On Oct. 18, The Montclarion published an article on our print publication, website and social media titled, “Montclair State University Students Call for Justice Amid Israel-Hamas War.” The coverage involved a brief but incomplete summary of the disturbing and unfortunate events that have been occurring in Palestine and Israel as well as the inaccurate portrayals of the demonstrations and vigils held on Montclair State University’s campus.

We acknowledge that it is critical to understand both sides of a story and more importantly, report in a fair and accurate manner. Given the sensitive nature of this story and the events transpiring, The Montclarion should have paid more attention to verbiage and language utilized throughout the article. In no way was it intended to portray the Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) at Montclair State and multiple communities in a stereotypical, racist and Islamophobic manner.

Additionally, The Montclarion wants to make it extremely clear that when giving attributes, we are quoting individuals. However, we understand the implications of specific words and phrases used in quotes within the article such as “protests are not ideal for either side and don’t have an impact,” “uneducated,” and “monster” and how they contribute to the ongoing narrative that results in violence and hate crimes towards multiple communities. We now understand how it was interpreted. There was no intention of portraying anyone as such.

Secondly, we recognize the article should have utilized more expertise in order to provide a fair representation. Following this, we acknowledge the safety concerns. It is one of The Montclarion’s top priorities to ensure the safety and security of our communities. We are committed to maintaining our journalistic integrity while also minimizing harm.

We acknowledge the effect the article has on multiple communities, and we have revised the article, removing photos and identification, in order to prevent harm.

The Montclarion is here to be a voice for the students by the students, and this recent indiscretion has emphasized the importance of preserving this promise to our readers.

We are committed to learning and educating ourselves about important and sensitive topics. We are continuing to do our due diligence as students and journalists.
The Montclarion is a publication of Montclarian Publishing, Inc. published weekly, except during the 2020 fall and 2021 spring semesters, examinations, summer and winter sessions. The Montclarion is funded by student fees distributed by Montclair State University and incoming advertising revenue. The views expressed in the Opinion section, with the exception of the Main Editorial, do not necessarily reflect the views of The Montclarion.

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

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

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The first issue of The Montclarion, then named The Pelican, was published on November 28, 1928.

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Celebrating Women's Entrepreneurship Week

Montclair State University's Feliciano Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation celebrated Women's Entrepreneurship Week with a women's business conference on Thursday, Oct. 18. Created with the intention of promoting authenticity and motivating women's entrepreneurship, the celebration began at Montclair State and grew, becoming a part of regularly scheduled October events amongst other institutions like the University of Pittsburgh, Ohio University, Rowan University and more.

The first event of the celebration was a luncheon, where guests were able to meet with other entrepreneurs or prospective entrepreneurs and share their experiences while grabbing a bite to eat. Some entrepreneurs even had the opportunity to showcase their businesses through tabling, such as Anna Sessoms, creator of the brand Enchantment Of Gardens. Her clothing is made from upcycled textiles and has been featured in the Nework Fashion Week Festival.

In addition to Sessoms, women entrepreneur Suri Hernandez was able to show off her various jewelry. Another woman entrepreneur, Alis Aryan, presented her business by displaying vibrant decorations.

Elizabeth Rich, director of the Feliciano Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, opened the floor with the meaning behind the theme of this year’s celebration: "Envisioning the Third Way: The Entrepreneurial Journey for Multi-Dimensional Women."

She described the environment as a safe space, where current entrepreneurs could come together to discuss their experiences and struggles and shed some light on how they overcame these struggles so prospective entrepreneurs have some cards up their sleeves.

“Our intention today is to create a space for celebration and love and resting for all of you for the next couple of hours," Rich said. "We have to come together in conversation and community which is so important. Nothing beats women coming together and supporting each other.”

The next speaker, Mimi Feliciano, is the founder and CEO of FEM Real Estate, a board member of the Feliciano Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and a board member of the Feliciano School of Business.

“We have partnered with over 257 colleges and universities from all 50 states and 45 countries around the world. We have welcomed over 7500 students in person and virtual to this event and we have learned the experiences from the journeys of over 160 amazing speakers and entrepreneurs,” Feliciano said. "The opportunity to share with each other and hear each other's stories and give each other support is a real blessing.”

After this, Cindy Spiegel, two-time bestselling author, delivered the keynote to the event: remaining authentic throughout one's career. She discussed various principles for entrepreneurship for women, each following the overarching theme of authenticity and being enough as you come.

"Start today as you are," Spiegel instructed. "You belong here. You do not need to be better, older, younger or different in any way.”

The next panel of the celebration was a fireside chat with Adriana Carrig and Amy Ogbonna. Carrig is the founder and CEO of Little Words Project, a bracelet company that offers wearable affirmations to its customers. Ogbonna is a board member of another nonprofit dedicated to promoting kindness among young women named Herself Co (formerly The Block Organization). When asked about parting advice for budding entrepreneurs, Carrig emphasized the need to continue instead of giving up when obstacles begin to pop up.

"It’s just keep on keeping on,” Carrig said. “One day you wake up, it's 10 years in, you've got a team of 50 people, you're still selling the same product, the same dream and the same mission.”

They shared the stage with the next panel, titled “Turning Funding Fear into Fuel.” The speakers for this panel were Maya Brooks, founder and CEO of Pryv Labs, Farnoosh Torabi, renowned finance expert, Sara Peña, PSEG director of external affairs, and Paula Machado Jackler, Montclair State alumni and founder of Ozzie, a financial planner powered by artificial intelligence that aids people in making decisions that stabilizes their money and life. This opened the floor to the audience, allowing them to ask pertinent questions to the panelists.

One question brought to the floor was on the topic of finances and the challenges women entrepreneurs face when it comes to handling finances. Torabi commented on this challenge and how it is embedded in one's upbringing.

"It goes back to how we've been hardwired and how our culture has sort of introduced money to women," Torabi asserted. "Money is not something that women have been allowed to feel as though it is a positive thing. It's not a virtuous thing, you're branded as greedy, you're branded as having your priorities messed up.

To mark the end of the celebration, Cynthia Pong, an acclaimed hype woman for women of color, introduced the concept of leading with one's idiosyncrasies, or behaviors that are unique to the individual. Instead of shying away from authenticity, Pong urged audience members to embrace themselves.

"Things actually really took off in my business was when I realized and I learned I needed to intentionally lean into my identities," Pong said. "Embracing your whole self is going to make you unstoppable.”

Freshman acting major Ezra Del Toro attended the celebration, taking notes regarding the different principles of authenticity that were discussed throughout the event. They described how they feel represented, and how entrepreneurship feels more attainable after seeing and learning from women that have attained success.

"I leave here feeling like 'okay people that look like me can do it, people that look like us can do it,'" Del Toro shared. "I feel like they definitely shared tips that are actionable. I didn't know that a great way to find investors was to go to networking events, yes but not directly. You ask for the introduction. Even that alone I feel like is really valuable.”

Joanna Vonzewhel, a freshman biology major with a minor in criminal justice, commented on how upsetting it is to see the underrepresentation of women in business.

"I think it's really good for women to be represented and to get the attention because when they're underrepresented it's really sad," Vonzewhel said. "As a woman, it makes me sad.”

Another freshman student, Stella Daly, who majors in film and television commented on how the image of a CEO is typically masculine and that collaboration between women is the only way that this image can be changed.

