



Gonorrhea one of the most common STDs
Page 5



Love Your Melon spreads kindness
Page 8



Gymnastics sets highest team score
Page 9

SOUTHERN NEWS

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Cameras installed around North Campus

By **Tamonda Griffiths**
News Writer

Residents of North Campus Residence complex have recently become equipped with new outdoor surveillance cameras. The project is in coordination with Residence Life staff.

University Chief of Police Joseph Dooley said there were cameras installed years ago. However, after automobile break-ins around New Haven and on campus last year, the university decided more were needed.

“So, that started the initial when we started to realize we needed some cameras up there,” said Dooley, “and then the townhouses didn’t have any in that immediate vicinity so, just in the interest of making sure we had better coverage there, that was the next project.”

Although, they already had coverage on the areas between the buildings and walkways, Dooley said around the mid-rise especially, the additional cameras added “much better coverage for everyone.”

The wiring of the system in the townhouses took place during Thanksgiving break, and the final installation of cameras was during winter break.

Robert DeMezzo, director of Residence Life, said last summer, he and Dooley had several conversations regarding installing the exterior cameras.

See **Cameras**, Page 2

An urgent call to action



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCI

Assistant Dean of Students & Director of Student Conduct Christopher Piscitelli (left) and Director of VPAS and SART Catherine Christy (right) discussing the proposed changes to Title IX federal regulations.

Proposed revisions to Title IX addressed by university

By **Tamonda Griffiths**
News Writer

U.S. Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos has proposed changes to Obama-era regulations to the Title IX statute, which prohibits discrimination on college campuses against a person’s sex.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, Title IX states “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal

financial assistance.”

Some of the proposed changes, according to the U.S. Department of Education, include universities performing a ‘live hearing’ in which a cross-examination by the accused and accuser’s advisers would take place.

In addition, sexual harassment would be redefined as an, “unwelcome conduct on the basis of sex that is so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the school’s education program or activity,” according to the statement on their website.

If enacted the university

would have to comply to the new guidelines of Title IX, otherwise it would risk losing Title IV, financial aid federal funding, said Christopher Piscitelli, assistant dean of students & director of student conduct.

“I am not sure there is an institution in the world that could lose Title IV monies and still be functioning as an institution,” said Piscitelli. “It is the way in which the government has a stranglehold on the institution to make sure that people are following policy and procedure they are setting.”

Title IX requires colleges and universities to respond

to the various needs of survivors after sexual violence or harassment occurs, including counseling and other support services. Piscitelli said the campus’ first reaction to the proposed revisions was to “get around a table.”

“To kind of go through, step-by-step what, what some of the proposed rule changes are, what they mean and how that would play out kind of from a campus perspective,” said Piscitelli. “And then we wanted to be able to inform the system office as to what our opinions were.”

See **Title IX**, Page 3

Survey finds low drinking stats amongst first-years

Amanda Cavoto
Arts & Entertainment Editor

According to the 2017 CORE Campus survey of Alcohol and Other Drug Norms, 97 percent of first-year students at Southern disapprove of frequent intoxication.

The survey, which polled 1,095 first-year students in the 2017 fall semester, found overestimations in alcohol consumption and drug use can be attributed to students own social circles, said Wellness Center Coordinator Emily Rosenthal.

In addition, the survey focused on students own use and their own interpretation of their peers use.

“It’s your circle, it’s what you’re exposed to, it’s what you notice,” she said.

A goal to reduce high-risk drinking on campus, especially among first-year students, began by collecting data of alcohol and drug use trends amongst these students during the fall 2017 semester.

The survey results stated 70 percent of first-year students did not binge drink; which means students do not have five or more drinks over a two week period.

However, while only 31.3 percent of first-year students did binge drink in the past two weeks, students overestimated that 47.96 percent of their peers engaged in binge drinking in that time frame as well.

See **CORE survey**, Page 3

Community assisted by Global Brigades



PHOTOS COURTESY | BROKK TOLLEFSON

Student **Sanay Ayele** on the **Global Brigades** trip.



By **Tamonda Griffiths**
News Writer

This past January, students from Southern’s Global Brigade chapter spent a week in a coastal community in Ghana, known as Ekumpono, to build bio-digestive toilets and provide public health assistance for families in the area.

“We did a project where we built, bio-digestive toilets for five different families in the community,” said Michael Schindel, the club’s faculty adviser,

“where open defecation and lack of sanitation have led to persistent health issues.”

Inside the septic tanks, anaerobic microorganisms and heat, digest waste material resulting in sludge and gas, said Paul Nicholas, vice president of the Global Brigades chapter. The gas is released via a small little pipe off the side of the septic tank, and the sludge builds up over time in the tank.

Through a slanted pipe, waste from a toilet flows into a round septic tank,

The liquid then goes through three filter chambers where charcoal, which is covered by gravel, filters the liquid and removes odor.

Finally, after this process is completed, the filtered liquid returns to the earth as clean ground water.

See **Winter at SCSU**, Page 2



Members of **Global Brigades** on their trip to Ghana.

Alumni employed by Congresswoman Hayes

By Tamonda Griffiths
News Writer

The first African-American Democrat to represent Connecticut in Congress, Congresswoman Jahana Hayes, has hired alumni Jason Newton to work as her communication director in Washington, D.C.

Prior to joining Hayes' team, Newton worked as a broadcast journalist in New Haven, Lafayette, La., and West Palm Beach, Fla.

However, before he graduated in 2007, Newton started his collegiate career at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury.

"When I started at Naugatuck Valley it was a – essentially I just, you know, knew I needed to go to college, wasn't sure what I wanted to study," said Newton. "While I was at Naugatuck Valley that's [where] I decided journalism was something that I would enjoy."

Always fascinated by current events in both his town and the world at large, Newton said his interests were focused on government, and telling stories.

"Journalism became like an easy fit for me," he said.

In total, he said it took him about six years to graduate with his undergraduate degree.

"It was tough," said Newton. "It was a lot of schedule juggling I had to do. You had to prioritize your time. I had to take a semester or two off here and there to make money to end up paying for the courses I needed to take."

Newton said although his college experience was not completed in the traditional time frame, it was "worth it."

"[College] taught me lessons I was going to need to know outside of college," said Newton, "and I just think it helped me become a more well-rounded person."

The lessons he learned, Newton said, were those of time management, budgeting and maturity.

He had to learn to turn down to partying to designate time to schoolwork, he said.



Alumni Jason Newton, who serves as communication director for Connecticut Congresswoman Jahana Hayes.

PHOTO COURTESY | KEVIN DERMODY

He also had to learn how to save money to enroll into classes, as well as pay the bills. He also had to get used to dressing as a professional.

Journalism professor Frank Harris III said he remembers the first time he met Newton.

"When he first came into my office and told me he wanted to be a broadcast journalist, I kind of – he had a grill on his teeth," said Harris.

Harris said he never discouraged Newton's goal, but instead listened and decided to "not judge a book by its cover."

The aspect of journalism that stuck with him beyond graduation was ethics, he said.

He was tested early on in his career as a journalist but would think back to the ethical questions and scenarios presented by journalism Professor Jerry Dunklee during his ethics class.

"Dunklee used to always say 'If your mother tells you she loves you, better

check it out. Better get two sources,'" said Newton.

Newton eventually went on to graduate school at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, where he earned his master's degree in mass communications and media studies.

He worked for several years in Louisiana before and while studying for his graduate degree.

His experience working full-time as an undergraduate helped him balance the responsibilities.

What drew him to work for Hayes were their similar backgrounds-- both of them are from Naugatuck Valley, are Southern alumnus and former residents of the same district in Connecticut--and the platform she ran on during the 2018 elections.

Before working for Hayes, Newton started as press secretary for Congressman Matt Cartwright in Pennsylvania.

He said he had been

looking to get out of journalism and try something new.

"I got to the point where I kind of hit a wall as far as reporting goes," said Newton, "I'd been doing [it] for about 10 years."

Newton said one of the biggest things he finds himself learning every day in his current role is multitasking.

"As a reporter, I thought I was pretty good at multitasking," said Newton. "As communication's director, working for a member of Congress, it's like multitasking on steroids."

Harris said the last time he had ran into Newton was somewhere in downtown New Haven before his move to Washington, D.C.

"If he's doing something, you always figure he's gonna do it right, he's gonna put everything into it," said Harris, "and he's, again one of those guys that you can say you're proud to have had him as a student."



PHOTO | BROKK TOLLEFSON

Members of Global Brigades on the Ghana trip.

Winter at SCSU

Continued from Page 1

The tank, which can be used by two families, can continue to be used for at least 50 years before it is sealed and a new tank is built, Nicholas said.

During a spring semester, Schindel said the country and service project or "brigade" is voted on by the organization and then fundraised throughout the year.

"This past trip it was \$2,025," said Tori Samatulski, activity chair for the organization.

The total cost covered the price of the airplane ticket to Ghana, the hostel the group stays in, meals and some of the supplies needed to construct the project.

The money was funded through events such as bake sales, said Global Brigades secretary Aileen Pingol.

According to the Global Brigades' website, the various brigades include public health sustainability, medical treatment, clean water, legal assistance, business assistance, dental care, and engineering projects.

Nicholas said this was his third brigade and seeing the impact they can make on the community is nice.

Schindel said this was his third year with the organization and he is always impressed by the volunteer's perseverance

and hard work.

"It was brutally hot – it was freezing here, but it was miserably hot," said Schindel, "and we were spending outside, you know, six to seven hours a day, like out in the heat like digging and laying cement and doing this really difficult work."

Ashley Thammavongsa, president of SCSU's Global Brigades and fundraising chair, Katie McDermott said they wish people could see how welcoming and beautiful the various countries can be.

"I've been on three brigades," said McDermott, "and every time I go on one my friends and family are like, 'Why do you want to go to Africa? Why do you want to go to Nicaragua? There's nothing there.'"

