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Bertolino, Borajkiewicz, Herbert, Ojakian and others unveiling one of the 125th anniversary banners.

125th anniversary officially kicks off

By Jacob Waring
Contributor

President Joe Bertolino commenced the 125th Anniversary Kickoff Celebration of the university's beginning last week.

Southern's Blue Steel Drumline were introduced to kick off the celebration as those in attendance circled the quad.

Bertolino spoke about partnerships with the Regional Water Authority, Gateway and Housatonic Community Colleges and the university's commitment to educating students in the growing bio-technology industry. Bertolino also hinted at various events happening throughout the year, and

homecoming.

In addition, Bertolino discussed other topics such as the Barack H. Obama Magnet University School—which will be used for kindergarten through the fourth grade students.

At the celebration, Bertolino announced the university is receiving a \$3.68 million grant—which is the largest grant the university has ever received.

The Center for Disease Control awarded the university to the Community Alliance for Research and Engagement (CARE) program.

He also added that the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) program will also be benefitting from this grant.

He said the grant would be utilized for "vulnerable populations in health care and social services."

During his speech, 100-year-old Patricia Herbert sat in her wheelchair—an alumna of the class of 1940. Other guests in attendance were the President of Alumni Association Chris Borajkiewicz and Mark E. Ojakian, president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system.

Borajkiewicz spoke of his life's journey and how it brought him to this moment of speaking to students on the same campus he once walked back in 1998. His parents came from Poland, and eventually lived in New Haven with his family in a

tight-knit community. He said his family experienced tragedy at a young age as his father died when he was nine.

"To be honest," he said, "I didn't know what I wanted to do after college. But to come here allowed me [to do] two things. One, it allowed me to stay close to home. Two, and more importantly, it allowed me the affordability."

He said he did not realize how big of a part Southern would play in his life. The lessons he learned from the school, he said were ones not out of a book; they taught him how to think critically, form relationships and develop into a productively determined individual. He

SEE ANNIVERSARY, PAGE 2

Final enrollment headcount falls short

By Tamonda Griffiths
News Writer

The numbers are in; the university enrollment headcount for fall 2018 is 10,050. While this number is high, this is a drop from last fall's enrollment of 10,203.

The university experienced its largest drop in enrollment in its graduate and professional studies programs, said Terricita Sass, associate vice president for enrollment management.

"The [number one priority] is [to] optimize enrollment and number two is [to] rebuild graduate and professional studies," said Sass.

For the undergraduate enrollment, the focus is primarily set on the retention rate. According to Sass, 72 percent of fall 2017 freshmen returned to Southern this semester.

"Those are not the numbers we want to see," said Sass.

Last year's retention rate was set at 78 percent of fall 2016 freshmen returning, and she said up until this semester retention rates had been on the rise.

In calculating retention rates, only first time, first-

year full-time students are considered in those numbers. Transfers, part-time students, and students who take a break from school or "stop out" are not quantified in the retention data, she said.

"We know that that model of only tracking a traditional student is not reflective of higher education today," said Sass.

Over the next several months, Sass said the enrollment office will be working with Director of Institutional Research Chul Lee to get a further breakdown of not only overall retention and enrollment, but also "at the program level" as well.

She said the graduate enrollment decline stems from the program's flexibility and availability.

Sass said Jose Galvan, interim dean of graduate and professional studies, will be examining plans already in place and work to structure programs with deans, department chairs and faculty.

In terms of recruitment, Sass said it has become increasingly competitive getting students who want to attend the university.

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PHOTO | TAMONDA GRIFFITHS

Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, Terricita Sass.



INFOGRAPHIC | SAM FIX

Source: Terricita Sass, associate vice president of enrollment management.

University ranked 132 in U.S. News annual list

By Tamonda Griffiths
News Writer

In the latest U.S. News and World Report's ranking of the Best Regional Universities in the North, Southern Connecticut State University was ranked #132 out of a list of 196 other colleges and universities—private and public. This rank was determined by data previously submitted to U.S. News; Southern had declined to participate this year.

When asked if Southern held much stock in this ranking, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Robert Prezant said the university does not hold much stock in this ranking.

"We count on our hardworking, smart students who had a good experience here, spreading the word a lot," Prezant said.

U.S. News and World Report's ranking is based on numerous categories, such as alumni giving, student excellence, financial resources, expert opinions, faculty resources, and graduation and retention rates.

Many of which have subcategories that explain the methodology behind the ranking.

Prezant said the university was aware of when the ranking was taking place because of the "mailings" from other universities that were trying to "solicit" a good review from Southern. However, he does not "recall even having a conversation" concerning the university's participation in the ranking.

"I think it's important when you look at rankings to also pay attention to the formulas that they use to actually create their rankings," said Dr. Jules Tetreault, assistant vice president and dean of student affairs.

Tetreault said when comparing public and private institutions against one another the data "speaks differently."

The number one school listed is Fairfield University, a private university in Fairfield, Conn.

"Rankings are rankings," said Tetreault.

Tetreault said there are universities who put a lot of

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Undocupeer training held for students

By **Tamonda Griffiths**
News Writer

Connecticut Students for a Dream (C4D) returned to campus last week to provide Undocupeers Training to resident advisors and orientation ambassadors.

The objective of the program was for attendees to understand the experience of being undocumented, denounce the myths about undocumented people, and learn to be an ally to their undocumented peers.

"Expect and accept discomfort and non-disclosure," said Mirka Dominguez-Salinas, a member of C4D.

Dominguez-Salinas, a Southern alumna, said she spoke with a professor a day after the 2016 election, who connected her with the organization.

"I want people to push themselves outside of what they're being fed through

the media," Dominguez-Salinas said, "and see the humanity in all people."

The number of undocumented immigrants in the United States is about 11.3 million. In the state of Connecticut, there are about 108,000 undocumented people.

About 17,000 are between the ages of 18 and 24 years old, 28 percent of which are enrolled in school.

According to a diagram created by the Reason Foundation, the current U.S. immigration system has specific criteria that varies with each new case and can take a minimum of six to seven years.

Stefan Keller, college access program manager for C4D said at the start of the century there "were no immigration laws" until 1924 when laws became more restrictive to "anyone that wasn't from Northern or Southern Europe."

SEE UNDOCUPEERS, PAGE 3



Resident Advisors Emilie Ganan and Mike Burek.

PHOTO | TAMONDA GRIFFITHS



PHOTO | JACOB WARNING

President Joe Bertolino holding the 125th anniversary commemorative plaque from the U.S. Congress outside the Hilton C. Buley.



PHOTO | JACOB WARNING

The Blue Steel Drumline playing outside Buley Library at the 125th Anniversary Kickoff Celebration.

Anniversary Kickoff

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said he knows students are not afraid to work hard and get their hands dirty.

"I know this because in the last ten years, I've hired these students

from Southern to work as interns," he said. "Two of which have become valuable, permanent members of my team. I will always hire Southern first, because I know where we come from and what we're

made of."

He closed by sharing what he learned since leaving Southern twenty years ago.

He said, "Work hard, work smart, take responsibility, give back."

He said he gave back by establishing a scholarship to benefit those whom are just like him and who came after him. Lastly, he said his biggest regrets were not his failures but rather what he never tried to do.

Bertolino said Rep. Rosa

DeLauro (D) had stopped by earlier to present to the university a plaque from the one hundred and fifteenth Congress of the U.S. House of Representatives in honor of the school reaching the one hundred and twenty fifth milestone.

President Ojakian said he thought of this university as a shining example of what is right in the state of Connecticut, and what is right with the country.

"I love coming to this campus, to feeling the energy, to being surrounded by the great students that attend this institution. Keep up the great work, and the best of luck for the next 125 years," said Ojakian.

Two new banners celebrating the one hundred and twenty fifth anniversary now hang on the exterior of Hilton C. Buley Library. He, Borajkiewicz, Ojakian,

Herbert and others pulled the rope to reveal one of the banners.

Haroon Chaudhry, a senior, business administration major, said he had admiration for those who have supported the community through various means beyond the grant.

"It's amazing to see how people have contributed a lot of stuff, and given back to the community," said Chaudhry.

Ranking

Continued from Page 1

time and energy into maintaining a decent ranking rather than focusing on students, but Southern also must find ways to show its "value to external constituents."

One way is the university's accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). According to NEASC, this accreditation demonstrates to prospective students the quality of the university and areas of improvement for participating universities.

Nikolas Strickland, a sophomore, exercise science major said the ranking was not "particularly" on the forefront of his decision to attend Southern.

"I was looking for, more of what this school's majors had to offer me," said Strickland.

He is happy with the

choice he made to attend. Kenneth Baah, a sophomore, sport management major, also said the ranking had no bearing on his decision to attend.

"I live in Hamden, so it's pretty close by," Baah said. "My brother went here, so it was always going to be an option."

While Southern may not have been Michelle Langley's first choice she said it did have something worth offering.

"I do appreciate the diversity here and the support for academics on campus," said Langley.

"Our students have complex lives," said Tetreault.

Tetreault said rankings tend to distract from "what's in front of us," such as students, faculty and staff, and academics.

"[It] takes students, alumni, faculty, staff, and administration to really let people know the gem that is right here in New Haven."



PHOTO | TAMONDA GRIFFITHS

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Robert Prezant.



PHOTO | TAMONDA GRIFFITHS

Michel'le Langley, sophomore, social work major and Kenneth Baah, sophomore, sports management major.

Enrollment

Continued from Page 1

"Connecticut is one of the larger exports of high school students," said Sass. "Many students in Connecticut leave the state to go to school."

Alexis Haakonsen, director of admissions, said the "traditional" undergraduate student cannot be the sole focus of prospective students.

