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SOUTHERN NEWS

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'We are the mass shooting generation.'

Hogg calls for activism, gun-control

By Victoria Bresnahan
News Editor
and Tamonda Griffiths
News Writer

Last Valentine's Day, David Hogg survived one of the deadliest mass shootings in the modern U.S. history. In the classrooms and hallways of his high school Marjory Stoneman Douglas, 17 people were killed and 17 others were injured by gunman Nikolas Cruz—a former student of the Parkland, Florida high school.

"I hope that like future generations don't walk into a classroom and think to themselves, 'which seat is most likely for me to survive in?'" said Hogg, during a press conference before his conversation in Lyman. "I hope that when people are walking to or from school they aren't fearing gun violence anymore."

According to a Gun Violence Archive study, in 2018 there have been 325 mass shootings thus far. This year alone, 13,421 people have died due to gun-related violence, according to the study.

In the future, he hopes the fear of becoming a gun violence victim will dissipate, he said.

Universities and high schools, he said, can protect students by working with families that have created organizations advocating for school safety.



PHOTOS | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Parkland shooting survivor David Hogg discussed gun-control and activism at the Lyman Center last week.



College Republican President Sarah O'Connor at her EmPOWERed table outside of Lyman Center.



David Hogg speaking to the crowd at Lyman Center.

Parkland shooting survivor speaks at Lyman

By Victoria Bresnahan
News Editor
and Tamonda Griffiths
News Writer

Parkland shooting survivor David Hogg, one of the co-founders of March for Our Lives—which was a youth-led protest against gun violence—spoke at the Lyman Center last week.

"We are the mass shooting generation," said Hogg, during the event.

Hogg shared "lessons" with the audience concerning how to be activists. He said they should never pushing for change to happen.

"We in this room have a chance to stand up and speak out against violence and injustice for those who no longer can," he said.

It is the job of the American people, he said, to fight and vote against corruption. For younger generations, their job is to make the first question on a politician's mind, "how is this going to affect the next generation that comes after me," said Hogg.

President of the College Republicans Sarah O'Connor stood outside the Lyman Center to represent an organization called EmPOWERed, which advocates for women to exercise their Second Amendment and to be able to carry on college campuses.

SEE DAVID HOGG, PAGE 2

SEE PRESS CONFERENCE, PAGE 3

New Haven mayor celebrates 125th anniversary



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

New Haven Toni Harp at the tree lighting ceremony.

By August Pelliccio
Features & Opinions Editor

New Haven Mayor Toni Harp said, at the New Haven tree lighting ceremony, it is important Connecticut invests in its young people.

The mayor celebrated the university not only for its 125th anniversary, but for its achievements, last Thursday.

Harp said she and her office are excited to have a university like Southern in New Haven.

"It provides a great opportunity for so many first generation students to go to college," said Harp, "and become a part of our overall economic community throughout south-central Connecticut."

Harp said not only is the university as important as

an educational institution, but as an employment opportunity in the city.

"We are thrilled that they are there providing the jobs for now and the future," she said, "and the training that goes with that."

Harp said because of the financial burden for most college students, she would like to encourage the state to make more resources available to prospective students.

"One of the things that I would really love to see is that the state support them more," she said, "and that there be more opportunities for scholarships... so that they don't have to spend so much of their future paying off college."

She said provisions for such a plan would be incorporated into her

future legislative packages.

"Hopefully, the general assembly, as it rethinks where we're going as a state," Harp said, "recognizes how critically important it is that we prepare the workforce for today and tomorrow, now."

President Joe Bertolino said he was surprised by the invitation from the mayor, only hearing about this part of the ceremony the week prior. He said he never would have expected such an honor.

"It's great to be honored for our 125th and our contribution to the community," he said.

Bertolino said he is happy such a partnership between local government and the school exists.

"It is always great," he said, "to be recognized by the mayor."

Tuition increase not definite

By Victoria Bresnahan
News Editor

With a newly-elected governor, President of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) Mark Ojakian said he is not sure if any changes will be made to the state-tuition rates in the upcoming year.

"I know any increase is a lot," he said, at a Student Government Association meeting last week.

Ojakian said he is committed to making any increase as manageable and as low as possible.

In the spring, tuition rates will be revisited, according to Ojakian.

SEE PRESIDENT OJAKIAN, PAGE 2

Tobacco free grant will end in summer



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

Tobacco Program Coordinator Victoria Adams.

By Jacob Waring Reporter

The grant, Southern Goes Tobacco-Free: A State and Community Intervention, will cease by the end of June.

The grant, which started in the spring of 2017, was supposed to end this fall.

However, the Wellness Center and partnered schools were able to extend the grant for another semester according to

Victoria Adams, tobacco program coordinator.

The grant, according to Adams, helps students kick their habit with tobacco-based products, educates students on the harmful effects and brings

awareness about vape or JUUL products.

She also said the grant allows the Wellness Center to have Tobacco Free Ambassadors which is led by student peer educators who host events, and educates students.

Bianca Flowers, a graduate intern, said she feels mixed emotions that the grant is ending, but is proud of what they accomplished and how they have helped students.

"I feel sad, but at the same time for the time we had the grant, that we've been doing great," said Flowers. "I feel we did do what we've said we're gonna do. I feel like the culture on campus is significantly different than other campuses..."

Adams said they knew from the beginning the grant would only last two years.

Adams is also trained as a tobacco treatment specialist. Once the grant ends Adams will no longer be employed at Southern, but the other specialist, Diane Morgenthaler,

director of Student Health Services, will be able to provide the same services regardless of the grant's existence.

One aspect that will be ceasing in its entirety is the incentives that helps students quit smoking such as encouraging them to turn in their tobacco product and devices.

"We're just going to run out of the financial incentives," she said. "Right now they can get gift cards when they go to Health Services to quit, so that will no longer be available."

Outreach from tobacco free ambassadors will no longer be available too.

She said the Wellness Center will continue to provide outreach and support, but they will not be as intense because they have other priorities.

Adams said the grant provided opportunities for the betterment of Southern and allowed students access to services not readily available elsewhere.

"It was such a huge gain to get this grant, I think that it was such a privilege

to receive the grant since so many other schools just don't even have the resources we're able to offer our students," said Adams.

Ultimately, Flowers said, the culture the grant cultivated will continue to do good.

"In my opinion, the grant helps of course but I think that the work is done," said Flowers. "What I mean by that is that we're a tobacco free campus, that's just a policy that's made on campus, outside of the grant. When new students come on the campus, they're made aware that it's not allowed here [smoking], they're less likely to do it."

Yet some students felt the grant ending is an unfortunate event to occur. Crystal Zurolo, a senior, public health major, wished the grant was on a more permanent basis.

"I think undergrad especially, they play around with JUUL and stuff a lot more too," Zurolo said. "I think it would benefit to have [the grant] be more permanent."

President Ojakian

Continued from Page 1

Over the past three months, he said the system has been creating a white-paper, or an official report providing information on certain issues, Gov. Ned Lamont.

The report describes what the CSCU system functions as, what type of students it educates and what it will need financially over the next decade, according to Ojakian.

"I think many of our institutions have cut to the point where there is no more meat on the bone,"

he said. "So, it is going to continue to happen. Some student-based services are going to be impacted if we don't get the necessary support."

In addition, he said tuition policy options such as a rebate program have been included in the report. If a student graduated in a certain period of time, Ojakian said an amount of the student's tuition could be refunded to them through this program.

The system and the Connecticut Board of Regents, which sets statewide tuition and student fees, has been working on different tuition ideas such as a policy to redefine tuition so it is not used to fill a budget gap, he said.

President of SGA Alexis Zhitomi and Vice President

of the Board of Academic Experience Brooke Mercaldi attended a Student Advisory Committee meeting in Hartford last week. The use of textbooks was discussed at length during the meeting, according to Zhitomi.

In March, a summit will be held to discuss Open Educational Resources, or textbooks that are open sourced.

"Basically, a professor is able to take a textbook and just select the chapters that they want out of it," she said, "and modify it any they want."

These books would be sold to students at a lower cost, according to Zhitomi.

"Textbooks are outrageously expensive," she said, "and any help to students is something that we should support."



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Connecticut State Colleges and Universities President Mark Ojakian.

David Hogg

Continued from Page 1

O'Connor said as a college student, she respects the movement Hogg is a part of but does not believe he should be the face of it.

"I don't like the fact that he is traveling the country speaking, and making money off of a tragedy," said O'Connor. "That, that's not a party thing, that's not a party issue, that's a moral

Discussing gun violence is not complaining, he said, it is about fixing it so it no longer has to be discussed.

Hogg said through voting and continuing the fight in local communities it could lead to a "macro-level change."

"Are we going to be the generation to stand up and end gun violence," he said, "so that future generations no longer have to live with millions of people with PTSD and injuries from gunshot wounds and gun incidents?"

Hogg said he has learned the source of fear in this country stems from an anxiety of the unknown. Education, he said, can act as a "vaccine against

violence."

"Education is the best way to stop violence," he said. "Education is the best way to create this change and stop people from fearing what they don't know."

More awareness could be focused on what Republicans are doing when it concerns gun rights and the pro-Second Amendment movement, she said.

Everyone, O'Connor said, should have the right to protect themselves-- especially women.

As a young woman on a college campus she said she does not feel safe traveling around downtown New Haven.

According to O'Connor, in Connecticut certain tasers are banned from use, as well as there being regulations on the length of a knife a person is allowed to carry for protection.

"I know I'm 5 foot 2," said O'Connor, "if I had a knife I would not be able to defend myself properly."

According to two OLR Research Reports published 2007 and 2012 respectively, Connecticut state law classifies certain knives and "electronic defense weapons" as dangerous



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Parkland shooting survivor David Hogg.

weapons making them illegal from someone to carry on their person or in their vehicle.

She said she knows what it's like to be "a sitting duck."

"We all know that it takes more than five minutes for police to show up on any crime, give or take," said O'Connor. "In that five, it takes milliseconds to shoot a gun."

Justin Gendron, President of the College Democrats, said his

organization did not host a table event because he wanted to focus on Hogg's message.

