Montclair State University has been recognized by The Wall Street Journal in their annual Best Colleges in the United States rankings, sitting at No.104 overall. Among other top colleges across the nation, the ranking is determined by research and different components.

Kevin McAllister, rankings reporter at The Wall Street Journal, explained the breakdown of the rankings list.

"A college education is a huge investment, and the rankings are designed to reflect that," McAllister said. "They're a resource for students and families to understand what each college can offer them. The elements with the heaviest weightings within the ranking are focused on the extent to which each college improves the salary prospects of its graduates and how effective the colleges are at ensuring students graduate on time."

McAllister also shared how the rankings are determined by how much effort is put in to each university and its students. Universities that serve their students can also allow prospective students to attend the school, current students to appreciate it, and alumni to have something to discuss with future employers.

"We put a huge emphasis on those student outcomes and put colleges on a more-level playing field to do so: We weren't analyzing historical reputations or measuring the wealth of universities; instead, we looked at the results that colleges are actually delivering for their students and graduates," McAllister said. "The rankings benefit prospective students, current students and graduates because they have that focus on outcomes and highlight the universities that are doing the most for their students."

Kassie Rinker, a first-year graduate student studying Spanish, felt good about the news.

"I didn't know [that] we were ranked, so it feels cool to have a place," Rinker said. "Being close to a top 100 school, that's pretty good."

Rinker also believes that the ranking is validating to show future employers.

"I think being able to just pull it up and be like 'Hey look, this is where I got my degree,' [is beneficial]," Rinker said. "I think that is pretty validating to like future employers and stuff."

A recent Montclair State press release states that the university is also No.37 among the 204 public universities ranked, ahead of The University of Texas at Austin, Penn State and the University of Maryland. Montclair State is rated the No. 4 university in New Jersey, ahead of Rutgers University and Seton Hall University. The press release also shares President Jonathan Koppell’s thoughts on the matter.

"The notion that an institution can not be both accessible and excellent is simply untrue, and Montclair State University is proving that," Koppell said. "We are achieving life-changing outcomes for a highly diverse student body without compromising rigor or quality."

Amber Henderson, a junior justice studies major with a concentration in justice systems, shares her thoughts on the recent Wall Street Journal report.

"Usually when I tell people I go to Montclair State, they're like 'Oh my God, you're so smart,'" Henderson said. "Montclair [State] really embodies that. I would say Montclair [State] is probably a good school academically to go to."

Adam Flax, a senior majoring in music composition, feels firm in his decision to attend Montclair State University.

"In terms of having some school spirit and pride, it feels good and makes me feel confident in my decision to attend this school."

Amber Henderson, a junior justice studies major with Massada Crews, sharing her thoughts on the recent Wall Street Journal report.
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The Montclarion has a commitment to accuracy and clarity and will print corrections or clarifications if information is found to be incorrect.

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

All submissions to the newspaper become property of The Montclarion. We do not print articles from anonymous contributors.

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Combatting Food Insecurity and Reducing Waste Through the Food Champion Program

Kamil Santana
News Editor

Launched this semester, the new Food Champion Program was developed with the aim of reducing food waste and also helping students who may face food insecurity.

All current Montclair State University students can join the program.

On the Food Champion Program page on the university website, there is a link to the program’s Canvas page. Clicking the link and joining the Canvas page will opt students in to receive alerts whenever leftover food is available.

After the announcement is sent, there is a thirty-minute window to go and pick up the food. It will detail where on campus the food is located and other important details.

For example, if there is an on-campus event where catering was provided and there is any leftover food, it is available for students who may need it. It is on a first-come, first-served basis.

The food handed out on those days does not need to be purchased.

Jessica Rivera, a sophomore educational foundations for elementary teachers major, said the program will help students under difficult circumstances.

“I think it’s a good program overall,” Rivera said. “There are certain students who are not able to [go] out [and eat] because they’re so stressed and engrossed in their work right now. So they will miss time [to get] food or they just don’t have the [finances] to just get the food. A lot of times if you work or go to school every day, you can’t buy food every day. So I think it’s a very beneficial program. I think in the end it will work for those certain students that are in need of it.”

Sahr Gbondo, a graduate cybersecurity student, approves of the program and hopes it reaches students in need.

“It’s a good idea,” Gbondo said. “I love the initiative. As for me, I don’t have a problem with food insecurity, but there are students out there who are in need of food.”

Angela Castillo, a sophomore psychology major, agrees with the mission of the Food Champion Program.

“Instead of the food going to waste or being thrown out, it could definitely help those students who have a chance to stop by and it could even save them money too, if it’s a cost thing,” Castillo said. “I don’t see how it could be a bad idea.”

Dawn Soufleris, Vice President of Student Development and Campus Life, said through the Food Champion Program, students in need will have another resource to succeed at Montclair State.

“The SDCL division is laser-focused on supporting a student environment that promotes student success,” Soufleris said. “When students have food insecurity, that success is far harder to achieve. With the Food Champion Program, we will not only reduce the food waste we see on campus, but also allow all students who are in need of food resources to have access to food throughout the week. I encourage all students who face food concerns to please register for this important and, what we hope will be, a life-changing program at Montclair [State].”
Plan Ahead and Track Shuttle Routes With TripShot

Alyssa Devries, a junior communications and media studies major, checking TripShot, the new shuttle navigation platform.

Kamil Santana
News Editor

TripShot is the new platform available to track and get the latest information on shuttle buses on campus.

Monica Smith, director of transportation services, said it was necessary to make the switch to TripShot, Nexbus, the shuttle bus app that was being used over the past few years, had reached its end.

“The previous tracking software app [Nexbus] had gone out of business and therefore was no longer technically supported,” Smith said. “Nexbus became so unreliable and the university needed to upgrade to a reliable service provider”.

TripShot may be convenient for students who travel by shuttle around campus throughout the day. Students can download the TripShot app or access the platform online.

TripShot has been available since the start of the semester. Smith said the app has a lot to offer.

“Some key features available to students on this app include real-time shuttle tracking, estimated shuttle arrival times, shuttle service alerts, and the ability to plan routes and receive notifications regarding shuttle service changes or delays,” Smith said. “Additionally, students who register or use [single sign-on] to sign up, can access notifications and service schedules that alert the student when the bus is within 5 minutes of their designated bus stop to better plan their transportation needs.”

Victor Aguiles, a sophomore biology major, was fascinated about the tracking feature on TripShot. He said that students can reroute if the shuttle is late or still far from their stop.

“[That’s] perfect,” Aguiles said. “You know where the shuttle really is. I park in Lot 27. You [can] decide if you want to walk or take the shuttle especially because of the timing.”

Kevin De Jesus, a junior information technology major, said last semester he didn’t always resort to the Nexbus app but that shuttle bus service was much more frequent.

“I did hear of a few complaints about the app,” De Jesus said. “That’s why I never really used it.”

Traffic on campus has delayed shuttle arrivals. De Jesus observes that.

“In my opinion, the bus schedule last year was a lot better that I didn’t need to use the app. There was always a bus going around. Now I’m waiting for a good minute.”

After hearing about TripShot, De Jesus may turn to it after he said the shuttle service has changed this semester.

“I’d probably consider using the new app,” De Jesus said.

Paco Salas, a junior Spanish major, knows how he will use the app.

“I occasionally use the shuttles,” Salas said. “I park in Lot 60. I just usually walk over there. It’d be good to keep track of where the shuttles are and make sure they’re on time.”
SPORTS WRITERS WANTED!

