

Participate in Jerry Collom's
Mustang Lounge, Page 5.

Meet Dr. Mary-Kathleen
Najarian, Page 3.

Dive into Bob Dylan, Film review of
"A Complete Unknown", Page 10.

a student publication

The Montgazette

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The Students' Voice

Issue 101

Serving Montgomery County Community College and the Surrounding Community

March 2025



Philadelphia Eagles fans celebrating the Super Bowl LIX victory in Center City. Page 7.

(Photo / Anthony Masusock)

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The Students' Voice

from the

Editor

Go with Confidence

Isabella “Bella” Chesnes
The Montgazette Editor-in-Chief

Hello, hello! Welcome to spring 2025 at Montco. I am your new Editor-in-Chief, Bella, and I’m incredibly excited to help others share their voice and go with confidence. This issue includes some repeat contributors and a ton of new authors who have never previously written for the paper. I harassed most of them into writing an article, but the lineup is incredible, and the writers who contributed should be extremely proud of themselves.

As college students, we grapple with the idea of uncertainty. In an ever-changing world, we’re left with so much to think about at the end of each day. Where will I go? Who will I become? Will I be able to support myself financially? Will I make my parents proud? These questions pound through my head, and I’m certain through the heads of others, like a consistent drum beat that robs me of my sleep, because, of course, once we rest, our thoughts start to race.

Many of us, as community college students, have decided this less invasive path of higher education was better suited to our personal needs: less debt, more flexible scheduling, smaller class sizes, and the list naturally goes on. However, it’s difficult to trust our intuition and strive

for the independence we all long for while still attached to our roots. Some of us still live with family, some still hold the same job we’ve had since high school, or we still have the same friends we hold so dear from the end of our adolescence. Some of us may change our major or find we have a love for something we never previously thought twice about. Some of us may have known what we wanted to be since we were very small. This is the time for change, the time for pivots in plans, the time for finding ourselves and what makes each of us happy. Regardless of which path we choose, let us be certain of ourselves through every risk. I would have never discovered my love for writing if I didn’t trust myself despite the fear and worries that thrummed through my head every step of the way, and believe me, it’s still a struggle.

At such a pivotal point in our lives, as what I like to refer to as “newborn adults,” we’re still full of adventure, dreams and goals that may seem unrealistic to our wiser counterparts, and we also have a fresh zest for life. It’s natural, it keeps us going and that is the beauty of this in-between phase. Take every opportunity offered! Heck, I wouldn’t be the Editor-in-Chief if I didn’t say YES. Each opportunity we’re given may

propel us further than we initially thought; each positive grade we earn instills a sense of pride we didn’t possess before. Find your niche; I promise it’s out there, waiting to be discovered. Despite all the unanswerable questions, I urge you to go with confidence and extend grace to yourself through this transitional period of life. If I’m certain of one thing, it’s that we will all find our path in the end.

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Meet Dr. Mary-Kathleen Najarian

Fadi Abdalla, Menad Chaib, Sofiane Chertouh, Gladys Etienne, Mohammed Khamil, Jannel Luna Evangelista, Maulikaben Patel, Bright Tran, Paola Varon Cubillos, Nancy Vasani, Yokaira Vicente, and Zenqin Xu
ESL 005 The Montgazette Contributors

Dr. Mary-Kathleen Najarian is the Director of User Success and Learning Technologies at Montgomery County Community College. She has been working here for the last 12 years. We got to interview her to find out more about her and her job at the College.

Dr. Najarian has earned three degrees so far and is continuing to study. Her bachelor’s degree is in Electronic Media with a minor in American history from Kutztown University. After that, she earned her master’s degree in Instructional Technology/Instructional Design from Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia. Her most recently earned degree is a Doctor of Education in Leadership from Gwynedd-Mercy University. Now, she is taking more courses focusing on project management and data analysis. It is easy to see that Dr. Najarian is a lifelong student. She has been able to do so much with her job and her studies because of a strong support system, including her colleagues and family. Even her 11-year-old son would remind her to sit down and get some work done.

Dr. Najarian has not always been in education. She has worked in customer service and behind the scenes for live production events and other video productions. She has also interned at a state representative’s office in community outreach and taught one course at a boarding school. She clearly has many talents!

One thing about Dr. Najarian’s

job here at MCCC is that every day is unique. She normally arrives at 8:30 a.m. and leaves by 4:30 p.m., but that is not always the case. She must be flexible with her time since she has a lot of work to do. She does a lot of training and supporting her team. She can help faculty members learn how to use different technologies. She also works with faculty to brainstorm ideas to meet a challenge. A very important part of her job is to listen to students and see if she can make things easier for them; she does this even though she has three to five meetings each day.

Dr. Najarian says that the best part of her job is helping students and giving them an opportunity to succeed. She enjoys seeing the “light bulb” moment when something starts to make sense to a student. She tries to think positively because there are moments of failure. However, she believes a failure can be seen as a

future opportunity.

When asked about the characteristics needed in her job position, Dr. Najarian mentions patience and creativity. She is constantly thinking about new ways to do things and new ways to explain things. She also feels that someone in her position must be trustworthy and supportive. She explains, “We are all in this together.” For her to be successful, she tries to make friends and get to know people. It’s good to have a support system in place before it is needed. She likes to ask questions and observe others to learn from them.

Dr. Najarian supports students through supporting faculty and administrators. You may not see her in your day-to-day interactions on campus, but she is behind the scenes helping your instructor to create a better experience in the classroom and beyond. Her best advice for

students is to find and make use of resources on campus like the Tutoring Center, create a support system of people who encourage and advocate for you, and find a mentor in your proposed field of study. This person could help with advice about potential jobs.

