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a student publication

The Montgazette

FREE

The Students' Voice

Issue 87

Serving Montgomery County Community College and the Surrounding Community

November 2021



Christine Morris handing a backpack to an ACT 101 student.

Read about MCCC Support on Page 3.

Photo submitted by Chad Mitura.

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The Montgazette
The Students' Voice

from the Editor

Dear The Montgazette readers

Sufyan Davis-Arrington
The Montgazette Co-Editor-in-Chief

I want to give a big “welcome back” to any returning students and an especially warm welcome to students in their very first semester. My name is Sufyan Davis-Arrington, and this is my first year serving as an Editor-in-Chief for The Montgazette. I was offered the opportunity to write for our college paper last spring at the beginning of my second semester at Montco. Initially, I did not think I was a good fit for the organization simply because I did not feel that my writing was strong, but my English professor, Mrs. Bonner, felt otherwise.

Not long after joining, I developed a passion for journalism, especially since The Montgazette allows its contributors to write about their interests and passions. As a message for those who do not feel confident in their writing, this club will make you feel more comfortable learning journalism and enable you to share your interests with your peers and other members of the College.

This semester, with the utilization of vaccinations, masks, and social distancing, the College

has been able to reopen campus, offering students the option to return to expanded in-person learning. Hopefully, this is another step in the right direction as we all collectively strive to become reaccustomed to normal life once again. Despite not all students being able to attend in person, it is truly a gift to be able to continue our academic journey, whether virtual or not. I believe one of the best things students can do is to seek out ways to continue self-growth, even in the most inconvenient times.

In addition to pursuing your education, be sure to expand your horizons and join the various clubs and organizations the College has to offer. Even those who are learning virtually can search and join various organizations through the Montco Connect site. While on Montco Connect, the first thing you should notice are the Activities. These include many events held in our local communities, and some even virtually, which are posted with the dates and times they are occurring. The College offers a lot of opportunities for

everyone, so please get involved and meet your peers and other community members. Keep in mind that depending on the club you decide to join, there may be academic expectations that must be met in order to be a member. It is important to note that grades and classroom performance should always be your top priority.

With the understanding that college can be difficult to manage with other responsibilities, the College also provides a number of ways to help students with academics. If one of you is having difficulty in a class, know that fine tutors are available for all curriculum in addition to your teachers. I have come to find that many of the professors at this college are very understanding and are willing to work with me if any dilemma arises. Communication

is a strong component of success in college, so be sure to maintain close contact with your teachers. If any technical issues with your electronic devices arise, be sure to contact the Help Desk, available to offer prompt and diligent assistance at, helpdesk@mc3.edu.

One of my favorite quotes by Henry David Thoreau is “Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it.” Believe that you will do well this semester, study hard and complete assignments on time. I hope that following this simple message will help you and that you will find success not only now but also in your future beyond Montgomery County Community College.

Good luck to all of you this academic year and may you all find success and happiness this semester!

About The Montgazette

The Montgazette is published twice a semester from October to May by the students and advisory staff of Montgomery County Community College.

Montgomery County Community College support programs: Connect early and often

Chad Mitura

MSP 111 The Montgazette Contributor

As a new college student, it's easy to get overwhelmed. Many students are faced with home-life, work, and family challenges. According to Montgomery County Community College and Gear Up student Bryan Jimenez, "Getting in the right mindset is important because college and high school are so different."

So where can help be found? Gear Up is one of the many Student Support Programs available to students at MCCC. It helps students with basic needs, like affording school supplies. (For information on the College's student resources, contact the Student Success Center at 215-641-6577 or StudentSuccess@mc3.edu.) However, these programs are something most students are not aware exist. These free programs assist with academic and non-academic challenges. Dr. Craig Smith, Director of Student Support Programs, said, "If you want it, you can have it, and there are people

in place who can help you."

Student Support Programs include ACT 101 Scholars, KEYS, MSMI and POWER program. They provide success coaches who assist students by helping them define their goals, meet with them regularly, and provide resources for overcoming obstacles.

The staff of SSP also want students to know that anyone can reach out to them as a resource, and for support, if needed. Most students are shocked that these programs are available, since MCCC is a community college with

seemingly fewer resources than four-year schools.

