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SOUTHERN NEWS

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Campus walk for Lauren Smith-Fields “What do we want; justice”

By Hailey Roy
Contributor

On Wednesday, Feb. 23, the Black Student Union held a justice walk for Lauren Smith-Fields. Smith-Fields has gotten national attention for the way her death was handled. The Bridgeport woman, 23, was found dead after a man she went on a Bumble date with called the police saying he found her unresponsive. Bumble is an online dating app created in 2014. The police failed to notify the Smith-Fields family of their daughter's passing, and also didn't make the white, male, Bumble date a suspect. Bridgeport Mayor, Joseph Ganim said in a statement that he is "extremely disappointed with the leadership of the Bridgeport Police Department and find actions taken up to this point unacceptable." The two original detectives on the case have been suspended.

Mya Yorke, 22, Biology Major and President of BSU wanted to put this walk together for Smith-Fields because of how the aftermath of the event lacked justice. "Being a black woman in America, a lot of this goes unnoticed so when it happens in your own backyard [Bridgeport, Conn.] you want to do something about it," Yorke said. "our

lives [as black women] are seen as inconsequential. They do not take us seriously until we actually tell them what we need to do. Until we apply pressure they really don't care."

The walk started in the Residential Life Quad

injustices from occurring, Yorke responded "Just by being together. I think we have more of a voice when we're together □ the more that we project it, the more it can be heard."

Psychology major, junior and BSU member

statue of power, They're in a privileged position. They tend not to understand the struggles [as a black man] because they don't know," Ibekwe explained.

Dawn Stanton, Director of University Access Programs, was a speaker at the

country. As a woman and as a mom I was traumatized when I first heard of Lauren Smith-Fields case and the lack of concern, professionalism, and empathy that was shown to her family and friends by the Bridgeport police,"

that using their voices as a community is a way to hopefully prevent the same injustices from happening again. "We cannot be silent because silence is actually violence," Stanton said.

Diane Ariza, Vice President of Diversion, Equity, and Inclusion, was the final speaker before the BSU hosted justice walk. She started off by thanking the Black Student Union for taking time to organize and honor an event for Smith-Fields.

"But, the call for justice does not stop here with these women. How do we call for justice for the number of women of color, who continue to be unseen and invisible to larger society?" Ariza said.

Leyana McKeithen, 20, Psychology major, was a participant in the justice walk. "I wanted to be a part of this walk because I believe this is a very serious problem in America. I know walking in this event may not solve the problem but at least we're bringing awareness to it," Leyana said. "I like attending events like this so it was great to see this on my own campus."

The walk lasted about 10 minutes and got a lot of positive attention throughout the campus by spectators. Both staff and students attended the event.

