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Reflecting on Ricci v. DeStefano event

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

The historic affirmative action case Ricci v. DeStefano, which involved the promotion tests and practices of the New Haven Fire Department, on April 22, 2009.

Firefighters filed a lawsuit against Mayor DeStefano and the City of New Haven, claiming that race was an undue influence in the hiring process. In a 5-4 decision split on June 29, 2009, the Supreme Court ruled in Ricci's favor. According to the majority, the city had violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by eliminating exams.

Despite the case being over a decade old, it still holds significance in today's world. For this reason, a reflection on the case was held in Engleman Hall. Staff, students and community members were able to attend Reflecting on Ricci v. DeStefano: Affirmative Action and its Status Today from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The discussion provided deeper insight into the case's implications as well as the legal and political climate surrounding affirmative action today.

Jonathan Wharton, associate professor of political science and urban affairs, moderated



Guest speakers Carol Platt Liebau, Tolulope Odunsi-Nelson and Julian Madison.

PHOTO | WADE BARILLARO

a discussion between Frank Ricci and former mayor John DeStefano Jr. to launch the forum.

"The fact is, at the end of this case, when Victor Bolden, the Honorable Judge, came in, they came to the table with good faith on how we can resolve this issue, and how can we have a conversation and move this forward," Ricci said.

Following the debrief, a panel featuring local legal and academic experts, led by Theresa

Merchant-Shapiro, a professor in the political science department, discussed affirmative action.

Judge Victor A. Bolden of the United States District Court (District Judge of Connecticut), Professor Tolulope Odunsi-Nelson of Western New England University, Carol Platt Liebau of the Yankee Institute, and Julian Madison of the university were among the featured panelists.

Discrimination cases

similar to the landmark case also have an impact in the workplace. Odunsi-Nelson said that in today's workplace setting, discrimination on the basis of race is harder to identify due to its high awareness of it being illegal.

"While society has transformed in its view of race, those who want to purposefully treat people disparately have also evolved and know how to do it in a way that perhaps can't be identified and

can't be litigated in terms of the evidence itself," Odunsi-Nelson said.

With the possibility of there being a presence of intentional discrimination in the workplace and a lack of evidence, many workers remain silent about their injustices.

"There are potential workplace culture shifts where there's a chilling effect on the workplace," Odunsi-Nelson said. "They see their colleagues pursue claims and lose, and it can cause people to

not come forward."

Along with unsuccessful cases, Odunsi-Nelson said colleagues have also been able to work in industries or fields that they were a part of due to a public lawsuit that they pursued.

While this factor can dim the light on discrimination in the workplace, Carol Platt Liebau said it is important to recognize the stipulations and efforts enforced to fight these grievances.

"It does show that America as a society has really taken it onboard to try and address these things. We would not have the enormous legal and regulatory framework that exists if we were not trying to express a commitment to not engage in invidious discrimination," Platt Liebau said.

Platt Liebau said that after Ricci's case, all parties involved, regardless of their different opinions, all had to return to their job, work together and go into burning buildings alongside one another.

"I sometimes wish we as Americans kept that in mind as well. That we are, in a sense, all part of the same country, and that as we discuss these matters when it's finished, we are all going to be responsible for confronting a lot of important issues together," Platt Liebau said.

Student Government Association 2024 election

By Solé Scott
Editor in Chief

Now is students' chance to run for a position with the Student Government Association, SGA, and make a difference on campus.

SGA is running an election campaign for representatives at large and class government.

The election form is open and will close Friday Oct. 4 at 12 p.m. After submitting students have until Oct. 18 to campaign.

SGA held an interest meeting on Thursday, Sept. 19 in the Adanti Student Center in Room 305 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Psychology major Riyanna Singelton, a senior, is the new president after former SGA President Trevor Boczer graduated in the spring of 2024.

"So as president, I'm pretty much the figurehead for SGA," Singelton said.

Singelton has been in SGA for the last two years and knows the ins and outs of the club.

"I am a non-voting member, and I kind of just facilitate and run the body meetings, go to the board meetings and talk to administrators and faculty alongside my executive board," Singelton said.

There are 11 positions open for the election which Singelton is hoping all gets filled so SGA can have a full club.

Nursing major Hailey DeNucci, a sophomore, is

the current secretary and has been with SGA since the fall of 2023.

"It's a way to kind of communicate all together and focus," DeNucci said.

Public health major Chekenah Jeudi, a junior, was one of the students that stopped by the interest meeting.

"I attended the meeting. I don't know much about SGA, so I wanted to get more information because Riyanna came to the event with Sigma Gamma Rho and BSU," Jeudi said.

In order to run for an open position, students need to fill out a packet through OwlConnect under SGA.

Students interested need to understand the time commitment. Each body member is expected to complete two hours of office hours a week in Adanti Student Center room 218.

"The election works with the election packets going up on OwlConnect. From then, you have about a week and a half to submit your application," Singelton said.

Students can run for representative at large and a class government position.

"The difference between class government and rep at large is rep at large deals with student government and student government is a non-programming body," Singelton said.

Representative at large students hold their positions for two years.

"We advocate on

behalf of the students, whereas class council is a programming body and throws events for that class," Singelton said.

There are a few rules to campaign. Students are not allowed to hang up posters on other organizations' boards or where there is not a board for posters and ads.