E-Mail: montclarionsports@gmail.com

Room 2035, School of Communication and Media in Upper Montclair, NJ, 07043
As the fall semester begins and we kick off a new year, life on campus has officially started back up again for students. During the week, Montclair State University’s campus is buzzing with events and activities hosted by the Center for Student Involvement (CSI) as a part of an effort by administrators to help students become involved in the community and engage with their peers.

However, once Red Hawks leave their last classes on Friday and commuters head home for the weekend, some residents feel stranded on campus with nothing to do over the weekend. Factors like a lack of transportation due to Montclair State’s train station closing on weekends and the large minority of the student population that represents dormers, only add to the sense of isolation these students feel at the end of the week.

Diamari Howell, a junior psychology major, prefers to spend most of her weekend off campus.

“On the weekends, if I don’t have church to attend, I will usually just stay in my dorm or go out with my friends,” Howell said. “We usually go to the mall, the movies, something in the area. We hang out mostly off campus every weekend.”

Stephanie Osaa Asamoah, a sophomore history major, often stays on campus at the end of the week.

“I just like to hang with my friends. When there’s any events going, I ask them to come along with,” Osaa Asamoah said. “I do think there’s enough events to do on campus weekday-wise. Weekend wise, there could be more.”

Casey Coleman, assistant director of the Center for Student Involvement (CSI), primarily focuses on planning weekend activities through the department.

“We have a whole budget dedicated towards weekend programming,” Coleman said. “We try to ensure that there’s always something happening Thursday night, Friday night and Saturday night. Those come in various forms of trivia nights, open mic nights, some larger-scale programs.”

The CSI is hesitant to hold events on Sundays due to past low attendance rates for events.

“We used to do programs on Sundays, and they were not well attended,” Coleman said. “We surveyed students and found that many students go home, and some students want Sundays for self-care, so we started to shift over to Thursday programming in order to try and keep students here.”

The CSI prioritizes holding events that help resident students feel involved on campus.

“When it comes to weekend programming, we’re trying to think about things that are gonna engage and entice students to come out and be at them,” Coleman said. “We do try to capture and work with some commuter students, but we recognize that Saturdays, by and large, and we have data to back this up, are probably gonna be 80 to 90 percent resident students. So just thinking about innovative ways for them to build social connections.”

A key part of generating a positive campus experience on weekends, Coleman says, is teaming up with students to plan programming.

“It’s a lot of talking to other people, other departments, encouraging people, providing data so people know what’s going on,” Coleman said. “We encourage students, we have a big student staff that helps plan these programs and run them. We also have a co-sponsorship program where we try to work with clubs and organizations [to help] them do their own programs.

So really, it’s students for students.”

Coleman emphasizes that the best way to stay caught up on campus is online.

“We have a weekend email that goes out on Thursdays, mid-afternoon, drafted by our student staff in conjunction with Student Communications, and it’s opened by thousands of students,” Coleman said. “We’re always encouraging people to follow us @MontclairCSI on social media for more up-to-date information, to kind of see what we’re doing.”

Coleman also stressed that students should check event listings often.

“I would encourage [students] to check out Engage, which has search features where they can plug in dates or weekends, or just check their Red Hawk News [emails],” Coleman said.

Jazmyn Acedo, a freshman business administration major, agreed that students should look online to find out what’s going on.

“You just have to follow the right pages,” Acedo said. “You’re not gonna know about the events if you don’t have social media because that’s where they usually post them. If you don’t know about Engage, you’re obviously not gonna know about the events.”

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Tips to Stay on Top of Your School Work

Roxanne Gribbin
Assistant Feature Editor

Developing good study habits can be hard, but with these tips, you should have no worries.

1. Use a calendar or planner to make time for school work in your day.
   Purchasing a calendar or planner will remind you of deadlines you may have forgotten about. They help you strategically plan your days and manage your time. Small obligations can be easy to forget, so using a planner will help you conquer your days. Using a planner can help you allocate some downtime time in your day. According to Staples Professional, “Setting a firm schedule for all your compulsory activities at work and home helps you find time for creative endeavors such as learning a new skill or engaging in a hobby. The daily planner itself can serve as a canvas on which to express your creativity by adding decorative items such as pictures, art, and stickers.”

2. Have a set place where you do your work so you can be more comfortable.
   Montclair State University is a massive campus with many nooks and crannies to explore. From the skyline to Lot 60, there is no shortage of places to sit down and open your laptop. Okay, maybe Lot 60 is not the best place but on campus, you can find many cafes and study rooms. Some great places to do work are the CELS building, the School of Business, Blanton Hall, Cole Hall and Panera Bread (if it is not too busy of course). In the library and business building, quiet study spaces can be reserved. Talk about a great way to get work done in peace!

3. Make sure your environment is free of any distractions.
   Distractions: they are everywhere. Do TikTok, Instagram and drama in the group chat negatively affect your studying? You are not alone. “Many dedicated students think they can divide their attention in the classroom without harming their academic success – but we found an insidious effect on exam performance and final grades,” said lead researcher Arnold Glass, a professor of psychology at Rutgers-New Brunswick’s School of Arts and Sciences. Multitasking can hurt your ability to retain information so it can be beneficial to put your phone down.

4. Make sure you are hydrated and well-nourished while doing school-work.
   Montclair State has water stations all over campus for a vital reason. Staying hydrated can have an amazing effect on your brain’s ability to stay energized.
   An article done by Drip Drop, a hydration company, said that “when you don’t get enough water, your body stops working optimally due to a condition called dehydration. Dehydration can make you feel sluggish, tired, and moody. It can affect your ability to recall information, decrease muscle movement, and result in foggy thoughts and impaired decision making.” If water is not to your taste, you can always add flavor packets or drink seltzer water instead.

5. Listen to music to help you focus.
   Healthline.com said, “The researchers found evidence to suggest that music can engage your brain in such a way that it trains it to pay better attention to events and make predictions about what might happen.” Listening to music can be a fun way to get through late nights at the library. Remember to play music that is helpful but not distracting.

Hopefully, with these tips, you can develop a good study pattern and keep them throughout your college career. Find what works for you and get that A!
1908 Pizzeria: A "Just Okay" Option For A Quick Slice

Sal DiMaggio | Feature Editor

One of the most famous foods to exist, pizza, is a staple for every American college student (lactose-intolerant individuals aside). And being in New Jersey, Montclair State University students are no strangers to good pizza, whether from the Big Apple itself or their local hometown pizzeria.

So Gourmet Dining, the new dining vendor on campus, already had some tough expectations to fulfill when making their spin on a campus pizzeria. The result is 1908 Pizzeria, an update to the old pizzeria that used to be on campus.

Still located in the Rathskeller of the Student Center, 1908 Pizzeria offers pizza by the slice. This is different than the pizzeria of last year, which served personal pies. Students can choose to get a plain slice, a white slice or one with pepperoni, meatballs or eggplant and onion. 1908 also serves wings, tenders, sandwiches and more.

Let’s start with the prices, which are similar to what off-campus pizzerias offer. Slices are $3.20 to start, plus a few additional cents depending on what toppings you get. The price for wings, while expensive, is also on par with what off-campus pizzerias have to offer. For six wings, students pay $9.10. It makes more sense to buy 12 wings for just under four bucks extra. Sandwiches are around the $10 mark.

To its credit, 1908 does a decent job when it comes to the taste of the pizza. Sure, Dave Portnoy probably would not give a slice from here a very high rating, but for college pizza, it certainly gets the job done. There is no shortage of cheese on the slice, and the crust tastes more pizzeria-style than the personal pies did last year. Plus, there are red pepper flakes and oregano at the counter, which is nice to see.

However, it is missing a little something. Maybe it is the Italian in me, but it just does not match what you get in your local Italian pizzeria. It is lacking that extra bit of love.

