

a student publication

MONDAY

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Seig Meun College and High School

Hello, once again, everyone.
I hope that you are all in a
position to succeed and thrive
as we approach the end of the

A tribute to former Psychology student Brigette Barrow through the “Barrow Study”

Many people have the basics covered: shelter, stable finances, food, and all the things that contribute toward living a comfortable existence. On the other hand, some people struggle just to survive every day. Despite the challenges they face, however, they persist, and Montgomery County Community College alum Brigette Barrow was one of those people.

Sadly, Barrow passed away at the young age of 24. Despite this tragic outcome, Barrow is recognized by her peers as being one of the strongest people they knew. Even though she faced challenges throughout her life, she fought for what she believed in every day. She frequently faced housing and food insecurity, but while she was at the College, Barrow earned national awards from the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and was also President of the college’s chapter of Psi Beta, an honor society for Psychology majors.

“Brigette had to commute an hour each way on public transportation, and despite the long travel to school, she never asked to turn in an assignment late. Though frequently distressed by bureaucracy, she never gave up and, instead, put all her efforts into pursuing what was best for the students of Montgomery County Community College,” says

Dr. Barron, associate professor of Psychology at the College.

Upon completing her bachelor’s degree, Barrow planned to earn a graduate degree in Education and then pursue a law degree. She sought to help those who had no means and to improve the state of education in the U.S., primarily motivated by her own experiences, which she willingly shared at one of the College’s “Wellness Wednesdays.”

“During that dialogue, she and her friend shared that, as young black women, one of the most insulting issues they dealt with in education was teachers who would belittle them or placate them by suggesting that they would decrease the academic rigor knowing of their situation,” Dr. Barron said.

“It was one of the most honorable, dignified, mature statements I have ever heard,” Dr. Barron said.

Now, this statement is guiding Psi Beta’s “Barrow Study.” The Psychology Club is working toward creating a scenario-based survey to ascertain the mindsets and expectations that students bring to the College and the expectations teachers have, both of themselves and of their students. The Psychology Club will be collecting the data, analyzing it and providing the College with

recommendations.

“Though she [Barrow] will not directly see such efforts [come] to fruition, we hope to honor her by doing it for her. Her mother has also asked to participate, as it was clear she helped to shape Brigette’s character,” said Dr. Barron. “This is the biggest thing we will be doing in honoring Brigette, since she was so passionate about education. The Psychology Club’s presidency is now called the ‘Barrow Presidency,’ in honor of her,” says Jennifer Farris, President of Psi Beta.

Farris also said that for the entire year of 2021, the Psychology Club would be focusing on the ‘Barrow Study.’ “This is the biggest thing we will be doing [to honor] Brigette, since she was so passionate about education,” she says.

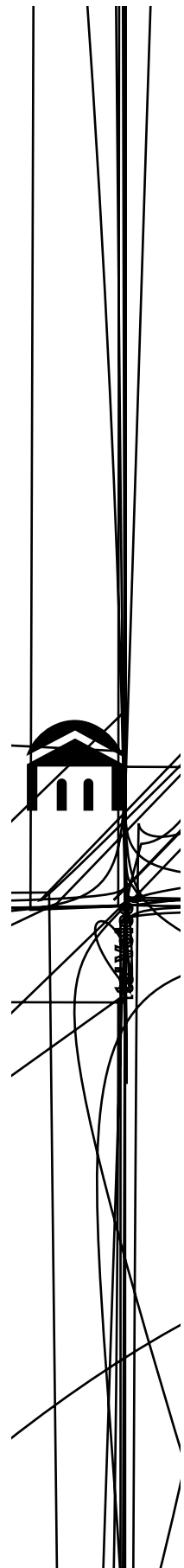
When campus reopens, the Psychology Club also wants to have a plaque in Barrow’s honor hung in

the Psychology department, and Dr. Barron is working on the project personally. The Psychology Club has reached out to Brigette’s mother, looking to create a scholarship in her honor.

“Brigette was an extraordinary

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.





Hate against the Asian American Pacific Islander community has soared in the past year. With tensions rising, in part because of the pandemic, and the former president calling COVID-19 “the Chinese Virus,” the number of attacks against the AAPI community rose by almost 150% from 2019 to 2020, according to CBS News. Most devastatingly, on March 16, in Atlanta, Ga., eight people, six of whom were AAPI, were killed



Here we go again: Flyers lack consistency

This is without a doubt the most disappointing season in recent Flyers' history. The seemingly eternal cycle of being in the playoffs one year and then out the next feels inevitable. The main difference between this year and the last five years, however, is that it is usually one step forward and then one step back, but now it is two steps forward and then four steps back.

Before the COVID-19 pause last season, the Flyers were objectively one of the best teams in the league. Not only did they pass the eye test by making creative plays and smart decisions, but they were dominating teams statistically in February and March. The Flyers were 10-3 in February, beating great teams like the Colorado Avalanche and Washington Capitals, and started March 4-1, before the NHL shut down.

