3-30-2023

The Montclarion, March 30, 2023

The Montclarion

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.montclair.edu/montclarion

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.montclair.edu/montclarion/1587

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Newspapers at Montclair State University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Montclarion by an authorized administrator of Montclair State University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@montclair.edu.
Sen. Bob Menendez and Hillary Clinton Speak at Montclair State

Read the Story on Page 5
Executive Board

Editor-in-Chief
Emma Caughlan
montclarionchief@gmail.com

Managing Editor
Jenna Sundel
montclarionmanaging@gmail.com

The Montclarion is a publication of Montelican Publishing, Inc. published weekly, except during the 2020 fall and 2021 spring semesters, exams, summer and winter sessions. The Montclarion is funded by student fees distributed by Montclair State University and incoming advertising revenue. The views expressed in the Opinion section, with the exception of the Main Editorial, do not necessarily reflect the views of The Montclarion.

The Montclarion has a commitment to accuracy and clarity and will print corrections or clarifications if information is found to be incorrect.

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

Editorial Board

News
Erin Lawlor
montclarionnews@gmail.com

Feature
Sal DiMaggio
montclarionfeature@gmail.com

Opinion
Avery Nixon
montclarionopinion@gmail.com

Entertainment
Megan Lim
montclarionentertainment@gmail.com

Sports
Matt Orth
montclarionsports@gmail.com

Photography
Lynise Olivaccio
montclarionphotography@gmail.com

Social Media Manager
Emma Barber
montclarionsocialmedia@gmail.com

Chief Copy Editor
Kim Llamparello
montclarioncopy@gmail.com

Video Editor
Katie Lawrence
montclarionvideo@gmail.com

Fiction Editor
Alex Pavljuk
montclarionfiction@gmail.com

Graphic Design
Crystal Durham
montclariongraphics@gmail.com

Production
Hannah Effinger
montclarionproduction@gmail.com

Assistants

Photography
Karsten Englander
Dani Mazariegos

Opinion
Sofia Acevedo Valencia
Colin Luderitz

Sports
Ryan White

Production
Nicky Vidal

Entertainment
Sekhena Sembenu

Feature
Roxanne Gribbin

News
Kamil Santana

Video
Paige Ryans
Sophia Lazaridis

Spanish Translator
Darian Mozo
Spanish Translator Assistant
Victor Muñiz Rosa
Rooy Aguirre

Writers & Contributors

Delilah Summerer
Matteo Silvero
Olivia Yayla
Danielle Linggar
Peter Di Prospero
Ryan White
Courtney Lockwood
Tyler Ventura

Business Team

Business Manager
Cam Wade
montclarionbusinessmanager@gmail.com

Ad Sales Manager
Ashleigh Corby
montclarionadsales@gmail.com

Faculty

Faculty Advisor
Tara George

Want to see yourself here?
Join us!

Contact any of the Editors above for more information!

Email montclarionchief@gmail.com with any questions!

Check out our Newsletter!
Possible Increase in Tuition For Next Academic Year

Kamila Santana
Assistant News Editor

The Board of Trustees held a student hearing for tuition. Mariana Luna-Martinez and Maria Cavero Munoz serve on Montclair State University's Board of Trustees as student trustees. They are the student voices of the board.

This past Thursday, Luna-Martinez, the non-voting student trustee, moderated the tuition listening session at the Student Center. A panel of directors from various campus services were there to answer questions students had. The directors of financial aid, auxiliary services, budget and planning and residence life, the vice president of student development and campus life and the associate dean of students were in attendance.

Two students attended the session but Luna-Martinez and her student trustee partner, voting member Cavero Munoz, composed general questions for the panel prior to the session. Cavero Munoz, the voting member, was not able to attend the listening session.

Tuition could possibly increase by two to four percent for the next academic year and will be voted on by the Board of Trustees at the tuition hearing this Friday, March 31 at the 7th floor Conference Center at University Hall. The hearing will begin at 11:30 a.m.

Students are welcome to attend the meeting to voice their concerns to the Board of Trustees. Luna-Martinez explained the importance of the tuition listening session. “I’ll host our tuition town hall listening session to see what students are saying, what students are asking and they had the opportunity to ask different people from different departments,” Luna-Martinez said. These departments play a role and they want to make sure that they’re meeting the needs of students because students are everyone’s number one priority here at Montclair State.

Along with the possible tuition increase, students should receive the Federal Pell Grant will see an increase in aid later this year according to Jim Anderson director of financial aid. “The Federal Pell Grant program will have an increase for all students that are getting the Federal Pell Grant,” Anderson said. “So students who are receiving the maximum Pell Grant will get a $500 increase over last year. And for students that are getting the New Jersey Tuition Aid Grant, TAG, we don’t know the amounts yet.”

“The cost of the food for the providers is going up eight to 10 percent,” Anderson said. “Our meal plan rates for students are not going to go up by that significant of an increase. It will be much smaller.”

Ginotti also announced that a potential virtual bookstore is in the works to make textbooks more accessible at reasonable prices for students. “We’re excited about the opportunity that we’re going to be exploring to bring in a new textbook experience to try to make it as efficient as possible. So we’re going to be going out to bid on that in the next couple of months. So the end goal is clearly that we are looking to reduce the cost of textbooks as much as possible for students.”

“The Federal Pell Grant program will have an increase for all students that are getting the Pell Grant," Anderson said. 

“Students that actually need help, they’re looking at their income and their spouse if they’re married and if the family earns an is 65,000 or above, then they would qualify based on the income requirements. In that instance, the student is assured that their tuition fees will be covered in full by what we call gift aid, which is grants and scholarships,” Daniel Ramos, a junior biologic and computer science major, said he might attend the tuition hearing on Friday. Ramos said he expected the increase in tuition.

“[I] really think about it because I came in knowing that it was going to go up a little bit every year.”

Tanner Rivera is a junior excursion science major. She said this past year’s tuition aid did not help her fully cover tuition expenses and an increase in tuition affects her as a commuter. “I think we already have to pay for parking, especially as a commuter it’s expensive for parking,” Rivera said. “On top of parking, you have to get a permit and [they don’t] have permits for all the commuters. They raised the price. It’s frustrating because there are others, not just me, that have bills to pay and to express it. I got shorted out of financial aid this past year. So now I have to pay $500 for the last two semesters, which comes to over $1,000, which is terrible but still if I had the financial aid I had, I would be okay.”

Wanjun Zhang, a freshman business administration major, said despite the increase in tuition, students who receive financial aid have good news that aid is increasing. “I think it’s good because, “I think we already have to pay for parking, especially as a commuter it’s expensive for parking,”

Fatemehrada deCarvalho, assistant vice president of auxiliary services, added that dining prices will not increase dramatically. “We provide, but we also want to make sure we’re not charging them too much money in the end. So we’re looking at about a two percent increase this year. We’re just trying to keep up with the cost of services.”

Assistant News Editor

Assistant News Editor
SGA Reports Increase in Campus Orgs

The university held its monthly Senate Meeting this Wednesday. During the monthly Senate meeting held on Wednesday, March 22, Montclair State University’s Student Government Association (SGA) and deans discussed updates and changes on campus. There was mention of emergency services on campus, CARE reports, and continued talk of the new financial literacy program, iGrad, as well as new registered organizations.

Richard Stein-Orto, current SGA president, reported an additional ambulance that has been added to the fleet. This brings the total of Montclair State ambulances up to three.

Rikkira Harfield, a sophomore psychology major, wished the university was getting more. “I definitely hope they have more [ambulances] as someone who had to actually use the EMT’s here,” Harfield said. “Definitely super helpful.”

Other students, such as freshman sociology major Kristopher Rodriguez, think three is enough. “I personally feel like three is more of a safety protocol,” Rodriguez said. In the same vein, the discussion was turned toward the mental health and safety of students. Margaree Coleman-Carter, the dean of students, stressed the importance of being there for students and offering resources. She reported that the crisis, assessment, response and education team (CARE) meets regularly to evaluate concerning behaviors of students.

It was also noted that the dean of students, as well as other members of the CARE team, respond to concerns as a first line before the police do. Rodriguez is happy that the police are not the first responders. “I support this idea morally,” Rodriguez said. “It’s a great way [to ensure that] the kids don’t have a bounded weight on their chests, to feel that the second they say something ‘wrong,’ the police will come in and take them somewhere else. If people knew this, it would be a great way for more kids to open up more.”

The Senate discussed the rollout of their new financial literacy program, iGrad. This website allows students to find out what their financial stressors are, budget, keep track of student loans, find scholarships and more.

Students were pleased with this new program. Emma Geoghegan, a junior policy studies major, thinks this is a great program. “This new course definitely sounds better, and people can factor in how they’re living now, people can factor in other stuff they have going on in their life,” Geoghegan said. Students were pleased with this new program.

Emma Geoghegan, a junior policy studies major, thinks this is a great program.

“Definitely an improvement to Financial Avenue,” Harfield said. “I know so many students, myself included, who just didn’t feel like they benefited from Financial Avenue.” Stein-Orto also announced that there are now over 130 organizations and clubs that are registered or in the process of registering with the SGA. This is a large increase from the mere 43 that had been on campus last year.