Haakonsen said the university participates in fall and spring high school outreach as well as fairs at local community colleges to spread the word about the university.

"We have to let them [students] know we want them here," said Haakonsen.

She said Southern's upcoming open house is a "real driver" for people to come learn directly about the university and be face-to-face with faculty and staff.

She also said when

students apply online they get to create a portal that tracks their application to "streamline and expedite the process."

Haakonsen said one thing Southern does exceptionally well is its "on-boarding of students" or its attention to be a welcoming campus environment and engaging campus community.

"I think Southern [is] real, it's not like other schools," said Jordan Peterson, a freshman, nursing major.

Peterson said he looked at five other schools. However, he said they seemed to be more focused on money rather than benefits for students.

A freshman and business economics major, Kevin Salguero, said diversity is what drew him to the school.

"It's good to see that people all get along with each other," said Salguero.

Looking back: Fall of 1981



Six arrested for sexual assault

Six male students were arrested and charged with first degree sexual assault. The alleged assault occurred in the former Fitch-Warner Apartments off-campus.

At the time Southern took no immediate disciplinary action pending the students appearance in court.

"The college is not going to second guess the court," said Executive Dean of Campus Affairs Martin Curry. "The fact that they've been arrested does not mean they are guilty."

Curry said the college was restricted in their authority to discipline for crimes or misconduct committed on college property.

On Dec. 10, 1981 there was a demonstration by female students and members of the community in support of the student, who was allegedly gang raped.

Kate Wight, a class of 1970 graduate and lead organizer of the demonstration, said she felt "rage" at the administrations inaction.

Another demonstrator, Tina Ransohoff, a member of the New Haven Feminist Union, said the organization as a whole was outraged after hearing about the alleged crime.

"The hushing of the incident and the rape itself are experiences which common to all of us women in this culture," said Ransohoff. "As women, we have to stand together against that kind of violence."

September:

* After year-long trial period, campus police allowed to carry firearms.

* 209 courses cancelled the first week of classes. The art and physical education departments are impacted the most.

* Federal financial aid program under President Reagan cut from \$34.5 billion to \$26.9 billion. An estimated 25 percent of Southern students become ineligible for financial aid for the following year

October:

* Congressman Lawrence DeNardis (R) pledged his support to Southern, an institution he said was "an important institutional constituent" that needed to be "recognized more seriously."

* Two short-term loan funds that supplied students with emergency monetary assistance run dry.

* The Post-Secondary Education Subcommittee of the House of Representatives hold a hearing at Southern to discuss federal support for library sciences and the need for bilingual education.

November:

* Frank Harrison is inaugurated as the eighth president of SCSC.

* The State Office of Policy and Management required all state agencies, including Southern, to prepare for a 10 percent cut to funding in 1982. This a month after they announced a 5 percent cut for 1981.

* With a record breaking 12 game win streak, the Southern men's soccer selected to participate in the Division II national championship.

December:

* A coalition of student groups named Students for Social Awareness held a petition drive to oppose President Reagan's economic policies.

* SCSC men's soccer team finishes third in Division II national championships.

Compiled from the Southern News archives by Josh LaBella, Managing Editor

Shuttle schedule may change

By Victoria
Bresnahan
News Editor

Student Government Association's (SGA) Board of Academic Experience has been working for some time to possibly change the foreign language requirement due to issues some students have with it.

Vice President of the Board of Academic Experience, Brooke Mercaldi, said at an SGA meeting last Friday, the body has penned a letter with suggestions for the Undergraduate Curriculum Forum (UCF) about the requirement.

"[It] just [has] what we think would help students with the language requirement," said Mercaldi.

In addition, a survey may be sent to recent alumni from the past five years to garner feedback on how the language requirement has impacted them.

Based on the responses they receive, Mercaldi said they will get a better idea on what to present in the resolution.

"A big argument we keep hearing from administration is that it is important to know these languages



PHOTO | VICTORIA BRESNAHAN

Brooke Mercaldi, vice president of the Board of Academic Experience at the SGA meeting last Friday.

because it will help you in every day life," said Mercaldi, "But, if we get feedback from the recent alumni saying that they haven't been using it then we will have stronger argument for saying whatever suggestions we can offer."

Considering the amount of work administration put into the liberal education program, Mercaldi said they are working with them on any possible changes to the requirement.

The board is still in

the process of discerning what revisions they could possibly bring to the requirement, she said.

"We have some ideas, but obviously it is not a perfect solution," said Mercaldi, "because it is something that the school takes pride in is the language requirement. So we have not quite figured it out yet."

In addition, the Board of Student Experience is working towards revising the off-campus shuttle bus schedule to better accommodate students

who need to take earlier or later trains from Union Station. According to the off-campus shuttle schedule, the first bus leaves Union Station at 7:55 a.m. and the final bus departs at 8:25 p.m.

Sam Widomski, a representative-at-large and speaking on behalf of the Board of Student Experience, said at the SGA meeting, these times can be problematic for students who have early or late classes.

"We learned that there are two railroad lines,"

said Widomski. "The reason that the shuttle departs Union Station at 7:55 [a.m.] is because one of them is often more used."

The board is currently working with University Chief of Police Joseph Dooley and Greg Tower, First Transit operations manager, on revising the schedule.

"He also wants to do a survey," said Widomski, "for those who do take the shuttles to determine what time they are more often used."

Cooking and ventilation cause of fire alarms

By Tamonda Griffiths
News Writer

According to a written statement sent to students by North Hall Residence Director Nicholas Gleifert, north campus has experienced about 5 or 6 fire alarms due to cooking or ventilation issues.

Only one drill is conducted each semester, and north already completed theirs.

On September 17, around 11:50 p.m., residents of the North Campus housing complex were evacuated from the building and kept outside for about 30 minutes.

"We're running into a lot of concerns in this building when it comes to cooking," said Gleifert, director of North Campus in an interview with the Southern News.

Gleifert said while students do need to be better educated on how to cook in a shared living environment, the ventilation system can also sometimes be hyper-sensitive—although, it has a reason to be.

After both the fire and police departments have

inspected the buildings, they allow residence life staff members to go through every single room. This can take an additional 10 to 15 minutes.

Gleifert also said every time the building is evacuated a report is made citing the duration of an evacuation and any occupants who may not have left the building.

"They [fire alarms] go off," said Dooley. "And when they go off, they're going off for a reason."

Around 2 or 2:30 a.m. on September 13, a fire alarm in the West Campus housing complex sounded due to an accidental pulling, forcing residences to evacuate the building, said Robert Sheeley, associate vice president for capital budgeting and facilities operations.

"That was a bad day for West Campus," said Police Chief Joseph Dooley.

According to both Dooley and Sheeley, around mid-morning the same day another fire alarm went off in response to a motor belt issue in the mechanical room on the roof of West.

"All of our fire alarms systems worked the way

they are supposed to work," said Sheeley.

Sheeley said Southern has a maintenance contract requiring all fire alarm systems to be inspected monthly and all sprinkler systems are inspected weekly.

He also said the fire systems – with the exceptions of Orlando and Lang houses – are fully addressable systems meaning there is a panel in the lobby of each building that alerts the responding fire department where the incident has occurred.

In the Spring 2018 semester, North Campus and Hamden Fire Department held a mock burn to help students conceptualize what could possibly occur if fire safety is not taken seriously.

Sheeley said it is a requirement for a fire drill to take place at least once a semester. He said he cannot emphasize how important the overall safety of both faculty and staff is.

Southern's location on the New Haven and Hamden border means that depending upon which side of campus the alert originates from,



PHOTO COURTESY | RANDY MCFARLINE

New Haven Fire Department responds to a fire alarm at West Campus on Sept. 13, 2018.

either the Hamden Fire Department or New Haven Fire Department will respond to the alarm.

"Can't compromise on that [safety]. No compromise," said Sheeley.

Undocupeers

Continued from Page 2

Those laws lasted for 40 years.

"A lot of people say, 'Oh, why didn't you come here like my parents did'" said

Keller. "My great-grandparents came from Italy when there were no immigration laws, if they tried to come today, they would never get in here [the United States]."

Keller said as a U.S. citizen the struggles and

process of immigration are not something that the general population thinks about daily.

"A lot of times people don't know what's happening, which allows those things to happen," said Keller. "This system is not set up to treat people like humans."

Mike Burek, a resident

advisor for Hickerson Hall, said he had no idea what to expect.

"It never was really a thought to me that there are that many students who go through this and feel this way," he said.

Burek said he spoke with fellow Resident Advisor Emilie Ganan, who attended the

program last year, about what to expect going to the training.

"I feel like that was an entry-level to the idea since I was exposed to it since I was little," said Ganan. "I think it was a good program for people, who like Mike, don't have that background or exposure to it."

All-inclusive children's show denies homosexual characters

By Jacob Waring
Contributor

As a child, I distinctly remember reaching the conclusion that two of my favorite television characters, Sesame Street's Bert and Ernie, were gay. It was one of those forgone conclusions, and I presumed that my peers also noted this nuance and did not think anything of it. Due to my limited frame of reference, I did not pay much attention to Bert and Ernie's relationship, and I

did not note the importance of this characterization. I do not recall thinking anything besides, "the characters are awesome individually, and they are even cooler together."

In a blogpost on the LGBTQ+ friendly blog Queerty, Mark Saltzman, a former writer for Sesame Street, spoke about the characters' relationship. He proved that my childhood homosexuality radar was accurate. According to Saltzman, Bert and Ernie were indeed gay, and they were indeed gay for each other. Furthermore, the

writer said that his depiction of Bert and Ernie was modeled after his own relationship with film editor Arnold Glassman.