"I believe this shouldn't be a partisan event, this should be a bipartisan, this should be - everyone should be listening to this person who has an experience like this," said Gendron. "I came here for Joe Biden, I listened to him as well; if you know someone like - if Dick Cheney came, I would listen to him too just because I want to learn."

Gendron said while he does support the College Republicans' First Amendment right to free speech he did not find their table "classy."

Gendron said in going to the event he hoped to learn more about Hogg planned to "fight this gigantic battle against the NRA."

"We hear about a tragedy and then two weeks later, it's gone from the news," said Gendron. "I think now, we'll kind of see the steady stream of 'hey, we need to do something



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

College Republican's EmPOWERed table outside of the Lyman Center during David Hogg's event.

Updates for BannerWeb coming this spring

**By Tamonda Griffiths
News Writer**

The first set of changes to BannerWeb are set to roll out as early as the spring of 2019, said Director of Systems Integration Marvin Thomas.

Thomas said the major change that should be taking place is mobile compatibility view for the BannerWeb site.

“There you’ll be able to do scheduling,” said Thomas, “look at your schedules, registration, class search.”

Thomas said currently the mobile version of the site is “in their test environment,” where he and his team work out any possible kinks and issues with the vendor, Ellucian.

According to Ellucian’s website, Banner is one of the leading software in

higher education and is utilized by almost 1,400 institutions in 40 countries.

Thomas said the upgrade from BannerWeb 8 to BannerWeb 9 is part of an effort from both, Ellucian and the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) system to modernize the site.

“Going to Banner 9 is kind of a requirement,” said Thomas, “because the old Banner 8 was kind of outdated.”

Thomas said with the new Banner 9 the site will automatically shrink and adjust to screen-size of a mobile device, whether it be cell phone or tablet.

“It’s just like any software,” said Rusty May, director of technical administration, “you know, you get updates and things and technology evolves.”

May said the Banner

system will continue to move forward from Banner 9 to eventual future versions of the software so as not to fall into the “trap” of not updating the site until it is too late.

However, Southern will always be one version of Banner behind other universities, said Thomas.

“We don’t want to be on the latest version because that’s where all the bugs happen,” said Thomas.

Thomas said the faculty version will get an update as well.

BannerIMB, which is utilized by chairpersons to manage budgets, advising and assignments, is set to have those changes made by the end of 2018, said Thomas.

According to CSCU IT Strategic Plan for 2015–2020, the estimated cost for continuation of the Banner maintenance contract is

between \$20 to \$40 million.

Both Thomas and May said they do not have a timeline.

Thomas said in March 2019 there will be “configuration meetings” in Hartford for parts of the changes of the system.

Recently, seniors experienced glitches while registering for the upcoming spring semester.

May said that incident did not make the IT department happy, however they do not foresee any issues occurring during the next registration period.

Junior and biology major Perpetual Taylor said she personally has not utilized the IT desk, but her registration experience has been the same every semester.

“I feel like it’s not really like you can’t really stop it because there’s so many



PHOTO | TAMONDA GRIFFITHS

Marvin Thomas, director of systems integration.

people going on at once,” said Taylor, “so it’s like an overload, you know the servers like, kind of like filled up, I guess.”

May and Thomas said IT and the registrar office are up bright and early

to monitor and funnel all computing resources into registration.

“From 6:00 to 6:05 a.m. is – we know whether we’ve won the game or loss the game at that point in time,” said May.

Press conference

Continued from Page 1

Over-policing and over-incarceration are not solutions for gun violence either, he said.

Gun violence, Hogg said, should be responded to as a public health crisis. He said, he is “here for the solutions that will save lives.”

“As such, we need to take down the big tobacco of guns which is the NRA and fund gun violence research so that we can actually find the solutions to this problem,” said Hogg. “Because honestly if arming every teacher

and putting gun vending machines on every street corner worked, I would be all for that, but it doesn’t.”

Even before the shooting, Hogg said he feared gun violence and worried about being a victim of a mass shooting.

“It is common consensus when you walk into buildings for us to think about where the exits are,” he said. “And that shouldn’t be something we think about but sadly it is and it is a fact of our daily life.”

Turning Point hosts Coming Out of the Conservative Closet

**By Jacob Waring
Reporter**

The Turning Point USA chapter, which is currently in the process towards becoming a recognized club, invited John Paul, President of Grand Opportunity USA to speak to students.

The organization is a non-profit whose mission revolves around opportunity, personal, economic, social, educational and national opportunities.

Paul said at his lecture Come Out of the Conservative Closet he felt it was harder to be conservative than being gay, which he identifies as.

He said essentially, people need to be out as conservatives and stand up

for their right to express their beliefs.

He also said he is against racist and homophobic rhetoric from both ends of the political spectrum. According to Paul, there are individuals with bad intentions on both sides.

He said his goal is to encourage people to be open to seeing different point of views.

“Whenever I talk about coming out of the conservative closet, my point of these talks is I talk about opportunity, freedom, liberty,” said Paul. “Capitalism is good, socialism is bad. People don’t hear that on college campuses, they only hear one side most of the time.”

He also said he believes that college campuses should be open to different

Nasty Women highlight #MeToo testimonials

**By Alexandra Scicchitano
Contributor**

A Nasty Women CT founder, Lucy McLure, said the idea around the Testimonials Project is they want to make the Me Too movement local and there are stories everywhere—especially in communities like New Haven.

“People should feel safe telling their stories,” said McLure, speaking at the Testimonials Project and #MeToo event Nasty Women CT on Thursday.

There will be a finished documentary of their Testimonials Project, which will eventually be shown. They will also be putting up all submissions on their website that they did not use in the video, since they have gotten so many in, said McLure.

Nasty Women CT is a global movement that started in New York and it

made waves all around the world, said McLure.

“They want to create an intimate environment to talk about and emphasize the importance of different kinds of movements working against violence against women and girls or gender minorities,” said Yi-Chun Tricia Lin, director of the Women’s Studies program.

“It’s the idea that we’re stronger together and how we’re all able to create some sort of positive change in the world,” said McLure, “we all have that in us. That’s what we’re hoping to do with our work to give people the tools and the confidence to also become an advocate for themselves and for social justice and community building through the arts.”

Rebecca Bergman, a senior and IDS major, said she was always interested with Nasty Women CT,

and she likes the sense of community and the artistic collaboration they use.

“I love the concept of being a nasty woman, or a nasty person,” said Bergman.

Nathan Louis, a friend of McLure, who came to the event to show support, said it is good people are encouraged to share their stories, which can also help other people tell their stories.

“I don’t think change happens unless they talk about difficult things,” said Louis.

Emily Merly, a sophomore and English professional writing major, said it brings the conversation about sexual harassment and sexual assault right in people’s faces.

“I think it’s important, not a lot of people bring it to the forefront of conversation,” said Merly,

“it’s kind of something that get’s buried and a few people want to talk about it.”

McLure said if the problem of sexual harassment and assault was not that bad, there would not have to be a movement like this going on right now.

Merly said she is glad she came to the event because she learned there are resources to help deal with things like this that are free and helpful.

“I want people to feel that they’re part of this movement,” said McLure, “and that they’re able to do something to change it, that they’re able to create a dialogue to take something with themselves and change something on the way out and that maybe they can their own group, start their own advocacy, or maybe start their own conversation that maybe they wouldn’t have.”



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

People listening to John Paul on the academic quad.



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

John Paul speaking at his event Come Out of the Conservative Closet.

being a recognized club yet, they were not allowed to host an event or post flyers to promote Paul’s visit.

Turning Point decided to move the event to the quad since it is a public space that anyone can use.

“There was a misunderstanding that we were doing an interest meeting when we were not,” said Holding. “And we’re not approved to do events since this is considered an event, we weren’t allowed to do it in the room anymore.”

Daphney Alston, assistant director for the office of student involvement and leadership development, said in order to host events on campus, it must be a fully recognized club, organization or

university department.

Turning Point USA, according to her, has not completed the club recognition process yet.

Originally, she said Turning Point had the room for a club meeting to gather people who are interested in the club.

By having a guest speaker, it went beyond what the room was supposed to be utilized for. Alston said it was a miscommunication.

“I think they were just confused about that process of what they could and couldn’t do,” she said. “It seemed like it was a misinterpretation of what they could use the space for.”

She saw flyers posted around campus and told

the club that due to the school’s policy the event was not allowed.

Holding said the school itself does not target or oppress conservative views, but certain people may prefer such views not be expressed.

Alston said regardless of political affiliation she would follow the same guidelines. She said it is a horrible thought people may think the university is not supportive of conservative ideals.

“I think that, especially with the leadership of President Joe,” she said, “he’s successful at articulating that we’re a university that believes in an exchange of ideas, especially the First Amendment.”

OPINIONS

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Work piles up at the end of every semester

By J'Mari Hughes
Reporter

Throughout the year I, like many students, am given a great deal of homework from projects to studying for tests to writing papers. So many papers—I don't know how professors manage to read them all. It's always towards the end of the semester when it feels like the workload is piled on at an extreme high. Between finals preparation and normal everyday homework, it's no wonder we students yearn for the month and a half of freedom following the never-ending semester spent in classes.

In order for me to know what homework I have due, I keep a list on my phone, writing what assignments to do and when to turn them in. Then I try to go in order of what's due the soonest or what is the easiest to finish. Because of the amount of work I previously mentioned, the list can be quite long, with an assignment due in every class. As I finish each one, I erase what I've done and

watch the list temporarily become shorter just before it soon expands back into a lengthy to-do list.

When I was in high school, students would groan to the teachers and ask, "Don't you realize we have work in other classes?" Only for the teachers to respond with a laugh followed by a, "Wait until you get to college." And golly gee were they right. Not that our professors huddle up and coherently plan to give students as much homework as possible, or make bets on who can give the most assignments, but the amount of work I was given in high school is really cute compared to that in college. Finals are approaching and I have multiple essays due this week, my class is to read a few chapters of our textbook and how can I read a trashy romance novel with all this homework standing in my way of reading Noah confess his love for Allie?

