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Owls falls to Assumption at Homecoming

By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor

In an emotional rollercoaster of a game, the Owls fell 35-28 to the Assumption University Greyhounds at Homecoming.

Leading into the Saturday, Oct. 5 matchup, the buzz in the air not only filled campus during the week but carried into the weekend at Jess Dow Field.

Hundreds of students, both current and former, and families joined together to enjoy food, games and an NEIO gridiron classic.

The scale of the event and support did not go unnoticed by Head Coach Tom Godek.

“We want to thank our university, our student body, our faculty, our administration, our support staff in the Moore Field House and cafeteria folks over at Sodexo, just unbelievable environment for like the third or fourth consecutive homecoming,” Godek said.

After taking the second game head-to-head, to end the 2023 season, Assumption wanted revenge. This season, special teams decided who the winner was going to be.

In the first quarter in a 7-7 tie, Assumption returned a punt for a



PHOTO | CARLY RUSSELL

Owls were defeated by Assumption University on Oct. 5 during the Homecoming game.

touchdown but was called back due to a holding penalty on the Greyhounds.

With one minute in the third quarter, another special team play left the crowd in disarray.

After a positive Owls offensive series stalled at the Greyhounds’ 10-yard line, tied at 21 apiece. In his first field goal attempt of the game, kicker Daniel Benzi, a freshman, was blocked, and the ball was returned for a Greyhound touchdown.

The once-bustling crowd was in silence. The Owls would answer with a 1-yard touchdown run by quarterback Keith Ridley Jr., a graduate, his first rushing on the day; third overall.

In the shotgun with 3:05 left in the fourth quarter, the Greyhounds running back dove for the endzone to take a 35-28 lead. A muffled kick return put the line of scrimmage for the Owls at the Greyhound four yard-line.

With a two-minute timeout, three timeouts in the bank and 96 yards to go, a second two-minute drill was warranted.

Completing one to end the first half with a touchdown, the Owls drove down the field to the Greyhounds’ 40-yard line.

After a sack and an incompletion, Ridley was taken down at the 35. He scrambled for five yards, falling short of the first down marker, creating a

turnover on downs.

“We practice two minutes every single Thursday, so we come out here prepared, Ridley said. “In the second half fourth down, we shot ourselves in the foot. I can’t take a sack on second down and put us back like that. I got to throw the ball away, but I got the utmost trust of my guys to make plays.”

During the game, the Owls defense struggled to contain Greyhounds quarterback Jay Kastantin

who led his time in rushing with 71 yards on seven attempts with a touchdown. Likewise, the Owls receivers created separation from their defenders’ opening windows for Ridley.

Ridley said. “These guys prepare really well during the week, and they know whoever’s out there, I’m going to go through my reads and throw the ball. Doesn’t matter who it is.”

The injury bug took two key offensive players late. Tight end Michael Strachan, a sophomore, left the game in the second half with an undisclosed injury. Running back E’Lijah Gray, a senior, departed shortly after.

Although Godek did not have an update on Strachan or Gray, the latter indicated a lower body injury on the sideline with Head Athletic Trainer Chris Leary, and neither would return that game.

“He certainly wasn’t great enough to get back in there at the end,” Godek said. “A lot of football left, we certainly need both those guys out there. E’Lijah’s a premiere back and Mike is a young guy that’s just starting to grow more and more for us, so we’re looking to hopefully get them both back next week.”

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Diversity, Equity and Inclusion host lecture series

By Jay’Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

The university continued to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with its annual Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Social Justice lecture series.

On Wednesday, Oct. 2, guest speaker Roberto Che Espinoza gave students and faculty a unique insight on how to overcome various forms of adversity through his personal life experiences.

The event kicked off with attendees able to enjoy traditional Hispanic dishes. Attendees also gained a warm welcome from Interim Vice President for DEI Kevin Rutledge.

“We take time to stop and pause and come together as a collective community to invite us to different concepts, different ideas and different insights as we join in today’s space,” Rutledge said.

Interim President, Dwayne Smith also greeted attendees and welcomed fellow speakers, Associate Director of Multicultural Affairs, James Henderson and Gian Melendez, graduate intern for the Multicultural Center.

Espinoza’s main discussion points were about intersectionality, liberation and critical imagination.

He conveyed these

ideas through his personal stories of growing up a poor Latino, his experiences being transgender and his struggle with being neurodivergent.

“My story is one of great challenge and great adversity,” Espinoza said. “Today is more than a survival story; it’s a call to action, a call to reimagine what our intersections can teach us about changing the world.”

