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SGA invites all students to get involved



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

President Bertolino talking to students and faculty at a Faculty Senate meeting in the Adanti Ballroom on Feb. 14.

By August Pelliccio

Southern's Student Government Association advertises as an organization that promotes students' welfare, and protects students' rights. They urge that all voices are welcome.

Feb. 6, a dialogue was opened by President Joe Bertolino about social justice and racial inequality at Southern. The community came together with passion, and outlined the change they would like to see.

One notable request that was made was in the forward movement of diversity SGA. Eric Clinton, president of Southern's Black Student Union alleged that SGA showed a lack of diversity among its representatives.

In response to the concern, SGA representative Aidan Coleman invited students from all walks of life to attend their meetings on Fridays at 1 p.m.

"Not one of us that are on student government right now would ever discourage anyone of any creed, gender, religion or background from running," said Coleman. "It's really important for me, as a student government member for everyone to know that."

Coleman said, at the end of the day, that dedication to equality is what SGA is all about.

"If we can help at all, please just let us know," said Coleman. "We want to do what's best for students."

After several community conversations, a peaceful protest and month of downtime, SGA vice president, Becky Kuzmich, said there is room for change.

"SGA is made up of 25 individuals," said Kuzmich, "who represent a student body of over 6000."

She said the goal is to represent everybody on campus, and that they try their best. However, Kuzmich said the effort of representing a diverse community of people equally could always be improved on.

"We would like students to know that our main role on campus is to be the voice of our students," said Kuzmich, "and we strive to be their advocate on campus."

She emphasized that they are on the students' side, and will continue to support the campus community.

"We are students, just like them," said Kuzmich.

Kuzmich was present at a Feb. 14 meeting,

when Clinton's request was mentioned again.

"I do think that Eric's comments were warranted," said Kuzmich. "SGA strives to consistently represent students as best we can, but it is something that we can improve on."

Clinton was not available to comment on whether progress has been seen since last month's community conversations.

In a "Your Voice, Your Government" brochure circulated by SGA, they encourage students to run for a position as a representative.

"This opportunity is open to anyone," it reads, "and we strongly encourage students who have a voice and or have a cause that they believe needs to be heard, to run."

Kuzmich said even through these moments of negative attention, SGA's president Julie Gagliardi has remained a sponsor for all people on campus.

"She has been a phenomenal advocate for our students from day one, and I know that she will continue to advocate for our students and lead our organization in order to best support our students," said Kuzmich. "I have been proud to serve beside her."

Cultural contrast abroad

By August Pelliccio

Patrick Heidkamp said students cannot expect to fix Africa in a study abroad program, but should expect to learn. The most recent trip he led to South Africa was fruitful in that respect.

Over the most recent winter recess, Heidkamp, associate professor of geography, took students from GEO 405 to Khayelitsha, a township in Western Cape, South Africa.

"It's a very nice location; it's a very safe part of the state," said Heidkamp. "Safety is a concern always when we take our students to South Africa."

He said the gated community is home to many friends that the department has made connections with during previous years' trips. Because of this, Heidkamp expressed the importance of repeat locations when teaching abroad.

"There are very many study abroad programs at other universities where geography professors will take students on a trip to Europe, and then a trip to South Asia," said Heidkamp, "but it's always different students and it's always a different trip."

CULTURAL CONTRAST SEE PAGE 2

PEACE discusses Title IX, #MeToo and student rights

By Victoria Bresnahan

Jessica Holman, a senior student activist, said she believes one goal of the #MeToo movement is to elevate all forms of sexual misconduct that can be experienced by a person.

"Sexual violence isn't something that only affects people of a certain race, or ethnicity, or sexual orientation or age," said Holman, a panelist. "It is something that can affect you at any point in your life and any socio-economic class."

Southern's Peer Educators Advocating for Campus Empowerment held a discussion on Tuesday about the #MeToo movement and Southern student's Title IX rights. Students were welcome to ask their own questions concerning either of the topics.

Kristina Filomena, senior student activist, said the #MeToo movement spread virally beginning this past October. The movement has been used to demonstrate the growing rate of harassment and sexual assault, she said.

"Originally it was started by Tarana Burke, and she started #MeToo to kind of bring together women of color who have gone through sexual assault and let them know that they are not alone," said Filomena, during the discussion. "[To] make them more confident and comfortable to share their stories with people."

At the discussion, Southern Connecticut State University President Joseph Bertolino said the creation of the #MeToo movement has brought to light issues concerning sexual misconduct in all forms.

"I want to remind folks that sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, violence in all of their forms are just unacceptable," said Bertolino.

Chris Piscitelli, director of student conduct, said a major conversation in higher education currently is what is an appropriate sanction when a student performs an act of misconduct. Some groups believe exploitation is the only option, but Piscitelli said best practice shows every case falls within a realm.

"Your worst-case scenarios should absolutely result in the highest sanction that you can give," said Piscitelli. "Then there is a range that kind of comes down [to] depending on what the misconduct was, and then where it kind of slides in."

He said it could be a suspension, or protective methods. These measures prevent students from taking classes together or living in the same hall, he said.

Piscitelli said when students are temporarily suspended from the school after violating a policy, they must attend an outside facility and programs to be readmitted.

"They will go through a program and sometimes that includes work in partner



PHOTO | VICTORIA BRESNAHAN

A panel discussing Title IX and #MeToo movement in Engleman A120.

agencies," said Piscitelli. "Sometimes that includes participation in events."

Holman said for there to be a systemic change in how students understand healthy sexual behaviors, they should be educated on what consent is by an earlier age.

"Educating students on what consent is, educating students about respecting boundaries and things like that," said Holman, "I think should start from a very early age. Because sexual misconduct doesn't just suddenly start when you enter a university setting."

Due to a possible lack of education, Filomena said some students do not realize their actions could be considered sexual misconduct.

"I think from a peer educators role [I understand] that I am going to support and believe the victim," said Filomena, "but I am also going to take into context the culture we live in and that this person might not be a bad person, they might just have a lack of education."

Holman said university advocates Cathy Christie and Melissa Kissi are available by phone 24/7 for students to talk to.

"They can support survivors whether it was five minutes ago, five hours ago, five days ago, five months ago, or five years ago," said Hoffman. "There is no time limit on it. They are really just there to make sure students know their rights and feel safe on campus."

Cultural contrast



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Patrick Heidkamp discussing what he has learned from his trips to South Africa.

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By essentially repeating the same trip each year, Heidkamp said he is able to teach better and follow the progress of the community.

"There's a Nigerian community that basically says, 'We don't need people that work in the mall to come over for one week and think they can fix Africa,'" said Heidkamp.

A key issue Heidkamp said the class has been learning about in their travels over the last couple years is the current and ongoing water crisis in South Africa. The connection this has to environmental justice, Heidkamp explained, is the alarming effect this lack of natural resources has had on the community and economy.

Associate professor of geography Scott Graves said the previous year when the group was in Khayelitsha, they took out one of their friends from the local community, and their family, for dinner.

"It was at a cost that they would never have the money to pay for," said Graves, "and it was relatively cheap."

He explained an average farm worker was then earning roughly the equivalent of \$100 per week.

Being exposed to the different culture affected different GEO 405 students in different ways, as they each explained during a panel presentation March 6.

"One thing that I found super powerful," said Joe Minor, a Southern student present on the trip, "was this idea of interdisciplinary work."

Minor explained that he discovered this method, especially helpful for humanitarian efforts, of bettering the community by implanting himself into it. Minor said as a learning experience, it provided a sense of pride to live and work in a foreign environment, taking note of social justice issues.

Georgianna Driver said her experience living within a community where wealth and technology were so sparse gave her guilt on the way home.

"I didn't want to come home," said Driver. "I was coming home to my car, my [cell phone], I was coming home to my swimming pool and my hot tub."

She said life was much different in South Africa, especially the way they appreciate things, and the way they communicate with one another.

This is what Heidkamp said makes the experience rich, and why he will continue to bring students to the same environment, where their community friends really allow them to be part of the culture.

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Administration discusses snows effect on schedule



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Southern students traversing the academic quad during a snow storm.

By August Pelliccio

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Robert Prezant said accommodations for missed class days are handled differently at a public college level institution than they are at a pre-college level.

"For pre-college public schools," said Prezant, "there are defined days, and requirements to make up a certain number of snow days."

The requirement for Southern is that educators fulfill a number of hours per credit, according to Prezant. For example, Prezant said a typical three-credit course is equivalent to about 112 hours. Without the ability to tack on extra days, Prezant said there is more emphasis on the student and professors themselves, to make up for that lost time.

"Our faculty are adept at insuring needed course material is covered," said Prezant. "We can also count on our students to catch-up on readings and other requirements as needed."

Additional materials being accessible online and extra office hours were two examples he cited.

