decorations by the door of the auditorium were a great detail to see. They said “Join Us,” a hashtag used to emphasize how the show calls viewers to participate. Before the show started, actors walked in the aisles of the theater in character, asking if audience members wanted to be “part of the show.” For those up to the challenge, their seat number was taken and put into a hat, thus being entered into the raffle. You wouldn’t find out what it was for until the show started. When I got to my seat, the best feeling was that it felt like the production had already started before the opening number even began.

In one of the dance numbers, the audience was even encouraged to sing along to the song, making the idea of incorporating viewers into the performance even more significant.

The grand finale, which implied “Pippin” was familiar with the story but was still surprising. “It slayed,” Ortiz said. “This production was such a fun and modern interpretation of the show, and it really embraced the idea that it’s okay, if not better, to be ordinary. Sometimes the ordinary parts of life are the parts most worth it, and I think it was represented in a really meaningful and entertaining way.”

The grand finale, which implied multiple points throughout “Pippin,” was incredibly unexpected. It asked the question, “What are you left with after everything is over?” Maybe the things that we thought would make life extraordinary might just be the ordinary things. The details in everything extraordinary might just be the ordinary things. The details in everything extraordinary might just be the ordinary things. The details in everything extraordinary might just be the ordinary things.
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Men's Soccer Season Ends All Too Soon

Wyatt Lardieri  Staff Writer

The men's soccer team wrapped their season up after a loss in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) tournament finals. It was a disappointing end to an incredible season that saw Montclair State University finish atop the conference standings and multiple individual awards earned by members of the team.

The Red Hawks finished their season with an extraordinary record of 15-2-4, and with an 8-0-1 record in conference play. Their undefeated record in conference play earned them the number-one seed in the tournament. Head coach Todd Tumelty described Montclair State's superb season.

"I thought it was an excellent season," Tumelty said. "We had a good game plan, we had a good system, and the guys were really brought into it. We didn't give up many goals which is key to winning and going to postseason play and obviously, we fell a little short in the finals."

After defeating Rutgers University-Camden in the semifinals, Montclair State faced off against Rowan in the finals. The Red Hawks dreamed of this matchup and relished the chance of revenge.

"The dream quickly turned into a nightmare as Montclair State's season came to an abrupt end after a 3-0 loss in the finals. They also failed to be selected for the NCAA tournament. Tumelty spoke on the disappointing end, and how the team can use it to motivate them for next season."

"I think at the end of the day one thing I get disappointed in is the seniors," Tumelty said. "The ones who lose out are the seniors. They don't get an opportunity to play anymore and it's over for them. The guys who are coming back, the returners, that's all the motivation in the world. When your season ends and you feel like you should have went a little further or maybe got an extra game in or maybe NCAA tournament and you didn't, I would think and I would hope that these guys are motivated to work in the offseason on their own and then get back out there when we have spring practices and continue to train really hard and find some success next season."

Led by an All-American duo of sophomore midfielder Amer Lukovic and senior forward Josiah Crawford, there was no shortage of goals. Lukovic would score 11 throughout the season while Crawford contributed eight. Sophomore midfielder Owen Murphy led the team with five assists on the season.

Montclair State was also stout defensively. Led by sophomore defender Ian Chesney, the Red Hawks claimed 13 clean sheets on the season and only allowed 14 goals throughout the whole season.

The incredible individual success earned Montclair State players six selections to the all-NJAC conference teams. Graduate student goalkeeper Shane Keenan, Lukovic, Crawford, Chesney and sophomore defender Enir Radoncic all earned first-team honors. Midfielder Owen Murphy earned second-team honors and junior midfielder/forward Gene Carlo Altamirano earned an honorable mention.

The incredible individual success earned Montclair State players six selections to the all-NJAC conference teams. Graduate student goalkeeper Shane Keenan, Lukovic, Crawford, Chesney and sophomore defender Enir Radoncic all earned first-team honors. Murphy earned second-team honors and junior midfielder/forward Gene Carlo Altamirano earned an honorable mention.

The seven players to earn NJAC recognition were pivotal to the success of the team, but Tumelty is quick to point out that it's a team game so some of the guys who didn't get awards also made some pretty big impacts this year.

"I'm happy for those boys who got the awards and the other guys will continue to strive to get better and maybe more awards will come down the way," Tumelty said.

Tumelty himself was recognized this year as he earned the NJAC coach of the year. His leadership and results earned recognition from his peers. Tumelty spoke on receiving the honor.

"It was great," Tumelty said. "Obviously being coach of the year is an award your players earn for you. [Because] they do the work on the field but it's good to see your peers respect the things you're doing and hopefully we continue to [do things] the right way going forward," Tumelty said.

"The team will retain a strong core of players and will look to bounce back next year. This year's experience along with the overall quality of the returning players certainly points to a bright future.
Erin Blanchfield Is Taking The UFC By Storm With Major Win at MSG

The flyweight division has a new contender straight out of Montclair State

Erin Blanchfield has solidified herself as one of the Ultimate Fighting Championship’s (UFC) top and most exciting rising contenders.

On arguably the most stacked card of the year, Blanchfield took on the popular and global star Molly McCann and she did everything but disappoint as she submitted McCann via Kimura at 3:37 round one.

Fighting at Madison Square Garden is something that Blanchfield has always dreamed of doing and to be able to get the win there made it even more special.

“It was super cool,” Blanchfield said. “Yeah, it’s somewhere I’ve wanted to fight for a really long time and I was super excited to get that opportunity. Especially after getting boosed at mock weigh-ins and at the actual fight, it felt really good to get that win.”