The integrity of the pizza was not award-winning either. The pizza sadly flops when you pick it up, which is disappointing to see.

The pizza was greasy as well, especially the pepperoni slice I got. I would recommend blotting your slice with a napkin to remove excess grease. Between stomach issues and acne, oil is the last thing college students need.

The wings were not as impressive. They got the job done, I suppose, but they were small and on one occasion, the meat was hard to get through the amount of bone and cartilage, which was a major detriment to my eating experience.

I never got a chance to try the sandwiches, as every time I tried to order them they were listed as "sold out." I am not sure if this was due to a supply issue or a technical glitch, but definitely, something to be aware of when ordering.

Speaking of which, that brings me to my next point. The only way that students can order is through Grubhub, which prevents 1908 from having the charm of a normal pizzeria. There’s something special about going up to the counter and ordering a slice. Instead, everything is done through the phone, which is a major vibe kill.

1908 Pizzeria is open from Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. For the weekdays, those are very convenient hours for students, although an early morning slice sure would be nice to have. However, being closed on the weekends is a huge disappointment for resident students in particular. The environment has not changed much from last year. During the day, the Rathskeller is a vibrant hub of student activities and voices. During the later hours, however, the opposite comes true, with only a handful of students in the area.

However, things could totally change in the coming months in terms of appearance. There is a sign in the Rathskeller teasing a renovation, where the area would be modeled after a pub. This would bring a whole different vibe to 1908, but we’ll have to wait and see when that comes about.

The environment has not changed much from last year. During the day, the Rathskeller is a vibrant hub of student activities and voices. During the later hours, however, the opposite comes true, with only a handful of students in the area.

One last word from your friendly Italian: pineapple DOES NOT belong on pizza.
Have a thought about on campus or off campus matters? Write for Opinion!

Email:
montclarionopinion@gmail.com

Room 2035, School of Communication and Media in Upper Montclair, NJ, 07043

Classifieds

Walk Like A Champ is hiring! We are a local Dog walking company and looking to add members to our team. Looking for an energetic part-time Dog walker, with availability Mon-Fri. Weekends are a plus. We can do our best to work around your schedule. Reliable transportation and experience with Dogs is required. If interested, please send us an email at walklikeachamp44@gmail.com. Look forward to hearing from you!
How will your major influence your career goals?

By Karsten Englander
Director of Photography

“\textit{I plan on working as a Physical Therapist in the NBA or something along those lines, so I feel like this \textup{[major]} will help me later on.\textit{}}”

\textbf{Vialy Piere}
\textbf{Freshman}
\textbf{Nutrition and Food Science}

“I think my major will influence my career goals because it will help me better understand how the theater department works, as well as what I will do in the future.”

\textbf{Gabriela Renderos}
\textbf{Senior}
\textbf{Theater Studies}

“My major will influence my career goals because I plan on becoming an English teacher in South Korea, so as long as I am fluent in Korean, I will have a better experience living in a country that I’m new to.”

\textbf{Yanissa Bishop}
\textbf{Freshman}
\textbf{Asian Languages & Culture}
“I’m hoping to concentrate in marketing and international business. I would love to travel in the future and possibly study abroad. I also want to own many businesses because my mother owns a business. It seems stressful but I know it’ll get me bank, so I’m trying to make money. I was really interested in art, but it doesn’t have that great of a salary attached to it.”

Nathalie Garcia
Freshman
Business Administration

“I’m planning on going to law school and I want to be a politician when I’m older. I’ve always been interested in politics and American government. The school offers good classes with some great insights, and I really like the professors.”

Louis Cardenuto
Senior
Jurisprudence

“At this point, I already work in the field that I want to go into. I do IT at a school district, so the degree is kind of just a formality at this point, but I do see it helping in the long-term with certain aspects of my job, to better understand how they work.”

Ronald Todd
Junior
Information Technology
### Horoscopes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capricorn</th>
<th>Cancer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capricorn, I swear to God, if you log “In the Mood For Love” on your Letterbox one more time this week I’m tying you to a chair and making you watch “22 Jump Street” until you snap out of it.</td>
<td>Be honest: do you think they had to jump the Starbucks truck to start it?</td>
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<tr>
<th>Aquarius</th>
<th>Leo</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 20 – Feb. 18</td>
<td>Jul. 23 – Aug. 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquarius, if you are in need of a new movie I’d recommend Earth Girls Are Easy starring two hobbles known as Jeff Goldblum (Hairless-Human) and Jeff Goldblum (Hairy-Allen).</td>
<td>Rule one of The Pirate Code: Never make another pirate cry (seriously it’s mean, plunder and play nicely please)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Pisces</th>
<th>Virgo</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 19 – Mar. 20</td>
<td>Aug. 23 – Sep. 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Got the dorm to yourself this weekend, Pisces? Oh, I know what that means. Yeah, buddy, practice your Jason Statham impression in the mirror. You’ll be cast in “M3G 3: Megalodon’b” soon enough.</td>
<td>Do you have any idea how many spiders are in your walls? They’re laying eggs. Big big eggs. Tear your walls open.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Aries</th>
<th>Libra</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 21 – Apr. 19</td>
<td>Sep. 23 – Oct. 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hi there Aries! I heard you went to SeaHearNow this past weekend, did you also get trampled trying to see the Foo Fighters?</td>
<td>You know what they say Libra, all boosters boast boast.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Taurus</th>
<th>Scorpio</th>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 20 – May 20</td>
<td>Oct. 23 – Nov. 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taurus, I’m sorry, but I am SO far beyond the point of hearing you out. Your search history is easily one of the most shocking things I’ve ever seen. I think it’s time for you to go to a nice, lovely spa with no wi-fi and DEFINITELY no copies of “Transformers: Rise of the Beasts.”</td>
<td>Don’t forget to correct your libra friends when they say something that makes no sense. Do this especially when they talk about boosters and what they boast. Simply respond “No they don’t, they boast bread stupid!”</td>
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<tr>
<th>Gemini</th>
<th>Sagittarius</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 21 – Jun. 20</td>
<td>Nov. 22 – Dec. 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hey, Gemini. You’re not safe this week, or any other week. Go do a lap.</td>
<td>THIS IS NOT A DRILL, THE DUNKIN LINE WAS LESS THAN A 40 MINUTE WAIT THIS MORNING! GO, GO NOW AND USE YOUR INFLATED FLEX DOLLARS! BUY BUY BUY, SELL SELL SELL!</td>
</tr>
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The Montclarion Crossword Puzzle and More!
Monet McMichael: GWORLSSS Edition
By Lynise Olivacce and Sekhena Sembenu

Across
3. What reality show was her boyfriend Jalen Noble on?
6. Monet is a skin, makeup and fashion...?
7. What New Jersey college did she graduate from?
8. What social media platform did Monet blow up on in 2020?
9. What is Monet's real name?
10. What makeup company did Monet have her first deal with?

Down
1. Monet dropped her first clothing line with...?
2. What is her Mom's occupation?
4. What was her major in college?
5. Who is her stylist?

Sudoku

Word Search

Bookie Lifestyle Mio
Grapes Teddy Fresh Montay
Makeup Poached Eggs Nashville
Peloton Certified Flower Girl Aquarius
The Dining Renovations Were A Waste Of Money

EDITORIAL

As students returned to campus this year, they were surprised with new renovations to dining spots like The Plaza at Blanton Hall, Freeman Dining Hall and Yella’s.

Not only did they redo the look of some dining spots, but they revamped the dining options themselves, added and took away different spots.

Our main complaint is not that our Chili’s was ripped away from us, but instead, the fact that these renovations are a waste of time and money.