Pictures of Espinoza during different times in his life and artificial intelligence-generated images were shown on the screen to explain his talking points further.

He explained how his early experiences as a child and the police brutality during COVID inspired his first book, “Activist Theology.”

He discussed how during this tumultuous time he struggled, but how the simple act of a long walk helped him clear his head and come to terms with his identity.

He then dove into his experiences being transgender and neurodivergent. He spoke about his second book, “Body Becoming: A Path to Our Liberation.”

“This body tells a story, a map of both pain and liberation, of belonging and displacement,” Espinoza said.

The importance of talking about his experiences with his body was to explain how people

should accept those for being different. But also, that those differences need to be celebrated and talked about more openly to bring together communities.

Espinoza listed Kimberlé Crenshaw’s definition of intersectionality, which is the study of intersecting social identities that are related to oppression, domination, or discrimination with the main point of being able to understand power relations and how they shape inequality, not identity.

He said that he believes everyone’s lives have been impacted by some form of intersectionality, and that we need to be liberated from those experiences.

Espinoza also explained the importance of creative imagination.

“We must celebrate what we’re creating and use it as a source of strength,” Espinoza said. “We need collective creative imagination to figure out how to address the complexities in everyone’s lives.”

Espinoza ended the event by going back into explaining how the university’s community can create a difference through its diversity.

“Let us embrace our intersections,” Espinoza said. “Let’s stand together in our differences. Let’s see adversity not as something we fear, but something we comprehend to transcend and transform.”



PHOTO | JAY’MI VAZQUEZ

Interim President Dwayne Smith and guest speaker Roberto Che Espinoza.



PHOTO | LILY RAND

Faculty and students listening during the Social Justice lecture series.

Bronze leadership launches first meeting

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

Leadership comes in many forms at the university. Whether it is through organizations, sports, programs, or on-campus jobs, students have the opportunity to serve in many leadership roles.

While many students are interested in becoming leaders and fulfilling roles on campus, they might not know where to start.

For first-year students, the Bronze Leadership Certificate Program is an opportunity to venture into new facets of campus leadership.

The first meeting of the program was held on Wednesday, Oct. 2. Members were shown how to earn their certificate. The informative session also ended in a surprise giveaway.

Talia Lent, the leadership development graduate intern in the Office of Student Involvement, said that the program is a great resource that students should utilize.

"I really wish I knew about this opportunity when I was an undergrad. It's really great for students that are looking to apply for on-campus leadership roles or just expand their network," Lent said.

Through workshops, leadership experiences and community engagement, members learn and build on the fundamentals of individual leadership, communication skills, personal values, leadership ethics, emotional intelligence and identity awareness.

"It really gives students a great opportunity to expand on skills that they may need to work on prior to applying to positions like orientation ambassador, resident adviser, peer mentor, CASAS tutor, etc.," Lent said.

Another benefit to the program is that it can prepare members for other leadership roles on campus and beyond. Through workshops, members are able to meet new staff and students from various departments on campus.

By having professional and personal relationships with peers, university staff and student leaders, members are able to network and shadow their desired positions.

The Bronze Certificate Leadership Program can also spark connections between students, as they offer social events.

Biology major Omar Bibi Rabani, a freshman, said she joined the program to enhance her college experience.

"I hope to get more experience in leadership and meet new people," Rabani said.

Similarly, health and human services major Eloisa Alves, a freshman, said she decided to apply to engage with the community.

"I hope to build better leadership skills and get more involved with the community," Alves said. "I also want to build a resume."

While the program has over 100 members, the majority are freshmen.

"I think the more you get into college, I think people find their own interests and own clubs and organizations and programs to be a part of," Lent said. "First-year students are new and want to see opportunities out there."

The semester-long program is self-paced, indicating that students can attend workshops and complete their eight hours of community service whenever they are available.

"Whenever a workshop works for them, students can just go, and they can complete the program on their own time. So, there's no strict deadline," Lent said.

Lent encourages students to apply, as they have a rolling deadline.



PHOTO | LILY RAND

Talia Lent, the leadership development graduate intern in the Office of Student Involvement, leading the Bronze Leadership Certificate Program's first meeting.



Healthcare studies major Alexis Vazquez, a freshman entering the giveaway on Wednesday, Oct. 2.

Owls state their take on dining changes

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

According to a 2023 Student Voice survey conducted by College Pulse and Inside Higher Ed, 37% of students think improvements should be made to campus eating facilities.

