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Veterans Day Ceremony

By Sofia Rositani
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Veterans day is a day to commemorate those who served our country. This event was also to celebrate Coordinator of Veteran's and Military Affairs, Jack Mordente.

The patriotic event shed light on the way the university treats and interacts with people who serve and served America. The ceremony started off with the national anthem and was led with a prayer by James Furlong.

Two videos were played to explain what the holiday is, the basics of what a veteran is and how the holiday was created. It also cleared up rumors that Veterans Day is just a day off. After learning more in depth about the holiday, the veteran alumni from Southern in the audience rose from their seats. They said what part of the armed forces they served in and the

year they graduated from the college.

Connecticut Senator Richard Blumenthal also got the chance to speak out about his appreciation for veterans.

"we're out of Afghanistan, we've withdrawn every veteran who served there or Iraq should know you helped preserve our freedom" Blumenthal said.

He also shared his opinion that schools need to do more to support our veterans. Southern was the first college in Connecticut to open an oasis for veterans. The number of Veterans Day Celebrations has declined over the years. This ceremony was important and is a step to spreading more awareness on how much veterans did for everyone in America.

"it's nice to see some veteran support on the campus, mostly because for someone that's just getting out of the military, it's really difficult to readjust and having the environment that Jack setup makes it a lot easier for us to transition out and

to get back into a normal lifestyle," Marine Corp. Veteran and Veterans Center worker, Edward Cordero said.

Mordente is retiring so this event also celebrated his time at the university.

"He has touched the lives of too many students to count. I can say confidently that he has changed the trajectory of many students lives. He helped them overcome a hurdle that might have caused them to otherwise drop out of college. He is offered a listening ear when they needed someone who could understand and relate to the things that they were going through."

Vice President of Student Affairs Tracy Tyree said. "He has identified a resource or made a connection or made a referral that helped someone taken many someone's take a next step in their education that they otherwise might not have made. He has given them confidence, help them to make the transition to college life, and helped them believe

that they could earn the degree that they longed for."

Veterans are supported at the university to help them through their semester and beyond that.

"This Veterans Day, I challenge all of you to help spread the word about VA services and benefits. eligible veterans can use the VA even if they have private insurance. We want every veteran



PHOTO | ROMIA ROSITANI

Veterans stand up to show the impact Military Affairs Jack Mordente has had on them.



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

Connecticut Senator Richard Blumenthal speaking on his appreciation for Veterans.

meeting eligibility to take full advantage of the benefits that they offer.

Thank you for attending today's ceremony and I salute all of our veterans,"

healthcare system director to VA Medical Center in West Bay, Alvin said.

Students performed at annual talent show

By Danielle Campbell
Copy Editor

Topics such as bullying, sexual assault, human trafficking and LGBT acceptance were features of the 2021 "Social Justice Talent show." The show featured students showcasing their specific talents after announcing the cause closest to their hearts. They introduce the social justice cause and then go into their bit.

On Wednesday, Nov. 10, the talent show took

a junior, with a poem on sexual assault. Jones told the story of her own trauma after dealing with her own sexual assault.

I do poetry at home; I do poetry shows. And I just thought like, I've got a story that relates to the theme, and I knew what kicked myself if I didn't do it, so I thought I've just got to do it," said Jones.

Although Jones hails from Liverpool and was afraid her accent hindered people's ability to discern what she was saying, she still found the Talent Show

The show featured four judges with various campus positions. The judges were: Willie Epps, Assistant Director of Resident Life/Upper-Class Communities, Eric Lacharity, Assistant Director of Student Involvement & Leadership Development, Reaunna Bartell, Interim Director of Wilkinson Hall and Maribel Sanchez, Associate Director of University Access Programs.

Sociology major Thamar Kalangala, a sophomore, said, "And I'm here to say we come



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Eve Jones performing her own poetry about sexual assault at the Talent Show.

Educators Elijah Ortiz and Madison Alexis went on stage to ask the crowd what social justice means to them. An audience member responded, "Social justice to me is being free to be who you are." Another said, "Social justice means to me feeling and being safe in my own home."

While the judges deliberated the contestants a dance battle for a gift card ensued. It then turned into a big dance party in front of the stage featuring numerous Caribbean songs courtesy of DJ Fire, an alumnus of the university and staple DJ for campus events. The crowd of students enjoyed this moment after not being in public parties for so long because of COVID-19.

There were four

winners of the talent show. They received a \$50-\$200 gift card depending on which place they received it. Communications major Loanis Cabrera, a senior, came in fourth place and performed Breathe from In the Heights focusing on first-generation American anxiety. Tay'Von Martin in third place and performed a dance medley. Communications major Caleb Rutherford, a sophomore, came in second place and performed a dance medley to songs like OG Bobby Johnson. The six members of the Steppin Up Dance Team came in first place and performed with facts about human trafficking sprinkled in between each routine.

To see more pictures on this event go to page 6.

Have your voices heard!