Pingol said when she thought of Africa, she thought of lions. However, she got to see first-hand how developed parts of the continent can be.

"It was like more than livable, it was like somewhere where you could like actually stay and enjoy," said Pingol.

"And I think that like it shouldn't be something – like hopefully more people are attracted to coming to Africa and like, actually helping out because it was like something we could stay in and it wasn't as like, as third-world, as they – as I expected."

Cameras

Continued from Page 1

"It's taken six months to get this entirely complete," said DeMezzo.

They started to add more cameras in locations with low visibility and the least amount of traffic, such as the Ethnic Heritage Center parking lot, and have been expanding ever since, said DeMezzo.

While residence halls have front desk attendants, the North Campus townhouses do not, said DeMezzo.

"Some of the students said they felt a little isolated, I would say," said DeMezzo.

In result, the added security cameras and the programming of the cameras cost Residence Life approximately \$15,000.

The funding, DeMezzo

said, was budgeted out in building improvements and operational funds.

Nine new cameras were added to North Campus, he said with three remaining to be installed.

"We installed one very high-resolution camera in the back of the mid-rise that university police can actually move and look at very high resolution," said DeMezzo. "The rest of them have been installed around the back of the parking lot and around the townhouses themselves."

DeMezzo said it took several cameras to cover the four sets of townhouses behind the mid-rise, but they provide full-coverage all around the area.

"The cameras are really there for safety and security," said DeMezzo. "We don't monitor them

unless there's an incident or something."

Ciara Thomas, senior and North Campus desk attendant, said there must have been a need for the added cameras.

"Maybe they're better," said Thomas. "Maybe they angle differently."

Katelyn Wentz, a graduate resident hall adviser in one of the North Campus townhouses, said a lot of residents were pleased to have the cameras installed.

"A lot them also feel like, like they're being more protected, so which is nice," said Wentz, "and especially out here we don't have the safety precaution of having to swipe into a building or having a desk attendant, so it's – I think they feel better having them out here, for sure."



PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU

A new camera on the corner of the North Campus Midrise complex.

Reading room redesigned into new office

By Jessica Guerrucci
Reporter

An office is being built for the new Director of Library Services Clara Ogbaa, but to do so, one of the library's reading rooms is being taken away.

Hired without an office, she said the university assured she would be given one. They then had to decide where they were going to put it.

"Efforts were made to identify adequate space that wouldn't involve a lot of money for renovation and be easily accessible to students, faculty, and staff," said Ogbaa.

With cost being a factor, it led the university to decide to convert a fourth floor reading room into her new office. Robert Sheeley, associate vice president of capital budgeting and facilities operations, said the whole project will cost less than \$10,000.

"Basically, it's building walls, new lighting, and put some ceiling pads in, and that's about it," said

Sheeley. "It's not a very involved project, from our perspective."

The project is set to be complete within the next couple of weeks pending any inclement weather or some other major delay.

Sheeley also said the cost of the project would be kept down since the university is using its own builders.

"We have some quality carpenters and electricians, but we can't just drop everything and do it because we're servicing the rest of the campus," said Sheeley. "So, we're hitting it when we can hit it, to get it done. That means it takes a lot longer, but the costs are significantly lower."

Another concern was taking the room away from those using the library. Ogbaa said she fought to not take the space away, but the chosen reading room was least used by students.

Ogbaa faces a problem with her space on the first floor since she is not accessible to students due to her door being locked, she said.

If it was up to her, she

would have chosen to be on the first floor in one of the glass study rooms.

"We call it the fish bowl, you know those rooms we have near the reference desk? Ideally, I would've loved one of those rooms to be where I am, so that students, faculty, everybody will see where their director is," said Ogbaa.

Lea Crawford, an art education major, said it would make more sense to put the office on the first floor instead of the fourth since students do not spend a lot of time on that level.

"I think it's pointless to have that on the fourth floor, when they could turn one of these glass rooms into the office space. Especially because it's where everybody is and where everything goes on," said Crawford.

Lorette Feivelson, a history secondary education major, said it might be a loss for some students.

"Even though I personally don't use them,



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

The fourth floor reading room that is being redesigned for as an office space.

some people really need quiet to work and work best in that environment," said Feivelson.

While Sheeley said it is not an easy decision, it came down to Ogbaa

needing to have an office that was suitable to her position.

"Our priority is always to make as much space available to our students," said Sheeley "I mean, that's

what we're here for. That's what we're all about, but she needs space, and there was no office space for her."

See more photos from construction on campus, on page 12.

ALCOHOL AND FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS



1 in 3 first-year students party WITHOUT drinking alcohol



1 in 4 first-year students NEVER DRINK

M Most first-year students drink **ONCE PER MONTH** or **NOT AT ALL** and **HALF** drink less than **6** times a year

97% of first-year students disapprove of others frequently drinking

INFOGRAPHIC | SAM FIX

Source: 2017 CORE Campus Survey of Alcohol and Other Drugs Norms

CORE survey

Continued from Page 1

With a three-year grant given by the Connecticut Healthy Campus Initiative, the survey's data focused on social norms and how students overestimate their peer's usage of drugs or alcohol, according to Rosenthal.

"It's like when you're driving on the highway and you pass 200 cars and you see one car speeding by and say 'ugh, people are such bad drivers,' but people really aren't bad drivers it's really just that one car that sticks out," Rosenthal said.

The data was collected from over 80 percent of first-year students. While not all students believe the statistics presented to them, Rosenthal said that is normal, and that is why they conducted the survey.

"Students will see the data and say 'well it's different at Southern,' and it's actually not different," Rosenthal said, "so there's no excuse."

Jayde Campbell, freshman and public health major, said she is not surprised people overestimated their peers usage of alcohol because of the peer pressure.

"There [are] so many kids on this campus, we want to conform and fit in and everything, once we see one person drinking, we think 'oh I'm going to drink to' to fit in," Campbell said.

Pre-conceived ideas of college through culture norms could stem from the misconceptions of how frequently Southern students actually drink, according to the Coordinator of Alcohol and Other Drug Services Sarah Keiser.

"There's a perception that everyone is drinking all the time," Keiser said, "part of that is culture and not knowing there [are] a lot of students that don't drink."

The data stated, one

in four of Southern first-year students never drink alcohol and one in three first-year students party without drinking alcohol.

Posters can be found across campus that highlight some of the results found in the survey. This includes the survey finding the majority of residential first-year students choose not to drink every weekend. One also showcased how half of first-year students drink less than six times a year.

On Thursday, Feb. 7 at 12:30-2:30 p.m. in the Engleman rotunda, The Wellness Center will host an event, "The Alcohol at Southern Kick-Off," to show their newly developed research. Their hope is to help students learn more about their peers alcohol use and behaviors on campus as measured by their data.

There will be free t-shirts, prizes and giveaways, as well.

Title IX

Continued from Page 1

According to a statement released by the CSCU system, the public was granted 60 days to comment on the proposal before its finalization. This concluded on Thursday, Jan. 31.

Piscitelli said those opinions and remarks were then compiled and laid out in President Ojakian's Title IX Public Comments, a statement he released on Tuesday, Jan. 29.

Ojakian's public comments outlined the "main issues" the CSCU system hopes to be taken into consideration before any final decision on the changes to Title IX are made.

One such issue was that of granting an attorney the privilege to serve as an adviser to a victim, and a redefined explanation of what condones as sexual harassment.

"I think we will see an incredible increase of students who will say, 'I'm not going through that process knowing that [an] attorney [is] going to be

cross-examining me in a room,'" said Piscitelli

The current options, Piscitelli said, are students can opt to either have the university deal with the incident through their own process or choose to file criminal charges through an outside police force.

"There are students now who want to avoid the criminal process because they don't want to put themselves into that kind of a position," said Piscitelli, "and now we're introducing that a very similar process into the university process."

Paula Rice, the university's Title IX coordinator, said the support currently offered to students would not go anywhere.

"That's not going anywhere," said Rice, "It may be a time of confusion for our students and I think the university's gonna make sure we get out there to make sure our students are equipped with the information they need."



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Title IX Coordinator Paula Rice speaking amongst faculty and administration members about the proposal.

Students overuse activation button

By J'Mari Hughes
Reporter

Some physical disabilities may be obvious like being in a wheelchair but others, not so much. I do not have the knowledge to look at someone and know for sure what their body is or is not capable of. Therefore, when I watch a seemingly able-bodied person use the activation button, I cannot be quick to judge whether or not they need it.

Doors leading in and out of buildings at Southern are equipped with technology that opens them simply with the push of a button. The button is blue and reads "Press to operate door" with that generic wheelchair logo in plain sight. Nearby, one can find a sticker that says, "Use power button only when

needed," and reminds students to save energy and the planet.

Whether to hold open doors while large crowds pass through at once or even when single students are walking through the door alone, I wonder, have Southern students taken advantage of a convenience made solely for those who acquire it?

There are situations where it would make sense to use the button, even if one is not disabled. For example, if a person is carrying a load of things with both hands, or, as someone pointed out to me, if a pregnant woman is walking through.

But one could also argue that opening the door is "too much work" which is both laughable and not at all true. A few days ago, I saw a girl use the activation button,

knowing very well she did not need it and when I asked her why she responded, "I was being lazy."

As big groups of students walk through the door together, it takes only a second or two to hold it open for the person behind them. Some might say it is gross to touch the handle on the door because of the number of students whose hands graze it daily but despite this incredible invention called soap, the button is in fact touched by many students as well so using it wastes power and makes one's hands dirty.

A study at Stanford's Psychology Department concluded that 75% of people who use the activation button are not physically disabled. The more the buttons are used, the sooner they will wear

down, as with any piece of technology.

In other words, the buttons would last a lot longer if it were not for unnecessary usage.

They also cause the door to stay open longer than usual, which could release the amount of air or heat in the building. Northern Kentucky University said it lost 2 cents each time the button was clicked which, though it may seem small, adds up.

