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a student publication

The Montgazette

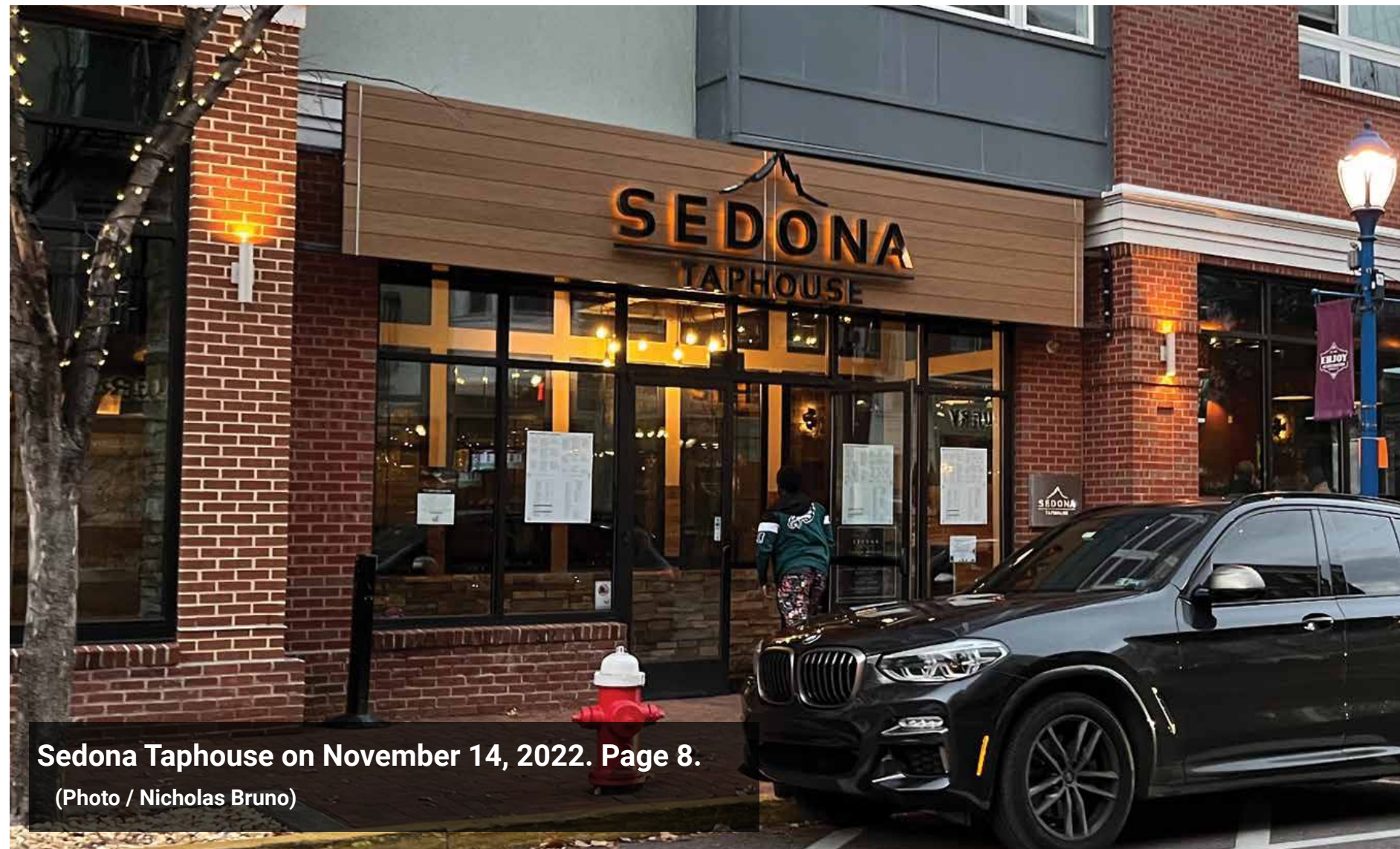
FREE

The Students' Voice

Issue 93

Serving Montgomery County Community College and the Surrounding Community

March 2023



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(Photo / Nicholas Bruno)

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Be as resilient as Rocky Balboa

Steven Wicher Jr.
The Montgazette Editor-in-Chief

On President's Day 2023, AMC decided to honor the previous leaders of the nation by holding a movie marathon of the greatest American hero: Rocky Balboa.

For the few unfortunate people who do not know Rocky, here is a quick rundown of the Philadelphia icon. The fictional boxer first appeared in the Oscar-winning 1976 film "Rocky," which was written by its unknown star, Sylvester Stallone. Against a budget of \$960,000, it blew up the box office by earning \$225 million. This film would launch a decades-long franchise that continues today, with five direct sequels and a spin-off series.

