



Students perform at open mic
Page 4



Spring Involvement Fair
Page 5



Owls vs. Assumption University
Page 6

SOUTHERN NEWS

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Stir fry station opens on campus

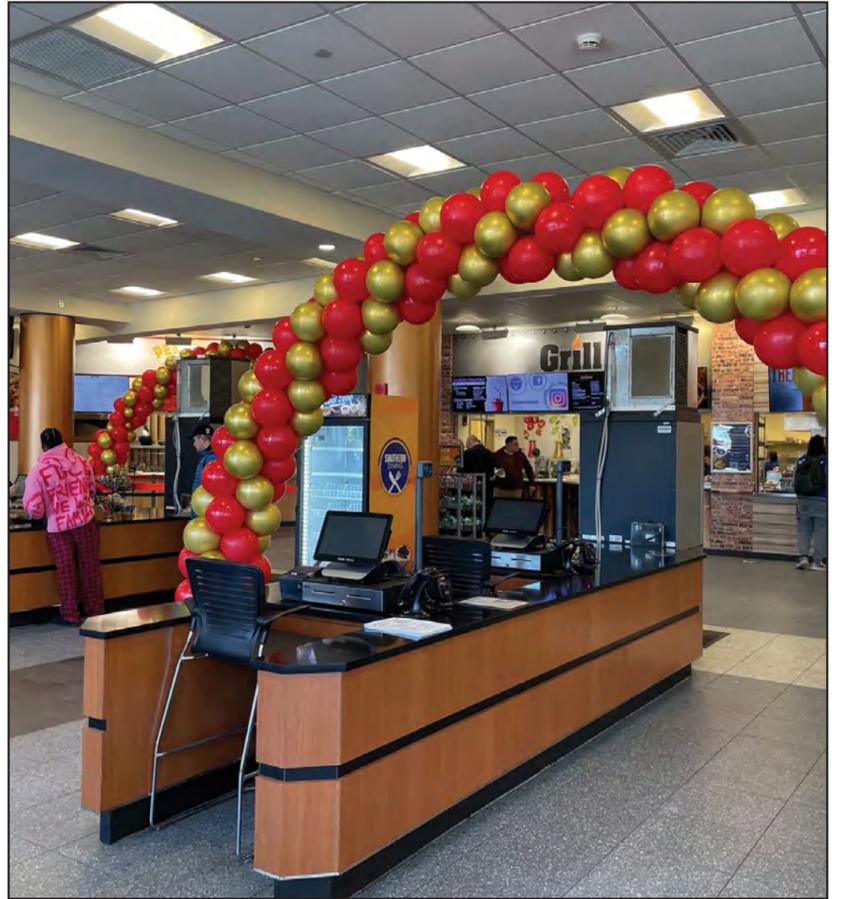
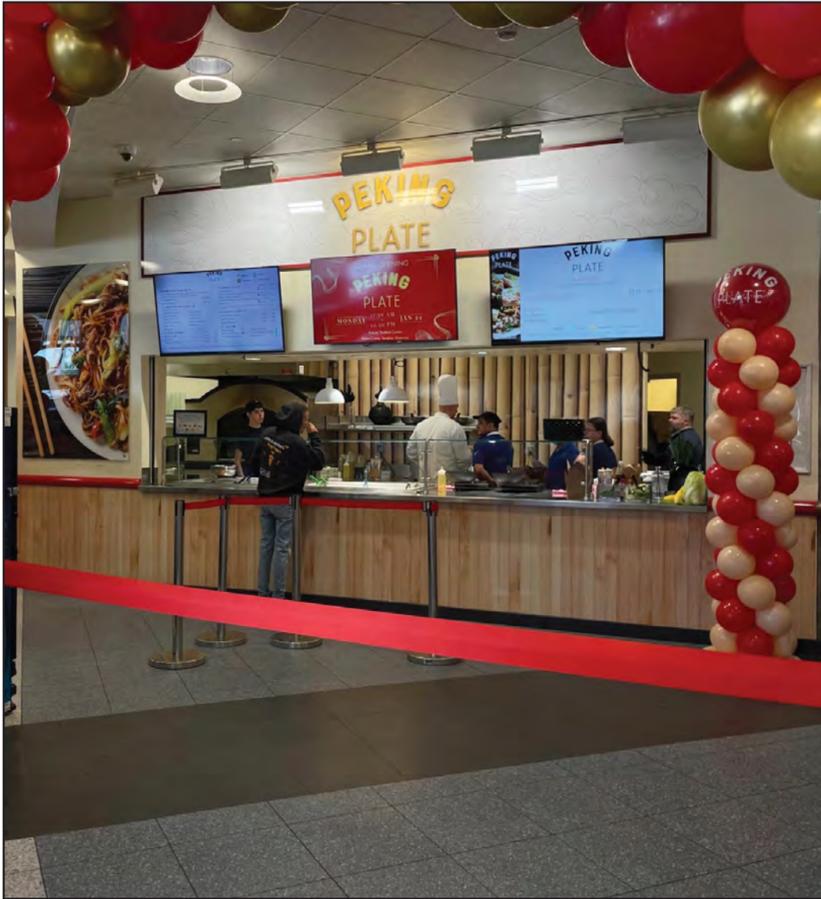


PHOTO | JAY'MI VAZQUEZ

The opening day for “Peking Plate” with decorations and balloons at the Adanti Student Center Food Court on Monday Jan. 22.