Rodriguez is concerned with the engagement of all of these new clubs. “The question is how are they going to get more people into those clubs,” Rodriguez said. “I know in certain cases, yeah, you have your fun times and everything, but if it’s skeptical, knowing one club has 20 people, while another only has three. Is it really a club? It’s more of a gathering.”

Geoghegan, who is working on building a sociology club, is pleased with the larger amount of SGA registered organizations, and the process of how to become one. “It’s been a good process, a collaborative process,” Geoghegan said. “We are hoping to be done registering at the end of this semester, so we can start and get into the swing of things for next semester. I don’t think it’s a super complicated process, and I understand why they have certain things in place, they want to make sure the people in the orgs are actually passionate about the orgs and are going to stick by SGA regulations.”

Harfield believes that the increase in clubs is beneficial, as it will give students a larger variety of spaces to connect with those who have similar interests. “That’s a great amount,” Harfield said. “It definitely allows more students to express themselves, and be more creative and get together and do that.”
The importance of recognizing how the event would run and the event began by explaining trees, who was the M.C. for Style Dance Company. da Gorman, accompanied by Daisy Troop 98681 and Brown’s communities, who have positively impacted Seton Hall University, as well as Troop 98035 who led attendance. lina Menendez Women’s History Month Celebration and March 26 in its Memorial Auditorium. Hosted by New Jersey Senator Bob Menendez, the event included a keynote speech by Hilary Clinton and honored five women from New Jersey who have positively impacted their communities.

The event kicked off with a reading of “We Rise” by Aman-da German, accompanied by a performance by Elements of Style Dance Company. Hillside Mayor Dahlia Ver-teese, who was the M.C. for the event, began by explaining how the event would run and the importance of recognizing women’s achievements. She introduced the Honor Guard from Seton Hall University, as well as Daisy Troop 98681 and Brown’s Troop 98035 who led attendees in the pledge of allegiance. After, President Jonathan Koppell spoke about the importance of public service, accessibility and inclusivity, especially on campus.

“This is a university dedicated to public service,” Koppell said. “We are committed to design- ing ourselves to be accessible, inclusive and excellent while promoting public service for our faculty as our core value.”

Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill spoke next, expressing gratitude to Evangelina Menendez.

“If it wasn’t for Evangelina, it wasn’t for her determination to leave Cuba, to create a better life for her family, if it wasn’t for her grueling work as a seamstress, for her perseverance in a new nation, if it wasn’t for her working hard to raise her children with respect for her work, and that same perseverance and education, we wouldn’t have our senator, [Menendez] here today,” Sherrill said.

Sherrill went on, acknowledging the strides Clinton has made for women everywhere. Sherrill recognized the trailblazing effec-tion Clinton has had, such as impacting the congresswoman’s own work in combating mili-tary sexual assault and the lack of childcare in the field.

Menendez then spoke about the advancements made for women, reminding the audience that when in the year her mother was born, women across the country were not able to vote. And that when Clinton herself was in college and law school she was unable to open her own credit card and had she become pregnant, could have been vic-tim to discriminatory laws that would not protect her from un-employment.

“All the changes that we see, that have been so beautifully addressed by the mayor, and the congresswoman and the senator, have taken place in a relatively short period of time,” Clinton said.

However, all of this progress has not stopped others from at- tempting to halt it.

“For every advance that we have made, and thank goodness they have been so quick and so positive over so many years, we are living now, at a time where there is a concerted effort to push women aside,” Clinton said.

With everything going on in the current political landscape, Clinton expressed her desire for women to continue to fight for their rights to be codified as well as practiced, in all areas of life. With Clinton’s powerful speech resonate in the audience’s mind, Menendez then called up the honorees of his award.

The first awardee, Lourdes Cortez, was honored for growing the bar of what is possible for little girls in America,” Menen-dez said.

Menendez then welcomed Clinton to the stage.

Clinton spoke of the advancem ents made for women, reminding the audience that when in the year her mother was born, women across the country were not able to vote. And that when Clinton herself was in college and law school she was unable to open her own credit card and had she become pregnant, could have been vic-tim to discriminatory laws that would not protect her from un-employment.

“All the changes that we see, that have been so beautifully addressed by the mayor, and the congresswoman and the senator, have taken place in a relatively short period of time,” Clinton said.

However, all of this progress has not stopped others from at- tempting to halt it.

“For every advance that we have made, and thank goodness they have been so quick and so positive over so many years, we are living now, at a time where there is a concerted effort to push women aside,” Clinton said.

With everything going on in the current political landscape, Clinton expressed her desire for women to continue to fight for their rights to be codified as well as practiced, in all areas of life. With Clinton’s powerful speech resonate in the audience’s mind, Menendez then called up the honorees of his award.

The first awardee, Lourdes Cortez, was honored for growing the bar of what is possible for little girls in America,” Menendez said.

Menendez then welcomed Clinton to the stage.

Clinton spoke of the advancements made for women, reminding the audience that when in the year her mother was born, women across the country were not able to vote. And that when Clinton herself was in college and law school she was unable to open her own credit card and had she become pregnant, could have been vic-tim to discriminatory laws that would not protect her from un-employment.

“All the changes that we see, that have been so beautifully addressed by the mayor, and the congresswoman and the senator, have taken place in a relatively short period of time,” Clinton said.

However, all of this progress has not stopped others from at- tempting to halt it.

“For every advance that we have made, and thank goodness they have been so quick and so positive over so many years, we are living now, at a time where there is a concerted effort to push women aside,” Clinton said.

With everything going on in the current political landscape, Clinton expressed her desire for women to continue to fight for their rights to be codified as well as practiced, in all areas of life. With Clinton’s powerful speech resonate in the audience’s mind, Menendez then called up the honorees of his award.

The first awardee, Lourdes Cortez, was honored for growing the bar of what is possible for little girls in America,” Menendez said.

Menendez then welcomed Clinton to the stage.

Clinton spoke of the advancements made for women, reminding the audience that when in the year her mother was born, women across the country were not able to vote. And that when Clinton herself was in college and law school she was unable to open her own credit card and had she become pregnant, could have been vic-tim to discriminatory laws that would not protect her from un-employment.

“All the changes that we see, that have been so beautifully addressed by the mayor, and the congresswoman and the senator, have taken place in a relatively short period of time,” Clinton said.

However, all of this progress has not stopped others from at- tempting to halt it.

“For every advance that we have made, and thank goodness they have been so quick and so positive over so many years, we are living now, at a time where there is a concerted effort to push women aside,” Clinton said.

With everything going on in the current political landscape, Clinton expressed her desire for women to continue to fight for their rights to be codified as well as practiced, in all areas of life. With Clinton’s powerful speech resonate in the audience’s mind, Menendez then called up the honorees of his award.

The first awardee, Lourdes Cortez, was honored for growing the bar of what is possible for little girls in America,” Menendez said.
Montclair State University announced merger plans with Bloomfield College on Oct. 26, 2022. This raised a series of questions from faculty, staff and students. As the date of the merger approaches, there are still many concerns and unanswered questions. Throughout the 2022-2023 academic year, Bloomfield and Montclair State have been working independently but in close collaboration with each other. The merger is projected to be finalized by June 30, 2023, or earlier.

“[Bloomfield] is the only New Jersey institution to be recognized as a Predominantly Black Institution (PBI) and Hispanic Serving Institution, and is also a Minority Serving Institution,” according to Bloomfield’s website.

These core values reflect in the student body and are vital to the atmosphere of the school. Merging with Montclair State proposes the possibility of a major shift in these values.

Marcheta Evans, president of Montclair State, says that the merger will turn into a mere real estate transaction. “Something had to be done and I was pretty happy it was Montclair [State] that stepped up,” a Bloomfield professor, who is remaining anonymous to protect their job status, said. “Our mission is to help disadvantaged kids get into college and be successful, and people have been very clear that they want to keep that.”

Montclair State University, Mees said. “Both are minority serving institutions with expertise in delivering accessible, life-changing educational opportunities for all students, including those from minority and low-income backgrounds.”

Mees said that by partnering with Montclair State, Bloomfield can accomplish its mission in an easier way. “Bloomfield College’s mission will not change when it becomes part of Montclair State University, but how it is delivered will evolve to a more sustainable model, one that takes full advantage of the economies of scope and scale that can be gained by becoming part of a larger enterprise,” Mees said. The average household income is not the only difference between these institutions. The average class size at Montclair is 25, while the average Bloomfield class size is 13. Additionally, Bloomfield awards an average of four credits per class as opposed to Montclair State’s three credits. Bloomfield College has had a historically different curriculum than Montclair State.

“Bloomfield aims to achieve learning outcomes in fewer courses, and the curriculum is stripped down to its essentials,” Murphy said. With the new model, professors are worried that many Bloomfield students will be forced to adapt to Montclair State’s policies. On the other hand, this could challenge or change Montclair State’s current way of education.

With the merger, 10 staff members at Bloomfield College were let go of their jobs. Montclair State wanted to avoid duplication in certain departments. Six of the 10 people let go had taught in the science department. This is a major concern for the faculty and staff at Bloomfield. Murphy explained the impact that this has and what it might mean for the future. Those were folks that were helping run our current mission in effect,” Murphy said. “That was quite shocking and very sad, and it suggests that administrators have something new in mind.”