The same can be said about students on campus, as they have voiced their own opinions on Connecticut Hall.

Connecticut Hall is one of the dining areas for students, faculty and staff. The buffet style restaurant is coined as "all you care to eat" by the university.

The dining location offers a wide range of hot and cold entrees, grilled specialties, ethnic cuisines, sandwiches, delectable side dishes and bite-sized desserts.

While the dining hall's menu has remained the same, students have taken note of the difference in perks that came with their meal plan this semester.

Last semester, students had the luxury of two free meal swipes per week for restaurants in the Adanti Student Center: Tres Habaneros, Peking Plate, The Grill, SubConnection and Dunkin'.

Psychology major Chasity Williams, a freshman, disapproved of this new change.

"I don't like it. I think it was better last semester," Williams said. "I miss our two free swipes in stu last year."

Along with the removal of swipes, Connecticut Hall also discarded the option for students to use green containers to store their food. These to-go containers allowed students to take their meals outside of the dining hall.

Without meal swipes from the student center, Williams said she doesn't understand why Connecticut Hall would not want

to allow food to leave the dining hall the same way the other restaurants do.

"Stu is quick and easy. And since there isn't the green boxes no more, you can't rush and eat between classes no more," Williams said.

Even though the dining hall has several meal plans available that are tailored to students' lifestyles, many commuters believe the new meal plan changes are distasteful.

Music major Farah Hamada, a senior, said she does not eat at Connecticut Hall anymore due to the removal of guest swipes.

"I used to be able to get in for guest swipes, so now I don't go as often because of that," Hamada said.

Since Hamada is a commuter, she would spend time and eat at Connecticut Hall with her friends during downtime.

Now, Hamada said she cannot afford that luxury. "It used to be \$12 during lunch time, and now it's \$14," Hamada said. "And it is even more expensive during dinner."

Due to these increases in prices, Hamada said she prefers to eat off campus because meals are cheaper.

With these changes in the meal plan, many students are confused by the lack of changes in the dining hall itself.

Communication major Alan Brockman, a junior, said that the dining hall did not do anything to improve their serving methods.

"I don't think we should be paying 3k for a poor meal plan when food is always cold at Conn."

Williams also said that she is disappointed with the lack of changes in their menu.

"The food in Conn is the same as last semester, just okay," Williams said. "So, it doesn't make sense to get rid of swipes if there's no improvement."

Students share their healthy habits

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

Whether it is lifting weights after class, eating a serving of fruits at the dining hall, or walking to the convenience store, students make time to practice healthy habits.

These practices allow students to get into the swing of things while shaping a new routine centered around productivity and wellness.

For communication major Dejaron Morrett, a sophomore, maintaining health habits is incorporated into his diet and routine.

"I have a daily intake of fruits and vegetables incorporated in my three meals per day," Morrett said.

Morrett, who is a defensive back for the football team, is dedicated to his fitness regimen. Whether it is 5 a.m. team conditioning or lifting at the gym, Morrett has crafted his own recipe for a healthy and balanced lifestyle.

Morrett said, "I work out six to seven days a week in some capacity, whether that's lifting or practice or games."

Physical and mental health routines are extensively practiced on campus as well. Nursing major Kelsey Beas, a senior, said that she prioritizes her mental health and sleep.

Beas said that she puts emphasis on her sleep due to its importance for her

to operate throughout her day.

According to Cornell Health, college students require between seven and nine hours of sleep every night to prevent daytime drowsiness, weight gain, poor health, low energy and altered mood states throughout the day.

Beas said that instead of letting outside stressors and inconveniences cloud her mind she "vents everything" to her friends.

Beas relies on her support systems of friends and family to maintain her mental health as well as her own schedule to prevent burnout.

"I have people that check up on me, and I also take mental health breaks when I need them," Beas said.

Computer science major Breena Batz, a freshman, said that most of her physical activity is done through navigating campus.

Batz said, "I try to stay active, and that is mostly through walking to my classes every day."

Students have also traded out old habits for new ones that yield health benefits.

"I try to walk everywhere instead of driving all the time," Beas said. "I also try not to order DoorDash too much."

Every student has a unique motivation for adopting a healthy lifestyle.

Along with Morrett's obligation as a student-athlete, he said he places a high value on his health and overall well-being.

"It is important for me to feel good and keep my body in shape, so I can live as long as possible," Morrett said.

Other students implement a healthy lifestyle to fuel their involvement. Psychology major Kash William, a junior, wears many hats at the university.

