Montclair State University Students Call for Justice Amid Israel-Hamas War

Meagan Kane | News Editor

Montclair State University’s Hillel chapter and Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) called for justice and peace by hosting various events on campus. Montclair State University’s Hillel chapter and Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) called for justice and peace this past week by hosting various events on campus to express anger and sadness over what is happening in Israel and Gaza.

On Oct. 7, Hamas, the terror group that governs Gaza, conducted an attack on southern Israel, murdering more than 1,000 Israelis, including those who attended a music festival and families in their own homes. They also kidnapped over 200 hostages.

As a result, Israel alerted Gazans to evacuate. On Tuesday, an explosion at a hospital in Gaza killed more than 500 civilians. Hamas blamed Israel for the airstrike, while Israel blamed Hamas for misfiring a rocket. Biden arrived in Israel on Wednesday to discuss the ongoing situation.

Montclair State President Jonathan Koppell expressed his support in an email on Oct. 11 shared to the campus community.

“In the face of this litany of suffering, I hope we do not lose our humanity or forget our agency, our power to be there for each other, those who are threatened right here or feel grief at the agony of others,” Koppell said, “and to contribute to solutions to seemingly intractable problems.”

The Montclair State Hillel chapter hosted a vigil at the Student Center Quad on Oct. 9 for the current war and for those who lost their lives. Montclair State Hillel president Aliza Rhein said the vigil went into details of the war and the issues arising within the recent Hamas attacks.

“We mourned and prayed for the innocent lives lost, the destruction of worlds and the chaos Hamas is creating,” Rhein said.

Phoebe Ellman, student engagement associate for Montclair State Hillel, said that they tried to light candles in the wind and said a prayer titled the Mourners Kaddish, which is said in Jewish tradition to mourn the dead.

Around 30 people both Jewish and non-Jewish attended the vigil. Ellman said most of the people had friends and family who lived in Israel and some students were Israeli. Ellman said most of the members families were safe, but dealing with the stress of the terror attack, Jewish-American students were also expressing their fears about what this meant for antisemitism in America.

“So yeah it was a [safe] space,” everyone was somber, definitely very emotional, a lot of hugs and kind of solidarity showed but it was also a really nice space,” Ellman said. “I think for all students and the few professors who seem like you know, that they were able to join in community together and just know that there were people that had their back.”

On Thursday, Oct. 12, a rally hosted by SJP included words from multiple speakers. Students brought Palestinian flags to wave, wore Palestinian keffiyehs and said chants such as “Biden, Biden you will see, Palestine will be free. Free free Palestine. Long live Palestine. Palestine will never die. Free, Free Palestine, Free, Free Palestine.”

Many students carried posters with messages that read “They said the old will die and the young will forget, but this isn’t over yet” and “Stop the daily killing of Palestinians in the occupied territories.”

Adjunct political science and law professor Hossein Hafezian said the tension between Israel and Palestinians began in 1948 after the establishment of Israel. He said how in 1993, the Palestinian Autonomous Authority was established and sought a two-state solution.

In 2005, Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip, Hafezian said. A year later Hamas won the parliamentary elections in Gaza and in 2007 took over the Gaza Strip, he said. Palestinians now live in Hamas control Gaza and the PA-controlled West Bank. He said they occasionally attacked Israel with rockets, which would lead to retaliation by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), leaving many civilians on both sides dead or injured.

Mysha Khan, a freshman psychology major, attended the rally with her Muslim friend to offer her support.

“I came here to support Mysha, it was a really good turnout and I think they said some very powerful words. This one guy who kept reading articles and they were very powerful and very tearful.”

Khan identifies as Muslim and Pakistani and has been gone to multiple rallies. “This was very liberating, especially knowing that [SJP] is hosting this, a bunch of Montclair [State] students are doing this was very liberating. Very peaceful and very loud but in a good way.”

Khan believed that this rally was a way to bring people together to show their support.

“This really helps portray the positive media of Palestine and not the negative,” Khan said. “Everyone coming together as a community as Muslims as well is very nice.”

Rhein doesn’t like seeing uneducated college students who don’t do proper research participating in rallies.

Story is continued on page 3
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“We were disappointed,” Rhein said. “Their refusal for a two state solution, their denial of oppression by Hamas, a literal terror organization, and deflection onto Israel is horrifying and sad.” Jaime Grinberg, professor of educational foundations, who lived in Israel for some time and received his undergraduate degree from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, expressed his feelings regarding the war and how it impacts the campus community. He said some Jewish students told him they are scared to walk into places such as the Student Center but Montclair State embraces academic freedom of speech.

“So this is a monster we’re facing,” Grinberg said. “It breaks my heart. Now, my concern here on campus is that presently is a lot of anger. But this anger has transformed into intimidation and fear.”

Hafezian explained how he thinks protests are not ideal for either side and don’t have an impact.

“On the Palestinian side, Hamas is an extremist group, which rejects the peace process, believing that all Jews should leave Israel and the entire territory belongs to Palestinians,” he said. “On the Israeli side, there is an extremist government now in power led by Netanyahu, which does not believe in the peace process and that no independent Palestinian state should be created. Hafezian said under such circumstances, when both sides are extremists, do not wish to compromise and do not show much respect for humanitarian international law, such protests will not change anything.
Kieran Barrett has been promoted from captain to chief of police of the Montclair State University Police Department on Oct 4, 2023. On Oct. 4, 2023, Kieran Barrett was promoted from captain to chief of police of the Montclair State University Police Department.

Barrett shared his thoughts on the recent promotion, having been part of the Montclair State Police Department for 25 years. “I am deeply honored and grateful to be appointed to the position of Chief of Police at Montclair,” Barrett said. “I have been through so much of my life here over the last 25 years, and can think of no greater way to give back to this community than to lead University Police and maintain a level of safety and security here over the last 25 years, and can imagine what many have experienced in law enforcement.”

Jordan Mosher, a freshman animation major, shared her thoughts on Barrett’s promotion, hearing about him at her freshman orientation. “Well I think that’s good for him,” Mosher said. “I’m only a freshman and first like half of the semester I haven’t been here for that long, but I think I’ve heard about him. I think they talked about him at orientation so I assume he’s a really dedicated person especially with working here for that long, then I would say it’s about time if he’s been doing it [for 25 years]. At a college campus you need a lot of security especially in like a northern town, it can be a little scary to think about.”

Mosher shared what her expectations are of him as a student on campus. She also hopes for Barrett to develop a closer connection with students. “As a police officer I’d expect him to quickly go to the calls that he’s assigned to and as chief of police, I’d hope that he can make [responding to calls] faster if they can be a little slower, if they can be a little disorganized, I’d hope that he can make [the responses] as good as they can be or as good he sees fits and if he’s had issues with the police department here, I hope that he can sort them out and probably honestly contact the students,” Mosher said. “[The students] who have called the police department for any such reason and like ask how their experience was and if there’s anything that they think can be better and just consult the students to see if he can find out what can be best for everyone.”

Barrett hopes to achieve the embracing of fears and safety on campus. “Many come to us from experiences of great fear in the world and the fear is real,” Barrett said. “I would like to help our community to embrace those fears and overcome them by taking ownership of our safety - fear should make us act and we can work to solve problems before they are greater.”

Tyler Paladino, a senior filmmaking major, highlighted Barrett’s dedication to his position, as he feels safe and secure on campus. “I mean 25 years at any job, it’s a dedication that, you know, I don’t know how old he is but that’s a huge chunk of someone’s life to be dedicated to a place like this,” Paladino said. “I mean, I’ve only been here three years and I feel so safe and secure as I assume a lot of people here do, we have some issues but other than that like there’s nothing really in terms of safety issues.”

