

Track & field won 1st place at invatational Page 5



Profile on Programs Council Page 7



Active Minds hosted a painting event Page 8

SOUTHERN NEWS WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG APRIL 14, 2021 VOL. 59- ISSUE 21

Unknown conservative protester Campus Passing students engaged in back-and-forth debate

By Ellis McGinley Copy Editor

An anti-abortion protestor came to the university quad Thursday afternoon, April 8, where he engaged in a heated debate with students.

Dressed in what appeared to be a GoPro camera harness strapped to his chest with a bible in hand, he also held a sign with red text that compared abortion to racism and the Holocaust.

There's a lot of false allegations people throw out," the man said, when asked why he was wearing a camera. He refused to identify himself and would not clarify if, or where, the event would be posted on social media.

The interaction unfolded in front of the Buley Library, many students in the crowd could be seen recording the interactions or showing their friends the scene on video calls.

This man has been screaming since before I got here. There have been rotations of us coming in and out here and arguing with him. It started with an argument about abortion, and he absolutely refused to answer anybody's questions. It's absolutely hilarious," a student from the crowd said.

The protestor expressed traditional, conservative Christian viewpoints. His arguments were sometimes called "false equivalencies" by students in the crowd, some of whom engaged in back-and-forth debate with him. He sometimes accepted questions from the students gathered.

"He said women should be modest and not use certain types of speech," political science major Abigail Oladapo,a junior, said. The man also discussed homosexuality and other LGBTQ+ identities, although he focused primarily on abortion and his antiabortion views. He said he was a "spokesman of God's word" and referred to his statements as the "word of God."

Social work major Shannon O'Ryan, a sophomore, said, "hate shouldn't be tolerated in any language.



See Protest Page 2 Students speak their opinons to the lone protester.

PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Live keynote session with poet Seth Michelson

By Madeline S. Scharf Reporter

On Wednesday, April 7, the university's Latin American and Caribbean Studies program hosted a keynote lecture and Q&A with poet and author Seth Michaelson, surrounding his book "Dreaming America: Voices of Undocumented Youth in Maximum-security Detention. The book of poetry was created through Michaelson's work at detention centers for minors seeking asylum at the southern border. "I

offered myself as a free resource to the person who ran the detention center," said Michaelson. Michaelson taught the children poetry and later published their works in the compilation.

Professor William

Carmen Coury. Coury recounted statistics regarding the incarceration of minors at the United States southern border. "In January (of 2021), there were 9,000 unaccompanied minors. This was doubled to 18,000

connect with you." The lecture focused on the difficulties these migrant children faced, how they often fled from their home countries to reach America. "These children came to us to flee violence," said Michaelson. "They are often illiterate instead of learning, they are locked in cages[□] the children only know the United States as incarcerated people." Michaelson has found in his years that poetry can bridge gaps between people and have a positive impact on both the writer and the reader. "Poetry can help you live your life differently," said Michaelson. "It can change who and how we are as people." The harsh reality of what these children have gone through is palpable in their poetry and has had consequences for both the audience and Michaelson. "I go to therapy," said Michaelson, "to deal with the secondary trauma. If these works have affected you, I recommend you reach out to someone." Through the poetry of the children, Michaelson believes change can be enacted. "You can work

to change that" said Michaelson about the children's incarceration. "You may raise your voice and cry for change.'

There are many ways university students may get involved with immigration. Michaelson

athletics welcomes back fans to stands

By Sam Tapper Editor-in-Chief

After a year-long hiatus due to all that transpired with the COVID-19 pandemic, fans are finally allowed to cheer on the Owls in person once again, as of April 10.

According to a press release on the Athletic Department's website, spectators will be allowed at all home games at The Ballpark, Pelz Field and Jess Dow Field for baseball, softball and women's lacrosse.

"We're very excited to allow the families and friends of our studentathletes to attend games this spring," Interim Director of Athletics Matt Letkowski said in the release. "We know that has been a frustrating time for all of our student-athletes and their families and we thank the University leadership as well as the Northeast 10 Conference to allow us the flexibility to allow spectators."

The decision was made by the university with approval from the NE10, according to the release. For the time being, spectators will be limited to members of the campus community, as well as the families of the Owls' student athletes. Any spectators from visiting schools will not be permitted at this time. "Individuals from outside of the SCSU campus community will not be allowed [at] sporting events on Southern's campus at this time," Sports Information Director Ken Sweeten said in a statement on April 8. All spectators in attendance are expected to follow all COVID-19 health and safety protocols, which includes wearing masks and social distancing for the entirety of the contest, according to the release. Due to logistical concerns, spectators will not yet be allowed to attend men's and women's track and field meets, which meant the Jim Barber Invitational at Jess Dow Field on April 11 remained without spectators in the stands. However, Letkowski said the goal is to get fans back for track and field before season ends. "Naturally, we hope that all spectators respect and adhere to our guidelines," Letkowski said in the release. "It's important that everyone follows the rules to allow us to continue to allow spectators. We hope to do so for track & field at their final home meet as well."

Faraclas, introduced the topic and spoke about how he thought students may feel after reading the collection. "I believe it will be stimulating, haunting, and cause you to not stop thinking," said Faraclas.

The lecture was preceded by an informative presentation by history professor



PHOTO COURTESY |WWW SOUTHERNCT.EDU Author and poet Seth Michelson.

children the next month, said Coury.

Coury emphasized, however, that it is more than just the statistics. "Each of these numbers is a person," said Coury. "You have been presented with statistics, not human stories."

Michaelson hopes that by learning about these incarcerated children's stories, a better bond will form between the reader and these children. "By reading these poems," said Michaelson, "you are inviting the voices of refugee children into our community."

A few poems were read for the presentation. Each was read by a different student at the university. "That is how the children wanted their poems read," said Michaelson. "I spoke with the children about how they wanted their poems read. They wanted to speak with [the audience]. They wanted to believes it is best to start a small one. "Start locally," said Michaelson, "at your campus. See what changes you may make there. Then move to New Haven, then Connecticut."

Michaelson is positive the students at this university can make a difference. "Nurture hope," said Michaelson, "allow it to compel your actions."