Not to mention, the added shrubbery and odd brown canopies? It looks like a crowded doll house.

Not to mention, the added shrubbery and odd brown canopies? Is canopy even the right word for these structures? At least, with all these new elements inside of The Plaza, it leaves the place with less seating for students.

In a past editorial, we mentioned once or twice that the student population is the biggest it has ever been.

Less seating, more students. Did no one think this through? Did they see the Blanton Dunkin’ at nine in the morning on any given day of the week and think to themselves that we can afford to lose a couple of tables? It is packed and busy most hours of the morning and afternoon. Instead of sitting and waiting for their food, students have to stand around and wait an obscene amount of time for a cold brew.

Sure it looks more flattened than before, but it’s entirely less practical.

Now on to Freeman. For the student who is hitting the books in between classes, I know I do.. It’s more convenient.

But Freeman so the new dining hall over there is really nice... I like that I’m able to just order my phone and then go pick it up downstairs... it’s more convenient.

The administration must admit to the lack of thought that was put into this project.

While the renovations were not paid with student tuition, they still were a waste of time and money. For now, students have no choice but to adapt to these abrupt series of events. The administration must admit to the lack of thought that was put into this project.
Have you ever gotten an unwanted number? Well I have, and let me tell you, it is not pretty. Especially when you are a feminine presenting person walking by yourself in the middle of the night. I was clearly smaller and meeker than him. He carefully selected me as a target because he knew that I would not fight back. I was efficiently cornered.

Walking by myself was never an invitation for a man that I did not know to give me his number. Even though I was in a public space, surrounded by people, nobody did anything about it. They all just stood around watching it play out.

It was not like I could have said no to him. I had no idea if he would scream at me, take out a weapon, overpower me with his own strength or take rejection like a normal person. Besides, even if I had said no, nobody would back me up in my decision.

As soon as I got back to my dorm, I blocked the number, and I went to bed without a care in the world.

Cat-calling. We have all heard this term before; I mean you have to if you've ever been allowed onto a college campus.

Title IX is a law that states “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

To be admitted into Montclair State University grounds, you have to take the Title IX course, and though everyone on campus completes Title IX, not many people seem to adhere to its guidelines.

I have had too many unwanted experiences of cat-calling since stepping foot on a college campus that I probably wouldn't have gotten if I had decided to be off-campus.

According to the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA), 81% of women have experienced cat-calling on their college campus, and so have 43% of men. Most people tend to have the misconception that cat-calling only happens to women which I personally believe is what makes people more accepting of it happening. But as the data supports, it does not only happen to women.

It does not matter what you look like, there is always the possibility of being cat-called. You could be a tall, well-built, cisgender man and I guarantee you that someone will have something weird to say.

Cat-calling changes as humans evolve, and unfortunately, come up with new forms of harassment. It went from just being wolf-whistled on the side of the road to being cornered on a street to being bothered on Snapchat.

Soon enough cat-calling will become even harder to spot and report. When using apps like Snapchat, it is hard to even tell who you're talking to or receiving messages unless they personally decide to keep their information public. This is why it has become easier to harass others on social media.

No two people are the same. Some people who cat-call think that they are genuine compliments while others use it as a way to go further with someone. Both sides of the coin are completely wrong.

Cat-calling is not a compliment. If anything, it just makes the person that you are cat-calling feel gross about themselves. And no, cat-calling will not get you a date with that special someone that you see from across the street.

Instead of jumping straight into cat-calling, you should try to actually give a compliment, or get to know that person better. While boldness is a necessary trait in any social interaction, you need to know when to use it.

Mob mentality is one of the most driving factors of cat-calling. As the saying goes, the person who follows the crowd will usually go no further than the crowd. If cat-calling seems to appeal to your friends, it's a red flag if they are into making people uncomfortable.

At the end of the day, all cat-calling is an insult, and if you have nothing nice to say maybe it is better that you did not say anything at all.
Ron DeSantis and Florida Public Schools: Where Education Meets Indoctrination

Guest Writer

Catherine Khitiri

Last year, two bills were passed, widely known as the “Don’t Say Gay” bill (“Parental Rights in Education” bill) and the “Anti-Woke” bill (“Stop the Wrongs to Our Kids and Employees (W.O.K.E.) Act”).

According to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, Florida is “where woke goes to die,” said in his victory speech after defeating Democratic gubernatorial candidate Charlie Crist in November 2022.

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, “woke” is an adjective referring to someone who is “aware of and actively attentive to important societal facts and issues,” especially issues of race and social justice. Therefore, why is DeSantis targeting “woke” culture?

The term has recently been used by some conservatives as an insult against progressive values. Some values include critical race theory, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Last year, two bills were passed, widely known as the “Don’t Say Gay” bill (“Parental Rights in Education” bill) and the “Anti-Woke” bill (“Stop the Wrongs to Our Kids and Employees (W.O.K.E.) Act”).

While neither bill explicitly mentions the words “gay,” “LGBTQ+” or “woke,” they have been criticized by political analysts for discreetly holding intentions to curb discussions of gender identity and the LGBTQ+ community entirely. DeSantis has been vocal about his intentions in the past.

“When you actually look at the bill and it says ‘no sexual instruction to kids pre-K through three,’ how many parents want their kids to have transgenderism or something injected into classroom instruction?” said DeSantis in a press conference in March 2022.

The topic of “transgenderism” is not inherently sexual in the same context as sexual intercourse. While it may be too abstract for elementary schoolers, these topics should not be shielded from students as a form of “protection.”

The main issue with this bill is that parents can sue teachers and the school district for violating bans on these discussions. The discussions must remain “age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards,” but what is considered “age appropriate” when “transgenderism” and “gender theory” is not inherently sexual? The bill is vague and it opens the door to arguing that any discussion is “inappropriate.”

As for the “Anti-Woke” bill, the bill prohibits workplace training and school lessons violating certain concepts regarding race and racism. One prohibited concept includes that an individual should feel guilt because of their race or sex, or that anyone is “inherently” racist or sexist. This bill essentially bans the discussion of critical race theory in any manner.

It would be false to teach that the United States was not built on slavery and racism, that Black people still do not feel the repercussions of slavery, and that White people still do not benefit even subconsciously from slavery. By eradicating “guilt,” Florida is essentially erasing history to favor the White man.

This past summer, the Florida Department of Education approved “educational” videos produced by conservative media company “PragerU.” The company is ranked as the “liberal propaganda” with the complete opposite: conservative propaganda, which is both redundant and hypocritical. These legislation changes within Florida public schools are an abuse of power by DeSantis, allowing him to insert his own political agenda into public schools in the name of “protecting children.” It does not end at just elementary schools, objective classes such as AP Psychology have been banned in high schools for discussions of gender roles in society.

Florida is an extreme example of how politicians can influence public school systems and indoctrinate youth, but it does not end in Florida. Nationwide, similar bills are moving through other state legislatures, such as Alabama, Ohio, Louisiana and Texas.

According to the Trevor Project, students who learned about LGBTQ+ issues showed 23 percent lower odds of a suicide attempt. These conservative bills erase minority history and denounce LGBTQ+ individuals.

Whether one is a conservative or not, nobody can deny that public schools must be impartial and truthful. Abstract and uncomfortable discussions about ugly history should be welcomed, not hidden. All political ideologies should be embraced, not pushed.

