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Bertolino hosts President's Town Hall



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Joe Bertolino, president, during his President's Town Hall speech in the Adanti Student Center ballroom.

By August Pelliccio

Southern is amidst a watershed moment, according to president Joe Bertolino. He said the community must recommit to becoming and being a social justice university.

Bertolino opened his speech at the President's Town Hall Meeting, Feb. 26, with how he would like to proceed in this effort. He said the administration is seeking active involvement from the community to build on its inherent strength as an inclusive multicultural community.

"Now is the time," said Bertolino.

For example, he said the results from a recent campus climate survey were helpful, especially because the participation was so good.

The president proceeded to spend a considerable amount of his time, speaking before the community, to highlight some new renovations coming to Southern.

He mentioned the new building for the School of Health and Human Services and the beginning of Southern's Reflection Garden project. He also spoke about the large-scale upgrade to solar energy on campus and the Strong-21st Century Communications Magnet School and Laboratory breaking ground this semester.

At the close of his speech, Bertolino shared a pre-release preview of Southern's newest television commercial. It depicted a United States Military soldier coming home and pursuing an education at Southern, to further his family.

"So those are the highlights," said Bertolino, "and now we'll end on a touch of reality."

Bertolino shifted the conversation to the lack of consistent leadership at Southern, but credited the school's faculty with being committed to doing what is necessary for their students nonetheless.

The president opened the floor to any comments, questions or concerns from within the Southern community.

Professor of philosophy, David Pettigrew, said to Bertolino the commercial that was shown, and in fact most of the presentation preceding it, in his opinion, did not give due credit to faculty.

"At some point I think you need a strategic vision for academic excellence," said Pettigrew, "that includes our faculty, and highlights the work they are doing."

University Controller Loren Loomis Hubbell raised another point, this time about service to students.

"You mentioned under 'academic reputation,' 'delivery model,'" Hubbell said. "What are we doing to change our delivery model for

academics?"

Bertolino prompted an answer to Hubbell from university provost and vice president for academic affairs, Robert Prezant.

Prezant explained that the current plan is to update and enhance systems that have already been put in place to improve delivery of service to students. Prezant specifically mentioned online and hybrid course selection. He said he "reinvigorated" an ad-hoc committee to refine the online curriculum, and train faculty members to effectively utilize an online classroom.

"From our perspective," said Bertolino, "why reinvent the wheel, when it already exists?"

Sal Rizza, director of new student and sophomore programs, directed the dialogue to the campus climate as it stands, especially after the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting.

"I'm wondering if you could share some of your thoughts on how you feel we could, as a community, help support our students."

Bertolino replied that the best course is to talk to, get to know, spend time with students. He said students have voiced in the past they don't know where to turn after a crisis situation unfolds.

"Our students need to know that there's somebody they can go to, to talk to," said Bertolino, "probably, more than anything else."

Lessons from ancient history

By August Pelliccio

During what meteorologists proclaimed a "nor'easter" storm on Friday, philosophy professors and students still made it in to see Sergio Barrionuevo speak. He and his audience stayed overtime to engage in a debate between the truth, and nature.

Professor of philosophy Chelsea Harry explained that this was one of a series of events featuring keynote speakers, all coordinated by the philosophy department.

"I hope to keep doing them," said Harry. "The one in the fall looked at the relationship between ancient philosophy and biology, psychology and feminist thought."

Harry said the goal is specifically to connect Ancient Greek philosophy with many different disciplines across the university. The March 2 session focused on history. Harry said faculty and students from the history and philosophy departments were especially encouraged to attend the lecture.

"From the sixth to third century B.C., which is the time period we're talking about," said Harry, "they didn't have 'disciplines'; they just had philosophy."

SEE ANCIENT HISTORY PAGE 2

Exploratory gubernatorial candidate talks state issues with College Democrats

By Josh LaBella

The Mayor of Hartford and prospective democratic gubernatorial candidate Luke Bronin visited Southern last week to discuss his possibly candidacy and state issues.

According to Bronin, as mayor he has tackled the fiscal crisis of Hartford and although they haven't solved it yet they have moved the ball a long way down the field. He said he thinks the state of Connecticut is at the same crossroads Hartford was three years ago.

"It will require the same kind of combination of a willingness to be truly honest and transparent about what we face and about what we can do and what we can't do," said Bronin. "But also, [being] really bold about what it is that is going to put this state on a path to growth."

Bronin said for him it will come down to three key things: stronger cities, better transportation and better education at all levels. He said if Connecticut can do that, over the next five years or so the state will see real growth and a rebuilding of the safety net that has been chipped away.

"Getting fiscal stability back and growth back is the key, I think, to make the kind of investments that we as a state should all want to see," said Bronin. "While, the number one job of this next governor is going to be getting this state's economy back on track, fiscal situation fixed, and being honest and bold. I also think this race has enormous consequences nationally."

Bronin said Connecticut has been a leader in pushing for civil rights and equality. He said there are Republicans all over the country watching for Connecticut to turn red.

"We cannot let that happen," said Bronin. "I think this is a chance to keep this state on the leading edge of resistance against the Trump administration and what they're trying to do - chip away at American values."

Justin Gendron, a freshman political science major, said as vice president of SCSU College Democrats he helped plan the event. He said he really like Luke Bronin's message and thinks he is the most qualified out of a large field of candidates.

"He has his policies formulated already while others are trying to deal it out still," said Gendron. "Even though he's still exploratory I'm probably going to get behind him, but I'm going to wait for the convention to be sure."

Jamie Kelley, a senior history and political science major, said the College Democrats



PHOTO | JOSH LABELLA

Luke Bronin, the democratic mayor of Hartford and an exploratory gubernatorial candidate, speaking to SCSU College Democrats.

have been planning the event since the beginning of the semester. She said she felt students would be more involved if they brought candidates to them.

"They could get a firsthand view and go from there," said Kelley, "and then they could see if they wanted to continue to volunteer for candidates that they made a connection with and shared ideals with."

Kelley said they will be hosting a number of democratic candidates throughout the month including gubernatorial candidate Guy Smith and possibly Representative Rosa DeLauro and Senator Chris Murphy. She said she liked the way that Bronin put it all out there.

"He's exploratory, so he might not even continue to run," said Kelley. "But I hope he does because it was very cool to hear from him and he had a lot of good points."

Professor discusses book on New England local politics



PHOTO | JOSH LABELLA

Jonathon Wharton, a political science professor, discussing his book “Democracy in New England: A Community Politics Reader” with students and faculty.

By Josh LaBella

Political science professor Jonathon Wharton said while people find national politics sexy, not many want to read about what’s happening in their own town hall.

“We take for granted the notion that democracy can’t exist except for in Washington D.C.,” said Wharton. “But yet it’s right in our backyards.”

Last Thursday, Wharton presented his book, “Democracy in New England: A Community Politics Reader” to students and faculty in the Buley Library Gallery. He said he was excited to write about local New England politics because of its effect on the early United States democracy.

“The nexus of America’s early democracy is in this region,” said Wharton. “And I think that makes us stand out. I mean we are, after all, the Constitution State for a reason.”

Wharton said citizens too often think that when it comes to direct democracy, the action of participation in politics, it is exclusive to the voting booth. He said he argues that it is much more than that.

“I call it the New England creed,” said Wharton. “This idea that is embedded in us, as New Englanders, that you ought to participate in some kind of way.”

Wharton discussed the decline in participation in local government, such as attendance in city hall meetings. He

said there are a number of ways to participate that don’t involve voting.

“Voting is like eating and breathing and sleeping,” said Wharton. “It’s a function of our democracy but it’s not the only element. You can canvas for candidate. You can donate to candidates. You can volunteer for candidates. You can go to the microphone and talk and bring up an issue. You can write your representative – whether it’s at the local, state – yes, absolutely national level.”

Throughout the presentation Wharton spoke about different areas of New England and how politics work there. He noted that someone’s hometown is more important to their identity in New England than the region they are from. He said he was trying to explain not only how important democracy is to New England but how important New England is to America and why it became the focal point of direct democracy.

Sydney Tyehter, a senior interdisciplinary studies major with concentrations in forensic science and pre-law, said she came to the event because Professor Wharton is a great professor and she takes a lot of classes with him. She said she never thought about local politics until she took his class.

“It’s totally just geared me towards loving it, in a sense,” said Tyehter. “I’m just like a sponge right now – absorbing all he has to offer.”

Agnieszka Bartoszek, a senior history major, also said

she came to the presentation because Wharton is one of her favorite professors and she wanted to support him. She said her main takeaway is how low participation level in the American democracy are.

“It’s a shame that our generation especially isn’t getting involved as much as we could be,” said Bartoszek. “We really need to figure out a way to get people more involved.”

Wharton said when he moved back to Connecticut from New Jersey, he wanted to write the book as a personal quest to explain his connectivity and affinity for the region. He said he hopes after hearing him discuss the book people will reconnect with their town or city halls or even community meetings.

“Go to meetings,” said Wharton. “Go to events. Get reconnected again. I mean that’s really what real democracy is. So many people view democracy in other ways, but in reality, at the local level, it’s right there in your backyard.”

According to Wharton, he doesn’t know what it will take for people in New England to realize how critical it is to get reengaged. He said he has hope.

“I’m waiting for that moment,” said Wharton, “when people will reengage and be involved. But I think it’s easier than we’ll ever admit.”

Ancient history



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCI

Sergio Javier Barrionuevo, a professor from Universidad Buenos Aires, explaining the connection between history and philosophy.

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Therefore, she said it is easy to study these relationships between philosophy and other areas of expertise.

Harry explained the effort it took to pull together the event, especially because Barrionuevo is located in Argentina, and coordinated his visit with other lectures in the country, due to a limited-time visa.

“I first started talking to Dr. Barrionuevo in the summer,” said Harry.

Harry introduced the keynote speaker to the audience; she mentioned to them the coordination that was even involved that very day.