"From what I've been told, thus far this year," said Prezant, "we're still some distance away from historic number of snow days we've had to take."

There have been four affected days this semester, between closings and late openings, which Patrick Dilger, director of Integrated Communications and Marketing agreed is typical.

"The most that I recall in my time here," said Dilger, "has been six or seven days that were impacted."

Joe Bertolino, president of SCSU, said that Southern is generally more sensitive to weather-related closings than he previous institution, Lyndon State College.

"In Vermont, the community is used to large amounts of snow and travelling in snow," said Bertolino. "Vermont is also better equipped to manage snowfall."

Notwithstanding, Bertolino said the facilities staff at Southern do an "amazing job," especially considering the 22 missing staff members due to a hiring freeze.

Dilger said because of the size of the campus, cleanup is a large factor in keeping students, faculty and staff safe. He said associate Vice President for facilities operations Bob Sheely always constructs an accurate depiction of the weather to come, monitoring at least two or three

different forecasts in preparation for a storm.

"Basically we have this deliberation around five in the morning [on] weekdays," said Dilger, "and then I will call the provost and the president after that, and tell them what we're thinking."

Dilger said the more difficult decisions involve storms that appear intermittent, or start during the school day.

"Nothing is ever perfect," said Dilger, "but most of the time we do get it right."

Each of these university officials connoted that there is a balance to maintain in making this decision, to avoid unnecessary procedures.

"Of course, our goal is to try and ensure that we do not negatively impact classes and the academic experience for our students," said Bertolino, "but safety concerns come first."

Dilger said that the job is not made easier by way of New England weather patterns; he said the weather changes, and it changes quickly.

Regarding the four days that have been impacted at Southern so far, Prezant said, "Here's hoping we've seen the last for this academic year."

Southern student arrested for threatening high schoolers

By Josh LaBella

A Southern student was arrested on Feb. 27 after allegedly threatening students from Fairfield Ludlowe High School. He has since withdrawn from the university.

Nicholas Graham, formerly a junior jewelry major, is said by police to have told the high school students that he would find and kill them and their friends during an argument on social media.

SCSU Police Chief Joseph Dooley said Fairfield police contacted their department after 10 p.m. that night and informed them about the incident. He said Southern police subsequently picked up Graham from his residence hall and brought him back to the station.

"It was something that, really, Fairfield investigated," said Dooley. "I don't know what kind of involvement they may or may not have had with him but we hadn't. He was interim suspended and I'm hearing that he has withdrawn."

Dooley said Graham's actions clearly caused alarm and nowadays nobody is going to take any chances. He said now that Graham has withdrawn it has taken Southern out of the process.

"The gist of this is he did something, he may have done it here," said Dooley. "I don't know when the posts were done. But, we had our colleagues call us and say 'can you assist us with this' and we did. We turned him over to them. It's not a name that we had been familiar with."

According to Connecticut's Judicial branch website, Graham was arrested for threatening of the second degree, harassment of the second degree and breach of peace of the second degree. He was released on \$20,000 bond and his next court date is April 2 where he is expected to make a plea.



PHOTO | JOSH LABELLA

Nicholas Graham in Buley library after an interview on March 29.

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Southern Connecticut
State University



Humans of SCSU: Jenn Pohl

By Victoria Bresnahan

Jenn Pohl said she attended a group tour of Southern Connecticut State University while she was in high school and immediately felt she was home.

"I feel like it's different than high school because I chose to be here," said Pohl, a sophomore special education major. "This is where I wanted to be."

Once she chose Southern, Pohl said she found out her grandfather was a former employee of the school and her father received his master's degree from the university as well.

"It is kind of a generational thing, I guess," said Pohl. "I did not know those things until I had already accepted and was going. So, it was kind of interesting to find out. I have a little bit of a family history here I guess."

Her mother, a special education teacher at Abilis — an organization providing services to those with special needs — brought Pohl there two weeks after she was born, she said.

"[Special education] is something that has been in my life my

entire life," said Pohl. "It's been there forever. It's something that's been incorporated into my life, and it was never like 'these people are different,' it was just 'this is just part of the community, they are people.'"

Pohl, 19, said she has been working with kids with special needs for five years. One child Pohl worked with, Alex, was in her dance class and she became his tutor. She said she helped him interact with the other girls in the class and work on his steps.

"It was really cool working with him and watching him grow throughout the years," said Pohl. "His mom was always so thankful to have me there, which was so nice."

It was rewarding to watch Alex learn new steps and to make a difference in the children's lives, she said.

"To finally know all your hard work paid off and made a difference in someone's life is pretty cool," said Pohl.

As an avid animal lover, Pohl said her family currently has two axolotls, a Chinese water dragon, a ball python, and a dog, to name a few. Pohl said her aunt was a



PHOTO | VICTORIA BRESNAHAN

Jenn Pohl, a sophomore special education major.

veterinary technician and would always bring animals back to her home.

"I have had a lot of animals in my life—so many," said Pohl. "It is definitely something I want to continue in my life and like with my kids."

Pohl said animals in special education classrooms could be beneficial for children. She plans

on incorporating animals into her special education programs at whichever school she works for, she said.

"It has been proven to make a difference in all kinds of people's lives," said Pohl.

Trained animals can help anyone with issues such as self-harm or connecting with others, said Pohl. Kids struggling with

reading may find it easier to read to an animal than person as well, she said.

"Animals in general and kids with autism, it's a really big thing—definitely an up and coming thing I feel like," said Pohl. "People are including animals into mental health and special education a lot more."

Optimizing library hours

By August Pelliccio

Several Southern students agreed that Buley Library does not follow appropriate hours of operation, but Anecia Gidden said she is fighting for the changes these students want to see.

Gidden is the vice president of the Board of Academic Experience and represents the Student Government Association. She said she knew from the start that the hours for Buley Library were an issue that should not be "tossed to the side."

"When I came into this role," said Gidden, "I knew a lot of people complained about the library hours."

Southern senior Samantha Thuotte said the university

should be considerate of students with varying schedules.

"For people who work better at night," said Thuotte, "I don't think the hours here are adequate."

Senior Melissa Zagaroli said on the contrary, "University of New Haven is 24/7."

Zagaroli said when she lived on campus, she would meet with her friends who were students there, and utilize that library after Buley closed.

Having a library that is open until midnight or later would be fair, according to Thuotte, because social areas do not make for good study habits.

"I need quiet," said Thuotte. "I need a place to go that I can concentrate."

Thuotte also expressed a concern for Southern's sports

teams. She said players are overlooked when considering access to campus facilities. Often they are busy during the week, she said, and unable to utilize the limited hours on the weekends.

Gidden said the Board of Academic Experience tried already to extend hours for Buley.

"Last semester we met with Dr. Crawford early in the semester," said Gidden, "just to have an initial conversation, telling her that we would like [library hours] to be extended."

Crawford, associate vice president for Academic Affairs told the board that a lack of adequate staff and funding would likely prohibit that from happening.

Thuotte said extending the hours may not be necessary, however, but rearranging them

may be helpful.

"People aren't utilizing those early hours," said Thuotte, "I don't think."

Senior April Meadows shared a similar perspective on the change that is needed to satisfy Southern students.

"I think it would be better if it opened later," said Meadows, "and stayed open later."

Meadows said she would like to see the possibility of Buley Library being open until 2 a.m.

Gidden said this prospect was considered and that reorganizing hours would be fruitful for students. She said her plan is to now approach Crawford and provost Robert Prezant, after conducting research to gain census data on when students are using the library the most. Her

goal is to at least rearrange hours for the weekends.

She said at the end of last semester, SGA representatives counted the number of students entering the library during the first hour, and exiting during the last hour, for two weekends. She said they recorded five students entering the library between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. Saturday, but over 60 students entered between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday.

With this in mind, her objective is to convince Prezant and Crawford that the library should open at noon on both weekend days, as opposed to 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. respectively.

"I really hope they take this seriously," said Gidden. "The library is the heart of campus, and I hope they see that."

Students and news consumption

By Victoria Bresnahan

Shawn Odei-Ntiri, a freshman physics major, said he believes the news in general displays particular biases to the "consumer," or viewer. He said the news is particularly one sided, and usually only highlights the worst about an event or person.

"I think it is definitely something that happens to draw in the consumer more, and to help shift that focus on the consumer onto the news more," said Odei-Ntiri. "So, they find themselves constantly watching to find what is wrong in their society."

Even when news anchors state their broadcast is completely unbiased, there is still bias; it would be difficult to turn it off, he said.

"Let's say someone was to give someone an unbiased sentence to say on the news," said Odei-Ntiri, "that person structuring that sentence could have an underlying bias that they don't even know about."