William is a cheerleader, dancer for the Caribbean Student Association and desk attendant for Recreation & Fitness.

While William has a very demanding lifestyle that keeps her active and in shape, she said she would not have it any other way.

"It is important for me to stay active because I don't wanna be lazy," William said. "When you're lazy, you don't get anything done."

By having multiple responsibilities, William said she maintains productivity and commits to her rigorous schedule. Along with staying busy, William's lifestyle also boosts her mental health by stimulating her social connections and happiness.

Through occupying many capacities in various departments, William said she is able to "build a sense of community" and network.

William said this fulfills

her passion of meeting new people, interacting with others and building new connections.

In addition to managing many roles, students also have to balance their classes and course load. Morrett said that he is able to juggle his education and commit to his workout routine through personal determination and consistency.

"When it comes to fitness, there isn't an excuse on how to balance," Morrett said. "It's something you fit into your day as a day-to-day necessity."

Morrett said that a step in creating a healthy routine starts with replacing downtime with activities.

"At some point of the day, you are sitting down and relaxing when you could go on a walk or jog," Morrett said.

While many students have locked down on a routine that works for them, those that want to start their fitness or health journey can find an activity or regimen that works for them.

"Fitness and health come in all forms, so your journey doesn't have to be the same as everyone else," Morrett said, "but it is essential for you to find your purpose and what you love to do."

For students that want to get involved or create a fitness plan, visit SCSU Recreation to find resources and upcoming events.



PHOTO | BRIANNA WALLEN

Marketing major Juwelle Clay, a sophomore, serves herself fruit in Connecticut Hall on Sept. 30.

Students rep their flags with CSA

By Lexi White
Features Editor

As the semester progresses, the stress students face with their studies becomes more prominent. To escape from their academic worries, students spent their night filled with dancing, good vibes and Caribbean culture.

The Caribbean Student Association, CSA, held their annual Rep Your Flag event on Thursday, Oct. 3 in the Adanti Student Center to celebrate Caribbean heritage.

CSA President and psychology major Trician Johnson, a junior, said that their motto is: divided by water, united by culture.

Johnson said she wanted to bring students together by making this year's celebration their best one yet.

Johnson said, "We have our dance team

performing their first dance of the semester, and they've worked so hard to make sure they put on a great performance."

Johnson has been involved in CSA since she was a freshman and said that being a part of the organization has helped her become who she is today.

"I've come out of my shell a lot since being involved in this," Johnson said. "I used to be very introverted, but now I am extroverted, and I got way better at public speaking."

By expressing her true self, Johnson said that she found the people who truly support her and that will always have her back.

"Our group and this event bring so many people together, regardless of if they are from the Caribbean," Johnson said.

Psychology major Brunel Luxama, a sophomore, was another member of CSA who

helped put this party together. Luxama said that as the CSA secretary, he feels responsible for bringing more people to the event because he wants to showcase what the organization has to offer.

"We all share the same kind of background and morals, so I am really happy to call this my home away from home," Johnson said. "I want to show the people who are here that aren't a part of CSA that we know how to have a good time, but also that we can help educate you on your background."

Art and design major Kayla Desmond, a junior, was one of the students who attended the celebration.

Desmond transferred to the university at the start of the semester and wanted to come to the event to meet new people and broaden her horizons. "I've never been to an

event on campus like this before, but I'm hoping I can see some new faces and become friends with people other than my roommates," Desmond said.

While Desmond did not know what to expect, she knew that CSA's commemoration was a great way for her to get to know the community.

Desmond said, "It's good to know that there are people that look like you and have the same experiences as you in the same place."

Psychology major Leticia Asante, a sophomore, was another student who enjoyed the event. She said that her favorite part of the event was seeing the dance team perform.

"They were amazingly talented. I have never seen dance like that before," Asante said. "I love how they expressed and represented their culture."



Psychology major Jenna Rodriguez and nursing majors Arielle Vance and Dayanara Evans, freshmen, honoring their heritage at the Rep Your Flag event.