The National Survey of Student Engagements concluded that the average student spends 17 hours

a week preparing for classes (doing homework, reading, other assignments, etc.). Homework, Oxford Learning said, can negatively affect students' physical and mental health. A survey they reported said 56% of students consider homework a primary source of stress and that it can result in lack of sleep and headaches, among other things.

Because this is college, I don't think professors will ever cut down the amount of tasks they give us. As it is the end of the semester, it's probably the best time to get all the assignments out before we take a break from it all. Soon, we Southern students will be released for winter vacation to return mid-January. Soon we will be free from work and away from campus. The lack of school might even make us a little bored. Bored—a word school and work has caused me to no longer be familiar with. I long for boredom. While the amount of work given can be stressful, it reminds us that classes are coming to an end, and a much needed break is near.

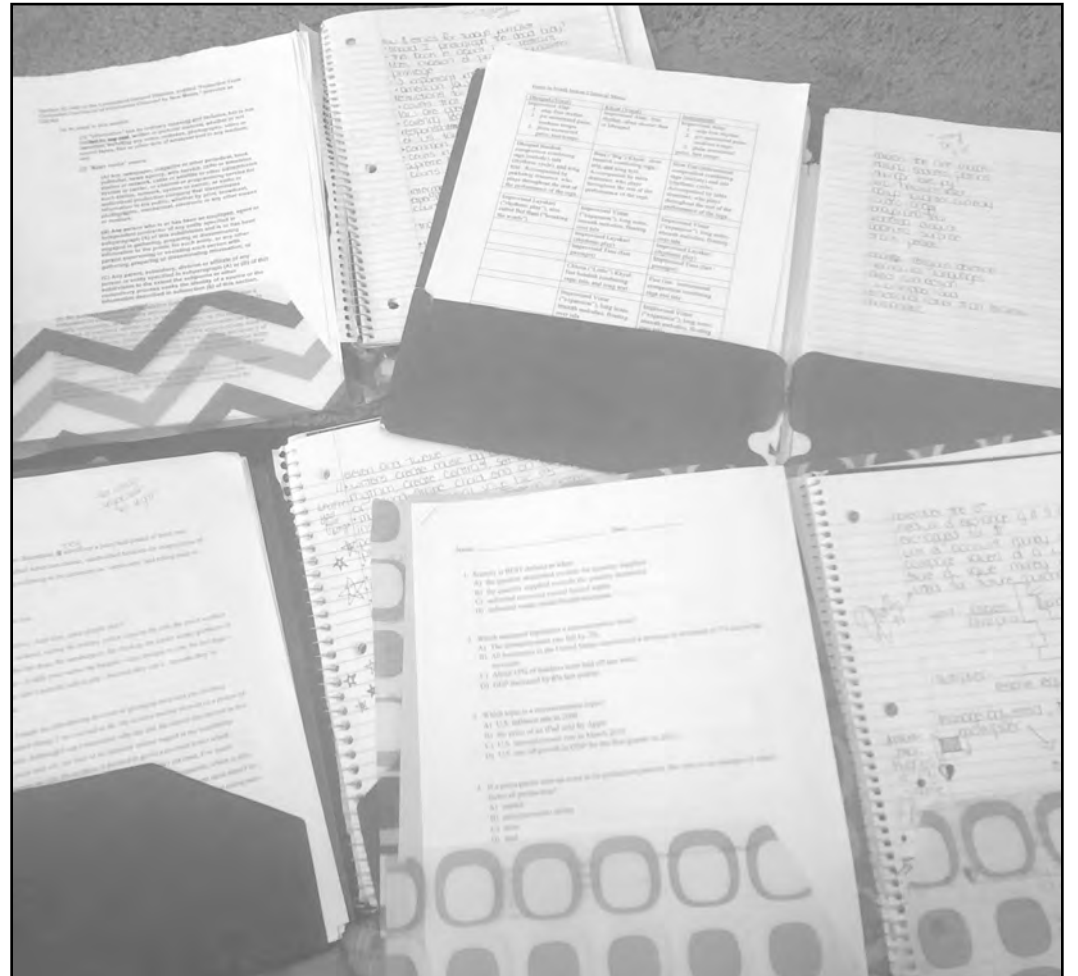


PHOTO | J'MARI HUGHES

A collection of homework that has accumulated at the end of this semester.

Vegetarian options on campus: a Mondo Subs food review



Very veggie wrap from Mondo Subs in the food court of the Adanti Student Center.

PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

By August Pelliccio
Opinions and Features Editor

The selection of food available at this university, for vegetarian students, faculty and staff is slim, but promising.

Many of the options available for vegetarians and vegans alike are the product of menu modification.

I can not count the number of times I have ordered something in the food court, specifying, "May I have this... but without this."

This dilemma is only made easier by the fact that three of the main food providers in Adanti Student Center allow for customization, but Mondo Subs still retains menu selections with pre-selected ingredients. To my relief, one of these items, "Very Veggie," is suitable for a vegetarian diet.

It is always preferable to order my lunch without having to ask a favor, or offer an explanation.

The sandwich can be ordered as a sub or a wrap, although I would argue it works better as a wrap. I recommend the spinach tortilla; it adds a more fresh flavor than the traditional flour tortilla.

Reading the menu, you might think there are too many flavors wrapped up into one sandwich, but the ingredients work well

together. Hummus, guacamole, bell peppers, cucumbers, carrots, lettuce and tomato comprise the sandwich.

I would not have thought to put bell peppers and tomatoes together, and likewise I would not have thought to put hummus and guacamole together. I have to say that the combination is quite nice.

The hummus is adequate as the protein source of the sandwich. Cucumbers and tomatoes are fresh and crisp, and keep the sandwich light and palatable.

Raw bell peppers add a sweet, crunchy snap to the sandwich, a desirable texture in an otherwise mushy concoction.

Finally, there is the guacamole. The creamy texture ties the sandwich together well. The guacamole itself is made well, as far as a pre-packaged affair is concerned. It is not too salty, there is a hint of citrus, and it did not taste too heavily processed.

The sandwich is a very simple concept, and I did not have a whole lot of expectations from it, but as it turns out, it was quite a tasty combination of flavors. I will be adding the very veggie to my list of favorite on campus, as far as vegetarian options go, and I suggest that you do to. Paired with a bag of chips and a soda water, it makes for somewhat-healthy lunch option that leaves you full.

SOUTHERN NEWS

Advisers: Cindy Simoneau
Frank Harris III

Contact information:
Email: scsu.southern.news@gmail.com
Newsroom Phone: 203-392-6928
Fax: 203-392-6927

Mailing Address:
Southern Connecticut State University
501 Crescent Street
Student Center Room 225
New Haven, CT 06515

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We are the student newspaper of Southern Connecticut State University, and we welcome the writing of all Southern students and faculty.

To submit a piece, email it to scsu.southern.news@gmail.com, or stop by the Southern News office on the second floor of the Student Center, Room 225. Electronic submissions are preferred.

Opinion Columns are 500 to 800 words and Letters to the Editor are a maximum of 400 words. They must include the writer's name and phone number for verification. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, spelling, content and length.

Looking back: Fall of 1992



Tuition going up... again

In 1992 Southern's tuition had gone doubled in six years.

Then the State Board of Governors for Higher Education reviewed and recommended operating budgets of \$421 million for 1993-94 and \$428 million for 1994-95 for the CSU system.

Supporting those budgets would require tuition increases ranging from 2.1 percent for community and technical college to 10 percent for state universities.

If accepted, the rate for in-state students would have been \$1,930 for the 1994-95. These figures only represented tuition and did not take into account room, board and fees.

More from Fall of 1991

July:

- \$2,000 is stolen from the Student Center dining hall. One employee was fired in result of the theft.

September:

- A new fire alarm system in Schwartz causes nine fire alarms in six days due to oversensitivity.
- President Michael Adanti hosts a "Dialogue with the President and his Cabinet" where he took questions about things such as building a space for a conference center and a proposed 10 percent raise in tuition.

October:

- By Oct. 1, 12 Southern students have their cars broken into. Campus police say the method of break-in is similar to that of 10 break-ins the previous Spring.

- Hillary Clinton spoke to a crowd of 5,000 at a noontime on the New Haven Green trying to get them to vote for her husband Bill in the 1992 Presidential Election.

- Southern hosts four public forums for students and faculty to come and voice their opinions on ensuring the future quality of the University.

- Timothy Leary, a Harvard psychologist who advocated for drug use in the 60s, and former U.S. Congressman John LeBoutillier came to Southern to debate marijuana legalization.

November:

- Student Government Association President Faisal Abbas resigns from his post after a 7-3 vote of no confidence.

- The library science department reports that it has lost between \$6,000 and \$10,000 in stolen equipment since the start of the semester.

December

- A Southern journalism graduate, Scott Miller, won \$15.8 million in the Conn. lottery.

- Eldridge Cleaver and Bobby Seale, former members of the Black Panther Party, debate activism in African American communities.

Compiled from the Southern News archives by Josh LaBella, Managing Editor

Featured photos:

Parkland survivor in the public eye



David Hogg, survivor of the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting speaking at the Lyman center (top) and answering local reporters at a press conference, just prior (bottom).

PHOTOS | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Pet therapy crafts community

By Izzy Manzo
Copy Editor

Lorette Feivelson, first started going to pet therapy sessions because of her love for dogs, but said she soon found herself as part of a tightknit community.

Feivelson, a sophomore, history and secondary education major, said she has been attending since her freshman year, when she became part of a grad student's study on how therapy animals impact mental health. She was required to go for five weeks, but said she enjoyed it so much she decided to keep coming after the study ended.

"From there, I was like, 'Wow, this really does help my mental health,'" she said, "and it's kind of a thing that I make time for now."

She said that the dogs help her to relieve stress.

"The nice thing about animals is that they love you no matter what," said Feivelson. "I think that's something that college students need

desperately."

Dayana Hernandez, a freshman, social work major, went to pet therapy for the first time after her friend told her about it.

"I always wanted to do it but I never knew when they were coming," said Hernandez, "so when [my friend] messaged me I was like, 'Of course. Definitely.'"

Hernandez said that being able to spend time with therapy dogs was relaxing because it reminded her of when she used to have puppies.