By Solé Scott
Features Editor

Along with a new year and semester, students now have a new place to get food on campus.

When students enter the Adanti Student Center Food Court, they will be met with a new food station called “Peking Plate.”

Nursing major Kendrick Lagamoia, a freshman, is a student worker at the food court in the Adanti Student Center who has worked at every station.

“I worked at the new food station,” Lagamoia said. “I actually have had it and think it is good.”

The station offers Asian cuisine that includes fresh pre-cut vegetables such as carrots and cabbage. Students have the choice of picking between three proteins over noodles or rice and three sauces drizzled over the meal.

“Pretty simple: you just pick your vegetables and then your protein, base and sauce,” Lagamoia said.

Senior Director of Conferences, Events and Student Affairs Auxiliaries Robert Demezzo helped bring this idea to fruition.

“About a year ago, I attended the Board of Student Engagement. We were talking about

food, what they liked, what they did not like,” Demezzo said.

Psychology major Leticia Asante, a freshman, has tried the food at “Peking Plate.”

“I ordered pepper, carrots, rice, spring onions, chicken with sweet and sour sauce, which was so-so,” Asante said.

Students who have a full meal plan can use their two away meal swipes at “Peking Plate.”

If anyone is wondering where the Kiwibots are, do not be alarmed. They are still on campus; however, they have moved to Connecticut Hall, which will be their

home base.

“There was a station called ‘Bowful,’ but it was not very popular with students, so it got closed. Then we were using it for Kiwibot deliveries, and that actually seemed like a waste of space,” Demezzo said.

“Peking Plate” had their grand opening on Monday, Jan. 22 in the Adanti Student Center at 11:30 a.m. with samplings of food and giveaways.

“I want to give SGA the credit for the idea, and it’s actually a really good one. Personally, it’s actually good food,” Demezzo said.

“Peking Plate” is similar to the hibachi grill

at Connecticut Hall, just with a wider variety of food.

“I wish they had fried egg, and it would taste good,” Asante said.

The new addition comes as the university is trying to minimize expenses for the betterment of students.

“I do not know the final cost of it, but we had written a proposal to Sodexo to help us fund that,” Demezzo said.

“We actually did receive all the funding from Sodexo.”

The university is making food changes as more students offer suggestions for their wants and needs.

“We are talking to our Sodexo partners about doing different promotions and different things here,” Demezzo said. “Last year, we actually moved to a better hamburger. We were like: we need a thicker hamburger!”

Check out “Peking Plate” in the Adanti Student Center Food Court which is open Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. through 10 p.m. and 11 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on Friday.

“Connecticut Hall has more variety, Student Center has the same menu every day, so by adding this, it just adds even more options,” Demezzo said.

Owls react to Blackboard’s update to Blackboard Ultra

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

Spring semester is in the air! This means new classes, new students and a new sports season. There is one thing that was not on these Owls’ list of reinventions. Lo and behold, Blackboard welcomed Owls back with a whole new look.

Blackboard is the top global provider of educational technology for K-12 and higher education. The majority of the university’s professors utilize the website to post assignments, quizzes and more. During winter break, the website had a whole new makeover that students did not expect to see.

Sports management major Tyvonn Thompson, a sophomore, said that he was surprised to see the new update.

“My exact words were ‘oh this is new,’ but I liked the new look,” Thompson

said.

Despite the surprise, Blackboard’s new look was not a disappointment. Psychology major Antasia Anderson, a freshman, said that Blackboard Ultra has its perks.

“I really like the way it looked,” Anderson said. “It’s more accessible and easier to navigate.”

With these new additions, Anderson said that this can help to benefit her as a student.

“Since I’m able to see all my grades at once from each class, this can help me to stay on track,” Anderson said.

Along with the website’s new homepage that includes the university’s personalization feature, it also has additional tabs to organize multiple categories.

Located on the left side of the screen, users can access their activity stream, calendar, grades,

organizations and more.

Due to these features, students have favorable comments about the new organization.

“I can see things more clearly by everything being more upfront,” Thompson said. “The old Blackboard required a lot of searching and clicking to find what you’re looking for.”

In fact, many students were in favor of Blackboard Ultra instead of its previous look. One of these students is sociology major with a concentration in criminology Te’Asiah Jones, a freshman.

“I don’t like the old version because it had all of the courses and everything lined up back-to-back,” Jones said.

Despite some students being in favor of the update due to its easier accessibility, others had opposing opinions. Early childhood

education major Priscilla Adebambo, a sophomore, said that the new update made the website confusing.

