

Is #TikTokOVER?,  
Page 11.

Meet your tutors,  
Page 6.

“Poor Things” Review,  
Page 9.

a student publication

# The Montgazette

FREE

The Students' Voice

Issue 98

Serving Montgomery County Community College and the surrounding community

April 2024



Fresh, hot food is back on campus. Read on Page 5.

(Photo / TJ Grumm)

## The Staff

TJ Grumm  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Peyton Borchelt  
Jesse Cherone  
Mikai Fulmer  
Desdemona Guerra  
Liam McClure  
Charles Montalbano  
Melissa Ochabillo  
Alexandra Orekhova  
Marc Regen  
*April Contributors*

Yaniv Aronson  
Robin Bonner  
*Advisors*

Joshua Woodroffe  
*Design & Layout*



**The Montgazette**  
The Students' Voice

# from the Editor

## “Wise” “old” man

TJ Grumm  
The Montgazette Editor-in-Chief

Hello, hello, hello, I am TJ Grumm, the other half of this semester’s dynamic duo of co-editors-in-chief. By the time you read this, we all will be preparing for the end of the semester. Whether that means panicking while we wrap up our studies or just making plans for the summer, we are all ready for this semester to end. I share those sentiments, which is funny given a year ago I was dreading being in college again. In fact, this time last year, I was having near panic attacks about enrolling at the College.

You may be reading this and wondering, what was so daunting about college? College is a natural progression for most: You graduate from high school, and you go to college to further your education. Then, more and more students each year forgo college all together, and enter the work force or seek an alternative form of post-high-school education. Finally, there are the few like me, who took all three of those paths.

I am 32, which is fun to

tell my fellow students because either they are really nice and tell me I look 25, or they tell the truth: that I do really look my age. I did the college thing over 10 years ago. I graduated from Upper Moreland High School in 2010, I went to Temple University for Broadcast Journalism, and I immediately found myself woefully unequipped mentally for life. I was depressed beyond measure. I took out loans to sit in my dorm and do nothing. I partied excessively on the weekends, and during the week I would just not go to class. I did not know why I could not muster the energy to physically go to class, I was a good student in high school, after all. No matter, by the end of the fall 2011 semester, I had failed out of college in three semesters.

Not to give up on my dream, I tried the alternative school path after Temple, attending a broadcasting trade school, where I got hands-on experience. As a student at the Connecticut School of Broadcasting, I even got to be the game-day

production coordinator for a developmental arena football league run by the Philadelphia Soul. It was a great experience, but that path only took me so far, especially as the internet content machine exploded, and companies preferred someone with a traditional degree in the face of such unpredictability.

All this time, and still to this day, I work at a cemetery, truly a dead-end day job. I have worked there for 14 years, and it has proved to be consistent employment. For example, when people lost their jobs during the pandemic, my job was busier than ever. It became a constant in my life, and it was reliable: I was not struggling to get up and go to work. I did not have to worry about whether going through an alternative school was going to hold me back. I was content with my place in life.

At the risk of sounding like an old man, let me tell you, though, that as you get older, being content with life is not enough. That’s why I am back in school, 14 years later: a

whole “Infinity Saga” later, 10 whole iPhone generations, three different presidential elections later. And everything I had feared about going back to school, I am not going to lie, they are all true, they are just not as big as I thought they would be.

Yeah, I am the oldest in most of my classes by a significant margin. Yeah, I have to balance school, work, and all the joys in life. Yeah, I am exhausted from it all. Through it all, though, something that a close personal friend of mine once said kept echoing in my head, “Life doesn’t get easier. You get better.” So, if you are reading this wondering, after this semester, what your next move is, or if it is the right move for you, or if you are afraid of what is next in general, I hope these words help you out: You are better today than you were yesterday. You will be better tomorrow than you are today, and you will be better the day after. And if no one has said it to you yet today, let me be the first to say: I love you.

# The vets versus the rookies

**Charles Montalbano**  
MSP 111 The Montgazette Contributor

As a new semester started at Montgomery County Community College in September, fresh faces appeared on campus with new ambitions and goals set for the future. New students tried to make their way, adjusting to college, whereas others were already in the swing of things. And, from semester to semester, the truths are the same.

At the College, there was a vast array of students who had just started classes and also many students who had been on campus in the semesters prior.

First-year students seemed to have a grasp on college within their first few weeks. First-year student Alex Bucio, majoring in Liberal Studies, says he chose the College “a warm-up for (four-year) college. I am only really worried about losing focus,” says Bucio.

Bucio was not intimidated and felt the College had “really good vibes.” He liked how relaxed everybody is and how the campus is open at times that are convenient.

Brendan Cruz, a Mass Media Studies major and first-year student, says he had a misconception about

community college. “I thought the community college was going to be very lonely and everybody was going to have tunnel vision. Now that I’m here, [I see that] people are way more open. It is a very welcoming environment here.” Cruz feels comfortable because of the warm environment that the College provides.

On the other hand, Ben Powers, a third-year student, majoring in Mass Media Studies, feels his first year was a little more stressful. Powers says he is “much more relaxed now.” He explains, “I have a lot of anxiety with anything that’s new. Now that I know what to do and now that I know my teachers better, I definitely feel more comfortable.”