"I didn't have any other way to contextualize them," said Saltzman, "also, more than one person referred to me and Ernie as Bert and Ernie, so it made sense."

Re-watching the show during Saltzman's stint as a writer, it comes off as obvious that Bert and Ernie were more than close friends.

However, Saltzman was unable to actively write the characters as gay in the script. Saltzman added in those layers subtly and instinctively, because he saw a parallel between the characters' relationship and his own.

Saltzman was writing for the show during the AIDS scare of the '80s, a time when people were too immersed in fear and propaganda to be progressive.

In 2018, Sesame Street continues to perpetuate the stereotypes of a bygone area. The show never discusses anything regarding sexuality or the LGBTQ+ community and denies any relationship between Bert and Ernie that is not completely platonic.

"As we have always said, Bert and Ernie are best friends," Sesame Street Workshop tweeted. "They were created to teach preschoolers that people can be good friends with those who are

very different from themselves."

The tweets continued to explain that though Bert and Ernie are identified as male characters and possess many human traits and characteristics (as most Sesame Street Muppets do), they remain puppets, and do not have a sexual orientation.

In this abrasive tweet, Sesame Workshop sounds like a homophobic parent, in denial of their child's sexuality, fooling themselves into believing that their child and partner are just the best of friends. These friends just happen to be ultra-close.

This is a shallow response by the Sesame Street team. Saying that Bert and Ernie are puppets that do not have sexual orientations insults the intelligence of adult viewers.

We all know they are puppets in a literal sense, but they have abstract meanings.

Muppets are inanimate objects controlled by puppeteers, and literally, they are not representative of anything. However, these puppets have been woven into the fabric of pop culture, and they have become more than puppets. The Muppets have become globalized symbols.

The symbolic importance of these toys does not depend on whether they are real or not. It is about what they represent to children and adults all over the world. Children who are discovering their sexuality should

know that being gay is okay. By depicting a scenario in which Bert and Ernie's neighbors and friends accept their sexuality, Sesame Street can use their large viewership to promote acceptance and equality.

Let me do a roll call of some diverse Muppets, illustrating just how in tune the Sesame Street franchise can be. There is an autistic Muppet named Julia. Rosita is a bilingual Latina Muppet, and Kami is the first HIV-positive Muppet. There is an Arab-Israeli Muppet named Mahboub who speaks both Hebrew and Arabic, and Segi is a teenage African American Muppet. Regardless, openly gay Muppets appear to be out of the question.

Muppets are inanimate objects, but the writers and producers of the show are people that can influence the public in a positive way through what they put in the script. Muppets have human qualities such as: religions, languages, cultures, illnesses and disabilities. This personifies the puppets, making them teaching tools that can potentially help children understand the diverse world they inhabit. Showing Bert and Ernie as openly gay male puppets would be a stride in the right direction for Sesame Street, because the show would once again be used as a catalyst to teaching acceptance and friendship.



PHOTO COURTESY | SEE-MING LEE

Bert and Ernie stuffed dolls.

Alternative to cigarettes becoming increasingly popular

By Michelle Shnyder
Copy Editor

In recent years, a new alternative to cigarettes has flooded the market. Electronic cigarettes have become the new frontier of the industry, and people are giving up their lighters in exchange for chargers and buttons. The Juul is the most popular of these electronic cigarette alternatives, and as a product, it has grown in popularity at an unprecedented rate. In lamented terms, people are going Juul crazy, and not everyone is happy about it.

This tiny, easy to lose, rectangular vape stands out among other electronic cigarette products. Having tried many smoking cessation products over the years, I can vouch for the Juul's unique ability to eradicate my desire to go outside and smoke a cigarette.

Juul sells their products direct to consumers online; they also sell their products at various retailers, including gas stations

and vape stores. The Juul differs from many other vapes, because the pods are disposable and self-contained.

According to the company's website, "Juul delivers nicotine satisfaction akin to a cigarette in a format that's as simple and easy to use."

A Juul "starter kit" can be ordered online for \$49.99. According to the disclaimer on the company's website, Juul products are not intended for sale to minors. When entering the site, all consumers are immediately directed to a page that asks them if they are 21.

"We are committed to deterring young people, as well as adults who do not currently smoke, from using our products," said the CEO of Juul Kevin Burns. "We cannot be more emphatic on this point: No young person or non-nicotine user should ever try (Juul)."

Using Juuls has become so popular among adolescents and young adults, that this product has become the current

controversial equivalent of cigarettes. In response to underage vaping, the FDA is cracking down on Juul and other corporations that create and market electronic cigarettes.

"Youth use of electronic cigarettes has reached an epidemic proportion," said FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, in a 2017 press release. "More than two million middle and high school students used e-cigarettes in 2017 alone."

Recently, Juul and other vape retailers were given 60 days to prove that their products are not intended for minors. The FDA issued a statement saying that if the companies do not comply, their products could be pulled from store shelves.

Parallel with the scrutiny that vape products are receiving from the government, Southern is continuing to fight smoking by enforcing no smoking rules throughout the campus.

According to Southern's website, "Smoking and tobacco use are prohibited

in all facilities and areas of the Southern Connecticut State University campus with no exception."

The website highlights that the ban encompasses all types of electronic cigarettes, including Juuls.

As a habitual smoker, fluctuating between being a loyal Juul user and a self-hating Marlboro addict, Southern's anti-smoking policies irritate me on the daily basis. On the other hand, I have noticed myself cutting down on both cigarettes and Juul pods.

This dichotomy between my annoyance and my practical knowledge that the ban is improving my health is a microcosm of the entire debate. As humans, we are notorious for self-inflicted ailments; we do things knowing that they are bad for us, well aware that we could live without them. However, we continue to use a Juul, at least I do.

I am in limbo, stuck between gratitude and feeling grated that the FDA and Southern are both fighting my hedonistic



PHOTOS | PALMER PIANA

Student holding a JUUL e-cigarette.

instincts to smoke myself into a stupor.

Both sides of the debate are viable, because there is no valid argument claiming that nicotine is healthy. The questions then becomes, should we have the right to self-injure in peace, or is it up to larger institutions to stop us from hurting

ourselves?

I believe that all smokers who are of legal age should be allowed to do as they please, breathing in toxins while preserving their autonomy. However, there are federal institutions that are striving to protect us from ourselves, and that is as comforting as it is eerie.

SOUTHERN NEWS

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To submit a piece, email it to scsu.southern.news@gmail.com, or stop by the Southern News office on the second floor of the Student Center, Room 225. Electronic submissions are preferred.

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.

Commuter Commission aims to be welcoming

By Hunter Lyle
Reporter

Large round tables, draped in blue table cloths and covered in white flowers, filled the ballroom of the Adanti Student Center on Thursday. As the second Commuter Luncheon of the semester began, students were already standing around the edges of the room, talking and mingling.

More commuter students made their way into the ballroom, ready to enjoy the complimentary catered lunch that was waiting for them. The buffet-style meal included: various salads, chicken nuggets, potato bites, and both vegetable and barbeque chicken wraps. Also available were beverages and other small snacks for all attendees.

The Commuter Luncheon is a student event sponsored by the school; this event has been held at Southern for over four years. The luncheon, held several times throughout a semester, and is specifically geared towards commuter students. The event allows these students to mingle, learn more about Southern, and enjoy sharing some free catered food.

"I think the Commuter Luncheon is a really cool program, I am very pleased that Southern has these events," said first year graduate student Kelsey Jepsen. "A lot of commuters don't have the time or the money to get lunch on campus, and a lot of us don't bring our own lunch, so the free lunch is great."

The Commuter Luncheon is put on once a month by the Commuter Commission Organization. Their page

on Southern's website describes some of the events catered to commuter students. The page lists Wake Up Wednesdays, the Commuter Luncheon, and soon-to-be Commuter Appreciation Week.

According to Commuter Commissioner Sandy Britton, these special events, which happen often, are intended to help commuter students make friends. Britton said the Commuter Commission has meetings every month that are dedicated to planning events for Southern students not living in the campus community.

"We always have a commissioner, which is me right now, but the role was given to others in the past," said Britton. "I, as the commissioner, lead the monthly meeting with the help of certain E-Board members."

Britton said students do not need have to be a member to come their meetings, and express their ideas or concerns.

"Any other commuter students from Southern, no matter what grade they are in," said Britton, "can come to that meeting and give us their advice and input."

Britton said the commission strives to make the food served at the Commuter Luncheon enjoyable for all students.

According to Britton, the members make sure that every catered meal comes from a different local venue, so that the commuter students can enjoy variety and discover new cuisines.

"I hope they appreciate the food that's being offered, but I also want them to feel like they are involved in some way," said Britton.

There are some times when every table



PHOTO | HUNTER LYLE

Members of Commuter Commission (left to right) Rosa Palmieri, Rachel Garcia, Yamailys Diodonet, Sam Cone, serving at the September Commuter Luncheon.

is packed, Britton said, with all types of different people.

"Sometimes, I see people talking to people they just met, and eating with them," Britton said, "which is the whole point of having the events."

Going forward, she said, the Commuter Commission is looking to have certain on campus clubs and student organizations take part in the Commuter Luncheon.

"We have proposed a new initiative in which we will have various clubs and organizations sponsor the Commuter Luncheon," said Charlotte MacDonald, a graduate intern. "It will be an opportunity for people to learn about new clubs and see if they are interested in joining."

According to Britton, this addition to the luncheon will help further immerse commuter students in the many opportunities available at Southern. MacDonald said she expects the Greek life immersion into the luncheon to excite students.