Using his book, Michaelson also hopes to make a financial difference to the incarcerated migrant children. "All funds from Dreaming America go to funding legal counsel for these children," said Michaelson. The incarcerated children at these centers often do not have any money and speak little or no English. However, as they are not United States citizens, they are not given the right to free legal counsel and must represent themselves in court battles to remain in the USA.

SGA discusses CO -19 vaccines on campus Garcia, as well as other Duff noted that there

By Caitlin O'Halloran Reporter

The Student **Government Association** (SGA) held their weekly Friday meetings, with one of the main topics being the COVID-19 vaccine being distributed on campus.

SGA had a guest speaker at this meeting: Residence Life Covid Coordinator

Erin Duff. "We want as many

students as possible to vaccinated so that we can go towards a somewhat normal - get back to some normalcy, whatever that may look like for the fall semester," said Duff.

Duff noted that there are some reservations on campus surrounding the vaccine and that she is working with her graduate intern, Leslie

faculty and other campus partners to provide a program to educate campus community regarding the COVID-19 vaccine.

'We've also, last week and the week before, been trying to get students to get vaccinated or schedule their appointments," said Duff. "And so, just educating people on how to schedule.'

will be more information provided about when the vaccine will be available on campus and other parts of the community for students to sign up for their slot at getting the vaccine, hopefully in the very near future.

After, they discussed the interest of distribution of congratulatory t-shirts to those who got vaccinated and as a value and

incentive for students. Upon this matter, sociology major Andreina Barajas, a freshman, asked about the way they would be able to provide comfort to multicultural organizations because "I do see a lot of people of color seem to be skeptical about the vaccine and I think there is a lot of historical context to that."

NEWS

APRIL 14, 2021

Protest

According to the students present, the protesting man arrived sometime prior to 1:40 p.m. While most students appeared to leave the quad around 2:45 p.m., the man did not for some time.

The man did not identify himself as a university student or faculty member. He was asked by university police to wear a mask, at which point he said he would "opt out" and instead practice social distancing.

"Everybody's getting closer and closer to you and it would just make everybody else feel better. I'm gonna make sure all the students have them on," an officer told the man. The officer had standard surgical masks, which were offered to both students and the man.

"He just told somebody to put a mask on and he hasn't had a mask on since he got here. I would give him a mask, though," chemistry major Emmanuella Andoh, a junior, said.

The man said, "many people here in the crowd

do not have a mask on," counting three students from the large group of gathered observers. "It's my mouth, my choice," he later added.

A student from the crowd also gave the man a black cotton mask, which he appeared to keep in his pocket.

The protest and debate were not originally an official event. However, around 2 o'clock, university president Joe Bertolino arrived on the university quad with volunteers and boxes of Insomnia Cookies for everyone in attendance.

"Regardless of who they are, their beliefs, where they come from, everyone in this community deserves to be treated with kindness, civility and compassion. period. So, we are going to be respectful to whoever visits our campus. We are a public university, and we are an open campus," Bertolino said, addressing the crowd.

choices. Whether we're going to sit and listen or to engage in good dialogue and debate or to take a cookie and walk away, and that's okay too."

PHOTO I ROMA ROSITAN

SGA

Similarly, political science and philosophy major Asma Rahimyar wanted an outreach to the multicultural center with regards to this campaign: "and if there is a way that we haven't thus far, if we can bring them into these efforts about disseminating what this campaign is about and then hopefully getting

have gotten vaccinated."

they are working on "providing comfort, gaining back trust, educating," as well as having conversations with families and how to go about those conversations.

As for the budget for the T-shirts, it will not be provided by the COVID budget as it isn't necessarily a situation

by Kyle Thaxton was to distribute a type of pamphlet which would how and where to get a shot, and information regarding the vaccine that students will need to said political science and economics major Michelle Morales, a sophomore. "I think it's a privilege to

travel to far destinations to get their shots was also discussed.

After these discussions,

Vice President's Report Samantha Widomski was discussed regarding inner

"I think that it is very encouraging the vaccine especially for those who are on campus mostly," said SGA President and history major Sarah Gossman, a junior.

U-Passes no longer free, students must pay \$40

By Madeline S. Scharf Reporter

In an agenda released by the Board of Regents on March 25, it was announced the U-Pass fee would increase to \$40 for all participating CSCU colleges and universities. Previously, students did not have to purchase the pass unless they lost it, to which they would pay a \$10 fee for replacement. Art education major Sara Lareau, a freshman, said, "I haven't had to pay for it yet." Lisa Rivers, a Transit Manager for the Connecticut Department of Transportation, said "we wanted a program to encourage use of

public transportation," said Rivers. "We want to expose students to our services."

The U-Pass was first tested at UCONN in 2017 and seemed to be a very positive program for the students. "Some students didn't have enough money before," said Rivers. For the students could not pay for transportation to and from school, the program allows them to be more mobile and access more of Connecticut. The U-Pass program was a huge success. "We had so much good feedback," said Rivers. "It was also a positive that the public transportation allowed the CSCU students to begin traveling safely."

The program is currently offered to all CSCU universities, "except for Quinnipiac and Eastern," according to Rivers. "The students able to use the program are "usually undergrad," said Rivers, "but the program is now considering possibly adding graduate

off just paying bus fare once or twice. That'swhy are they doing that, it ruins the point of the U-Pass?

Lareau was also unaware of this change. "That is that is fairly upsetting," said Lareau. She said she will now reconsider purchasing the pass next semester. The pass may not be worth it for some students. Palumberi hypothesized who this pass may be aimed towards. "I suppose the pass may be viable for people who take the train," said Palumberi.

costs anywhere from \$15- \$25.

"I suppose," said Palumberi. "If I were traveling a lot by train, I may buy the U-Pass." However, he does not use the train often enough, as he has other means of transportation. "Yeah, I will never use it enough of a negotiated rate to offset other services provided."

The agenda released by the Board of Regents writes on page 184, "As a result of negotiations with the State DOT (Department of Transportation) and OPM (Connecticut Office of Policy and



students as well."

Southern students constantly used the pass. Communication major Leo Palumberi has used a lot. "Yeah, I enjoy the U–Pass," said Palumberi. "It is free transportation, so I very much enjoy that."

