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State covers cost of COVID-19 testing Southern granted \$25 million for PPE sanitization equipment

By Madeline S. Scharf
Reporter

Weekly COVID-19 testing has become a staple for students living on campus. While the students can get tests without paying out of pocket, testing is not free.

According to Vice President for Student Affairs Tracy Tyree, each test is not cheap. “Griffin Health is providing these tests,” said Tyree. “I believe the cost is \$106 per test.”

Based on Southern’s website, there are 960 students living on campus who need to be tested. Without considering commuters, this is a weekly bill of around a quarter of a million dollars. How is this bill afforded?

“The state of Connecticut is covering the cost of our surveillance testing for residential and commuter students,” said Tyree via e-mail interview. According to the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, in April 2020, \$230 million dollars was dedicated to testing in the state.

In this fund, colleges were granted \$25 million for PPE, sanitization equipment, and other non-testing related pandemic costs.

While regular students are covered of by the state, there is another group of students who must go in for additional testing.

The university has kept the athletics department running during the 2020-2021 fall and spring semesters. This means

games continue to run and teams still regularly gather for practice.

Giovanni D’Onofrio, the assistant athletics director of fiscal affairs, spoke on why athletes are tested more. “We have to follow our local conference protocol. The students are tested once a week and less than 72 hours after a contest with another school.”

With all this testing, the athletics department is

looking to ensure students’ safety while continuing the program. It is nearly impossible to stay the recommended 6 feet from one another, so additional testing is a necessity to keep every team safe.

However, athletics testing differs from regular testing. “The testing is through Yale,” D’Onofrio said, “and the payment comes from the student Athletics Department.” The cost of testing through

Yale is a staggering difference, with this test only costing \$25. However, the bill is no longer for the government, but for the school’s athletics department itself.

Some may question why Southern would keep the athletics program open if it incurs this additional cost, however, men’s basketball player Isaiah Boissard feels that it is best to keep the program open and alive. “The Athletics Department

is why I came to Southern,” said Boissard. “I have made so many connections through it. Lifelong friends, amazing coaches, it means a lot.”

Boissard is proud of the care Southern has put into its consistent testing. “Weekly testing keeps us as safe as possible,” said Boissard. Financial cost is less important in his eyes. Boissard said, “If testing means people can stay on campus and for us (student athletes) to do things as a team? That’s worth the cost.”

Regular students also find the weekly testing a comfort. Sociology major Rain Iaccarino, a freshman, has found the testing a huge positive. “I support it,” said Iaccarino. “I like it because it lowers the risk of having a COVID outbreak.”

The lack of cost to students is also a positive. “I appreciate that it is free,” Iaccarino said. If testing were not free, Iaccarino says it would be difficult to convince others to pay for the weekly procedure, which at the \$106 cost would quickly wrack up a high bill.”



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Members of the Rugby team gathering in the academic quad, wearing masks and following guidelines.

Mold found in Schwartz Hall

By Donovan Wilson
Reporter

Residents in Schwartz Hall found mold in their room last semester and thought it was taken care of until arriving back this semester and finding that they are still experiencing these problems.

Health and safety within residential dorms is a major place of concern for all colleges and Southern is no exception to that rule. Southern has their own environmental health and safety department which is run by Lisa Kortfelt. This department is employed to look into any environmental health and safety concerns including but not limited to mold in students’ dorm rooms.

“We found mold in our room last semester,” said biochemistry major Aleah O’Brady, a sophomore and Schwartz Hall resident, “it was sprayed last semester but it’s still there and nothing was said of it until we did.”

O’Brady and her roommate said they noticed the presence of mold in their room last semester and it was sprayed and determined not an issue in a timely manner at the time. However, after break and a presumed health and safety inspection, they returned to the room to find that the mold in both their room and their bathroom had persisted and had not been taken care of or accounted for. They have continued to fight against it as O’Brady’s roommate continues to get sick from the mold but rather than the mold be properly taken care of or removed, the two are just being moved into a new room as of right now.

O’Brady has properly informed the correct people. Her and her roommate have informed all of the issues to their RA who reached out to the head of their building as they are having their room moved. Anays Cruz-Alonso, director of

Schwartz Residence Hall, at the time of writing this story, was not aware of the current extension of this situation.

“As Rob stated in the email, there was a suspicion but this was inspected by the Director of Environmental Health and Safety, Lisa Kortfelt, as well as a certified mold contractor determined that no mold was present,” said Cruz-Alonso.

The point of miscommunication between the students and the higher ups seems to happen with the persisting mold. Speaking with both Cruz-Alonso and Robert DeMezzo, head of residence life, and they both had all the information on the original complaint from last semester but had no idea about the current incident of persisting mold. It is to be inferred that some sort of miscommunication was happening between O’Brady and her Resident Advisor and any higher

up that was supposed to be involved.

“It’s not me really that has the health concerns, it was more for [my roommate] because she has a bunch of allergies and stuff,” O’Brady said.

“It didn’t really affect me; she’s the one that sleeps underneath it – they sprayed some kind of paint onto it and it was falling onto her. So that kind of caused her to get sick and go home.” While it would seem Kortfelt and her team had determined this mold did not pose significant health risks, mold exposure or mold sensitivities can cause rashes and respiratory concerns like wheezing and congestion. According to the CDC, “those with allergies to mold or with asthma may have more intense reactions.” These intense reactions may include fever, shortness of breath, and perhaps severe illness such as pulmonary fibrosis.

Alumnus’ new book

By Madeline S. Scharf
Reporter

Southern alumni Ryan Meyer has officially published his second collection of poems, *Tempest*. A departure from his first book, *Haunt*, which focused more on a thrilling, dark, horror, theme, Meyer focused this second book on identity and finding the truth about oneself.

“This book focused on innate anxieties,” Meyer said, “And a fear of the unknown.”

Initially, Meyer came to Southern as a secondary education major. “I switched from secondary education to media studies and English,” said Meyer.

As well as pursuing a double major, Meyer got involved outside of classes. Reflecting on his time at Southern, Meyer said, “I was president at Bookmarks. I had a lot going on.”

Despite all this pressure, Meyer found his time in Southern to be a good one. When looking back, he said, “My time at Southern was great. I was a bit overworked but to other students I would say get involved, but don’t overdo it.”

While at Southern, Meyer was part of an independent study. During this study, Meyer was encouraged to develop his style by Vivian Shipley. Meyer speaks fondly of his experience with Shipley, saying, “she always pushed me to

be scarier.” His time in independent studies helped him make his first book, *Haunt*.