Odei-Ntiri said when he



PHOTO | VICTORIA BRESNAHAN

Matthew Lopes, left and Shawn Odei-Ntiri, right in the Buley Library.

watches television, a news channel such as Good Morning America or Fox News is usually on. Additionally, Odei-Ntiri said he uses social media platforms such as Facebook to read the news as well.

"Usually I read a few articles I see on Apple News that pop up and, you know, get my news from there," said Odei-Ntiri.

Individual research should be completed and not all information from the media should be believed, said Odei-Ntiri.

Nicole Benedetto, sophomore

social work major, said while she does receive her news through social media, she also watches news broadcasts such as CNN or FOX News.

"I feel like it is mostly biased," said Benedetto. "Like, if you are on Twitter everyone is one way. Then on FOX News there's back and forth of people fighting each other—Republicans, Democrats."

Benedetto said it is difficult to trust what she reads and watches, so she tries to get outside opinions from family members.

Matthew Lopes, sophomore theater major, currently receives his news through social media and YouTube—formerly through a recently shut down channel called SourceFed. Lopes said it was easier to understand the news through this format.

"Not only [was it] very informative and easy to get out that information, but [SourceFed] also brought a really fun side to it," said Lopes. "They brought humor in a way. They had really funny people handling the news."

When it concerns fake news, Lopes said President Donald Trump may use the term in defense of feeling attacked by a more liberal media.

"I think there is some truth to what the news is saying," said Lopes, "it is just they are saying it in a way that is against the president. His way of expressing discomfort to the other bias that is against him is by saying 'fake news.'"

A 2018 Massachusetts Institute of Technology study on fake news, stated rumors and lies reached more social media users than the truth. According to the study, humans, not internet bots, spread the news faster.

Lopes said it is difficult to know what type of media is trustworthy. People should not just watch or read the news, but also do their own research to get both sides of a story, he said. The news cannot be fully objective since so many are biased, he said.

"Just the way someone tells a story—the facts that they choose to give can give off a certain bias," said Lopes.

SCSU students speak on addiction

By Victoria Bresnahan

Courtney Butler, a junior marketing major, said most people have probably met or know someone affected by addiction — she herself has watched friends and family members suffer from it.

“When it affects someone close to you it gives you a different perspective of the issue in general,” said Butler. “Everyone thinks it cannot happen to them, or it cannot happen to anyone that they love, [but] it does. It kind of breaks down the barriers of what people think about it.”

Personally knowing an addict gives those not suffering from addiction a new outlook and they may be more open to talk about it, she said. While she herself did not use any resources, Butler said those suffering did seek help.

There is a stigma around addiction, but Butler said young kids should be talking about it.

“We are the most susceptible to it at this time in our life,” said Butler. “There is a lot of pressure on us and a lot of things that you could get into unexpectedly — especially in college. I think it is really important to talk about.”

According to 2016 National Institute on Drug Addiction report, of the college students surveyed 43 percent had used some form of illicit drug at some point during the year. The report also stated daily use of marijuana amongst college students rose from 3.5 to 4.9 percent.

However, college students have a lower use of nearly all illicit drugs than those of the same age and not in college.

Butler said she has seen college students possibly use too much of a drug or alcohol, but it is up to the individuals to decipher if they have a problem.

“I have definitely seen it, but it is not up to me to classify who is or is not addicted,” she said.

Sierra Agard, a sophomore nursing major, said her stepfather, who has been involved in her life for a decade, suffers from alcohol addiction.

“He got help,” said Agard. “It took a while for him to realize [he had it]. He didn’t really realize

it was affecting not just him, but my mom and us.”

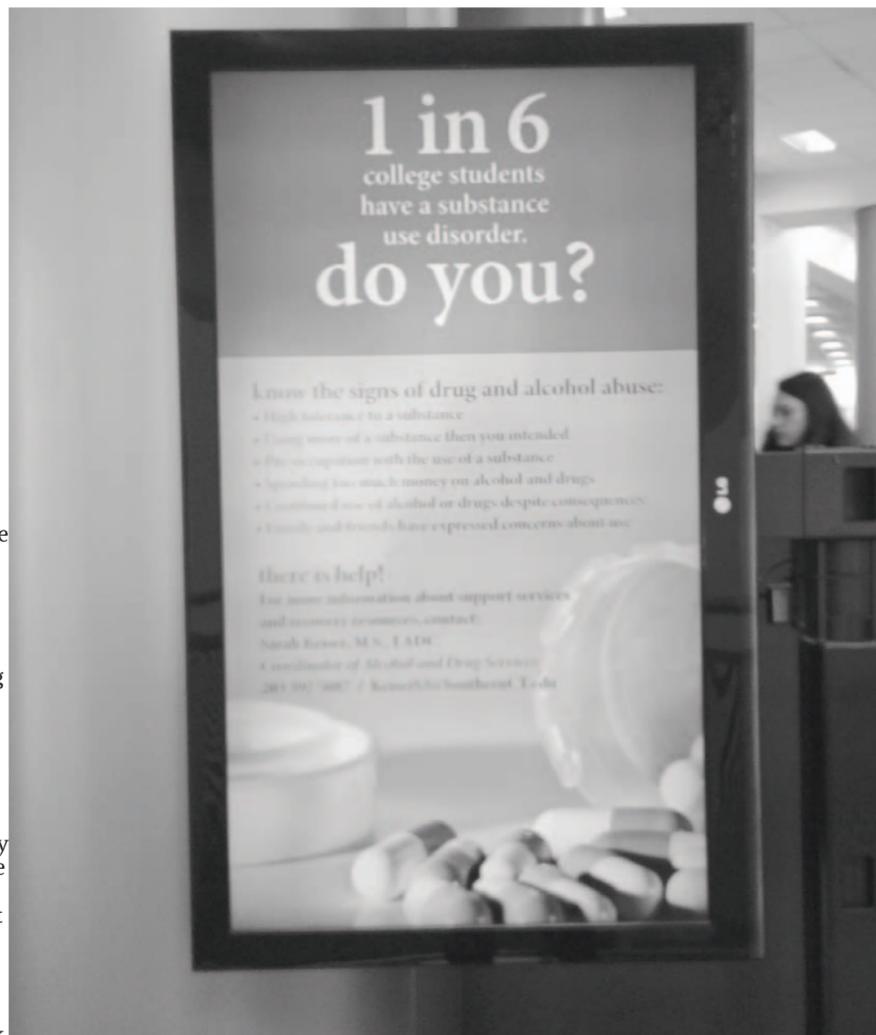
Although Agard said she has never attended a support group, she would consider it. Her stepfather attended Alcoholics Anonymous, and she said it helped him in his recovery to reach sobriety. Agard said she also works at a pharmacy and delivers to a local rehab center.

Rebecca Gersz, a sophomore nursing major, said she and Agard were asked by their peer mentor to help remove a student from their INQ class due to intoxication.

“We kind of just brought him back to his room,” said Gersz. “Obviously, the [desk assistant] at his building had to talk to him and stuff.”

Gersz said addiction is something that students should be worried about and she has seen people possibly misusing it. She said she believes there is more alcohol than drug use at Southern.

“I feel like people come to college to drink,” said Agard. “I feel like they don’t think about their future.”



A digital sign in the Adanti Student Center about addiction.

PHOTO | VICTORIA BRESNAHAN

Students address academic dishonesty

By Ahmet Aksu

Cheating and academic dishonesty is an issue plaguing higher education institutions. There are mixed feelings as to what makes cheating common, acceptable and why students are so likely to take part.

“Yes [I have cheated.] But am I proud of it? No,” said junior Zaha Naem.

He personally finds that it is a game, to survive class simply through what others know, despite it being right or wrong. Naem explained in detail how he had paid \$1,600 for a class, but due to complications in his life, he was unable to devote the time he wanted into the class to succeed. Soon his grades began to drop. Thus, he resorted to cheating.

“Why did I do it? Well, every time it had a different purpose but the main purpose was the fear of failing,” said Naem.

Due to his cheating, eventually he raised his grades enough to the extent where he could go through with the rest of the class without using those methods.

“As a student, I feel like sometimes it’s just necessary since there seems to be no other way out and there’s so much pressure to do good to maintain a high GPA,” said Naem.

“If you’re sacrificing actual knowledge in order to make up time for other stuff, and thinking you’ll cheat to get by. Then the punishment fits the situation,” said sophomore Kenny Pero.

Pero says that cheating is the absolute last resort that anyone should take. On occasion, sometimes there will be situations where one was unable to study for an exam, or unable to do work on time. So, cheating would be their

resort to catch the easy grade at the last minute.

“I remember in high school when we had final exams,” said Pero, “I devoted all my time into studying so I would pass but I completely forgot about my homework.”

He received the work from a classmate in order to pass his class with the perfect grade, however he didn’t feel too happy about it either.