Although the sequels are well-known for their training montages, iconic soundtracks from Survivor, and larger-than-life villains, nothing holds a candle to the original film. The story centers around boxing heavyweight champion Apollo Creed giving Rocky Balboa the opportunity to win the title, while Rocky tries to win the heart of his best friend's sister, Adrian.

What truly differentiates this

film from other sports movies is the ending's message to viewers. On the night before the fight, Rocky cannot sleep due to his intense anxiety and fear of the outcome. As evidenced in every scene, he knows that no one believes he can win. Everyone thinks it is a fun match that Creed is doing for publicity. Yet, Rocky knows this is his one chance to prove them wrong.

In one of the most memorable scenes, Rocky realizes the fight is not about winning, but rather he must "go the distance" with Creed. He must take on Creed through all 15 rounds to prove he is not just another bum in the neighborhood — that he could go toe-to-toe with the best and stand his ground.

In the thrilling conclusion, Rocky and Creed fight through all 15 rounds, but the judges declare Creed the ultimate winner. This has no effect on Rocky anymore, who stands in his corner with Adrian; his best friend, Paulie; and his trainer, Micky. As he stands with his family, he is satisfied with himself and able to live with himself, knowing he

never backed down.

This is an amazing lesson not explored in other films. More often than not, the underdog miraculously wins at the last moment, and his friends cheer on the sudden victory. This depiction is unrealistic, and cheesy at best.

"Rocky" teaches a valuable lesson to people of all ages, races and classes: Winning and dominating the competition is not the most important thing in life. Rather, being content with one's life and one's abilities is the ultimate reward.

This is a lesson I feel is important to spread to my fellow

students, with the end of the semester rolling around soon. Some students may put undue pressure on themselves to pass every final exam with a grade of 100%. While this is a worthy goal, it is just as important to understand your abilities and be content with the grade you earn, as long as you've done your personal best.

To all Montgomery County Community College students and staff, enjoy your spring semester. I hope you make the best of it. Best of luck to everyone, and keep an eye out for the next issue of The Montgazette!

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2023 Presidential Symposium: Inspire Beyond Inclusion

Steven Wicher Jr.
The Montgazette Editor-in-Chief

At 1 p.m. on February 20, 2023, Dr. Lorene Cary took to the stage to officially kick off the College's 2023 Presidential Symposium. She had in hand a copy of her book "Black Ice." The symposium was an educational, three-day event spread across both Pottstown and Blue Bell campuses. It included speaker presentations, book signings, and workshops to discuss relevant topics, such as equity and belonging.

Although the stage was constructed in the main gymnasium of the Health Science Center in Blue Bell, Dr. Cary spread her message to students, faculty, and community members both virtually and in person.

Montgomery County Community College student Simon Hershberger commented on the importance of the presentation. He said, "I live too far from campus to attend in person but thankfully had the opportunity to listen online to the messages that Dr. Cary was spreading. It is a unique experience that Montco talks about nationwide issues at our small college."

Dr. Lorene Cary was chosen to speak at this year's Presidential Symposium

for her decades-long activism in the Philadelphia community. Recently, she created a website called #VoteThatJawn to increase voter turnout among college students.

Along with her dedication to the community, Dr. Cary is an accomplished author in several media. She has written two memoirs, three novels, and a young adult book titled "FREE!" Her most recent success was her play "My General Tubman," which premiered in January 2020 at the Arden Theatre. Her 1991 memoir, "Black Ice," was the main focus of her keynote speech and was distributed to the first 50 students who registered for the event.

Throughout her presentation, Dr. Cary told stories of her experiences at different schools growing up and contrasted them to how she felt now as an educator. Early on, she attended a school in West Philadelphia, which made her feel "flawed and incomplete" due to mistreatment of students.

Some incidents of the mistreatment included a teacher forcing two male students to stand in the back of the classroom with their

arms raised. If the boys dropped their arms out of exhaustion, the teacher would smack them until they were raised again. Another incident involved Cary herself, when a teacher refused to return her asthma inhaler after recess, claiming it was perfume.

Cary also attended St. Paul's School in New Hampshire during the school's second year of coeducation. She recalled a professor who refused to learn any of the female students' names. He instead referred to each one as "girl," and belittled them for any small mistake or inconvenience.