As Americans living in today's world, technology is created to do almost everything for us, but that does not mean we should let it. My voice may not convince anyone any more than the stickers on the door windows do, but when it comes to automatic doors, I think they should only be used when needed.



PHOTO BY J'MARI HUGHES

An activation push button outside of Engleman.

Super Bowl commercials reach record high price per ad

By Kevin Crompton
Editor-in-Chief

As I sat watching the painfully uneventful Super Bowl LIII on Sunday, I couldn't help but think how fitting of a Jerry Seinfeld bit the commercials could make. His iconic voice played in my head: "What's the deal with Super Bowl commercials?" I mean really, these companies pay millions of dollars for 30 seconds of advertising, and quite frankly, the commercials are terrible.

According to a report by CNBC, CBS which was the network host of Super Bowl LIII, charged a record \$5.25 million for a 30 second spot during the game. Last year's Super Bowl drew 111.3 million views so there is no debate that from a company's standpoint, a lot of people will see your ad. It goes without saying that the number of viewers is the reason for the hefty price tag. However, is it worth it?

Let's look at Anheuser-Busch and their Bud Light "Dilly Dilly" campaign. Anheuser-Busch aired four different Bud Light commercials throughout the duration of the Super Bowl. According to CNBC's \$5.25 million per 30 second

spot, simple addition would tell us that Anheuser-Busch spent an approximate \$21 million on advertising this past Sunday. Considering Anheuser-Busch was a 2017 Fortune 500 company - landing in at No. 170 on the list - \$21 million is pocket change to them. However, is their advertising really going to generate more consumers?

Products like Bud Light rely on brand loyal

consumers. This means the consumers that purchase Bud Light, only purchase Bud Light because they are loyal to the brand. The objective when advertising when your consumers are extremely brand loyal is not to gain new consumers, but to reinforce their image to the consumers they already have. In addition, the second method when dealing with a brand loyal consumer base is

stealing consumers from the competition. On Sunday, this is exactly what Anheuser-Busch set out to do.

All four of the 30 second advertisements that aired for Bud Light stressed the use of corn syrup in competitor light beers such as Coors and Miller Lite while enforcing the message that they do not brew their product with corn syrup. If Anheuser-

Busch can get a few million people to switch from Miller-Coors to Bud Light then their \$21 million expense for this past Super Bowl might in fact be justifiable.

Another theory is Super Bowl commercials are just simply tradition. Beer and football go together. There's no denying it has been this way for years. The ads during the big game used to be regarded

as the best commercials all year, but that belief has been diminishing each year. Super Bowl commercials are not what they use to be. They are more expensive than ever and they are less entertaining each and every year. The Super Bowl is an American tradition and no matter the price and no matter the quality, outrageously expensive commercials will always go hand-in-hand.

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If you are interested in applying for the Southern News, contact Kevin Crompton at cromptonk2@southernct.edu for more information. For Crescent, contact August Pelliccio at pelliccioa1@southernct.edu. For WSIN, contact Gerald Isaac at isaacg2@southernct.edu

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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.

Looking back: Spring of 1991



School system faces more cuts

University president Michael J. Adanti said in a written message the four Connecticut State Universities will face financial difficulties in the coming years. Depending on the action of Lowell Weicker, the governor of Connecticut, the school system faces cuts from seven to 20 percent. Tuition rose by 19 percent in the coming fall semester as well.

January

•Ray Reid, head coach of the men's soccer team, was named Division II Coach of the Year by the National Soccer Coaches Association. Reid guided the Owls to a 22-0-1 record and a national championship.

February

•Kathy McCarthy, a sociology professor, was arrested for disorderly conduct by New Haven police during a demonstration protesting the Persian Gulf War.
•After severe budget cuts, Folio, Southern's "award-winning literary and art magazine," was struggling to publish their spring issue. After requesting \$8,200, they were only given \$7,100.
•Women's indoor track took first place at the Collegiate Track Conference Indoor Championships for the third straight year.

March

•Women's basketball player Geraldine Artis was named New England Collegiate Conference Player of the Year after leading the league in scoring with 18.1 points per game.
•Folio announces they will publish their spring issue in April despite budget cuts, but without color.
•The New York Giants played the WTNH Channel 8 News team in a charity basketball game at Moore Field House. The event raised \$6,000 for the Special Olympics and Damien O'Neil Scholarship Fund.

April

•Club ice hockey defeats Marist College 5-4 to win the Metropolitan Collegiate Conference Championship, finishing the year 13-6-2.
•Flora Nwapa, the first published black African woman author, spoke at Southern about African literature, her own works, and the status of women in Nigeria.
•Despite the budget cuts, no Southern faculty layoffs will occur. However, because of agreements between Gov. Weicker and unions, faculty and administration had pay raises held for nearly a year.

Compiled from the Southern News archives by Michael Riccio, Managing Editor

Chlamydia, gonorrhoea most common STDs on campus

By Jacob Waring
Opinions & Features Editor

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recent data indicated that two million cases of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) such as Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Syphilis were reported in the United States in 2016, the highest ever recording by the Center.

According to those at the Wellness and Health Centers on campus, college rates of STDs tend to follow the national trends.

Jazmynn Jakubczyk, graduate intern for the Wellness Center, collaborates with the Health Center and with the 'Get yourself Tested' events. She said they have monthly testing events, and their next one is Feb. 14.

"The STD tests just tests for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea because those are the most common STDs in the United States in general," she said.

According to Jakubczyk of the tests conducted by the Health Center, there's 12-15 percent of a positive result each semester. That statistic is only of students who get tested on campus. She said that the service is affordable and confidential.

HIV testing is also provided. She also said that the data they have on hand goes as far back to 2016.



PHOTOS | JACOB WARING

Test swabs for both genders.



PHOTOS | JACOB WARING

An assortment of free condoms provided by the Health Center for visiting students.

Connecticut health officials have said that there has been a four percent increase of HIV in Connecticut in 2017. In response to that recent information Jakubczyk says they're going to just continue testing, and educating the campus and community on sexual health.

The Wellness Center keeps track of condom usage as 71 percent of men and 79 percent of women do not use condoms. The Center keeps track of the rates of students who have not gotten tested for STD, she said that 68 percent of men and 52 percent of women have never been tested.

Jakubczyk said they keep track of this data as a way to inform students on what their peers are doing.

Both the Wellness and Health Center have said that the trends on campus typically matches the rate of increase of STDs.

Jakubczyk said that at Southern, the data has

showed that the knowledge of STD testing is rising but the utilization of testing services are decreasing. They are in the process of trying to figure out the why behind that particular data.

Dr. Diane Morgenthaler, Director of the Health and Wellness Center said that the Health Center has practitioners and physicians who are qualified to diagnose then treat STD symptoms. Morgenthaler, and other clinical providers roles are to diagnose students who come in with particular symptoms, do appropriate testing and treat.

She said they do routine testing for those who may not have symptoms but are planning to have a new partner, or already have a new partner and by those who request testing as a precaution due to various factors.

She said they are in the process of narrowing the testing to certain times in the

day to make it easier for both the staff and students who visit. Morgenthaler said that on average in a week the Health Center does 10 to 15 tests, and that is students who come in specially requesting for a STD Test. During the 'Get Yourself Tested' events, on average they get 30 to 40 per event.

"A good thing about those [Get Yourself Tested] events is that in addition to doing the routine testing, we do a consult," said Morgenthaler, "you can come to ask particular questions, gives us an opportunity to talk about other STD that could potentially be a problem."

Morgenthaler said that tests for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea goes to the state lab for a minimal fee, and it's all confidential. She also said that HIV testing can be done on campus and the results would be confirm in approximately 15 minutes.

See STD, page 6

Grades over fitness

By Jessica Guerrucci
Reporter

Whether it is poor sleeping habits, eating too much, or not working out enough, some students say they do not exactly have the healthiest lifestyle.



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

Emily Casbarro in the Student Center.

Most students said that once they got to college it was hard for them to stay active.

Emily Casbarro, business management major, said that there just is not enough time for her to fit a work out in her day.

"I believe the comparison from high school to college, there's just a lot more work and a lot more effort you have to put in to your school work, and I find that because I'm so focused on school, I don't really have the time to exercise," said Casbarro.

Along with not exercising, students say they have several other bad habits. Kaylie Marricz, social work major, said she struggles to eat healthy now that she is not living at home anymore and that it is much easier to order UberEats.

"My eating habits get really bad, because now that I live in my own apartment, I do not portion my food or cook myself dinner," said Marricz. "I find something really easy to put in the toaster or microwave."

Some find it difficult to eat healthy, especially when they are at school. Tyler Kopec, graphic design major, said that the food choices at Southern are good, but he will usually end up eating a burger or pizza between classes. Kopec said he is trying to change this habit.

"I'm trying to cook more, so if I can take food to school with me, I'm not buying so I also save money," said Kopec.

See Healthy lifestyle page 6



PHOTOS | JACOB WARING

Rachel Schaffer, (left to right) Zaha Naeem, Haroon Chaudry, Shahbaz Farooqui, Bryan Mera, members MSA.

Prayer room is an oasis

By Jacob Waring
Opinion & Features

Members of Muslim Student Association (MSA) stood in the starting position known as qayam while performing Isha, the last prayer of the day for those of Islamic beliefs.

Haroon Chaudhry, President of MSA, said the prayer room is open for anyone regardless of their religious affiliations, as it is a room for prayer and meditation. He said that the room had been refurbished with pillows, mats and more.

"It's been a meditation room for two to three years. Now, they turned it into a prayer room. It's not only for Muslim people, but for anybody, if anyone is interested in praying as everyone has a different style of praying," he said.

According to Chaudhry, in

the previous room they utilized, only three to four people were able to fit at a time. He also said there was difficulty locating the previous room due to the knowledge not being as wide-spread.