Palumberi was not aware that the U-Pass fee would be increasing to \$40 a semester. "That is horrendous," said Palumberi. "I am better

The average oneway train ticket from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), which runs most commuter trains in Connecticut,

to warrant \$40," said Palumberi.

An anonymous student who uses the U-Pass for bus transit of the \$40 fee. "It is very bad," said the student. "ľ will not be buying the pass because, you know, it's \$40."

Lisa Rivers did not appear to know anything about the price increase for the U-Pass. She said, "If it is going to \$40, then it is because

Management), and in accordance with proposed legislation, the cost of each UPASS will rise to \$40 per term for all public colleges and universities."

This change is applicable for all universities under CSCU who are part of the U-Pass program. The Board of Regents

did not respond to a request to address on the matter.





A U-pass that allows students to ride public transportation, currently for free.

The New Haven city bus, which offers free rides with a university U-Pass.

PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

OPINION WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG

Watching the campus continue to develop

APRIL 14, 2021



By Sam Tapper Editor-in-Chief

These are the opinions of The Southern News Editorial Staff.

I have always been incredibly close with my dad. Growing up – and even today – he always told me stories about the way things were when he was my age. One place that always sparked conversation was when he would take me through UConn's campus in Storrs, his alma mater.

Obviously, things have changed on that campus since 1990, so our drives through campus are always filled with recollection of the past and marvel of the present and apparent future. My father is always quick to

point out his points of inter- I had my learning commuest, like his old newsroom at nity meetings during my The Daily Campus.

While UConn and this campus are vastly different, from content to overall size, the current construction on campus makes me think: what will campus look like when I return years down the line?

I have been watching the Health and Human Services building go up since University President Joe Bertolino and CSCU President Mark Ojakian broke ground. In fact, the very site the building sits on is where

first New Owl Weekend as a freshman. It is amusing to me that I can say I participated in my first icebreaker on campus in what will eventually be the basement of that building.

Beyond the current construction, the future plans in store for the campus excite me. With plans to build a new School of Business, on the residential quad where TE-6 currently stands, I wonder how the image and overall traffic of that side of campus will change.

And perhaps what I am most excited for and what will almost surely bring me back to campus regularly: The Ballpark. For a few years there have been plans to renovate and expand The Ballpark, to add more seating and a full press box to the current facility. While I am sure it is at the very best third in line behind the building going up now and the next School of Business, it is a fun thought, because the Owls baseball team is deserving of a better home field.

One day if I ever bring

my kids back to campus for a baseball game, I can tell them that while the reporters are all nice and comfortable in the new press box, I covered games sitting on the bleachers, dealing with wind and sun, and freezing my tail off. Similar to all the stories my dad would tell me of his days in my shoes.

PAGE 3

Things change; buildings change; people change. But memories and legacies will live on. And as I grow up, I am excited to come back and see how the campus - a home away from home grows up too.

Implications of the word 'racist' in conversation

By Jose Vega Contributor

The quickest way to stop a productive civil conversation between college students sharing different political opinions is to call someone racist.

Given everything that has happened within the last five years including the 2016 elections, institutional injustice, and the COVID-19 pandemic, it is fair to say politics is now a common topic of conversation.

Whether it is a random conversation among peers or over family dinner, politics will eventually come up as a topic to talk about.

Everyone can see the next big Twitter news headline right in the palm of their hand and become "knowledgeable" about a subject in minutes. However, does that quick bit of information give a person the right to make consequential statements towards other people?

It doesn't matter where you get your news from, or how knowledgeable someone thinks they are about a specific issue. The first step is to educate yourself, but the next step is to have respectful conversations about these controversial topics.

The university, being a public institution, would be the perfect place to have these conversations. Except when a student here is faced with a terrifying situation: yourself or someone else disagrees.

This now has transformed into civil discourse among peers, with all parties involved helping to educate the other about a different

perspective on an issue.

As with most political conversations, yours will more likely than not turn more personal or emotional as you keep conversing. Then in a split moment through their emotions, someone says the word; racist.

It isn't describing a law or action taken by a politician, it is directed firmly at one person in the argument. This immediately stops any essence of civil discourse you had and would not allow you to get back to the issue at hand.

It is not because the person who used the word is backed into a corner and cannot come up with a logical argument. Neither is it because the person who was called it heard this and immediately felt overwhelmed with emotions they had to resort to name-calling as well.

The civil discourse ended when such a pointed word like 'racist' was thrown into the discussion. The word symbolizes a dangerous unproductive route that sadly, conversations about politics tend to take.

Well thought out ideas turn into short 'I am right and you are wrong statements', and the listening to different perspectives turn into the complete blocking of new information on both sides.

Many people disagree with one another on a daily basis, even at the most fundamental level. However, the ability to stop and listen is a skill that should be pushed to the forefront if the university truly wants to aid its student's professional development.

Gender inclusive housing offered on campus

By Sofia Rositani Arts & Entertainment Editor

Gender inclusive housing is a resource on campus that, from what I have noticed, not many people know about. "Gender-Inclusive Housing allows students, in mutual agreement, to share a multiple-occupancy room or suite/apartment, regardless of the students' biological sex or gender identities," according to the university website. When I signed up for gender inclusive housing, I did not realize how little options students had when choosing this option. Reading about this on the website, there is not a lot about it, which is

housing. If you are a first-year

annoying for students or

potential students who are

interested in this option of

picking apartment style dorms and suites is also a hardship, because the university gives students a limited number of dorms to choose from in the hall they want to stay in. So for example, when I picked, I only had two rooms to pick from out of the entire dormitory under gender inclusive housing. That is not fair, because we are basically being told that we only have two or three options to pick out of while people who are not under this option can pick any dorm room they want from any dormitory. It is especially not fair to the LGBTQIA+ students who do not feel comfortable dorming with someone who is not

their gender, because the university will put you with your assigned sex and some students may have yet to change their assigned gender which makes it harder for them to choose. At Eastern Connecticut State University, their dorms have themes, (very similar to Southern's dormitories), but this one offers one dormitory to gender inclusive housing, a.k.a the Pride House. "This community will serve as a supportive and welcoming environment for students who have an interest in being as inclusive as possible as it pertains to gender identities and gender expression and would

find comfort in living with others who have similar interests," according to Eastern's website. "Students within this community will have the option of receiving support from Campus Safe Space Allies as well as the Pride Room. This community is located in Mead Hall." In an article by the Southern News in 2015, Robert DeMezzo, head of Residence Life, said gender inclusive housing was created to make students feel safer in their living quarters on campus. "We expect there to be more students asking for such housing in coming years, and Southern is ready to expand the housing situation for

students who would require it or wish it," DeMezzo said in the article. "We are very open to talking with any student who wishes for this sort of housing, they need only contact us." Now that there are more students using this rooming assignment, including first years, there should be a better way to implement this on campus without giving so little housing options for students who pay to live in the dorms. There should definitely be more done to make this easier and better for students who live on campus now and incoming freshmen who may want to use gender inclusive housing.

