More Students Means More Traffic

As traffic builds up on Montclair State University’s campus, students begin to notice a concern between the high acceptance rate and the delays in transportation.

Montclair State has a current acceptance rate of 91 percent and with more freshmen being accepted, more cars are expected to be on campus. This also shows for more students needing to take the shuttle and grab parking spots.

Students have came across several struggles when it comes to transportation at Montclair State. Some of which include finding parking, catching traffic and delays in shuttle services.

Brandon Levine, a junior psychology major, explains how he cannot park his car in the Red Hawk Deck due to the lot reaching capacity fairly quickly.

“I don’t think I can keep [my car] at the Red Hawk Deck because it’s like constantly full,” Levine said. “And I think it’s more of just like how many students we have here, like I know that’s a big thing that I’ve heard from everyone that we’ve over admitted students. I just think that that’s where it stems from too.”

Levine also shared how he does not take the shuttle due to its delays.

“I mean I don’t take the shuttle from [Frank] Sinatra [Hall] either because that isn’t on time,” Levine said. “I feel as though that’s more of a problem because you know traffic.”

Donavan Angel, a freshman history major, shares that traffic is an issue for him when it comes to commuting.

“Well traffic is usually like pretty bad,” Angel said. “I commute from about 30 minutes away and it ends up being an hour because of parkway traffic.”

Scott Nayda Sr., director of parking services, recognizes the increase in traffic since the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

“I can tell you and I’m sure we all know traffic has increased on campus,” Nayda Sr. said. “A lot less people work remotely and more, so more people back into the workforce, going into the office is going to create more traffic.”

Nayda Sr. also mentioned the increase in student population causing traffic.

“We have an increase in student population on campus and commuters, so the answers are probably ‘yes,’ post-COVID our numbers have increased.”

The Montclair State Police Department advises commuters to give themselves time to get to campus to avoid traffic.

“To avoid traffic congestion at Montclair State, allow yourself plenty of time for your commute, especially during morning, mid-afternoon and early evening hours,” the University Police article said. “These times are when many classes commence or end and when the influx of traffic occurs on campus. Use common sense and extend courtesy to pedestrians and other motorists while you drive, and use public transportation when possible.”

Angel explains that parking is not the best once he arrives for classes.

“Parking is not the best,” Angel said. “It could be better. I usually just get here a little bit earlier though and then it’s fine, but generally around 9:30[a.m.], especially in Car Parc Diem, there’s never anything and I usually am late because of that.”

Student Services suggests leaving cars at home and using mass transit to avoid traffic and parking issues.

“Consider leaving your car at home and try using public transit,” the Student Services article said. “Montclair State is situated between two train stations and is served by multiple bus lines; this makes public transit an easy and environmentally-friendly choice.”

Ashley Chirino, a junior political science major, says parking got worse over the years.

“I feel like it got worse,” Chirino said. “I feel like the last two years you can find parking in the morning and then now it’s just so packed.”
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The Montclarion has a commitment to accuracy and clarity and will print corrections or clarifications if information is found to be incorrect.

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

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

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Broken Step Presents New Learning Opportunity

Meagan Kane
News Editor
Allen Macaraeg
Assistant News Editor

After a stairwell with a slanted step outside Montclair State University’s Student Center presented a safety concern to students and staff, a new opportunity arose to the process of reporting malfunctions on campus.

On Tuesday, Nov. 7, a stairwell outside Montclair State’s Student Center was found with a slanted step, presenting a safety concern to students and faculty.

At first, there was no indication that there was a facility malfunction. Montclair State community members were forced to make their way down the steps to find out for themselves about the broken step. It came to a halfway point until one had to turn around to find another way to leave the building. After a few hours, there was a cone placed on the stair to serve as a warning. At around eight in the morning the next day, there was caution tape preventing people from going down the stairs. As of Wednesday, Nov. 8, it has been repaired.

This malfunction has begged the question: Do people know how to report facility malfunctions? While it may be expected that faculty and staff members know who to call, the step served as an opportunity to find out if students know who to contact and how to contact them if they find out about facility issues like this one.

According to the Montclair State website for the Facilities Customer Service Center, there are two main methods of inquiring about facilities-related issues. One way is by calling them at 973-655-5444 or contacting them via email at servicedesk@mail.montclair.edu.

However, this information is not widely available to students and they may not be informed as to how they can find this information.

Stella Daly, a freshman film and television major, responded that she did not know how to report facility malfunctions like the broken step.

"I do not," Daly said. "I only know like in the dorm building but even then I'm like barely aware."

Seth Nestorowicz, a sophomore film and television major, commented on how other facility malfunctions or issues on campus are upsetting to him.

"It makes me upset," Nestorowicz said. "Especially because like a lot of the buttons for disabled people, they don't work. It's messed up I think."

Alexander Jones, a sophomore film and television major, brought attention to allocation of money, where certain issues have persisted for a long period of time. From his perspective, the money spent on decorative items is not as well-spent as it could be.

"We're paying a lot to go here and I think that our money should be put to good use," Jones said. "I heard about we bought the ridiculous hawk statue ten, fifteen years ago for like a ridiculous amount of money, yet Bohn [Hall] still doesn’t have air conditioning. And an elevator in Machuga [Heights] that’s been broken for a month or two."

Alexander Jones, sophomore film and television major, gestures toward the step. Stella Daly, freshman film and television major.
University Celebrates Transgender Awareness Week with Flag Raising

Claudia Martillo | The Montclarion

Students and staff cheer and clap for the speakers at the flag raising ceremony.

Claudia Martillo
Staff Writer

Transgender Awareness Week began on Monday, Nov. 13, at Montclair State University with a flag-raising ceremony outside the Student Center led by the Office for Social Justice and Diversity. Transgender Awareness Week lasts from Monday, Nov. 13, until Sunday Nov. 19, Transgender Day of Remembrance.

The ceremony was led by members of the Office for Social Justice and Diversity (OSJD) such as Adela Caceres, director of OSJD, Rebecca Dickerson, graduate coordinator for identity-based programming at Montclair State and OSJD ambassadors, including Lily Esdailes and Max McFadden.

Caceres began the ceremony by explaining what Transgender Awareness Week is and how important it is to show solidarity with the trans community.