"When you think of CEOs and like business, all the top ones are often men and I think it's really important for us to, at the college level, start appreciating more women and like empowering them," Daly said. "It's also really great to see women coming together and working together because that's what we need to do. It's all about like uplifting each other instead of trying to be competing like we have to be there to support other women if we wanna make it far.”
At this point, I’m just putting recipes in the paper in hopes they’ll attract more women than my dating apps do.

### Pork Tenderloin Worthy of Burning Your Hand Like A Moron

**Colin Luderitz**  
Entertainment Editor

One of the very first things my late mother taught me how to cook was pork tenderloin, and since then, it has been my go-to dish for family dinners, first dates or even just cooking to reheat for myself. A relatively inexpensive yet juicy and tender cut of meat, pork tenderloin is deceptively lean but can pack a lot of flavor if cooked right, and is elevated even further with the addition of a pan sauce. So, without further ado, here is my recipe for pork tenderloin!

For this quick and easy meal, you will need the following ingredients:

- Pork tenderloin. This can be found in grocery stores, typically with two tenderloins in a package. I personally only cooked one tenderloin, but had a LOT of sauce leftover, so if you are planning on cooking two tenderloins, the only adjustment you will have to make is to the seasonings.
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste. This will go both on the tenderloin itself and in the pan sauce, so make sure you have it on hand.
- 1/2 tablespoon of smoked paprika. Paprika is really what brings this dish to life. Long live paprika!
- 1/2 tablespoon of garlic powder.
- 1/2 tablespoon of onion powder.
- 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil. The high smoke point and neutral flavor of this oil make it ideal for searing your tenderloin.
- 1/2 cup of shallots, roughly minced. I say “roughly” because I am terrible at mincing shallots.
- 1/2 cup of bourbon. In my case, I was in a dorm kitchen and could not get abohd of bourbon. I opted instead for apple cider vinegar, but if bourbon is an option, I would recommend doing off-beat to avoid it catching on fire, and add your chicken stock to the pan as well.
- 1/4 cup of heavy cream. This will help thicken the sauce and further texture of the sauce.
- 1 cup of chicken stock, unsalted. Optionally, if you are using store-bought stock, you can add a packet of unflavored gelatin 10 minutes prior to cooking to improve the texture of the sauce.
- 1/4 cup of heavy cream. This will help thicken the sauce and further make it awesome.
- 2 tablespoons of unsalted butter.
- 1/2 cup of shallots, roughly minced. I say “roughly” because I am terrible at mincing shallots. Even the choice of seasonings is flexible. I usually season with other spices, such as celery seed, but I was cooking for my roommate, who is allergic to celery. But honestly, this dish turned out so good, that I do not think she would have minded a little anaphylactic shock.

Now, add your vegetable oil to a frying pan and heat it on your stove on medium-high heat. Once the pan is hot, add your tenderloin. We are not cooking it all the way through on the stove, just getting a nice sear on all sides before putting the whole pan in the oven until the pork registers at 145 degrees Fahrenheit at its thickest point.

Once the pork is up to temperature, take it out of the oven. If you are using an oven thermometer, it is crucial that you do not try to pull the hot metal probe out of the pork with your bare hand. You will swear like an Eagles fan in the nosebleeds and your roommate will laugh and photograph you running your burnt hand under cold water. Remove the tenderloin from the pan and set aside, covered with aluminum foil, to rest.

### Ingredients

- Pork tenderloin
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Smoked paprika
- Garlic powder
- Onion powder
- Vegetable oil
- Bourbon
- Heavy cream
- Chicken stock

### Cooking Instructions

1. **Preparation:**
   - Preheat your oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit.
   - Season your pork on all sides to your liking. See previous statement.
   - Heat your oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit.
   - Generously season your pork with salt, pepper, and paprika. The high smoke point and neutral flavor of this oil make it ideal for searing your tenderloin.
   - Add your pork tenderloin to a preheated oven.
   - Cook for 10-15 minutes or until the internal temperature reaches 145 degrees Fahrenheit.

2. **Sauce Preparation:**
   - In a separate pan, add your vegetable oil and heat it on medium-high heat. Add your shallots to the pan, using the left-over fat to cook them until they are soft.
   - Once the shallots are soft, deglaze with your pan sauce, so make sure you have your chicken stock ready to go.
   - Add your heavy cream and stir until it has reduced and thickened to the point that when you scrape across the pan with a wooden spoon, a clean streak is left behind.
   - Now, add your vegetable oil to a frying pan and heat it on your stove on medium-high heat. Once the pan is hot, add your tenderloin. We are not cooking it all the way through on the stove, just getting a nice sear on all sides before putting the whole pan in the oven until the pork registers at 145 degrees Fahrenheit at its thickest point.

3. **Assembly:**
   - Once the pork is up to temperature, take it out of the oven.
   - Place a few dollops on your plate of garlic powder.
   - Garnish with your choice of side dishes.

### Tips

- The measurements I gave are far from hard rules. As a matter of fact, I just eyeballed it, opting for what I thought looked best. Even the choice of seasonings is flexible. I usually season with other spices, such as celery seed, but I was cooking for my roommate, who is allergic to celery. But honestly, this dish turned out so good, that I do not think she would have minded a little anaphylactic shock.

Now, put oven mitts on both of your hands, idiot and turn your stove back on to medium-high heat. Add your shallots to the pan, using the leftover fat to cook them until they are soft.

Once the shallots are soft, deglaze your pan with your bourbon, which I would recommend doing off-beat to avoid it catching on fire, and add your chicken stock to the pan as well. Scrape up the fond that has formed at the bottom of the pan. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Let all of this simmer on medium-high heat until it has reduced and thickened to the point that when you scrape across the pan with a wooden spoon, a clean streak is left behind.

Now, add your heavy cream and butter and whisk until fully combined. Place a few dollops on your plate of choice, put your portion of tenderloin on top and enjoy!

I’ve cooked many tenderloins in my day, but this is up there with the best. The pan sauce is almost like an aromatic gravy that adds to the juiciness and flavor of the well-seasoned pork. Tenderloin pairs nicely with any number of sides—rice, mac & cheese, grilled asparagus—but even on its own, this rich, delicious dish is perfectly filling and will leave you wanting more, even if your stomach does not have any more room.
Claudia Martillo's 2023 Guide to Halloween Costumes

Claudia Martillo  
Staff Writer

Are you tired of trying to think of original costume ideas? Frustrated at showing up to the party and someone else has copied your costume? Do not worry! I have got you covered. These costumes are unique and stand out. All my bases are covered. I have costumes for cinephiles, couples (of multiple sexual orientations), it girls, groups, trendsetters, wordplay fiends and more!

Individual Costumes

**Barbie:** I know what you are thinking, Barbie is going to be super popular. While I agree, it will be popular for a reason! How fun will it be to say “Hi Barbie” when you spot another fellow Barbie? But if you want to make it a bit more original, go for Barbie’s first look from 1959 featured in the film’s opening scene. She wears a black and white striped bathing suit with white cat-eye sunglasses. Add some extra details with gold hoops, red lipstick, and some blue eyeshadow.