The most well-known program at MCCC is ACT 101 Scholars. This program provides free coaching, mentoring, tutoring and more to students with educational, personal and financial challenges. Success coaches in ACT 101 help students assess goals, develop success strategies, and navigate the college experience, which is especially important for first-year students.

To qualify for ACT 101, students must complete

their FAFSA, be registered for at least six credits, have an academic need of being placed in a developmental-level course, be an ESL student or have a gap of three or more years in education.

Student support is more than just academic assistance. Programs like SNAP and POWER help students with non-academic needs. Food insecurities and mental health recovery are other types of needs that Student Support Programs can provide.

Most Student Support Programs have limited staff

and resources. They are mainly grant-funded through donations, and 95% of staff are part-time. Regardless, staff want to hear from students as soon as a need arises, so they can give help as quickly as possible. As Christine Morris, ACT 101 Program Coordinator, said, "Students should engage with us early and often."

Regardless of whether it is classwork, counseling, or financial assistance, students should not be afraid to check out the College's Student Support Programs for help.

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The Black Panther of Lansdale: The perfect storm

Mia Scruggs

MSP 111 The Montgazette Contributor

Anwar Muhammad is the president of the NAACP Ambler branch, as well as the owner of The Black Reserve Bookstore located in Lansdale, Pa. The unexpected COVID-19 pandemic hit the American economy strongly, leaving many entrepreneurs unemployed and in shambles. Consequently, Muhammad's small business surprisingly veered onto an unforeseen path.

On March 19, 2020, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf sent an order to close all non-life-sustaining businesses. Unfortunately, The Black Reserve Bookstore is not a life-sustaining business.

Two months later, on May 25, 2020, George Floyd was murdered in the Powderhorn Park neighborhood of Minneapolis, Minnesota, by Derek Chauvin, a white police officer with the Minneapolis Police Department.

America was seemingly in flames and so was The Black Reserve Bookstore. Muhammad's business was not set on fire, but the events of that spring and summer completely altered his store's reality.

"Now people from all over the world are contacting me to get literature about black people. The murder of George Floyd introduced a lot of people to me and my bookstore," said Muhammad. People were not only introduced to Muhammad and his

store, but also to black culture as a whole.

To be successful during this time, Muhammad knew he needed to utilize the internet. A blend of social media, his online store presence, and police brutality were the perfect storm to keep his head above water financially during this time of chaos.

Tapping into his role as local NAACP chapter president, Anwar Muhammad also knew how the pandemic particularly affected black people.

Muhammad started on the simple subject of food. He said, "The pandemic allowed many to witness the first food desert they have ever seen," as supermarket shelves were almost empty.

Muhammad stated, essentially, that "what COVID did was push a lot of our requests to the surface, so they have no choice but to witness it because people were dying."

Muhammad concluded that it is not necessarily COVID that is killing black people, but preexisting health concerns due to poor eating habits, and a lack of access to nutritious food and affordable healthcare.

Thus, Muhammad's biggest mission has been to find ways to get information out to those in need. Meetings with healthcare professionals via Zoom for advice on how to live with COVID-19, prevent it and stay healthy have been in the works to pass down

to those in the community.

The suffering from the pandemic cannot be healed by quick fixes. To repair the root of the problem, Muhammad suggested planting community gardens with fresh produce, taking one's health and well-being seriously, supporting black businesses and making entrepreneurship an essential way of life.

For more information, please visit The Black Reserve Bookstore online at www.theblackreservebookstore.com and the NAACP's Facebook page @ TheNEWAmblerNAACP.



Anwar Muhammad

Photo submitted by Mia Scruggs.

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The effects of the pandemic on law enforcement

Ryan Duffy

MSP 111 The Montgazette Contributor

COVID-19 has had a tremendous influence on every working American, but what has changed for the law enforcement community? What policies and practices have altered since the start of the pandemic?

Police work often requires close contact, so it's easy to infer that COVID has hindered officers' ability to deal with the public. Police Chief David Duffy of Upper Gwynedd Police Department said, "COVID presented, and still presents, significant challenges in policing."

"Effective face-to-face is particularly important between police and the public. The masks hinder that and have also caused safety issues when talking clearly in certain, sometimes critical, situations," Duffy

emphasized.

