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a student publication

# The Montgazette

FREE

The Students' Voice

Issue 90

Serving Montgomery County Community College and the Surrounding Community

May 2022

**"THE FIGHT IS HERE.  
I NEED AMMUNITION, NOT A RIDE."**

The courage of Ukraine President Zelensky. Page 3.

Image courtesy of Peggy\_Marco via pixabay

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**The Montgazette**  
The Students' Voice

# from the Editor

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

Hello again, Montgomery County Community College!

As a student who first enrolled in the spring of 2020, when online classes were in their prime, I can confidently say this past semester has been the liveliest one yet! I took the opportunity to enroll in all in-person or flex courses and am glad that I did. I love having the opportunity to connect with the other students in my classes before or after our lectures, chatting with people in the quad while waiting in line to order at the food truck and getting spontaneous invitations to attend club events.

While I did value my time in online classes, I've found my in-person classes to be invaluable.

This makes my leaving to go to a four-year university bittersweet. To those of you in the same boat, good luck in your future endeavors! I know as well as many of you that the college transfer process is a tricky one, but don't hesitate to reach out to your advisors or professors for guidance. They can help you draw out a plan to tackle those pesky applications one step at a time, so nothing falls through the cracks.

For those of you sticking around for some time yet, I have a few pieces of advice to offer:

### 1. Get involved.

The college experience really comes to life when you

get involved. Commit to your classes, invite your classmates to make a study group, or attend a meeting for a club that interests you! Trust me, there are a lot of clubs here, and they're all looking for new members. There's bound to be something that catches your eye.

### 2. Step out of your comfort zone.

College is not just about expanding your knowledge but helping you grow as a person. Push yourself to try something new. Volunteer at a community event, attend a tutoring session for a class you're struggling with, or inquire about becoming a leader in your favorite club. Use these opportunities to develop skills other than study habits to make the most of your experience at the College.

### 3. Have fun!

Of course, there is a lot of work to be done as a college

student. Outside of class, many of us have jobs or families to take care of. But it's important to take time for yourself, so you can set yourself up for success. Enjoying a long walk, getting ice cream with a friend, or attending one of the school's many events can be the perfect way to unwind after a stressful week.

I've had such a blast being one of The Montgazette's editors-in-chief. I'm thankful to have teachers like Professor Bonner who reached out to me after my first semester and invited me to write for the school paper. I've always loved writing but never knew how to share my work. She, and several other professors, have had a huge hand in making my experience here one to remember.

Congratulations to those of you graduating in the spring! And to those of you who are here for a bit longer, cherish your time here. You've got this!

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## 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.

Opinion:

# Everyone can learn from Ukraine President Zelensky's courage

Ethan Montague  
The Montgazette Contributor

“The fight is here; I need ammunition, not a ride.”

These were the words spoken by President Zelensky when he was offered evacuation from Ukraine by U.S. President Joe Biden. Zelensky faced a much stronger Russian foe on his own while the Western world observed, perhaps merely unwilling or perhaps too terrified to help. As Putin's goons prepared to begin their slaughter of the innocent and independent Ukraine, Zelensky continued:

“I am here. We are not putting down arms. We will be defending our country, because our weapon is truth, and our truth is that this is our land, our country, our children, and

we will defend all of this. That is it. That is all I wanted to tell you. Glory to Ukraine.”

These words stand in stark contrast to Western leaders' feeble comments, as Biden and other world leaders essentially have assured Russia there will not be a military response to the invasion of Ukraine.

One of the most overlooked aspects of the West's response of not fighting back, is that it only emboldens Putin to start war with more countries, as it is clear that non-NATO countries are on their own against a Russian attack. Austria, Cyprus, Finland, Ireland, Malta, and Sweden round out the other nonmembers in Europe and

may be next in line if Russia is victorious against Ukraine. With just about every sanction being placed on Russia already, and with no end of the invasion in sight, it appears unlikely that sanctions will prevent a second invasion. Thus, short of military force, it appears inevitable that these countries are next in Putin's sights.