Samantha Wortche, a junior animation and special effects major, comes from a family of police and shared her reaction to the promotion. “That’s really nice,” Wortche said. “I come from a police family like my sisters, my brothers, my dad, so like it’s nice that they’re in that line of work but it’s also really tedious because they have to try to make everybody happy. So I just appreciate him taking the time to put students first. It feels better knowing he’s here, just the presence.”

Wortche heard about Barrett at her freshman orientation. “He seemed really sociable [and] really friendly, so just having like a friendly cop who’s like not uptight is also really good.”

Barrett shares how he will keep the Montclair State community safe, welcoming and inclusive. “Officers must know and understand that we serve a highly diverse campus community and that this must play a role in how we serve this community,” Barrett said. “Recruitment and retention of a diverse police agency will be important to that. But we also must understand that people who come to Montclair may not have had the best experience when interacting with law enforcement in their own communities. So we must do all we can to ensure our interactions change that perception every day.”

Barrett also shared his expectations for students. “During a person’s time at Montclair [State], we want them to feel safe, empowered and that University Police is a true resource for them,” Barrett said.
Students sitting at the quad.

Arian Craig, the program coordinator for the Red Hawk Fellows Program, poses for a portrait.

Lynise Olivacce | The Montclarion

Alyssa Occhiuzzi, a junior film and television major.

Karin Englebert | The Montclarion

The Red Hawk Fellows Program Provides Support for Students in Need

Students sitting at the quad.

Meagan Kane
News Editor

Montclair State University’s Red Hawk Fellows Program allows eligible students to receive emotional, financial and academic support. Montclair State University’s Red Hawk Fellows Program allows eligible students to receive emotional, financial and academic support.

Artan Craig, program coordinator for the Red Hawk Fellows Program, explained the logistics of the program. “Our participants are made up of students who were either previously enrolled or currently involved with resource care which we refer to in the state of New Jersey, foster care outside of the state of New Jersey, emancipated youth, youth who are under independent status, usually that’s the same thing,” Craig said. “These participants are under the age of 24 and are experiencing either or both housing insecurity and or food insecurity. So usually students are enrolled automatically based on what’s reported on their FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).”

Alyssa Occhiuzzi, a junior film and television major, believes the program is a great part of the campus community. “I think it’s a great, engaging program to have people come together as a community and support others,” Occhiuzzi said. “I’m all about helping people as well as like supporting people and trying to make sure everyone’s happy and at peace, so when it comes to helping others, it’s such a big factor, definitely coming from Montclair [State] itself that us in the community can support.”

Craig shared what eligible students can receive from the program. “The premise of the program is to provide these students with additional support and services,” Craig said. “Since taking over the program, I have restructured it just to get some more flexibility in a way. Active status refers to the participants who want to engage with their peers and engage in programming that is offered.”

Craig also explained what is occurring within the program this semester, centering itself around professional development and career skills. “This semester we’ve been working on pretty much professional development because we just had our career night which was now two weeks ago,” Craig said. “We had some professional guests come from off campus and we had some of our campus partners attend. We had a speed networking portion of the event and so the students got to practice their interview skills and interview professionals about their path to success and the professionals interviewed them as if you know they were applying for a position.”

Alyssa Ramos, a freshman undeclared major, finds the program great to have. “I really think that it’s a good program to have,” Ramos said. “I feel like there’s a lot of people that I know personally that don’t have homes besides dorming, so I feel like for them I feel like it’s a good [program] to have, like a sense of security instead of them not knowing what to do over the summer, stuff like that. They have a safe place that they already know, like a safe haven.”

Mylen Viddla, a freshman undeclared major, agreed with Ramos’ points on the program. “I really do agree because I know a lot of people who don’t have anywhere at all and are just like couch surfing and stuff like that.”

Craig shared the housing component of the program titled Succeeding Through Empowerment and Stewardship (STEPS), where students have the opportunity to stay on campus over the summer.

“One is the STEPS program, which is Succeeding Through Empowerment and Stewardship,” Craig said. “That [program] assists students with affording summer housing and then there are stipulations that we make them do, but it’s still helpful like they need to be registered for classes and or working.”

The Senior Housing Project provides year round housing and helps those who are planning to attend graduate school.

“The other project we have is the Senior Housing Project,” Craig said. “The Senior Housing Project assists students who are graduating with locating post-graduate housing. So if they’re intent on going to [graduate] school, just making sure those applications are in and they have the housing set forth.”

Craig shared that The Senior Housing Project donors are realtors and help the students with finding housing after college.

“We have our generous donors who are realtors [who] assist them on a one-on-one basis with finding actual post-graduate housing,” Craig said. “The support of each fellow is taken with care and dedication.”

“We want to take the time to make sure their feelings supported and we recognize that as our program grows, our need will grow,” Craig said.

The program follows President Johnathan Koppell’s desires for Montclair State to be a university for the community.

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T he sounds of rhythmic drums and trumpets fill your ears, you find yourself swaying to the beat as the Afro-Caribbean Ensemble plays to a sea of Latino/Hispanic students and faculty at Montclair State University. All while people around the student center quad are playing dominos, dancing Merengue and eating Maduros (sweet fried plantains). This was the scene at the Hispanic Heritage Month block party, held by the Office of Hispanic Initiatives, which took place on Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023.

The annual Hispanic Heritage Month Block party was started in 2021. The event every year since has been organized by the Office of Hispanic Initiatives as a way to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and bring the Latino/Hispanic community on campus together for a day of fun.

The event started with speeches from Montclair State University’s Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Junius J. Gonzales to share the pride Montclair State University feels to be one of the largest Hispanic serving institutions on the east coast.

Speeches continued from the presidents of each Latinx organization on campus. Dominican Student Organization (DSO), Mexican American Student Association (MASA) and Latin American Student Organization (LASO).

Throughout the celebration, there were different student organizations that had tables set up across the student center quad.

There was also food available, face painting and a dominoes table.

In addition, the Afro-Caribbean Ensemble from the John J. Cali School of Music performed live a variety of popular Puerto Rican Bomba songs.

There was also a special performance by Mexican Jazz artist Jackie Ryan performing alongside the Afro-Caribbean Ensemble.

The event concluded with a performance from members of LASO, where they danced with the flag of their representative country.

The day was all smiles, good food, music, and of course, as any good Hispanic event should have, lots and lots of dancing.
Students waiting in line for food.

Iliana Woodhull, a senior majoring in family science and human development, holding up a Mexican flag.

Grace Velazquez, a freshman social media and public relations major, having the Argentinian flag painted on her face.
On Friday, Oct. 13, a group of students dressed in pink shirts, pink bandanas, and pink bracelets walked around campus while following two pink flags. This was not just any normal stroll around campus, but a fundraising event to raise awareness for cancer.

According to Tru-Lin Toner, assistant director of Campus Recreation, this is the first time Montclair State University has held its own cancer walk on campus.

The event was held by Campus Recreation and co-sponsored by Sigma Delta Phi.

After the walking portion, the event concluded at the Recreational Center patio. Available for people who walked were baked goods for sale, t-shirts, and more. In addition, there was also colored powder to throw and celebrate the event.

The event was a walk against cancer, offering the opportunity for those who lost loved ones to Cancer, to honor them and raise money to support cancer patients and families. But more importantly, to bring cancer awareness to campus.

Ryan Devlan, a senior film and television major, was walking for his mom.

“My mother passed away six months ago from ovarian cancer, and I’m just happy to be here today,” Devlan said. “We have been working at cancer for so long that we have cures and treatments, but not a lot of people know and that’s the main issue. Like my mother was diagnosed with stage four cancer, and if we knew a couple months earlier there could have been a different outcome, so that’s why awareness is so important.”

All proceeds from the event will go to Breast Intentions, a charity that supports cancer patients and families during treatment.

PHOTO ESSAY: Cancer Awareness Walk

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Photo of volunteers from the Recreation Center on campus.