Shahbaz Farooqui, vice president of MSA, said having the space of the prayer room made it more convenient to pray on campus.

"We don't have to go far. We don't have to leave the campus and go to the mosque," said Farooqui. "We can meet other people in here and engaged with our community."

He said that the prayer room creates a communal bond amongst people of his faith as well as those of different faiths. Farooqui said that the prayer room opens up opportunity for people to learn about other faiths, and their culture.

See Prayer, page 6

Prayer

Continued from Page 5

Zaha Naeem, a member of MSA, said it is a blessing to have the prayer room and have given the opportunity to pray, as it is mandatory in Islam. Naeem noted how a prayer room is usually a rarity, or typically tends to be small.

"I'm a transfer student from Housatonic Community College. They did have a prayer room. Theirs is pretty small, half of the size of this [Southern's] room," he said.

He said that they use prayer rugs and situate themselves towards the Qibla, which is the direction that Muslims pray towards. Its the direction of the Kaaba in the Hejazi city of Mecca. He also said that Muslims pray five times a day.

Naeem said that they set up facing towards

Qibla while someone leads the prayer, and people line up in front of that person. He recounted a time the prayer caught the attention of people passing by while the blinds were up, which provided an educational moment.

"There was one [opportunity] last semester when we had the blinds up and we began praying. We had a lot of people walk by and take interest in what was happening in [the prayer room], one or two actually walked inside to ask a question," Naeem said.

Rachel Schaffer, secretary of MSA, said that for her the prayer room is a safe place where students could not only pray but also be surrounded by like minded souls. She likened the room to be a calm oasis.

"It's a place on campus that is quiet and nice," said Schaffer. "It's a nice little oasis, I guess. It's calm."



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

Starting position (qayam) performing Isha (Last Prayer of the day).

STD

Continued from Page 5

The Health Center has brochures that are filled with information on symptoms, treatment and factoids. The testing for men are typically urinating in a cup while for men while for women it would be a vaginal swab. For STD's like Syphilis would be via blood being drawn or with the HIV test it would be a by pricking a finger for a blood sample.

Jessica Cunningham, a

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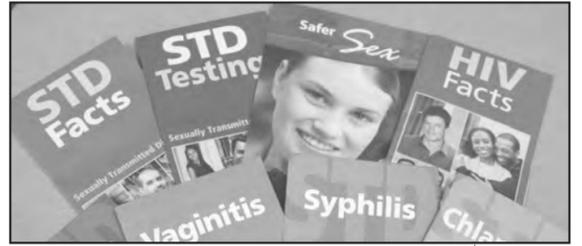


PHOTO | JACOB WARING

STDs brochures that are provided by the Health Center.

Healthy Lifestyle

Continued from Page 5

healthy person, but strives to be. He said he wants to improve his sleeping habits as well as his eating habits,

"No more Taco Bell," said O'Neill. "Eating better would be beneficial to my overall health and mental wellbeing."

Unlike other students, Kashawn Beatty, a graphic design major, said that he believes he is a healthy person. He said it is difficult with school and work to make time to go to the gym, but he tries his best to go when he can.

"I try to eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner every day, and when I do, it's not

For Quinn O'Neill a journalism major, he said that he does not think he is a

garbage," said Beatty. "I don't really drink any garbage either, it's either water or ginger ale. I don't really eat fast food like that."

Beatty said that he will only eat fast food if it is really late and there is not another option, but if he can, he tries to stay away from it.

O'Neill also took a different perspective on what it means to lead a healthy lifestyle. Rather than just eating and exercising, he said part of being healthy is being around the right people and keeping away from the toxic ones.

"When I'm around better people and there's less time for me to really mull over my own thoughts over and over again," said O'Neill. "I'm a person who has a lot of stress and anxiety so it's easy to overdo it when I'm constantly thinking and overworking my mind."

Rent: Live more like Rent: Dress Rehearsal

Rent: Live was 525,600 moments that I will never get back. Jonathan Larson, the composer and writer of Rent, would have been disappointed in how Fox represented his magnum opus. It had such potential. It saddens me to know that for some people this was their first time seeing any version of Rent and it had to be the abomination of Rent: Live.

What upsets me the most that it was not bad because of the performers or that the songs were bad. It is the circumstances that

led to the awful decisions that derailed the whole endeavor. Rent: Live was not even live. Only the last 15 to 20 minutes, which was also the best part of the entire musical. What viewers saw was just the dress rehearsal.

There is nothing wrong with dress rehearsals beyond the fact it is a rehearsal. The one where the cast did not was being filmed as the finished product to be shown to everyone who tunes in. It looked rough because it was an arbitrary decision

that had zero thought incorporated.

Yes, it was outside of everyone's control that Brennin Hunt who was portraying the character Roger had gotten hurt. Hunt broke his foot during the dress rehearsal, and that unfortunate event could not have been predicted. Yet, there is a reason why understudies are a thing in theater as their role is to step-in whenever the performer they are studying under cannot perform due to circumstances.

Fashionable Owls: Dressed for comfort and warmth



PHOTO BY | J'MARI HUGHES

Briana Patterson sporting one of her numerous hoodies

By J'Mari Hughes
Reporter

Sophomore Mia Hall said with, she feels better about herself when she is dressed nicely. To her, it easier to create an outfit when the weather is warm.

Hall said that when she goes to pick out her outfit, she does not wait until the last minute, but instead does it the day before. "I go on Instagram, I follow some pages that post fashion inspiration," said Hall. "I don't have the funds for all the things that they post but I look for things that are similar in my closet."

However to nursing major Aliyah Moore, winter is the time of the year to break out what she loves to wear like boots, jeans, and sweaters. She said she gets her clothes from Forever 21 and Fashion Nova because they are inexpensive and easily accessible. Rather than travel to the stores in person, she said she chooses to get her clothes online.

Briana Patterson, elementary education major, said while it is easier to shop online, she prefers being able to try her clothes on. "It's a hassle trying to get your money back. If it's an item that doesn't really fit well, I just give it to somebody else because I don't want to deal with that," Patterson said.

Patterson, an elementary education major, said she also shops at Fashion Nova, Charlotte Russe and Southern's bookstore, where she purchased her collection of hoodies.

"What I do," Patterson said, "is look at the weather

and then I think 'is it going to be cold?' If so, I'll grab some Uggs and build the outfit off of that."

Shoes and pants, to her, help make the perfect outfit. Jewelry, she said, is a necessity no one can go wrong with. Without earrings she said she feels like a "little boy". Hair is also important when it comes to Patterson's outfits. She also said that even if an outfit looks good, but the hair looks bad, it is a no from her.

"Cancel the whole outfit," said La'Elle Riggsbee on a bad hairdo. "Nine times out of 10 I try to look nice and that one other time, I'm sick or I don't have time and just throw on some sweatpants."

Riggsbee, a sophomore agreed that earrings can tie an outfit together. She said that when she looks at her clothes for the day, they look just okay until she puts her earrings on.

Because of her size, Riggsbee said she prefers getting her clothes online because they are always available there, whereas in-store sales might not have available in all sizes.

Hall and Moore both said that if someone is comfortable in their clothing, it is the perfect outfit. To Hall, physical and mental comfort is important when it comes to clothes.

"If you're walking around all day in, say, shorts that you've never worn before and they're uncomfortable to you, mentally that could stress you out. If you're halfway through class thinking that you need to change, it's not going to make you feel more progressive."



PHOTO BY | J'MARI HUGHES

Mia Hall rocking her instagram inspired outfit.

Bundy is back and creating controversy

By Sam Fix
Layout Editor

"Ted was the very definition of heartless evil," said Polly Nelson, Ted Bundy's defense attorney for three years. Bundy was executed on January 24th, 1989 for the murders of at least 30 young women over a four-year span. Now, 30 years after his death, Bundy is back in the spotlight thanks to filmmaker Joe Berlinger.

The first of Berlinger's two projects, "Conversations with a

Killer: The Ted Bundy Tapes," is a four hour Netflix series which centers around interviews of Ted Bundy and those who knew him. They also analyze his victims and the archival footage throughout the show.

The "tapes" the series refers to consist of about 100 hours of recorded interviews between Bundy and journalists Hugh Aynesworth and Stephen Michaud while Bundy was on death row. Bundy talks about his upbringing and life, as well as his crimes in the third person to

avoid confessing.

This footage does give valuable insight as to why a serial killer would murder. However, it also allows Bundy to explain himself the way he wants to, and to give excuses for his crimes. Michaud addresses this early in the series, saying, "I was there to take down Ted's story. The story that he wanted to tell."

Noah Jackson, a junior, English and secondary education, says footage like this has to be contextualized correctly to avoid giving unnecessary power to killers.

"If it's presented as a way of showing how monsters don't usually have any moral compunctions about their crimes, or how they always have excuses, it can be pretty fascinating material that tells the viewer something about how terrible people work," Jackson said. "If the footage is presented sympathetically, though, and if the statements are being shown as being valid and acceptable excuses, then it gets very problematic."

While "Conversations with a Killer: The Ted Bundy Tapes" did draw criticism, it cannot be argued that the archival footage and interviews falsely portray Bundy. Yet, Berlinger's second project, the film "Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile" is being accused of romanticizing Bundy, as the killer is played by ex-Disney actor Zac Efron.