The College tries to help students succeed on the campus as much as possible. The school tries to give the students opportunities for help everywhere.

Professor Hinkle, English faculty at the Blue Bell campus, explained how she has never seen a school try to push students to succeed more. “One thing that drew me to Montco was the concern for the student. Not only academically, but also the mental and physical care for the students, and I don’t

see that in other schools.” Hinkle says. She feels there is a “special effort for the students” here at the College.

Cruz offers this advice: “Just be open, take advantage of resources, talk to people,

and try not to isolate yourself too much because you’ll just get stuck being isolated.”

Powers added, “You need to learn a lot of things about yourself. You have to learn how to not let other

people bring you down, and you should be able to enjoy college with others here.” It may be a new semester, but, at this College, concern for the students’ welfare is a constant.



Montgomery County Community College campus on September 6, 2024.

(Photo / Charles Montalbano)

# Dance department at MCCC experiences changes

Melissa Ochabillo  
The Montgazette Contributor

At the start of the 2024 spring semester, students were notified that the Associate of Arts in Dance degree program was no longer going to be offered to students. While the dance department has had to undergo changes caused by this decision, it has still proven to be an active, creative outlet for students at the College.

Currently, what is left of the 63-credit program are two dance-related courses that are available for enrollment: Fundamentals of Modern Dance and Fundamentals of Hip Hop Dance. The former one-credit Dance Performance Ensemble class is now only offered as a club. While the class was still active, students could participate as noncredit club members.

To keep the spirit of the program alive, the club continues to hold its fall and spring dance concerts, to highlight all original choreography by students at the College. These are fully produced dance concerts with lighting, routines, and costumes, and they are open to all members of the College community.

The program's mission had been to encourage the student body to foster collaboration, creativity, and leadership. Students could learn the art of creating original choreography and improvisation, while also gaining knowledge of dance theory.

The brain behind the creation of the expressive program is its founder, Melinda Copel, who served as the coordinator of the dance department from 2004 to 2023, when she retired.

Copel earned her Ed.D. with a dance focus at Temple University. Copel then went on to pursue several teaching positions at Widener University, and Rutgers University.

Following Copel's retirement, Heather Dougherty became the acting coordinator of the department. She has taught modern dance and ballet classes at the College since 2009 and is currently a doctoral candidate for dance at Columbia University.

As Dougherty handles the changes the department is going through, she is focused on trying to "revitalize interest in dance at the College." She still upholds the program's mission through her hands-on work with students by helping them with choreography and organizing the club's dance concerts.

Katie Mavroudis, a College dancer and choreographer, says "Heather creates such an inclusive and welcoming space because she allows us to take the reins and be creative in our own way to express our love for dance."

Despite having suffered the loss of the dance program, the future of the dance department is still bright and will continue to foster creativity and unity among students.

For more information about dance at the College, contact [hdougherty@mc3.edu](mailto:hdougherty@mc3.edu) or visit [www.mc3.edu](http://www.mc3.edu).



Dance performance ensemble club rehearsing for their spring show on February 1, 2024.

(Photo / Melissa Ochabillo)

# Hot and ready: How Park Place East came to be

TJ Grumm

The Montgazette Co-Editor-in-Chief

There is nothing that complements education quite like food. From the messy, paint-covered tables of pre-school, to the loud, jungle-like cafeterias in grade school, to late-night cramming sessions in college, food is as constant in one's educational journey as A, B, C and 1, 2, 3. That is why when the cafeteria on Montgomery County Community College's Blue Bell campus closed in December 2022, students, faculty, and staff noticed immediately.

"We started hearing about it as soon as the cafeteria shut down," Student Government Association President Dani Arcos Narvaez recalls hearing concerns from students about a lack of warm food options. "The day after the cafeteria closed is when we realized," she added. Sure, there were new markets to supplement food issues, but they came up short in fully addressing the needs of students.

The cafeteria in College Hall closed following the fall 2022 semester, transitioning the cafeteria kitchen to support the needs of the College's Hospitality Institute on campus. It didn't take long for the students' concerns to reach College leadership.

When Narvaez brought the student feedback to Vice President for Finance of Montgomery Community College Qadim Ghani, he took the feedback to heart. "It was really heartbreaking, because, for me, food insecurity is a

very real concern." Ghani was exactly the person to hear these concerns and aid in finding a solution, "Food insecurity due to lack of options in close proximity, is unacceptable because that, to me, is something that's treatable; that is something we can fix." It would be a fix that had its challenges, but the partnership between students and College leadership proved to be successful.

From working on potential solutions such as food trucks, to partnering with local area vendors like Wawa, all options were on the table. Bringing a warm food option to campus was a certainty, it was just a matter of serving the needs of a diverse community of students, which pointed the coordinated group in the right direction.

For students like Narvaez, who attend the College full-time and spend full days on campus, that lack of a warm food option was not just a nutritional issue. "I was lucky enough to have a friend who would drive me, and we'd go take a run to Wawa or Chipotle, which is five minutes away, but having the availability here not only saves time, but also provides a sense of belonging." For Narvaez and the Student Government Association, that sense of belonging and community was just as important.

