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a student publication

The **Montgazette**

FREE

The Students' Voice

Issue 78

Serving Montgomery County Community College and the Surrounding Community

May 2019



Across college campuses, free speech is being challenged. Montgomery County Community College students sound off on this issue. **Page 4.**

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from the
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The Montgazette
 The Students' Voice

How to handle end-of-semester stress

Hint: Don't give up

Josh Young
 The Montgazette Editor-in-Chief

Currently as Montgomery County Community College students, we are coming up on deadlines for research papers, final exams and the end of another semester. With all these things comes stress, but when coupled with work commitments, extracurricular activities and family obligations, the stress can feel daunting and crushing. It can make you want to give up, take it easy and limp across the finish line because you feel like you have nothing left to give.

I know that I feel this way sometimes. In addition to my role as Editor-in-Chief of the Montgazette, I have to juggle my piano lessons, being a full-time student at the College, and helping to take care of my cancer-stricken grandmother. I am also responsible for getting my little brother to and from school on most days. Besides the stress, each of these responsibilities carries

its own mental and emotional baggage that I must deal with. I do not always handle the effects in the best way, but when I feel like giving up, I always try to remember my father's advice: You will get through it, and no matter what happens, the sun will come up the next morning.

There are times when you will be at a loss for a topic for a paper. Or you will come home late at night from work and feel as though you should study for a test to be held in a couple days. At these times, it is helpful to utilize introspection and to gauge your stress level and your capacity to be productive in your studies in such a situation. If you are overly stressed, the likelihood is that the paper you produce will be unsatisfactory, or the study session will only increase your anxiety and stress level. Sometimes, pushing yourself across the finish line has as much to do with exercising self-restraint and relaxing, as it

does with bearing down and push through. For example, while writing this piece, I have taken a step back and used introspection; in fact, I went over to the piano to clear my mind and de-stress. After doing so, I find that I am much more productive and am able to flourish instead of drown in all I have to do.

This does not mean that there will not be moments where you may need to hunker down and power through things, because there certainly will be those moments. During those times, I find it helpful to tell myself that it is merely a passing moment, and remind myself of the way that I will feel when I complete the task. Furthermore, because something is difficult does not mean that is okay to give up. In order to accomplish great things, we must do things not because they are easy, but because they are hard. But always remember, no matter what happens, the world will not end.

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About The Montgazette

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Rebranding at The Montgazette

We heard your opinions!

Josh Young
The Montgazette Editor-in-Chief

Our mission at The Montgazette is first and foremost to provide coverage of and shed a light on topics that you, the students, care about and find important. To determine what you find relevant and interesting, we conducted a survey during the Club Fair in January asking that very question. As Editor-in-Chief, I want to let you know that we have heard your thoughts and are adjusting our coverage accordingly. In the future, we plan on producing movie reviews, book reviews, music reviews, opinions on

Philadelphia sports teams and information about free events both on and off campus. What's more, full PDFs of past issues are now available at www.mc3.edu/choosing-montco/campus-life/campus-clubs, under "Montgazette." Readers can also find past issues by searching for "Montgazette" from the College's homepage. Finally, we are increasing our social media ... We are also increasing our social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Twitter. Have a great rest of your semester.



The Montgazette is proud to announce Martha Rodriguez as the winner of the raffle for a \$50 Wawa gift card. Thank you to all those who participated.

Photograph by Robin C. Bonner

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On campus, all speech is free speech

Colleges digest recent “freedom of speech events” and Trump’s plans to punish schools who do not comply.

Josh Young

The Montgazette Editor-in-Chief

Recently, there has been talk on college campuses of censoring speech that is deemed by some to be offensive. According to Jonathan Zimmerman, professor of history and education at the University of Pennsylvania, 71 percent of incoming freshman nationwide in the 2015-2016 school year said colleges should prohibit racist and sexist speech on campus. He also noted in a Philadelphia Inquirer article that 43 percent of those students said “extreme speakers” should be banned from speaking at colleges.

Liberal students used to champion free speech, whereas conservative students favored censorship. But there has been a flip-flop of attitudes regarding free speech on college

campuses, Zimmerman wrote in an article for Philly.com.

According to Eugene Scott of The Washington Post, 62 percent of Democrats thought it was acceptable for someone to loudly shout at a speaker, so the audience cannot hear the speaker. Only 39 percent of Republicans thought this was acceptable. At some campuses, students have resorted to violence to censor speech they do not like.

In 2017, a conservative group at the University of California, Berkeley, invited Milo Yiannopoulos, an editor for the right-wing publication Breitbart, to speak. He came at the request of the Berkeley Patriot, a student-run conservative online publication. His speech was canceled after violent protests

broke out on the Berkeley campus. Students set fires, destroyed property, threw fireworks, attacked members of the conservative crowd and threw rocks at the police. Many Trump supporters were attacked and pepper-sprayed.

Similar incidents have occurred across the country and inspired President Trump to sign an executive order on March 21 that protects free speech on college campuses.

President Trump plans to enforce free speech on campuses by cutting federal research funds to colleges that do not comply with the order. This plan can make the concept of free speech a politicized practice. Colleges may need to pander to whatever political ideology reigns supreme in the Oval Office at a certain period in time.

Additionally, President Trump is prone to label anything unfavorable toward him as “fake news.” It is also not beyond the realm of possibility for Trump to use this freedom of speech order as a tool to silence liberal speakers on campuses and give conservative speakers the floor on highly charged topics such as race, gender and religion. This would be censorship in spaces known for free expression.

Some Montgomery County Community College students expressed their views of freedom of speech on Montgomery County Community College’s campus and beyond through short essays. They shared ideas about dealing with disturbing messages, but one student wrote it is time to halt free speech gone awry.

