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Bucknell University's Summer Program! Page 3.

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The Montgazette

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The Students' Voice

Issue 73

Serving Montgomery County Community College and the Surrounding Community

April 2018



Bucknell Community College Summer Program (BCCSP) Scholars from MCC and Garrett College (left to right): Lily Romano, Jessica Morris, Bristy Islam, Liutauras Repsys, Sara Wilkerson, Adrian Grow and Mouaz Alhindi.

Photo by Rylan Good

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from the Editor

Sara Wilkerson
The Montgazette Editor-in-Chief

“This is your time and it feels normal to you but really there is no normal. There’s only change, and resistance to it and then more change.”

– Meryl Streep

Sometimes, it’s hard to accept change. More times than not, change comes when we least expect it. The only way to accept change, as I’ve come to realize this past semester, is to simply embrace it, even if it scares the living heck out of you.

Embracing change is not done without the help of others. As the Editor-in-Chief of *The Montgazette* (MG) this year, I experienced changes that frankly were unforeseen, yet embracing these changes could not have been possible without the help of others. I’d like to take a moment and express my deepest thanks to those who have helped me embrace the changes that I’ve experienced as Editor of MG. Unfortunately, I can’t write personal thank-you’s here to everyone who has helped

me, for there are frankly too many people to thank, however I’ll just give shout outs to those who have been integral in the paper’s success this year.

I’d like to start by thanking Tyler Steffy and Diana McGuire in the Student Life office for helping me learn the administrative side of managing MG. Without the both of them helping me, I’d simply be lost as an Editor, and for that and more, thank you.

I’d also like to thank Gail Ramsey, the former advisor to MG, and Dave Aston, my predecessor, who despite not being officially on the staff anymore for the newspaper have nevertheless helped me transition into and become more effective as an Editor. Thank you for proving to be invaluable assets to MG.

Producing the newspaper would not be possible without the help and talents of Joshua Woodroffe, our layout designer. Josh, thank you for being so accommodating and being ruthlessly efficient in designing the layouts for the publication, even on the short notices that I have given you.

I’d be remiss not to mention *The Montgazette*’s new advisors this year, Therol Dix and Susan Masciantonio. Therol and Susan stepped into their roles, and despite the rocky start of having to learn their roles at the beginning of this academic year, have proven to be effective and communicative advisors who have helped me handle every new challenge thrown into the mix of producing every issue this year. I sincerely want to thank the both of you for being great advisors.

I’d like to thank the students and staff of MG. I’ve had the pleasure of reading and editing remarkable stories from the writers and storytellers in the MCCC community. It is through the efforts of the students that this publication’s mission is alive and well. Thank you, students of MCCC, for allowing MG to have your voices be heard.

Of course, there’s no way I could write this letter without mentioning and thanking my successor to MG. Alas, I will be graduating this May and will be

succeeded by Bridget Depew, who has served as MG’s social media editor this year. Bridget joined the newspaper in Fall of 2016. Her presence in the publication has been tremendous. Bridget not only has been instrumental as our social media editor but has helped in editing and producing content for the paper.

Bridget, I’m excited to see you take over MG, and despite how unsure of the change you’ll experience transitioning into my shoes, believe me: All you gotta do is embrace the change. There may come a time where you’ll resist the change of transitioning into a new role for MG, as Meryl Streep says, quoted above, but believe me when I say that you’re more than capable of being in charge, I know you are. Thank you for being an invaluable and irreplaceable asset to MG, Bridget; you’ll do great as my successor.

Lastly, I’d like to thank you, the readers of *The Montgazette*. Without our readers, then it wouldn’t be possible to have the voices of the writers and storytellers in the MCCC community be heard. Thank you for supporting MG this year and beyond.

Sincerely yours with extreme gratitude,



Sara Wilkerson

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About The Montgazette

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Bucknell Community College Scholars: A Life-Changing Summer

Sara Wilkerson
The Montgazette Editor-in-Chief

Everyone has that one defining moment or period in their lives that always sticks in the back of their minds as the greatest (or worst) time they've ever had in their life. For me, my defining period was a life changing summer program I was in last summer. Last summer, I was one of six Montgomery County Community College students who participated in the Bucknell Community College Scholars Program, or BCCSP, where during an eventful summer I got to know twenty-six individuals who have changed my life for the better.