So far, Zelensky's courage has rejuvenated the rest of Europe. Boris Johnson, prime minister of Britain, is among those most impressed, noting “Jesus, that guy is brave,” after a recent phone call with Ukraine's president. Ukraine's unexpected ability to slow Russia's invasion has also encouraged many world leaders to send high-tech weapons to Ukraine, which has helped immensely in destroying Russian tanks and battalions. Ukraine, however, is not revealing much of their losses, so it is likely impossible to know how the war is truly going. Russian propaganda similarly prevents their military from releasing accurate information of the true destruction they have unleashed.

Ukraine appears to be fighting a guerilla war focused largely on attacking unsuspecting advancing Russian convoys. Combatants have been targeting Russian tanks with

shoulder-fired anti-tank missiles and shooting from windows in homes and buildings, rather than facing the superior fighting force in direct combat. While their strategies are clever and impressive, U.S. army officials predict Ukraine will not be able to stop the Russian Army in the long term.

Zelensky continues to rally the rest of the world and made headlines for mirroring Winston Churchill's defiance in the face of attacks from Nazi Germany. Zelensky recently said, “We will not give up and we will not lose. We will fight to the end, at sea, in the air, we will continue fighting for our land, whatever the cost. We will fight in the forests, in the fields, on the shores, in the streets.” In doing so, he reminded many of when Churchill refused to back down even in the face of what similarly seemed like insurmountable odds in World War II.

American Army General Norman Schwarzkopf once said, “Any soldier worth his salt should be antiwar. But still there are things worth fighting for.” That is the lesson we must consider as we evaluate the pleas from President Zelensky and if we ultimately hope to maintain the world our grandparents and great grandparents worked so hard to defend.

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## Opinion:

# Financial literacy should be taught in school

**Dayeilis A. Canales Rivera**  
MSP 111 The Montgazette Contributor

Entering the world of adulthood and independence has many exciting milestones, none of which include paying taxes, setting up super-funds, or navigating interest rates. Thus, schools should consider offering a financial education class. Giving young people the opportunity to become familiar with the world of money would provide them with a great advantage to enter adulthood with the confidence and security that comes with managing their own money and looking after themselves.

As a university student who has recently graduated high school, I've come to realize just how little I know about money. Schools should teach students more about how to handle their money because it will help college students like me with their finances and the way they spend their money.

For example, according to a survey conducted by Ramsey Solutions Tech in 2020, nearly two out of three high schoolers who had taken a personal finance course reported that

they were already earning an average of \$3,000 a year. A high majority of the same group said they were in the habit of creating a monthly budget for their money. That's why the basics of personal finance should be taught

in high school everywhere, right alongside other basic subjects, like reading and math.

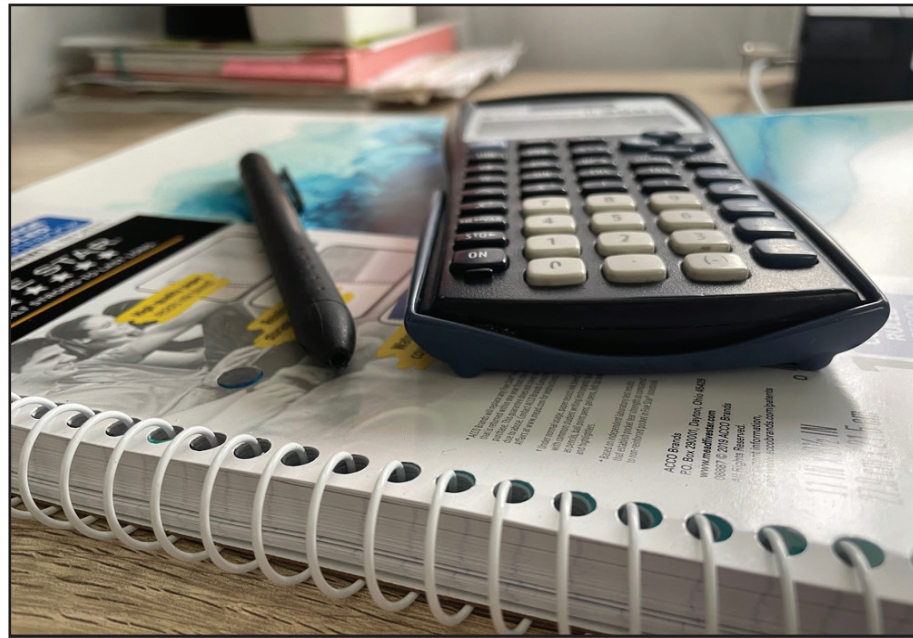
Why isn't personal finance taught in school? According to the Financial Educator's Council, the answer is