"I think it is going to be a great way for commuter students to learn about clubs and events on campus and not feel isolated," said MacDonald.

These clubs and organizations, going forward, would be able to set up a booth during the luncheon, and have the opportunity to advertise their events, according to MacDonald.

"We want to create a space where everyone feels welcomed," said Britton, "and commuter students feel like they are getting a real college experience."



PHOTO | HUNTER LYLE

A custom floral centerpiece on a table at the September Commuter Luncheon.



PHOTO | HUNTER LYLE

Commuter students (left to right) Arielle Segal-Gould, E. Green, and Alex Mickens, at the September Commuter Luncheon.

21st Century students type papers, but still value handwritten notes

By Joe Freer
Reporter

Students carry various different laptops around campus with them. Some are Macbooks, some are Microsoft Surfaces or HP laptops. Buley Library provides an assortment of machines, from varying manufacturers, that students can come and go to, writing essays and doing other homework. Many professors ask students to submit essays on Blackboard Learn 9, with specific guidelines that can only be accomplished on a computer. In 2018, do students prefer typing essays or hand writing them?

Senior Kristen Iadarola says that she likes typing in academic settings, but handwriting personal prompts.

"It goes a lot faster when typing," Iadarola said, an English major, who said she writes an abundance of essays.

She said a con about typing is losing her train of thought when she has to backspace. That is why she said for her personal work, she prefers handwriting.

"You can see your progress more," she said, "if I journal, I tend to scribble something out instead of just erasing it."

Iadarola said scribbling and jotting down notes is not the best way to compose an academic piece.

She said the beginning of the process is free, and loose. She just lets herself type away.

"It'll probably be the worst draft ever," said Iadarola, "but then I go back and pick the parts I like best and go off of that."

Tori Cristante, a junior, had the same opinion about academic writing.

"I prefer typing essays because it looks nicer," said Cristante.

Cristante said she does prefer handwriting notes, however, to help her type papers. Handwritten notes help her stay organized, she said, especially if she is writing a paper based off in-class discussions. The notes, said Cristante, are easy to look back and study from, and convenient for her because they are in a different spot. She does not have to jump from window to window on her computer.

Molly Flanagan, a junior, said she likes handwriting, but prefers typing schoolwork because of its time efficiency.

"I like my own handwriting," Flanagan said, "but I like to type because its faster and my brain works really fast."

Flanagan said she actually prefers the handwriting for fiction work and for outlining academic pieces.

"I'll probably start handwriting it at first," Flanagan said, "if I'm not by a computer I'll just write things down. For essays I do handwritten outlines first, then type them."

She said that is how she ensures to get all of her ideas out of her head. From there, Flanagan said she will pick her best ideas from her notes and transpose them into essay form on her computer.

Another issue with working solely from the computer, Flanagan said, is the backlight from the monitor. She said the light it shines is distracting.



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Computer keyboard in the learning commons of Buley Library's first floor.

These three students prefer typing in an academic setting, but still think handwriting as a useful tool in the writing process. For Cristante and Flanagan, handwriting is helpful in their outlining and note taking stage, while Iadarola

feels handwriting helps her in her own personal endeavors. For her, spilling all of her ideas into a typed draft is the best way for her writing to succeed.

Flanagan said, "I just like to have a notebook in front of me."

Students continue the debate of Mac versus PC computers

By **Alexandra Scicchitano**
Reporter

Joey Lombardi, a junior, mathematics major, said that he uses a MacBook because he is bad with technology.

"I can barely understand any of that," said Lombardi. "I can barely understand my own MacBook."

Lombardi said he has had his

Macbook for about five years. He said it feels professional, and uses it to write papers.

Dardan Dedushaj, a sophomore, business marketing major, said that he uses PCs because they are a lot more compatible with everything.

"There's a lot more to Microsoft than Apple," said Dedushaj.

Although he said he hears enough from his friends, Dedu-

shaj said he really is not into the debate between Mac and PC users.

"My dad worked for Dell growing up," said Jayme Amarore, adjunct professor of sociology.

Amarore said that because of the family connection to the computer company, she used Dell's PCs when growing up.

Amarore said she is not against Apple computers, and in fact has used them in her work.

"I've been intrigued by them," said Amarore.

Maeve Kennelly, a freshman, communications disorder major, said that she uses a PC right now, but her goal is to switch to Mac at some point.

"I personally like Macs better," said Kennelly.

Kennelly is not into the argument between the two products, she said, and it does not matter as much as people seem to think. She said they are both just computers.

Mac is more for business use, while PC is for recreational use, said Dedushaj, giving his opinion on the two types of product.

"I use a Dell," said Ana Nieves, "I couldn't afford a Mac."

Nieves, a freshman, journalism major, said she has had good experiences with Apple products. Her plan, she said, is to eventually get a Mac.

"Apple has better quality goods," said Nieves.

There is a lot more you can do with PC, according to Dedu-



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Apple computer in the Buley Library learning commons.



PHOTO | ALEXANDRA SCICCHITANO

Dell PC in the Buley Library learning commons.

shaj, so he leans more towards Windows, rather than Mac.

"PC is cheaper to maintain," said Dedushaj.

Macs connect more easily to iPhones compared to PCs, according to both Lombardi and Dedushaj.

Dedushaj said that he uses his PC occasionally for games, and for work he could not accomplish on a Mac.

The Mac preference is popular, considering there were roughly 100 million Mac users reported in 2017 according to Tech Crunch, a technology website.

How it stacks up against Microsoft however, shows a clearer image. The Verge, a technology news outlet, reports roughly 400 million machines

running Windows 10.

Since Steve Jobs has passed away, Dedushaj said the products from Apple have gone downhill.

"I think [PCs are] just more to what I'm used to," said Amarone, "more out of habit, and less of a cost."

As for getting a Mac anytime soon, Amarone said that she is so used to PCs, that she probably will not.

Although Apple products tend to have a sleeker look, Dedushaj said, cost is a bigger factor as a college student, and PCs are generally cheaper.

He said this is why he decided to get a Microsoft PC for his sister, instead of a Mac.

Dedushaj said, "Macbook is such a waste."

Liverpool John Moores student enjoying American culture

By **Victoria Tenedine**
Contributor

Emalie Sowden is an exchange student studying at SCSU for the fall semester. She is visiting from the UK partner school, Liverpool John Moores University. Traveling from her hometown of West Yorkshire, England, Sowden originally applied for the exchange program with the intent of joining SCSU for the spring semester. She said it was a pleasant surprise, that she was accepted for fall. She said she is looking forward to seeing the foliage and experiencing the excitement that comes with the change of seasons in New England.

Sowden mentioned the differences between American post-secondary education and British post-secondary education. Selecting a major was a new concept, she said, as British students all study the same curriculum at university in England. Also, while the traditional timeframe for obtaining a bachelor's degree in

America is four years, Sowden said in England the normal span is three academic years. For her studies here, Sowden has taken up English literature. One of her classes, one notable one she mentioned was an English class focused on black women writers and African American novelists.

One of the more notable differences, she said, is the weather. Sowden said she prepared for her semester abroad in New England with sweaters, boots and a winter coat. She said she did not expect the heatwave faced by the area, early in the semester. Despite the stubborn pattern of weather, Sowden said she has prepared to fully engage herself in the Autumn fun for which New England is known.

Another difference she noted was Halloween. Americans value the holiday much more, she said. From pumpkin patches to fall harvest festivals to haunted trails, Sowden planned out her bucket list of fall experiences to check off and share with her family when she gets back home.

Sowden said she is extremely comfortable with American culture. This is not her first trip to America, she said, just her longest. Sowden has visited several states and points of interest throughout the U.S., and said her family has taken several enjoyable trips around the United States throughout her childhood and young adult life. Las Vegas, Dollywood and Walt Disney World are among her favorites, she said.

"I find American TV entertaining," said Sowden.

She said the commercials have more humor incorporated into them than she is used to. The quick muttering of risks and disclosures during pharmaceutical commercials, she said, also struck her attention.

Sowden said one of her favorite American TV shows is "Gilmore Girls." She took the time to walk around Yale, she said, to briefly take the "Rory Gilmore Tour," while she has been in the area.

As for schooling, Sowden is living here in an on-campus

apartment shared with two other exchange students this semester. Sowden said she has been acclimated into the school

community, but attending campus events has helped her make the transition between schools.



PHOTO COURTESY | EMALIE SOWDEN

Emalie Sowden, a student studying abroad from Liverpool John Moores University.

Hell Fest movie an interesting concept, but a disappointment

By **Jeff Lamson**
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Hell Fest is just another waste of time horror film with a paper-thin plot, irritating characters, and wasted opportunities.

The film takes the idea of, "What if there was a murderer blending in at a haunted house?" and tries to expand on it with physical scale and aesthetics that almost work.

The titular Hell Fest is a traveling haunted house festival that has amassed huge popularity. It has a tamer area and a VIP area where the festival workers can touch patrons and is supposed to be extreme with a capital "X."

This VIP area is where our cast wants to go except our supposedly normal, and innocent main character Natalie (Amy Forsyth). This plot seems useless though when they do not get there until halfway

through the movie, which really only serves to separate them from a character they do not even see for the rest of the movie. The VIP area is where we are supposed to suspect that the worst things will happen, but it is hard to see why. The killer was doing just fine in the normal part of this park and as set up by the prologue and epilogue, plenty others.

The killer himself has some ambiguous name in the credits, clearly trying to pay some level of homage to Michael Myers being "The Shape," in the 1978 classic, "Halloween." However, the killer in "Hell Fest," is missing all of Myers' effectiveness. Part of his failure is down to his costume design where his boots have more personality than his mask. The mask is too generic to be interesting or iconic and it is too stylized to blend into the crowd effectively. Also, his tendency to hum did not add anything to any scene and I am not sure

why it was included at all.