First Amendment rights: Can hate speech be held responsible for resultant violent acts?

Limiting freedom of speech is less important than protecting the lives and values of innocent people.

Tavaris Starks

The Montgazette Contributor

A young person loses his or her life because of skin color, sexual preference or religion. The assailant is charged with a hate crime and serves time in jail. But, how did this person become inspired to commit the crime? If this attacker belonged to a hate group, is the group, as well as the attacker, guilty?

For the longest time, hate speech has been protected by the First Amendment. Hate groups can start small but, with enough traction, can grow into a movement. Members of groups like the Ku

Klux Klan and anti-gay organizations can say whatever they want and hold demonstrations, but should there be consequences for what they say?

If hate groups can inspire crimes, then they could arguably be found just as guilty as an attacker. A hate message can spread online, go viral and influence thousands. It only takes one unstable person to take hold of the message and act upon it. Although the group itself has not committed any crime, the message it sends could and has inspired some to commit crimes in the name of hate.

Yes, freedom of speech is important. But, today, hate crimes cause mass casualties like at the nightclub in Orlando or the synagogue in Pittsburgh. According to ABC News, the Tree of Life Synagogue shooter screamed, “All Jews must die!” before he fired. ABC News also reported the shooter posted hate rants on a favorite alt-right website before the shooting.

Verdict: Limiting freedom of speech is less important than protecting the lives and values of innocent people.

Free speech on college campuses

Disagreeing sides should put down their protest signs and calmly debate their differences.

Toby Troyer
The Montgazette Contributor

I haven't yet had the experience of running into a group of hostile protesters at my school. I'm not quite sure how I'd react. Part of me thinks that I could gather some friends, and make a counter protest, and we could all stand together, hating the other side's opinions.

There's another, more realistic part of me that

knows I would likely do nothing. Adding hate on top of more hate doesn't produce any good fruit. What do you do, though, when your values are being challenged, loudly and invasively, in a place that you weren't expecting?

I have a fantasy in my mind. It reminds me of the Christmas Eve in 1914, while engrossed

in the first World War, two groups of rival men stopped firing for just that night and celebrated together. In my mind, a group of protestors put down their signs, and a group of college students joins them, and they have a calm, rational debate amidst the war of dilemmas our country is already facing.

Free speech on college campuses

It is up to us how much we let someone else's words affect us.

Sean Driscoll
The Montgazette Contributor

My first impression of this issue was that of course free speech should be protected on college campuses. Everyone deserves to be able to express him- or herself, especially in a learning environment such as a college. After reading more into the issue, though, I realized that the debate was more focused on hate speech. I wasn't so sure what my view was anymore.

Hate speech is horrible and can really upset a lot of people. It can even incite violence where police must intervene. I considered how people may feel harassed on their own college campus because other people could publicly express their hate of certain groups of people. I started to really think hate speech should be limited. This comes with a lot of questions and blurred lines. How could it really be limited? Where is the line for when it becomes hate speech? Is it even legal to limit hate speech on college campuses?

This issue stayed on my mind after class. I ended up having a discussion

with a friend who goes to Penn State. She told me about some of her experiences on her campus with people expressing hate speech. She also told me about a conversation the administrators had with the students when they first came to campus. They discussed how one of their biggest goals was to protect students, but not emotionally. An administrator made a point about how they could not protect them from what other people would say to them and it was up to each student to protect him- or herself.

At first glance, this may seem harsh. The more I thought about this, I realized that it is up to you whether you allow other people's words to affect you. You are the one who allows their words to have power by upsetting you. This really changed my perspective on the issue and made me realize that we can never logically or ethically limit speech. The only solution is to dialogue with each other and not allow those who spend their time expressing hate to have any real power over us.

Free speech on college campuses

The only option within our control is to be more open and understanding.

Noah Swift
The Montgazette Contributor

Freedom of speech is one of the great laws that make the United States of America the greatest country in the world. It is always two sides of the same coin when referring to freedom of speech because it helps the oppressed have a voice and advocate for change within society, but then again it gives people who express hate a voice as well. That is the challenge for college campuses in today's world; a lot of students feel as though college is not the appropriate place to voice biased opinions.

Even though a lot of these groups cause friction on campus by expressing hate speech, they have the right to express themselves. Many college

campuses are public property, which gives people the right to express their views freely, and to try to deny people of doing that is unconstitutional.

Without freedom of speech, our country would not be able to make strides with social issues such as civil rights, as it did in the 1960s. It is hard for certain people to be open and try to understand other people's views when those views are offensive to others. As individuals, though, we cannot control other people and their views.

The only option that's in our control is to be more open and understanding, and that is the only way we can move forward as a society.

**Not on
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A tutoring center BOGO: Help and encouragement

Montgomery County Community College students reflect on their tutoring experiences.

Josh Young

The Montgazette Editor-in-Chief

Many students sit in the classroom, filled to the brim with anxiety and fear as they watch their grade slip and slip. Unfortunately, most students do not utilize a valuable tool offered at the College: face-to-face tutoring.

Many students who use the Tutoring Center experience an improvement in grades and enjoy a service that instills confidence in themselves and their ability to pass the class. And, aside from merely passing classes, students who use the Tutoring Center also strengthen skills in subjects in which they need help, regardless of their current understanding of a subject.

April Renniger, a Human Services major, stopped by the Tutoring Center after receiving a poor grade on an English paper. Her professor suggested visiting the center. April had not taken an English class in 11 years. However, just a couple of visits to the Tutoring Center made a difference.