Dani Mazariogos | The Montclarion

Students talking at the Cancer Awareness Walk event.

Maral Tutunjian | The Montclarion
Layered Delights: Exploring the World of Lasagna

Tiffany Echeverria | Guest Writer

In the world of comfort food, few dishes can rival the rich and indulgent layers of lasagna. This timeless Italian classic has captured the hearts and taste buds of people around the world for generations. With its perfect blend of tender pasta, savory meats, velvety cheese, and tomato sauce, lasagna is a culinary masterpiece that transcends boundaries and brings families and friends together at the dinner table.

So please, join me on a culinary journey as we unravel the secrets to crafting the ultimate lasagna. I will be sharing not only a delicious recipe, but also an alternative recipe for our lactose-intolerant friends who deserve the heartwarming stories and traditions that come with making this dish.

Lasagna has a rich history dating back to Ancient Greece, where a similar layered pasta dish called “Laganon” was enjoyed. This concept traveled to Italy, evolving into the term “lasagna” we know today. In Italy, lasagna recipes varied by region often featuring different ingredients. It was not until tomatoes were discovered in the sixteenth century that the modern tomato-based lasagna emerged. Over time, lasagna’s popularity spread worldwide, becoming a cherished comfort food celebrated for its versatile and delicious layers. Today, it remains an iconic Italian dish that brings people together, blending tradition and innovation in every single bite.

Here’s a step-by-step guide on how to make a classic lasagna:

**Ingredients:**
- 9 Lasagna noodles
- 1 pound (450g) ground beef
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 2 cups ricotta cheese
- Fresh basil leaves

**Instructions:**
1. **Cook Noodles:** Boil lasagna noodles, then drain and rinse with cold water.
2. **Prepare the Meat Sauce:** Cook onions, garlic and meat. Add sauce and simmer for 15 to 20 minutes.
3. **Prepare the Cheese Mixture:** Mix ricotta cheese.
4. **Assemble the Lasagna:** In a baking dish, layer noodles, meat sauce, cheese mixture, mozzarella and parmesan. Repeat layers, ending with sauce and cheese on top.
5. **Bake the Lasagna:** Cover with foil, bake at 375°F (190°C) for 25 minutes, then uncover and bake for 25-30 more minutes until cheese is golden.
6. **Rest and Serve:** Let it rest for 10 minutes, garnish with basil, slice and serve.

Enjoying lasagna while being a lactose intolerant individual is indeed possible with a few modifications and lactose-free alternatives. Here is how someone with lactose intolerance can savor this delicious dish:

1. **Use Lactose-Free Products**
   - Opt for lactose-free cheeses such as mozzarella and parmesan. Many stores offer lactose-free cheese options that melt and taste very similar to regular cheese.
   - If using ricotta, seek out lactose-free ricotta cheese or consider tofu-based ricotta alternatives.

2. **Make a Lactose-Free Bechamel Sauce**
   - Instead of using regular milk in the bechamel sauce, use lactose-free milk, such as lactose-free cow’s milk or plant-based options like almond, soy or hot milk.

3. **Experiment With Dairy Alternatives**
   - For ricotta, consider using a tofu-based ricotta substitute. Blend silken tofu with a touch of lemon juice, salt and garlic for a dairy-free ricotta-like filling.

4. **Choose Lactose-Free Pasta**
   - Some stores offer gluten-free and lactose-free lasagna noodles made from rice or corn.

5. **Minimize Dairy Usage**
   - While layering your lasagna, use less cheese if you are sensitive to lactose. Focus on other flavorful ingredients like the meat sauce, herbs and vegetables to enhance the taste.

- All is said and done, as you lift the fork towards your mouth, anticipation fills the air. The lasagna, a masterpiece of Italian cuisine, traps you with its enticing aroma and layers of goodness. With the first bite, you are transported on a sensory journey.
- The pasta, soft and comforting, cradles the savory meat sauce, creating a symphony of flavors that play on your taste buds. Melted cheese adds a luxurious richness, and each cheesy string seems to pull you deeper into having another bite. A subtle blend of herbs and spices adds complexity, like a delicious secret waiting to be uncovered.
- With each subsequent bite, a feeling of warmth and contentment washes over your taste buds. The textures, a delightful mix of pasta, sauce, and cheese, create a satisfying taste. If you opted for ricotta, you made the right choice! The creamy indulgence takes the dish to another level.
- Each mouthful is an exploration, a tribute and a taste that transcends the ordinary. In this moment, the outside world fades away, leaving you with the pure pleasure of enjoying a perfectly crafted lasagna. It is a reminder that life’s simple joys can be found in a dish that has stood the test of time, offering comfort, tradition and fulfillment with every delectable bite.
- So, if you have been hesitating to try lasagna or haven’t indulged in a while, it is time to seize up the courage. Do not miss out on the opportunity to try out the layers of flavor, the cheesy perfection, and the comforting embrace of this beloved Italian classic. Treat yourself to a slice of lasagna, and you’ll understand why it has captured the hearts and plates of people around the world for generations. You are missing out no more and are about to embark on a delightful culinary journey. Enjoy!
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What is your fall guilty pleasure?
By Karsten Englander
Director of Photography

“*You know those little Netflix original Christmas movies? Yeah, those. I binge-watch all of them, every single one.*”

Crisainy Valdez
Junior
Psychology

“My fall guilty pleasure is 90 Day Fiance, the TLC show. My mom and I watch it all of the time. The couples are crazy, but reality TV is too good sometimes.”

Jenna Cecere
Senior
English

“My fall guilty pleasure is definitely the Starbucks pumpkin drinks.”

Abigail Duardo
Sophomore
Biology
“Warm blankets. As well as fuzzy socks that keep me nice and warm. Really anything warm, fuzzy and cozy.”

Yash Thakur
Senior
Applied Mathematics and Statistics

“Currently, my fall guilty pleasure is eating pumpkin pie and watching movies in my bed.”

Jazmyn Acevedo
Freshman
Business Administration

“Those Pillsbury cookies and watching a horror movie like scream is definitely my fall guilty pleasure.”

Ella Duffy
Sophomore
Film
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| **Capricorn**  
Dec. 22 – Jan. 19  
Right now everything is great, everyone is happy, everyone is in love and that is wonderful. But you gotta know that sooner or later you’re gonna be screaming at each other about who’s gonna get this dish. This eight dollar dish will cost you a thousand dollars in phone calls to the legal firm of That’s Mine, This Is Yours.  |
| **Cancer**  
Jun. 21 – Jul. 22  
This week is all about changing your appearance. Go dye your hair! Go get a new piercing! Go get Eren Jaeger’s eyes tattooed on your forearm when you’re nineteen and live with that forever! Go shopping at your favorite store!  |
| **Aquarius**  
Jan. 20 – Feb. 18  
Be sure to humble your father this week. That’s the only way he’ll respect you. Or he’ll get all dejected and cut you off financially. Roll the dice, baby!  |
| **Leo**  
Jul. 23 – Aug. 22  
Leo, now is the time for you to enter your “Speed” era. It’s where you get on as many buses as possible in hopes that one of them is rigged to explode like the bus from the movie “Speed.” You can be Keanu Reeves thanks to your knowledge of the movie “Speed.” Don’t rig the bus yourself though. That would be foolish.  |
| **Pisces**  
Feb. 19 – Mar. 20  
Love is not in the air for you this week. But it is Red October! Be sure to celebrate every fleeting Nick Castellanos home run as loudly as possible to drown out your peers experiencing a more permanent, genuine sense of joy.  |
| **Virgo**  
Aug. 23 – Sep. 22  
Donate your kidneys to something bigger than yourself. Like John Cena. That dude’s huge. He could use an extra set.  |
| **Aries**  
Mar. 21 – Apr. 19  
Have an okay week for me. Not too good, but not too bad. Maybe try and just be content with your life but you secretly yearn for something greater.  |
| **Libra**  
Sep. 23 – Oct. 22  
Libra! It’s fascinating how your sign sounds so much like “library” and yet your reading skills are at a third grade level. Crack a book this week! It’ll do you some good.  |
| **Taurus**  
Apr. 20 – May 20  
Love is in the air for you this week. It’s been a long time coming. Who knew someone could be single and miserable for so long? It’s actually quite impressive.  |
| **Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 – Nov. 21  
Go ahead. Send THIS horoscope in the Slack work group chat even though it’s only like the fourth funniest one this week.  |
| **Gemini**  
May 21 – Jun. 20  
My hatred for you is dimming as I once again am getting laid. Enjoy these next three months as I find happiness and then it is suddenly ripped away from me. We will meet again, Gemini.  |
| **Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22 – Dec. 21  
This week, you’re getting beaten up. And you’ll probably deserve it. Start wearing hockey pads, you poor, blood-sodden fool.  |
The Montclarion Crossword Puzzle and More!