**Alien Superstar:** For Beyonce lovers, Beyonce’s latest album “Alien Superstar” takes the internet by storm and concert-goers are emulating the album’s theme in their outfits. Many fans wear metallic and silver clothing and jewelry to look out of this world. I would suggest one of two kinds of ideas for this, recreating one of Beyonce’s concert outfits or becoming the actual alien superstar. To do this, go for an all-silver and metallic outfit (chrome skirt or pants, metallic jeweled top) with big silver sunglasses. To get the alien look, add some silver alien antennae.

**Gold Diggers:** This costume can be fun and creative while also not requiring a whole lot. All you need is a miner’s hat and a gold shovel. For the base of the outfit, go for a fancy look, gold/glittery pants or skirt, a white or black top, the most extravagant chunky gold jewelry, a purse (bonus points for a fake designer one), and some heels or dress shoes. This costume can be so versatile and works for all gender identities.

**Chef’s Kiss:** This costume is great for all gender identities, just switch the foundation of the outfit. For a more feminine look, go for a red dress or red top and red skirt, red lipstick, red heels and a red purse. For a more masculine look go for a red button-up shirt, black dress pants, and red or black dress shoes. For the chef details add a white apron, a classic white chef’s hat, and a wooden spoon. To go the extra mile, get someone to put some lipstick kisses on your cheek or draw them on yourself.

**Duos**

**Jebediah and Octavius:** This pair is incredibly underrated and sure to bring some laughs. This can easily be done with either friends or as a couple. For Jebediah’s outfit, you will need a blue button-up shirt, brown jeans, a tan leather vest, a red bandana tied around the neck, a brown cowboy hat and some cowboy boots. For Octavius, you might be better off finding a costume replica online or in stores but to simply the outfit you can use a red skirt, gold corset/armor, a red cape, a knight helmet with red leathers and gladiator sandals.

**Gwen Stacy and Miles Morales:** One of the easiest duo costumes that works for friends or as a couple. For both characters, replica costumes are available online on Amazon, Party City, or Walmart.

**“Men in Black”**

“**But I’m A Cheerleader**”

This iconic and underrated film has some of the most amazing costume designs and I am shocked that more people do not wear them for Halloween. There are two duos you can recreate. Megan and Graham, or one of the generic boy-girl pairings. For this, you will need a pink button-up shirt, a pink skirt, and pink or white Mary Janes. For the masculine outfit, you will need a blue button-up shirt, a blue tie, blue shorts, and black dress shoes.

Groups

**“Sleepover at Sikowitz’s”**

This absolutely iconic and hilarious episode of “Victorious” has amazing costume potential. This fits a group of six people and will guarantee some laughs. Tori plays a police officer obsessed with Raisin Bran, Cat plays a 1980s stand-up comedian, Jade plays Betsy Sue, a sweet farm girl from Alabama, Robbie plays a motivational speaker with jelly legs, Andre plays a pregnant marathon runner and Beck plays Malcolm Winchester Figglesworth, a British person who invades people’s personal space.

**“Bodies Bodies Bodies”**

This group of five costume will be understood by a niche audience but a funny crowd nonetheless. These costumes are simply to replicate with everyday clothes and the addition of fake blood and glow stick necklaces.

**Boycyonius**

For the sad and queer music lovers, this trio costume is made for you. Though this may not be understood by all, the ones who get it truly get it. For this costume go for their classic look of black dress pants, white button-ups, black ties, a gray button vest for Phoebe Bridger’s look and the essential pair of Dr. Martens boots. 

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Claudia Martillo’s 2023 guide to Halloween costumes.

Nicholas Vidal | The Montclarion
Olivia Yayla gives her Halloween book recommendations.

Five Books for Spooky Season

Olivia Yayla
Assistant Fiction Editor

The time has finally come to unapologetically order pumpkin spice lattes, wear oversized sweaters, watch Y2K horror movies and steal your sibling’s candy haul. As someone who desperately searches for that nostalgic Halloween feeling every October, I decided to pick, read and review five books that will definitely do the trick. So grab your pumpkin spice whatever, fluffy socks and get ready to feel scared like a kid again.

My first pick is a bit of a classic, and might even be a generic choice. But it is one of my personal favorites and I would be doing you all a disservice by keeping it off the list. “Interview With The Vampire” by Ann Rice is one of those books that pull you in by the neck, sinks its teeth in and never lets go. I have read countless Vampire books over the years, and Interview With The Vampire has made it nearly impossible to find one to match its brilliance. It drags the reader through the impossible to find one to match its brilliance. It draggs the reader through the mind of an unwillingly immortal vampire and a must-read. Especially if you happen to be exhausted of the “helpless female protagonist” trope. However, I must warn you that this novel most definitely qualifies as horror, and I recommend reading the warning page before diving in. “Mexican Gothic” by Silvia Moreno-Garcia pulled me into a gothic haunted house and convinced me that I should read even slower just to prolong the beauty of the story. I still can not tell what I loved more, the psychic of Silvia’s handcrafted world. or the fact that the burn of this story is so slow that the reader is forced to succumb to the atmosphere and the eeriness of Silvia’s handcrafted world.

Pick number four, in my opinion, is also a no-brainer for the season. But once I admit why I bought it, you might believe it is also out of narcissism. “Gallant” by V.E. Schwab originally caught my attention due to its gorgeously illustrated cover. Then after flipping through it, I realized that the novel is both illustrated and formatted in a very peculiar way, which made reading it an experience in itself. Then, I flipped to a page and read that the main character’s name was Olivia. It was a done deal at that point. My only issue is that although the spooky worldbuilding was fantastic, that is all I can really applaud. After reading “Mexican Gothic,” another story regarding a haunted mansion of sorts, Gallant was more on the tame side. So if you would still like to sleep soundly at night, then this book is perfect for you.

Lastly, but most definitely not least, I would like to take a mini trip down memory lane, all the way back to February of this year when I wrote my first book review for the Montclarion. I wrote a review for Rachel Gillig’s astounding novel “One Dark Window,” and at the end of the review, I warned the reader that they should not read the book. Not until the sequel, “Two Twisted Crowns,” comes out in October 2023. That time is now, and “Two Twisted Crowns” is available for purchase both on Amazon and Kindle right now! A book with a plot this engrossing, suspenseful and mysterious must be chased with a shot and a promise that the story will continue soon. I made the mistake of reading it in January and was stuck craving pumpkin pie and closure. Do not make my mistake and give into the darkness while it is socially and emotionally acceptable to do so.

Happy Halloween, and read at your own peril.
SPORTS WRITERS WANTED!

E-Mail: montclarionsports@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!
Are you dressing up for Halloween, and if so, why?

By Karsten Englander
Director of Photography

Bakari Gomez
Junior
Political Science

Yeah, my girlfriend and I are going to dress up together, but we're not too sure what we'll dress up as yet. I've always dressed up, once I got into college, though, I stopped except to get into parties, so I think it'll be fun.

Camila Garcia
Sophomore
Visual Communication Design

Yes, absolutely. I love Halloween, it's my favorite holiday of the year because it feels like it's the most expressive out of all of them and I think it's kind of overrated to stop dressing up once you reach a certain age. I am going to dress up as an Attack on Titan character.

