Montclair State University received a five-million-dollar donation to become a partner in the revitalization of the Hinchliffe Stadium in the city of Paterson.

During a press conference last week, President Jonathan Koppell announced that Montclair State alumnus Chuck Muth, born and raised in Paterson, is making the generous gift.

For Muth, giving back to the city that saw him grow felt like a strong obligation.

“When I left the city, I always felt this obligation to give back in a meaningful way,” Muth said. “And so I would like to see the money go toward educating. I think the outreach program educating students in particular about the history of Paterson, about the history of Hinchliffe Stadium [would] really be the outcome that I would love to see.”

Donation continued on Page 3

The campus club Hillel was decimated by the coronavirus (COVID-19). Now, with a new board and holiday events, they’re slowly growing, hoping to see bigger numbers in the years to come.

Rachel Druker, a former Hillel president, spoke about the services Hillel offered.

“In its heyday, Hillel saw over 30 members coming to events weekly,” Druker said. “We offered programming two-three times a week and bigger stuff once a month. We had programs for retention, and it really worked. We offered a freshman mentor program, that was really loved.”

Hillel continued on Page 6

The Chanukah party was a major success for the club.

Photo courtesy of Rebekah Adelson
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All submissions to the newspaper become property of The Montclarion. We do not print articles from anonymous contributors. The first issue of The Montclarion, then named The Pelican, was published on November 28, 1928.

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Donation
Continued From Page 1

Muth graduated from Montclair State in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in marketing and management. He is currently part of the advisory board of the university’s Feliciano School of Business.

Hinchliffe Stadium opened up during the Great Depression era and it was named after Paterson Mayor John V. Hinchliffe. For various years the stadium was home to the New York Black Yankees and New York Cubans Negro League.

According to the institution's press release, the goal of the Paterson revitalization efforts is to highlight the history and culture of the stadium.

The museum and learning center will highlight the history of Negro League Baseball and the stadium’s legacy as a cultural touchstone. The Charles J. Muth Museum of Hinchliffe Stadium, as it will be known, will serve as an educational and community hub for the city of Paterson and Montclair State students and faculty.

Muth also explained what the partnership between Montclair State and the city of Paterson symbolizes for him.

“[Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh] is a visionary and enlightened leader,” Sayegh said. “He sees the big picture and he understands the pivotal role that Paterson plays in this area of North Jersey. So we are encouraged by this collaboration. We are elated that he was able to find a Patersonian who is an alumnus of [the university] who was magnanimous, who was generous enough to donate five million dollars. It is quite a gift right before Christmas.”

Montclair State will oversee the educational programming for the museum, which will include the curation and presentation of a wide range of exhibits and programs for diverse audiences. It is envisioned that a variety of educational outreach activities will connect the museum to the diverse communities of Paterson. The facility will also become the on-the-ground home of Montclair State and Paterson’s expanding community development initiatives, according to the press release.

The release also explained how this partnership will benefit the university.

“In addition to benefits for community members, the partnership will provide additional experiential learning opportunities for Montclair [State] students and faculty to solve pressing challenges and make a difference,” the release stated.

According to Sayegh, at the moment there is not a specific amount of how much this project will entail, but in the future, fundraising and finding other benefactors will be one of the goals.

The mayor also explained that the project will begin in April of next year and will take around six months to be finalized.

Muth hopes that other people will get inspired by his act of charity.

“I love to encourage others to do the same,” Muth said. “If my donation does anything to help encourage others or inspire others to step up and participate as well, that will be a wonderful outcome.”

Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh shared what it means to partner with Montclair State University in the revitalization of the Hinchliffe Stadium.

Jennifer Portorreal | The Montclarion

Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh shared what it means to partner with Montclair State University in the revitalization of the Hinchliffe Stadium.

Jennifer Portorreal | The Montclarion

personality
IS EVERYTHING IN ART AND WRITING

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Submit your comics/cartoons to The Montclarion at
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Montclair State offers self-defense course to provide women a safe space after experiencing sexual and physical assault.

Montclair State University is offering, once again, a self-defense course in the upcoming spring semester for anyone who identifies as a woman and has had an experience with sexual or physical assault.

The class is taught by defense instructor Karen Chasen followed by a group therapy session with the Referral Coordinator and Case Manager on campus, Lisa Westreich, which will take place Tuesdays from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Westreich is also one of the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) social workers leading the group therapy sessions after the defense class.

She is very passionate about giving students a safe place to go on campus. She explained why this course was made.

"The group was started after a therapist, Dr. Weinberg, noted that there was a need for it because of the clients we were seeing at CAPS; so many students were reporting a history of abuse," Westreich said. "The group modality can be such a healing and supportive place for students to process what they've gone through and experience the power and freedom of learning to defend themselves together."

As of right now, the group is intended for only students who identify as women and have had an encounter with sexual or physical assault at any point in their lives. "We're definitely talking about at any point in their lives." Westreich said. "We're offering this sort of group to male-identified students," Westreich said. "But we would not be offering a mixed gender group."

Westreich further explained why she believes this course is so important for students. "One important reason is so students know that they are not alone," Westreich said. "Living after trauma can be a lonely and isolating experience and having a community of women who can share in their healing journey is very powerful."

Another reason is that women deserve to feel empowered and less vulnerable in the world learning safe and effective self-defense techniques can help. Some women at Montclair State didn't know this class existed, but recognize the importance of it.

Marlene Fernandez, a senior communication and media arts major, is one of these students. She believes this is an important course to know about. "I think we should promote this more," Fernandez said. "I definitely would have taken it if I had known about it."

Fernandez believes that it is a great opportunity for women to have a safe space to deal with past trauma. "I like that we're giving women a safe space to both learn how to defend themselves and talk openly with people who relate to your hardships," Fernandez said. "I think it's something a lot of us need at this age."

Isabella Nieves, a senior family science and human development major, thinks that this is a very different, but great course to have. "I think that a class that has been created to help women who have been victims is a great idea," Nieves said. "Having a group therapy session is unique, but great if the women are willing to talk to multiple persons, I know that it could be uncomfortable for others."

Some students like Carla Aguilar, a sophomore finance major, believe that a self-defense course is important even if women feel safe on campus. "If a situation where someone was in harm were to happen it better prepares the women in that situation," Aguilar said.

"For me, I feel safe because I come in the morning and the parking garage is right there," Chief of University Police, Kieran Barrett, thinks that classes like these help students know the campus is on their side. "We always advocate that any extra step in the prevention or protection for one's personal safety is the right move," Barrett said. "If someone is in a situation where the choice is to use a self-defense tactic, it should be utilized. University Police is hoping to revive our weekly self-defense programs next semester which teaches real-world techniques to keep one safe."

When the crime report was released for the 2021 academic year, it showed an increase in assault, whether it be sexual or physical, on campus. Although the statistics have not been run yet for 2022, University Police highly encourages all students to download the RAVE guardian app.

"The fear of assault is always in our minds when walking alone, when a light is out and when we are fumbling with keys," Barrett said. "We want our community to know that if this is a concern, that you have options - walk with others, use the shuttle bus, use the University's RAVE Guardian app for a smart timer escort or an immediate GPS locator that comes into University Police."
Students Say Good-Bye To Shuttle Tracking App

Jennifer Portorreal
News Editor

Montclair State University students are still struggling with campus transportation after shuttle services has not been able to provide a new mobile bus tracking app.