student coming into the university wanting to know more about gender inclusive housing, it is hard to find information. I found out this semester from a friend that the only place a first-year student can live in on campus with gender inclusive housing is the first floor of Chase Hall. That is so annoying because as someone who is very picky about where they live, having only one floor to pick from with a limited number of rooms is not okay for a student to have.

As an upperclassman,

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APRIL 14, 2021

The university welcomes new Owls

By Roma Rositani Photo Editor

Last Saturday, the university held an event welcoming first-year and transfer students, so they can prepare for the upcoming fall semester. The incoming students received tours around the campus from student tour guides. The participants had the chance to have one-on-one conversations with school programs, such as campus dining, the muticultural center and a variety of clubs. President Joe Bertolino was also seen conversing with new students.

While students enjoyed the events, Otus the Owl was making his way around campus to greet and take pictures with students.



The campus put up a big sign welcoming students for Accepted Students Day.



PAGE 4

Students and families walking through the Founder's Gate.





Otus the Owl striking a pose during Accepted Owls Day.

President Joe Bertolino welcoming and talking to new students.





The school's mascot, Otus the Owl, greeting new students.

SPORTS WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG





Baseball sweeps Pace

Column By Mike Neville Sports Editor

The Owls' baseball team got their first sweep of the season vs. Pace University this past weekend at the Ballpark at SCSU.

For the Owls, everything seemed to come together with both the bats and bullpen factoring in both wins.

Pace mustered four runs in both games for a total of eight on the day. The Owls scored eight runs in the first game and 10 in the second.

The scoring opened in the first inning when Jack Drewry singled home Zack Bedryczuk for the first run of the game. A double by Peyton Farina in the fourth opened the game to 3–0 before Pace tied it in the fourth.

Tyshaun Diaz and Berdryczuk each went 2–4 in the first game, and both scored rubs on top of that.

Outfielder Andrew

Men's track impresses at invitational Owls get best of two Division I schools for first place finish

By Edward Rudman Sports Writer

The men's track and field program came in first place at the Wilton Wright Invitational at Jess Dow Field on Saturday, April 3.

The Owls scored 164 points, just edging out Division I University of Connecticut by four points, who finished second. University of New Haven finished third with 99 points and University of Hartford, another Division I school, finished fourth with 80 points.

'We're not in as bad a shape as I thought we were in," said Head Coach John Wallin. "We missed eight months of training and I think as a staff we were pretty concerned that we weren't going to be fit and that we could could get them meet-ready in a small amount of time, by doing that you really risk injury but we've been able to stay healthy so far. We're not in as bad of shape as I thought we were, in which is a pleasant surprise, but now we have to figure out how to keep moving forward

and get better than we are." Terrell Patterson, a senior, finished first place in the 800-meter run with a time of 1:47.14. This was his first time competing in a meet in almost two years. The last time doing so on May 11, 2019.

"It was good to just get

back to racing. I had a longer hiatus than most people because I was out with injury prior to the COVID shutdown," said Patterson. "It was definitely good to comeback and comeback with a team win and an individual win and hopefully get things

moving forward through the outdoor season and into championships."

Other individual wins on the day for track include Nigel Green, a senior, in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.74, Osaretin Osagie, a freshman, in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 56.31 and the Owls won the 4x100 meter relay with a time of 42.34.

The relay team consisted of Jaylynn Cundiff, Milan Spisek, Naszier Torrence– Robinson and Green.

"It was really exciting, I was kind of nervous," said Cundiff. "I was nervous because I didn't really know where I was going to be at for this season and I wanted to get back to exactly where I started last year, or where I left off, and I accomplished that but I was nervous to see where I'd come off after not competing for a year."

Cundiff also participated in the long jump, where he took first place with a new personal best of 7.22 meters. It's the tenth longest jump in program history, according to Southern's athletic website.

The individual wins in field events did not stop there, as Mekhi Barnett finished first in the discus throw with a throw of 46.04 meters and Jack Brown finished first in the pole vault. clearing 4.85 meters.

Cameron Belton warming up for a shot put throw at the Wilton Wright Invitational.

See Track Page 6

Lacrosse upbeat despite loss to Le Moyne

By Sam Tapper Editor-in-Chief

When Kevin Siedlecki took the women's lacrosse head coaching job in 2019, he began his program rebuild with simple goals: win a program-best five games and be competitive in each game. Despite losing 18-6 to the No. 3 nationallyranked Le Moyne Dolphins, Siedlecki felt the progress was evident. "Overall, our energy, our level of play was really elevated today," Siedlecki said. "I was really pleased for 60 minutes, not just the first 10." Over the course of the first 10 minutes, the Owls looked poised to show they would not go down without a fight. They jumped out to a quick 3-0 lead over the third-ranked Dolphins behind goals from their core of attackers: Bayleigh Takacs, a junior, Karlie Rowe, a junior and Hailey Gordon, a senior. Takacs, who had two goals total on the afternoon, put her squad on the board in the first two minutes of the game. Less than a minute later, she assisted on Rowe's seventh goal of the year. Gordon's goal gave the Owls their three-goal lead just five minutes into the game, the program's

largest lead over a ranked opponent.

Gordon has now scored a goal in her last 11 games, tying the program record set by Rowe. Takacs has recorded a point in 10 straight games and Rowe has recorded a point in all 25 games of her collegiate career. With this talent on the attack, the players as Le Moyne tied it at four. Seconds later, the Dolphins took a 5-4 lead, an advantage they would keep for the final 45 minutes of play. Le Moyne scored eight straight goals to take a 12-4 lead into the half, and they were not done there.