Over email, Shipley, a distinguished CSU Professor, spoke highly of Meyer and his work. “Ryan was a good student, very talented and a pleasure to have in poetry workshop,” Shipley said. “Students like Ryan are the reason I have taught for 52 years.”

It was not only *Haunt* that was created at Southern. “A lot of *Tempest*’s poems were written at Southern,” said Meyer. “We were encouraged to write more literary focused poems.” Quite a few of the poems he wrote for classes are now included in his newest volume.

The shift from his previous book of dark, horror-inspired poems to poems about identity and the truth of oneself is a big leap. Even Meyer’s logo color has changed during this shift, from a black bat to pink. Meyers attributes this shift to many changes in his life. “Between *Haunt* and *Tempest*, I went through a lot of life changes. I came out, got a job,” Meyer said, “everything sort of fell into place.”

One thing that has stayed consistent in his writing, however, is how music has made a difference between the young author. “Music is a huge inspiration to me,” said Meyer. “A few poems in *Haunt* were inspired by various songs.”

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PHOTO | BRIJA KIRKLAND

Outside of Schwartz Hall where students found mold in thier room.

New registration program to aid students' class search

By Caitlin O'Halloran
Reporter

Registration for the Fall 2021 semester is about to begin for students, with an increase in in-person classes.

"I'd rather have in-person classes if I could," says nursing major Hannah Stahlbrodt, a junior. "I learn better in-person than online."

Summer registration will begin on March 22 and Fall registration will begin on April 5.

Fall registration will begin with graduate students, followed by post-Baccalaureates and then will move on to seniors who have obtained a certain number of credits, and so on.

Students can find the number of credits they have earned on their unofficial transcript on BannerWeb before meeting with their advisors to receive their pin.

This semester, there were more in-person and hybrid courses available to students than last semester and since the beginning of the pandemic when everything was transitioned last March to

an online format.

"Right now, if you look at the breakdown of what is on the schedule for fall, we are at about 70 percent on-ground and the rest are either hybrid or fully online and so that's a little higher percentage than we would have in a pre-COVID environment, typically we would have something closer to 85 percent fully on-ground," says Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management, Julie Edstrom.

In a recent survey on American college students done by Inside Higher Ed, data showed that more than half of those surveyed believe universities should have hybrid courses and 22 percent believed universities should allow students to return to in-person classes completely.

When it comes to registration, there have been situations in the past where it takes a while for the website to load, and students have run into issues with registering online.

The company that owns BannerWeb has been working with the university to help resolve the issue where the

website may freeze while students are trying to register for their classes.

Edstrom said that was the reason they've switched the registration process from a by year basis, to organizing by number of credits a student has, is to have a less overwhelming number of people all trying to register at once.

"Overall, I'm pretty happy about it," said biology major Tori Larovera, a junior. "I miss class interaction and stuff like that, I learn better in-person. Obviously, it's a concern about COVID but I have high hopes for it."

With 70 percent of classes being transitioned back to campus, SCSU will have to continue its plan for monitoring student's health, to be prepared to contain cases and the plan to shut down if it needs to.

Classes for the fall semester will begin on Aug. 23 continuing to Dec. 14.

Faculty receive a free COVID-19 test and continue to social distance, wear masks, and follow other safety precautions are the key to a good semester, according to Inside Southern.



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

New Schedule Planner program that helps students with registration.

SCSU now offers a new schedule planner on Inside Southern. This planner helps students find a class schedule that works for them.

The schedule planner offers an improved registration plug in courses the student needs and reviews the schedule options, helps

balance learning with life by adding customized breaks around student's lifestyles and supports on-time graduation by maximizing credit hours, utilizing the degree plan and preloading the course schedule the student favors to prepare for scheduling.

"Things are looking

positive in terms of the rate of vaccination, infection rates and so on. Obviously, we're going to be monitoring that so as we get later in the spring and early summer, we'll look and make sure that we continue to feel good about providing a more of an on-ground experience in the fall," said Edstrom.

Book

Continued from Page 1

One thing that has stayed consistent in his writing, however, is how music has made a difference within the young author. "Music is a huge inspiration to me," said Meyer. "A few poems in Haunt were inspired by various songs."

For *Tempest*, one band stands out for him. "I open *Tempest* with a quote from Deftones," said Meyer with a smile, "the title of the collection it is actually inspired by a

song of theirs, *Tempest*."

Much of the poetry Meyer writes is personal, from the heart. A lot of time and effort went into each poem. Many lessons can be drawn from each one, but a few important ones stand out for Meyer. "I hope readers are inspired to embrace who they are," Meyer said. "We are all fluid and everchanging," Meyer hopes his poems will inspire people to be more accepting of themselves and more inviting of change.

Meyer also hope that his poems will be like starting blocks for others to explore the realm of

poetic literature. "I hope this book gets readers to explore more poetry," said Meyer. "There are such amazing work out there, by many different types of people."

Meyer is now looking towards what his future holds. He is excited to further explore more literary pathways, branching out from his two poetry collections. "I really hope to write a novel," said Meyer, "but, definitely, I want to write more."

Both of Meyer's works, *Haunt* and *Tempest*, are available online via Amazon and at local bookshops.



PHOTO COURTESY | RYAN MEYER

Ryan Meyer, Southern alumnus and poet. Author of *Tempest*.