“It’s like a necessary evil. I’m sure anyone else you’ll ask will say the same and have done the same too,” Pero said.

Pero said he would much rather do the work himself than to rely on others for work that may or may not even be correct. Pero would never consider cheating in the first place, as it is more in line as something he would use as an absolute last resort in case everything else fails.

“I don’t want to fail any of my classes, especially now considering I’ve got to pay for college out of pocket. I won’t take any chances,” said Pero.

Sophomore Sabrina Valiente, agreed with Pero.

“If I have to, then I know it’s my last chance at making my grade. I won’t do it in any other circumstance,” said Valiente.

Valiente said that even if it is the last thing she must do, cheating is never okay.

“I’ve never been one to cheat as it is, because it won’t enable me to learn the material for myself,” said Valiente.

“In fact, I take steps and precautions to actively avoid cheating of any kind.”

Valiente recalled a time where she had no other option than to cheat. During one of her midterms in her freshman year, she had not studied the material in full, and one of her close friends sat by her.

“I felt so desperate but I had no other choice,” said Valiente. “I asked her if I could use her answers because I knew she had studied. She accepted and because of that, I

passed.”

Valiente said she was both grateful and ashamed she put her friend in such a position like that.

“I can’t sit here and tell others not to do it when I so obviously have. But at the very least, it should be everyone’s last option,” said Valiente.

According to Best College Reviews, in 2012, about 51 percent of students who were surveyed admitted to cheating on exams one or more times in their past academic year. Of that 51 percent, 57 percent of those students agreed with the statement that, “In the real world, successful people do what they have to do to win, even if others consider it cheating.”

“I have several options when it comes to students that cheat,” said Frank Crohn, an anthropology professor. “I can bring them in front of an ethics board to debate with them why they did this. I could just be merciful and give them a second chance, maybe give them a different exam. It depends.”

Crohn has had his fair share of cheaters in his class, despite his exams being open note and his additional work being extra credit.

“Really I don’t understand it because everyone should always find time to work on class,” Crohn said. “A lot of our students have jobs while in college, and they pay most if not all of their tuition.”

Crohn continued with saying how both is important, but that a student should understand their first priority should be college in order to better themselves.

“The responsibility is first on you,” Crohn said. “Do it honestly, because dishonesty will not serve you in the long run.”

SCSU students on tuition, expenses

By Ahmet Aksu

As tuition has reportedly been increased by five percent every year, more and more students are asking where exactly their money is going, and if it is being used properly.

According to NBC Connecticut, the President of Connecticut State Colleges and Universities Matt Fleury has pushed forth an increase of tuition spanning 17 state universities throughout Connecticut.

“I am recommending a tuition increase at all of our schools,” Fleury said. “It is a smaller increase than the previous two years.”

Rebekah Jennings, a psychology major, said that she she understands why the tuition is as much as it is, despite struggling to pay it.

“Considering our budget just got slashed, I can understand why tuition is so much,” said Jennings. “Do I agree with it? Not necessarily, but that’s a matter of our state, not Southern.”

Jennings’ overall experience with SCSU has not been as proper as colleges would like students to believe. In fact, Jennings was not awarded her

scholarship for this semester and ended up over-paying as a result. Stating that she would rather like to know where her money is going before actually spending it.

“I could imagine where it goes to,” Jennings said, “but realistically, no, I have no idea. So yes it would be nice to know.”

“I do not know where my tuition goes,” said Lauren Hajjar, a sociology major. “But I would like to know so that maybe I could decide where my money is spent. But I don’t find out how much I pay until I check my tuition. All I know is that my tuition is going to be increased every year but I never know by how much.”

Hajjar expressed that due to this, she has to work two jobs and occasionally will take babysitting jobs on the side just keep her tuition paid.

“I feel comfortable with the amount of money I pay to go here even though I have loans as well,” said Hajjar.

Students are unaware of the amount they are paying until after the increases have been confirmed without their knowledge. Despite this, Yannick Bowen, a sociology major says that he still feels fine with his experience overall. He under-

stands the increases and is willing to pay.

“My experience is fine, I like how it’s structured,” says Bowen. “I feel as though it’s kind of more transparent than what other people lead it on to be.”

However, Bowen says that he does not know exactly where his tuition goes, but wishes that Southern gave an in-depth explanation on what percentage goes to what.

“I would like to know exactly where everything goes cause I want to see if Southern is using my money wisely,” said Bowen. “I get that there’s more to it than that, but it’s my money so I should have that right regardless of the situation.”

“My college funds have just recently run out,” said sophomore Shawn Robinson. “Now I have to pay the bill by myself and with the rising tuition prices, I’m really not looking forward to that.”

Robinson expresses much of the same sentiment.

“I’d be fine with it if I knew where my money went, but I have no clue,” said Robinson. “I barely use any of the services anyways so should I really be paying so much?”

Lyman Hall displays designs with a personal touch

**PARTS LIST
for
HONDA CB500.**

INSTRUCTION FOR USE OF PARTS LIST
DESCRIPTION OF ANATOMY OF TEXT

1. *Kerning* adjusts the space between individual letter forms to achieve a specific aesthetic.

KERNING vs. KERNING

2. *Letter-spacing* refers to a uniform adjustment to the spacing of a word or block of text affecting its density and texture.

← **SPACING SPACING vs. SPACING SPACING**

3. *Line spacing* is the space between each line in a paragraph.

This
Is an Orphan. This is a paragraph.
This is a paragraph. This is a para-
graph. This is a paragraph. This is a
widow.

4. In typesetting and page layout, *alignment* or range is the setting of text flow or image placement relative to a page, column (measure), table cell, or tab.

5. *Typographic hierarchy* is a system for organizing type that establishes an order of importance within the data, allowing the reader to easily find what they are looking for and navigate the content.

6. In typography, *cap height* refers to the height of a capital letter above the baseline for a particular typeface. It specifically refers to the height of capital letters that are flat—such as H or I—as opposed to round letters such as O, or pointed letters like A, both of which may display overshoot.

7. *X height* is the height of a lower-case x, considered characteristic of a given typeface

8. In typography, an *ascender* is the portion of a minuscule letter in a Latin-derived alphabet that extends above the mean line of a font. That is, the part of a lower-case letter that is taller than the font's x-height. Ascenders, together with descenders, increase the recognizability of words.

9. In typography, a *descender* is the portion of a letter that extends below the baseline of a font. The line that descenders reach down to is known as the beard line

10. A *paragraph* is a group of sentences gathered collectively to form a greater idea or explanation. Sizing and formatting of paragraphs is often critiqued in typography.

PHOTO | JEFF LAMSON

Marissa Simos' Anatomy of Typography project.

By Jeff Lamson

Graphic design projects covering the anatomy of typography, rebranding existing companies and recreating book covers are currently on display at Lyman Hall.

Most of the work was created in last semester's ART 215 and 216 courses. Some students took a more conventional approach to the projects, but graphic design majors junior Marissa Simos and senior Jimmy Cohaguila applied a more personal approach.

"I wanted to go really extreme with it," Simos said.

Simos did her project about the anatomy of typography featuring the parts list for a 1972 Honda CB500 motorcycle, of which she owns the bike and an original parts list. One of the approximately five fonts the students could use were used in the original printed parts list. Once Simos had made that connection, doing the project around this was a definite.

She said that she interprets visual design in much the same way she processes an exploded parts diagram. The same way that she does all of the work on the CB500 and her 1984 Datsun 300ZX, she also uses her own work in future projects.

"I feel like it's better to create something yourself and really make it your own that way," Simos said. "I think it stands out so much more when you do it like that."

She used her own photography from previous semesters at Southern for her recreation of the three soft-cover and one hardcover designs of Nancy Drew books. Other people may like to use stock images or other sources available on the internet, but Simos said that using her own work turns out better and also helps with the ease of coordination. She said that when she uses her own work as a source, it is, "more appropriately styled," with better execution.

Cohaguila added a personal touch to his work by rebranding Hartford City Football Club's logo, website, jerseys and stadium. Cohaguila said that he is a big fan of soccer and particularly the United States' Major League Soccer. He pulled on many of the design elements used in many MLS clubs to rebrand Hartford City FC.

He said that MLS is currently leading the way in terms of design of logos and branding in the sports world and that clubs in the big leagues of Europe are starting to rebrand themselves in a similar style.

Cohaguila took his anatomy of typography project and made a visual pun with it. He made the shape of a human body out of text describing the terms and definitions assigned by assistant professor Alex Girard.

The description of the title immediately made Cohaguila think of the human body and thought it would help him catch the eye of people who may see it and have



PHOTO COURTESY | MARISSA SIMOS

Marissa Simos' 1972 Honda CB500 Motorcycle.

them read it. He does say that the printing of the piece did change the original color a bit, so what is currently up in Lyman is not exactly as he intended it.