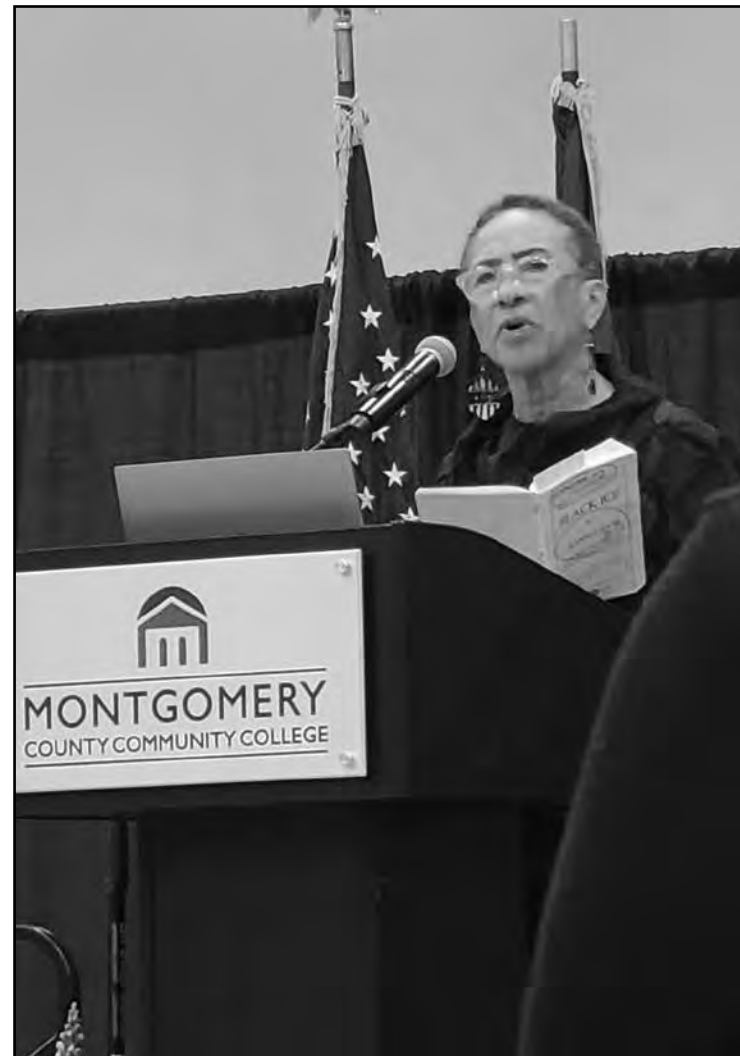
Cary told these upsetting stories to support her claim that although education has gotten better since she was a child, more work is still needed, especially for poor and minority students.

A stand-out moment during the presentation was the unification of the audience. Dr. Cary read a passage from her memoir, where she had written she in a gospel song that was sung at St. Paul's. As she stood at the podium singing, the song, audience members who knew the song joined in as well, creating a beautiful harmony among people wanted to

make change in the world.

Although the symposium wrapped on February 22, the College holds an event like this each year. If you missed this opportunity, tune in for

next year's speaker and learn how to impact the community with change. To learn more about Dr. Lorene Cary's work, visit her website www.lorenecary.com.



Dr. Lorene Cary gives the keynote presentation.

(Photo / Steven Wicher Jr.)

LOCAL



The Montgazette
The Students' Voice

Nekter Juice Bar and the Community

River Uini

MSP 111 The Montgazette Contributor

Nekter Juice Bar is a new restaurant in Blue Bell aimed at clean eating. Their menu offers fresh, made-to-order entrees, juices, and smoothies. Customers have shown support for the shop by spreading positive feedback on social media; in return, Nekter actively gives back to the community.

Productivity and sales increased significantly since the business was bought in June 2022 by current general manager, David Boewer. In addition, many customers have developed a close relationship with the new owner.

Boewer states, "Our growth has been amazing compared to this time last year. It also helps that more and more people are looking for healthy alternatives". Many locals in the area favor Nekter's organic approach to smoothies and juices.

The business strives to provide a healthy fast-food experience with plenty of organic, dairy-free options. Entrees include superfood oatmeal, smoothie bowls, and chia pudding parfaits. Other options contain frozen fruit smoothies and fresh vegetable juices. Nekter has a selection of "grab and go" items, such as premade bottled juices, immunity shots, and snacks.

As a contribution to the community, Nekter Juice Bar provides catering of an immune-boosting lunch once a month to local teachers. At the same time, they support both local public and private schools and children's sports teams. Nekter also donates to pet shelters, such as the Kitty Cottage in Norristown and even Whitpain Day, here at Montgomery County Community College. Their most

notable charity event was for The Kellan Ford Foundation.

The store has developed an ongoing relationship with members of barre3 and Burn Boot Camp, both located in the same shopping center as Nekter Juice. The collaboration has brought benefits like gym member discounts and food donations for charity events.

Nekter's motivation is derived from "customer interaction [and]

meeting new people," says Boewer. "We have great discussions about improving overall health naturally, and it begins with a balanced diet: something we can be passionate about."