Kayla Nicole: The Epitome of Black Girl Magic Edition

By Lynise Olivacce & Sekhena Sembenu

Across
4. Love a Black woman to infinity to ___.
6. What conference did she speak at previously?
8. What is Kayla Nicole's occupation?
9. In 2016, what reality show did Kayla Nicole star in?
10. What panel will she speaking on this week?

Down
1. Kayla Nicole graduated from Pepperdine University with a Bachelor's Degree in ___?
2. What is the name of her health and wellness fitness brand?
3. Kayla Nicole said, “There is a power in your ___,” in her letter to Black girls.
5. In her letter to Black girls, she stated that she created her platform not to create division but to elevate and ___ Black women.
7. In her letter to Black girls, Kayla Nicole stated, “You are part of something way ___.”

Word Search


Fitness                         Essence                     Model
Infinity                         That Girl                     Travel
Role Model                        Black Girl Magic               Influencer

Sudoku

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Hint: (Her letter to Black girls is her first reel on her Instagram @iamkaylanicole)
Residents Or Commuters? Montclair State Students Resort To Living Off Campus At Bloomfield College

By Jayr Abad

With the growing number of students, housing on campus has become less accessible more than ever before. Montclair State University’s solution? Moving students to Montclair State University’s residential students more than ever before. Montclair [State] residential housing waitlist at a greater-than-usual student housing waitlist nearly tripled this year. But should that be considered a feat or a problem?

While it seems like a good thing they are making room for students who need housing, it poses some major problems as well as not being the perfect solution for students in need of housing.

Dawn Soufleris, the vice president for Student Development and Campus Life at Montclair State, stated, “Our student housing waitlist nearly tripled this year...We had a high returner retention rate and very low no-show numbers, which together reflect the growing number of students who want to attend the University and have a residential experience.”

Montclair State has a problem with the amount of students they are admitting into the school. They believe it is an impressive feat, but all it does is cause problems. Having your waitlist triple is a problem, not a bragging point.

Students need housing to be able to attend school. What if out-of-state students cannot get housing and are no longer able to attend? Also, not every student has a car to transport them from the Bloomfield campus to Montclair State’s campus. Luckily, Montclair State offers a solution by offering free rides on a shuttle from and to Bloomfield College.

However, if you are a student a Montclair State who takes the shuttle, you probably know they are not reliable. Students constantly complain about the shuttles making them late for class due to traffic and not showing up on time. Now, imagine a shuttle traveling from fifteen minutes away and dealing with outside traffic and on-campus traffic.

There might also not be enough seats for all the students who need to go back and forth between campuses and this could cause major problems. Even if they do have cars, they are still commuting to campus at this point. The whole point of dorming is to live on campus where you can walk from your bedroom to class in about five minutes. Soufleris also stated, “We have received very positive feedback from both the students and their families. From the exceedingly warm welcome we received on move-in day, to their comments regarding the beauty of the campus, everyone seems very happy... We expect interest from Montclair [State] students in living on the Bloomfield campus to continue to grow. We are already receiving new inquiries from students who are hearing from their peers about the great experience they are having living on the Bloomfield campus. This is a win-win all around.”

It is great to hear students are enjoying their time at Bloomfield, but it still is a reminder that this school has too many students and is failing to accommodate many of them. Maybe if the administration stopped letting in so many students, we would not need to resort to Bloomfield College to house students.
What Happened to Media?

Jeffrey Offiah
Guest Writer

F or years now, entertainment and media companies have leaned heavily on bankable franchises, sequels, reboots and remakes. Marvel Studios alone has produced dozens of the same type of movie in a span of about ten years. The music industry has relied more and more on the virality of music on TikTok for the average person’s pocket. Social media platforms have risen in technology have not only created forms of media where profits win over creativity. Where profit is king, with everything becoming more accessible now with various social media platforms out there, it’s no surprise that user numbers are soaring. There seems to be a barrage of content machines to generate profits. This is better for culture, because money and profits do not dictate every-thing, and thus, creativity and originality are more likely they are to spend time on entertainment and thus help their profits. The consequence—video games becomes easier, and a user’s experience worries.

Hollywood has been known to produce three types of movies on a budget scale. The indie, mid-budget, and blockbuster. These all range from low to high on the monetary scale, with companies shelling out hundreds of millions to produce blockbusters. Indies are more known to win Acad-emy Awards, while blockbusters bring in the money. Marvel has produced 32 superhero movies in a span of ten years (from 2007 to 2017), with many of them hitting the one billion gross mark, and “Avengers: Endgame” being the highest-grossing movie of all time. Entertainment companies have looked to blockbusters in recent years to hold consumer attention and for their profits. But when is it too much? For better or for worse, no other company has done what Marvel has. The Star Wars franchise was rebooted with the release of Star Wars: The Force Awakens in 2015, that garnered harsh reviews from critics, exemplifying Hollywood’s reliance on reboots in modern times. Marvel’s stunts were that consequences on culture, being an egregious case where profits win over creativity. The Star Wars franchise was rebooted with the release of Star Wars: The Force Awakens in 2015, that garnered harsh reviews from critics, exemplifying Hollywood’s reliance on reboots in modern times. Marvel’s stunts were that consequences on culture, being an egregious case where profits win over creativity. The reason why this has happened to media is because advancements in technology have not only created the internet but have also put mobile computers with internet access, in the pockets of billions of people. This—among other things, such as Wi-Fi and 4G. Technology has made media highly accessible to the average person, which allows for things such as streaming, etc.

Thus, companies reboot their old, beloved properties, for a tried and true formula that generates profits (such as Disney rebooting all of its classic films). While a company such as Mar-vel will make the same type of movie over and over again, dumping content for the sake of content culture, for prof-its. This creates a cultural landscape where profit is king, with everything being recycled for its sake.

Culture has not had a moment where an original film of the likes of “Star Wars” could entertain and inspire a generation in a long time. Originality and creativity have not been allowed to shine as they once did, and thus, media has become the backbone of content machines to generate profits. It is this creativity and originality that pushes a culture forward and allows us to question who we are. But of course, we could just go see the most recent Marvel movie, because it’s accessible and will be entertaining.