“He is coming to us today having left Washington D.C. at five this morning” said Harry, “We’re very happy to have you here, Sergio, and thank you so much for being with us.”

Barrionuevo first introduced his research paper: “Ancient Histiography and Sophistic Thought: The Reception of the nomos-physis Debate in the Dialogue between Xerxes and Demaratus.” He then began reading excerpts to discuss.

The abstract to his research paper explains that Herodotus, an ancient Greek historian, included several passages of direct discourse, or public speaking. These excerpts, according to the abstract, recounted dialogues between Persian king Xerxes and Spartan king Demaratus in the context of the expedition of the Persians against the Greeks.

“In his argument, Demaratus established the differences between Greeks and Persians, defining the supremacy of the nomos as a characteristic element of the [Greeks],” Barrionuevo wrote. “Based on this argument, many scholars have argued in favor of a sophistic ‘influence.’”

After further analysis of the debate between the characteristically Greek value, nomos [truth], and the characteristically Persian value, physis [nature], the audience began asking questions.

“I know there’s some kind of debate about the relationship between nomos and physis,” Eric Cavallero said to Barrionuevo. “What do the opposing sides on the debate say to one another?”

Barrionuevo said for those who defend the nomos, there is a political conception to approaching and deciding who rules. Those who defend the physis, Barrionuevo said, have a perception of aristocracy. In other words, he said there are those who believe

power is established systematically, and those who believe in a natural hierarchy of individuals.

“Doesn’t it also have—the nomos position—a relativistic quality?” asked philosophy professor Richard Volkman. “They often present nomos as something that makes truth more flexible.”

Harry said that this is due to finite quality of nature, versus the more interpretable concept of law. The nomos, she said, is something humans created that we can use to rule or better ourselves.

“Whereas physis,” Harry said, “is just what we are.”

The discussion of Herodotus’ work continued, and Barrionuevo said that some of the work had a great influence on the world around it.

“What kind of influence did he actually try to have on the political life,” asked philosophy professor Xiaomei Yang, “by engaging in this debate between the law and nature?”

Barrionuevo reminded Yang that Herodotus, in the fifth century B.C., was writing his passages as rhetorical pieces to be used as performance art. He said Herodotus would recite his text, “Histories,” for the public.

“The mode of intervention,” Barrionuevo said, “is the making of the public opinion.”

In the argument between Demaratus and Xerxes, Barrionuevo said that at the terminological level, both men use the same words. Barrionuevo said at the conceptual level, however, different things are represented.

Excellence in the Greek sense is a value indicative of law, according to the research paper. Poverty is always endemic, it reads, but excellence is required. The Persian king argued to the contrary, in Herodotus’ words, that this excellence is only possible through submission to nature.

In response to this excerpt, philosophy professor Krystyna Gorniak-Kocikowska commented on how it relates to the world today. She said that the difference in culture, language and geography between the Persians and the Greeks was not even as vast as the difference thereof for the people in the room that day.

Gorniak-Kocikowska said English is not her native language, nor is it Yang’s or Barrionuevo’s, but the discussion was still productive.

“I think through exercises like this one, we can discover lots of things about ourselves, more than about these ancients,” said Gorniak-Kocikowska, “because we can see to a degree in which way they inspire us despite all the differences.”

Education students still won't walk; Comm. Club approved

By August Pelliccio

The Student Government Association advocated for all things student related. Their most recent meeting yielded some positive news, and some negative, according to Alexis Zhitomi.

Zhitomi, vice president of the board of student experience, said their meeting that Monday proved unfruitful in approving a prior concern.

The board had previously discussed that many education students are in classes during a ninth or even tenth semester. Zhitomi said this often means the students will not walk among students they began school as freshmen with.

The board's inquiry was to remedy this and have education majors walk before their requirements are fully complete. They consulted Terricita Sass with the proposal.

"She gave some pretty disappointing news," said Zhitomi.

Zhitomi said because an education student's last semester of student teaching is followed by an exam, it would not be right to let students walk if they may still fail that exam.

"The conversation began last year," said Christopher Piscitelli assistant dean of students, "when we got rid of December graduation."

Piscitelli said the way the rule stands, if someone is scheduled to graduate by August, they can walk in May; any point after that, they would have to walk the next spring.

The next avenue of pursuit

according to Zhitomi is dean Stephen Hegedus of the School of Education. The board's next goal is to gather information about the education program, and decide whether it is feasible with summer classes and winter classes to complete the program in four years.

After board reports on their March 2 meeting, SGA turned their attention to the pending approval of a new student organization. Sophomore and senior respectively, Kennan Martin and Emma Tiso-Pagani presented the Communication Club before the representatives.

"The Comm. Society did exist a long time ago, and it did go defunct," explained Daphney Alston, assistant director of clubs and organizations. "They are reviving the organization, but because it was defunct for so long, they're starting it as if it's a brand new club."

Tiso-Pagani said the disciplines in the communication department are so beneficial that she does not want to restrict the knowledge to the department. Tiso-Pagani said skills such as interviewing, persuasion, writing and interpersonal skills should be shared with the entire student body.

"What we're proposing is to have a club that anyone can join," said Tiso-Pagani. "We would host different events, using the skills we have acquired in this department to spread the wealth."

Martin said ultimately the purpose is to promote an understanding and appreciation of the communication discipline wholly.

"Communication teaches you how



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Emma Tiso-Pagani, a sophomore, presenting a pitch for the Communication Club in Connecticut Hall.

best to work with the people on your team, in your organization," said Martin, "in order to most effectively do whatever you do."

This versatility will be chief in the effort to develop leadership skills that, according to the club's constitution, are valuable.

Following the two students'

presentation, Minh Phan, SGA representative at large motioned to approve the Communication Club as a recognized organization on campus. A vote was taken from the representatives present, and the new club was officially established.

Zeta Phi Beta addresses activism for black representation

By Jeff Lamson

The Road to Freedom, an event hosted by Zeta Phi Beta addressed some of the issues facing the black community and attempted to empower attendees to mobilize.

The event, held in partnership with Southern's NAACP was meant to be an open dialogue between Southern students and community leaders. The panelists were Southern students involved in organizations around campus, black community leaders from other schools and Southern faculty. One major focus of the event was mobilization between now and the Civil Rights Movement according to ZPB president, Eva Joyce Spivey.

"We wanted to touch upon the underlying causes and what we can do," Spivey said, "as people, to help change and the differences between how we reacted then versus how we're reacting now."

This conversation compared the effectiveness of the Black Panthers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. to that of the Black Lives Matter movement today. Many in attendance agreed that Black Lives Matter is not as effective as the Black Panthers because there is a lack of focus.

"Black Lives Matter is a reminder," Daphney Alston said, "and Black Panthers was a movement."

Alston, assistant director of clubs and organizations in the Office of Student Involvement, was one of two faculty panelists.

One attendee noted that one of the issues with Black Lives Matter is the lack of a single identifiable leader.

The discussion turned to the effectiveness of social media in terms of activism. What would be worth more, retweets or protesters? Not everyone agreed.

Some panelists said that it depended on the situation and that each was powerful in their own way, citing the recent H&M controversy over a racist piece of clothing. Others said that social media can lead to fragmented messaging and that the sharing of misinformation becomes easy.

Alston had said that often the narratives of the protests are morphed and the narrative is forgotten.

ZPB was also fighting for equality and representation on Southern's own campus. Spivey said that her sorority would be pushing for a staff that is more reflective of the student body. She said that they were looking to get between 25 and 40 percent of teaching faculty to be people of color.

Spivey said that the current 6 percent is not enough to be reflective of Southern's 16 percent black student

body. The current ratio, she said, is all wrong.

"It's not that I want, it's a need," she said. "If our student body isn't reflected with faculty, then we're not learning."

It would be a case of people leading by example she said. She blames the people in power that will not address the oppression happening due to greed.

"If we change something that's gonna hurt their money," Spivey said, "then they're not gonna change it."

Spivey, a worker in the office of student involvement, had asked Alston to be on the panel and panelists were given the list of discussion topics ahead of time. Alston said that she did not have to do much research because most of what she said was based on her own experience.

Alston cited the comparison of crab in a barrel to the current struggle of black folks. One crab tries to climb out of the barrel, but the others pull them back in, not allowing a leader to emerge.

"Someone that's just doing a little too much," Alston said, "and appears to be a little too white, let's drag them down as opposed to, 'Hold onto them as they bring us along, bring us up out of the barrel with them.'"

Dooley says students staying informed helps police to respond

By August Pelliccio

Chief of Southern Police, Joseph Dooley said that every crime has two primary elements: a desire and an opportunity.

After the Feb. 14 Stoneman Douglas High School shooting, Dooley sent, for the second time this semester, a note to all students containing three practical steps in the case of a hostile intruder.

"We kept this simple," said Dooley. "There are many institutions that have multiple levels, but we kept it to three simple techniques."

Dooley explained the three techniques: evacuate, hide out and take action.

"Every situations different," said Dooley. "There are too many variables to nail it down."

Still, he said, evacuating or hiding out are generally the best early choices.

"Classes have been retrofitted, and most offices are," said Dooley, "where you can push a button and lock the door."

Dooley said that nationwide most situations are responded to in between three and seven minutes. In the meantime, he said students should turn off the lights and stay away from the windows, silence their cellphones and be as quiet as possible.

Sophomore Jamil Harp said he agrees with the three steps in theory, but without frequent reminder, he said students could forget.

"I think in the moment, a lot of times, you forget the awareness and you forget the preparation you're supposed to have," said Harp. "You act on instinct."

Tau Kappa Epsilon brother Bryce Gentino shared a similar concern.

"I feel like as it happens, it may be hard to go through these three steps consciously," said Gentino. "I feel like most people will go into a panic."

Dooley said students should be reassured that if there interception for a situation in place, the police are already involved and doing what they are trained to.

"The panic and the pandemonium that it can cause can be severe," Dooley said. "We get that."

Even during a pressing situation, Dooley said students should remain calm, and be patient as interception runs its course.