Robert Gaskill
Sophomore
Visual Communication Design

I'm not sure if I'm dressing up just because costumes cost money, and I don't have much to spend right now. I would like to, but I also don't live around here, so we'll see.
“Yes, I am dressing up for Halloween, I am going as Jack from Titanic and my girlfriend is going as Rose. I think that every year around Halloween I remember how Halloween felt when I was a little kid and I think it would be really sad to let all of that fun go away just because we’re older now. It’s really fun to be able to dress up as anything and have an excuse to be silly for a night.”

Griffin Gartigruber
Junior
Theater Studies

“I’m hoping to dress up for Halloween. I haven’t really dressed up the last few years even though I’ve always really enjoyed Halloween. I just haven’t had the money of the time, but this year I have a little more money to spend on costume pieces, so I thought it would be fun to put a costume together from scratch. I’m going to dress up as Edward Scissorhands and go all out.”

Stella Berrettini
Junior
Theater Studies

“Yes, I am going to be dressing up as Gwen Stacy. I feel like it’s an important tradition, not just for kids, but for people of all ages. The whole point is to have fun.”

Camille Orozco
Freshman
Recording Arts and Production
### Horoscopes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zodiac</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Prediction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capricorn</td>
<td>Dec. 22 – Jan. 19</td>
<td>Don’t write horoscopes while you’re hungry. Gonna be a lot of horoscopes about steakhouses this week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>Jun. 21 – Jul. 22</td>
<td>Time to take off ur halloween costume dawg its November. Wait… what do you mean you didn’t dress up this year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquarius</td>
<td>Jan. 20 – Feb. 18</td>
<td>Make sure you’re able to pay attention in your zoom class. Even if your roommate is being noisy with a guy in the next room. Despite being in the same zoom class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leo</td>
<td>Jul. 23 – Aug. 22</td>
<td>Still upset about the Phillies? Us too, load up “MLB: The Show” and let the D-Backs who the Fightins really are.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pisces</td>
<td>Feb. 19 – Mar. 20</td>
<td>Ask yourself this the next time you cook dinner for your friends: are you ACTUALLY that good at cooking, or are your friends just too afraid of criticizing you while you’re depressed?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgo</td>
<td>Aug. 23 – Sep. 22</td>
<td>Stop reading this Virgo Rising, this isn’t for you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aries</td>
<td>Mar. 21 – Apr. 19</td>
<td>If MSU is not for you simply get connected for free with education connection online today!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Libra</td>
<td>Sep. 23 – Oct. 22</td>
<td>Don’t let them control you Libra. Keep going to see the FnaF movie! Everyday until they won’t sell you anymore tickets. The fate of the world is in your hands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taurus</td>
<td>Apr. 20 – May 20</td>
<td>Feeling a bit down in the dumps? Maybe you should impulsively book a tattoo appointment! Hook up with that guy everyone hates! Do something silly this week to help lift your spirits!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scorpio</td>
<td>Oct. 23 – Nov. 21</td>
<td>Scorpio, I fully understand what a “beer can chicken” is, but is there ANY other way you could describe the prep process? It makes me feel unwell.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gemini</td>
<td>May 21 – Jun. 20</td>
<td>You’ve got some nerve, you know that?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sagittarius</td>
<td>Nov. 22 – Dec. 21</td>
<td>With the spookiest day of the year behind us, I’d like to make the argument that there is a spookier thing out there… Ricky The Redhawk (Boo!)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Montclarion Crossword Puzzle and More!

Five Nights at Freddys Edition

By Nicholas Vidal

Across
3. Who is the king of FNAF?
8. What kind of suit did Willam Afton wear?
10. What animatronic is believed to be calling the police in FNAF 2?

Down
1. Which animatronic gave Scott nightmares when making the first game?
2. What animatronic bites the crying child?
4. In FNAF 4 you can play the mini-game “fun with”
5. How many years has the FNAF movie been in production?
6. What is the abbreviation for the hardest FNAF game?
7. What is the name of the brown bear in the first game
9. What is the name of the spirit that possesses Golden Freddy?

Word Search
N U R E L N H E S C C U E C
A N D O G O M I D T T I E C
N P A R T G N I R P S N G O
A X S K T R F R E D D Y O P
E C U P C A K E A C A G L I
C I N O R T A M I N A N D Z
C I I F P O K E N I C P E Z
G C N T T C T C A A F T O N A
N T M O O B T D C A R R D C
I T A I E G O D Y C H N I A
I A A E F Y N N P N D N C F
F C O C A I X N N D I I D A
Z A K A P O O O Z I H I C P
G R U Y D N P O F C E C E F

Sudoku

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Freddy
Bonnie
Golden
Foxy
Chica
Cupcake
Pizza
Animatronic
Springtrap
Afton
The Mystery of an “Abandoned” Building: Webster Hall

Catherine Khitiri
Staff Writer

A t the heart of campus, tucked between Reid Hall and Blanton Hall, lies a small, thin, three-story building known as Webster Hall. Not many pay attention to the brown building, as it blends into the rest of campus, but I can’t help but notice how empty it is.

For the past year, I have not seen a single person go in or out of the building. The contents of this building and its purpose intrigued me.

The outside of the building represents a typical dorm hall: a corridor leading into similarly sized rooms, same-sized windows in each room, an air conditioner unit attached to each window, and a room at the back of the building which could be a common area. As a new student last semester, I assumed that it was a residence hall just based on its appearance, but I soon learned that was not the case.

As of right now, according to the on-line campus map, Webster Hall houses several departments and services, such as the Center for Leadership and Engagement, Adult Learning Program, Disability Resource Center, Education Opportunity Fund (EOF), Student Academic Services, Academic Success Center and Veteran and Military Resources. However, according to the Montclair State University website, all of these departments are listed in Cole Hall under their contact information. From Mar. 10, 2021, to June 3, 2022, Webster Hall was primarily used as a Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic testing location.

Of course, I am not making any assumptions. Perhaps Webster Hall does house extensions of these departments. As I got a closer look at the building, I noticed strange things: empty rooms, randomly placed furniture, shut-off lights and a locked main entrance. This only enhanced my curiosity.

Decades ago, Webster Hall was in fact used as a residence hall, housing 125 female students in suite-style double rooms connected by a bathroom. With the emergence of more modern and attractive residence halls, such as the Heights, students began moving out and the building lay abandoned.

So what now? What should be done about this seemingly abandoned building? For starters, the university could take advantage of an empty building, especially in such a prime location in regards to distance to academic buildings. Right next to Blanton Hall and Bohn Hall, Webster Hall would make the perfect new residence building.

Especially amid the largest student body size in university history, Montclair State could truly benefit from another residence hall.

This year, the university quickly reached its housing capacity of 5,090. With a nearly tripled housing waitlist, many students were left without a place to stay. The university offered nearly 200 students the opportunity to live at Bloomfield College to compomise on the influx of housing needs.

Currently, more than 50 students live in Schweitzer Hall at Bloomfield College.

Instead of having students live miles away from campus, we can reopen Webster Hall as a residence hall to accommodate more housing.

Although it is one of the older buildings on campus, a full refurbishment would be ideal, but of course, that takes time and money. Opening the building as a new residence hall sooner than later would diminish the need for housing and increase housing capacity. For the past two years, Montclair State has welcomed the largest freshman class. If this trend continues, the need for housing will only grow.

