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Thursday, February 23, 2023

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One Year Later:

Pavlo Lushyn's Journey From Ukraine to Montclair State

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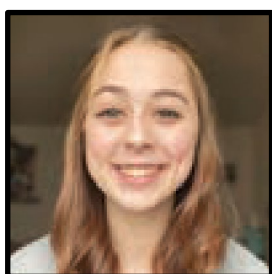
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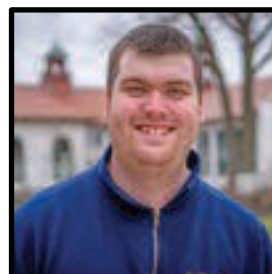
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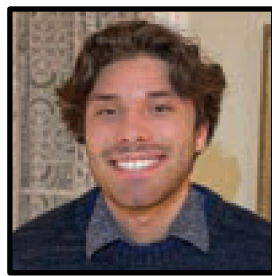
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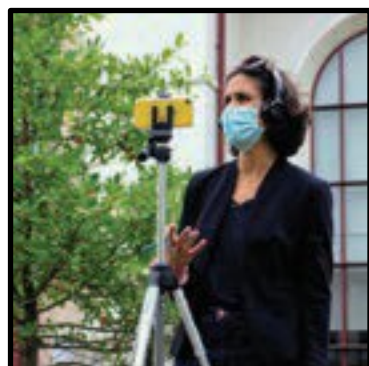
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President Koppell Expands Relationship with Paterson



University President Jonathan Koppell speaking at another event earlier in February.

Lynise Olivacce | *The Montclarion*

Aidan Ivers
Staff Writer

Montclair State students gave their perspectives regarding President Koppell's decision to invest one million dollars to revamp Eastside High School in Paterson, New Jersey.

Montclair State University President Jonathan Koppell made an appearance at Eastside High School in Paterson, New Jersey on Thursday, Feb. 2 to highlight the investment of \$1 million in grant money to the school.

The grant comes from a program that Koppell started during his time in Arizona. According to an article done by NJ.com, One Square Mile is the initiative developed by Koppell while he was Dean of Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions at Arizona State University and the grant comes from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. During that time, Koppell addressed poverty in the Maryvale community around the Phoenix area.

The article describes how Paterson's poverty rate is more than twice the average rate in New Jersey and 25% of its neighborhood is living below the poverty line.

It also explains how Koppell

went to Paterson with a vision: to make Eastside High School a community hub with free meals, mental health counseling and healthcare opportunities for its families and 2,000 students in attendance.

Students on campus gave their opinions on the financial move by Koppell. Liam Maloy, a junior information technology major, said it would be beneficial for the community.

"I think it's a great way to help low-income students and build the proper infrastructure in an area such as Paterson," Maloy said.

Suhani Patel, a junior biology and medical humanities major, shared how it would be a benefit to students looking to invest in higher education.

"I think it's a very interesting, understandable and smart decision to reinvest into the community especially because it's a good opportunity for all those students to come to university if they have better resources and are being more invested into," Patel said. "With the education system in America, the reason why kids drop out of school so early or they decide not to go to college is from the education system with the lack of [resources], and it can be especially hard for students of low-income communities."

Patel also pointed out how while it may be a good deci-

sion for the Paterson community, there still could be better investments made on Montclair State's campus.

"Nevertheless, given that [Koppell] is the president of the university, if the grant would be given toward it, I think there are a lot of places within [Montclair State] that could be invested into," Patel said. "For instance, safety, whether it's more cameras around The Village or better shuttle services so students aren't late to classes. Also, with Science Hall, there aren't a lot of resources in it and it's a tiny building and as a STEM major, I think a lot of aspects are very outdated and it draws

students away from wanting to do research or spend time there compared to a building like the [Feliciano School of Business]."

Ronnie Murphy, a junior filmmaking major, echoed Patel's words regarding a good investment in the community.

"I think it's a very generous donation to the school," Murphy said. "Especially that is helping those kids in need that probably wouldn't have those facilities previously and for future generations to be able to flourish in that community."

While some students of Montclair State are skeptical of the decisions being made by the uni-

versity, Murphy circled back to the idea of the investment being a good thing for Paterson, but work still needs to be done across campus.

"I know personally that a lot of people on campus [that] don't believe the money is going in the right place," Murphy said. "I feel this is one of those decisions where it is going in the right place to help people out. I do wish though they would make smarter decisions for campus if they are going to have this kind of money to fund [things] such as Eastside High School."



Liam Maloy said the investment toward Eastside High School would be beneficial to the community.

Aidan Ivers | *The Montclarion*



Chili's in the Blanton Hall food court.

Lynise Olivacce | The Montclarion

Labor Shortages Cut Hours for Chili's

Kamil Santana
Assistant News Editor

Chili's, located in Blanton Hall, now opens at 5 p.m. The later hour has upset some students but helped others as most dining places close early.

There are many factors to the decision to limit Chili's operating hours.

Jim Robinson is the director of auxiliary services. He manages the dining contract, bookstore contract and card services.

Chartwells, the campus dining service and Robinson, representing the university, agreed on the decision to change operating hours in July of last year.

"Final hours are based on complying with students' de-

mands, and reviewing data as to when it would satisfy the majority of our students of having a restaurant open," Robinson said. "Customer demand is very low because of the pandemic and labor [shortages]."

However, the noise level from Blanton Hall's dining area generated concern from residents.

"Well, [Blanton] is a residence hall and the residents upstairs started complaining about the noise down in their food court so that's why I had to limit it to 10 p.m.," Robinson said.

The decrease in students eating at Chili's was another reason behind the change. Some menu options also decreased in favorability.

"Customer preferences, frequency of visits, price to the cus-

tomers, quality of service, menu variety each directly impact changes in service hours or continuance of a dining venue," Robinson said. "Those changes that best meet the needs of the campus community, at large, go into dining-related changes."

Robert Tagliaferro, a senior film and television major, said he doesn't mind the change in hours as a campus resident.

"I enjoy it," Tagliaferro said. "The only thing is that [Chili's] doesn't serve on weekends anymore."

Alex Fadil, a junior sports communications major and commuter, was not aware of the change in operating hours at Chili's.

"Every single time I'm in Blanton it's closed," Fadil said.

"I don't exactly know what times [it's open]. I originally thought it was not open period because of the fact that it was never open when I was there. That's the reason why I haven't gotten to try it because [of] my schedule. I've noticed the change since the fall semester. Most of the stuff on campus is closed past a certain time."

Jossie Mejia, a senior psychology major, is upset with the decision and responds in support of food service workers.

"With regards to the jobs, that's always unfortunate," Mejia said. "These people have put in their regular hours, they put in the regular work and all of a sudden it just got cut on them. I feel responsible as a student if it's based on client interest. For

them to open at 5 p.m. That's a five-hour workday. That's not much at all. People are now going to have to go get [another] part-time job."

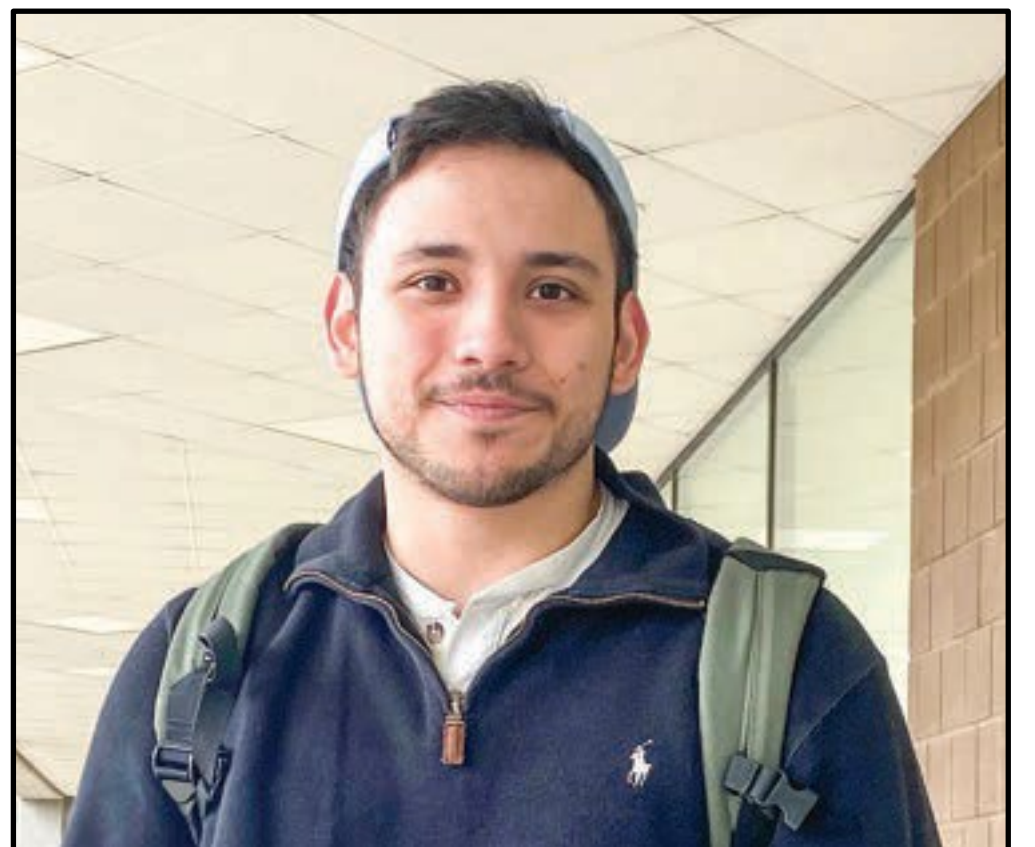
Mejia is appreciative of Chili's as it is one of the establishments on campus that is open until 10 p.m.

"Personally, as a commuter, it did help me the other day," Mejia said. "I didn't have [anything] to eat and it was late like around 8:30 p.m. and they were still open. They were the only store on campus open. That really helped me out because I hadn't eaten since 12 p.m. that day."



Robert Tagliaferro is a campus resident and has not been affected by Chili's change in operating hours.

Kamil Santana | The Montclarion



Jossie Mejia saw beyond the change in operating hours and thought of the service workers who won't be working more than part-time hours.

Kamil Santana | The Montclarion



The Center for Environmental and Life Sciences Building is set to get a new name.

Lynise Olivacce | *The Montclarion*

Science Building to be Re-Named

Carley Campbell
Staff Writer

Financial literacy courses, a new name for Science Hall, changes to gen eds. The Montclair State University Senate held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 15 over Zoom to discuss a series of new updates as well as changes to be made throughout the college campus. Among these new additions include a financial literacy course for students, a new name for Science Hall, and eventual changes to the school's general education course schedule.