Mees stressed that the merger is saving most of the professors’ jobs, and that this approach would be beneficial in the long run. “It is not realistic to assume that employment would continue for all current Bloomfield College employees, given that the College’s current business model has proven to be unsustainable,” Mees said. “Montclair’s hiring decisions were made with the goal of creating a more sustainable model.”

Despite the differences in the culture of Montclair State and Bloomfield, many are excited to see what comes from the merge. The next few years may be filled with tumult, but students from both universities will be able to gain new experiences while adjusting to new atmospheres.

“Something had to be done and I was pretty happy it was Montclair [State] that stepped up,” a Bloomfield professor, who is remaining anonymous to protect their job status, said. “Our mission is to help disadvantaged kids get into college and be successful, and people have been very clear that they want to keep that.”

Inside the Montclair State-Bloomfield College Merger

Roxanne Gribbin
Assistant Feature Editor

Roxanne Gribbin | The Montclarion

Bloomfield College merged with Montclair State University in October of 2022.

Montclair State University and Bloomfield College announced merger plans on Oct. 26, 2022. This raised a series of questions from faculty, staff and students. As the date of the merger approaches, there are still many concerns and unanswered questions. Throughout the 2022-2023 academic year, Bloomfield and Montclair State have been working independently but in close collaboration with each other. The merger is projected to be finalized by June 30, 2023, or earlier.

“Bloomfield College of Montclair is the only New Jersey institution to be recognized as a Predominantly Black Institution (PBI) and Hispanic Serving Institution, and is also a Minority Serving Institution,” according to Bloomfield’s website.

These core values reflect in the student body and are vital to the atmosphere of the school. Merging with Montclair State proposes the possibility of a major shift in these values.

Marcheta Evans, president of Montclair State, said that “the merger would turn into a mere real estate transaction.”

“Something had to be done and I was pretty happy it was Montclair [State] that stepped up,” a Bloomfield professor, who is remaining anonymous to protect their job status, said. “Our mission is to help disadvantaged kids get into college and be successful, and people have been very clear that they want to keep that.”

Montclair State University, Mees said. “Both are minority serving institutions with expertise in delivering accessible, life-changing educational opportunities for all students, including those from minority and low-income backgrounds.”

Mees said that by partnering with Montclair State, Bloomfield can accomplish its mission in an easier way. “Bloomfield College’s mission will not change when it becomes part of Montclair State University, but how it is delivered will evolve to a more sustainable model, one that takes full advantage of the economies of scope and scale that can be gained by becoming part of a larger enterprise,” Mees said. The average household income is not the only difference between these institutions. The average class size at Montclair is 25, while the average Bloomfield class size is 13. Additionally, Bloomfield awards an average of four credits per class as opposed to Montclair State’s three credits. Bloomfield College has had a historically different curriculum than Montclair State.

“Bloomfield aims to achieve learning outcomes in fewer courses, and the curriculum is stripped down to its essentials,” Murphy said. With the new model, professors are worried that many Bloomfield students will be forced to adapt to Montclair State’s policies. On the other hand, this could challenge or change Montclair State’s current way of education.

With the merger, 10 staff members at Bloomfield College were let go of their jobs. Montclair State wanted to avoid duplication in certain departments. Six of the 10 people let go had taught in the science department. This is a major concern for the faculty and staff at Bloomfield. Murphy explained the impact that this has and what it might mean for the future. Those were folks that were helping run our current mission in effect,” Murphy said. “That was quite shocking and very sad, and it suggests that administrators have something new in mind.”

Mees stressed that the merger is saving most of the professors’ jobs, and that this approach would be beneficial in the long run. “It is not realistic to assume that employment would continue for all current Bloomfield College employees, given that the College’s current business model has proven to be unsustainable,” Mees said. “Montclair’s hiring decisions were made with the goal of creating a more sustainable model.”

Despite the differences in the culture of Montclair State and Bloomfield, many are excited to see what comes from the merge. The next few years may be filled with tumult, but students from both universities will be able to gain new experiences while adjusting to new atmospheres.

“Something had to be done and I was pretty happy it was Montclair [State] that stepped up,” a Bloomfield professor, who is remaining anonymous to protect their job status, said. “Our mission is to help disadvantaged kids get into college and be successful, and people have been very clear that they want to keep that.”
Steve Kornacki spoke about his time with MSNBC as well as the topic of political polarization in his session.

Jenna Sundel | The Montclarion

Steve Kornacki Visits Montclair State

Jenna Sundel
Managing Editor

As he enters the room, he is met with enthusiastic applause. He is wearing his signature khakis and he cracks a joke about New Jersey traffic while he takes his seat.

Steve Kornacki, a national political correspondent for NBC News & MSNBC, visited Montclair State University as a part of the Political Science and Law Salon Series. Brigid Callahan Harrison, chair of the political science and law department, explained the purpose of the series.

“We have movers and shakers in politics come for events like this to just have a nice kind of informal conversation about both their lives and give advice to students who are interested in pursuing careers similar to theirs, but also what they do in their jobs and obviously all bring some kind of experience or knowledge that people find interesting,” Harrison said.

Kornacki covered a lot of ground during the chat, including his start in media, his current role at MSNBC, the beginnings of polarization in the United States and the state of American politics today.

Kornacki, a Massachusetts native, began his career covering politics in New Jersey for PoliticsNJ.com. He explained how obtaining news through the internet was a novel idea at that time.

“This is going back 20 years here when the idea of a web only news source was very novel,” Kornacki said.

“So when I told people I’ve taken a job with a website, they’d say: where can I read it, there’s no print product, no magazine, no newspaper?” That was really weird to people,” Kornacki explained.

Despite his initial hesitation, he took the role. He encouraged students to take risks, because you never know where they may lead.

“If there’s any advice there from my standpoint, is that at your age, just starting out, it’s time to take chances and don’t be afraid,” Kornacki said. Now, Kornacki is most well known for his role at MSNBC. His name is synonymous with big boards, election data and khaki pants. He detailed how he got that role back in 2014.

“I had known since I got to MSNBC in 2012 that was something I would have liked to do, the idea of doing the results, the county maps, all that stuff,” Kornacki said. “The job was taken at that point and it was about two months before the 2014 midterm, Chuck Todd had been doing it on [MSNBC] and he got a job as host of Meet the Press in 2014. So I got a call from my boss and he said, Well, [Todd] is not going to be able to be on [MSNBC] on election night and we need somebody to do the board. Would you be interested?” And I said, “Oh yeah, I think I would be.”

Kornacki explained what he loves about election nights.

“I love the spectacle, I love watching the numbers start to come in, trying to make sense of patterns, trying to figure out where it’s going, trying to communicate the surprise we invariably see, and you’ll get to a point where we can finally sort of [watch] in slow motion as a picture comes into focus,” Kornacki said.

However, he also said election nights are also stressful.

“Every election that goes by I become more and more aware of how much I don’t know and what my blind spots are, and it’s getting more and more and more complicated,” Kornacki said. Beyond his on-camera work, Kornacki hosts two podcasts called “Article II: Inside Impeachment” and “The Revolution with Steve Kornacki.” He also wrote a book entitled “The Red and the Blue.” Kornacki shared his vast political knowledge with the audience, focusing on the origin of the political polarization that permeates society today.

Kornacki said political polarization was accelerated by Newt Gingrich, who was Speaker of the House from 1995 to 1999.

“What drives Gingrich politically is a sense that there is an out-of-touch liberal elite that has too much sway in major American institutions, cultural institutions, academic institutions, media institutions, a liberal elite whose core values and beliefs are at odds with everyday Americans,” Kornacki said.

Kornacki connected Gingrich’s political mission to the rise of former President Donald Trump.

“Then along comes [Trump], who I don’t think has this grand vision, but [he] connected the Trump style, [his] antics, however you want to define it, he connected with the voters that [Gingrich] had spent 50 years trying to build a coalition out of,” Kornacki said.

Harrison thought the event was a success.

“I’m super pleased,” Harrison said. “I’m happy that so many people had questions, particularly students. I think one of the things that I always find interesting is the advice that people give. And thinking about his career and how the media is changing, I think that’s something to keep in mind for students who are interested in pursuing that kind of career, that they keep themselves open to the idea of taking risks, and perhaps not going for the most conventional route.”

Jacob Goetz, a senior television and digital media major, found several aspects of the event interesting and educational.

“What he had to say about [Gingrich] was really interesting to me and his place in the formation of the Republican Party, and also just the general approach to how party politics has shaped over the years,” Goetz said. AJ Ford, a senior political science major, said he enjoyed the event as well.

“On MSNBC, you’re gonna see Steve Kornacki at the big board, so it’s really cool to see and I obviously I’ve listened to his podcasts,” Ford said. “And I haven’t gotten a chance to read his book yet, but I’ll definitely pick that up and just having someone with his understanding of [how] our parties have kind of gotten to where they were, it’s great to hear.”
This recipe is easy for beginners and simple for the more advanced college cook.