Opponents of the film argue that scenes like Efron saying, "I'm more popular than Disney World" glorify Bundy, turning a real life horror story into a romantic thriller. In addition,

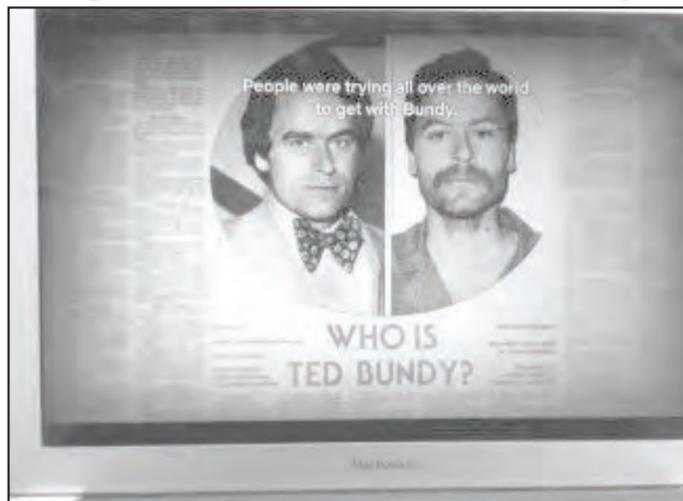


PHOTO | AMANDA CAVOTO

A photo from the Netflix documentary *Conversations with a Killer: The Ted Bundy Tapes*.

some say Efron is too charming and attractive to play a monster like Bundy.

However, the real Bundy was known for being charismatic and manipulative, and used his charm to lure his victims and hide his murderous side from others. After sentencing Bundy to be executed, Judge Edward Cowart told him,

"You're a bright young man. You would have made a good lawyer and I would have loved to have you practice in front of me, but you went another way, partner. Take care of yourself. I don't feel any animosity toward you. I just want you to know that. Once again, take care of yourself."

Forgetting that killers and other criminals can seem normal and even likeable can be

dangerous, as it makes it easier for them to attract their victims. Berlinger defended the movie, saying, "if you actually watch the movie, the last thing we're doing is glorifying him. He gets his due at the end, but we're portraying the experience of how one becomes a victim to that kind of psychopathic seduction."

Between being the first nationally televised court trial and having hundreds of revelers cheering and lighting fireworks across the street from the prison during his execution, Bundy and others like him have always been a prominent part of the American culture. Thirty years after his death, Bundy is once again a popular topic in the media and discussions. Whether that is positive or negative is still to be determined.

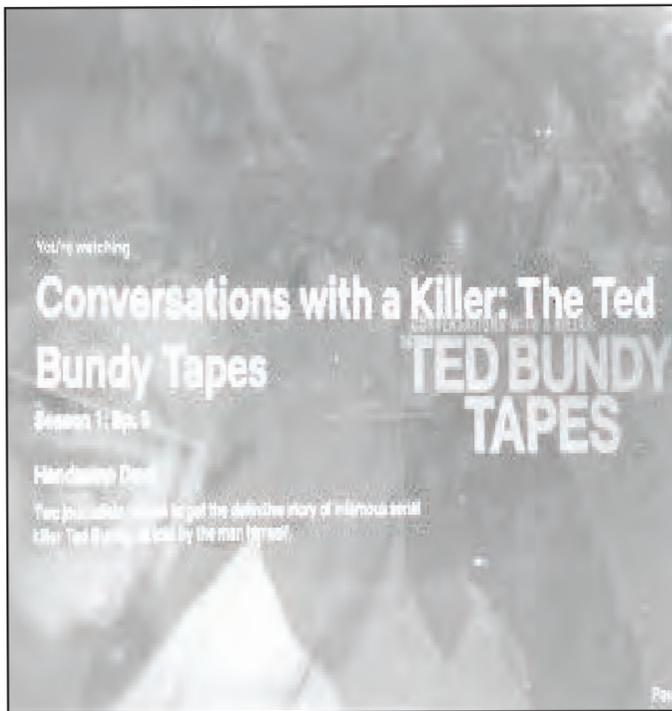


PHOTO | AMANDA CAVOTO

A paused title screen from Netflix's *Conversations with a Killer: The Ted Bundy Tapes*.

Resident Evil 2 scares up nostalgia

By Jacob Waring
Opinions & Features Editor

My hands trembled with the PS4 remote, as I controlled Leon Kennedy as he navigated the dark, tartarean halls of the Raccoon Police Department. I turn the corner in the hall, and I squealed as a decayed zombie lunged for my neck. In a panic, I fired a hail of bullets from my Matilda handgun into its head until I am sure the undead fiend was defeated.

Resident Evil 2, is a frightening game. You will find yourself feeling tense. You will worry about your stock of ammunition. You will just run for your life. Every door that creaks, every ghoulish moan and every sound will leave you feeling angsty. This is vintage Resident Evil, and Capcom brilliantly did this remake justice in every way.

Yes, this is a remake but the game surpasses the original '98 version. In the original, you would have limited movability as you would move and fire

like a tank. The camera angles were always fixed in one angle in every environment within the game. Comparatively, the remake's mobility just flows better. The over the shoulder perspective makes the game enjoyable, and thematically allows the game to provide the terror more fluidly.

Despite the updated graphics and movement, the game still has the heart of the original. The story remains with same with minor tweaks to modernize story for today's players. There are still two campaigns. The terrifying tyrant will still hunt you down. The puzzles are still a major component of the game. The DNA of the original is evidently there with only a new layer of cosmetics.

The game is design for multiple playthroughs. The two characters, Leon Kennedy and Claire Redfield have their own campaigns. They generally play the same but they have different weapons to tackled the monstrosities. They specifically only have access to certain rooms, and

they encounter different side characters. Once to beat both of their first campaigns then their second campaigns unlock. The solution to puzzles does change, items are place differently and there are different endings.

If you plan to do just one playthrough, with one character then you are only doing yourself a disservice. On average, it would take five to six hours to complete. If you were to complete, unlock and attempt to do all the achievements and trophies, it would take a lot longer with about 20 hours to complete the cycle. The high replayability is a major reason why I, and others absolutely adore the game.

My only real gripe is that the zombies are obnoxiously hard to kill. When I shoot a zombie in the head, I expect it would only take one or two shots. It should not take five or more bullets to deal with the undead. On, higher difficulties it is ridiculous how many bullets it takes to take down one shambling zombie.

Also, I am disappointed that giant moths, spiders, and zombie crows were excluded from the game. I understand that the game designers are utilizing photorealistic technologies but I think no one would care if those enemies stand out like a sore thumb. I remember having the socks scared off of me in the original game when I first encountered the spiders and was looking forward in engaging in battle with those eight-legged beasts.

The photo-realism is fantastic but if it was to come at the expense of nostalgia of epic G-Virus monsters then it is not worth it. I don't play for the realism, but because I want to timidly battle fantastical chreatures.

Overall, this has been the best Resident Evil game in years. It is both a trip down nostalgia boulevard. The remake also shows the potential of future Resident Evil games because as great as Resident Evil 7 was, it was missing the charm that Resident Evil 2 provides. The charm was there, in all its beautiful gory glory.

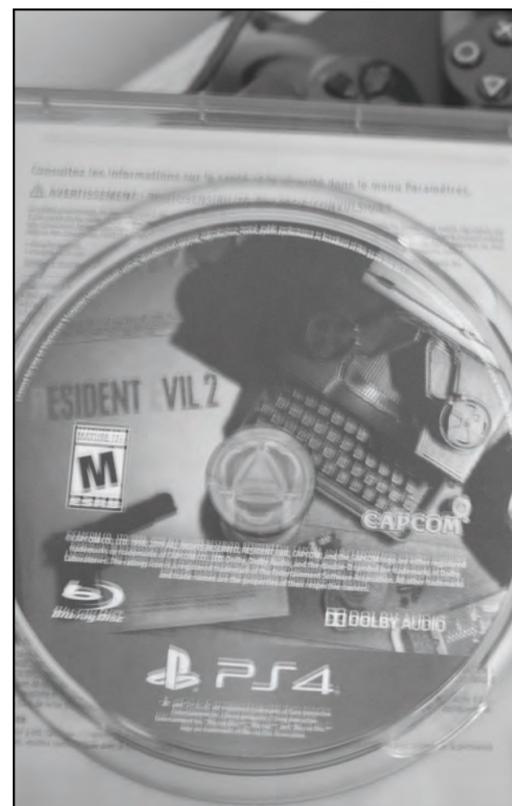


PHOTO | JACOB WARING

The game disc of *Resident Evil 2* for the PlayStation 4 game system.



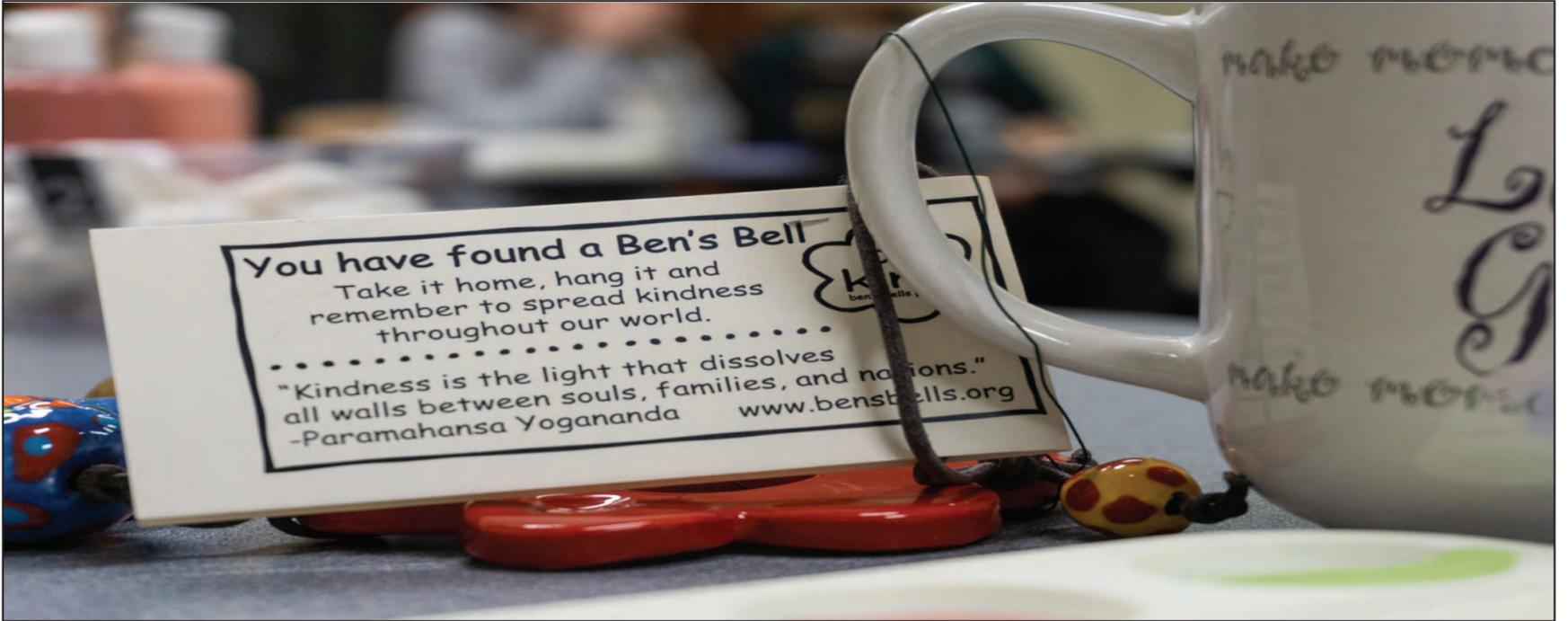
PHOTO | JACOB WARING

A screenshot of *Resident Evil 2* game-play.