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E-mail: montclarionentertainment@gmail.com

ROOM 2035, SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA IN UPPER MONTCLAIR, NJ, 07043
Student Gallery

CHANGE by Sophia Lazaridis

90s Foine by Sekhena Sembenu

The Pondering Dog By Nicholas Vidal
@nickyontheweb
Comic Strip by Samuel Martorano

"244 at Halftime" by Colin Luderitz
Too close to passing out. Words in tongues he was supposed to have fluttered around him. The gasps of discovering. The confusion as to why he found home within the floor. The conversations between friends as footsteps thudded towards his sunken body. What else? He blinked to get himself steady enough to sit up.

A hand was outstretched to him. Flurry white fabric, draping sleeves, bone white smile. "Dima's getting you water," the boy said. And as Hymir gingerly placed his hand in the one in front of him and awkwardly stood up, Levin's voice in the back of his mind screamed and scolded, because if Dimitri Jones was out of the current picture, then this was Pallas Lykadion, the Crown Prince of Greece, the person Levin wanted on the throne by the end of the month.

Pallas was suspected to have his kindness extended past the closed doors that stopped the media from knowing everything. He was a little taller than the twins, a rough 177 to their 171 (which was nothing on Hymir's height), clothes loose enough to disguise his body. Flakes of red in light brown hair that showcased dark green eyes. Or were they blue? The longness of his nose and the thinness of his lip faded out as Hymir tried to figure out the color of the eyes. Not that it was important. But the room was cold, and he wanted to bask in it for as long as possible.

"Here," the other person said, handing a small glass of clear liquid over. Hymir did not sniff it before slamming it down his throat. Levin could beat him up if he lived past this night. "We're not supposed to help kidnappers, but you're really struggling. Don't tell anyone though." Dimitri didn't have a profile. He was Pallas's childhood best friend. His Yuuya owned a farm. He worked as a stable boy when he wasn't with Pallas. Never alone. Even on the way between places, his arms were always full with self imposed chores. He only participated in one interview, where he said that the Lykadion's liked hard work and he liked them.

His public smile was that of innocence, of an honest enjoyment in helping others. In the pale light of Pallas's bedroom, the corners of his mouth were turned higher than normal. Last night, he'd been caught within the first hour of his first solo mission, and it felt like everything was falling apart. He'd been caught within the first hour of his first solo mission, and it felt like everything was falling apart.


"We don't like him," Dimitri said, taking a few steps closer. Hymir nodded furiously. "I don't like him either! But if I don't do what I have to do, he'll kill my brothers. Probably not slowly." It hurt closing his eyes. It would always hurt to close his eyes until Levin was far gone. His throat was too tight. "I don't want to do this. My hands are tied."

The door flew open. Hymir refused to look away from Pallas, the more emotionally vulnerable of the two. It didn't matter how he knew things about Hymir. Getting him to convince Dimitri to back off and getting that treaty was more important than looking at the door. Unless the door revealed all of the guards Hymir should have run into by now.

"It's Pater," a single voice in the doorway said softly. "He's ending." Hymir raised his hands. "What's a cop?" Pallas's eyebrows furrowed. Hymir opened his hands. He was shifty at throwing things. It would be a miracle if he hit anything he deemed a target. Spells? Nothing good for stealth, not without looking at his tomes and prepping. The best bet at getting out of this would be a distraction and immense speed in knocking these guys out. It wasn't his strong suit, but with his spear presumably still stuck to the wall outside, it was the only shot he had.

"He wants a treaty." They turned to look at Pallas, who was walking to Hymir's side as if nothing was wrong. "Are you the one from Iceland or Norway? Or was it Sweden?" Silence wrapped them. "I gave you a way out," Pallas continued, "Take it.

"Iceland." It burned Hymir's throat. "I'm guessing west side. What's it called? Larbaek? That feels right." Pallas looked over at Dimitri, who was looking back and forth between the two, baffled. "It's okay. He's a friend. On a technicality." Hymir was going to be sick. Details that were meant to be secret solely because there was no one to tell them too... cast openly like everything was fine. Nothing was fine. He'd been caught within the first hour of his first solo mission, and it felt like everything was falling apart.

The arrow dipped. Not pleasantly. "So," Pallas went on, "Which one sent you: Kristen or Kap- Kapi- I'm blanking." His public smile was that of innocence, of an honest enjoyment in helping others. In the pale light of Pallas's bedroom, the corners of his mouth were turned higher than normal. Last night, he'd been caught within the first hour of his first solo mission, and it felt like everything was falling apart.

"Capetola?" Pallas nodded. Hymir shook his head, but his mother's name still lingered under his tongue. "Levin. Her husband." Hymir nodded furiously. "I don't like him either! But if I don't do what I have to do, he'll kill my brothers. Probably not slowly." It hurt closing his eyes. It would always hurt to close his eyes until Levin was far gone. His throat was too tight. "I don't want to do this. My hands are tied."

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"Down Below, Part One"
by Matteo Silvero | Staff Writer

For a fleeting moment after the crash, all is peaceful and quiet. It's almost as if time has stood still.

Then he opens his eyes.

Wilbur pulls himself up off the ground, brushing away the leaves that had fallen atop of him. He checks his bike, the wheels are bent out of shape, unable to be ridden. Wilbur curses under his breath as he hobbles away. He steadies himself on the stump of an old, hollow willow tree. He exhales sharply, his legs sore from the fall. He stares back up at the top of the hill, the afternoon sun nearly blinding him.

“How did I get down here?”

“Because you decided to take a shortcut!”

The disembodied voice sends Wilbur jolting back, eyes darting around. “Who said that? Is someone there?” he shouts. “I need help—I’m lost!”

“Oh for the love—it’s me, Wilbur!”

Wilbur’s eyes move down to where his cat lies, unscathed by the fall. “Scoot?”

“Yes?”

Wilbur jumps. He picks Scoot up and spins him, eyeing him up and down. “How is this—this is impossible!” he says. He looks around, believing this all to be some sort of elaborate prank. “How are you talking?”

“I don’t know,” Scoot replies. “I woke up and suddenly I could talk.”

Wilbur exhales. “This is crazy. Where are we even?”

“Clearly, we’re lost.”

“Thanks for the reminder,” Wilbur deadpans. “Mom’s probably worried. She told us four o’clock,” he says. He looks upward, the sun just barely visible through the trees. “Who knows what time it is now.”

“Then let’s get going!” Scoot says. “I’m hungry.”

Scoot starts to head towards the trees before Wilbur scoops him up into his arms.

“Easy there. The woods are a dangerous place. Who knows what could be lurking around.”

They stare ahead of them, large spindly trees line the entrance to the woods, the forest floor is covered in orange and yellow leaves, the darkness that lies ahead of them—pulling them in slowly. A pang of fear runs through Wilbur, the dread makes him feel sick.

“But I’m hungry!” Scoot objects.

He remembers something. “Hold on,” Wilbur says. He heads towards his bike. There, underneath the seat, lies a wicker basket. “Aha!” He pulls the beaten up basket from below the bike. He flips the lid open and pulls out a large muffin.

“Here Scoot, looks like they survived the crash.”

Scoot trots over to Wilbur and sniffs the muffin in his hand—a pumpkin muffin.

“Really, Wil?” Scoot says. “Cats aren’t supposed to eat muffins.”

“Yeah? Well cats aren’t supposed to talk either, and yet here we are.”

Wilbur ignores Scoot’s unimpressed glare and puts the muffin down next to him. His rumbling stomach reminds him of his own hunger, and he immediately starts eating one.

The two nearly devour all the muffins, choosing to leave one just in case.

Scoot licks his fur clean. “Now can we try and find our way out of here now?” Wilbur stares ahead, deep into the woods. “I guess we have no other choice,” he shrugs.