Jeffrey Offiah, a senior English major, is in his first year as a guest writer for The Montclarion.
“Janet, Your Toaster Isn’t Plotting Against You”  
by Cassidy Cooney | Contributing Writer

Janet with the crazy hair  
Told me that LED lights aren’t real  
And I said, “Janet,  
Where’s your mind going  
Every time you wail that spiel?”  
She’s been so insistent  
That we’re missing  
Out on something big  
That the government’s conspiring  
Against lamps and Christmas rigs  
Yet I do not have the heart  
To tell her that she’s lost her mind  
But I worry that she’s traveling  
Going back through years of time  
“Janet, please just listen,”  
My friend, Marcus, begs and pleads.  
“There’s a doctor down by Vagrant Street  
And he’ll give you what you need.”  
Yet Janet never listens  
And she spirals into thread  
Eventually amassing  
To the point where she won’t leave her bed

“Broken Road”  
by Rosemary Rodriguez | Staff Writer

Some things get tatted to me  
Without ink  
But as of late ink hasn’t seemed to suffice  
Anyway

Spiders can just be spiders  
But you don’t need me  
To tell you that And you don’t need to know  
Oh won’t you be wide-eyed for me  
Again love?  
I haven’t created gold  
But I’ve made it shine for you  
Gnaw on it for a bit before spitting it  
Back to me  
As I’ll be paying the toll  
On this broken road
"A Whole New World in My Best Friend's Closet"
by Anexis Matos | Staff Writer

Why did she agree to come here?

"Come on," Kate said hours ago. "It'll be fun."

Right. Her best friend invited her to a party and she's been looking for an excuse to leave the house. This, though? This is what she agreed to? She sighs, opening the door to Kate's room. Music blasts through the house. The sometimes irritating and sometimes enjoyable beat of rap makes the walls and floor vibrate.

She enters the bedroom, closing the door behind her. The music is quieter. The only bright side to this party is that it's at Kate's house. A place she knows well. Kate's room is spacious. She got lost the first few times she came here. She still does sometimes. It's the size of a living room.

She walks slowly to one of the chairs. As she sits, the closet door behind her opens. She blinks at the cold wind that hits her. Goosebumps break out across her skin. What the hell?

The door closes. She should let Kate know. What the hell just happened?

She should… Something pulls on her.

The door. She should see what it is. No reason to alarm Kate, right?

She stands and approaches the closet. She shouldn't do this, but the door calls to her. She can't understand it, but it does.

She opens the closet door. Ignoring the cold air, she enters and…

She slips on ice. She reaches out desperately, grabbing a nearby rail before she falls on her butt. She slowly straightens and, still holding on, she climbs down the steps. She should turn back, but…

"And what would a mortal be doing in my realm?" The masculine voice wraps around her. Deep. Baritone, yet somehow louder than the cold, harsh wind.

"Why is it so cold in your realm?" she says.

"It's winter," he says. "It's expected to be cold. What are you doing here? Why do you not have a coat?"

"I didn't plan to come here."

"Why didn't you then?"

"Curiosity."

"Not a good enough answer."

"It's the only one I have." A moment of silence.

"How did you get here, mortal?"

"By accident," she replies.

"Accident or not, you need to go back. This place is not for mortals."

"Then why was I called here?"

"Because the realm has a tendency to call people here. Most simply ignore it. Go home, mortal. These are things beyond your control. Next time the realm calls to you, ignore it."

She considers asking, but decides not to. The man seems nice, but the air around her is strange. It crackles with uncertainty. "Okay. Thank you."

"You're welcome," he says. She turns and climbs up the stairs. She finds the door again and enters Kate's bedroom. She closes it behind her, glad for the warmth.

"Did you go through the closet door?"

She jumps at Kate's voice.

"Yeah. It randomly opened." She pauses. "I swear it called to me."

Kate considers, looking at her friend. "How was it?"

She tells Kate about the other world. About the man who sent her back. "You should listen to him," Kate says.

"That world seems strange."

"I know," she says.

"He told me to ignore it if it calls to me. I will. I'll admit I'm curious."

"I am, too, but we shouldn't get involved in things like this. Magic is strange sometimes." She nods, noticing the silence.

"Where is everyone?"

"They left," Kate says.

"The party's over. You've been gone for two hours," she blinks, "two hours? It felt like no more than two minutes."

"I know," Kate says. "Anyway, do you want to stay over or do you want me to drive you home?"

"I don't have anything with me."

"Okay. Let's go then."

She follows Kate out of the house. She suppresses a sigh as they enter Kate's vehicle. What a strange night.
"MODERN ART GALLERY" by Andy Cook

"Scrap"
"Dog 2" by Nicholas Vidal | @nickyontheweb

"Can you even play?" by Zachary Rios | @mungeons
Top 5 Films For “Franken-Weenies”

Jenna Wilkinson
Assistant Entertainment Editor

1. ‘Scream’ (Hulu) - Ok. ok. technically “Scream” counts as a horror movie. However, with the campy practical effects, lack of jump scares and comically bad kills, we are certain any scaredy cat can still handle “Scream.” “Scream” follows the small town of Woodsboro as a masked killer terrorizes the teens of the town. Watch as the teens, especially Sydney Prescott, survive the rampage of the masked killer and party their way through a town lockdown. “Scream” is filled with the most iconic slasher characters you can imagine and by far the best reveal of a killer in any slasher franchise. “Scream” is the perfect movie. Period. It tops any slasher ever created by far; it is the pinnacle of Halloween to me. It is not Halloween until I’ve indulged in a marathon of every single “Scream” movie and subjected any friend who has yet to watch the franchise to join me. The kills are crafted in a way that makes your jaw drop every time, and the blend of classic slasher with 90’s comedy is completely unbeatable. If you have never seen “Scream,” you are missing the experience of a lifetime. There you have it! The ultimate festive movie list that will get you ready for Halloween. While you are at it, try and expose yourself to some real horror too. Weenie.

2. ‘The Craft’ (Hulu) - “The Craft” follows Sarah, a teenage girl who has recently moved to California and meets a trio of teenage witches. The witches quickly accept Sarah as their fourth, the final sector of their coven, with Sarah in the coven, each of their powers grows stronger; however, they learn quickly that any spell they cast, will come back to them times three. An eclectic and beautiful take on a coming of age movie in the best whimsigoth fashion. “The Craft” has a piece of my heart. It hits every sweet spot for me, witches, 90’s vampy costumes, lesbian undertones, and strong powerful women blazing their way through their society. Before the downfall of the coven, it also has strong themes of sisterhood and portrays a beautiful bond of women empowering each other and gaining strength through each other. Every single piece of this movie is beautifully crafted... and yes, I do relate heavily to Nancy Downs.

3. ‘Coraline’ (MAX) - You already knew this one was coming. The animated film follows a young and curious Coraline as she travels through a door into an alternate dimension, where she finds a world that contains everything she has ever wanted. Everything seems perfect in this world beyond the trap doors... or is it? “Coraline” is a stop-motion film that intricately uses everyday objects like buttons and ribbons, and perfectly melds it into a new world that sucks every viewer in. We become Coraline in a sense, as we are transported to this alternate dimension with bright colors and visions. I will admit, “Coraline” still scares me a little. It is not in the horror genre whatsoever, but as a movie designed for kids, it still holds some serious creep-out factor to it. However, “Coraline” still takes the cake among the top three animated movies that will leave you lying awake in the middle of the night and staring at the ceiling contemplating existence.

4. ‘It’s The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown’ (Apple TV+) - A childhood staple for many, written by Charles Schulz and directed by Bill Melendez, the 1966 cartoon “It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown” is your classic holiday-themed Charlie Brown special. Watch the peanut gang trick or treat, Snoopy dive into the lore of the Red Baron, and ask yourself the never-ending question, “Will the Great Pumpkin show up this Halloween?” With endless quotable moments like “I got a rock,” this cartoon classic is sure to get you in the Halloween spirit!

For me, Autumn does not truly start until I have nestled into the couch with a pumpkin chai, and watched “It’s the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown.” It is one of those cartoons that evokes nostalgia in the purest sense. There is nothing more cozy than the Vince Guaraldi score and the dancing visuals of the film. It is just the most perfect Fall cartoon.