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

The PlayStation 4 console, controllers and *Resident Evil 2* game disc.



One of the bells hung around Connecticut to spread kindness during the event on Jan. 28.

PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU

Love Your Melon spreads kindness in coins

By Jessica Guerrucci
Reporter

During their first meeting of the semester, the Love Your Melon campus crew got together to show how they can “be kind.”

On Monday, Jan. 28, the Love Your Melon crew, that works to help children with pediatric cancer, held their meeting where they painted kindness coins for Ben’s Bells to fulfill one of their badges. (maybe describe what Ben’s Bells does? I know it’s explained later but maybe ass a brief description--IM)

“Here at Southern, Love Your Melon is club and crew that advocates for the Love Your Melon brand and pediatric cancer,” said club secretary and early childhood education major, Caroline Adams. “We hold events and we collect badges through the events we hold to be able to raise money or do activities with kids with pediatric cancer that are

involved in the club.”

While they do not fundraise or promote the Love Your Melon products, Olivia Zembruski, who oversees public relations for the club and is an elementary education major, said they do events to promote pediatric cancer awareness. Painting the kindness coins for Ben’s Bells was just one of many things that they’ve done.

“We’re doing an event where we’re asking students to swab their mouth to go on the bone marrow donor registration list to see if they could possibly be a match to save a child’s life,” said Zembruski.

As for Ben’s Bells, Caroline Adams’s mother, Jane Adams, who works in the Ben’s Bells studio in Bethel, Connecticut, came in to explain to the group what Ben’s Bells is and how helping paint the kindness coins has an impact on others.

“It’s a non-profit organization that spreads intentional kindness and



Kindness coins being decorated by student at the Love Your Melon event.

PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU

education for intentional kindness in schools and free education for it,” said Caroline Adams. “Also, just to spread kindness around your community.”

Jane Adams said that she felt blessed to have

been hired by Ben’s Bells, and that she’s been there for two and a half years and still loves it.

“It was just amazing that I was hired to do this kind of work. I’ve done non-profit stuff in

the past, I always would volunteer, I’ve always done stuff with kids and all different ages, art-wise and education-wise, and it perfectly just fit,” said Jane Adams.

Caroline Adams said

the Kindness coins that the group was decorating would later be fired in a kiln and be sold in the studio in Bethel where people could buy them and pass them along to spread kindness.

“I feel like even though it’s such a small little thing, just making one charm, it’s part of such a large project, it makes my heart warm,” said Katie Brodeur, an early childhood education major.

With the message of Ben’s Bells being “be kind,” Leah Pearson, a special and elementary education major, said that being kind is something the whole group believes in and she likes the meaning behind the message.

“Honestly, I would love finding one of these little things around and it makes a big difference for some people,” said Deanna Dittrich, a nursing major. “I mean, say someone with a child who has cancer found one of these, it’s the little things that matter.”

Adam Levine wears guitar but does not play it

By Victoria Bresnahan
News Editor

The first few minutes of the halftime show consisted of Maroon 5’s front liner Adam Levine simply wearing his guitar, and not playing it.

The jumpsuit-like outfit he had on seemed out of a place, and so was the quietness of his voice for such a major concert performance. Levine opened the show with his 2002 hit song “Harder to Breathe,” which still seemed relevant and recognizable enough to the crowd.

Before rappers Big Boi, a Georgia native, and Travis Scott joined the band on stage, Levine made the half-time show slightly more exciting with his solo for the band’s successful 2002 hit song “This Love.” While short in time, Levine proved he could actually play the guitar. Having seen Maroon 5 twice in concert, their half-time

performance was nothing short of a disappointment in comparison. It was awkward looking and at some points the band looked confused as to how they got on stage. During their arguably most well-known song “She Will Be Loved,” lights appeared in the sky that spelled out “One Love.” While random in nature, this message seemed out of place and a cheap attempt to fix the controversy surrounding the NFL in recent years.

There was no exciting entrance—like Lady Gaga’s 2017 half-time performance—or musical presentation. However, “SpongeBob SquarePants” fans were in for a treat in a quick reference to the character in-between songs. In between Maroon 5 and Travis Scott’s performances, a scene from an iconic SpongeBob episode, “Band Geeks,” in which he and other members of a Bikini Bottom band play during the

halftime show for the Bubble Bowl, appeared on the screen. The small homage to the show, and possibly to its creator Stephen Hillenburg who died in November, should have led the band into playing “Sweet Victory” by David Glenn Easley—unfortunately, Travis Scott took over the stage instead. Having never listened to Scott or Big Boi before, I cannot comment on their performances.

However, all three performances seemed like a entirely separate concept. It seemed like one of the most random couplings of singers in recent Super Bowl shows. By the end, Levine had stripped off his shirt and sang the remaining of the show shirtless. It seemed acceptable for him to showcase his bare chest, but Janet Jackson’s clothing mishap in 2004, in which her nipple was revealed, led to a massive controversy. Think back to 2017 during

Gaga’s performance as well and how her exposed midriff was scrutinized by some on social media. Interesting how it is acceptable for male singers to perform in such a way, but women cannot. Either way, the double standard came off sour.

Overall, the performance seemed to be put together at the last minute. Moreover, the singers seemed weird singing next to each other. Big Boi’s classic rendition of “The Way You Move” was by far the most entertaining part of the show. Unfortunately, after he rolled up to the stage in a Cadillac convertible and to top it off only gave a short performance while being compared to Maroon 5’s multi song concert. In the future, the half-time show should feature bands or singers who not only have a huge following but can also look comfortable while performing in front of millions of viewers.



A song played at the Super Bowl LIII halftime show by Maroon 5.

PHOTO | AMANDA CAVOTO



PHOTO | WILLIAM ALIOU

Melanie Coleman, a sophomore, stands tall on the balance beam at the Yale

Owls set records at Yale invitational

**By Matt Gad
Sports Writer**

Last Saturday, at the fifth annual Don Tonry Invitational, the Owls came away with the highest team score in history, the best performance on the bars and a standout individual effort from several members of the squad.

They finished in third place, behind Bridgeport and Yale but ahead of Springfield College in their first meet since they defeated Springfield and Brockport at Moore Field House on Jan. 27th.

"This is a great stepping stone for us," coach Jerry Nelson said. "It's a great milestone for us but it's also a great stepping stone for the rest of the season. We've now laid the foundation for a team

that can break records as a full team and that is going to psych everybody up as we move forward."

Freshman Hannah Stahlbrodt continued the dominant start to her career, scoring the second-most points in the entire invitational behind her teammate and fellow freshman Cassidey Girolamo.

"The crowds of people really boosted up my confidence. It gets you into the meet," Stahlbrodt said.

Throughout the afternoon there was a lot of fan support in the seats as well as along the side railing. Mainly Yale fanatics showed up for Bridgeport, Springfield and the Owls, who have returned to the event continuously since its inception.

"It's very exciting. I'm super proud of my

team -- they really brought it back on bars," sophomore Cadi Borsellino said. "It wasn't our best meet -- we left some mistakes on the floor -- but you can't really do better than that."

The Owls' record-breaking score was 192.350. Bridgeport came away in first with 194.200 points, followed by Yale at 193.175.

"At practice we can work on the little mistakes, which is what we normally do, like straightening your knees, sticking more and that kind of thing. We need to work on our form breaks," Borsellino said.

On bars, Borsellino scored 9.85, which tied a 2009 program record and gave her the win on the event, while sophomore Morgan

Gatewood led the team on the balance beam, freshman Jordan Peloquin dominated in the floor exercise, senior co-captain Tiffany Coleman led in the vault and Borsellino and Stahlbrodt came in with first and second for the team, respectively, on the uneven parallel bars.

"I generally perform equally but more on floor. That's usually my main event but bars is up there too," Stahlbrodt said. "It's good to perform well over. Most of us do one or two events but I'm lucky enough to do all four."

She said competing in every event was hinted at as she was getting recruited but she knew it was something she had to work towards.

SEE GYMNASTICS PAGE 10

Loaded arsenal: Ives, Seaforth give Owls new identity

**By Hunter O. Lyle
Sports Editor
and Matt Gad
Sports Writer**

Former Division I guards Kealen Ives, the all-time leading scorer in Rhode Island's Classical High School history, and C.J. Seaforth, who starred at Hamden High, ended up transferring into the Owls' program prior to this season.

Ives, a senior point guard from at Rider University in New Jersey, and Seaforth, a shooting guard who spent his freshman year playing for Iona College in New Rochelle, N.Y., both loved the Division I game but wanted fresh starts and new opportunities.