"If you are thinking about it and you're unsure, try it," Singelton said. "We need your voices, and there is no one student that is perfect for student government. We want all students."

Associate Director Daphne Alston is one of the advisors for SGA.

She gave insight on some of the work the organizations does behind the scenes.

"SGA, multiple times over the course of the years has engaged in conversation about what the shuttle bus services look like for commuter students," Alston said.

SGA collaborates with different organizations every year and plan events.

"That's why we get these representatives from all these different populations, so they can put that on our radar and show us what else we could be doing," Singelton said.

SGA's body meetings are every Monday at 1 p.m. in Adanti Student Center room 217.

If any student has any questions or concerns they are encouraged to stop by.



The new Student Government Association E-Board for the fall of 2024.

PHOTO | RIYANNA SINGELTON



Psychology major Riyanna Singelton, senior, is the new president of SGA. Nursing major Hailey DeNucci, sophomore is the secretary for SGA.

PHOTO | SOLÉ SCOTT

Room and dining changes occur on campus

By Jay'Mi Vazquez

Managing Editor

Brianna Wallen

News Editor

Since the semester started, significant changes have been made for resident students and students with meal plans. All changes for the residence halls were put in effect this fall and will continue until Spring 2025.

One of the biggest changes made was the triple rooms now being offered to students in Schwartz Hall.

Previously, Schwartz did not have triple rooms. However, there have been instances where some of the rooms in Schwartz were quads, with four beds in a room.

"Universities like SCSU continuously evaluate housing needs based on enrollment trends and other factors," Director of Residence Life Stephen Sweet said.

Sweet said that the decision for this change reflects the adjustments the Office of Residence Life makes to meet the needs of students.

Another big change made for resident students was the number of credits required to stay in some residence halls.

Credit adjustments were made to Brownell Hall and Schwartz Hall.

Resident students are now required to have a minimum of 28 credits to live in Brownell Hall and 36 credits to live in Schwartz Hall.

"We continuously

evaluate our policies and procedures to ensure that we can provide the best possible experience for students here at Southern," Sweet said.

All other residence halls still require the same credits as last school year, which can be found on the university's website on the housing options page.

Sweet said he encourages any students with questions about housing options on campus to contact the Office of Residence Life.

At Connecticut Hall, there have also been adjustments implemented. The dining hall's hours were extended to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 p.m. Friday to Sunday.

Wyatt Cannon, the marketing manager for Sodexo at the university, said that this extended time was made to cater to students.

"Last year, after gathering student insight, the decision to extend dining hours in Connecticut Hall was made with the university to provide students an 'all you care to eat' dining experience later into the evening," Cannon said.

Cannon said this change benefits students, as they can get the most out of their swipes.

"Now, students, regardless of their meal plan size or structure, are able to eat as much as they'd like for one swipe," Cannon said.

While the dining hall hours of operation have increased, the hours in

the Adanti Student Center have decreased.

Dining options such as Tres Habaneros, Peking Plate, and The Grill now close at 6:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 2:30 p.m. on Friday. SubConnection closes at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Thursday.

"Since the student center food court is structured like most retail locations, one swipe or a specific price equates to a set amount of food; by extending Connecticut Hall's hours, we avoid limiting our students' portions for that one swipe," Cannon said.

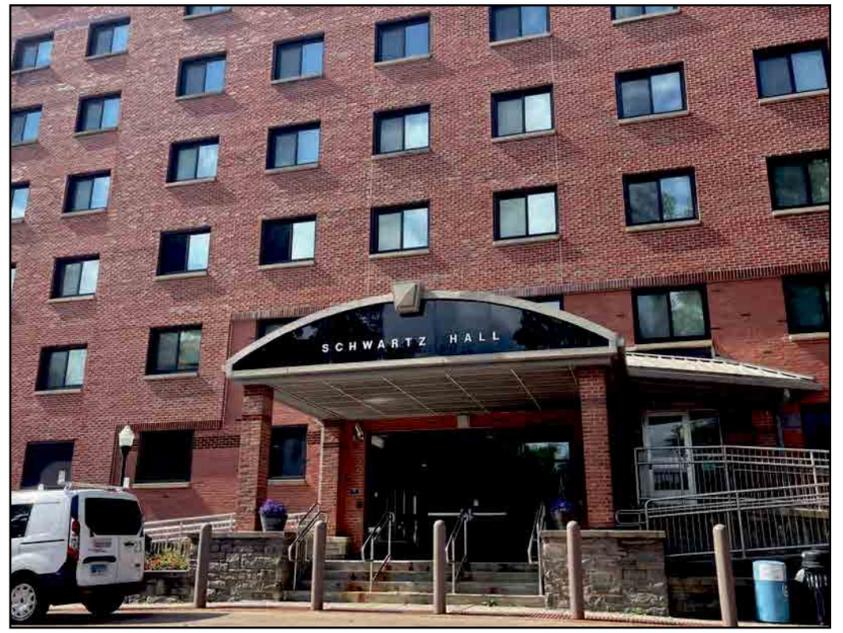
Along with extended hours, the university also worked to accommodate students by working to lower costs of the meal plan.

"During the 2023-2024 academic year, the university and student representatives worked together to keep meal plan prices from increasing year over year," Cannon said. "To achieve this goal, these parties identified areas of the meal program that were driving up the cost of plans."