“It’s important for us to be able to have these conversations about prejudice, the discrimination, and the violence that people who are trans often face. But also to celebrate them, celebrate their strength, celebrate the courage, celebrate the tenacity,” Caceres said.

Students from programs and clubs like Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies (GSWS) showed appreciation for their education in LGBTQ+ studies at Montclair State.

Jackson emphasized the need to build a society where the transgender community is able to live freely without fear of discrimination.

“Let us on this occasion, educate ourselves and others, fostering empathy and compassion and allyship,” Jackson said.

Elijah Jackson, the co-event coordinator for Daughta Speaks, explained the symbolism behind the transgender flag.

“The light blue signifies the traditional color for boys, to light pink for girls, and the white stripes represent those who are non-binary, gender-queer or identify outside the traditional gender binary,” Jackson said. “Together these colors, weave a tapestry of diversity and inclusion.”

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You must be thinking, "Olivia, did you pick this book on purpose?" To which I must reply, "NO." This book was recommended to me by my very own TikTok account and has been one of the most popular, spicy books on Kindle for some time.

Does this mean I was disappointed? Definitely not, the world building was incredible, and the circumstances were just uncomfortable enough for me to want to know what happens next, since I truly did not think Douglas had the balls to go there. She definitely did, and more.

I am not appalled by the age gap trope in general, however this book was definitely pushing the boundaries. But I have to say that the plot buildup regarding Tiernan's past and her questionable logic makes it almost realistic in a way. This does not mean that the woman in me did not take a minute and say, "Did I just read that correctly?" The love triangle trope is somewhat new to me, but for some odd reason, I did not hate it. My emotions lept from sadness, to giddiness, to straight revulsion. But what can I say? I most definitely was not bored, and I finished this book in three days.

"Credence" pushed every boundary imaginable, while building new ones and then pushing those as well. Things I could not have even imagined reading were read between the covers of this book, and Penelope Douglas has officially won the award for "Most Out-Of-Pocket" novels. The good news is that it is a stand-alone book, so there is no sequel to burn your eyes even further.

Again, I must reiterate that this is a work of fiction, and a red, hot spicy one at that. If the trigger warning gave you even the slightest bit of unease, I would definitely push it to the side and leave it for the smut veterans. However, if you want a completely unrealistic, close proximity trope with a heaping tablespoon of semi-incest and a smidge of "I hope the Lord isn't listening" then "Credence" is the book for you. Read at your own peril.

If you have read any of my past book reviews, then you would know that I have been on the hunt for a gut-wrenching, oddball book that will sit with me through the holidays and ruin my appetite. A book that will resurface in my brain at the most random and inappropriate times, like when I am washing the dishes, or when I am feeding my grandchildren applesauce years down the line. Well, fellow oxygen breathers, I have found it. "Credence" by Penelope Douglas has given a new meaning to the "step" in step uncle. If that caught your attention, then buckle your seatbelts, because I wish I had. But then again, this is Penelope Douglas, creator of the infamous "Devils Night" series and the reigning smut queen. The lengthy trigger warning for this book was a given.

But this story in particular follows Tiernan, a 17 year old who was abruptly orphaned and decided to live with her father's step brother and two sons in the Colorado mountains. As the only child of a wealthy couple, Tiernan was under the impression that her step uncle, whom she had never met before, was also gifted with a fortune and lived in a boogie ski resort. Emphasis on the "step." However, this was not the case, and a key point in the plot is that through the winter months, there is no escape from the Hicksville cabin until the snow thaws off the roads. So Tiernan, an underage girl with severe abandonment issues, must stay with her step cousins and step uncle, who in my brain bears an uncanny resemblance to Luke Danes from Gilmore Girls, for the majority of the story. Can we all fill in the blanks and guess how this story goes?

I have to disclose that the trigger warnings for this book are intense, to say the least. "Credence" includes themes of sexual assault, violence, questionable consent, self-harm, and most importantly, semi-incest. Hence the emphasis on the "step."
Up Your Hot Cocoa Game And Stunt On These Ho Ho Ho's

Colin Luderitz
Entertainment Editor

The Christmas season is right around the corner, everyone! Now, I am fully aware that we have to get through Thanksgiving first, but consider this: I do not care, the Philly Specials have already dropped two singles off their new Christmas album and if you do not know how to make a turkey at this point, that is your own problem.

One epidemic that besieges our country every winter season, aside from, like, the flu, is people making terrible hot cocoa. Get that nasty, watery Swiss Miss mess away from me and have an ounce of respect for yourself. Make some real hot cocoa, like this recipe!

To make roughly 4-5 servings of this delightfully decadent hot cocoa, you will need the following:

- 2 cups of whole milk
- 1 cup of heavy cream
- 1 cup of sweetened condensed milk (or evaporated milk, for something a bit less creamy)
- 1/2 cup of cocoa powder
- 1/2 cup of dark baking chocolate
- 1/2 cup of sugar
- A pinch of ground cinnamon
- A pinch of kosher salt
- Whipped cream

To start off, add your whole milk, heavy cream and condensed milk into a saucepan. Heat the milk at medium-low heat and whisk constantly. Bring the milk to roughly 190 degrees Fahrenheit, so it is steaming hot, but not quite boiling.

Now, it is time for your chocolate. Add your cocoa powder to your steaming hot milk and whisk to combine. Once the milk and cocoa are more or less homogenous, add your dark baking chocolate and whisk until it is melted, or at least melted enough. There are still more ingredients to add, so it is alright if it is not fully melted, alright? So relax. This is hot cocoa. No need to get stressed.

Now, it is time to sweeten the pot, literally. Get it? Because we are adding sugar? This is definitely a "to taste" thing. Even though the ingredients list half a cup, which is a lot even for the amount of hot cocoa being made, you can really add however much you like. If you prefer a darker, richer taste to your hot cocoa, the way I do, you can just add and mix at small intervals until you achieve your desired sweetness.

The final touches are just a couple pinches: kosher salt and ground cinnamon. These serve to boost the flavor of your chocolate in subtle, but absolutely necessary ways.

Finally, pour your hot cocoa into the elephant mug your sister bought you. (Shoutout to my beloved sister Abigail. You are awesome and you should come visit me at school). Top with marshmallows, whipped cream, whatever your jolly little heart desires.