Sophomore Mariah Villanova said she would remain calm in the presence of a hostile intruder, and consider what she needed to do in order to stay safe.

"Once you panic," said Villanova, "You start doing dumb things."

Dooley said the most important aspect in regard to these situations is preparation. He said recognizing the warning signs is helpful.

"The fact that the community feels comfortable to call us and get involved," said Dooley, "is important."

He said this campus is unique in its exposure to the surrounding communities.



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

A blue emergency light outside the Adanti Student Center.

"We're not an institution that sits on a hill, with one way in and one way out," said Dooley. "We have major traffic arteries that come through this campus."

Because of this, Dooley said reporting unusual behavior is especially important to keep the Southern community safe.

Dooley said he appreciates calls into the station even for activity that may seem trivial to some students. He said each piece of the puzzle that gets reported for a crime is helpful to his force. According to Dooley, each crime is composed of a desire and an opportunity.

"The only thing we can take away," said Dooley, "is the opportunity."

Humans of SCSU: Taylor Gainey

By Alyssa Rice

Being admitted into Yale New Haven Hospital might have been the lowest point in Taylor Gainey's life, but it was also a turning point.

She thought it was going to be an easy ride, Leflore Edwards, mother of Gainey said: "She didn't understand how people couldn't be so supportive. She is a young African American female striving to reach her goals."

Gainey, 22, applied to Southern Connecticut State University to pursue a nursing career, but once life started hitting hard, she rapidly changed her decision.

Gainey works full time at a support and assist facility called Continuum of Care in New Haven. She is also taking seven classes this semester that she had to receive special permission for.

On top of it all, she still manages to have a social life and work part time at Yale Environment Health Safety for internship credits.

There came a point in her life when everything started to take a toll on her health. During this time, she found herself at Yale New Haven Hospital. Throughout her days, she began to have non-stop panic attacks.

"During those times I found myself in a deep

depression," Gainey said. "If it wasn't for my mother pushing me to stay positive, I don't know where I would be today."

After going through that experience in 2016, Gainey strived to complete all prerequisites for her pre-nursing major and applied to Southern's nursing program. She later

found out she did not get accepted.

"At this point I was raged with anger while feeling discouraged at the same time," said Gainey.

She then made the decision to go part time in school and begin to focus on becoming an emergency medical technician. After completing the process,

she found herself again not receiving certification from failing a part of the assessment.

"All I want to do is graduate on time," said Gainey. "From the looks of it I have completely failed that goal."

Rynasia Baldwin, Gainey's best friend for eight years, has been by her

side throughout all the ups and downs.

Baldwin said Gainey has even helped her to stay motivated during tough times by just being there when needed.

"Not only have I seen her struggle, but pick herself up in the most positive way possible," said Baldwin.

Once Gainey settled in

with her new major she began to pick up a course load of classes.

According to Mental Health America, 70 percent of college students are stressed about finances and many students struggle with balancing and prioritizing the different areas of their lives.

Gainey said she learned to balance out everything at once, from gaining time management skills to defeating procrastination urges and focusing on finding better ways to study.

She now is taking seven classes and working full time, and part time at her internship.

Now that Gainey has approached senior year, Edwards said, "She's made progress, she is more responsible, more mature, and coming to her own womanhood."

At the end of May 2018, Gainey will have fulfilled all Southern's requirements for graduation.

Edwards said she is very ecstatic and blessed to be able to see her daughter fight all battles to be able to walk towards the finish line.

Throughout Gainey's journey she now feels more confident from when she first started.

Gainey said, "I feel I can rest and enjoy my life while starting to pursue my life long career."



Taylor Gainey in her cap and gown.

PHOTO | TAYLOR GAINNEY

PB & J saves the Thursday

By Alexandra Scicchitano

PB & J Thursdays is beneficial towards Southern students and it gives them the opportunity for a quick, free lunch since students are always in a hurry, said Eric LaCharity.

"Definitely positive," said LaCharity, the associate director of Student Involvement and Leadership Development. "A lot of students are in a hurry; it gives them the opportunity to get a free lunch."

The event was started within the last 10 years and has expanded its budget and variety offered, said Joey Linebarger, the graduate intern for Student Involvement and Leadership Development.

The event is hosted by the Programs Council at Southern and is "committed to providing programs that will enrich the experience of any student through numerous programs," stated the description page on OwlConnect.

"We get [the] budget through student activity fees and the Student Government Association," said LaCharity.

From there, two members of ProCon shop for PB & J Thursdays at BJ's, which is a "membership-based shopping center" and the members ask for "\$300, but spend \$280," according to LaCharity.

Variety at the PB & J Thursdays has changed, the event "was strictly PB & J", but now offers drinks and snacks and more sandwich-making components said Linebarger.

Because the event has been around for 10 years, and because the variety has changed, it has "gotten to the point that students actually know of it," said LaCharity. "On a typical Thursday, 40 to 50 people are waiting in line at 12 [p.m.]"

PB & J Thursdays are helping people save money on campus "because the food here is very pricey," said Jeremy Douglas, a senior biology major.

"[I] went for the free food, especially since everything is so expensive," said Jimmy D'elia, a senior sports management student at Southern.

Although only once a week, PB & J Thursdays are beneficial towards the Southern student because not everyone can buy food on campus, said Anastasia Wilson, a junior library science major.

"Not everyone can buy food on campus, it's nice because it saves people money even if its just once a week," said Wilson,

PB & J Thursdays have since improved over the last 10 years, so now it is a "better experience at a cheaper cost," LaCharity said.



A peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

PHOTO COURTESY | MATIAS GARABEDIAN

A Hart Research Associates poll found that 57 percent of students worry about student loan debt often.

With the value of money always looming over students' heads, not worrying about paying for one lunch is one less burden for Southern students, said Wilson.

Along with saving money, it is also very convenient in between classes, said Douglas.

"Free food, and I have class in 25 minutes," said Douglas. "So it's a good place to get a snack and go to class."

Wilson said that when she can go to the PB & J Thursdays event, she does, but that her schedule does

not always allow for her to go.

Because of the big commuter population on campus, "ProCon has made a big shift for daytime programs," said LaCharity, and that it "drives us to have PB & J Thursdays in Engleman."

LaCharity went on to say that simple events like PB & J has as much of an effect on Southern students as big, costly events do.

Even with all of the options to make a sandwich with, D'elia, Douglas and Wilson all said they get peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

"Honestly," said Wilson, "I just like free food."

Students discuss gun ownership, usage

By Victoria Bresnahan

Zach Matto, a senior biochemistry major, said he went shooting for the first time with his father and fellow boy scouts when he was 10 years old.

“So, I was taught from a very early age how to be safe with firearms [and] how to respect the power that’s in your hands,” said Matto. “But also, the proper uses and the ways to use them. I enjoyed it — I grew up enjoying that.”

Matto said he recently underwent the rigorous process of obtaining a Connecticut pistol permit last year and plans to purchase his own gun once he has the money.

“Second amendment says both ‘well-regulated’ and ‘shall not be infringed,’ so I have always been okay with regulations,” said Matto. “I did my due diligence, I went through the process, I paid all the fees — I’m okay with that.”

Matto said he would fear others more than guns. He said the majority of gun owners are educated in the ‘three cardinal rules of firearm safety’: trigger discipline, muzzle discipline and respect.

“So, respect is always treat a



PHOTO | VICTORIA BRESNAHAN

Zach Matto, a biochemistry student and gun user.

gun like its loaded even when its not,” said Matto. “Muzzle discipline [is when] the muzzle of the gun is never pointed in the direction of something you want to destroy. And trigger discipline is your fingers are never on the trigger until you’re actually ready to fire.”

Matto said being educated in these rules could potentially eliminate a majority of gun related accidents. Additionally, Matos said to mitigate gun violence, the laws currently

instilled should be properly enforced before new regulations are created.

“If you look, the laws that were actually on the books should have prevented this most recent shooting from happening,” said Matos, “and they were not properly enforced.”

Overall, Matto said human beings need community and a sense of belonging. Matos said that since most mass shooters are young boys, they need

more role models.

“We are not meant to be islands unto ourselves,” said Matto. “Biologically and psychologically, [that] is not okay. I think that for one reason or another — probably for several different reasons — but society has kind of been alienating its young boys.”

Jessica DeGrandi, a student-veteran and collaborative education major, served for five and half years and was deployed twice to Iraq.

She said she is upset about the current gun reform conversation.

“A gun is just an inanimate object that is used,” said DeGrandi. “Just like a bike, [or] a knife. It gets me upset because so many of my friends are polarized.”

DeGrandi said it does not matter the size or type of gun — they are ultimately not the problem; the real problem are people.

“If you want stricter regulations then they should be background checks,” said DeGrandi. “Just to make sure that they don’t have nothing crazy on their record.”

Emily Stross, junior history secondary education major, said she recently found out her father keeps a gun in her home just in case something was to happen.

“I feel safer,” said Stross. “[If] I ever needed it, I would have access to it.”

Seeing police officers armed on campus would make her safer, she said. However, as someone learning how to become a teacher, she said she is unsure if educators should be trained on how to shoot.

“Personally, I think having a cop or two with a gun would be fine,” said Stross. “But the teachers — I don’t know if I could have that responsibility.”

A closer look at Southern’s police

By Victoria Bresnahan

Southern Connecticut State University Police Chief Joseph Dooley said the police department deals with a variety of traffic and criminal issues across campus — some of which do not always concern Southern. Overall, he said the campus is safe in terms of violent crime.

“It is unfortunate, the world we live in,” said Dooley, “[but] you have to be aware of your surroundings. You have to do everything in your power to reduce your chances of being a victim.”

This spring semester, Dooley said the university will be advertising a new app called LiveSafe.

According to LiveSafe’s website, the app is designed so users can send texts, photos or videos of their location to alert others or report an incident. The website stated a feature of the app, SafeWalk, allows users to monitor friends and

family as they walk to their designated location. If the person does not reach their destination by the estimated time of arrival, alerts are sent to both parties.