While Dr. Najarian is very busy, she does find some time to relax. She reads a bit for mental escape. She loves taking and enjoying photographs due to the great memories connected with them. She has visited and continues to visit many national parks and does some crocheting and needlepoints. She also likes to travel, which is one of her future plans. About the future, Dr. Najarian is very relaxed. She is a lifelong learner, always looking for opportunities to learn new things. She says, “Tomorrow is just a dream away.” With that attitude, it is clear that Dr. Najarian is a happy person and an asset to our college.

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Campus Fashion Club hosts new events, opens positions for leadership roles

Patrick Hennessey
The Montgazette Contributor

The Montgomery County Community College Fashion Club has once again begun operations for the spring 2025 semester. The club, run by student Sasha Orekhova, hosted a tote bag sewing workshop on February 5, in room 119 of the Fine Arts Center. The workshop was led by Jenna Smith, a seamstress for Madalynne Intimates, a woman-owned, Philadelphia-based lingerie brand.

Madalynne Intimates has a close and important partnership with Montco's Fashion Club due to their focus on individual creative expression, stressing the importance of customers constructing their own lingerie, so individuals and groups who do not feel represented by the larger market (trans, plus-sized, and other people) can craft innerwear just for them. Orekhova and Smith are currently exploring the possibility of a joint Fashion Club project with Madalynne Intimates for the fall 2025 semester.

The Fashion Club has previously hosted creative events. The club participated in a two-part Sewing Workshop on January 29 and February 5, drawing inspiration from the "Sleeping Beauties" exhibition at New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art in Manhattan. Orekhova introduced images from the exhibition during meetings to establish design direction. She encouraged club members to execute design boards based on the themes of

petal paillettes, insects, butterflies, and marine life. Montco's student activities organization generously supported the club by providing materials and an exhibition catalog from the Met. Club members sewed canvas bags using an industry-equivalent pattern. They gained experience using these patterns and learned industry sewing techniques introduced by workshop leader Jenna Smith. A variety of beadings, appliques, specialty fabrics, and trimmings, reflecting the themes, were available for club members to use to embellish and personalize the canvas bags when they were finished. Club President Sasha Orekhova said, "Our 'no stress' workshop was a big success! Jenna was clear about each step in the process. It was a basic (yet fun!) hands-on experience."

Last year, the Fashion Club hosted a club field trip to the Moore College of Art and Design, an art college for non-binary and female-identifying students in Philadelphia. A similar club trip, possibly once again to Moore, is being planned for this semester as well.

As the Fashion Club expands its activities, it has opened up several positions for leadership roles, including vice president, treasurer, and more. Any student who is interested in attending club meetings, or possibly assuming a leadership role in the club, is encouraged to attend club meetings in room 119 of

the Fine Arts Center. Days and times of meetings vary, so be sure to look out for information posted on Fashion Club's Montco Connect page.



Club President Sasha Orekhova and Student Jenna Smith.

(Photo / Professor Lisa McPherson)

Jerry Collom's Mustang Lounge

Kayla Horger
The Montgazette Contributor

Are you looking for a fun way to express your talents, meet new people, and have the best time of your life at Montco? If so, this article is for YOU! Every third Monday of the month, you can join many students from all majors for Jerry Collom's Mustang Lounge. What is Jerry Collom's Mustang Lounge, you ask? David Ivory, the College's Director of Sound Recording and Music Technology/ Mass Media Studies and Production, was able to provide some great details.

Jerry Collom's Mustang Lounge was founded around 2018 by the late GREAT, Jerry Collom, the former MSP program coordinator. Ivory explained that, initially, the Mustang Lounge was intended to be an intimate, laid-back lounge where an "open mic" style of performances would take place. However, once the Montco Cultural Center Theater opened, Jerry Collom's Mustang Lounge was able to take to the big stage. In addition to facilitating student performances, this event also offers students the opportunity to gain more direct professional experience, which, Ivory states, they will encounter in the real world. He is not wrong! As a result of Jerry Collom's Mustang Lounge, students of all talents and majors have an opportunity not only to accrue stage and performance experience but also to gain an understanding of what goes on in

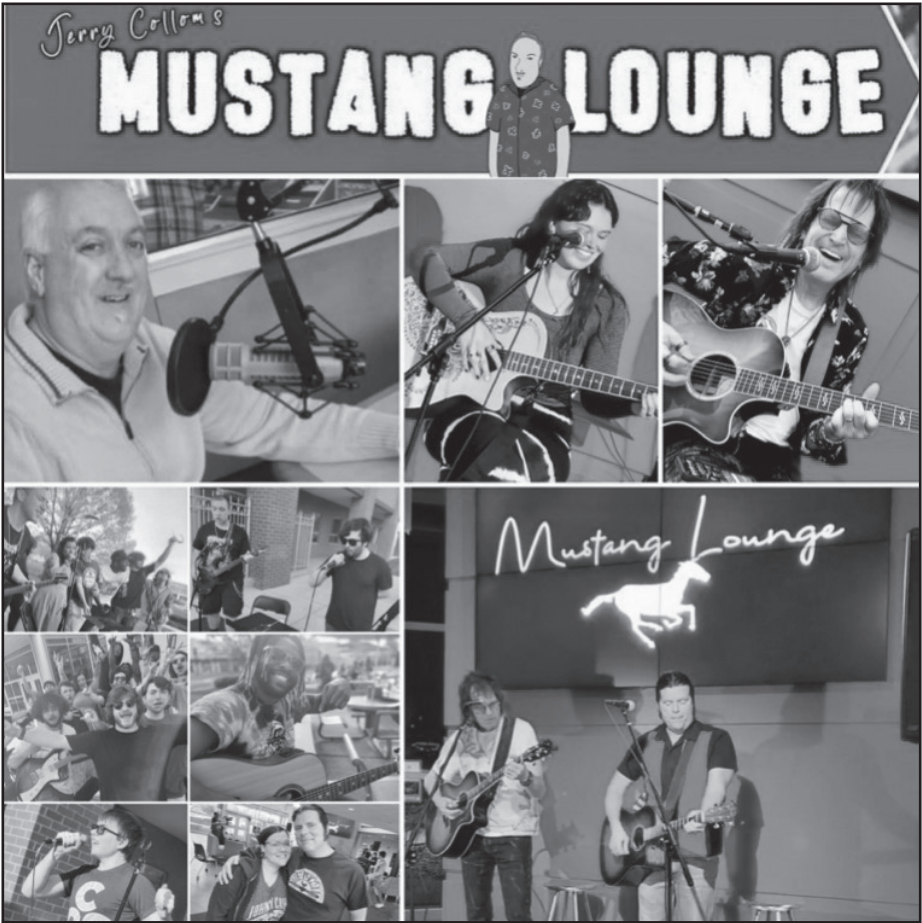
Sound Recording, Music Technology, and Mass Media Production.