Cohaguila is currently doing freelance work, but has a website showing all of his past work and plans to start a business after graduating in May. While he said he does want to work in the field of sports in the future, he said that he will be open to anything at the beginning.

Simos, currently working for Excelerate Performance in Branford and plans to one day be a marketing director for a large automotive performance brand like Moroso Performance in Guilford.

TV show review: Netflix original 'Rotten'

By Mary Rudzis

Netflix originals have had success with shows like "Orange Is the New Black" and "Stranger Things" garnering enormous cult followings.

These originals, have paved the way for Netflix to produce more content. One of these is a true crime docuseries titled "Rotten" which is about different aspects of the agriculture industry.

The six-part series explains individual industries and then delves into crimes committed within those industries. It is a fascinating look at both animal related agriculture as well as those that most consumers probably don't give a second thought to.

Each take into consideration environmental factors as well as the market for the product, and lay out the issues with each industry. "Rotten" shows that food is all about supply and demand and the supply chain is corrupted.

This docuseries is important for consumers in the U.S. to watch because it is a harsh but necessary look at how food ends up on our plates. There is an obligation to know what goes into the process from when food is grown or raised, produced, sent to a grocery store and then purchased. Consuming more local foods and purchasing consciously is what seems to be the baseline solution for the problems that "Rotten" addresses.

While that solution is relatively tangible, after viewing all six episodes of the series, there is a definite overarching message to be more aware of how the agriculture industry works and to call out issues as they arise.

Anyone who wants to be a conscious consumer will enjoy "Rotten" regardless of how it is a relatively unappetizing look about something that is so sacred to Western culture. It is not a show to binge-watch while eating dinner, but it may make you hungry to know more about the agriculture industry.



A Netflix envelope.

PHOTO COURTESY | BRYAN GOSLINE

Review: Superorganism's album is energetic

By Gary Scaramella

"Superorganism," the self-titled debut album of the eight-piece pop group Superorganism, is a fitting name for both the group and the music they produce. The collective, headed by 17-year-old singer, songwriter and Maine native Orono Noguchi began making music together after meeting over the internet.

The group, comprised of people from all over the world, makes electronic pop music that sounds like an amalgamation of noises from video games, nature, a dinner table and various other eclectic sources. In each song, Superorganism takes these peculiar soundscapes and crafts them into a catchy pop song overlaid with Noguchi's world-weary vocals and, in almost every case, it is a recipe for success.

The 10 track album opens with the stunning "It's All Good," a track that will immediately draw the listener right in and blast them with Superorganism's signature style. The song comes in with a pulsing synth beat over which what sounds like some sort of self-help robot guru speaks to Noguchi and asks her what she would like to do with her day. As Noguchi's voice comes in, the song slowly builds until it crescendos in a chorus of "It's so good!"

The following track, "Everybody Wants To Be Famous," sounds like an ironic take on Disney star pop anthems from the late oughts. Over warped synths, Noguchi sings "Feeling like a boss and staring at the stars. It doesn't matter the cost, because everybody wants to be famous."

The song, punctuated with the "cha-ching" of a cash register, feels like a reflection on the younger generation's urges to get famous through the internet, social media or other means.

"Nobody Cares," a looping, winding song set over woozy, pitch-shifting synths, feels like a sad carnival ride. "Low key, baby, I'm never feeling quite alright," Noguchi sings in a tired voice in the song's second verse. However, the depressing tone the song begins on eventually seems to switch to a joking, light-hearted voice, perhaps seeing nobody caring as a good thing.

The biggest banger on the album, "Something For



PHOTO COURTESY | PAUL HUDSON

Music group Superorganism.

Your M.I.N.D.," was released several months before the album came out and garnered Superorganism a ton of attention from both the press and the internet. With a steady beat, breezy electric guitars and a fun, gripping chorus, it is easy to see why. The song does not take itself too seriously, and that is a good thing. I could easily see this seeing a lot of play on college radio stations or indie summer playlists.

Not every song on this album is an instant hit or as remarkable as its neighboring songs; a few, such as "Nai's

March," "Night Time" or "Reflections On The Screen" are not instantly catchy or memorable, but that is not a completely bad thing; they are still good songs, but they do not shine as brightly as some of the album's more energetic singles. Nonetheless, with their debut album, Superorganism has managed to craft an exciting, interesting album that is sure to make waves in the electronic pop scene.

Review: 'A Wrinkle In Time' lacks focus



PHOTO COURTESY | MELISSA HILLIER

The cast of "A Wrinkle in Time" in Anaheim, California.

By Jeff Lamson

"A Wrinkle in Time" is an unfortunate disappointment suffering from a crowded cast and lack of focused intent.

The film begins with a rushed introduction and background. The protagonist, Meg (Storm Reid), interacts with her father, Dr. Murry (Chris Pine), in montage-like editing that leaves the viewer wanting more depth.

Murry invents a way to travel through time with a tesseract, the action being called "tessering." Murry disappears in time and four years pass, leaving Meg (Gugu Mbatha-Raw), his wife and newly adopted Charles Wallace (Deric McCabe).

The emotional effects of this are shown through painful exposition and suspect timing, as if Murry's disappearance is the only thing of importance to these people every single day. The fact that the story starts on the four year anniversary of his disappearance does not really justify the behavior.

Soon, three interdimensional beings, Mrs. Which (Oprah Winfrey), Mrs. Whatsit (Reese Witherspoon) and Mrs. Who (Mindy Kaling) make contact with Charles Wallace, Meg and a character that has no real reason to be

there, Calvin (Levi Miller) to find Murry.

The film becomes far less about science and more about a sort of undefined and inconsistent space-magic and whimsy for the sake of whimsy. Namely, when the film wastes five or so minutes on turning Witherspoon into a flying cabbage dragon which the children ride and fly beside in a scene that insults physics.

The largest problem with the film is how much it wastes. Winfrey, Witherspoon and Kaling's characters could have all been condensed to one character seeing how little they each do. Kaling does nearly nothing except quote people having no effect on the plot at all. Witherspoon and Winfrey contributions could have absolutely just been Winfrey with some outsourcing to other characters.

Calvin is the most obvious unnecessary character in the film. He does nothing but mumble and bumble in the scenes. He serves no purpose to the plot or hicharacter and Miller's performance just makes it more painful to the point where he has trouble enunciating other character's names.

The story jumps back and forth between things that do not quite add up and tries to give meaning and emotions to moments that are not earned. The relationships feel

forced and arbitrary and I have hard time taking the final physical manifestation of "evil" as a threat, being a 6-year-old boy.

There is certain visual issue with Ava DuVernay's directing on this film. The most irritating being the gratuitous number of close-ups. Maybe it is the actors' faults for not showing emotion, but there is no need for a close-up on someone whose expression is wood.

Looking at each shot individually, framing would not be an issue, but the way they play in sequence is enough to make your neck sore. The subject location between shots darted around the screen uncomfortably and erratically. This is a shame given DuVernay's reputation following "Selma" in 2014.

The sound of film is unfortunately also pretty uninspiring. The tunes and melodies, much like the film, are very forgettable.

In terms of whimsy in magic, "A Wrinkle in Time" feels like it is trying to be like "The Neverending Story" or "Labyrinth," but it ends up feeling most similar to "Tomorrowland." The lack of concrete focus and character are just some of the few problems that leave a viewer unsatisfied.

Local band Sunday Morning has big dreams



PHOTO | PAUL BENJUNAS

Sunday Morning vocalist, Wes Benjunas.

By Lynandro Simmons

Wes Benjunas grew up with an interest in music and began playing when he was young. He and his friends formed the band Sunday Morning in high school and they now play shows around Connecticut and have begun playing out of state.

"I was always interested in drums," said Benjunas, a sophomore recreation and leisure major. "I played in the school band and stuff like that."

He would also polish up his skills playing in his high school jazz band. Around the sixth grade Benjunas said he switched his choice in the main instrument he wanted to play. Moving away from the drums he decided to improve his skills with a guitar. Benjunas' interest in music would lead to him starting his own band.

"We started the band in my senior year of high school," he said.

The original lineup of the band was different from its current lineup. Originally Benjunas played drums, Dan Hill played guitar, Parker played bass and his brother Paul Benjunas sang.

"My brother got a job and couldn't put enough time in the band," he said. "So I moved to guitar and vocals."

From there he asked his friend Erik Stanzel, another student at Southern, to join the band. He knew he played drums and thought he could help fill the role. In the beginning the band went without a name.

"We didn't have a name for a couple months," said Benjunas. "We practiced every Sunday morning because that was the only time we had free because of football. So that's how we became Sunday Morning."

The two rock bands Blink-182 and Green Day were amongst several influences for Benjunas growing up.