He continued, "There are many situations where officers can't keep any distance from people. In fact, they need to be in close proximity and/or physical contact with others to effectively perform first aid, protect from harm, and make arrests."

Duffy went on to explain that things like lockdown and online schooling have led to an uptick in mental health problems, which were already a challenge for police. "Ideally, the police wouldn't have to deal with mental health problems, but there are not enough other agencies and resources to help those in need."

Judge Andrea Duffy of Montgomery Township said, "The pandemic forced us to look at multiple ways of conducting urgent court

hearings. For months all of my hearings were held virtually on Zoom."

Duffy said she has found it difficult to adjust to working on a computer for a majority of her cases. She greatly prefers to see her clients in court in person when she can. She says, "While I certainly prefer to have 'in person' court, technology has offered us ideas for the future so that witnesses can still be heard even if they are distant, ill or unable to travel."

The uptick in mental health problems may be the most prevalent and long-lasting effect of the pandemic. Both Judge Duffy and Chief Duffy placed a lot of emphasis on the influx of mental-health-related cases since the pandemic first started.

The law enforcement

community is just one of the many branches of America's workforce that has seen many changes in the last year and a half. In both policing

and judicial work, it's safe to say that the pandemic has greatly changed law enforcement's methods for handling critical situations.



Masks add complexity to police communication.

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Montco meets Bucks: Peddler's Village Scarecrow Festival

Emily Glauser

MSP 111 The Montgazette Contributor

As cool weather slowly sets in across eastern Pennsylvania, fall events all over the area are starting to ramp up. While Montco offers fall fun such as the Merrymead Fall Fest and the Skippack Halloween Parade, its neighbors in Bucks County have organized frights and fun at Peddlers Village.

From September 5 to November 3, Peddler's Village offers the Scarecrow Festival, an event that features a plethora of handmade scarecrows that resemble anything from a celebrity to a ghoulish ghost.

Not just anyone can make scarecrows; these scarecrows come to life with the help of community members and local businesses. Bob McGowan, the chief operating officer at Peddlers Village, said, "The Scarecrow Festival is always a staple fall event for us, but this year, more than ever, it's a great way to bring the community together."

The Scarecrow Festival also gives the small businesses of Peddlers Village more attention and customers. Joanne Jarins, owner of Lucky

Cupcakes in Peddlers Village, says, "The Scarecrow Fest is always perfect for business because during the festival we average 350 sales a day. There's so much to do here, and the festival shines a light on the small guys."

For some boos and brews, visitors can head over to Free Will Brewing Co., where craft beer flows and ambiance fills the air. Customers can also vote for

their fave scarecrow when picking up one of their beers.

Mr. McGowan continues, "It is a fantastic way to expand and intermingle the community when Montco takes on Bucks. If both communities support each other, the counties will have even more reason to create new fall activities."

There are scarecrow-making workshops every Saturday and Sunday until

November 5. The workshop shows beginners how to make a scarecrow if they have never made one before. At the end of the workshop, the scarecrows made can either be taken home or shown off with pride and put in the festival competition.

Brian Murray, a Bucks County local from Warrington, says, "Supporting neighbors is so important right now. Still, it

will also help bring the two communities closer together, and in the meantime, it will be supporting small businesses during a tough time."

For more information, visit Peddlers Village Facebook, and as always, tickets are not required. Festival organizers ask that those who want to participate in next year's festival please register at www.PeddlersVillage/events.com.



Peddler's Village Scarecrow Festival, September 5.

Photo by Emily Glauser.

Lansdale Township skate park: Community improvement

Carl D. Fink

MSP 111 The Montgazette Contributor

Max Nogueda, a skateboarder for more than eight years, was ecstatic when officials announced the creation of the 4th Street Park, saying, “We’ve been kicked out of plenty of the spots in the area but had never really been given anywhere to go. Boards put up to block gaps, and grind stoppers being put on rails and ledges pushed us to other places.”

After long deliberation, Lansdale Township has finally approved, broken ground for, and finished the newest skate park in the area. Local skateboarders have long awaited its arrival after three decades of discussion.

Nogueda went on to say he has been personally fined several times in the township. Hatfield, the neighboring town, placed a ban on skateboarding in the streets, handing out fines up to \$200 and confiscating boards. “Having a place to call home for us skateboarders is a monumental thing,” said Nogueda.