Cannon said that these modifications included removing under-utilized programs such as the green to-go containers and guest swipes.

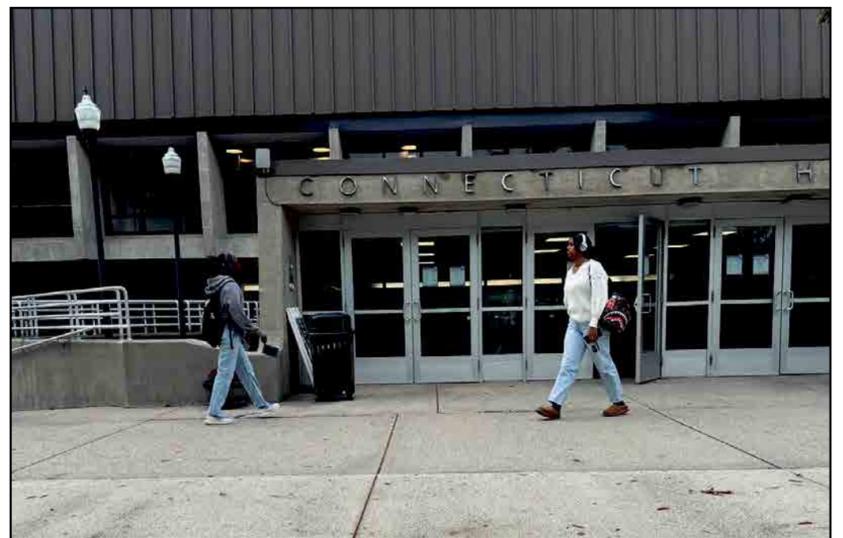
These eliminations can help to enhance dining options for students who commute.

"And introduce a new Food Loot plan for commuters looking for a lower-cost option to get meals during their busy schedules," Cannon said.



The outside entrance of Schwartz Residence Hall.

PHOTO | JAY'MII VAZQUEZ



Students walk by Connecticut Hall on Monday, Sept. 30.

PHOTO | SOLÉ SCOTT

Students suffocate due to poor air conditioning in Morrill Hall

By Solé Scott

Editor in Chief

Fall has begun, yet heat is rising in Morrill Hall.

Morrill is experiencing air-conditioning problems which are wreaking havoc on classrooms, learning and teaching as the sweltering heat rampages through.

The second floor of Morrill has a separate air-conditioning system from the first floor and basement that was replaced in the last year.

Morrill Hall opened in 1961 and is the home of computer science, journalism, geography and earth science. The other air-conditioning systems in Morrill Hall were between 35 and 40 years old and have finally stopped working.

Eric Lessne, the associate vice president for capital budgeting and facilities operations, has worked in his position for almost four years.

"The air conditioner in the building is on its last leg," Lessne said. "We fixed it dozens of times,

and the ultimate fix is we have ordered new equipment."

This project of changing the cooling system is in a timely matter, since classes are in session and facilities need to close off certain classrooms in the basement.

The new air-conditioning system was ordered in the fall of 2023 and is due to arrive in October.

On top of that, the grueling cost the university will have to shell out will be heavy financially.

The new air conditioning will cost, "around \$150,000 to \$200,000," Lessne said.

The parts were ordered last fall but have not been delivered to the university due to the pandemic effecting shipping.

"We are working on it," Lessne said. "People just think because they don't see immediate action, they don't think we are working on things."

As of right now, Room 014 has a temporary air-conditioning system

that sits behind the projector. The temporary air-conditioning system is loud and can be a nuisance when professors are speaking.

Sociology major Leilany Cruz, a sophomore, has a journalism class in the basement of Morrill.

"During class, I can't really focus because I am just too hot and get too overwhelmed," Cruz said.

Social work major Dayna Smith, a sophomore, has had classes in Morrill.

"Morrill does get pretty hot. Always a struggle to walk all the way there to then sit in class and be dying from how hot it is in there," Smith said.

Hopefully the new air-conditioning system will be installed during winter break and up and running for the spring semester.

Until then, the temporary air-conditioning system in the basement will have to do, and hopefully the humidity dies down as the weather becomes chillier.



Air conditioning in Room 014 in Morrill Hall.

PHOTO | SOLÉ SCOTT

Hispanic Heritage Month kicks off at the Multicultural Center

By Brianna Wallen

News Editor

Graduate Intern Gian Melendez of the Multicultural Center, MCC, who is a first-generation Puerto Rican, said that he has a deep connection to the annual Hispanic Heritage Month, held from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

"It means everything," Melendez said. "It's a time for us Hispanics to really just kind of come out and embrace where we come from."

The celebration commemorates and celebrates the rich and diverse histories, cultures, languages, customs and contributions of people whose ancestors originated in Hispanic nations.

During this celebration, the university's students, staff and faculty can immerse themselves in a wide array of cultures and traditions through events to honor the vibrant and rich culture of Latino culture that is deeply rooted on campus.

Melendez gives the inside scoop on upcoming events where he expressed that students can "rep their flag," and create crafts, as he believes it can "bring back memories from home."

The annual celebration was launched on Sept. 16 with the Hispanic Heritage Kickoff.

The lively event displayed all 33 flags from Hispanic countries and highlighted information about the culture and country belonging to each flag.

Melendez said the following event was Coaster for Cultura, where students crocheted

their own custom coaster of their flag.