One of the first topics discussed, the renaming of Science Hall, was brought up to honor the legacy of Irvin D. Reid. This was discussed by Dr. Saundra Collins Reid, the President of Montclair State University between 1989 to 1997 and was responsible for the transformation of Montclair State College to Montclair State University among other things. Reid is notably one of the few Presidents of Montclair State University to not have a building named after them. There will be a survey on the importance of gen ed requirements going out to faculty. It is unclear when students will have input on this, as well as when said survey will be going out.

A Wiley Survey found that ¼ of students would be more involved if courses emulated future careers. In the meeting, student retention as well as engagement made for a major challenge for courses as well as faculty. Provost Junius Gonzales noted that perhaps a new core curriculum could potentially allow for more changes to student engagement as well as retention. There is a potential focus on curriculum changes to reflect real-world scenarios beyond the confines of a classroom.

For Cameryn Martin, a

junior sports communication major, this is something that should be addressed sooner rather than later. "The way you need to look at it is like this: we will be adults in the real world soon," Martin said. "People need to have these real-life situations come up. At first, it will hurt the students in the short term because a lot of them are being exposed to something they have never done before in their entire lives, but five, 10, or 20 years from now they will see the benefits of being exposed to that kind of stuff when they were still in a controlled environment." Student engagement challenges, enrollment/retention issues, financial and emotional stress, uncertainty about the future and the gap between faculty and student perspectives maintained a significant issue for those involved in the meeting.

For junior film and television major Emily McCormack, a member of several clubs including 90.3 WMSC Upper Montclair and Video Production Club, the best solution could be club involvement. "I think that student involvement fairs should be more frequent and more widely adver-

tised," McCormack said. "I am part of multiple clubs on campus and didn't even realize how soon after the spring semester started there would be another fair, and so I couldn't participate with such last-minute notice. I think it's also important for individual organizations to emphasize how welcome they are to students of all grades and majors, and how willing they are to work with students who are trying to get their feet wet with campus involvement." A financial literacy course has

been announced and will be put in place in fall 2023. Initially created to be a three-credit course based out of the Feliciano School of Business, this is now its own site. Rollout will be gradual, at the moment there is no one-factor log in much like other university sites. Interested persons can visit the site at: montclair.igrad.com.

Sophomore sociology major, Sarah Chandler, believes that a site could work best.

"I think that it's important that financial literacy is a pro-

gram accessible to all students rather than a class," Chandler said. "I think making financial literacy a class and therefore charging students, makes it inaccessible to the students who need it most."

Besides these, there was a significant discussion on the upcoming campus climate focus groups as well as the potential changes that could be made to the campus as a result of these groups.



Emily McCormack believes events like job fairs need to be advertised more.

Photo courtesy Emily McCormack



Cameryn Martin said students need to be taught real world situations.

Photo courtesy Cameryn Martin

Feature

Ukrainian Professor
(continued from page 1)

T Sal DiMaggio
Feature Editor

o Pavlo Lushyn and countless other Ukrainians, the possibility of a Russian invasion seemed like something out of a dystopian blockbuster movie.

"We somehow were expecting that something bad may happen since December [of] 2021," Lushyn said. "But nobody believed that. We just thought [the Russians] were frightening us, just so we [would] behave in favor of them."

But as the whole nation of Ukraine soon realized, that dystopia was to become a reality. On Feb. 24, 2022, Russian troops invaded and turned Lushyn's life upside down.

Lushyn is a research professor of educational foundations at Montclair State University. In Ukraine, he is the chair of the Department of General and Practical Psychology at the University of Educational Management and a leading scholar in educational psychology.

Fleeing From Home

But none of his titles mattered when explosions rocked the city of Kyiv, where Lushyn lived and worked at the time.

"We got up very early [on the morning of Feb. 24] because there were blasts somewhere in [the] distance," Lushyn said. "Explosions [I had] never heard before."

Lushyn and his wife made their way to a nearby basement-turned-bomb shelter, spending a few frightening days there.

"So we slept there, and every other hour we woke up because the walls were shuddering," Lushyn said.

At first, Lushyn thought that things would return to normal soon.

"My son [who was in Germany at the time] started to ask me to leave [Kyiv]," Lushyn said. "And I was not ready to do so because I had plans, I had [my] schedule of classes. And [the] next day, I had to go to this university council [meeting] which I am, as a chair, a part of."

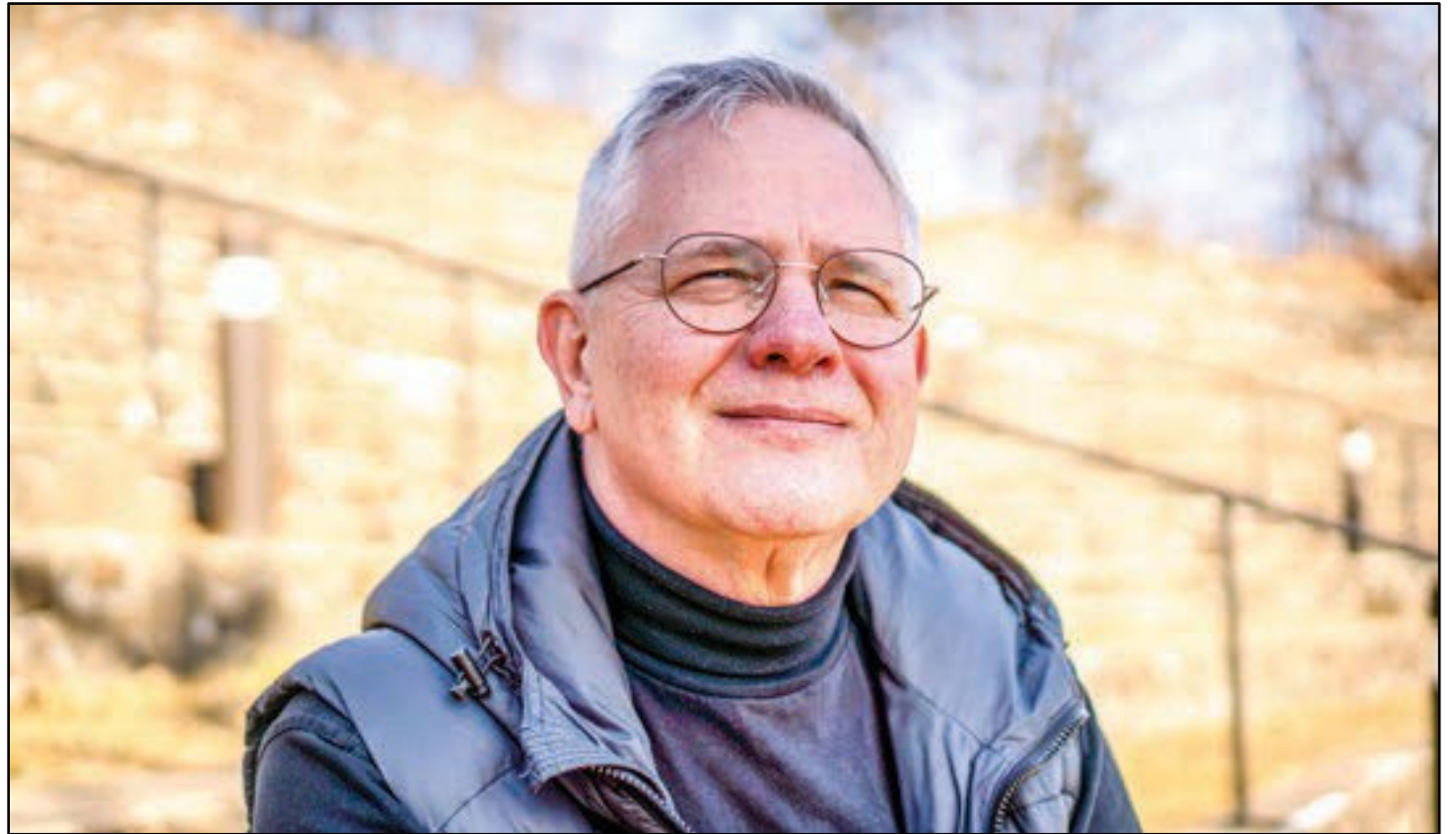
But once Lushyn realized that the Russians could bomb the bridge which led out of Kyiv, he made the decision to leave. Lushyn and his wife first went to Poltava, where his parents were from, and then traveled to Kropyvnytskyi, where he grew up.

After spending a few days traveling, including some nights when Lushyn and his wife had to sleep in their car in freezing temperatures, Lushyn made his way to the border of Moldova, a neighboring country.

"We [waited] in line for about 10 hours," Lushyn said. "I didn't sleep much and I [didn't have the] possibility to sleep at all because the line was moving and if I started [to sleep], I would lose my place in the line."

After finally crossing the border, Lushyn and his wife spent two days at a friend's house in Moldova. They then traveled to Romania, where they also spent two days.

Lushyn said that the hospitality of the Moldovians and Romanians is what helped him and his wife get through those challenging days.



Since coming to Montclair State, Pavlo Lushyn has fit in nicely as an education foundations professor.

Lynise Olivacce | *The Montclarion*



Pavlo Lushyn, wrapped in an Ukrainian flag, attends an event in Germany.

Photo courtesy of Pavlo Lushyn

"All the Romanians and Moldavians would help us," Lushyn said. "They would provide some gasoline or money to refuel. And the people were receptive and so hospitable. Sometimes I was just going in my direction and the cars would give me signals and I didn't know [what they were]. And then I understood that they saw my license plates and it was [Ukrainian] and they would just [say] hello to me."

It was at that point when a former student of Lushyn's offered him a place to stay in Germany, in a town named Hausham near Munich. Lushyn and his wife would spend four months there before they finally could come to the United States.

Coming to the Nest

While in Germany, Lushyn reached out to some contacts he had at Montclair State, beginning a long and complicated process to bring him to the United States.

Maughn Gregory, a professor in the educational foundations department, has known Lushyn since he was a visiting scholar twenty years ago with the Institute for the Advancement of Phi-

losophy for Children. He described the first contact he had with Lushyn about coming to Montclair State.

"[He] just let us know that he and his wife had escaped and immigrated to Germany," Gregory said. "They were looking for a place to live and to work. He was just asking if we knew of anything. And then, of course, we responded [that] we would love to try to bring him here."

Getting Lushyn to the United States was a job easier said than done. Pablo Tinio, chair of the education foundations department at Montclair State, noted how new and crazy the process was.

"We've never done anything like that, so it was really a learning-by-doing and a trial-and-error sort of process," Tinio said. "There were many challenges: missing paperwork that needed to be found back in Ukraine when bombs were falling, immigration issues given the timeline that was needed to bring [Lushyn] here and many more."

Meanwhile, back in Germany, all Lushyn could do was wait.

"Europe was overcrowded with Ukrainians," Lushyn said. "[They

were] everywhere. And the line at [the] American embassy in Germany was three months [long]."

Because of the number of refugees, it seemed like Lushyn wouldn't have been able to come to the United States until Oct. 2022. But one August morning, on a whim, he decided to go to the embassy to see if anything could be done.

"There was [something one] morning, I just said to my son, 'Maybe there's something changing. Maybe people would do something and maybe the line will be not that long,'" Lushyn said.