On Nov. 30 President Cheng will be doing an open forum to go over the Board of Regents decision on the future of the Connecticut State Universities of higher education. For live coverage go to southernnews.



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Tessiny Colon singing "Praying" By Kesha at the Social Justice Talent Show.

place. The show, hosted by the Multicultural Center, was held in the Adanti Ballroom. The MC for the night was Xavier Swilling.

The first student up to the microphone was sociology major Eve Jones,

very powerful.

"It was quite powerful, to be honest. And I just hope people could understand what was saying. But yeah, it was good. I was really nervous."

together as a people and as a body and let people know that it is okay to not be okay but it's also okay to get out it's also okay to reach out and say hey, I'm not okay."

Diversity Peer

Taylor Swift now owns her album ‘Red’

By Sarah Shelton
Features Editor

Being able to relive “Red” is honestly one of the best things to happen this semester, maybe even one of the best things this year.

As a giant Selena Gomez fan, I knew I was going to support because her and Swift have been best friends for over 13 years, since they dated The Jonas Brothers together. Also, I do just love Swift’s music and what she stands for, as the feminist I am. She even stopped by The Tonight Show to promote this album release and joked in an interview/game, “I will do anything to bring up Selena Gomez. Anything!”

Gomez even featured in her Tik Tok right before Swift’s appearance on Saturday Night Live, which received 10 million likes and 40 million views within 13 hours.

Swift has been on many shows to promote “Red (Taylor’s Version)” because it is “exciting” how she now owns her music, which she mentioned

during one of the interviews.

If you did not know, Taylor Swift has started recreating all of her albums under “Taylor’s Version” so that she has ownership of the songs she wrote since her masters, including all her songs on her first six albums, were sold to Scooter Braun.

The original album came out in 2012 with 16 tracks, but the new one has 30 tracks, many from “the vault” featuring multiple artists. “Taylor’s Version” even has a 10-minute version of her song “All Too Well.”

I was 11 when the original “Red” came out, so as much as I liked the songs, I just could not relate to them. Now, I definitely can, except for “22” of course, being that I am still 20.

I love to listen to albums in order, but for this one I had to skip to “I Knew You were Trouble,” right away. I feel it is very basic of me to say this, but it is definitely one of my favorite Taylor Swift songs.

I did not think I was

going to like the newer version better, because the original song is just so good, but I really did. This is one of those songs I can relate to, and it is my favorite type of music. Lyrics hit harder when you can relate.

The bridge was very strong, voice wise, in this version. Part of me feels like maybe there was less autotune? Or maybe her voice just matured a lot since she was so much younger in the original recording.

The second track on the album is the title track “Red” and I was very excited to hear the difference between this song and the original.

My roommate Ali said she was screaming and then crying during “Red.”

“My mom was concerned,” she said.

One thing very noticeable while going through the album is her voice change. Her voice is very mature and it is cool to see how her style and voice have changed throughout the years. This was very

noticeable in “Red,” but also in “We are Never Getting Back Together.”

Another song everyone knows, or should know in my opinion, on the album is “We are Never Getting Back Together.”

Immediately, you can tell the difference in her voice, especially during the “what?” at the beginning. For this song, I feel like I like the original just a bit more, but of course I will be listening to this version to support Taylor. I do not know why, but I feel like this song really fits her voice back then, but it is still very good.

And of course, the single many people play on their 22nd birthday, “22.” This one I like just as much, if not a little more, than the original. When I was 11 and first heard the song, it was not my favorite, but now I really appreciate it. It is a fun and cute song.

Now, what everyone has been talking about: “All Too Well.”

I like the difference between “All Too Well (Taylor’s Version)” and “All Too

Well (10 Minute Version) (Taylor’s Version).” I actually never listened to this song before, but it is such a beautiful song. You can even tell the difference right in the beginning with the music between the two. I also loved the extra verses.

Some of the extra verses included her singing about this guy meeting her dad and then skipping her 21st birthday, something very important to her, as well as the big age difference between her and the guy.

What is funny is I have been seeing all over Tik Tok a video of “Billy on The Street,” Billy Eichner’s show, of Billy running up to a guy and saying “for a dollar, name a celebrity you hate, go, scream it!” and the guy said, “Jake Gyllenhaal.” Swifties, Taylor Swift fans, have been reusing this audio in honor of Swift’s album since this is the guy she is singing about in most of the songs, especially in “All Too Well.”

I never will promote hate, especially sending someone hate, but as a

Taylor Swift fan, we will be disliking Gyllenhaal for a bit. He was nine years older than her, he knew what he was putting her through. I just find it hilarious he is being talked about for a relationship that happened 10 years ago. However, if her music was not taken from her, this would not have had to happen.

A lot of songs she released from the vault, including “Run (feat. Ed Sheeran)” and “Better Man,” were really good. Also, I saw on Twitter, according to @chartstswift, “Red (Taylor’s Version)” breaks the record for the biggest female album debut on Spotify in history, surpassing her own folklore.”