Nekter Juice Bar strives to expand their business and help the community thrive by developing stable relationships. For more information, visit their website at www.neκτηrjuicebar.com for in-store deals and operating hours.



The inside front of Nekter Juice Bar on January 31, 2023.

(Photo / River Uini)

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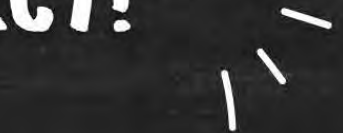


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Souderton Borough Council discusses crime prevention

Rose Padva

MSP 170 The Montgazette Contributor

Souderton Borough Council held its monthly meeting on November 7, 2022, at 7 p.m., in the Municipal Building on West Summit Street. During the meeting, topics for discussion included a new noise ordinance and a social media policy. Most of the meeting, however, was spent discussing the new Transportation Services, Inc., busing policy and ongoing vandalism at Souderton Borough Park.

Following reports of vandalism at the public park, local police have asked Souderton Area School District to assist in their investigation. Chief of Police Brian Newhall stood among the council members to explain that pictures of a damaged tree were sent to the high school.

Law enforcement is searching for any similar artwork or displays at the school to find the person or people responsible. When captured, the suspects will be charged. Newhall also stated that 12 new cameras would be placed in various locations around the Bandshell Stage. Police have been actively talking to park-goers, and, in

addition, “No Trespassing” signs will be put up on the stage.

The meeting moved on to a discussion of TSI’s new busing’s policy. They are working with Bus Patrol, which is a third-party company assisting Souderton Area School District to safely transport children to and from school. They proposed to install at least nine cameras on each bus to record traffic violations by drivers who illegally go around buses displaying red flashers.

“If a violation occurs,” Newhall says, “then the person will be sent a civil citation, instead of a criminal citation.” First, the cameras will be reviewed by law enforcement and Bus Patrol, before a civil citation is sent out. The person in violation will be fined; however, it will not affect their driver’s license. If that driver refuses to pay the fine, then Bus Patrol will send the video to police as evidence to press charges.

Council members questioned what the number of civil citations would be before issuing a criminal citation. Newhall responded, “The

person will be fined over \$300, and a warning will be put into our system.”

The bookend of the meeting consisted of committee reports throughout the borough. Different ordinances and policies were proposed or passed. For example, the new social media policy was officially passed, whereas the noise nuisance ordinance was only proposed. An emergency ordinance will be put in place that will allow the current administration to clear up any confusion, and an emergency management plan for Souderton Borough will be drafted as well.

As a result of the meeting, residents participated and got more involved with the community. The Souderton Police Department ensured the safety of the town’s citizens by strengthening their partnership with the school district. The next meeting of the Souderton Borough Council is scheduled for April 3, 2023, at 7 p.m. Meetings are scheduled for the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m.. Any citizens wanting to attend are welcome to join the discussion.



Souderton Borough Council on November 7, 2022.

(Photo / Rose Padva)



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Review: Visit the Sedona Taphouse in Phoenixville

Nicholas Bruno
MSP 170 The Montgazette Contributor

Phoenixville is a Montgomery County town packed to the brim with food, entertainment, and excitement. Among the many dining experiences that Phoenixville has to offer, Sedona Taphouse is a clear standout. With a flavorful southwest-inspired menu and solid beer selection, Sedona Taphouse is the perfect place to unwind and indulge.

Sedona's menu includes traditional courses, such as Flat Iron Steak, the Hangover Burger, and a pasta dish called Devil's Pass. In addition to these classic items, vegan and gluten-free options are available, so any customer who walks through the door can find something to order. Their wide variety of main course dishes range in price from \$10 to \$30.

Sedona Taphouse also prides itself on its wide selection of craft beers. Seasonal specialties and local offerings are frequently coming in, so there is

always something new to try. Recently, Sedona listed the Southern Tier Pumpkin Beer on their menu; it is an autumn-themed beer that fuses the flavors of pumpkin and nutmeg into every fulfilling sip.

When visiting Sedona Taphouse, it is best to begin the night with a starter. Those who enjoy a strong, savory kick will enjoy the Desert Fire Jalapeños. They are bacon-wrapped jalapeño peppers stuffed with four different cheeses. This spicy appetizer will leave anyone's tastebuds tingling with anticipation for more. For customers who prefer a lighter taste, Sedona's Mediterranean Hummus Platter is a heart-healthy, well-crafted dish without the heat.