His boots are given a huge presence in some scenes, the steel toes peeking through the leather and hints of water damage are a great touch. His footsteps fall heavy and are imposing in most scenes, only for this guy to then be as nimble as a cat and silent as a ninja when it is convenient for a suspenseless scare, like the bathroom scene in the trailer. He had every opportunity to kill Natalie during that scene but only did not because she has plot armor, and this is not the movie to make a brave play like that.

As for the rest of the characters, they range from forgettable to irritating. One can expect archetypes in horror movies, but if the filmmaker cannot have fun with it or at least make them likable, it is hard to see the point. Taylor, (Bex Taylor-Klaus) I found to be particularly annoying. She was so incredibly extra loud

and obnoxious that she stuck out like a sore thumb in a movie where everything is supposed to be ridiculous. Whether Taylor-Klaus is just guilty of over acting or the character was actually written and directly like that is hard to tell. Characters get hung up on stupid things and just by being unlikable get killed, which would be gratifying if the killer had any character besides his boots and humming.

The park itself is an interesting concept and is designed pretty well. It does really look like a series of haunted houses with a range of budgets and ideas behind them. I just wish that more was done with the variety of settings to make the scares unique or have the killer make more use of the environment to really send home that this setting was necessary.

The park runs in a way that opposes conventional wisdom of how these types of things run. Each haunted house or

maze the characters enter is conveniently empty when they get in. There are no other park goers or even staff members. These are things that could be addressed in two simple exposition lines or even shown if they were clever enough.

"Oh, the working conditions led people to quit so their understaffed," and, "Yeah, everything in this part of the park is just one group or person at a time."

I realize that these conditions are to set up a more suspenseful atmosphere in which the characters are all alone.

What scares me most is outrageous horror portrayed in a way that is realistic and believable. It is so easy to improve on these little things that I wonder if this was a product of ignorance or apathy. My inclination is the latter, considering laziness and cheap manipulation is the one of the dominant trends of popular horror films of late.

Yoga class helps students relax and de-stress

By Hunter Lyle
Reporter

As students gradually arrived, the sounds of soothing wooden flutes filled the open room as Counseling Service's Denise Zack starts her Free Yoga Flow Friday class.

The Fitness Center at Southern Connecticut State University is once again offering an hour-long yoga class that focuses on relieving stress and ending the week on a positive, more relaxed note.

The idea of a Friday yoga class was proposed to the SCSU Fitness Center by Zack, said the center's assistant director, Jessica Scibek. The staff thought there was no reason not



PHOTO | HUNTER LYLE

Denise Zack of Counseling Services leads the Free Yoga Flow Friday on Sept. 28, in the SCSU Fitness Center. Denise Zack of Counseling Services leads Free Yoga Flow Friday on Sept. 28, 2018 in the SCSU Fitness Center.



PHOTO | HUNTER LYLE

Denise Zack of counseling services leads the Free Yoga Flow Friday on Sept. 28 in the SCSU Fitness Center.

to have students end the week with something zen that could benefit them physically and mentally.

"I hope this is an opportunity for students, in the course of their week, to just focus on one thing," Zack said, "To get away from all of the stress, from all of the distractions, from all of the constant influx of information and technology and drama and just breathe, just be in the moment."

Zack is a full time licensed professional counselor at Southern who focuses on helping student manage time and stress by helping create programs such as the Mindful Life Coaching series and Pet Therapy.

After getting her yoga teacher certification in

2013, Zack said she wanted to teach yoga to students at Southern.

"I went to Jess [Scibek] in the Fitness Center and told her I wanted to teach yoga during my lunch hour if I can," said Zack. "The only stipulation is that I wanted it to be free for every student because yoga is expensive and I know the benefits of it."

The style of the class is Vinyasa, which focuses on flow, linking each breath with a different pose, compared to other styles like Hatha yoga, where you hold each pose for a few breathes.

From the stress relieving qualities to the physical benefits, Free Yoga Flow Friday and yoga in general, has many positive qualities.

Lisa Derosa, a freshman

and exercise science major said that she uses the yoga class to help her athletic career.

"I play softball at Southern," said Derosa, "so this class will help with my flexibility and mobility."

Others, like junior and communication disorders major Azhane Mitchell, said she uses the class to unwind and get ready for the weekend.

"It's just a nice way to end the week. It's been kind of stressful and everyone's got their own thing going on, especially with classes and their personal life," Mitchell said, "so, it's kind of nice just to get a mat, get a block and just work it, focus on your breathing and meditate."

Free Yoga Flow Fridays,

which usually pulls in anywhere from 14 to 23 students, takes place in the SCSU Fitness Center from 12:10 - 1:10 p.m. every Friday. The class is free to all students at Southern, although newcomers will be required to sign a waiver before participating.

"The way I teach the class is from a mindful perspective so I try to enhance people's experience in the sessions with my full communication," said Zack. "Be where your feet are, don't judge yourself. Let go of anything that doesn't have anything to do with this moment. What I'm hoping is that what you practice on the mat, extends to what you hope to practice off the mat."

Roosevelt's sophomore album not as good as debut

By Austin Elliott
Contributor

German artist Roosevelt returns with his new album, "Young Romance," for the City Slang label. This is his first album in two years, the last being his somewhat successful self-titled debut peaking at No. 11 on the Billboard Dance/Electronic Albums chart.

Similar to his self-titled first album, Roosevelt sticks to a synthpop, almost vaporwave-esque vibe. This approach is not surprising, as his artist biography lists him as a chillwave, a vaporwave sub-genre and pulls off the attempt really well.

"Young Romance," is not without issue though. The first thing I noticed upon several plays is that the drum beats he used are unoriginal, and it feels like he changes one or two little things in it and hopes that no one will notice the monotony.

Likewise, a majority of the songs on this album feel like he is stuck on one set formula. Essentially what studio artists who can only paint or draw one face would do, but with music rather than drawings. This formula of him singing over a simple synth track with the same drum loop in the back already feels stale by the third cut, and it comes off as a slog to get through.

Roosevelt also relies way too much on a reverberation effect for the vocals, something that is understandable and common in this genre, but best used with



PHOTO | ALEXANDER KELLNER

Roosevelt performing at Way Back When Festival in 2017.

moderation. It also does not help that a majority of these tracks can go for up to five minutes with little change in anything. Mixing here is a bit weak too; my personal theory on it is that Roosevelt's vocals, which seem louder during the verses, are to try to hide the generic drum track while during the chorus they are quieter because there is more instrumentation to help cover that up.

It's not all bad, though. After a few tracks Roosevelt breaks out of this rut and provides some decent tracks that show potential influences. "Yr Love" feels like it could have been done by the Fray if they had gone into electronic music rather than soft rock.

Likewise, "Losing Touch" is a song that could have fit into Owl City's discography (around the time of "When Can

I See You Again?" and "Lucia" could have been a b-side for Electric Light Orchestra in the 1970s. Following this trend, "Illusions" is the definition of what a song emulating the sounds of the 1980s should sound like, and could have possibly been a hit had it come out at that time. These tracks are the ones that stand out the most, which makes it a shame that City Slang did not push either of these as

the album's single, instead of the comparatively bland "Under the Sun."

Compared to his debut album Roosevelt does not deliver as well with "Young Romance," but that does not mean it is necessarily a bad album. It is clear that the up-and-coming chillwave/indie artist has his influences and in some cases he uses them well. He has a lot to work on but it is a good album for background

noise, and the only place for him to go is up. Personally, I would give Young Romance a five out of ten.

Young Romance can be streamed on all major streaming services, such as Apple Music, Spotify and Google Play Music. Digital copies can be bought on iTunes, Amazon, and Bandcamp; physical copies are also available on Amazon and Bandcamp as well.

Drummer uses music as escape from life

By Alexandra Scicchitano
Reporter

Sean Connelly said that he joined his band, Mandala two years ago, and its been an amazing journey touring and making music with them.

"The band that I'm in is called Mandala and I am the drummer for them," said Connelly, who is a senior communication major who is focusing on advertising and promotion.

Connelly said that he felt very new because he is the third drummer for the band.

"I just love being in the band, I love travelling with the band, I love meeting new people and making them feel more positive through our music," said Connelly.

Besides being Connelly's roommate, Bryce Gentino, senior physics major, said that he genuinely likes their music.

"I spiritually connect with their vibe of music," said Gentino.

Having been invited to a house party to be introduced to the Mandala music by Connelly, Gentino said that he felt an amazing part of himself with the lyrics and what they were about.

"Our [modus operandi] for a long time was 'sad music you could dance to,'" said Connelly.

Making an impact on people's lives and emotions is something Connelly said that he really enjoys doing through music.

"I found the band through Riverdale, the TV show," said Victoria Colangelo, a fan of the band who was at their show on Friday at 8 p.m. at The Space Ballroom.

Colangelo said that she looked up a song from the show, and eventually it led to the recent album of Mandala's on Spotify. When she learned that they were playing in the area a month ago she bought tickets right away.

"That's the reason why I love music, because you can choose to be what you want to be with it and no one is telling you anything," said Connelly.

The band has an indie-rock-alternative-punk sound, said Connelly and that with a creative mind, anyone can create a vibe that represents a band.

"I personally became obsessed with the band, I wasn't even a member," said Connelly, "I was planning to become one."

Having been a member for two years, Connelly said that he has a backup lined up because being a musician never guarantees anything in life, which is why he is studying at Southern.