In an email, shuttle services communicated to the community that Nexbus (UMO), the bus tracking app, will no longer be available due to the ongoing technical issues during the past several months.

Some students like Elizabeth Uzhca, a junior marine biology and coastal sciences major, expressed a bad experience with the use of the app.

“The app was very inaccurate from the beginning,” Uzhca said. “And then after probably a month, it just stopped working overall and stopped saying when the shuttle was coming, so that’s kind of why I deleted it after like two months. I usually just end up walking despite the weather because I never know when a shuttle is going to come.”

Judah Mora, a junior medical humanities major, was shocked to hear they got rid of the Nexbus app completely.

“Not like I knew where and when the shuttles were coming when they did have it,” Mora said. “One shuttle won’t come for over a half hour and then three buses come back to back.”

Mora has experienced the issue with multiple students who notice the problem with Nexbus as well.

“I have been waiting for the shuttle with like 30 other people for 30 whole minutes because no one knew when the next would be coming,” Mora said. “There was just a lot of issues with the app.”

Suhani Patel, a junior biology and medical humanities major, said she would rather walk to her classes from The Village rather than wait for the shuttles because of how unpredictable the app was.

“Not knowing when they were coming was the issue,” Patel said. “I’m waiting in the cold and then I also wouldn’t know how to time getting to my classes, because I didn’t know where they were, so I was late. Walking is more reliable and I beat the shuttle nine out of 10 times.”

Patel believes a new app that actually works would be beneficial for students.

“I think a new app would be helpful,” Patel said. “Then I would know if I walk to class or wait for the shuttle.”

William Fitzpatrick, Assistant Vice President for University Facilities and Logistic Support, explained what some of the issues with Nexbus were and said the university is working to find a solution.

“The Nexbus tracking app was discontinued because the vendor no longer supported the application,” Fitzpatrick said. “We are actively working to find a suitable replacement. Unfortunately we do not have a timeline now. However, we are confident whatever solution we select would be an improvement.”
Feature

Hillel Makes a Comeback

(continued from page 1)

Rebekah Adelson, a Hillel liaison, confirms this. “Five and a half years ago, Hillel was a thriving organization under the student government,” Adelson said. “As we went on, our numbers built [and] our programs got better.”

But this hasn’t been the case over the past few years. And now, there are barely any members left.

“The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic hit,” Adelson said. “We’ve been struggling since. New students don’t know about Hillel. Anyone from 2020-2022 hasn’t had a real chance to check us out.”

Izzi Rosenstark, a sophomore film and television major and Hillel president, agrees. When she first started with Hillel a year ago, there were barely any members.

“There were a few familiar faces, [they’d] come in, see how it goes,” Rosenstark said. “Not too many [members], not consistent members. Like most people, I wasn’t too involved.”

Samantha Gross, a sophomore visual arts major and current vice president, talks about her lack of Hillel experience when first joining Hillel. “When I joined, I didn’t really have expectations of what Hillel would be like,” Gross said. “Last year, I didn’t even know Hillel did events, I saw an occasional post. I wasn’t really involved because there wasn’t a presence on campus.”

But all of that is now changing. Rosenstark has been working hard to restart the Hillel. From the beginning of the semester’s one-person board, Hillel has expanded to three, with hopes and expectations for new board members and memberships in the spring semester.

“We have big plans for next semester,” Rosenstark said. “It will just keep picking up speed. Now [that] the board is more than just me, we will be able to grow the club, and hold events that actually require multiple hands on deck.”

That’s why Gross joined the board.

“We’re hoping to make it bigger, to grow,” Gross said. “I chose to join the board because I can bring fresh ideas and perspective, and we needed more participation.”

They are excited to see new membership and activity, starting with the Chanukah party that took place on Wednesday. The board reports that participation was high.

“This event had a great turnout, we had about 20 people,” Rosenstark said. “I expected way less since it’s dead in the finals week and we also didn’t anticipate a large group in general.”

Due to more-than-expected participation, they even had to add more seating.

“We had to add new chairs, had to squeeze people in,” Rosenstark added. “I think it went really well. Lots of people participated. The doughnuts were a big hit. The turnout should be really good going forward.”

Gross explains how people enjoyed the event.

“We had amazing doughnuts and decorating, and dreidel games,” Gross said. “We had such an amazing turnout. So many people came and had such a good time. After the last event, we didn’t have such a big turnout. It was nice to see a bigger one this time.”

Daniel Carr, a junior business admin-
Rebecca Bienskie Jackson shares some holiday must-reads.

2. “Little Women”- Louisa May Alcott
"Little Women" tells the story of four sisters, Jo, Amy, Meg and Beth, living at home with their mother while their father is fighting in the Civil War. The story follows the sisters from childhood to adulthood and the many challenges that come with growing up. It’s a story of bonding, family and love. What better way to spend the holidays than with the March sisters at Christmas? There are also many movie adaptations of “Little Women,” the most recent being the 2019 adaptation starring Saoirse Ronan and Timothee Chalamet.

Next are two books that will have you reflecting before the new year.

3. “Before the Coffee Gets Cold”- Toshikazu Kawaguchi
This tells the story of a cafe in Tokyo that allows people to time travel. Specifically, customers are allowed to go back to their past. Only on one condition, they have to return to the present before their coffee gets cold. The story follows a handful of people, one of which wants to visit their sister for the last time, and another wants to meet their daughter they never had the chance to.

4. “Midnight Library”- Matt Haig
This story features a one-of-a-kind library that offers books beyond your wildest dreams. Each book holds a life story, a story that could’ve been your own. In the book, characters see their own lives in different ways and the possibilities that could have been. Like “Before the Coffee Gets Cold,” this story brings about questions of fate. What would your life be like if you had made one different decision?

Next, what’s a cold winter without a little mystery?

5. “Greenglass House”- Kate Milford
“Greenglass House” is a middle-grade mystery that follows 12-year-old Milo. It’s winter time and Milo is looking forward to spending his time cozy by the fire. However, the Greenglass House (a smuggler’s inn) welcomes a handful of odd guests with mysterious backstories. Milo is determined to figure out who the guests really are and what brought them to the Greenglass House.

This story is a dark murder mystery set at a New England college. It follows a group of students influenced by their professor. The narrator, Richard Papen, recalls the events leading up to his classmate Bunny’s murder.

This book isn’t traditionally cozy, but if you want to play into the dark spooky-ness that comes with winter, this is the perfect read for you. Can’t forget romance!

7. “New Year’s Kiss”- Lee Matthews
“This story follows Tess and her sister Lauren at her grandmother’s ski lodge in Vermont. Tess isn’t particularly happy about being cooped up right before New Year’s, but meeting a visitor named Christopher changes her outlook. With a new positive mindset, she decides to make a bucket list before the new year and is looking forward to spending her time with Christopher. But will a secret of his keep them from spending the holiday together?

8. “Let It Snow”- John Green, Maureen Johnson and Lauren Myracle
“Let It Snow” follows a group of teens trapped in a small town due to a massive snowstorm. Within the time they spend together new relationships are formed. They all wonder, what will it be like going back to school after the events of the storm. Will their new connections change the dynamics at school? This book was also adapted as a film in 2019 featuring actress Kiernan Shipka.

