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SOUTHERN NEWS

WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG

FEBRUARY 9, 2022

VOL 61 - ISSUE 12



Presdient and founder of the West Haven Black Coalition Carroll E. Brown



Retired Superior Court Judge Angela C. Robinson, key note speaker at MLK event.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. event on critical race theory

By Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor

The first week of Black History Month at the university featured the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration event discussing critical race theory.

Retired Superior Court Judge Angela Robinson was the keynote speaker after remarks from several others, including university President Joe Bertolino, who addressed the racially insensitive incident which occurred on campus recently and resulted in the suspension of the Omega Zeta Pi sorority.

"We will not be discouraged," Bertolino said. "We will not be silent. We will

not give up. We will not yield. Our resolve to be a social justice and anti-racist university will be unwavering, no matter what is thrown our way. We will not stop."

The timing of it all is significant, as the university has a whole month of events planned geared toward Black history, making it an opportunity to educate and inform those who are willing to listen.

"This is the perfect time because this is about learning," Robinson said. "People come to college to learn. So, you should be able to make mistakes and learn and grow from them, and that's what this is an opportunity to do."

There was a video shown of the Black National Anthem, and a performance of the National Anthem by student Thamar Kalangala, which the audience was quite pleased with.

The Multicultural Center sponsored the event which was held in the Adanti Student Center ballroom and Director of Multicultural Affairs Dian Brown-Albert delivered the opening and closing remarks.

President and founder of the West Haven Black Coalition Carroll E. Brown introduced the keynote speaker after remarks from Student Government Association President Sarah Gossman.

Finally, it came time for

retired Judge Robinson to speak about critical race theory. Specifically, what it is and what it is not.

Robinson said, "Critical race theory is an approach and a discipline and a way of looking at problems in our society that advocates that we dismantle racial hierarchy. Not that we reorder it. All races are equal. Any racism is bad."

Robinson spoke about how race is a social construct, how racism is structured within society and how a "colorblind" approach is not a solution.

Communications major Loanis Cabrera, a senior, performed "Rise Up" by Andra Day and received a rousing ovation for the performance.

Fittingly, Brown-Albert's closing remarks to follow featured a quote from Dr. King which included the words, "Rise up."

"I don't know if that was done beforehand or not," Cabrera said, "but I was surprised to see that they kind of tied it into the ending, with 'Rise Up.'"

The purpose of the event was to provide a greater understanding of critical race theory as it has become more prevalent and identifying its key points.

"The master's tool can never be used to destroy the master's house," Robinson said. "If you want to dismantle racism, you can't use racism. You have to create new tools."

Robinson hoped the audience learned something because she certainly did.

"That Southern is a great social justice institution, which I did not know. A hidden gem," Robinson said.

As the fight against racism continues, even on campus. It's events like this, one which reinforces the values and standards of social justice, the university holds itself to.

"Being a social justice institution at Southern, these types of events are important to bring awareness and advocate for what the school stands for," Cabrera said. "It came at an essential time, because it shows how relevant these issues are still."

Students fail to start a fencing sports club

By Sarah Shelton
Features Editor
Tyler Fisher
Contributor

Fencing is a sport based on the swordsmanship skills used for dueling, commonly featured at the Olympics since the late 19th century; it is also a sport a student wanted to introduce to campus.

Political science major Luke Kim, a freshman, tried to create a fencing club on campus during the Fall 2021 semester.

"Me and another student, Ethan, had this plan ever since the beginning of our first semester, which, you know, obviously was in late summer, early fall," Kim said. "We both planned everything out accordingly."

Kim and Ethan said they were very interested in the sport, and believed it could teach a lot to other interested students.

"I think fencing is a sport where it kind of shows a little bit more finesse, but

then also shows sportsmanship and it doesn't discriminate against body image as well," Kim said. "It's very flexible and I feel like it's a good idea for those who are interested. If they're interested in a sport, but they don't want to make it a full investment, then I think fencing would have been great."

Kim said Student Involvement gave them the impression the club was going to happen, but then rejected them.

"We went very far [into the process]. We made our own constitution, as required. We went to all the meetings on how to start a club and we got an advisor, Dr. O'Hara from the political science department," Kim said. "We did get some 'it's all clear,' 'you're good to go,' but then the last minute, where we were going to establish the club fully, it starts getting cloudy there, and they just straight-up refused."