“It felt like I was defeated, like I would never get it,” Renniger said. “But now I have confidence that reviewing my paper with a tutor would help me in other semesters with other subjects that I’ve struggled with.”

April recounted the ways her tutor built up her confidence and helped her refine her writing skills. Her tutor, E. J. Brown, showed her examples of sentences and different ways the same thing can be written.

“Reviewing those details helped a lot. I was able to take notes and write

things down about what she told me for future papers that I have to write,” Renninger remarked.

Grace Lee expressed satisfaction with face-to-face tutoring. She needed help with English, specifically finding sources and organizing thoughts for a research paper.

“They [the tutors] give you articles to help, and they keep in contact with you with via email,” Lee said. “They also give a clear explanation, good feedback, directions, instructions you need to follow and strategies to help you organize your thoughts.”

This support is what makes the Tutoring Center such a useful asset in a student’s life. Through face-to-face tutoring, students are able to experience a lightbulb moment that propels them in the direction of academic success. The tutors are also more than willing to help students with whatever issues are plaguing them.

Professor Robin Bonner is one of these tutors. She is an “all writing assignments” tutor who works with students across many fields, with a focus on grammar and punctuation.

“I can usually identify a few shortfalls, show the student how to fix them by giving a short tutorial on grammar, punctuation, organization, unity, or coherence – whatever they need.

Then, I let them revise the rest of their paper themselves.”

Professor Bonner feels that tutoring is her “most rewarding experience” when it comes to interacting with students.

“While tutoring, I’ve read some of the most amazing content – inspirational, insightful, moving, educational – written by our students. I’m always so impressed with the depth of their thinking. Many students need to hear that said,” Bonner noted. “My hope is that along with the grammar, students come away with the confidence they need to believe in their ability to be a good writer – in perfecting the vehicle they use to say what they want to say.”

The Tutoring Center can be especially helpful for students whose second language is English. These students struggle with a weak vocabulary, grammatical mistakes and poor comprehension. Often, these struggles lead to the student becoming dependent upon the teacher or their peers for help. The Tutoring Center can be an asset in strengthening these skills.

Clara Kim enrolled in the College as a Fine Arts major in 2010 after emigrating from South Korea. Upon entering Montgomery County Community College, Kim struggled writing papers, largely because of her grammar. Kim said that the Tutoring Center became a tremendous asset and a place where tutors could point out grammatical errors and offer strategies for spotting and correcting them.

At first when I received my assignments, they seemed beyond my ability, and [I] just wanted to give up,” Kim remarked. “However, from the very first day that I visited the Tutoring Center, my confidence returned, and I felt that I could definitely succeed

with my coursework, which involved mastery of the English language.”

Kim worked with many tutors during her time at the College, but the one she most credits for her success is Maria Valys. In addition to helping Kim with her grammatical issues, Valys guided Kim through comprehension and style. In addition to help in school, Kim’s relationship with Valys blossomed into a friendship that has stretched beyond Montgomery County Community College.

When asked to gauge the impact her relationship with Valys and tutoring has had on her success, Kim said that “it is too big to measure.”

“Without the tutors’ help, I couldn’t have succeeded in not only graduating from Montco and PAFA, but also being accepted into the MPH [Master of Public Health] Program at La Salle University,” Kim said.

Furthermore, Kim feels she would not have experienced the same level of success without the tutors at the College. The tutors at Montgomery County Community College took away her “fear and trepidation” and facilitated her rise to the top of her class.

After graduating from the College in 2013, Kim transferred to the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, where she graduated in 2017. Kim returned to the College in 2018 to study statistics as a prerequisite for her graduate studies at La Salle University where she is seeking a master’s degree in Public Health.

Continued on Page 9.

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Tutoring Center Continued from Page 6.

The Tutoring Center can offer more than just help with English, however. Breanna Megni is a student who faced difficulty with her MAT 104 class, which covers geometry, probability, and statistics. Megni's tutor was Robbie Pehlman.

"I was feeling upset, frustrated, and stressed that I wasn't understanding the material," Megni said. "I felt kind of dumb, like I should be able to do these problems by now."

Megni was struggling with understanding the Babylonian, Egyptian, and Mayan numerals and how to properly apply them to complete problems. Over time, Megni came to understand the course content, due in part to her time spent with Pehlman.

"Since we got along so well and knew to how work with each other, it became easier for me to understand the homework, the practice

tests, and the different practice problems," Megni explained. "I felt very proud, happy, and excited for myself [upon understanding the material]."

The Tutoring Center can also be beneficial to students in a technology class. Katherine Wince, a Fine Arts major from Collegeville, had to take CIS 110 and MAT 106 as requisites. CIS 110 is a computer programming course and MAT 106 is an algebra course. Both were unfamiliar to Wince, and she says she "lived through the tutors" to succeed in those classes. Wince recollected that she and her friend would leave class every night, "almost in tears" and filled with anxiety and panic.

"We had not been exposed to much of what was being taught, so it was taught way too quickly for us to comprehend," Wince said. "It was so much concentrated math, I was always in a state of panic, I just could not have done it on my own."

Wince referred to her tutor as a "savior," and praised her for being patient,

having a genuine interest in helping Wince succeed, and for "saving my GPA."

"Your tutor is like a giving parent," Wince remarked. When you sit down with a tutor, you are ignorant, and they are full of knowledge, and like any good parent, they are willing and eager to share it. A good tutor will get you over the rough patches, and a great one gets you to believe in your own abilities. We have great ones at West [Campus]."

Wince is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international Honor Society, with a GPA of 4.0, and has achieved an A in all but two of her classes. Wince credits the Tutoring Center with helping to maintain her GPA, and for her drastic improvement in

MAT 106. She says that the tutoring center gave her the confidence to persevere and not to quit.