Jerry Collom's Mustang Lounge begins at 6 p.m., with an "open mic" style set-up, and is typically followed by a headliner band from 7:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. In most cases, the headliner act is a local professional band, which allows students to gain valuable experience mixing their own audio and video as well as participating in the recording process. However, the backend work starts as early as 1 p.m., according to Ivory. Set-up begins with the video cameras provided by Montco's Tech Services Department. The cameras need to be positioned, and the lighting for the evening determined. The headliner band will arrive around 2 p.m. They get everything in place for their set, then conduct a soundcheck around 3:30 p.m., then are back by 5:30 p.m., to get ready for the show. As you can see, the work that goes into Jerry Collom's Mustang Lounge goes far beyond the mere art of music; the lounge requires hard work, dedication, patience, passion, and love for our students and the entire Montco community.

Not a performer and not interested in production? No problem! Our new theater has more than 500 seats, which means we need people like you to fill them! Bring your family,

friends, professors and neighbors. Bring everyone! And if the weather cooperates on April 21, you'll catch the performances outside, on the ATC Quad Patio in the beautiful sunshine, filling the campus with music, love,

laughter and togetherness. Want to sign up for a prime spot? Find the sign-up sheet in Tech Services, Advanced Technology Center, room 107. We hope to see YOU at the next Jerry Collom's Mustang Lounge!



Collage of 2023-2024 Mustang Lounge performances.
(Photos / Matthew Porter)

Russian Constructivism

Brayden A. Forcine
The Montgazette Contributor

As a Fine Arts student at the College, I have had the pleasure of learning about and utilizing the principal aspects of design. Having taken multiple design-oriented courses, I have discovered a passion-driven interest in said principles and how they are employed. This semester, I am taking Two-Dimensional Design with Professor Zotter-Mill, where I have the opportunity to learn about and explore the works of various artists who specialized in facets of design such as balance and unity. Some notable artists include Wassily Kandinsky and Kazimir Malevich.

Artists like Kandinsky and Malevich pioneered the exploration of spatial values and abstraction. Christina Lodder’s research from the “Oxford Online Art Journal” details the rather interesting beginnings of the movement of Russian Constructivism. As initially ornamented by Vladimir Tatlin in 1914, the Russians bound to the movement were not labeled or titled until after the Revolution of 1917. It was during this time and in the years to come that basic features such as lines, shapes, and planes would be utilized to define and narrate

the reasoning and intent of the designer.

The abstraction of geometric entities and their spatial positionings were crucial to those studying Constructivism. Unlike writing and the use of language, their art would tell the story — unaccompanied by literary elements. Interestingly, parallels still exist between art and language. Art, in a generalized sense, is made to be seen and perceived similarly to that of language. Kandinsky’s piece titled “Grey Circle” can invoke the same feelings and thoughts as a television show, without having to say or spell out anything. Through systematically abstracting and modeling, Constructivist pieces continually attract my attention and leave me stunned. To me, the often barren space sprawled out behind an ever-moving scene of intersecting lines and shapes is beyond visually captivating.