5. ‘The Rocky Horror Picture Show’ (Hulu) - Looking for a Zany cult classic with no real plot? Well, you have found it. A movie musical surrounding two normal newly engaged young adults, Brad and Janet, who find themselves stranded on the side of the road on a dark stormy night. With nowhere to turn, they seek help in the towering light of Frank N’ Furter’s castle. Full of interesting characters and bright vibrant personalities, Brad and Janet navigate through their evening in the castle and learn things about themselves they never knew they held. With themes of sexual- ity, growth, acceptance, and overall campiness, “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” steals the hearts of anyone who watches it.

“Rocky Horror” is one of those movies that you watch once and then devote your entire life to. It’s a full-body experience that entraps you within the world of the film within minutes. The chaos and lack of structure in the film enhance the experience. It is not something you need to sit and unpack. Just buckle in for the ride and enjoy it.

Photo courtesy of Columbia Pictures

Photo courtesy of United Feature Syndicate

Photo courtesy of Dimension Films

Photo courtesy of LAIKA

Photo courtesy of 20th Century Studios

Photo courtesy of Dimension Films

Photo courtesy of United Feature Syndicate
"Dicks": A Modest Review Of A Not So Modest Musical

Rosetta Cabelin
Guest Writer

*Dicks* is an explosively raunchy musical.

**Dicks: The Musical**

**Directed by:** Larry Charles
**Written by:** Josh Sharp, Aaron Jackson
**Cast:** Megan Mulally, Megan Thee Stallion, Nathan Lane, Bowen Yang, Amy Schumer, Josh Sharp, Tom Kenny
**Rated:** R, 86 minutes

Growing up in a religious household has taught me the value of discerning right from wrong. So when Larry Charles’ “Dicks: The Musical” first previewed in theaters, I knew I had to see the damn thing in its entirety—regardless of my preconceived notions of humor. “Dicks” is a satirical take on movie musicals and “The Parent Trap,” as it centers around salesmen Craig and Trevor’s queenpin boss. She does it all, serves, eats and leaves not even an iota of crumb with her song “Out Alpha The Alpha.” Even beloved voice actor Tom Kenny joins in on the fun as both of the Sewer Boys. Jackson mused on having his film praised by legends at the Toronto International Film Festival premiere. “It’s just a bizarre casting miracle where we sent them the video of the stage show and the script and they all said yeah.”

As if this movie couldn’t get any more controversial, religion is also thrown into the mix. I have always pictured God as an old wizard who had the whole world in his hands. He was noble, full of wisdom and the parts of his beard that fell off became clouds in the sky. But “Dicks” suggests that perhaps God is not how we imagined him to be in our youth. More specifically he is gay, quirky and played by Asian-American actor Bowen Yang. Though the movie is not pushing towards a philosophical debate, I like this portrayal of God.

If you are looking for a film that presents healthy sibling dynamics, keep on looking. My mother asked me if there was anything, anything at all that was sweet or quirky good hearted about it. My answer was a giant whopping no. It is called “Dicks” for a reason. Mom, I will admit the moment when Nathan Lane kisses his sewer boys goodbye to reunite with his actual family is surprisingly touching. And then we get the scene right after, which I cannot explain in full detail for the sake of modesty. And spoiled! But mainly modesty.

The film ends on a “WTF did I just watch” note as the whole cast joins together for a slightly problematic wedding ceremony officiated by God. The final number “All Love Is Love” is reminiscent of a congregational song, and it got me, my brother and the whole theater amped up and singing along.

In summary, I thoroughly enjoyed this movie despite its outrageous, slightly controversial humor. I believe I would watch it again if I needed a full belly laugh. That being said, this movie is not fit for a family gathering or your grandparents’ birthday party. If anything, it teaches one not to be like the two main characters, who are in every essence of the word, “Dicks.”

*Photo courtesy of A24*

-- Colin Ludertiz
Entertainment Editor

Editor's Choice

"After Hours" on MAX

While it’s not as famous (or infamous) as many of Martin Scorsese’s other works, his 1985 directorial effort “After Hours” is possibly Scorsese’s funniest film andundenably his strangest. The film follows Paul Hacketti, a put-upon word processor who tries his attempts to hook up with a woman he met at a diner lead him to a nightmarish, Kafka-esque series of misadventures through SoHo as the midnight oil burns in the city that never sleeps.

“After Hours” is Scorsese’s only film that can be outright defined as a comedy, but could very well be a horror film too. Paul is a typical male Scorsese lead, being just charasmatic enough to watch but just awful enough to take delight in his suffering.

In addition to Dunne, the film’s sprawling cast is brilliant, including Rosanna Arquette as the quirky, but evidently traumatized woman who sets Paul on his bizarre journey, Linda Fiorentino as a sculptress with a knack for masochism, and Catherine O’Hara as a Mister Softee driver with a screw loose. Overall, “After Hours” is a delightfully strange, thrilling, and hilarious watch.

*Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.*

-- Colin Luderitz
Entertainment Editor

From “Yellowstone” creator Taylor Sheridan, “Wind River” is a 2017 neo-Western crime drama starring Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olsen as two agents investigating the murder of an 18-year-old Indigenous woman on Wyoming’s Wind River Indian Reservation.

A dark, harrowing story told in a tasteful, emotional way, “Wind River” is one of the best works of Sheridan, whose other credits include films like “Sicario” and “Hell or High Water.” Sheridan made the film with the explicit intent of raising awareness for the disproportionately high number of Indigenous women who are raped and murdered and the film does so without ever feeling exploitative or gratuitous. The performances are fantastic, the cinematography is appropriately bleak and the story has an honest emotional core that cuts through the violence and overwhelming sadness that permeates the film. “Wind River” is worthy of your time and more than worthy of reflection on how Indigenous people are treated by our nation on the whole.

*Photo courtesy of STX Entertainment*

-- Colin Luderitz
Entertainment Editor

-- Colin Luderitz
Entertainment Editor

-- Colin Luderitz
Entertainment Editor

-- Colin Luderitz
Entertainment Editor
Kevin Olivieri
Staff Writer

TAYLOR SWIFT: THE ERAS TOUR
Director: Sam Wrench
Cast: Taylor Swift
Rated: PG-13, 168 minutes
5 out of 5

Taylor Swift has been one of the biggest stars in the music industry since her debut album back in 2006. However, it feels as though Swift has reached a whole new echelon of fame and success that we have never seen before. In “The Eras Tour,” Swift takes us on a journey through her career, spanning nearly two decades of classic hits and iconic songwriting. Taylor Swift has been one of the biggest stars in the music industry since her debut album back in 2006. However, it feels as though Swift has reached a whole new echelon of fame and success that we have never seen before. In “The Eras Tour,” Swift takes us on a journey through her career, spanning nearly two decades of classic hits and iconic songwriting.

As a lifelong Swift fan, I have always felt a closeness to her. Either when I was in first grade and I was singing along to “Our Song” or when I was a sophomore in high school going through the “reputation” era, Swift has always been there. It was not until “The Eras Tour” that I realized I am far from the only one who feels the same way.

I went to “The Eras Tour” with my best friend and I was telling her while we were waiting in the long line to get one of the collectible “Eras Tour” cups, that I could not believe how many people were there. I went wearing my “Eras Tour” hoodie I got at the live show, but I was underdressed compared to many at the theater. It is not just that there were a lot of people, it is the fact that there are so many different age groups, costumes inspired by specific eras and lyrics and merchandise, that all felt like I had entered a Swift universe and then lived there for four hours.

The film feels almost exactly like the stadium experience. I saw “The Eras Tour” live when it came to MetLife Stadium on May 26 this year, and I felt like I was there again when watching the film. From the moment she comes on the stage performing “Miss Americana and the Heartbreak Prince,” you get the exact same excitement as you would seeing her in person. During my theater-going experience, there was shrieking fans both young and old, screaming “TAYLOR!” or “I LOVE YOU!” like she was in the room with us. There were people dancing on the stairs around the seats, dancing in their seats and tons of people recording the screen like they were legitimately at the stadium show.