Kim said all they were

asking from Student Involvement was a space for this club, but it became a financial issue.

"We didn't even ask for funding as well, we just said, just give us a room, and for the most part, we will fundraise it or have our own equipment," Kim said. "We even did like statistics as well of because fencing you hold weapons, I'm not going to deny that you're holding a foil which is a sword, but if the school was worried that we're going to get a lot of people hurt we did the statistics and we have the evidence that shows that fencing is one of the least dangerous sports in comparison to like, football or track, but they did mention something about money."

Kim points out that the university advocates for starting new clubs, and then do not go through with a lot of them.

Daphney Alston, from Student Involvement & Leadership Development, said in response in

an email, "a student met with me in hopes to start a fencing club. Due to the nature of the club and liability associated with it, it would have to be considered as a club sport. In collaboration with the Coordinator for Recreation and Fitness, who oversees Club Sports, we concluded that we would not be able to support a fencing club for the following reasons: Limited facility availability for fencing practices on campus or nearby off-campus, Limited resources available to support the liability risks that come with the sport (proper coaching and facility) and limited funds available within the club sport budget to support a new student organization based on the needs of the group."

She added that in order to start a new club a student needs to attend a mandatory new club workshop, host an interest meeting with at least 10 full-time undergraduate

students, secure a full-time faculty or staff member as an advisor, submit a constitution, and receive approval from the Student Government Association (SGA).

"While liability is a factor, accessibility to a facility is the bigger issue, without having a space for the group, we can't determine a budget," said Alston.

Alston also mentioned that based on the club's needs, there was a lack of funds available within the club sport budget to support it.

However, Alston said, "there are funds available for the club sports that we currently have recognized. Club sports are funded differently than other student organizations." These issues meant the fencing club would be unable to be established, but there were other options for students interested in fencing.

She added she also offered the option to the students to start a fencing

enthusiast club, which "would not need to be club sport and could simply bring people together who have an interest in fencing."

Kim claimed they made it pretty clear the entire time they wanted to make it into a sport and that they went through the entire process Alston mentioned of creating the club.

SGA President could not be reached for comment after multiple attempts.

"I'm distraught. We weren't happy because we planned all semester. We put in the effort. We put in the time. We got outside of our comfort zones to convince other people to join us," Kim said. "We had roughly about 15 students that were interested. What bothered me is that this is the school where the majority of students are commuters, including myself, and the problem is I don't think it's really fair for us to put in time and effort just for it to be thrown away."

Construction happening around campus

By Tyler Fisher
Contributor
Adam Czochara
Contributor
Ian Reynolds
Contributor

Two of the university’s most heavily enrolled programs will have something to look forward to in the near future. The university’s College of Health and Human Services and the School of Business will each have a new building to hold classes.

Spring 2022 is the expected completion date for the Health and Human Services building, while the School of Business anticipates moving into its new home the following year.

The Health and Human Services building in front of the Pelz Gymnasium on Fitch street will have 94,750 square feet of space and host new clinics and research centers for communication disorders and human performance. Additionally, it will have clinical nursing simulation labs, a recreational therapy room, and a collaboration center.

The Business school is being constructed on the corner of Farnham and Wintergreen Ave. It is expected to have eight large classrooms that fit 30–40 students each, a new stock market ticket observable from outside, and several auditoriums and community spaces.

The university’s executive vice president of finance and administration Mark Rozewski said both construction projects are the product of a 10-year program called the 2020 Capital Program. The program allocated money to state colleges and universities for infrastructural improvements and new facilities.

The program was initially meant to run from 2010–2020, but the pandemic complicated construction of the buildings.

There are currently several programs in the CSCU system that have requested funds for new facilities and infrastructure improvements.

Each project – nearly 30 spread throughout state and community colleges – is prioritized, with the improvement of infrastructure and facilities at the forefront of the four state universities.

On April 7, 2021, Jane Gates, the former interim president, provost, and senior VP for academic and student affairs for CSCU, had a presentation to the General Bonding Subcommittee.

In the presentation, the biennium budget for the fiscal years of 2022 and 2023 was broken down to show the monetary amounts requested by each school.