PHOTO | LILY RAND

Owls Decide: Which Hogwarts house would you live in? By Lexi White Features Editor



PHOTO | CARLY RUSSELL

"I would probably be in Hufflepuff because they are all cool, and I would want to be one of them."
- Interdisciplinary studies major John Stannard, a sophomore



"I'd want to live in Hufflepuff because they have a cool common area, and they are very close to the kitchen, which is great because I'm a late night snacker."
- English major Emily Weiner, a senior



"I would definitely live in Hufflepuff because I feel like they are just the sweetest house, and I also love the color yellow."
- Special education major Taylor Wasilewski, a senior



"Slytherin because they live under the castle where you can see the water, and it tends to be very quiet down there."
- Journalism major Arcadia So, a sophomore



"I want to live in Gryffindor because it is obviously the best one."
- Public health major Kelvin Essilfie, a senior



"I would be in Gryffindor because I am brave, have a lot of loyalty and it's the best one."
- Public health major Hailey Figueroa, a junior

Wilkinson Hall RAs help residents' mental health

By Lexi White
Features Editor

Navigating the first semester in a new environment with new classmates and all new stressors can be a challenge for some first-year students.

To try and help those who have been having a difficult time, the resident advisers, RAs, of Wilkinson Hall organized an event to help their residents learn about stress and mental health.

Communication disorders major Jailene Brito, a sophomore, and Spanish major John Romano, a senior, were the two RAs who put together this educational event.

Their main goal was for students to be able to gain new strategies to cope with the stress they face each day.

"Learning about how to manage stress is so important because it helps your mental health and your physical health," Brito said.

Brito said that her freshman year of college was overwhelming. She said that she did not know who to talk to or how to cope with what she was feeling.

"I wanted to do some research, so I put together a presentation about what stress is, how it can impact the body and how to overcome it," Brito said. "I wanted to make sure that everyone has a clear idea of what stress is and give them

the resources to get through their rough patches."

Romano said that he wanted to give his residents the opportunity to talk about what has been stressing them out. He said that might not have grown up getting the help they needed and might have wanted to talk about what they are going through.

"We wanted students to know that they are not alone in what they are feeling," Romano said. "By teaching them

how to manage all the stress they may face, hopefully now they feel more relieved."

Romano said that he wanted to let students vent while throwing in a slimy twist. He said that by giving them something to fidget with, they can talk about their troubles in a relaxed manner.

"Slime is like a staple from our generation's childhood and brings up nice memories, and we wanted to give them that space to feel

comfortable," Romano said.

One student who wanted to get in on the slime action was sociology major Charlie Nelson, a freshman. She said that she came to the event to make slime and to learn skills for managing stress.

Nelson said. "A lot of people have mental health issues, and they don't know about the resources here, but this event showed us that there is a lot of help available."



PHOTO | LEXI WHITE

Spanish major John Romano, a senior, making slime with his residents in Wilkinson Hall.



Sociology major Charlie Nelson, a freshman, showing off the slime she made at the event.

‘Monsters’ docuseries faces mixed reactions

By Solé Scott
Editor in Chief
Jay’Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

Netflix has released a new controversial docuseries, “Monsters,” which delves into the notorious case of Erik and Lyle Menendez.

Director Ryan Murphy truly turned a traumatic case into a series of questionable retellings of the alleged sexual relationship between the two Menendez brothers.

Still, “Monsters” had amazing casting which elevated the storytelling. Nicholas Alexander Chavez as Lyle Menendez and Cooper Koch as Erik, gave viewers amazing performances.

The music selections were immaculate. Most songs from the series were added to my playlist.

Although the storytelling is compelling, several aspects of it are dramatized.

Murphy blended fact and fiction, altering the reality of the case, which left viewers questioning the authenticity of certain portrayals.

One notable scene

in the seventh episode, “The Legacy,” depicts the brothers’ emotional reactions during the beginning of their trial.

For some reason, the show suggests a lack of remorse that critics argue misrepresents their real-life complex psychological states.

Additionally, the show dramatizes their confessions, implying they were coerced into admitting guilt, which oversimplifies their motivations and familial trauma.

Furthermore, the depiction of their affluent upbringing glosses over critical details about their abusive environment, leading to a skewed understanding of the factors that contributed to their actions.

As someone who had little knowledge of the Menendez brothers until they were trending on TikTok during the pandemic, I must say this series glorified the murder case and tried to paint the parents as somewhat innocent.

I am confused about who the titular monsters are after watching this series. Is it the brothers, the parents, or the many

people that knew about the abuse in that house of horrors but did not intervene?

This confusion only elevated more at the end of episode eight when viewers get a flashback of the family fishing trip the day before the murders in which Jose and Kitty are portrayed as two parents enjoying their day and trying to fix their family issues.

Murphy’s choice to try and humanize the parents was despicable and disgraceful.