I highly recommend this album, but I realized we are going to get “Reputation (Taylor’s Version)” and I am way more excited for that, and I apologize in advance for who I will become when that happens.

Remember, stream the Taylor Swift albums with “(Taylor’s Version)” after it.

Palisades trip with ProCon

By Sarah Shelton
Features Editor
Danielle Campbell
Copy Editor

Four floors and over 200 businesses were seen by students this weekend on Programs Council’s trip to New York’s Palisades Mall.

On Saturday, Nov. 13, Programs Council, known as ProCon, took students to New York’s second-largest mall, located in West Nyack, for holiday shopping.

“We booked a bus and planned to go somewhere where students could have free range and do early holiday shopping,” Weekend programmer Matt Berry, a senior, said. “We chose this mall because it has an abundance of stores and is bigger than any Connecticut malls.”

Berry said the students were able to walk around but had to meet back at a certain spot at 4:30 p.m. The only rules were they must come back to the bus, and smoking and drinking was prohibited. He also gave out his number and his adviser’s number so students could reach out to them at any time, if needed.

Berry said ProCon plans to do more trips like this because of the reaction he noticed at the end.

“Everyone seemed to have a good time and come back with purchases,” Berry said.

According to the Palisades Center website, the mall offers, “225 brands, 16 sit-down restaurants, a bowling alley, ice rink, the world’s tallest indoor ropes course, comedy club, and more.”

Computer science major Miles Meade, a junior, took advantage of all Palisades had to offer.

“I sampled the world’s hottest hot sauce at the pepper palace,” Meade said. “I also got some more hot sauce.”

Meade also went to

Buffalo Wild Wings and Dave & Busters, which were both inside the mall.

“We went to that It’s Sugar place and got butterscotch beer, it’s basically cream soda,” Meade said. “We also saw those five-pound gummy bears, we did the math and it has so much sugar in it.”

Meade said the only disappointment on the trip was Dave & Busters did not have his favorite game, “Guitar Hero.” However, he had a great time shopping.

“I have so many receipts already,” Meade said a little more than halfway through the trip.

The mall already had a few holiday stores set up and a big Christmas tree. This caught the attention of

international student and finance major Tian Zixuan, a junior.

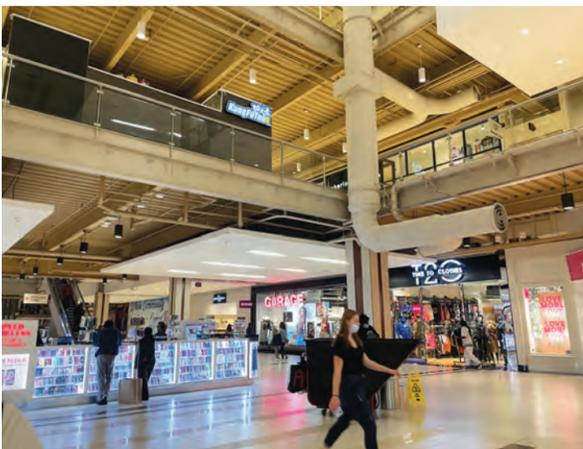
“I know these things are for trees,” Tian said about a store full of tree ornaments. “I am impressed by [the] Christmas vibe.”

Where Tian is from, she said she celebrates Christmas, but it is “totally different.”

“We only have discounts,” Tian said.

Tian said she was very excited to be able to travel to a mall in New York and shop.

“I bought a bunch of things. Two body lotions, one [pair of] pants, many yogurts, four lipsticks,” Tian said. “I love this trip, good memories.”



Two floors of the Palisades with people walking.



Ornaments in a holiday themed store in the mall.

Día De Los Muertos event

By Sarah Shelton
Features Editor

Día De Los Muertos, known as the day of the dead, was celebrated by Programs Council, ProCon, by coloring sugar skulls and eating tacos.

On Tuesday, Nov. 9, ProCon held Taco Tuesday and nighttime programmer Katie Kost said they decided to include coloring in celebration of Día De Los Muertos.

This holiday may have passed, but it is never too late to celebrate the living and the dead. According to a national geographic article, “Whereas Halloween is a dark night of terror and mischief, Day of the Dead festivities unfold over two days in an explosion of color and life-affirming joy. Sure, the theme is death, but the point is to demonstrate love and respect for deceased family members.”

“We had some drinks and stuff leftover in our office, which we used, and then I got drinks from Stop & Shop. We catered from Tomatillos, which is downtown, a Mexican place, and then me and my other programmers all just set it up here [in Farnham Programming Space] together,” Kost said.

“I got the chips and salsa, really good,” English secondary education major Taylor Cowles, a senior, said. “The red salsa, the hot one, was so hot though I literally feel it cleaning up my sinuses. Burnt my tongue, but worth it because I really love spicy things.”