Do you feel the holiday spirit yet? Get to reading!
You'll Love These Lemon Crumble Cookies for the Holidays

Hannah Effinger
Production Editor

As I’m sure you all know, the holiday season is fast approaching — and with that comes the influx of cookies and other holiday treats to our kitchen counters. However, no cookie spread is complete without these lemon crumble cookies.

If you’re lucky enough to have a roommate who loves to bake, most of these ingredients should be easy to access — but if not, don’t worry! All of the ingredients cost around $15 total at Shoprite.

You will need:

For the cookies: (makes about 12 cookies)
- 3 cups of flour
- 1 ¼ cup of sugar
- 1 cup of unsalted butter
- 2 tablespoons of lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon of lemon zest
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon of baking powder
- ½ teaspoon of baking soda
- ½ teaspoon of salt
- 1 egg

For the icing:
- 2 cups of powdered sugar
- ¼ cup of lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons of milk (or milk alternative)
- ½ teaspoon of vanilla extract

Of course, the first thing you want to do is preheat your oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit and line your baking sheets with parchment paper. Now that you’re all set up for the cookies, it’s time to mix the dry ingredients. Put the three cups of flour, one teaspoon of baking powder, ½ teaspoon of baking soda, and ½ teaspoon of salt together in a medium sized bowl, and gently mix them. Next, take the softened two sticks of butter and 1 ¼ cup of sugar and beat them together until creamy, preferably with an electric mixer, or maybe ask your strongest roommate to whisk it by hand. If you do this, you might need to bribe them with a cookie or two, but it’s a small price to pay to save your weak arms. It’s okay if this isn’t the smoothest mixture, especially if you’re doing it by hand, but just try to make sure it’s about the same texture throughout.

For the rest of the batter, you want to mix the rest of your wet ingredients together, so take one teaspoon of vanilla extract, two tablespoons of lemon juice, and one tablespoon of lemon zest and combine it with sugar and butter. Now, take your dry ingredients and slowly incorporate into the wet ingredients, mixing as you go to create a smooth dough. You want to mix this well, so that there’s no clumps, but be careful not to over-mix, you don’t want to have to spoon knock off lemon pudding onto your baking sheets.

Here comes the fun part, take a tablespoon or cookie scoop and begin to place the dough balls onto your baking sheets, about one inch apart. Once you’re done with this, put your cookies in the oven for seven to eight minutes, or until their bottoms are golden brown.

While these are baking, it’s time to make the icing. The icing isn’t required, but it really holds the cookies together, and adds a touch of vanilla elevating the overall flavor of the cookie. In a small bowl combine the two cups of powdered sugar, ¼ cup of lemon juice, two tablespoons of milk (or milk alternative), and ½ teaspoon of vanilla extract. Mix these until smooth, or until most of the clumps are out, and set aside until the cookies are cool.

After the eight minutes are up, take the cookies out of the oven and let them sit until they’re cool to the touch, about 15 minutes. Lastly, take your icing and brush it over each cookie, and leave out until the icing sets.

Hannah Effinger
Production Editor

These cookies are the perfect treat for when your sweet tooth is calling.
NEW LANDMARKS IN AN INIMITABLE JAZZ DISCOGRAPHY

THE GUARDIAN

NEWLY STAGED CONCERT

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BY MARY HALVORSON

STAGE DESIGN BY AARON COPP

WITH

ADAM O’FARRILL, TRUMPET

JACOB GARCHIK, TROMBONE

PATRICIA BRENNAN, VIBRAPHONE

MARY HALVORSON, GUITAR

NICK DUNSTON, BASS

TOMAS FUJIWARA, DRUMS

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Room 2035, School of Communication and Media in Upper Montclair, NJ 07043
What is one of your favorite holiday memories?

By Lynise Olivacce

Photo Editor

“My family hosts Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. And so Christmas Eve we have my mom's side over, Christmas Day we have my dad's side over, and it's just really nice like both days having both sides of the family.”

Spenser Dunphy
Freshman
Dance

“I’m from Delaware. So we have this place that just puts up a bunch of Christmas lights every year. It's a drive by but not a lot of people know about it. It's always empty when we go. My family goes once a year and we just drive around and listen to music. We go around like three or four times. It's just really nice.”

Lily Millard
Freshman
Dance

“I celebrate Eid al-Fitr. I went out with like my whole family. Went to the movies. We all got ready together then we went to the mosque together. It was a good day. We went out to dinner. I don't really celebrate Christmas. It's super nice to be with your family.”

Farwa Ali
Freshman
Nursing
“My favorite holiday memory is having my entire extended family over, [we're] Italian, so we have like a big family, and we do this thing called like the Seven Fishes and you just have a bunch of fish. It's a ton of fun and anytime somebody brings like a date, or significant other over they always throw up after because it's just too much fish I guess. And you know, just hanging out with my family.”

Henry Tighe  
Junior  
Sports Communication

“My favorite holiday memory is when me and all my cousins get together around Christmas and we all have matching pajamas and stuff and Christmas cookies.”

Nate Lowry  
Senior  
Visual Communication Design

“This holiday season [my family and I] went to Disney for the 50th anniversary [and for] my niece's 10th birthday. It was Christmas themed so we got to see Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Spectacular. It was just really great because it was all my immediate family and my brother and his wife, my niece, my nephew, my mom and my dad and it was just great. Because it brought us together. And we got to experience something like a Christmas event before Christmas and it was just really nice.”

Joe Recalde  
Junior  
Social Media and Public Relations
Horoscopes

Capricorn
Dec. 22 – Jan. 19
You’ve been feeling a bit stressed lately. Maybe because some people in your group projects have been lacking or not doing anything at all. Hey, it happens! Take this week to relax and go see “Elf” in the theaters and make sure to receive every line in the movie! The kids will love that!

Cancer
Jun. 21 – Jul. 22
Be honest with me – how many days ahead are you on your advent calendar? Because there’s still 2 and a half weeks until Christmas and a LOT of empty chocolate wrappers on your desk.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 – Feb. 18
The grass is greener on the other side! Which is good for you, because after your roommates find that moldy Clementine you left in that weird bowl for like 4 months in the kitchen, you’ll definitely be sleeping outside tonight!

Leo
Jul. 23 – Aug. 22
He lays you down and reaches for a remote. There is a TV facing the throne. “Watch this.” He puts on “Don’t Worry Darling”. It’s horrific. “Why? Why are you doing this to me,” you scream. He replies, “My favorite thing about the movie is, like, it feels like a movie.” You start to weep.

Virgo
Aug. 23 – Sep. 22
You know how we have another Thursday schedule on the last Tuesday of the semester? You didn’t? Neither does your professor. Shhh don’t tell them! It’ll be our little secret!

Pisces
Feb. 19 – Mar. 20
Did you get your Christmas cards mailed out? Make sure they say “Happy Holidays” – not for inclusivity’s sake, just to annoy your grandmother who thinks there’s a grand conspiracy against saying “Merry Christmas”.