The university should utilize the space and allow students to live there.

Until then, I will continue to walk past an empty building.

Jeffrey Lurie And The Philadelphia Eagles Should Be Paying My Therapy Bills

Colin Ludertz
Entertainment Editor

A h, the Philadelphia Eagles. My beloved Philadelphia Eagles. Would it kill you to just have one game where you just, like, coalesce? Good lord.

A decisive 31-17 win over one of the best teams in the National Football League and my blood pressure was still through the roof. What gives? We are 6-1, we have a standout candidate for Defensive Rookie of the Year and yet, we cannot just mollywhop these fools, they have to hang around until the very last second? Come on, guys.

Jalen Hurts, our beloved quarterback, I love Jalen Hurts. You love Jalen Hurts. If you do not like Jalen Hurts, I am shocked you have read this far and can read at all.

But in any sense, daddy’s been off his game this year. Some seriously nasy picks for a guy who went to the Super Bowl last season. It is putting gray hairs on my typically luscious curls.

AJ Brown, though, that man truly has my heart. Five consecutive games with 125+ receiving yards? You are a saint. Love you buddy.

Jason Kelce, I also adore and he has been playing very well, but frankly, he might be the most responsible for my stress about this season. Dude went ahead and dropped the saddest NFL Films documentary ever made right onto Amazon Prime and expected me to not stare at a ring this season? You know, “an underdog in a hungry dog.”

That whole spit? I am hungry now, Jason! I wanna see that bling on your finger!

You may be thinking, “Colin, maybe the problem is not the Philadelphia Eagles, who are mostly winning by the way, maybe your problem is you are stretching yourself too thin and you have been ever since “Godzilla vs. Kong” came out and now you are grieving on top of that.” And while all of those things are very specific and I am not sure how you pinpoint “Godzilla vs. Kong” as the true turning point of those departments, ask yourself: did you drop $90 on a Jordan Mailata jersey, wouldn’t you want him to get some more blocks?

I am a tired, tired man in my old age, 21 years old. I can’t spend any given Sunday this stressed about my beloved Birds.

Sure, the Philadelphia Phillies have my back, shoutout Trea Turner, but baseball is rarely as explosive as football! When’s the last time you saw a baseball player come barreling towards Matthew Stafford like a bat out of hell? Never, but Haason Reddick did it in Los Angeles! Two plays in a row! The most villainous sacks I have ever seen.

But even with those two breathtaking sacks, that game was still brutal until its final moments. Jake Elliott, man. He has hauled out those beloved Birds so many times.

My fellow Americans, I am sure you love the Eagles like any sane person would, but have you loved these past few games? Because I’ve loved talking trash in the immediate aftermath, but I have not enjoyed the games themselves! Every time Hurts drops back to throw the ball, my heart sinks in fear that he will throw another pick and become a $250 million Dak Prescott. Will that actually happen? God, no, but it is a terrifying thought!

In any sense, my very action of writ- ing this simply proves that I am in need of a lot of therapy, but, darn it, Jeffrey Lurie should be paying for it. Howie Roseman can make such incredible trades, can he trade me a therapist? Please?

Jeffrey Lurie And The Philadelphia Eagles Should Be Paying My Therapy Bills

Colin Ludertz, a junior filmmaking major, is in his first year as Entertainment editor for The Montclarion.
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

Parking and Fees

Campus Activities
"Mixed Signals Abound at The Sonic Sundown"
by Alex Pavljuk | Fiction Editor

She moved fluidly to the music. The transient sounds of Bauhaus cutting through the twisting, and taunting crowd of lost souls in search of something short-lived. Janet's head was cocked back and the whites of her eyes shook to and fro amidst the multitude of disorientingly colored strobe lights engulfing the nodding and twitching sea she found herself floating in. Her clothes in tatters as the hands of strangers moved around her torso. She couldn't make the details of anyone's face, just amorphous backlit shadow figures reaching for her. She swayed and shimmied across the floor. She gazed up at the go-go dancers swaying from the rafters like angels in affirmation of the choice to mix wine and liquor. For all she knew the Bauhaus would turn to Talking Heads and all bets would be off. In her lucid trance of desire she found him, nameless and alone on the dance floor. His feet shuffled from side to side in some ancient anxious ghost dance. The crowd was contracting and the bodies were contorting to the music as she levitated closer to the man. His eyes were soft and kind, she calculated his glances across the ocean of desire. He floated there alone like a shipwrecked sailor awaiting his siren. Janet approached him, her converses dancing near and maybe even on his toes. Their arms didn't touch but she felt like she could read his mind, dreaming of his wants, knowing his desires, and feeling his lust. She didn't know that his partner was across the dance floor fighting with the bartender who claimed that they didn't have the sour mix for his whiskey, but even if she did she didn't care, she wanted to feel his lips on hers, she wanted to taste his skin, she wanted to, maybe even dared to dream, that this would be more than a roll in the hay. She moved in step to the music, inching closer. He looked down at her, there was a glimmer in his eye which caused an erratic flutter in her chest. He looked away wantingly, she was certain that he was being coy. Then, with a change in the music and a roar of the crowd she lunged onto him and pulled his lips to hers, she could taste cherry on his breath. After a moment of fevered euphoria he pulled away from her in a stagger. He wiped the spit from his lip, the light cutting between them.

"Who told you that was okay?" he said with a crack in his voice. Janet stood there, she could feel the eyes of the shadows watching.

"I'm so sorry," she said in a near whisper as she observed him disappear into the crowd, a scowling phantom lost in the waves.

"A Vein Without a Purpose"
by Catherine Khitiri | Staff Writer

I am naked.
I am exposed and colossal.
No color to shade me.
Just the remnants of my clothes on the ground.

I am bent and bony.
My arms embrace the oxygen around me.
The creatures, they lay on me.
And bleed to death atop my fingernails.

Will the children still look up?
Are they frightened by my shadows?
Can I keep them cool?
Or will I stab them with my daggers?

No more births upon my shoulder.
Young creatures once took refuge on my heel.
I've witnessed life beyond compare.
Patience withers with the flowers.

My neighbor, the Evergreen,
Is bold yet modest.
She flaunts the latest fashion.
While I shiver in the cold.

So here I stand in my limited light.
Scrambled to mask my insecurities.
I will never be an Evergreen.
I will simply dye like the clothes.

Illustration
by Olivia Yayla
“Route 09”
by Olivia Yaya | Assistant-Fiction Editor

Route 09 has a reputation for darkness. The trees know this and add to its façade, blanketing the winding roads with devilish shade even on the sunniest of days. Home to wolf packs unafraid of blinding headlights and families of deer who almost purposefully block the highway’s exits. Not even road workers bother to light the path, forcing drivers to rely on their navigation systems, if the service doesn’t cut out mid-trip. There’s a single gas station about 17 miles further into the forest’s grasp, but not even the gas jockey would unlock his glass doors to service you. The highwaymen make sure of this. Which makes my job much easier.

I’d wait behind trees with a foldout chair, a flashlight, and a bucket of rusted nails to “fertilize” the roadway. Anything to stop a vehicle, not total it, but encourage it to pull over onto my territory. The others would see from the treetops or beneath the shrubs they fashioned into turtle shells, and they would know that this was my prey to taunt. But that’s when I saw the creeping light through the foliage, a petite grey Honda slowly rounding the bend, most likely spooked by a prancing deer or another mirage of Route 09.