"Now I don't have any dogs at home," she said, "so when I play with dogs...I get happy and I feel more relieved."

Feivelson said for some people, being able to spend time with therapy dogs is a form of self-care.

"I'm a super busy person," Feivelson said.

Being on an e-board and in the Honors College, she said takes up most of her time.

See Pet Therapy, Page 6



PHOTO | JEFF LAMSON

Cosmo, a therapy dalmatian, at "Pet Therapy Thursdays."

Women in STEM

By Essence Boyd
Copy Editor

Liquid nitrogen cascaded in a cloud over a vessel of sugar and heavy cream, an attention-grabbing demonstration highlighting women working in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Last Wednesday's event was hosted by the Office of Campus Recreation, stating there is a lack of representation for women in the STEM fields.

It was an opportunity for students to see what this university offers in STEM.

Katherine Perez, physics graduate student and Ellen Scanley, nanotechnology laboratory technician, made fresh vanilla ice cream for the audience using nothing but the cream, sugar and liquid nitrogen. The sweet treat captured an aspect of science sometimes forgotten: fun.

Abigail Rodgers, graduate student, said she received her undergraduate degree in biology here, and is pressuring her masters in the field as well.

"There is a bias, inherently people believe men are better at science which isn't true," said Rodgers. "If you apply yourself to anything you can be good."

The lack of representation, said Hannah Koh, graduate assistant for the Division of Research and Innovation, causes students to be overlooked, as they feel misplaced in an environment with no one that looks the way they do.

"We feel more comfortable when we see people when can recognize," said Koh. "To see more women in the field, you feel more comfortable compared to you being the only woman in the entire office."

See STEM, page 6

Muslim stereotypes addressed

By Tamonda Griffiths
News Writer

Muslims in America is an event that has taken place on Southern's campus for the past three years, said Haroon Chaudhry.

"We realize a lot of people have misinterpretation of what the difference between both [culture and religion] are," said Chaudhry.

Chaudhry co-hosted the event with sophomore, political science major and community outreach representative for the Muslim Student's Association, Asma Rahimyar.

Rahimyar said this was her first year participating in the event and she was asked by Chaudhry to give a female perspective.

"He said that he feels as though talking about the importance of women within our religion is something that he could talk about and he knows about it," said Rahimyar, "but he feels like it would resonate more with the audience if a woman actually spoke about it."

Rahimyar said that meant a lot to her to be offered the opportunity to participate in the presentation.

She said she had always known about the value and equality women had under the Muslim religion, but not the full extent.

"I found many Muslim women throughout history that we don't celebrate nearly enough as we should," said Rahimyar.

Rahimyar said doing the research "really exposed" her to the contributions of Muslim woman around the world,

specifically in the continents of Africa and Asia.

"Both genders are required to become educated," said Rahimyar. "Education is actually an obligation upon every single Muslim, and so therefore in Muslim countries, where people don't allow their daughters to go to school, that's completely non-Islamic."

Rahimyar said during the presentation, the prophet Muhammad was the first to declare, by law, women should be seen as moral equals.

Paulina Cherkasov, a senior, English major said she attended the event to learn something new about the Muslim religion and culture.

Cherkasov said she already had exposure to Muslims through friends and had even spoke with Rahimyar, whom she works with, prior to the event.

During the presentation, the audience was asked to participate in a quick text-in survey in which they text the first word that came to mind when describing Islam.

Chaudhry, who came to this country in 2009, said when he first held this presentation the responses were more negative than positive.

"9/11 is something that has created so much hate, fear in people's mind which are reasons people use to discriminate [against] others," said Chaudhry.

He said at his freshman year's "Muslims in America" a student said the first thing that comes to mind to them when they think of Muslims was "terrorist."

See Stereotypes, Page 6

I never actually intended to be a journalist

By Josh LaBella
Managing Editor

I stumbled into it. It all started by taking an introductory course in journalism. After that class, Professor Dunklee told me he thought I was a perceptive writer and I could make a good journalist. Between his encouragement and my mom's, I decided to take a chance.

By the second semester of my junior year I was a general assignment reporter for The Southern News. Writing five stories a week was a daunting task, but for the first time I felt connected to Southern.

I had been in other clubs, sure, but because of the newspaper I truly felt as if I had my fingers on the pulse

of the university. I met new people from all different departments and walks of life. I knew what was going on before my fellow students and faculty.

Throughout my four semesters at Southern I served in four different positions. Climbing up the ladder brought more responsibility and a greater appreciation for the challenge and honor it was to serve my fellow students in bringing them the news.

I have interviewed high profile people such as Khazir Khan and Senator Chris Murphy. It is through these stories that I have become comfortable and confident in my ability to report and write stories.

Of course, there are also downsides. As an editor, I have had to deal with an

administration which, at times, is as uncooperative and unfriendly towards the press, as is the current executive branch of the federal government.

People in positions of power never want any form of dissenting viewpoint – and our reporting has brought those to light.

One curse of being a journalist is working hard every week to bring news to the public but having the majority of your feedback be negative criticism.

You can never please everyone.

It is not infrequent that myself or one of my fellow reporters would be told by an interview subject that they had been “burned” by Southern years prior.

People fail to realize the amount of turnover we

have at Southern News. Our most experienced staffers graduated every semester. The students who fill their positions are learning on the job.

The crucible that is putting together a newspaper every week takes an immense amount of time and dedication. The University should recognize and appreciate the hard work of all the students that strive to bring forth the paper while also balancing classes, work and their social lives.

My colleagues at the Southern News and the professors who help us are some of the finest people I have ever known. It has been an honor to work and laugh with them these past years. My time here has been transformational.



PHOTO | AUGUST PELLICCIO

Josh LaBella, managing editor of Southern News.

Students weigh in on proper audience etiquette

By Haljit Basuljevic
Reporter

Audience etiquette in a world riddled with distractions may seem like an outdated and alien concept to some, but there are those who still feel that fully engaging with a performance lends respect to both the performer and the viewers.

Imagine going to a concert featuring your favorite artist and then being totally obliterated from the experience, all because you were zooming into this small device that you

could have waited to check until at least the event was over.

The hardest part about this is that the crowd can usually influence your behavior. If you are the type of person who needs to check their email or send that text message but feels rude to do so, then seeing other people who the same can undermine the guilt.

“I’m not inclined to do the same,” said Amanda Merturi, a junior and biology major. “In fact, the opposite, I find myself staring at them and thinking ‘Why don’t they just put down

the phone and enjoy the concert?’”

Raihan Ahmed, a senior and business major said that a few trips to the movie theater have been, “completely ruined,” by other audience members.

“It especially aggravates me at the movies when I see a blue light on or when the phone rings during an important scene,” said Raihan Ahmed.

The word ‘performer’ can also imply different connotations, such as a teacher or lecturer, who have always had to deal with the challenge

of keeping students continually engaged with the material.

The constant interruptions that may occur within the class can create a discord between the teacher and students, often messing up the flow of absorbing the course material.

Meredith Jessey, a junior and political science major, said that the solution to this may be professors taking participation into consideration for final grades. She said she feels sympathy for professors in this regard and that one’s attention should be undivided towards

them.

Associate professor of biology Rebecca Silady said that students are not engaging with the material if they are not paying attention.

Giving the performer his or her own time to shine seems to be based on a mutual respect. One where, as an audience, proper engagement means allowing the performer to flourish on their platform. This means not engaging in activity that is disruptive in a way that compromises the experience for both audience and performer.

Pet Therapy

Continued from Page 5

“It’s nice to stop and do something for me that’s for me,” said Feivelson, “and that isn’t work.”

She said that as she kept going to pet therapy, she got to know people that frequents the sessions.

“As time went on, I got to know a bunch of people who were the regulars here,” said Feivelson. “It was nice to get to talk...and have this group of people that you might not see on campus that much, but here you know that when you come here you can come and talk to someone. There’s a kind of trust and community that’s been built here in a

funny way.”

Elaine Allen, a social worker at the counseling center, said she has been doing pet therapy with her Dalmatian, Cosmo, for a year and a half. She first decided to get involved after seeing how much the dogs benefitted people.

“We had volunteers with Pet Partners, which is the national group that certifies pet therapy teams,” said Allen. “I just kind of observed...how the dogs facilitated interaction with the students that were coming and thought, ‘I have a sweet dog at home!’”

She also said that as time went on, the “regulars” became a close group.

“I think it’s actually one of the more diverse spaces on campus in terms of attracting people with all different interests and backgrounds,” she said. “None of us can resist a wagging tail!”



PHOTO | JEFF LAMSON

Cosmo, a dalmatian, interacting with students at a “Pet Therapy Thursday.”

Stereotypes

Continued from Page 5

Chaudhry said this is a word he was first called in high school.

He said he still feels Muslims are discriminated from when he first came in 2009 to today in 2018.

“It’s still the reality,” said Chaudhry.

“It’s still happening, whatever’s happening.”

Chaudhry said the number one thing he would want students to take away from his presentation is talk with Muslim people before labeling them as a “terrorist.”

“Have a conversation with Muslim people before making any assumption about them,” said Chaudhry, “because how the media portray us, absolutely ridiculous.”



PHOTOS | TAMONDA GRIFFITHS

Asma Rahimyar, Muslim Students Association community outreach coordinator, a sophomore, political science major (left), and Haroon Chaudhry, Muslim Student Leader, a senior business administration major (right).

STEM

Continued from Page 5

Some students claimed to see a change in the amount of women in the STEM fields, but Rogers said this university still has a way to go.

“Southern can just continue to promote women, including them in promotional material,” said Rogers. “If there are more women in scientific roles, then it inspires people to do science in the future because you just need to have exposure.”

Besides the lack of representation in the field, there is a lack of knowledge of what career options

are available once receiving a degree, according to Christine Broadbridge, executive director of research and innovation and physics professor.

“Not everyone needs to become a scientist,” said Broadbridge. “That does not have to be their career, but I think that everyone should be scientifically literate.”

Idongesit Udo-okon, a senior, geography major, agreed that it is important to make sure women know the options they have in the STEM fields.