Now, these disruptions in a theater can definitely be perceived as obnoxious or annoying but, here, it never felt that way. One of the overwhelming feelings I felt in the theater was genuine kindness and safety. I heard a group of young kids behind me exchanging friendship bracelets with another group of young kids and they were complimenting each other saying “You look so good!” or “I love your outfit.” That made me realize that this is a reflection of the type of person Swift is and the ultimate message she wants to send with her fame. Swift’s fame and generosity knows no bounds. We must remember, “The Eras Tour” is the same tour where Swift gave each truck driver for the tour a $100,000 bonus with a personalized card written by her, delivered by her father.

This whole experience is so special because it gives everyone who did not have a chance to get tickets to the real thing, go to show and get an amazing view. As for the film itself, there is no wonder why Swift would want to put this on the big screen because it is a full on spectacle. It is breathtaking at times and incredibly cinematic.

Since each era has a different theme, seeing them close up and on this huge screen makes it more accessible and able to process and feel the differences between each era. Two of the lowest moments in my screening were during many of the big hits like “Blank Space” and “Love Story.” But thanks to Swift having a widespread catalog, that special intimacy you felt in the audience when she sang songs from “Folklore” and “Evermore” specifically that stood out to me.

The film is the most see event of the season. There are truly so many things to mention about how special this moment is, it is overwhelming. From the film itself, to the audience, to the outfits, the songs and the money involved, it is all so much. Swift does an absolute perfect job of recreating a stadium concert environment in a movie theater. The theater was like the “Church of Swift,” with the huge crowds of dedicated fans shouting and dancing throughout the almost three hour spectacle.

For a two hour and 48 minute film, it went incredibly fast. By the time the “Midnights” era came, the final era of the tour setlist, I was telling my friend I could not believe it was almost over. There were even songs from the setlist that Swift cut from the theatrical film. One of the cut songs, “Long Live,” ends up being played over the credits which perfectly closes the show out in the most Swift way possible.

Her fame, presence and impact are truly once in a lifetime. She transcends generations and touches the souls of what feels like more people than there are possible.

The “Eras Tour” film is like the Swiftie Super Bowl, times 100. As Swift sings in “Long Live,” “I said remember this moment...” and I will.
Nobody Knows What Tomorrow Will Bring
In ‘Nadie Sabe Lo Que Va A Pasar Mañana’

Bad Bunny hosted a listening party at the Coliseo de Puerto Rico.

Tiffany Echeverría
Staff Writer

‘Nadie Sabe Lo Que Va A Pasar Mañana’
Album by Bad Bunny
Label: RIMAS
Explicit, Reggaeton, 81 mins
4.5 out of 5

Bad Bunny has just released his seventh album, entitled “Nadie Sabe Lo Que Va A Pasar Mañana.” This is a 22 track album, featuring collaborations with artists such as Arcángel, Bryant Myers, De La Ghetto, Eladio Carrión, Young Miko and Ferxxo. The one hour and 21 minutes worth of music has been produced by, Tainy, MAG and La Paciencia and others. Bad Bunny hosted a listening party at the Coliseo de Puerto Rico. Benito not only had his collaborators from the album present but the artist himself was also there to share this moment with his fans.

“NADIE SABE” is the first track and it begins with a sweet symphony. This track is the longest on the album. In this track, Bad Bunny expresses his fortune and struggles alongside his fame. He uses this moment to critique social judgments and sings about genuine connections and the impact he has had on the world. He makes sure to remind everyone that no one can predict the future and tells all of his fans who are listening to live in the moment and be true to themselves.

“MONACO,” the second track, begins with elegant violin and piano melodies, before becoming infused with Bunny’s hard trap. This is proper Bad Bunny fashion and while doing so, he begins to chant how there is no competition when it comes to being

The following tracks like “FINA,” “HIBIKI,” “MR. OCTOBER,” “CYBER-TRUCK,” “YOU 787” and “SEDÁ” feature collaborations with Young Miko and Mora and bring Benito back to his trap foundations while also including his new futuristic sounds that are an alternative to his 2023 reality.

“SEDÁ” the eighth track of the album, has Bad Bunny in collaboration with Bryant Myers. These two created a slow paced trap song. This song reminds fans who have followed Benito since 2017 why he is a householder name. The song starts off with a robotic vocal by Myers who introduces Benito with “dímelo conejo.” Benito then jumps on the verse with Myers about staying with a girl who has turned their worlds upside down.

“GRACIAS POR NADA” is the ninth track and Benito is singing his usual anthem about heartbreak. This is one of the album’s most sentimental songs. Tracks like “TELEFONO NUEVO,” “BABY NUEVA,” “MERCEDES CARROTA,” “LOS PITS,” “VUELVE CANDY B” and “BATICANO” all have one thing in common. They all express how there is no way they can ever recover from being with someone like Bad Bunny. Benito makes it clear in these tracks that he wishes you the best. Even though the best is him. He also likes to repeat multiple times that once you are out of his inner circle there is no going back. For example, the final blow in “BABY NUEVA” is “Not even my mother loves you anymore.”

“NO ME QUIERO CASAR” is the sixteenth track on the album. Here, Benito prefers to stay solo. He also refers to the title of the album, and his state of mind towards the end of the track saying, “I don’t know what’s going to happen, I feel sad, but it will pass.”

“WHERE SHE GOES” and “THUNDER Y LIGHTNING” are tracks seventeen and eighteen. Track seventeen was released earlier in the year of 2023 and was a certified club banger. “WHERE SHE GOES” is a sensual song about chasing that person you crave for. Track eighteen is a collaboration with Eladio Carrión. It introduces a relentless drill beat filled with sinister flair. The power that Carrión and Benito bring to the track is powerful. From the verses not only underline their dominance but also show the Latin music scene how they run the trap world.

“PEÑO NEGRO” being the nineteenth track was the most anticipated track. This track has artist Ferxxo who brings a vibrant urbano culture. Their voices bring a comforting emotion to the album. The song encapsulates the spirit of the essence of the city of Medellín in Colombia. The song “PEÑO NEGRO” takes after a club name in Colombia. The reggaetón gem will definitely keep you moving.

Tracks “EUROPA ?,” “ACHO PR” and “UN PREVIEW” close out the album. “EUROPA ?” is an 11-second interlude that serves as the perfect intro to “ACHO PR,” a very prideful song about representing Puerto Rico and being Puertorriqueño. This album offers an opportunity to step into Latin culture and experience new standards for pop music. These 22 tracks are a celebration of the artist who reminds us that nobody knows what tomorrow will bring.
Graduate student Kelly Fitzgerald has started in all 15 games so far at Montclair State and has two goals and one assist.

Wyatt Lardieri
Staff Writer

Montclair State University women’s soccer team ended their 2022 season in disappointment, both in conference play and in the NCAA DIII national tournament. After a successful regular season, the Red Hawks found themselves in the NJAC final and the second round of the NCAA tournament. Ultimately the team fell short in both tournaments and ended their season without raising a trophy.

Coming into this season, the Montclair State women’s soccer staff looked to add talented and experienced players to strengthen the roster, and they found a gem.

Graduate student defender Kelly Fitzgerald originally went to the University of Rhode Island for her first four years of college, playing soccer there as a central defender. Once she came here, she became a graduate student she decided to transfer, eventually picking Montclair State.

“I wanted to be near home for my last season because my family is really big on soccer,” Fitzgerald said. “I came here and I loved it and out of all my options, I knew I would be really comfortable and happy here. I knew that the team chemistry was really good, and the coaching staff was really good so I knew it was the right fit.”