"Rider was a fun experience, making it to the Division I level," Ives said. "But once I got there it didn't go as planned so when I came here [to Southern] it just motivated me to want to get better every day and want to perform."

Ives said he wanted to go a

school where he could maximize his opportunity on and off the court, and that if he went to another Division I school he would need to sit out a year before he could play, which is why while he was recruited by other schools in that division, he chose to come to a Division II program.

And while Ives was setting himself up for a better opportunity for his senior year, another Division I student-athlete also made the choice to transfer out.

"I asked for my release from Iona and a lot of schools were contacting me -- DI schools, DII, junior colleges; most of the teams in the NE-10," Seaforth said. "But then Coach Burrell and Coach Fogel started to call me the most and that's where we started off."

Ives, who grew up in Rhode Island, said he wanted to play for Burrell due to his resume in the NBA, while Seaforth on the other hand, who played high school basketball at Hamden High, Burrell's alma mater, wanted to play for his home town hero.

SEE MENS BASKETBALL PAGE 11



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWL.COM

Guard Kealen Ives, a senior, high fives team mate during game



PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Forward Allie Smith, a senior, plays defense in a pre-season game.

Smith steps up in light of crucial late season

**By Max Vadakin
Contributor**

In a season filled with injuries, senior forward Allie Smith is stepping up for her team, setting new career highs and helping her team secure victories.

Though the team has seen many of their players go down throughout the year, Smith believes that the team is learning to cope with their adversity.

"I think we're working it out.

I think each of us really stepped up and accepted our new responsibilities," said Smith.

For Smith, one of these responsibilities has been her increased role in her team's offensive system; breaking her own career high in points three times throughout the season while raising her average from 1.4 points per game the previous year to 6.3 points per game this season.

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PAGE 10

Spring time blues



By Matt Gad
Sports Writer

In the fall, football tends to be the top sport, and a lot of people get drawn to the stands at Jess Dow Field and root for the Owls. In the wintertime, Moore Field House has a large representation from the Blue Crew, especially during playoff time. But, the spring sports seem to get the short end of the stick.

Even if basketball is struggling, there's still some support from the campus community, specifically in the way of the student body. Football went 3-7 last year and it still seemed like the stands were at least half packed almost every weekend, but for baseball and softball, you basically get nothing.

If you see who's out on the hill overlooking Pelz Field or who's in the stands at The Ballpark, you aren't going to see too many fans. Yes, parents come, but in terms of student-athletes and the general body it's few and far between.

Sure, can you blame records? Partially, however, softball has been struggling for the past few years, so if you're a bit of an outsider to the team it may not really pull you in, and baseball seemed to hover around .500 most of the year with an incomplete bullpen, but even so, people haven't come out.

If one of the basketball teams has a home NE-10 playoff game you're gonna get a tremendous amount of respect -- the Blue Crew will come up with a plan to increase fan support and people are going to be talking about it in Conn Hall, especially in a victory. It's just a topic of conversation, and they have a lot of support but the spring's two naturally strong spectator sports don't gauge much interest.

Even with baseball and softball in the postseason, I can't see the Blue Crew showing up. Can I see The Ballpark or Pelz Field rocking with excitement? Not really. Yes, I haven't been around for any baseball or softball playoffs, but from what I've experienced at those venues there's no live support from the campus community.

There's just no fun associated with these sports, which is funny because Major League Baseball isn't unpopular in the country. So why are baseball players and enthusiasts not showing up to The Ballpark or having knowledge of the team's state? The case is just mind-boggling that only football and basketball seem to get much love by the non-student athletes.

If we were to go up to students on campus, without any prior knowledge of who they are or what they're into, I think there's a pretty good shot they may know more about the new academic science building or when an event at Lyman is taking place than the record of one of our athletic teams. Low student attendance, lack of school sports discussed on campus and the fact that the executive administration and The Office of Student Life only seems to know and mention what's going on in regard to athletics round playoff time, specifically when it's a deeper game than just from the NE10 Tournament -- it's all there and it's all a reality.



Avery Fornaciari, a junior, competes in the butterfly stroke.

PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Swimming and Diving focus on mental, physical preparations towards season end

By Hunter O. Lyle
Sports Editor

With the NE-10 Conference championships just about a week away, the men and women's swimming and diving team look to take their 14th banner in 16 years.

In the realm of pools and chlorine, Southern holds high honors in the NE-10 as well as around the country. Currently, the program boasts 13 NE-10 Championship titles, as well as 18 national championships through ten events.

Head coach for both the men and women's swimming and diving team Tim Quill who has been coaching at Southern for over 20 years and has collected 23 NE-10 Coach of the Year awards said that while he is happy with the team's performance over the regular season, he and the rest of the team have been totally focused on the end-game.

"The season's going great, but everything will be determined in a week and a half," said Quill. "We're a team that thinks about the season culminating event, which is the conference championship."

At the start of the season, the team had a nine new freshman faces. Junior swimmer Avery Fornaciari said the incoming youth has added to the team as they break out of their shells and start to compete.

"[The freshmen have developed] very well. They've come a long way," said Fornaciari. "When they first came in they were all pretty shy, a little hesitant. I feel like they've really adapted with the upperclassmen really well, and I feel like they've all really grown into the team."

Fornaciari said that since their training regimen has gotten "intense", including more early practices, weight-lifting and sprints, the whole team has become more dedicated to the sport over the season.

"Definitely this is the hardest working team we've had since I've been here," said Fornaciari. "Everybody's been really pushing new limits and we've been doing different hype activities every day, like today everybody had to bring in motivational quotes. Everybody's getting really excited."

As the NE-10 Championships grow closer, which take place over three and a half consecutive days in Worcester, Mass., the team's training switches from diverse and acute training to more of mental preparations and physical restoration said Quill.

"These athletes are training 20 hours a week, swimming up to nine different work outs in a week, including water and dry land strength training, swimming [around] 40 to 50 miles a week in the height of the season," said Quill. "Now we're probably around one third of that, maybe getting down to one quarter. Now we are resting, we want the body to rest and prepare for their three

best individual events and relays."

Senior swimmer Drew Dantino said the last stretch of the season is the toughest for himself since it's his last opportunity to be a part of the team.

"It is for sure bitter sweet," said Dantino. "I mean, I love swimming, that's why I do it still. The practices get grueling, so in that aspect, I look forward to not having to come in twice a day and give it my all, but it's definitely going to be sad. I'm going to miss it."

Dantino, a four-year swimmer who has competed in the championships before, also said the best preparation the team can do is just to rely on the training and skills they've learned over the season.

"I think that the biggest thing would probably be to stay calm, stay relaxed. Think clearly and just focus on all that we've done this year and not to get too anxious and too excited," said Dantino. "Swim well."

Men's basketball

continued from Page 9

Burrell, who assisted the current UConn assistant coach Tom Moore while he was running the Quinnipiac program, said his former program recruited both Seaforth and Ives when they were both starting their respective college debuts after high school.

"I recruited them both when I was at Quinnipiac but it wasn't my decision to take them or not," Burrell said. "I've seen those guys play for a long time and once I knew they were leaving [their schools] it was my chance to reach out and try to put my hat in the ring."

He did say, though, that he thinks it's tougher for Ives since he's here for just one year while Seaforth, a sophomore, will be able to grow as a player.

Burrell said that while Ives has developed over the season, it may be tougher for him since he only has one year to mesh with the team's system, while Seaforth will be able to grow over the next few years.

"I think it's tough for Kealen. He's here for one year, but he fit in from day one though, because he was assertive, and being one of the leaders for our team," said

Burrell. "C.J. is a younger guy. I think he was a little more unsure of himself, and he still might be, but he's young. He's going to grow and get better. They both got better, I think, as the year went on."

Seaforth said he didn't "know [Ives] specifically" but that he knew him through Iona via scouting reports when they had to play games against Rider and when they went over the matchups.

But there was no plan beforehand for both of them to team up together for the Owls; it was all just coincidental.

"It just worked out," Seaforth said. "When we first met we just connected right off the bat. I push him, he pushes me and we've been through a lot, we've seen a lot. We don't know everything but we've seen a lot of things other players don't know and we just put it together."



Guard C.J. Seaforth (above), a sophomore, in a game against Bentley. Guard Kealen Ives (below), a senior, prepares for a free throw.

PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM



Coaches, athletes like NFL Pro Bowl, want continued

By Matt Gad
Sports Reporter

Other than the Super Bowl, we recently experienced the NFL's Pro Bowl, where the league's top players get voted in by the fans for an action-packed game down in Orlando, Fla.

While some football fans cherish the opportunity to watch their favorite players, others have called the game obsolete and an offensive showcase.

According to a 2018 study conducted by Statista, a leading provider of market and consumer data, besides the 2018 Pro Bowl, the event had suffered a six million viewer decline over seven consecutive years.

Assistant sports management professor Kevin McGinniss, who belongs to the former group, looks at the event from a more business point-of-view.

"[The Pro Bowl] is very worthwhile," McGinniss said. "The NFL made a good decision moving the game to a week before the Super Bowl and, in all

due respect to Hawaii, moving the game to the mainland and in a more densely populated area such as Orlando."

Over the past several years, the league has toyed with some changes to try to increase the game's viewership, including getting rid of the AFC vs. NFC format and appointing two players captain, similar to the new style of NBA All-Star weekend. The two opposing squads are then picked and put into primetime on a Saturday night. However, as of late, they've opened for a more traditional route: returning to the classic AFC vs. NFC matchup again in a 3 p.m. game the Sunday before the Super Bowl.

"It's a good event which reaches out to the teams and their players. It's starting to become less and less of a game and more of a sideshow, a little, but they enjoy it," Southern football coach Tom Godek said. "You get to see some of the personalities you may not know on Sundays and Monday nights and stuff."