That's when a "miracle" happened: on that day, there was a spot for a visa open. Lushyn was coming to the United States.

A New Home

It's been six months since Lushyn moved into an on-campus apartment in Hawks Crossings with his wife, and something that he still hasn't gotten used to is the amount of attention he has gotten.

"I'm just like a celebrity," Lushyn said, smiling a little bit. "People [will] always come up to me and say, 'How



Pavlo Lushyn is a leading scholar in educational psychology in Ukraine, and has transferred his skills to his role at Montclair State University.

Photo courtesy of Pavlo Lushyn

are you? Maybe you need some help.' And [then there are] the interviews and TV sessions, which I [haven't] very much [gotten] used to, but that's my only way [of just saying] thank you to all those people who are doing great [things] for me and my family."

Having been a professor for a little over a semester now, Lushyn spoke about his experience teaching at Montclair State.

"The students are the same, although the facilities are absolutely fantastic," Lushyn said. "They have computers, they have the labs— well, they have everything which they need. The technology is way better than in Ukraine."

Despite the differences in technology, there was one thing Lushyn found that Ukrainian and American students have in common: slang.

"Sometimes it's way more difficult to get what they mean, but, well, we get along quite okay," Lushyn said.

Others have noted how Lushyn has flourished while at Montclair State. Gregory talked about what Lushyn brings to the educational foundations department.

"His scholarly outlook is pretty unique," Gregory said. "Through the years he has developed a particular outlook on educational psychology and the psychological dynamics of what happens in classrooms with different kinds of pedagogy, which is tremendously important for us."

Tinio also described what he has seen from Lushyn during his time at Montclair State.

"He's constantly trying to learn new things, experimenting with different ways of engaging his students and volunteering his time to help people back in his home country, like spouses and children of soldiers," Tinio said. "He's a trained therapist, so he's in a place now where he can put that expertise to use, to help his people, who are facing life and death situations."

War's Mental Toll

While in Germany and even now in the United States, Lushyn continues to meet online with Ukrainian students. His job isn't about teaching out of textbooks and lecturing about theories anymore, however. It's about making sure that the students are mentally sound in such chaotic times.

"We are just working and restoring their health conditions, and coming up with new ideas [on] how to build [the] future: not only [the student's] individual future, but the common future," Lushyn said.

In addition to holding group therapy sessions in his role as a leading Ukrainian psychology scholar, Lushyn also participates in international discussion groups to guide students through tough times. This way, students don't lose sight of their educational and professional goals.

"The president of [the University of Educational Management] came up to me and said, 'Do we have an idea [of] how to hold this together so that the students didn't leave for good?'" Lushyn said. "I said, 'The only thing is just to forget about the curriculum.'

[The goal is to] provide [the students with] everything that will be helpful [here and now] just to survive [and] to have a future."

For Lushyn, this was the simplest way that he could give back.

"I'm just doing what I can do," Lushyn said. "And not many professors living abroad now can work so much like I'm doing it, and it's owing to the fact that I am safe here."

The war didn't just have a mental impact on his students, though. Lushyn also had to deal with the trauma of the war in his own way.

"I have a lot of cases when people are in the most dramatic situation in their lives, and then they started to grow, not just to overcome the negative adversity [of] all these things, but to grow from it," Lushyn said. "And it looks like something which I [taught for] 30 or 40 years [is] happening to me now."

Lushyn used a certain type of argumentative philosophy called Hegel's dialectic to accept all that has happened to him over the past year. In this mindset, there is a thesis and its opposite, the antithesis. There then comes a stage of contradiction between these two, which is eventually resolved in what is known as the synthesis.

Lushyn used this philosophy when it came to his thoughts on the war in Ukraine.

"So I'm not quite sure in which stage I'm now," Lushyn said. "But even [in] the course of [the] war, [there was a time when it] was absolutely negative, and now Ukraine is moving into

[an] absolutely positive scenario."

A Look Ahead

In terms of what's next for Lushyn, he isn't quite sure.

"I'm not much into 'the future' now because I'm not very young," Lushyn said. "That's one thing. I'm doing what I can do, and I never expected that I [would] be doing it [at] my age so much because [at] my age, I [could] retire."

But retiring now for Lushyn wouldn't make any sense, not in the United States.

"It looks like I'm not going to [retire], because [being] retired when I'm very productive [is not what I'd] love to [do]," Lushyn said.

Returning to Hegel's dialectic, coming to Montclair State was the positive antithesis to the negative thesis of the war for Lushyn.

Lushyn expressed his desire to return to Ukraine, but he doesn't know what life would hold for him there.

"Even [if] the war is over tomorrow, for instance, I will [need] more years to restore all [my] things because they ruined everything," Lushyn said. "I would love to go there, but I'm not quite sure if I'll be able to have a position at the [University of Educational Management], because that's hard to say."

But whatever the case may be, Lushyn plans on devoting himself to his life's work and giving back as much as he can.

"I'm a lucky guy who first survived and [now is] happy to be working and doing the most interesting work in my life," Lushyn said.

Is Montclair State Media Literate?



Media literacy is a crucial skill for college students to have.

Sal Dimaggio | *The Montclarion*

Roxanne Gribbin

Assistant Feature Editor

College students consume a wide variety of media on any given day. From watching a news report about earthquakes happening halfway around the world to streaming the newest comedy, we take information in like a sponge.

But what's more important than the information we take in is how we interpret it. News literacy is crucial to understanding how we do that.

According to the Center for Media Literacy, media literacy is what allows media consumers "to access, analyze, evaluate, create and participate with messages in a variety of forms."

Vanessa Greenwood, a communication and media arts professor at Montclair State University, is a specialist in media literacy. She explained why media literacy is an important skill for students to use.

"We need to understand that there's a lot of information available to us, but information is not the same as knowledge," Greenwood said. "You've gotta

convert information that you access into knowledge, and then knowledge that you can apply in a productive, truthful way, then becomes wisdom."

News literacy is a sub-topic of media literacy involving current and past news. Montclair State's chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) is partnering with the News Literacy Project in order to spread news literacy to young adults for the annual Bateman Case Study Competition.

A survey done as part of the project found that all of the 200 members of the campus community who answered questions believed misinformation exists, and 87% of them believe that they can help fight misinformation.

Miriam Aguirre is a member of the PRSSA who recently worked on the project. She discussed how social media affects the way students consume information.

"With social media, I feel like every organization, every company is posting information," Aguirre said. "Also, people share more and it's quicker for things to spread on social media."

Micah Sells, senior communications and media studies major, described how he understood media literacy.

"Media literacy is [an] awareness that you have when engaging with certain media artifacts," Sells said. "So an example [is] Kanye West [and his music]. Being media literate would be [knowing] not to play Kanye's music in a mosque."

Sells also shared his own opinion on social media and news literacy.

"Social media's a terrible place to get your news from, but I feel [students] will catch on to some event that's happening through social media," Sells said. "I should probably take more initiative to go to a different news source every morning or something, or a podcast I could listen to."

While some people get the news on social media, some students do not purposely seek out news whatsoever. Greenwood shared some insight on why this might be.

"Our world is in a very tumultuous place," Greenwood said. "And so I think for safety and sanity and for our mental health, sometimes we block

out that information."

Caitlin Agulian, a junior hospitality, sports, events and tourism major, described how she remains media literate.

"I take everything I read and think about it," Agulian said. "I don't just read one article or watch one thing and form my opinion. I try my best to get every perspective before forming my own opinion about a topic."

Agulian also shared why she feels that students like her become media literate.

"I think it's important for college students to be media literate because one day soon we will be out there having to figure everything out," Agulian said. "We need to be ready for what the world brings to us and the best way to do that is to keep up to date with media. But we also need to know what we are talking about with knowledge and our own opinions, not someone else's opinion that we heard."



Caitlin Agulian, a junior hospitality, sports, events and tourism major, thinks critically about the media she consumes.

Photo courtesy of Caitlin Agulian



Micah Sells, a senior communications and media studies major, talked about how he used media literacy in his day-to-day life.

Roxanne Gribbin | *The Montclarion*

BOOK REVIEW



Claudia Martillo urges you to read "Daisy Jones and The Six" before the series adaptation hits the screens.

Claudia Martillo | *The Montclarion*

"Daisy Jones and The Six" Takes a Look into the World of Rock and Roll

Claudia Martillo
Staff Writer

Rock and roll and love affairs, Taylor Jenkins Reid's "Daisy Jones and The Six" tells the story of a 1970s rock band's rise and fall.

The book is told in the format of interviews with members of the band The Six decades after their abrupt split while on tour in 1979. The interviews were conducted with former band members, family, friends and industry professionals who surrounded them at the time.

Daisy Jones, our protagonist, is the fierce and independent it-girl of music. Originally from Hollywood Hills and born to neglectful rich parents, Daisy is a strong-willed singer and songwriter with dreams of becoming a rock star.

The other "Six" include: Billy Dunne, the stubborn, passionate, and domineering headman from Pittsburgh, who is also the lead singer of The Six; Graham Dunne, the lead guitarist; Warren Rhodes, drummer; Pete Loving, bassist; Eddie Loving, rhythmic guitarist; and Karen Karen, keyboard player.

Once Daisy joins the band in the mid-1970s, the band exceeds all expectations and garners widespread popularity. However, the two hardheaded

personalities of Daisy and Billy cause tension that eventually spirals into rumors of a romance between the two.

Reflective of the real-life rock and roll scene, Daisy's struggle with addiction makes things incredibly difficult for Billy—a recovering addict who is trying to stay dedicated to keeping his sobriety for the sake of his wife and children.

Though the two often butt heads, they become captivated with one another and consistently try to deny their chemistry, which is evident to the whole world (including Billy's wife Camilla Dunne). The two continue to write together with conflicting feelings that make for an incredible album, "Aurora".

The collaborative album gains massive acclaim and sets the band on a journey for a world tour. The tour brings up many different problems between Daisy and Billy, as well as other band members like Karen and Graham that ultimately result in the sudden separation of Daisy Jones and The Six.

Reid's unique style of storytelling raises many ideas with the central question: Is it possible to love more than one person at the same time? Alongside the romance, Reid ensures to include commanding female characters on and off the stage. The story

includes ideas of friendship, feminine power, the struggle with addiction, love for music and much more.

Many are quick to compare Daisy Jones and The Six to the real-life band Fleetwood Mac. Reid acknowledges the influence that Stevie Nicks and Lindsey Buckingham's love story had on her growing up, and how she wanted to create a story that is commemorative of the life they shared. Specifically, her desire to create a beloved story that highlights the "blurred lines" of real life and performance.

I was not able to put this book down once I picked it up. I am always one to read/watch/listen to any story that has an amazing collection of characters, specifically women. Reid is an author that never fails to deliver a complex and compelling story with characters that readers are sure to relate to. I've read many of her other books like "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo", "Malibu Rising", and "Carrie Soto is Back." Reid does an excellent job of establishing female characters as intricate individuals rather than catering to many common female character book tropes like damsels in distress, manic pixie dream girls, the girl next door and more.