As a main course, the Roman Parmesan Crusted Chicken is a revitalizing complement to the stomach. This dish consists of a juicy chicken breast concealed

in a crunchy outer breading, with a generous layer of Italian salsa and mozzarella cheese on top. On the side, it is paired with garlic-whipped mashed potatoes and flavorful brussels sprouts. Both can be substituted for an assortment of sides, including sweet potato fries and southwest corn.

To cap off this wonderful experience, for dessert, try the Chocolate Decadence. It satisfies any sweet tooth with its cheesecake-like consistency and silky-smooth chocolate flavor. Paired with a vanilla-raspberry dipping sauce, this dessert is the perfect ending to any meal at Sedona Taphouse.

On a night out in Phoenixville, there are numerous restaurant options to choose. Whether one is looking for a fun night out with friends or a romantic dinner, Sedona Taphouse is the only option for everything a customer needs in a dining experience.

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Meet Dave Cox: Plymouth Whitemarsh Ice Hockey's new varsity head coach

TJ Corcoran
MSP 170 The Montgazette Contributor

Dave Cox is no stranger to the world of youth ice hockey. Since 2016, he has been coaching multiple age groups, ranging from grade 5 to high school seniors. Cox has recently earned a spot at his alma mater's varsity ice hockey program after previously coaching Wissahickon Skating Club's travel program and the Plymouth Whitemarsh Middle School team. During this transition period, Cox has one motto for his team: "Where we are now, will not be where we are when we come together."

Since 2016, Cox has played an active role in the development of players from his original squad, which went on to win a league championship that season, under his leadership. His position as coach at the Wissahickon Skating Club allowed Cox to help these players into the next stage of their development. This is a process that Cox hopes to do with all his players, both new and familiar faces.

"Being with some of these guys for so long through the Wissahickon Skating Club travel team has made the transition to varsity almost seamless, and, as for the kids I didn't coach there, I coached them before, in middle school," said Cox, who was named the new varsity coach in May 2022. "There are not many faces I'm just meeting this year, but even the ones I am, I'm very excited to work with them and get them where we need to be."

The team's inaugural captain, Matt Flynn, has played with Cox for several years at Wissahickon and has developed a close friendship with the coach. Cox said, "It's been great to watch guys like Flynn grow up and go from physically small guys who were scared to put themselves out there and work together turn into young men who are ready to work together and lead their team to success. There is a ton of that change on this squad."

Outside of coaching, Cox is a volunteer

firefighter at the Baren Hill Fire Company. He has recruited a number of his players to join and help their community. "Guys like Jayson Yoder, Danny Guller, and Tim Murphy have stepped up to the call and joined the firehouse, learning responsibility and duty to their community. With how close they live to the station, it just made sense for us and them. Jay and Tim are juniors this year, and Danny is a freshman, so we will have many years of their help to look forward to."

This display of unity from his players, both on and off the ice, is an honor for Cox. He explained, "It's a unique opportunity to be able to take up. When

I played for the school when I went here, I never pictured myself as the head coach one day."

Cox continued, "But as the years went on after Junior hockey, and I got back into the sport through coaching younger players, getting back into that environment became inevitable. I'm very proud to represent my community as the head coach of their ice hockey program. It means a lot to both players and fans alike, and I never forget that."

Dave Cox and the PW Colonials look to win their second championship in four years this season. With opponents such as Quakertown, Wissahickon, and Abington, every win will need to be a team effort.



Dave Cox (far right) with his first Plymouth Whitemarsh Ice Hockey team in 2016.

(Photo / TJ Corcoran)

OPINION



The
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The Students' Voice

Opinion: Is college worth it?

Daniel Galvez
The Montgazette Contributor

In recent years, education has become one of the biggest investments that students face when pursuing their career goals. According to Sarah Wood of US News, on average, the tuition cost of private college in the United States is around \$35,000. Many students simply cannot afford to pay for their education out-of-pocket, so they remain in debt for most of their adult lives. As a student myself, I understand the people who doubt that the benefits of college will outweigh the tremendous cost. However, I still believe that college is worth the time invested. There is a reason why so many successful people come from universities. They paved the path to where they stand today.

There is no doubt that a college degree holds a high level of prestige. A degree is an important achievement when pursuing higher education, since it opens a whole world of career opportunities. There will always be a demand for students who can provide value to companies. Higher education sets them up for a successful future. Yet, some people seem to underestimate the value of a degree and argue that students can earn good money without one, as an entrepreneur. Although it is true that the result could be rewarding, keep in mind that it often does not always work out. Only a small minority of entrepreneurs are capable of success, but the pursuit should not be discouraged either. That said, there is simply a big difference between taking risks and gambling with the future.

A big aspect that many students overlook is the networking opportunities created in college, which are just as important as obtaining a degree. Building connections with professionals in the field will be of much importance. I do not know a better opportunity

to build these relationships if it is not in college. In fact, some professors have assisted former students in obtaining careers by providing the right connections. Networking is a good start when students are trying to begin their career and should not be wasted.