Courtney Lockwood
The Montclarion

Genuinely Good Granola

Preparation Time: 5 minutes
Cooking Time: 60 minutes
Dietary Restrictions: Gluten-free, dairy-free, vegan, (nut-free option)

If you are busy but still wish to prioritize your well-being through meal prepping and are looking for a treat with ingredients that are easy to gather, then this granola recipe is for you. The ingredients for granola are very flexible, so do not feel constricted to using exactly what I use. I have used different quantities and substituted whole ingredients for others (coconut oil for ghee or butter, for example), and it always comes out delicious. I would keep it at a low heat, as all the flavor dries up when it overcooks. By keeping it at a lower heat (under 300 degrees Fahrenheit), you can monitor it and allow the oats to absorb the sweetness from the maple syrup, honey and coconut oil without the risk of charring it.

What You Need:
- 3 cups oats
- ½ cup maple syrup, 2 tbsp. honey (any combination will do)
- 5 tbsp. coconut oil (that is also 1/4 cup + 1 tbsp.)
- 1 ½ tsp. cinnamon (optional)
- 1 ½ tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 tsp. salt
- Optional: A handful of raw nuts
- Add-ins after cooling: chocolate chips, cranberries, dried fruit

What to do:
1. Like any other classic baking recipe, you will want to mix your dry ingredients and wet ingredients separately before combining them. First, preheat the oven to 260 degrees Fahrenheit. Then, add the oats, cinnamon, salt and nuts (optional) into the large mixing bowl.
2. In a medium mixing bowl, add the coconut oil, maple syrup and honey. Then microwave and watch closely until the mixture melts (approximately 30 seconds). Stir the mixture.
3. Add the liquid mixture to the large mixing bowl and stir until the dry ingredients are fully coated. Cover the baking sheet with either an ungreased silicone baking mat or a greased sheet of tinfoil. Place ingredients on the covered baking sheet. Spread the mixture out evenly.
4. Place the baking sheet in the oven and set the timer for 60 minutes. Be sure to stir the mixture around every 20 minutes, and prepare for your home to be filled with the delightful aroma of appetizing granola as it bakes away in your oven!
5. When the granola appears a nice toasty and crisp golden brown, take it out of the oven and let it cool. It can stay on or off the baking sheet to cool; I have done it both ways with the same result, genuine granola goodness.

How to enjoy:
Chocolate and cranberries are the perfect accompaniment to your granola, which can be mixed in soon after cooling. My favorite way to enjoy granola is on top of a smoothie or with milk, like cereal. You can also make a

Materials:
- One large mixing bowl
- One medium (microwavable safe) mixing bowl
- Measuring cups and spoons
- Spatula, mixing spoon
- Silicone baking mat or tinfoil
- Baking sheet

Every 20-30 minutes mix the granola as it bakes.
"Hell’s Paradise: Jigokuraku" is a must-read manga. Packed into 13 volumes of a manga as seductive as the setting itself, all of Japan, sent to a mysterious island enough to frame. Guardians and eerie inhabitants, the encounter the island’s monstrous selves in over their heads as they antely seeks reunion with the one thing conscious shinobi assassin who desper-hope of finding the elixir. Other and their new threat to have any characters must survive against each criminals sentenced to death due to crimes originating from Japan, with their as -bottom rather than the American left -is manga, for those unaware, manga of characters and artwork gorgeous that's nothing short of a masterpiece. Underneath the bloody exterior of Yuji Kaku’s "Hell’s Paradise: Jigokuraku," is a story filled with heart and humanity, held up by a charming rogues’ gallery of characters and artwork gorgeous enough to frame. Since “Hell’s Paradise: Jigokuraku” is manga, for those unaware, manga are comics originating from Japan, written and read right-to-left, top-to-bottom rather than the American left-to-right. The plot follows a group of ten death row convicts in the Edo period of Japan, sent to a mysterious island believed to be paradise, with their assigned executioners to find a rumored elixir of immortality in exchange for a criminal pardon. Soon finding themselves in over their heads as they encounter the island’s monstrous guardians and eerie inhabitants, the characters must survive against each other and their new threat to have any hope of finding the elixir. Gabimaru, our protagonist, is a vicious shinobi assassin who desperately seeks reunion with the one thing that makes him feel human, his wife, whose vital status and even existence are uncertain. Accompanying Gabimaru is Sagiri, his executioner, the lowest ranked member of her clan due to her hesitation to end a life and self-doubt. Reluctantly forming some semblance of partnership, Gabimaru and Sagiri set out to overcome their supernatural environment and leave (hopefully) in one piece. Through trials and tribulations, we see the evolution of their dispositions as Gabimaru grapples with his humanity and Sagiri grapples with her wavering confidence. Not only is the supporting cast equally as compelling as the protagonists, but they even manage to overshadow them at some points. Each pair of convict and executioner are given their own focus and time to shine in the story, giving depth and emotional attachment to them. Their originally separate paths often cross and overlap, making every character important to the narrative. A handful of the supporting cast includes the brutish blade master Gantetsusai and dissection-obsessed Fuchi, the unfairly incriminated Nuriga and virtuous samurai Tenza, the female fatale ninja Yunariha and meek bookworm Senta and last but certainly not least are the bandit king Chobei and his brother who worships him, Toma (my one true love). Kaku’s brilliant artwork extends rightwork of manga. Kaku’s brilliant artwork extends into his eye for character design. Personality is on full display with every design, instantly conveying the central figure’s nature to the reader. Tenza proudly flaunts his shiny headband while Chobei’s tattered brigand rags echo his lifestyle of thievery. Going from viewing the concept art to seeing the character’s final forms, it’s undeniably clear that an immense amount of thought and detail was poured into all aspects of their designs, a sentiment that further brings them to life. Stakes within the story are high and not every character is guaranteed to escape from the deadly conditions of the island. Having potential death around any corner for the protagonists creates an ever-present sense of tension, and gives way to some brutal and gory beatdowns as they desperately fight for their lives. The semi-superhuman nature of the cast’s ruthlessly honed killing abilities lends itself perfectly to skirmishes with foes, human and inhuman alike. Battles often become slaughters, soaking each page with blood, guts and severed limbs. This hyper-violence is anything but tasteless though, as the grit and feel of real mortality add to the pressure of every struggle. Clashes have a weight of visceral horror that’s brought forth by the abominations fought against. The enemies themselves are just as unique as the key players, looking as if they were plucked straight from sleep paralysis. The nightmarish monstrosities may vary wildly in both size and appearance but they’re all ingeniously connected by a common design theme that ties into the island’s mystery, treating readers to a variety of creepy creatures. While the adversaries are a pivotal part of world-building in "Hell’s Paradise: Jigokuraku," the greater contributor is the setting itself. The island is overrun with colorful floral, disturbingly ethereal architecture, and vaguely religious imagery. Backgrounds tell a visual story and provide further clues for the isle’s history. Everything feeds together and culminates into the series’ overarching theme of balance. From the oxymoron-like title to the characters trying to adapt to their gruesome reality, Kaku continually pushes the notion of finding the middle ground between two extremes. Reflective and thought-provoking for the cast and readers alike, Kaku even interweaves this theme into the power system of the narrative, creating a dynamic where internal strength gives way to external. "Hell’s Paradise: Jigokuraku" is an unforgettable rollercoaster that’ll have the reader riding the fine emotional line between hellish despair and blissful paradise. With the anime adaptation airing on April 1, there’s never been a better time to see what all the hype is about and jump into this masterpiece of manga.
What artists would you like to meet and why?  
By Lynise Olivacce  
Photo Editor  

“I would say Conan Gray because he is one of my all-time favorite artists. I think that his songs are so beautiful. And that it would just be really fun to be able to do a collab or do a song with him.”  

Maddie Welch  
Freshman  
Theatre Studies  

“Honestly, Lana Del Rey she’s like my whole heart. I loved her so much since I was younger and she’s still so important to me. I think I just want to like talk to her for like an hour.”  

Julian Rios  
Freshman  
Marketing  

“I feel like an artist that I would collab with would definitely be Bad Bunny. I love his music, even his old music and new music. All of his music I absolutely love, so working with him would be great. I would listen to him all the time since middle school and now of course.”  

Karen Rodriguez  
Freshman  
Business Administration
“I’m super into Lizzy McAlpine. I like the music she sings, and I cover a lot of her stuff. So I would love to work with her and write with her. I think that’ll be super cool.”

Cher Graham
Freshman
Theatre Studies

“Destiny’s Child. I think they’re the first girl group I ever listened to. And it’s Beyoncé. Just listening to Destiny’s Child growing up is memorable for me.”

Gwyn Buganski
Junior
Marketing

“An artist I would like to meet would be Logic. I feel like it would be pretty cool because he seems pretty down to earth. Ever since I was in the sixth grade I’ve always listened to Logic.”