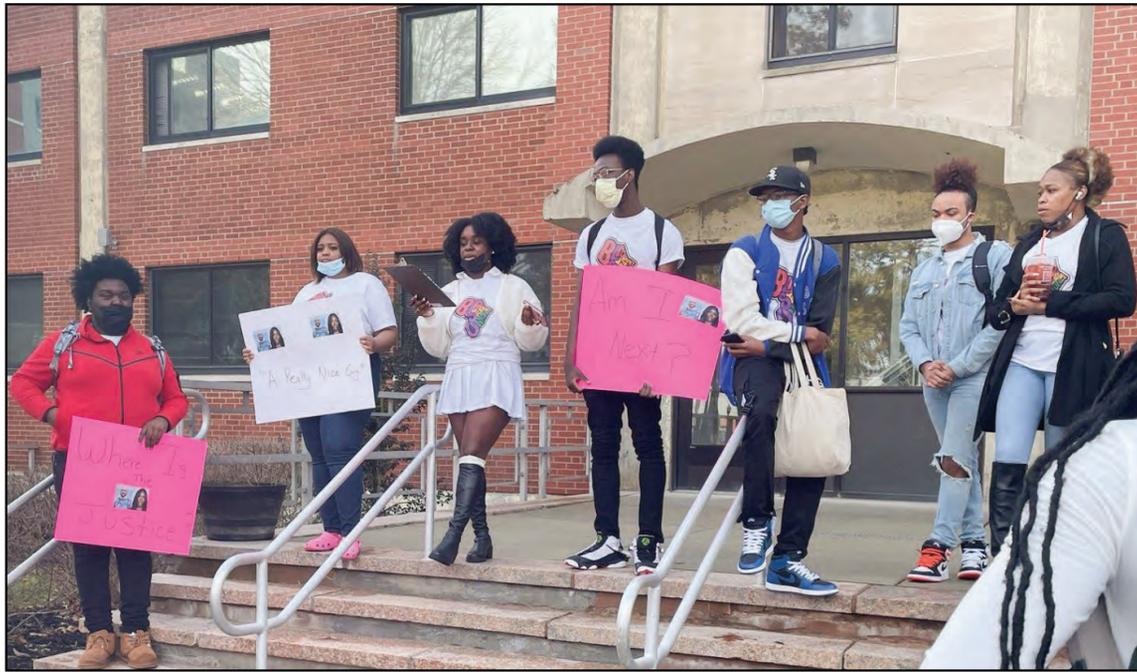


PHOTO | HAILEY ROY

Students holding signs reading "am I next?", "where is justice?" and "a really nice guy."

then continued down into the front of Buley Library. The participants in the walk carried big signs reading "Where Is The Justice?" and "Am I Next?" The chanting of terms like "Black Lives Matter" and "What do we want; Justice!" was heard throughout the campus. When asked how we can take steps to prevent these

Stephen Ibekw thought it was their club's time to show representation on black injustice surrounding the case of Smith-Fields death. Matthew Lafountain, Smith-Fields Bumble date, was the last person to see her before her death yet he wasn't interviewed after the finding of her body. "White males are looked at as a

justice walk before participants marched down to the library. The event started off with knowledge, statistics, opinions, and feelings surrounding the injustice of black people and more specifically Lauren Smith-Fields.

"Unfortunately black women are the most disrespected and unprotected [demographic] in this

Dawn Stanton said. This devastating case reminded her that for many in this society, black lives don't matter, black girls' lives don't matter, and black women's lives don't matter. "The police are supposed to protect and serve not to neglect," Stanton stated.

Multiple sources attending the event have agreed

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Water issues arise in Schwartz Hall

By Sofia Rositani
Editor-In-Chief

A video and petition were created by university students due to issues regarding the water in Schwartz Hall.

The video posted by @jonandjanionair goes into detail about how the water has been coming out brown and has also been burning students, they have also found rust in it. This led to him talking about the petition, which has 125 signatures and is still growing.

"It came up, actually previously Wednesday at the Residence Hall Association meeting, and Marvin Wilson, who's our social director at residence life, reached out to facilities to talk to the residence hall director here about the issue," Director of Residence Life Robert DeMezzo said. "We discovered that New Haven indicated that because the fire that occurred down the street, an apartment built complex, they had a large-armed fire when that much water goes through the water main, it could stir off."

Associate Vice President for Capital Budgeting & Facilities Operations, Eric Lessne said that the university sent out tests with the Regional Water Authority and a private

contractor to test the water in certain rooms that have been having many problems with this issue.

"I believe this week we

asked them to test the water here at Schwartz Hall and they did. We also asked for that water to go to an independent

lab to be tested as well," DeMezzo said. "So, we tested it here at the water main, and we did go up to the third floor because

that's kind of where the complaints came from, and tested water in a few rooms. They told me that they received preliminary

results that said the water was safe."

DeMezzo said that the water is cleaned every week by the Regional Water Authority and because of this it may cause some discoloration to the water.

"Out of caution, we ask facilities to get the water tested," DeMezzo said. "They actually test the water in the water main every week, the regional what already does it, which is the New Haven water company."

While students who live in the dorm have noticed discoloration, others have not.

"My roommate and I have not had any issues regarding the water issue," early childhood education major, Kylee Gustafson, a sophomore said.

She has seen the video regarding this issue.

"I think the university is doing a good job by keeping the dorm safe for students by doing many tests on the water," she said.

Some students have not noticed any changes in the water.