Truly, this was the best hot cocoa I have ever made. It felt like finding the holy grail after searching for 21 years. Maybe it will have a home at my Thanksgiving dinner table this year! Probably not.
"In America, the President reigns for four years, but Journalism governs forever.” – Oscar Wilde

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OPINION
SPORTS

Come Help Us Out!

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

Phone 973.655.5230
Fax 973.655.7804
E-mail Montclarionchief@gmail.com
What is something that is banned at your Thanksgiving table?

Interviews by Karsten Englander, Photos by Maral Tutunjian
Director of Photography and Staff Photographer

“Politics are banned, but I feel like that's pretty standard. I don’t think anything else really is though.”

Martyna Ziemba
Junior
Graphic Design

“Relationships. We don’t really talk about them a lot. Also, specific family members shouldn’t really be mentioned.”

Zashary Bobadilla
Freshman
Psychology

“Discussing politics in general is banned. A few years ago there was a big fight about Christopher Columbus at my Thanksgiving table, so we try to stay away from anything that could turn political.”

Tom Sheridan
Sophomore
Visual Communications Design
“Even though it’s not necessarily banned at my Thanksgiving table, it is taboo to talk about grades. All of my cousins are in college right now, so our parents would flip out if we mentioned having an F in one of our classes.”

Ariana Castillo
Sophomore
Biology

“We don’t let my grandpa get drunk at Thanksgiving, cause of some of the stuff he has said previously.”

Anna Valentino
Freshman
Business Administration

“Nothing is banned, we kind of let everything out. Sometimes there are some pretty big fights. It definitely makes it memorable.”

Jailynn Mulhern
Freshman
Undecided
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<th>Horoscopes</th>
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| **Capricorn**  
Dec. 22 – Jan. 19  
Develop a more realistic Christmas list to send to your broke little brother. He works 12 hours a week for minimum wage; he’s not getting you equine equipment. |
| **Cancer**  
Jun. 21 – Jul. 22  
You’re not going to meet the love of your life on Tinder, but you might meet the guy who distracts you from the last failed love interest from Tinder. Keep fishing. |
| **Aquarius**  
Jan. 20 – Feb. 18  
I’m really glad that YOU’re happy with your new tattoo. It’s really only your opinion that matters, right? As long as you’re happy? |
| **Leo**  
Jul. 23 – Aug. 22  
You can’t keep watching MTV’s “Catfish: The TV Show” to cope with your depression. Please go outside. |
| **Pisces**  
Feb. 19 – Mar. 20  
We’re at that point in the semester where the horoscopes are just gonna get real dark. Big big uphill battle from here on out. Stream “A Philly Special Christmas Special.” |
| **Virgo**  
Aug. 23 – Sep. 22  
You CAN eat shrimp scampi three nights in a row. This is college baby. |
| **Aries**  
Mar. 21 – Apr. 19  
This week is going to be a good week for you. Unless you’re a Harry Styles fan and you just saw his new bald head. I’m so sorry for you. |
| **Libra**  
Sep. 23 – Oct. 22  
Hey Libra, I know you’re getting tired of campus food. That’s why you should air-fry a steak in your apartment. It’ll come out delicious and delicious, trust me. |
| **Taurus**  
Apr. 20 – May 20  
Yeah, go to Sally’s and get black box dye. Nothing matters anymore at this point. |
| **Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 – Nov. 21  
In this world of over seven billion people, what is it that makes you unique? I assure you it’s not your Twitter (X?) feed. All you do there is steal jokes. |
| **Gemini**  
May 21 – Jun. 20  
You need to stop doing your homework and start watching “Hotel Hell” on YouTube. |
| **Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22 – Dec. 21  
Have you properly mourned the 48th anniversary of the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald this week? I know I did, my roommates are really tired of hearing Gordan Lightfoot’s, “The Wreck of The Edmund Fitzgerald,” but the memory will go on no matter how many times it wakes up my roommates. *Pours one out* |
**The Montclarion Crossword Puzzle and More!**

**Thanksgiving Foods Edition**

By Allen Macaraeg

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**Across**

5. Another name for maize.
6. A deep, wide baking dish used to make Thanksgiving foods.
7. A baked dish of a large orange vegetable.
8. The most well known bird of the season.
9. One of the most hated small vegetables.

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**Down**

1. Often mashed for a traditional Thanksgiving dish
2. A vegetable that can be green or red
3. Cheesy thanksgiving dish with pasta
4. Tall orange vegetable
5. A baked dish of a large orange vegetable.

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**Sudoku**

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**Word Search**

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

Corn  Cranberry  Family
Food   Football   Friends
Pie    Potato     Turkey
Gratitude in Guilt:
What To Appreciate In 2023 And Onwards

EDITORIAL

If we are going to be appreciative of anything it could be for small things, such as our favorite meal or spending time with our friends. Yet, these are the same things that slowly begin to feel more obligatory than entertaining. We might feel forced to "enjoy" the things that usually make us feel good in hopes of extracting some temporary relief. But as of late, there are instances when our cushions are being pressed against our shoulders: it is a struggle in itself to complete the day normally. And the evidence eventually (and unwelcomingly) shows itself, from under-eye circles citing sleepless nights to the lack of response in our group chats and discussion posts.

School stress, world events, national occurrences, familial routines, friendship building. All these external things demand our focus, and we feel grateful without being truly grateful for. We could turn to another way of expressing our gratitude. The reintegration into society after the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic gave a rush of "thankfulness" when we resumed lively, engaging activities that come with being out and about. Yet, there is self-main tenance: how we process all these exterior things. Our feelings, our thoughts...who is nursing our internal concerns and struggles? When do we tend to the interior of everything, if at all?

This begs the question of "what is left to be grateful for?" Simply being alive is not really an answer. People find comfort or appreciate all that much (at least, not while we are in the throes of it). Existence in itself is not something we can necessarily feel grateful for. Just accept it as our current state of being.

We could turn to another question and ask something that carries more promise to an answer, such as "how do we feel grateful without being shallow, spoiled or apathetic?" As with anything interpersonal, there is not a quick, easy answer because we are not clear-cut beings to begin with. However, we will go out on a limb and say that even supposed negative or superficial reasons for appreciation are sensible. The underlying significance with that statement is how there is honesty behind those answers, and that is the basis for finding some semblance of order.