“The only things that are being given out to them are to be a nurse or be a teacher,” said Udo-okon. “That’s not the only option.”

Perez said women of STEM are

just as dedicated as men, if not more, to making a change in the field.

“We do community outreach... we want to promote more girls and minorities to be able to participate and take advantage of the opportunities,” said Perez, “so we make these STEM clubs and STEM research across the campus.”

Perez said the goal is for women at this university to feel more welcomed, and to be comfortable doing the research and lab work that they are passionate about.

“My dream is really for people to have that well-rounded education,” said Broadbridge. “That’s why I’m so passionate and involved in it.”



PHOTO | JENNA STEPLEMAN

Abigail Rogers, graduate student, and Christine Broadbridge, physics professor making ice cream with liquid nitrogen.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

By Jessica Guerrucci
Contributor

You hear it everywhere you go. You hear it at home, in your car, at your job. It is almost unavoidable. For some it brings cheer, but for some, it turns them into the Grinch.

Whether people like it or not, the holiday season is in full swing, and that means it is time for Christmas music. As soon as Thanksgiving passes, students said they began for hear it everywhere. Victoria DiBenedetto, a psychology major, said it is still too early.

"People start listening to it literally right after thanksgiving, and I just think it's a little too soon," said DiBenedetto. "Once December comes around, I'm all for it."

Francesco Galletti, a business economics major, also said that he does not like to hear any Christmas music before December starts.

"I think there's a time and place for Christmas

music and it's during Christmas time," said Galletti. "I don't like when I hear Christmas music in November because I need Thanksgiving to happen first, or else I don't like Christmas music."

Once it is time to begin listening to Christmas music, DiBenedetto said that she stays away from the classics. She said that her top three favorite Christmas songs are "All I Want for Christmas is You," by Mariah Carey, "Mistletoe," by Justin Bieber and "Santa Tell Me" by Ariana Grande.

Some other student favorites were chosen from popular Christmas movies. Sara Thompson, a marketing major, said that "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch," was among her top three favorite Christmas songs. Jamie Karas, an education major, said that she loves the song "Believe" from the Polar Express.

Galletti said the classic Christmas song from the 60's, "Dominick the Donkey" is one of his favorite Christmas

songs. Ben Wunder, an exercise science major, said he does not celebrate Christmas but agreed with Galletti and said that it is a hilarious Christmas song.

Wunder, who celebrates Hanukkah, said that while he hears many Christmas songs this time of year, he does not listen to it in his own time.

"I don't really care," said Wunder. "I don't listen to it, but when it's on it doesn't bother me."

Wunder said that he occasionally will listen to Adam Sandler's "Hanukkah Song," as well as the "Dreidel Song."

Karas said that she describes herself as someone who really loves Christmas and thinks that it is the best time of the year.

"I love it. Christmas music makes me happy, it makes me feel festive, I love it," said Karas. "I always listen to it in my car."

Thompson said that while she thinks the Christmas season without Christmas music would not change the holiday



PHOTO COURTESY | PRESTON WEBB

The RAF Mildenhall Byzantine Choir at Christmas Music Extravaganza in 2013.

entirely, but it would still be very different without it. "The energy of the season would be the same, but I think that it's more fun when you have dedicated music for it," said Thompson.

Whether people like Christmas music or not, Galletti said that he believes music in general is something that can make things a little brighter.

"I don't think it would

be the same without Christmas music because it spreads good joy and positive vibes," said Galletti. "Music is just a good thing in life and it makes people happy, it just spreads joy all around."

Beautiful, but predictable

By Jeff Lamson
Arts & Entertainment Editor

"Mirai" is full of whimsical beauty and imagination, but can only drag itself along once the audience catches on to its patterns.

Another animated film written and directed by the now very well-established Mamoru Hosoda, responsible for "The Girl Who Leapt Through Time," and "Wolf Children," there were high expectations here.

The film never leaves the limits of this one home and follows a boy named Kun. He discovers that his garden enables him to travel through time and meet members of his family guided by his sister, Mirai, who is an newborn infant in the present.

Traveling through time, meeting his family members serves as a learning experience to Kun, giving him perspective on those that he struggles to get along with. It quickly becomes apparent that he will progress through

journey's with different people in his life until experiencing a more introspective journey in the garden.

While super fun as a concept, the audience pretty much knows all of the beats that the story will hit and when. A lot of the mystery and suspense disappears. This breaks off engagement and unfortunately makes "Mirai" a less memorable experience than some of Hosoda's other work.

The predictability of these segments is a shame, but that does not mean that they were not at least enjoyable, particularly when Kun encounters his mother when she was the same age as he is.

The strongest element of "Mirai" is the visuals. The animation itself is smooth and vibrant, and the background art is packed with details making the world from the viewpoint of one home feel lived in and believable. The work done by Studio Chizu is high class and the 3D animation elements are well integrated and

utilized, making the scenes flow seamlessly. The character designs are simple but powerful, and the directing is purposeful and engaging.

The music throughout the film was good; it had an airy, playful tone that fit well with Kun's character and the overall tone of the film. There are a few pieces that stand out though. During the climax, surreal and unnatural things happen to Kun and Mirai and the music composed for this is strange, but entrancing; it is fantastic.

Also, worthy of mention are the themes playing in the opening and closing credits, "Mirai Theme" and "Uta no Kisha," which are both loving throwbacks to Japanese citypop of the early 1980's. If anything from this film is making it on a playlist, it would be both of these. They are fun, catchy and groovy.

The voice acting for "Mirai" was solid. John Cho captured the essence of the father character fantastically, being just as animated in his performance as the character on screen. Crispin Freeman was a welcome addition as "Mysterious Man," bringing the same energy and character he always does. Rebecca Hall was rather unconvincing as the mother. She had moments of quality, but was pretty inconsistent, feeling very wooden at times.

In an interview at Cannes Film Festival, Hosoda said that the inspiration for "Mirai" came directly from his son who had said he had seen a future version of his younger sister. This very personal nature to film comes through as one of its most subtle, but resonant strengths.

"Mirai" is a perfectly fine film, but the predictability makes one feel as if they have already seen it in the process. While well animated, it does not provide the same kinds of opportunities for truly impressive work done in other anime films. Solid to be sure, but "Mirai" will go down as a more lackluster entry in Hosoda's filmography.



PHOTO COURTESY | DICK THOMAS JOHNSON

Director Mamoru Hosoda at the Tokyo International Film Festival 2016.

Issues in the art department

By Jacob Waring
Reporter

Students and faculty said the art department needs repairs, focus and funding to operate efficiently for students in the department.

Terrence Lavin, art department chairperson, said that the art gallery in Buley Library is an example of an area that the university could do better in.

According to the Actual University Expense report, the art department's FY2018 actual other expenses are \$13,036 and the FY2018 art lab fee actual expenses are \$58,111. The total revenue for the school to distribute is \$213,265,237.

Lavin said that the department has zero budget to run the art gallery and that it would be beneficial to have a full-time person dedicated to the gallery, with that as their area of expertise.

He said he recognizes the fact that financial pressure and prioritizing where funding goes is always tricky.

According to Robert Prezant, provost and vice president for academic affairs, Southern would have to get permission from Connecticut State Colleges and Universities to hire anyone in an unavailable position, and especially for a position that has not existed or

been vacant for years.

"The hiring freeze is for new positions that we've not had before, so if I wanted to hire a director of the space force, because we've never had one of those before," he said.

A permanent director of the gallery was proposed in a faculty senate resolution but was ultimately rejected by President Joe Bertolino. He gave his reason for the rejection in the resolution.

"The administration supports the gallery," Bertolino wrote.

"However, the university is not in a financial position to hire a gallery director or provide additional reserves. The dept. is encouraged to explore creative eternal partnerships and grants to achieve this goal."

A lack of a gallery director is only one of department's concerns. Earl Hall is deteriorating to where it is potentially disrupting the educational flow, according to Lavin.

"We have massive problems with roof leaks, other technical issues... our space needs are completely incongruous with the building that we have," said Lavin.

Jonathan Geraldino, a senior and art education major, gave his response on the state of Earl Hall.

"Once you turn on all the sinks and stuff, it takes a very long time to drain down, and this isn't up to par with the kind of

cleaning that we do with the brush and the paints," said Geraldino.

He said his biggest complaint was about the paintings being damaged due to leaks from rain. Artwork gets ruined, machinery is soaked and repairs are needed he said.

"One day of a lot of rain, and everything is ruined," Geraldino said.

The windows need to be addressed and he said he does not think the university would resolve those issues anytime soon.

Robert Sheeley, associate vice president for capital budgeting and facilities operations, said the issues are being addressed.

He said that they are testing a solution to fix the issues of the windows flooding. He said whether the solution is worthwhile to apply to the entire building of Earl Hall is dependent upon initial testing. Sheeley said that testing just one section to may not work.

"I just signed a requisition to come up with what I hope would be a solution to the leaks that occur on the outside of the buildings. We're going to be doing one section of the building to see how that works," said Sheeley. "[To replace] the window wall, which is all the exterior of Earl Hall, you're looking at two and a half million dollars, not cheap, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't do it."



PHOTO | JACOB WARING

The fine arts building on campus, Ralph Earl Hall.

Hard topics tackled in prize winning play

By J'Mari Hughes
Reporter

The Pulitzer Prize winning play, "How I Learned to Drive," came to the Kendall Drama Lab last week. Directed by Kaia Monroe Rarick, associate professor and chair of the theater department, the play tackled the sensitive topics of misogyny, pedophilia and incest.

Junior Julia Raucci said in taking the leading role, she underwent a difficult task. She said that her family never talks about such intense topics and that it was weird telling them she would star in a show regarding them.

The story followed Li'l Bit, played by Raucci, as she navigated through life with family, most notably her driving instructor and uncle Peck, played

by Jason Carubia. The character took advantage of the girl, whose age ranged from child to adult throughout the performance. The show used metaphors on a screen such as "You and the Reverse Gear" and "Shifting forward from 2nd Gear" to compare driving to life experiences.

Despite Peck's genuine love for his niece in the show, the character overstepped his boundaries, which marriage and family therapist Rebecca Harvey said happens when an adult loves a child, they can use their power to manipulate the child.