"I haven't been affected by the water," healthcare studies, Quiniesha McQueen, a sophomore said.

@jonandjanionair declined to comment on the video they created.

The petition creators were not available for comment.



Picture of Schwartz Hall from the third floor of the Adanti Student Center.

PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

Meet the Sodexo team



General manager Tony DeLuca (left) and retail operations manager, Desiree Parker (right).

PHOTO | HAILEY ROY

- Sodexo has 140 workers on campus.
- French company that does not just do food services.
- Mobile dining app BiteU was created so students can order on the go.
- Connecticut Hall, Southern Connecticut State University - West Rock - 50 Wintergreen Ave.
- To find out about the daily menu you can go to the Southern website and look under Sodexo dining.
- Students can contact Sodexo via My DXT, where they can ask questions.
- The dining service has an Instagram, Twitter and Facebook @scsudining

Connecticut hall hours
Breakfast 7:30AM -10:00AM
Lunch 11:00AM -2:30PM
Dinner 4:00PM -9:00PM

Adanti Student Hours
Monday-Thursday
11:00 am -6:30 pm
Friday
11:00 am - 2:30 pm

Dunkin Donuts
7:30 am - 6:30 pm

By Sofia Rositani
Editor-In-Chief

"If we're not constantly evolving to making sure that the needs and the taste, the needs of the student body being met, we're just not doing our job. So as you begin to move throughout your life and your career, your taste change, your needs change and the generation behind, you will do the same thing," general manager of Sodexo, Tony DeLuca said. "So, we constantly have to evolve into recreating what we do almost every semester because the student body changes, every semester. But the difference to that is we need honest feedback of what the student body is looking for."

"I've been lucky, because when Sodexo came, they allowed students to work in Connecticut Hall where when Chartwells was here because of some verbiage and the contract they only were allowed to work in retail and student center or the stores," retail operations manager, Desiree Parker said.

"We're here for the support mechanism for the school. Not just to provide good, nutritious food, we truly want to be a good steward of the environment, what we live in. So we are here as partners, we're here. Community members and we're here as your food service providers," DeLuca said.

Super Smash Bros. tournament for students

By Sarah Shelton
Features Editor

Three, two, one, go!
On Tuesday, Feb. 22, Programs Council, also known as ProCon, held a “Super Smash Bros” tournament on the Nintendo Switch.

The event was held in Farnham Programming Space with two Nintendo Switches set up, one for the tournament and one for Mario Kart, which was set up “just for fun,” according to ProCon’s Instagram.

“One of our nighttime committee members, Ramsley came up with the idea for this event last semester and we decided to do the event this semester,” senior nighttime programmer Katie Kost said.

Kost said they purchased the two Nintendo Switches with their semesterly committee budgets, but they were not very well versed with the video game.

“We’re going to do a practice round first, assuming not everyone knows how to play,” Night-time programmer Ramsley Exantus said. “Third place gets a \$25 Amazon gift

card, second gets \$50, and the final winner gets \$125.”

Seven people showed up to play “Super Smash Bros,” which turned to Six when a student said he “gave up” after the practice round.

“I personally expected there to be more of a turnout at the event but regardless I was happy that the students that did attend had a good time,” Kost said.

Each student playing introduced themselves to each other while eating snacks and setting up the game.

“I love the atmosphere. I love the energy. We’re here for the love of the sport, the e-sport, and the recreation,” English creative writing major Maciel Valle, a junior, said.

Valle said he has been playing this game with his brothers and friends since the GameCube came out.

When opening the game for the practice round, the first four students playing immediately laughed at how many characters options there were to choose from, the rest of the characters still have not been unlocked.

Computer Science major Miles Meade, a junior, said

he was not used to that.

“If it wasn’t raining, I could have just gone and got my own switch,” Meade said.

Valle said he typically plays as PacMan, but because of the limited character option, he played as Kirby.

“It must be tough for them because their mains aren’t in the roster,” communications major Chris Rosales, a senior, said.

Some students even brought their own controllers.

“I was just sitting here and I saw students bringing their own controllers,” Exantus said.

The controllers they had were the JoyCon controllers that come on the side of the Nintendo Switch screen, but ProCon let the students who brought their own set it up.