a mix of inertia in the system and a failure to recognize financial literacy as one of the core skills needed to succeed in the 21st century.

Schools fail by not teaching personal finances. Academic qualifications are important, but so is financial education. They are both needed, and schools are neglecting to teach them because they can't afford it when state testing focuses only on core academic courses.

A personal finance class should be required for graduation in all U.S. high schools. When financial literacy is taught in school, students learn these foundational skills at the critical time, as they are just beginning to manage their own finances. With money management skills, students are less likely to let themselves become overrun by debt.

There are numerous benefits of financial education in schools, such as introducing positive financial habits at an impressionable time and preparing students for the workforce or part-time work in college.



A typical notebook and calculator.  
Photo submitted by Dayeilis A. Canales Rivera.



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# Can children hear their parents' accents?

**Ethan Montague**  
The Montgazette Contributor

From a young age, I recall situations where after meeting my father my friends would remark, "I didn't know your dad was British." I would then ask how they knew, and they would reply "he has a strong British accent." This confused me because I never knew my dad had a British accent, even though I clearly recognize the British accents of my cousins, aunts, and uncle.

Generally, when I hear accents, I can discern the different voices that don't sound local. Well, as it turns out, there is plenty of research on how parents with a foreign accent might affect a child's ability to process language.

As young as six months, babies' brains will start to recognize the distinctive sounds of their parents' accents. This information will be stored in long-term memory and eventually emulated as the child learns to talk. In fact, before the baby says its first words, this pattern of speaking has already begun to form.

While this science is still not fully understood, researchers have learned that from about 7 months to a year old, babies progress from picking up vowel sounds from both their language and other languages to zeroing in on the sounds of their own languages. Japanese babies can hear and respond to sounds in other languages, but when Japanese adults hear "lake" and "rake," they often have difficulty differentiating the two. American babies, likewise, can hear and respond to sounds in different languages at young ages, but when American adults are tasked with differentiating beso (kiss) from peso (weight), they often struggle.

In one case, both Japanese and American babies were tested at 6 months and a year old by a singing teddy bear toy. The bear would sing "la-la-la" and eventually would change to "la-la-ra" at which time the bear would begin to dance and beat on a drum. At

the age of 6 months, two thirds of both Japanese and American babies would turn to look at the bear when they heard "la-la-ra," signaling that they recognized that the different sound would mean something different. Amazingly, at a year old the numbers were vastly different. American babies would turn 80% of the time, and Japanese babies would only turn 59% of the time, as the sound became more familiar to them. This is because Japanese accents and speech places less emphasis on those sounds.

This study would suggest that babies likely will pick up their parents' voices and accents by the first year of their life, and additional studies would likely show that this is reinforced as children learn and grow. Many children of immigrants would not be unable to differentiate the accents of their parents as foreign, since their parents' voices are woven into their own speaking structure.

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# Special events take to the ice at a local ski mountain

Mya Gelet

MSP171 The Montgazette Contributor

An exciting winter event draws residents to a local ski resort to witness the sold-out, first annual Winter Classic. Music fills the frosty air as onlookers watch the Zamboni glide over the ice. The driver smiles as anxious spectators file in, admiring the perfectly smooth surface from behind the glass panels. Two local high school rivals get to experience what many have not, a true outdoor regulation hockey game, just minutes from their hometown.