Jonathan Evora
Sophomore
Criminal Justice
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Horoscopes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Capricorn**  
Dec. 22 – Jan. 19  
Good morning Capricorn, I hope you wake up on time for all of your classes this week, and if you don't, I hope your 5-minute “get ready with me so I’m late to class” video on TikTok goes viral. |
| **Cancer**  
Jun. 21 – Jul. 22  
How much South Park have you watched this week? Yes, you have to answer the question, so why should you keep referring to yourself as Carman, and no I will not respect your authority. Please go outside. |
| **Aquarius**  
Jan. 20 – Feb. 18  
Can you cry for help just a little bit quieter? It’s disrupting my Gilmore Girls marathon. |
| **Leo**  
Jul. 23 – Aug. 22  
This is your sign to go donate to charity. Or do some volunteer work. At least teach your dog some tricks or something, good lord. This is getting pathetic. |
| **Pisces**  
Feb. 19 – Mar. 20  
Let’s close this tarot tab that’s open in Safari and read some actual literature. Perhaps a Colleen Hoover soft-cover novel? Or if you have self-respect, maybe try anything else! |
| **Virgo**  
Aug. 23 – Sep. 22  
I just watched you eat 24 fried dumplings. Are you okay? |
| **Aries**  
Mar. 21 – Apr. 19  
Aries, please stack off at work this week. You deserve it, and your friends miss you sleeping on their couch. Every night you sleep there, it keeps the man that lives in the living room mirror from putting slices of Velveeta cheese all over the apartment. |
| **Libra**  
Sep. 23 – Oct. 22  
Missing Joe Pesci a lot this week? Yeah, me too. |
| **Taurus**  
Apr. 20 – May 20  
Please start wearing socks around your dorm room. The sound of your bare feet and abnormally long toes slipping the linoleum makes your roommates feel like they’re at the zoo. |
| **Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 – Nov. 21  
If you feel the primal urge to run out into the hallway on all fours and scream at the top of your lungs at 11 pm on a Tuesday, please don’t. |
| **Gemini**  
May 21 – Jun. 20  
Look, Gemini, I don’t have the time or energy for you this week. Just stop it. Today is not your day. Live with this fact. |
| **Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22 – Dec. 21  
Stick it to the man this week! Delete TikTok before they even have a chance to ban it! That’ll show those Senators who *checks notes* are sneaking a lot of really authoritarian stuff into the TikTok banning bill! |
The Montclarion Crossword Puzzle and More!

Michael B. Jordan Edition

By Sekhena Sembenu

Across
1. The school he was supposed to attend to play basketball.
4. The year he won People’s Sexiest Man Alive.
5. Directorial debut.
7. Most recent brand partnership.

Down
2. First acting role.
3. Favorite thing to watch.
6. The “B” in his name stands for.
8. Hometown.

Sudoku

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 8</td>
<td>1 2 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>5 6 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 5 2</td>
<td>4 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Word Search

Lori Harvey
Black Panther
The Wire
Sexiest Man Alive

Bakari
Anime
Director
Breed Of One
Tap Dance

NSYLBIRAKABLUOCFS
VBMPNZUWVDOECZP
CJVPHNXGFZTSFROVIP
KRCYPEXPGPUHEZTHGF
MBPUCRQHDIGHEADZNE
DALOCLPXBRTPWOMMH
YHEQXXMOYNRDTIIA
SUIRAUQAOAUWUNRAR
OZCUSJCTLNQRABREHH
RQXRHCKCJODBGYTELD
UFSignTPeYRQUYVNIQ
FRYWARUBFPINKOAM
PGBLIPOPTSHAETPFCB
DNBDLZILIYARKHYOSV
YVPEQJDTOERCSQXDRL
DEERCNXHWVEXQKEOM
GJYCCMLAKFEIHLEYN
EGRZLJOYJZYUSDQSRII
ZIVUPCVIPJOAGKEBLC
BMKYOCRCRUAOCNYUN
“Breaking News”: Tuition Expected To Rise Once Again

Of course, we want the staff and faculty to make livable and comfortable wages for everything they do here. We truly could not operate without them and we are so thankful. However, you can see students’ frustration when tuition prices keep rising and we have very few benefits to it.

Parking permits for Montclair State cost $260 to $400. Not to mention, last year The Montclarion reported that “Montclair State University raked in over $1 million in parking tickets within the last three years, according to statistics.” So, why can’t a raise in tuition help alleviate the costs of parking on campus? Especially since parking is such a hassle and nowhere near luxurious enough to be costing so much money.

Tuition prices will increase, no one is surprised. We just ask you that if you’re going to make us fork over more and more money, make it worth it.
Is It Too Late to Ban TikTok?

Peter Guziejewski
Guest Writer

Is there a correlation between the 15-second video you just posted on TikTok and the national security of the United States? That’s the question I posed in a high school 2019 article addressing the concerns that TikTok may be a growing threat to U.S. national security.

Finally, after three years of questions, drama and over-politicization, we may get answers to that question. But is it too late?

The concern was initially raised by Sens. Tom Cotton (R, Arkansas) and Sen. Chuck Schumer (D, New York) in a letter to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. (CFIUS). The senators’ letter follows a Washington Post article that expressed concerns that TikTok may be censoring content to promote a favorable view of the Chinese government. Their concerns included possible censorship or manipulation of content and whether the Chinese government had access to the data users shared with the app.

The idea that China was using TikTok to spy on Americans at the time may have seemed ridiculous.

In late 2019, TikTok grew, but it still maintained a reputation as a reasonably obscure app for dancing videos. However, as TikTok exploded in popularity and diversified its content, it became apparent that the concerns may have some validity.

The alarms on TikTok were ringing well before anyone cared about the app, but we chose to ignore them. Then, late last year, another alarm bell rang. The fears were somewhat confirmed when a Beijing-based internal audit team at TikTok was caught using data from the app to spy on Forbes journalists.

Was this the story to make millions of users leave the app? No. All that has happened with time is more concerning information getting released, including a new report from TikTok employees’ statements to Forbes, that “nearly anyone with basic access to company tools — including employees in China — can easily look up the closest contacts and other sensitive information about any user.” Wow.

TikTok has taken the world by storm, becoming one of the most important social media platforms.

However, throughout its rise, there have been accusations of Chinese espionage, propaganda and concerns over the privacy of the vast amount of data the app collects.

These concerns should have overshadowed TikTok’s growth, but the real discussions have primarily remained in Washington D.C., with only the politically charged rhetoric making its way out.

For many, the issue with TikTok was simple. Former President Donald Trump was upset at some kids who used TikTok to ruin a campaign event by requesting free tickets to the event to block people from attending, so he was going to ban the app.

However, the narrative was untrue from the beginning. There were no limits on tickets issued. Moreover, the Trump administration’s weariness of Chinese technology companies preceded the event, with bans on other companies occurring over a year prior.

Now, the app faces a similar ban from the Biden administration.

All this did was successfully politicize an issue that could have and should have remained relatively bipartisan, slowing down any real action and ultimately benefiting only one entity, TikTok.

But what separates the data collection of a Chinese-based company like Huawei or TikTok from a company like Facebook which also collects and uses essentially the same data?

Most of the arguments come from articles seven of China’s 2017 National Intelligence Law, which requires companies and citizens to “support, assist and cooperate with the state intelligence work.” This has led to concerns that if the government were to ask for the data, a company would have to give it.

It is important to note here that what we have seen only highlighted privacy concerns and TikTok’s changing explanation of exactly what type of U.S. data is accessible from China and not that the company is actively sharing data with the Chinese government. So, should TikTok be banned? Probably.

It may not seem like a serious question but it could be especially since it is for some, a source relied upon for news.

It would come down as a preventive measure, the same as not allowing a company to supply critical communications equipment.

But we may have taken too long to respond. If ByteDance is sharing data with the Chinese government or censoring data, that damage has already been done.

TikTok has also gained a significant following in the U.S., and many people rely upon it to advertise or make money, not to mention the list of many other apps that ByteDance owns which fill app stores.

The only clear thing is if we do see a ban, it would be an unprecedented move for the United States. Which, unlike China, has yet to ban a foreign social media app.
Hanging up the Cape: The Death of Superhero Movies

Danny Krastek | Staff Writer

I n 2018, if you had told me that in a short five years, films from the superhero genre would not only unseat “Avatar” as the highest-grossing movie of all time but would also receive a bunch of nominations at the Oscars only to end up completely falling apart and becoming a running joke a few years later, I honestly would not have believed you.

Unfortunately, that’s exactly what happened to the once mighty genre known as comic book adaptations.

By the late 2010s, superhero movies from both Marvel and DC were not only breaking box office records but were receiving acclaim from critics. Movies like “Black Panther” and “Joker” even garnered Best Picture nominations.

Now, only a few years later, we’re at a point where both studios keep making flop after flop, disappointment after disappointment, both with fans and critics alike.

Granted, many of these commercial disappointments were unavoidable, due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and theater closures. For example, the superhero flicks from both Marvel and DC were receiving acclaim from critics. Movies like “Black Panther” and “Joker” even garnered Best Picture nominations.

Now, only a few years later, we’re at a point where both studios keep making flop after flop, disappointment after disappointment, both with fans and critics alike.

I n 2021 alone, Marvel released four new movies and five shows, which I shouldn’t have to tell you, is a lot. Over 30 hours of content, to be exact. While DC hasn’t released quite as much material, mostly due to their own internal difficulties which is a whole other can of worms, they definitely have proven to be a convoluted and confusing franchise to get invested in.

Are audiences getting fatigued due to this endless mountain of, let’s face it, underwhelming content? Or are they simply growing tired of this genre naturally, after a decade and a half of over-saturation?

If the latter is the case, what’s going to replace it as the dominant movie trend?