The two most stand-out characters in this book are Daisy Jones and Camilla Dunne. Both are vastly unlike

each other in their lifestyles, yet they share many similar characteristics. Daisy appears to long for stardom, but when it comes down to it, she aspires to be truly loved for who she is. Her journey with romance and self-destructiveness, though difficult to witness, portrays a real-life experience of those struggling with addiction.

Camilla is both kind-hearted and a force to be reckoned with. Though she is not a part of the band, she is a driving force behind Billy's work. She puts all her faith in Billy for the promise of a happy life together. Daisy and Camilla create their own paths for their ideal lives, but these visions directly affect one another.

Similarly to the band, the book has received immense attention, earning it a place as a "New York Times" best-seller and an on-screen adaptation with Amazon Prime Video. The show stars Riley Keough as Daisy Jones and Sam Claflin as Billy Dunne. The miniseries is set to premiere on March 3rd, 2023. As a fan of many book-to-screen movies and shows, I'm excited to see how the story is brought to life in the new series. I have trust in Sam Claflin, a seasoned veteran of movies with book origins, that this adaptation will do the book justice.

HAWK TALK

What's something you've learned in previous relationships or friendships?

By Lynise Olivacce



“Trust your instincts if something doesn't feel right, don't try to make excuses for it.”

Emily Brot
Freshman
Elementary Education

“To not give my input when it's not needed, because they'll eventually figure out what they want on their own. Because it's not going to change their opinion.”

Hailey Slyvchak
Sophomore
Elementary Education



“Don't let people walk all over you. Your worth is very important. It was very hidden in my past relationship. So I finally have learned self-respect. I got to think about myself a little bit more, next time around which is something that I've never done.”

Sophia Del Monte
Sophomore
Business Administration





“I’ve had many times where I kind of kept clinging on to someone who probably was not interested and they kept sort of giving me, the side eye or not giving me the time or attention that you would expect out of someone that you’re kind of talking to. So I learned that when I’m talking to someone who’s not really looking for anything out of a relationship or a friendship, I learned when to sort of just back out of that.”

Dan McGuigan
Junior
Visual Communication Design



“People definitely change. I feel like the friendship that I had with a certain person [changed because] we’re at different points in our lives and we’ve definitely grown apart. I feel like we don’t have the same goals in life, looking towards the same things.”

X'Zayvonne Rousseau-Coley
Freshman
Undecided

“Sometimes you have to do more to keep the relationship going, but at the same time, you shouldn’t do too much to where you kind of lose yourself in that person, and put so much focus on them if they’re not returning that same energy back. Because, you know, if the person is not giving that same energy back, then there’s no point in the relationship.”

Kamille Bryant
Freshman
Psychology



Horoscopes

Hannah Effinger
Production Editor

Katie Lawrence
Video Editor

Nicky Vidal
Assistant Production Editor

Avery Nixon
Opinion Editor

Colin Luderitz
Assistant Opinion Editor

Capricorn

Dec. 22 – Jan. 19

This week is feeling blue for you Capricorn, and by blue I don't mean sad, I mean blue like Gonzo from the Muppets. I see Muppets from Space in your future this week – and if that vision isn't fulfilled, watch your back. I can't be responsible if you find yourself being shot out of a cannon if you don't give Gonzo 87 minutes of your time.

Cancer

Jun. 21 – Jul. 22

Hey Cancer... we need to talk. Reports have been made that you've been appearing in everyone's dreams. What are you doing? It's Pisces season. It's not your time.

Aquarius

Jan. 20 – Feb. 18

AQUARIUS BABY! This week you are being bestowed the "get out of jail free" horoscope! Show this horoscope to any police officer and we guarantee you won't get arrested for any heinous crimes you commit! (For legal reasons, this is a joke. The Montclarion does not offer "get out of jail free" cards. Just hard-hitting journalism.)

Leo

Jul. 23 – Aug. 22

Hey leo be careful out there, according to the charts Mercury is in retrograde today so make sure you don't walk around with a bowl of chili unless its covered and sealed!

Pisces

Feb. 19 – Mar. 20

Pisces! It's finally your season! It's also finally time to stop hoping your ex will send you a happy birthday text! I know you sent them one, but they don't owe you anything!

Virgo

Aug. 23 – Sep. 22

Hello beautiful Virgos! Quick question: have you drank water in the last 6 hours? Well if not, please do. Your significant other and your cat can't take much more of this chaos.

Aries

Mar. 21 – Apr. 19

Aries, maybe you should stop listening to Ceilings by Lizzy McAlpine. I know it's an amazing song, and Lizzy is the future, but please. Your family is getting concerned. You're going to get sick if you keep making tiktoks in the rain.

Libra

Sep. 23 – Oct. 22

How many sandwiches do you think you could consume in one sitting? What would be your sandwich of choice? Sit on that question this week, Libra. Your answer will take you places I could not and would not guide you.

Taurus

Apr. 20 – May 20

Hey Taurus, embarrassing stuff happens to everybody. Don't get too worked up about the NBC News reporters trying to film your hands that you're super insecure about. I'm sure no one will notice how short and stubby they are!

Scorpio

Oct. 23 – Nov. 21

Hey Scorpio. Are you watching those movies because you enjoy them, or because you hope your friends will recognize that your Letterboxd feed is a quiet cry for help? Because I like La La Land as much as the next guy, but four times in one week seems like there's something else going on.

Gemini

May 21 – Jun. 20

Do you carry a written waiver around that lets you act like that? No? Then please, have an ounce of decorum this week. You're exhausting me.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22 – Dec. 21

SZA's SOS tour started this week Sagittarius, did you get tickets? No? Me either. If any Harry Styles fans can teach me how to sneak into a concert let me know, I'm getting more desperate as the shows pass.

The Montclarion Crossword Puzzle and More!

The Muppets Edition

By Hannah Effinger



Across

- 3. The Muppets take ___ is a 1984 classic where the Muppets try to find their way to Broadway.
- 4. The green muppet who loves singing about rainbows.
- 6. Gonzo's chicken wife.
- 7. The name of Kermit's nephew.

Down

- 1. Gonzo's unofficial species.
- 2. The actress who plays Nadya, the warden of Gulag 38B, in "Muppets Most Wanted" (2014).
- 3. The title of the duet Miss Piggy and Amy Adam's character sing together in "The Muppets" (2011).
- 5. The blue whatever from space.

Sudoku

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9

Word Search

Z	T	D	V	V	Y	T	M	G	N	A	W	R	H	N	I	D	I	B	S
K	F	I	H	W	L	L	A	E	F	B	W	E	P	L	O	I	S	P	M
U	H	D	M	A	E	N	Z	X	O	W	H	K	C	L	E	E	N	E	F
L	X	V	A	R	W	U	I	E	P	E	P	A	S	M	C	L	P	B	B
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G	T	B	P	K	A	J	E	X	I	P	G	Q	X	X	I	T	N	X	Y
Z	Q	O	Q	N	Y	W	S	O	U	Y	X	M	F	P	M	O	M	P	C
V	B	P	B	R	N	A	P	M	B	G	S	O	J	U	A	C	V	C	T
N	Z	D	N	V	N	A	E	A	S	G	J	Y	E	Z	R	V	W	M	D
F	O	Z	Z	I	E	H	L	P	G	I	S	R	B	K	O	Y	A	E	Y
D	E	B	M	R	T	L	O	L	K	P	L	C	Y	F	W	V	X	N	G
L	D	A	I	P	I	L	A	O	Z	S	G	Y	O	J	L	E	V	G	Y
W	L	L	W	M	F	P	K	C	Q	S	G	C	C	O	F	V	B	E	E
Q	Z	S	A	Q	W	E	F	S	L	I	O	R	B	T	T	I	B	P	R
U	H	C	Q	S	E	Y	O	T	M	M	K	X	C	K	P	E	X	S	W
C	C	P	B	I	I	G	Z	M	I	H	W	E	T	T	X	N	R	T	F

- | | | |
|------------|--------|-----------|
| Gonzo | Kermit | MissPiggy |
| TheMuppets | Fozzie | Scooter |
| Rowlf | Animal | Pepe |
| Rizzo | Beaker | Camilla |

Opinion



Sophia Caparros | *The Montclarion*

We Need A New Shuttle Tracking App ASAP

EDITORIAL

Montclair State University students are lucky enough to be blessed with campus shuttles. Without them, getting from Lot 60 to University Hall at seven in the morning would be a total nightmare.

Nonetheless, all students must do is sit down on the black steel benches and wait for a shuttle to arrive. But when you wait thirty minutes for a shuttle, it can be a little irritating.

Before anyone gets riled up, it's important to remember this is not the fault of the shuttle drivers by any means. If you have ever been on one of the campus shuttles you would know they are continu-

ously driving for hours on end.

If you have ever been upset that a campus shuttle driver is skipping a stop, know that it's due to the fact they are going on break or going home.

Cheryl Ofoha, the evening shuttle supervisor at Montclair State University, explained the reason for drivers skipping stops.

"Yes, we are aware that the drivers skip stops when they are either going on break or when their shifts are about to end because it would be very difficult for them to take breaks if they do not," Ofoha said. "They are instructed to pick passengers up at University Hall, but must let the passengers know that Lot 60 is the last stop. If the drivers do not do that, then they will have to continue the routes all over and then would not be able to

take a break or go home."

Another issue students face is not having a clear and reliable way of knowing when a shuttle is coming. This can make students late for class if they cannot properly plan ahead.

Students used to have the NextBus Bus Tracking App, however it has been discontinued here.

"The NextBus Bus Tracking App was discontinued because the vendor no longer supported the application. We are actively working to find a suitable replacement," Ofoha said. "We are confident whatever solution we select will be an improvement."

When Ofoha does clarify why the shuttle system is the way it is, it makes sense. And we recognize that the shuttle system will never be perfect,

but there still needs to be some sort of improvement.

We know they can never improve the traffic situation without the construction on Route 46 being complete. But we would love the new shuttle tracking app as soon as possible.

It's refreshing to know that they are actively working on improving the shuttle tracking app. However, Montclair State just invested \$27 million on the Workday app.

The Workday app is used by students and faculty to keep tabs on their work schedules, pay and other features.

If Montclair State can afford \$27 million to expand an app currently used by only the people who have jobs on campus, they can most certainly invest in an app used by students who utilize our

campus shuttle system, which is a majority of them.

Students know that we have been without a campus shuttle app for quite some time now. How much longer will it take?

There are plenty of existing shuttle tracking apps such as BusWhere. It's understandable that these things take time, but it shouldn't be as long as it's been.

Getting the new tracking app off the ground would make a lot of students' days much easier.

With all being said, to all Montclair State campus shuttle drivers, we thank you for helping students get around on this very hilly campus. We are eternally grateful for the luxury of campus shuttles.