It seemed to me that Murphy was trying to rewrite history by including a scene where Jose called his mother crying late at night to confront her about sexually abusing him. In fact, this scene cemented my hatred for him because he repeated the revolting pattern on his own children.

Murphy commented about the brothers in The Hollywood Reporter.

“But that’s what I find so fascinating; that they’re playing the victim card right now — ‘poor, pitiful us’— which I find reprehensible and disgusting,” Murphy said.



Lyle and Erik Menendez during their sentencing portrayed in the show in the eighth episode, “Seismic Shifts.”

Horror films should not have cartoon slashers



PHOTO | INSTAGRAM

Promotional photo for the first “Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey” film.

By Jay’Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

In recent years, a somewhat disturbing trend has emerged in horror films: the appropriation of beloved childhood characters for shock value.

What once sparked joy in children has now become a source of fear, and it is time directors confronted the reality that these films often fall flat.

The horror genre thrives on innovation and creativity, but these productions are pathetic, uninspired cash grabs capitalizing on our fondness for the past rather than expanding the narrative landscape.

From “The Mouse Trap” to “Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey,” filmmakers seem to think that slapping a beloved character into a horror narrative is a surefire way to draw audiences. Yet, more often than not, the results are cringe-worthy at best and offensive at worst.

“Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey” had a sequel film this year, which to noone’s surprise was subpar. The original film in the series was also poorly

received because it relied on cheap scares and over-the-top gore.

Not only that, but when a character like Winnie the Pooh is transformed into a maniacal killer, it raises more questions than it answers. Such as, why would anyone want to watch Christopher Robin being abused by Winnie the Pooh? It’s just ridiculous.

This kind of reinterpretation strips away the connection children have had with these well-loved characters.

It is one thing to explore darker themes through established characters, such as the dream demon, serial killer and murderous man in a ghost mask, but it is another entirely to force these figures into narratives that do not honor their original essence.

“The Mouse Trap,” which also released this year, turns Mickey Mouse into a killer. This idea is nonsensical for similar reasons because nobody believes Mickey Mouse could be a slasher.

Not only are these films terrible ideas to begin with, but they often also include terrible casting and

plots. Part of the reason why these films are terrible is because of the budgets these films work with.

They are all usually low-budget films. So, they usually look “good” in one aspect alone: marketing which tries to bait people into watching these monstrosities.

The overspending on this singular aspect leaves everything else in these films’ production lacking.

The characters more often than not also look terrible. In “Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey,” Pooh and Piglet are clearly just two guys wearing goofy rubber masks. The same goes for “The Mouse Trap,” as Mickey Mouse just looks like a guy in a cheap suit.

In conclusion, the trend of repurposing iconic childhood characters for horror films is not just misguided; it is detrimental to the entire horror genre and its audience.

Rather than creating good horror, these types of films produce often forgettable, uninspired and unnecessary wastes of time for viewers. These films should be taken more as a joke rather than a serious watch for horror fans.

Karrahbooo is underrated

By Solé Scott
Editor in Chief

The late 2010s and early 2020s ushered in a new wave of female rappers that has changed the landscape of hip-hop.

Oct. 20, 2023 propelled rapper Karrahbooo into the spotlight after her and Concrete Boys’ cypher on “On The Radar Radio.”

“It’s Karrahbooo. I’m not the two. You gotta know I’m up,” Karrahbooo said.

Karrah Schuster, also known as “Karrahbooo,” was born in Atlanta, Georgia in March of 1997. She started as an assistant to Lil Yachty in 2022.

Her first single “Money Counter” was released in October 2022, which attracted attention in the Atlanta music scene.

By 2023, Karrahbooo was signed to Yachty’s label and new rap group, Concrete Boys.

The group released their first and only album to date “It’s Us Vol. 1” on April 5.

As of July, Karrahbooo parted ways with Concrete Boys and Lil Yachty over

claims of bullying and unfriendliness.

Suspicious started to arise on social media days before the announcement was made official, as Karrahbooo unfollowed all the members on X, erased the group’s insta from her bio and skipped performing at Broccoli City Festival.

Lil Yachty made the announcement July 29 on Instagram Live: “We have split ways with Karrah. I have nothing bad to say, nothing negative to say to Karrah.”

The departure was nothing but chaotic and drama-filled.

In mid-August, Lil Yachty ranted on Instagram Live disputing claims that he and the other members of the group treated Karrahbooo badly.

“Go ahead and tell people how you verbally abuse people,” Yachty said. “You talk to people like they are nothing.”