“It just made me realize that with a new semester, I have to figure out how to find my assignments on top of doing them,” Adebambo said. “I think that it’s so weird that they would do that mid-year.”

The new structure can be difficult to follow, especially for students that were acquainted with the former layout. Though, Blackboard is paired with instructions to help students navigate its updated appearance.

While Owls’ opinions are split regarding Blackboard’s new update, the new look will surely take some adjusting.

“I feel like if I get to know this one, I will like it because it looks nice, but you know the old Blackboard is just familiar,” Adebambo said.

Protestors disrupt meeting in Adanti

By Jay’Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

While winter vacation continued for most students, the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce Regional Legislative Breakfast was held in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom and disrupted by a pro-Palestine protest.

On Jan. 10, a group of 10 protestors chanted when Governor Ned Lamont took the podium to address the audience of 250 guests.

Director of Integrated Communications and Marketing Patrick Dilger said Lamont’s speech topic was Connecticut’s economic outlook on challenges and opportunities for the Greater New Haven business community.

However, when the protestors disrupted Lamont, University Police escorted them out in about five minutes.

“The disruption

was unnerving to some attendees. While Southern upholds the right to freedom of expression, we do not condone this type of disruptive activity,” Interim President Dwayne Smith said.

Dilger confirmed that none of the protestors were charged with anything.

“While this protest was vocal, it was peaceful – no one’s safety was threatened,” Dilger said.

To ensure student and faculty safety, University Police and Student Affairs staff have a presence at public events to respond to any disturbances.

“This will certainly not be the last such protest and disruption on college campuses,” Smith said. “We will continue to evaluate and improve our security measures.”

If anyone has more information on the protest, please email fernanda2@southernct.edu.

OA recruitment hosts 'Break the Ice' event

By Brianna Wallen
News Editor

The start of spring semester means new beginnings; however, for these Owls, spring means new opportunities to get involved.

On Thursday, Jan. 25, Room 201 in the Adanti Student Center was filled with eager students ready to jump into unexplored waters.

The organizers of this event hosted an Orientation Ambassador, OA, info session called "Break The Ice." This allowed students to learn firsthand what it takes to be an OA.

The OA position is a paid position that encompasses a variety of tasks. Biology major Nico Lastrina, a sophomore, was an OA for 2023. He said that his summer consisted of detailed training to prepare him for his new journey.

"We started off with about 13 days of training. We had almost every office come in, and we learned how to actually run the session," Lastrina said.

After training, Lastrina and the other OAs embarked on their job once the Class of 2027 stepped onto campus.

Many of the first years who were participants in orientation were audience members in the information session. One of the interested students was nursing major Medjina Joseph, a freshman.

Joseph said that she

attended the information session because she believed being an OA would suit her personality.

"I'm very open-minded, and I'm very social, so I thought this would be a best fit for me," Joseph said.

Her orientation experience also inspired her to want to take up the role.

"I met a lot of people, so that was a good, like, experience coming into the school because I came in the fall and had people that I knew," Joseph said.

While Joseph had a positive experience at her orientation, other students had a negative one. Despite the different experiences, they both had the same goal.

Healthcare studies major with a minor in Spanish Kalangi Pedro, a sophomore, said that by being a transfer student, her orientation had limited interaction. This prompted her to want to become an OA, trying to provide the full experience that she did not receive.

"My orientation was like three hours long, and they only gave me a tour," Pedro said. "I felt like that was a waste of my day because I could figure that out on my own. I wanted to know what's available at Southern."

With an alternative orientation session, Pedro said that it was not helpful for information that she was interested in. Similarly, OA Lastrina was also inspired



PHOTO | BRIANNA WALLEN

Current OAs leading the information session in the Adanti Student Center Room 201 on Jan. 25.

due to having a poor orientation.

"I really looked at my session and said that I think I know how to make it better," Lastrina said.

Lastrina did just that by putting in the effort to ensure that his orientation was beneficial to incoming freshmen.

"I think I achieved that very well during my first semesters in a way, so I think we were successful in that plan," Lastrina said.

The potential OAs can fulfill their wishes in the 2024 orientation. With more information sessions coming, more students will have the opportunity to attend. Applications open on Wednesday, Jan. 31.



PHOTO | BRIANNA WALLEN

Nursing majors Simone Dwyer and Medjina Joseph, freshmen, at the information session.

Add/drop class period could have a two week extension

By Brandon Cortes
General Reporter

The add/drop class policy could be extended for up to two weeks thanks to a proposal drafted and submitted by Registrar Alicia Carroll to the Faculty Senate. Some universities throughout Connecticut have already extended the deadline to add or drop a course to two weeks, with the university being one of those which has not yet done so.

In addition to extending the duration to two weeks, a notable change in the course withdrawal process is that students will no longer require the dean's approval; instead, the department chairperson's permission will suffice.

"Students will also no longer be required to demonstrate extraordinary circumstances too," Carroll said. "Things like financial aid won't be affected, and students will no longer receive a 'W' grade in the second week if they drop the course from their schedule."