Skateboarders felt they

needed a park like football players need a field, a place to feel welcomed by the community and not viewed as a nuisance. Many local skateboarders told the Borough they wanted a place to call home and build comradery among one another.

The skate park brings in all age groups, from early adolescents just beginning to learn the basics to long-time veterans of the sport. Even some local pros make an appearance now and then. The design for the park keeps that in mind and incorporates different levels of skill into the obstacles.

The layout for the park is 9,500 square feet. It brings together different ideas for the various styles of skateboarding, combining street, flow, and transition into one seamless experience: Street being rails, ledges and stairs, flow being little humps or smaller ramps to gain speed and momentum, and transition being bigger ramps, such as quarter pipes, halfpipes, and bowls (or pools) — much like viewers

would see at the X-Games.

There have been other locations where skate parks were placed for a brief period, mostly right on the edges of Lansdale’s border, but none of these lasted long, or they were otherwise removed by the Borough for not being up to code.

“Wedgewood,” as it is known among Lansdale community members, was an infamous do-it-yourself park built by and for local skaters. It consisted of DIY ramps and ledges held together with cement and highway signs.

Lansdale officials state that Wedgewood was removed due to substandard building practices and lack of permits. Officials were worried about a skater getting hurt using the unregulated park, and code enforcement eventually came in and removed most of what made it a skate park. They left a few obstacles considered to be less of a danger. However, gutting the park further pushed skaters back into the streets, where they were not welcome.

After Wedgewood, Lansdale officials got the

hint that they were going to need to provide an area for skateboarders. Plans were made and the creation of 4th Street Park began on Feb. 10, 2020; the park was later dedicated to Carl W. Saldutti.

Saldutti, a former Lansdale official who focused his service on bettering the town, was a main proponent of the skate park. Saldutti stated, “Skateboarding is a mainstream activity that is growing in popularity. We’re serving a population that

is underserved and needs a place to exercise, express themselves, be creative and be outdoors.”

Skateboarding has roots in Lansdale’s community, as it is the birthplace of a handful of professionals not just in this extreme sport, but for BMX, as well. Now after a long, anxious wait, lovers of the sport have been provided an appropriate place to practice and progress as welcome members of the community.



Lansdale Township skate park.

Photo submitted by Carl D. Fink.

Bryn Mawr Film Institute introduces VacCinema screenings

Jess McGinty

MSP 111 The Montgazette Contributor

Alexandra Hewitt, a lifelong film fan, has been waiting for the right time to return to the movies. Bryn Mawr Film Institute has been showing movies in the post-COVID-shutdown world since April, but in September, the theater introduced a new level of safety measures to ensure patron comfort and security.

Beginning Sunday, Sept. 12, BMFI offers in-person screenings via newly installed VacCinema capability. Every Sunday and Monday, patrons of the theater are required to show proof of vaccination as well as a photo ID to be able to enter the building for all shows, classes, and special events. Unvaccinated guests are still welcome into the building for all screenings Tuesday through Saturday.

For patrons concerned about carrying their physical card with them, there is no need to worry. Clear photos of your vaccine card or a printed form from the Pennsylvania Department of Health website will be accepted, so long as the name matches the ID provided.

Mike McCracken, Director of Theater Operations and member of BMFI's COVID taskforce, says, "The biggest thing we have to deal with is people's initial fears. With places like movie theaters and restaurants, there is a level of anxiety there. We have to make sure

people feel comfortable and safe enough to spend two hours indoors with others."

Since reopening to the public in April, BMFI has been working to increase the amount of daily cleaning that goes into theater upkeep. Katie Jenaway, Box Office Shift Supervisor, says, "Each day, the box office staff works to wipe down all surfaces with sanitizer on a regular basis, including theater seats. We take extra care in ensuring all patrons are safe and comfortable."

When asked what he expects VacCinema to become over the next few months, McCracken said, "If we realize this is what our customers are looking for, the added security, we're going to offer more opportunities." The theater is already planning on expanding VacCinema to more days per week.

With some programming already planned through the end of the calendar year, there is something coming up at BMFI for every type of film fan. This opening weekend of VacCinema will feature seven different films rotating across their four screens, including the beginning of their popular Film History Discussion Series education course. There is also the return of Open Screen Monday, a monthly forum for local filmmakers to show off their

latest works. Hewitt, finally feeling safe enough to return to the theater himself, said, "I am more than willing

to follow the new rules and show my vaccination card if it means I get to return to my happy place."