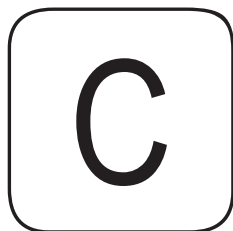
"I would have failed if the West Campus tutors were not there and available for me. I was completely lost in that class, from day one," Wince said.

Wince feels that the Tutoring Center not only helped her with her courses, but also benefited her both mentally and emotionally.

"It was freeing and empowering, just letting go of all that fear and anxiety," Wince explained. "Tutors provide a service that not only improves a student's self-confidence, but also gives a much-needed arena that allows us to appreciate other humans for their individual

abilities and gifts. Having access to the Tutoring Center is like having the cure for an incurable disease."

Tutoring is available both at Central Campus, in Blue Bell, and at West Campus, in Pottstown. On Central Campus, Tutorial Services is located downstairs in College Hall, in Room 180; for more details call 215-641-6452. On West Campus, Tutorial Services is located inside the Library, on the first floor of South Hall, in Room 159; for more details call 610-718-1945. Tutorial Services hours (on both campuses) are as follows: Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (with no Sunday hours over the summer.)



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Set up to drop out of college

Many students drop out because they are woefully unprepared for the challenges and pitfalls of college life.

**Kazi Hosnara and Josh Young
for The Montgazette**

Many students after they graduate from high school choose to go to college, whether it is public or private, a four-year school or a community college. However, many end up dropping out. According to College Atlas, 30 percent of college freshman will drop out after their first year, and just 28 percent of community college students graduate in four years, according to the Community College Review. While 70 percent of Americans will study at a four-year college, fewer than two-thirds

will graduate, according to College Atlas. They join a growing number of young American adults faced with repaying school loans with no degree to get a better-paying job. Often, students drop out because they are unprepared for college life.

The biggest part of this problem is that many students do not know how to survive college. They are woefully unprepared for its challenges and pitfalls. The primary reason students struggle is because they were coddled by their high school teachers, which is a disservice.

In high school, teachers have a vested interest in students succeeding—or at least appearing to succeed. If students perform well on standardized tests and meet other criteria set forth by the state government, their schools receive more funding. According to Van Thompson of theclassroom.com, schools that consistently fail to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (a statistic that measures the amount of academic growth per school) standards are cut off from grants and other forms of funding. Additionally, most states give

raises to teachers in public schools whose students test well, according to Thompson. Illinois is one such state where most districts use teacher evaluations, which are dependent upon the performance of the students, to calculate bonuses. Thus, teachers have extra motivation for students to succeed because it will benefit them as well. Additionally, teachers are under immense pressure to pass kids who do not deserve it, especially in districts rife with poverty.

Continued on Page 13.

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Civil rights leaders come out of storage for Pan African Festival

Sydni Middleton
The Montgazette Contributor

Students celebrated the lives of Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the 25th Annual Pan African Festival on March 6. But during the celebration, students were surprised to learn several paintings of civil rights leaders that graced the walls of Montgomery County Community College now sit in storage.

Nearly 100 students attended the event hosted by the African American Student League. The festival theme, "Truth and Justice," was geared to help students understand who they are as individuals, have fun, and eat together while celebrating contributions made by the two deceased leaders.

As the festival unfolded, students browsed African and African American artifacts, artwork and magazines. They also enjoyed food while listening to music. A sensational band called "Royce and Company" played songs by similar artists and kept the audience enthusiastic. Attendees were upset when the music ended.

Guest speaker Tony Davis, a counselor and instructor at the College, said, "We all want to tell the truth and push for justice. If we unite, we can combat the inaccurate stories that should not shape our history."

C'enna Crosby, an Education in the Early Years major, attended the festival to support the black community and friends like ASL President Israel Harding. Crosby also wanted to see an art series, "The Whole Story: Africa Before Slavery."

The surprise came for students while listening to special guest Bishop Ruth A. Jordan, who created several paintings for Montgomery County Community College in 1991 as part of an ASL project. The paintings were completed free of charge. She used beautiful brush-strokes to depict Rosa Parks and Juanita Kidd Stout, which were on

display during the festival. These and other pieces of her artwork used to hang in the hallways of the College, but were taken down due to reconstruction in College Hall. The paintings have not been put back up.

Jordan told students, "The paintings are still in the school's possession, but they are stored away. If the school will not hang up the pictures, then I will take them back."

Davis added, "If you [the students] want the

pictures back, then you have to fight for them to come back. These paintings serve as an inspiration for everyone, no matter what race or ethnicity you are. Anything is possible."

Students were reminded of what human rights activist Malcolm X said, "A man who stands for nothing will fall for anything." Since we are all students pursuing a better future, we all must stand for something in order to be the leaders of tomorrow.



Bishop Ruth A. Jordan stands between her paintings of Juanita Kidd Stout, left, the first African-American woman PA Supreme Court justice, and Rosa Parks, right, civil rights activist. Jordan created and donated her paintings to the College, on display for the Pan African Festival, that are otherwise kept in storage.

Photograph by Sydni Middleton

Phillies made a business move signing Bryce Harper

Baseball is a business, and the \$330 million means nothing to the Phillies monetarily.

Noah Swift
The Montgazette Contributor

On February 28, the Philadelphia Phillies made a lot of fans happy by signing outfielder Bryce Harper away from their rivals, the Washington Nationals.

The deal, which lasts for 13 years and pays \$330 million, is the second largest contract in baseball history, behind only the agreement for Los Angeles Angels outfielder Mike Trout. Harper's deal will keep him in red pinstripes through 2031, by which time he will be 39 years old.