Carroll suggests that this change can offer significant advantages to students.

Nonetheless, it is advisable for students to engage in open conversations with their instructors, discussing the potential consequences of withdrawing from a course, especially during the second week of classes.

This proactive communication ensures that students are well-informed about the implications and can make informed decisions regarding their academic choices.

Biology major Santi Arounsack-Colon,



PHOTO | JAY MI VAZQUEZ

First Year Experience Office located in Engleman Hall Room C105.

a junior, expressed curiosity about the shift to a two-week period, noting that it appears to be a change that could positively impact the academic experiences of students. He said that one week is often not enough for students to fully get used to a class.

"What is the time frame for an average class? One to two hours a day? That means that is three and a half hours a week," Arounsack-Colon said.

Arounsack-Colon mentioned that for classes that meet two to three times a week, many teachers do not even cover the real material until the second week.

This makes the one-week timeframe quite tight, and having two weeks could really help students get a better handle on the course before deciding whether to drop it.

"That is just not enough time for students to get familiarized with the class and decide if they should stay or get out of there," Arounsack-Colon said.

However, it is important to note that this is just a proposal, and nothing has been decided yet since it is a long process that can take months to reach a final decision.

The proposal was submitted by Carroll to Faculty Senate President

Natalie Starling, who then assigned it to a subcommittee of the Faculty Senate for review.

Carroll said that if the subcommittee are in support or have additional changes, they will prepare a resolution of the revised policy to be voted on by the full Faculty Senate. If approved, the resolution will be forwarded to Interim President Dwayne Smith for review and approval or denial.

"This is the last step in the approval process," Carroll said. "If it gets approved, then we would hopefully implement this change by next fall."

Upcoming events

The Thrifty Owl

North Campus Midrise will host a thrift event with free living supplies for students. The Thrifty Owl will be open Wednesdays 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Life and Legacy of Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Brunch

The University is hosting a brunch to commemorate Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Award winning speaker, and author Dr. Jamila Lyiscott will be speaking. Students can attend on Thursday, Feb. 1 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom.

Beaver Brook Cleanup

The Office of Sustainability will be hosting work sessions to help clean the local park and maintain a green space. These work sessions take place Friday Feb. 2 and 9 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Black History Month Liberation Table

The School of Business is hosting a Black History Month Liberation Table for students and family to attend. For \$12, attendees will get a traditional African meal and reflect on Black history. Attendees must pre-register.

Buley Art Gallery hosts the works of Dimitri Petrov

The Buley Art Gallery will be hosting pieces by surrealist artist Dimitri Petrov. The gallery is open Monday-Thursday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will be displaying these works until March 21.

If you want to promote an event, please email Editor-in-Chief Ali Fernand at fernanda2@southernct.edu.

School of Business releases new podcast

By Solé Scott
Features Editor

The School of Business has launched a podcast called "Beyond The Bubble" that is hosted by an undergraduate student, finance major Preston Baldwin, a senior.

Launched just last semester, the podcast is about what students can expect from employers in the workforce after they graduate.

Baldwin is the host of the newly launched podcast available on Spotify.

"We hope to gain knowledge and hear from people who have just recently graduated from college or in the workforce after college and listen to their advice," Baldwin said.

Jerry Brennan is an alumnus of the university and created the "Beyond The Bubble" podcast.

"I graduated back in 1976 from the School of Business, and a little over five years ago, I had some time and said I want to go back to Southern and give back," Brennan said.

The podcast is advertised by flyers and QR codes that are placed around campus.

"I held leadership positions both in for profit world and nonprofit world," Brennan said.

Patty Conte is the

internship coordinator for the School of Business.

"At the end of last semester, Dean Jess asked me to slightly shift my roles, so I will be sharing my roles this semester with a success coach," Baldwin, Brennan and Conte are pushing for more students to tune in to gain insight into the real world.

"The podcast work is considered part of alumni work because we are going to be helping students move beyond education and into the alumni world," Conte said.

The first episode was released Nov. 8, 2023, and it is about what recruiters are looking for by having a firsthand account from a campus recruiting specialist.

Each episode is 20 minutes or less.

"A southern student asks questions as they look beyond school and says can you tell me how you got your job and what are the key insights," Brennan said.

There is another podcast called "Power Up To Success" which is currently in the process of being recorded.

"The podcast is about alumni speaking to executives around how did you get there and what do you recommend for us now," Brennan said.

"Power to Success" is



The flyer for the new "Beyond The Bubble" podcast that is released on Spotify.

the sequel to students getting a job, and the journey it takes to be where they want to be as they progress through the workforce.

"Beyond The Bubble" is about how to start your career.

The podcast is not just for students who major in business, but for anyone that is interested in gaining knowledge and

insight after graduating from college.

"Really helpful for students to understand these real-life perspectives," Brennan said.

Baldwin not only hosts the conversation but also edits the episodes.