At the university, there have been funding requests for the fiscal year of 2023 for the construction of a new police station and mechanical and electrical improvements for the Lyman Center for the Performing Arts and Moore Field House.

It was estimated the total cost of the new business building would be close to \$52 million. The cost of the Health and Human Services building is expected to be even more expensive, at nearly \$76 million, according to the presentation of the general bonding subcommittee.

In an address to students and faculty on Nov. 30, 2021, at the university, CSCU President Terrence Cheng said the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities projected a bud-

get deficit of nearly \$40 million for the fiscal year of 2023.

Peter Visentin, the university’s director of architectural services, is heavily involved in constructing the new buildings on campus.

Visentin’s job is to coordinate projects on campus with the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services (DAS), acting as the liaison between the state’s department and the university. The DAS’s responsibility is to manage the construction company charged with completing the project.

“Within it, they have a construction services group,” said Rozewski. “The money is borrowed by the state and then given to them to build the project. We [Southern] don’t have any real control over the financing at all, and we never see the money per se. The money is not here—the money is in this other agency that’s building the thing. They turn over the keys, and we participate in the design.”

Rozewski said the dean of the College of Health and Human Services Sandra Bulmer, and other faculty were heavily involved in the design of the new building, ensuring the needs of the students were met.

“The point was that nursing is one of our star programs, and it’s really, really excellent. The problem has been, they’ve been scattered around campus in, I think, six or eight different buildings, and they can’t grow where they are,” said Rozewski.

He continued, “this building triples the square footage they have so they can admit more students because it’s so successful. Right now, we’re capped by space, same thing with the business school; it’s pretty good, so you want to give it a shot.”

The new dean of the School of Business Jennifer Robin said after the construction of the new business building, donors would largely fund everything that happens inside the building.



PHOTO | IAN REYNOLDS

English major Deja Bynoe junior sits in the Adanti Student Center.

These donors help fund business student programs and the new business success center.

The university’s Semi-Annual Statistical Report for the spring of 2021, published on March 3,

Bulmer, who has been very active in the design of the new Health and Human Services building, said, “Ultimately the long-term outcomes will outweigh the short-term inconveniences our facilities will be used as

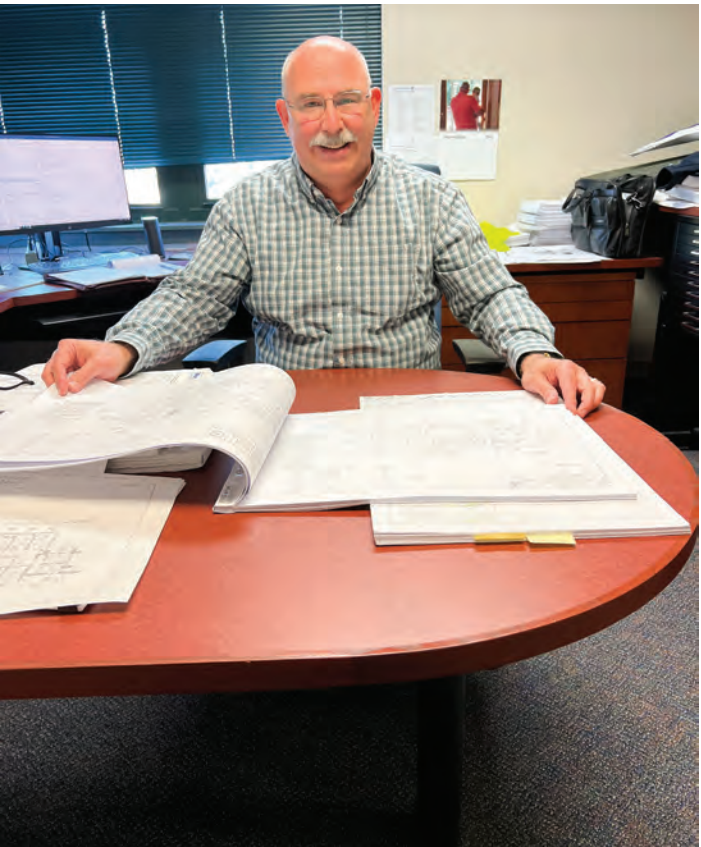


PHOTO | IAN REYNOLDS

Peter Visentin the universities director of architectural services showing blueprints in his office.

2021, shows 1,705 students enrolled in a health profession or science program.