Transferring schools is not typically a smooth experience, especially for athletes. The pressures of learning a new system, meeting new teammates and settling down in a new environment can be daunting.

However, the transition for Fitzgerald could not have been steadier thanks to the positive culture that has been built at Montclair State.

“On the first day, they welcomed all the new players,” Fitzgerald said. “Freshman, fifth years, graduate students with open arms and that was really obvious on the first day. You (typically) don’t see that. They’re all really nice and really positive. They want to play and they’re willing to win.”

Fitzgerald made an immediate impact as she was named a starter for Montclair State’s opening game against Alvernia University. She has since been a consistent starter and key member of the defense throughout the season.

“Kelly’s been a great addition,” Head coach Patrick Naughter said. “She’s a very good player, she’s an experienced kid. We took some significant injuries in the back this year over the summer and in preseason. Not only did we need quality, we needed experience and she’s provided both.”

The Red Hawks are currently in the midst of an extremely impressive season. Ranked eleventh nationally, and boasting a record of 9-2-2, it is clear the team is both extremely talented and even more determined to win. A large part of the Red Hawks’ success has been their ability to keep the ball out of the net, only conceding eleven goals over the course of the season.

For goalkeeper Haley Martin, the defensive effort has been remarkable.

“They always make my job easier, I owe everything to them,” Martin said. “They make playing this game a lot more fun. As a goalkeeper, you don’t want to do a lot more communicating and moving your players. I don’t need to do much of that, they know where they’re going, they get the ball out when they need to, and if there is a shot they make sure it’s in a savable range. They do a lot of that, they know where things really well,” Naughter said. “She’s a physical, tough defender. On the first day, they welcomed all the new players.”

Montclair State is a special education major and wants to work with people who are in need.

The pressures of learning a new system, meeting new teammates and settling down in a new environment can be daunting. However, the transition for Fitzgerald could not have been steadier thanks to the positive culture that has been built at Montclair State.

“At the University of Rhode Island, Fitzgerald had 33 starts in her career. At Montclair State, she’s one of our targets on corners and free kicks. She had a big assist the other night to get us going. She hits the ball really well. Both sides of the ball, she’s a difference maker.”

With only four games remaining in the regular season and playoffs looming, the Red Hawks are more determined than ever.

“I think we can go super far,” Fitzgerald said. “I know last year they went super far and we’re all really positive about the next two weeks and what we can get accomplished.”

With a mixture of new and veteran talent, this Red Hawks team has everything they need to soar to the heights that they want to reach this season.
Montclair State’s Late Effort was not Enough Against Amherst College

Montclair State’s Late Effort was not Enough Against Amherst College

Wyatt Lardieri
Staff Writer

The Montclair State University men’s soccer team looked to win their fourth game in a row against Amherst College this Sunday. After scoring four goals in each of their last three games, the Red Hawks were riding high coming into their matchup with the Mammoths.

Just seven seconds after the first whistle was blown, a yellow card was issued to Amherst senior forward Ada Okorogheye, much to the delight of a rowdy Amherst bench. The Mammoths came out strong and energetic, pressing on the ball at every touch by a Red Hawk. Amherst’s press, along with a very physical style of play, made the Red Hawks uncomfortable and led to numerous turnovers in the defensive part of the field.

Amherst’s offense was clicking early as they were finding success playing long balls in the air. The Mammoths’ noticeable height advantage allowed them to win headers and play the second ball. While the Mammoths were flying around the field, Montclair State was simply trying to weather the storm.

Junior Defender Ramo Lukovic believes the quick start for Amherst was the difference.

“Yeah [they caught us off guard] a little bit,” Lukovic said. “Especially those long balls. We got caught up deep on the first goal, just bad communication with the defenders.”

The first goal came from freshman Amherst forward Mohammed Nuhu. After Nuhu’s original shot was saved, the rebound fell kindly and Nuhu blasted it into the net.

Only three minutes later, Nuhu and the Mammoths found the back of the net again. After a cross was put into the box, the ball popped up, and Nuhu plucked it out of the air to score a gorgeous goal on the volley.

Initially, the linesman raised his flag to signal offside, but after a conference among the referees, the goal was allowed and Amherst led 2-0 in the seventeenth minute.

Amherst dominated the first half, having their way in the air and outmuscled the Red Hawks. Nuhu’s first-half brace was the only goal and put Montclair State in a 2-goal deficit to start the second half.

The Second half was much better for Montclair State as they switched from playing balls in the air to keeping the ball on the ground, mitigating Amherst’s height advantage.

“We played on the ground,” Lukovic said. “Our game plan at first was to get in behind their players but they were just too tall. We started playing on the ground, playing quick, and if we played like that the first half we would have more success.”

Montclair State pushed for a goal and found their opportunity in the seventy-fourth minute as Amer Lukovic was brought down in the box leading to a penalty. The penalty was subsequently scored by Lukovic who tucked it calmly into the bottom left corner as the keeper dove the wrong way, putting the score at 2-1 in favor of Amherst.

Montclair State’s effort was too little too late as they failed to find the equalizer and eventually lost. The Red Hawks record now stands at 12-2-1.

This Wednesday, Montclair State will look to get back on track against William Paterson in Red Bull Arena.

“It was a physical match as the two sides combined for 39 fouls.”

Photo Courtesy Of Vinny Gollotto

Junior forward Amer Lukovic scored his nation leading 23rd goal.

Wyatt Lardieri
Staff Writer

It was a physical match as the two sides combined for 39 fouls.

Photo Courtesy of Vinny Gollotto

Senior defender Enir Radonic advancing the ball up the pitch.

Photo Courtesy of Vinny Gollotto
Montclair State Suffers First NJAC Loss of the Season Against Salisbury University

The loss put Montclair State at 2-1 in conference play and they are currently second in the NJAC behind Christopher Newport.

Zachary Papenberg
Staff Writer

The Montclair State University football team had a tough time putting up points against Salisbury in Saturday's matchup. They were defeated by a final score of 31-12, as the Red Hawks just looked outmatched all day.

Salisbury opened up the scoring early with a 42-yard punt return and jumped out to an early 7-0 lead. Shortly after that, the woes continued as Montclair State fumbled the football, giving it right back to Salisbury. They wasted little time and punched in another touchdown on the run by Senior Joey Bildstein.

“aromatics piled up on the board for Salisbury, but the Red Hawks would not go into halftime empty handed. With 57 seconds left on the clock, Montclair State scored their first touchdown of the game on a pass play to fifth year wide receiver Clarence Wilkins.

The Red Hawks were seeking momentum and needed to bring the energy if they wanted to overcome a 24-6 deficit in the back half of this game. Despite showing a lot of fights, nothing seemed to be going their way as it was more of the same from Montclair State in the second half. Salisbury never looked back once they took the lead early on.

“The biggest thing we did wrong today was we let them get an early lead,” Head coach Mike Palazzo said. “When you get into a 17-0 hole it is hard to come back from, especially against a triple option school. It’s very hard to come back when you’re down because they could just pound the ball.”

That is exactly what Salisbury did as they continued to establish their dominance over the Red Hawks. It was not until the final minutes of the game that Montclair State put on another touchdown, but by that point it was too little too late.

“It’s the first year in doing some of the things we are doing so we have to continue to build,” Palazzo said. “I think that it showed today that we are still a little young and we still aren’t experienced in certain spots. We continue to build and we are gonna get better and better as we go on here.”

There is still a lot of season left and a bright future ahead of them. The men have proven time and time again that they have a non-quit attitude, wanting to take this program to the next level. Another opportunity arises next weekend as the Red Hawks are on the road against William Paterson University.

“Every week is a championship week,” Palazzo said. “We do not look past anything and we do not care about what the record is. It is just we got to win the week and that is what starts on Monday.”