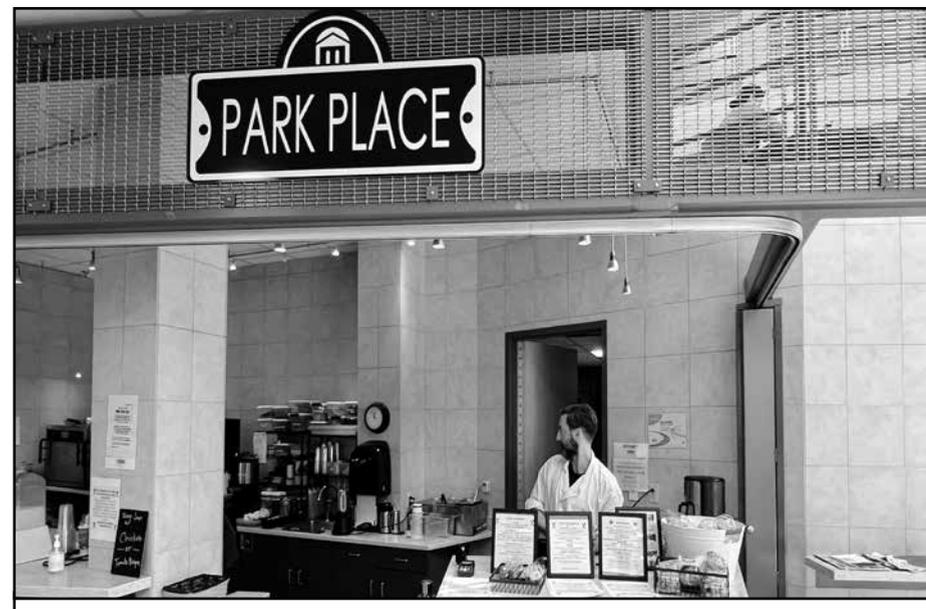
College leadership listened to the feedback and requirements from

the students, "There were a couple of pre-reqs that the Student Government had come up with." Ghani said, listing items such as a footprint in the community and an entity with diverse options to serve all kinds of dietary restrictions, including those due to religious convictions or health concerns. Student Government did their part as well. "We made sure to explain and present what we wanted," Narvaez said when recalling meeting with potential partners.

Throughout the process, it became clear to both sides that there was one obvious answer: The East End. Located 20 minutes from the

College in Hatfield, The East End is a family-owned bar and grill that has a wide variety of food options on their menu and a strong love for the community. What put them over the other contenders, in Ghani's opinion, was that The East End was more than just words. "This is a great campus to be a part of," Ghani said. He added, "When we offer you the opportunity to come be a part of this, and you meet that with the same level of excitement with which we've offered it to you, it's kind of a no brainer at that point."

**Continued on Page 13.**



Park Place East in Parkhouse Hall on March 25, 2024.

(Photo / TJ Grumm)

# Meet the tutors

Asking for help from a tutor can be intimidating, especially when they may be a stranger. That's why The Montgazette wants to do its part by introducing some of the tutors you can find here at Montgomery County Community College. Tutoring is offered both in person and online, so choose whichever method fits your needs and schedule. You can go to [mc3.edu/tutoring](https://mc3.edu/tutoring) to learn more about the College's free online 24/7 tutoring services and schedule a session today. If you are interested in becoming a tutor, go to [mc3.edu/tutoring](https://mc3.edu/tutoring) today to start the process! See below to "meet" three of your College tutors.



## Grace Ifiegbu

Peer Tutor  
Chemistry, Biology, Spanish

**What most impresses you about Montco students?**  
I am most impressed by the resiliency shown by Montco students. They put a lot of effort toward their academics while juggling other responsibilities.

**What is your favorite book?**  
My favorite book is "Challenger Deep" by Neal Shusterman. It is a book about mental health and focuses on a boy with schizophrenia. It is really heartwarming, and the writing feels like poetry. Most of the story takes place on a pirate ship, but that's all I'll say.

**Why do you love tutoring Montco students?**  
I love tutoring Montco students because they are very open to the learning process, and they are very appreciative of all the services offered at Montco. They are all incredibly nice people.



## Dan McGarity

Professional Tutor  
Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics

**Why do you love tutoring Montco students?**  
Tutoring students is mutually beneficial. I can help students understand their course content, and at the same time, their feedback helps me refine my teaching skills.

**What most impresses you about Montco students?**  
I've worked with many Montco students who are willing to stay for longer tutoring sessions when possible. Once I had a student who commuted from NJ one week just for face-to-face tutoring sessions. That's what I call dedication.

**What is the best advice you can give to a student meeting with a tutor for the first time?**  
Be open with us about your learning style and preferences. We genuinely care about helping you learn and improve, so ask lots of questions. Time can go very quickly after the session begins.



## Ruby Iskandarani

Peer Tutor  
Biology, Computer Science, Economics

**What is the best advice you can give to a student meeting with a tutor for the first time?**  
Stay calm and come curious would be my top tips. It can be overwhelming at first, but coming in with an open mind is key!