“I’m not using a single joycon. Maybe for Mario Kart, but not for smash,” Rosales said.

Rosales brought a pro controller that was able to connect to the switch with-

out a wire, like the JoyCons.

After the initial practice round and every few rounds after that, a character battle would come up with a computer, CPU, character. The winning player had to fight this CPU because that is how characters are unlocked in the game.

The six students playing decided together how they were going to conduct the tournament, what rules they were using, picked the amount of stock, lives, they will each have per round and picked what items they wanted during the rounds.

“They’re running the event,” Kost laughed to the other programmers when the students started setting it up.

Communications major Alex Grant, a junior, took over on running the tournament to make it as to make sure everyone got a chance to play.

“To kind of become a part of organizing it was fun,” Grant said. “It was definitely a little nerve wracking, but, I’ve done it a few times before, so it wasn’t too bad.”

Each student had the chance to play a few times

because the students decided to make it a double-elimination tournament.

This had Grant writing on the whiteboard trying to keep track of who goes next, who was winning and who was losing.

“My pinkies just went numb,” Meade said after his first game.

Grant is part of the eSports club and many players on campus know him for being good at the game. His old roommate, Meade, said he thought about him the second he knew about the tournament happening.

“Alex I know will wreck anyone at this game,” Meade said.

He was right because Grant came in first place winning the \$125 Amazon gift card.

“Everyone did really well,” Grant said. This may have been a ProCon event, but Grant said he participates in monthly tournaments with eSports.

“Southern eSports, fantastic club on campus,” Grant said. “They do smash tournaments usually monthly and they’re fantastic.”



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

Students setting up the second practice round in FPS.

Euphoria’s season 2 finale ends with heartbreak

By Sofia Rositani
Editor-in-Chief

Heartbreak. That is one word to use for the season finale of “Euphoria.”

This season of “Euphoria” has been a rollercoaster and this finale is no different.

If you have yet to see this episode then I highly recommend you stop reading this article now, go to HBOMax or another totally ‘legal’ website and watch the finale.

Warning, spoilers ahead.

I will admit when I first started the show, I thought it was going to be another show that misrepresented teenagers and what high school life is like. Which I was correct, but it also made me interested as I went in and made connections with some characters such as Lexi, played by Maude Apatow, Fezco, played by Angus Cloud, Maddy, played by Alexa Demie, and finally Ashtray, played by Javon Walton.

This season the characters and the viewers have gone through emotional turmoil this season. This last episode left us emotionally drained.

The first part of the episode had me very shocked, especially when Ashtray kills another character, that I honestly do

not care to learn the name of because he is a traitor, we will call him “Faye’s boyfriend.”

Faye, played by Chloe Cherry, is dating this character who decided to betray Fezco and Ashtray, which led to Ashtray killing this character. This led to another turn of events that was heartbreaking.

Lexi’s play is going great, everyone is loving it, but like “Stranger Things,” everything went upside down.

Cassie, played by Sydney Sweeney, is Lexi’s sister and she gets angered and decides to ruin her play. She goes on stage and tries to ruin the show. Instead, the show continues, and Cassie gets thrown about by Maddy, who is still upset that her best friend started dating her ex-boyfriend.

This takes us to Nate, played by Jacob Elordi, who leaves the play after the “homophobic” scene that played on stage. His father just came out to him and his family in a previous episode. As those who watch the show know, Cal, played by Eric Dane, Nate’s father was sleeping with teenagers, one being Jules, played by Hunter Schafer, in this episode all the videos he took are finally sent to the police by Nate and he then gets arrested.

Going back to Fezco and

Ashtray, in one of the most heart wrenching scenes I have watched in a while.

We see the police forcefully come in and Ashtray starts shooting from the bathroom he is hidden in. He is shooting at the cops, hitting Fezco by accident. After a while an officer gets to the door and Ashtray shoots and kills him once the door is open. This leads to Ashtray getting shot in the head by an officer, ending his storyline in a heartbreaking way, as he is only 15 years old in the show. It is unknown what happened to Fezco, Faye and his grandmother after this scene.