"I really liked the Doors and Van Halen," he said.

However, his family brought a diverse array of music. Benjunas said that he and his brother both got into classic rock from their father. His mother opened him up to



PHOTO | PAUL BENJUNAS

Members of Sunday Morning: Dan Hill (left to right), Wes Benjunas, Erik Stanzel and Parker Dumont.

other genres of music growing up.

"My mom liked R&B and stuff," he said. "I love Mary J. Blige. Getting older I got into hip-hop."

During the early days the band would go bar to bar covering songs. This would include covers of popular songs from Green Day like "When I Come Around," and "What's my Age Again" from Blink-182.

"You kind of have to play a lot of covers," said Benjunas. "You want people to know all the songs."

From there the band began to focus on their own music. They started writing original lyrics after gaining some experi-

ence from their performances. Over the span of six months the band went from largely covering other group's songs to developing their own sound.

"Now that's all we do, just play originals," he said.

Currently the band is in the process of finding a different sound, said Benjunas. The music the band has out did not give an accurate portrayal of where the group was at currently.

"In terms of musicianship and songwriting we've just matured so much over the two years we've been together," said Benjunas.

Though the change is not drastic,

the band wanted to give listeners more mature content moving forward. A lot of their current music is more sing-songy and was similar to how pop songs are structured.

"We're trying to get a little more complex with our lyrics and the structure of songs," he said.

Benjunas said Sunday Morning has started to garner attention out of Connecticut and now do shows out of the state.

"I'd like to take it as far as we can," said Benjunas. "It's a long process, but the right people just have to hear it and see it."

Owls make statement at Nationals

By Matt Gad

At this year's track and field nationals, Destiney Coward won the national championship in the weight throw and Yakabu Ibrahim performed to All-America honors in the 60-meter hurdles.

"It was a sad and great feeling at the same time," Coward said. "It was sad because it was my last outdoor nationals meet but it felt great knowing that I came in as a freshman not knowing what weight throw was and now becoming one of the best in the nation."

Her throwing coach, Bill Sutherland, a 1973 Southern graduate who has coached national champions before in Chris Sagnella and Dan Bourque and an Olympian in 2004 hammer thrower Anna Mahon, the current principal at Woodbridge's Amity High School, knew the win was attainable.

"[Destiney] was undefeated this indoor season and was seeded number one going into the meet. However, until she was able to execute the winning throw, the pressure was on."

Coward claimed Southern's 90th NCAA title, the fifth in women's track and field, after throwing 20.79 meters at nationals March 9th.

Senior Destiney Coward placed first in the weight throw and senior Yakabu Ibrahim performed to All-American honors in the hurdles.



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Triple jumper Oghenefejiro Onakpoma during the NCAA Championship.

"This was a testimony to how much hard work my coach and I put in day in and day out," Coward said. "I'm hoping I can put it together for outdoors and bring back the national title to Southern once more. I've been working hard, especially through my injuries, so I'm prepared for what the outdoor season has to offer me."

The program had five

athletes competing in the national meet. Ibrahim

"Nationals is a major change in competitiveness."

— John Wallin, head coach

finished fifth in his final 60-meter hurdles event and Briana Burt completed

a lifetime best and made second-time All-American honors for her first time ever.

"In America, track and field is easily one of the most competitive sports," head coach John Wallin said. "Nationals is a major change in competitiveness. It's a good experience even if it may not seem super positive at all times. You learn more from the

SEE TRACK AND FIELD PAGE 11



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Senior Yakabu Ibrahim during the 60-meter hurdles at the NCAA Championship.



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Senior Victoria Ceballos delivering a pitch during an away game this season.

Southern softball off to slow start

By Sean Alcide

SCSU Softball is off to a slow start following their season opening trip in Clermont, Florida. The Owls currently stand at 2-6, following a three-game losing streak. Amidst the rough start, senior team captain, Victoria Ceballos, believes the team is moving in the right direction.

"Florida proved that we can hang with tough teams," said Ceballos. "We are a young team, but if we fire on all cylinders, we will be in good shape for the regular season."

With upcoming games vs Post University having

been postponed, the team will take the diamond next on Wednesday, March 21 in a double header vs Adelphi University, in Garden City, NY.

Senior team captain, Jamie Conklin, said she believes their youth and lack of continuity have contributed to their slow start. She also said she thinks the team can, and will get more comfortable with one another.

"We have never really played together besides a few games in the fall and a scrimmage this spring," said Conklin. "We got more comfortable as the games went on and we learned from our mistakes."

Conklin, who is batting .435 this season, said she is encouraged by the progress she is seeing in the approach of the team, particularly on offense.

"Offensively, the girls became more confident at the plate," said Conklin. "Can't win if you can't score."

Although Conklin has been great at the plate, she said there are still areas of growth in the overall impact she's capable of having on the game.

"I think I need to focus on being more aggressive on the base path and take advantage of my speed where I can," said Conklin.

SEE SOFTBALL PAGE 11



PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Senior guard Murhpy Murad (left) and senior guard Africa Willams during the NCAA Tournament

Women's basketball ride comes to an end

By Matt Gad

After losing to Bentley 64-51 last Thursday in the NE10 Semifinals, the Owls still ended up being selected into the Division II Tournament for the first time since the 2011-12 season.

Taking on the No. 1 regionally-seeded Stonehill SkyHawks, Southern, which entered the contest 21-9, fell by a final of 70-45.

"We played really hard for 40 minutes," head coach Kate Lynch said. "The ball just didn't go in the hoop. [Stonehill] is super efficient offensively there were times we made some runs and we just couldn't get the ball in the hole."

The Owls started the game strong and made some runs throughout. Sophomore Kiana Steinauer led with 12 points, 11 rebounds and five steals and, for the second straight contest, senior sharpshooter Abby Hurlbert was limited to just eight points.

"We certainly had some underclassmen who stepped up. Them having that type of exposure right now in the NCAA Tournament, I think that's step one," Lynch said.

Sophomore guard Imani Wheeler and junior guard Amanda Pfohl each contributed eight points off the bench. Wheeler soaked up 20 minutes of action after senior guard Paige Decker's first-quarter injury.

"It's an awesome experience to be here," Steinauer said. "We were striving to bring the team back here after a couple years. We want to ultimately win a national championship like coach did so it's obviously an amazing experience and hopefully we can get back here next year."

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PAGE 10

Busted brackets and March Madness' first ever 16 seed victory

By Matt Gad

What if I told you that there was an NCAA Tournament where a men's 16 seed defeated the program selected number one overall by the selection committee? What about if I said multiple top teams would be out before the Sweet Sixteen? What if I told you that there was a sporting event on TruTV?

Believe it or not, all that is true. And it has all happened this year. The tournament is only half over and March has become mayhem.

While the first ever 16 over one happened with the Harvard Women, the men's edition came over the weekend, something some thought may never even happen. In a matchup that's typically blowout city, the University of Maryland Baltimore County made things upset city over the Virginia Cavaliers.

The Terriers rattled Virginia by 20 points and set America into complete shock and hysteria. There was even a Bridgeport native on their team. Yes, Connecticut wins.

And it wasn't just them.

11-seed Loyola Chicago upended number three Tennessee, and the Florida State Seminoles sent shock waves through number one Xavier. And then there was No. 2 Cincinnati going down along with the true blue North Carolina Tar Heels of Chapel Hill.

Brackets have been busted. Heck, they've been shredded. And while the announcers tell you to play the second chance bracket game this year you really might want to. Where's the fun of busted bracket mayhem? Life is giving you a

second chance. Sign up. Heck, call Syracuse your national champion. They've somehow ended up in the party for next weekend, too.

Oh, to think the Orange almost couldn't even handle the Owls back a few months ago. Boy have times changed. So it's all setting up to be quite a Sweet Sixteen and finish to the madness later this month (and into the early days of April). Why does the Final Four have to be on a Seder night, though?



Matt Gad - Sports Writer

Black Attack gears up for spring season



PHOTO | OLIVIA MECCA

Southern competing in the national tournament in Colorado last season.



PHOTO | OLIVIA MECCA

Senior Seimou Smith jumping for the ball in the line-out last season.

By Matt Gad

In the fall, Southern's men's rugby club, the Black Attack, plays seven a side, a form of the sport that simply utilizes less players. In the spring, however, there is 15 to a team. That is what the club is preparing for now, with practices underway as of yesterday.

Last spring the 15s squad finished third at the USA Rugby National Division II College Sevens Tournament. They were runner-ups in Rugby North-east for 15s and won it for seven-a-side.

"We're very excited to get back into sevens due to our success last spring," senior Lyle Luth said. "We've been training a lot together and our chemistry is better than ever so we're hoping

to take home a gold medal instead of the bronze like last year."