While Takacs did throw in her second goal of the afternoon on a move, where she hit the ground, the Dolphins' lead was 17–5 with under 15 minutes to go. Each team would score once more before the final horn, with Shaw picking up a yellow card in the final minute. With the loss, the Owls fall to 1–2 after losing in blowout fashion at No. 18 Pace earlier in the week.

PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

It appeared to be a tail

of two games for the Owls: the first 10 versus the last 50. However, Siedlecki said he "didn't see a whole lot different. I think that's the greatest thing. A casual fan is going to see the scoreboard, 'oh wow, they were there for 10 minutes," said Siedlecki.

See lacrosse Page 6

Eng would break that tie, hitting his fourth home run in four games as his hot streak continues.

Pete Phillips had a strong show in relief for the win in game one to back up a good performance by lefty Joe Nemchek. Brandon White recorded the fourout save to put a close on game one for the Owls.

Game two was even better for the Owls. Tony Zambito had an impressive game going 2–4 with two stolen bases, two hits and three runs batted in. His quest to break the Owls stolen base record continues.

Izaiah Walker had an almost perfect 3–4 at the dish, driving in two runs and recording a double also..

The scoring for game two started in the first inning with a Drewry RBI single and a sacrifice fly by Farina that would later score Chad Fedeli.

Tommy Hughes and Zack Rodgers had solid outings out of the bullpen to cap the Owls victory. Hughes allowed Pace to score just one run through 11/3 innings. Rogers was stellar and pitched two perfect innings to cap off the sweep for the Owls.

The Owls travel to Adelphi University today to make up games postponed from March 28.

The Owls will look to get revenge off Adelphi after loosing to them earlier this season.

Adelphi has the third best record in the division.

believe they can be a force down the line.

"I definitely think our attack is very dynamic," said Takacs, a team captain. "I think that we have girls that are stronger with drives and stronger with feeds but overall everyone can do everything, and I think that's such a threat for our opponents. I personally like to feed from behind, but also, I'm comfortable enough to take the drive and look for the outlets and the passes, like to Karlie. I think it shows how dynamic we are."

The Dolphins answered over the next four minutes, scoring two to cut the deficit to one, but midfielder Brianna Shaw, a freshman, countered with her first career goal to give the Owls a 4–2 lead 10 minutes into the game. From there, the Dolphins flipped the switch.

By the 17-minute mark, the Owls' lead was completely gone,



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Captain attacker Bailey Takacs, junior, scored two goals vs. Le Moyne. Takacs is greeted by her teammates prior to the white and blue scrimmage.

Softball takes losses as learning experience

By Edward Rudman Sports Writer

The Owls lost both games in an afternoon doubleheader against rival University of New Haven on Wednesday, April 7 at Pelz Field.

They lost the first game 7–0 and the second matchup 13–1. The Owls moved to 6–6 overall on the season after the losses and 3–5 in Northeast 10 conference play. UNH improved to 8–4 overall and 3–3 in NE10 conference play.

"I don't think there's anything positive about the performance that we had today," said infielder Sara Buscetto, a graduate student. "I think that sometimes those days happen and we have to take responsibility and say we didn't do our best and just across the board, be better. You learn from these mistakes, you take the heart break from those losses, and you turn it into a fire and come out stronger the next time."

The offense remained stagnant throughout both games, collecting a pair of hits in each game for a total of four. On the other hand, the Chargers had 11 hits in the first outing and 14 in the second.

Ava Fitzmaurice, pitcher for UNH, got the start on the mound in both games and improved to 6–1 on the year with the two wins. Jazmyn Martinez, a senior, got the start in game one for the Owls, dropping to 4–2 on the season, and Jessica Perucki, a sophomore, started game two, dropping to 2–3 with the loss.

"The conversation that Coach Akcer, myself and Coach Paterson had postgame was very much surrounding find something that you can do better tomorrow that you didn't do well today," said Head Coach Jillian Rispoli.

See softball Page 6

Shameless Series Finale Review: SPOILERS AHEAD

By Adela Nikocevic Contributor

"Shameless: US" a Showtime original that aired in 2011, has sadly come to an end after 11 seasons last night. Shameless is known as a comedy show because it puts reality into a TV show where viewers can relax and laugh as they watch a series bring to life and brighten up the current situation of America. Shameless was directed by John Wells for all eleven seasons and he has worked on series such as "Third Watch", "The West Wing", and "Southland".

"Shameless: US" is about a dysfunctional family, known as the Gallagher's who go through the difficulties of life together. As a family, they always managed to make the best of the situation with two absent parents, leaving the oldest daughter Fiona to take care of her five younger siblings.

Earlier in the final season, it is revealed that because of Frank Gallagher, the father, drinking so much and ruining his liver and eventually his brain, he

Lacrosse

"A couple shots didn't fall. We hit some pipes. It was kind of like our Pace game – we're right there. This is a much better team than Pace, [Le Moyne] blew Pace out just a week ago. And this was a much better game for us, we just had energy that I think is so important. I'm very, very happy with how today went. We made them work really hard."

For much of the game, it was as if Le Moyne always had control of the ball. The Dolphins took 36 shots and had 29 shotson-goal. Even though goalie Laura Morton was able to save 11 of them, a season high, there was no let up from one of the best has alcoholic dementia. Later in season 11, John Wells puts light on the COVID-19 pandemic and has a family member of the Gallagher family die due to COVID-19.

As we all know, COVID-19 has had an impact worldwide, and with COVID-19 cases steadily increasing it was interesting to see how it was handled within a TV show. John Wells incorporated Frank to have COVID-19 but since he was diagnosed with alcoholic dementia, he had DO NOT **RESUSCITATE** tattooed on his chest. When the nurses saw they let him die slowly with COVID-19.

Within a couple of hours, it shows how Frank is having memories of earlier years and realizes he is passing away.

He lies there and smiles as he takes his last breath and the machine pans to the monitor and shows he no longer has a heartbeat.

His family, except for Fiona because she left after Season 9, were not bothered that he was nowhere to be found at home.