**What is your favorite book?**  
It's hard to pick a favorite book, but a favorite series of mine would be "The Infernal Devices." Cassandra Clare has a beautiful way of writing that makes me feel like her fantasy worlds may be real; they truly draw me in every time without fail. Her books are a source of comfort and happiness for me!

**Whom do you most admire?**  
My grandfather. Against all odds, he managed to build an amazing life for his family from scratch. I try to make him proud every day.

Love the  
**ARTS?**

Visit:

[mc3.edu/livelyarts](http://mc3.edu/livelyarts)

**ONE  
MOVE  
CLOSER**

**TO FINISHING  
YOUR DEGREE**

**KUTZTOWN  
UNIVERSITY**



*On-campus Transfer Friday:*

**May 3 | 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.**

*Learn about the transfer admission process, programs of study, financial aid, credit evaluation, campus housing, dining, student life, and more. Includes a campus tour.*

[www.kutztown.edu/transfer](http://www.kutztown.edu/transfer)

 **Listen live**

 **montco\_radio**

 **montcoradio**

 **montcoradio**

 **montco\_radio**

  
**montco**  **radio.com**  
where music and minds meet

# Free Narcan available from newly formed foundation

Liam McClure  
The Montgazette Contributor

The EMH Foundation, a local non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness about fentanyl poisoning, is offering the community free presentations about fentanyl and free access to Narcan.

The foundation is named after E. Morgan Heckler, a 22-year-old former Montgomery County resident, who lost his life tragically in August 2022 after accidentally ingesting fentanyl. Heckler was a student at Bloomsburg University at the time of his death. As a way to honor and remember Heckler, his parents, Grant and Amy, started the foundation in March 2023.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the rate of fentanyl overdose deaths more than tripled between 2016 and 2021. Drug Enforcement Agency administrator Anne Milgram says, "Fentanyl is killing Americans at an unprecedented rate." The EMH Foundation was formed to fight this trend by engaging, educating, and empowering the community to stop fentanyl poisoning.

The first way EMHF is fighting back is through education. EMHF founder Grant Heckler says, "Our way out of the recent spike in overdose deaths is education and harm reduction."

Fentanyl is very difficult to detect. The best way to avoid fentanyl is to avoid taking street drugs. That said, knowing the signs of overdose is a way to help others who may have come into contact with fentanyl. Heckler stated, "Fentanyl poisoning, the ingestion of fentanyl by someone who has no idea they are taking it, impacts people

from all walks of life. People have to realize that anyone they know could accidentally encounter fentanyl." A dose of Narcan may be enough to keep someone alive until emergency responders arrive.

Through counseling, the EMHF also helps those who have been affected by a fentanyl-related death. Fentanyl-related deaths are accidental and unexpected. They often occur in people who are otherwise healthy. This leaves their loved ones in a

state of shock, grief and trauma. The EMHF can help link people with professional counselors, and the foundation offers financial assistance for those who cannot afford such counseling.

Morgan Heckler was a multi-sport athlete with a large network of friends. He was known for embracing life and living it to the fullest. The EMHF offers scholarships for continuing education to local high-school seniors who demonstrate that same spirit.



Opioid overdose rescue kit, March 25, 2024

(Photo / TJ Grumm)

LOCAL



The Montgazette  
The Students' Voice



# Review: The beauty and meaning behind the cinematography of “Poor Things”

Alexandra Orekhova  
The Montgazette Contributor

“Poor Things” is a 2023 film directed by Yorgos Lanthimos. The script, written by Tony McNamara, is based on a 1992 novel by Alasdair Gray. The film depicts the journey of Bella Baxter, portrayed by Emma Stone, in a time similar to the Victorian era in its morals, technologies, clothes and architecture.

A miracle of surgery, Bella Baxter, is a grown-up woman with the transplanted brain of her unborn baby. This procedure

was performed by her eccentric surgeon-creator, Doctor Godwin Baxter, referenced as God throughout the film. During Bella’s journey, she mentally develops from a baby to a mature person, all the while being in the body of an adult woman. The people she encounters, the experiences she goes through, and the books she reads — all of them contribute to the process of Bella’s maturing.