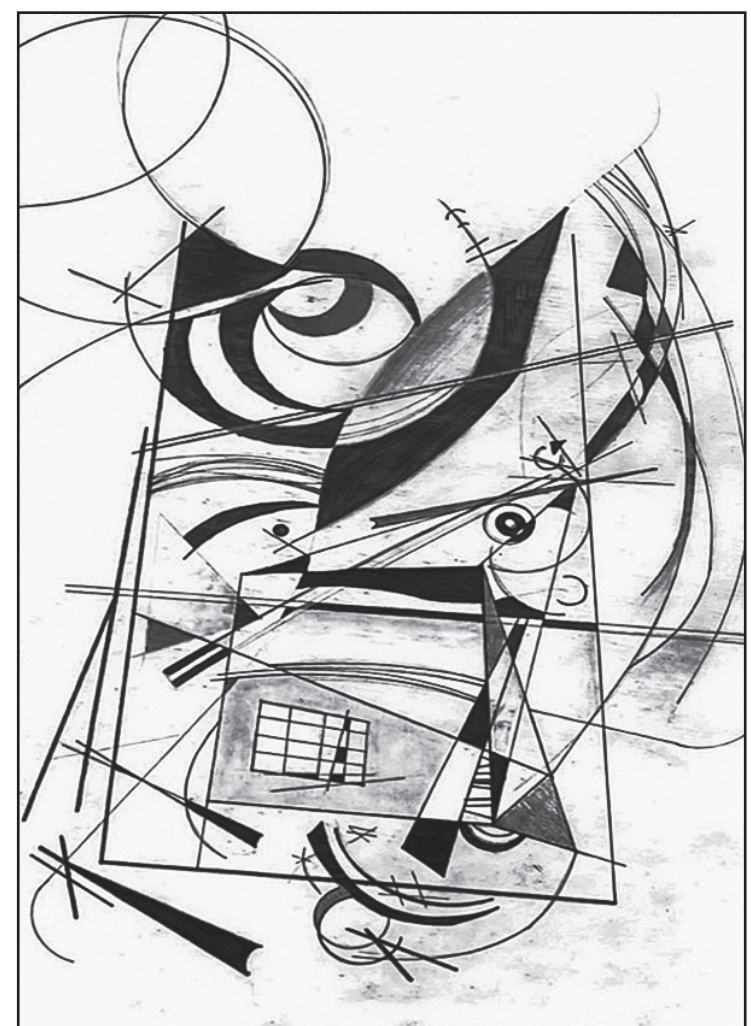
Among the handful of Constructivists that have claimed my attention, talented designer Alexander Rodchenko stands out as someone who has created numerous pieces that feature an interesting use of line, balance and movement. In

my aforementioned class with Professor Zotter-Mill, we are working on a project where we are using line and shape to build an interesting image. Our first project necessitates working on our Bristol boards using micron pens and Sharpie as the medium. Previously, we had an increased protection against mistakes, using pencils or creating similar design projects with black construction paper. Now, in contrast, the mistakes are permanent, and the standards for perfection are much stronger. Just the feeling of tracing my design and trying my hardest to stay composed as I glide my pen across the ruler allows me to further appreciate the skill and dedication Constructivist designers possessed. Professor Zotter-Mill’s extensive knowledge, experience, and passion for the Constructivist design model is also a definable reason for my interest in the subject area.

As I mentioned before, Rodchenko’s works impressed me from the moment I first viewed them. His usage of the circle and the movement he creates using shape and direction are extremely intriguing and have shaped

the way I view my designs. At the heart of Russian Constructivism and two-dimensional design alike, the persisting sentiments can and will be found in all areas of art and design. The

principles of design and the stemming theories that surround them are crucial to a better understanding of not only your art but also the art of others, as well as of the world around you.



Example of Constructivism
 drawn by Brayden A. Forcine
 (Photo / Brayden A. Forcine)

Back on Broad Street

Peri Lloyd
The Montgazette Contributor

Sunday night football ended on an unforgettable high for Philadelphia Eagles fans as they celebrated their victory in Super Bowl LIX over the Kansas City Chiefs to wrap up the 2025 season. The city of Philadelphia erupted in celebration, with crowds flooding the streets, marking a thrilling and chaotic scene all around town. Fans, wearing Eagles jerseys and waving flags, poured onto Broad Street, chanting the Eagles’ fight songs and climbing poles in pure excitement. The feeling of joy was contagious, and the air was filled with an undeniable energy as thousands of fans made their way to the heart of the city to celebrate.

I live in Center City, only a two-minute walk from Broad Street. As soon as the Eagles secured their victory, my entire neighborhood was alive with cheers, fireworks, and the sound of honking car horns. My friends and I rushed outside to join the festivities, with the sound of “Dreams and Nightmares” blasting from speakers in the distance. The excitement was palpable. As we made our way to Broad Street, we could already see the crowds beginning to form. The street quickly became packed, but police officers were stationed

by barricades, ensuring that things didn’t get out of hand. After about an hour of watching the crowd grow and feeling the pressure of people pushing forward, the barricades were finally lifted. Fans surged toward City Hall, which was glowing green, and the celebrations continued. The excitement in the air was electric, and it was a moment many fans had been dreaming of for years. For me, this victory was particularly meaningful, as it brought back memories of the Eagles’ Super Bowl win in 2018, when I was in my senior year of high school. Since then, I’ve been chasing that same euphoric feeling, and witnessing the Eagles claim victory once again was something I’ll never forget.

Growing up as a die-hard Eagles fan and watching sports with my family, especially with my dad, made living in Philadelphia a dream come true. We would attend games together whenever we could, making lifelong memories along the way. Unfortunately, my dad passed away two years ago, so this Super Bowl victory felt especially meaningful because I knew how much my dad would have wanted to experience it. As I stood on Broad Street

celebrating, I couldn’t help but feel that he was right there with me, sharing in the joy of the moment. Although many people had work or school the following day, the excitement of the Eagles’ victory kept fans out in the streets well into the night. In fact, the city of Philadelphia announced that the Eagles parade would take place on Friday, February 14, which coincidentally fell on Valentine’s Day. With the city

blocking off roads and parking becoming nearly impossible, getting into the city for either the parade or a romantic dinner could be quite difficult. On the other hand, couples who are also Eagles fans had twice as much to celebrate! Philadelphia Magazine’s food editor, Kae Lani Palmisano, offered some tips on coping in the article “Eagles Parade Intercepts Valentine’s Day: Here’s How to Plan Your Night Accordingly.” Though

the parade brought its own challenges with the timing of Valentine’s Day, for many, it presented a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be a part of something special. Whether you were celebrating love or celebrating a Super Bowl victory, Philadelphia was the center of attention, and the energy and excitement will undoubtedly fill the streets for months to come.