The Winter Classic is just one of the special events being held at the newly constructed rink. It was a dream come true for the owners of Spring Mountain, Rick and Gail Buckman, and their daughter and son-in-law, Jen and John Brown. When the ceremonial puck hit the ice, the crowd cheered. Spring Mountain Ice is the latest addition to Spring Mountain Adventures. “We thought there would be a demand for an outdoor rink. All the rinks in the area are indoor,” said Buckman.

The local family-run ski resort wanted to offer something more to its winter sports community. The mountain has been a popular destination for skiers and snowboarders alike for the past 20 years, and now ice skating can join the ranks of outdoor winter sports being offered. “We wanted to be the only ski area around with a rink,” Buckman added.

After losing their Treetop Adventure zip line business to hurricane damage and closing their tubing feature, the family thought it was time to build the rink they had dreamed up four years before. Buckman explained, “Since we eliminated tubing, we thought it would be good to add something else, especially for birthday parties.” They hope events like the Winter Classic are the first of many.

Buckman explained the mountain

experienced a record year during COVID-19, “since people wanted to take part in outdoor activities.” The increase in business allowed them the capital to complete the project.

Spring Mountain Ice began its construction in July 2021 and took five months to complete. The grand opening of the rink in December 2021 began with a Holiday Tree Lighting event. Hundreds flocked to the resort to be a part of the special sold-out event. Music and themed public skate nights like “Dress Like Your Favorite Superhero Night” are attracting new patrons, allowing the mountain to expand its customer base to the non-skier and snowboarder crowd.

Men, women, children, and hockey players, of course, are getting to experience skating under the stars. Gianna Bagola said, “I

love that it is outside. It reminds me of going to Philly, but so much better not having to go the distance. It has a family-friendly feeling, and I will definitely come again soon.”

The rink accommodates up to 300 guests and offers lessons, skate rentals, and public skating. It also generates additional income through the rental of the rink through private parties, hockey team practice or full-on games like the sold-out Winter Classic.

The family is hoping the addition of Spring Mountain Ice will become another reason to continue visiting the destination that provides family fun for all ages each winter. Ready to lace up and experience skating under the stars? Visit their website, [springmountainadventures.com](http://springmountainadventures.com), for dates, times, special events, or even a peek at the rink via their webcam.



Spring Mountain ice rink.

Photo courtesy of Spring Mountain.

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## Review:

# Can the Oculus Quest 2 headset change your reality?

Mya Gelet

MSP171 The Montgazette Contributor

*Ready to get immersed in a world of live events, play games with friends, become an explorer, and even get fit?*

Meet the Oculus Quest 2, a gaming system that creates an immersive 360-degree virtual world packaged in a lightweight wireless headset. With no gaming console attached, the system allows users to play games standing, sitting, or moving enough to break a sweat. Designed with the user in mind, the Quest 2 claims its stand-alone wireless system makes it easy for even non-tech-oriented beginners to jump into the 360-degree virtual world.

The Quest 2's virtual platform also offers exploration, community, and experiences like blasting into space alongside Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and the crew of the Apollo 11 mission. With accurate recreations, users will see, hear, and become part of this historic event. Prefer sports to space? Then virtually attend a live NBA game courtside or choose from an array of interactive games.

**Product lineup** – The Quest 2 VR Headset debuted on September 16, 2020, with two versions, 128g for \$299.99 or 256g for \$399.99. Both now include the VR headset, two controllers, two AA batteries, a

silicone cover, glasses spacer, charging cable, and adapter.

**Design** – For a gaming system without a physical console, tech specs for the Oculus Quest 2 are quite impressive. A smooth performance can be expected thanks to the 6GB RAM combined with the ultra-fast Qualcomm Snapdragon XR2. The combination of software and hardware inside the headset delivers the 360° view with graphics that are a staggering 1832 x 1920 pixels per eye, which is 50% more than the original Quest. Cinematic 3D positional audio delivers sound through the built-in speakers. The touch controls with tracking technology become your virtual hands, though they take some getting used to and can be awkward to use at first.

As with most systems, games and accessories come at an additional cost. According to the manufacturer, games range from free to \$30. For previous owners, it is backward compatible. Recommended accessories are a studier head strap and a link cable. The link cable allows you to play VR-compatible games from your PC and/or stream your

gameplay to your TV. Through the on-app Facebook connection, you can interact with friends by playing games, watching a movie together, or attending live events.