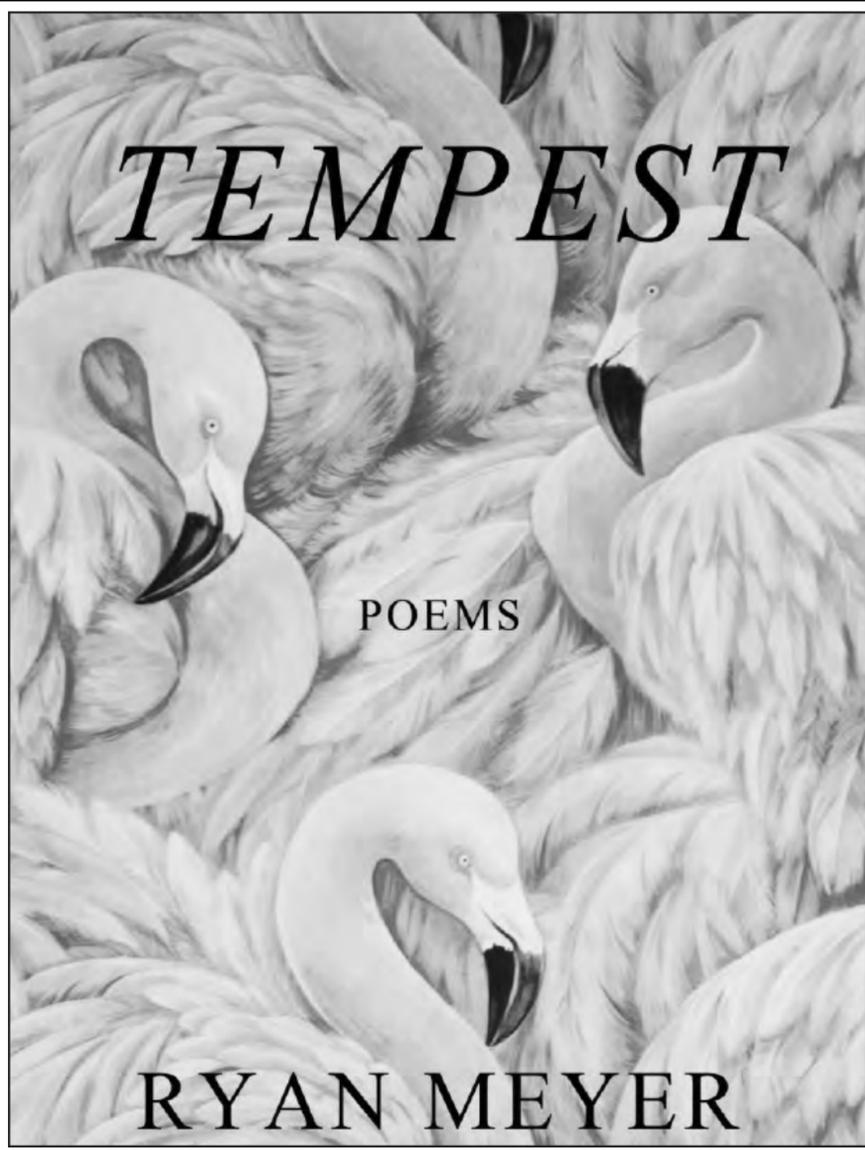


PHOTO COURTESY | RYAN MEYER

Cover of Ryan Meyer's new poetry book.

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No spring break causes more stress for students



By Abby Epstein
Managing Editor
These are the opinions of The Southern News Editorial Staff

Spring break should be two weeks away, but not this semester. Last semester, an email composed by Vice President for Student Affairs Tracee Tyree was sent out by Patrick Dilger informing students spring break would be canceled.

On March 5, an email composed by Dean of Students Jules Tetrault was sent by Dilger reminding students that March 15-21 is no longer the break many look forward to. With the pandemic, it made sense to cancel spring break. Many

students do go out of state and it would be impossible to keep track of students, which would most likely result in having to quarantine residential students.

I am glad that the university decided to add an extra week at winter break to make up for the lost week in March. Other schools that took away spring break decided that school would end a week earlier, which I would have preferred because going from January to May without a break is a

long while.

I did a story earlier this semester on how students felt about not having many breaks this semester and many were happy to be home with family and friends for a week longer. They also mentioned how it was three weeks into the semester and stress was setting in. Knowing that there is no break until school ends seemed to be draining to them.

Fall semester seemed to be cut short because students were sent home at Thanksgiving to finish

classes virtually. Many students were home before winter break started and I personally started break the second I hopped on a plane.

The decision to take away spring break was smart because it is a health and safety issue for the entire university community. Many students understand why the university made the decision to get rid of spring break. Spring break is usually the break students receive either after midterms which allows them to

decompress after a stressful week. If it is the week before midterms, then it gives students time to clear their heads and time to study without having to worry about attending class.

This year has been full of changes and adapting to new situations. Students have known there is not going to be a spring break this semester, giving them time to mentally prepare.

However, when finals start, I am sure many students are going to wish they had a spring break.

Carbon dividends: a tax that everyone can embrace

By Derek Faulkner
Contributor

The economic crisis brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic introduced a myriad of negative impacts on individuals, families, businesses and communities. Certain sectors were hit especially hard, but the woes of record high unemployment and business closures rippled through our economy, leaving behind widespread of financial uncertainty.

To mitigate these effects felt throughout the nation, Congress passed the first stimulus package in the spring, including direct payments to citizens.

Despite debate over the amount, the House & Senate will be voting on another package early in 2021. As 2020 came to a close, Senator Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) took to the Senate floor supporting the proposed increase from \$600 to \$2,000 emergency relief checks for citizens. As the next Congress inevitably confronts another crisis—climate change—cash payments in the form of dividends may play a key role in another bipartisan effort.

To stop the devastating effects of a warming planet due to climate change, the world needs to shift away from fossil fuels and greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This major change doesn't need to cause an economic crisis:

the transition can be gradually accomplished by putting a price on carbon and relying on dividends (direct cash payments) to ensure citizens directly benefit from the tax rather than simply paying higher bills.

Increasing taxes typically fuels hesitation and opposition amongst citizens. But taxing carbon may be a necessary step in mitigating GHG emissions. Carbon dividends may offer a bipartisan pathway forward with carbon pricing. At the end of 2020, this market-based strategy has already garnered wide support in the form of the Economists' Statement on Carbon Dividends. The impressive list of signatories includes Dr. Samuel Andoh and Dr.

Sang Yoon, professors of economics at Southern.

The concept of putting a price on carbon is not new. This cost may take the form of a carbon tax or a cap-and-trade system. A carbon tax applies a fee to a specific unit of carbon dioxide released by the energy industry, expressed in dollars per ton. A cap-and-trade program designates a gradually decreasing limit (cap) over time to the amount of carbon emitted. The trading portion of this strategy allows an emitter to exceed that limit by purchasing extra credits/permits from another emitter who has remained below the limit. These methods have been criticized for their potential to create job loss and to enable a business-

as-usual approach to carbon emissions. Andoh describes these market-based approaches as the least disruptive method of reducing emissions and specifically references recent success stories in the UK, Sweden, and Ireland.

The various carbon pricing bills submitted to Congress propose a range of prices per ton, different rates of price increases or limit decreases, and varying fuels targeted for the fee and/or cap. Citizen's Climate Lobby, a national non-profit organization, supports the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763). The key to this strategy is the addition of dividends to the proposal. This means that the revenue collected through a carbon tax is

equally distributed back to citizens and potentially quells the critique for carbon taxes and caps. Dr. Sang favors the focus on incentives with this approach and foresees this lasting for the long-term. Paying this tax back to the consumer creates a win-win situation that crosses political party boundaries.

Congress needs to put a price on pollution, just like the price on any other waste we deal with. This tax and dividend system is a transparent and widely supported solution that will keep the economy running and directly benefit households. Just like the cash payments successfully used in one crisis, let's use a similar methodology to tackle the looming crisis of climate change.