“They have the ability to let three people know,” said Dooley. “It could be a roommate, a friend [or] a parent. Someone they want to let know [they] are walking from point A to point B.”

This app would make it easier for users to report a situation instead of having to run to a physical location, said Dooley. It will also be programmed to call university police as well as 911, he said.

“This will probably be online and activated hopefully before the end of the spring semester,” said Dooley.

An issue university police have been dealing with for about five years is the lack of blue emergency light on the walkway between north campus and main campus, Dooley said.

“Nothing is impossible,” said Dooley, “but in terms of getting that done, it is not

the easiest thing in the world.”

Dooley said he agrees there is a need for the light. Safety measures have been revised over the years such as increasing patrols and working with Hamden and New Haven police.

North campus is always a concern Dooley said, but walking in groups or taking the shuttle could provide more safety to students.

Jake Lahiff, a senior risk management chair for Beta Mu Sigma campus watch, said his fraternity, in collaboration with university police, provides the campus watch program as an escort service to students.

“Just to provide company to anyone who many not feel safe walking to their car, or just simply want company to escort them,” said Lahiff.

The university police provide campus watchers with a walkie-talkie, flashlight and campus watch vest, he said. Two people are on the clock each hour

Monday to Thursday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

“When the weather is a little bit nicer we like to walk around campus so people will see the vest and so they know who we are, and they can be escorted,” said Lahiff.

The university police recently received approval to start hiring more officers and fill in four positions now that there hiring freeze is over, Dooley said.

“We don’t have as many as we did,” said Dooley. “[But] we try to stay as visible as possible and still handle our calls for service.”

Quandaysha Shumpert, a sophomore social work major, said she is aware of the police presence on campus and feels generally safe at Southern.

“They ride around a lot and you see them on campus,” said Shumpert. “So, it is not like I feel like they are not around or anything.”

Veterans’ share experiences on campus

By Jenna Stepleman

It is all about the money when deciding where and when to go back to school, said Dallas Andrews, a junior biology major who previously served on active duty in the military.

“My best friend from my time in the Navy told me she was coming to Southern, and that impacted my decision,” said Andrews. “To be honest, though, the main reason I came was because I was offered over \$3,000 monthly to go here. So, I guess I really came for the money.”

Andrews also said how she came to choose her major and a little bit about what lead her into the Navy.

“I’ve wanted to be a veterinarian since I could say the word,” said Andrews. “I was poor when I joined the military and I wanted to get out of that. I felt I wasn’t smart enough for school. So I left Mexico with the military, leaving behind the ranch I grew up on to do the military for the time being.”

According to the American Council on Education, one in five veterans are enrolled in a STEM field degree program, and only 6 percent of American veteran college students are born in countries other than the United States.

Andrews said that she thinks the difference between veteran students and average students boils down to an age difference and social norms.

“We’re older so we need less instruc-

tion than an average fresh out of high school students. We kinda get we’re here to do a job and just learn,” said Andrews. “So that means sometimes we don’t mesh with the student body as well as we do with the professors.”

Giacomo “Jack” Mordente, coordinator of veterans and military affairs at Southern, had a lot of insights on the average veterans experience and how they apply to start their journey at Southern.

“They often apply as transfer students,” said Mordente. “I am involved in that process mostly from beginning to end. I work out the details of their G.I bill and I offer counsel and I am often playing the role of liaison to other campus resources.”

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, “More than one million military veterans and their families are taking advantage of the Post 9/11 GI Bill to attend college.”

This law, passed in 2008, is an updated federal veterans education law that can pay in-state tuition rates to the institution attended by the veteran and gives the student with a monthly stipend to pay for books, supplies and housing as well, according to the NCST.

Ronald Armour, a senior physics engineering major, said if a person goes to college just because they feel pressured, they can expect one thing for certain: unhappiness.

“I started at UCONN right after high school and I hated it,” Armour said. “I knew what I wanted to do was be in

the military but I felt pressured. I was too young to register myself in my first semester but as soon as the second came around I signed right up.”

The National Veteran Education Success Tracker project found that student veterans earn degrees at rates better than comparable non veteran students.

However, studies on the topic vary widely as success rate for this group remains difficult to pin down and highly open to interpretation.

By one study, it is 72 percent more. Another study by the same organization states it is 42 percent.

After enlisting in the Marines as he had wanted, Armour said he found his calling in the job he was assigned there.

“I worked on the bomb racks and inner mechanics of the machines,” said Armour. “The way the job made me feel could only mean one thing -- it was the best experience I’d ever had. That was certainly [a] new feeling for me.”

He was placed into the job by standardized testing and after expressing desire in the field.

According to the Bureau Of Labor Statistics, “Engineering, science and technical personnel within the US Military perform a variety of tasks.”

For example, operating equipment, problem solving and collecting data.

Armour said, “I think there are a lot more veterans on campus than I thought there would be. People can’t really pick them out by their looks

anymore as now we have tattoos, beards and piercings just like everyone else, but I think we have a presence on campus.”

Dusty Beverley, a senior sociology major, changed his major three times before completely deciding on sociology to work with nonprofits and social change organizations.

“I didn’t know what I wanted to do for a long time. Then one day my phone rang when I was 17 and it was an Air Force recruiter,” said Beverley. “I thought to myself in the moment, ‘ok, I’ll join,’ and that’s literally how I ended up on six years active duty.”

Beverley moved around both before and after his time in the military, from being placed on duty in Florida, then moving back up to Virginia, Vermont and finally New York.

“When I moved to Connecticut, which is the last place I thought I would end up, I decided to stay up here for the money and use it to finish my education since I was no longer active,” Beverley said.

Many veterans on campus find that they have experience outside the classroom applicable they did not previously realize, said Mordente, coordinator of Veteran’s Services.

“I definitely appreciate the lessons I learned in the service now more than I’m out,” Beverley said. “It gave me tools that help me in places I would have struggled in right after high school.”

Editor's Pick: Afrobeats is an underrated genre

By Melanie Espinal

Afrobeats is an underappreciated music genre that is starting to crossover to charts in the United States.

The relatively new music genre began as a reworking of the early 1970s Afrobeat – music with traditional African instrumentals and jazz influences led by Nigerian music artist Fela Kuti.

It has adapted with hip hop, Soca, electronic influences, house music and dance hall – seemingly bringing together different influences from across the black diaspora.

Drums are a vital part of afrobeats, inviting listeners to dance to smooth electronic rhythms regardless if they understand the lyrics or not. The rhythms are smooth but also as liberating as traditional African dance music.

Many afrobeats songs can be distinguished by their lyrics in pidgin, a hybrid of African slang, local languages and English. Typically, songs have playful lyrics referring to relationships or attention from women but can go deeper in content as well.

Today, a lot of afrobeats artists are coming out of Nigeria and Ghana. Songs have also made way to create a significant music scene, which has caught heavy traction in the United

Kingdom. Some well-known afrobeats artist include Davido, Wizkid and Maleek Berry.

Wizkid, may be more recognizable to Americans because of his 2016 collaboration with Kyla and Canadian rapper Drake in “One Dance” which dominated charts. The two collaborated once more in March 2017, with “Come Closer” which could be heard on the radio that following summer. Before that, Wizkid produced hits like “Ojuelegba” on his 2017 “Ayo” album.

Mr. Eazi is another artist that has successfully crossed over to US charts. His hit “Leg Over” off of his “Accra to Lagos” album has been remixed by major name French Montana.

Other major players are Mr. Eazi, Juls and Korede Bello. Influences also include UK’s boom-ing grime scene, a UK variation of rap and hip-hop. One notable artist that pulls both grime and afrobeats’ influences is J Hus. In his “Common Sense” 2017 album, electronic drumbeats can be found in songs “Did You See” and “Spirit.”

This music genre takes a little from everywhere and is more than likely going to stay on Apple Music and Spotify Music dance playlists for years to come.

FOUR notable afrobeats albums:

“Last Daze of Summer” EP by Maleek Berry in 2016.

“Life is Eazi, Vol. 1 – Accra to Lagos” by Mr. Eazi in 2017.

“Leap of Faith” by Juls in 2017.

“Ayo” by Wizkid in 2014.

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Aspiring sound engineer dreams of New York

By Victoria Bresnahan

Now an aspiring theatrical sound engineer, JT McLoughlin said he originally found his way to theater at Southern after registering for a theater technical production course that had no information connected to it besides the professor's name and email.

"So, I was like, 'Alright I'll register for it and I am sure they will fill [in the information] over winter break,'" said McLoughlin, a junior double major in theater and communications. "If it works, awesome; if not then I'll just drop it."

The course ended up being shop hours for one of the school's shows, McLoughlin said. After doing sound for the "One Acts" Southern showcases every year, fellow theater students elected him to sound crew manager for their board of control — like an e-board.

"I have been sound crew manager ever since," said McLoughlin. "I have done every single show ever since."

McLoughlin said he originally choose to attend Southern Connecticut State University because of its exercise science program. However, the summer before starting college he got a stomach parasite, lost several pounds and became a communications major — which eventually led to his double major with theatre.

He became interested in sound when, at the age of 13, he purchased a DJ setup and disc-jockeyed throughout high school, he said.

"I just realized I really liked the actual equipment aspect and that I was good at it," said McLoughlin.

He became theatrically involved with sound design after a friend asked for his help on a high school musical, he said.

"So, I went, and I did it," said McLoughlin. "I met my girlfriend and I met theater, and I'm stuck with both of them."

Of all the shows McLoughlin has worked on, he said his favorite was Southern's production of "Stop Kiss!" Although, a week before he began his design process for the show, McLoughlin said he became severely ill and experienced heart problems.

"So, 'Stop Kiss!' really came around [at] the perfect time for me and I really just put myself into the show," said



PHOTO | VICTORIA BRESNAHAN

JT McLoughlin in the academic quad.

McLoughlin. "It was my outlet. That's what art is, its an outlet for everyone. It was my accidental outlet."