Our ambiguity confounds and aggravates. Truthfully speaking, it is the cause of most of our problems. What we would suggest is that we begin to explore "gratefulness" as the act of acknowledgment. That is to say, what we feel is natural and we cannot punish ourselves for feeling or behaving otherwise. Undoubtedly, we should strive for better, despite perfection not being attainable. The goal is not to be perfect but for something better. Better communication, better processing of feelings and so on. It is not a linear process, and it will not ever feel like it is progressing in observable and monumental strides. But the attempt to do so is worthwhile because it achieves something just the same.

To sum it up, let us not exhaust ourselves trying to find "acceptable" reasons to be grateful for the sake of humbling ourselves. Wherever and whenever you're spending the holiday with, if even for a brief moment we are able to find some internal resolve, let us understand that it is more than enough and we have ourselves to ultimately thank for.

But as each year passes and the effects of staying inside wear off, we find ourselves shouldering even more of the world's troubles after being absent or seemingly "cut off." Baring the weight of our difficulties at home is vastly different than walking around and having them hover over your shoulder: it is a struggle in itself to complete the day normally. And the evidence eventually (and unwelcomingly) shows itself, from under-eye circles citing sleepless nights to the lack of response in our group chats and discussion posts.

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We could turn to another question and ask something that carries more promise to an answer, such as "how do we feel grateful without being shallow, spoiled or apathetic?" As with anything interpersonal, there is not a quick, easy answer because we are not clear-cut beings to begin with. However, we will go out on a limb and say that even supposed negative or superficial reasons for appreciation are sensible. The underlying significance with that statement is how there is honesty behind those answers, and that is the basis for finding some semblance of order.

Our ambiguity confounds and aggravates. Truthfully speaking, it is the cause of most of our problems. What we would suggest is that we begin to explore "gratefulness" as the act of acknowledgment. That is to say, what we feel is natural and we cannot punish ourselves for feeling or behaving otherwise. Undoubtedly, we should strive for better, despite perfection not being attainable. The goal is not to be perfect but for something better. Better communication, better processing of feelings and so on. It is not a linear process, and it will not ever feel like it is progressing in observable and monumental strides. But the attempt to do so is worthwhile because it achieves something just the same.

To sum it up, let us not exhaust ourselves trying to find "acceptable" reasons to be grateful for the sake of humbling ourselves. Wherever and whenever you're spending the holiday with, if even for a brief moment we are able to find some internal resolve, let us understand that it is more than enough and we have ourselves to ultimately thank for.

But as each year passes and the effects of staying inside wear off, we find ourselves shouldering even more of the world's troubles after being absent or seemingly "cut off." Baring the weight of our difficulties at home is vastly different than walking around and having them hover over your shoulder: it is a struggle in itself to complete the day normally. And the evidence eventually (and unwelcomingly) shows itself, from under-eye circles citing sleepless nights to the lack of response in our group chats and discussion posts.

School stress, world events, national occurrences, familial routines, friendship building. All these external things demand our focus, and we must tirelessly prune our attention to give consideration and respond appropriately.

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The holiday season is just about here, a great couple of months for those who think gravy ought to be its own food group. But, even for my fellow gravy-heads out there, this can be an incredibly difficult time for those with strained familial relationships.

You may feel as though you have nowhere to go, or dread the place you know you will have to go. In any sense, it is why I firmly believe that, by the nature of the holiday, you should not be bound by tradition to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Let us take a step back to ask what is the expressed purpose of Thanksgiving? One could argue that it is a bunch of propaganda to make us seem like we were way nicer than we actually were to Native Americans. I will not argue against that. But the alleged point of Thanksgiving is to reflect on the year that has passed and all of the things we are thankful for.

So why should our celebrations reflect obligation? "Friendsgiving" has slowly taken over in the past few years, and for good reason: it is completely free from those obligations. Friendsgiving is built to notice the absence of that essential transition phase that allows kids to step into a socially catastrophic construct in which kids no longer have the room to be as young, silly and awkward as some of us once were, a vital phase that allows them to find who they are as they age.

I am going to make an educated guess that when you think of who you were at ages eight to 12, you might shock yourself by seeing your outfit choices, why you thought that hairstyle was ever cute or your choice of room decor. For me, my tween phase was filled with colorful plaid shorts, crocs and an influx of cropped, mature clothing that would come in our shipments weekly. It would seem that for these events is complaints, why don’t we try to fix it? Why not change the dynamic to protect our own mental health and set a better tradition for the Thanksgivings that come later, so the next generation can feel safe to throw out those traditions and do what fulfills them best?

As our generation comes into its own, baby boomers have had a tendency to criticize our aspirations of self-fulfillment as being selfish, which is wholly unfair and frankly stupid. We were born into a vastly different world than them, one that is by many metrics much safer in a superficial sense but does not set us up for success in the same ways. So, we take what we can get. And while buying a house may be difficult for myself and my peers, we have full control over who we let into our homes.

Do Not Be Bound By Tradition
This Thanksgiving

Colin Luderitz
Entertainment Editor

I recently came across a video online of two young girls, about nine years old at most, filming a makeup tutorial. The two young girls spoke of how their anti-aging cream to their young beautiful faces, clearly influenced by our culture of achieving some type of unrealistic perfection as a normal daily routine. And it is not those kids’ fault, it would not even be right to blame their parents. Rather it is our changing trends in media and even fashion that seemingly pressure these kids to hurry up, grow up and be “perfect.”

As I worked in a popular retail store over the past year, I would see the new clothing that would come in our shipments weekly. It would seem that every shirt I seemed to like would be just a bit too cropped for my liking. Then, I would notice that stores in my hometown mall became much more selective. No more Justice, which was my favorite store as a young tween. A nice graphic tee with a silly monkey on the front would be exactly what I was looking for. No more clothes for younger tweens, just an influx of cropped, mature clothing that young girls seemingly thought was the norm.

Ultimately, girls’ fashion has transformed from child to teenager. We are missing the in-between, the fashion and phase that allows young girls to experiment with different looks and let them not look perfect because that’s unrealistic. It is not just fashion, but media and trends. “Pretty” people get the likes and attention, and that is what these young girls and boys are learning. Where is the focus on intelligence? Creativity? Things that allow kids to evolve into something more.

We have allowed society to change into a socially catastrophic construct in which kids no longer have the room to be as young, silly and awkward as some of us once were, a vital phase that allows them to find who they are as they age.