How the social justice bubble affects students

By Jose Vega
Contributor

Colleges and universities should be a place that exposes students to new ideas to them become well-rounded professionals. Living in a campus bubble of any kind is a hindrance to that very goal.

While SCSU in no way actively silences or diminishes students' voices across campus, it does foster this political bubble set towards a more left-leaning political agenda.

In many different

courses on campus, topics of conversation or discussion tend to have some sort of relation to social justice. This relationship is not bad, it teaches youth about important issues that are facing our more underprivileged communities.

However, you don't know you're living within a political or cultural bubble until you step out of it. This is because students have like-minded trains of thought and those opinions are bounced off the walls of the bubble and back at

the students solidifying it, creating a place where the majority opinion outweighs the opinion of someone who might think differently.

Mainly because inherently politics is filled with some of the most controversial and emotionally charged issues of our generation.

This social justice bubble Southern lives in makes it uncomfortable and sometimes scary for students to share their political opinions. Especially if they are anything outside what

would be considered a liberal Democrat.

The 2020 survey called Student Voice conducted by Inside Higher Ed and Colle Pulse revealed that while 67% of college students surveyed said they feel fully or somewhat comfortable sharing their opinions in class, it is more true for left-leaning students than right-leaning students.

The report stated: "More than two-thirds of students either strongly (28 percent) or somewhat (39 percent) agree that they feel comfortable sharing

opinions in their classes. That's more true for liberal students than for right-leaning ones, with 74 percent of those identifying as "strong Democrats" and 53 percent of "strong Republicans" agreeing.

In a predominantly left-leaning campus such as Southern, this type of shielding from a difference of opinion or outside perspective can have a negative impact on students after college.

It is especially dangerous if this happens on a college campus where we are meant to be exposed to

different values in order to become active yet responsible professionals moving forward.

Fostering a certain level of ignorance towards certain political opinions is not only detrimental to students' critical thinking skills, but it also hampers their ability to compromise and we end up with more of what we already have.

Men and women too stuck in their tunnel vision way of thinking are more worried about toeing party lines instead of pushing our country forward as a whole.

SOUTHERN NEWS

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PHOTO

COVID-19 safety precautions on campus



The Adanti Student Center still has plexiglas to separate students while eating.



Connecticut Hall has ready-to-eat dishes to hand out to students.



The Owl Perch is closed until the end of the semester.

By Roma Rositani
Photo Editor

The campus has endured an abundance of change. The Owl Perch will remain closed until the end of the semester. Plexiglas is still

on the tables of both the Adanti Student Center and Connecticut Hall. Water fountains still remain closed off and elevators have a two-person amplitude to reduce contact between people. Students wear

masks to help contain the spread of COVID-19 in the academic halls, resident halls and cafeterias. Cleaning is done throughout the day so students do not spread germs through touching objects.



Water fountains stay covered to decrease spread of COVID-19.



Elevators remain at a two-person capacity to reduce contact.



Buley Library sign to remind students and faculty to keep masks on.

Hughes has value out of bullpen

Baseball pitcher credits success to Owls and summer league

By Mike Neville
Sports Editor

A three-time all-conference player at E.C. Goodwin Tech high school and a top-rated prospect in the collegiate summer league, pitcher Tommy Hughes has established quite the name for himself.

Baseball has been the center of Hughes' life since he was five years old, and he has worked his way to the college level.

"Baseball has been a stress reliever, I focus most of my time around it and it's one of the most fun things I do," said Hughes, a junior.

Growing up, watching his brother and neighbors playing catch and pick-up games inspired Hughes to step up to the plate.

"They are all five to 10 years older than me and I would watch them play and try and mock everything they did," said Hughes.

As a pitcher, catcher and shortstop in high school, Hughes made the transition to a full-time pitcher when he came to Southern.

The overall feeling of being welcomed into a positive atmosphere on campus is why Hughes said he became an Owl.

"Southern was one of the first schools that invited me up for a visit. I liked the campus. The camp I attended made the decision very easy," said Hughes.

The values and athleticism that make up Hughes are a few qualities

head coach Tim Shea said made him want Hughes to play for the Owls.

"He comes from a good family, he filled the role of pitcher and shortstop and the pitching side took off for him," said Shea. "We knew he would develop more and he has a plus curveball which is a pitch that translates well at our level."

Hughes became a full-time pitcher after his freshman year with the Owls that would then lead to opportunities to play at an even higher level.

In 2019, Hughes played for the Bristol Blues at Muzzy Field, where the likes of Babe Ruth and Jim Rice have hit towering home runs and in 2020, for the New Britain Bees, a former independent league team and now a member of the Futures Collegiate Baseball League.

"The Bristol Blues was my first summer as just a pitcher, so I had to get used to the lifestyle of arm care and not have to work about hitting or any of that," said Hughes. "The coaches were very helpful and helped us a lot with the little things."

The level of play was higher with New Britain than Bristol and more opportunities presented themselves to Hughes.

"A lot of summer leagues were shut down so it was a shocker facing some guys from the top five conferences and having to learn to not just throw but be an elite pitcher," said Hughes.

As a member of the Bees, Hughes was teammates with some of the top collegiate players

in the nation.

His Owls teammates, like Zach Bedryczuk appreciate having a light like Hughes on the team to cheer them on during games and guide them through the rigors when things get tough.

"He's a great teammate, he's easy going and he's always one of the first ones there to greet you and celebrate with you," said Bedryczuk.

Besides being a great teammate and team

player, Hughes also brings valuable assets to the Owls like an impressive pitch command.

"His command, just knowing you can trust him and that he will come in and throw strikes," said Bedryczuk.

Knowing Hughes from high school and AAU, Bedryczuk said that Hughes has what it takes to go far with his game.

"I've been in contact him for a while and he's a very driven player

and that will take him far in the future," said Bedryczuk.

No matter what the future holds, Hughes said the sky is the limit with where his career will take him.

"I believe I can play after college," Hughes said, "if not major league opportunities, it can be independent league or that sort of thing. I am looking forward to the road ahead and whatever happens, happens."



Tommy Hughes during a Bristol Blues game during the 2019 season.

PHOTO COURTESY | MIKE GRAZZI WWW.BRISTOLPRESS.COM



MLB bringing back fans

Column by Mike Neville
Sports Editor

There will be a sense of normalcy for baseball fans after all as Major League Baseball announced that stadiums will be hosting fans this season.

As spring training is currently underway, Cactus League teams in Arizona and Grapefruit League teams like the Red Sox and Yankees across Florida have slowly started to bring fans back.

Fans have not been able to grace the bleachers of their home team since the 2019 season before COVID-19 came to fruition. The 2020 season saw only cardboard cutouts in the bleachers and fans were only able to attend playoff games.