When designing sound for a show, McLoughlin said he reads the play twice to understand the storyline and then imagines what the noises of the show would sound like.

"I imagine what I hear," said McLoughlin. "Give my own motives to the characters if it seems like it needs to be heard. Get a better grip on the time period and what I think the style would be — that's ultimately determined by the director."

During the third read, he said he keeps the direction of the production in mind and tries to envision additional sounds. He said he begins sourcing sound effects based

on different concepts of the play.

"Then we go into tech and that's when it all kind of gets blended together," said McLoughlin. "Then you have a show."

Upon graduation, McLoughlin said he hopes to move to New York City and do part-time sound design to build his resume and bartending to support himself. McLoughlin said he is also considering graduate school or eventually going into teaching.

"I like teaching," said McLoughlin. "It gives someone the gift I once got."

Review: Fighting spiders in 'Deep Rock Galactic'



PHOTO | GARY SCARAMELLA

Character hunting for spider cocoons.

By Gary Scaramella

I peered over the edge of a pit at the form of my incapacitated teammate as he lay prone at the bottom. Stumbling through the dark, subterranean caves, my comrade had accidentally fallen into the chasm. I tried to think of a way to reach him; my other two teammates were several dozen meters off and I was his only help. I decided to be cautious about it, using my trusty platform gun to build rocky outcroppings along the pit's walls so I could jump down safely.

After I revived him, command alerted us: there was a swarm coming. My newly risen teammate fired a flare gun towards the cave ceiling; as the light traveled up through the pit I had just clambered down, it revealed dozens of giant, glowing spiders, all skittering down towards us. We readied our weapons.

"Deep Rock Galactic," which released as an early access game preview on March 6 for Xbox One and PC, is full of tense moments like this. The four-player cooperative experience thrusts players into the shoes of four surly dwarves who have been dropped into a procedurally-generated cave system. Once underground, they must work together in order to mine valuable minerals, collect

alien eggs, kick spider behind and make it back alive.

While it is possible to play the game in single-player mode, it is best experienced with a team of four; that way, the unique abilities of each of the game's character classes can be utilized. There is the gunner, a machine-gun bearing hulk with a handy zipline; the driller, who has two rock drills to burrow through cave walls with; the engineer, who can construct turrets and create ledges for climbing and the scout, a nimble fellow with a grappling hook and flare gun that can light entire caverns. Each of these classes are essential for survival within the tunnels and caves of Hoxxes IV, the hostile alien planet which serves as the game's setting.

The game is at its best when your team breaks into a new cave chamber and is greeted with a vast, open space full of sparkling mineral veins and strange alien flora, or when you are backpedaling down a narrow tunnel that your drill is digging towards the escape pod, firing into a horde of monstrous arachnids as ominous synth music (think "Stranger Things" meets "Blade Runner") blares from your speakers.

However, being an early access game, "Deep Rock Galactic" is not without its flaws. The multiplayer servers can be finicky, occasionally making it difficult to join games; sometimes, you will be disconnected from a

match in progress, causing a frustrating loss of a half hour's work. There are intermittent gameplay bugs as well, such as guns and tools suddenly not firing correctly or the player getting stuck within the geometry of the game's levels. However, most of these issues occur infrequently and seem as if they will be patched out by the game's developer, Ghost Ship Games, in the near future.

For a game that is not even finished yet, "Deep Rock Galactic" looks good and plays well. The graphics are not spectacular, but they are colorful, stylistically pleasing and easily readable. Gameplay is fun, satisfying and gives the player a reason to keep coming back with the lure of gear upgrades and vanity items that let you change the appearance of your dwarf.

My main concern after playing this game for about six hours is that I wonder how long the gameplay loop will hold up. Yes; spelunking, mining minerals and fighting spiders has been thrilling and the game's randomly generated levels make each match play out differently, but will it still feel as fresh a few dozen hours later? Only time will tell. Hopefully, Ghost Ship Games will continue updating the game with new content and game types; given that a new patch is already on the way, I am optimistic. Until then, as the battle cry of the game's raucous space dwarves goes, it is all just "rock and stone."

Year of the Dog: Lunar New Year celebrations



PHOTO | J'MARI HUGHES

Mengxia Xu and Xin Wen at the food table on Feb. 28, 2018.

By J'Mari Hughes

Students, beware of the Chinese monster Nian. He comes every year and the only things that scare him away are fireworks and the color red according to Xin Wen, a member of the Chinese Student Association.

Wen, a freshman music major, said an ancient Chinese story tells of the monster, whom people are afraid of. The Chinese light candles, display the color red, and burn bamboo to get rid of him, and celebrate the New Year, a festival for 25 percent of the world's population, as said by China Highlights.

From 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday Feb. 28, Chinese music played in Engleman B121 as it was decked out in Chinese letters and decorations, in honor of the Lunar New Year, 2018 being the Year of the Dog. Several tables of Chinese food, from lo mein and spring rolls to shredded pork and pork fried rice were available to students. Artifacts, dancers and games also filled the room.

Dian Brown-Albert, coordinator of the Multicultural Center, said the event has been going on for years. She said it gives Southern the opportunity to connect with the Chinese culture.

"It's a nice way for the SCSU community to come together," she said. "Chinese families come together in light of the new year celebrating a lucky time and year to start off prosperously."

Members of the Chinese Students Club were there to tell others about what they do on the holiday.

"We eat dinner with our families and we enjoy recreations associated with our Chinese traditions," club President Mengxia Xu said when asked about her New Year customs. "Each region of China has their own different traditions. We would stay up until 12 and then eat dumplings. Basically, we just sit together and relax enjoy the family."

As well as Brown-Albert, Simon

McIntyre, a sophomore from the Multicultural Center assisted with the event. Being a part of that center, they strive to get everybody inclusive and promote an awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity, according to their Southern webpage. The two agreed that it is important to experience other cultures from around the world.

"Especially since we come from a diverse campus, this community here gets people's minds open to different things," said McIntyre. "Learning about different cultures that helps us to become one and become united."

An ancient fan dance was performed by Chinese dancers in red cheongsams. Fans were also available for purchase for a dollar, donating the funds to the Chinese Association. Games such as Mahjong and a chopstick game, which involved picking up marbles with chopsticks and putting them into a bowl. It may seem easy, but as said by club member David Better, it is a lot harder than it sounds.

Visitors were given small red envelopes with Chinese symbols written in gold on them. Each contained one chocolate coin.

"The Red Pocket usually has money inside. Parents, uncles or aunts give you red pack containing money to wish you good luck in the new year," Xu said.

Meadeshia Mitchell, a senior public health major, returned to the Lunar event after having fun last year, she said. She shared her calligraphic painting she received from the Chinese painters. After waiting in line, she wrote her name and pronounced it for the painters. They described her name with phonetics and painted it in Chinese letters on red paper with little specks of gold.

"I felt like it'd be cool to see what my name looks like in a different culture," Mitchell said. She was right, as she was fascinated with the results. "I just wish I understood what the characters really mean," she said with a laugh.

David Better, a sophomore with IDS major and self proclaimed "sucker for lo mein," said each food symbolizes something: the yellow of egg rolls resembles the color gold, representing wealth; noodles, longevity and life.

Some students heard about the event and came specifically to enjoy a genuine Chinese cuisine.

"I looked at SCSU announcements and I saw 'Lunar Year Celebration' and they were offering food so I was like why not," sophomore Madison Lazaro said.

Her favorite dish was the pork fried rice that she savored with her friend and fellow sophomore Elroie Fiseha, a fan of crab Rangoon.

"I love Chinese food," she said. "My friends told me about [this event] so I came with them."

The Chinese Student Association hopes to "spread awareness of the Chinese culture to the whole SCSU

community," and "intends to strengthen the idea of diversity on campus," its Owl Connect page says. Members talk about the culture, learn some history, and educate those who do not understand it. It is in fact open to all students: not just those of Chinese descent.

"The point is to learn more about the culture and the language and promoting it," Better said. "I just think it's good for people because it brings everyone together. I think regardless of the culture, people have a good time here."

The Chinese Student Association's annual event successfully brought students together for meals, entertainment, and art, all while introducing them to Chinese culture.

"Xōnnián kuàilè!" Xu said, which is Chinese for "Happy New Year!"



PHOTO | J'MARI HUGHES

Madison Lazaro, Faith Jano, Tiffanie Edwards and Elroie Fiseha enjoying Chinese dishes on Feb. 28, 2018.

Black History month concludes with film screening

By Victoria Bresnahan

To conclude Black History month, Nevoja Roberts, junior and student worker, said "I Am Not Your Negro" was screened to show the history of the n-word and how it affects those in the black community.

"[I] definitely feel like it's a good way to provide more information to the students," said Roberts, "and allow them to be uncomfortable and understand why the word is so important and where it came from."

"I Am Not Your Negro" filmmaker Raoul Peck envisioned Baldwin's unfinished book "Remember this House" through this documentary, according to the film's website. The website states the documentary examines black history and connects the civil rights movement to the current #BlackLivesMatter movement.

History professor Carter-David, who led the screening and discussion of "I Am Not Your Negro," said Peck befriended James Baldwin's sister 12 years ago. She said Peck obtained some of his papers from her and decided to create a film project based on them.

"So, Medgar Evers, Martin Luther King and Malcolm X,"

said Carter-David, "these were three friends of [Baldwin] who were all killed. These 30 pages represented his reflection on their lives—had they lived—and the experience of race in America."

Carter-David said Raoul Peck also published a book in collaboration with the documentary.

Roberts said the narrative of the film is still relatable to the events occurring in our country today. Despite what someone's skin color is, Roberts said it is crucial for others to start respecting each other.

"It still needs to be talked about, unfortunately," said Roberts, "but it has to be talked about. It's just a great way to get everybody more knowledgeable about what's going on, and hopefully it can influence people to do better and think about their decisions."

Dian Brown-Albert, coordinator of the Multicultural Center, said the movie was scheduled before any racial slur incidents occurred on campus.