While Melendez is not new to the annual celebration, it is his first time working behind the scenes in creating events at MCC for the occasion.

The graduate intern said that he utilizes his own identity and being bilingual to craft unique programs.

"I'm definitely adding my little spice in there," Melendez said. "I have kind of tried to weave in my own things that I've learned in my culture into it, but then also being open and flexible with all the other cultures and kind of adding what I know about them."

Biological anthropology major and forensic science and art and design minor Kristian Marroquin, a junior, is also no stranger to adding his own spin to things.

Marroquin, who is Guatemalan, Puerto Rican and Mexican, is heavily involved on campus and allows his background to shine through all he does.

He is MCC's diversity, equity and inclusion ambassador, a F.A.C.E., Fashion, Attitude, Creativity, and Elegance, model and a member of Alpha Pi fraternity as well.

"With my fraternity stuff, I like to incorporate some Hispanic events, and for F.A.C.E., I usually bring different Spanish types of clothing and like to incorporate some Spanish backgrounds in it with the color-coding," Marroquin said.

Marroquin, who also works alongside Melendez, is excited about the upcoming events in MCC.

"I love music, and I'm excited for the food," Marroquin said. "Me personally, I love everything with Sazon and Adobo."

Over cultural food and refreshments in MCC, Hispanic students can mingle and exchange customs and backgrounds with one another.

Marroquin said that these events are an opportunity for Hispanics to "educate themselves on other cultures and really learn more about their own culture as well."

While these events are in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, all students and staff from various backgrounds and cultural ethnic groups are welcome to celebrate.

Exercise science major Dawin Magloire, a senior, who is of Haitian descent said that he plans on celebrating in the MCC.

"I think from an outside perspective we could appreciate their heritage as well and be aware of what they do culturally," Magloire said. "Also, letting them know that we have similarities in terms of how we do things culturally."

Various ethnic groups can thread together through Hispanic Heritage Month.

These cultural spaces can be viewed as learning opportunities for non-Hispanics as well.

"It can help to understand us a little bit more, to understand our culture, our music, how we speak and how each one of our countries are very different from each other," Marroquin said. "We're underneath the same umbrella, but we're very different raindrops."

Red flags with K9 Jules and VPAS

By Lexi White
Features Editor

Flags have populated the Residence Quad; green flags to share positive experiences in relationships and red to shed light on negative relationship experiences.

The Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support Center, VPAS, hosted this red flag campaign on Thursday, Sept. 26 to help students gain awareness of what is harmful in romantic connections.

VPAS is a resource that students can utilize concerning sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking.

Since the beginning of the fall semester until Thanksgiving is considered the 'red zone,' where there is an increase in assault cases on college campuses, VPAS wanted to make sure that their message was heard during this time.

Police Sgt. Cynthia Torres attended the event with K9 Jules. Torres said that relationship

misconduct is important to discuss on college campuses due to the number of cases she has seen each semester.

"Jules and I predominantly work with survivors of violence, so teaching students about what healthy relationships are supposed to look like is our main mission," Torres said.

Some think that they are immune to the unhealthy behaviors that can be presented in relationships, but it can happen to anyone at any age.

"I myself am a survivor of domestic violence, and I didn't talk about it much when it happened 30 years ago in my first big relationship," Torres said, "but I do believe that it has helped me in my career to have extra empathy for survivors and to support them by truly hearing their stories."

One of the student workers for VPAS who assisted with this event was special education major Taylor Wasilewski, a senior. She said that she

uses their yearly event as a form of therapy and writing down the things she has experienced has helped her significantly.

"We do this event so students can realize what they have gone through and to cope with it in a healthy way," Wasilewski said. "Even if the rates of sexual assault and violence don't come down, at least people will learn how to be a good bystander by stepping in and helping their friends."

Another VPAS student worker running the event was nursing major Gabriella Jordan, a junior. She said that her favorite part of the event was helping spread awareness about unhealthy relationships and educating people on the signs of mistreatment.

Jordan said, "People don't realize the healthy and unhealthy signs in relationships, and a lot of times they think that what they're going through is normal, but we want to change that."

The mission Jordan and the other VPAS workers had was to enlighten

others about what is not acceptable in any kind of personal connection.

"You may think your relationship is healthy and normal, but I promise you, it's not normal to feel like that in your relationship, and you can go out there and find better," Jordan said.

Psychology major Myesha Mapp, a senior, was one of the students to stop by the VPAS table. She said that this event is great in terms of learning to build boundaries.

"The red flags help people to learn more about their boundaries and just enlighten them a little bit more on the dangers of certain aspects in relationships," Mapp said.

VPAS has a club called Peer Educators Advocating for Campus Empowerment that is open for all students to join.

They offer workshops that inform students about the skills that can be used in interpersonal violence situations. Students can learn more information about their meetings on OwlConnect.



PHOTO | CARLY RUSSELL

Biology major Clarisse Aminawung, nursing major Gabriella Jordan, special education major Taylor Wasilewski and psychology major Jillian Haggerty, seniors, hosting the red flag event.



The green and red flags to represent positive and negative factors in relationships set up in the Residence Quad.

Owls Decide: Do you prefer Xbox or PlayStation?

By Lexi White
Features Editor



PHOTO | CARLY RUSSELL

"Xbox because it was the first thing I bought when I was younger, and it's easier to keep all your stuff in one place."