Continued on Page 15.
As for the fans, though,

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Eagles soar! Philadelphia dominates Kansas City in 40-22 Super Bowl blowout

Anthony Masusock
The Montgazette Contributor

On the night of Sunday, February 9, the Philadelphia Eagles put an end to the Kansas City dreams of making NFL history with a Super Bowl “three-peat.” Super Bowl LIX took place at Caesar’s Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana. Philadelphia was dominant in more ways than one throughout the game.

This isn’t the first time Jalen Hurts went toe-to-toe with Patrick Mahomes on the biggest stage in American sports. Philadelphia fell just short in Super Bowl 57, and the team’s main focus since then has been to finish the job. They did just that, in dominant fashion. Jalen Hurts showed intense focus

and accuracy, passing for 221 yards and running for 72 yards, all while soaring into a “brotherly shove” touchdown. DeVonta Smith and A.J. Brown also had touchdowns. The Eagles’ defensive unit, put together by defensive coordinator Vic Fangio, was nothing less than absolutely dominant. Josh Sweat, Milton Williams, Jaylun Hunt and Jordan Davis were able to sack Patrick Mahomes a combined total of six times.

During the second quarter, Mahomes finally threw his first touchdown to Eagles rookie cornerback Cooper DeJean for a pick-six. At this point, the Eagles were up 17-0.

Mahomes then tossed another interception into the hands of Zack Baun, which led to an A.J. Brown touchdown leading up to halftime.

Kansas City showed a little bit of life in the fourth quarter, scoring 16 points, but the dominating Eagles’ lead was insurmountable. Chiefs’ fans were frustrated with Mahomes’ weak performance and with tight end Travis Kelce, who managed only 39 yards on four receptions.

Jalen Hurts, promptly after the game, was named Super Bowl MVP. Hurts stated, “This team never wavered. We remembered what happened two years ago, and we weren’t going to let

history repeat itself. We knew what it would take, and we executed. This is for the city of Philadelphia.”

As Kenny Pickett, the secondary quarterback, took a knee, and the final whistle blew, thousands of fans poured into Center City, Philadelphia. The atmosphere was best described as electric, with fireworks illuminating the night sky, fans climbing street poles, and E-A-G-L-E-S cheers erupting up and down Broad Street. These celebrations also included commandeering city vehicles like garbage trucks to amplify their festivities. These crazy, spontaneous acts of joy highlighted the ride-or-die

enthusiasm of the Eagles’ fanbase. In anticipation of the celebrations, Philadelphia city officials had taken measures to ensure public safety, including deploying law enforcement and positioning vehicles to manage crowd flow. The city’s preparations aimed to facilitate a safe and enjoyable environment where all could celebrate.

The celebrations that occurred immediately after the Eagles’ Super Bowl victory showcased the deep connection between the team and the city. The spontaneous outpouring of joy and unity underscored the fans of Philadelphia’s support for their 2024 Super Bowl champions.

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Eagles defeat Chiefs in Super Bowl LIX, Jalen Hurts named MVP

Lilith Kravitz
The Montgazette Contributor

Super Bowl LIX, which took place Sunday, February 9, 2025, pitted the Philadelphia Eagles against the Kansas City Chiefs. This was not the first time these two teams met in a Super Bowl, though. Back in 2023, they faced off in Super Bowl LVII, where the Eagles lost to the Chiefs in an excruciating game, leaving Philadelphia hungry for revenge. Kansas City, on the other hand, was going for something that had never been done before in NFL history: three consecutive Super Bowl Championships, also known as “three peat.” The Chiefs, who have made five Super Bowl appearances in the last six years — and could be described as unstoppable — were able to bring down Josh Allen and the Bills in a close AFC Championship game, this leading them to their third Super Bowl in a row. The win left football fans everywhere wondering if the Philadelphia Eagles could be the team to overcome “unbeatable” Kansas City.

What changed in this Philadelphia team that has brought them back to the Super Bowl? One of the biggest differences between the Eagles of 2023 and today is, no surprise, their running game. Eagles signed running back Saquon Barkley shortly before the 2024 season began, in hopes that with quarterback Jalen Hurts and the offensive line around him, Barkley would be able to achieve more for Philadelphia

than he could in New York. In Super Bowl LVII, the Eagles running back, Miles Sanders, ended the game with only 16 yards and an Eagles 38-35 loss. Sanders, oddly enough, was Saquon’s backup running back at Penn State University and reached a total of 1,269 rushing yards in his final season with the Eagles. Sanders got 57 rushing yards in this year’s Super Bowl LIX, which was less than expected but more than Sanders got the last time the Eagles made an appearance in the big game. Nonetheless, Barkley had a tremendous first season with Philadelphia and was awarded The AP NFL Offensive Player of the Year Award.

The Eagles have spent the last few years focusing on making changes to the team, with their new running back, Saquon Barkley, and coach Nick Sirianni, who has only been in Philadelphia for four years. The Chiefs, on the other hand, have focused their attention on what has been working so well for them — consistency, starting with the person behind all these Kansas City wins, head coach Andy Reid. Reid has been with the Chiefs since 2013 and has 26 years of coaching experience, those first 13 years being with the Eagles. This was his sixth Super Bowl coaching, and he has won three of them. Reid, however, would not have had such success with Kansas City without

the team’s star players: quarterback Patrick Mahomes, tight end Travis Kelce, and wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins. Patrick Mahomes’ ability to make plays in difficult situations, like throwing winning touchdowns in unpredictable ways, as well as connecting with his teammates on the field is what some call the “Mahomes’ Magic.”