BCCSP was formed in 2007 as an initiative to integrate high-achieving community college students into a four-year institution through a six-week program of intense academic rigor and numerous social engagements. After the end of the program, if students decide to transfer to Bucknell University upon completing their Associate degree, they receive a full tuition scholarship to finish their undergraduate degree.

The six weeks I was in the program changed my outlook on my academics, my social life and myself. I don't normally have much trouble academically. However, I admittedly felt overwhelmed by the intensity and volume of work by taking two classes in a six-week period. I wasn't the only one.

Mickey Arce, a student from Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC), spoke about the program's academics. "This is academic boot

camp... I needed to quickly rethink my current studying techniques... Adaptability and time management was key to my success in this program."

Likewise, Aldaine Alphonse, also from LCCC, spoke about her academic challenges saying, "... English is my third language, it took me twice the time of a native speaker to organize my thoughts and put it on [an academic] paper."

Socially speaking, the program is reliant on the students becoming close to one another. As Barb Thiel from Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) put it, "The social aspects are as intensive as the academics... You

will learn things about others that will make you want to be a better person, and others in turn will want to be better for knowing you."

For most of my life, I have been searching for a group of friends to call my own "fam." Through the highs of the weekend excursions and the vulnerable lows of sitting in circles and getting to know each other deeply, I am proud to say that I became part of a family with my fellow cohort members. It is through BCCSP that I've become a stronger scholar, more outgoing, and more reflective on experiences that I live through.

Alexa Eddy, another CCP student,

explained the impact of being in BCCSP: "I found myself and became much more confident with expressing myself and being myself because of it! Bucknell was the best experience of my life!"

I couldn't say it better myself. BCCSP is a life-changing program where students are given the chance to discover not only new challenges, but also to discover themselves, in one unforgettable summer at a prestigious university.

To find out more information about BCCSP and how to apply, contact the College's liaison, Kristin Fulmer, via kfulmer@mc3.edu.



Bucknell University's 2017 Community College Scholars

Photo by Rylan Good

A Turbulent Roller Coaster: My First Semester

Nadia Ellis
The Montgazette Staff

Many people view their college experience as challenging, rewarding, and gratifying. From my perspective, college was about transitioning back into school from a nine-year hiatus. After working at Walmart for ten years, it was time for change due to lack of advancement within the company. I wanted a better life for my children and me, so I decided to pursue a career in nursing.

In August 2016, I decided to go back to school at Montgomery County Community College (MCCC). In essence, I learned that college requires a lot of hard work and dedication.

I would describe my first semester at MCCC as a turbulent roller coaster that took many twists and turns. I registered for four classes in spring 2017: English 101,

Psychology 101, Sociology 101, and Math 010. I did not realize what I was getting myself into becoming a full-time student while working full time. Some expected this to be easy for me, but that was not the case.

I struggled with keeping up with my assignments and studying for my quizzes and exams. My class attendance dropped, and consequently, my grades suffered because I did not prepare for my tests. I realized juggling work, school, and my children was more than I could handle.

I immediately made some necessary and beneficial changes. I dropped my most challenging course, my English class; I was not able to comprehend the material and write an essay. Though stressful, I gained the courage to write my first paper. After I submitted my essay, I received a sixty-eight percent on my paper, a grade that killed my soul as a student and writer. I decided that I needed to be refreshed on the basics of English, so I registered to take a fundamental English writing class next semester to improve my writing and better prepare me for college-level English.

I knew that to be successful in my courses, my actions needed to change. Therefore, I scheduled study time – during my breaks at

work and setting aside time at home. As a result, I was better prepared for exams. I made sure to start my projects early, so I could pour great detail and creativity into them.

My hard work paid off, wrapping up my first semester with a B+ in Math 010, a B in sociology, and a C in psychology. Overall, my GPA was 2.5. Even though my first semester was filled with many ups and downs, I was still able to prevail with resilience, motivation, self-discipline, and success.

My first semester in college was a turbulent ride for me. I had to reevaluate my study habits, focus, and self-discipline. In addition, I had to gain resilience. It is important for one to realize that going to school can be a struggle, yet it can also be a life-changing experience.

Furthermore, college offers great resources that can help every student to become successful. No matter how hard college may become, students should keep striving and believing in themselves, never losing sight of their goals. In the wise words of Ingrid Fisher, the Keys Director at the College, “Being successful in college is not about being the smartest student. However, it is about having the smarter, more consistent plan to achieve success.”