-English major Carlos Lebron, a senior.



"I like the PlayStation 2 because I like wrestling, and there's a lot of wrestling games on there."

-English major Justin Ayora, a senior.



"PlayStation has been part of my life since I was a kid, and I've never really had Xbox experience."

-Computer science major Jonas Bezerra, a sophomore.



"Xbox because I think the PS5 is lacking in the game department because they have nothing new coming out. Xbox has so many fun games to choose from."

-English major Chris Durand, a senior.



"I prefer Xbox 360 because I used to play Minecraft and this other game called Viva Piñata. It was always so fun."

-Studio art major Aedy VanHouten, a senior.



"I used to play Plants vs. Zombies on my Xbox growing up, and I think the controls are a lot easier to play with than on a PlayStation."

-Psychology major Madison McPherson, a sophomore.

Mindful fidgeting with Farnham Hall



PHOTO | LEXI WHITE

Students going through the fidget toy bin provided by the Farnham Hall RAs.

By Lexi White
Features Editor

The university provides many mental health resources to students including CASAS, Counseling Services and the Wellbeing Center. On Sept. 23, the Farnham Hall resident advisers, RAs, put together an event to help their freshmen residents become acquainted with the help that is available to them on campus.

Students watched a slide show about mental health and the resources on campus that they can utilize. The display was educational in the sense that students realized that they were not alone in their troubles and that someone is always there for them at the university.

In addition, students grabbed snacks, picked out a fidget toy and played an interactive mental health resource game with their peers in hopes to win a \$10 Target gift card.

One of the RAs that was helping to host this event

was elementary education major Cherayne Martin, a senior. Martin and the other RAs wanted to come up with a beneficial event for their first-year residents.

Martin said, "I think this helped to benefit student life since they learned about the different resources on campus because as first years, they needed to find ways to decrease stress and improve their mental health, especially while coming into a new environment."

Another Farnham Hall RA who helped to host the event was healthcare studies major Matthew Schmardel, a sophomore.

He said he wanted to host a mental health event because it is important to him, and he wanted to give his residents the ability to take initiative and ask for help if they need it.

"I use many of the on-campus resources because it is never good to suppress how you feel and taking care of yourself is

so important," Schmardel said. "When something is upsetting someone, it can get in the way of their work, goals or even who they are."

Schmardel said that personal well-being should always come first; then all the other responsibilities should follow.

"If someone has something stressful on their mind or they are anxious about their living situation on campus, it will reflect in their schoolwork," Schmardel said.

During Schmardel's freshman year, he was extremely anxious about being in a new environment with unfamiliar people. He said he wants to help the students who feel the same way that he felt just a year prior.

"I hope this gives people a push to take care of themselves and to ask for help," Schmardel said. "This event is so students can learn something, carry it with them and maybe even help someone else by telling them about

the resources that are available."

One of the students who came to this event was communication major Darin Talento, a freshman. He is a resident of Farnham Hall and said that he came to the event to learn skills to help with procrastination.

"They suggested to start using some kind of planner to help organize the tasks I need to get done so that I don't lose track of what I need to do," Talento said.

Marketing major Stephen Bellido, a freshman, was another resident of Farnham Hall who attended the event. Bellido said that he came to the event because he wanted to learn more about mindfulness.

"I became knowledgeable about the resources they have here, which was great, but getting a fidget toy was definitely my favorite part," Bellido said. "They really help me calm down when I'm anxious, so I'm happy I got one."

“Beetlejuice Beetlejuice” was an interesting watch

By Jay’Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

The long-anticipated sequel to Tim Burton’s 1988 film, “Beetlejuice” titled “Beetlejuice Beetlejuice” was released earlier this month.

This film was questionable to say the least.

I enjoyed the fact that Burton was able to bring back most of the cast from the original film such as Winona Ryder, Michael Keaton and Catherine O’Hara.

New additions to the film like Jenna Ortega, Willem Dafoe and Monica Bellucci were also good.

Having new characters intertwined with the original helped progress the story to make it new and fresh.

Just like the first film, the soundtrack enhanced key moments and even had funny jokes within it, which was a good callback to the original film.

However, the movie’s plot was not the best. It felt as if there were many storylines fighting to be the main one.

The film started making viewers think the central plot was going to be Lydia Deetz, played by Winona Ryder, trying to fix her relationship with her daughter, Astrid Deetz, played by Jenna Ortega.

The death of Charles Deetz, Lydia’s father in the original film, seemed to be the link that brought the

family together, but then the film takes a turn.

Shortly after the beginning of the film, viewers are introduced to a new villain, Delores played by Monica Bellucci.

This is when viewers were introduced to Wolf Jackson, who was a Hollywood actor who became the police chief of the afterlife, played by Willem Dafoe.

Delores is described as a “soul snatcher,” which is a being who can suck out a person’s soul in the afterlife, killing them permanently.

Her sole purpose for returning is to kill Beetlejuice, who was her ex-husband in the real-world.

This storyline could have been the main plot, but the film began to bounce around.

It started to focus on several subplots, which got confusing to follow after a while.

The third storyline introduced was the young love interest of Astrid’s, Jeremy Frazier.

This is truly where the film went downhill.

In a plot twist, Frazier is revealed to be a ghost who murdered his family. As a love interest, he somehow convinced Astrid to trade her life with his so he can come back to life.