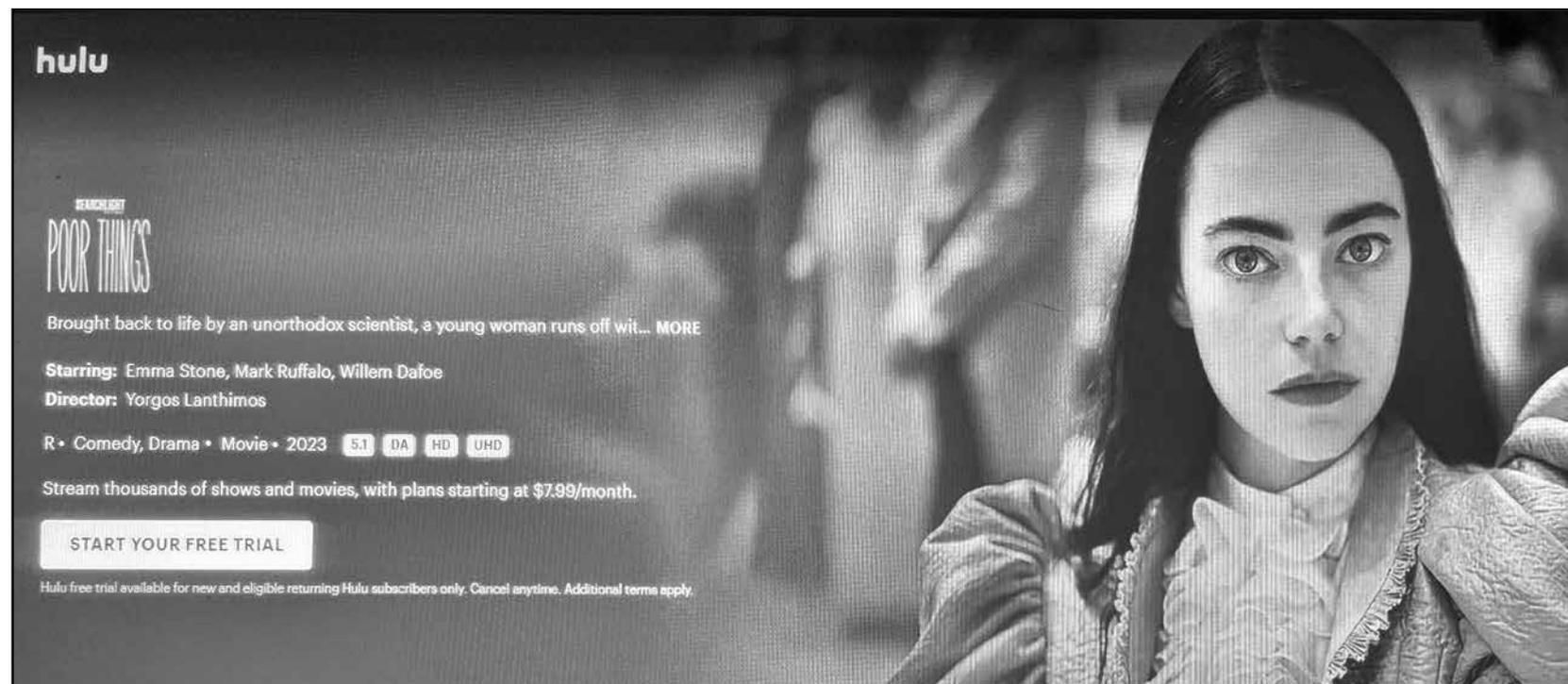
Cinematography plays an

important role in telling Bella’s story. Certain phases of life of God’s beloved experiment are black and white, some are colorful and flamboyant, and others are dull and mute. The other distinctive feature of the film’s style is the usage of a fisheye lens.

Early in the film, black and white take stage as Bella’s mental development is at the stage of a child. The first usage of the fisheye lens occurs when Bella

is trying to play the piano. At the scene’s beginning, she is shown to be completely normal in size and proportion. However, when looked at through the fisheye, she appears much smaller than she is. That foreshadows the future explanation of Bella’s delicate condition given by God, portrayed by Willem Dafoe, to Max McCandles, a student and assistant of God portrayed by Rami Youssef.

**Continued on Page 15.**



“Poor Things” on Hulu. March 25, 2024.

(Photo / TJ Grumm)

OPINION



The Montgazette  
The Students' Voice

## Opinion

# Minority reporters: Believe!

Marc Regen

The Montgazette Contributor

Everyone in the news media recognizes that there are problems with diversity in the journalism world, but how will we alter this trajectory? And where, specifically, are the diverse and minority reporters?

Journalism still feels like it is dominated by middle-class heterosexual white men, even today, where there are multitudes of diverse minorities well qualified to work in television, newspapers and radio.

As the industry has evolved, so have we. There are even more avenues for digital journalism than ever before. We minorities, LGBTQ and diverse professionals still fight an uphill battle trying to get into the industry and score that dream job.

To become a journalist, it helps to be well-educated and well-connected. However, there are other options. We can get a college education, use self-help books, or even take training courses offered by the U.S. Press Association. We even add value to our careers by becoming bilingual and multilingual. We join networking organizations; we find a mentor.

But why is it so hard to diversify in journalism? Well, it's not that we aren't intelligent enough, but many have said that getting an entry-level job in a newsroom is no simple task. Positions that are truly open to the public are hard to come by, and when one pops up, competition is scary. So, we must figure out what it takes to land a career in

the journalism industry now.

To diversify the industry as minorities, journalists need to be clever and consistently persistent. While the media industry has evolved in a dramatic way over the last decade or so, the demographic composition of newsrooms hasn't. Numbers presented by the Radio Television Digital News Association show that all minority groups accounted for 22.4% of television journalists, 13% of radio journalists, and 13.34% of journalists at daily newspapers. That is upsetting because minorities make up 37.4% of the U.S. population, and that share is rapidly growing.

There's still room for opportunity and growth, but

minorities are not facing their struggle alone. There are also organizations such as the National Association of Black Journalists, LGBT activist groups and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists who help to support those new to the industry.