Getting boosed by fans during the weekend was a first for Blanchfield but she expected it and there is reason to believe that it will never happen again, especially in her own backyard.

With the win, Blanchfield, who is now 4-0 in the UFC, moved up to number 10 in the flyweight rankings and extended her win streak to seven.

Because of how many eyes were on the fight and UFC 281, Blanchfield’s coach, Augie Matias, thought it was a huge win for her career.

“The win was huge, I mean there were a lot of eyes on that fight,” Matias said. “Whether it be celebrities or matchmakers, [the] public. [There] was a big card and [McCann] had a lot of hype too.”

Matias was impressed and spoke about the difference in Blanchfield’s striking skills compared to her last contest against JJ Aldrich, where she wasn’t as comfortable.

“Just [Blanchfield’s] movement with that fight, you see the difference between that fight and her fight against [Aldrich],” Matias said. “Even though [Aldrich], I find a superior striker than [McCann] but yeah, I saw a vast improvement in her striking from that fight, and from the two fights.”

A point of emphasis during this training camp was Blanchfield’s overall movement and improvement in creating the right angles.

The two spent the first 45 seconds on their feet until Blanchfield saw an opening for a takedown, which she was extra prepared for in that specific situation.

“It was just that she kind of loaded up on a big overhand and I saw it coming from like a mile away and we drilled going under those overhands for my takedown,” Blanchfield said. “So the second I saw it, I just knew that the takedown was going to be right there and I knew the finish would come quickly off of that so it’s kind of why I went there.”

The takedown was truly the beginning of the end for McCann as Blanchfield quickly mounted her and went to work. McCann spent nearly the whole time trying to fight off submission and crucifix attempts, all while taking many punches and elbows from Blanchfield.

“So for the first one I went for the Kimura and I needed to have my leg over her head to kind of keep her up on her side so I can get her arm behind her back,” Blanchfield said. “She knew that, so she was defending. She wasn’t allowing me to step my leg overhead and she was keeping her back pinned to the floor so I couldn’t get her arm behind her. So I went back to the crucifix, hit her a couple more times, and then when she turned up, she kind of gave me her side because she was trying to escape the crucifix again and that gave me the perfect position to go for the Kimura again and that one she couldn’t defend.”

While Blanchfield was hammering away with punches and elbows in the crucifix position, some thought that the referee was going to step in. Blanchfield knew that McCann was tough and she was ready to do whatever it took to get the finish.

“She’s pretty tough and I knew that she wouldn’t want to tap out but I had that Kimura so locked in, I knew even if she didn’t tap, her shoulder was probably going to pop or get dislocated,” Blanchfield said. “So then the fight would be probably over anyway. I was almost trying to think ‘what is she going to do? Is she going to tap or is she gonna force me to hurt her?’”

Blanchfield is starting to put everything together and Matias believes that she is already one of the most dangerous in the division.

“I think [Blanchfield] is far superior with her wrestling and jiu-jitsu game,” Matias said. “And now that she’s kind of understanding the angles with her striking, quickness and movement, she’s going to give these girls a hard time because they have to respect her striking and when you respect the striking, the takedowns are going to come really easy. And when you have [Blanchfield] on top of you, it’s a long day.”

In the meantime, Blanchfield will be waiting for her next opponent, which should be another step up in competition as she continues to chase a higher ranking en route to an eventual title shot.

The New Jersey native continues to dominate and with no signs of slowing down, she could be threatening for the Flyweight belt sooner rather than later.
Nickie Carter Reflects On Her Historic 1,000 Point Milestone

Anthony Walsh
Guest Writer

On Nov. 11th, senior guard Nickie Carter reached a feat that very few have ever reached in their career: 1,000 points. This isn't unfamiliar to Carter, though. She's had a plethora of accomplishments throughout her career that are extremely high accolades. These include New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) Rookie of the Year, along with scoring a season-high 24 points and six steals in the NJAC championship game against New Jersey City University (NJCU) in the 2020-2021 season.

Carter's latest accomplishment was very special to her and her peers. Carter explained how the accomplishment impacted her at the moment after the major mark was reached.

"Honestly in the moment I was just so happy it was over," Carter said. "It definitely wasn't the most ideal game to get it in so I was in my head about it a little bit. There was so many people there to see me get it so I felt like I really needed to get it in that game against Ithaca [College] for everyone that came."

Junior guard Kendall Hodges has been Carter's teammate for two seasons. She described the moment when she saw how dedicated Carter is to her game, and gave a specific example of Carter overcoming an injury that showed just how strong her perseverance is.

"The first time I knew she was dedicated to the game was my freshman year when she was a sophomore and had a stress fracture in her foot," Hodges said. "She just fought so hard to come back and look at her now. She's unstoppable."

"It was awesome to see," Hodges said. "Everyone knows that [Carter] can score and is a beast on the court, but no one sees the work that she puts in behind closed doors. Getting 1,000 points takes hard work and dedication, two things that are honestly engraved in [Carter's] game."

Carter is highly thought of by her peers on her team, not only for the accomplishments that anyone can see such as reaching 1,000 career points but also for her work ethic.

"It's always a fantastic achievement for a college student-athlete," Harvey said. "We're certainly extremely happy. She's in an elite class."

"It always helps increase confidence," Harvey said. "We're certainly extremely happy. She's in an elite class."

Carter isn't done yet, though. In the three games she's played since Ithaca, she's scored a total of 68 points. The milestone will almost certainly be elevated to even greater heights as the season goes on.

She has averaged 19 points this season, more than any previous year. Carter has made the most of her senior season thus far, and with 20 regular season games left to go plus the NJAC playoffs, there's no telling what's coming next.