"Jerry approached me with this idea, and he wanted me to help with all the editing process and potentially be a part of the

podcast series," Baldwin said.

This series can be a tool for students to get accustomed to life after college.

"I hope to gain the same thing everybody hopes to gain, and it's just knowledge and hearing from people who have just recently graduated college and hopefully use it to my advantage," Baldwin said.

Golden Globe nominated 'Poor Things' review

By Ali Fernand
Editor in Chief

"Poor Things" is a critically acclaimed movie released on Dec. 8, 2023, starring Emma Stone who plays Bella Baxter. Despite being out for less than two months, the movie has already won awards for phenomenal acting and storytelling.

It is hard to define the genre of this movie. The world built in "Poor Things" feels like a different planet. The skies are full of bright colors, and the architecture is reminiscent of an older era of London.

The concept of the movie is based on science fiction as Dr. Godwin Baxter, played

by icon Willem Dafoe, performs experimental surgery on humans and animals. Bella Baxter is one of these human experiments. This brings up the overarching theme of the movie, which is female autonomy.

Before becoming Bella Baxter, the previous owner of this body was named Victoria, who took her own life during a tough pregnancy. Dr. Baxter then lobotomizes Victoria and replaces her brain with the brain of the baby she was carrying.

The character of Bella Baxter brings a fascinating perspective to life. As the viewer, you see an adult with the brain of a child learn

about the world around her. She skips essential childhood experiences and is thrust into adulthood without any preparation.

There is the whimsy of seeing life for the first time: going outside, trying different foods and learning how big the world is. However, we also see Bella learn the horrors of the world. There is a moment when she sees poverty and suffering for the first time. Her first instinct is to help them.

The viewer also watches an adult woman quickly learn about her sexuality, which the men who meet her quickly take advantage of. Bella is unsurprisingly easy to take advantage of, as

she is understandably curious about her body and what pleasure is like.

This leads Duncan Wedderburn, played by Mark Ruffalo, to become completely enamored with her. But as you can imagine, he is driven insane by Bella's cluelessness about social norms. She has no concept of monogamy or general politeness, making some believe she is the devil.

Though the movie contains a lot of adult content, it feels earned in this context. Every man in Bella's previous and current life has been trying to control her. They treat her like property and tell her

that is what she is to them. There is a moment when she is desperate for money and quickly falls prey to adult work. She soon learns that a lot of the men enjoy that she does not return their interest in her.

Watching a grown woman go through basic experiences for the first time puts into perspective how odd some social norms are in the first place.

Many women are accustomed to the entitlement men feel over them. However, with a fresh brain, Bella realizes that autonomy is necessary, pleasure is not always fulfilling and what makes a relationship worth having.

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Emma Stone as the lead character, Bella Baxter, in the film.

'All is Yellow' album review

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

Music Videographer and Director Cole Bennett of Lyrical Lemonade released his first studio album titled "All is Yellow" on Jan. 26.

Celebrating Lyrical Lemonade's 10th anniversary, the project is compiled of 14 tracks, featuring 34 artists, some of whom Bennett has worked with in the past.

Although Bennett himself does not make music, it was exciting for listeners to hear a project compiled by a videographer who is deeply involved within the culture.

Once released, "All is Yellow" was an interesting experience.

Some previously released tracks were on the album like "Fallout" featuring Gus Dapperton, Lil Yachty and Joey Bada\$\$, "Guitar in My Room" featuring Lil Durk and Kid Cudi, "Hello There" featuring Lil Tracy, CORBIN and Black Kray and "Stop Giving Me Advice" featuring Jack Harlow and Dave.

The early release of these tracks helped listeners visualize how star-studded this album is.

The biggest downside to the project is that it lacks cohesiveness moving from song to song. However, it showcases numerous genres of music, including lyrical rap, gospel, trap and pop rap.

The intro song, "Fly Away," featuring Sheck Wes, Ski Mask the Slump God and JID sets a false standard for this album as one of the better songs on it.

After "Fly Away," the rest seem like pointless collaborations weaving through genres that do not blend well with each other.

On tracks with three or more artists featured, like "Hummingbird" with UMI, SahBabii and Teezo Touchdown and "First Night" with Teezo Touchdown, Juicy J, Cochise, Denzel Curry and Lil B, the merging of genres was chaotic.

However, each artist found individual moments to shine in their distinctive styles, which was common on the project.

On tracks with one or two artists, the dynamic was better than these stacked feature songs.

"Doomsday" with Juice WRLD and Cordae was a good example of this. It had an equal balance of style and cadence throughout with its "boom bap" styled raps.

"Stop Giving Me Advice" with Jack Harlow and Dave was another example of a song that did not overcomplicate itself with genre merging.

The videos that went along with most of the songs were creative. Bennett added a visual motif with yellow curtains in each music video that went with the project. He also had artists wearing suits and yellow ties in each video.

As a concept, it showed unity and togetherness from video to video. Unfortunately, the unity and togetherness were lacking on the actual songs.