I decided to change my plan and adopt the hitchhiker bit that only worked about 9% of the time. I crept out from behind my tree and waited by the side of the road, preparing myself to take on the role of a lost camper. With my thumb out, my face in shock, and my flashlight waving, I managed to flag down the car. But in truth, I don’t think they needed much convincing. The window rolled down, and amid the gasps of skunky smoke and the low gritting thump of whatever Frank Sinatra song was playing on the radio, there was a red-eyed girl with one hand on the wheel and the other lazily gripping a roll with two fingers.

“You need a ride?” her voice was sweet. Kind. It almost made me feel guilty for taking her offer. It almost made me feel guilty for the dull rusted knife in my pant pocket. But they’re all sweet, all kind, all hopelessly gullible before they’re about to die. So maybe I don’t feel guilty. Maybe I should just enjoy the blasting heat, Sinatra’s scratchy “That’s Life” and the eye-watering secondhand smoke from inside the car.

Her hair was dirty blonde, visibly unwashed and from the corner of my eye I swore I saw a leaf stuck in her messy bun. She wore a stained white tank top in the dead of October with unbuttoned jean shorts and heavily worn cowboy boots, showcasing the half-finished patchwork on her arms, neck, and upper thighs. Her driving hand tapped the steering wheel to the beat, checking and grinning into her rearview mirror as if there wasn’t a strange man beside her.

“You a local?” I asked, my predator senses stumped by my prey’s behavior. Finally, her giggly eyes found mine, before swaying back towards the slithering roads, “You could say that.” Her smoking hand locked the doors.

Big mistake.

I nodded softly, grabbing the handle of my knife in my right-hand pocket. I don’t know what it was, but something felt off about this hunt in particular. Normally, my pulse would be racing by now, hard with anticipation. Normally, by now I could feel the fear fizz on the tip of my tongue. Normally the fly I caught in the web I spun would know they had made a grave mistake. Maybe it’s the contact high, but I couldn’t stop wondering why this girl kept smiling into her rearview mirror.

“You know, it isn’t safe for campers out here.”

I felt like I should be telling her this. Her foot pressed on the gas, and her grip on the wheel tightened as the speedometer inch toward 90 mph.

“You never know who’s just around the corner,” her lips curled into a smirk, but I didn’t understand the joke.

Fun time’s over. I slid the knife out and pressed it against my thigh, letting the light bounce off the blade, just enough for her to see it, “Pull over.”

“Aw, have I missed your exit?” Her laugh morphed with Sinatra’s screeching ballad, her eyes smirking into the rearview mirror once again.

Smoke crawled out from her nose, “You were easier than I thought you’d be.”

But before I could strike, her smoking hand bent backward, and a larger hand stretched from the darkness behind me and accepted the joint, “I’d put that away if I were you.”

The voice was deep, dark, and directly behind me. And the knife he held to my neck was shinier, sharper, and much larger than mine. But I guess this is the price I pay for victim shopping on Route 09.

Illustration
by Olivia Yaya
"Returning to Nature"
The Montclarion

“Spider-Man 2” swings onto the PS5 with a (mostly) amazing adventure.

Entertainment

‘Spider-Man 2’ Gets Stuck In Its Own Ambitious Web

Colin Luderitz
Entertainment Editor

One of the most hotly anticipated PlayStation 5 (PS5) titles, Insomniac Games’ “Spider-Man 2” has finally hit shelves, being the first of the studio’s “Spider-Man” games to be a true PS5 exclusive. With that, Insomniac took much, much bigger swings than previous installments to match the impressive hardware of the new generation. The result is some incredibly impressive hits, but also a handful of big misses and a third act that fails to come together emotionally the way its predecessors did.

Most of the misses come down to the story. “Spider-Man 2” centers around New York City’s Spider-Men, Peter Parker and Miles Morales, voiced by Yuri Lowenthal and Nadji Jeter respectively, facing down Kraven the Hunter and his villainous crew, all while Peter’s new symbiotic suit takes him down a much darker path.

And, let us face it: “Spider-Man 2” has a serious villain problem. Kraven’s storyline is adapted from the comic storyline “Kraven’s Last Hunt,” but since this game also serves as our introduction to this version of the character, it lacks the character development that made that story so resonant and iconic. Much of Venom’s storyline leaves a lot to be desired, but also the gameplay, because Miles is much more fun to play as.

Where the story falters is where the gameplay saves the day. “Spider-Man 2” is ridiculously fun. From the upgraded combat system with a whole host of abilities for Peter and Miles to use, to the new “web wings” that let the Spider-Men soar across the map at high speeds, “Spider-Man 2” has almost too much depth in its gameplay. It can get a little tricky wrapping your head around all of the skill trees, gadgets and suits to upgrade and unlock, but once you get the hang of it, the game rewards you immensely. The increase in difficulty can be pretty drastic from level to level, but the upgrade system lets you discover your own style of playing and refine it until you become the ultimate Spider-Man. The only area where the gameplay falters is the open world, which can get pretty repetitive as you complete the same few tasks over and over to level up.

Spiders are not the only bugs you’ll encounter, though. “Spider-Man 2” has some pretty serious technical issues that crop up from time to time. They are rarely game-breaking and can usually be fixed by exiting the game and restarting, but when the price tag sits at a hefty $70 before tax, it’s a frustrating and annoyingly persistent issue throughout.

Graphically, “Spider-Man 2” is a tale of two cities. In fidelity mode, which runs at 30 frames-per-second (FPS) and renders at 4K resolution, the game is jaw-droppingly gorgeous. Textures and lighting look almost photorealistic, the render distance is seemingly endless and the open world is vastly populated. In performance mode, which runs at 60 FPS and renders at a lower resolution of “up to 1440p,” the game is much less visually solid.

Despite how smooth the gameplay runs at a higher frame rate, textures become muddy, aliasing is a major issue and overall the world is “thinned out” to give the hardware a bit less to work on when doubling the frame rate. Personally, I prefer fidelity mode either way, but this could be a major disappointment for those who prefer frame rate over resolution.