Maybe the answers still lie within the most well-received superhero movies of the last few years. “The Batman” and “Joker” were isolated in their own sections of their universes, disconnect ed from any other comic book movie. Both were not only box office winners but were well-liked by fans and critics alike.

In general, movies with more personality seem to resonate more with audiences. For example, the superhero flicks helmed by beloved directors like Christopher Nolan of “The Dark Knight” trilogy and Sam Raimi with his iconic “Spiderman” trilogy continue to grow in esteem even decades after their release, whereas you’d be hard-pressed to find diehard fans of “Shang Chi” or “Black Adam,” movies that I’d bet a wide majority couldn’t tell me anyone involved in writing or directing.

So there’s the answer, I guess. Audiences are increasingly abandoning these faceless, assembly-line blockbusters and instead spending their time with films with more personality. The cultural, critical and commercial success of “Everything Everywhere All At Once” last year definitely proves that audiences are willing to give their love to out-of-the-box movies with a lot of personality and are becoming less enthusiastic about defending mindless action schlock like DC and Marvel keep pumping out.

And for those of you who are still clinging to the life raft, don’t worry, superhero movies aren’t dead yet. I’m sure movies like “The Kang Dynasty” will still be big, but not as big as “Endgame” or “Infinity War.”

Superhero movies have hit the ceiling. There’s nowhere for them to go but down.

Comic book adaptations have been a defining part of film culture for nearly fifteen years, but I think it’s time we hang up their capes for them.

They have become their own worst enemy, their own kryptonite. They’ve run out of places to go, and movies that would have become huge hits only a few years ago are withering on the vine almost instantly. The pendulum is swinging back toward more creative, interesting and intelligent films. It’s only a matter of time at this point.

One day we’ll all look back at this era fondly, and we will remember the giants of Marvel and DC at their best, not in the stagnant, decaying form we’ve run out of places to go, and movies that would have become huge hits only a few years ago are withering on the vine almost instantly. The pendulum is swinging back toward more creative, interesting and intelligent films. It’s only a matter of time at this point.

Danny Krastek, a freshman film and television major, is in his first year as a staff writer for The Montclarion.
THE MONTCLARION

Write for Entertainment!

Reviews ♦ Music ♦ Video Games ♦ Movies and TV ♦ Theatre ♦ Student Artist Profile

E-mail:
montclarionentertainment@gmail.com

ROOM 2035, SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA IN UPPER MONTCLAIR, NJ, 07043
"Forest Freak" | Part 2 of 5
by Alex Pavljuk | Fiction Editor

It was a Tuesday when Connor trekked into the forest in search of this mythic beast.

Connor was a 19-year-old film student at the university not far from the base of the hill. He was in the early stages of his second year of school. Growing up in the Pacific Northwest, he had heard plenty of stories of local legends and foul wilderness beasts whose notoriety was as fearsome as some dastardly and dirty outlaws. Yet, the last thing he expected upon his arrival in New Jersey was for there to be a similar tall tale being spun here? Ghosts, sure. The Jersey Devil, maybe! But a bigfoot type creature not so unsimilar to the sasquatch stories of home, something seemed off.

The trail in which Connor followed with only a camera in hand was narrow. The path ahead was marked with yellow paint for the hikers who, as of now, wouldn’t dare tread on this haunted ground. Alas, the young filmmaker moved onward.

The sounds of the forest surrounded him as he came to an opening in the trees. The clearing was flush with dead leaves still not blown away from last fall and a trail map encased in graffitied plexiglass was held up by a few deteriorating pieces of plywood not far from the base of a rocky incline. With his camera rolling he stumbled toward it mumbling to himself, he wasn’t lost but he surely knew not of where he was going.

Where was he? And what was he even looking for, thought Connor aloud. For a time only his voice filled the soft spring breeze.

With the red camera light still glowing he moved up through the forest, now veering from the marked trails. If anything was to cross his path it would likely be where the trees had no names.

As Connor moved through the enclosing path which grew more wild with rocks and thorns his footing became weaker and his attention fell thinner. Then, as the pebbles beneath his shoes shifted and the branches hung lower, his knees gave way and the weight of his body, backpack, and camera came crashing down.

“Oh dear, oh my, are you okay over there fella?”

The voice came from not so far away. From the ground, Connor looked frantically around before rolling onto his back, if he wasn’t with his back to the ground he’d likely jump out of his own skin, for a man encased in dirt and bruising was stood above him, hand extended out reaching to help aid this fallen and weary traveler.

This work is an evolving story, see next week’s paper for more!
Or...
Trying to catch up? Visit the www.themontclarion.org for more!

“Timing”
by Delilah Summerer | Staff Writer

I’m well aware of how this ends
I’ll trade my feelings for courage
An accident, believe me
Either you’ll never know and I’ll swallow pride
Or you don’t feel the same and feign innocence
Or you return affections that split moment
I’m foolish enough to lower my guard
And I allow myself to have you
To be loved by you
But feelings are fleeting
Except for fear, who lingers like frost
It will disappear with the morning sun
Just like you
I must leave first

“Blue”
by Matteo Silvero | Contributor

“What’s your favorite color?” I ask him.
He stares at my eyes. “Blue.”

“Why blue?”

He looks away, now suddenly avoiding eye contact with me. “I guess it’s always been blue,” he shrugs.

Later that day I stare at myself in the mirror. Orange hair, pale skin, blue eyes.

Illustrations
by Alex Pavljuk
"Photograph" by Peter Di Prospero

“Misty Morning” - Danielle Linggar

“Stained Glass Flowers” - Alex Pavijuk
“Space Cruise”
by Olivia Yayla | Staff Writer

Dan hates the moon.

I didn’t understand why, but then again I’ve always been a night owl. I don’t think I’m allowed to judge, and on the Space Cruise, night owls are the only passengers not itching for antidepressant supplements to chase their synthetic shots of Vitamin D. I guess I can understand, they yearn for humidity and hot sands beneath their calloused feet. They would rather look out their observation window and see evergreen trees rooted in lush grass next to glistening ponds. Rather than the unknown blackness of the cosmos, glittered with shooting stars and distant uninhabitable planets.

I, on the other hand, have always hated the sun. I hate its global inclusivity, and how many are invited to its “party.” The sun is a friend to all, and in my opinion, the most liked friend is almost always the enemy in disguise. Skin cancer, sun poisoning, sunburn—why is the sun so desperately loved when it kills you over time? For my duration on our ex-home planet, I used to schedule my work hours during the sun’s 12-hour rager, all for the chance to lounge with the moon. The moon is exclusive, as many are too tired from the sun’s attention-hogging qualities to wait for the club’s main event. As its invitation is only open to a select few. The few who put their dreams first, knowing that no dream can ever come true without the hard work their dream deserves. So when I step out of my office each night, graced with the moon’s regal presence, I know that I’m one step closer to my dream, my dream to live there, on the moon. Anywhere but here.

I applied to NASA’s new and improved moon immigration program frequently, setting aside fifty percent of my weekly paycheck for the past 15 years. I thought it was hopeless, staring at my overflowing bank account and wondering how many five-star meals my lifelong dream is worth. I remember the moment I received my E-Ticket, just seconds before I clicked the “purchase” icon on Buyapenthouse.com. It was fate, I thought. I was meant to live on the moon.

It wasn’t till our departure that our captain and fellow astronautical flight attendants made it clear that we were not inhabiting our moon, but one of Neptune’s, Triton. Many were confused and instantly shaken by the turn of events, but I was simply excited about the adventure.

I met Dan during orientation. He was a pessimist, undeserving of this once-in-a-lifetime trip. However, when we were assigned to the same dorm and adjacent sleeping pods, I knew I would have to look past that fact. He had artificial green eyes and unnaturally bleached platinum hair, claiming to be an influencer of some sort. “Yeah, I didn’t pay for a ticket. My sponsors recommended that my followers would want to see something other than galas and Coachella. Crazy, right?” Either way, I’m taking the window pod, hope you don’t mind. I won’t get paid by my sponsors without a decent vlog by the end of this trip,” he went on, fixing his bleached hair in the reflective, curved white walls of our dorm, failing to even ask for my name before spewing his life story.

“Hey, roomie, you think they have tanning beds somewhere on this ship? Or a spa, at least. There’s no way I’m recording my face without a decent tan...”

My eyes drifted from his tacky designer luggage, before bubbling off into space. Literally. The window took up the entire wall, and as Dan went on and on about how many of his items were confiscated at the spacecraft’s entrance, I truly couldn’t complain about anything with a view like this. The ship was slicing through a glittering nebula, vibrant with hues of blue and pink. Earth was a marble on a black tablecloth, shrinking with each passing minute. I was blessed to be here, I thought. And I wasn’t going to let an annoying roommate destroy my lifelong dream.

I unpacked my bag in five minutes, giving me ample time to slip out of the circle airlock door and into the zero-gravity hallway before Dan had a chance to notice.

The door hissed as it sliced down from the ceiling, puffing white smoke which breezed through my freshly buzzed hair. A leash of some sort ejected from the ceiling, attached to a railing that ran far down the hallway’s domed ceiling. After snapping it onto the belt loop the flight attendants provided to each passenger upon boarding, the hallway lights dimmed. Blue neon lights beamed down the hallway acting as a navigation system.