The number of fans allowed into games this season is few and far between, with the Red Sox allowing 30 percent capacity and the Detroit Tigers only allowing three percent of fans to games.

Although this doesn't seem like a lot at all right now, it is a step in the right direction for the usual 50,000 plus fans that pile into a Major League Stadium.

The prices to begin the season for Yankees and Red Sox games are through the roof. Outfield bleacher seats which usually go for just \$30 are expected to be over \$100.

Bringing fans back even with a small capacity crowd is a step in the right direction for baseball and sports alike.

Baseball stadiums like Coors Field, one of the biggest stadiums in the MLB, can easily spread out fans, making it safer to social distance for games.

The Tampa Bay Rays, who play at Tropicana Field, will host 7,000 fans a game, which they should be used to since they were barely able to bring that number in during the pre-COVID-19 era.

The only two teams that will not allow fans to begin the season are the 2019 World Series Champions the Washington Nationals and the team North of the Boarder, the Toronto Blue Jays, who will have their home games in Florida.

This is huge for not only baseball fans but sports fans alike as it shows that the world finally may have a grip on COVID-19.

Lacrosse optimistic of future

By Edward Rudman
Sports Writer

A competitive spring season for women's lacrosse is on the horizon, as COVID-19 protocols put in place by the university have proven to be effective enough to let the programs compete.

Their first game is fast approaching, set for

Wednesday, March 17 at Jess Dow Field, and the Owls will be facing Elm City rival University of New Haven to kick off the season.

"We've been training kind of more like a football mentality, getting in shape and then rep the plays kind of thing, because we need to," said Head Coach Keven Siedlecki. "I feel like we're in pretty good shape now. We just had three

full days of practice where we actually played against each other and that really exposed where we still need to work."

The team's preseason has been unorthodox compared to prior seasons. The protocols in place to slow the spread of the virus does not give the full freedom experienced in the past. In response to this, Siedlecki emphasized

the conditioning aspect of training in the beginning phases of practice, since they could still train at a high level for it.

"Overall, I think it's worked out well in terms of our conditioning numbers," said Siedlecki. "Our fitness test numbers are actually far better than they've been in the past, part of that is our great class of 12 freshman."

In years prior, Siedlecki said the average number of athletes on the team was around 17 and a class of 12 first-year students will add a level of depth to the program.

"I saw the team when my older sister was a part of it, so I've seen the program from a fan perspective and now as a player. I've seen how much it's changed and size of the team is one of the biggest differences," said team captain Bayleigh Takacs. "We have seven more girls on the team than we did last year, which is awesome because it means more teammates, more fresh legs on the fields, and more players to rotate in."

Since becoming head coach in 2019, Siedlecki has been trying to change the culture and implement a mentality that a winning

program should have. He had high praise for the captains of the team,

"They bought in so much to what I want to do with the program. They are the liaison between me and the rest of the team," said Siedlecki. "We have a large roster now, I'm the only full-time coach so with a roster of 26, I can't keep track of everybody, every day. They are responsible and have really stepped up to make sure everyone's doing okay. I couldn't have asked for better leadership in this situation."

The Owls went 2-15 during the 2019 season and showed a small sample size of the progression they've been able to make during the shortened 2020 season.

"There's no question in anyone's mind that we're moving in the right direction. It's just about progress," said Siedlecki. "The older girls understand that no one is expecting to win a national championship this year or next year. Those kind of expectations are not there. But the freshman class is really ambitious. We continue to recruit classes behind them that are just as good and turn this program into a competitor."



PHOTO COURTESY | WWW.SOUTHERNCT.OWLS.COM

Members of the women's lacrosse team during a 2020 game vs Dominican .

Måneskin comes in first at annual Sanremo festival

By Sofia Rositani
Arts & Entertainment

The festival of Sanremo ended on Saturday, March 6. This festival is held every year and is almost like the Coachella of Italy.

This year, the festival was held with no audience, which was very weird since the hosts, Fiorello and Amedeo Sebastiani, were running around the seats. Hearing the claps of people who were not there was weird for me. It reminded me of a scene from "The Shining."

Even though there were no audience, the orchestra did not disappoint with reacting when needed.

The performances were also very good with Max Gazzé being my personal favorite as he was dressed as Leonardo Da Vinci, singing and dancing surrounded by cardboard cutouts of different people

in history. Such as Marilyn Monroe, Jimmy Hendrix and a Franciscan monk. Another personal favorite of mine, Gaudiano, with his song "Polvere da Sparo," has already won for Sanremo Giovani, aka Sanremo Young.

This year's Sanremo ran for three to four hours with amazing performances from artists like Francesca Michelin and Fedez, Folcast, Colapesce and Dimartino and many more artists.

There were 26 contestants and all whom were currently the most popular artists in Italy.

Sanremo is an annual festival in Italy that helps Italy choose who will be attending Eurovision in the upcoming months. In modern day Italy, this is done through the watchers casting their votes on their phones.

Each female contestant, performer, and host gets a bouquet of flowers before

they leave due to Sanremo being known as the "town of flowers."

Throughout the festival, they also do small performances with popular singers from the past, such as Mahmood, Sanremo 2019, and Diodato, Sanremo 2020, returning to perform and promote their new album. Older performers such as Loredana Berté, who has never won Sanremo but has participated in the contest since 1982 were also present.

The winners for the 71st annual Sanremo was a band called Måneskin, consisting of Damiano David on lead vocals, Victoria De Angelis on bass, Thomas Raggi on guitar and Ethan Torchio on drums.

This band has become very popular in Italy over the last couple of years due to their rocker aesthetic and very interesting music videos.

They ended up winning second place on X Factor Italia, where their fame slowly grew. Their most popular video on YouTube is a music video called "Torna a Casa" (Return Home) with 102 million views.

I personally enjoy their stage presence and their music but I think there should have been a different artist who won this year because while Måneskin is a great band, they are already very popular and I believe someone else should get to attend Eurovision on May 18.

The song itself is very hard rock with amazing head-banging elements, something that does not usually win Sanremo. A lot of the time, slower paced songs win the contest.

Due to COVID-19, this year's festival was held with no audience but it did not stop one contestant from needing to go home

and quarantine due to testing positive for the virus.

Irama, a very popular rapper and singer in Italy was supposed to perform on the second night but due to him testing positive for COVID-19, he was forced to go home and even though he had to go home.

They did not disqualify him, instead they showed his rehearsal video from the day before.

It was very disappointing as a fan to not be able to see him perform but hopefully we will see him next year in the 72nd annual festival di Sanremo.