Nadia Ellis

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EDITORIAL



The Montgazette
The Students' Voice

I Define Me

Natalie Capili
The Montgazette Staff

Every day I deal with different challenges, but the two that affect me the most are depression and anxiety. Depression is a medical illness that affects emotions, behaviors and the ability to function. Anxiety is an excessive amount of apprehension or worry triggered by one's surroundings.

Depression and anxiety run in my family, and there is no doubt that the gene was passed down to me. Every day I struggle to find the motivation to get out of bed. At school, I have a panic attack when I have to read or present to the class. I take medication every morning to help with my symptoms; however, medication is not always helpful. When I am depressed, I find myself having trouble making decisions or finding the motivation to do an activity. In addition, I have chest

pains when I get anxiety, and I am constantly picking at my nails because I need something to do with my hands. I just cannot sit still, and fidget toys don't always help.

Depression and anxiety go hand in hand, and they are serious mental illnesses. No matter what day of the week it is, I always have some important responsibility to take care of. Whether it is my job, my school work, or my house work, anxiety and depression are always following me around. Every day is a new day, a fresh beginning or a do over. No matter what, I wake up and do what I need to do; I don't let myself sit around. If I were to let depression consume me, I would never leave my bed. Every day I fight my depression and anxiety and choose not to let them run my life. I have mental illnesses, and I am not afraid to talk about it. I

am in charge of my life, and anxiety and depression are just parts of me.

As I become older, I find more ways to deal with the anxiety and depression. Lately, I have learned that doing something I love, like photography, helps with my illnesses. Whether I am taking photos or developing photos, I am free of my illnesses. I am happy and relaxed. I think that taking photos help because I am just so focused on what I want that there is no room for the depression and anxiety. I have nothing to worry about. There is no one to impress, no grade to earn; I am just taking and developing my own photos.

Also, I have a great support

system full of family and friends who are always there when I need them. If I need to talk to or just need someone to pull me out of bed, I know I can count on my mom. It might sound corny, but my mom is my biggest supporter. She has known me for all 18 years of my life, and she can tell instantly how I am feeling. She suffers from depression and anxiety too, so she understands how I feel and what I am going through. My mom is always there for me and helps me when I need her.

I know that I will always have these mental illnesses, but I will always find a way to deal with them. I can and I will overcome my anxiety and depression.

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Natalie Capili

Wakanda Forever

Bridget Depew
The Montgazette Staff

I am a huge Marvel comics fan, so there was nothing that could keep me from seeing Marvel's latest blockbuster, "Black Panther". Superheroes? Action-packed fight scenes? Angela Bassett looking just as fly as she wanna be? Yes, please!

When I heard the movie was coming out, the draw for me was not the spectacular all-black cast. The draw was the spectacular cast, who happened to be black. The "Black Panther" movie resonated with many, but with black people in particular. One reason being is because some say it is not often that blacks are represented with such regality and poise. It is not often you see an all-black cast in a movie that is about their success, wealth, and un-matched intelligence. Additionally, if you see such a black character, it is usually somehow portrayed as the handy sidekick. In the film world, the term is called the "Magical Negro" – basically described as the black person whose focus and attention is set more to the advancement of their white counterpart. This movie was quite a coup for a lot of black Americans. For me? It was... a movie.

I didn't see the movie as a coup. I saw it for what it is – entertainment. Some blacks felt inspired by it. And I'm not saying there's anything wrong with that. I'm just saying that I don't look to Hollywood for my inspiration, nor do I want my children to.

I catch a lot of flak for this amongst my black peers, but I don't wear my blackness as a badge of honor. I don't want someone to look at my successes and remark, "Wow, look at that black girl go!" I'm a wife, mother of two and a student maintaining a 4.0 GPA. I'm not extraordinary because I'm managing to do that all while being black. I'm managing to do all of that because I work hard.

Successful black people are not unicorns. And while most black people would agree, some take pleasure in showing us off as if we are. Don't get me wrong. I understand where they're coming from. It's the fact that we are portrayed in such a positive light (for a change) that blacks are most proud of. I don't disagree. I am always happy to see blacks in film where they're not selling drugs

or killing each other. Unfortunately, there are a lot of small-minded people who think that what is portrayed in the media is a mirror of the truth. But I'm here to tell you that blacks have been successful long before Hollywood was hip to it.