Campus Voices

What have your experiences been with the shuttles on campus?

By Katie Lawrence & Paige Ryans



"Basically pretty stressful. I did it in freshman year because I thought it was going to be faster and relaxed. I waited there for like 20 minutes and there's a ton of people. It's hard to sit, to find a seat. But if it's at night, it's less stressful. It's really bad during the winter because you have to wait outside in the cold."

- Jason Shepetofsky
Sophomore
Early Education



"Pretty good. I do think the Lot 60 ones come pretty late and are pretty sparse so I would prefer more coming in. But that's about it."

- Camila Garcia
Freshman
Visual Communication Design



"I haven't ridden a shuttle probably since last year. Sometimes I wonder if walking is faster. But definitely worth it because it's way warmer than being out in the cold. And I haven't had a bad experience with the shuttles at all. Because they can't control the traffic."

- Connor Cupen
Junior
Sports Communications

Stop Postponing Your Life For Acne



Esmeralda Tamayo
Guest Writer

My experience dealing with severe acne was not pleasant. It started when I was 13 years old and hasn't stopped since then.

I constantly asked myself what was wrong with me, as if it was my fault to have this condition on my skin.

I read multiple "How to Get Rid of Acne in Two Days" articles, I drastically changed my diet and I tried every acne prescription from my dermatologist and other painful treatments. No matter how hard I tried, nothing seemed to work.

I remember covering my face with tons of makeup every day. No way would I go out without makeup even for a few seconds.

As exaggerated as this might sound to some people, such insecurity reached an extreme level that I could no longer control.

In my case, acne is hereditary. In my teenage years, my mother confessed to me that she had acne when she was younger. She told me that she made the mistake of popping her pimples, and this caused permanent scarring.

People with acne often feel unwanted by others, which can lead to isolation and affect the way they live their lives.

They also present in many phases in their life such as the insecurity in their physical appearance and the distorted idea of beauty until they question their own habits.

I suffer from acne and I am not ashamed to have it or say it to the world. But it wasn't always like that.

Back in high school, my life with acne was like a toxic relationship—Some days were good, while some others weren't.

At some points, this insecurity led me to make terrible decisions. For example, not going to prom due to a terrible breakout.

It took me some time to finally realize that I don't have to postpone my life for my acne.

I am not an expert who can recommend acne treatments, but I'm here to inform you that there's nothing wrong with having acne. It's important to emphasize the importance of self-love.

All types of acne, from mild to most severe cases, can affect how we see ourselves.

Another occasion that I skipped out on due to acne was when I decided not to go to the pool with my friends. I was scared that my friends would judge me. Wearing a bathing suit turned out to be a nightmare. Showing my skin to the world felt like a curse.

According to Dr. Liji Thomas, "individuals who suffer from acne often feel ashamed of the lesions, and compensate in various ways." This can include



Ariana Picart | The Montclarion

wearing heavy makeup or refusing to go out.

In most cases, the necessity of being socially accepted leads us to compare ourselves with people who have clear skin such as celebrities or people within our environment.

Such desire can turn into admiration for that ideal perfect skin. Thus, we postpone our life in the hope of aspiring to perfection.

Acne is not only based on what you eat or hormones. There are other factors that cause the appearance of these unpleasant pimples.

Dr. Sirisha Yellayi said that there's no one gene that makes us more likely to have acne breakouts, but research has demonstrated that genetics could impact being exposed to acne.

After a couple of failed treatments, my dermatologist prescribed me Accutane, a medication that is used to treat severe acne but is also well known for its extreme side effects such as depression and anxiety.

The procedure took six months, and during that period, I saw great changes in my skin.

By the last two months, my skin was clear, but it took me a while to feel comfortable without makeup.

To this day I have some pimples, but now, the way I see my skin and my beauty has changed.

Life is so much more than how your skin looks. Learn that it is time to start living with acne and learning to coexist with it. We need to stop postponing our happiness until we find the desired treatment or clear skin.

Life's too short to hide our identity behind Photoshop, beauty filters or taking far-away pictures. We need to break out of the stigma on how we view ourselves.

Esmeralda Tamayo, a graduate teaching English as a second language major, is in her first year as a guest writer for The Montclarion.

Is Anyone Else Tired of the Reboots?



Kayla Mulligan
Staff Writer

Out with the old, in with the...old? No, you're not in a time machine.

Yes, movies from the past two years included "Top Gun: Maverick," "Scream," "Downton Abbey: A New Era," "Jurassic World Dominion," "A Christmas Story Christmas," "Halloween Kills," "Ghostbusters: Afterlife" and more that I can't bother to list.

Call it nostalgia, call it keeping the "good times" alive, but I'll call it old.

I like to consider myself a movie fanatic. I can't think of anything better than walking into a dark theater, meeting a mysterious protagonist and being pulled into a cinematic world that gives me goosebumps and teaches me lessons that no self-help book could ever scratch at.

However, what I am getting a bit tired of is what seems like an endless funnel of blockbuster revivals.

Don't get me wrong, I've actually seen several of the movies I listed and I did enjoy them. I don't think there's anything wrong with a nostalgic flick now and again. But it just seems as though current mainstream cinema is

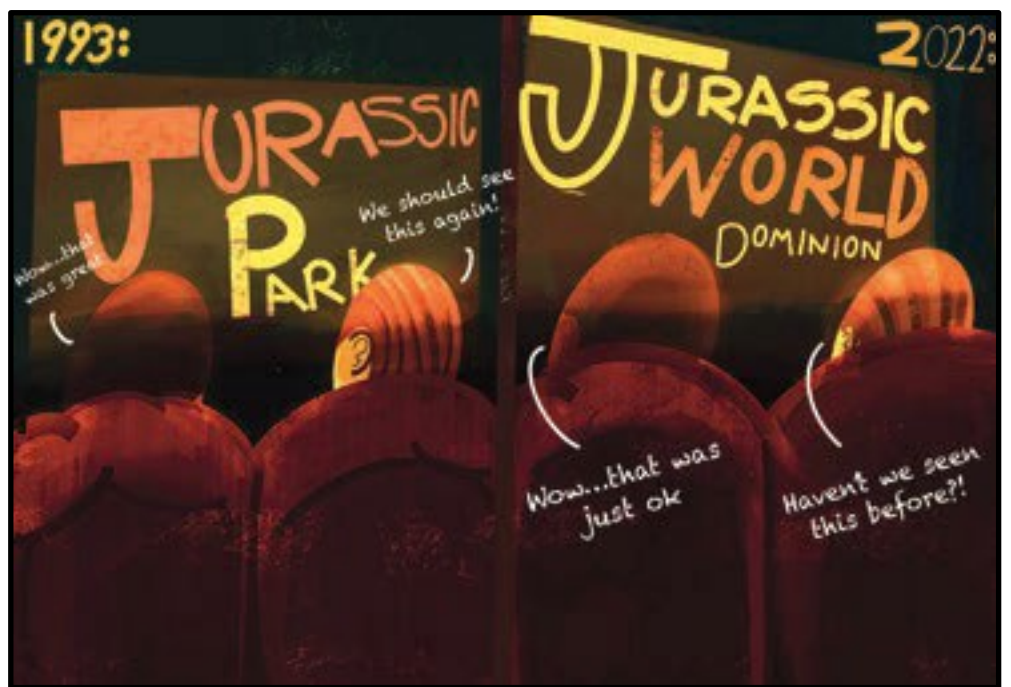
nothing but nostalgic revivals and superhero movies with universes that can keep their franchises making money for years to come.

But Kayla, you just said you saw some of the reboots yourself. Why are you ranting on and on then? Good question, subconscious.

Because I feel that it really takes away from movies that are born out of today's creative minds and artists. Of course, there will be crowds of moviegoers piling in to see Maverick return to the skies in "Top Gun," or the original cast of "Jurassic World" collaborate with today's stars and shove so much forced nostalgia down your throat that you forget what the plot of the movie is.

There were some real diamonds in the rough that came out in the past year that I had almost missed because every time there was a commercial, article or any media, it was raving about how a movie with a well-set-up character arc, fanbase and redemption story did it again.

Think about this; Among the fantastic nominations for Best Picture of the Year at the Oscars was "Top Gun: Maverick." It seems a little unfair to place a movie in the running that has a legacy spanning three decades over a newly created movie such as "The Menu" which delivered a twisting, psychological thriller that will leave you on the



Christian Vera | The Montclarion

edge of your seat for the entirety of the film and resolve its storyline, all in one hour and forty-six minutes.

I think we're forgetting just how difficult and magical it is for a movie crew to captivate us and create a story from scratch in the matter of one installment, a one to two-hour block of our life.

And this is not to confuse this piece as a giant diss to reboots or revivals, and it's not to discount the work that those crews and actors put into their craft over a span of years. It would just appear that it's become a trend if you will, that movies have become a safety net of old faces, recurring theme songs and plots we can compare side by side with the original.

As 2023 brews to a start, I'm looking forward to the feel-good coming-of-

age movies where young celebrities are making their marks on the screen. Or the indie films that make us feel alive as the soundtracks pulse through our veins.

Here's to hoping that 2023 is filled with new films featuring unexplored territories, beautiful heartbreaking stories and a look at the excitement of the present and future, rather than the comfort of the past.

Kayla Mulligan, a junior history and political science major, is in her third year as a staff writer for The Montclarion.



Sophia Caparros | The Montclarion

When Will Men Stop Siding With Abusers?



Sofia Acevedo Valencia
Assistant Opinion Editor

Trigger Warning: Mentions Sexual Assault and Abuse.

There's always been a double standard when it comes to men and women. Things feminine-presenting people would still be crucified for, masculine-presenting people can most of the time get away with.

When we look at the intersectional identities of all and any groups, we see these disparities come to light with more urgency. For example, it will always be true that white people are the ones benefiting in every situation because everything was designed for them. However, this does not stop the violence that we often see done to minorities by men the majority of the time.

This contradicting set of morals is most prevalent in today's society when it comes to male celebrities, especially those accused of sexual assault and harassment.

Look at British singer Rex Orange County, who was facing multiple allegations of sexual assault in London over a month ago.

Even though there wasn't sufficient evidence to take the case to court, people were quick to denounce them immediately. Some even claimed that they never stopped being a fan of his even after the fact that he was being charged with a whopping six sexual assault charges.

Brad Pitt was literally investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for beating up his ex-wife Angelina Jolie and his children.

Yet, as an affluent member of the entertainment industry, he actively participates in sweeping these allegations under the rug.

A legal battle over a winery that the two famous actors once owned together became irreconcilable once Pitt stated that there were conditions for Jolie to sell her part of the company.

According to The New York Times, "Jolie stated that negotiations to sell her share of the business to Mr. Pitt had broken down over his demand that she sign a nondisclosure agreement that would have contractually prohibited her from speaking outside of court

about Pitt's physical and emotional abuse of her and their children."

The devil works hard, but Hollywood works harder.