Overall, “Spider-Man 2” had a tough act to follow, as its predecessor is considered one of the greatest superhero video games of all time. It mostly rises to the challenge, delivering immersive gameplay and beautiful visuals, but the storytelling is a step-down. Still, this game is a must-have for any and all Spider-Man fans — but maybe wait for a few patches.
A tragic love story sits at the center of "Killers of the Flower Moon." Osage woman by the name of Mollie Kyle, played by Lily Gladstone. Ernest's uncle, wealthy cattle rancher William "King" Hale, enlists Ernest in his plot to pick off various members of the Osage tribe, in such a way that their wealth flows back to him. It may seem like outing Ernest and William as the titular "killers" is a spoiler, but their insidious, greedy nature is apparent from their very first scene together. "Killers of the Flower Moon," to paraphrase Scorsese himself, is not about who did it, it is about who did not do it. It is often sickening to watch, as Ernest claims to love Mollie but helps orchestrate the deaths of her sisters. Much has been said about the film's runtime, which sits at a whopping three hours and 26 minutes, but the film uses every single frame. It is not as kinetic or jam-packed the way Scorsese has ever put on film and rise to the task with stomach-churning effectiveness. Ernest is spineless and greedy, but far from one-dimensional. As expected, Scorsese's direction is instinctive and understated, portraying Mollie's grief without ever "going for the Oscar," but she may well walk away with one. Even in the lone scene where she does get explosive with her sadness, it feels entirely natural in a way that cements her place as the film's MVP. But it would be disingenuous to dismiss De Niro and DiCaprio's performances, as both are similarly masterful. The two are tasked with playing two of the most shockingly evil people Scorsese has ever put on film and rise to the task with stomach-churning effectiveness. Ernest is spineless and greedy, but far from one-dimensional. Thanks to DiCaprio's fiery, honest chemistry with Gladstone, you almost believe Ernest truly loves his wife, even if his actions viciously prove otherwise. De Niro is about as charismatic as a genocidal racist can be, playing Hale as a snake in the grass who seemingly supports the Osage while simultaneously bleeding them dry. The film has a massive cast, including William Belleau, Jesse Plemons and Brendan Fraser, but Gladstone, DiCaprio and De Niro are the actors that hold top billing on the film and turn in some of their finest work, there is no denying that Gladstone is the standout member of the cast. Her performance is one of perfect subtlety, portraying Mollie's grief without ever "going for the Oscar," but she may well walk away with one. Even in the lone scene where she does get explosive with her sadness, it feels entirely natural in a way that cements her place as the film's MVP. But it would be disingenuous to dismiss De Niro and DiCaprio's performances, as both are similarly masterful. 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Players Embraces ‘Camp’ In Their Old Hollywood-Themed Production of ‘The Rocky Horror Picture Show’

Danielle Vuono  
Guest Writer

I don’t think that anyone really fully understands “Rocky Horror” but I think what it is, is home for people... it’s a place where they belong,” enthusiastic freshman Fallon Billy expresses.

Billy, the first-ever female to take on the role of Brad, captures the essence of the 1975 cult classic “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” with an “old Hollywood” flair. Dazzling and campy, the costuming pays homage to various old Hollywood stars, with the ensemble mimicking paparazzi.

The timeless film follows two naive sweethearts, Brad and Janet, who come across the promiscuous Dr. Frank-N-Furter when their car gets a flat tire. As the story progresses, the lovers’ innocence dissipates, as they enter a world of sexual deviance and free expression. More untamed characters are introduced, notably Dr. Frank-N-Furter’s latest creation: Rocky. This seductive, dance-heavy motion picture is projected as a live backdrop that’s not there to have fun, but directors Gartlgruber and Gabe Michelson have taken on the challenge with ease.

“We’ve tried a lot to make this different from the other Rockies because this is an annual thing so there’s always an urge to put your own stamp on it.”

Kicking off with a pre-show dance to one of Lady Gaga’s greatest hits, Players continue to think outside the box and provide the audience with an irreverent experience. Driven by audience engagement, the cast strongly encourages the crowd to join the story and make it their own. The fourth wall is taken down once again to put on their 48th annual production (SGA), are working their magic yet again to put on their 48th annual shadow-cast production of “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” with an “old Hollywood” flair. Dazzling and campy, the costuming pays homage to various old Hollywood stars, with the ensemble mimicking paparazzi.

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Co-director and choreographer, Griffin Gartlgruber, hints at potential surprises this production has in store. “Don’t see Rocky unless you’re ready to expect the unexpected; it’s definitely an experience you’re not gonna get anywhere else even seeing other shadow casts of the same movie.”

Gartlgruber emphasizes the importance of originality when taking on a classic such as Rocky Horror. Producing Players’ 48th production of Rocky might seem daunting, but directors Gartlgruber and Gabe Michelson have put such a fun spirit, we have a really fun-loving cast.”

With genuine intentions, the 24-person cast adores what they do. “[Rocky Horror] at its heart [is] just fun and you can’t do that with a cast that’s not there to have fun,” Gartlgruber shares.

“Rocky Horror,” that is essential.

When asked to deliver a message to the cast, Gartlgruber shares, “I’d want them to know how much we appreciate their can-do attitude. They take on the challenge with ease. [Rocky Horror] at its heart [is] just fun and you can’t do that with a cast that’s not there to have fun,” Gartlgruber shares.

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Celebrating Student Talent: Silver Slate Film Festival Shines a Spotlight on Emerging Filmmakers

Jenna Marcy  
Guest Writer

On Saturday, Oct. 14, Montclair State University filmmakers gathered for the highly anticipated Silver Slate Film Festival in the School of Communication and Media. Produced by junior film and television major Peter DiProspero, this biannual event has continued to provide a platform for budding filmmakers here at Montclair State to display their talents, ignite discussions, build connections and celebrate the art of storytelling through film.

Since the first Silver Slate Film Festival at the beginning of the fall 2022 semester, the event has grown into a hotbed of creativity, fostering a sense of camaraderie and collaboration among aspiring filmmakers here at Montclair State. The presentation hall was alive throughout the entire six-hour event as friends and colleagues celebrated one another’s work being shown on the big screen. Varying sounds of laughter, shock and thunderous applause after each film shook the building and served as a representation of the support that flowed throughout the room.

From an audience perspective, Silver Slate felt less like a formal showing of films and more so an encouraging environment of peers, all gathered to praise each other’s hard work. Broken up into five blocks running about an hour each, the festival showcased the short films of over twenty past and present Montclair State students. In between each block, hosts Andrew Cooper, Ella Duffy, and Danny Krastek invited the directors of the films showcased on stage to participate in a question-and-answer section about their respective films. With questions ranging from what inspired them to how the production process went, and even what advice they have for young filmmakers, the festival proved to not only be a place for current filmmakers to share their creations with colleagues but also as a resource for the next generation of filmmakers to learn how to get involved and begin creating projects of their own.

The films featured at the Silver Slate Film Festival captivate the audience with their thought provoking narratives and exceptional cinematography. Each film told a unique story, offering audiences the opportunity to explore various themes, emotions and perspectives. From examining social issues to exploring the beauty of the mundane, these films offer a glimpse into the diverse talent and perspectives of our student body. Other films featured at the festival include Ray Kleinschmidt’s “Ringenineng,” Cristian Caamano’s “Hide & Seek,” Sean Thrunk’s “Saving Slick,” Amanda Davidskis’ “Lovesick,” David Ambrose’s “Tomorrow’s Bandits,” Hunter Dunn’s “Overnight Celebrity,” Tom Coraggio’s “Your Friendly Neighborhood Drag Queen,” Dylan Fiumo’s “Double Feature,” Izzy Love’s “The Inbetween,” Patrick McLaughlin’s “Catman,” Amber Elafante’s “Quinn’s Playlist,” Gregory Walsh’s “In The Family” and Alex Orfano’s “Willows.”

If you happened to miss this semester’s Silver Slate, then do not worry. Several of the films shown at the festival will also be featured as a part of Montclair Film Festival’s “MSU New Visions Shorts” on Friday, Oct. 27. These films include Jose Saborio’s “Con Mis Dedos,” Seth Imperial’s “Inconvenience,” Gabe Soto’s “Mirror Image,” Nick Dionisio’s “PK,” Reilly McHugh’s “Tangerine Drum Machine,” and several other short films by Montclair State Students not showcased at Silver Slate.