With some roster turnover, the team has placed an emphasis in recruiting underclassmen and other new members, however, that does not mean they're weak in experience.

"We do have a lot of juniors and seniors as well," Luth said. "I would say it's a pretty even split between under and upperclassmen."

Another member of the team, Dylan Carroll, reiterated the strong freshman interest, saying rugby is a sport for everyone.

"Unfortunately, the team will be losing close to eight senior starters next fall, which is why this spring is a crucial time for young talents to develop into permanent positions."

In what is going to be his final

semester at Southern, Carroll said he is seen progress but that there is still a ways to go to get the club taken more seriously on campus. He said that rugby is the fastest growing sport in the country and that many schools have taken into consideration making it a varsity sport.

Right now there are seven men's Division II sports on campus in baseball, basketball, cross country running, football, soccer, swimming and diving and track and field. Men's rugby has fallen among the competitive clubs, competing with the likes of ultimate frisbee, ice hockey, golf and lacrosse, which had a varsity spot until several years ago.

"In the future rugby will be a very lucrative sport and I believe Southern should capitalize on it," Carroll said.

"Southern Rugby has been around since 1981 and we have a large alumni following on social media. There have been enormous highs and extreme lows in our club's history, but putting on a Southern jersey is never taken for granted."

Last year they not only played on their regular field but they also got an opportunity to compete where NCAA sports like field hockey, women's lacrosse, men's and women's soccer and football take place: Jess Dow Field.

"We're a serious club and our success has shown that," Luth said. "I believe that rugby culture has shifted in a very positive way and people are starting to realize our success. We've made tournament runs [in both sevens and 15s] and also have two All-American sevens players: Carroll and Seimou Smith."

Women's basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

After going 12-17 last year, Lynch was able to guide the program back to their winning ways of just a year before when they finished 19-11. That season they also fell to Bentley, 78-74 in the NE-10 Semifinals.

Steinauer said the team is "super proud" of their seniors' efforts this season. The Owls will have to move on in their 2018-19 campaign next year without Hurlbert, Murphy Murad, Decker, Chloe Brinton and Africa and Chandler Williams (no relation).

"[The seniors] deserved that opportunity," Lynch said. "We talked about it in the locker room after the game; they put their blood, sweat and tears and all their hard work into the last four years of their careers and three of them were with [the current staff]. We know how hard we push these young ladies every day and they always respond in a positive way. It only felt right to give them that opportunity."

Lynch and one of her assistants, Stephanie Hiriak, were part of the program's national championship in 2007. Asked if they used that to provide the team with any momentum heading into the regional, Steinauer said the coaches are just "always trying to push us through hard times."

"They tell us that it's gonna be hard but that, ultimately, it's worth it. They said [a championship] is gonna take a lot of work but that it pays off," she said.

Going forward, the Owls will return Wheeler, Steinauer, Jana Migliaro, Alyssa Irons, Bridget Sharnick, Maddie Brown, Jessica Fressle, Pfohl, freshman Miranda Crenshaw and junior forwards Allie Smith and Erin Ryder.

"I'm just happy with what this group has accomplished and the bar they've set for our program," Lynch said. "It's only, hopefully, up from here, for us, but our team left it out on the court and I'm super proud of that."



PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Sophomore Kiana Steinauer jumping for a rebound during the NCAA tournament game against Stonehill.

Cleveland Browns make major offseason moves

By Kevin Crompton

The NFL offseason has been hectic. Big name players have been shifted around throughout the league and for those of us who eat, sleep and breathe all things football, free agency has been sensational.

The Cleveland Browns have made some of the most stimulating moves, acquiring former Buffalo Bills quarterback Tyrod Taylor, former Miami Dolphins wide receiver Jarvis Landry, and former Green Bay Packers defensive back Damarious Randall, just to name a few. As

far as the offseason goes — yes, the Browns have been stimulating.

That being said, only time will tell if Cleveland can keep their fans happy when the season is underway, but then again, fans should not be too hard to please, after witnessing their team record just the second 0-16 season in NFL history.

Landry was acquired via trade. A trade that the Browns won. Receiving one of the most athletic players in the league in exchange for a fourth and seventh round pick is a no brainer. In 2017 Landry had

his best season reception (112) and touchdown wise (9). He continued to be the go to guy for Miami on must-covert first down situations and shows no signs of slowing down.

While Taylor receives his fair share of criticism and was even benched in 2017 — terrible decision, Sean McDermott — he is an upgrade from DeShone Kizer. Taylor is experienced, unlike Kizer, and has one of the strongest arms in the league. While consistency has been a problem for Taylor, he has shown flashes of brilliance. If he can build chemistry with

Landry and Cleveland's star receiver Josh Cribbs, expect some first-class highlights.

The Browns aren't going anywhere in 2018. They will not make the playoffs and will not be an above .500 team. However, they are taking the proper steps and moving in the right direction. They have 12 total picks in the 2018 draft including the first overall. With only more young talent coming their way, expect the Cleveland Browns to be playoff contenders — eventually.



Kevin Crompton - Sports Editor



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCT.OWLS.COM

Senior Destiney Coward during the weight throw this season.

Track and field

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

In addition to her national title, Coward was named East Region Athlete of the Year. Wallin said she is a hard worker who is able to produce similar results in outdoor track and field, even though he emphasized that throwing is different outdoors.

For Ibrahim, it was his seventh nationals meet at Southern, between indoor and outdoor track. He said he can always do better but that he was happy about being an All-American.

"I like to get in my own zone mentally; I don't really like talking to other people before a race," he said. "I'm focused on the task at hand. I've been to nationals since I was a junior in high school so this is not new to me. I get excited seeing people on my level or better because it just makes me want to beat them even more."

Ibrahim ran a 7.99 for his fifth place finish. Oghenefejiro Onakpoma and Michael Agyeman, both sophomores, competed in the triple jump. Onakpoma finished 12th and Agyeman was 16th.

"Getting kids to nationals is a great thing. You learn a lot there, even as a coach. The country is so dense in talent and coaching philosophies," Wallin said.

Lacrosse record not reflective of team's potential



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCT.OWLS.COM

Senior Nicole Healey, (left to right) junior Samantha Cozzolino and senior Taylor Portelinha huddling during a game this season.

By John Delfino

Instead of sandy beaches and 90-degree weather, Southern Connecticut women's lacrosse traveled out west for their spring break to the cold and beautiful state of Colorado.

After suffering a couple losses to start their season, the owls looked to start fresh on their road trip.

The Owls flew down to Atlanta, Georgia on Saturday, March 10. With a rocky start to their season came a rough start on their trip to the Rocky Mountains when they missed their flight.

"Things weren't any better to the start trip when we missed our connecting flight," said captain Carolyn Keal.

Finally making their way over, the girls did not allow any of their season woes affect their trip.

They started off the trip with an inter-conference NE-10 game against the Purple Knights of St. Michael's College. In an even and highly contested battle, the Owls defeated the Purple Knights 14-13 behind a game high four goals from junior Samantha Cozzolino.

In what seems to be a reoccurring theme for the Owls, they netted the first goal just one minute and 16 seconds into the start of the game. The Purple Knights quickly responded netting four goals in a row and putting the owls behind 4-1.

"It's been a theme for us this season and last, we score first and early, and then teams just unload on us, four goals, 10, sometimes more. We dig ourselves a hole with a slow start, but not this year,"

said Keal. "We're going to stick with these teams throughout, more than just a big second half to get these victories."

The Owls did just that as they closed out the first half on a 7-2 run including two more from Cozzolino, taking an 8-6 lead into the break.

Purple Knights were not going to go away easy though as they netted three in a row to start the second half and regaining the lead 9-8.

The Owls answered quickly though with four of their own with two goals each from seniors Nicole Healey and Taylor Portelinha. Owls took the lead 12-9.

Purple knights responded as the game ended up 13-13 with very short time remaining in the contest when Cozzolino netted her fourth goal with 14 seconds remaining to cap off the owls first victory 14-13, their first of the season and first in the NE-10.

"We played a whole 60 minutes. We need to do that every game. Everyone who played scored a point. We need to do that every game. It was exciting and a great way to start off, definitely set the tone," said Captain Hailey Prindle-Nelson.

The Owls got a day off in between games before playing the home team University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

The Owls squared off in what would be a high scoring and very physical affair against the mountain lions.

Owls senior Nicole Healey and junior Samantha Cozzolino showed out for the Owls as they combined for 16 points

netting six goals apiece.

The Owls outscored the Mountain Lions in the first half 10-6 jumping ahead early.

The Owls took advantage of three yellow cards in the first half from the Mountain Lions, netting a goal on one.

In an evenly matched second half, the goals seemed to complement each other as the Mountain Lions had an answer for every owls score. The one difference being team discipline. The Mountain Lions collected six total yellow cards and one red card to the Owls' one yellow card.