We have become so transfixed on looks and what we can consume in a 15–60 second TikTok, that kids are finding ways to make themselves replicate these standards, standards no person should have to live up to. We have unknowingly eliminated this tween transition phase that allows kids to step into the tween world and find their style and sense of self.

I hope in the future there will be more clothing stores that allow kids to wear silly shirts, more media representation of creativity or other attributes apart from physical looks, and an acknowledgment by us, the young adults of society, that these unrealistic standards are exactly that. Extremely unrealistic.

Colin Luderitz, a junior filmmaking major, is in his first year as the entertainment editor for The Montclarion.

The Tween Phase

Kayla Mulligan
Staff Writer

The Montclarion • November 16, 2023 • PAGE 13

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**“Infinite”**  
by Kiara Oelkers | Staff Writer

Eight weaving legs,  
My past foe, but now eccentric.  
Movement so authentic, how magnetic!  
Rays of sunshine  
Dripping down on its weathered weaves.  
It brews the wine  
Blending our light, nurturing my belief.  
This beauty of reaching beyond,  
To philosophize nature’s bond,  
To view your veins as lightning,  
To ponder what your fear is inviting.  
It’s power we all have inside,  
To believe in what God provides,  
To have eight fluent legs, or two,  
To know the universe is within you.

**“I’d Only Tried to Help”**  
by Joaquim Vazquez | Guest Writer

Flightless Bird  
Beautiful with a broken wing  
I try to pick you up  
But all you can do is scream  
I chose a new approach  
To show you what I can bring  
All this so you can find comfort  
in knowing that you are seen  
The days go by  
Since your acceptance of my act  
In my hand, you’ve chosen to stay  
As we are both undoubtedly attached  
Your frail body brings warmth to my hands  
So no, I am not one to contest  
But it’s only a matter of time  
Before my arms need their rest  
This discomfort frustrates me  
and so I have to let you know  
“You’ve been causing me a strain,  
that I’ve never felt before”  
Look at how I’ve left you  
Once again, injured on the floor  
“I should’ve never tried to help you”  
As you kick me out your bedroom door
“You Can’t Hide From Your Shadow”
By Sal DiMaggio | Feature Editor

The wind was crisp and cool as it blew across the playground. The clouds covered the sun on this early February morning, although there were patches of blue in the sky. The leaves rustled in the wind, swirling low across the ground.

A groundhog poked its head out of a hole. It ventured out slowly, wary and cautious. It snagged a piece of wood with its mouth and scurried back to its hole. From there it stood, half in and half out of the ground. It began to gnaw on the piece of wood.

A rustle. The groundhog perked its head up. A boy had opened the gate to the playground and walked in. Now he came to stop at the swing set. He sat on one of the swings and sat there, silent for a moment.

The groundhog knew the boy. He was a frequent visitor to the park. Sometimes he came with his friends, but lately, he had been coming just by himself, as in this case. The groundhog watched the boy for a moment, and then stuck his head back down.

The boy noticed the groundhog burrowed in his hole. “Hey, Phil,” he said, smiling at the groundhog. That was the name the boy had given the groundhog. Why this particular name, the groundhog had no idea. He didn’t really care though. As long as he had his food, his hole, and his wood, he was fine.

The boy smiled at Phil for a moment more, and then looked away, the smile fading from his face. “Well, Phil,” he said, “it’s finally happened.” He paused for a moment before continuing. “My parents have finally broken up. The divorce is final.”

Phil continued to gnaw on his wood. The boy went on, “I mean, I knew it was going to happen at some point. They’ve been talking about it for months. I heard them fight all the time.”

Why didn’t you tell me that Jacob was sick? I have a right to know, I’m his father!

Well, I figured you wouldn’t care, as you stay so late at work each night.

Oh, I’m sorry I’m making sure my family and I can have a nice life. Does that show I don’t care, Linda?

“After a while, I heard them talk about getting a divorce.”

Alex, we can’t go on like this each night. I’m sorry, but I want a divorce.

Honestly, I’m glad you said that, because I want one too.

“I used to cry in bed each night listening to them talk about it.”

But what about Jacob? This will crush him. We can’t do this to him.

But this is best for him. He can’t grow up watching us fight every night. We have to show him what a real, working relationship is. And frankly, what we have isn’t one.

“I didn’t want to believe it. But when they told me...” The boy trailed off. He looked at the groundhog.

“You’re lucky, Phil,” he told the groundhog. “You’re life is so simple. All you have to worry about is sleeping and eating. Me, I have so many things to worry about. School, friends, sports, and now this?” He sighed. “But you don’t care, do you? You’re probably not even listening to me right now.”

The only response from Phil was a snort as he burrowed deeper into his hole. The boy looked at him for a moment longer, and then looked away.

“I convinced my parents to stay together through the holidays. I thought maybe if they can get through the holidays, they’ll realize that they can stay together. Then I wouldn’t have to worry about a thing.

“And it began to work, for a while at least. Maybe it was something about the holiday season, you know. It’s that time of year where everyone gets along. But once the new year came, they started to fight again. Talk of divorce came up again, and this time, my parents didn’t want to hear my complaints.”

Jacob, we know you don’t want us to get a divorce. But we do. We promised that we would stay together for Christmas, and we did. What more can you ask of us?

“I haven’t talked to them since that night. That was, what, two weeks ago?”

The boy looked at the groundhog again, who didn’t respond. “And now my dad moved out. Went to a friend’s place, he said.

“And you know what’s even worse?” the boy said. “Somehow one of the kids at school found out, and now everyone there knows.” He sighed. “That was the only place where I could forget about the divorce, besides here. That’s why I’ve been coming here so often lately. It’s like I can’t escape this thing.”

Just then the sun poked out through the clouds, and the groundhog scurried back in his hole. The boy noticed this and laughed.

“But you know what?” he said. “I realized something. I can’t hide from my shadow forever. Sooner or later I have to stand up and face reality.”

Phil continued to gnaw on the piece of wood.

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Student Gallery

Photos of Greece by
Elizabeth Seidemann
"Don't lecture me with your thirty dollar lens"
The film’s strongest aspect is the chemistry between Brie Larson, Iman Vellani and Teyonah Parris.