What I teach my children is that success IS the norm because they are intelligent and capable children who are taught by their parents that hard work leads to the success they seek. I teach them that it's not necessary to wear their blackness as a badge of honor. I don't want my children's successes to be recognized because they're black. I want it to be because they're just that good.

"Wakanda Forever." That was the phrase of solidarity amongst the Wakandans in the movie. Solidarity is important. But I want my children to stand in solidarity and pride amongst ALL their fellow man.



Lucas Depew and Sienna Swanson in the Wakanda poses depicted in "Black Panther".

Photo by Bridget Depew



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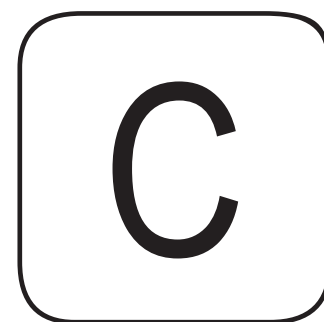
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The Magic of Marley

Justin Patrick Oakes
The Montgazette Staff

Every burnout, hippie, and reggae lover (a list I myself am not excluded from) for the past 30 years has owned a well worn out copy of Bob Marley's greatest hits album "Legend", an album packed with favorites like "Three Little Birds" and "One Love." These anthems have taken on a revival in the age of Libertarian-minded millennials of other relaxing musicians who are less likely to... ahem... stir the pot, shall we say. This is "Legend's" biggest flaw: it alienates potential Marley listeners and never even touches the surface of the revolutionary's vast music catalog.

In the wake of yet another school shooting in America, I found myself listening to Marley's album "Rastaman Vibration," specifically the song "Johnny Was." The song tells the story of a mother's heartbreak as she finds out that her son, whom she describes as "a good man," has been killed by a stray bullet in the streets, a victim of a system that slaughters too many of its youth. Even though the woman is presumably Jamaican, it's hard not to empathize with her, or even envision our own

American mothers' collective lament over the wholly unnecessary and avoidable death of a child. In some cases, we've even seen it, such as the mothers and fathers of victims of the Parkland shooting who bravely spoke to the world about the changes that they sought.

Alas, "Johnny Was," perhaps one of Marley's greatest songs, is nowhere near a greatest hits album. After listening to "Rastaman Vibration," I poured over the rest of my collection before throwing on the quintessential Marley album, "Survival." Unsurprisingly, not a single song from this landmark album ended up on "Legend". But, if given the opportunity to listen, "Survival" could hold a lot of weight with a lot of people. Each song carefully constructs the conditions that led to the black liberation movement of the 1960s and 70s and serves as a call to action to people of color all around the world to rise up and demand justice, not just in one's hometown, but in the African continent continuously being ravaged by colonialism. Each word simmers in the brain like an ember ready to spark a massive

fire that will burn down the entire system with words and peace over guns and violence.

I have yet to discover what it was that made a song like "One Love" more popular than songs like "Johnny Was" and "Africa Unite." Perhaps it was marketability. Maybe record executives thought a wider audience would prefer a black man put in his place as opposed to a black man speaking out. Maybe it was easier to brand a Jamaican man as just "another dumb stoner"

as opposed to a revolutionary figure whose words could move mountains. Maybe taming a poetic beast was more profitable than letting him out of his cage. Whatever the answer, if you only listen to "Legend", you're missing out. If you don't think reggae is your thing, you're missing out. If you want to participate in an ever-worsening political climate that will literally determine the future of this planet, I'd suggest you start listening to Bob Marley, the real Bob Marley.



Bob Marley's 1979 album "Survival"

Photo by Justin Patrick Oakes



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Marvel's Newest Crown Jewel: Black Panther

Alonso Barrantes
The Montgazette Staff

Marvel's latest installment and final solo-character focused film before its biggest event, Infinity War, has arrived in the form of "Black Panther." Directed by Ryan Coogler, who had previously directed Fruitvale Station and Creed, "Black Panther" tells the tale of a prince who takes up the mantle of being king after the assassination of his father. Upon coming home to his hidden and thriving city of Wakanda, the newly helmed king finds himself to be overthrown by an unwelcome guest.