Harper was one of the most highly sought-after free agents this offseason. During his first seven years in the MLB, Harper won the National League Rookie of the Year award in 2012 and the NL MVP in 2015. In addition, he was named an All-Star every year except in his injury-plagued 2014 season. He is the reigning Home Run Derby champion.

This begs the question, "Well, then, how can the deal mean nothing to the Phillies?" Here's why:

The Phillies' team value is \$1.7 billion, which is more than enough to pay Harper's salary. In 2018, the team's revenue was \$329 million, one dollar short of Harper's total 13-year deal.

Furthermore, the signing of Harper brings increased attention to the Phillies, and an increase in profits. In fact, after Harper signed the contract, ticket sales increased by 93 percent. According to Todd Zolecki of MLB.com, the Phillies sold 100,000 tickets within hours of the signing. This boost helped the Phillies sell 200,000 more tickets this offseason than last offseason.

The Phillies can also charge more for tickets. According to Rob Tornoe and Corey Sharp of Philly.com, the price for an Opening Day ticket on some sites increased by 128 percent overnight.

Harper's jersey set the record for the most jerseys sold within 24 hours of launch, breaking the record previously held by LeBron James.

The Phillies are already seeing a return on their investment, and Harper hasn't even yet played an official game for the team.

However, does the Phillies spending all that money on Harper make it difficult to re-sign players or to sign other free agents? The answer is no.

The Phillies have set themselves up to afford not only Bryce Harper, but another big fish as well. Harper is going to be making a little more than \$27.5 million a year until his contract takes a dip to \$23.5 million in 2029, which gives the Phillies room to work with. The adequate cap space comes with the possibility of acquiring another big-time talent to pair with Harper. Adding more talent means adding more money to the team's bank account. The Philadelphia Phillies have a star player with a solid core. The fans are excited and ready to support their hometown team—and with their support comes dollars, lots of them!

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The
Montgazette
The Students' Voice

Drop Out

Continued from Page 10.

College professor Caleb Stewart Rossiter explained this practice to Jay Matthew of The Washington Post. Rossiter decided to teach in a Washington D.C. public school and was assigned a Precalculus class, where he would be teaching 38 high-school seniors. Rossiter quickly discovered that these students were nowhere near qualified to take Precalculus and questioned the teachers who gave them a passing grade in prerequisite courses.

In the article, Matthews quotes one such teacher, who says, "That boy can't add two plus two and doesn't care! What's he doing in Precalculus? Yes, of course, I passed him — that's a gentleman's D. Everybody knows that a D for a special education student means nothing but that he came in once in a while." As a result, many students are not prepared for higher education.

This grading system is not the case in college. College professors continue to get paid regardless of how well their students perform. If a student is struggling with course material, the teacher is not going to single him or her out in class. The student must take the initiative and go to the teacher or Tutoring Center for help. If students miss class in college, the professor will not track them down and let them know what they missed. It is up to each student to find out what he or she missed. Students must take full responsibility for their actions. Moreover, no professor will pass a failing student due to pressure from the administration.

However, there appears to be another reason behind the

college dropout phenomenon. According to Public Agenda, a nonprofit research organization, 54 percent of dropouts say they did so because they could not balance work and school. According to government census data, 52 percent of college students are working 27 weeks per year with long hours. Why do so many students have to put in long hours of work outside of school? The answer is this: Otherwise, many of them could not get an education.

According to Forbes.com, 45 percent of college students receive no contribution from their parents toward tuition. Another 35 percent of students receive a small portion of financial help from parents. Thus, 80 percent of college students receive little or no help from their parents. Since nearly half of all students receive zero help from parents, many are forced to work more and more hours just to make ends meet.

The problem is compounded because net college prices have risen by 3.2 percent annually since 2007, according to Inside Higher Education. When a person works 30 hours a week, there is little time for coursework. Thus, working to attend college and having been coddled by teachers in high school, many students are unprepared for college life.

To fix this issue of college dropouts, the secondary education system must be reformed. Students who do not show up in high school or do not do the work must suffer the consequences, with no exceptions. Adopting this strategy may force apathetic students to change. If a person discovers he or she does not have to show up nor do the work, and can still pass, why would he or she do either

of those things? Upon entering college, students are blindsided by how the rules have changed, and everything is on them. Many give up because they have never had to learn to depend on themselves.

The issue of students not being able to balance work and school needs a government solution, not a societal one. State governments must invest more money in colleges and universities. According to Douglas Webber, associate professor of economics at Temple University, since 1987 the typical student at a public college or university has seen the government subsidy for education drop by \$2,337, or roughly one quarter. When students get 25 percent less help now than in 1987, at a time when college prices are significantly higher, this is shameful.

Furthermore, Webber found that for every \$1,000 in state contributions, colleges raise tuition by about \$300. In theory, if states were to invest more money in higher education, students could receive more financial aid and pay less money, thus affording more opportunity to find a healthy balance in their lives.

One way students can help change things is to vote for legislators who support government subsidies for higher education and reform for secondary education. To find out who your federal and state legislators are and how to contact them, visit ballotpedia.org. To find out how legislators have voted on bills concerning education (or any other issue), go to govtrack.us (for federal bills) and legis.state.pa.us (for state bills). Finally, register to vote here: vote.gov. Write to your legislators and ask if they will support your causes. If they refuse, vote for a candidate who will.



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We have a student government?