Libra
Sep. 23 – Oct. 22
I know it wasn’t necessarily journalistic, but if you had a problem with our cover page headline last week, take it up with the air. A student who works at the Willowbrook Hot Topic said they loved it, and that’s all that matters to me.

Aries
Mar. 21 – Apr. 19
If your roommate’s cat starts walking on its hind legs and talking to you in a thick Russian accent this week, maybe it’s time to go to bed! Put your laptop away, turn off the Christmas lights in the common area, and throw out the week old shrimp cocktail on your counter – rumor has it expired shrimp may cause hallucinations!

Taurus
Apr. 20 – May 20
Did your Brother give you a concussion while boxing in your basement? Now you have to write horoscopes for the paper? Hey, don’t sweat it, you can write whatever you want and not get in trouble because you’re conscious! Look! The Montclarion is a dictatorship secretly run by Nicky Vidal. Help us. See? I’m not in trou-

Scorpio
Oct. 23 – Nov. 21
Listen, I would say your poor life decisions continue to surprise me, but for a person that keeps drinking regular milk despite being lactose intolerant, there’s not much surprise there.

Gemini
May 21 – Jun. 20
There might be pressure in your household to wrap your gifts like they’re being displayed next to Santa at the mall. But what’s more fun? Doing an equation to get the right amount of paper or wrapping it burrito style like it’s your first day as a California Tortilla employee?

Sagittarius
Nov. 22 – Dec. 21
Before trying to construct any gingerbread houses this holiday season, consider this: Do you have an architectural degree? Are you prepared to do deal with the guilt that will haunt you for the rest of your life if your sugary masterpiece topples in on itself and crushes its confectionary inhabitants? Do you care about life forms other than yourself? Just some food for thought.
Across
4. The song has these lyrics: “In the meadow we can build a snowman, and pretend that he is Parson Brown.”
5. This member of The Beatles wrote “Happy Xmas (War is Over).”
6. This Christmas classic was written by Puerto Rican singer/songwriter Jose Feliciano.
7. She sings “All I Want for Christmas is You.”
8. The song has these lyrics: “Let's take the road before us and sing a chorus or two.”

Down
1. This holiday song was written by Adam Sandler and performed on “Saturday Night Live.”
2. This classic Christmas song is by Wham!
3. The original singer of “Christmas (Baby Please Come Home).”

The Montclarion Crossword Puzzle and More!

Holiday Edition

By Jenna Sundel

Sudoku

Word Search

Holiday Present Merry
Bright Chanukah Kwanzaa
Christmas Tree Menorah
Stockings Snowman Santa
Happy Holidays!

From,

the Montclarion
Happy Holidays!

From,
Montclair State University students rejoice as the semester is coming to an end on Dec. 21. As the semester winds down and finals are being wrapped up for the year, students are preparing to celebrate the holidays at home with their families once classes conclude.

Well, some students get to after classes conclude, but some of them have to celebrate while the semester is still occurring. Some students, who are of the Jewish faith, do not get the days off to rest and spend time with their families to celebrate Hanukkah.

For some context about the holiday, the Festival of Lights, or Hanukkah, "commemorates the successful rebellion of the Jewish people against the Syrians in the Maccabean War of 162 BCE, but the military associations of this festival are played down. What is really being celebrated is the survival of Judaism."

While every night may not be as big of a celebration, the first and the last night are ones that hold great importance to the holiday. This year, classes luckily won’t be held on the first day of Hanukkah, which is Sunday, Dec. 18. However, next fall semester, classes will be held on the first and last day of Hanukkah.

Why is our academic calendar solely based on Christian holidays while we are such a diverse and inclusive university? According to Hillel International, 400 out of 15,993 (2.5%) undergraduate students are Jewish, as well as 100 out of 4,651 (2.2%) graduate students. Some might say that this number is too small to cater to, however, we believe that no matter the population size, all students’ religions should be catered to for the holiday season.

The first and last nights of Hanukkah may require one to travel for family, help set up the house for celebrations, help parents cook food, etc. This is all similar to what people do on Christmas and Christmas Eve. It makes sense to have off on Christmas. A lot of the celebration is done in the morning such as opening gifts and Mass. However, what about Christmas Eve? We have always had off for Christmas Eve despite traditionally not celebrating it until the night if your family even decides to celebrate it.

Montclair State has already published a statement on this matter on its official website. “Montclair State University embraces the diversity of its Student Body, and the University endeavors to provide an environment that is inclusive and supportive for all the members of our community,” the Montclair State administration stated.

“Instructors have been requested to consider days of religious observance as they schedule key dates in their courses. However, given the diversity of our community, it may not be possible to accommodate the observances of all students within the schedule of a particular course,” the statement explained.

The administration says we can’t accommodate the holidays of our peers, but we can accommodate the official presidential investiture and cancel classes that day. How is an investiture more important than a religious holiday? Who are we to decide which religious holiday is more important than the other? It shouldn’t matter the population size of each religion among students.

Montclair State, we ask that you find a way to accommodate religions other than Christian ones, do better.

Do you think Montclair State is inclusive with the days they give off for holidays?

By Katie Lawrence & Paige Ryans

“I feel like they can add more holidays because there’s a lot of people of different cultures here. But I also understand why they don’t because I understand they can’t take off too many days because there’s a lot of people that don’t celebrate that holiday.”

-Moustapha Kaba
Undecided
Freshman

“I think so, yeah. I really haven’t paid attention but I think we get enough days off.”

-Sofia Cordoba
Accounting
Freshman

“I think Montclair State can be more inclusive with the days they give off for holidays. There’s a lot of students with different religious backgrounds, who celebrate different holidays, so we should be inclusive of that and give every student the day off.”

-Kayla McCullough
Film and Television
Senior
**Satire: The Dark History Behind ‘The Chipmunks Christmas Song’**

**Nicky Vidal**  
Assistant Production Editor

**Disclaimer:** This piece is purely satirical and should not be considered factual.

When it comes to Christmas, we can see that classic songs found on the top of the charts do not compare to “The Chipmunk Song (Christmas Don’t Be Late).” Over my years of participating in holiday traditions, I’ve noticed a trend of an overall sour opinion of this Alvin and the Chipmunks classic.

Here, I will talk about the history of the song and the themes most people seem to miss out on.

The Chipmunks released this holiday classic in 1958 by Ross Bagdasarian, the creator of the Chipmunks. He achieved the chipmunks voices by speeding up the tapes his songs were recorded on.

Upon release, the song was met with massive success. Becoming the first Christmas song on the Billboard top 100, this feat would only ever be achieved again by Mariah Carey’s “All I Want For Christmas Is You.”

As time went on, Alvin and the Chipmunks would get into the Billboard top 100 several more times between 1958 and 1962.

After the release of the 2007 film, “Alvin and the Chipmunks,” the song would re-enter the top 100 for the last time topping at number 70.

As the people who once loved the Chipmunks grew up and the movies stopped, it seems people have forgotten about the bizarre trio band. It seems most of the chipmunks’ accolades have been forgotten as well. When asking students on campus, most said they never knew the achievements of this song.

Without a doubt, most people today have written Alvin, Theodore and Simon as annoying and cheesy. If you take a magnifying glass and analyze their Christmas classic you can see that they are talking about much more than just Christmas.