The only one who seemed to care was Liam because he was trying to

country," Siedlecki said. "If we can win a league championship, we can win a national championship. And that's not true of most places,

we play in the best league in the country by far. We play the best teams. That's great for building a competitive program year-in and year-out."



find where Frank had gone episode two days in and was worried about him.

One of the things I love about John Wells is he leaves Shameless fans in suspense, because he hinted something will happen but not how they will die or be removed from the show. Showtime also would post on Twitter small clips of what to do, except for the Sunday

advance so fans would try to figure out what the next episode could be about.

Another thing I love about Shameless is it really shows that even as a TV show, you have an insight into how some people live their lives on the South Side of Chicago. John Wells really was

able to show the hardships of what people must go

through in specific parts so even though it was a small area of Chicago, it represents what so many people around the world go through and experience.

What I really loved about this series finale is that one minute I was on the edge to cry but the scenes switched so fast, I ended up laughing with tears in my eyes. That is what I love about

Shameless, one minute the scene is so serious and so intense that there are so many emotions running through your body and then five minutes later, you are laughing so hard that you cannot breathe. Shameless was a beautifully written show and it is so sad to see it come to an end after eleven years. The ride was good while it lasted.



A screenshot of a scene from the show Shameless on the Showtime network.

Softball

"Other than that,

take what we can from

this experience, learn

something from it and

move on. Dwelling on

it is just too difficult so

Find some fire within

yourself and use this as motivation, that's

the conversation that

Defensively, the

three errors in each

game. The first game

saw a steady offensive

outing from the Chargers,

as they were not able to

Owls were not without mistakes, committing

like that."

happens after something

we try to emphasize that.

we have to have a

short memory and

fierce and we need to do a better job of making those pitchers work a little bit harder."

The Owls were able to put up a run in the bottom of the fifth of the second game. Perucki hit a double to right center field and eventually scored off a groundout from infielder Angela Barresi, a freshman.

"I think everybody

just needs to do a bit of self-reflection," said outfielder Cailey Botteon, a graduate student. "Just realize why they're here and how fortunate we are to have a season in the first place and I think we need to take more advantage of coming out and just having fun playing as a team and lighten that fire inside up again."

PHOTO | SOFIA ROSITANI



offenses in the country.

"There definitely were not a lot of easy shots or anything," Morton said. "Eventually they had to go to some different stuff, and definitely some forced shots, but they definitely put [me] under assault."

The Owls' schedule gets no easier moving forward, as they will host Pace in their next game, hoping to avenge their 20-7 defeat. Three of their final six games will be ranked opponents.

"That's the conference we play against the best teams in the

PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM Hailey Gordon looking for pass during a 2019 game.

put up at least one run in only the second and fourth innings.

The second game saw a more sporadic offensive effort. Five runs were scored in the first two innings and then the Chargers were unable to score again until the sixth inning, where they put up eight runs.

What I think was different in these past few games from the beginning of the season was probably the quality of pitching," said Rispoli. "In these last few games, I would venture to say that the competition has just become even more

PHOTO I WWW.SOUTHERMCTOWLS.COM

Jazmyn Martinez looks on as team takes on Felician

Men's basketball forward receives academic honor

By Edward Rudman Sports Writer

Men's basketball forward Zack Penn, a junior, received the Northeast 10 Conference's Elite 24 Award on March 23, 2021.

The Elite 24 award is usually given to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative GPA taking part in a NE10 championship, but since there were no seasons for fall and winter sports, the award was given to students by comparing GPAs on a sport-bysport basis, according to Southern's Athletic Website.

"It was very surprising to me. I honestly didn't

do it for anything, I've just always have worked hard in school," said Penn. "My family holds me to a high level of getting good grades and it's awesome to get recognized for something I've been doing throughout my college career. It's an awesome honor and it's nice to see my hard work paying off."

Penn is the first member of the basketball program to earn the award and he posted a 3.82 GPA as a sports management major.

Balancing a college level workload and being a student-athlete is not easily done, but Penn said because sports management is something that he loves, it helps him

even think of this award or to get the work done and still be able to focus on basketball.

> "For me, sport management is my passion. I just love sports and the whole management side of it, so doing the work and getting all my schoolwork done is easy for me because it's stuff that I'm interested in," said Penn. "I think that if college kids pick the right degree, you're going to be able to get that work done easier because you're actually invested in it."

Penn has had prolonged success as a student athlete, as he has earned a spot on the NE10 Academic Honor Roll in each of his first five semesters.

During his sophomore

year in the 2019-2020 season, Penn appeared in 27 games and started four of them. He was the only member of the team to play in every game and averaged 4.0 points, 4.6 rebounds and 1.3 assists per game. He shot at a 43.9 percent clip from the field.

After college, Penn said he'd love to play basketball somewhere if given the opportunity because he'd like to play as long as possible.

Afterwards, he said he's still undecided which path he wants to take in the sports management world. Ŵhether it be an athletic director at a high school or more of the marketing aspect of the profession.

'We're blessed to have

Zack in many ways. He's a leader on the court, he's a leader in the classroom and he puts in effort in both situations," said Head Coach Scott Burrell. "He's not the best player but he works the hardest. Being a 4.0 athlete, we need that, a lot of our guys buy into it."



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM Penn (right) going in a huddle during a game in 2020.

FEATURES

APRIL 14, 2021

ProCon engages in-person, virtually

By Caitlin O'Halloran Reporter

The Programs Council has been putting on multiple events throughout the semester, both virtually and in-person, to keep students involved.

"Pandemic aside, I think our goal is always to create, like, a vibrant campus experience for students that gives them opportunities to engage with the campus, to meet other students, to have some fun, maybe to learn a thing or two along the way," said ProCon's adviser and assistant director Eric Lacharity.

There are many different events that the group has been putting on weekly that range from many different categories such as Create Your Own Mocktail Kit, stuff an animal event, social media contests and much more.

"ProCon is created as a student activity, like under student involvement," said weekend programmer of ProCon and social



Berry (right) during the in-person event for students to stuff an owl.

work major, Jenna Dearborne, a senior.

"So every year for your tuition, you have to pay, like, a \$70 student activity fee, so that money goes to us so we can plan events for you guys."