Nicole Reichner
The Montgazette Contributor

Each school year, Montgomery County Community College elects a group of students as their student government representatives, on both the Central and West campuses. They facilitate fundraising and approve budgets for student clubs, and help anyone who would like to start a new club at the College. Their role as SGA representatives is to help students become more involved in their college experience and become active members of their community.

The Student Government Association comprises 13 members with six outgoing and seven incoming as well as two staff advisors. These representatives oversee each of the 50 clubs currently operating at both of the College's campuses.

"The most important event SGA has launched

is the liaison initiative. In this mass collaboration, department and division heads across the school relay their news to SGA," said Ezinne Ottih, SGA president. Ottih will be succeeded as class president by Israel Harding in 2019.

The liaison initiative helps get information about school activities and events to the student body and makes it possible for department heads and student leadership to spread the word about supporting students and special events on their campus.

SGA representatives also volunteer at many locally sponsored events near each of the campuses. For example, at the Central Campus in Blue Bell, SGA representatives volunteer at the Whitpain Community Festival held at the college each September.

One of the more significant challenges of communication between the SGA and students according to Ottih is that "a whopping 70 percent of our students are part-time students, so that combined with being a commuter school hinders many students from getting involved in campus life. [These circumstances] can result in a loss of communication to the school."

Director of Student Life Tyler Steffy said that one way students at both campuses can feel more connected is by attending or watching a live stream of the SGA meetings. Students can fill several roles within the SGA, including president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and senator.

Continued on Page 17.



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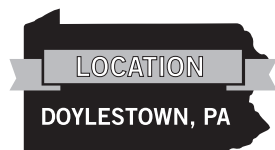
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Insider's view of voting on the Oscars

Perspectives of Dr. Neil Goldstein

Khushi Desai

The Montgazette Contributor

The Oscars, also known as the Academy Awards, have long been an event for Hollywood to recognize its biggest and brightest stars for their accomplishments. Celebrities walk the red carpet, while millions of viewers watch on television. However, many people do not know the process for judging films, nor do they understand how hard it is for people's talents to be recognized within the film industry.

In an interview with the Montgazette, Dr. Neil Goldstein, a retired Montgomery County Community College Communication professor and voting member of the Directors Guild of America since the late 1980s, shined a light on how the award season and its shows operate.

For beginners, in early January, the DGA posts its awards just before Oscar nominations are announced by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Choices of these two groups are often aligned. Goldstein explained how the guild operates and how it is similar to other guilds. To be a member of the Directors Guild, one must direct a film and submit an application. Then, that application must be approved by a council. Membership in the guild requires a lifetime of hard work and dedication. There are 17,000 members in the DGA.

New York and Hollywood, the producing companies have contracts

with guilds and unions, and the Directors Guild is a major guild. The DGA fights for good wages and basic working conditions for its members.

Goldstein said, "The biggest benefit of being a voting member of the Directors Guild is you get to participate in sponsorship events, and [vote] for different award shows in film and TV."

The DGA also fights for protections that offset the power of producers. One of the ways this is done is through a director's cut.

"On top of the producing industries in television, the Television Academy supports the Emmy Awards, Goldstein remarked, "In the Directors Guild, when you are watching the movies, it's a director's cut; the producers make the changes if it's in a contract, but it's all up to how the director wants it."

Thus, it is important to realize voters for the award shows may see additional scenes that may sway their votes. The director's cut is the version of the film that is supposed to represent the director's vision for the film. Unlike in the theatrical version shown to audiences, producers and studios will not make changes to make a film less ambiguous or give the film a happy ending to increase profit. The director's cut is purely the director's vision. As Goldstein explains, "In this business, creativity is the skill needed to succeed."

As an avid supporter of film, Goldstein pays an extraordinary amount of attention to the Oscars show, not just the films.

As many readers may know, this year's Oscars experienced a huge controversy regarding the host. Kevin Hart was slated to host the awards ceremony. But, a series of homophobic tweets he posted between 2009 and 2011 surfaced. These tweets resulted in Hart stepping down after issuing an apology. The AMPAS did not find a host to replace him, resulting in the first hostless Oscars since 1989. The way the Academy operates is by its standards, and it is their choice to have another host or not.

The lack of a host for the Oscars led many to believe that the awards show would not succeed. Regardless, Dr. Goldstein felt that the Oscars went well.

"It was astounding to see that they pulled off the award show without a host," said Dr. Goldstein.

The Oscars has also come under fire in the past for a lack of diversity among its nominees and award winners. Award winners have featured mainly white directors, white actors, and white producers, with very little representation from minorities.

This year, however, the Academy did a better job of highlighting the work of minorities. The movie "Black Panther" was highly lauded and

nominated for six awards, including Best Picture. Similarly, "Black Panther" was nominated for multiple awards, and Spike Lee won the award for Best Director.

Dr. Goldstein did feel that the films "The Hate U Give" and "Crazy Rich Asians" were snubbed for an Oscar nomination. It is worth noting that both movies are filled with people of color and various ethnicities.

I was disappointed that 'The Hate U Give' did not get a nomination. It told a wonderful story," said Dr. Goldstein. However, he adds, "Overall I felt that this year's Oscars were great. It doesn't matter who wins. What matters is talent and dedication are recognized."

Khushi Desai on "Crazy Rich Asians"

"Crazy Rich Asians" was one of this reporter's favorite movies, and it should have been nominated for an Oscar. Being Asian myself, I could relate a lot to the film and to the characters. I felt that this was a perfect movie and it was very diverse in culture. Because of the uniqueness, it took home big hit at the box office, and sold out in lots of theaters.

A Review of “Ain’t I a Woman!”