“The Chipmunk Song (Christmas Don’t Be Late)” is on the surface a story about three chipmunks hoping that they will receive gifts on Christmas day as soon as possible. Beneath the surface of this simple song is a story about corporate greed and exploitation.

The song begins with Dave Seville, their adopted father and manager, calling the chipmunks to see if they’re ready to sing their song. Each chipmunk replies quickly except Alvin, who wants to take part in this simple exchange we can see that the chipmunks are overworked and have been singing this song for too long. Alvin is commonly perceived as the chipmunk with attitude, he stands out and rebels so it’s only fitting that he would be against the working conditions they are subjected to.

After a reluctant “okay” from Alvin, the song begins with a chant to the capitalistic themes of modern Christmas.

> “Time for toys and time for cheer.”

A simple line echoes the disgusting shift from a holiday about joy to one about consumerism.

> “But suddenly the chipmunks say something quite odd “We’ve been good, but we can’t last, hurry Christmas, hurry fast.”

Most people won’t think twice about this on their first listen, but if you look a little closer, the horror emerges.

This line shows how the chipmunks look toward Christmas as an escape from their exploitative boss Dave. They need Christmas to come fast because they don’t know if they can take these working conditions anymore.

> “The lyric that follows though is by far the most telling in the song, “Want a plane that loops the loop, me, I want a hula hoop.” It may seem small, but Alvin’s deviation from what he wishes for just proved this all even more.

> “Alvin is speaking up against the power pushing down upon him in a rebellious act to free himself and his brothers. Finally, to end the chorus, the brothers chant, “We can hardly stand the wait, please Christmas, don’t be late.”

This final chant really rings quite similarly to a quote from George Orwell’s “1984,”

> “We are the dead. Our only true life is in the future.”

This Christmas classic would go on to be loved by audiences but as for the Chipmunks, this would begin their spiral into a life most rock stars find themselves in.

Just a few years later, the Chipmunks would start experimenting with drugs when record label president Ian Hawke suggested it after another failed studio recording session.

This would lead the chipmunks down a dangerous road eventually bleeding into their 1980 album Chipmunk Punk. Fans would nickname this album Sludgefest because of its distort-ed vocals due to the Chipmunks’ heavy drug use. Hopefully, no chipmunk ever has to go through what Alvin, Simon and Theodore had to go through.

If the three of them could say something from beyond the grave they’d probably say merry Christmas and have a happy holiday.

**Nicky Vidal | The Montclarion**
“I Consume Stories To Escape”  
by Anexis Matos | Staff Writer

I consume stories to escape.  
To not be consumed by the shadows.  
To stop myself from constantly reacting.  
To keep from destroying myself.

I consume stories to escape.  
To keep the demons at bay.  
To keep my already broken heart  
from breaking even more.

I consume stories to escape.  
To keep from remembering  
the challenges that constantly plague me.  
To feel normal  
in a society  
that doesn’t view me as such.  
To be normal  
in a society  
that views me more like a problem or liability  
than a person.  
To be normal  
in a society  
that offers me less than what I deserve.

I consume stories to escape.  
To enter worlds  
where I don’t have to think  
about any of this.  
Where I don’t have to think  
about myself.

I consume stories to escape,  
so that when it all goes to hell,  
I am not here.

“Boxed”  
by Alex Pavljuk | Fiction Editor

Three knocks against the rose kissed wood coffin three feet beneath the ice  
and snow tinted sea.

The last of the corner’s well wishes blew away on this hollow December eve.

The smell of the garland wreath buried down deep seeped through what was  
supposed to be a deceased man’s final seat.

Yet the bells of once longing priests couldn’t cheat the death of the old man,  
Evergreen.

“Euphoria”  
by Orion Oss | Contributor

Euphoria is  
pulling on a binder and a crew neck t-shirt  
baggy jeans and hoodies  
dark crystal necklaces and kandi bracelets  
faded and broken-in black converse that show off funky socks  
euphoria is  
the way my hair curls around my face and flounces fresh from the shower  
the way the veins in my hands pulse green and blue  
the way my muscles burn after hitting the gym  
the way eyeliner sticks to my eyelashes for a few days, even though I try to scrub it off  
euphoria is  
slouching and standing wide legged  
sitting with my legs spread  
bruised knees and scrapes  
rough skin and a ruddy nose  
standing tall with my shoulders back, proud  
but most of all  
euphoria is just being me  
loving myself and the body that I live in  
and the way I will be when I’m older  
knowing that I’m okay  
because I know who I am.
“Closer to Heaven” (Part 3 of 5)
by Izzy Love | Staff Writer

The elevator shot up, shifted to the side some ways and exceeded thousands of feet in a mere minute. Yet Kristen barely felt it move or stumble. She suddenly felt light-headed as the doors opened. Brock’s office was like a ballroom in its vast space, ornate furnishings. Every clear space that wasn’t taken by stacks of paper was decorated in models. She spotted cities, neighborhood dioramas, even prototypes of the park’s statues. All were clustered together in a disorganized mess.

Through a small metal disk Kristen placed on the ground, a slide presentation presented itself as a semi-translucent hologram. Babylon Wonders had taken an incredible amount of land to house its attractions. Enough to be a challenge for the sharpest astronaut’s eye to spot. Acres of farms and forest, as well as all the wildlife that called the area home, had been razed for the project. And all the concrete that was used to build the statues? The Co2 it generated only bolstered all that. The combined toll on the atmosphere was more than well documented. Kristen explained this with extreme precision. Diagrams, photos and animations demonstrating her point unfolded in the artificial light. Kristen explained this with extreme precision. Diagrams, photos and animations demonstrating her point unfolded in the artificial light.

"If you keep it up, you're not even going to have a planet left to play around with. Nothing you make will mean anything if there's nothing to sustain it."

She shook her head. "No, it doesn't work like that," Kristen retorted, astonished by his attitude. "Your taxes don't mean anything if you're destroying the atmosphere. This is all about preserving the planet and—"

He cut her off. "No, it's a matter of how far I can reach." He strolled over to wall opposite, perusing the shelves of models. "When I was a boy, I loved collecting miniatures. Miniature trains, cars, animals. I had a whole state's worth of cities and houses. The novelty of recreating something at such a small scale was endless. But when I became a man; I realized true accomplishment lay in the very opposite. By building my statues, I'm not only pushing the boundaries of construction. Quite literally, I'm reaching heights nobody else in history has. I'm walking right up to the gates of heaven itself."

"Your crowd always touts itself on being progressive and what not. And now you're standing in the way of pure progress."

Brock sat up, facing her with more intensity. "My point is there's good going with the bad. It pads out and I'm in the clear."

Kristen was floored. She could barely form together the words to describe absolutely how ludicrous this whole spiel was. Had he no conscience? Even a lick of self-awareness? Could I always come dead last to 'should I.' No exceptions. She couldn't say she was shocked, but at least other CEOs Kristen had gone toe to toe with were motivated by greed for money. Brock was greedy for achievement.

She stammered as she forced a thought out. "You're going to kill the planet...so you can build in your own sandbox?"

With a nod, Brock quipped: "If that's what happens, it happens."

That's when Kristen realized. He hadn't brought her here for wholehearted debate, that she had lost the second she walked in the door. He brought her here to make a point. The smugness on Brock's face seemed to be the final confirmation of that theory.