Cowles points out this is the first time she has ever had “food considered spicy” at a ProCon event. She also said she enjoyed all the different options they had, especially for people who are restricted from eating certain things.

“I also got a taco, but



Programmer Matt Berry serving tacos at the event.



Tacos from Tomatillo at the ProCon event in Farnham.

I did like a vegetarian version of it, so it was nice that there was an option where I could actually eat something, because usually when I go to events I can’t eat anything because there is not a vegetarian option. I could actually eat something here,” Cowles said.

Cowles said she had never heard of Tomatillo, but she said it gives her “food truck vibes.” Because of this, she said she might go and check it out one day.

Another student, psychology major Hannah Smith, a junior, also has never been to Tomatillo, but said she enjoyed the food from there.

“I got tacos,” Smith said.

“I got beef, lettuce, cheese, and pico de gallo. It was really good, I’d do it again.”

Smith also spent some time at the event coloring a paper sugar skull with her friend for the holiday.

“The coloring was nice and relaxing,” Smith said.

Communications major Chris Rosales, a senior, said he does not go out to too many events anymore since he became a commuter, but decided to join his friends for this ProCon event. He also came to support his friend Matt, as it is his last semester as a programmer.

“It was really good, I’m glad I came,” Rosales said. “I have never been [to Tomatillo,] but maybe I’ll go eventually.”

Burnout is real and it's effecting my mental health

By Sofia Rositani
Editor-in-chief

This semester has been a hard one. Getting sick, a lot of anxiety and having little to no breaks in-between I know I am ready for this winter break to get my mind prepared for the next semester.

This semester has been long and tiring and I know most of us are burnt out from not just the workload but being in actual classrooms again. It was hard adjusting to getting out of bed and going to classes instead of sitting in your bed with

pajamas and being able to turn your camera on and off when you felt like it.

On the outside I seem like a total extrovert who loves to sit and talk with people for however long, but that is not true. I am actually an introvert and there are days where I need a break from talking to people and watching Netflix. But I cannot do that anymore instead I am in classes on Tuesday and Thursday until 7:30 pm and when I get back to my dorm, I am so drained from the day that all I want to do is sleep.

I want sleep, any amount of sleep will do. I have not had a proper

night's rest in a while, and I will be focusing primarily on that this break.

I already know finals will be very busy and I am ready for the projects and exams to be done with so I can focus on what is important, my mental health, which has been a problem this semester with not just classes but my life outside of my academics.

While I am doing a lot on campus and off, and I love it, I am just very tired, and it caused me to get sick due to stress and anxiety. I do not think classes should be this stressful and I also do not

think that I should have to risk my social life because I am stressed out over doing work.

"Burnout in school happens when students face ongoing stress or frustration—with no time to relax and recharge. Well-meaning teachers, family, and professionals can accidentally contribute to burnout in children," according to Understood.org. "Knowing the signs of burnout can help you and your child find ways to take more breaks and reduce stress."

I usually set my weekends for my own time to do what I want

after getting my work done throughout the week, but recently due to being burnt out I have had to use my weekends to get everything done.

"College students are experiencing rising rates of anxiety, depression, burnout, and "unhealthy coping mechanisms," like vaping and tobacco use, according to a new survey conducted by The Ohio State University's Office of the Chief Wellness Officer," according to Healthline. "According to Bernadette Melnyk, PhD, chief wellness officer and dean of the College of Nursing at Ohio State, who led the survey, this is the

second time the survey has been conducted in less than a year, and students' mental health has significantly declined."

University students should not have to feel this way. We also should not have professors go so hard on us this semester because most of us are not used to working in-person after our past semester being primarily online. We have come a long way in the past two years, but we are still picking up the pieces of the pandemic and some of us definitely need a break and burnout is a real thing that is happening to many of us students.

The SAGE Center is a safe place for students

By Sarah Shelton
Features Editor

One place where I feel extra safe on campus is the SAGE Center.

I learned about the center during my freshman year because of one of their polaroid events. I remember being too nervous to walk in, but I was amazed that there was a specific space for LGBTQ+ students and allies. Where I am from, we never had anything like that, especially in schools.

According to the SAGE Center on the Inside Southern website, "the SAGE Center is committed to providing a positive academic, cultural, and social environment where

the LGBTQ+ community at Southern can learn, grow, and thrive. We help to cultivate inclusion through social and educational programming, advocacy, and support. We collaborate with clubs on campus, especially the LGBT Prism Club, an undergraduate student-run organization which works toward educational awareness, promotes acceptance and fairness in campus policies and student attitudes, and above all maintains a supportive network."

I enjoy covering the SAGE Center events because they are always inclusive, fun and educational, at least in my opinion.

Some events I have gone to include a Bisexual Awareness Day event,

a coming-out day table where we took polaroid's and livestreams on Instagram that educate students on many topics, like black transgender women, different pronouns and what asexual is.

I started going to the center when I had to write articles for my class my sophomore year. I wanted to write about something important to me, and one of my first thoughts was the LGBTQIA+ community.