"In light of the recent climate here on campus, the documentary [actually] has nothing to do with that at all," said Brown-Albert, before the screening of the film. "We had already planned Black History month events. It just so happened we, as a university, dealt with some issues

around the n-word."

Brown-Albert said she hoped viewers could learn more about black history and racial inequality in this country through the documentary.

Kiana Michel, a sophomore communications major, said after hearing positive remarks about it, she attended the screening to gain a perspective of it. Michel said people should be discussing the racial narrative highlighted in the film because the reality of it is often ignored.

"We ignore what many black people are facing in their day to day lives," said Michel. "So, I feel like it's important that we learn and become aware."

Movies such as "I Am Not Your Negro" could also enlighten students and provide them with insight when it concerns the recent racial issues that occurred on Southern's campus, she said.

"I feel like nobody is too smart to gain more perspective on something," said Michel. "I also feel like because of the way school reacted to what happened, I feel like many people weren't aware the ways racial slurs effected some individuals."

Baseball sweeps Bridgeport

By Matt Gad

After returning from South Carolina, the Owls' baseball squad has put the pedal to the medal. They are coming off a three-game sweep of the University of Bridgeport and are now a 5-2 ball-club.

In their home opener March 1, they defeated Bridgeport, 6-5, in come-from-behind fashion. The Owls scored two in the final frame, battling a potential early call due to darkness and in cold conditions at the ballpark.

"We were fortunate they let us play that ninth and it was a good win for us," head coach Tim Shea said. "Nate [Carney] gave up a couple two-out hits in the second and didn't have his best stuff but he battled for us. We hung around long enough to do some damage late, but we still need to do a much better job hitting with runners in scoring position and getting knocks with two outs."

Carney, a sophomore, who went 4-4 last season in 11 appearances and pitched to a 4.12 earned run average, was limited in the opener by just going four and two thirds. He surrendered 10 hits, five runs (three earned) and a walk on four strikeouts. Senior Austin Darrow came in from the bullpen to relieve Carney, stopping the damage in two innings of work by only giving up two hits and no runs.

Sophomore John Spoto's walk-off single drove in junior Nick Lamberti for a 6-5 win over Bridgeport in Owls' home opener.



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Sophomore John Spoto hitting the ball during Southern's win over Bridgeport.

Sophomore Brendan Ebert ended up with the win, coming in after Darrow, shutting the Purple Knights down over the

"We're never out of games."

— Tim Shea, head coach

final two frames. He didn't allow any hits or runs but walked two of his eight batters.

"To pull of a win like this and to leave a team on the field early in the season is something we have to build off of and use it as a springboard that we're never out of games," Shea said. "We just have to

continue to grind."

On the offensive side, the Owls put a run on the board in the opening frame when Tyler Criscuolo hit into a double play that scored Jimmy Palmer. And then, trailing 5-1 in the fifth, Griffin Garabedian scored on a wild pitch before Criscuolo's RBI single that would bring Palmer around to score.

The game was tied at five in the ninth before Nick Lamberti walked and Palmer came to the plate on a passed ball. The next batter, John Spoto, worked a base hit up the middle to bring Lamberti home with the winning run.

"It was really tough to see up there so I went up knowing

I had to swing the bat and put the ball in play because, obviously, the other team couldn't see, as well, so I just saw first-pitch fastball and I tried to do whatever I could with it," Spoto said.

The Owls took care of business again last Sun. by winning both games in a doubleheader with Bridgeport. Sam Nepiarsky pitched the first game and went seven for the 14-4 win and Griffin Bremer went in the second contest, a 4-0 shutout.

After playing Queens yesterday, Tim Shea's squad will head to Boca Raton, Florida, to take on Felician Friday at 11 a.m.



Southern baseball team in the dugout during a home game this season.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM



PHOTO | KEVIN CROMPTON

Senior guard Imani Wheeler dribbling the ball during NE-10 semifinal game.

Owls fall in conference tournament, NCAA ahead

By Matt Gad

For the first time since the 2011-12 season, and the seventh time overall, the Owls are in the NCAA Tournament.

They earned an at-large bid after dropping their Northeast-10 Tournament semifinal to Bentley March 1, 64-51. The Owls start national play Saturday in the NCAA East Regional at Stonehill.

"Bentley hit shots and we didn't," head coach Kate Lynch said after the semifinal. "I was really proud of the fight. We had some people step up when we needed them to do it. Sometimes the ball goes in, sometimes it doesn't."

Abby Hurlbert, who scored a career-high 38 points in the quarterfinal win over Southern New Hampshire, was limited to just eight, including going 0-6 shooting the three. Junior Allie Smith, who came off the bench for 12 minutes of playing time, hit two threes and gained the Owls some momentum.

"Allie stepped up, big time. That's what she does, though. She stepped on the court, she took a charge. She has a lot of those intangibles and we're certainly excited for what she can give us next year," Lynch said.

Africa Williams led the way with 15 points, making four of nine three-point shots. Paige Decker and Kiana Steinauer both had 10 points and eight rebounds, with Decker tying her career-high.

"We worked really hard to get to where we are right now," Steinauer said. "We definitely gave it our all; tonight our shots just didn't fall."

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PAGE 10



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Senior forward Jerry Luckett Jr., (left to right) junior guard Isaiah McLeod, freshman guard Ulyen Coleman.

Three Owls earn end-of-season honors

By Kevin Crompton

Freshman guard Ulyen Coleman became the second Owl in Southern men's basketball history to be named NE-10 Rookie of the Year while junior guard Isaiah McLeod and senior forward Jerry Luckett Jr., were named to the second and third all-conference teams, respectively.

The three Southern men's basketball team members earned their NE-10 honors upon comment of the 2017-18 season.

Coleman joins highly regarded alumni Michael

Mallory who won the award in 2014. Mallory's freshman scoring average (15.8) was two points higher than Coleman's (13.2) however, this year's Rookie of the Year bested Mallory in 3-point shooting percentage with 42 percent made from behind the arc.

The 6-4 guard from Brockton, Massachusetts, said he strived to win the award but maintained a humble attitude in doing so throughout the season.

"It's a blessing," said Coleman. "It's really a great accomplishment to know that I'm following in the footsteps of one of the greats like Mike Mallory. It's just real inspiring

for me to continue to work hard and just continue to work on my craft."

Head coach Scott Burrell said it is tough to compare Coleman to Mallory this early in Coleman's career; however, he has high hopes of Coleman developing into an all-around offensive weapon like Mallory.

"Michael's a phenomenal scorer. He can shoot it, he can drive it, athletic — I think Ulyen is more of a shooter right now," said Burrell. But I think Ulyen has potential to be a post-up kind of guy, to be a guy who can drive and get floaters, and get to the basket when he gets stronger."

McLeod said he and the

SEE MEN'S BASKETBALL PAGE 11

Tristan Thompson and the Kardashian lifestyle

By Matt Gad

He used to just be a professional basketball player from Canada. He used to just be famous for being LeBron's center. But now he has been thrown into the Kardashian world, which includes reality television, endless tabloid stories and constant attention on the street.

The good part? He still lives in Cleveland, where the paparazzi aren't—right? Although, just returning to basketball for a moment, you

never know. He's been inconstant and is far from the best player on the up-and-down Cavaliers roster. However, he isn't the worst. I think he'll stick around.

And when you're dating a Kardashian how can it really work when you're not playing in Los Angeles? Well, for now, it works because his girlfriend, Khloe, says Cleveland is a nice escape for her. She essentially spends a bit less than half her time there these days, at least during the season.

But these days, if you want

to Google Tristan, you're not just going to find stats and quotes he said after the game. You're gonna find out how he and Khloe are having a girl and you're going to find out the fact that he's a recurring character in a reality television show.

And when someone dates or marries a K, there's been a curse. Lamar Odom went off the rails. Scott Disick parties too much. Kris Humphries, well, is he even still on the Hawks? So Tristan may be kissing the life of NBA luxury goodbye pretty soon, however, it's not like

money will be an issue.

Then again, are curses even real? Lamar's best basketball, and drug-free days, were largely before he settled down with Khloe. He was part of a prolific Lakers squad. He was an All-Star. He was a seasoned playoff contributor. And then, bam. He almost died from his drug addiction. His worsening NBA play was a direct correlation, I mean, was it not?



Matt Gad - Sports Writer

Briana Burt leading charge in hurdles



Senior Briana Burt during the hurdles this season.



Senior Briana Burt.

By Matt Gad

Briana Burt has been leading the charge in hurdles this season, her second since transferring from the University of Hartford. And this time, she is nationals bound.

"I made it into nationals at a higher seed than I thought so that's great," Burt said. "That was the end goal. It wasn't something I completely expected coming into Southern so now that it's actually happening is super amazing."

Burt qualified for nationals in the 60-meter hurdles and will join her teammate, Destiney Coward, and men's teammates

Yakabu Ibrahim, Michael Agyeman and Oghenefejiro Onakpoma in representing Southern Friday and Saturday in Pittsburg, Kansas.

Head Coach John Wallin said Burt went to Hartford to play soccer and compete in track and field but realized it would be better to just stick with track. Even though Hartford is a Division I program, he did not see it as a step down for her.

"We're a lot better than most of the Division I programs in the northeast," Wallin said. "There are definitely a couple that are better than us but generally speaking we're much better than the University of Hartford. Briana knew she wanted to go

to a better track program so she came to Southern."

In her first season as an Owl last year, Burt was All-Region in the 60- and 100-meter hurdles. At Hartford she broke their school record in both of the hurdle events she competed in. Coming out of Maloney High School, she participated in soccer, basketball and track and field.

"I've been to big meets before but I've never been to something this big," Burt said. "I have high expectations for the meet and for myself. At the beginning of the season I expected to run a certain time and in the first meet I hit it and it was crazy. It wasn't expected but it put me at the top

of the list for nationals so I kind of just rode that through to the end of the season."