"It took a lot of preparation to get to this, but my director was amazing," Raucci said. "She made us all feel so comfortable. It felt so natural to talk about this

kind of thing."

They and the other actors served as a Greek chorus, each taking on the role of multiple characters.

Nomblé Tanner, who made her first appearance on a Southern stage, said her favorite character was the "prideful woman of stature," Aunt Mary, the wife of Uncle Peck and victim of adultery.

"She has this reputation, she doesn't want it all to be taken apart," she said. "She knows what Peck is doing to Li'l Bit but she chooses to ignore it all because of what he brings to her life. He's her solace."

Carubia, a senior and theater major called his role unfortunate as his character was a destructive influence on Li'l Bit's life.

"It takes a very specific actor to tackle some of



PHOTO | J'MARI HUGHES

Curtain call at a performance of How I Learned to Drive.

those demons that Peck has and I didn't know if I had the time or the focus to really do him justice and make a role that was responsible to the subject matter," he said.

Carubia also made it clear that each actor was appropriately approached with consent and respect prior to performing.

In a note from the director, Rarick said, "We must teach (children) that their right to physical privacy takes precedence over adult authors. Our conversations with them, uncomfortable as they may be, must go beyond 'bathing suit areas.'"

Following the performance, professors specializing in therapy sat around to discuss with the

audience things like sexual assault. Crowd members chimed in with questions and comments about their own personal experiences, some of which were shared on a mural outside of the theater.

"I've had people tell me about their experiences and it matches the show so clearly," Raucci said.

"I took the feelings that I was having on stage and tried to carry them with bravery and empathy to make it as honest and genuine as I could."

Cast members as well as audience members agreed that Southern was brave to take on intense topics and mature themes in a performance.

"Since Southern is a liberal arts school I

definitely think they, of all places, would be very open-minded towards subjects like this," said Jack Storm, one of the cast members. "With all the people sharing, we made it a very open and welcoming community so I think it was a perfect place to put this message out."

Mustafa Bozan who attended the show for his theater class said his favorite part was the ending. The show closed with adult Li'l Bit as she shed herself from her past with Peck and headed towards her car to feel the freedom she felt while driving.

"And then," she said upon putting her foot on the brake, "I floor it."



PHOTO | J'MARI HUGHES

A panel of professors discussing the topics after the play.

Lively dance comes to Lyman

By J'Mari Hughes
Reporter

The Lyman Center quickly went from a quiet auditorium to an eccentric arena full of dancing students filed in for Symphonic Pulse Dance Company's fall showcase last Thursday.

"We're here to showcase the different dancers in our community," said Tia Gardner of the SCSU Dance Team. "We all do something different but we all love to dance so it's really to get everybody involved and to show all of our talents."

Southern gathered SPDC, fraternities, multicultural dance clubs, and more to perform in the final dance show of the semester. Hosting the show were twins Justin and Quentin Kelly.

"It helps me, it gives me a lot of adrenaline," senior and performer Chika Okeke said about the audience reactions. "It's a good feeling."

Four year team member Okeke performed alongside the rest of Southern's Steppin' Up Drill Team who opened their act with a sequence of flashing black and white as a strobe lights shined for the first portion of the routine, Okeke's favorite part.

It was the strobe light, as well as the sassy snap to end SCSU Dance Team's routine and Phi Beta Sigma's Fortnite hype that



PHOTO | J'MARI HUGHES

The Steppin' Up Drill Team performs.

got the spectators yelling. Audience member Natalie Hinton said the dancers' performance is typically based on reaction from the crowd.

"Obviously people on stage want that kind of energy for when they perform," she said. "It makes it a fun environment."

Hinton said boredom and the fact that the show was free was what prompted her to tag along with her friend Davonna Best who had sent her a flyer to attend.

"It's always fun here," Best, who comes to every show said. "The dancers are doing great like they always do."

The intermission was not conventional. The crowd did not vanish to use the rest room or get snacks. Their attention, instead, was diverted to Jade, the little girl who

joined the Kelly's onstage to kick off an unplanned dance battle. Soon she was accompanied by several small children including a toddler.

"When those kids went onstage I was impressed because that took bravery," three year SPDC member Chelsea Eubanks said, calling it both funny and cute. "They were just random kids that loved to dance and wanted to show everyone."

Another attendee, Justin Cross, said he attended the show for the first time after being invited by a friend. Upon seeing the dancers come out and, as he said, "do their thing," Cross said he would most definitely come see another show.

"I've got nothing else going on so I might as well come and support the teams," he said. "I love the energy here. It's a good

time."

Tia Gardner said they had about three weeks preparation before the event. After devoting their time to dance rehearsals, she said that while they become exhausted, it ends up being worth it.

"We put a lot of thought into this dance because we knew this was a bigger showcase than what we're used to," she said

Fellow dancer Tashaney Johnson said she thinks the audience respects the dedication the dancers put towards their art, as they are all college students who must devote their time to school and work.

"There's so much we have to go through, so much to deal with," she said. "So much to do and so little time. For us to take that extra bit of time we have to come together and practice dancing, I think they're amazed by it."

LARPing club destresses

By Jacob Waring
Reporter

In room 301 in the student center, The LARPing Club engaged in a war like no other - role-playing as hoboes. In this live-action-role-playing war alliances were made, beef was established and joyous laughter was shared by everyone who participated.

"We just kind of got into character as something completely ridiculous to destress before finals," said Emma 'Justine' Conley, a junior and psychology major.

Club members were able to choose their hobo characters from a list of detailed bios and descriptions, but everyone decided to go with their own hobo characters rather than from the prepared list.

Conley said this was a parlor LARP, which is like improv acting, and it is a major factor in what they do in the club.

"Outside of role-play there is physical combat, crafting, we also do plot creation in which we write stories for our characters to enact," she said.

The hobo Conley had been in the LARP was a prostitute. She said that it was a character in which she had a very silly accent, Brooklyn styled. Her character name was Dolly, and her

faction was named the "Ho-bos". In the LARP she prostituted amongst her other hobos. Conley said she gets companionship, friendship and an outlet for creative expression out of LARPing.

"In the course of a serious LARP, we would also do sewing, costume make-up, writing all the backstories for characters; it's pretty in-depth," Conley said.

Lourdes Rivera, a sophomore and art history major, explained the yarn throwing activity that the club did. Participants pass a ball of yarn to create connections with each other's characters or create "beef," with details to why they are feuding and teaming with that particular faction. She said that the club is a great place to tend to cultivate lasting friendships.

"What's interesting about LARPing Club is that anyone who's part of the LARPing Club, generally become like friends" said Rivera. "You generally have good chemistry because we all have the same interests."

Jocelyn Marston, a senior and biology major, said the club is fun because you do not have to stress and worry about your own issues.

See more on:
thesouthernnews.org

Men's cross country races in Nationals



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Redshirt freshman Christopher Lebeau (left) and sophomore Terrell Patterson compete in a race earlier this year.

By Matt Gad
Contributor

For the first time since 1999, the men's cross country team qualified for NCAA Division II Nationals, held this year in Pittsburgh, Pa. at the Bob O'Connor Golf Course at Schenley Park.

Seven Owls raced in the meet, including senior captain Steven Cugini, true freshman Jake Mattei, redshirt freshman Chris Lebeau, sophomores Gavin Woodward, Terrell Patterson and Dan Perusina and junior Connor Shannahan.

"The big thing for us was to learn how to compete at that level," assistant coach Brian Nill said. "We just wanted to get them comfortable in that environment. It was a big learning experience."

This was the team's eighth appearance overall after previously making it in 1970, 1977,

1985-87 and 1994 before the 1999 run. They finished 33rd overall and third in the East Region as American International finished in 20th place, Stonehill was 21st and Southern New Hampshire was 34th.

Shannahan placed 158th with a time of 35:20.5, followed by Lebeau in 180th, at a time of 35:28.9, Woodward in 209th, finishing at 36:19.1, Patterson in 211th, with a mark of 36:21.0, Cugini in 228th, with a time of 36:43.6, Mattei in 229th, finishing at 36:44.5 and Perusina in 257th, finishing at 37:54.2.

The Owls' top finisher moved up 70 places over the course of the race and also took the first spot for the team for the second time all season after also doing so at NCAA Regionals Nov. 17. There, the squad finished in third place and reached an automatic qualifying bid into nationals.

SEE CROSS COUNTRY PAGE 10



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Guard Kealen Ives, a senior, during a game against Le Moyne earlier this season.

Men's basketball picks up crucial win against Adelphi in Wallace's return

By Hunter Lyle
Sports Writer

In senior guard Joey Wallace's first game back since Nov. 21, 2017, the men's basketball team was able to beat NE-10 conference rival Adelphi University in a dominating fashion.

Wallace said playing in his first game in over a year was something he has been anticipating for a long time.

"It almost brings tears to my eyes, to be honest with you. I'm so happy to be back," said Wallace. "I haven't played in over a year, so just competing out there with my brothers, fighting, and most importantly, getting us back on the winning side."

Wallace ended the game with 10 points, being one of five Owls to drop double digits in the scoring column in the 85-69 victory over the Panthers.

The game started with Adelphi looking strong. After dialing it in from deep, the Panthers quickly gained a 21-12

lead early in the first. Although down, the Owls were not out, and a quick five-point scoring burst from senior guard Kealen Ives sparked the Southern offense.

"Coach tells us to bring energy every play. If you want to make impact out there, you need to do it more than say it," said Ives. "We've had problems, like at team meetings saying stuff and it not showing up on the court, so I just wanted to lead by example tonight and show guys that if we bring out energy on defense it'll turn into easy offense."

Once the offense got rolling, shooting 48.6 percent from the field and 42.9 percent from three, the rest of Southern's game seemed to fall in place. Paired with the fluid offense, the Owls played lockdown defense on the other end. They were able to cause eight turnovers in the first and turned them into points on offense, scoring 18 points off turnovers compared to Adelphi's four.



PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Guard Joey Wallace, a senior, during an exhibition game against Syracuse University last season.