Marvel does not stray away from adding new and unique tones to its single super hero focused films. "Black Panther" has a combination of thrilling spiritual journeys, action packed sequences and James Bond spy scenes inside a casino. The themes and focus around the prince himself manage to give him depth. Chadwick Boseman as T'Challa gives an incredible performance as a prince learning what it means to be king.

The story revolves around the character progression of T'Challa as he fights the internal conflicts of losing his father and holding his responsibilities on his own shoulders quite well. His character progression alone is a beautiful thing to see, as it shows the true empowerment behind a man who lost it all in an instant. The "Black Panther" shines as a complex and layered character while proving to be one of the deadliest characters along with the rest of the Marvel heroes we are familiar with.

Surprisingly, Michael B. Jordan as Erik Killmonger almost steals the show in the film. Now being debated as one of the best Marvel villains to date, Killmonger brings with him a unique and interesting political view to the modern world. He brings a problem to Wakanda while promising he has the solution.

Although his motives could be viewed as controversial, it drives his character's purpose

extremely well and conflicts with T'Challa's ideologies by the film's climax. A truly frightening villain in a film is one who sees himself as the hero, and Killmonger proves that he is not a villain, but a flawed character with extreme and pure purpose behind him. His voice has been heard by the millions of people who have seen this film and will be helmed as one of the best Marvel villains to date.

It wouldn't be a Marvel movie without talking about the action and spectacle typical of the franchise. "Black Panther" is no different, providing us fans with beautiful scenery as we explore the new and wealthy city of Wakanda. Yet, as the world continues to grow in Marvel's cinematic universe, the best form of beauty comes to us with the original costume design and attire we see throughout the film. The characters and originality in the film are breathtaking and prove that a film like this is a gem in our modern day society.



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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26 DID YOU KNOW?

Find out what your campus offers for students both in-and-outside the classroom.

MONDAY, MARCH 19 BUILDING YOUR RESUME WITH CLUB AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Don't sell your experiences in clubs and organizations short. Join the discussion to learn strategies for building your resume with co-curricular engagement

MONDAY, APRIL 2 THE ART OF SMALL TALK

Learn how to prepare for a career fair and create a 30 second elevator pitch to wow potential employers!

MONDAY, APRIL 9 WILL YOU GET AN INTERVIEW? Resume & Cover Letter Writing.

MONDAY, APRIL 16 FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE LASTING

Learn how to interview, prepare to dress for success, and the art of effective networking.

MONDAY, APRIL 23 SOCIAL MEDIA

The the dos and don'ts.

MONDAY, APRIL 30 PROFESSIONALISM 101

The tools for Professional Branding.

PLEASE NOTE! All workshops are subject to change. Please check the Student Portal for updates.



Montgomery County
Community College

SOUTH HALL, ROOM 222 –
UNLESS NOTED
MONDAYS: 12:20 – 1:15 PM

SPRING 2018 DINE & DIALOGUE WORKSHOPS CENTRAL CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31 - ATC 214 TIME MANAGEMENT

Learn how to effectively manage your time to increase your success.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7 YOU HAVE THE POWER: A GUIDE TO SELF-SERVICE

Learn how to use self-service to plan courses, register, add/drop, and much more on your own.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 TRANSFER FAIR

COLLEGE HALL 147-152
Come and meet with your future college!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 TECH TOOLS FOR WELLNESS

Learn how to use different apps on your phone to help with your wellbeing.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 FROM SAD TO GLAD: THE FOOD MOOD CONNECTION

Discuss the impact of the Standard American Diet on our moods.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7 APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Need money for college? Join us and learn about scholarship application preparation and essay writing.

PLEASE NOTE! All workshops are subject to change. Please check the Student Portal for updates.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

FAKE NEWS: DISCERNING FACT FROM FICTION

A fun and interactive session that encourages you to think about the news you read and share daily. The discussion will encourage critical thinking about the resources you use in your class assignments and daily life.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28 FINANCIAL AID

Learn important facts about your financial aid and academic progress.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4 THE ART OF SMALL TALK

Learn how to prepare for a career fair and create a 30 second elevator pitch to wow potential employers!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11 WILL YOU GET AN INTERVIEW

Resume & Cover Letter Writing.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18 FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE LASTING

Learn how to interview, prepare to dress for success, and the art of effective networking.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25 SOCIAL MEDIA

The Do's and Don'ts.