Exterior of Bryn Mawr Film Institute

Photo submitted by Jess McGinty.

Social media and ingenuity save a small business during the pandemic

Mya Gelet

MSP 111 The Montgazette Contributor

In a time where so many restaurants are struggling to survive shutdowns and lost business, a local business found ways not only to survive, but also to thrive during one of the worst economic downturns in modern history.

Collegetown Italian Bakery is a staple in both the local community and Montgomery County. People come from all over to enjoy their famous pizzas, pastries, and pot pies. When the owners, husband and wife team Steve and Patrizia Carcarey, were faced with a possible shutdown due to Pennsylvania's COVID-19 health guidelines, they had to develop some way to keep their employees working and customers coming into the bakery.

"The night we were told we were being shut down, Steve and I had a brainstorming session and had to come up with ideas to keep us open," Patrizia Carcarey said. They thought back to the system that had gotten through the busiest holiday, Christmas Eve, when they served thousands of people via a drive thru, and an idea was born.

"Creating a space where the customers feel comfortable was so important. The drive thru, along with a new point-of-sale system, was no contact and convenient. We put items right in the car for you," said Steve Carcarey.

After the Collegetown Bakery drive thru opened, the owners took to social media, sharing their menu items to their Facebook, Twitter and Instagram fans. Patrizia Carcarey spent one day making 1,000 potpies that could be reheated at home. They sold out in minutes.

"DIY kits were also popular. Anything families could do with their kids sold well," Patrizia Carcarey said. She developed two clever kits that could get the whole family involved in the meal: a cake kit and a make-your-own-pizza kit; both include everything needed. Customers

joined the fun by posting their finished products on social media. The method proved successful, as the bakery saw sales of their Detroit Pizza skyrocket from the social media attention.

Ingredients of Collegetown Bakery's success included creating the drive thru, making DIY kits, and blasting their social media to reach far and wide. The bakery's tagline, "We are more than just a bakery," is what keeps their customers coming back.

Customers can still drive through and pick up any menu item at 3846 Ridge Pike, Collegetown, PA 19426.

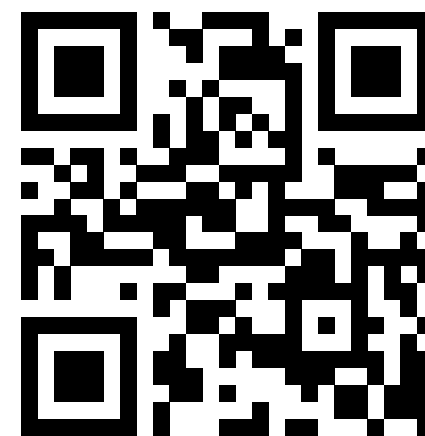


Collegetown Bakery's drive thru

Photo by Steve Carcarey.



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The hunt for a new gaming console

Virginia Lima

The Montgazette Co-Editor-in-Chief

Gathering my siblings, cousins, aunts, and uncle together, my mom put out a bounty, a sacred and secret quest. Our objective was clear: Get an Xbox Series X for my grandmother's birthday. We knew accomplishing this would be no small feat — for between us and our prize stood an army of bots, which buy up gaming consoles milliseconds after they go on sale online, and scalpers, those who create the bots and resell those same consoles for double or sometimes triple the price.

Determined not to give into the scalpers' schemes, we armed ourselves with extensive research on when consoles went on sale, some bots of our own, and the diligence of a family who cherished their video-game-loving grandmother. Despite our best efforts, my grandmother's birthday came and went and there was no Xbox to show for our efforts. We then set our sights on getting one by Christmas, to no avail. With heavy hearts, we began to realize our quest may have been in vain. Why was it so hard to get an Xbox Series X? Why were they so low in stock? When would the tyranny of bots and scalpers end?