SEE MEN'S BASKETBALL PAGE 11



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Guard Amanda Pfohl, a senior, during an exhibition game against UConn earlier this season.

Women's basketball suffers second straight loss at home

By Hunter Lyle
Sports Writer

In an NE-10 Conference matchup, the women's basketball team were handed their worst loss of the season after being outpaced and outshot by the Adelphi University Panthers.

The Owls (5-2, 2-2 in conference play) came into the game after losing their first game of the season to rival University of New Haven on Nov. 28th, and looked to get back on track by beating the Panthers (5-3, 3-1).

As the game started, the Owls were able to gather a brief 12-4 lead, but poor shooting and offensive struggles kept the game close. Adelphi's full court press mixed with a handful of unforced turnovers and porous defense left the Owls down one at the end of the first quarter.

It didn't get better in the second quarter, as the Owls struggled to string together multiple scoring possessions on offense. Shooting off 20 percent from the floor (3-15) and 14.3 percent from deep (1-7), Southern only scored eight points in the second and looked at a 36-27 deficit going into the break at halftime.

Junior forward Jessica Fressle said the inability to score was the team's major downfall.

"I think it comes down to hitting shots in our home court," said Fressle, "and just being ready in practice so it transfers over to games."

The Owls fired out of the half, and an 11-7 run put them within three with only one quarter of play left in the game.

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PAGE 10

Beesley becoming dynamic player in final year

By Michael Riccio
Sports Editor

Men's basketball coach Scott Burrell said Luke Beesley has had a great impact on the team after transferring to Southern last year.

"You know he's going to be successful no matter what he does," Burrell said. "You want to coach kids like that, that want to come to college, get their degree, and do the best they can and take basketball as far they can."

Beesley, a senior forward from Champaign Ill., transferred to Southern for his junior and senior seasons after playing at Parkland College, a two-year community college in his hometown. At Parkland, Beesley played both basketball and baseball during his first two years.

Beesley said he went to his first basketball game when he was three-weeks old, and his father was a coach before coaching him. His father, Joel, also played basketball at Valparaiso for four years.

"I've always been around sports and basketball has been the biggest sport just because he was a coach when I was really young," Beesley said. "I was always around practices, always going to his practices and messing with all of his players so I've always been around the game ever since I was born."

In high school, he had offers from Division I schools for baseball, but said they were not full scholarships, and did not have many offers for basketball.

"I decided to go to Parkland, which has had pro guys get drafted as well as a lot of division I transfers," Beesley said. So, I was thinking I go there for one or two years, play well, and go Division I for baseball."

When he arrived at Parkland though, the basketball coach was also the academic advisor. As he was getting classes as a baseball player, the basketball coach asked if he wanted to play.

"The baseball and basketball coach talked about me doing both," Beesley said. "I decided to do that for two years at Parkland and it was a great decision for me. I loved both coaches but basketball kind of just took over my life by then."

His basketball team went to the NJCAA Tournament in both years he played, finishing sixth in 2016 and fifth in 2017. Beesley said since basketball season kept going into March, he could not get into baseball too much. However, playing in the tournament allowed him to be recruited by Southern.

"Coach Burrell came to Illinois where the National Championship was and saw me play," Beesley said. "I didn't know if I wanted to keep playing basketball or if I just wanted to go to school but I decided to change routes and come out east. I've never been out east like this, so it's been a good decision for me to kind of explore the world and use basketball to see different things and get an education."

Burrell said he noticed that Beesley did the "dirty work" at Parkland that elevates every team.

"Whether it's taking charges, setting screens, making jump hooks, left or right handed, he does the small things a lot of

kids don't want to do," Burrell said. "He's fun to coach because he wants to get better."

During his freshman season, Beesley averaged 5.7 points and 5.8 points per game. As a sophomore, he averaged 8.4 points and 7.4 rebounds per game. On the baseball field, he played catcher. In 21 games played as a freshman, he had a .242 batting average, .390 on base percentage, and a .424 slugging percentage. He also added two homeruns. As a sophomore, he played in just six games, walking once and recording two hits.

Beesley said he gets his athleticism and ability from being a catcher because he had to crouch all game. He also said baseball has helped his mental game as a basketball player.

"You just learn things from different sports," Beesley said. "[Baseball] is a grind. We're playing doubleheaders Saturday and Sunday and then practice on Monday so it's a mental grind and as a catcher, I'm kind of controlling the game behind the plate, calling pitches. I never really had a break and that's kind of helped stay locked in."

As a junior at Southern, Beesley started 14 of the 27 games he played, averaging 5.4 points and 5.6 rebounds per game. This year Beesley is averaging 10.5 points and 9.6 rebounds per game. He has also recorded four double-doubles in eight of the games he's played, all starts. He is also second in the conference in field goal percentage.

"Last year, I was just trying to feel my way around," Beesley said. "It was just new to me. Division II basketball, playing basketball year-round, I've never done that before. A new coach, new system, I was just trying to feel what I could do to help the team. This year I've found a different niche of trying to be aggressive on offense and try to help the team win in my last year."

Burrell said this year, Beesley has more of a voice and has become a great leader for the team. He said he came to campus this year after summer break with a purpose.

"Get his degree and to be a great basketball player," Burrell said. "He's business. He's business-like on the court and in the classroom."

Senior guard Isaiah McLeod said Beesley works hard in practice every day and is going to play hard all the time.

"He's been a workhorse," McLeod said. "He does all the little things a lot of people don't do nowadays. Just seeing from practice and in games, he's starting to score a lot more and be more of a threat in the post and he's starting to knock down a lot of free throws and jump shots."

Beesley said offensive rebounding is his strong suit but does not "really know when that came about." Beesley grabbed 73 offensive rebounds last season, second in the conference, and ranks fourth this year with 20.

"On offense they try to box me out and I just don't let them do it," Beesley said. "I feel like I get good reads off the rims, especially at home. I just know where the ball is going to go off the rim. Sometimes on the road I have to watch the rim and make sure I see where the bounces are going, and I think I have a good act of going after the ball."



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Forward Luke Beesley, a senior, shooting an exhibition game against UConn.

Beesley said he takes pride in being aggressive and going after the ball so he can kick it out to the team's shooters.

"We have four great shooters on offense so that's one thing I've been preaching at trying to do," Beesley said.

McLeod, one of the Owls "four great shooters," said he knows the ball is coming once Beesley gets the rebound and is a big part of his success this year.

"He plays a big role in me being able to score the basketball," McLeod said.

Beesley also is tied for the lead in the conference for total rebounds per game. Burrell said every night, the team is going to get the best from him.

"I wish guys would help him more because he pounds the boards on both ends," Burrell said. "Injured, sick, he's still going to go out there and compete. He knows this is his last year and he's trying to go out on top."

Beesley said he is also trying to be more aggressive offensively in his final year, especially over the last few games. In his first two games of the year, he scored nine and six points. But in the last six games, he has reached double-digits in five of them, including 18 against Caldwell on Nov. 25, his most since arriving at Southern.

"The first couple games I was kind of hesitant," Beesley said. "We have a couple of great guards that can get to the basket and kick it to me so when I get that, I want to make sure I finish and then get to the free throw line as much as possible."

Beesley said he was never really a scorer in his career dating back to high school, but his mentality now is to be aggressive in every game and practice.

"Right now, I just want help the team score," Beesley said. "I feel like if we have an inside and outside game, it'll be tough to stop us."

Beesley has yet to shoot a three-pointer during his time at Southern, and said he has never attempted one in his whole college career. He said in high school, his only three he made was from half-court. He said because of how he was raised, and his father being a center, he has "never really been taught how to play on the perimeter."

"I guess over those whole entire years of learning the game of basketball I've never developed a three-point shot," Beesley said. "In pickup with my friends I'll shoot three's but when I get into a basketball setting, I'm more comfortable with my back to the basket, playing on the block, doing dirty work. That's just what I've always done."

SEE BEESLEY PAGE 11



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Senior Isaiah McLeod, a guard, during an exhibition game against UConn.

Men's Basketball

Continued from Page 9

As the first half ended, the Owls were only slightly ahead, claiming a 43-39 lead, but looked eager to finish the Panthers off in the second.

The Owls picked up right where they left off and continued to hit shots all night, going on a 20-6 run late in the second to seal the game.

Head coach Scott Burrell said the stellar defense played by the Owls was the main reason for the victory.

"We played better defense. I think in the second half we played great defense. I think they shot 58 percent in the first half, 37 percent in the second half," said Burrell.

"I think we wore them down, took good shots. We did the right things to win this game."

In the second half, Southern poured on the offense, shooting over 60 percent from the field and went 3-8 from beyond the arc. Two players reached double-doubles during the game: Isaiah McLeod with 26 points and 10 rebounds, and Luke Beesley with 10 points and 12 rebounds.

After beating Adelphi University, the Owls improved their record to 3-5, and 2-2 within the NE-10 Conference.

"[We plan to] keep winning. It's as simple as that, but it starts on defense. We can score at will with the guys we have, but if we don't get stops, that means nothing," said Wallace. "Our mindset going further is just being tough and getting defensive stops."

Cross Country

Continued from Page 9

"Knowing that I had my teammates not far behind really helps me push throughout the race," Shannahan said. "We really work well together. It was a very tough course in tough conditions but I do better with the longer distance of 10K."

Lebeau, who has been in front for the team most of the time this season, said his goal coming into this fall was to "be able to help my team reach new heights." He and Mattei, two of the team's youngest runners in terms of experience, along with Jon Warren, were able to bond well with the older Owls all season long.

"It's definitely been great for

Jake and I to learn from the guys with more experience and it helped us for races. We have so many quality runners that it's going to benefit us for the future," he said. "With most of us being so young we're hoping for more great things in the future."

Cugini will be the only one graduating from the so-called top seven as the team is stacked with majority sophomore talent.

"Qualifying for nationals as a team was never really a consideration nor a reality until last year," Cugini said. "Having a solid group of guys all working to the goal of getting to nationals creates a culture of keeping each other accountable and motivated. We learned how to handle a national caliber field."

The team's focus now is to do what they did for stretches in

the '70s, '80s and the late '90s: be a consistent contender at the national meet.