Another example is James Franco, who had sexual assault allegations dating back to 2014, yet long-time friend Seth Rogen didn't stop working with him until 2021. Not even in 2018 when Franco was accused by five women, four of them his acting students, of inappropriate behavior and abuse of power in and out of the classroom.

This is not to say other demographics are not to blame in their own settings for encouraging said behaviors, but gender inequality makes women, LGBTQIA+ and disabled people more prone to gender-based violence.

As a result, this is not something that happens in male-dominated spaces only, but it occurs during our daily lives and only those that experience it seem to acknowledge it.

How many times have men covered up for their friends, encouraged disgusting behavior in public settings against women and people that do not fit the beauty standard, refused to listen to a survivor on grounds that there wasn't enough proof, consistently vouched for men that they know are

guilty, because chances are they're probably guilty of something themselves?

Creating a threatening environment for everyone else other than yourself and the creeps you surround yourself with only makes you a coward.

It is more than clear that men's silence is complicit in violence against women and minority groups. Toxic masculinity ultimately perpetuates a culture unsafe for those that don't get to enjoy the benefits of the patriarchy.

Why do you seek to make peace with these people, some of them with very well-known reputations of questionable behavior, for what they do?

Everyone is entitled to their set of moral standards, values and how they follow them, as long as they don't harm another human being in the process.

I urge you to think if your friend's or peer's concerning behavior around those vulnerable to being preyed upon should be made out to be a joke, or if you should wake up and realize what influence you have by staying quiet and participating in locker room talk.

Sofia Acevedo Valencia, a sophomore political science major, is in their first year as assistant Opinion editor for The Montclarion.



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"51"

by Olivia Yayla | Staff Writer

That's when I caught it. The yellow in his eye, its inability to look the camera straight on— the film that blurred the window to his soul. Something was wrong, and in contrast to our Leader's assurances, this was only the beginning. The president blinked sideways.

I wasn't the first to draw attention to it, but I definitely wasn't the only one who caught it. There I was with the rest of the construction crew, huddled near the single static glittered flatscreen in O'Reilly's Pub on the edge of our deserted town.

We were all trashed, to say the least. Colin, my boss, was two glugs away from impersonating Dr. Evil singing the national anthem. That's when the TV interrupted his attempt, punching our eardrums with angst, blaring the emergency alert system installed by our Nation's Capitol.

It wasn't safe to be outside after dark, not when the infection was hunting for its next host. So O'Reilly, the good samaritan that he is, lets the crew crash in his wooden booths until sunrise. After the first few infected waitresses and car salesmen, he didn't want to take a chance. We were his best customers, close enough to be called family. And if anything matters to O'Reilly, it would be exactly that. He lost his oldest daughter months ago, after failing to convince her to move away from the Experimentation Site.

Area 51— once myth, then fact, now an infestation of extraterrestrial vermin. The crew used to mock the CDC, claiming it was all just another hoax to keep us barred within our trailers, instead of working to provide for our families. But that was until Eddy, my brother, pointed his nail gun at Colin that one day. We were on the roof of our latest assignment, trying to coax the nail gun out from Eddy's white-knuckled grip.

"Eddy, the hell?" Colin scoffed, convinced it was a joke of some sort, slowly raising his hands.

"Eddy?" I remember saying, "What are you doing? That's not funny put it down before you hurt someone."

Eddy didn't move, his eyes fighting against one another, unsure of where to focus. One landed on me, glistening beneath the sunset, begging me to intervene. The other was clouded, shifting awkwardly to the side, rotting into a pale yellow. That's when I saw it. The first sign I noted from the multiple commercials blaring on every available channel. His eye blinked sideways. Not with his lid which remained open, but with a fish-like film that glided horizontally over his corneas. Like a reptilian in the desert sun.

"I...have to...no...obey...orders," Eddy mumbled, foaming slightly at the mouth, his feet fidgeting closer and closer to the edge of the roof.

I'll never forget the look in his eye. The one that begged for me. The one he used to wink with when he found a girl stupid enough to go home with him. The one that remained sky blue like our mother's. Eddy needed me. But I was too late. And I don't think I'll ever forget the sound his body made when it met the dirt below.

We haven't returned home to our wives since that day, scared that we had caught whatever it was that Eddy had. So instead, we shack up at the pub with the free booze, behind O'Reilly's bulletproofed doors.

O'Reilly grabbed a sparkling beer mug, shining it further, desperate to stay busy. Colin leaned on a wobbling stool, green with overconsumption. But I reached for the remote, raising the volume over the sounds of multiple workers losing their dinner in both the men's and women's bathrooms.

"This is a message from the President of the United States of America," The TV froze, glitching against my fist as I smacked its side. O'Reilly wobbled out from behind the bar, hurrying to fix the rainbow-striped screen to catch the announcement the entire country has been waiting for.

After a few minutes, we caught onto the President's final words, "...have been no casualties this week. Area 51 has been decontaminated and is no longer a threat to our strong Nation. Unlock your doors, and have a nice breath of fresh air. Go back to your families. The dark days are over..."

That's when I caught it. The yellow in his eye, its inability to look the camera straight on— the film that blurred the window to his soul. Something was wrong, and in contrast to our Leader's assurances, this was only the beginning.

**"Difficult Truths"**

by Kayla Mulligan | Staff Writer

How am I supposed to adjust?

Carry on like nothing happened?

Don't think about it. Work.

Don't cry about it. Work.

Don't you dare let it break your heart. It'll consume you.

It will tear you apart. Just smile and say you're fine.

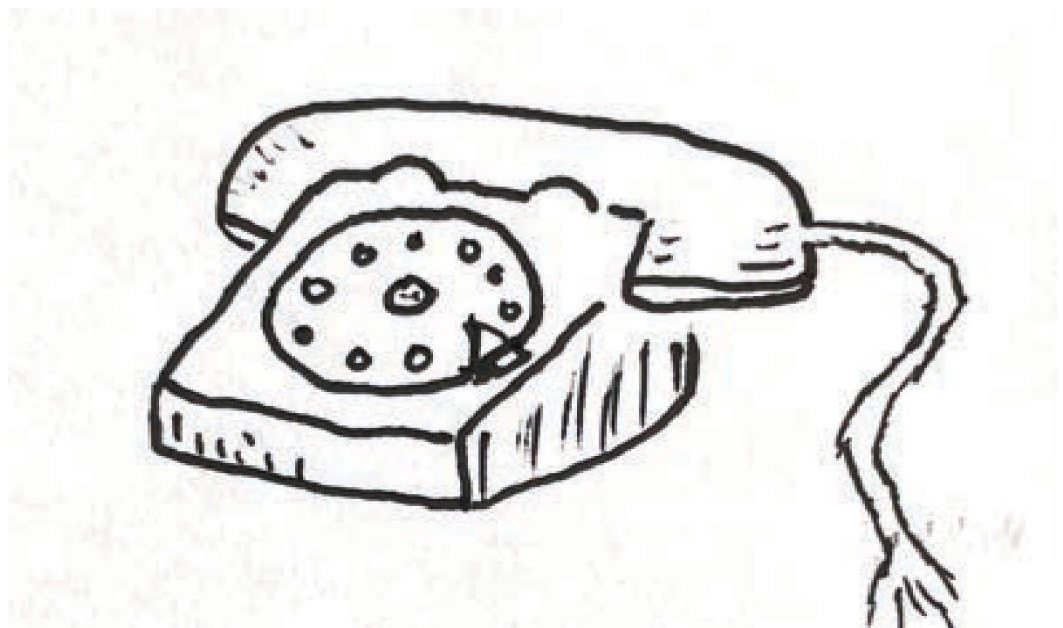
But honestly, how am I supposed to adjust to a world that no longer contains you?

What is my world, without my world in it?

What is my world, without your eyes in it?

I wish you would just answer my questions, I wish you would answer your phone. But how can you?

It's not even your phone number anymore.



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Ant-Man (Paul Rudd) and Kang (Jonathan Majors) come face to face with one another.

Photo courtesy of Marvel Studios

Hannah Effinger
Production Editor

'Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania' Is Too Fun to Be Taken Seriously

The newest addition to the Marvel Cinematic Universe, "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania," hit screens this past weekend to mixed reviews.

The film finds our superhero bug (Paul Rudd) trying to make up for lost time with his daughter, Cassie Lang, played by Kathryn Newton, while he navigates life as a semi-retired Avenger. Of course, things go awry and Ant-Man, the Wasp, Cassie, Janet Van Dyne and Hank Pym are sent into the Quantum Realm.

There, they meet Kang the Conqueror, a being with seemingly unparalleled power over the Quantum realm, who wants Ant-Man for his own evil purposes. Jonathan Majors is incredible as Kang. He raises the bar for villains as he's able to make Kang this larger-than-life figure – who ends up seeming way too powerful within the context of the story.

Rudd, as always, is great as Ant-Man. He's funny and likable. He clearly cares about his daughter above all else, and he's willing to do anything to keep her and his family safe. Ant-Man has more potential than being the little guy, though, and I really wish they gave him the chance to show that in this movie.

After the controversy surrounding the re-casting of Cassie, with Kathryn Newton in place of Emma Fuhrmann, I was skeptical of how she would fit in with Rudd. Personally, I thought Newton was great, and I hope she was fairly compensated for all that running she had to do throughout the film. Honestly, why was she always moving? I don't know if I remember a single shot where she was standing still. Let her stay still for a second.

Along with the recasting, the movie was in the headlines for Evangeline Lily's anti-vaccination posts (which seemed to be a trend with a few other Marvel actors), but I don't think this impacted the movie in any significant way since it managed to come out so early in the year.

Of course, reviews on the movie have been mixed, as most other MCU



Hank Pym (Michael Douglas), Janet Van Dyne (Michelle Pfeiffer) and Hope Van Dyne (Evangeline Lily) stand in the Quantum Realm.

Photo courtesy of Marvel Studios

films that don't include the original Avengers are. I liked the movie for what it was. It had the corny Marvel writing we're used to, a plot that felt like it was ripped out of a "Star Wars" movie and women with wigs that have the ability to withstand combat without a single hair coming out of place. The computer-generated imagery wasn't the worst, and I was honestly kind of impressed with the inhabitants of the Quantum realm.

One thing I did notice about this was the attempt at addressing colonialism within the film, with Kang being the perpetrator of this, but doing so in an iffy way by taking inspiration from

indigenous cultures. In the people that Ant-Man and his family meet while in the realm, a majority of their designs seem to mimic indigenous cultures in one way or another, which can be seen most notably in the character of the warrior Jentorra.

Coming off of such an incredible film like "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," it felt like a joke to sit there and watch Ant-Man and his daughter run around in high-top Converse and make suggestive jokes every five minutes.

I think it tries a little too hard to emulate the goofy nature of other films like "Thor: Ragnarok," and because of this, misses the mark on creating a

new foundational villain following the elimination of Thanos at the end of the "Infinity" saga.