Though Kansas City was favored to win, and fans felt the “Mahomes Magic” would lead the team to bring home a fourth Lombardi Trophy, the Eagles put an end to Kansas City’s hope of making NFL history, as Patrick Mahomes, in the end, played one of the worst games of his career. He threw two interceptions, one falling into the hands of rookie Cooper DeJean, who then ran for 38 yards, turning the interception into a pick six and being the first person in Super Bowl history to score on his birthday. After this unfortunate score against Kansas City, Mahomes still wasn’t able to connect with any of his men on the field, thus giving the Eagles another opportunity to score before the half. Hurts feels the pressure from the Chiefs’ defense but is able to get the ball to wide receiver A.J. Brown, who catches a 12-yard touchdown, bringing the Eagles up 24-0 at the half. In addition, Mahomes’ offensive line struggled to protect him, allowing him to get sacked six times by Philadelphia’s number 1 defense. This was the most sacks Patrick Mahomes

had ever taken in his career.

On the other hand, despite the Chiefs’ struggle in this game, their defense did an excellent job at stopping star running back Saquon Barkley, not allowing him many long runs or touchdowns. Coming out of the half, the Chiefs needed to pull off some comeback magic if they wanted a chance at being champions once again. In fact, the Chiefs weren’t able to get into Eagles territory until the end of the 3rd quarter, their young rookie, Xavier Worthy, finally getting his team on the board with an impressive 24-yard touchdown. Then, Mahomes threw an incomplete 2-point conversion to Kelce following Worthy’s touchdown, leaving Kansas City down 28 by the 4th quarter. However, for the Chiefs, being unable to score in the first half ultimately leads to their 22-40 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles — Super Bowl Champions — after backup quarterback Kenny Pickett kneels to end the game.

For many Eagles players, this win was emotional because it was the first Super Bowl ring for them. Going into the Super Bowl, Eagles fans worried about the team’s performance, as even a missed field goal can cost the team a game in some circumstances. After the Eagles’ incredible season, they ended it on the best possible note: The Super Bowl Champions will be back next year, and now the Chiefs might be looking for revenge.

A Complete Unknown: The Bob Dylan Story

Zachariah 'Zig' Wheitsel
The Montgazette Contributor

On December 25, 2024, the music and film worlds were taken by storm when the film "A Complete Unknown" was released, starring Timothée Chalamet as the one and only Bob Dylan. The film begins with a 19-year-old Dylan arriving in New York City, before his fame and stardom. The film captures the initial formation of each important relationship, both romantic and non-romantic, that Dylan had throughout his highlight years.

The director of this film, James Mangold, truly displayed his genre-based versatility with "A Complete Unknown." Mangold has also directed movies such as "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny" and "The Wolverine." He has received numerous awards for film directing over the years and continues at the age of 61 to direct large-scale films that turn into huge successes, with "A Complete Unknown" likely soon to be added to that list.

What those who watch "A Complete Unknown" for the first time will notice is, the film only covers a relatively small timeframe of Bob Dylan's life. However, there are no moments of "movie boredom," where the film lacks excitement and climactic scenes. The film has grossed close to \$87 million, and it can be assumed that the making of this film is the driving force behind

the exponential growth in Dylan's fan base since its release. That said, on the music-listening platform Spotify alone, over 15,000 people listen to Bob Dylan's music each month.

Another interesting point to be made about the film is that, with most movies about the life of a musician, the artist being portrayed on the silver screen is deceased. However, Bob Dylan is still alive and well at the age of 83. On top of this, Dylan himself has been quoted from a multitude of sources to have been in support of the film's creation. First, Dylan took to the social media platform "X" and displayed his admiration for actor Chalamet, stating, "Timmy's a brilliant actor, so I'm sure he's going to be completely believable as me. Or a younger me. Or some other me." It has also been claimed that Dylan had a heavy involvement in the creation of the film. In an interview with Rolling Stone, director Mangold said, "I have a script that's personally annotated by him [Dylan] and is treasured by me..." This is very different from most artist-based films.

Artist Joan Baez, who was also heavily featured in the film, is also currently still alive. However, she did not embody the same attitude toward the film as Dylan. Baez was approached by Monica Barbaro, who was cast to play her in the film, about deserving more of a spotlight with

biopics on her life. Baez's response, though, was, "I'm just sitting in my backyard watching the birds. You know? I lived it. I did it." It is not a surprise to many that Dylan and Baez had opposing reactions to the film and their depictions within it, considering the opposing mentalities and attitudes they have displayed throughout the entirety of their careers. For instance, the film features a scene of a performance with Dylan and Baez, where the audience begins to cheer for them to play the song "Blowin' in the Wind." It was at this moment that a huge conflict of interest arose. Baez believed it was their duty as musicians and performers to play the songs that the audience wanted to hear. However, Dylan placed high significance on continuously displaying new, more relevant work, believing it was more important to play what the audience

needed to hear rather than what they wanted to hear.

It is highly recommended that Dylan fans and other music fans alike watch the film for themselves to establish their own opinions. One thing is for certain, however, the life of Bob Dylan is no longer a complete unknown. Dylan fans around the world now know what exactly happened in his travels between Minnesota and New York, and they have had the opportunity to relive the moment that he changed the world of folk music forever. All of this brings fans to the same question that Dylan had proposed in 1965, being "How does it feel? To be on your own, with no direction home. A complete unknown, like a rolling stone."

The film currently scores 80% on "Rotten Tomatoes" and is ranked 7.7/10 by IMDb.