Fans thought the defense might dip in effectiveness with the loss of Matt Niskanen to retirement in October. Apparently, fans underappreciated that Niskanen was likely the greatest defenseman in the history of the franchise.

To say that the team's defense has been horrible since then is an understatement. The number of seamless cross-ice passes that resulted in easy potshots at goalies Carter Hart or Brian Elliot in the month of March must be some kind

of record. The goaltender's save percentage, the number of goals allowed in relation to the number of shots faced, has taken a serious dive since 2020. According to Hockey Reference, the save percentage through the season so far is an eye-gouging .876, worse than the pitiful Ottawa Senators and Buffalo Sabres. Whereas it is true Hart and Elliot have allowed some awful goals, they have seen so many two-on-ones and breakaways from offensive turnovers, combined with an infinite number of defensive breakdowns, that it is almost impossible to not allow at least three or four goals, no matter who is the goalie.

In addition, the regression of the team's young defensemen, Ivan Provorov, Travis Sanheim, and Philippe Myers, is incredibly alarming. Granted, some have been worse than others — we're looking at you, Myers — but since Provorov was supposed to become a true number-one defenseman this season, in the mold of a Roman Josi or Victor Hedman, his step back is incredibly depressing. He will probably never have the offensive production of a Victor Hedman or Drew Doughty, but his elite defense was going to help the team dominate, like they did last year. Instead, he is being placed on the power play when the other defensemen, Shayne Gostisbehere

or Travis Sanheim, would be more effective, and his dropping effectiveness in the defensive zone is apparent.

Of course, the defense is not the only part of the team, or upper management, for that matter, to blame. The young forwards, with the tremendous exception of Joel Farabee, have regressed, as well, Travis Konecny being the most surprising. He appears to disappear for a stretch and then will dominate like his former self for one game. Whatever the reason for this inconsistency, it needs to be reversed. Likewise, whereas Nolan Patrick and Oskar Lindblom can legitimately claim recoveries from injury, from a migraine disorder and bone cancer, respectively, it is now time that they start producing more. Lindblom can definitely be given more leeway, since he has had a long road back to NHL form, but Patrick, a recent second overall pick, needs to prove his value to the team, or the Flyers must move on.

While the players will take the lion's share of the blame for the season's poor results, the front office and the coaching staff should see some of our ire. General Manager Chuck Fletcher's complete and utter failure to find a replacement for Niskanen, and not keeping Tyler Pitlick or finding a suitable replacement, shows a poor

feel for the team. At least he admitted as such in his press conference, stating, "I think the makeup of the team is not right."

Railing aside, I believe this team can right the ship, with Fletcher's help, of course. Finding capable defenders, while moving bad contracts, is paramount to moving toward contending. If Head Coach Alain Vigneault is going to inexplicably keep Gostisbehere out of the lineup in favor of Nate Prosser or someone else, he should just be traded for scraps, which seems inevitable, since he was put on waivers making him available to every team in the league.

However, Fletcher could try and work a trade that involves sending Gostisbehere with a decent prospect and a second- or third-round pick for Marc Savard and a fourth-round pick in the upcoming NHL draft. Columbus is going to force the Flyers to keep a good amount of his salary, so they will probably have to send a depth forward their way, Nicolas Aube-Kubel or Raff would fit the bill. A shut-down defender like Savard, much in the same vein as Niskanen, would be well worth it.

The sad truth is that if the team is going to make the playoffs, a thought almost unthinkable to most before the season, the Flyers must look themselves in the mirror and find some type of consistency.

The situation is certainly better than being over but still does not afford a lot of flexibility in free agency. Players who refused to restructure their contract, such as wide receivers Desean Jackson and Alshon Jeffery, were released. That said, both were inefficient on the field and tended to get injured, and so were shoo-ins to provide more cap space. In fact, according to ESPN, the Eagles are also looking to trade tight-end Zach Ertz. He is another cap casualty, despite playing for the organization since being drafted by them in 2013 and breaking the record for most receptions by a tight end in a single season two seasons ago.

Aside from restructuring these

In a widely reported loss of free will, pop sensation Britney Spears has been trapped in a conservatorship for over a decade, as her father, Jaime Spears, has taken full legal control of her life. A new documentary on Hulu, “The New York Times Presents Framing Britney Spears,” has increased public awareness of Spears’ situation since its release.

Starting in 2008, Spears entered a conservatorship, a legal practice which leads to the full loss of control over one’s financial or personal decisions. Conservatorships are usually used for elderly people or severely injured individuals as a protection against manipulation from those who might take advantage of them. This is not the case with Spears. Her father has taken over his daughter’s life and reportedly abuses his power. A social media movement to end this conservatorship, “Free Britney,” has gathered support since the documentary’s release.

Spears has always been a talented singer. She sang in her church choir, and her enormous stage presence was clear from an early age. Spears appeared on the famous “Mickey Mouse Club” on the Disney Channel, where she initially made a name for herself. She was only 11 at the time and it proved to be the start of her reign as a pop star.