"They lacked skill, stick skill, and they compensated by playing dirty and aggressive. We told the girls, this is the refs' game, don't argue, don't yell, play smart," said Prindle-Nelson.

The Owls went up four with just a little less than nine minutes left to play in regulation. The Mountain Lions attempted to make a comeback scoring three down 17-15. They netted one more with just a minute left down 17-16, but that would not be enough to down the relentless defense of the Owls and a near record breaking day for Healey as she netted a career nine points (six goals, three assists) just one-point shy of tying the school record of 10 points. Cozzolino as well matched a career high seven points (six goals, one assist) with her goal total a career best.

"Something new we're trying this year is a high press zone. Implemented for certain times, to make no opportunities to score," said Keal "It was a major key to our success."

Softball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Ceballos had a similar approach to what she can do to take her game to the next level.

"I need to focus on my offense," said Ceballos. "I am either the clean-up or 5 hitter - I'm expected to put the ball in play and score runs.

The Owls will have their home opener on Saturday, March 24 against Bentley University. After back to back home games against the Falcons, Southern will play two against Stonehill and two against Adelphi to conclude their six game home stretch.



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCT.OWLS.COM

Senior Bryanna McIntosh fielding the ball during a game this season.



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCT.OWLS.COM

Sophomore Sara Buscetto playing the infield during a game this season.

Basketball season ends, baseball begins



Women's basketball team preparing for NCAA Tournament game in Moore Field House.

PHOTO | PALMER PIANA



PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Head coach Kate Lynch talking to the team during a timeout.



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Baseball head coach Tim Shea congratulating sophomore Nate Carney during a game this season.



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Southern baseball team stretching prior to practice in Moore Field House.

NE-10 Baseball standings

OVERALL
GP RECORD WIN %

NORTHEAST DIVISION

FRANKLIN PIERCE	16	9-6-1	0.594
SO. NEW HAMPSHIRE	17	10-7-0	0.588
STONEHILL	13	7-6-0	0.538
MERRIMACK	12	6-6-0	0.500
SAINT ANSELM	13	6-7-0	0.462
BENTLEY	15	6-9-0	0.400
ASSUMPTION	15	5-10-0	0.333
SAINT MICHAEL'S	15	4-11-0	0.267

SOUTHWEST DIVISION

NEW HAVEN	14	14-0-0	1.000
LE MOYNE	20	14-6-0	0.700
SO. CONNECTICUT	18	12-6-0	0.667
PACE	10	5-4-1	0.550
AMERICAN INT'L	13	7-6-0	0.538
SAINT ROSE	13	7-6-0	0.538
ADELPHI	13	6-6-1	0.500

NE-10 Softball standings

OVERALL
GP RECORD WIN %

NORTHEAST DIVISION

MERRIMACK	14	12-2-0	0.857
SO. NEW HAMPSHIRE	20	17-3-0	0.850
SAINT ANSELM	19	13-6-0	0.684
ASSUMPTION	10	5-5-0	0.500
SAINT MICHAEL'S	10	3-7-0	0.300
FRANKLIN PIERCE	10	3-7-0	0.300
BENTLEY	11	2-9-0	0.182
STONEHILL	10	1-9-0	0.100

SOUTHWEST DIVISION

LE MOYNE	19	14-5-0	0.737
NEW HAVEN	15	7-8-0	0.467
ADELPHI	17	6-11-0	0.353
SO. CONNECTICUT	8	2-6-0	0.250
SAINT ROSE	10	2-8-0	0.200
PACE	6	1-5-0	0.167
AMERICAN INT'L	10	0-10-0	0.000

Tillerson fired via tweet by Trump

By Josh Labella

On the Great Seal of the United States one can see an eagle holding an olive branch in one talon and 13 arrows in the other.

These represent the country's desire for peace but it's readiness for war respectively. When it comes to this creed being lived out in the United States government there is no better comparison than the dichotomy of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense.

Last Tuesday, Trump announced via Twitter that he would be replacing Secretary of State Rex Tillerson with Mike Pompeo, the current director of the CIA. There have been reports that the nation's top diplomat found out he lost his job from that tweet.

The true shame of this event is that Tillerson had been doing the best he could in the Trump Presidency. He tried to work with his president even though they disagreed on many global issues such as climate change, the proper approach to dealing with North Korea and whether or not President Trump is a "moron" - allegedly.

Tillerson worked to promote the United States's interest abroad even while facing proposed cuts to his department above 25 percent. He did this job while the administration failed to fill dozens of ambassador positions across the world.

Throughout his time in the administration it seemed that ever way Tillerson tried to go, Trump went the opposite. Trump has repeatedly bashed the NATO and left Tillerson to try and mend the situation. Tillerson cautioned against moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem but Trump went ahead and did it.

Most recently, Tillerson told reporters that the country "a long ways from negotiations" with North Korea only for it to be announced hours later that Trump was willing to meet with Kim Jong Un later this Spring. Such a meeting is of immense importance and one could only think that a level of continuity in the State Department would be critical to well-planned negotiations with the world's most notorious dictator.

Tillerson's replacement, Mike Pompeo, has been a Trump favorite from early in his presidency. Trump has said that Pompeo has "tremendous energy" and "tremen-



Former U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

PHOTO | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATER

dous intellect." He noted that he and Pompeo are "on the same wavelength."

Pompeo has spent the past few years backing up Trump on many issues that some find contentious. He was an ardent supporter of Trump's qualms with the Iran Nuclear Deal and has sometimes supported Trump's claims that Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation is a "witch hunt."

Rex Tillerson was an unorthodox pick for Secretary of State. He came from the private sector - he was

previously the CEO of Exxonmobil - and had no public office experience before being tapped for the job. Quite possibly Pompeo will do a better job than his predecessor, depending on your definition.

Yet it seems unfair that Tillerson was fired without ever being given the freedom, funding and support from his boss that may have allowed him to succeed. Trump's White House continues to see firings and departures at such a rate that one could set their watch to it. There is no indication that that is about to change.

Gender performance and feminine values



PHOTO | BART EVERSON

A sign that reads, "The future if there is one is female."

By Tyler Korponai

In 1964 Bob Dylan released his album, "The Times They Are a-Changin'," and I think the title holds true even today. As a jumping point, I want to specifically address the increased presence of the idea that "the future is female." These words are printed on clothing and accessories, and Hillary Clinton

even titled a book released in 2017 with this name. I understand that the ever-evolving nature of our world can seem frightening and destabilizing, but I believe people like me, straight men, have something really valuable to gain from considering what a female future means.

I first think we should backpedal and I want to rehash this idea with the words that the future is feminine. Women are stepping up. There is a lot of work to be done still, yes. But women are entering politics in increasingly high numbers. In the workforce, I would say that women are highly integrated, despite pay gaps existing in certain industries. The point here is that as women elevate their position in society I believe there will be a rise in feminine values, which should complement and not entirely usurp masculine values.

Many conservative critics have viewed a female future as inherently biased and unequal. This is why I feel the need to reword the idea. A feminine future is an opportunity to celebrate the differences of femininity and masculinity, and their qualities which supplement each other. No one person entirely embodies the characteristics of either end of the gender-performative spectrum. In layman's terms, as a straight male I can hold an interest in training

boxing, which is traditionally a masculine practice, and I can also value a tidy place to inhabit, where femininity and domesticity have traditionally rested.

Really, what this boils down to for me is a matter of perspective. Femininity and masculinity should coexist with each other as tools that can be expressed when their application results in a clear advantage. There are occasions that call for tact and a soft touch, and there are also times that require uncompromising determination. Now I have not labeled either of these examples as feminine or masculine. And I think we should develop society to a point that we collectively forget our labels too. Rather categorizing or assigning superior value to traits, let us agree that traditionally feminine and masculine actions and traits have their own merit.

No more should we consider a child lesser because they "hit like a girl" or chastise them for not properly conforming to their biological sex. I believe that transgender individuals can actually be models for expressing both sides of the gender-performative spectrum. Behave as you wish and forget the connotations of what your biological sex entail. The future is coming, and resist it as we may try I suggest that history has shown time and time again: the times, they are a-changin'.

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

St. Joseph's Day bake sale hosted by Italian Club

By Palmer Piana



Zepole pastries, a traditional Italian food enjoyed on St. Joseph's Day.



Matt Torrisi, an Italian and secondary education major, helping Joe Pacific, an IDS major senior, select his pastry.



Matt Torrisi and Deanna Scotto, an Italian major selling pastries for the Italian Club on St. Joseph's Day.



Joe eating his zepole in the student center Monday afternoon.



Pastry box from Lucibello's which makes this pastry special for the Catholic holiday.



Chocolate variation of the zepole on displayed at the booth.