This entire plot twist happened in the span of 20 minutes, which felt super rushed.

Personally, I would have liked to see this plot flourish further and be the focus of the film, as it felt more on par with the original. But no, the movie takes even more weird twists and turns in classic Burton fashion.

After hesitating, Lydia says Beetlejuice thrice and asks for his help to get Astrid out of the afterlife in exchange for marrying him.

This is a good call back to the original film, as Beetlejuice trying to marry Lydia was the main plot in that film.

It becomes a wild goose chase as Lydia tries to get Astrid back, and then Delores is trying to kill Beetlejuice. Again, the film was very messy and hard to follow at times.

In the meantime, while all of this is going on, Delia Deetz, Lydia’s step-mother from the original film, dies by an accidental snakebite. This death felt super random to throw into the film with only 40 minutes left.

The film struggled with pacing and dragging out parts where it should have built momentum.

Ultimately, “Beetlejuice Beetlejuice” lacked the heart and creativity that defined its predecessor, leaving fans disappointed.

The attempt to revive such an iconic film felt more like a cash grab than a genuine artistic endeavor.

Kendrick Lamar taking over Super Bowl halftime



PHOTO | INSTAGRAM

The promotional photo Apple Music posted announcing Kendrick Lamar performing at the Super Bowl halftime show.

By Solé Scott
Editor in Chief

The modern era of the Super Bowl halftime show continues to have lasting impressions on pop culture.

On Sept. 8, Kendrick Lamar was announced as the headliner for the 2025 Apple Music Super Bowl halftime show in New Orleans.

Lamar is the first rapper to headline the Super Bowl halftime show.

Social media was celebrating Lamar being chosen as the headliner until rappers Birdman and Nicki Minaj gave some pushback.

Birdman focused on the fact that Lamar would be performing on the biggest stage of the year in his and Lil Wayne’s hometown and believed the spot should have been reserved for Wayne.

The only time in Super Bowl history when an artist performed in their hometown was in 2022, when Dr. Dre sang at SOFI stadium in Los Angeles.

Before then, no other artist has performed for the Super Bowl halftime show in their hometown

or home state.

Nicki Minaj, however, complained that Jay-Z and Roc Nation were choosing Lamar as a pawn in their so-called industry beef.

Minaj has had problems with Roc Nation since she fell out with Megan Thee Stallion, who is represented by the company.

“One n****a took a knee The other n****a took the bag,” Minaj said.

Minaj has even reposted on X her achievements compared to Jay-Z.

Some of the achievements she posted included the most combined charting weeks on Billboard Hot 100.

Drake was No. 1 with 78 songs, Lil Wayne was in second place with 25, Minaj tied in third place with Eminem with 23 and Jay-Z was in last place with 22.

Honestly, this reaction was trashy and full of jealousy. Nicki Minaj and Birdman should have said nothing or waited until the halftime show was over to share their grievances.

Who knows, maybe Lamar was going to invite Wayne as a sign

of respect to the rapping veteran.

Lil Wayne went on Instagram Live on Sept. 12 and thanked everyone for their support, expressing his sadness for not being selected.

“I had to get strength to do this without breaking,” Lil Wayne said. “That hurt. Hurt a lot. I blame myself for not being mentally prepared.”

I can understand Lil Wayne wanting the opportunity to be headliner in his hometown, yet Lil Wayne has not performed at the star performance level in over 10 years. When he performs now, he barely remembers the words to his songs and appears sluggish.

He is also not in demand like he once was. I have noticed that in the past three or four years, the headliner(s) have had number one album or song of the year awards.

At the end of the day, Kendrick Lamar will be hosting the 2025 Apple Music Super Bowl LIX halftime show, and it will be a night to remember. All the haters need to swallow their pride and acknowledge the decision.

“Mr. McMahon” Netflix docuseries is a must-see

By Jay’Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

Netflix released a highly anticipated new docuseries about former CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment, WWE, Vince McMahon.

The series proved to be a somewhat comprehensive and engaging look into the life and the controversial figure at the helm of WWE.

Spanning five episodes, “Mr. McMahon” deftly balances the business acumen and theatrical flair that McMahon brought to wrestling alongside the personal struggles and controversies that have marked his career.

The series opens with McMahon’s beginnings, exploring his early life in a family entrenched in the wrestling industry.

This foundational context is essential, as it sets the stage for understanding how McMahon transformed wrestling from a regional attraction into the global phenomenon it is today.

One of the series’ strongest aspects is its exploration of McMahon’s ambitious vision.

Through interviews with wrestlers, commentators and

industry insiders, viewers gain insight into how McMahon revolutionized wrestling with larger-than-life characters and high-profile events like WrestleMania.

The docuseries captured the essence of his relentless drive, illustrating how he cultivated talent and crafted storylines that captivated audiences.

However, the series does not shy away from the darker elements of McMahon’s reign.

It addresses various controversies, including allegations of misconduct, legal battles and the impact of his decisions on wrestlers’ lives and health.

This balanced approach provides a nuanced view of McMahon, highlighting both his contributions to the business and the ethical dilemmas that accompany his legacy.

The inclusion of personal accounts from wrestlers such as Hulk Hogan, Bret Hart and Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, all of whom experienced the highs and lows of working under his leadership, adds emotional weight to the series narrative.