These are the opinions of the Southern News Editorial Staff

Movies are not being marketed as musicals

By **Ali Fernand**
Editor in chief
By **Jay'Mi Vazquez**
Managing Editor

"Wonka," released on Dec. 15, 2023, was a prequel to the 1971 film, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."

Fans of the franchise anticipated the release of this film with popular actor Timothée Chalamet playing Willy Wonka.

However, on social media, those who watched in theaters were in shock that this film was a full-blown musical with eleven songs.

Videos have been showcased of audible sighs from audience members when another song started to play.

The director of the film, Paul King, said in defense of this artistic choice that music is the heart of the original film, mentioning that there cannot be Oompa-Loompas without their catchy song.

Some fans argued that they could have gone without actor Hugh

Grant's adaptation of the Oompa-Loompa song because his singing voice was mediocre, to say the least.

In the official trailers released by Warner Bros., there was no mention of this film being a musical.

Although the previous Willy Wonka films have a small number of original songs included, it did seem like the Warner Bros. marketing team did not want to mention that this film was a musical.

"Wonka" is not alone in this phenomenon of musicals not being marketed as such. For some reason, Hollywood has felt the need to produce musicals without informing audiences ahead of time.

"Mean Girls" has been a staple in pop culture since it was released in 2004. It has since been adapted into a musical for Broadway. Now, we have come full circle to where the musical has received a movie adaptation.

However, the trailers for the musical adaptation's movie were

deceptive to those audience members unaware of the Broadway adaptation. The trailers did not feature any songs or any sign that the movie would be a musical at all.

The marketing of "Wonka" and "Mean Girls" was deceptive to audiences. They both take from stories that have huge pop culture significance and impact. From watching the trailers, "Wonka" looks like a prequel movie and "Mean Girls" seems like just a remake.

There is an audience for a musical movie adaptation. Many people have an interest in theater and the "Mean Girls" Broadway musical was a massive success. Why has Hollywood felt the need to omit that a movie is full of songs?

If production companies think there is an audience for musical movies, then they should market them as such. If they think that audiences do not like musical movies, then why are they making them?



PHOTO | JA.FRAME.COMX

Timothée Chalamet as Willy Wonka in the new remake of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."



PHOTO | TEEN VOGUE

The new cast of Mean Girls in the advertised movie poster.

First Open mic night hosted at Earl Hall

By **Lexi White**
General Reporter

One of the main things that brings people together is music. That's why the Music Department hosted an open mic event during the "Week of Welcome!"

Many musically inclined Owls flew over to Earl Hall on Monday, Jan. 22 to showcase their talents. From the shredding of guitars to the delicate playing of the piano to the angelic vocals, there was not one thing the students did not perform to the fullest.

Those who attended the open mic were provided with snacks and beverages to indulge in while they watched their peers perform their musical acts.

"I think it's really hard to perform in front of people, but one thing about open mics is that everyone is there to be supportive," Chairman of the Music Department Josh Groffman said. "This year's event was a bit easier to plan because we had more of a blueprint to follow."

While the Music Department has hosted this event previously, this year's turnout saw many new faces. Anthropology major Molly Tripp, a sophomore, just transferred to the university.

"I am inspired to learn more about music and to be able to put my energy out that way because it's a good way to express yourself," Tripp said. "I think this event is a good way to get yourself seen and your voice heard."

Tripp came to this event to support her friend, music major Jocelyn Rich, a junior.

"I know that this is one of the first times that Jocelyn is

performing in front of people she doesn't know," Tripp said. "I know this is such a big step for her, and I'm very proud of her."

Jocelyn Rich performed two pieces, one while she played the piano accompaniment, and the other with a backing track. Both these pieces were written by Rich.

"I came to open mic so I could perform my original pieces and get out of my comfort zone," Rich said.

Rich also said that music is a way of coping for her.

"I would say that music is a type of therapy for me. It gives me a sense of peace and leaves me with the ability to be proud of myself for making something that was once just an idea in my head," Rich said.

Rich was not the only musician inclined to create their own pieces at this event. History major Dexter Lourenco, a sophomore, is a member of three different bands in New Haven.

Lourenco heard about this event through a friend of his and wanted to check out the scene. He was interested in hearing the other talents at the university.

"I think any event that brings musicians together is great. I think the best way to get better at music is to play with other people," Lourenco said.

Lourenco said that music is a very big part of his life.

"Music consumes a lot of my time and energy, but in a good way," Lourenco said.

Overall, the Music Department's open mic session was a great way for students to get out of their shell, do what they love and perfect their craft.



PHOTO | LEXI WHITE

A student showcasing his electric guitar talent in front of a crowd at Earl Hall.



PHOTO | LEXI WHITE

Students watching performances in Earl Hall on Monday, Jan. 22.