**Final thoughts and review** – The Quest 2 is not without a few drawbacks. One common complaint about the system is that though the setup is simple and can be done on a phone app, without a PC, some users dislike that Facebook-owned Oculus requires a Facebook sign-in. VR headsets can also cause motion sickness and can take some getting used to. It also lacks a significant battery life; 2-3 hours can dwindle fast. Lastly, the one-year manufacture

warranty is limited, and Amazon reviews complain about the customer service.

Most users find the pros far outweigh the cons, however. The Quest 2's design is comfortable and lightweight, and there is almost no learning curve. The sound and visuals are realistic and immersive. Games like “Beat Saber” can leave players exhausted. Oculus provides a decent collection of game and experience options, along with a catalog of free games, so all player can find something they love.

Overall, if you are in the market for a VR headset, the Oculus Quest 2 won't disappoint.



The Oculus Quest 2.

Photo by Mya Gelet.



SPORTS



The  
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**Opinion:**

# Adding Harden to Embiid's 76ers makes them title favorites

**Ethan Montague**  
 The Montgazette Contributor

When Daryl Morey, president of the Philadelphia Sixers, traded players Ben Simmons, Seth Curry, Andre Drummond, and two first-round picks for James Harden, some naysayers claimed the team had relinquished too much. After all, Harden had just forced his way out of two teams in the past year and owned the lowest shooting efficiency of his career while playing in Brooklyn. But just a few weeks later, the Sixers are 8-3 with Harden. Importantly, they have outscored opponents by more than 17 points per 100 possessions with the Joel Embiid-Harden duo on the court, and these same naysayers are now, thus, nowhere to be found.

Harden's transition has been seamless. He is averaging 22.4 points, 10.5 assists and 7 rebounds. He is shooting 87% on free throws even while averaging 9.8 free throw attempts per game while putting all the questions about his efficiency to rest. Even more important, however, is how he has seemed to fit alongside the rest of the team, specifically Joel Embiid and young star Tyrese Maxey. Post-trade, many fans wondered how Joel Embiid would perform in the pick and roll with Harden, as Embiid normally gets the majority of his points from face up and post-ups in isolation. But after seeing them in action, it appears that the Embiid-Harden pick and roll will be the Sixers' go-to play when the team absolutely needs a bucket.

Teams have appeared so terrified of Harden coming downhill off the screen that they are occasionally forgetting about Embiid, who has rolled to the rim for uncontested dunks. Note that Embiid has never gotten this chance previously in his career because teams

have keyed in so aggressively to stop him from getting easy baskets. Instead of Embiid's scoring declining now that he must share the team with another top-five player, Harden, it appears that Embiid's scoring will go up as he gets more opportunities than he's ever had before. There really isn't a good way to guard the play. If teams play it straight up with no switches, Harden will blow by defenders to the rim or Embiid will roll to the rim for an uncontested dunk nearly every time. If teams switch, well, you have two of the league's best isolation players one-on-one with a mismatch.

Teams have so far decided to double Harden off the pick to blow up the action but are slowly realizing that this leaves a wide-open Embiid rolling to the rim in a 4-on-3 numbers advantage that ends in a layup for Embiid or a wide-open three for someone else. If the team starts to become too worried about the role it leaves Harden, who led the league in made threes in the 2017-2018 season and continued this streak through the 2019-2020 season, easy shots for Embiid should lead to lots of wins for the Sixers, which will squash any issues.

Another key area where Harden elevates the Sixers offense is when it comes to parading at the free-throw line for easy points. Prior to the trade, the Sixers were already first in the league in free throw attempts, largely due to Joel Embiid, who leads the league in both makes and attempts. Amazingly, Joel Embiid took 27 free throws during a recent game against the New York Knicks and made 23, while drawing enough attention from both Knicks centers that they fouled out. Teams will now struggle significantly with foul

trouble against the Sixers. As a result, teams may allow easy buckets for fear their key players will foul out of the game, should they play aggressive defense.