PHOTO | HUNTER LYLE

Mandala performing at The Space Ballroom, Hamden, CT. Friday, Sept. 28, 2018.

"If I could have it my way, I would love to advertise and promote in the music industry or something like that," said Connelly. "As an advertiser or a marketer, it is hard for you to really enjoy your work if you don't enjoy the product you are

selling." Connelly said that his major is amazing because of how broad it is and that it is flexible enough to do a lot of things, and see where life takes him.

"I think music is a great thing for mental health issues,

sometimes, and just ways for people to escape their problems, or have an outlet for their anger, or their sadness or their frustration," said Connelly. "I think music is one of the most important things in life sometimes."

V.P.A.S talks stalking

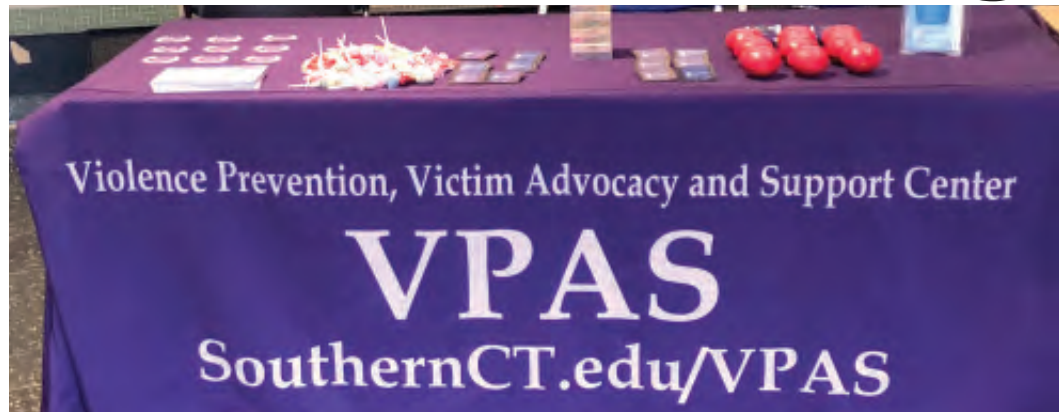


PHOTO | ESSENCE BOYD

The Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support Center table at the Stalking Table discussion event.

By Essence Boyd
Copy Editor

The Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support (V.P.A.S.) Center led a round table discussion in the Engleman Rotunda, last Wednesday. The topic of dialogue was the appropriation of stalking in the media. The conversation was about stalking in, not only social media and how stalking is portrayed in television, movies and music. Students were encouraged to learn the signs of stalking, and were challenged to put their new profound knowledge to the test in an entertaining and educational twist of Jenga.

V.P.A.S has a goal of making Southern a safe and supporting community and providing violence prevention education and advocacy.

V.P.A.S student worker Danae Sawchyn, a senior and English major, was one of the three advocates leading the round table discussion.

"We wanted to bring statistics to light," said Sawchyn. "People like to make light of things like stalking and sexual

assault and we wanted to challenge that."

Today's media has made it hard not to become desensitized to stalking and sexual misconduct. It has become the new way to express love.

"The most obvious stalking one [movie] I can think of is Twilight," said Sawchyn. "When it is in a movie you're looking at it from the viewpoint of 'Oh, this isn't real,' realizing people experiencing that in real life, is scary and not okay."

Sophomore, communication disorders major, and V.P.A.S. advocate Ashley Barry said being aware does not have to equal boycotting.

"If your favorite song includes stalking, that doesn't mean you have to stop listening," said Barry. "It's becoming aware that it's happening and spreading the word."

However, the appropriation of stalking has made it hard for some of its victims to speak out, V.P.A.S. members said at the discussion. The fear of not being taken seriously is greater than becoming a victim.

"Stalking is not being taken as seriously as it should be. People will say, I think I'm being stalked

and while be[ing] told, 'You're just paranoid,'" said Barry.

Along with victim advocacy, V.P.A.S also provides counseling services to any student who experienced sexual misconduct, hazing, bullying, harassment or victimization of any other kind.

"V.P.A.S has two trained campus advocates that are there so that you know your options in situations such as stalking," said Sawchyn. "They [victims] might not think for certain that they want to do something, they might just want to know what they can do and they're the people to see for that specifically."

These resources are not limited addressing instances that take place on campus, said Barry. She said that people should not be afraid to reach out.

"When you are victim of any kinds of misconduct you're likely to feel vulnerable, and you might not want to talk about it," said Sawchyn. "You might want to think you're able to just solve it yourself but the problem is outside of you. There are resources, it is okay to talk about it and there are people who want to help."

Opinion: Avatar: TLAB

By Joe Freer
Reporter

Netflix recently announced that a live-action adaptation of the children's cartoon "Avatar: The Last Airbender" is in the works.

Creators of the original series, Mike Dimartino and Bryan Konietzko, famously known as "Bryke" in the fandom, have confirmed on their Instagram accounts that they will return for the project.

For those who do not know what Avatar is, or have not seen the show since they were kids here's a quick summary. It takes place a mythical world governed by the four nations of Earth, Fire, Water and Air. Some people from each nation can manipulate or "bend" their respective element. The fire nation inflicted an imperialist war and genocide on the other nations. The only person to stop them is a boy named Aang, the Avatar who has the ability to use all four elements.

This news should excite fans who still have a sour taste in their mouth from the critical and commercial failure of an adaptation from M. Night Shyamalan 2010 live-action film.

With the original creators involved, many of the problems from the first live-action outing, of which they played no part, should be fixed.

One of the most glaring issues from the 2010 adaptation was the inaccurate portrayal of the cast. Much of Avatar's universe is inspired by different Asian cultures and the film failed to cast authentic actors for lead

roles.

After the initial announcement of the reboot, many fans expressed concern about the universe being "white-washed" again on social media.

Dimartino and Konietzko said in their press release "We can't wait to realize Aang's world as cinematically as we always imagined it to be, with culturally appropriate, non-whitewashed cast."

Since creating "Avatar," Dimartino and Konietzko have never shied away from breaking norms in their storytelling and their universe has been one of the most progressive American cartoon worlds to date.

Just four years ago, at the conclusion of "The Legend of Korra," the sequel series to Aang's story, the two creators confirmed that Korra was romantically involved with Asami making her one of the first open bisexual cartoon character leads in American cartoon history. "Avatar" featured other groups of people that are under represented in American cartoons: Toph was blind, but as capable as any fighter in the show and a handicapped boy named Teo who uses his wheelchair as a vehicle to help him glide in the air.

Another issue with Shyamalan's movie was that he tried to squeeze 20 episodes into a single 103 minute movie. The result was that his story missed vital character development, iconic scenes and memorable side characters were either left behind or hardly played a role in the narrative. By moving the series to Netflix,

Dimartino and Konietzko will have more freedom to expand some of the universe that was not touched upon in the movie or shut down by the Nickelodeon during the original run.

Fans shouldn't be surprised if they decide to add elements from Korra into Aang's new series. Much of Korra was about adding to the universe, such as the Raava spirit defeating the evil spirit Vaatu to create the Avatar.

The creators said they had wanted to incorporate that part of the universe in the original series but the network shut them down. Fans should not be surprised if the series has a Game of Thrones fifty-minute episode runtime and is geared towards the generation that grew up with the original series, while still keeping its charm.

Nina Bartłomiejczyk, a junior said "I would personally watch it because I have never seen the original," and that one of her favorite songs has a reference to the show so she thinks it would be fun to get the meaning behind it.

Chris Gunzenhauser, a junior said he has not watched the show since he was a kid.

"It sounds exciting. I know the live adaptation movie didn't do too great," he said, "but I trust them [Dimartino and Konietzko] to a good job."

He said he had worried that live action shows are sometimes unable to capture the same artistic elements that animated ones can. And with a show with elemental bending, mythical creatures and landscapes it might hard to accomplish.



Quarterback Matthew Sapere, a redshirt freshman, throwing a pass during Saturday's win against Saint Anselm.

PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Owls fashion back-to-back landslide victories

By Kevin Crompton
Editor-in-Chief

Quarterback Matthew Sapere secured his second win as a starter for the Owls in a steam rolling of Saint Anselm, 43-7. Southern, who now sits at 3-2, was unable to complete the shutout as Saint Anselm finally found the end zone on the last play of the game.

Sapere notched a career high 200 passing yards and added two touchdowns through the air. He said carrying his confidence from last week's win into Saturday's game led to his success versus Saint Anselm.

"All my teammates had no doubt in me. I had all my teammates backs and they had mine," said Sapere. "At the end of the day it's just football. It's the sport I've been playing my whole life and it doesn't really matter who's in the jerseys on the other side. As long as we execute on the offensive side and put the ball

in the end zone like we did today we're going to get the results we want."

Sapere worked the ball around to six different receivers, completing touchdown passes to freshman receiver Julian Chung and senior Hunter Fluegel.

"We got a lot of talent," said Sapere. "We have weapons at every single spot and my offensive line did an amazing job giving me some time today and allowing me to spread the ball around like I wanted to."

Chung, who has become a security blanket for Sapere connecting on 10 receptions, 150 yards and a touchdown over the last two games, said he just tries to make his quarterback feel as comfortable as possible.

"At practice good balls or bad balls, we just try to make sure he has his head up and get open for him so he feels comfortable and just move forward," said Chung.

SEE FOOTBALL PAGE 11



Receiver Julian Chung, a freshman, catching a touchdown pass during Saturday's win at home.

PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Burr making immediate impact in rookie year



PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Forward Kelsey Burr, a freshman, during a game against Assumption.