My feet slowly began to lift above the floor, as if my intestines were inflated with helium. I was a fish swimming down an empty, futuristic sewage pipe.

As I bubbled down the hall in search of the cafeteria, I noticed a hallway unattached from the ceiling’s railing. My curiosity got the best of me.

Why can’t the passengers access this hallway?

I bounced upward, unsnapping my harness from one railing and onto the other, following the growing whispers down the dark hallway.

“...I almost feel bad for them,” one flight attendant chuckled.

“You think they’ll put up a fight? Most of these people would kill for this kind of opportunity,” rebutted another.

“Yeah but...once the others arrive, and the payment is secured, what will stop them from taking the rest of the crew?” the first voice droned with unease.

“Don’t think like that,” the other consoled. “We have a deal, I don’t think they’ll take more than they asked for. It’s a win-win situation. The Neptunions need indentured servants, and Earth needs to be depopulated...”

It was at that moment when I, too, desperately yearned for the sun. I wished for hot sands beneath my weightless feet, and evergreen trees next to glistening ponds. I wished for anything, and everything, beginning with an escape pod to get off this ship.
“Dad, show me your chipped tooth” - Rebekkah Dayon

Check out a video with the artist on TikTok! @montclarion
Danielle Vuono
Guest Writer

Bubbly and vibrant, Montclair State University student Christine Tanko lives for music, so much so that she created a girl band with her friends, titled “Girlband.”

Tanko, Girlband’s bass player, became involved in music at a very young age. Her earliest memory entails singing along with Pat Benatar as she played “Guitar Hero” at five years old. By her middle school years, she was involved in her school’s choir, musical theatre and band programs.

She is now a junior attending Montclair State working toward a bachelor’s in music education and a master’s in teaching students with disabilities. One of Tanko’s required courses is titled Pop Ensemble, also known as the birthplace of Girlband.

What started as two best friends songwriting together for fun remarkably turned into a real band. After being assigned to create musical groups in her Pop Ensemble class, Tanko and her friend approached a few classmates. With three new members on board, Girlband became a reality, forming in September of 2022.

Tanko recalled how the band came to be.

“We were like, ‘O.M.G., how funny would it be if we had a band but it was literally just called Girlband,’ Tanko said. “Like no questions asked, just like the dumbest name ever. We loved it.”

Taking place every Friday in the basement of Russ Hall, a typical rehearsal for Girlband is very collaborative. According to the bass player, the group’s creative process consists mainly of trial and error when curating their sets, which consist of covers as well as original songs.

“I brought [my original song] to the band,” Tanko said. “I played what I could play on the instrument I wrote it on, and then it was kind of like, ‘You know your own instruments. Bring your expertise to my song,’ and then we just workshop it there.”

Tanko’s bandmates, such as guitarist and vocalist Alexa Tabbacchino, a junior recording arts and production major, have only love to share for their fellow entertainer.

“The best part about working with [Tanko] is that she’s not only a fabulous musician, she is a forever friend,” Tabbacchino said. “There is nothing better than making music with wonderful people who love music as much as you do.”

At its core, Girlband is built on friendship, as expressed by drummer Allie Volltrauer, a sophomore theatre studies major.

“The support, love and encouragement I have received from my bandmates has made me feel more whole than I ever have,” Volltrauer said. “And I don’t think I’d be nearly as content and happy as I am finishing off my sophomore year if it wasn’t for these girls and our band. #GirlbandForever.”

By the end of October, they had their first public performance at Montclair State’s amphitheater with the Pop Ensemble. The group then booked their first independent gig by the start of 2023, playing at Crossroads in Garwood, NJ. They also performed live on 90.3 WMSC’s “Unplugged” on Feb. 9.

Though Tanko is grateful for the beneficial learning curve the music group has been for her and is hopeful for what’s to come, the future for Girlband is uncertain. As active students in the John J. Cali School of Music, all five of the members have a lot on their plates. Girlband poses as a carefree, creative outlet to produce music in a social setting without any pressure.

“We’re kind of just like hanging out and about and messing around locally,” Tanko said. “But after that, who knows?”

Christine Tanko and Her ‘Girlband’
‘Daisy Jones and The Six’ Shows the Pretty and Ugly of Rock N’ Roll

Sofía Acevedo Valencia
Assistant Opinion Editor

Book adaptations are not a new thing. They are expected to happen once a book title reaches a certain level of popularity. At some point, we transitioned from film sagas to television series, which makes content more easily accessible to newer audiences that might not know the original content. Something the majority of people can agree on is that adaptations can be tricky and risk not being well-liked by their target market. ‘Daisy Jones and The Six’ has exceeded all expectations and become a sensation that welcomes old and new fans of the rock genre.

The 10-episode series is an adaptation of the book of the same title written by Taylor Jenkins Reid and loosely inspired by British-American rock band Fleetwood Mac. It tells the story of The Six, a band from Pittsburgh attempting to rise to fame during the late 1970s Los Angeles music scene. Composed of five members, Sam Claflin plays Billy Dunne, the lead singer and songwriter, Aidan Turner as Graham Dunne (lead guitarist), Josh Whitehouse as Karen Sirko (the keyboardist), Will Harrison plays Graham Dunne (lead guitarist), Josh Whitehouse as Eddie Roundtree (the bassist) and Sebastian Chacon plays Warren Rojas (the drummer).

The unofficial sixth member is Billy’s wife, Camila Alvarez, portrayed by Camila Morrone. She is the band’s photographer and the glue that holds them together.

They eventually meet the eternal and bubbly Daisy Jones, played by Camila Morrone. While both musical powers come together, their shot at reaching stardom is guaranteed. At the peak of their success, the band mysteriously disbands. 20 years later, all parties involved agreed to participate in a documentary to discover what led to their downfall.

First off, the costume design is absolutely insane and fits the exact aesthetic of what it means to be a rock star and what that lifestyle entails. Daisy and Camila’s wardrobe, especially, is every girl’s dream and ranges from versatile and comfortable to high-end fashion and simply iconic. It deeply translates into their personalities and who they are.

The show is not without its differences from the book itself, which I read and fell in love with to the point where I finished it in three days. However, I believe the changes that were made, such as leaving minor characters and certain parts of the book plot out, served to tell more compelling and remarkable stories of some of the main characters.

For example, a change I particularly liked was how the show expanded on Simone Jackson’s (Nabiyah Be) backstory and how she heavily contributed to the Black queer nightclub scene of New York. We were able to see her struggles and how a male-dominated field affects women, especially women of color, who have a hard time making a name for themselves without subjecting themselves to harassment, abuse and suppressing who they truly are. The cost of fame, unfortunately, is quite pricey for the beloved 70s rock band.

Alcohol and substance abuse is a big theme in the series. It’s done so casually that our characters do not notice the effects of consuming drugs until they are knees-deep into addiction. In my opinion, it’s a very clever way to highlight that the journey to sobriety never ends, the temptation is always near and it’s easy to succumb to it again because of such a demanding job.

The only criticism I have to offer is that I would’ve liked to see more of the songwriting process of the band, as that is a big part of the book, and how the band connected once Daisy joined. The show focused too much on the main conflict at play instead of developing the dynamics of the characters with each other.

Yet Billy and Daisy’s connection is undeniable. Despite hating each other at first, they create pure art since they eventually come together to compose songs. Claflin and Keough have some of the best on-screen chemistry I have seen, and it’s truly a pleasure seeing them act together and make the audience feel those very same experiences as if we were going through them ourselves.

“Daisy Jones and The Six” delivers indie and vintage styles, drama, spice, a new perspective for fans of the book and a wonderful world to be immersed in for both old and new fans. If you want to see dedication and love for music, look no further. This is the time to view this series and live the groupie lifestyle of your dreams from the comfort of your own bed.
‘John Wick: Chapter 4’ Brings Preposterous Franchise to Appropriately Stupid Conclusion

When “John Wick” hit theaters in 2014, it was a breath of fresh air, both for the career of its charismatic star and the action genre as a whole. But that same sense of refreshment is lacking in the film’s sequels, which stray from its initially simple, somewhat relatable and almost humorous premise to focus more on the increasingly exhausting lore of the series’ criminal underworld.

The series hits a new low with “John Wick: Chapter 4,” which plays out as if predecessors, as this fourth installment is beautiful, exemplified by the neon-bathed lighting and impressive cinematography. Everything is so immaculate and vapid and empty as it really is.

The performances in the film range from “great” to “you’re a fantastic actor until you open your mouth, Keanu.” Keanu Reeves deserves the renaissance he’s gotten from this franchise, for the career of its charismatic star, but whether it’s bad direction, exhausting lore or him simply being on autopilot, Reeves that much more jarring.

Donnie Yen plays Caine, the film’s standout performance. His natural, confident screen presence and stunt work make the strongest argument since 2015’s “Mad Max: Fury Road” for the Oscars to include a stunt category. The production design (and an odd misogynistic undercurrent) is an unwieldy mess of a film. It’s too long, with an overwritten world, underutilized and an odd misogynistic undercurrent. It makes an incredibly strong case for this series being far too much of a man’s power fantasy, but there are few films that exemplify the concept of the “male gaze” as garishly as this.