That being said, I did enjoy the movie. I just think that if you're trying to usher in a whole new era to arguably the most well-known franchise in the world, you need to have an extremely strong movie to hold up the rest of the story. It's a little bit too fun to be taken seriously, and the goofy nature of Ant-Man's character doesn't hold up as well against the severity of Kang's nefarious plans.

‘Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey’ Is Laughably Bad



The suspense and violence in the film are more laughable than scary.

Photo courtesy of Altitude Film Distribution

Mollie O'Donnell
Guest Writer

Winnie the Pooh is a beloved character whose story is adored by many generations. Just recently, Pooh Bear and his friends became available to the public domain since it has been 95 years since the author A. A. Milne published his original work.

Director Rhys Frake-Waterfield took advantage of “Winnie the Pooh’s” public domain availability by putting the cuddly bear and his gang into a slasher-horror picture. The film gives Winnie the Pooh the chance to be Jason Voorhees.

The film begins with Christopher Robin leaving his friends for college. After he leaves, Pooh and his friends turn into violent serial killers who terrorize those who come near. When Christopher returns five years later, he brings his fiancée to introduce her to his cuddly friends. Once they arrive at 100 Acre Wood, they discover Christopher’s old pals are far from what they used to be.

The concept as a whole is intriguing because the filmmaker is turning a childhood favorite into a serial killer, creating some sort of uneasiness. Despite the interesting take on Winnie the Pooh, though, the film itself is a total disaster. Who knew a film could have a clickbait title to draw people to one of the dumbest movies ever created? It’s gaining very low ratings from viewers and critics, even scoring a whopping six percent on Rotten Tomatoes.

Overall, the film felt like a rip-off of “Halloween,” “Black Christmas” and any other slasher film made in the 1970s.

The script itself is full of the most boring and cringe-worthy dialogue ever heard by man. It felt like the characters were indirectly talking and narrating to the audience as a result. The plot was also incredibly boring with an unnecessary side story. Not to mention, the main characters are an extremely un-



The masks of these characters were grotesque caricatures of the designs by Disney.

Photo courtesy of Altitude Film Distribution

likable group of college girls, so much so that it was honestly a relief when their fate was met on the screen.

The performances were just as bad as the script, adding to the disaster of the film. Every single character felt like shallow cartoon characters thanks to the acting. It felt like the entire cast was found on the street and put on a movie set. Each performance included someone screaming at the top of their lungs and talking out of breath.

In regard to the costumes of Pooh Bear and Piglet, there was no effort to hide the fact that it was just two men wearing normal clothes and a mask that could be found at Spirit Halloween. The masks of these characters were grotesque caricatures of the designs by Disney.

As for the suspense and violence in the film, it’s more laughable than scary. The scenes where Pooh Bear and

Piglet get violent had the whole theater in hysterics. The film felt more like a self-aware comedy than a horror, yet it simultaneously had no self-awareness at all. There are some movies out there that are so bad, they are good. In the case of “Winnie the Pooh Blood and Honey,” it’s so bad that it doesn’t even have any ability to be good.

“Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey” can grab the attention of someone just by reading the title. Other than that, the film is arguably one of the worst things to ever grace the silver screen. The boring plot, embarrassing dialogue, awkward performances and clichés can make anyone want to demand a refund for their time. The film as a whole felt campy, lazy and frustrating. For those considering taking the time out of their day to watch this film, don’t do it. Save your time, and do something meaningful with your life.

Editor’s Choice

‘Fleabag’ on Amazon Prime



Photo courtesy of Amazon Prime

If you enjoy making bad decisions only to live with the consequences of them, “Fleabag” is the show for you. “Fleabag” is the story of a 30-something-year-old woman, Fleabag, as she navigates the grief of losing her best friend and her treacherous relationship with others because of it.

Fleabag forces us to confront ourselves, as at times she speaks directly to the audience and poses the question, “What if I’m the problem?” Her fourth-wall breakage invites the audience to live in her misery, forcing you to feel the consequences of her actions even if they aren’t your own.

The two seasons of the show follow Fleabag through both moments of strength and weakness and shows how she eventually is able to move on from the things that have happened to her, whether that be growing from them or simply leaving them as painful memories that will ultimately always be there. It’s real in a way that most shows spend years trying to get close to, which would never have been achievable without the incredible Phoebe Waller-Bridge.

Waller-Bridge not only created the show based on her own one-woman play but also directs and stars in the Golden Globe and Emmy Award-winning show. It’s a phenomenal watch, and it will change the way you think about love, loss and a variety of other things, so be prepared for that.

‘Muppets from Space’



Photo courtesy of Columbia Pictures

1999: the year of Bill Clinton’s impeachment and the release of the greatest film ever created, “Muppets from Space.” This movie centers around Gonzo, a self-described “whatever,” as he searches the cosmos for the family he longs for.

In all seriousness, this film is for anyone who has ever felt like a lonely “whatever” wandering around the universe. Gonzo spends the duration of the film trying to find himself, whether that’s what species he is, where he comes from, what his purpose is and even who his “real” family is. But isn’t that what we’re all doing these days?

I’ve been convinced this movie is an 87-minute biopic about my life since I watched it as a seven-year-old with my face pressed up against my grandparents’ basement television. There’s something about Gonzo that makes me emotional, and the conclusion of the movie has left me in tears every time I watch it.

Complete with Gonzo riding a lawnmower to “Get Up Offa That Thing” by James Brown, this movie has it all. Please go watch it, and send me an email (found on page two) with your thoughts.

- Hannah Effinger
Production Editor

The Fates of Superheroes Are Revealed in the New DC Universe

Tyler Ventura
Guest Writer

The DCU, DC Comic's film universe, has had a rocky past. For years the DCU has faltered in capturing the same magic Marvel blockbusters invoke.

But since the news in late October of last year that film industry veterans James Gunn (writer/director of the "Guardians of the Galaxy") and Peter Safran (producer of over 60 films and shows) were stepping in to manage DC as co-chairmen and chief executive officers, fans have been abuzz in speculating what their plans for the future are.

After much anticipation and theorizing by the community, their questions were finally answered on Jan. 31 when Gunn posted a six-minute announcement video detailing the vision and slate for the DCU. The new DCU, titled "Chapter 1: Gods and Monsters," seeks to shake up the superhero status quo audiences have grown used to seeing.



Photo courtesy of DC Official / Instagram

1. "Creature Commandos" (TV)

First in the new universe is "Creature Commandos," a seven-episode animated series written by Gunn. Originating in the comic "Weird War Tales #93," the Creature Commandos are a team of supernatural military monsters created to fight against the Axis powers in World War II.

This version of the Creature Commandos is a mashup of previous iterations and even includes new members with the likes of Rick Flag Sr., father to Rick Flag Jr. (leader of the Suicide Squad), Doctor Phosphorus, a Batman villain who can manipulate radiation and Weasel, a human-sized anthropomorphic weasel.

Returning members include Nina Mazursky, a creator of the Creature Commandos in the newer comic continuity who experimented on herself to join the team, Frankenstein, the product of stolen boy parts and alien blood, The Bride, created to be Frankenstein's betrothed and J.A.K.E. II, a G.I. robot.

The niche nature of the Creature Commandos lends itself perfectly to Gunn, with his bread and butter being turning unknown D-list characters into stars that can stand on their own.

2. "Waller" (TV)

Spinning off of the show "Peacemaker," "Waller" follows Viola Davis' titular character as she allies herself with the likes of Peacemaker (John Cena), Vigilante (Freddie Stroma) and the rest of Team Peacemaker.

Though "Peacemaker" was written and directed by Gunn, "Waller" will be handled by Christal Henry (writer and supervising producer for the "Watchmen" show) and Jeremy Carver (creator of the "Doom Patrol" TV series). Further details have yet to be told, but Gunn describes it as "a fantastic story that's out of this world."



Photo courtesy of DC Official / Instagram

3. "Superman: Legacy" (Film)

"The true beginning of the DCU," as Gunn puts it, "Superman: Legacy" is the first solo Superman movie since 2013's "Man of Steel."

Henry Cavill, the previous portrayer of the Kryptonian, will not be returning; the studio instead opting for a younger actor. Written by Gunn, the story is inspired by the legendary duo Grant Morrison and Frank Quitely's comic, "All-Star Superman." Arguably the greatest Superman comic ever made, the series captures the heart and touching humanity of Superman that makes him, well, super.

The film is expected to release in theaters on July 11, 2025.

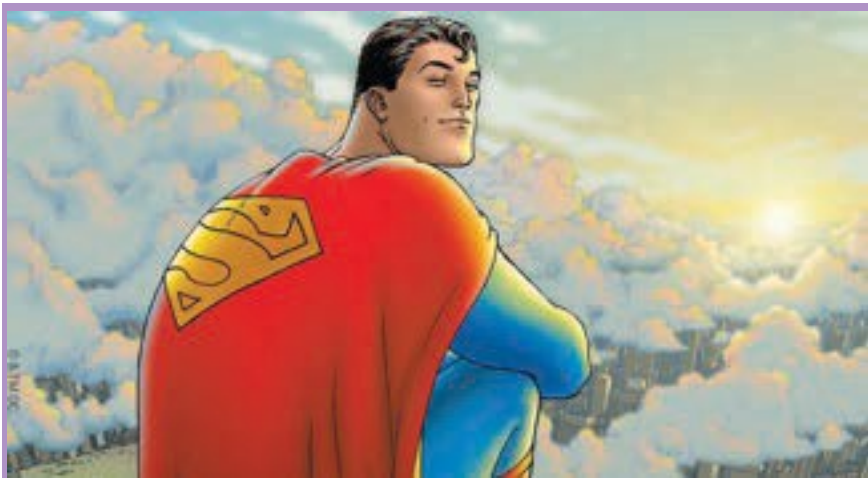


Photo courtesy of DC Official / Instagram

4. "Lanterns" (TV)

Ever since 2011's box-office bomb of "Green Lantern," the cosmic police force has been off the table for live-action. But a "Green Lantern" series by executive producer Greg Berlanti was already in the works at HBO Max since late 2019, and while scripts for a full eight episodes had already been completed, the high budget of the project and the constant restructuring of power at its parent company, Warner Bros. Discovery, left the series stuck in development hell.

Scrapping Berlanti's work, "Lanterns" will focus on famed Green Lanterns Hal Jordan and John Stewart as they watch over precinct Earth. Safran describes the show as being "very much in the vein of 'True Detective.'" Gunn teases that in the series, Jordan and Stewart "discover a terrifying mystery that ties into [Gunn's] larger story of the DCU."



Photo courtesy of DC Official / Instagram

To read the full article, go to themontclarion.org

Classifieds

Family is looking for a driver and companion for a young man with ASD in West Caldwell. He would need to be picked up in East Hanover at 2:30 and driven home to West Caldwell. He is fairly independent at home he just needs someone to be in the home with him. There would be plenty of time to get homework done until a family member gets home by 5:30. Flexible on days and rate is negotiable. Please call or text Colette Perrothers 973-610-9489 or email cperrothers@gmail.com

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Sports

THIS WEEK IN RED HAWK SPORTS
FEB. 23RD - MAR. 1ST

BASEBALL 23
2:30 PM VS MCDANIEL THU.