The Programs Council said they are always open to student suggestions on what type of events they would like to see them hold, so students can have a memorable experience throughout their time on campus.

"We feel it's important to have events for students so they know they can get a break from all the work and the school-load they have to do because especially with online learning, it's difficult now and not being able to leave your dorm for most stuff," said biochemistry major Matt Berry, a junior. Under student involvement, ProCon is a group who can offer a fun way for students to be engaged in activities on campus to help them meet new people and have new and different connections with other students on campus. They also help students widen their experience on campus by helping them succeed and develop new skills through those experiences.

"We used to plan trips, but because of COVID, we can't," said Dearborne, "We would go to Boston and New York. So now we're just kind of doing little grab-and-go free things and daytime does the same thing, grab-andgo little events, Kahoot games, and then nighttime does like, let's make a deal and they give out the X-Box and the Amazon Alexa gift cards and all that so it's just kind of to give back to the students because this is what they pay for."

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, ProCon used to plan many different events that students were always participating in, but it had to be put on pause due to COVID-19.

"Before our community, this specific one, like [Dearborne] said, we used to do trips to Boston on Saturday's, or New York or Dave and Busters, we would always get a full sign up for that," said Berry. "In fact, we would actually get people that showed up to the bus and would say 'Hey, do you still have room?' Those events were always a bigger hit than what we have to deal with now."

PAGE 7

Even though it's more difficult to host in-person events during this pandemic, ProCon still offers many different events for students on campus as well as virtually so those who don't want to attend in person, can still be part of the entertaining events that are put together for their enjoyment.

Lacharity noted that there will be a tent set up on campus sometime next week where they will house a lot of the remaining programs ProCon will host for the rest of the semester. Where they will have other exciting events to present.

"I think we've learned a little bit already with our on-ground events," said Lacharity. "I think going to where the students are already is a big factor in the success of the programs right now."

Otus scavenger hunt

By Donovan Wilson Reporter

The Residence Hall Association, or RHA, often puts on events to engage with students on campus, their most recent was an owl-themed scavenger hunt.

"We had already thought of it, the board planned all of our events ahead of time," said Natalie Sinclair, a member of RHA



Learning how to plant

By Madeline S. Scharf Reporter

On Sunday, April 11, Residence Life hosted the sustainable planting event. It was held as part of the Strengthening Sundays program.

Biology major Kaheria Burgees, a senior worked as an administrator for the event. She helped show students how to plant their own seedlings and encouraged them to decorate. "This is the sustainable planting event," said Burgees. "Residence are encouraged to bring their own pots to plant in so they can recycle." The recycling portion of the event drew in **Recreation and Leisure** major Rachael Martins, a freshman. "I brought my own can," said Martins, "and am able to reuse my items. That is really nice.' Students were able to pick from a variety of seeds, from flowers to vegetables, to plant. They were then able to color their containers with sharpie or acrylic paint. If students did not bring a recyclable, ceramic pots were provided. This event comes right at the beginning of the spring season. During

this time, it is often that flowers begin to grow and flourish. It is a time of new beginnings and rebirth.

This event is a part of a program at Residence Life called Strengthening Sundays. Strengthening Sundays are held every Sunday and encourage students to relax and destress after the week. Burgees sees similarities to taking care of a plant and taking care of oneself, Plants and nature have been proven to have a positive effect on one's mental health and mood, according to a research study produced by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRAP).

"Spending time in green environments can relieve not only anxiety and stress, but also sadness and depression," said the study.

Exploratory major Jack Prestage, a freshman, finds

and one of the organizers of the Find Otus event.

RHA puts together a myriad of different events over each semester to keep students involved on campus. This year, everything was determined and divided up amongst the different board members. Natalie Sinclair and Suhanee Patel decided to take up the Find Otus event and organize it and run the whole festivities.

Sinclair said, "We hid mini Otuses all over the campus."

"Find Otus" was a scavenger hunting event where miniature versions of Otus were hidden around the campus. Once students found an Otus, there were instructions on how to make RHA aware that they had won. Then, they would redeem their Otus for a prize of much higher value, which ranged from air pods to bookstore apparel to CD's and a mixed bag of other things students enjoy.

"It's my favorite event of the semester and they did it last semester with the treasure hunt," said Nicole Thomas, one of the winners of the event.

RHA usually hosts a scavenger hunt each semester featuring a different theme. The one Sinclair specifically recalls was a literal treasure hunt consisting of treasure chests hid around campus but the idea and execution was similar to Find Otus. Sinclair

PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Otus the Owl, who the scavenger hunt is based on.

remembers a much more unique scavenger hunting event that utilized an app and students had to take photos in specific locations and earn points and the winners were determined through a first through third placement rather than the first person to find something specific.

Thomas said, "I won AirPods Pros and Tracy won a 50 dollar gift card to Amazon".

The prizes were won, as mentioned before, by finding one of the many mini Otuses hidden around campus. The big point behind making the specific item you needed to find Otus was to help tie the scavenger hunting events more to the university itself than it has been in the past, according to Sinclair.

"The owls were hid a little too broadly and hints should have been more specific," said Tracy Nham, one of the event's winners.

The owls were hidden throughout the campus. The hints were, according to Nham, only pertaining to the building or area on campus in which the owl would be in and around. Nham would have liked the hints to be a little more precise as that would have preserved the challenge, but make it a little more accessible as some of the owls were supposedly very hard to find.

Nham said, "How they hid them was clever but the prize distribution was weird as the hardest to find owls weren't the biggest prizes."

As mentioned before, the prizes that were distributed to the winners ranged from as small as apparel from the university's book store to as large as AirPods Pros and everything in between, such as 50 dollar Amazon gift cards. Nham said there seemed to be owls harder to find than others but the difficulty level did not dictate the yield of the size of the prize. However, Nham and Thomas both said they loved the prize selection and the event as a whole.

Thomas said, "We saw it on the Instagram post and we just happened to wake up early and we were one of the first people."



PHOTO | MADELINE S. SCHARF Kaheria Burgees with the planting supplies.

the main purpose of Strengthening Sundays. "It is fun to watch the plants grow, to nourish them," said Burgees. "It is a lot like Strengthening Sundays, when you nourish yourself."