In 1986 "The Oprah Winfrey Show" was broadcast nationally for the first time. It was a huge success, and Winfrey's daytime television talk show turned her into one of the most powerful, wealthy people in show business — and possibly one of the most influential women in America. I found one of her interviews with Mike Wallace to be fascinating. She always believed she would be successful, and it didn't end there. We all can have what it takes, if we believe.

Are you  
reaching your  
**academic  
goals?**

*Help is here!*

Want to keep that  
**A?**

**FREE  
TUTORIAL  
SERVICES**

[mc3.edu/tutoring](https://mc3.edu/tutoring)

– tips, resources  
& how to connect



## Opinion

# #TikTokIsOver

**Desdemona Guerra**

**The Montgazette Co-Editor-in-Chief**

The social media platform that gained all its popularity during the pandemic, and became one of the main sources not only for new trends to follow but also for news and relevant information — TikTok — is now facing a possible ban in the United States of America for allegedly jeopardizing the safety of its users' personal data.

In the beginning, when TikTok was still a much newer app, many people saw it as a joke, but the quick sharing of information on the platform has drawn all kinds of people to it. For better or for worse, TikTok became the number one app that Americans use and download daily, according to Statista.

But this may be coming to an end. NPR reports, "The [U.S.] House passed a bill that would require ByteDance, the parent company of TikTok, to sell the app or face a ban on U.S. devices."

This is not the first time the U.S. government has challenged TikTok: In 2020, under former-President Donald Trump's administration, the app faced a shutdown attempt due to the fear of the Chinese government having possession of American data and the fear of communist propaganda interfering with the U.S. elections processes.

Social media platforms, especially TikTok, are among the first sources of news and reviews of an incredible number of products and places. However, if the Senate

clears the TikTok ban bill and makes its use illegal, where would all this information be found?

There is no guarantee that every American will erase the app from their phones as soon as it gets banned, and the people who rely on TikTok financially will likely find a way to still use the app by getting a VPN (virtual private network) or stretching its use until it slowly dies. The app will crash regularly since it will be pulled out of the App Store for Apple and the Google Store for Android, making its updates and future downloads impossible. Its web access will also be restricted nationwide.

TikTok, as a company, has stated that the possible banning of the video-sharing app would be a violation of free speech. Many people before came forward fearing TikTok's use of their users' data, but the data of U.S. users has been transferred to a U.S. third-party auditor in the company Oracle under the name of "Project Texas." This was made to ensure that Chinese officials could not access Americans' personal information.

Up till now, there has not been any evidence of communist propaganda or interference with U.S. government elections or political parties through TikTok, only the usual content that caters to every user's algorithm and worldwide news that fails to reach the big news channels or other social media platforms. TikTok users can deliver unfiltered firsthand updates

at newsworthy events that may go unreported or be delivered later, with an added mainstream narrative spin.

So, where would people get news like this if the ban were to happen? Is not the banning of a social media platform where people can speak freely about any topic a violation of their First Amendment rights? Has the U.S. not been proud of being one of the countries that did not penalize

freedom of speech? Not only would free speech be in jeopardy if this ban became the new reality, but all the small businesses and people now employed and financially stable because of TikTok would lose it all and be forced to either start over on another social media platform or give up their livelihood.

**Continued on Page 14.**



TikTok logo displayed on an iPhone on March 15, 2024.

(Photo / Desdemona Guerra)

SPORTS



The Montgazette  
The Students' Voice

## Opinion

# The Eagles “Tush Push” should not be banned

Mikai Fulmer  
The Montgazette Contributor

It is no secret that teams around the National Football League are trying to get rid of the aptly named “Tush Push” play. The Tush Push is a strategy the Philadelphia Eagles made popular within the last year and a half. It involves the entire offensive line driving forward into the defense, fighting to be the low man, while the running back, the tight end, and a wide receiver push the diving quarterback toward their goal. The play does not seem that complex in a pure description of it, but the Eagles have perfectly executed it almost every time.

The public’s outrage seems unjust, as the play is just a perfect execution of the brute strength and skill of the Philadelphia offense combined with the smarts of the coaching staff. JJ Watts’ tweet gives the public and media a great insight behind this reasoning, “Lots of talk about the tush push, (ridiculous name by the way), Unpopular opinion: If they weren’t allowed to push from behind, the Eagles would still be just as successful at QB sneaks. Yes it helps, but the push isn’t the reason it’s successful. The OLine

[offensive line] and Jalen [Hurts, the quarterback] are.”

JJ and many other players around the league approve of this play just as much as other players disapprove of the play. But it is completely ridiculous how certain reporters, such as Chris Simms from NBC Sports, could say something just plain outrageous, like players should “head hunt” Hurts and other quarterbacks in the NFL for even considering calling this play against their opponents’ defenses. It is low of someone to ask for an injury or an attempt to injure another player because his team is calling a play that seems unstoppable but is completely within the league’s guidelines.

This call for the ban of the Tush Push seems outrageous and an overreaction by teams and players who lose to or oppose the Eagles. Most of the Eagles’ success lies within their other offensive and defensive skillsets and very little within the play call of the “Tush Push.”