The only other things I could think of is mental health and animals, and the SAGE Center was definitely easier to write about when relating to the university.

Every time I go to the SAGE Center to write an article for class, their graduate intern Aaron is

always excited to help. I even made a video for my journalism class. In the video Aaron shares what the center has to offer. They even let me awkwardly walk around and film B-Roll. You can check out my video "SAGE Center Services" @sar.shelton on Instagram.

When I cover an event, I have to keep my opinion out of it and only write about the event and other's opinions, and honestly it becomes hard because I could go on and on about how caring this center is, which is why I decided to write this OP-ED article. I want the university's LGBTQ+ students to know that this center is here for them.

They have many things,

like their open-door closet where you can take clothes, no questions asked. They also help you if you need a preferred name change throughout the university or gender-inclusive housing.

The center even offers a special graduation ceremony for LGBTQ+ students. Their website states: "Lavender Graduation honors graduating LGBTQ+ students and acknowledges their achievements and contributions to the university community."

Another important topic SAGE focuses on is the all-gender restrooms on campus. According to their website, "for those who identify as transgender or non-binary, multi-stall,

sex-segregated bathrooms have been a place of discrimination, harassment, fear, physical and emotional harm, and even arrest. The university has designated all-gender restrooms on campus, which are restrooms designed for one occupant and increase access to a more inclusive option where individuals can meet their basic needs."

I believe that having a safe space for students who are often bullied for who they are is very important. Even though I have no affiliation with the center, I will continue to share information about it to protect and bring awareness to and for my fellow LGBTQ+ peers because this is a very important topic to me.

Event cancellations make it hard for commuters

By Danielle Campbell
Copy Editor

Something that grinds my gears is cancelled events on campus. As a student who loves to attend events and be involved on campus, it can be very difficult to do this when events are cancelled without any notice.

Granted, I understand things happen, but where is the process to tell students an event has been cancelled?

This past week I have attended at least 4 events which dissolved into oblivion without notifying me it was changed. Luckily, I always add an extra-large amount of

events to my calendar I want to attend, but this is still a great inconvenience.

As a commuter student, I have to plan my days more thoroughly than on-campus students. I usually stay from early in the morning until late at night. I would love a break and rest. If we had a system to notify students when events are cancelled, I would have the ability to free up my day.

It can be incredibly enriching going to events on campus. I enjoy supporting student leadership but also growing as a person. The events on campus are very important to the education of students outside the classroom

setting.

What could be done to have a system in place, so students are not sitting at an event location alone? I'm sure I cannot be the only one who hates being the only one in a classroom hoping they are simply running late.

Some of the issues are accepted events. There was one event I went to which did not occur the day it said because it had not yet been approved. The event is now scheduled for a different day.

There is also the possibility the organizers of the event fell ill and need to reschedule or cancel. The debate is not events should never be cancelled. The issue is not

being notified about the cancellation.

Could there be a digital method of cancellation on Owl Connect? An email announcement? A sign on the door where the event is supposed to take place? All of these solutions would be better than being left in the dark.

I think we could do better with communication on the campus regarding cancelled events.

Commuter students already have a hard time attending events. I have to plan my days around events because I also do not drive. I can easily spend an entire day on campus. I have often been in the morning to ten at

night. Longer than most students. Between my classes, internships and other jobs I can get very busy, so my life revolves around my google calendar.

I add the school events I want to attend for the week into my calendar. Consult my calendar to see where I will be on campus and when. Some days are longer than others. I also base the events of the day on when I can get a ride from family to go home or catch a Lyft. Not driving can be a bit stressful when you are on campus all day.

With such a tight and regimented schedule, you can see why it is crucial I know when an event is or is not happening. I need

to think about my ride home, how long I will be lugging my bags around campus and when I may need to sit down and if and when I can eat.

I have often planned meals around events and when they are canceled it can create a conflict of when and where I can eat. When money is tight a snack from an event may be all I eat.

Having a better idea of the cancelled events on campus would make my trek as a commuter student a lot easier and less stressful. I am always a bit upset if I stay on campus late for an event which never happens. Fixing this issue would be better for me and the rest of the student body.

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Women's basketball returns with pair of home games

By Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor

College basketball is back at the university after nearly two years without play, and women's basketball opened its season by splitting a pair of home games.

The Owls lost a close one this past Saturday to the Georgian Court University Lions, but bounced back

and have the opportunity that was taken away from us last year."

At the start of Saturday's home opener, it looked like both teams had not played in a long time, as it took both sides awhile to find their footing in what was a rather low scoring first quarter.

Fressle scored the Owls first bucket of the season off an assist from guard

every play. The whistle was blowing constantly Saturday night, with a whopping 56 personal fouls called in 40 minutes' worth of play.

Key players from both sides found themselves in foul trouble down the stretch, and while the owls had the rebounding advantage, especially in terms of offensive rebounds, they could not capitalize on the second chances and turn them into points.