Yachty even revealed some damning evidence that he was the ghost writer to her “On the Radar Radio” cypher. That was disheartening to learn because rap music was built on the foundation of authenticity and being

able to write your own bars.

Nowadays, it seems music is a cash grab for people to try and make a quick buck without putting in the work.

With the loss of Karrahbooo, Concrete Boys has felt the effects, especially performing live. During Broccoli City fest, the group performed their songs in a lackluster fashion.

Clearly, the group lost one of its biggest stars and many fans left to just support her now.

Despite all the recent drama surrounding Karrahbooo, she is still an artist that is on the rise and possibly will make it further in her career without Concrete Boys.

In the aftermath, Karrahbooo was featured on a song with Bb trickz called “Pharrell.” She is even working on her first solo album rumored to be titled, “Where’s Karrahbooo?”

Until then, follow her on Instagram, X, SoundCloud, Spotify, Apple Music and YouTube to follow her musical journey.

These are the opinions of the Southern Editorial Staff

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Southern News welcomes any and all comments and suggestions. If we make a mistake, please contact us and we will publish a correction or clarification in the next issue.

We are the student newspaper of Southern Connecticut State University, and we welcome the writing of all Southern students and faculty.

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Corrections:

Correct volume for 2024-25 academic year is 64.

In Oct. 2 edition, SGA story had incorrect name. Associate Director, Daphney Alston.

In Oct. 2 edition, headline was incorrect; no one suffocated. The heat was repressive.

Autumn Fest: students celebrate the arrival of fall

By Carly Russell
Photo Editor

On Oct. 1, ProCon hosted Autumn Fest, where students gathered to enjoy a fall themed party. Apple cider, donuts and other snacks were provided as well as a variety of crafts such as mini pumpkin painting, ceramic painting and mason jar lamps. The event saw a large turnout.



Painted pumpkin by psychology major Grace Jordan, a senior.



Nursing major Sefora Orellana, left, business administration major Chrysannia Tibby, middle, and anthropology major Alayna Petroski, left, freshmen.

PHOTO: CARLY RUSSELL



Anthropology major Sania McReynolds, left, and business management major Arleny Abreu Quintero, right, freshmen.



Students in line, collecting their free drinks, snacks and art supplies.

Alumni and families gather for Homecoming



Cheerleaders cheering during the Homecoming football game.

This past weekend, the university welcomed alumni and families of students for family weekend. Saturday, Oct. 5 was the Homecoming football game and family day. The university held tons of events and activities throughout the day. Before the football game, families stopped by Moore Field House Lawn and Jess Dow Field to enjoy food trucks, carnival games and bouncy houses.



Assistant Director of Admissions Elisabeth Cerino, left, Bentley, middle, and Joey Gentile, right, class of 2018 alumni.



Marketing major Nasir Anderson, left, nursing major Liana Ash, middle right, and environmental systems and sustainability major Alyssa Longo, right, freshmen, and music therapy major Jay Wendt, a sophomore, middle left.



Students and families gathered playing carnival games.

Ridley primed and prepped for that moment

By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor

As a junior in high school, quarterback Keith Ridley Jr., a graduate, knew that he wanted to play collegiate football.

Ridley sought the attention of many schools. However, he was a 'tweener.' Ridley reached out to as many universities as possible, and was turned down by many, as Divisions II and III considered Ridley uninterested in their level.

He believed his talents constituted Division I level, but that level showed very little interest.

The Lynn, Massachusetts native had two Division I offers right down the road. His two options were to walk on to Boston College as a tight end or the University of Rhode Island as a quarterback.

For financial reasons, Ridley took the opportunity at Boston College for one semester. After the regular season ended, he reflected on his time and needed a change.

"I really did give them my all there," Ridley said. "But at the end of the day, it really just tore me apart when I was at practice seeing the other QBs there, knowing that I could at least beat one of them out for a spot."

At the end of 2019, Ridley transferred to Bryant University, a smaller Division I school in Rhode Island where he practiced against future Buffalo Bills linebacker Joe



PHOTO | CARLY RUSSELL

Quarterback Keith Ridley Jr., a graduate, forced out of bounds in the red zone.

"I wasn't greedy about having to play right away. I knew that I might have to wait and grind for my opportunity. Do I wish I had to wait four years to play? Obviously not. But everything works out for a reason, and I'm very grateful to be in the position that I am now."

— Quarterback Keith Ridley Jr., a graduate

Andreessen.

After beating out four other quarterbacks each year for three seasons, he earned a scholarship in his final semester, though he remained the backup to starter Zevi Eckhaus.