Another plus, Tyrese Maxey has been rejuvenated by the trade, and it appears that he was playing out of position prior to Harden becoming the new point guard. Now Maxey is in what looks like his natural position, shooting guard, and it seems like his frenetic, always-in-attack style is the perfect fit for the more methodical Embiid-Harden duo. Maxey has run all over the court like a madman, thriving in the chaos created by the massive attention given to Embiid and Harden's every move. Off the doubles drawn by the superstar duo, Maxey has been knocking down wide-open threes and blowing by out-of-place defenders for efficient drives to the rim, which has increased Maxey's shooting percentages and upped his scoring to 19.5 points a game over the last month as the team's third star.

Perhaps the biggest key to why the Harden trade puts the Sixers over the top is making sure the team will not lose the lead Embiid builds before he leaves the game for a few minutes rest. In the past, the team has been beaten every time Embiid leaves the floor. It may have even cost the Sixers a title against the Raptors in the second round a few years ago. With Joel Embiid on the court in that series, the Sixers outscored the future NBA finals winner by 90 points over those 237 minutes, but when he was on the bench the team was outscored by an almost unfathomable 109 points in just 99 minutes.

**Continued on Page 10.**

## Opinion:

# The Phillies are still a long way from a playoff team

TJ Corcoran

MSP 111 The Montgazette Contributor

The Phillies made some big moves this month to bolster the team's talent after their less than stellar 2021 season. With big bats like Kyle Schwarber and Nick Castellanos added into the heart of the lineup, the Phillies should be set to make a deep run in the playoffs this season. Right? I would not get my hopes up, Phillies fans. Considering the Phil's historically bad bullpen from the last two seasons and what little they have done to improve upon it, things do not look great.

After the bullpen's 32-blown-save season, the Phillies let long-tenured closer, and franchise leader in strikeouts as a reliever, Hector Neris, walk in free agency. They also let their free agent signing from 2021, reliever Archie Bradley, walk as well. These are not the right moves to bolster the historically bad bullpen that has plagued the Phillies.

Bradley appeared in 53 games last season, striking out 40 and amassing 21 earned runs for a 3.71 ERA, while Neris appeared in 74 games, striking out 98 and amassing 30 earned runs for a 3.63 ERA. Obviously, the Phillies have made replacement signings for their lost talent, but the

replacements seem to be downgrades.

Before the lockout over the winter, the Phils quietly signed reliever Corey Knebel, who played for the Dodgers last season in 27 games, putting up 30 strikeouts and a 2.45 ERA. This is an improvement for sure when he is healthy. While Knebel is what the bullpen needs on paper, he has been plagued by injuries the past 3 seasons, meaning his impact on the Phil's season this year could be less than desired.

The Phils also signed free agents Brad Hand and Jeurys Familia, both relievers. Hand played for three separate teams in 2021, playing for the Nationals and Mets after a rough start with the Blue Jays. He put up 42 strikeouts in 42 games in Washington, earning 17 runs for a 3.59 ERA. In New York, Hand appeared in 16 games, struck out 14 and earned himself a 2.70 ERA. Familia also played for the Mets, appearing 65 times, striking out 72 and putting up a 3.94 ERA.

The returns on what was lost this off-season still need a chance to prove themselves, but I would not get my hopes up compared to last season, especially with the replacement talent

being arguably worse than the original talent, at least in the pitching rotation.



Family at Citizens Bank Park, August 2021

Photo by TJ Corcoran .

## James Harden and the 76ers

Continued from Page 9.

While I personally still think the team will be slightly worse with Embiid off and Harden on the court than vice versa, I still would be shocked if either player does not win the minutes they are on the court against any team but the Suns, Warriors, or Nets. Even against those teams, I expect the duo to win its minutes when on the court together by a significant enough margin to overcome a potential slight loss in minutes with just one star on the court.

The Sixers remain poised for a deep run in the playoffs, despite missing All-Star Ben

Simmons for the entire season before trading him for Harden. Effectively, all the trade did to the Sixer rotations was swap out career role player Seth Curry and backup center Andre Drummond for a guy who normally finishes the season in the top three of MVP voting. With James Harden added to a team that already had the best player in the league and potential MVP Joel Embiid, it appears that a lot will have to go wrong for this team to not only get the first seed in the conference but also to win the NBA Finals.