This story starts farther back, before the release of the Xbox Series X, right at the start of the pandemic, when semiconductor chip factories around the world

sent their workers home for the initial lockdown. These graphic chips are found in more than just the Xbox Series X; they are also used in other popular gaming consoles, like the PlayStation 5 and Nintendo Switch, and in smartphones, laptops, web cameras and computer parts. As people began to work from home, students started online school and those in quarantine began looking for entertainment, they found themselves in need of or wanting technology products. Thus, the demand for chips skyrocketed. However, with no one in the factories producing them, the chip supply ground to a halt.

By now, most factories have slowly begun to pick up production. Unfortunately, they are still not producing at normal capacity, let alone even getting close to closing the gap between supply and demand.

But if there are some gaming consoles being produced, why are they still so hard to find? This is because of scalpers and bots. A scalper is a person who buys huge quantities of products in high demand and resells them at a much higher price. They do this by creating bots, which are computer programs designed to refresh a page and buy a product the literal second it becomes available. They make it nearly

impossible for a flesh-and-blood human, like us, to click the "buy" button fast enough on things we want. Currently, there are no regulations in place to stop this from happening, so the only options people have, to get the technology they want, is to either pay the scalper's fee or wait until the shortage is over.

While the technology industry has taken a massive hit from the chip shortage, they are not the only ones affected. Many new cars also require these chips for their center console displays, meaning the number of cars being produced has plummeted since the pandemic started. Although there is not as big of a problem with bots and scalpers snatching up cars as soon as they hit the market, this does not mean car prices remain unaffected. Both the price for new and used cars alike have reached record

highs in the past year. As of right now, there does not seem to be an end in sight to the chip shortage. Some economists are estimating that chip products will return to their normal price and availability by 2023.

A year after our quest to give my grandmother an Xbox Series X began, we were ready to admit defeat. That was until my uncle, who is a personal trainer, told all his clients that if they found an Xbox Series X to sell him, he would give them a week of free classes. With our team doubled in size, we finally accomplished our mission. Our reward? My usually stoic grandmother's beaming smile. As she opened the box to unveil her glowing new console, my mother leaned over to me and whispered, "We should try getting one of these for your dad for Christmas." And so our next quest begins.

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The fantabulous emancipation of one James Gunn

Josh Dempsey
The Montgazette Contributor

When both the director and the studio are working toward the goal of crafting a compelling character story, a comic book blockbuster has a better chance of becoming a “good” movie. DC and Warner Bros., in the process of revitalizing their brand of superhero films, seem to be placing artistic control in the hands of directors and reinventing an old model for success.

James Gunn, removed by Marvel and Disney from “Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol. 3” for reasons that had nothing to do with “Guardians” Vols. 1 or 2, was picked up by their natural competitor, Warner Bros, who owns the DC franchises.

While Marvel has since reversed its decision for the “Guardians” installment, rehiring Gunn to direct the third sequel, the brief affair between DC and Gunn has given birth to the most uproariously fun smash-hit of the pandemic box office: “The Suicide Squad.”

Go see “The Suicide Squad” for the pure fun that Gunn has with his camera. Its rhythmic rapidity manages to display the fighting styles of more than 15 superpowered baddies while keeping the audience up to speed on who is who and who wants what. The R-rating allows for glorious revelry in the blood and gore of battle, but do not make the mistake of calling the violence gratuitous; this word suggests that the bloody violence lacks sufficient reason for

display. Gunn allows nothing to enter his film without reason. The violent devastation of the battle between our anti-heroes, called Task Force X, and a tyrannical Caribbean-based regime is embellished, but it supports Gunn’s ultimate goal of creating character.

The characters who make up “The Suicide Squad,” criminals “dying to save the world,” are the shining highlight of Gunn’s triumph. Great stories contain flawed characters, and B-list supervillains come ready made with their share of rich backstories. In this film, the characters do not cease being themselves, but they do work through serious issues on screen — including consuming fear, pain-induced ignorance, narcissism, depression, and the mad desire for the unobtainable.

These individuals also have a shared flaw, brought to visceral reality in every action scene: death. Death is their profession, their playground, their risk, and their tool. Death is in their power to bestow and receive. No character is safe. And, as in all great stories of death, the characters must each face the question of what choice they will make with life.