"If you keep it up, you're not even going to have a planet left to play around with. Nothing you make will mean anything if there's nothing to sustain it."

Brock pretended to focus on the shelf of miniatures, keeping his back on her. "That's a tragedy in of itself, but it's not my business. Besides, Ms. Swain; who's going to stop me from doing what I want on my property?"

Fuming, Kristen stormed for the door. Clearly, she had wasted her time here.

"Ms. Swain?" he called out from behind.

She whipped around, ready for any rebuke Brock had left to throw at her. But instead he just smiled. The same child-like joy she had seen at the Brachiosaurus.

"Won't you stay for the shareholder meeting?" He asked calmly. "I think it's very relevant to our conversation."

Kristen thought about it for a moment. "I'll think about it. And with that, the elevator doors shut, bringing her back to Earth."
A Mixed Media Piece by Gwen Dang

“Legal” - Haddie Lyons

“Twist Off Fire” - Alex Pavljuk

“Ollie” - Katie Lawrence
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.

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).
Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” gained yet another notch in its belt with the classic’s latest rendition, “Spirited.” Released in select theaters on Nov. 11 and streamed on Apple TV+ starting Nov. 18, the Christmas comedy relies on household names, original musical numbers and the same heartwarming message to keep it afloat in a vast sea of adaptations.

The film attempts to compensate for re-telling a story that has been told time and time again by giving prominence and depth to characters that didn’t have it before. In this case, the central focus is the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future and the annual operation they run. The spirits are all given big personalities with big responsibilities as, each year, they are joined by Jacob Marley (Patrick Page) and a huge team of support ghosts to find a miserable person in deep need of transformation. The ghosts lead separate parts of the “haunt,” hoping to turn a modern-day Scrooge into a loving member of society by showing them parts of their life.

But little does one of the ghosts know, their life would be changing too. As the Ghost of Christmas Present (Will Ferrell) persistently tries to transform Clint (Ryan Reynolds), a sleazy media consultant that puts others down for a living, he begins to wonder what it’d be like to retire from his 46 years working as Present and return to Earth as a normal human. The duo spends the rest of the film challenging one another’s ways of thinking.

Any film that markets itself as a comedy relies on household names, comedy and includes either Reynolds or Ferrell can be assumed to be a winner. Put the two together, and expectations become insurmountable, especially when Octavia Spencer plays another of the movie’s leading characters, plus other renowned celebrities bring surprise appearances. And while “Spirited” comes close to meeting those expectations (at least where humor and holiday spirit is concerned), the only qualm is it tries too hard to do a little bit of everything at once.

To start, it’s commendable that these leading actors stepped out of their comfort zone to try a musical. Reynolds again shows he’s a natural showman when, surprise, surprise, he doesn’t just sing - he sings well. The songs are catchy; and the dance numbers are all extremely well choreographed by Chloe Arnold, but the film just seemed confused on if it actually wanted to be a musical or not. Songs came in one after the other in the beginning of the movie, so much so that I assumed the rest of the film would be borderline musical overkill. But then several scenes passed with no music at all, leaving me to question if music was only being used to establish the characters. Then again, many scenes passed and the musical numbers suddenly flooded back in. The songs and dances themselves were extraordinarily creative and well-executed; they just lacked proper pacing.

Along with issues of pacing came issues with the film’s length. Two hours and seven minutes is an unnecessary long runtime, and it was a result of the dual character arcs “Spirited” tried to juggle. Both Clint and Present went through fully fleshed out changes; having both protagonists’ feelings and experiences receive equal attention felt like a lot to digest and confusing as to whose narrative is meant to be focused on.

Luckily, these minor complaints are overshadowed by a few stand-out scenes and an uplifting message that saves the day. Many of the infamous visuals in “A Christmas Carol” are brought back in this adaptation, including an earlier scene of Jacob Marley in all his ghost glory, floating with blue ectoplasm and thick chains surrounding him. The glowing tower of food and gifts Present sits on is another visual highlight. The effects used in these scenes are eye-catching and certainly don’t fall short compared to other film adaptations throughout the years. Of course, as any Christmas story lesson would teach, the iconic imagery is all used to point to the movie’s intended message on life, which is beautifully summarized in the last half hour of the film. It keeps in line with the theme in each “A Christmas Carol” rendition, but “Spirited” presents and verbalizes it in a way that shows being a good person is a conscious choice that needs to be made day in and day out; it’s not a one-and-done decision.

In all, even with its many chaotic elements, from song and dance to long storylines and striking visuals, “Spirited” has all its moving parts come together to create a well-intentioned holiday movie that will leave viewers jolly one way or another.
‘Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special’ Is Cute but Bland

Danny Krastek
Staff Writer

It’s been a long eight years since “Guardians of the Galaxy” took the world by storm. Seriously, who could have possibly predicted that a movie featuring a green lady, a tree, a raccoon, the guy from “Jurassic World” and Dave Bautista could do nothing but listen to 1980s music and still become a cultural phenomenon? I definitely didn’t. But it became a hit, and everybody liked it. The world was at peace.

Unfortunately, since that first movie, the series has started to go downhill ever since. The sequel, “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2” though still quite good, was nowhere near as strong as the original. The characters were strong in “Avengers: Infinity War,” though they did get split up several times. Most of them were barely in “Avengers: Endgame.” And now, “The Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special” has been unleashed onto the world through Disney+

Is it good? That depends. Looking at it on its own, it’s perfectly fine, but when comparing it to the rest of the Marvel Cinematic Universe productions put out this year, it looks like the Mona Lisa.

The short 45 minute movie starts off with a cute animated sequence of Yondu (Michael Rooker) ruining Christmas for a young Star Lord (Chris Pratt). We then cut to live action featuring a green lady, a tree, a raccoon, the guy from “Jurassic World” and Drax (Bautista) and Mantis (Pom Klementieff) trying to kidnap Kevin Bacon, who plays himself, as a callback to a moment from one of the earlier “Guardians” starring films. It’s kind of funny; it definitely made me exhale out of my nose, at the very least, but that doesn’t mean it’s worth stretching out for an entire short.

The only joke this movie really has for the vast majority of its runtime is, “Haha look, it’s Kevin Bacon! As Kevin Bacon! Aren’t we funny? Aren’t we witty?” It’s pretty amusing for a bit, but by the end, the novelty has completely worn off.

Christmastime is here,” the aliens sing. What follows is one joke stretched out for over half an hour—the name of that joke is Kevin Bacon. I’m not kidding. The film’s plot revolves around Drax (Bautista) and Mantis (Pom Klementieff) trying to kidnap Kevin Bacon, who plays himself, as a callback to a moment from one of the earlier “Guardians” starring films. It’s kind of funny; it definitely made me exhale out of my nose, at the very least, but that doesn’t mean it’s worth stretching out for an entire short.

Country music is definitely an acquired taste, but it is one of the catchiest and most danceable genres out there. Morgan Wallen, most famous for his songs “Whiskey Glasses” or “Chasin’ You,” has just released three new songs in a single sampler called “One Thing At A Time.” Wallen never disappoints his listeners, and this sampler definitely showed that.