Feb. 25 she competed at the Boston University Last Chance Meet and ran that time again to help solidify her nationals qualification. The Last Chance Meet is aptly named for providing student-athletes with one more opportunity to qualify for the NCAA Championship times.

"I didn't get to run the time that I really, really wanted to this season so that's kind of disappointing on my part but, relatively, I'm very close to the other competitors and I know that I can get to the goal that I set at the beginning of the year," Burt said.

Wallin said the things that are most impressive about Burt revolve around how she presents herself at practice, at the meets and just in terms of interpreting the information that the coaches give her.

"She fits in great and is a real team player. The best way to be is to just focus and work hard, be on time and make sure you're ready to compete," Wallin said. "The biggest thing for success on this team is showing up and being ready to compete and not crying about wins and losses. She's very smart, she works very hard and she has a great attitude. We love her."

Men's basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

potential impact Coleman could have for the team this season.

"We kind of knew that he was a great player so we pushed him a lot harder and were a lot harder on him because we knew how great he could be," said McLeod. And he took the challenge up and you can see they recognized him for it."

McLeod, a second-team all-conference selection, had a breakout season in his third year as an Owl. His 20.4 points per game made him the team's leading scorer, and was 8.6 points better than his sophomore season just a year ago. McLeod credited former teammate Mallory for his season to season improvement.

"I learned a lot of stuff from Mike watching him play. Just certain points of the game where he just decided that he's going to try to take over, you know, I tried to implement that in my game, said McLeod. "And at times I think I really did a great job at doing that."

Burrell said he believes McLeod was shorted in his NE-10 honor.

"I kind of think Isaiah should've had first team," said Burrell. "There's not many guys who average 20 points in the league for a winning team and he did that."

Burrell also said he was pleased with McLeod's leadership and shot selection throughout the season.

"I'll tell you what was great about Isaiah: He took great shots this year. He was poised, took great shots and lead our team. Being the best scorer on the team, sometimes people might take advantage of that, but he was part of the offense and he was a great fit for our team. I think people underestimated his stat line and didn't give him a chance. I think he should've been on that first team."

Lockett Jr. is the only Owl who earned an end-of-season NE-10 award that will not be returning to the roster next season. Lockett Jr. is set to graduate in the spring of 2018; however, he said he wants to play basketball for as long as he can and is eyeing professional opportunities overseas.



Senior Jerry Lockett Jr. No. 34, junior Isaiah McLeod No. 1, and freshman Ulyen Coleman No. 10.

"Right now I got to go through the process of trying to find an agent. Once I do that, I think that will get the ball rolling for me," said Lockett Jr.

The senior also said he realized he might have opportunities to continue playing basketball after college when he was in his second season.

"Playing basketball you just want to play as much as you can," said Lockett Jr. "I think my sophomore year I realized that if I really took it serious that I could have a chance of playing [at the next level]. With my height and athleticism and with the right coaches being there for me and guiding me, I knew that I could have a chance."

Burrell, a former first-round NBA draft pick and one-time NBA champion, also spent five seasons playing overseas in Japan, Spain, the Philippines and China. Burrell said that he goes about helping Lockett Jr find a suitable team through sending videos and reaching out to his many connections.

"It's a tough world when you leave college and try to play overseas, but I think Jerry's talented, I think Jerry's skilled, and I think Jerry can play wherever he wants. I think he's such a great player," said Burrell.

Lockett Jr., who averaged 14.8 points per game and 6.1 rebounds, in his senior season, said he is aware the competition at the next level will present a much greater challenge.

"Obviously, there's going to be a lot more competition because of the height and the strength of all the players," said Lockett Jr. "Of course you got guys who have been playing for a long time and there's no limit to the age; there's going to be a lot of experienced guys playing. I expect for it to be a process but I think that I can adapt to it with working hard and staying focused."

According to McLeod, working hard is not a new concept to Lockett Jr.

"He works out every day," said McLeod. "He wants to be great and you can really see it in him."

Shaquem Griffin dominates NFL Combine

By Kevin Crompton

Shaquem Griffin is more than just a great story. The former UCF linebacker with one hand has serious talent and the potential to hear his name called in the 2018 NFL draft.

Originally uninvited to the NFL Combine, Griffin has posted draw dropping numbers this weekend. A 4.38 second 40-yard dash time is not only the fastest time by any linebacker since the league began recording 40 times for linebackers in 2006, but it also makes Griffin the third fastest player to run the dash thus far in this year's combine. To put Griffin's speed into

perspective, Adrian Peterson (4.40), Ezekiel Elliot (4.47) and Odell Beckham Jr (4.43) each ran a slower time.

Speed is not the only impressive attribute the 227-pound linebacker possesses. When Griffin laid down on the bench press Saturday, strapped a prosthetic to the Olympic bar and took a deep breath before lifting the bar off the rack, he had a goal in his mind to bench the 225 pounds six times. He achieved his goal and so much more. 20 reps is the official number for Griffin's bench press, a better performance than 10 offensive linemen in the combine.

So he has strength, he has

speed and he can catch too? During drills on Sunday, Griffin continued to have no excuses. He caught the football cleanly using his right hand to help secure the ball against his left arm before tucking the ball away and sprinting down the sideline.

NFL draft projections pin Griffin going in the fifth or sixth round. Seattle Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman took to Twitter sharing his opinion on when the linebacker should hear his name called:

"If @Shaquemgriffin doesn't get drafted in the first two days the system is broken. Productive and performed well at the combine. Played well against

high level competition."

Aside from his stellar combine performance, Griffin does have some weaknesses. Shedding blocks is a challenge for him as is making tackles when he is unable to get a clean wrap on the ball carrier. The former American Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year possesses the instinct scouts are looking for in a linebacker. Griffin is not just a football player with one hand. He is a remarkable athlete with exceptional talent and is someone you should expect to see making plays on an NFL roster next season.



Kevin Crompton - Sports Editor

Women's basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

The Owls, 21-9, trailed Bentley after every quarter. They fell behind on a game-opening 7-0 run but Kate Lynch's squad opened the second half with an 11-3 run of their own.

"They got the best of us today but we didn't lose to a bad team," Lynch said. "We lost to a really good basketball team. [The tournament] didn't end how we wanted; we wanted to win it outright."

Stonehill defeated Bentley in the conference championship to earn the NE10's automatic NCAA Tournament bid. They are the top seed in the East Region.

The Owls are seeded eighth going into the opening rounds competition. If they win their March 9 game with Stonehill, they will advance into the regional semifinals the next day.

In 2007, Lynch was part of the program's only championship when the Owls defeated Florida Gulf Coast in the Division II national championship. That was Florida Gulf Coast's last game before moving to a Division I program.

That game finished as a 61-45 final and the Owls finished the season at 34-2. Lynch was awarded with the tournament's Most Outstanding Player award.

This year's postseason will conclude in Sioux Falls, San Diego. In addition to top-ranked Stonehill and the eighth-seeded Owls, the East Region's matchups also include No. 4 Saint Thomas Aquinas playing No. 5 Caldwell, No. 2 Bentley playing No. 7 Jefferson and No. 3 University of Sciences taking on No. 6 LIU Post.

The winner of the Owls-Stonehill game will play the winner of St. Thomas Aquinas-Caldwell in the second round and the winner of Bentley-Jefferson will play the winner of Sciences and LIU Post.



PHOTO | KEVIN CROMPTON

Senior guard Africa Williams shooting a free throw during Southern's semifinal game vs. Bentley.

Leonardo LaPorte qualifies for NCAA Championship



PHOTO | SOUTHERNOWLS.COM

Sophomore Leonard LaPorte during a race this season.

By Michael Riccio

Still new to the sport, sophomore Leonardo LaPorte has qualified for the 2018 NCAA Division II Swimming and Diving championships. He will be joined by junior Tyler Prescott.

LaPorte did not begin swimming until he was in eighth grade. He said his mother and a friend helped spark an interest in the sport.

"I was home alone because both my siblings were in college and my mom didn't want me to be home alone," LaPorte said. "She had me become friends with my friend's mom and she just put me in swimming so that I would have something to do."

A graduate of Washingtonville High School in New York, LaPorte was named the MVP of his team before enrolling at Southern. In his first season as a college swimmer, he was an NE-10 Conference champion in the 200 medley relay, 800 freestyle relay and 400 medley relay.

This season, LaPorte placed first in the 200 butterfly at the NE-10 Championships, as the men's and women's team both won championship titles. Head coach of the men's and women's team Tim Quill said he was excited for his swimmers. Since he has been on the losing end before, he said it is nice to see all the swimmers' work pay off.

"It's a testament to all the hard work they put in throughout the year and it's great for our program," Quill said. "I like to believe we have some type of tradition of excellence here based upon our previous performances in conference championships."

LaPorte also finished first in the 100 fly at the ECAC Championship and second in the 200 fly while being the only swimmer from a Division II school. The field included swimmers from Virginia, Navy, Penn, Columbia and North Carolina State. LaPorte said he was excited about his performance at ECACs; but not because of placing first.

"It was cool to beat guys from Navy and Virginia but I was mostly excited with my time because my time got me into nationals," LaPorte said.

This season, Southern has competed against local Division I schools Yale and UConn and New York schools Iona and Marist. Against Marist, LaPorte won the 100 butterfly by nearly two seconds. He said he wants to compete against Division I schools because it helps himself swim faster.

"You realize how fast these swimmers are and they're coming from schools who have a lot of talent," LaPorte said. "You're swimming against better talent than you and it just helps you know how to race better and more efficient and help you win."

Quill, who has coached the Southern swim team for the last 19 years and has coached 116 NCAA All-Americans, said LaPorte is already one of the best swimmers he has coached at the school.

"He's the second fastest butterfly in Southern history only to Ben Michaelson, who was a Pan American Games gold medalist and 10-time NCAA national champion," Quill said.

Michaelson, who currently holds the school record for the 100-meter butterfly ahead of LaPorte, was a three-time NCAA DII Swimmer of the Year from 1999-2003. He ranked 11 in the world for the men's 100 long course meter fly in 2003 and placed third in the 100-meter fly at the United States Olympic Trials in 2004.