For these reasons, I believe the ridiculously high costs of a college education is worth it. The return on the investment of time and money far outweighs the tuition cost. When college graduates leave school, statistics show they are expected to earn around 33% more than they would with only a high school diploma. Plus, it is easier than ever to access resources and scholarships to aid in

the educational journey. Many students opt for a community college since they can save a few thousand dollars by earning required credits before transferring to a university. I come from South America, and many people there would do anything to be able to attend to a college in the U.S. Be mindful of the opportunity you have been given.

The next time you find yourself asking if college is worth it, think about your goal. Think about your dreams and aspirations. Picture yourself in the future when your college education has finally paid off. That is when you will really understand the value of your college education.

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Opinion: The world is your oyster

Rebecca Casseus
The Montgazette Contributor

As a self-proclaimed “world culture enthusiast,” I set out on an adventure to learn about as many different cultures and traditions as possible. One aspect that differentiates cultures around the world is their food. As an experiment, I took it upon myself to make dishes from cultures that I adored. After countless YouTube videos and online recipes, I decided on dumplings. Standing in confusion at the grocery store, I gathered ingredients and left with confidence in my cooking abilities. As it turns out, overconfidence got the best of me.

Seven hours later, I was scrubbing hundreds of dishes, while squished dumplings sat stacked together in the fridge. My mother stood behind me, shaking her head in shame. The next morning, I attempted to salvage blobs of meat, vegetables, and dough and make something edible. Now discouraged, I decided to leave the cooking to the experts and visit different restaurants for a better experience.

My first stop was at a Georgian restaurant in Philadelphia called Georgian Bread. (When I say “Georgian,” I mean Georgia the Eurasian country, not the U.S. state.) The décor inside was authentic, which created a welcoming atmosphere for customers. They had a variety of homemade baked goods for sale at the counter. My first order was Khachapuri, which is hollowed out bread filled with cheese and topped with an egg. As someone who loves cheese and fresh bread, I was in heaven. It was a heavy meal, but I enjoyed every second of it. I ordered Georgian lemonade for my beverage. Although I was confused when I saw a pear on the bottle, the cold beverage was amazing. I ordered a second bottle to go. The homey experience offered an inside on Georgian culture and history.

My second order was Khinkali, which is beef and pork top-knot soup dumplings. The dumplings were very rich in taste, although not my personal favorite. Since I was unsure how to eat them, I awkwardly looked it up in the middle of my meal. Apparently, the top is typically not eaten! Now I know! I will definitely be returning to

try the kebabs and desserts.

My second stop, which is only five minutes away from the Blue Bell campus, was an Indian restaurant called Nirvana. I dreamed about trying Indian cuisine for the longest time, and I finally got the opportunity. I ordered chicken curry with tomato and butter sauce, garlic naan, flatbread and mango lassi. I loved the mango lassi, since it was both creamy and refreshing. My only regret is not ordering the spicy version of the butter chicken. If I have a break in between classes, I will revisit this homey destination. I particularly loved the elegant artwork on the inside, as well.

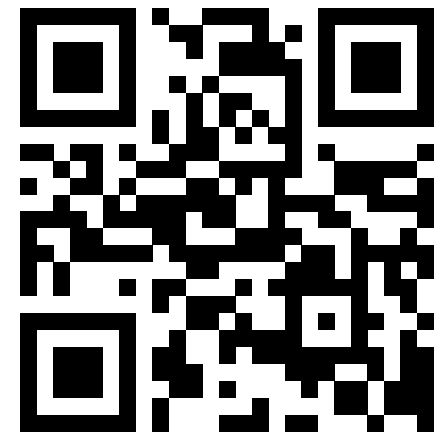
This entire experiment strengthened my opinion that blending cultural experiences through exploring our differences is the best part of being human. I recommend that everyone explore a new restaurant or recipe, learn a new language, or save up for that trip! Our differences are beautiful.

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Opinion: Celebrating 50 years of "Raw Power"

Layla De Lorenzo
The Montgazette Contributor

February 7, 2023, marks 50 years since Iggy and the Stooges released their legendary third album, "Raw Power." Known as their most ferocious and aggressive album, Iggy and the Stooges were an unrelenting force in music. They were every bit as menacing as they were dangerous. Raw Power captures the very essence of the band that forever changed rock history.

A new sound had emerged for Iggy and the Stooges following a shake-up in the band's roster. The addition of guitarist James Williamson created a more vicious and ruthless sound, as opposed to Ron Asheton's free-flowing and groovier guitar playing. With Ron Ashton moved to bass, Scott Asheton on drums, and front man Iggy Pop on vocals, the band set forth into musical terrorization.