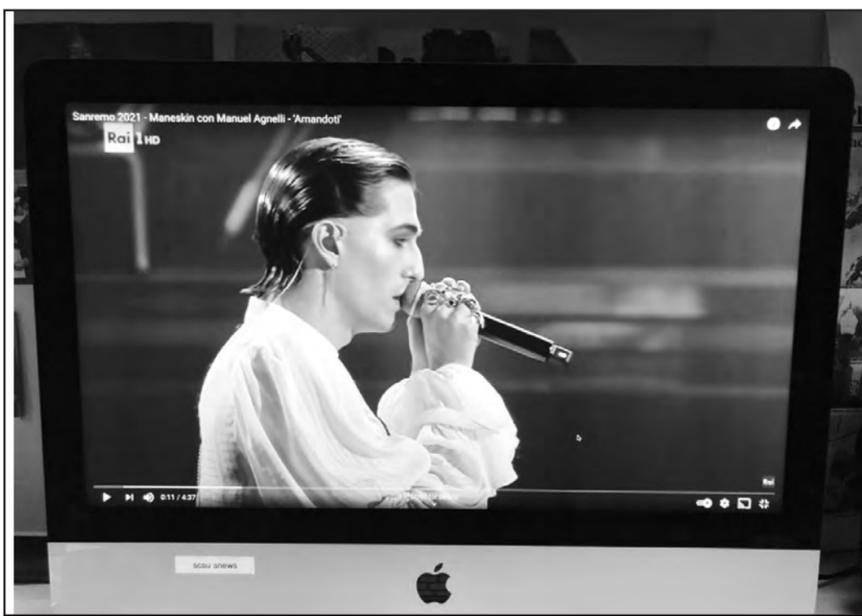
Throughout the festival, both Sebastiani and Fiorello were trying to keep it light hearted while following COVID-19 protocols, including carting in the flowers for the women of Sanremo rather than handing it to them, standing six feet

away from others, and not having any physical contact with other hosts and contestants. Some funny parts of the event involved Fiorello getting his mustache shaved off by Sebastiani during a segment where no one was performing.

It was very odd to see but they were able to make it work really well and included small jokes about how they could not do certain things, and how they can now run around the seats in the arena unlike before.

Sanremo is the one event many Italians will not miss, even if there is a time difference, and being able to watch it this year with a pandemic going on gave me a sense of normalcy.

I cannot wait to watch Måneskin perform "ZITTI E BUONI" (Quiet and Good) at Eurovision in May with the other countries performing their hit songs.



Damiano David performing "ZITTI E BUONI" at Festival di Sanremo 2021.



Måneskin accepting their award at the 71st annual Festival di Sanremo.

Moore Field House regulates weight room

By Edward Rudman
Sports Writer

A challenge presented by the COVID-19 pandemic to the athletic department has been figuring out how to get all its athletes into the weight room while still adhering to the strict protocols in place, according to strength and conditioning coach Dave Hashemi.

"The programming has to totally change. Warmups had to change, cool downs had to change," said Hashemi. "The way we instruct and the way we file teams in and out of the weight room had to change.

Traditionally, depending on class schedules and how busy the weight room was during the time of year, we actually could fit two teams in at once."

That is no longer a reality, as the weight room has restrictions of 15 athletes permitted at one time and another five coaches or personnel, for a total of 20.

Sessions have also been cut down to 30 minutes each instead of the standard pre-pandemic hour it used to be before the pandemic. This is so that every athlete has the chance to get their strength and conditioning. "We've broken down

the calendar or the day to try and fit everybody in. So, the most pretty much anyone's in the weight room is for no more than 30 minutes," said Joe Hines, associate director of athletics and coordinator of athletic facilities. "The time frames we have to fit 400 and change athletes in to any given day just makes the time frames smaller for their workouts."

The workouts themselves have had to change due to the new schedule. It has been Hashemi's responsibility to figure out how to have productive sessions for the athletes in such a brief time span.



Members of the women's basketball team having a team workout in the weight room.

The athletes are required to clean the equipment before and after use, the time required to do so is included in the 30 minutes provided for each session. This means the athletes only have about 20-25 minutes in actuality to workout, according to Hashemi.

In response to the shortened sessions, Hashemi came to the decision to do lower weight and higher volume training. This is also necessary due to the fact that the athletes who are workout out have to social distance and cannot spot their teammates lifting heavier weights like they were able to in the past.

"Do I think it

affects performance? It absolutely affects performance," said Hashemi. "Would I sacrifice not getting them as strong, as physically as possible, I can't. And because this has never really happened, nobodies been through a pandemic during a college weight training setting. We're kind of experimenting and we're going to see how this thing pans out."

Hashemi is also dealing with more athletes at one time then he usually would have because teams that play in the winter, like basketball and swimming and diving, would be getting ready for the end of their seasons meaning they wouldn't be in the weight

room like an offseason program would be.

The first week of returning to the weight room was used to getting the athletes prepared for the weeks to follow and focused on reacclimatizing everyone to the lifts and workouts.

Rob Eggerling, defensive coordinator for the football team, said, "We're starting everyone at the same level. Get back and get that muscle memory back and get yourself to where you need to be. Not everyone is on the same playing field when it comes to having the ability to get a gym membership or get in somewhere to do a workout. You kind of have to reteach it all over again



The weight room is open to athletes only with limited workout times.

Chat & Chew about COVID-19 vaccines

By Caitlin O'Halloran
Reporter

The multicultural Center and Counseling Programming and Outreach groups held a Chat & Chew to discuss the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine.

"At first, I would say I was somewhat skeptical because this has been done so quickly and as a person of color, in terms of the disparities in the health field, you do have quite a bit of concern. But to be honest, to see all those deaths is heartbreaking," said the Coordinator of Multicultural Student Activities, Dian Brown-Albert.

This event was held to critically discuss the thoughts of staff and students have about the controversial opinions and questions surrounding the COVID-19 Vaccine.

"When the vaccine first came out, I was really scared about it because I was seeing in the news how people were dying or passing out and all of that when it first came out," said Diversity Pre-

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | OWLCONNECT

Event logo posted on OwlConnect

Brown-Albert and Counseling Services member Randolph Brooks urged that if they had any questions or wanted more information to contact the university's health

center and they would be provided with the service they need. "The mumps and the measles, we eradicated that, so you have to read up on it and you have to

try to believe in science," said McKay. "I know it's hard, but you really have to believe because it's better than dying, that's the way I look at it."

The Anime Society Club

By Caitlin O'Halloran
Reporter

The Anime Society has created a place designed to be an all-inclusive environment meant to link together like-minded individuals with only one required common interest: anime.