There were 1,096 students enrolled in a business, management, or marketing program.

While the education program showed strong enrollment, with 1,160 students total, the next largest is the psychology program, with 630 students enrolled. Dean of the School of Health and Human Services Sandra Bulmer is adamant the construction of the new building will be well worth in the future.

walk-in clinics for the local community at low prices, and provide a center for adaptive sports, physical disabilities, mental health, and programs for injured veterans.”

“Primarily, these facilities will offer students the best quality of education possible, which I think will rival even the most prestigious private universities,” said Bulmer.

Some students from the healthcare studies and business fields are excited about the new campus additions; others feel frustrated and inconvenienced by the construction on campus.

“Construction on the roads can be terrible for the average driver, but the one going on right now on campus makes it hard to get to my adviser on time. I end up walking a longer route to get to where I need to be,” said English major Deja Bynoe, a junior.

Construction is primarily contained within the workspaces, but minor inconveniences still exist, namely the movement of construction equipment which can slow traffic on already congested roads.

Healthcare studies major Dowine Lucien, a senior, is happy a new building is being constructed.

Lucien said, “I think it’s a great idea because Jennings and all of the healthcare studies buildings don’t have enough room, especially for the nursing students.”

Lucien continued, “Having the new building is good because they’ll have more simulation labs, and people in my field of study will have more options for which classes they have all in one building.”

Students in the healthcare studies field at the university have classes in several buildings around campus. Lucien said the construction of the Health and Human Services building was only fitting, given that the business program has its own facility on campus.

The structural steel of the Business building is set to be done this February. To celebrate the foundation being built, Visentin said there will be a topping-off ceremony that is “a sort of a New England tradition.”

Curious students and faculty should look for a tall green object placed upon the top of the new business school.

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New mobile app to order food at student center

By Sarah Shelton
Features Editor
Dave Lee
Contributor

No more lines and no more waits at the Adanti Student Center Food Court, according to the SCSU Campus Dining Instagram account, all because of a new mobile app.

BiteU is an app made specifically for ordering food at universities, and the university recently signed up; making the student center now available for this option.

“Bite Universities is a Sodexo app that is used at other Sodexo universities and colleges around the country. We thought it would be great to bring it to Southern! We started using it last semester, and so far everyone loves it,” General Manager of the university’s dining, Tony Deluca, said in an email.

Deluca said it was a long process to get the university on the app.

“We had to connect the app with Southern’s Point

of Sale system and contact tech support to create an employee account and set up the Wi-Fi. We also had to connect our internal menu system at Conn Hall and make sure the Retail app menus/options were coordinated with our offerings. Once it was setup, we did numerous rounds of testing to make sure the app functioned properly. We also trained our employees to help ensure they understand the process,” Deluca said.

Many students have started using the app, according to Deluca. They have a regular mobile order customer at Tres Habaneros.

Deluca said the app is simple to use.

“you download the app to your smart phone and can view Conn Hall menus and order meals from the Student Center Food Court. In order to pay for the mobile orders, you connect your HootLoot, Credit, or Debit card,” Deluca said. “Once in the app, you select which station you would like to order from and then

customize your meal, add to cart, choose your pick-up time and press place order.”

Deluca said after these steps, they accept the order in the kitchen and process it. Then, once it is complete, the order is packed up in a special Bite bag and students should get a notification that their order is ready.

Healthcare studies major Chris Powers, a senior, said he occasionally eats at the student center and has recently heard about the new app because of the Instagram post.

“The app seems pretty dank, pretty useful,” Powers said. “I would plan to use the app for convenience and I definitely believe others will use the app when dining.”

However, other students, such as communication disorders major Emily Nadile, a senior, do not plan on using BiteU.

“I do not have experience with the new mobile app nor did I know about it, but I do think having a mobile app for dining especially with college-aged

students is really beneficial. I think having all your information you need pertaining to dining in one place is really beneficial and efficient,” Nadile said.

Nadile said when she used to live on campus, she ate at the student center twice a week. Now, for this semester, she tries to eat there once a week.

“I do not plan on using the app,” Nadile said. “I do think other people will use the app for sure. I think that freshmen students will find it very helpful in navigating their dining experiences at SCSU. That was a big thing to learn when I was a freshman in college just starting out.”