Basket in hand, and Scoot in the other, Wilbur pushes past his fear, and heads into the darkness of the woods, unaware of what lies ahead for them.
Kenneth Branagh’s Poirot Hits His Stride with ‘A Haunting in Venice’

Kenneth Branagh’s take on Agatha Christie’s Hercule Poirot has proven itself to be uneven. In 2017, he directed and starred in “Murder on the Orient Express,” the third film adaptation of the Agatha Christie novel of the same name, to a tepid response from critics and audiences. His 2022 follow-up “Death on the Nile” was plagued with delays thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic and the alleged misconduct (or, to put it more bluntly, alleged cannibalism) of one of its stars, Armie Hammer. It received a similarly tepid critical response and far smaller box-office returns, making the announcement of this third installment something of a head-scratcher. However, this outing proves itself to be the strongest one yet for Branagh’s take on the Belgian detective.

In this new film, Poirot is retired in the beautiful city of Venice, which looks appropriately haunting thanks to the work of cinematographer Haris Zambarloukos. While it’s unknown if this new feature was shot on 65mm film like its predecessors, it matters not. “A Haunting in Venice” is the most visually striking and stylish film in the trilogy, opting for more dynamic lighting, detailed set design and stress-inducing camera angles than the previous films.

Poirot is invited to a seance by an old friend Ariadne Oliver, an author played by Tina Fey whose writing made Poirot world-famous. Despite his retirement, Ariadne asks for his help disproving a spirit medium, played by Academy Award-winning actress Michelle Yeoh, who is at her typically brilliant form here in a small yet incredibly fun role. When a series of seemingly supernatural murders take place at the seance, it’s time for Poirot to dust off his notebook and begin collecting clues once more.

The supernatural element of the story makes for a scarier, more thrilling take on the typical whodunnit formula. It also helps that, despite being based on Christie’s novel “Halloween Party,” this adaptation is much looser than previous installments, allowing Branagh and screenwriter Michael Green to streamline the story for a cinematic telling, something the previous installments certainly could have used.

In addition to being scarier, this new film is also much funnier than the first two. The ever-wonderful Fey is perfect as Ariadne, who in some ways seems to be a parody of Christie, poking fun at the structure of whodunnits in a sly but subtle way. It is not as overtly subversive as, say, “Knives Out,” but it also might be the first time a detective in a whodunnit straight up said they would find out “whodunnit.”

And while the cast is not necessarily packed with as many all-stars or alleged cannibals as its predecessors, each performer still fires on all cylinders. Jamie Dornan, of “Fifty Shades of Grey” fame, turns in a performance in direct contrast to his turn as Christian Grey, playing a PTSD-ridden and submissive doctor, Dr. Leslie Ferrier. Jude Hill, a young actor who had previously starred in Branagh’s “Belfast,” plays Leslie’s precocious son Leopold Ferrier and acts with a natural skill that leaves no wonder why he has become Branagh’s young muse.

Branagh himself is just as great as ever. His version of the character is less eccentric than prior cinematic iterations, such as the iconic Peter Ustinov, but he brings a depth to Poirot in this film that you do not typically see in an episodic film series such as this.

Other highlights in the cast include Camille Cottin, Kelly Reilly and Kyle Allen, who round out the cast of suspects with solid performances. In a period piece such as this, it is easy to hold an expression that looks too much like you know what a Pop-Tart is, and all of these performers thankfully avoid those trappings.

All in all, it is nice to see a simple, fun, classic whodunnit on the big screen again. It does not hold a candle to Rian Johnson’s work on his Benoit Blanc films, but it does tell a more straightforward and undemanding mystery than those films, making it a nice companion. It is unlikely that we’ll get a fourth installment of Branagh’s Poirot, but it is nice to see his take on the character finally find its footing and earn its place in the canon of Agatha Christie.
Roselita Cabelin
Guest Writer

With a soothing voice reminiscent of the 1930s and a nostalgic, bossano-va sound, Icelandic singer-songwriter Laufey has modernized jazz music for our generation’s youth in just her early twenties. A well-rounded musician and performer, some of Laufey’s singles include “Falling Behind” and “Fragile,” as well as “Love To Keep Me Warm” and “Let You Break My Heart Again” in which she collaborated with British singer-songwriter Dodie and London’s Philharmonia Orchestra.

But while most are getting a September listening party together for Olivia Rodrigo’s highly anticipated “GUTS,” Laufey holds her own with “Bewitched.” At once poignant, romantic, and a hit among orchestral musicians as well as “Love To Keep Me Warm” and “Let You Break My Heart Again.”

Bewitched holds a total of fourteen songs. The album begins with “Dreamer,” where the singer proudly declares her dissociation from the dating game; “You can’t pin me down, I fear all solid ground.” She continues to humorously remark on being content with her single status: “Boys just make me cry, a witty script and one of the greatest love stories ever told. With perfect pacing, a witty script and one of the greatest endings in love, a charming, truthful way. And it’s not creepy at all, I promise.”

Laufey’s version opens with steady, acoustic guitar strumming. Her signature voice comes through, you will be singing along, smiling in spite of yourself. She gives special importance to each word. “An ocean away, The heavens would say it was meant to be.”

“While you were sleeping, I fell in love.” Again, it sounds menacing, but here is my interpretation. It suggests the moment she fell in love, the moment anyone falls in love is unexpected. It is not at all earth-shattering as portrayed in the movies. Instead, you could literally spring up at three in the morning with the revelation that you are in love with the guy who is dead asleep next to you. In the moment, you would not even tell him. That, to me, is the beauty and humanity of this song.

Laufey follows that up with “Second Best” and “Haunted,” tapping into the bitter heartbreak of earnestly loving someone who can not (or will not) reciprocate it. Through lyrics such as, “Oh you were my everything, I was your second best” and “I know he don’t love me quite like I love him [...] this will end ‘till he haunts me again,” and a dizzying symphonic quality, we are met with the singer’s misery like it is our own.

“When You Were Sleeping” is a personal favorite of mine. The song and the 1995 film starring Sandra Bullock are in love with the guy who is dead asleep next to you. In the moment, you would not even tell him. That, to me, is the beauty and humanity of this song.

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I could envision this album being a hit among orchestral musicians as well. Laufey collaborates with the Philharmonia Orchestra once again on “California and Me.” There’s “Noc-tune (Interlude),” a solo piano piece that teases the rest of the album. It is followed by “Promise” and everyone’s favorite, according to Spotify, “From The Start.”

I would assume “From The Start” is her leading single. It is upbeat, evoking just one of those songs perfect for warm apple cider and bonfires. And not without the Laufey touch, you can tell she was having a good time on this track.

The next four songs are like the transition from fall to winter. All the songs are reflective, all more poignant. “Misty” feels like you’re walking out of the cold into an empty bar, except for the cute guy playing piano while you have a drink. “Serendipity” will haunt you with its crooning strings section.

“Letter To My 13 Year Old Self” is the second to last song, whisking us away to a time before Laufey understood what she needed to write about and why. I admire how she tries to make peace with her younger self, because from a thirteen year old’s perspective, life is one heartache after another. But once you get everything you ever wanted, it’s like all those days spent worrying were for nothing. So she’s really writing to the teen girls of the world. She’s really saying, “Hey, don’t forget I was there too!”

The Autumn Album comes full circle with “Bewitched,” which both sounds and feels like a fantasy romance film. Seriously, the strings in this song are otherworldly. Laufey captures every essence of Bewitched in “Bewitched;” romantic sentiment, bitter pain, music and nostalgia all make their way into this song - finishing up the album.

I will be honest, the first listen-through of Bewitched, I could not make a clear distinction between certain songs. Yet as I came to understand each song for their individual message, I found it quite simple to pick my favorites. While I do wish Laufey had more lyrical variety (too many love songs), her voice and musical style are nothing like we’ve heard before. It makes me eager for what’s next.