Although the play seems unstoppable, that should not give the league enough reason to ban in its entirety.



Lincoln Financial Field on December 4, 2022.

(Photo / Mikai Fulmer)

# My Montco Baseball story

**Peyton Borchelt**  
The Montgazette Contributor

I played baseball at Upper Perkiomen High School and never went down the path of heavy recruiting. I never made a highlight reel or emailed coaches, made a Twitter account or posted on social media to get recognized. It was not an interest of mine to play division 3 or division 2 baseball at the collegiate level. To play ball in college was not a thought for me, personally, at all.

That was, until I played my first year of legion baseball for Upper Perk the summer going into my senior year. That is where I met my current head coach at the College, Coach Mike Fitzgerald.

I learned that he was the head coach from teammates and other close coaches and thought that it was interesting because I was playing for him in a normal summer league locally. As the season started and went on, he saw me practice, he saw me play through the games, and proposed the idea to me to play for him at the College. I was instantly interested and put major thought into it. The opportunity presented itself, so I did not have to dive into the time-consuming depths of recruitment and reach out to coaches myself. My coach

reached out to me in real life!

The situation also offered me many pluses. It led me on a route to be enrolled at a college where I would benefit in multiple ways. I would be able to play baseball for two more years than I thought I would, it would be a cheaper option for a college, and I would still be local to continue to work and be around my family and friends.

As the end of my senior year approached, this path became more and more certain, as I found I wanted to continue my baseball career. We are nearing halfway through my first season, and not only have I learned more about the game, but I learned more life lessons, created great friendships, and continued to play the game I know and love.

Meeting Coach Fitzgerald locally was a blessing for sure, and I hope more students get a chance to fully embrace the College experience, as I did, through athletics — or through any other means that bring students to campus in a way that helps them achieve their full potential.

Go Mustangs!



Mustangs Baseball player Peyton Borchelt.

(Photo / Montco Athletics.com)

## Park Place East

Continued from Page 5.

The partnership among all involved created Park Place East, located in the Parkhouse Hall atrium. Offering affordable options for breakfast and lunch, both hot and cold options, as well as coffee, Park Place East announced its opening without many words, but with plenty of aroma. “The smell of food was there,” Narvaez said, “Everyone was like, ‘Oh my gosh, there is food!’ The line was super long.”

It’s not just food that Park Place East offers; it’s also a place to gather, and to have a friendly exchange with people serving food and drink. “At the end of the day, food brings people together,” Narvaez said, “By bringing people together, you’re bringing culture, you’re bringing experiences, you’re bringing this array of different ideas that are needed here at Montco, as a diverse school.”

For both College leadership and Student Government, Park Place East stands as an example of what is achievable when the two

sides work together. “It’s absolutely critical,” said Ghani when asked how important collaboration is to the future of the college, adding, “This doesn’t succeed if I don’t have the intel from Dani and the SGA.”

For Narvaez, it’s just as important to have someone Student Government can trust. She said, “Having someone in administration who sees, who hears, and who decides to take action is extremely important.”

The food future is bright for the College, and it smells great, too.

# Opinion

## 2024 Phillies preview

Jesse Cherone  
The Montgazette Contributor

The Philadelphia Phillies have very high expectations coming into the 2024 Major League Baseball season. After finishing 2023 only one win away from the World Series, the team is primed to get over that hump and win the whole thing for the first time in 16 years.

The Phillies began building this World-Series-worthy roster almost immediately. They started by re-signing pitcher Aaron Nola to a huge 7-year, \$172 million dollar deal. Nola admittedly did not have the best season last year, struggling with the new pitch clock rule and finishing the regular season with a 4.46 earned run average (ERA). But Nola seemed to turn a corner come playoff time, finishing with a much more respectable ERA of 2.35 in the 2023 playoffs. That to me, and I assume the Phillies, ended up being a huge reason Nola got the deal he did.

The next move the Phillies made came a few months later when the team signed super utility player Whit Merrifield to a one-year \$8 million contract. This deal, in my opinion, was one of, if not the best, things the Phillies front office did this offseason. Merrifield is the perfect guy for the Phillies offense for one crucial reason: All the guy does is hit.

The career .284 batting average hitter spent

most of his time in the major leagues with the Kansas City Royals, a team that hasn't even sniffed the playoffs in almost a decade. Because of that, the team's lineup stinks. The reason this is noteworthy is because Merrifield was usually the best offensive player on that team, prompting opponents to choose to pitch around him.

With an already elite lineup consisting of Trea Turner, Bryce Harper and so many more, a pitcher just cannot pitch around Merrifield because then they'll have to worry about guys like Kyle Schwarber hitting a ball 500 feet and driving himself and Merrifield home.

The last big move the Phillies made was signing pitcher Zack Wheeler to an extension. Wheeler was due to be a free agent at the end of the year, so the Phillies had to retain the ace of the staff, and they did exactly that. On March 4th, the Phillies announced that they and Wheeler had agreed to a new 3-year deal. This keeps him in Philly for the prime of his career, which is a win for both sides.