The Marvels wastes no time getting the team together. Photo courtesy of Marvel Studios

But what action! "The Marvels," thanks to its body-swapping antics, features some of the coolest action in a Marvel movie since "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings," with masterful fight choreography that plays into each character’s abilities very well without ever being difficult to follow.

The body-swapping storyline also serves as a clever method of keeping Captain Marvel from being overpowered through much of the film. It is certainly much more clever than what prior films featuring the character have done, which essentially amounted to her being physically restrained from using her powers in her first film or just not showing up until the last hour of "Avengers: Endgame."

Other key players in the cast include the evergreen Samuel L. Jackson, playing Nick Fury for the millionth time and still knocking it out of the park. The man is allegedly 74 years old, but you would not be able to tell from how much energy he still brings to the role 15 years in.

Zawe Ashton plays the villainous Dar-Benn, who has more in common with a villain like Whiplash from "Iron Man 2" than the truly great villains like Killmonger or Thanos. But even though her writing is scarcely convincing, her performance sells what little she has to work with.

Park Seo-joon has a brief role in the film as Prince Yan, a character with a surprising connection to Carol. While his role is small, he has one of the best scenes in the film and is more than worthy of praise here.

All in all, "The Marvels" is an imperfect, but earnestly charming film. Its excellent cast, particularly Vellani as Ms. Marvel, brings so much heart to the film that, in spite of its thin script, it is almost impossible to not fall in love with them and cheer them on during the excellent action sequences.

Colin Luderitz
Entertainment Editor
Troye Sivan has been one of the most interesting pop stars for almost the past decade. It feels that he has not had a lot of mainstream moments, but that does not diminish the quality of the music he has been making. Whether it was with his debut album "Blue Neighbourhood" which captured the teenage soft boy aesthetic stunningly, or his second album "Bloom," the first project of his to show signs of what it was like becoming an adult and loving your sexuality, it has all been something I love and listen to.

For his third studio album, Sivan has hit all the perfect punches for creating conversation around this era. From the heavy usage of TikTok to promote the album or even the album cover itself, everything seems so different from his previous sounds and aesthetics, but still him to the core of it all. The lead single for this album, "Rush," was arguably one of the songs of the summer. From the second it starts, you immediately feel an intensity build up around this era, and it's working.

Troye Sivan in the "Rush" music video. Photo courtesy of Capitol Records

Troye Sivan is still caught up on an ex but that does not diminish the quality of the music he has been making. Whether it is the unabashedly gay soft boy aesthetic stunningly, or his second album "Bloom," the first project of his to show signs of what it was like becoming an adult and loving your sexuality, it has all been something I love and listen to.

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The second single, "Get Me Started," features an iconic sample from the song "Shooting Stars" by the Bag Raiders. You may not know the song from the title alone, but you definitely have heard it in some form before. It is most popular for being part of a bunch of different memes in the 2010s decade and the Bag Raiders have not let anyone sample it until Sivan approached them. The sample can cause people to react, either good or bad, only because the sound can be cringe since it was tied to a now dated meme. However, I love the sample and find that it really lets the song take off.

A lot of the album relates to the concept of unrequited love, a topic many gay men and queer identifying individuals can definitely relate to. Specifically, the third single, "One Of Your Girls," mentions how Sivan has been in situations with men who are not publicly out or who do not identify as men who like men but still show interest in Sivan romantically. In the music video, Sivan lusts after a mix of men, one of them being Ross Lynch, then eventually transforms into a drag version of himself. The way Sivan sings the lyrics, "Look at you skip the application, interview / Sweet like Marabou / Look, look at you" in a whispery tone is pleasing on the ears and his cadence almost reminds me a little bit of the way Jack Johnson sings. Also, the lyric "Face card, no cash, no credit" is instantly memorable and will definitely be used in a lot of Instagram captions.

The single choices for this album have all been stellar and it is a credit to Sivan and his label for picking great and captivating singles. Each of them has had their own unique pop culture moments, which is smart of Sivan to do when releasing a new album. Whether it is the unashamedly gay music video for "Rush," the sample it until Sivan approached them. The sample can cause people to react, either good or bad, only because the sound can be cringe since it was tied to a now dated meme. However, I love the sample and find that it really lets the song take off.

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Father’s Day is coming up with open arms.

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of New York,” featuring Jason Kelce sing-

Christmas Special” is a riff on “Fairytale

without being afraid to ad-lib and have fun.

The most consistently impressive part of
the Philly Specials’ tenure thus far as
holiday musicians is their commitment to
delivering full-fledged listening expe-
ience. Even fans of bad teams, like the
New York Giants, can sit down and listen
to these lovely jaws and get swept up in the
Christmas cheer.

“Fairytale of Philadelphia” by The
Philly Specials feat. Travis Kelce

Photo courtesy of Vera Y Records

Oh, you thought you were only get-
ing one editor’s choice from The Philly
Specials this week? Well, I’ve been asked
(read: beaten into submission) to stop
writing Philly-themed horoscopes, so un-
til those dawgs stop dropping singles, I’ll
write what I want, okay?

This third single from “A Philly Special
Christmas Special” is a riff on “Fairytale
of New York,” featuring Jason Kelce sing-
ing a duet with his brother Travis Kelce,
the current beau of Philly native Taylor
Swift and an up-and-coming football play-
er in his own right.

It’s clear that the younger Kelce’s time
dating one of the biggest pop stars in the
world has rubbed off, because his vocals
on “Fairytale of Philadelphia” are delight-
ful. It’s a sweet little look at the unique re-
lationship that siblings share, with echoes of
the bickering my sister and I carry out
every Yuletide season, but the same
warmth and love we eventually settle into.

(Lots of Abby shoutouts in this week’s is-
sue. Love you Abby.

“A Philly Special Christmas Special” is
shaping up to be a much more emotional
album than the first and I, for one, wel-
come it with open arms.

- Colin Luderitz
Entertainment Editor

Rolling Stones Stun With New Album ‘Hackney Diamonds’

Danny Krastek
Staff Writer

“Hackney Diamonds” Album by The Rolling Stones
Producer: Andrew Watt
Explicit, 33 minutes

“Don’t get angry with me” sings the
iconic voice of Mick Jagger on the
opening track, aptly titled “Angry.” In
some ways, it is difficult not to be a
little annoyed at not necessarily “Angry.”