“One Thing At A Time,” the first one on the single, is a catchy country song to its core. The fun beat and catchy lyrics bring his music to the next level. No matter what people say about country music, they have to say a lot of it is very relatable, which is what I believe attracts listeners to it the most. “Days That End In Why” is the second song on the single. This is your classic heartbreak song. What makes this one different is the imagery the lyrics bring to listeners. That is what Wallen does best; his lyrics are so detailed yet so simple. If you haven’t checked out his new single, even if you’re a country hater, definitely do.

‘Wednesday’ on Netflix

Larissa Weems, the cast is stacked with incredible actors and actresses that bring their characters to the next level. If you’re looking for a show that brings comedy, drama and mystery all together in one, “Wednesday” is the right show for you.

With Jenna Ortega perfectly portraying Wednesday and Gwendoline Christie as Larissa Weems, the cast is stacked with incredible actors and actresses that bring their characters to the next level. If you’re looking for a show that brings comedy, drama and mystery all together in one, “Wednesday” is the right show for you.

- Erin Lawlor
Assistant News Editor

“Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special” is streaming on Disney+. Photo courtesy of Disney+

“Wednesday” is the right show for you. Photo courtesy of Netflix

“Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special” is a serviceable addition to the series, but it is not something that warrants more than one watch. Photo courtesy of Disney+

“Wednesday” on Netflix

“Wednesday” on Netflix

“Wednesday” on Netflix

“Wednesday” on Netflix

“Wednesday” on Netflix
Happy holidays, folks! The Christmas movie season might be more limited than spooky season, but holiday films definitely feel more unique than just any old horror movie. Here’s a list of the 10 best movies to watch while the snow falls.

### Top 10 Christmas Movie Classics

#### 1. "It’s A Wonderful Life" (1946)

A man (James Stewart) goes through life not realizing how much his presence has impacted and changed the people around him.

“It’s A Wonderful Life” is an oldie but most definitely a goodie. This isn’t just one of the best Christmas movies ever, but it’s a personal favorite of all time as well. It’s a heartwarming story, told through a strong script and iconic performances, especially from Stewart in the lead role.


A young boy (Peter Billingsley) tries to convince his family to get him the perfect Christmas present. Mayhem and hilarity ensue.

Almost everyone has seen this movie, and even if you haven’t, you’re bound to recognize Ralphie’s giant glasses, his toy BB gun and the plastic leg-shaped lamp. It’s a hilarious, nostalgic look back to the holiday that brings out the child in everyone. “A Christmas Story” is a yearly must-watch, especially since it has a sequel out now.


Charlie Brown (Peter Robbins) tries to find a way to discover the meaning of Christmas while also maneuvering through the annual holiday play.

This is not a full-length movie, but it really deserves a place on this list more than anything else here. Nothing screams “Christmas” more than this (except the desperate wails of Mariah Carey; I will continue to bring that song up in every article I can). This is a fantastic little short that’s fun for the whole family and a necessity for sure.

#### 4. "The Muppet Christmas Carol" (1992)

The Muppets put their own unique spin on this classic story, with comedy and music on their side.

The Ebenezer Scrooge story has been done countless times, but arguably the very best adaptation of Charles Dickens’ short story is this version starring…the Muppets. It’s funny, cute, charming, heartfelt and everything in between, and makes the story accessible for all ages.


Clark Griswold Jr. (Chevy Chase) attempts to give his family the perfect Christmas, though the imminent arrival of his extended family causes chaos.

“The little lights are not twinkling!” This is one of the movies I quote the most, especially around the holidays. Almost every single scene has at least one great line or one moment that can make me absolutely lose it. It’s endlessly entertaining.

#### 6. "Top 10 Christmas Movie Classics"

Danny Krastek
Staff Writer

Happy holidays, folks! The Christmas movie season might be more limited than spooky season, but holiday films definitely feel more unique than just any old horror movie. Here’s a list of the 10 best movies to watch while the snow falls.

To read the full article, go to themontclarion.org
‘Emily the Criminal’ Gives Life to a Modern Bonnie and Clyde

The only crime of “Emily the Criminal,” a film released in the U.S. on Aug. 12 that gained traction when Netflix began streaming it on Dec. 7, is leaving viewers wanting more of the riveting feeling it delivers.

Aubrey Plaza stars as the titular role in this crime thriller. Though an aspiring artist at heart, Emily works as a deliverer for a food catering company. It’s a job that does little to help pay off her $70,000 student loan debt. Turned away from prospective employers due to past felonies, she finds herself trying out her luck as a “dummy shopper,” a gig her co-worker promises will make her quick money.

But quick does not equate to easy or even moral in this case. Emily finds the job actually consists of credit card fraud where she must purchase expensive items using stolen payment information. Desperation and burdensome financial obligations drive her to stick with it, becoming increasingly involved in illegal activity despite the danger that comes along with it. What results is a nail-biting series of incidents.

The most daunting part of this film is unfortunately the real-to-life issue it concerns itself with. Emily, though a fictional character, represents the very real 42.8 million borrowers plagued by student loan debt in the United States. She embodies the vicious cycle debt often presents, as in one scene she admits to not finishing college because of the pressing need to work and pay back loans, stopping her from earning the degree that may have increased her chances of finding the well-paying career she so desperately seeks. And despite today’s generation emphasizing that a “traditional route” of higher education is not necessarily needed to find monetary success, the film does an excellent job of showing that society has yet to fully adapt to that thinking.

Adding to the nerve-inducing foundation of the story is Plaza’s deadpan delivery. Just as she does in most of her roles, she remains chiefly impassive in expression and tone, but when a scene calls for it, she very naturally carries out a burdened, vengeful young woman that has more grit and gall than meets the eye.

In the same vein is Youcef (Theo Rossi), Emily’s mentor in credit card fraud. Not surprisingly, the writers took the opportunity to turn this charismatic leader into the protagonist’s love interest. But the balance of genres is just right and doesn’t cheapen the movie in the slightest. Enough romance is used only to pleasantly break up the monotony of the film’s mood and further Emily’s plunge into peril, moving the action and suspense of the story along.

What helps keep the movie entertaining aside from its accessibility and Bonnie-and-Clyde-like duo is many of the film’s transitions. Audio is more than once cleverly used to move from one scene to another, whether it be the abrupt yip of a dog barking or the clank of the machine Emily and Youcef use to create fake credit cards. It’s difficult to articulate but something viewers must see, or hear, rather, in order to understand how big of a difference something simple like audio transitions can make in creating a polished film and pleasurable viewing experience.

“Emily the Criminal” is just that - a cohesive, gripping watch that makes its hour-and-a-half runtime pass quickly. Its only offense is creating endings for its characters that will certainly leave viewers itching for more. But that’s a better problem to have and possibly even a reason why this film should make it onto people’s watchlist.
Former NHL Player Rings in Holidays at the Montclair State Ice Arena

Nicholas Cirillo

Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, elves, Olaf and some minions made a special trip to the Montclair State University Ice Arena to partake in the festivities at the second annual Monarchs Hockey holiday party.

However, it was the appearance of a former N.H.L. player that had the kids, and their parents, clamoring to get an autographed picture. Brian Mullen, who was a forward for the NY Rangers from 1987-1991, talked about his time with the N.H.L., took pictures and got out on the ice with the kids during the event.