Assistant Coach C.J. Moran said with all the success LaPorte has had, he anticipates that he can have a leader on the team.

"We're hoping that he will take on a leadership role now too and be a good role model for the other kids on the team," Moran said.

Moran said he has been impressed by how much LaPorte has improved because he did not begin swimming at an early age. Moran said he thinks LaPorte can still improve his abilities

over the next two years as well.

"I think he's still learning how to swim because he is fairly new to the sport," Moran said. "We've seen a lot of improvement from senior year in high school to freshman year to sophomore year, which is impressive because he's approaching some times where it's difficult to make strides in."

LaPorte credits teammates for helping him reach his capabilities as swimmer as well, particularly upperclassmen.

"A lot of the upperclassman from my high school and from here have really been able to get me out of my comfort zone so I can swim the best I can," LaPorte said.

Quill and Moran both have big expectations for LaPorte in the future, especially for the national championship, and are confident he will be able to perform well.

"This is a situation where there's going to be at least 20 athletes there just as good or better than him," Quill said. "But if ECACs last weekend was any indicator, I think he's going to do really well. Things are looking pretty good for him."

Moran said LaPorte, and Prescott, continue to work hard in preparation for the national championship. Moran said if they continue their preparation, both can receive more recognition at the end of the year.

"If they can swim faster than they have then they have a good chance to come back and be All-Americans," Moran said.

LaPorte said swimming has impacted his life immensely. He said it taught him to be more disciplined in the classroom and gives him an "ultimatum and an obligation to do better" in school.

"I've been able to vent through swimming; my mood has just changed," LaPorte said. "Even though practice can suck a lot, if I go to practice upset about anything, after practice it just improves my mood and I come out with a smile on my face."

Women's basketball vs. Bentley



Southern bench watching the action during the semifinal game vs. Bentley.

PHOTO | KEVIN CROMPTON



PHOTO | KEVIN CROMPTON

Senior Abby Hurlbert prepares for a free throw as a Bentley player prepares for a rebound.



PHOTO | KEVIN CROMPTON

Freshman Miranda Crenshaw (left to right), sophomore Kiana Steinauer and senior Page Decker prepare for inbound pass.



PHOTO | KEVIN CROMPTON

Senior guard Murphy Murad setting up the offense during the semifinal game.

NE-10 Baseball standings

OVERALL
GP RECORD WIN %

NORTHEAST DIVISON

MERRIMACK	10	6-4-0	0.600
STONEHILL	5	4-1-0	0.800
SO. NEW HAMPSHIRE	9	7-2-0	0.778
FRANKLIN PIERCE	8	5-2-1	0.688
SAINT ANSELM	9	4-5-0	0.444
ASSUMPTION	8	3-5-0	0.375
BENTLEY	7	1-6-0	0.143
SAINT MICHAEL'S	4	0-4-0	0.000

SOUTHWEST DIVISON

AMERICAN INT'L	2	2-0-0	1.000
NEW HAVEN	6	6-0-0	1.000
PACE	2	2-0-0	1.000
SO. CONNECTICUT	7	5-2-0	0.714
LE MOYNE	12	8-4-0	0.667
SAINT ROSE	7	4-3-0	0.571

NE-10 Softball Standings

OVERALL
GP RECORD WIN %

NORTHEAST DIVISON

SO. NEW HAMPSHIRE	6	6-0-0	1.000
MERRIMACK	6	5-1-0	0.833
ASSUMPTION	3	2-1-0	0.667
SAINT ANSELM	12	7-5-0	0.583
BENTLEY	5	1-4-0	0.200
FRANKLIN PIERCE	6	0-6-0	0.000
STONEHILL	0	0-0-0	0.000
SAINT MICHAEL'S	0	0-0-0	0.000

SOUTHWEST DIVISON

LE MOYNE	8	7-1-0	0.875
NEW HAVEN	5	3-2-0	0.600
ADELPHI	11	2-9-0	0.182
SAINT ROSE	6	1-5-0	0.167
SO. CONNECTICUT	0	0-0-0	0.000

Awards shows are frivolous, dated

By **Chloe Gorman**

With awards season coming to a close soon, it is time to reflect on just how ridiculous they are.

I love movies and TV shows just as much as the next person, but I cannot get into the idea of award shows like the Oscars, Grammys and others.



PHOTO | PRAYITNO FLICKR

Oscars statuettes.

It is great to celebrate artistic achievements, but the fanfare and anticipation of each event can sometimes overshadow what the show is really about. Not to mention, these shows tend to be controversial and overall awkward.

Whether it is not enough representation throughout categories or new movements using these shows as a platform to propagate their messages, award shows have become way more than just congratulating actors on a job well done.

Not to mention, award shows are expensive. According to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences annual report, the 2015 Oscars ceremony cost \$42.7 million.

No expense is spared even down to the hand-designed envelopes at the 2014 ceremony that cost \$200 a piece according to Mashable. With all of the money being spent on these events, one would expect more people to care.

Although foundations like the Grammy Foundation have been developed "to cultivate the understanding, appreciation and advancement of the contribution of recorded music to American culture," according to its website, there is no doubt that the show itself is king.

What is really being celebrated are the actors, actresses and musical artists. In other the words, the country's rich and famous. While these performances do warrant this celebration, the garish display is way to overstated.

Also, many people just do not care about these shows.

A HuffPost/YouGov poll of 1,000 adults revealed that 68 percent of people do not care about the Grammys, Oscars, or Emmys. That is a significant number and shows that awards shows are no longer the center of the public's attention.

Yes, shows like this are platforms for causes like Time's Up, #MeToo and other recent movements, but does anything actually come from these displays? It is unclear whether or not there has been significant change as a result of celebrities bringing up various issues within Hollywood.

Overall, I'll continue to skip out on awards shows because there is nothing that piques my interest. Even when I have liked some of the films nominated, it does not matter which wins because my opinion is not swayed by reviews or ratings or awards, but by the subject matter, actors and overall entertainment value.

Police brutality, race and an urgent need for change

By **Mary Rudzis**

Police brutality is not a new topic, and both citizens and police officers have made efforts to change the culture of horrific acts being committed against civilians by cops.

In Harris County, Texas, inmate Christopher Johnson claims that he was assaulted by deputies. He smiled in his mugshot, and they choked him for about 30 seconds.

Johnson was arrested in 2015 on suspicion of drunk driving, and his attorney stated that Johnson was berated for smiling in his mugshot.

An officer in Columbus, Ohio, was seen on video kicking a suspect while the suspect was on the ground. That officer has since been reinstated.

Philando Castile was killed by a police officer in 2016 at a traffic stop. After he was asked for his license and registration, the officer, Jeronimo Yanez, shot Castile multiple times and killed him.

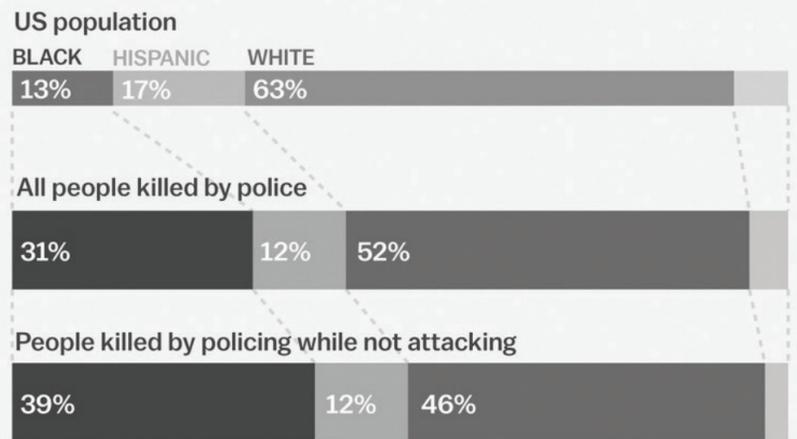
In 2012, George Zimmerman fatally shot Trayvon Martin in Miami Gardens, Florida. Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch volunteer, thought that Martin appeared suspicious and reported him to the Sanford Police. Martin had purchased a bag of Skittles and Arizona iced tea and was walking back by himself to visit his father's fiancée. He was 17.

These instances, among others, set an unfortunate precedent and it is important to recognize that this is a chronic problem. According to Mapping Police Violence, fewer than one in three black people killed by police in America in 2014 were suspected of a violent crime and allegedly armed. Also, 99 percent of cases in 2015 have not resulted in any officer(s) involved being convicted of a crime.

It appears based on statistics in the graph to the right that police kill a disproportionate number of black people; police brutality is an issue with many facets and one of the major factors certainly is race.

Not only is it necessary to use protests and contacting representatives to change this, but it is also important for police forces to acknowledge this problem and take meaningful and active steps to reduce harm. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, 52 percent of police officers report that it is not unusual for law enforcement officials to turn a blind eye to improper conduct

Police kill a disproportionate number of black people



Data from the FBI's 2012 Supplementary Homicide Report

PHOTO | DARA LIND, VOX

Graph made from FBI statistics showing who police killed in 2012.

of other officers.

Police are meant to protect and serve and while there are police departments across the country that are working to improve, there must be an environment created and sustained that fosters a desire to change and will be supportive as departments across the country go through structural changes to ensure the safety of all the citizens they are meant to protect.

SOUTHERN NEWS

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Opinion Columns are 500 to 800 words and Letters to the Editor are a maximum of 400 words. They must include the writer's name and phone number for verification. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, spelling, content and length.

PHOTO

TIMBER! Storm downs several trees on campus

By Palmer Piana



Southern Facilities Operations vehicle loaded up with tree debris Monday morning.



Broken tree in the ResLife quad after Friday's storm.



Tractor on the scene of the clean up.



Southern Facilities Operations worker cleaning debris off of the sidewalk.



Workers cutting up the fallen tree to transport them away.



Tree trunk snapped by the wind.