“Hackney Diamonds,” the new Rolling
Stones album that the song resides on,
is the first new record of Stones’ music
since 2016, and is their first album of
original material since 2005. Mick, you
have been starving us.

Those are not the only firsts this
album has, it is also the first Stones
album after the unfortunate passing of
original drummer Charlie Watts two
years ago, as well as their first record-
ing with original bassist Bill Wyman
since the early 1990s.

Despite being down a man, the
band sounds as unified and powerful
as ever. Watts has been replaced by
Steve Jordan, who possesses the same
drive behind the kit that Watts had. If
you did not know there was a different
drummer, I am not sure you would be
able to tell the difference, Jordan is
that good.

The album also features a note-
worthy number of guests. Elton John
plays piano on two tracks, Lady
Gaga and Stevie Wonder show up on
“Sweet Sounds of Heaven” and Paul
McCartney adds bass to the song
“Bite My Head Off.” That is not all as
mentioned before, the band’s original
bass player, Wyman, pops in on “Live
By the Sword,” his first recording with
the band since the early 1990s. Even
Watts appears posthumously on a pair
of songs. In fact, Watts and Wyman
either ended up appearing on the afore-
mentioned track, making it a full band
reunion for the first time in years.

I have been stalling long enough...
how are the actual songs on the
album?

On our opening track, “Angry,” we
hear that the band really has not lost
their edge at all. Jagger sounds much
younger than you would expect an 80
year-old to sound, while the riff created
by Keith Richards and Ronnie Wood
recalls the band’s classic era. It follows
in the tradition of fantastic opening
tracks by the Stones. “Bite My Head
Off” is a killer, with McCartney taking
over bass duties. While I do wish his
bass line was more prominent, the
song rocks too hard to care. “Whole
Wide World” and “Get Close” feature
strong hooks that have been exchang-
ing space in my brain for a little bit
now.

While most of the tracks are at the
very least solid, there are certainly a
few duds here and there. The country
swag of “Dreamy Skies” is tantalizing,
it goes in one ear and out the other.
The moody “Tell Me Straight” features
Richards on lead vocals, but it lacks
the fire of a song like “Happy” or
“Before They Make Me Run,” which
also swapped Jagger for Richards be-
hind the microphone. The good thing
about this filler though is that none of
it is truly awful. Usually every Stones
album has one or two outright dispos-
able songs. “Hackney Diamonds” is
apparently the exception, as every song
is at the very least.

Back to the highlights, we now
come to the track “Sweet Sounds of
Heaven,” which features piano from
Wonder and backing vocals from none
other than Gaga. Maybe it sounds
like an odd pairing, but she absolutely
crushes it. Despite her performance
being more impressive than Jagger’s,
she never steals the spotlight, instead
coming off as an equal, a partner. The
team up is one of the most satisfy-
ing songs on the entire album. There
is also a great little moment where
Gaga and Jagger have a riff off, trying
to outdo each other with little falsetto
yelps. It is a great bit.

While a soaring track like “Sweet
Sounds of Heaven” might seem like
a great way to end off things, the way
the album actually comes to close is
somehow even better. After a whole
album of some of the band’s hardest
rocking in years, we finish off with a
cover of “Rolling Stone Blues” by
Muddy Waters. This song already had
a lot of significance for the band, as it
is the song that gave the group their
name 60 years ago. Jagger’s seduc-
tive harmonica slides in and out over
drums and guitar riffs. It is a great throwback to
the band’s roots, and if it ends up being
the group’s last ever song, a some-
what likely possibility then it will have
brought the band’s career full circle.
Frankly, I can not think of a better way
to end off the record.

All of this is to say that “Hackney
Diamonds” is the best Stones record
in decades. That is not necessarily
the highest bar in the world: they have
not released a record this solid since
“Tattoo You,” and nothing this great
since even longer before. We would be
lucky to get any Stones album in 2023-
we are even more blessed to be given
such a fantastic one.

“Sweet Sounds of Heaven” features piano from Stevie
Wonder and backing vocals from Lady Gaga.

Photo courtesy of Polydor
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
College is often a busy and stressful time for all students as it is a time for independence and immersing oneself in new opportunities. It is about experiences both old and new guiding one towards new opportunities and for some to do something they never thought they would. That is exactly what senior Billy Pinckney did.

Pinckney is a Sports Communications major at Montclair State University where he has involved himself in several extracurricular activities. Pinckney is currently a pitcher for the Montclair State Club Baseball team where he holds the title for longest-tenured current player being with the club since the fall of 2020.

“It’s been great being a part of club baseball, allowing my career to continue in college,” Pinckney said. “My senior year in high school was COVID so I didn’t get to play. A lot of my teammates from high school stopped playing... I was fortunate to be able to latch on to club ball here at MSU and play for another few years.”

Pinckney may be known better by his alias, “Billy the Batboy.” Back when he was 11 years old, Pinckney was a batboy with the New Jersey Jackals, a professional baseball team from the Frontier League, who played on campuses at Yogi Berra Stadium for the past 25 years until recently relocating. He created Billy the Batboy a few years later as a way of interviewing players and coaches to learn more about the game of baseball and become a bigger part of it. “I began to interview players in 2015, I was 13 years old,” Pinckney said. “I would just ask the players some questions, a lot of it was just advice for younger players. I created the YouTube channel and social media platforms, and over the years it evolved and now I’m creating a lot of mic’d-up content and interview content that’s entertaining but fun and also educational and inspiring for the younger players out there.”

Billy the Batboy has amassed over four thousand subscribers on YouTube as well as 18,000 Instagram followers and 49,000 TikTok followers. Over the years Pinckney has used these platforms and opportunities to create content with professional baseball players and gain experience in the sports media world. After over 10 years of experience and interview content with some major names in baseball, Pinckney was asked to write and publish his own book, “Passion Prevails: Baseball's Top Performers Advise Young Players on Maximizing Their Experience by Billy Pinckney.”

Pinckney’s book includes interviews with players and coaches both past and present from the MLB and MiLB, telling their stories and sharing their passion for the sport. To name a few, the book includes interviews with Nick Swisher, David Cone, David Wells, Todd Frazier, Richard “Goose” Gossage, and many others.