"One of our biggest focuses has been attacking the glass," guard Delaney Connors, a senior, said, "and I think we just need to be better, and we need to go up stronger, take that opportunity, that's another possession that we get to have, that we need to capitalize on."

Georgian Court had a big advantage in the paint, outscoring the Owls 38-24 in the painted area.

"Our biggest challenge was defense," Amalbert said, "They were getting a lot of good shots and breaking down our defense, so that's just something we have to get better at and work on in practice and in our future games."

The Owls dropped the opener 85-80. Fressle finished with 23 points and 15 rebounds, the first double-double of the season coming in a defeat, but the team quickly bounced back the next day.

Against Bloomfield this past Sunday, the Owls outscored the Bears in all four quarters, including the third quarter where they

outscored the opponents 28-8.

The home team ended up winning 77-51, a stark contrast after having surrendered 85 points the night prior.

Connors led the team in scoring and rebounding with 17 and 11, respectively. Her first double-double of the season. Fressle had 15 points and nine rebounds while Amalbert had 13 points and seven rebounds.

With only four returning players from the 2019 team and a lot of new faces, building chemistry has been a top priority.

"We've worked really hard on that aspect the last year after we knew we weren't playing, that was our biggest thing. Our culture," Connors said, "We are extremely close on and off the floor, so that's really helped, but that's been our biggest thing. If we're going to win together, we're going to lose together, so that's been our main focus."

Women's basketball will hit the road for their next game on Wednesday, Nov. 17 for a game against the Dominican College Chargers at 6 p.m.

In the meantime, the Owls seem to have a good understanding of what they need to work on and where they need to improve in the early stages in order to hit their stride and reach their full potential.

"We need to improve on our defense, having confidence and just putting everything together," Fressle said, "We have the pieces, it's just about putting it all together."



Photo | Bria Kirklín

Guard Patricia Conroy defending against a Georgian Court University player.

the next day, defeating the Bloomfield College Bears handily.

"It feels good to be back," forward Jessica Fressle, a graduate student, said, "I'm grateful to be able to play

Zoe Amalbert, a junior.

The officials may have been rusty too, either they were, or they were so excited to be back they wanted to make their presence known on



Photo | Bria Kirklín

Guard Zoe Amalbert defending against a Georgian Court University player.



Photo | Bria Kirklín

Guard Patricia Conroy defending against a Georgian Court University player.

Volleyball gears up for first round of NE10 Tournament

By Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor

The Owls are ready for the NE10 Conference tournament after wrapping up regular season play with a pair of home games this past week.

Volleyball had a five-game winning streak snapped with a loss this past Friday against the Southern New Hampshire University Penmen in three sets. Just the second time, all year, the Owls lost in three sets.

"It's part of the game. We've all been there," outside hitter Sophia Castellano, a senior, said. "We were down 2-0 at New Haven, came back, and won three in a row, so, we've definitely come a long way, but sometimes it just falls a little bit short."

It was an

uncharacteristic defeat for a team whom had been so dominant in its home gym. After falling behind 5-0 early in the first set, the Owls started playing on their heels a bit and not getting into position to execute their traditional offense.

"They were serving really tough at us, and they were just always in system," Castellano said. "They played a great game. They knew where to hit, what shots to play and what would work around us."

The Owls never led in the first set and dropped it 25-21. The Owls never led.

Set two was taken by the Penmen 25-22 but was back-and-forth and tightly contested. The set featured 11 tie scores and seven lead changes.

Outside hitter Lillie Olson, a senior, led the

team in kills and digs in set two with five and eight, respectively.

"We came into this game today having won five matches in a row," Olson said. "Every team has some difficult days, but I don't think we came in with the best mindset that we could have."

The Owls had a 16-15 lead in the third set, only to be outscored 10-3, dropping the set and the match.

Fortunately, the following day was another home game, this time against the Stonehill College Skyhawks. The Owls won the battle of birds in four sets to wrap up the season with a 23-9 record, finishing an impressive 17-3 at home in Pelz Gym.

"We know we're defending our home court and we love the energy of being home,"



Photo | Roma Rositani

Setter Taylor Jones sets the ball for her teammates to go up for an attack.

Castellano said. "We just love to be here in general, and we make sure it's very hard for a team to come in here and feel comfortable."

This final home game was also senior day, meaning it could potentially have been the final home game for several players.

"It's definitely going to be an emotional day, but we've got to still stay focused," outside hitter Gabriela Vazquez, a graduate student, said. "It's bittersweet, but I'm excited about it. We have eight seniors, so it's going to be fun."

Vazquez was among those recognized as part of the senior day ceremonies and contributed with six kills in the match as the Owls handled their business and managed their emotions throughout the game.

They took the first two sets against Stonehill before dropping a hard-fought third set 28-26. The team rallied back in the fourth set, taking it 25-20.