Spring involvement fair in ASC Ballroom

By Kahiona Senior
Photo Editor

On Wednesday, Jan. 24 in the Adanti Student Center, ASC, Ballroom, the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership Development held an involvement fair. The university offers over 125 different clubs for students to participate in. There are STEM-based clubs and art clubs; there is something out there for everyone. The event also emphasized using campus resources and looking into non-academic organizations. Getting involved is a great way to make friends and connect with others.



Chemistry major Natalia Coombs and computer science major Alana Parris, freshmen, looking for more Anime Society members.



Elementary education major Jess Jagiello and computer science major Gerriiki Williams, freshmen, informing student about WSIN Radio.



Creative writing majors Danny Degirolomo, a freshman, and Taylor Havrilla and Veronica Dasilva, seniors, advocating for Bookmarks English Club.



The ASC Ballroom full of students and their different organizations.

Office of Sustainability Beaver Brook cleanup



Biology major Joela Depass, a senior, cutting vines and saving a native tree. The weather was rough, so makeshift raincoats were made.

For the next two Fridays, the Office of Sustainability will be teaming up with Friends of Beaver Pond Park and West River Watershed Coalition for a Beaver Brook cleanup. Students will help remove litter, cut invasive vines and maintain native species in Beaver Pond Park surrounding Campus. This event helps spread awareness to local conservation and gets students involved in a community effort to better the environment. These cleanups take place rain or shine, Friday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. across the street from Schwartz Hall.



Students walking towards the forest to start trimming.



Office of Sustainability staff member Derek Faulkner cutting vines around a native tree.



A student frees a sapling. Vines engulfed the forest floor and would have killed this tree if it was not for the student's help.

Women's basketball loses to Assumption Univeristy

By Ali Fernand
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The women's basketball team lost 74-68 to nationally ranked Assumption University on Saturday, Jan. 27. This was an in-conference NE10 game at their home court in Moore Field House. The game was close, improving on the last time they played Assumption in November.

"We've made a lot of progress as a team. I think this shows our progress and our potential," Head Coach Kate Lynch said.

In November, the Owls lost 77-59 on the road to Assumption. Their performance in this game showed the team's preparation for a difficult team in the NE10 Conference.

The Owls went into the game strong, taking a 5-0 early lead all by forward Katie Williamson, a senior. They showed they were ready for a tough game and played on. However, Assumption gained the lead by the end of the first quarter, leaving the score 21-16.

"Rattling them from the very beginning does show

a lot about where we stand and where we want to be," Williamson said.

In the second quarter, the Owls put in effort to catch up to Assumption. Guard Jillian Martin, a senior, and guard Rheyne Steinauer, a sophomore, each nailed a three-pointer. By the end of the first half, the Owls were tied to Assumption 30-30.

"I just try to take the best option if possible, so when my three is open, I'll shoot it," Martin said.

Martin totaled 13 points, two rebounds, two assists and one steal while leading the team with 38 minutes of play. Steinauer had five points and lead the team with five rebounds in 20 minutes off the bench.

Williamson showed a strong start, scoring 10 points for her squad. The Owls shot 57.1% in the first half of the game. But her play did not spot from there and opened the second half with back-to-back layups Owls. She continued adding seven more to her point total. She finished the day with 21 points, four rebounds and one steal.

As the Owls kept the score close, Assumption took the lead and commanded a 9-0 scoring

run in the third quarter. "You got to be focused and dialed in for 40 minutes, especially against the team of Assumption," Lynch said.

At the end of the third quarter, Assumption was ahead, leading 49-43. The Owls did their best to earn back the lead in the fourth quarter. They went on their own scoring run 7-0 late in the fourth but fell short.

"We prepared really, really well the last couple of days for Assumption," Lynch said. "For us, we're just trying to focus on being relentless for the 40 minutes in terms of effort."

However, the Owls ended up losing the game by six points. The players expressed disappointment in the loss but were overall upbeat about the improvement they have made over the season.

"We're almost a completely different team," guard Makenzie Helms, a graduate, said. "We learned each other's strengths and weaknesses and where each other wants the ball."

The team has fallen to 10 wins and nine losses this season so far. The rest of this season will be defining how the Owls can



PHOTO | ALI FERNAND

Owls defend Assumption as they attempt to execute their offensive game plan.

grow as a team.

"Coming back from when we played in our first NE10 game in the conference and to see the growth we had for this game from the last game was actually outstanding," Williamson said.

The team has little time

before their next game against American International College, though the team is ready for their quick preparation from this game to the next.

"We have one day of prep for AIC," Lynch said. "We just have to really focus in and be intense."

The game against AIC takes place on Tuesday, Jan. 30 at the Owls' home court in Moore Field House.

"We're going to think about this one today. Then we have to sleep on it, move on and get ready for AIC," Lynch said.

Men's Basketball comeback stalls, lose to Assumption

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
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Despite playing well defensively and aggressively, the men's basketball team fell short in a close game against the Assumption University Greyhounds. This was an NE10 Conference game at James Moore Fieldhouse.

The Owls were up in the first half by one point but unfortunately were unable to hold onto their lead successfully in the second half.