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# The Major League Baseball lockout

**Chris Gress**  
MSP 171 The Montgazette contributor

Major League Baseball is going through a lockout, which means no teams or players can start spring training or do any baseball-related activities. This is happening because the players and owners cannot come to an accord on a new collective bargaining agreement, which essentially breaks down the rules the players and owners have to follow and how the finances will be distributed among everyone.

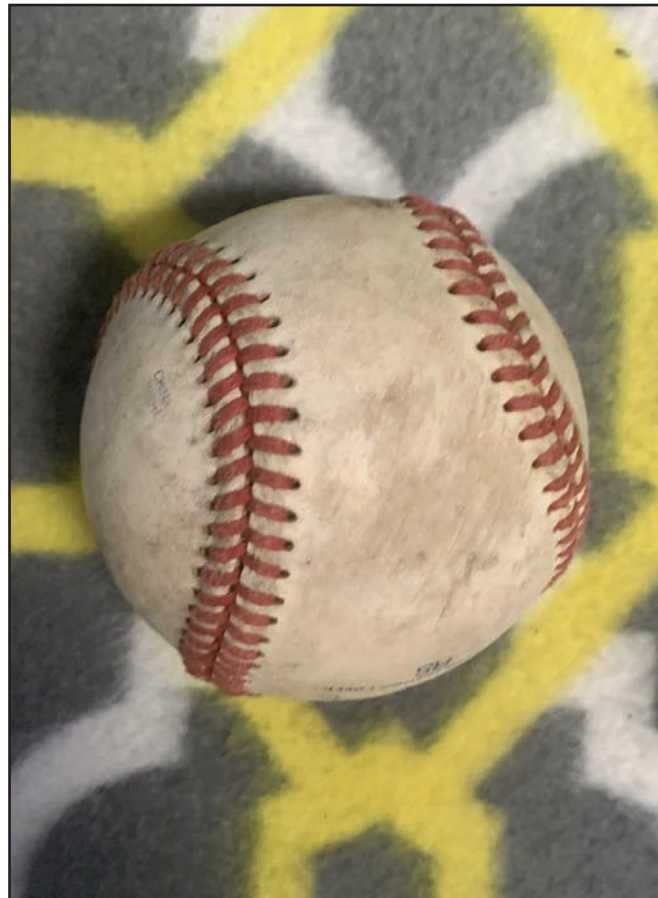
This is not the first time this has happened in the MLB's history. Back in 1994, this same incident occurred, and it led to the World Series being canceled that season. This time around it is looking like spring training is going to be delayed if they cannot come to an agreement within the coming days.

Jeese Rogers of ESPN states that "players feel, with the emergence of analytics within front offices, that fewer and fewer second- and third-tier players are getting paid when they finally become free agents after six years of major league service time, which is often when a player turns 30 or very close to it."

This also comes back to the fact that players in the minor leagues just have a tough time making a livable wage, which is why climbing to the big leagues is much more of a need at that stage in their career, especially for the older players in the minor leagues. The owners are a big part of keeping guys in the minors for a longer period of time. According to Jesse Rogers of ESPN, The system also favors keeping players in the minor leagues for several weeks extra to slow down their major league service time. Players hate that." Rogers adds that it allows the owners to keep more of their money.

The two sides are still far away from a deal, and it does not look like there will be one anytime soon. There are a few little details holding up this deal, such as they are still trying to figure out rules related to on-the-field play, such as the universal DH rule. This means that across both the American and National leagues, the pitcher will not bat anymore.

But the major stumbling block is the distribution of finances between the players and the owners, and until the owners budge, it looks like spring training will continue to be delayed. At the end of the day, the owners and players are doing everything they can to figure out a deal that hopefully will not delay the season much longer, but until then all fans can really do is hope.



A beat-up baseball representing  
the current state of the sport.

Photo by Chris Gress.



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