Montgomery County
Community College

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CENTER, ROOM 316 – UNLESS NOTED
WEDNESDAYS: 12:20 – 1:15 PM

Wanted: Photographers

Get your photos published!

- Photograph college & local events
- Conduct on-campus photo Q&A's
- Great portfolio building opportunity
- All students welcome

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The Students' Voice

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Watched

by Sable Meorow

Moss chokes the sound of life
Our footprints sink in slow
We wander the sacred holy place
And keep our gazes low
We march a slow and steady trail
Lost in everlasting green
We stop for moments, sink further down
And pray the spirits leave us be
For they watch us slowly pass
Our every move they see
We dare not snap a single branch
Lest our lives they seize
Ghostly forms flit between
The everlasting trees
Their soft glow, their bright eyes
In the darkness gleam
We trespass here, walking through
The shrine of untouched green
We did not want, we did not mean
This was not planned to be



Illustration by Emily McLaughlin

Oh, How We Fall

by Justin Patrick Oakes



Illustration by Emily McLaughlin

I fell in love with her
 The same way that the
 Leaves fall for the cold
 Winter ground.
 Green with envy I sat
 Longing to be the man
 That kissed her ruby lips
 In the heat of the summer rain.
 Yellowing complexion
 And queasy feelings,
 Unnerved I'd be
 When she'd speak a word.
 Uneasy I'd feel as the roots that
 Kept me sequestered slowly became
 Frail.
 The orange flame was hard
 To contain to mere sparks
 When my hand
 Gently brushed hers.
 But falling in love was easy
 As the redness of my face
 Matched the redness of her lips
 On the day she first
 Kissed me.
 And like the millions of leaves
 Before me,
 I'd fallen at the first sight of cold,
 Crackling and crumbling in the
 Barren and broken winter,
 Only to be reborn
 When the spring
 Returned...

Clouded Thoughts

by Sara Wilkerson

I have a lot on my mind
 Yet, you expect me to concentrate?
 Homework, deadlines
 Resumes, careers
 People to see
 People to meet

I have a lot on my mind
 Yet, you expect me to concentrate?
 Essays, news stories
 Theses galore
 People to please, People to entreat

I have a lot on my mind
 Yet, you expect me to concentrate?
 Textbooks, assignments,
 Words upon words
 Beat on my crushed spirit
 Broken, defeated
 You don't help me up

I have a lot on my mind
 Yet, you expect me to concentrate?
 Then of course, you do it.

Toss me to the curb
 Abandoned
 When you took me in

You toss me to the curb
 Without a glance
 You don't help me
 You beat me down
 Crush my spirit
 But not this time

This time I'm older,
 Richer in education
 Richer in experience
 Richer in self-doubt...

I wait... and I pray... hoping
 For the noise to stop
 For the world to stop
 For everything to just stop...

Yet here I am
 A brand new day
 Homework, deadlines
 Theses galore

With all this,
 You well now know
 I have a lot on my mind. Yet...
 You really expect me to concentrate?



TV Production

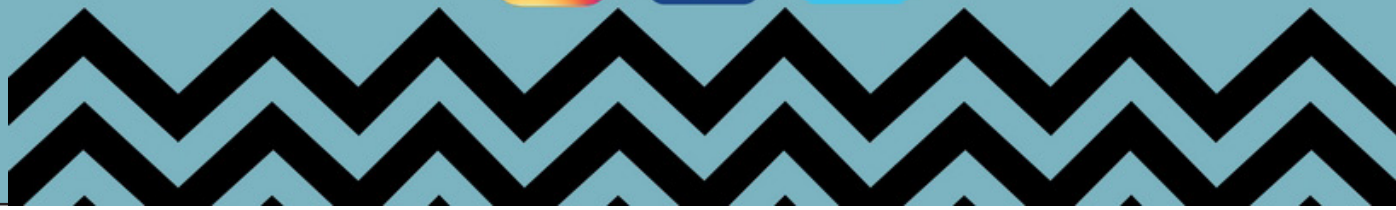
LEARN AND HELP
WITH ALL ASPECTS
OF TV PRODUCTION
(DIRECT, FILM, EDIT)

MONDAYS
AND
WEDNESDAYS 12:30 TO 1:30
ATC 114 STUDIO
"THE BUZZ UPDATE"

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COLLEGE

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