The franchise has always somewhat carried the feeling of being an angry man’s power fantasy, but in this film in particular, women are not characters; they are objects, meant to be mourned or protected, or tools to deliver exposition in a sexy way. Of the three women with speaking roles in the film, only two have names, whereas the third is simply a radio DJ, shot only in closeups of her lips and hands as she delivers information about John’s location in a sultry voice in the third act. While it’s hardly as overt or objectifying as something like how women are treated in Michael Bay’s “Transformers” films, it wouldn’t feel out of place in those movies, either.

All in all, “John Wick: Chapter 4” is an unwieldy mess of a film. It’s too long, with an overwritten world, underutilized characters, ill-conceived action and an odd misogynistic undercurrent.
Interested in Video?

Join our Video Team!

Responsibilities Include:

- Interviewing Students
- Attending Campus Events
- Creating Instagram Reels
- Editing Content

Email montclarionvideo@gmail.com!
Baseball Starts Another Winning Streak
With High Scoring Win Against Drew

Matt Orth
Sports Editor

With conference play looming on Saturday against Rutgers University-Newark, the Montclair State University baseball team looked to keep their hot streak going against Drew University at Yogi Berra Stadium. And it may not have been a 20-run shutout, but the Red Hawks still played a solid game.

Surprisingly, Drew started off the 24 total runs in this game with an RBI single. But the Red Hawks answered right back threefold. Senior infielder Jason Moore began his six RBI day with a two-run single, and then graduate student catcher Anthony Guarino added on with an RBI single of his own.

In the next few innings, Moore and senior infielder Sam Angelo added to the run barrage that seems to happen almost every game for the Red Hawks. By the fifth inning, it was 7-3, and neither team stopped there. Moore would get yet another two-run hit, this time a double, and sophomore infielder Matt Kaliske added on as well, but Drew would make it a one-run game going into the seventh inning. Who else would score in the inning than Moore? Who scored an RBI triple and another Red Hawk was close to hitting the cycle.

Angelo hit the last couple of runs of the game, who hit his fifth home run of the game with a two-run blast, and Montclair State would come away with yet another victory.

But the most interesting tidbit of the game is senior utility player Miles Feaster, who is known for his run production, stealing three bases in the game. The Red Hawks face Keystone College at home at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, March 29.
Regardless of if she comes back for a fifth season or not, Nickie Carter was an integral part of the Red Hawks.

What's Next For Agent Carter?

Emma Caughlan
Editor-in-Chief

Saying goodbye to any Red Hawk athlete is a difficult thing to do. But there is one goodbye coming up that will be extra hard for the athletic community of Montclair State University.

Senior guard Nickie Carter just finished her senior season with the women's basketball team. Although it is possible that she may not be saying her goodbyes just yet, her imminent departure will be a sad but proud moment for her team.

Carter's teammate, junior guard Kendall Hodges, knows there will be a hole in the team but also that they will all be supportive of their teammate no matter what she decides.

"A person leaving your team is always like losing a family member from your team," Hodges said. "But if she does decide to move on, [there will] definitely be a supportive aspect and everyone is just happy to see whatever her choice will be to stay here or to leave."

Head coach Karin Harvey agrees.

"I think she's been an amazing asset to our program in a lot of ways on and off the basketball court," Harvey said. "Obviously, she's a tremendous player and she does so much on the basketball court for us."

It is true that Carter was a dominant part of the Red Hawks' scoring numbers this past season and the one before. The senior guard was named to the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) all-first team, averaging about 19 points per game and 48 of those made shots came from three-pointers.

This past season was huge for Carter, as she achieved 1,000 career points back in November of last year. A moment that was emotionally complex for her.

"It was kind of overwhelming because it was in a bad game, and I just kind of wanted it to be over with," Carter said. "So I don't think I appreciated it enough when it happened, but looking back on it, like how many people can say that they scored a thousand points in their college career?"

However, listening to the way Hodges describes her work ethic, it is no surprise that Carter achieved this monumental goal. "[Carter's] focused and ready to go, and she's just a phenomenal player to play with and to watch," Hodges said. "She shows how one can step on the floor and tune out all noise and just play the game. So she's definitely an admirable player and a leader."

But it hasn't been a completely smooth journey for Carter. During her sophomore year, she suffered from an injury while dealing with the effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

"Mentally I wasn't in a good place after my injury and physically I was super out of shape," Carter said. "That was a [COVID-19] year too. So life was just weird. So that was definitely the toughest year for me. I considered not wanting to play anymore. So that was just kind of draining. But to [get through that] and seeing the work [that] came out of sticking through that, I definitely think that was the biggest learning experience I've had."

So the big question remains: is Carter coming back for a fifth season? An opportunity offered to her and other athletes after COVID-19 disrupted the 2020-2021 seasons.

Carter still isn't 100% sure just yet but she is leaning toward sticking around for another season. According to Carter, she still has a lot of unfinished business to attend to before she moves on.

"I definitely still have things that I could accomplish here. In my four years, I haven't won a [New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC)] championship which is something I always wanted to do. So that would be a reason to come back," Carter said. "I think I could keep climbing and I also always wanted to win Player of the Year, which I unfortunately didn't get. So that would be another thing that I would like to win here."

For now, all we can do is hope and pray that we'll get to see Carter play another fantastic season with the Red Hawks.

"I feel like we would love to have her come back for her fifth year," Harvey said. "But, you know, we also feel like she's grown up in our program and if she decides to leave, we can send her out into the world knowing that we played a small role in making her a better human being."
Former Defensive Back Brennan Ray Is Going For The NFL

Brennan Ray runs down the field for a drill.

Brennan Ray runs a drill with his Montclair State helmet on.

Brennan Ray is on a mission to compete at the next level. Montclair State University football standout Ray, who declared for the National Football League (NFL) draft back in December, is striving to make his dreams come true.

Since his college career came to an end, Ray’s entire world has been all about preparing himself for his next opportunity and while he has been able to enjoy the moment, Ray stressed the importance of staying dedicated to a strict plan regarding his training and what he’s eating.

“I’m enjoying the process as much as I can, like don’t get me wrong, it’s a lot of hard work,” Ray said. “Like it’s a never-ending summer camp for football. It’s two times a day every single day and then I’m eating as much as I can, you know, staying very strict right now and just taking a lot of time to myself so I’ve definitely been enjoying it.”

Head football coach Mike Palazzo has been side by side with Ray during this process and he is more than confident in all of his capabilities.

“Ray, as soon as he was done, came to me and said that he had aspirations to play at a higher level,” Palazzo said. “You know I’m always supportive of that. He’s qualified at our level. He’s been a five-time all-conference player. You do have to be cautious sometimes because some guys may have those desires but there’s a delicate balance because you want to make sure they represent the program the right way and athletically, can show a little something, but I think [Ray] is definitely athletic enough and hopefully can get an opportunity somewhere.”

March 16 marked a monumental day for Ray as he had the chance to participate in the Army West Point pro day which had almost every NFL team in attendance, an enormous step forward for his future playing career.

“But I know that’s not the last step,” Ray said. “This is literally just the beginning of what is to come or what’s not to come. But that pro day was something that I’m so grateful that I was able to even be in there. I was the only [Division III] athlete inside that building.”

It was an exclusive pro day in terms of who actually got to compete. There were no more than 15 total players and most of them were from the Army. Ray being there as a Division III athlete shows his level and is an accomplishment in itself.

“That was the most rewarding feeling I’ve had playing football because that’s something I’ve always dreamed about as a little kid and little me would be so proud right now,” Ray said.

Preparing for the pro day had its challenges, which were mostly mental due to not being able to mimic that environment and the stakes of it, but once Ray put his head down, he performed with nothing to lose as his mindset.

“I couldn’t really mentally prepare for it,” Ray said. “Because that’s just something you can’t prepare for, it’s just a game-time type of thing. But I’ve been preparing myself physically for this moment for so long now, so it was just an incredible experience you know. 25 NFL teams, they’re just dead silent. And they’re evaluating, you go through the bench press, you go through the vertical, you weigh in, the cone drills, and then you do field work as well, the broad jump, just everything that you do see on TV, I’m in it. I’m the main character there now. And, you know it made me feel a whole lot better knowing that I’m the underdog in that situation, so I got nothing to lose.”

At pro day, Ray was tested on the 40-yard dash, height, weight, vertical jump, broad jump, agility drills and defensive back drills. Ray mentioned that he was proud of the performance he put out, but he wasn’t satisfied and wants to continue to grow in all areas.

It may sometimes seem like a never-ending process or journey, but Ray expressed the love he has for both the highs and the lows amidst it all.

“I’ve lived the ups and the downs,” Ray said. “And that’s one thing that I can preach is it hasn’t been just like, everything that I put out makes it look good, but deep down there’s been highs and there’s been lows and you know, I appreciate both just as much because the lows really do build my character and make me appreciate this moment so much more.”

Almost all players with a similar background as Ray face an uphill battle with many hurdles to overcome but by focusing on his strengths and continuing to hone his skills, Ray remains determined to make it.

Next up for Ray is a pro day at William Paterson University on April 4. There will be five athletes competing including Ray and all are members of the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC). It’s another opportunity for Ray to pursue his dreams of making the NFL.