In the words of the event’s assistant producer, Genevieve Cai, Silver Slate is “not just about the films.” Instead, “it’s about celebrating all of the really talented filmmakers here at Montclair State.” The event has become a space for students to share their passions and encourage one another to experiment in their filmmaking and creative pursuits. It brings together students from all walks of life and fosters a sense of community that extends beyond the screen. Silver Slate remains a testament not only to the power of storytelling and the role it plays in bringing people together, but to the richness of creative expression on our campus that continues to grow, thrive, and inspire the next generation of filmmakers.

As Silver Slate continues to grow with each semester it is clear how cherished it has become, showcasing emerging talent but also nurturing a community of artists who are passionate about the art of storytelling through film.
In the game of football, it’s not often that someone who’s amassed success playing one side of the ball is able to completely transition to the opposite side of the ball and garner the same success. Montclair State senior defensive end Eric Cowan is one of the few that has begged to differ.

Coming out of Manchester Township High School, Cowan played tight end on offense and defensive end on defense. While performing well at both positions, Cowan had a deeper love for playing defensive end.

As a senior, Cowan won MVP in the Phil Simms North vs. South all-star game and the Ocean vs. Monmouth County all-star game. After winning MVP in both games, Cowan’s confidence was riding high heading into Montclair.

Despite his success on the defensive side of the ball, Cowan was recruited to play tight end at Montclair by current Head Coach Mike Palazzo, who at the time said his decision came down to what best fits the team.

“Perhaps the one trait that struck me with Eric when we recruited him was his ability to cover people in space,” Palazzo said. “He has a unique ability to disrupt plays on the field and create big plays.”

Cowan described his decision to switch as more mental than physical.

“On defense, you don’t have to think as much as you do on offense,” Cowan said. “On offense, I had to know different routes based on what the defense was doing. I was able to do it, but I’d rather just go out there and be a freak.”

Since the switch, Cowan’s play has been freakish to say the least. In six games, he has recorded 13 tackles with three tackles for a loss. His best outing came against Franklin & Marshall when he recorded four tackles, a sack and a forced fumble.

Despite Cowan’s success, the excitement he had playing tight end wasn’t on par with playing defensive end. After the 2022 season, he reached out to Palazzo.

“Eric expressed to me that he was not having fun playing the position,” Palazzo said. At the end of the day, football is hard and a grind, so it has to be fun and enjoyable for the players.”

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While Cowan’s stellar play on the field has been a beacon of light for the Red Hawks, his character and role as a leader have contributed to the team’s success.

When asked how it is being around Cowan, Palazzo said it is like being around a Labrador retriever because his mood is always high and never seems down.

“Cowan is someone who is easy to coach and always wants to get better,” Palazzo said. “There are some guys who may be stubborn because they think they know more than they do, but Eric is not one of those guys. He is someone who is going to have success at whatever he does in life because he is optimistic and willing to put the work in.”

This optimistic mentality is one that Cowan embraces and hopes his teammates feed off of when on the field.

“If someone messes up on the field and is upset, I’m the guy that goes up and talks to him, and then he goes out and does his thing,” Cowan said.

With a 3-3 record, Cowan was asked if he has any goals for the rest of the season. He had a short and sweet answer: “Win next week.”

With this “freak” on defense, the Red Hawks are poised to do just that.
Cowan stands at 6 feet 3 inches and 235 pounds.

At defensive linemen in 2023, Cowan has 13 tackles, one sack, and a forced fumble.

Cowan catching a pass against The College of New Jersey.

Head Coach Mike Pallazzo leading Montclair State out to the field.

Cowan stands at 6 feet 3 inches and 235 pounds.
In the first half of men’s soccer’s game against Rutgers-Newark, junior forward Amer Lukovic showed why he is one of the premier players in Division III soccer. Lukovic leads all of Division III in goals scored and has a shot at making history by finishing the season with the national scoring title. He is on track to finish this season with 28 goals, putting him in program history. Lukovic is still able to dominate the offensive play. Junior midfielder Owen Murphy says that his competitive drive makes him stand out. “I just want to bring home a national championship,” Lukovic said. “It’s just the team chemistry.” Lukovic said. “I’ve been here for 3 years and a lot of guys have been here for three years with me, so building up that team chemistry helps a lot. You getting to know each other and how each other plays you know it’s just easier for us. Things start to click.” He continued by saying that ball placement from his teammates has also been key to his game. “We know our strengths and we know our weaknesses so we just play with each other’s strengths,” Lukovic said. “If my teammate[s] know how I want to play then it just makes it easier for them [and] it makes it easier for me.”

On a team that has been ranked in the top 25 nationally all season, Lukovic is still able to dominate the offensive play. Junior midfielder Owen Murphy says that his competitive drive makes him stand out. “He passes it, he works hard off the ball, he’s just a finisher,” Murphy said. “He’s a goal scorer, he finds the right spots and puts it in the back of the net. Aside from that, I’ve played with a lot of great players but he’s one of the most competitive players I’ve ever played with. He just wants to win more than anything.”

Murphy knows Lukovic well, playing with him before coming to Montclair State University at Players Development Academy. After playing with him for so long, he says that he can score from anywhere. “Sometimes when you don’t think that you can find him, he finds a way to get the ball,” Murphy said. “Sometimes when you don’t think that he’s open he finds a way to get open so his movement and the way he just wants to find the ball and wants to hunt the ball down and hunt those goals, it just makes it easier for everyone. He does that on a consistent basis.”

When Lukovic scores, the Red Hawks do too as the team is 31-2-2 all-time when he finds the back of the net. But when he’s on the field, Lukovic says that he focuses on winning rather than increasing his goal total. “I don’t really worry about the goals,” Lukovic said. “I just kind of like go for the win you know and goals just come. If I just play my game, if the team plays their game and we stay composed, you know goals will come.”

With the closing stages of the 2023 season approaching, Lukovic is locked into a race for the Division III Golden Boot and as of publishing, leads the nation by 3 goals over SUNY Delhi’s Roberto Velasquez-Osorio. Lukovic said although the national scoring title is on his mind, winning takes priority. “I’m not gonna lie, I do think about it,” Lukovic said. “But before heading into games, I don’t really like [to think about it]. I just stay locked in and mainly I just try to get the win.”

Growing up in nearby Clifton, NJ, Lukovic said that the support he gets from his hometown is the reason he chose to come to Montclair State. “It means a lot, actually that’s exactly why I came here because it’s not even 10 minutes away. My parents can come, family can come, friends can come. It just feels great knowing that people can support me like that.”

Montclair State has proven to be a home to the whole Lukovic family, as Amer’s cousin, junior defender Ramo Lukovic also plays for the soccer team, and his sister sophomore midfielder Anra Lukovic plays for women’s lacrosse. Lukovic said that being close to home makes it easier for everyone. “To be so close to home it’s easier for us,” Lukovic said. “Especially last year when my sister and I [shared] a car you know and driving here and driving there. All of us being in the same place just makes life easier.”

Although he is on the cusp of setting multiple school records, a national scoring title, and a third consecutive All-American award, Lukovic said that he’s only focused on one thing that has always eluded the Red Hawks. “I just want to bring home a national championship,” Lukovic said. “That’s it.”