“The Suicide Squad” is the second example in 2021 of DC and Warner Bros. seemingly turning a director loose in their auteur sensibilities, the first being “Zack Snyder’s Justice League,” released in March. This new relinquishing of

studio expectations, however, may have originated long before the era of fan-demands. In 1989, DC Comics president Martin H. Greenberg commissioned 14 science-fiction authors to craft short stories that would be compiled in “The Further Adventures of Batman.” The anthology turned out to be extremely popular, and soon more Batman stories, along with tales devoted to the Joker, Superman and Wonder Woman, were added to the “Further Adventures” series.

Short stories offer the ability for

authors, or might we say auteurs, to flex their gift of creative control, without the added pressure of needing to adhere to a cinematic universe. Short stories can take place at any point within a timeline, within a given character’s career or with any version of a character. Cinematically, a short story model offers countless opportunities for interpretation of characters.

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Let Your Voice Be Heard!

A look at what lies ahead for the Philadelphia Eagles

Pedro Machado
MSP 111 The Montgazette Contributor

Ever since winning their first-ever NFL Super Bowl Championship in 2018, the Philadelphia Eagles have not been the same team. Despite a few relatively strong seasons since, last season proved that the team was far from competing for another Super Bowl ring. Now, for the 2021-2022 season, what can fans expect from the Eagles?

Most Eagles fans believe this season will be no different from the past one. Jake Rill, a Bleacher Report writer says that “fans have some reasons to believe that the team will improve this year, but the expectations are still not great.” This sentiment is understandable, given the fact that much of the team, including the coaching staff, is very young and inexperienced. After three ugly pre-season games, only time will tell how things will go in the regular season.

Some people still believe that the Birds may be able to pull off one or two surprises. Analyst and social media writer Eagles Galaxy is “is very optimistic about some of the players on the current roster,” such as rookie wide receiver Devonta Smith, and new starting quarterback Jalen Hurts.

Given a rookie head coach, a second-year quarterback, a controversial general manager, and a team that almost no one believes in, what can fans expect to see this season?

Although the Falcons were favorites to best the Eagles in their first game of the new season, the Philadelphia team ended up winning with a big exclamation point. The final score of the game was 32-6, which surprised almost everyone in the Philadelphia area. Nuno Machado, a Philadelphia resident, stated that “the team did very well in their first official game and used the fact that they are not favorites as an advantage.”

The overall performance was a pleasant surprise for many fans. Philly Eagle News praised not only coach Nick Sirianni, but also “Jalen Hurts, Devonta Smith and the defensive lineup that really settled in after the first two drives and dominated the Falcons offense.”

Continued on Page 13.



Philadelphia Eagles T-Shirt
Photo submitted by Pedro Machado.

SPORTS



The Montgazette
The Students' Voice

Philadelphia Eagles

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The Philadelphia Eagles also had some good moments last season, with big wins against teams like the Giants, Cowboys, and New Orleans Saints. But at the end of the day, they proved they weren't consistent enough to keep on winning; plus, they had several problems with quarterback Carson Wentz and coach Doug Pederson (both ended up leaving Philadelphia this off-season). The question everyone is asking now is, have the Eagles changed enough this offseason to keep on winning?

There was a lot to like in the win against the Atlanta Falcons, which was considered by ESPN to be a "statement game" for Jalen Hurts and the Eagles. And now, moving on to week two, they have a big game against a much stronger opponent in the San Francisco 49ers. But the first game win has given hope to the city of Philadelphia, which means now it's time for the fans to back their team and say, "Go Birds!"

James Gunn

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Movies do not need to contain cameos of characters from other movies within their universe; they do not need to fit together chronologically or sequentially. Each movie simply needs to be a cohesive, compelling story.

"The Suicide Squad," with its own unique style and journey for Task Force X, is one such cinematic short story. As fan hype for Matt Reeve's upcoming "The Batman" increases, DC should consider the opportunities that cinematic short stories provide to their filmmakers if it wishes to distinguish itself from Marvel and create its own comic book-inspired identity.

"The Suicide Squad" is not a movie that everyone can enjoy in the same way; those that do not care for graphic violence should avoid it. Some will feel that it is impossible for a movie devoted to jokes and embellished gore to have true heart. As Gunn's "Guardians of the Galaxy" changed many minds in 2014 with its colorful, wild take on a lesser-known set of heroes, so will "The Suicide Squad." If you are among the nonbelievers, I leave you with one quote from the film that might change your mind: "If I die in a gamble for love, that would be a worthy death."

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