Assumption gained a 15-point lead in the second half, forcing our Owls to have a comeback towards the end. With three three-pointers, guard Sean James, a junior, got the team just shy of the win, with the final score being 79-76, leaving their season record to be 12-7.

"We played well; we played hard," Head Coach Scott Burrell said. "We just need to finish with a possession. Got to be more aggressive and



PHOTO | JAY MI VAZQUEZ

Forward Kazell Stewart, a sophomore, drives through two defenders to score.

focus all the way through shot clock."

Burrell said that the team needed more easy buckets and rebounds all throughout the game and

not just towards the end of it.

"We need everybody focused, ready to contribute whatever it is, rebounding defensively

shot blocks, blocked shots, whatever it is to contribute in a positive way," Burrell said.

In the first half, the Owls struggled to

get rebounds, having only 13 total compared to Assumption's 24. However, Assumption had more turnovers in the first, giving the Owls an advantage to score easily.

At halftime, the Owls adjusted their gameplay, returning to the court trying to gain more rebounds and steals. Unfortunately, the Owls fell short in offensive and defensive rebounds, getting 31 in the second half compared to Assumption's 40 total.

"We didn't have a good time trying to grab offensive rebounds. We gave them a chance to have second-chance points," forward Kazell Stewart, a sophomore, said.

Stewart played well all throughout the game, leading the team in scoring and rebounding with 34 points and 12 rebounds total. He showcased his dunking, free-throw shot and blocking abilities in the second half. Burrell informed Stewart that he wanted the team to play hard and help each other all throughout the game.

Guard Christian Joe, a

freshman, was another player who was playing an aggressive in the game. In the second half, he scored 13 points after not scoring in the first.

"He is a huge spark for us, hustling, defensive plays, his scoring ability, he just brings a lot of energy, we have to get him more minutes too," Burrell said.

Appearing in his nineteenth game off the bench, Joe led the team in minutes, rebounds and assists. He also had a personal best of four for four in free throws.

"Just knowing that I am a part of the team, and that I can help offensively, defensively. It really motivates me to help and do more for the team," Joe said.

Although Joe had a good game, he said that in offensive rebounds Assumption got the best of the Owls and kept the team from getting second chance points.

"We were playing hard, but if we can't get a stop, they keep on getting second chance points. We can't cut down the lead," Joe said.

Dylan Prescher awarded NE10 swimmer of the week honor

By Avery Martin
Contributor

Dylan Prescher was named the NE10 swimmer of the week on Jan. 23. Exercise and sports science major Prescher, a junior, recently won the 1000 yard and 500 yard freestyle against Adelphi University.

In the 1000 yard freestyle, he recorded a time of 9:58.54. Prescher followed that up with a time of 4:55.12 in the 500. These results contributed to the Owls' 49-45 win against Adelphi in a meet that ended their regular season.

In another recent meet against College of Saint Rose and Assumption University, Prescher took third in the 200 yard freestyle and first in the 400 yard freestyle relay.

Other recent highlights

include a win in the 500 yard freestyle against Bentley University, as well as a 1000 yard freestyle win against College of Staten Island.

Prescher attributed his recent success in the pool to his training at the university.

"I've been training since the summer. I've been working hard since my freshman year, and it's my junior year, so I've got three years of training here. Now, I'm starting to see that pay off," Prescher said.

Prescher's hard work and dedication do not go unnoticed by teammate and sports management major Nicholas Fournier, a sophomore.

"He is a very hard worker. He is a guy who pushes everybody who's around him, including the people in his lane or the

people just adjacent to his lane," Fournier said. "He is just the definition of a hard worker in general."

Fournier also describes Prescher as a leader and someone who encourages the team to do better.

Head Coach Tim Quill agrees. He describes Prescher as an example of what hard work can achieve and believes that he is a role model for the other athletes.

"He does well academically. He gets along with everyone," Quill said. "I would certainly consider him to be a role model here at practice."

Quill also notes that each passing year only improves Prescher's performance.

Given that this is Prescher's third year with the Owls, Quill has high expectations for what he can achieve in the future.

"He's improved dramatically. He's had a quantum improvement since he got to Southern Connecticut," Quill said. "He's gone from a championship finalist type guy in his individual events to an NE10 Conference Champion."

In last season's NE10 Championships, Prescher took gold in the 1000 yard freestyle and mile freestyle.

The men's swimming and diving team also won the Conference Championship. He hopes to not only defend those results at the upcoming Conference Championships, but also go further.

"I'd like to win my events, and I'm trying to go to NCAA's," Prescher said.

Quill has high hopes that Prescher will be able to achieve his individual goals.



PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM

Swimmer Dylan Prescher, a junior.

"He should absolutely be a player again this year. He won his events last year, and we are expecting him to repeat this year," Quill said. "He works hard towards his potential. He tends to pay attention to

detail." For the next three weeks, Prescher and his teammates will be focused on the conference championships and defending their wins and back-to-back NE10 titles.