BASEBALL 24
12 PM VS MCDANIEL FRI.

M. LACROSSE 25
12 PM VS SCRANTON SAT.

NO GAMES 26
SUN.

NO GAMES 27
MON.

NO GAMES 28
TUE.

W. LACROSSE 1
4 PM @ FDU WED.

M. LACROSSE 1
7 PM @ FDU WED.



Players like senior pitcher Patrick Cuccurullo are just trying to enjoy every minute of being with the Red Hawks.

Photo courtesy of MSU Athletics

Baseball Wants To Swing For the Fences In The NJAC For 2023

Matteo Macolino
Staff Writer

Spring is right around the corner and that means spring sports are approaching including America's favorite pastime, baseball.

The Montclair State University baseball team is getting ready for the start of the 2023 season after a nine-month-long offseason. Last year, the Red Hawks finished the season with a record of 31-13 and an appearance in the NCAA tournament for the first time in 14 years. Montclair State entered the NJAC preseason coaches' poll in fourth place.

Players and coaches are focused on the season ahead starting with their upcoming trip to Aberdeen, Maryland for the Ripken Experience. Whether it's pitchers like senior Patrick Cuccurullo or fielders like senior Miles Feaster, everyone has done their part in getting ready.

"I think not just me but the entire team has done a really good job preparing," Cuccurullo said. "Whether it be me throwing on my own time or lifting on my own, everyone has done a really good job staying focused and looking at what's ahead for us."

Cuccurullo used the offseason to work on his pitching. Pitching coach Casey Gaynor as well as some of Cuccurullo's teammates have given him advice on things to work on, which he's always open to hearing.



Some of the freshmen have already made a name for themselves.

Photo courtesy of MSU Athletics

"I've learned a couple of things under Coach Gaynor and some teammates that have pointed some things out that I maybe do well or I need to work on and I'm always open to hearing criticism and stuff like that," Cuccurullo said.

Other players like Feaster focused more on strength and conditioning this offseason rather than the usual fielding and hitting. Being in great shape helps him prepare for the spring and get a feel for his hitting.

"Me personally, I'm not big on a lot of swinging in the offseason, it's more of a feel thing, so you get here and get the reps in," Feaster said. "In the offseason, I'm just trying to get in the best shape possible to get myself going in the spring."

While players in the offseason prepared in their own way,

the preseason is what brought them back together and ready to play. Head coach Dave Lorber stressed the importance of a routine and keeping their identity. With a variety of different position players, the coaches have been able to move them around and see who fits best in certain positions.

"Obviously every guy's an individual so we work with some guys on some things individually," Lorber said. "Our whole core concepts don't change and that's important to us and our identity. You always got to maintain your routines in this game and that's important."

Another big part of the offseason is recruitment. This year's freshman class is already looking good and ready to play some meaningful baseball. One standout player is freshman pitcher Michael Timberlake, who's already impressed the coaching staff. Coach Lorber

labeled Timberlake as a "bright spot of the freshmen arms" and said he could already contribute innings early in his career.

"I think we have some really good baseball players that came in here," Cuccurullo said. "Coach Lorber's done a great job when it comes to recruiting and the transfer portal. I think a lot of them are going to play in meaningful games and help us win. We're all for that and I'm excited to see them play."

The younger players have come in ready and have shown their talent. Some standout players could even compete for lineup spots and push their way to start games.

"It's about those guys coming in and getting assimilated into what we do," Lorber said. "I think it's nice that the young guys are pushing some of the older guys to continue to play because some of the younger guys are super talented. Now it's about matching their baseball acumen with their athletic ability and that's what's going to help push them into the lineup."

Taking it one day at a time seems to be the focus for everyone. A shared goal of winning the NJAC can be achieved by taking it one game at a time.

"We got a really talented team this year and I think we're going to do some special things," Cuccurullo said. "Take it one game at a time because it goes fast when the season starts. I'm just trying to enjoy every minute possible."

RED HAWK RECAP
FEB. 15TH - FEB. 22ND

L 55-67 W 104-100 5TH PLACE
 W BASKETBALL VS. RICHMOND UNIVERSITY FEB. 15, 2023 W BASKETBALL VS. RICHMOND UNIVERSITY FEB. 16, 2023 W SWIM/DIVE VS. METRO CHAMP FEB. 18, 2023

3RD PLACE 6TH PLACE W 89-69 4TH PLACE 6TH PLACE 5TH PLACE 5TH PLACE L 86-91
 W SWIM/DIVE VS. METRO CHAMP FEB. 18, 2023 M SWIM/DIVE VS. METRO CHAMP FEB. 19, 2023 M BASKETBALL VS. JERSEY CITY UNIV. FEB. 19, 2023 W SWIM/DIVE VS. METRO CHAMP FEB. 20, 2023 M SWIM/DIVE VS. METRO CHAMP FEB. 20, 2023 M INDOOR TRACK @ NJ ATHLETIC FEB. 21, 2023 W INDOOR TRACK @ NJ ATHLETIC FEB. 21, 2023 M BASKETBALL VS. STOCKTON UNIVERSITY FEB. 22, 2023



Mike Jackson prepares for yet another semifinal matchup against the Ospreys

Markell Robinson | *The Montclarion*

PHOTO ESSAY: Men's Basketball Ends Magical Run With Loss to Stockton in NJAC Semifinals

Matt Orth
Sports Editor

Throughout the 2022-23 season, the Montclair State men's basketball team has traveled out to Galloway and also in the Panzer Athletic Center to play Stockton.

The first matchup at home ended up in a 16 point loss, and on the road, the Red Hawks took a tough seven point loss.

On Tuesday night, for the third and final matchup of the season, Montclair State had a chance to get the ultimate revenge when it mattered most.

Unfortunately, after a tight game to the very end, the Red Hawks fell to Stockton for a third time by a score of 91 to 86. Stockton will move on in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) playoffs and face none other than the Rowan Profs after they beat the TCNJ Lions.

Surprisingly enough, the Red Hawks did not take the lead in the game until they went up 84 to 82 with two and a half minutes to go in the game thanks to sophomore guard Mike Jackson.

In the end, while Montclair State shot better from the field and from the free throw line, five more turnovers and eight more points off turnovers was inevitably their downfall in the game.

But even with the loss, the Red Hawks accomplished a lot in the season.



Keyon Pryce brings the ball down

Markell Robinson | *The Montclarion*



The team huddles up pregame

Markell Robinson | *The Montclarion*



Samar Abdulah takes a corner three-pointer

Markell Robinson | *The Montclarion*



Steve Breeman scored 25 points in the game.

Markell Robinson | *The Montclarion*

the Montclarion Sports

Thursday, February 23, 2023

montclarionsports@gmail.com



The lacrosse team practices in the bitter cold, preparing for the upcoming season.

Vincent Picone | *The Montclarion*

Men's Lacrosse Starts Afresh For The Year And For Their Conference

Matt Orth
Sports Editor

Last season, the Montclair State University men's lacrosse team fought until the very end. In the Colonial State Athletic Conference (CSAC) playoffs, the Red Hawks won a thriller against the Kean Cougars and made the conference finals against the Ospreys of Stockton.

Unfortunately, the squad could not finish out the season the way they wanted to, with Stockton dominating Montclair State and winning the CSAC. But now, it's 2023, and there is a new season to look forward to.

And heading into the new season, Montclair State and five other schools are part of a new collaboration with the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) and the Coast-to-Coast Athletic Conference.

The newly formed Coastal Lacrosse Conference, consisting of the Red Hawks, Christopher Newport University, Kean University, Salisbury University, Stockton University, and the University of Mary Washington, will begin its inaugural season, and head coach Matt Poskay is excited for the mix of old and new faces.

"You know, we have a lot of fresh faces out here with a compliment of returning guys," Poskay said. "We returned a lot of our offense, and we returned a lot of our defense. But after that, we have a lot of youth, and I think the younger guys that can figure it out sooner rather than later can only add to our depth and help us."

While the men's lacrosse team does return a decent amount of players like senior attacker Tyler McCreery and graduate student midfielder Joe Covino, the Red Hawks do lose a couple of crucial pieces found during the 2022 campaign.



The offense gets a change thanks to more involvement from assistant coach Matt Haemmerle.

Vincent Picone | *The Montclarion*

Wilson Smith and Christian Boyle have both graduated, and both had stellar seasons last year that contributed to their run to the CSAC finals. Smith was named CSAC Defensive Player of the Year, while Boyle notched his 100th point in his career.

Even with them gone, the team is still pretty solid and is looking to have yet another season deep into the year. It all starts against Vassar College on Wednesday, February 22nd at Sprague Field. Last season, the Red Hawks also started their season on the road against Vassar.

Montclair State would lose to them, the only time in their series history that has happened. Poskay speaks on starting the season at home.

"Yeah I think it's a huge plus," Poskay said. "Obviously you got to play half on the road and half at home, you know starting here is a good thing, kind of get that rhythm down pat, being able to practice out here every day, may be

to our advantage, may not. At the end of the things, you have to do the same things here than on the road."

As mentioned before, Tyler McCreery, alongside his brother and senior attacker Mike McCreery, will be returning, and Tyler has a solid prior season to build upon for 2023. McCreery was top 5 in the conference in multiple stats like goals per game, assists per game and points per game.

McCreery is also excited about the competition coming with a new conference.

"It definitely will be good competition, this conference will be very challenging," McCreery said. "But it's promising and good for this program. The better competition will bring better kids and will bring this program from where it was as a mid-level team to a top-level, highly competitive Division III team."

In the preseason, the Red Hawks will have to prove themselves even

more due to the revealing of the first-ever Coastal Lacrosse Conference preseason poll. Montclair State is ranked fifth out of six teams, with the standings starting with Salisbury, then Christopher Newport, Stockton, Kean, and the University of Mary Washington in last place.

Going into the new season, Covino details how important Poskay is to the grand scheme of the team heading into his fifth season with the program.

"I am extremely confident in coach Poskay," Covino said. "He was a decorated athlete, he played collegiate and in the MLL back in the day, and he's won a national championship so he really knows what it takes to win and be apart of a winning program."

Poskay not only returns but also assistant coach Matt Haemmerle returns for his fourth year with the Red Hawks. And according to Covino, Haemmerle is focusing more on the offense this season due to the addition of another assistant coach Daniel Crotty, who used to be a graduate assistant at Wagner College.

Crotty will be their defensive coordinator, and Poskay can now mediate between both sides of the ball and continue to do his job well. As for the players, Covino made it clear what they have to do this season to win a conference championship.

"All 45 guys being on the same plane and having the same mindset about everything," Covino said. "Picking each other up when you're down. Because there's gonna come a point in that third-fourth quarter where things may not be going our way, and we need to come together and not get on top of each other."