Honestly, I did not think that the season was going to end like this, and I am not very happy with the ending, the only thing I really liked was that Rue, played by Zendaya, is finally clean and will hopefully stay that way.

I was hoping that no one would die, especially a character I liked, but we did not get that, instead it ended with me in tears and my heart broken. I know there will be a next season, will it be the same without Ashtray, no, but am I hoping that Fezco is able to pick himself up after this and make #Fexi real, yes.

“Don’t worry,” Maddy said in the episode “This is just the beginning.”

OPINIONS Russia invades Ukraine

By Sofia Rositani
Editor-in-Chief

We are living through history, this is something I have been hearing for four years now, and I am getting tired of it. First a pandemic, now a war.

While this invasion into Ukraine is not directly impacting the United States, or even the university, it can still have an effect.

“Exact death tolls are unclear, but the U.N. human rights chief said 102 civilians have been killed and hundreds wounded in five days of fighting — warning that figure was likely a vast undercount — and Ukraine’s president said at least 16 children were among the dead,” according to AP news.

“More than 500,000 people have fled the country since the invasion, another U.N. official said Monday — among millions who have left their homes.”

This could be the United States, but many people do not want to think about that, instead they want to live in ignorant bliss, like done with everything else that does not directly involve the United States. While we can donate and we can share on social media, it does not change the fact that people are dying in a country that has been independent from Russia for 31 years.

“U.S. and British officials played down Putin’s nuclear threat as posturing. But for many, they stirred up memories of the Cuban Missile Crisis and concerns that the West could be drawn into a direct conflict with Russia,” according to AP news.

While the United States is not being impacted directly there are still issues in the country happening due to Russia starting this invasion.

“President Biden, meanwhile, has said he would consider measures to blunt the impact of rising

oil prices on Americans, including the sale of more oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. He warned energy companies not to opportunistically jack up prices, while acknowledging that the economic consequences of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine would be felt by Americans,” according to The Washington Post.

This means the gas prices will skyrocket more than they already have been. And what does President Biden have to say about this.

He added that the government is “closely monitoring energy supplies for any disruption” and raised the potential the U.S. could further tap its petroleum reserves if conditions warrant. The president also fired a warning shot at oil and gas giants themselves, adding they “should not exploit this moment to hike their prices,” according to The Washington Post.

The university is known for being a commuter school and with gas prices going up it will make it harder for some students to be able to come to campus. So, while the United States is not getting bombed, we will be facing major inflation in the next couple of months, due to this invasion of Ukraine.

“I can barely afford my groceries now. Like, I’m literally walking in there with my last hundred dollars,” Sammy Yelle said in an interview with NPR.

Due to Russia invading Ukraine many Americans are taking Russian made products, including vodka, off their shelves. I have also seen many restaurants that are Russian putting the Ukrainian flag in their windows or other areas of the building to show that they stand with Ukraine.

“Maybe I’m cynical, but it seems like with the divisions that we’ve been seeing just in our own country of nationalist ideals that the world is a ripe ground for this kind of conflict,” Heidi Kretzer said in an interview with NPR.

While we can send money or we can post on social media this will not help the current status of Ukraine, the fact is yes, this can be used when it is all over, but will they have a country to rebuild once it is over.

I know President Volodymyr Zelensky is doing everything in his power to save his country, even going as far as saying he will die to make sure that his country and people are not taken by Russia, but there is always a worry that it can be taken over at any moment.

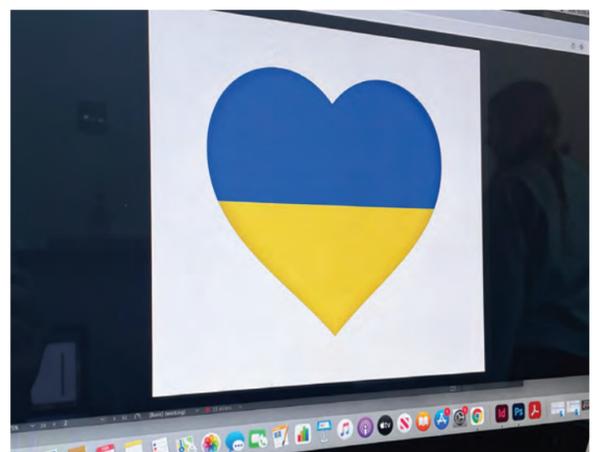


PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Ukraine flag in the shape of a heart on a computer.