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Standouts and fallbacks: A 2025 Grammys’ fashion review

Brett Wayne
The Montgazette Contributor

The 67th annual Grammy Awards were held on February 2. With females leading the nominations in the biggest categories, fashion was sure to be a topic of the night. When it comes to being consistent with an aesthetic, the winner of Best Rap Album, Doechii, killed it with four different custom Thom Browne garments. Each look has sleek but edgy elements with a color palette of white, dark gray, blue, red, and black. Every outfit she wore

complimented her body and cemented her spot as an artist to watch when it comes to fashion. Another stand out of the biggest night in music was the winner for Best New Artist, Chappell Roan. Roan wore a 2003 haute couture Jean Paul Gaultier to show vintage glamour. The dress featured a print of Degas’s ballerinas, including “Dancer with a Bouquet” and “Ballet,” while cascading down

into an asymmetrical pattern by the ankles. Roan also adorned her teased ginger hair with a feather and added sheer gloves while sporting her classic look: white clown makeup. The short and sweet princess Sabrina Carpenter opted for old Hollywood glamour. Carpenter wore a custom baby blue silk gown by J.W. Anderson to the ceremony. The dress was halter style with a peplum, feather accents, and a floor-length skirt. She

accessorized with a 50-carat diamond necklace, pear-shaped diamond earrings, and a 10.10-carat diamond ring from Chopard. Since we’ve talked so much about the greats of the night, it’s time we discussed where there was some failure. There were numerous wardrobe malfunctions during the night.

Continued on Page 15.



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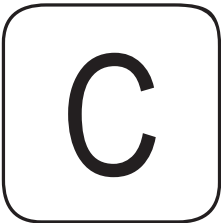
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Criteria for Eligibility

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- Students must have taken at least one Creative Writing course at MCCC or a transfer college.
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Rules

- Each student must enter the appropriate category. Only one (1) entry per category is permitted. All works must be original creations.
- Submissions must be typed on 8 ½" x 11" paper, double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, one-inch margins. Please *email submissions as attachments*.
- Submissions must include a separate title page with: **Name, address, email address, phone number, MCCC student number, and the category letter entered ("A" for Poetry or "B" for Fiction).** Also, list the location, semester, and year that you completed your creative writing course.
- In the upper right hand corners of all subsequent pages, list the entry title, followed underneath by the last four digits of the phone number listed on the title page.
- The student's name **is not to appear** on any page other than the title page. All pages should be numbered.
- Winners will be notified by email.

How to Submit

- All entries should be emailed to Dr. Patti McEnery, Assistant Dean for Liberal Arts at pmcenery@mc3.edu

Kendrick Lamar’s Super Bowl halftime show met with mixed reactions

Matt Licwinko
The Montgazette Contributor

Throughout his career, Kendrick Lamar has been a polarizing figure in the hip-hop industry. His lyrical projects have cemented him as an all-time great amongst his peers, and this year, Lamar earned an opportunity to headline the Super Bowl halftime show. While the event is typically a defining moment for the artist(s) selected, Lamar joined exclusive company on Sunday, becoming the 10th artist to appear in multiple shows. Despite the impressive accolade, Lamar’s show has received both high praise and harsh criticism.

The performance began with a cameo from the legendary actor Samuel L. Jackson, who would serve as a crucial part of the show. Jackson, dressed in a red, white, and blue tuxedo, established himself as “Uncle Sam” and introduced the audience to “the great American game.” This kind of social commentary is to be expected from an artist like Lamar, who has built a reputation for himself as a revolutionary figure in the hip-hop scene. He then opened his set with verses from “GNX” and “Squabble

Up” before being interrupted by “Uncle Sam” again.

“Too Loud! Too Reckless! Too...Ghetto. Mr. Lamar, do you even know how to play the game?” Jackson’s outrage represented what artists like Lamar go through when creating music that defies the industry norm. It makes sense that Lamar then followed these comments by performing three of his biggest hits: “Humble,” “DNA,” and “Euphoria.” As his backup dancers formed the American flag, Lamar

split the formation straight down the middle, a move which many interpreted to represent a politically divided nation.

The introductory notes of “Euphoria” were met by a large cheer from the New Orleans crowd due to its significance in the ongoing feud between Kendrick Lamar and Canadian rapper Drake, which can be traced back to a comment Lamar made at the 2013 BET Hip-Hop Awards, but gained public attention with the

release of “First Person Shooter” by J.Cole Featuring Drake in 2023. The feud was in the limelight, however, with several ‘diss tracks’ released by both artists in the spring of 2024. However, Lamar did not specifically use any of the lines in the song that related to his adversary. Following a short verse, he smoothly transitioned into “Man at the Garden” and then changed stages to play “Broccoli.” As he finished the track, he gave the crowd some of

what they wanted.

“I want to perform their favorite song, but you know they love to sue.” By saying this, Lamar took a direct shot at Drake for filing a lawsuit against his label Universal Music Group, where he claimed that Lamar had damaged his reputation with the release of the hit single “Not Like Us,” a song which alleged that Drake was a “certified pedophile.”

Continued on Page 15.

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Susan Tedeschi:

Keeping the legacy of women who rock alive

Isabella “Bella” Chesnes
Editor in Chief

Like every career, blues and rock and roll began as a male-dominated field, in which women were second to the best, such as B.B. King, Chuck Berry, Mick Jagger, Eric Clapton, and so on. Yet a few women have consistently broken through the male-dominated walls. Boston born and bred blues guitarist Susan Tedeschi stands as a beacon of hope for women of all ages aspiring to chase their wildest dreams, continuing to break the barriers, and gracing audiences worldwide with her raw, earthy voice.