Because of all this, I think this year is one of the Phillies' best shots in long time to win a trophy for the city of Philadelphia, and I frankly cannot wait for the season to start!

For more Philly sports coverage and opinion, you can listen to Jesse Cherone on Sports on Broad, 9 AM EST Wednesday mornings on Montco Radio and follow on Instagram @sportsonbroad.



Phillies branded water bottle  
on a white board on March 25, 2024.

(Photo / TJ Grumm)

## TikTok

Continued from Page 11.

According to USA Today, TikTok stated, "We are hopeful that the Senate will consider the facts, listen to their constituents, and realize the impact on the economy, 7 million small businesses, and the 170 million Americans who use our service."

TikTok's CEO, Shou Zi Chew, commented, "I encourage you to keep sharing your stories.

Share them with your friends, share them with your family, share them with your senators. Protect your constitutional rights."

The future is very uncertain for TikTok now, and if the ban were to happen, then the bigger tech companies would keep getting larger, as in the case of Meta. Instagram Reels and YouTube Shorts will become the

new short-form content videos available, enabling Meta to rule every other social media platform. Since another big tech company cannot buy TikTok because of the Biden Administration's strong antitrust law enforcement, which prevents these companies from getting even bigger, everything is in the hands of the Senate.



Every day is a great day to clown around in class: Professor Susan Buchler (as Ketchup), and her class get a good laugh. Buchler has a motto for her Eng. 101 students: “Ketchup is the staple of life,” just as catching up is, of course, a staple of coursework.

(Photo / Eng 101 Student)

## “Poor Things”

Continued from Page 9.

Bella is an experiment with strict conditions: She is never allowed to leave the house and never allowed to meet people other than God, Max or the maid, Mrs. Prim. Everything is very black and white in terms of what she can do, and what she can't do. The “perfectly entertaining and safe” world of Bella is simply not big enough for her. She strongly desires to discover what is outside the door of her house.

Luckily, that becomes possible when she encounters Duncan Wedderburn, a charismatic, mean-spirited lawyer. Duncan, played by Marc Ruffalo, meets Bella and takes her away to explore the world. This part of the film uses extremely bright dreamlike colors. Now, the fisheye lens makes the viewer see the world as bizarre and extravagant, as it is perceived by Bella.

During some scenes, for example, in Duncan's fight in Lisbon, the fisheye shot is from the lower angle, which allows the film to exaggerate the distortion and the size of fighters, as if from the point of view of a child. Appearing here and there, scenes of God and Max back in London tend to be cold and blue. In contrast,

Bella's and Duncan's scenes in Lisbon are mostly warm and yellow. Such choice of prevailing colors represents the inner emotions of the characters and overall mood of the scene, such as sadness and excitement, respectively.

The colors also tend to become dull and mute at certain points of the film. It happens in Paris, when Duncan and Bella part ways. Bella makes the decision to continue to study, which partially contributes to her ending up in the ugly and dark surroundings of her first-ever workplace – a brothel. The colors become darker when McCandles, while trying to track down Bella, finds an institutionalized Duncan. At the extremely low emotional points for the characters, the colors' extreme vibrancy vanishes.

At the climax of the film, the dream-like look of Bella's world finally disappears, showing her more realistic and grounded vision. The colors are still bright, but they appear more natural. Fisheye shots that represented Bella's exaggerated point of view disappear as Bella ages, offering another proof that she is now an adult.

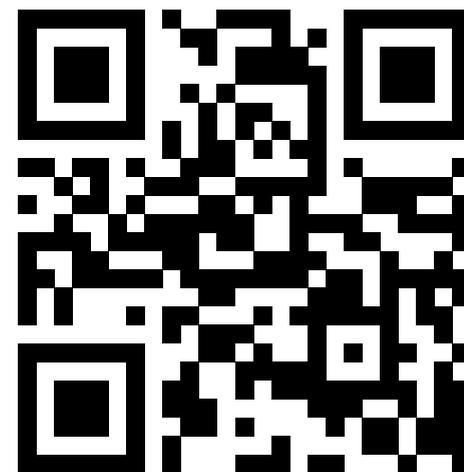
# Advertise!

To advertise in The Montgazette, please email [themontgazette@mc3.edu](mailto:themontgazette@mc3.edu)

All clubs chartered through the Student Life office may advertise in The Montgazette free of charge.

## What's going on at MCCC?

Just visit the  
**Active Data  
Calendar**



# JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE



Explore our 100+ degree and certificate program offerings and start your education on your schedule. How will you Montco?

**Prospective students will have the opportunity to:**

- **Connect with program faculty and student support services**
- **Tour the Campus**
- **Learn about admissions, enrollment, and paying for College**
- **Enjoy giveaways and snacks!**

**REGISTER NOW!**  
**[mc3.edu/openhouse](https://mc3.edu/openhouse)**



**Pottstown Campus**  
(in-person)  
Saturday, April 13  
from 10am-12pm

---

**Blue Bell Campus**  
(in-person)  
Saturday, April 27  
from 10am-12pm

---

**Online Open House**  
Thursday, May 2  
from 6-7pm