SOUTHERN NEWS

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Lady Owls advance in NE10 tourney It took overtime, but women's basketball advance to NE quarterfinals

By Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor

A thriller of a game had James Moore Field House rocking this past Saturday as women's basketball took down the Assumption University Greyhounds in overtime in the first round of the NE10 Conference tournament.

The game was back and forth throughout, but just when it looked like the Owls were going to pull away late in the contest, up 47-37 in the fourth quarter, the Greyhounds came racing back, going on a 13-0 run to take the lead and force the Owls to call a timeout to re-group.

"We weren't really scoring. We couldn't get the looks that we wanted to," guard Delaney Connors, a senior, said. "It's a game of runs in basketball and that was their run and we just had to counter that when we had the opportunity."

And counter they did. Out of the timeout, guard Zoe Amalbert, a senior, drilled a clutch three-pointer to tie the score at 50 with just over one minute left in regulation.

Amalbert said: "I just knew that we had to get a good possession and we've been running that play a lot recently, so it was called for me if I was open, but it was a kind of read-and-react and I just ended up being open, and I knew I was going to take



Jessica Fressle after taking a shot during her 24-point, 20 rebound performance against Assumption in the first round of the NE10 Conference tournament.

PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

that shot."

The Greyhounds retook the lead following a timeout with 31 seconds left. The Owls would need a bucket in order to save their season.

On the ensuing possession, Amalbert found Connors cutting to the basket, who hit the layup with 18 seconds left to tie it up at 52.

The home crowd, which included the lacrosse team as well as Otis the Owl was really into it at this point, hoping their team could force a defensive stop and overtime.

The Owls did just what they needed, getting the

stop to force overtime.

The overtime period came up all Owls, specifically Connors, who dominated the five-minute stretch by scoring eight points and finishing with 23 for the game.

She even scored on a layup strikingly similar to the one she scored to tie the game at the end of regulation.

"We put that play in a couple days ago, and I knew we just needed that to take us forward and I was just happy to be open both times," Connors said.

Connors really put the final nail in the Greyhounds' coffin when

she nailed a three-pointer to put the Owls up 61-56 with 39 seconds left, forcing the Greyhounds to call timeout.

Laser-focused as ever, forward Jessica Fressle, a graduate student, immediately shouted "Defense!" to her teammates on the bench to make sure they were engaged for the final possessions.

Fressle is the Owls leading scorer and rebounder for the season, as she was in this game and is their vocal leader on the court, constantly communicating with teammates.

"That's always been my thing. That's what got me recruited to this level. It's one of those things that you can't teach. It's just something that I do and have always done," Fressle said. "Usually it's just positivity. It's just picking everyone else up and by picking everyone else up, I'm picking myself up."

Fressle would knock down a free throw to seal the 65-58 win and finish with a game-high 24 points and career-high 20 rebounds, in addition to four steals. Big players show up in big moments.

Connors and her late-game heroics netted 23 points on an efficient nine of 13 shooting.

Amalbert also had a great performance to the tune of a double-double, with 12 points and 10 assists.

"This team is so special, and we just proved that out there," Connors said. "I'm really excited right now. We're locked in. We are ready for this."

The Owls' next game as of this writing will have been Monday, Feb. 28, against Southern New Hampshire University in the quarterfinals of the NE10 Conference tournament.

"It's great," Fressle said. "Game one done. Three more to go. And we're ready for it."

Check scsuowls.com for all the latest results in women's hoops.

MLB Lockout

By Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor - Opinion



I do not know anybody who enjoys a lockout.

Locked out of the car. Bad.

Locked out of the house. Worse.

Major League Baseball's lockout. Disaster.

I for one would much rather be locked in.

As in, locked in for a new collective bargaining agreement in order for MLB to get the season going and future seasons.