"Raw Power" is an album that certainly lives up to its name. It is abrasive and confrontational from start to finish. The momentous opening riff of "Search and Destroy," followed by Iggy Pop's declaration, "I'm a street-walking cheetah with a heart full of napalm," Raw Power has proven how formidable of an album it truly is. The intensity and momentum carry on with each track. There is no breathing room for the listener, except when it's time to flip the record.

From fast and hard-hitting songs like "Shake Appeal" to slower, sinister ballads like "I Need Somebody," the band members display their versatility without losing any momentum. Through the aggressive vocal style, the violent guitar playing, and the forceful rhythm section, "Raw Power" created the early foundations of punk rock. Additionally, Iggy and the Stooges had the attitude, vigor, and ferocity that was later emulated by the countless bands they inspired.

The title track features a relentless guitar hook accompanied by a tambourine and the hammering of a single piano note. The lyrics describe the sense and feeling of raw power in and of itself. The song ends with a screeching guitar solo and Iggy Pop repeatedly asking the listener "Do you feel it?" in relation this intense emotion. The answer is obvious: The raw power exhibited on this album is almost tangible.

The final track, titled "Death Trip," is purely out of control, to say the least. It serves as a poetic end to the final album of the band's initial run. Through this track, Iggy Pop nihilistically addresses the future of the band. There was no future; this was it. They knew they were going down fast, but they were (and still are) taking everyone else

with them. From the blistering guitar playing to Iggy Pop's feral vocals, the song can barely contain itself.

All of that said, after its initial release, "Raw Power" was not well received among the masses. Ranging from technical problems, such as the album's cheap sound mixing, to poor public reaction, it was not considered a success. Yet, over time it gained a devoted following and eventually fell into the hands of all the right people.

Bands inspired by this album include The Ramones and The Damned. Steve Jones of the Sex Pistols stated he learned to play guitar to "Raw Power." It also influenced musicians such

as John Frusciante of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Thurston Moore of Sonic Youth, and Kurt Cobain of Nirvana, who have cited it as their favorite album of all time.

Words cannot properly describe "Raw Power" in its full glory. It is truly a timeless album that speaks for itself. It embodies a level of attitude, intensity, and sheer force unlike anything else. Although Iggy and the Stooges disbanded a year after its release, the spirit and sound of the music carried on through the many bands they inspired.

Continued on Page 14.



"Raw Power" vinyl cover on February 7, 2023.

(Photo / Layla De Lorenzo)

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Opinion: HBO's "Succession" explores the mental health of the rich

Dalaya Richardson
The Montgazette Contributor

HBO's Emmy-winning show "Succession" premiered on June 3, 2018, as a modern-day adaptation of the classic Shakespearean tragedy, "King Lear." It tells the tale of the Roy family, who fight over who will manage their media empire when their father passes away. The television phenomenon tackles mental health, wealth, and privilege as it follows each character, most of whom, critics have argued, the majority of audiences cannot identify with. However, what makes the show popular is how fans have found enough humanity in the snobby, cruel-intentioned characters, especially Roman and Kendall, to cheer them on.

This show is unlike others on television about the wealthy one percent. In The CW's "Gossip Girl" and "Dynasty," viewers constantly see characters cleaning up the dead bodies of enemies, hiding money or faking their own death. "Succession" has a realism to its world by exploring the inner trauma of every Roy family member.

Conner Roy, portrayed by Alan Ruck, is the oldest child of Logan Roy and lives in a bubble where life has no consequences. Kieran Culkin portrays Roman Roy, who is both physically and verbally abused by his father and siblings. In turn, Roman takes his frustrations out on his sister, Shiv Roy, who is portrayed by Sarah Snook. Kendall Roy, portrayed by Jeremy Strong, is a character many fans actively root for. Kendall is the only sibling who marries and has children. He is shown as a loveable goofball who fights to keep his trauma from turning him into a rich monster, devoid of emotion.

Most "Succession" viewers are not in the wealthy one percent or experience a life filled

with extravagant parties and servants cleaning up after them. Yet, many viewers can relate to the struggles of Kendall Roy in his adolescent years, as he grew up with abandonment issues. Kendall's mother, who abandoned the family early on, is still not there for her son when he deals with his depression and cocaine addiction. In a season three episode, Kendall's mother tells Shiv, "Truth is, I probably should have never had children. I should have had dogs."

Such intense, raw dialogue exposes the characters to their core, stripping away the power and money they desperately seek and showing the true monster below the surface. Each episode has a well-defined production standard that never disappoints. The heart-breaking, fast-paced writing puts "Succession" on par with other iconic HBO shows, such as "The Sopranos" and "Euphoria."