The storytelling throughout is compelling.

It often draws parallels between McMahon’s personal and professional challenges, which enhances the viewer’s understanding of his complex on-screen character.

Critically, “Mr. McMahon” serves as a broader commentary on the nature of fame and power in the entertainment industry.

It poses questions about morality and responsibility, particularly in how McMahon has handled his legacy amidst the shifting tides of public opinion.

While some may view him as a visionary who changed the face of wrestling, others see a figure whose ambition has led to significant fallout.

This duality is what makes the docuseries interesting.

“Mr. McMahon” is a must-watch for wrestling fans and those interested in the dynamics of power and entertainment.

However, anyone who has been paying attention to the world of professional wrestling over the last twenty years is not going to be too shocked by the revelations in “Mr. McMahon.”

These are the opinions of the Southern News Editorial Staff



PHOTO | INSTAGRAM

One of the many movie posters for “Beetlejuice Beetlejuice.”

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Wellbeing Fair and Red Flag Campaign

By Carly Russell
Photo Editor

This past week was wellness week on campus. The Wellbeing Fair, hosted by the Wellbeing Center, was held on Wednesday, Sept. 25, and featured 10 booths with interactive activities for students to take part in. Students were given a “passport” to check off the booths they visited.

One of the offices, the Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support, VPAS, Center, participated in the event as a part of their ongoing Red Flag Campaign. The campaign, which lasted all of September, focused on raising awareness on healthy personal connections and romantic relationships. Students at the wellness fair wrote on red and green flags in relationships. These flags were then displayed around campus, and in the Residence Quad where the center was tabled the following day.



PHOTOS: CARLY RUSSELL

Students checking in at the Wellbeing Fair, receiving their “passports” to check off which tables’ activities they participated in.



Students creating their affirmations in a bottle at the Centers for Intercultural Engagement’s table.



Nursing major Liana Ash, left, and earth science major with a concentration in geology Reilly Greene, right, freshmen.



Exploratory major Samia Jimenez and business administration major with a concentration in accounting Gladys Genovez, freshmen.



Students creating red and green flags for the Red Flag Campaign, at the Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support, VPAS, Center’s table.



Nursing major Gabriella Jordan, a senior, left, with Sergeant Cynthia Torres, right, and K9 Jules.



Interdisciplinary studies major Jesslyn Jiminéz, a senior.



Healthcare studies majors Eloisa Alves, left, Lauren Hoydilla, middle, and sociology major with a concentration in criminal justice, Audrey Urena, right, freshmen.



Exercise and sport science major Jayden Gerhard, a freshman, holding a plank for two minutes.



Students visiting the Alcohol, Drug and Recovery Services’ table.



Red and green flags made by students, displayed in the Residence Quad.



VPAS Coordinator Colleen Kearney, left, and special education major Taylor Wasilewski, a senior, right.

Volleyball cruises over Caldwell University

By Dillon Flanigan
Sports Editor

After a tough loss to Dominican University on the road several days earlier, in the last morning game of the season on Saturday, Sep. 28, the volleyball team overpowered the Caldwell University Cougars in three sets 25-21, 25-16 and 25-16.

“They had a lot of off-speed shots. We had a little bit of a struggle with that, causing timing issues with the block in the beginning, but then we were able to adjust with it as the match went on,” Head Coach Lisa Barbaro said. “We started to get on a roll on serves, hitting locations and zones. We got kind of stronger as the match went on.”

The first set started a balancing act between both teams, as each managed to score after each other. The Owls fell behind quickly 2-0 but tied on a bad set by Cougars’ Jordan Mack.

For a moment, the Cougars scored four straight points to tie and take a 9-7 lead over the Owls. The first two points that tied the score at 7-7 were on kills by Cougars’ Wyette Schubert-Brown.

The university took a 9-7 lead on the next two points were from back-to-back attack errors on outside hitters Isabel Alvarez, a freshman, and Raegen Emery, a graduate.

Later in the set, several more attack errors by Mack assisted the Owls in securing the first set.

“We are so, so young and bringing it together. There’s no ‘give this person the ball,’” Barbaro



Setter Lily Miller, a senior, sets up right-side hitter Sydney Bennett, a junior.

“Caldwell really went on a run, and we were struggling really hard to get out of our rotations. It was good to be able to make some of those substitution changes and have people come in off the bench and be able to step up to pull us ahead.”

— Head Coach Lisa Barbaro

said. “We lack, obviously, that experience. So, we’re just growing together, and we’re just going to keep trying to get better every week.”

The momentum of the young and inexperienced did not fade, as they quickly went up 4-0 in the second set.

After the Owls were up 6-2, each team had their streaks, starting with Caldwell scoring 11 of the next 12 points.

It was filled with one bad set, one ace, one attack error and eight kills for the Cougars. The

Owls’ only point was on a service error from Mack.

After Caldwell had their run, it was the Owls’ turn to give them a taste of their own medicine, hammering off eight straight points to take a 15-13 lead. They would go on another run of 10-3 to win the second set.

The late run was highlighted by eight attack errors on the Cougars. Outside hitter Julia Jaworowski, a freshman, documented a kill as Emery, middle blocker Sarah Stark and outside hitter Victoria

Pascual, sophomores, each recorded two.

“I think we did great. We had great communication. We just did our job of putting the ball away,” Pascual said. “We really wanted this win; we were on a losing streak. We really needed it.”