“It’s a rewarding process, definitely an incredible process as well,” Pinckney said. “I went into this knowing that I have an opportunity to help inspire younger players and it was also an opportunity for me to learn a lot about how to improve myself. I really took this seriously and enjoyed every minute of it. Of course, it’s time-consuming and could be a tedious process when you’re trying to transcribe things and see what fits... but it was definitely rewarding.”

For more, go to themontclarion.org
Red Hawks Sweep the Competition in Opening Weekend

Zachary Papenberg
Staff Writer

The Red Hawks achieved a blowout victory in their season opener on the road against Lycoming College. The final score of the game was 85-49 as Montclair State University started their season off on a good note.

Montclair State opened up the game by going on an 11-0 run with a couple of assists and a layup coming from senior guard Keyon Pryce. Montclair State had great ball movement and were really focused on finding the open man at all times.

Momentum began to pile up quickly as shots were falling for the Red Hawks at will. Lycoming could not figure out how to stop Montclair State from scoring and could not find a way to put points on the scoreboard either.

Montclair State found themselves up by 14 points midway through the first half and continued applying pressure on Lycoming's defense. By halftime, Montclair State now had an 18-point lead and the score at the break was 42-24.

Lycoming was going to have to come out strong if they wanted a chance to come back in this game. Montclair State never took their foot off the gas pedal and came into the second half just as fired up as they did in the first.

The Red Hawks would take part in yet another big 13-0 run with seven minutes left in the game. Their energy level was never matched and confidence continued to overflow.

The star of the game for Montclair State was junior guard Mike Jackson who had 20 points in the win. He shot 7-11 from the field and had four three-pointers as well. It was a balanced effort throughout the whole game as everyone really contributed to the scoring. There were only three players on the roster that did not get in on the scoring affair.

This game is something to be proud of and this is the type of effort that the Red Hawks need to bring to the table every week. However, this was only Game one of the weekend as Montclair State would face Penn College in Game two.

It was a totally different atmosphere as Montclair State and Penn College were going back and forth. Points were going on the scoreboard almost every second and neither side was really able to take full control of the game.

Just as the Wildcats thought that they were going to go into the second half with the lead, senior Amari Mills had a putback to level the score. The two teams were even at 46 and the Red Hawks were eager to come back out on the court for the second half.

The ending was a wild one, coming down to the final few seconds of the game. Penn College got within a point but Mills would respond back with a fast break layup putting the Red Hawks up by three.

Penn College would not just lie down and take the loss. They responded back with a three to tie it with nine seconds on the clock, forcing Montclair State to call a timeout once they got to the front court.

Senior Kieran Flanagan would find Sophomore Kunga Tsering under the net for a tough layup to get the win. It was a gutsy and clutch performance by Montclair State as they are 2-0 to start their season.

Next week the Red Hawks take on Albertus Mangus on Thursday, Nov. 16, at 7 p.m. at home as they look to remain undefeated to start the season.
Montclair State Suffers First NJAC Loss of the Season Against Salisbury University

Emanuel Adebayo
Guest Writer

On the back-end of a stellar performance in a 2-0 triumph over Elmira Saturday evening, the Montclair State Red Hawks looked to continue that momentum heading into their highly anticipated second round matchup against Christopher Newport in this year’s NCAA tournament.

For star midfielder Amer Lukovic, the more things change, the more they stay the same. As his scoring prowess from the regular season and NJAC championship continued with a hat-trick in this game. Adding on to an already remarkable 2023 campaign.

Like many times this season, Montclair State got off to a fast start. Scoring a goal that was ultimately ruled offside, nevertheless giving CNU players a small glimpse of what they’re capable of offensively.

It would not be all glitz and glamour for Montclair State, however, as Christopher Newport’s first major opportunity of the contest came in the 6th minute from senior forward Elton Quantanilla, whose shot only just sailed over the crossbar.

The Captains would find themselves through on goal once again just three minutes later after a cleared free kick was pinged back into the box, sailing over the Red Hawk defense. Sophomore midfielder Barry Jones latched on for what would’ve made for an amazing volley had he not missed.

Contrary to most teams this season, CNU had no issues maintaining possession in Montclair State’s half during the first 45 minutes. Doing a fantastic job of making clearances and capitalizing on the fastbreak.

Evidently, that was the game-plan for Christopher Newport heading into this matchup. To prevent crosses from Red Hawk players reaching the 18 yard box and playing off the fastbreak. An excellent tactical approach from Head Coach Justin Chezem.

Whether it was on the flanks, or through the middle of the field, Coach Chezem trusted the elusiveness and dribbling of his forwards to create chances. Keeping an increased intensity as they made their way downfield with the ball.

A little bit of controversy late in the first half as sophomore midfielder Caleb Jones was tripped in MSU’s penalty box and went down, with no whistle being blown for a penalty. A strike of luck for Montclair with the game tied at 0-0 heading into the break.

A little bit of controversy late in the first half as sophomore midfielder Caleb Jones was tripped in MSU’s penalty box and went down, with no whistle being blown for a penalty. A strike of luck for Montclair with the game tied at 0-0 heading into the break.

Not even a minute into the second period of play and a goal is scored by Montclair State. Amir Lukovic, capitalizing on the Christopher Newport goalkkeeper’s error and smashing the ball into the back of the net. His 31st goal of the season.

It’s as if the roles were reversed for these two teams from this point forward in the game, with the Red Hawks now capitalizing off of CNU’s loss of possession, and playing off the fastbreak. Oddly enough, the Captains were still the next team to come up with a goal.

It was senior midfielder Mason Field who came through for his side, as a cross to the far post slipped through and found Fields’ feet to make it 1-1 with 14 minutes left in regulation. The game then went into overtime.

After a pretty stagnant first period of extra time with the score tied, it was now a matter of who’s heroics will provide breakthrough for their team.

We then headed into the second period of extra time, where Montclair State wasted no time as their first attempt at a free kick was converted by none other than Amer Lukovic.

Following a beautifully delivered pass from senior midfielder Oshin Mendez, Lukovic was able to take advantage and re-establish the lead for Montclair State. It didn’t end there for the forward as he scored another in the 108th minute.

Showing up in the biggest moments has become regular for Lukovic and he loves every minute of it.

It’s a great feeling, you know,” Lukovic said. Just helping my team out. Scoring goals is what I love to do.” No shortage of humility from the junior. Montclair State will now head up to New London for a contest against Connecticut College in the sectional round of the NCAA tournament.