Clubs are one of the key elements of college and keeping the student body connected. There are clubs for just about anything that you can think of, including the obvious such as sports, botany, politics, etc., but also for the more eclectic things that you might not think of. One of those such clubs is the Anime Society. The Anime Society aims to do just what any other club would do - gather people who share a similar interest to network with each other and indulge.

"If anyone at all is interested, they should feel free to join in any capacity. We are an all-inclusive community and won't turn anyone away," said Jordan Lubus, secretary of the Anime Society.

The club itself is casual in nature and is built essentially on the premise of hanging out with like-minded individuals, therefore the actual regime of the club is rather relaxed and flexible in nature. Mondays are for general activities and will include things such as fanfiction readings and tier lists, but these do not always have to have a focus on anime necessarily. It is just meant to be fun and keep everyone connected. Wednesdays are the days that are set aside for anime viewing and each Wednesday has a different theme such as romance or comedy, to allow the members to get a general



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | OWLCONNECT

Club flyer posted on OwlConnect

sampling of anime. One of the major components of this club is based in the ideology of inclusivity and never turning anybody away. The e-board of this club always pushes the point and mission of this club - to allow anyone who is interested in any capacity to have a good time.

This also means that when it comes to any and all events, the floor is always open to suggestions from any member of the club to allow everyone to have a chance to see the things they would like to see.

"Last semester honestly felt a bit iffy, as we had to kind of scrap almost everything we were doing and adjust to the new world but this semester, every feels correct and is going well," said Isaiah Torres, president of the Anime Society.

One of the biggest shifts for the Anime Society from pre-COVID-19 to during COVID-19 is the absence of their very popular in-person events. In the past, they would have a huge annual event called the cosplay cafe where everyone would dress up together and eat and listen

to music and genuinely enjoy each other's company.

Now, the closest thing they can do is a new annual movie night that employs social distancing and CDC guidelines to ensure everyone can be safe and have a good time.

Technology and social interaction platforms have been a huge key in keeping the Anime Society together and connected. Discord is utilized to allow everyone to have an easy way to keep connected, talk to each other, get announcements and take part in activities like tier lists and what not.

Microsoft Teams is also utilized as the way to have their anime watch parties, which works almost perfectly fine besides the fact that if you talk during a show, the anime volume will be lowered. Therefore forcing you to wait until the end of each episode to share your thoughts, unless you send them in the text chat.

"Go for it if you want to watch anime with like-minded people and have the time for that," said Shawen Contreras, a member of the Anime Society.

BOR student internship

By Essence Boyd
Online Editor

With the class of 2021's journey at the university coming to an end, many seniors have found opportunities to receive real life, hands-on experience in their fields.

Interdisciplinary studies major, Aidan Coleman is one of those many students. With the help of Associate Dean of Graduate studies Johnathan Warton, Coleman has been given the opportunity to intern with Sean Bradbury, director of government relations and external affairs for the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, this spring semester.

"It's mainly helping him with the legislative board," said Coleman, a senior. "Just kind of the behind the scenes work of what goes into supporting the forefront year and assessing community colleges at the legislative level."

As a former professor and now ally, Warton has been able to see Coleman take his classroom knowledge and apply it to the real world.

"He is very intelligent, I never doubted that," said Warton. "He is a very effective writer - I would probably put him in one of the best categories of writers. He is very passionate about a variety of things, especially public policy."

Throughout his time on campus, Coleman has been a familiar face to his peers. Coleman previously served as a Student Government Association Representative, and now works at the Dunkin' Donuts in the Adanti Student Center. No matter what he is doing on campus, his peers say he is



PHOTO COURTESY | AIDAN COLEMAN

Coleman has an internship with Board of Regents

a great person to know. "Aidan has been nothing short of a stand-up guy," said business administration major Enrique Cruz, a sophomore. "As my roommate this semester, I can say for sure that he has one of the friendliest and most welcoming personalities on campus."

Although this opportunity is a great one, it can also be intimidating at times, according to Coleman.

"Ultimately, if my supervisor believes that it was a good experience, he might go on to conduct further internships - and if it's not a good experience, that can negatively impact an internship program like this," said Coleman. "Which is really a stellar opportunity for our students to be involved in the legislative process."

Although the fear of leaving a bad impression is always on Coleman's mind while completing his task, the feeling of pride is also present.

"I'm a bit proud, I'm not afraid to admit," said Coleman. "It's not so 'much look what I did,' it feels like a good accomplishment for me. Being here for five years, I can look back like 'yeah I did that and that

feels really cool."

While Coleman has been assisting Warton at the State Legislature, Warton has been reciprocating the gesture, and assisting Coleman in his work back on campus.

"Many people tend to forget that although I seemed to be tagged as a political scientist, I do more policy - which is very different than political science," said Warton. "[Coleman] has leaned on me a lot for that. Whether it is SGA, whether it is the classroom, we share that common interest and bond together of the public policy drafting."

As a former SGA Representative to the Faculty Senate, according to Coleman, the student government started his interest in politics and even encouraged him to change his career path.

"My whole interest in higher education and politics started and is defiantly owed to the student government," said Coleman. "It was where I got my first involvement on campus freshman year. Before this I was an education major. I then tailored my major into something in the career. I found my home here at Southern."

Buley art gallery permanent collection

By Ellis McGinley
Copy Editor

Buley's art gallery is once again open for display, showing printwork from "the high Middle Ages to the Victorian Era," according to an email sent to students. The prints include replicas of works from art legends such as Michelangelo and depict scenes as famous as the leaning Tower of Pisa.

But a visit to the gallery, located in Buley's basement, often finds it quiet.

"I did not know we had an art gallery on campus," said sociology major Rain Iaccarino, a freshman.

The gallery is directed by Cort Sierpinski, Chairperson of Art. Its

displays for this year come from the university's collections, with fall's show depicting more contemporary screen prints, sculpture, and acrylic paintings.

"The advertising is not as good as it could be. I only discovered it by happening upon it while I was exploring the library and when I looked through there, there wasn't a whole lot of people," said art education major Sara Lareau, a freshman.

The art gallery opened with the 2015 Buley library renovation. It is a large, gray space, dim except for lights above the exhibit pieces, with space outside for students to study. Columns throughout provide extra

showcasing space, and there is ample floor space for larger installations.

"I have not seen it in person. I've seen pictures online. I wanted to check it out last semester, but obviously with COVID there was not much to see," said communication disorders major Sam Gontarz, a freshman.

Gontarz said he would absolutely go to the gallery.

"[I would] only go if people are going. I wouldn't go by myself," said special education major Gina Barron, a freshman.