“I always look forward to these events where I get the chance to give back to the sport that I love and have a fun time out on the ice with the kids,” Mullen said.

As the kids and their parents munched on pizza, chicken fingers and cookies, Mullen engaged in conversations with every member of the Monarch team while signing autographs and telling stories about his time on the ice.

After that, it was down to the rink for an open skate. With holiday music blasting from the speakers inside the rink, members of the Montclair State Red Hawks men’s hockey team and Mullen laced up their skates and helped the kids shoot pucks.

During this time, the other special guests began making their way onto the ice. First out were Minions Bob and Stuart, followed by some of Santa’s elves and Olaf who played with the kids and even helped a few skate.

However, no holiday party would be complete without a visit from the big man himself, Santa, with Mrs. Claus by his side. Letting out a jolly ho-ho-ho, Santa and Mrs. Claus made their way to the rink and spent the rest of the evening skating alongside the players and their families.

“This party is spectacular,” one of the Monarch players said to his mom.

Brad Meyers, executive director of Monarch Hockey, spoke about the event.

“Our holiday party was a great success,” Meyers said. “It’s a great time to bring our families together for good food, good fun and good conversation. It gives us a chance to say thank you to the families of our skaters who trust us to teach their children to skate and play hockey. It strengthens our Monarchs community and brings our families closer to each other.”

The Monarchs, a non-profit organization that focuses on providing children with disabilities a safe environment to thrive in and learn to ice skate or play ice hockey, have called the ice arena home for almost three years.

The athletes’ journey begins with their Learn to Skate program which focuses on the very basics of skating. Participants then progress through one or more concentration, including special hockey, speed skating or figure skating.

The Monarchs’ mission of inclusion allows anyone to try something they may have never thought possible. The all-volunteer organization is passionate about helping children socialize and learn new skills while enjoying the sport of ice skating and hockey.

“The participation of our volunteers, instructors, coaches and Montclair [State] students is what makes us successful,” Meyers said.

If you would like more information about the Monarchs visit their website at www.monarchs.us for more information.
Nickie Carter Sinks Free Throws To Bring Women's Basketball Back to Even Record

Against a tough TCNJ team, the Red Hawks played hard and got the win at the very end

Benjamin Garfinkle
Staff Writer

It was alumni day at Montclair State University and to celebrate, the Red Hawks played against the The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) women's basketball team.

After a very close match, the Red Hawks won 58-56. The Red Hawks now have a record of 4-4 with the win, while the Lions fall to a record of 6-4.

All 40 minutes of the game were close with each team leaving everything they had on the court to secure their win.

Senior guard Nickie Carter scored the most points for the Red Hawks with 32 points. Freshman guard Shannon Hughes was just below with 17.

Carter reflected on how she was able to stay consistent throughout the game.

"Honestly, going into today, I just thought that I just want to have fun today," Carter said. "Sometimes I put a lot of pressure on myself and I take myself out of it, but I just said I [want to] play, I [want to] have fun, I [want to] play confident and then the offense just kind of flowed through that which really felt awesome."

By the end of the first quarter, TCNJ was up by six points with a score of 17-11.

However, Montclair State rally came alive in the second quarter while more than doubling the number of points that TCNJ had with totals of 16 and seven, respectively.

Junior guard Mahogany Worsley-Wooten knew that the momentum could be followed into the second half.

"We knew we had to put together four quarters so we picked each other up, and we just talked during halftime," Worsley-Wooten said. "We said we gotta keep it going and we gotta play four full quarters."

The Red Hawks had a three-point lead at the half with a score of 27-24.

Montclair State, unfortunately, did struggle with turnovers throughout the game while committing 22 turnovers. Carter explained what the Red Hawks have to work on to improve these turnovers.

"I think it's just adjusting to other teams' defenses," Carter said. "We see a lot of different defenses, a lot of different presses. So I think, honestly, just being confident with the ball and reading the defense as we go and honestly just sticking together. We know we're going to make mistakes, but we just got to lift each other up after we do and onto the next play."

The Lions jumped off to a quick start in the fourth and went on a 9-0 run in front of the Red Hawks.

However, the Red Hawks were relentless and evened the score back up to 53-53.

Worsley-Wooten had a simple philosophy when it came to the defensive plan for the Red Hawks and how it was altered during the game.

"We know they were three-point shooters and they had [a] really good post so we knew we had to switch on the screens and step up and work together as a team," Worsley-Wooten said.

The matchup was still tied up with four seconds to go at 56 points a piece. However, the Red Hawks had an opportunity to take the lead.

Carter was fouled and was on her way to the free-throw line for two clutch free-throws.

"At halftime, I had actually said to [assistant] coach Katie [Sire]," Carter said. "I said 'I'm going, I'm not missing a free throw this half.' So, honestly, I just stepped up with that same confidence. I said 'these are going. Like I need these, we need these, these are going in.'"

She made both of them and Montclair State had a lead of 58-56.

The Lions missed a three-point hail mary, and the Red Hawks won the game after securing the rebound.

Montclair State's next game is on Dec. 13 against the Hunter College Hawks in New York, NY at 5 p.m.
Men's Basketball Undefeated

Matthew Thornton  
Staff Writer

From the moment tip-off occurred, both the Montclair State University men's basketball team and The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) came out with a high level of physicality and high energy on defense and offense. The Red Hawks from the opening tip went away from their traditional 3-2 and press defense.

Senior guard Keyon Pryce explained the strategy, "We had to switch it up on the defensive side of the ball," Pryce said. "Teams were getting familiar with our usual 3-2 defense, so we wanted to give them a different look on the side of the ball."

This was a wise decision from the coaching staff since the Lions tend to get a majority of their points in post-up situations and off-dribble penetration.

Early on, the game went back and forth as both teams tried to gain an advantage over the other. As expected, TCNJ started off by establishing themselves in the paint and had success at finding different ways to get the ball inside in spite of the Red Hawks' physical defense.

Montclair State came out playing balanced basketball. Players were often making the extra pass and passing up slightly contested shots to find the open man. Senior guard Devin Cooper made the Red Hawks' first three-pointer of the afternoon. Three-point shooting would play a huge role as the game later progressed.

The first half came to an end with Montclair State having a 43-33 advantage.

The only negative of the afternoon for Montclair State came when senior guard Cooper suffered an apparent leg injury in the second half while trying to make a play on the offensive end. He was able to put little to no pressure on his leg and had to be helped off the court by teammates and Montclair State staff members.

As a result of Cooper being down for the remainder of the game, it put more pressure on the other guards to take on his offensive responsibilities.

Breeman scored the Red Hawks first three of the second half with 17:05 left in the game. Breeman proceeded to score 13 points in the second half and had a good all-around performance. He finished the game with 21 points and six rebounds.

Montclair State shot 50% from the field and shot efficiently from deep, shooting 9-20 from three-point territory. By halftime, the Red Hawks had tripled TCNJ's three-point attempts and tripled their three-point makes. TCNJ shot 3-6 from long range in the first half.

Montclair State improves to 8-0 on the season and 4-0 in the conference and has another home game against Centenary University at 1 p.m. on Dec. 17 at Panzer Athletic Center.