"We need to get more kids in the door and to just keep building that foundation," Nill said. "We just have to keep building."

Next fall, the Owls will have two seniors in Shannahan and Perusina, six juniors, four of which all attended the national meet as Odei-Nitri traveled and was the team's alternate, and three sophomores: Warren, Mattei, Stephen Fengler and returning redshirt, Lebeau in additional the incoming class.

"We're looking to bring in eight to 10 guys and just keep developing to make each class a little bit stronger than the year prior," Nill said. "Our results will definitely help bring in guys who are looking to compete at the highest level."



PHOTO COURTESY | BRIAN NILL

The men's cross country team after their meet at Nationals.

Fressle having dominating year in first season as starter



PHOTO | PALMER PIANA

Forward, Jessica Fressle, a junior, during a home game against Le Moyne this season.

By Hunter Lyle
Sports Writer

In her first season starting, junior forward Jessica Fressle is playing a pivotal part of the team as she showcases her breakout season.

After losing several players from the year before, the elementary education major said it is now her turn to help the team win.

"I really think the difference [between last year and this year] is just earning your spot and really learning from the upperclassmen," said Fressle. "In this kind of league, you just have to wait your turn. You know you're good enough, but everyone's good."

In the previous 2017-2018 season, Fressle played in



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Forward, Jessica Fressle, a junior, during an exhibition game against UConn earlier this season.

22 games and averaged 2.5 points and 1.2 rebounds. This season, she is averaging 18.7 points per game and 7.8 rebounds per game, off an average 35 minutes a night.

Senior guard Amanda Pfohl said she believes Fressle is just beginning to show her potential.

"As a basketball player, it's so amazing just seeing her grow from a freshman to now. She's obviously one of the most physical players on our team," said Pfohl. "Right now, she has learned so much about herself, so much about her game, that I honestly feel like she's an unstoppable player. She has post up moves, she has her pull-up game and she can knock down a three. What five knocks down a three?"

After the team lost four starters from the year before, head coach Kate Lynch said it is Fressle's time to shine.

"Jess brings energy every day. She's one of our hardest workers, she's always does what we ask her to do all the time. She's been doing that since freshman year so it's really nice to see her step into a role that we knew could always be her role," said Lynch. "She's a scorer, that's who she is, and the last few years she's just been behind people. Due to graduation, she's getting these opportunities and she's making the most of them."

Fressle started playing basketball in seventh grade, but said basketball was always in her blood.

"Basketball has always run in my family. My dad always played, everyone on my dad's side always played," said Fressle. "My dad's best friend is the assistant coach at

Quinnipiac, and he used to coach at Fordham and Hofstra, so I grew up always watching those games."

Fressle chose to enroll at Southern mainly because of the impression Lynch made when recruiting.

"Coach Lynch was my first offer, she actually was recruiting me to Molloy [College], and I always loved her, she was very personable," said Fressle. "When she told me she was leaving Molloy and coming here, she decided to bring me with her and I decided to stay loyal to her and come here."

Lynch said that while recruiting, the coaches looked at how Fressle performed through good games and bad.

"She'll be on the bench, she'll be the loudest person on there. She's always encouraging her teammates, she'll look her coaches in the eyes. So yes, it's about the scoring, it's about the whole package of player but how does she interact with her staff, how does she interact with her teammates," said Lynch. "Those are the intangibles that Jess brings, she's just somebody that loves the game. We look for all those little things when recruiting, and Jess absolutely checked all those boxes. We're really happy that she chose to come to Southern in the end."

With the help of the Fressle-Pfohl Steinauer Big Three, the women's basketball team started hot, with a 5-2 record.

"I think confidence [is the key to great start]," said Lynch. "I think this group has the ability to do something really special, but that's going to be up to them."

Women's Basketball

Continued from Page 9

The momentum ended there, the fourth quarter being the worst offensive showing for the team all year. The team shot 16.7 percent and was not able to connect on a single three-pointer. The Panthers, on the other hand, relied on their behemoth of a center, German redshirt junior Leonie Edringer, who wreaked havoc in the paint on both sides of the floor and ended with 20 points and 12 rebounds.

In the fourth quarter, Adelphi shot 60 percent from the floor and ended the game with a 16-point lead.

"Our momentum kind of stopped and we just stopped doing the little things, especially on defense," said senior guard

Amanda Pfohl. "I think our defense didn't translate into our offense, and our offense didn't translate into our defense."

With the next two games being on the road, head coach Kate Lynch said needs to prepare by looking at themselves.

"We look at a lot of film of ourselves. I think at this point, a little less on everybody else, a little more on us," said Lynch. "It's not fun to lose, nobody likes it, but if you're not learning when you're losing then you're not doing something right."

Pfohl said that she is determined to win the next game, no matter what it takes.

"I hate losing. I hate losing twice in a row, I think we should never lose twice in a row. So, losing three times in a row is not going to happen. It's just not in the equation for us," said Pfohl. "We're going to do whatever we have to do, we only have one day of prep but we're going to get the W whether it looks pretty or not."



PHOTO | SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Guard Aaliyah Walker, a junior, during a game earlier this season.

Beesley

Continued from Page 9

how athletic he is.

"He has great timing, uses his body well and people don't really understand how athletic he is," Burrell said. "It's fun to see him block a lot of shots."

McLeod said Beesley has particularly improved his post defense as well this year.

"He's been working on his feet a lot, getting a lot quicker so he's been able to slide with defenders and become a better defender on the ball," McLeod said.

With the team graduating Jerry Luckett, Jr., and with the only returning forward from last year being Taurus Adams II, Beesley has emerged as the main player in the front court. He said he had the feeling of being the main big man before at Parkland.

"It's just trying on the court to give the best I can," Beesley said. "Try to help the guys that are maybe on the bench that could help us produce and get minutes we really need down the stretch. It's just trying to be a leader and help as much as I can."

Beesley was put in a leadership role this year, being one of two returning seniors, along with McLeod, to start the season before Joey Wallace returned to game action on Dec. 1. Burrell said with the team struggling to a 3-5 start after being voted first in the Southwest Division in the NE10, players feed off of Beesley's energy.

"Great leader," Burrell said. "Plays with great emotion,

great energy, passion. Everything he does is positive so young kids learn from him."

McLeod said Beesley is more of a leader by action because he can be quiet at times. He said because "he does the little things" such as grab offensive rebounds, take charges, and be in right defensive positions, his teammates notice that.

"He works hard every practice every day," McLeod said. "The way he plays in the game is the way he practices. The younger guys see that, and they try to follow that because if you want your minutes, that's how you have to play so they see him doing that and they try to follow that."

Beesley said it's interesting being in a leadership role because of all the new players on the team. The Owls welcomed eight newcomers to this year's squad, and Beesley said he and McLeod must teach them the team's system.

"We have to try to teach guys how to play the game, how we want to play the game, how coaches try to teach us," Beesley said. "As leaders we want to make sure we're working with them and understanding if they mess up, we're going to be there and help them."

Since he is an education major, Beesley said changes his teaching style because he knows everyone learns differently.

"I know some people are visual learners, some people need to be told what to do, what not to do, so I need to be able to lead them," Beesley said. "I think me and Isaiah and the coaching staff, we're trying to work our way and it's kind of difficult at times, but we need to just be the leaders that we can and we know we are."

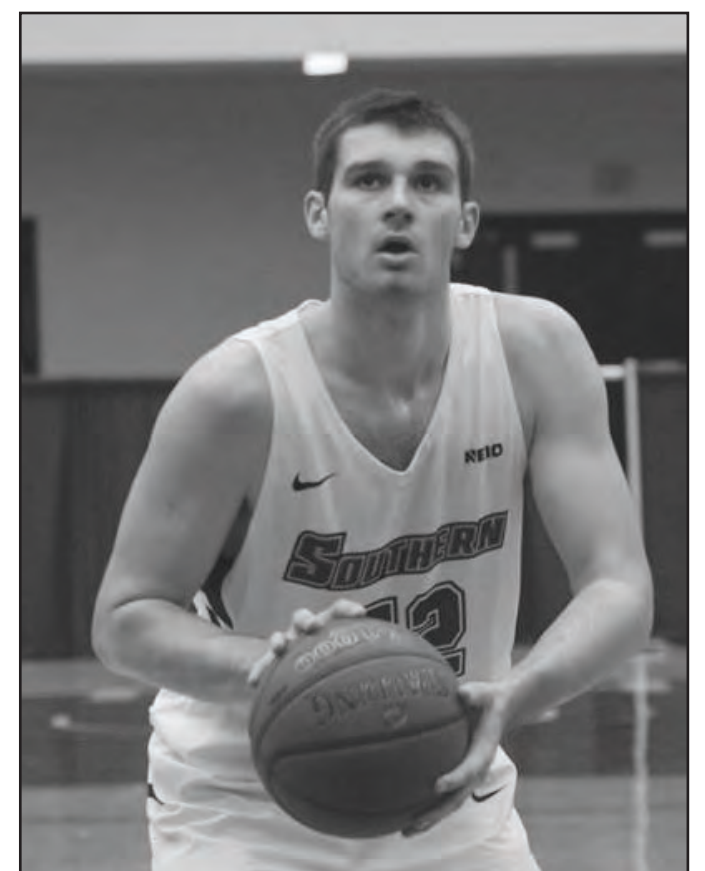


PHOTO | SCSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Forward Luke Beesley, a senior, shooting a free throw in a game last season.

PHOTO

VPAS promotes consent awareness

By Palmer Piana
Photo Editor

The Violence Protection, Victim Advocacy and Support Center hosts a game show style event promoting the concept of consent. They also had various comics on display which point out some of the ways consent can be violated by putting them in non-sexual situations. The event was held in the Adanti Student Center Monday, Dec. 3.



Danae Sawchyn, Amanda Valentin, and Taipha Antoine running the VPAS booth at the It's On Us Mini-Fest event.



Sophomore Synthia Saulnier and freshman Kayla Traggianese, both special education majors, participating in the game show style event.



Senior Danae Sawchyn, an English major, quizzing participants on consent.



Table decorated with comics and prizes.



Comics showing the concept of consent in everyday activities.