In addition, the unbelievable performance of actor Jeremy Strong as Kendall Roy completely elevates the already masterful writing. Strong portrays a man absolutely shattered by the events in his past, who struggles against letting the past consume him. Kendall wants to do better and move on but does not know how, especially since his father holds it over his head all the time. What makes Kendall so appealing to viewers is his strength to fight for himself and show the world he is not a horrible, rich human being like his father.

Toward the end of season one, Kendall tries to take the company from his father and change the corrupt culture around it. The other family members, on the other hand, have no desire to get help or change their ways. They cannot perceive a life without the money or their father. They

continue to do unspeakable things to people and do not experience any personal growth, unlike Kendall Roy.

"Succession" deals with mental health and recovering from trauma in an honest, almost gut-wrenching way. It helps to encourage its audience to either seek help or beware of turning into these cruel characters. It tells an amazing story demonstrating that no matter their social-economic status, people can face trauma, and they have unhealthy ways to avoid dealing with it.

In February 2023, "Succession" series creator Jesse Armstrong confirmed season four would be the show's final season. It will premiere on HBO Max on March 26, 2023.

"Raw Power"

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For the album's anniversary, a Fiftieth Anniversary Legacy Edition was released. This edition features new 2023 remasters of both the original 1973 David Bowie mix, along with the 1997 Iggy Pop mix. It also includes live tracks that were dubbed "Georgia Peaches," from the band's 1973 performance at Richards, Atlanta. Lastly, it includes some outtakes from the Raw Power Sessions and some alternative mixes.

As Iggy Pop states in the title track, "'Raw Power' is more than soul; it's got a son called rock and roll."

Opinion: “TÁR” depicts a side of genius rarely examined

Gabriel Gibboni
MSP111 The Montgazette Contributor

On the surface, Todd Field’s “Tár” is the fictional story of widely acclaimed and award-winning composer Lydia Tár. However, when closely examined, it seeks to understand the ideas of control, genius, soul-crushing guilt, and the connection between these elements.

From the start of the film, Lydia is presented to the viewer as an artistic genius who is meticulous and deliberate about every aspect of her life and her work’s presentation. The viewer is shown this during small scenes at symphony rehearsal, showcasing how far she will go to craft her brand. Lydia dominates other characters with intellectual sophistication and the power she wields over their futures and livelihoods.

As conductor of the Berlin Symphony, Lydia is supposed to be the glue that connects a group of musically gifted individuals. Yet, she resents this idea of her position being just another member of the symphony. In her mind, the conductor position is more like a key master to a treasure trove of transcendent art that unlocks the divine. One must wonder if this could partially be an add-on to her persona to further deify her status. Or is it Lydia’s form of escapism that saves the tortured genius from her crippling Achilles heel: her subconscious.

In Lydia’s subconscious, buried secrets bubble over into her dreams. In moments of high stress, guilt burns holes like acid through her mask of infallibility. Her conscious self is that

of Lydia Tár, but when she is alone, she comes face-to-face with Linda Tár (Linda is Lydia’s birth name). Most of all, she is consumed with dread that her public mask will fall off. She fears being scorned with downcast eyes and whispering tongues rather than be looked up at in admiration by a community of high art aficionados.

At the center of this film is the greatest performance of Cate Blanchett’s career. When she comes onscreen, viewers cannot peel their eyes away, even if they wanted to. Blanchett is terrifying, whether it is her character’s mental anguish breaking her exterior shell or her deft gestures dazzling everyone in a room

of 300 during an interview. Although it is too early to say, “Tár” may boast the best performance of the 2020s.

Aside from the acting, the sound quality is another remarkable aspect of this film. The movie is completely devoid of audio in its awakening, and the tension builds because of Lydia’s ability to hear the faintest noise. The sound moves across the screen like a phantom, as Lydia searches for the maddening hums and ticks of her metronome. In this moment, she searches for solace away from the noise of her subconscious, only to be met with the crashing crescendos of her orchestra.

“Tár” asks a few questions that

are not necessarily answered in the end but are rather for the viewer’s consideration. Questions left to ponder include: Is genius simply persona? Does genius lie in the crafting of the persona? Does the crafting of persona require misdeeds in its pursuit? How the viewer perceives this film may tell them a lot about themselves. It will ask them to question the ideas that dominate culture and art.

With these burning questions, the powerful directing of Todd Field, and Cate Blanchett’s best performance, it all comes together to make “Tár” a modern masterpiece that will undoubtedly be remembered as one of the best films of the decade.



A still from “TÁR.”
(Photo / The News-Herald)