Russell Magee

The Montgazette Contributor

In celebration of Black History Month, Montgomery Community College was delighted to showcase “Ain’t I a Woman!” a one-act, chamber-music, theatrical production put on by the touring theater group The Core Assemble and hosted by the OneMontco Unity Series. This large celebration of black history month was brought to the campus by Jane Henderson, after she attended a performance at another location. The production was so exceptional that Ms. Henderson decided to bring it to Montgomery County Community College for its yearly celebration of the uniqueness and diversity of African American culture.

The show, in its entirety, is a searing and poignant glimpse into the lives of four significant African-American women in history: Zora Neale Hurston, an influential author and anthropologist; Clementine Hunter, a self-taught and prolific

artist often referred to as the black Grandma Moses; Fannie Lou Hamer; and the woman after whose speech the play was named, Sojourner Truth, a famous abolitionist, writer, and women’s rights activist.

Each prominent figure was portrayed by the one, leading actress Shinnerrie Jackson, whose performance was absolutely breathtaking. Jackson took the stage by storm, delivering incredibly moving monologues depicting everything from the mundane and seemingly banal aspects of life to the horribly brutal violence endured by countless African Americans during the 19th and 20th centuries. Jackson took the audience on a roller coaster of emotion; she was utterly captivating.

A fantastic accompaniment to Jackson was the chamber trio of musicians that played background music for each scene. The Trio,

comprising a cellist, pianist and percussionist, played a variety of classic jazz tunes that ranged from Coltrane to Thelonious Monk, all in keeping with the contemporary atmosphere of the show.

The music provided an intangible layer of sentiment to the show and emphasized elements of Jackson’s performance. In between scene changes, the band kept the music going and improvised seamless transitions. It was quite impressive. During Jackson’s performances, the band maintained a calm, underlying presence that would grow in intensity corresponding to Jackson’s monologues. The final scene climaxed in a beautiful hymn sung by Jackson that nearly brought the audience to tears.

“Ain’t I a Woman!” surpassed all expectations I had going into this performance. This small, four-person performance amounted to the level of professionals, each a

virtuoso in her own right. Each of Jackson’s portrayals was an honest window into the societal, racial oppression that these four African American women faced during their lifetimes. Her seething, emotionally charged soliloquies were not just paintings of four narratives but intricate, personal expressions, vivid articulations of injustice and discontent. Jackson’s voice captured the lives of these four women, and through her performance, the stories of these women were heard.

The text of “Ain’t I a Woman!” was written by Kim Hine, a contributor to The Core Ensemble. The group was founded in 1993 and is currently touring throughout the country. They have a long list of past performances and an even longer list of accolades. For more information on The Core Ensemble and their upcoming performances, go to their website: www.coreensemble.com.

Student Government

Continued from Page 14.

All SGA members are responsible to serve on committees, attend events and operate as a liaison to the SGA board. The SGA recently held an election to find a new board for the next school year.

Each year there are two application cycles. The applications for fall start on the first day of the school year and end about 2 months afterward. In the spring, the whole SGA board, including senators’ positions, are up for grabs.

“The applications for these positions open

right after Winter Break and close in early March. Interested students can fill out a paper application in College Hall 103/West Campus Student Success Center, or they can be filled out via the online application on Engage,” Ottih said via email. “Students of any kind are welcome to come in to our SGA meetings to see what we’re about as well.”

In 2019-20, Jackie Edelman will serve as Vice President and Barry Hunsberger as Treasurer. Additionally, Laura Reeser will serve as secretary. Senators will consist of Alex Sherman, Douglas Fisher, and Casilda Fleurant.

Students who wish to learn more about the SGA and its work to connect the college’s students

and communities can attend SGA meetings on Mondays at the Central Campus in College Hall 147 from 12:20-1:20 p.m. SGA meetings on West campus are held in South Hall 130. West campus students can watch the live stream during that time or visit their website <https://mc3.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/student-government-association> for more information.

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“Pet Sematary”: Read before you watch

A Book Review

Russell Magee
The Montgazette Contributor

In light of the film reboot set to be released in theaters in April, I figured I would give Stephen King’s 1983 novel a good and thorough read. After the first chapter, I was hooked, but little did I know what I had gotten myself into.

King tells the tale of the Creed family beginning a new life. All seems well in Ludlow, Maine, until Louis Creed, the father of the household, starts to learn the eerie history that runs deep below the perfect, pristine surface of the town. The ancient Native American burial grounds beyond his new backyard hold a dark and sinister power that Louis discovers firsthand after tragedy strikes the Creed family.

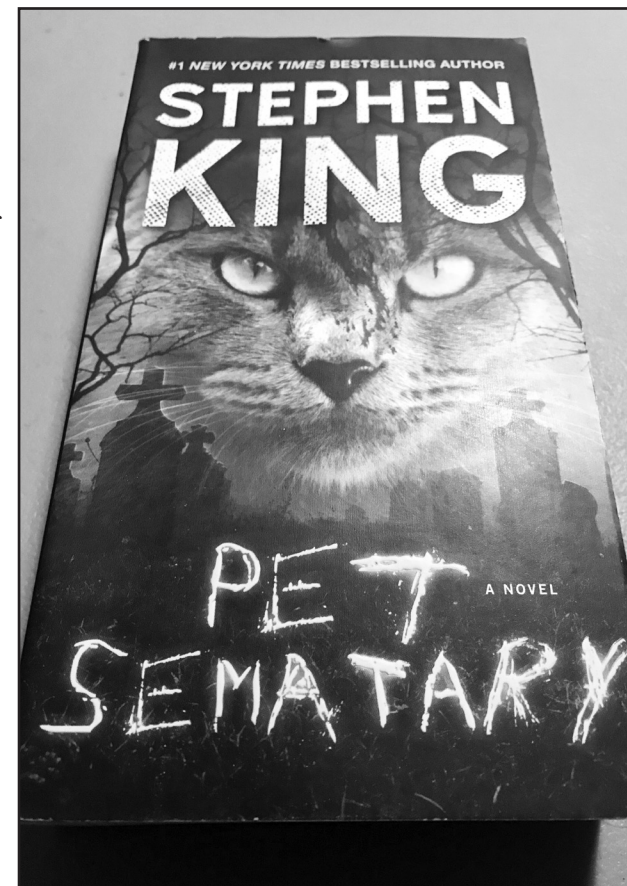
In 560 pages, King manages to transform a tale of unspeakable tragedy into a harrowing and utterly heart-wrenching story. Stephen King has the gift to tap into the inner recesses of the human mind and extract the darkest horrors, which he does beautifully in “Pet Sematary.” He illustrates vividly just how unprepared we are to face unthinkable disaster.