This year's game wasn't

much in the way of offensive fireworks, with the AFC taking it 26-7, but there have been times in the past where the game's final score has been up there.

Godek said he doesn't watch much NFL football during the season because he's busy with his own program and he was not able to watch this year's edition since they're in recruiting season. He said he hasn't thought much about the game's actual state, but suggested it might be better in a more traditional slot during the season, like how many leagues have their All-Star festivities at the midway point.

"Just thinking about it maybe you have it during the bye week, an extra week off during the season," he said.

Recently, the NFL has added some extra events on that weekend to try to drum up some more entertainment with the Pro Bowlers and their fans, namely a dodgeball showdown between superstar players from each conference.

"There's a lot of youth and star power -- a lot of rookies

and second-year players," senior wide receiver Earl Myers said. "It's cool to see the best of the best play in the game. It's more so the accolade of making it to the Pro Bowl, though. It's a tremendous goal and getting to the Pro Bowl is a checklist and a nice little holiday for the players."

Other than players being selected to various Division II All-Star games by the league after one's college career ends, the Owls don't really have a Pro Bowl-type of environment. The most closely-linked opportunity would be what they call "Thursday Night Football," when the program lets the younger crop of talent on their roster -- specifically freshmen -- go against each other in a multi-squad matchup.

"For the most part, the season is just about focus and paying attention to our opponent for the week but after the season we have a freshman showcase," Myers said. "It gives us a chance to watch the freshmen and the redshirts who don't get any playing time."

Owls face do-or-die



By Hunter O. Lyle
Sports Editor

Attention all Southern basketball fanatics: with the end of the regular season just under a month away, as both teams battle for an entry ticket to the playoffs, the most exciting basketball of the season is coming to a field house near you.

The NE-10 conference playoffs start on Mar. 1, so that only leaves six games, all of which are conference matchups, to settle who gets to play for a banner and who goes home.

Currently, the men and women's team sit in the top three slots of the Southwest division. The men, who hold a conference record of 9-5, are second in the division, just behind rival University of New Haven, who also have a 9-5 record. The women, on the other hand, have a 6-8 record within the NE-10, sitting third in the Southwest division behind Le Moyne College and the University of New Haven - in that order.

The top 10 teams in the conference get chosen for a chance to play for a NE-10 championship, with the top five getting those ever so sought-after home court advantages.

The men are in amidst a three-way tie with Merrimack and UNH for the second-best record, only behind Saint Anselm who has accumulated an impressive 12-2 record. The women have an even tighter race, currently tying with four other teams for the seventh best record.

The reason the last stretch of the season is going to be the most lively and interesting basketball is due to the fact that nothing is certain, and that means both teams might need to give everything they have.

With both leagues being so close, every game is crucial, and in previous interviews, both basketball teams have expressed that.

So here's what's coming up:

On Feb. 6, the men and women take on long-time conference rival UNH, which is going to be a very interesting game. The last time the Chargers played the Owls, both teams lost, with the men only falling by three points.

After that game, which is going to be played on the road, Southern has a two-game home stand, where they face the College of Saint Rose and American International College on Feb. 9 and Feb. 12.

Then, quick trip out to New York, playing Le Moyne and Adelphi, puts the Owls back at home for their final game against Pace University.

The NE-10 Conference playoffs are coming up quickly, only 22 suspenseful days left, both teams have a shot to make a run.

Injuries have struck the men and women's team late in the season, but some key players like C.J. Seaforth and Kealan Ives for the men, and Allie Smith for the women, have proven that the teams have depth, and are willing to go all out for a chance to bring home a banner.

Women's Basketball

continued from Page 9

Head Coach Kate Lynch attributes Smith's breakout performances to her phenomenal work ethic.

"That's just Allie. She's one of our hardest workers. She's here before practice shooting and she'll be the last one to leave," said Lynch. "I remember telling [the team] about 2 years ago that you need to work on your range. Allie came in the next summer and she was knocking down 35 footers."

Senior forward Erin Ryder has come to expect these exceptional performances from Smith, especially as the season starts to grind towards its end.

"Same things we've been expecting from her, big games on the offensive side, but also on the defensive side doing whatever coach needs

her to do for us to be able to win," said Ryder.

While Smith remains confident in her newfound role on the team, she says the transition and progression hasn't necessarily been an easy one.

"It's definitely changed a lot. Now I've had to step up as a scorer and back up all our other players," said Smith. "The previous three years I had been coming off the bench doing the little things defensively, not really having to worry about the offensive end."

However, Smith is no stranger to hard work. The senior biology major is a double athlete, playing on the Southern women's soccer team as well.

"It's a lot of time management," said Smith. "But nothing too crazy, both the coaching staffs are really good about it."

Coaching staffs are noticing the hard work and dedication Smith has been putting in as well.

"She was probably one on the quiet side when she first

came in, but she's had some good leaders that have come before her that she's looked up to," said Lynch. "As soon as her senior year started, she was always that person to take that step up and lead by example. She's grown in a lot of ways, but most importantly she's a great teammate and a great young lady."

Smith's emergence as a leader has been felt by coaching staffs and teammates alike.

"She'll get on you when you're not doing what you're supposed to, she'll say good job when you're doing a good job," said Ryder. "She'll make sure you're doing what you have to do to be the best this team can be."

Smith is looking to take her intensity and leadership forward with her through her graduation and beyond. She plans to come back for graduate school and continue to play soccer for a fifth collegiate year.

All in all, Lynch only had one way to describe Smith's stay here at Southern.

"She's killing it," said Lynch.



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Forward Allie Smith (above), a senior, during an exhibition game against UConn earlier this season.



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Forward Allie Smith, a senior, plays defense against Bentley on Jan. 26.

"She's killing it,"
- Kate Lynch, head coach

Gymnastics

Continued from Page 9

At the first home meet of the year, Stahlbrodt broke a 2009 all-around score record for her combined performance of that afternoon in every event. She came away in first on bars and in the floor routine, finished second on the balance beam and fifth in vault.

She is one of seven freshmen on this year's team, which trails the sophomore class of 14 student-athletes for the largest group on the team.

"They're clicking as a group and not taking one mistake and turning it into two," Nelson said. "They're helping each other compete and hit and you can

feel it out there."

Saturday the team will face another trio-meet in Providence, R.I. with Brown, Springfield and Rhode Island College, their first of two straight weeks competing against Springfield College, with a dual against them coming Feb. 17th.

"We're gonna work all week to clean up our gymnastics and go from there," Borsellino said.

After going against Springfield on the 17th, the team heads to Philadelphia for a meet with Temple and West Chester Feb. 22nd and then has a March 1st meet with Towson and Bridgeport in Maryland.

"Our best competition is ahead of us," Nelson said. "A lot of Division I's."



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

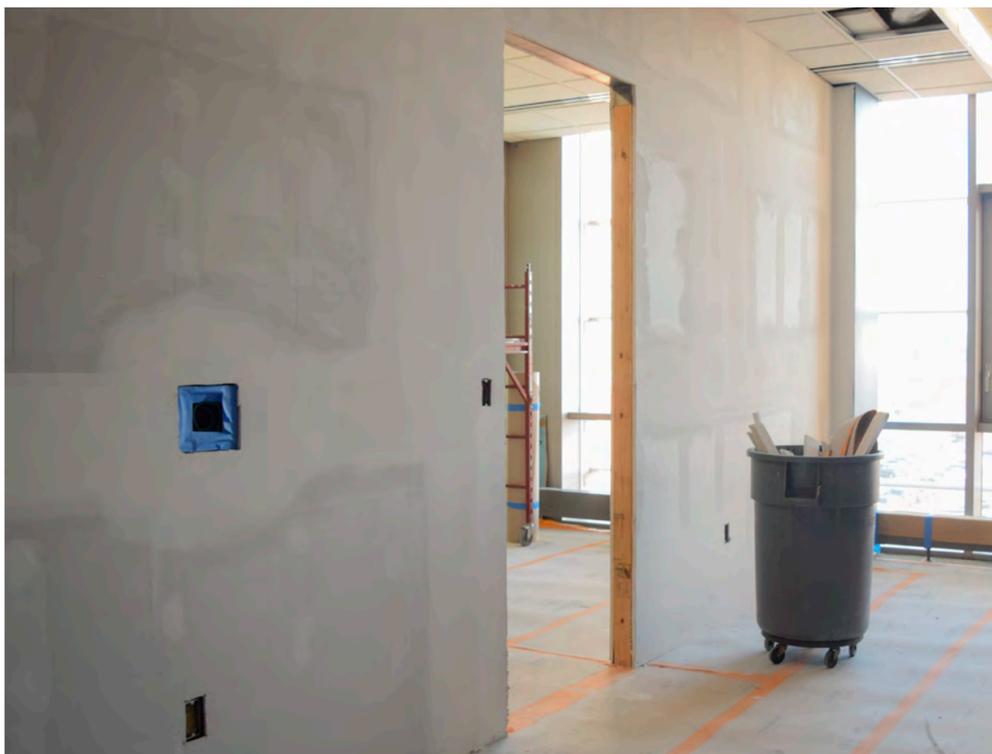
Cardi Borsellino, a sophomore, competing at Yale.

PHOTO

A campus under construction



Renovation on the northwest corner of Schwartz Residence Hall.



Fourth floor Hilton C. Buley Library reading room, being remodeled for use as office space.



East side of Barack H. Obama magnet school, under development.



PHOTOS | AUGUST PELLICCI

North corner of the Barack H. Obama Magnet School, pictured with construction workers beginning roofing process early in the morning in freezing temperatures.



New solar panel installations in the "dog leg" parking lot behind Brownell Residence Hall.



Back of the Barack H. Obama Magnet School seen from Fitch Street.



Piping was delivered for the burst steam line on campus last week. Now the area is fenced off.



Ground being leveled adjacent the Barack H. Obama Magnet School.