GUTS fits the Halloween vibe perfectly. Olivia Rodrigo is a big name. But what happens when spooky season is over? What if you are looking to wind down before the holidays kick back up again? Laufey’s got you covered.

Can a man and a woman ever truly just be friends? That’s the core question posed by the 1989 romantic comedy “When Harry Met Sally...” directed by Rob Reiner. The film follows two characters; Harry Burns, played by Billy Crystal, and Sally Albright, played by Meg Ryan, through the first twelve years of their relationship, as they start off hating each other, then eventually befriending each other and then, to be expected in a rom-com, falling in love.

The modern formula of romantic comedies owes itself to “When Harry Met Sally...” and you’d be hard pressed to find it done better. The script by Nora Ephron is unmatched in its wit and emotion, the cast is completely game to toe the line between silly and melancholy and the cinematography from “Men in Black” director Barry Sonnenfeld brings New York City to vibrant life.

It should also be mentioned that this film is a perfect companion piece to “Casablanca.” The ending of “Casablanca” sparks one of the first debates between Harry and Sally, many of the songs are pulled directly from the soundtrack to “Casablanca,” they even watch “Casablanca” together at one point! Can you imagine... - Colin Ludertz

Entertainment Editor
Jenna Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

‘Adventure Time: Fionna & Cake’ Pilot Recap: A Strong Start for the Spin-Off

‘Adventure Time’ fans have been anxiously waiting for the release of the new spin off series, ‘Adventure Time: Fionna and Cake.’ The new release reached streaming platform MAX on Aug. 31 to an eager audience. The release certainly did not disappoint, as unlike many other spin-offs “Fionna and Cake” has its own fleshed-out plotlines that do not rely entirely on the return of many of our favorite nostalgic characters.

“Fionna and Cake” features incredible female leads that rely not only on relationships, but yearn for something more in life.

The release has received a 100% critics’ score on Rotten Tomatoes with an 96% audience score, an incredible score for a pilot episode, especially one that is based on a pre-existing series.

The pilot episodes, “Fionna Campbell” and “Simon Petrikov,” unfold beautiful stories about two sets of characters that we all know and deeply love, riddled with some of the most melancholic humor that could make even the strongest soul well up with tears.

In the first episode, we start off with an action sequence featuring Fionna fighting off a rat bus, by far one of the most interesting monsters we have seen in the Adventure Time franchise thus far. When it seems that Fionna might be beat, she is met with help from the mysterious Ice Prince. A beautiful pause and a “will they-won’t they” moment between the two ends when Fionna’s blaring alarm rips her from her action-packed dream. The reveal of Fionna’s small city apartment is a shocking one. The dull colors of the apartment, the theme song of “Cheers” playing on the TV, and Fionna’s despair of waking up in the modern world is a sight we are not used to in the typically vibrant and high energy Land of Ooo.

There is also a contrast in the new theme song for “Fionna and Cake.” The pop-esque song is riddled with depressing lyrics about how much Fionna hates her current life, a stark contrast to the typical “Adventure Time” we have all grown up with. The lyrical dissonance is shocking when you really look into it, but at first glance, it can easily pass as a silly 90’s inspired sitcom theme. The theme sequence itself is high energy in its movement and color scheme, reflecting a 90’s sitcom in its own right. However, the fun campy animation of the intro is briefly interrupted with a clip of Fionna sobbing over her bathroom sink after being dumped by DJ Flame over text.

This clip specifically really sets the tone for the time period of the show, and how Fionna truly is just a modern woman dealing with modern struggles in her life.

After the intro we see Fionna’s day continue to get worse, her cat Cake becomes sick and unable to eat, but she has a strange attachment to the ice machine on Fionna’s fridge. Ice is a theme that follows throughout the entirety of the episode, whether it’s the physical ice that Cake constantly chases after, or the ice relation between Fionna and basically everyone she interacts with throughout the day.

This also lends to the contrast between ice and fire: Ice Prince is who she dreams about and who she aspires to spend her days with. He is mysterious and helpful, assisting her in winning her battles, but not completely taking them over for her. He is not a “protector” or overly dominating, he is a kind hand to help her out, and he has an aspect of mystery that piques Fionna’s interest.

This contrasts Fionna’s ex-boyfriend DJ Flame in every sense. We don’t see much of their relationship in the first episode, but the name alone implies that he is domineering and hot-headed. He is not mysterious like Ice Prince is, Fionna can tell his every trick, and yet she still falls for him. Fionna longs for Ice Prince not just as a partner, but as a sidekick in a sense.

Overall, “Adventure Time” continues with the innate ability to invoke the most melancholic feelings and then immediately insert a pants-dropping joke right after. Any fan that has not yet taken the hour or two to dive into the new series is greatly missing out on a nostalgic and entertaining experience that will sway even the most die hard “Adventure Time” fans into falling head over heels for the spin-off.
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Sophomore midfielder Kelly Westervelt has three career goals as a Red Hawk.

Trevor Giesberg | The Montclarion

Field Hockey and fashion, the classic combo ya know! It’s just like peanut butter and jelly. Sophomore Kelly Westervelt doesn’t just play field hockey here at Montclair State University. Although starting midfielder is something she can add to her resume, this sophomore has talents that go far beyond Sprague field.

Westervelt is a fashion design and merchandising major with a minor in entrepreneurial studies.

Why you might ask? “When you create clothes, it’s something you have that no one else does,” Westervelt said. “Sewing is my way of relaxing, it’s my way of doing something fun.”

Her field hockey career started in third grade and just a year later, she found her passion for hand sewing. Who knew that an innocent love for crafts could take you so far?

This newfound passion of hers led Westervelt to take classes at BOCES, a trade school in New York, along with the normal, everyday, high school workload. “It was there I learned how to pattern make,” Westervelt said. “And that made me want to do it in the future.”

Balancing schoolwork, field hockey, and the mere fact of being a teenager can be hard, but time management was, and still is, the key to her success.

You might be wondering what her favorite item to make is; sweatshirts are the easy answer since she can make them as big and comfy as she’d like to. Looking ahead, her main focus in the future will be clothes and accessories. Accessories make everything better, if you didn’t already know!

“I love purses,” Westervelt said. “Purses and shoes.”

After graduation, Westervelt has many ideas of what she’d like to do with her degree. The hopes to become a tech designer who creates patterns and blueprints, a model fitter for runway shows, or even start a brand of her own are at the top of her mind.

Westervelt is not someone who waits around for opportunities to find her, oh no, Westervelt made 1,000 masks during the COVID-19 pandemic to donate. Along with that, she sold Mickey Ears and other items on Etsy.

Westervelt creates and wears most of her own clothes including this one-of-a-kind Cruella Deville jacket.

On the field, this girls weapon of choice is a field hockey stick but when she’s at home, a simple pencil will do the trick. “Sketching is more of a do it when I’m bored,” Westervelt said. “I either draw it when I see it or I make something random when I get the urge to sew.”

Some projects are simple and can be done within hours. Others take careful planning like the Cruella Deville jacket. It took Westervelt about two weeks to create the jacket and she worked on it for an hour or two each day.

A t-shirt memory quilt was Westervelt’s longest project, despite what you may think. It took her three weeks of class time to finish during high school. Not only that but it was also her most difficult project to date. Each shirt had a different design which made it difficult to arrange on the quilt.

Westervelt will soon be a name known to all. Keep your eyes peeled for this 19-year-old is just getting started.