"Where'd they get the money for the art? Especially if no one knows about it," Barron said.

Students were informed about the exhibit through

a weekly email about on-campus events and a large banner hanging in Buley. The banner is next to the Owl Perch: it may be overlooked by students taking the stairs, or who use the elevators before it.

All works in this exhibit are framed with larger prints on each wall. The pieces feature intricate linework typical of engravings.

Engravings are works literally engraved on printing plates, then pressed onto paper or parchment. It is one of the oldest forms of printmaking.

"Highlights include," says a plaque near the entrance to the exhibit. "'The Last Judgment' by Martina

Rota after Michelangelo, complete with the Seal of Michelangelo and an inscription to the Duke of Savoy, and a treasured piece of local history, 'Epitome of Ecclesiastical History' by David J. Rowland, late Minister of the First Church in Windsor."

"The Epitome" was first published in 1806. It features a timeline-like chart of Christianity's history, including depictions of Adam and Eve.

According to its plaque in the gallery, it is "one of the very finest of the few known examples of the earliest American 'Timeline.'"

Many of the works include religious or

historical themes. Another notable engraving is the "Signing of Death Warrant of Lady Jane Grey," from 1848, which depicts Mary Tudor signing the death warrant for Lady Grey.

"I heard about [the gallery] through an email and some students talking about it. I didn't know it was in the basement, actually. That's cool," said health sciences major Sam Luong, a freshman currently enrolled in a studio art class.

Lareau said, "I feel it is very, very important to have an art gallery. It's like a necessity for art students. It's very essential for art students to have a space to present things or a space where shows can be held."



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

A. Macco, a German painter, "Mythological Scene," 1838



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Giovanni Battista Piranesi, "Veduta interna dell'antico Tempio di Bacco," 1767

Spring musical performed live

By Madeline Scharf
Reporter

For the first time since the start of the pandemic, the theatre program has put on a live production. The musical, "Songs for a New World" by Jason Robert Brown, was directed by Larry Nye and online from March 4 to March 6. The musical follows a loose narrative, with no central theme. Each song is its own story about different peoples lives, though dot's can be drawn to connect the loose narratives.

The entire production was a new experience for many. Theater major Samhain Perez, a freshman, was excited to work on such a large project. "I lived in a small town," said Perez, "so working in such a big theater is quite a change. It is also the first production I have been able to do here that is in person."

The pandemic has caused many problems for the theatre department. One previous production, Henrik Ibsen's play "Enemy of the People", had to be pre-recorded and played like a radio broadcast. The requirement for students to social distance puts a difficult strain on the department.

This production, with no audience members, was a strange experience for some. "I am so use to having people in the audience," said Perez, "at times it really felt bizarre." But many people, including Perez, are more than excited to get back to live performances even if

things are styled differently.

Ariana Harris, stage manager for this production, feels similarly. "It has been healing, being able to get back into life performances." Even with the singers required to always stay 25 feet apart, Harris has found that it does little to dissuade their passion for both the production and their safety.

Though Perez spoke of previous camera issues and mic problems, none showed up in the final production.

One addition was the orchestra was set up on stage instead of below. This effectively filled the empty main stage.

Being a filmed production, multiple cameras are set up so the audience can witness the play as detailed as possible. The actors never look at the camera, instead looking out to other imaginary figures until the final song, where one of the actresses looks right at the camera and sings a song filled with reassurance and comfort. Aspects like this show how the theater department is adjusting well to the limitations currently imposed upon them. It creates a new avenue for storytelling and symbolism imbued in the limited areas each actor has access to.

Despite all the hardships the pandemic has brought forward, the cast and crew are very proud of the production. "It has been difficult, but everyone has done such a great job. So much effort has gone into this play, and it show speaks for itself," Harris said.

Golden Globes virtual this year

By Donovan Wilson
Reporter

Amy Poehler and Tina Fey once again hosted the 78th annual Golden Globes which had its usual charm and fanfare despite technical difficulties and a gigantic ratings dip from previous years.

The Golden Globes are a film award show that differs from the Oscars by having a large focus on foreign and American films. The show also spotlights some television as well. This was the 78th annual Golden Globe Awards as it has been running since 1944, 77 years ago. This year's ceremony was hosted by Fey and Poehler as a duo for the first time since they hosted in 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively.

"I think representation of minorities in award shows and media in general has come a long way. It does make me happy to see more

diverse groups of people in award shows and media although I still think there is a long way. I also do get concerned when people try to say there is too much forced representation, as I feel representation has only just recently started becoming prominent," art education major Sara Lareau, a freshman, said.

One of the major wins for representation this year was all of the attention put towards Black-lead jazz animated film "Soul," Soul took home the coveted best animated picture category as Disney and Pixar movies often tend to. However, the film also took home the award for best score which was a major success because the music was innovative as it blended Jon Batiste's funk, jazz and soul sounds with the dramatic and electronic sounds of Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross.

One of the biggest draws

of this year's ceremony were comments made by hosts who were on the opposite coasts. They spoke against the committee that chose the movies and called out how a lot of the categories left minorities underrepresented which is very unlikely behavior to see on these very corporate, family-oriented awards shows that air essentially in prime time.

According to the Nielsen ratings, this year's 78th annual Golden Globes pulled in only 6.9 million viewers.

In 2020, the 77th Golden Globes Awards aired to a whopping 18.4 million viewers as one of the last major award shows before the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's 6.9 million viewers was a 63 percent drop from the previous year and the lowest in the show's NBC broadcast history, which would be about 13 years since 1996. They lost two-thirds of the

previous year's viewership, which is a huge loss although it is most likely reflective of the pandemic and the lack of interest in new movies in the past year.

"I feel that award shows like the Golden Globes would be better off withholding their events from taking place until they can do it in person. Not only do I think that this would attract more viewership, but the experience of those who win awards would definitely be better," said computer science major Michael Berns, a sophomore.

As with all award shows, there were winners and there were losers. The biggest winners of the night were "Nomadland" in the drama category and "Borat Subsequent Moviefilm" comedy or musical category. One of the other biggest moments of the night was when Chloe Zhao, the director of best drama winner "Nomadland," won best director which makes her the first woman since Barbara Streisand in 1984 to win the award. Although the Black representation for the awards that night were rather sparse in terms of nominees, four Black artists, including the singer Andra Day and the late Chadwick Boseman, all took home awards by the end of the night.

Business marketing major Michael Formica, a junior, said,

"It is a really satisfying thing to finally see awards being given to minorities even if we still have a ways to go for actual representation," .



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Tina Fey (left) and Amy Poehler (right) hosting Golden Globes for the fourth time.