Needing one more set to win, the Cougars jumped up early in the third 2-0.

The Owls deficit did not last long, as they scored seven straight points. The Cougars got into reaching distance 9-8 but would ultimately fall in the set of three straight points on



Middle blocker Sarah Stark, a sophomore, and outside hitter Julia Jaworowski, a freshman, attempt a block.



Outside hitter Raegen Emery, a graduate, goes for the kill.

a kill by Emery, a service ace and a kill by right side hitter Sydney Bennett, a junior.

Jaworowski and Bennett each had four kills. As Pascual totaled six with Emery having the most with 12.

“It’s looking better every day. We’ve got a lot of work to do, but it’s going in the right

direction,” Emery said. “We did a lot of film study today before— we were able to execute it and we served tough that was our main thing, and it got us a win and three.”

The Owls are 2-11 on the season after the win against Caldwell.

For more on this story, visit thesouthernnews.com

Men’s soccer comeback

By Matt Cain
Contributor

The Owls scored twice in the game’s final ten minutes to come out with a 2-1 victory against the Saint Anselm College Hawks. The Owls now improved their record to 3-3-1 on the year and 1-2 in NE10 Conference play.

Opening the game, the Hawks played with physicality, eventually scoring late in the first half of the game, stealing the momentum from the Owls going into halftime. In the first half, the Owls started out slow, making critical errors and racking up five fouls.

“It’s very hard, especially when our first half was sloppy, but we came out with the win and stuck together like a family,” midfielder Samuel Nagy, a junior, said.

The Hawks’ defense would hold the Owls scoreless for the remainder of the first due to these errors. The Owls and Saint Anselm have played each other multiple

times over the years, which caused this tense and physical matchup between the two schools.

“They are tough to play against; they sit in a low block, and it makes it harder for us on the offensive side,” defender and team captain Alex da Cunha, a senior, said.

They came out motivated in the second half, taking the momentum back.

As the end of the game neared, forward Jalen Jean, a senior, tied the game on a wide-open shot. Jean was one-on-one with Saint Anselm’s goalkeeper when he kicked past him and into the goal. This goal would be the fifth of his career.

Two minutes later, forward Jose Clemente, a senior, scored a goal to put the Owls on top.

Clemente has been on a hot streak since the start of the season; he currently leads the team in goals.

“This group doesn’t shy down from that scenario. We fight until the

end,” Head Coach Kevin Anderson said.

This comeback win showed that the university is ready for anything that comes their way.

There is a rich history between these two NE10 teams. Saint Anselm is resilient, and always gives the Owls problems on the offensive side of the ball.

It was clear the Owls pulled out the win due to their defense. Goalkeeper Devin Juan, a senior, scored a crucial save, preventing the Hawks from going up by two.

They are 1-2 in the conference, with high hopes of competing with the best in the NE10. They look to take home a victory in every conference matchup and put the conference on notice.

With their resilient, hard-working and technical style of play, the Owls look to be a top team in the NE10 and even get a tournament bid.

For more on this story, visit thesouthernnews.com

Women’s soccer blowout

By Avery Martin
Contributor

The Owls cruised to victory on Wednesday, Sept. 25 over Post University in a 6-1 win at Jess Dow Field.

With their highest score this season, multiple players found the goal in what was a stellar showing from both offense and defense.

“I thought we played well as a team. We scored a lot of goals, which is what we’ve been working toward, so we are really happy about that,” forward Nicky Deslauriers, a junior, said.

The Owls scored all five of their goals in the first half, plus an own goal from Post. With 20 shots in the first half and nine in the second, the Owls dominated their opponents.

Five different players each scored, with Deslauriers taking the first point off an assist from forward

Alexie Rosado, a graduate, and midfielder Emma Noheimer, a freshman.

Rosado earned a goal of her own a few minutes later with an assist by midfielder Shi Reeves, a junior. It was the first goal of the season for both Deslauriers and Rosado.

“We played really well. We were able to connect passes and get a lot of opportunities on net, which was really nice,” Reeves said.

Forward Sydney Myers, a sophomore, brought in her fourth goal of the season unassisted.

This was followed by one from Reeves that came off an assist courtesy of forwards Victoria Vera, a senior, and Angela Filosa, a graduate. It was Reeves’ second goal this season.

Back Caileigh Driscoll, a senior, brought in the Owls’ last goal unassisted, her third goal this season. Goalkeeper Abby Aughe, a senior, stopped two of three shots by Post.

Deslauriers said a strong showing from the offense is key to producing a win.

“That’s a big theme we have been working on; Being able to score six goals is huge,” Deslauriers said.

Reeves said that the team has been working on the accuracy of their shots, which paid off with such a large win.

“I know in past games we’ve had a lot of shots but haven’t been able to score as much as we did today, so it will be really helpful for our next game,” Reeves said.

Head Coach Adam Cohen said that a key strategy for his team is constantly working on small improvements.

“We want to score goals, and today was the most goals we scored so far in a game this season, so that’s a step forward for us,” Cohen said.

For more on this story, visit thesouthernnews.com



Forward Jose Clemente, a senior, scores the game-winning goal.

PHOTO | LILY RAND



Defender Mackenzie McCormack, a junior, attempts to score.

PHOTO | CARLY RUSSELL