Volleyball will enter NE10 Tournament play as the number five seed, slated to take on fourth seed Bentley University Falcons on Tuesday, Nov. 16, at 7 p.m. on the road in a quarterfinal matchup.

"I want to win. I want to compete," Vazquez said, "At least have fun and go out giving your best, and I feel like that's what I try to transmit to my teammates, and I feel like that's how we've been playing."

Bentley defeated the Owls in four sets when they played on Oct. 15, at Bentley. The winner of their matchup will play the winner of the American International College versus

Assumption match in the semifinals on Friday, Nov. 19.

"At the end of the day, we're a family no matter what happens," Olson said. "We always have each other and we're always going to be able to share this moment together, and I'm really excited to just get to this point where I'm so close with all these people."

Middle blocker Erika Benson, a senior, led the way for the Owls this past Saturday with a career-high 18 kills.

Outside hitter Gabriela Gaibur, a junior, notched her 20th double-double of the season with 15 digs and 12 kills.

She finishes the regular season with a team leading 364 kills.

Setter, Taylor Jones, a sophomore, led the team in assists with 954, almost 800 more than her next closest teammate.

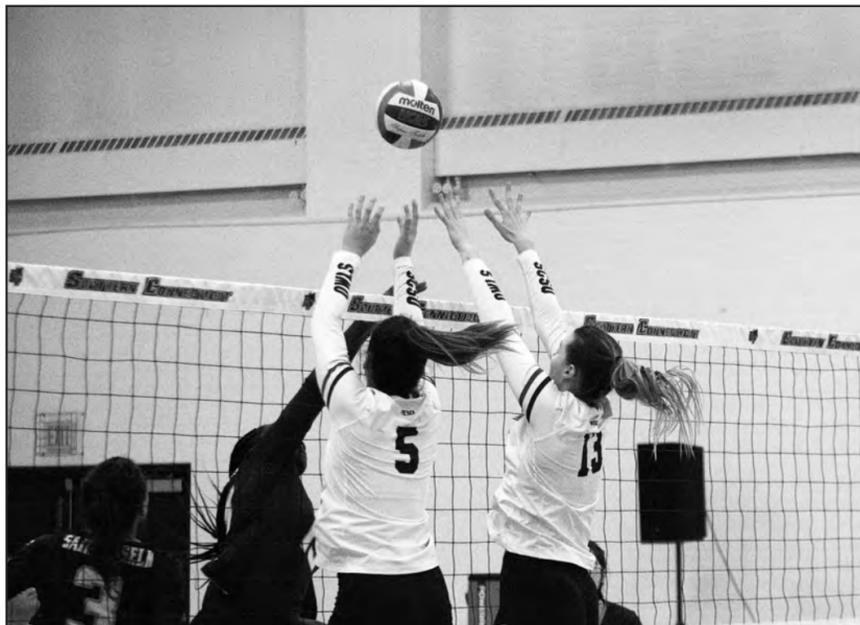


Photo | Roma Rositani

Outside hitter Gabriela Vazquez and middle blocker Erika Benson go up for a block.

Campus holds social justice talent show



Communications major, Loanis Cabera, a senior performing "Breathe" from "In The Heights."

Photos
by Bria Kirklin
Photographer
Story
By Roma Rositani
Photo Editor

The event promoted students being able to speak up on social justice topics such as bullying, mental health in the LGBTQ+ community and being a first generation American.

Steppin Up ended up winning first place, Caleb Rutherford was second place, Tay'von Martin was third place and Loanis Cabera got fourth place.

The Multicultural Center hosted the annual "Social Justice Talent Show." The event featured students singing, read poetry, played instruments, The Caribbean Student Association performed a dance routine and the Steppin Up drill team did a performance.

For more information on the talent show go to pg. 1.



Dorsa performing "Creep" by RadioHead.



Nursing major, Halie Dorsa, Freshman sang the song "Creep" by RadioHead.



Graduate student, Tobias Peng, sang German song.



sociology major, Thamar, a Sophomore sang "If I Die Young" by The Band Perry.



Psychology major, Isabella Hudson, a sophomore performed.



The CSA dance team did a routine to a Beyonce song.



The CSA dance team performing at the talent show.

PHOTOS | BRIA KIRKLIN

Football falls on senior day 42-6 Stonehill ends the Owls season unceremoniously with home loss

By Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor

Football season ended with a whimper rather than a bang for the Owls this past Saturday with a 42-6 loss to the Stonehill College Skyhawks at home on senior day.

They finished with a record of 4-6 in a season which featured the highs of beating Division I Central Connecticut State University and winning on a last-second field goal in the home opener against St. Anselm College and the lows of being shut out on the road against Assumption College and a pair of home losses on Homecoming and senior day.

"Next year we will be back and better than before," running back Diante Wilson, a freshman, said. "Next year will be a statement year for us."

It is tough to blame Wilson for wanting to put a lopsided defeat behind him.