Beginning her musical career at just five years old, as an understudy on Broadway, Tedeschi claimed in an interview with social figure and online guitar teacher Marty Music that she began singing in the crib as a baby before she had developed the skill of speech. Raised in a home filled with blues, gospel, and R&B, Tedeschi, who was raised Catholic, gravitated toward African American Baptist devotions and found compelling the power in their faith and musical statement of such faith. She began performing in bands at 13 and received her Bachelor of Music from Berklee College of Music.

In 1998, Tedeschi released her first album, “Just Won’t Burn,” featuring notable tracks such as “It Hurt So Bad,” a cover of “Angel

from Montgomery,” and “Rock Me Right.” The album reached gold status in 2000, while Tedeschi was simultaneously opening for her male counterparts in the blues scene, such as B.B. King, Buddy Guy, and The Allman Brothers Band, where Tedeschi met her eventual husband, Derek Trucks. In addition to developing their relationship, which began when Tedeschi opened for The Allman Brothers in 1999, the two began touring together, separately from their projects, under the name Soul Stew Revival. In 2010, Tedeschi and Trucks began their current band, titled the Tedeschi Trucks Band, a 12-piece group composed of two drummers, a horns section, background vocalists, and a rhythm section, which would be musically classified as a southern, blues, American rock band. The band has become widely successful because of Tedeschi and Trucks’ talent and the connections they have built as separate musicians.

Tedeschi has been compared to rock legends such as Bonnie Raitt and Janis Joplin. Yet, her vocal range and ability are closer to that of Aretha Franklin and Etta James. Tedeschi Trucks Band was nominated for seven Grammy Awards, and their album

“Revelator” was recognized as Best Blues Album in 2012. However, it is unfair to discuss Tedeschi’s impact based solely on her discography and awards without mentioning her presence in front of a live audience. Her ability to captivate an audience with her vocal range and excellent blues guitar, while remaining in taste fashionably, from her long flowy skirts to her turquoise jewelry, make her signature ankle booties incredibly difficult to fill. Countless recordings capturing her charisma on

stage with legends from all corners of the music industry set her apart entirely, with more than just the title “Rockstar.” Currently, Tedeschi is celebrating the 25th anniversary of “Just Won’t Burn” and writing new material for Tedeschi Trucks Band, who just completed their 2024 Duces Wild Tour. The world waits impatiently to see what else Tedeschi has in store continuing her ever-fruitful career, as she stands as one of the most impressively impactful women in rock.

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Kendrick Lamar

Continued from Page 13.

Following the line, a small snippet from the song played, which was met by another roar from the crowd. However, Lamar moved on through the rest of his set and brought out SZA for both their recent track “Luther” and hit song “All the Stars.”

As the show reached its climax, Uncle Sam chimed in one final time to celebrate Lamar by saying, “That’s what America wants!” and as he began to tell Lamar to not mess it up, he cut in with his most influential track, “Not Like Us”. With the crowd in an uproar, Lamar put on his best performance of the night, including looking directly into the camera while dissing Drake. To add insult to injury, Serena Williams, one of Drake’s former love interests, also made an appearance during the song. To finish the show, Lamar brought out famous

producer Mustard and completed his set with “TV Off” while bringing extra energy to the Superdome. As Lamar walked off, the camera panned to the crowd, which was lit up with a sign that read, “Game Over.”

There were no doubts that Kendrick Lamar left his impact on the halftime show. Celebrities and fans alike have given their opinions on the performance, but the general consensus is still unclear. Many have given props to Lamar for going on the biggest stage and delivering both a powerful yet subliminal message.

On the contrary, many fans believed that the Super Bowl may not have been the right place for Lamar to perform. Despite this, Lamar’s legacy has undoubtedly continued to grow to superstar levels.

Broad Street

Continued from Page 7.

there is no question about how much this victory means to them. For Eagles supporters, this Super Bowl win was years in the making. After coming so close to glory in past seasons and experiencing the heartbreak of a close loss, the 2025 victory was a triumphant redemption. It’s the kind of victory that brings the entire city together, with people from all walks of life celebrating in unison, united by their love for the team. It’s a reminder of how sports can create a sense of community and pride that transcends every other part of life. There’s a deep connection between this city and its sports teams, and when the Eagles win, the city becomes a beacon of joy and celebration. Whether you are

a lifelong fan or someone who just caught the wave of excitement, the Eagles’ Super Bowl LIX win will forever be etched into the memories of those who were fortunate enough to experience it.

In the end, this Eagles Super Bowl victory represents so much more than just a championship. It’s about family, community, and a shared experience that binds the city together. For those of us who’ve been waiting for years to witness that moment again, it’s a dream come true. All in all, this fan feels it was worth it to be a part of a celebration that will go down in history as one of the most exciting moments in Philadelphia sports history.

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Grammy's

Continued from Page 11.

The most important one to note is a mishap Beyoncé experienced while accepting her award for Best Country Album.

The 35-time Grammy winning artist wore custom Schiaparelli, but in the bust area, many people noticed that there was a metal wire sticking out of the top that looked extremely uncomfortable. On the topic of discomfort, Best New Artist nominee Benson Boone had a wardrobe malfunction that left the audience uncomfortable. While he was performing his hit song “Beautiful Things,”

at the end of it, you saw Boone “adjust himself” while on stage. The camera then cut to the audience and was met with many visibly uncomfortable expressions.

The Grammys are the most acclaimed music award any music artist could dream of, and although this year’s event may have had some mishaps, audience members still said it had been the best night for music and fashion in a long time—thus upholding the Grammys’ reputation as the biggest night in music.

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