Burgees hopes that while taking care of the plants, students will learn to take care of themselves better. "Sometimes it is hard to care for a plant, sometimes you feel like you just don't have time," said Burgees. "But it is easier to make time to see these plants flourish. It also goes hand-in-hand with yourself. If you give yourself time, you will also flourish."

Martins finds this event positive for stress levels. "I really love that this is a destressing event," said Martins. plants be positive to the area. "I like plants," said Prestage. "They have a calming aura to them. It is nice to see plants in places like this. Places like these dorm buildings."

The study by NRAP affirms this belief. "Green environments are essential components of a healthy human habitat," said the paper. Being around greenery and plants is proven to be positive for people's health. The university is in the middle of New Haven, one of Connecticut's major cities. This means there are not many areas with flowers or forests. Having a plant, however, brings a bit of a green environment into the dorm room.

This event, like many other weekend events, was held in Farnham Programing Space (FPS). The space is found in the Residence Life Quad, in the basement of the Farnham dorm building. This proximity has encouraged students to continue attending these events. "I usually come to all the FPS events," said Prestage, "it's easy to go because I live right here."

Strengthening Sundays events are held every Sunday at the FPS center. The program advisors are excited to have more people engage in the weekly events. "Please, feel free to come down," said Burgees. "We love new faces. Even if you want to pop by the space to just hang out, it is available."

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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APRIL 14, 2021

Active Minds painting event outdoors

By Caitlin O'Halloran Reporter

The Active Minds group hosted an event on the Academic Quad where students could participate in outdoor painting.

"I just thought we would put together an event. It's a very nice day just for stress management and get everyone outside," said vice president of the club Maria Bernabucci, a sophomore.

The Active Minds group is a mental health advocacy club in support of ending stigmas surrounding mental health not only on campus, but college campuses in general.

"So we're doing it really because especially with the pandemic, it's so hard to get outside and do things in the sunshine," said secretary of the club and nursing major Irene Laramie, a junior. "It's just such a bigger boost of serotonin that we're going to be outside, we're going to be together, and painting is known to be so relaxing, so it's really going to help de-stress everyone."

Along with helping end the stigma surrounding mental illness, the club is also there to inform the campus community of those mental health stigmas to support students who struggle with mental illness and encourage them to reach out for help.

Another main point of the organization is to create a safe and open environment for students where they not only discuss their struggles with mental health, but also find a place where they can be supported and heard on campus. This brings attention to those issues students may struggle with silently.

"We do a bunch of different events to bring awareness to various topics like suicide, sexual assault awareness, stress management, lots of different things, and anyone is welcome to join, so I definitely recommend," psychology major Aly Eskatilly, a senior, said. "I joined last year and it's really just a safe space to talk about your mental health or the stress that you're going through and like find your own little community."

In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the club is hosting a Sexual Assault Awareness Tabling on April 12 at 12 p.m. on the Buley Patio this event is in support of sexual assault victims and to spread awareness to the campus community and others. Those who attend the event will be able to write a supportive message and support victims on a poster. They will be given information with resources that can help someone who is currently struggling. "The main thing is the sexual assault tabling on Monday and then we'll have it hung up and we'll also send something, so it'll be participating "Take Back the Night' which is such a great event that VPAS does," said Laramie. "And we want to do something for Active Minds as well because it does take a huge toll on people's mental health, to our survivors that have been through that experience." Active Minds also fundraises for community agencies in order to provide both support and services to individuals who

suffer from mental illness. In the past, the club offered events such as Stress Awareness Day, where they provided goodie bags to support students struggling through stressful times, Virtual Movie Night, where students could watch a movie together, and many other events that support many other issues such as eating disorders.

PAGE 8

Laramie said, "the main goal of Active Minds is just breaking the stigma against mental health and we talk about all our problems, and everything we're going with and just make it so it's a norm instead of something that's taboo as it used to be thought of."



Students painting in the academic quad during the Active Minds painting event.

PHOTO | CAITLIN O'HALLORAN

Theatre department one-acts directed by students

By Ellis McGinley Copy Editor

The university theatre department is preparing for their final production of the term: student-directed one-acts.

The one-act plays have a total cast of 8 and are directed by theater major Kori Langon and fourthyear chemistry and theater major Ariana Harris. The show will consist of three plays. The one-acts are a university tradition. In 2018, the department held a week-long oneacts festival, "Societatem Malorum," which featured two plays written by students, among others.

Themes over the years have included "timetraveling family therapy," according to the Southern News, and now "some of the major issues of chemistry in academia," according to Harris. Harris is directing "Insuffiency," which tells the story of a chemistry professor seeking tenure. His specialization is bubblogy, the study of bubbles, which despite a poor reputation, has promise for groundbreaking research.

Harris found the play while researching the overlap between her majors, chemistry and theater.

"It was a way for me to bring my two passions together and put my mark on this department. We actually have a lot of science majors, but thus far, none have incorporated the two disciplines quite like this, and that prospect excited me. Then I looked all over kingdom come trying to hunt down the

rights and royalties," Harris said.

Before a production can be performed, its directors or the institution producing it must gain the "rights" to do so, which often comes with royalty fees and other costs.

"Eventually I got in touch with a guy named Andy Jordan who had produced all of Djerassi's plays in England, and he helped get me in touch with Djerassi's son Dale and grandson Alexander, who are the executors of his estate. I reached out to them, and they were eager to hear about my interest. Dale said he was inclined to give me free license to produce the play," Harris said.

"I read that email in the middle of one of my art classes and jumped around at my seat, trying not to squeal with joy."

The second play is a romantic comedy, "With This Ring," directed by Lingon. Lingon became involved with production after taking Directing I course. As for the themes of "With This Ring," Lingon would say the takeaway message is that "the pursuit of love can be complicated or made easier by the types of friends you have."

To be quite honest, I've been asked multiple times as to why I chose this specific one-act, and I don't have a profound reason. I just read the script and laughed," she said. "With everything that has happened over the past year with COVID-19 and the Black Lives Matter Movement, I think a lot of people expected me to choose something with a deeper political meaning or to educate the masses, but I just simply chose to laugh."

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