Ridley completed his undergrad in December 2022, a semester early. He liked his time at Bryant

and had conversations about being put on full scholarship, but it was made clear that Eckhaus was the starter.

"I just took a chance on myself," Ridley said. "I knew if I stayed there and was just complacent about being the backup, that that's something I regret for the rest of my life: not

taking a chance on myself after everything that I've already been through."

Graduating early and the decision to transfer put him in a prime position for whatever program he joined.

It is typical for football players to transfer to another school after the fall semester. This allows

them to compete in spring ball and to learn the playbook and potentially earn a spot before new recruits join in the summer.

Quarterbacks Coach Joe Bernard said: "He's always looking to get better. He never has the answers; he always wants to learn. The guy works his tail off, and that's every day, every

morning, every night. It doesn't matter what it is, he's looking to learn and get better."

Graduate transfer Ridley took the starting in place of Bernard, the outgoing fifth year graduate-turned-coach.

Being healthy is key in a violent physical sport like football.

"I just try to protect myself and get out of bounds sometimes, or slide," Ridley said. "I feel like I do a pretty good job trying to protect myself out there the most I can."

Ridley wears several pieces of ancillary protective equipment. He wears rib pads, a mouth guard and a cue collar, which is tasked with protecting the player from a brain injury.

Ridley said: "The little things add up. If it does happen—hopefully it never does—we took steps to prevent it. And if these steps weren't good enough at the end of the day, I know that I put myself in the best position."

Last season was full of ups and downs with a final record of 4-6. Winning the last three games brings optimism to this season at 1-1 after an exciting victory against the American International College Yellow Jackets.

Game nine against the Yellow Jackets will wrap up the season in November, ending Ridley's collegiate football career.

For more on this story, visit thesouthernnews.com

Homecoming 2024 highlights



PHOTO | CARLY RUSSELL

Defensive back Da'Jaun Banks, a junior, lined up against Greyhounds wide receiver Nick Ofodile.



Running back E'Lijah Gray, a senior, scores a touchdown.



Safety Joanel Figueroa, a junior, stops Greyhounds tight end Matt Raeke short of the goal line.

Field hockey snaps 3 game losing streak

By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor

A much-needed 1-0 win under the lights over Molloy University on Oct. 1, snaps the Owls losing streak as defensive play shined the brightest at Jess Dow Field.

"I thought that tonight was a great game and a great example of how good of a team we can be and what we can be when we work together," forward Mia Oliverio, a junior, said. "I think everyone did the best that they could, and we all worked as a unit tonight. So, very happy with that."

The Owls had several opportunities to score but missed.

Forward Natalia Fiato, a junior, had the strongest opportunity to score with six shots on goal in nine attempts. Two attempts from forward Keana Criscuolo, a freshman, were wide of the goal, just as Oliverio's shot attempt was blocked.

"I can't even give you a number of opportunities that we should have been

creating and scoring," Head Coach Kelley Frassinelli said.

Shortly thereafter, midway into the first quarter, Oliverio, who finished the game with only two shots on goal in three attempts, scored the only goal of the game, assisted by midfielder Lindsey Onofrio, a freshman.

"I was nervous, but once I saw that ball pass, I knew that was my only chance, so I went for it," Oliverio said. "I hit the ball, went over the right goalie shoulder, went in the net."

As mentioned, the opponent's defense was stout.

Molloy goalkeeper Kayla Balsamo faced the most shots attempted by the Owls with 21. In only her fourth game of her collegiate career, Balsamo allowed one goal and recorded nine saves during the game.

"It was not the easiest. I'll say that," Oliverio said. "They had very, tight D, but we also had ours, and we would not have won

that game without our defense."

Owls goalkeeper Lyndsay Troisi, a freshman, also played well with four saves.

"We're really happy with the formation that we had in there," Frassinelli said. "They're strong, and they basically did what we asked them to do, and they stepped to the ball. They have a lot of speed. They're really smart in their decisions, so we're happy with what the unit has been doing in that backfield."

There is much more of the season to go, but with this win, Frassinelli is confident the team has proven themselves able to adjust their deficiencies, setting new goals for the weeks ahead.

"Growing pains is what we've been calling it because they're so young," Frassinelli said. "We have a great bench that's coming in and stepping in and doing the work when they step on the field. But we're growing little by little, and it's each step, each week."



PHOTO | WADE BARILLARO

Midfielder Taylor Leckey, a senior, controlling the ball.