Jade Gorman
Guest Writer

From clothing to quilts, she creates it all.
Montclair State Football Falls Short in Epic Home Opener

Matthew Thornton
Staff Writer

On Sept. 16 at 1 p.m., the Red Hawks stormed the field to face off against the Franklin and Marshall Diplomats at Sprague Field. Sam Ray, junior lineman for Montclair State University, came onto the field with lots of energy. He motivated his teammates with inspiring words and had the home crowd excited and cheering by displaying a high level of passion and intensity on the sideline before kickoff.

The game started off slow for the Red Hawks offensively. They were committed to running the ball early, only accumulating eight yards in the passing game the whole first quarter.

According to head coach Mike Palazzo, the Red Hawks were looking to take what the defense was giving them. “It’s a game plan thing week to week,” Palazzo said. “We wanted to see what they were giving us and just take what Franklin gave us. It really depends on what the opposing defense shows us.”

The Red Hawks struggled to keep the chains moving early on, failing to convert on all their third down attempts in the first quarter. They did not complete their first pass until 12:48 in the second quarter.

The visiting Diplomats drew first blood mid-way through the first quarter, taking advantage of a turnover on downs the previous possession by Montclair State. Quarterback Jack Font for the Diplomats threw a 19-yard touchdown to make the score 7-0 with three minutes left in the first quarter. The Red Hawks' defense did a great job at preventing the Diplomats from early. Red Hawk defenders were flying to the ball, tackling opposing players as soon as they got their hands on the ball.

In the second quarter, the Diplomats scored a field goal following a Red Hawk fumble on the previous possession, which gave them a nice field position. A few moments later the Diplomats scored another touchdown giving them a 17-0 lead over the home team. The offensive line for Franklin and Marshall protected Font well for the most part and provided him enough time to make his read downfield.

Penalties and turnovers made things more difficult for Montclair State. However, their offense came to life once trailing 17-0. Sophomore Quarterback Andrew Sanborn for the Red Hawks threw a 68-yard touchdown to fifth-year Receiver Clarence Wilkins.

“You have to have a strong positive mindset,” Sanborn said. “If you’re down 17-0 that early in the game it really doesn’t mean anything, there’s so much time left to play. We kept each other’s heads up and kept playing.”

The Red Hawks threw for 119 yards in the second quarter. Sanborn scrambled for a 16-yard touchdown right before the end of the first half, making it a 17-12 ball game going into halftime.

The third quarter was competitive with both teams putting up points and getting stops. Font threw an interception in the end zone after a six-minute drive, and all of the momentum was starting to flip to Montclair State.

Senior running back for Montclair State Abellany Mendez had a huge impact in the second half. Mendez gained 95 yards in the second half of regulation. He had 154 yards total averaging over 12 yards per carry. He helped the Red Hawks take the lead 18-17, giving them the lead for the first time during the match.

The Red Hawks would score again giving them a 25-17 lead with 3:45 left in the fourth, which made it 25 unanswered points for the Red Hawks. The Diplomats proceeded to drive 79 yards in 17 plays to tie the game, then converted the two-point conversion that was needed to tie the game 25-25 at the very end of regulation. Montclair State started with the ball in overtime, and on the second play, Sanborn was intercepted down the sideline. Diplomats running back Dante Wilson rushed for 22 yards on his last 3 carries including the game-winning 2-yard run in overtime.

It was a highly entertaining back-and-forth contest in Palazzo’s home debut however, his team was unable to pull off what would have been an epic comeback.
Montclair State's Volleyball Team Continues to Succeed With Such a Diverse Group

Matteo Macelino
Assistant Sports Editor

Most of the varsity teams at Montclair State University have the majority of their rosters made up of New Jersey natives or student-athletes from the surrounding tri-state area. With the home of the Red Hawks being one of the smaller state schools compared to a school like Rutgers University, only a small percentage of students who attend are from out of state. But that doesn't seem to be the case for Montclair State's volleyball team. Of the 19 student-athletes that make up the roster, only seven of them are from New Jersey. Most of the team is even made up of transfer students and those who committed, from states like Georgia, South Carolina, Florida and even states way out west like Colorado and California. So, how has the volleyball team been able to recruit so many student-athletes from out of state? This is an image.

The volleyball team has found success in recruiting through national events and tournaments all over the country. These events take place in cities like New York, Orlando, Washington D.C., Nashville and many others that host teams from all over the country who are looking to qualify for "nationals." This is when head coach Eddie Stawinski gets to see future Red Hawks in action.

"That's when you get a chance to see teams from California, Florida, it could be Wisconsin, all over the place," Stawinski said. "We tend to go and try to identify a list of recruits that we like and continue to see them play throughout the years and try to stay in touch. That's pretty much how the recruiting goes in terms of identifying and then obviously it's just keeping track of who's interested and who's not." Some transfer students like junior outside hitter Skye Ramsey have found themselves in the right place after coming from different schools. Ramsey started her college career playing junior college (JUCO) volleyball at Fullerton College in California. Eventually transferring to a Division I team at Delaware State University, Ramsey felt it was not the right fit. After entering the transfer portal, she found her new team at Montclair State.

"Coach Eddie reached out to me once I entered the transfer portal, and I came here and ended up really liking it," Ramsey said. Other recruits like sophomore defensive specialist Addison Castles, who is from South Carolina, reached out to schools herself in hopes of continuing her volleyball career. An opportunity presented itself after she was put in a match to replace an injured teammate, and Coach Stawinski happened to be there.

"He [Coach Stawinski] walked by, he wasn't even one of the schools I originally emailed," Castles said. "We had a conversation afterward, kept in touch and I just ended up here. It was the best option. I liked that it [Montclair State] was a bigger school, I'm a very social person. I also have family in New York City so it was kind of more appealing that if I was going so far away from home, I would still have people close by."

Freshman Zoey Horn, from Georgia, and Gianna Cefalu, from California, both decided to commit to Montclair State after seeing the campus, and with New York City just a train ride away, it was hard to turn down.

"I decided to commit because I loved the campus, it was beautiful," Cefalu said. "The academics were great and just the competitive team here. It really drew me in and just having the city so close as well had a major impact because my sister was in New York City as well."

Middle-blocker Horn originally did not want to play volleyball at a collegiate level, but after missing a tournament match due to an illness, she was not ready to quit.

"This was my top school to go to," Horn said. "My high school game, we made it to the sweet 16 and I couldn't play in the next game because I got really ill. I was like, I have to continue this sport, that's when I found out how much I loved this sport. I sent a video to Montclair and they called me the next day and said, 'Can we stay in contact?'" Despite the team being so diverse in terms of student-athletes from all over the country, the Red Hawks' chemistry has been at a high level. Teammates were able to meet and get together at national tournaments to start getting familiar with each other before the semester started.

"The first couple of days, it was like they knew each other for weeks," Stawinski said. "Some of them did have a chance to play at a national qualifier and they actually got together and met. Sophia [Lopez] who's from New Jersey, Gabby [Konrad] from Pennsylvania, Lilly [Thomas] from New Jersey, and Gianna from California, they were all at the same tournament. They were all able to connect there and that kind of made it all easier when they actually got here. The chemistry has been great, it seems to be a really good group and they're having a lot of fun and right now it seems like they've been playing for years."

The team has been able to bond very quickly and form the same goals for this season. The Red Hawks are 5-4 with the majority of the season still left to play and are ready to keep improving with each day. It is not easy coming from somewhere far out of state and starting new, but when much of the team has that in common, it makes it that much easier.

"We're all very driven," Horn said. "We all kind of want the same thing and it's just about finding that union right now to be a team because we have so many new people coming in from all over the place. Finding our harmony is where we're at but it's a special thing."