By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

Kelsey Burr is just a freshman but she is already making her presence felt on the Southern women's soccer team, which is 6-3 and winners of their last three.

With just two wins last year, there is a completely different culture to this year's squad.

"I love this team and couldn't imagine myself anywhere else," Burr said. "I feel like I truly fit in and they make me feel comfortable being out there on the field with them. It feels awesome to have make an impact already and I will continue to keep proving I can do that."

Burr, recruited out of Sheehan High School in Wallingford, is a forward and has played in all of the Owls' nine games so far this fall. She is tallied three goals and an assist and has also been successful on the pair of penalty kicks she has lined up to take.

"She's gotten off to a good start, as we've expected. She has done very well but there's still a long way to go," head coach Adam Cohen said. "We started recruiting her some time ago because some people choose to start the process their sophomore year [of high school]."

SEE BURR PAGE 11

Welles valuing chemistry in sophomore season

By Hunter Lyle
Reporter

Based on the scores from their most recent games, Southern's field hockey team has had a rough start to the season; so far, the team has lost every one of their seven games. However, despite the numerous losses, one of the team members says that she has not lost her optimism.

Karley Welles, a sophomore early education major said the season's rocky start will not stop the team from working their hardest to get better. Tribulations and setbacks aside, as she begins her second season with the team, Welles says that she aims to stay positive and keep progressing alongside her teammates.

"I think the season is going

okay, because we just started, and we are working out our kinks and striving to get better," said Welles. "Obviously, right now, we are not winning as much as we want to, but we are changing our strategy and making adjustments, trying hard to get better every day."

Welles said the Owls must practice hard and go back to basics, so that they can get better and have a shot at a victory.

"The team is currently focused on working together, repeating what we learned at practice during our games, and getting the fundamentals of the sport down," Welles said.

Welles does not care too much about the score at the end of the game. Instead, she cares more about the focus and the team work demonstrated by herself and her teammates.

"Personally, I am less worried

about winning and more worried about how my teammates and I play, both together and individually," said Welles.

Welles has devoted her entire athletic career at Southern to playing field hockey. Welles said she found enjoyment in a sport she never intended on playing. Welles chose field hockey because of an eighth-grade foot injury that prevented her from playing soccer.

"I've only been playing field hockey for a few years now," said Welles. "I started playing my freshman year of high school, because I fractured a growth plate in my ankle and I couldn't play soccer."

Welles said that she is grateful for how things turned out, because she enjoys field hockey more than any other sport she played in the past.

"I switched, and it was the best decision of my life," said Welles.

SEE WELLES PAGE 10



PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Forward Karley Welles, a sophomore, during a game against Adelphi University last season.

Sports information director takes job at UConn Avery-Point



By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

Ever since I became Southern Connecticut State University's sports writer, I have known Mike Kobylanski. He has helped me get to places as far as Syracuse for last year's men's basketball exhibition and to Stonehill for last spring's women's basketball regional playoff game. Whenever I needed assistance getting a coach or student-athlete to meet or speak on the phone for an interview, Kobylanski been a great help. After more than 10 years as Southern's sports information director, I am ecstatic that Mike is going to be the next athletic director at UConn-Avery Point. However it is bittersweet.

He has been my professor and one of the best mentors I could have asked for. Last semester, I took his sports management class, Sports Promotion and Communication. While I want to stick to journalism, I still value the perspective I get from my sports management cognate, even though it is a PR-based field in terms of their game summaries.

But, it has been a ride and I am sad to see Mike go. His boss, Athletic Director Jay Moran, said that Mike has been looking to get into this type of administrative role for some time now and that he has always been up front about it.

"It's a good move for him and his family. I wish him nothing but the best and I hope he's very successful at it," Moran said. "He's been very helpful for 11 years and he's helped get the Hall of Fame banquet going again and he's worked on a lot of the scholar athlete stuff. He's been a good part of the team."

His role at UConn-Avery Point will encompass a lot of things when he officially starts there Oct. 12. They are a small junior college with just three sports in men's and women's basketball and baseball but it is not like here where there is a ton of associate athletic directors managing finances, equipment, compliance and facilities.

Over the weekend the baseball team fittingly hosted Avery Point in pre-season action. Kobylanski said he went to take pictures. "Of which team," I said, half serious.

His answer? "Both."

Szymecki lighting a spark off the bench for the Owls during sophomore campaign



Forward Lukas Szymecki, a sophomore, during a game last season.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

By Michael Riccio
Sports Editor

Lukas Szymecki has been playing soccer since he was five years old. He said his biggest obstacle came during his junior season of high school when he suffered a concussion.

"It was really severe," Szymecki said. "That was tough to come back from, especially missing school and it was in a tough time too because that's when you're supposed to start looking at colleges and start looking at future playing."

Szymecki's Wethersfield High School team won the Central Connecticut Conference during his junior season. He scored the game-winning goal during the championship game against Glastonbury.

Just a sophomore, the Owls' forward has a knack for scoring in close games during his Southern career. When he was a freshman, Szymecki scored the game tying goal in the second half in a game against No. 9 ranked Merrimack on the road. The Owls eventually went on to win 2-1.

This season, Szymecki scored the game-winning goal against Bridgeport in overtime. In the next game against Concordia, he scored at the 84:07 mark of the game to give the Owls a two goal lead. Szymecki said he enjoyed those moments and wants stay prepared for those types of

situations.

"It was just a big rush," Szymecki said. "It was definitely exciting. It was good to get off to a quick start, slowed down a little bit but it felt good."

Szymecki is no stranger to playing in big games either, as his teams at Wethersfield made runs to the state finals. He used that experience in last season's games against Saint Rose and Merrimack in the NE10 tournament and District of Columbia in the NCAA Tournament.

"That was sick," Szymecki said. "We had a decent run in the conference tournament. NCAA's was really cool because we went down to Long Island and we stay in the hotel's so it was a cool experience. Our result was unfortunate but the experience was really, really exciting."

Zak Wright, a junior captain for the team, said he has seen Szymecki improve his movement off the ball and tactical understanding.

"The transition to the college level can be challenging," Wright said. "Players are more athletic, technical and the game itself much more tactical than anything players experience in high school. Lukas has taken strides in his time here to become a more polished finisher. He has a great mindset and will continue to improve as a member of the team."

Wright said Szymecki offers the Owls a different option to break down teams and he provides a quality shift when he



PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Forward Lukas Szymecki, a sophomore, during last year's home game against Le Moyne College.

is called to come in the game.

"Lukas has provided a spark of energy this season off the bench with his electric pace and athleticism," Wright said. "He has the ability to get in behind defenses and has scored two goals this season from breakaway opportunities."

Szymecki said his teammates stood out to him the most during his first two seasons. Although

the Owls have welcomed 14 newcomers to the team, Szymecki said the bonds he has made with the team are what has been important to him. "My friendships," Szymecki said "that I've built at Southern and the relationships I've built with my coaches and teammates is the biggest thing."

Welles

Continued from Page 9

Welles had no trouble adapting to the demands of her new sport. She immersed herself in field hockey and, within three years, she became an All-State, All-Conference and All-Herald athlete at Newington High School.

Welles had a diverse athletic skill set that encompassed more than just field hockey. She was a three-season athlete who played lacrosse and golf during the offseasons. Welles also played club field hockey in a league, which is where she met Ann Farrier, the assistant field hockey coach at Southern.

"I played club for a few years, and assistant coach Ann was one of the coaches at my club," said Welles. "I remember the first ever tournament that I

played, because coach Ann was actually the head coach of my team at the time."

Farrier said, after seeing her skill and dedication first hand, there was no debate about whether Welles had the talent needed to stand out amongst other high school athletes.

"She's a highly skilled player, and I knew she would have a direct impact on our team, because she was only a freshman when she started," said Farrier. "I knew that she had been playing at the highest level, playing club and traveling all over the country, so I knew Karley had what it takes to come and be a direct impact."

After seeing her play, the coaches set up an overnight visit for Welles, so she could see Southern's campus and meet fellow students. Welles said Southern turned out to be a perfect fit.

During her first season playing for the Owls, Welles became an instant presence. According to Farrier, Welles started in all 18 games and scored four goals in her first year on the team.

"Karley Welles is a great person, we're good friends off the field and she's just a great person," said team captain, and senior Jana Migliaro. "She's quick, and she definitely helps the team and works as hard as she can."

"My mentality is just to work hard and be positive. We have to keep working hard every and being there for each other," said Welles.

With 12 games left in the season, the Owls field hockey team looks to keep striding towards an NE10 tournament berth. The team plays Pace University in Pleasantville, N.Y. on Oct. 3 and Saint Anselm College on Oct. 6 in Manchester, N.H.



PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Forward Karley Welles, a sophomore, during a home game last season against Pace University.

Club hockey set to begin 2018 campaign



PHOTO COURTESY | SCSU CLUB HOCKEY

SCSU club hockey team celebrates a goal during last season's win against Penn State Behrend during the Empire Classic.

By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

This year's men's ice hockey club is gearing up for their home opener Friday night at their new home facility, the Louis Astorino Ice Arena, a seven-minute drive from campus.

"It will save money and we hope it can create more of a student presence," third-year head coach Bill Walsh said. "It's gonna make it easier for freshmen who may not have their own transportation."

The team previously played at the Northford Ice Pavilion, which was an 18-minute drive from campus.

This year's roster is made up of a lot of new players, such as freshmen goaltenders Jeremy Hickcox and Matt Twarowski, as well as returners such as Brian Flanagan, Dylan Butler, Sal Novella, Nick and Matt Latella, Jake Delguidice, Denzel Dickerson and Matt Sarosky.

"We have a good mix and there's been a lot of interest from the freshmen," he said.

"Some people don't even realize that we have a club team. It's a big commitment of time and effort for those who are interested."

Last year the team had 19 players on their roster but this year's goal is to get it up to 22 or 23 men.

"We gained a handful of new players who have the ability to be huge assets to our team," Flanagan said. "After getting a taste of nationals in 2017 our goal is nothing short of that and we know we have the skill to do so."

Some of the roster includes players older than traditional school age. As long as they are an enrolled student they are eligible to play, unlike with the NCAA Division II sports which have a strict five-year eligibility limit.

Kevin Flynn, a senior and the team's president, said that last year was a rebuilding season for them but now they feel good about what they have on their roster.

"The team looks great," he said. "Virtually everyone has returned and we've seen a lot of great stuff from our freshmen class. Our two freshmen goaltenders look great and we also believe we have the best coaching staff

[in the league]."

In addition to Walsh, assistant coaches Mike Ginnetti and Tom Bruski "add a lot of input" and "help keep a high tempo" in practice, according to Flynn.

Walsh, 27, believes the team respects him because of his age but he also always wants to maintain a "coaching presence."

"It works to my benefit," he said. "The guys have a good amount of respect for me and I show them that same amount of respect."

The team begins their season Friday night at home against Western Connecticut State University.

"We all couldn't wait to get back to the ice after this offseason. We have all worked very hard with our strength and conditioning and developing on individual skills and, with the entire roster considered, we have the opportunity to be a force in the Empire Conference this year," Flynn said. "The incoming class of nine fills voids well -- some will get ice-time immediately and others will add depth to our lineup."

Burr

Continued from Page 9

Burr is one of 10 freshmen on this year's roster, which includes goalkeepers Abigail Allen, from Amity, and Tamra Zippin, Middletown's Kaitlyn D'Amico, Greta Brunello from Italy, Guilford's Taylor Shutak, Georgia Texiera, Clinton's Courtney Viglione, Amanda Dustin and Taylor Davis.

"Everyone on this team has chemistry; it's like we're all one," Burr said. "We get along very well and we're family to each other."

Cohen said that he believes his athletes have "had enough" with the program's lackluster success in the past and are now "making a statement."

"They're making a statement with what they want the program to be like and it's translating into some success," Cohen said. "The chemistry in this year's group is outstanding and it starts with our great veteran leadership and the culture that's already been created."

Over the last several seasons, the team has struggled to maintain a constant

mark. Last year they went 2-12-3, the year before that they were 9-7-3 and in 2015 they went 6-10-1.

"We've known for years what Kelsey's been capable of," Cohen said. "I'm hoping she stays motivated to get better and better."

He said her ability speaks "for itself" and that while she is not "tremendously vocal" her confidence is coming along.

"She's not a finished product and she's not as good as she can be," he said.

Burr has played to numerous accolades at Sheehan and also with Ginga FC, a soccer academy in Woodbridge, where she won three state cups.

Even though she is still new to the soccer program on campus, she has already developed relationships with not just Cohen but the entire coaching staff.

"The coaches all give helpful feedback on how to improve before, during and after games and practices," she said. "They are also always looking to motivate us in any way possible."

Burr scored the lone goal last week in the team's upset win over No. 16 Adelphi. Last Saturday, they extended their winning streak to four games with a 2-1 win at American International.



PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Forward Kelsey Burr, a freshman, against Assumption College earlier this season.

Football

Continued from Page 9

The passing game was not the only area the Owls found success on Saturday. The two-headed monster was in full effect as running back Eli Parks rushed for 89 yards and two touchdowns with Vochan Fowler adding 85 yards and a touchdown of his own on the ground. Freshman Jaylynn Cundiff also found the end zone taking a 50-yard punt return to the house for his first touchdown as an Owl.

Head coach Tom Godek said he was most proud of the way the guys handled themselves during the week and the way they came out and played in the second half.

"It's a credit to the players who really kept the pedal down the whole way," said Godek. "You saw those guys running around and making plays and really carrying through the schemes. Very proud of our coaches and players."

Senior quarterback Matt Sanzaro has

been sidelined the last two weeks due to an upper body injury. Godek said he has not heard any update on his status as of Saturday and will have to wait for a report.

"Certainty we would like to get all of our players back," said Godek. "You can see how we are starting to thin out here in the last couple weeks."

Sapere said he's going to "go with the flow" and leave it to the coaches to put the team in a position to win.

"Whatever happens, happens," said Sapere. "If I'm the guy, I'm the guy. If I'm not, I'm going to be right there in case anything happens."

Southern will have two weeks for players to recover from injuries as it enters its bye week. The Owls will resume action Oct. 13 on the road versus undefeated Assumption.

"We're going to take the bye and clean up where we can clean up," said Godek. "They're a great program here in the last few years particularly. We have to be ready to execute at all three phases when we play those guys up there."



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Returner Jaylynn Cundiff, a freshman, running back a punt during win against Saint Anselm.

Football back over .500 midway through season



By Michael Riccio
Sports Editor

Halfway through the season, the Owls sit 3-2 and 2-2 in the conference. The season has already been an up and down year, however.

On the strength of four touchdowns from Eli Parks, they began the season with a 35-32 road win over Gannon, their first season opening win since 2008. Their next game was their home opener against Bentley, the Owls blew a 16-0 halftime lead and lost 24-22. They then lost to New Haven 37-18 and lost starting quarterback Matt Sanzaro to injury.

Since then, the Owls have won their last two games; 42-21 to Stonehill and 43-7. It is the first time the Owls have scored at least 40 points in two straight games since they scored it in three straight games in 2013.

During the first three weeks of the year, there seemed to be more questions than answers. Parks ran for 221 yards during those first six quarters of the year, but ran for only 107 yards during the last six. Before Sanzaro's injury, he ran for three touchdowns and looked comfortable scrambling out of the pocket when the Owls offensive line collapsed. Even though he looked more relaxed in the game against New Haven, starting the game with nine completions in 10 attempts, he did not have any touchdown passes and threw four interceptions during the first three games.

During the last two offensive onslaughts, the Owls are getting production from nearly every position. They have 493 rushing yards and passed for 369 yards, while allowing just 173 rushing yards. They also have a fumble recovery returned for a touchdown courtesy of Jharron Wallace, the first fumble returned for a touchdown since Sept. 22, 2012, and a punt return touchdown from Jaylynn Cundiff, the first punt return touchdown since Sept. 20, 2014.

The Owls passing game has come alive as well. Over the last three games for Sapere, two of which being starts, he has six touchdown passes and just one interception 405 yards of passing. Being a redshirt freshman getting his first sense of game action in college, he has given the Owls a jolt and more than they could have expected during the last two weeks.

With a bye week this week, bouncing back with two wins after two losses should give the the Owls more confidence and momentum before traveling to Assumption.

The game against Assumption should be the toughest of the year for the Owls. The defending NE10 champs are 4-0 in the conference and average just under 50 points per game while allowing 16.8.

PHOTO

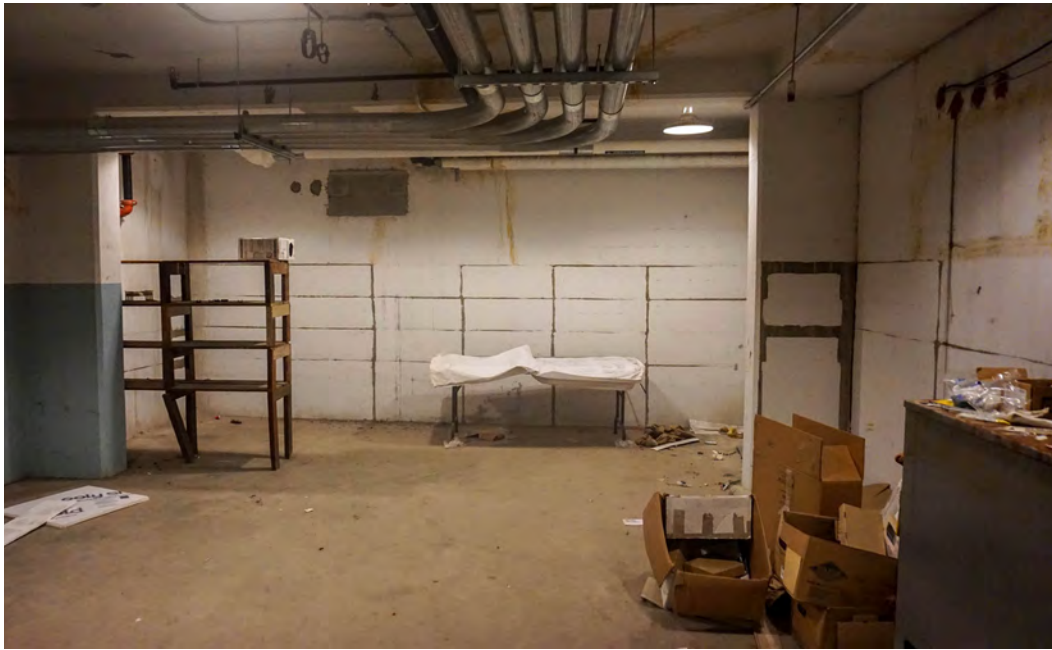
NEGLECTED ON CAMPUS

By Palmer Piana
Photo Editor



Entrance to the former Student Center located behind the The School of Business.

PHOTO | PALMER PIANA



An empty room in the basement of the former Student Center



Hallway in the building which is relatively untouched.



College Republicans' poster from the President George W. Bush era.



College Democrats' poster with a sign that reads, "Don't blame me I voted for Kerry."



Freezers in the basement of the former Student Center.

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