Spears then released her debut single “Baby One More Time,” at 16. The song was an instant hit. Now, 23 years after its release, the song has gone multiplatinum, sitting at 10.6 million copies sold. Spears is an undeniable icon in the music industry. She rose to fame rapidly and was at the height of her career in the early 2000s. To fans, she seemed genuinely approachable and friendly.

The world thought they knew her.

It

Britney Spears

Continued from Page 11.

Spears has personally come out in support of the “Free Britney” movement. In the documentary, Spears says, “I appreciate the informed support of my fans,” while also addressing that the conservatorship itself is voluntary. The issue is not the protection she is provided with; it is who controls her affairs. Spears has appealed to have her father removed from the role as guardian, specifically over her financial affairs. Spears has also stated that she will not perform as long as her father is in control of her life.

It is clear who is benefiting more from this conservatorship. As Spears is considered a high-functioning adult, many fans question how much her father is abusing his control. According to Forbes.com, Spears is worth \$60 million.

A large sum goes toward supporting her children and paying her legal fees to deal with the matters at hand, but her father is otherwise still in almost total control of her finances.

Despite any previous mental health issues Spears has faced and could presently be facing, there is no denying the loss of control over her life is concerning. Spears has asked for the bare minimum: the ability to choose who controls her life, specifically, with regards to her finances. She has asked to change her conservator. Considering how hard Spears has worked nearly her whole life, she should be granted the respect to make this decision. The lack of authority she holds over her life for such an extended period of time must be torture. Free Britney!

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Larry King: The loss of an icon

A colorful map of the globe sits behind the interview desk of the famous Larry King. On January 23, 2021, that same map, which many around the world know and love, was retired. King was an icon in the world of journalism, and his interviews will forever be an important part of media history.

Larry King was best known for his interviews of actors, political figures, musical artists, and other celebrities. He was a prominent figure in the entertainment world and had been in the business for the past 70 years. To be interviewed by King was seen as a privilege. However, King quietly passed away from sepsis earlier this year. Therefore, the long list of figures who have been interviewed by him will, sadly, no longer grow. King was a natural at interviewing: Simply put, "Work. It's the easiest thing I do," King once said.

King passed away at the age of 87. He was most recently married to Shawn King and is survived by three of his five children: Andy King (65), Larry King, Jr. (59) and Chaia King (51). King's other two children, Chance King and Cannon King, sorrowfully passed away in 2020.

King started his career at Florida radio station WMBM. Born Lawrence Harvey Zeiger, he originally used Zeiger as his stage name. According to apnews.com, the station was not very fond of the name, claiming it was too hard to remember and it sounded

"too Jewish." At the last minute, he chose the name King after seeing an advertisement for King's Wholesale Liquor. After some dabbling in writing and radio shows, King, fortunately, met Jackie Gleason. He credited Gleason with becoming his mentor and providing him with knowledge about television production. This influence was the water to King's seed, which later bloomed as he hosted "Larry King Live" for 25 years before retiring in 2010.

The show was the first international call-in show, which later became the highest ranked talk show on the air. King became a fan favorite and gathered loyal supporters as his list of interviewees grew larger and more exclusive. Frank Sinatra, an icon in the music industry and notoriously invisible to the public eye, was interviewed by his long-term friend, King, in 1988. When presented with the question "Why are you here?" King asked, "because I love you. I am a lion tamer. I ought to get together with you and chat, just."

"because
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Film review:

“Nomadland”

The lasting impact of the pandemic on our culture is yet to be fully seen, but the consequences of a previous substantial, but less lethal, crisis still remain. The 2008 “Great Recession” left thousands without jobs and homes, and companies defunct, and “Nomadland” is not afraid to confront its aftermath.

The manufacturing sector at that time took a massive hit and left lower-middle-class people like Fern, the film’s protagonist, played by the always underrated Frances McDormand, with almost no safety net to fall back on, especially in the fat and spread-out Midwest and Southwest United States. As a result, a new culture of van-dwelling nomads formed. These people travel around the country, taking arduous seasonal jobs to get by.

Fern begins her journey after the gypsum plant where she worked closes and her husband dies. As she moves around and settles on an Amazon floor job, she meets people who share in her experience. Many of them are, like Fern, struggling to find some sense of tranquility after working all their lives in slavish corporate jobs but no means to retire. Every character is interesting and memorable, especially her friend Dave, played by David Strathairn, who, despite having his own extended family, maintains the nomad lifestyle and develops a connection with Fern. They keep a

tightknit friendship, even though they may not see each other for months or even years at a time. Bob Wells, played by himself, is an organizer for the nomads and a real-life advocate for van dwelling.

I do not hesitate to say that if McDormand were not the lead, this movie would not be nearly as good. The cinematography is fantastic and there is expert direction by Chloe Zhao, but McDormand uses her incredible talent to prove that great

Opinion:

Rotten Tomatoes is not accurate

Rotten Tomatoes has
grown increasingly popular