Caution: Spoilers ahead.

Following are scenes from the book that I’m very curious to see adapted in the new film. The first truly scary scene in the book is about Victor Pascow, a university student who is struck by a car and dies, yet comes back to Louis Creed in the form of a deranged and prescient apparition that tries to warn Louis of the dangers of the ancient

burial grounds. Secondly, there is an incredible 30-page chapter in which Jud, the Creeds’ neighbor, takes Louis up to the burial grounds for the first time so he can bury his recently deceased cat. The trek itself, a few miles long, is a deep dive into the horrifying, pervading realm of the powerful, ancient grounds. The chapter had me on the edge of my seat, turning page after page. Later, following the terrible death of Gage, Louis’s son, Jud recalls the tale of Tim Batterman, a boy who died in the war but was brought back by the powers of the burial grounds. The story Jud tells is a graphic, distressing account of how a person brought back from the dead is not the same person as before. And even further on, I saw exactly how that played out after Louis decided to test the theory that brought his son back to life.

I’m eager to see this movie, as the book is simply magnificent. A few scenes that get honorable mention include: the portrayal of Ellie Creed, Louis’s clairvoyant daughter; the scene in which Louis breaks into the graveyard to exhume Gage’s body; and, of course, the finale of the story, where Gage comes back from the dead and wreaks havoc. I highly recommend reading the book before seeing the movie, and definitely read it right before bed. As cliché as it may sound, nothing beats the book. It was an enthralling read, and I can’t wait to see how this new film adaptation captures King’s incredible story.



“Pet Sematary,” by Stephen King, takes readers through a horrifying tale that deals with disaster.

Photograph by Russell Magee

Phi Beta Lambda wins 15 state awards

Nicoletta Pelchat and Barry Hunsberger
The Montgazette Contributors

Seven Montgomery County Community College students and Professor Damon Gray traveled to Harrisburg for the 48th annual Phi Beta Lambda State Conference, March 22nd through 24th. PBL is the College's business club. They all came home as champions.

Over the weekend, club Co-President Nicoletta Pelchat, Co-President Barry Hunsberger, Mike Antoine, Justin Ziegler, Loymi Peralta Cruz, James Sovocool, and Luka Vukoslavovic competed against more than 300 students from 25 PA chapters at schools such as Drexel, Penn State, Temple, and Bloomsburg, among others.

Montgomery County Community

College representatives did exceptionally well – bringing home 15 awards (see below). With these honors, they have the opportunity to compete at the PBL National Competition in San Antonio in June.

All PBL representatives attended a keynote address delivered by Tina Nixon, Vice President of Mission Effectiveness and Chief Diversity Officer at Pinnacle Health System. Nixon spoke about finding a leadership style and fostering emotional intelligence. PBL attendees participated in various professional development workshops with nationally recognized speakers. They also networked with students and faculty from colleges and universities across the state.

Phi Beta Lambda welcomes both future and current business professionals. PBL stems from the high-school-oriented organization FBLA, Future Business Leaders of America. The purpose of the group is to set up members for success in the business world through workshops, networking, community service and more. The business organization was founded in 1942 and continues to serve more than 200,000 members worldwide.

In addition, Montgomery County College's very own chapter advisor, Professor Damon Gray, received the honor of being named 2019 PA PBL Advisor of the Year. In addition, the College's PBL chapter treasurer, Justin Ziegler, was elected to serve as the 2019-2020 PBL PA

State Treasurer.

The team is thrilled to have been able to represent Montgomery County Community College so well at the PA PBL State Conference. What's more, these wins solidified the students' place to compete at the PBL National Competition in San Antonio, Texas, in June.

The College's PBL would like to thank everyone for their continued support as they move forward, showing the world that Montgomery County Community College is a serious institution that produces amazing students and future leaders.

Students interested in learning more about Phi Beta Lambda or in attending a meeting are invited to contact the organization at montcopbl@gmail.com.

Individual Awards:

Nicoletta Pelchat – First Place in Public Speaking

Nicoletta Pelchat & Loymi Peralta Cruz – First Place in Business Sustainability

Barry Hunsberger – First Place in Job Interview

Justin Ziegler – First Place in Macroeconomics

Mike Antoine – First Place in Financial Services

Loymi Peralta Cruz – Second Place in Emerging Business Issues

Luka Vukoslavovic – Second Place in Business Decision Making

James Sovocool & Barry Hunsberger – Second Place in Small Business Management Plan

James Sovocool – Third Place in Entrepreneurial Concepts

Chapter Awards:

Local Annual Chapter Business Plan

Chapter Community Service Report

Gold Seal (Outstanding Chapter) 2nd Place



Photograph by Bryant Moses



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