As of this writing, it is the deadline day for the league and the players' association to come to terms with an agreement before regular season games start having to be canceled.

I have seen this coming for a while and my fears have been realized. This lockout could last a while.

When the pandemic forced MLB to shorten the 2020 regular season to 60 games, while still being able to get in a full slate of post-season games and crown a World Series champion, it sets a precedent for something similar to be done down the line.

In 2020, the league was still able to get to the real money, the post-season.

I am not involved in these labor negotiations, nor would I want to be, but even I can see the fact that there is no real urgency to get this deal done by the Feb. 28 deadline, knowing full well both sides can prolong this throughout the spring and even into the summer, while still getting to the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

In the meantime, I will have to scavenge for other nightly entertainment until baseball returns to me.

Perhaps I will try a TV show for a change of pace, but where to start? Ozark, Succession, Euphoria, all these are as foreign to me as CBA labor negotiations are to the average sports fan, but it matters not.

I still have the NBA, which will only improve as we progress towards the playoffs. My thoughts will still be of the ballpark. Envisioning the crowd doing the wave, hearing "Sweet Caroline" sung at Fenway Park and the roll call at Yankee Stadium, oh how I miss it already.

Hurry back soon, baseball. I need my 7:05 p.m. appointment viewing back soon before I do something drastic during that time, like studying. One shudders at the thought.

Besides, we still have some free agent dominos yet to fall. Kris Bryant, Carlos Correa, Clayton Kershaw, Freddie Freeman, I could go on. These guys are going to make major impacts wherever they sign. Wherever it is, I just hope it is soon, because it will mean the return of baseball.

Men's basketball ends with tournament loss

By Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor

Men's basketball season came to an end this past week with a loss in the first round of the NE10 Conference tournament.

Prior to the tournament, the Owls had a senior night at James Moore Fieldhouse. Unfortunately, the evening was spoiled due to a leak in the roof, which not only caused the cancellation of the men's game but ended the women's game which had been taking place prematurely.

"You feel bad that it ended like this, because you want the families to see them play one more time at home," head coach Scott Burrell said. "There's going to be more energy because it's the last home game, you want to see those guys go out with a win."

Guards C.J. Seaforth and Isaiah Boissard were the two seniors to be honored as part of the festivities, and while they were not able to play a game last Tuesday, the ceremonies were still held and the families and loved ones of the players were able to take the court and pose for pictures.

"Seeing all my friends and family here supporting me on my last day of college basketball, it's big man," Seaforth said. "It means the world to me. I wouldn't trade it for anything."

Seaforth has had a memorable college career represented by over 1,000 career points scored, a significant milestone he reached during a play he will always remember on Feb. 19, 2022, during a loss on the road to the College of Saint Rose Golden Knights.



Isaiah Boissard and C.J. Seaforth were the two honored as part of senior day festivities.

PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

"I wasn't even thinking about it at first," Seaforth said. "I had went back door, Alex Lin hit me with a good backdoor pass. I laid it up and just started smiling after that. Came to the bench, everybody congratulated me, so it was a good opportunity."

"This is the point in the season where coaches and players can be a bit more reflective on what they have accomplished as Coach Burrell spoke of his experience coaching Seaforth.

"It's been a great college career," Coach Burrell said. "He had a fun time. He's getting his degree, that's the most important thing. He had a great career and who knows what the future holds for him."

Much the same can be said of Boissard, who was treating senior night like business as usual.

"I was just treating it as a

regular game," Boissard said. "I try not to get too high or too low on game day, just try to stay even keel."

However, as locked in as he was, Boissard still appreciated the recognition and moment shared with his loved ones.

"It was good to get acknowledged and have them come on the court," Boissard said. "I haven't had something like this since high school."

Senior night was not the highlight of Boissard's college career though. That moment came in a previous season.

"The highlight was probably the 2019-20 season against Assumption when we hit a game-winning tip-in, and everyone rushed the court," Boissard said. "It was a big win for us. I had a pretty big game that game too, so it was nice."

Boissard tallied 21 points in that victory,



C.J. Seaforth being honored with loved ones.

PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN