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# SOUTHERN NEWS

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## Students voice their thoughts through art

**By Jaylen Carr  
Sports Editor**

The university's academic departments will help students and faculty express their views through art and writing about the continued fight for reproductive rights ever since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in June 2022.

Starting on March 21, the main offices of the history, women's gender studies and political science departments are creating an art installation for students and faculty to express how they felt about the overturn of Roe v. Wade. There were markers, posters, and other art utensils to help students visually say what they thought about the Supreme Court decision.

"We had done a few events around it over the last year since Roe v. Wade was overturned," History department secretary Amanda Ward said. "We did a panel on Sept. 14, 2022, with faculty members from four different parts of Southern and then we did a paper bag luncheon."

Ward said the luncheon was a fantastic way to get people to express their feelings about the Supreme Court's ruling.

"We need to keep the conversation going because students need to know that their voices can and should be heard on this issue," Ward said. "We are trying to stir whatever interest we can towards the cause just so that

everyone feels like they aren't powerless."

Ward said Professor Sarah Roe, the Women's and Gender studies and political science department, discussed the art installation as an excellent idea for visually seeing how people felt about the Court ruling.

"An art installation is more of a physical way to get their voices heard," Ward said. "The idea of an art installation came up, which we probably won't be able to accomplish this year, but at least we can put something on the walls that stretch from one end of Engleman hallway across to the other end."

Political science secretary Karyn Watts said Professor Sarah Roe contacted her a couple of weeks ago about doing the art installation and was interested in supporting the cause.

"We had a short meeting and brainstormed about how to get this going and how to get students involved, and that meeting took place last week," Watts said.

Watts said it is essential for students to express how they feel about the overturning of Roe v. Wade.

"With it being Women's History Month and ending at the end of March, I think it's important to continue the conversation and bring attention to this really important issue," Watts said.

Ward said she created the graphic of a woman's uterus being stretched left and right on the flyers to express how she felt about the Court's ruling.

"It was just an idea of us fighting over our own bodies," Ward said. "We printed flags, and we wanted to have students to come help."

Ward said this was a way for students to get their hands on something.

"Next year, we might bring it to a bigger end," Ward said. "We want students to know it's those small movements that start much bigger movements, and it's them that can build and create change."

Watts said there were digital submissions of words on a poster from students on how they felt about the overturning of Roe v. Wade. Some words the students expressed their sadness, anger, and frustration.

"We are encouraging students coming in to draw something or add a comment to each of these posters, and they have until March 30," Watts said.

Ward said a generation thought the Supreme Court would never overturn Roe v. Wade; therefore, no one protected it.

"From what history I learned, it was a flawed ruling, and it was going to fail eventually," Ward said. "Further protection should have been built into it. I do not think we as women worked hard to protect our own bodies and rights."

Some students on campus voice their opinion on Roe v. Wade and the university's efforts to give them a voice to express their views.

Computer science major Kimani Dyer, a freshman, said she had not heard

about the art installation but disagreed with the Court's ruling.

"I think women should have their choice and their own contraceptives," Dyer said. "I feel that the government shouldn't necessarily put their input in certain people's bodies."

Early childhood education major Jillian Garoza, a senior, said she was saddened once she learned about Roe v. Wade news.

"It made me sad, and it made me feel strong emotions," Garoza said.

Ward said they are contacting students to get

involved by sending flyers and emails.

"I think it's important students know what their rights versus what their rights should be," Ward said. "They should be engaged in what's happening around them because it does affect them."



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON  
A sign in front of the women's and gender study department.



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON  
A board in front of the women's and gender study department.

## Spring semester midterm check in on classes

**By Jaylen Carr  
Sports Editor**

The university has passed the halfway point in the semester, and students are beginning to reflect on the highs and lows and how they might cope with the grueling semester.

Computer science major Phoenix Meira, a freshman, said, "the semester has been a little stressful.

There are definitely some classes that are more work-inducing than others."

Meira said some professors don't care enough about the classes they teach.

Public health major Talia Lent, a graduate student, said her semester is going well, and she is on campus frequently working for the Office of Student Involvement

and Leadership Development.

"I am on here the majority during the day, and then at night, I am going to class," Lent said. "It is a lot to juggle, but I think it's going pretty good."

Music major Farah Hamada, a freshman, said her semester is going well so far, but she did feel stressed a couple of weeks ago when she was sick and had to miss class.

"I had to miss a whole week of class, and that was definitely stressful because I missed a lab, and figuring out to make that up was tough," Hamada said. "We rescheduled the lab, and the professor was nice about it."

Meira said she is doing well in both computer sciences but prefers one because of the professor.

"I have A's in both of them," Meira said. "One is more enjoyable just because of the professor."

Meira said the semester

has been stressful because she is taking eight classes.

"I just have a lot of little assignments to do," Meira said.

The major challenge for this semester is paying for tuition, Meira said.

"I think a lot of people can relate," Meira said. Lent said balancing work, school, and personal life can be challenging.

"Just talking with professors is just because they know it's important for students to make connections," Lent said. "I feel like that is something that a lot of students can relate to just because regardless of where you work, even if it's on campus or off campus balancing having a job and also going to school can be a lot."

Anthropology major Kristian Marroquin, a freshman, said his semester is going well because of the support he has.

"I didn't feel stress because I have more of a

better community than I was last semester, Marroquin said. "I have the MCC; I also go to CASAS to help me with tutoring as well with certain subjects that I am not that familiar with."

The Multicultural Center, MCC, has been a resource for students to express themselves and meet new people.

According to the MCC university homepage, "MCC welcomes all students, faculty, staff, and community members to our events while at the same time supporting and celebrating specific constituency groups."

CASAS, better known as the Center for Academic Success and Accessibility Services, according to its website, is an excellent resource for students to get help academically.

Marroquin said he goes to CASAS frequently throughout the week.

Marroquin said if students are stressed from

their academic assignments during the semester, they should take a break and take deep breaths.

"I know for me, I like to go on walks, and I have a bike, so I like biking around too," Marroquin said. "Talk to some friends and just have a little bit of fun in short periods of time."

Lent said students should take their time and not worry about their grades too much because their mental health is essential.

Hamada said that managing your time better is also a great tip to relieve stress during the semester.

"Take it one step at a time and try to live in the moment," Hamada said. "I feel like a lot of people spend more time worrying about the things that they have to do."

Marroquin said, "put your mental health first because if you cannot put your mental health first, then how will you get your work done?"

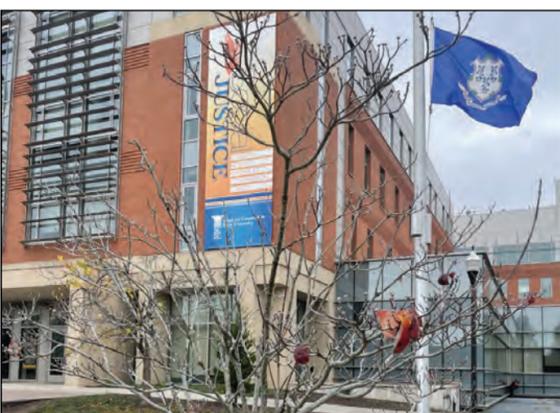


PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON  
The walkway going to Buley Library

# PHOTOS

## Royal Heritage Ball celebrates diversity

**By Luke Molwitz  
Photographer**

The Heritage Ball was held March 9 in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom.

This annual event was sponsored by: African Student Association, Asian Culture Society, Black Student Union, Caribbean

Student Association, FACE Models, Mexican Cultural Society, Multicultural Center, Organization of Latin American Students and Steppin Up Dream Team.

Admission was free for the first 200 students.

Journalism major Destene Savariau, a junior, won Ms. Heritage Ball.



Student Madison Alexis and her guest Enrique Deluna posing for the camera.



Matthew Wickliffe, a sophomore at the ball.



Close-up of Nursing major Ayden VanDeusen, a sophomore.



Anthropology Kristen Marroquin, a freshman, with a winning crown.



Cherika Urquhart, graduate intern of the Multicultural Center (right), with her guest.



Flowers on the tables.



Heritage Ball performance number two with African Student Association's dance team.

## Campus police connects with the community

By Sheldon Gargano  
Contributer

Southern's campus police and New Haven police (NHPD) have different titles, but still hold the same standards while trying to be a part of communities.

University officers were able to express their positive relationship with the NHPD. Both are always willing to help one another when in need of extra assistance in relation to an event or problem.

"Our chief and the chief of New Haven have a really good relationship," said Lt. Richard Anderson.

Disturbances at the university do happen with students, external factors and throughout the city. Police strive to have great communication in order to make sure problems get figured out. Depending on the situation, both departments deal with disturbances depending on the proximity of the problem.



University Officer Abbey Pantini with campus police dog Brody outside of Granoff Hall on Nov. 28, 2022.

"If there is anything on campus we handle the issue and New Haven doesn't really get called for anything here unless we need them," Anderson said.

The training for police officers is the same no matter what position police

officers are put in or choose to go. There are different academies throughout Connecticut that aspiring police officers go to train.

"New police officers like to attend New Haven academy but most prefer to go to the state academy

which is located up in Meriden, which is the same as the mandatory academies," said Anderson.

This is something that works for the police force. There is proper training for the safety of the public and for students on campus.

"A person who is to become a police officer in Connecticut must first attend a Basic Training Program at either the Connecticut Police Academy or at a Council-approved Academy," according to CT.gov. "Six departments in the state periodically conduct basic training programs at their academies under oversight of the POST (these are called satellite academies). The majority (90%) of police recruits go through POST's program at the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden, Connecticut."

Although working in different organizations, the departments do not do things differently when it comes to training and trying to prepare for

scenarios. They want to cooperate as much as they can to be on top of any situation or problem that arises. Most situations, if not all, can be approached the same way by campus police and New Haven police. Knowing how to communicate with people gives police the advantage because staying positive and trying to be that source of help results in a better outcome.

Although people do not always react the same, the police are there for the safety of students and the general public. Campus police are trying to enforce those same laws.

"I think our police department and New Haven's are big on community policing and doing more for the community that we serve because it's our job and we care about those we are trying to keep safe," said officer Abbey Pantini.

A benefit of being a campus police officer is a NHPD officer might not get

opportunities to interact with the community as much as they want. Campus police are more connected with the university community. There are pros and cons that come along with both jobs.

"As a university police officer you have more of an opportunity to do community policing like attending events, interacting daily with staff and students. NHPD has a unit for events, but they want to do more community-based activities," said Lt. Anderson.

Pantini and Anderson believe this is the best benefit. They said if NHPD were able to they would interact more if they could. They enjoy being in the community and making sure everything is safe.

"When you have good leadership, the work goes hand and hand with New Haven, just like us going down the line of rankings the leadership and great people are there," said Pantini.

## Review- Park Jimin album Opinion- The 'Woke' panic

By Sofia Rositani  
Editor-in-chief

BTS has done it again. They have broke Army, in both a monetary and mental sense.

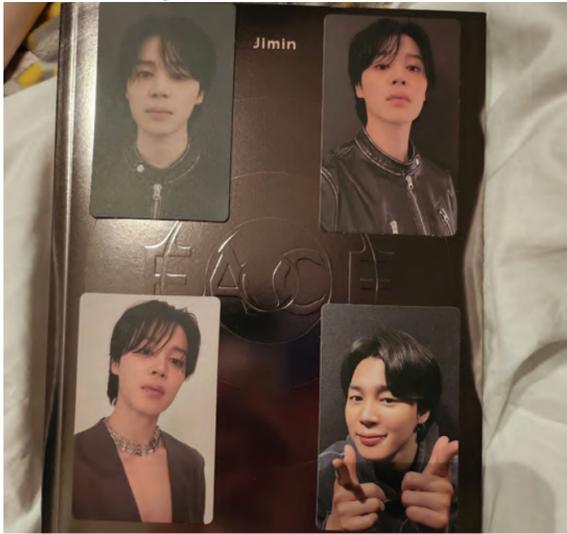
Park Jimin, singer, and dancer for the Korean boy group BTS, has finally released his first solo album "Face." There are six songs on the setlist, two being the same song but one is in English.

"Face," which arrived on March 24 via HYBE LABELS, brought in 74% of the vote, beating out new music from Lana Del Rey, Ed Sheeran, Rosalia and Rauw Alejandro, Luke Combs and others, according to Billboard.

The power of the BTS Army is limitless. The group works hard to put out content and in return we work hard to get them to the top of the charts and awards. Many fans, not just in BTS, will buy multiple albums to help artists reach the number one spot on the charts.

The last members to release a solo album were Kim Seokjin with "Astronaut," prior to his military enlistment, J-Hope, or Jung Hoseok, with not just his album "Jack in the Box" but also "On the Street" with J. Cole, and finally RM, or Kim Namjoon with his album "Indigo" and his recent feature on "Smoke Sprite" by So!YoON!. Every single one of these albums sold out in stores the same day of their release.

As someone who does not have social anxiety, walking into a Target and asking if they have an album that may be sold out does not bother me. That is exactly what I had to do because Target do not put out all the albums on the floor, so you have to ask if they still have any in the back. Thankfully, Target had 12 left. Another fellow Army and I were able to wipe that sweat off our brow and buy it.



Park Jimin's latest album cover "Face" and the photo cards that came with it.

This album's music videos are stunning. While I was not a huge fan of "Set Me Free pt. 2," which is a nod to favorite rapper in BTS, AGUSTD's, song "Interlude: Set Me Free." I really enjoyed the choreography and the way it was shot. Listeners also saw Park in a more vulnerable way since we never really see the members shirtless. This whole album felt vulnerable, like Park finally ripped the band aid. Fans have seen something like this in the past with "Lie" and "Serendipity."

This album almost made it seem like Park was saying "hey this is Park Jimin and if you do not like it then leave" a message to the haters in the world. Nylon writer India Roby explains it perfectly in her article.

"If Jimin's previous works were bubbling whispers, "Face" is an honest scream into the void. The album wrestles with self-inflicted torment but ends on a new beginning as an artist as he shows off a previously unseen creativity through his use of personal snippets and clips. Listeners now meet Jimin as he stands in unfamiliar territory, one that exhibits his desire to evolve beyond the BTS title, at the cusp of something

even greater to come," Roby said.

As an Army, I also feel like "Face" is not just for him but for all of us who are struggling through issues, or for us to find a way to help ourselves through our own struggles. This is new for us to hear from him, but I also really like it, this feels raw and emotional. BTS have so many emotional songs too do not get me wrong, but this is Park's first time doing this alone without his fellow members who are his family, so it could be scary for Park.

By Ali Fernand  
Features Editor

If you have been on social media lately, you probably have seen someone complaining about something becoming "woke." This is a term that has been used for years, typically by younger progressive groups. It simply was used to describe someone who is aware of social issues. I remember seeing and using this word ever since I was in high school. It was simple and became a running joke in left-wing circles.

Now the word has been totally overused by right-wing pundits. When the trailer for the live action "The Little Mermaid" was released, viewers saw singer and actress Chloe Bailey as Ariel teasing the classic "Part of Your World." When I saw the trailer, I was not particularly excited for another Disney remake. However, right-wingers felt outraged about how they made The Little Mermaid "woke." I immediately knew what they meant by this. They were mad that a movie once starting a cartoon mermaid who was white is now being portrayed by a black actress.

I have quite a few criticisms of this. First, this has been an issue for the past couple of years any time a black actor plays a character who has been typically portrayed as white. I once had a conversation with someone about Zendaya as MJ in the recent "Spider-Man" trilogies. They said that they agreed with the criticisms that Zendaya did not look enough like MJ in the comics or other adaptations of "Spider-Man." I immediately called this out because it was quite dumb to want a perfect adaptation of a comic for the movies and the comment was just racist. They then tried to walk back by saying that they just wished they gave her red hair in the movies.

This brings me back to "The Little Mermaid" because in this adaptation, Chloe Bailey's Ariel has red hair just like the original cartoon. You would think this would have fixed the criticisms I have noticed in past instances. However, people are still mad that she does not look like the original. So, I am left to conclude that people are mad about this adaptation because she is black.

Anything involving a person of color is

immediately coined "woke" by right-wingers. Though this also happens with women and queer people. The most ridiculous instance I have seen is the now famous Tucker Carlson segment about "woke M&Ms." Now this segment is hilarious, but knowing that millions of people watch him and take him seriously makes this concerning. He has claimed that the M&Ms are "woke" because they removed the high heels from one of the female M&Ms. This is hilarious because Carlson was just mad that a fictional piece of candy was no longer attractive. Carlson revisited this by talking about plus sized lesbian M&Ms. It seems ridiculous, but people genuinely believe this is the downfall of society.

This "woke" panic is once again displaying American politics and its focus on "culture war" issues. Specifically, conservatives hyperfocusing on social issues, pinning grievances that they have onto minorities. We are seeing this right now with trans people. Legislation is being passed to make their existence difficult with the justification being to protect children and women's sports.

## SOUTHERN NEWS

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## Softball team loses first game to Post University 6-4 in doubleheader

By Avery Martin  
Contributor

The Southern Connecticut State University Women's Softball team played their home opener on Wednesday, March 23 at Pelz Field.

It was a sunny afternoon in the low 50s, perfect for the doubleheader against Post University. The Owls were coming off a 0-10 loss against the University of Indianapolis and were determined to bounce back.

The first game ended in a 6-4 loss for the Owls, but they came back to win the second game 6-1.

"A positive is we have shown that we are fighters," Emily Lange, a junior outfielder, said.

"We've shown that even when we are down we will still try and figure it out. The first game didn't work out for us but then we turned it around for the second."

"In the first game we were a little out of it defensively. Having that struggle with defense did not go well for us in the first game but we were able to, in the second game, have enough runs to secure the win", Jacqueline Dumont, a graduate student catcher, said.

The first game was initially led by the Owls, until a series of runs by Post turned the tide. From the fourth to seventh innings, the Owls would replace their pitcher twice. RBIs were scored by Dumont, Alex Tenero, and Angela Barresi.

"We are doing

what we need to be doing offensively, sometimes. We are in this rollercoaster type situation right now, but we got to become a little more aggressive from my perspective," Coach Jill Rispoli said between games, "We have to jump on pitches earlier and not wait until the sixth inning to start firing things up. Pitching wise we have to be a little more perfect."

Lange also observed similarly. "Offensively we did really good. We just have to keep getting after it, and not slip up after scoring a few times," Lange said.

Between games to help the Owls had a team meeting to help eventually split the doubleheader.

"We talked about pushing ahead and not stopping. We talked about keeping our foot on the



PHOTO | LUKE MOLWITZ

Infielder Angela Barresi a junior, runs off base during the game versus Post University.

gas and not letting up after we scored," Lang said.

"We were trying to fix all those little pieces that fit together to fire on all four cylinders. Being able to play double headers, you take what you didn't do so well in the first game and adjust it to do better in the second game" Dumont said.

Pitching for game one consisted of Ashley Lewis, Emma Gorham, and Jessica Perucki. Perucki was the lone pitcher for the second game and dominated on the mound, allowing her opponents to score just once.

In the second game, the

Owls took an early lead when a hit by Dumont brought in Lange. RBIs were scored by Katrina Roy, Nadia Cestari, Dominique DeLutri, and Gabriella Festa. Dumont also hit a home run.

"I don't try to hit home runs, I try to just go up to bat and do what I need to do," Dumont said.

"In that inning I was the first up to bat so I was just trying to get on base. But I can hit the ball kinda hard so when something like that happens it is good. I am happy I hit it."

For more of this story visit our website at [thesouthernnews.com](https://thesouthernnews.com).

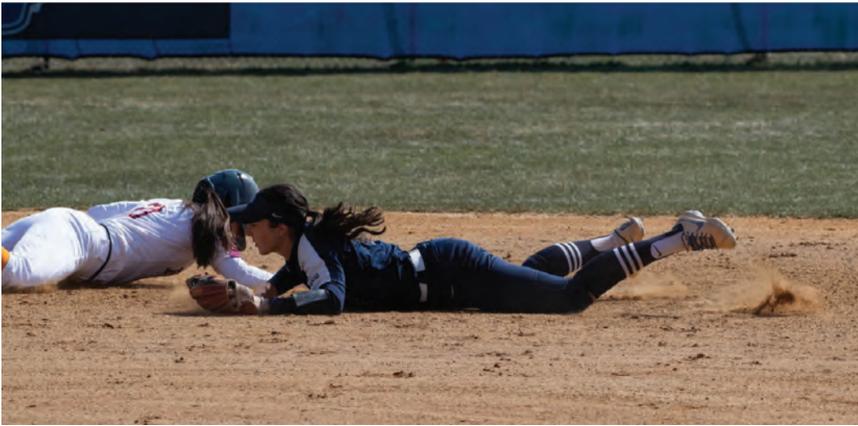


PHOTO | LUKE MOLWITZ

Post University player tries to slide on base, while an Owl player tries to get an out.

## Stewart reflects on being a student athlete

By Sheldon Gargano  
Contributor

As a freshman, Kazell Stewart did not see any playing time for the SCSU men's basketball team, due to an injury. Now early on into his sophomore season Stewart is about to get started.

"My goals for this season are to win and just play every game like it's my last chance to win, lose or draw. I just want to show that I leave my heart out on the floor," Stewart said.

Stewart has a busy schedule when it comes to being a student-athlete.

"My daily schedule is pretty much waking up at 8 a.m. and getting ready for class and I must be in a class by 9 a.m.," said Stewart. "In between I'm getting some breaks and then I'm done with classes by 1 p.m. Depending upon the day, I might grab a bit to eat in my break time but, most of the time I don't eat until after practice around 2:30 p.m. After I am done with around 4-4:30 p.m. I shower, eat, do homework and repeat."

Stewart may have a hefty schedule balancing school and basketball but, always manages to make it work. Stewart's teammates

had only positive things to say about him.

"K is a unique person; on the court he is a freak. Off the court he is like a brother to me," said Cherif Diarra, a sophomore basketball player.

Growing up, Stewart had a few favorite players that gave him motivation to play the game of basketball.

"My favorite player is MJ (Michael Jordan) and I like Tmac (Tracy McGrady). They both did so much in the game, Tmac was just hurt a lot," said Stewart.

Having those inspirations gave Stewart what he needed to put the



PHOTO | LUKE MOLWITZ

Kazell Stewart drives to the basket against Caldwell University.

work in, so that he could have the opportunity of playing at the next level.

Before Southern Stewart was a two-time All-State and three-time All-Conference selection at Prince Tech (Conn.) High School, according to the Southern Owls Basketball page.

Stewart, being competitive person and player, sees that as a team players must work together to reach those goals they work for as athletes. Also, knowing himself as a player helps improve his game.

"Team chemistry is very important, and I would say I try my best to work on team chemistry because if you don't like playing with your teammate you won't play well and get the results you're looking for," Stewart said. "I try to keep it simple as a player having - intensity, competitive drive."

For more of this story, visit our website at [thesouthernnews.com](https://thesouthernnews.com)



PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM

Foward Kazell Stewart, a sophomore dribbles the ball in a game from the season.

## Column: On the NCAA Tournament

By Jaylen Carr  
Sports Editor



With March ending, no perfect bracket remains for the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, better known as 'March Madness,' according to an ESPN report.

The one bracket I filled out was far from perfect, especially after the first weekend of games.

The tournament's first weekend saw second-rank Arizona lose against 15th rank Princeton, 59-55. Arizona was one of the favorites to win the tournament, shocking viewers when they lost.

Then saw the top seed in the East region of the bracket, Purdue, fall to Fairleigh Dickerson University 63-58. Purdue losing to a much lower seed and lesser school is the true definition of what March Madness can bring.

Every year, March Madness is full of surprises and shocking moments, and the first weekend of play lived up to the hype.

In my bracket, I picked top-ranked Houston University, the number-one team in the country for most of the season, to win the tournament. They finished the regular season with a 31-3 record and had four players averaging double figures in scoring. However, even the top seed in the country and the Midwest region of the bracket fell victim to being upsetting to a less superior team in the University of Miami.

According to NBC Connecticut's Max Molski, "Alabama leads the pack with +275 odds, according to our partner, PointsBet. The Crimson Tide rolled past No. 16 Texas A&M-CC and No. 8 Maryland in its first two tournament games after earning the top spot in the entire bracket," Molski said.

Alabama was favored to win the tournament, but in the end, they lost their Sweet 16, falling to San Diego State 71-64. Alabama's early exit marks the first time in March Madness history that no No. 1 seed will make the Elite Eight.

That is the one thing that makes March Madness intriguing to watch every year; You do not know who will win even, and many upsets are bound to happen.

For more of this column, visit our website at [thesouthernnews.com](https://thesouthernnews.com)