The Owls received the opening kickoff and promptly went three and out. They then allowed Stonehill to gain 30 yards on the punt return, giving the defense a tough starting field position.

Two plays later, Skyhawks quarterback Anton Stoneking threw his first touchdown pass of the contest. The extra point was good, 7-0 Skyhawks less than three minutes in. The Owls again went



Photo | Roma Rositani

Football lines up for the snap on defense vs. Stonehill.

three and out on their ensuing drive, and Stonehill marched down the field upon getting the ball back, with running back Justin Felder scoring the first of his two touchdowns on the ground, 14-0 Skyhawks.

The Owls went three and out for their third straight drive, and Stoneking, with Stonehill and company scored their third straight touchdown, after a blocked punt set them up in a favorable spot on the field.

"It started with field position, and then I felt like we were pressing a little bit," cornerback and team captain, Kwadir Delgado-McIntyre, a graduate student, said. "So, we were dealt a bad hand and didn't help ourselves and we found ourselves behind and fighting, and once you're already behind a couple touchdowns, it's hard to get back."

Ralph Gonzalez, a redshirt junior, playing under center for the Owls.

Gonzalez was responsible for the Owls lone score on the afternoon, finding Wilson, the running back, for a four-yard touchdown midway through the third quarter.

"We've been practicing that play all week, it's a red zone play," Gonzalez said. "I saw man coverage, and I saw my boy Diante Wilson in the flat. I saw it from the start, and I just gave him the ball and he caught it, and that was it."

The touchdown made the score 35-6, so it was not exactly the start of a great comeback effort, but it was important for the home team to not get shut out on senior day.

"Me personally, that was

my first touchdown. It was a great feeling. I'll never forget it for the rest of my life," Gonzalez said. "It felt amazing. With the home crowd, it was good. We put some points on the board for us."

12 seniors were recognized as part of the senior day ceremonies in what was likely their final game at Jess Dow Field. Emotions are revved up during any football game, but especially in one with such finality surrounding it.

Gonzalez said, "It's hard because for four years, you get connected with your brothers, you make a brotherhood, to watch them go like this, I take it upon me, that I couldn't get a 'W' for us, but it is what it is. I love them to death, and I'd do anything for them."



Photo | Roma Rositani

Owls offense takes the snap against Stonehill.

Football's final home game of the season

Story By Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor
Photos By Roma Rositani

Owls football celebrated senior day on a crisp fall afternoon at Jess Dow Field this past Saturday afternoon.

Football drew a tough opponent in the form of the Stonehill College Skyhawks.

The results did not go as the Owls intended, but the team never quit, getting on the scoreboard for the first time midway through the third quarter, and playing hard through the final whistle.

Here are some photos from the day's action.



Photo | Roma Rositani

The Owls defense rallies to tackle the ball carrier.



Photo | Roma Rositani

Stonehill quarterback Anton Stoneking looks to escape pressure from the Owls defense.



Photo | Roma Rositani

Defensive end Cameron Kelly rushes Stonehill quarterback Anton Stoneking.



Photo | Roma Rositani

The Owls looking downfield to make a play on offense.

Fall Sports

By Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor - Opinion Column



Congratulations to women's soccer on an awesome run this year.

After sneaking into the NE10 Conference Tournament as the eighth and final seed, the Owls went on a run which brought them all the way to the tournament final where they suffered a 1-0 loss to the College of Saint Rose Golden Knights this past Sunday.

The playoff run started with an upset road win against the number one seed, Southern New Hampshire University on Nov. 7, followed by a dramatic road match versus Assumption University on Nov. 11, where the Owls advanced on penalty kicks, 3-1, after 110 scoreless minutes of regulation and overtime.

While they fell a bit short in the final, my hat is off to them for what ought to be considered a successful season.

Volleyball can go even farther this year.

If you have been following fall sports this semester, you know volleyball has been having a strong season, finishing the regular season with a record of 23-9 and are entering NE10 Conference Tournament play as the number five seed.

Volleyball will hit the road to play the Bentley University Falcons on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m. As someone who has followed them all season, I have seen them play dominantly and would not be surprised if they go on a run like women's soccer.

They will even be able to host a playoff game if things break their way.

For field hockey, football and men's soccer, their seasons ended with less pomp and circumstance, with all teams finishing with sub 500 records and missing post-season play.

I would like to take this time to apologize to swimming and diving for the lack of coverage this semester. It was not you; it was me.

There was a dearth of home meets to cover, and I do not often go on the road when there are often so many games to choose from here on campus.

Men's and women's basketball and track and field are just getting underway. Expect some coverage of them as the fall semester ends and the spring semester gets underway.

Men's basketball is off to a 2-0 start and women's basketball is 1-1 as of this writing.

I have never covered track and field in my life, it should be interesting. I had never covered volleyball or field hockey, and volleyball has become a favorite of mine, so perhaps track will capture my heart as well.

Either way, 'Let's Go Owls,' because the better the university teams do, the more I must cover and the better this section will look.