Nadile said she believes the lines are okay depending on the time she goes.

“I notice long lines at peak dining times during the day. Otherwise, the lines are not too bad,” Nadile said. “It’s all about navigating what time to go if you don’t want to wait in a long line. Peak times in my personal opinion were are like one and three.”

When communications



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

Bite University app poster hanging in Conn Hall.

major Evan Adamowicz, a senior, eats at the student center, he notices the lines do get busy.

“Usually the student center around the time I go, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., can get pretty packed. The lines get long,” Adamowicz said.

Adamowicz did not hear about the mobile app but said he is interested in learning more about it and possibly downloading it.

“I think others will use it if there is a large advertisement for it,Adamowicz said. “So more interested people can download it.”

OPINIONS

Conn Hall food is getting worse

By Sarah Shelton
Features Editor

Ever since my freshman year, I have always loved going to Connecticut Hall with my friends; every night for dinner.

I have noticed a lot of students have always complained about the food over the years, and I have too at points. Like, once, I got pasta which had ziti and elbow macaroni mixed together with cold, hard cheese melted on it and it was gross. I remember sending a picture of it to my mom saying ‘I guess they are running out of food?’ even though it was a random weekend in the middle of the semester. But other than occasional times like those, everything was fine with the food. But back then, Connecticut Hall was self-serve, now it is up to the workers to make and serve the food.

Ever since COVID-19, I have noticed less varieties of food being served, and lately it has been even worse. I feel like it is the same things every day. I have been eating pizza and cheeseburgers almost every day since I do not

want my meal plan to go to waste.

I know the Conn Hall workers are doing their best, and none of this is their fault, but my friends and I personally feel that we pay a lot of money for a meal plans just for pizza, fries, salad, and those every once in a while baked potato and stir fry.

The Adanti Student Center has way better food, in my opinion, but my 12 meals a week plan only covers Connecticut Hall. I cannot afford to get a quesadilla or sandwich every day at the student center and not use my meal plan. I also waste too much money on Door Dash, which I normally do after Conn Hall because I would still be hungry after my two slices of pizza.

When Conn Hall has quesadillas, it is usually just hard cheese; and they do have the sandwich bar, but the last few times I went around 6 p.m. for dinner, it was already emptied and closed.

I love this university, and I hate complaining, but I feel like it is my job to say something about this.

One thing I hate is I am somewhat of a picky

eater. No, I am not one of those ‘only chicken tenders and pizza’ person, but I do not eat baked potatoes and I do not eat fish, which also crosses out their grilled herb tilapia they sometimes have.

I’ve also noticed they typically only have one vegan and/or vegetarian option, besides the sandwiches, which is a little unfair, again considering the price of the meal plans we residential students without kitchens are required to have.

I will say, they recently put out their soft serve ice cream machine and that was a great addition.

Their other deserts are also really good. The other day I got a “Rice Krispy treat” made from lucky charms and marshmallow. Their brownies and bagels options are also nice to have. They even sometimes have chicken tenders or nuggets, and you can never go wrong with those.

Like I said, I love going to Conn, I love this university, but I really think we need to reevaluate the menu to have a different food every day at Connecticut hall.

Festival di Sanremo review

By Sofia Rositani
Editor-in-Chief

The Festival di Sanremo, an annual even that happens in Sanremo, Italy where the most popular singers perform and get a chance to try and get to Eurovision, happened on Feb. 1 through Feb. 5. It was an extremely exciting five-day event the RAI channel let international fans watch for free.

I was thankful to be able to watch the show because sometimes the show is not available to international audiences, which is sad because I grew up watching this it with my family.

This year, the festival was amazing, even with the COVID-19 restrictions making certain moments not possible, it was still the highlight of the year.

The show was hosted by Amedeo Sebastiani, an Italian tv presenter. This is his second year hosting it.

This year, there were many familiar faces performing, such as Irama, SanGiovanni, Michele Bravi, Mahmood, and Blanco for the younger audiences, but for the older audiences who have been watching since the conception of the festival, singers like Massimo Ranieri, who had me crying my heart out, and Gianni Morandi are two popular singers who have been performing since the beginning of this contest.

“Hosted by Amadeus, the week-long televisual

extravaganza has seen over 100 glittering performances from the competing participants and guest acts, with shows running late into the night,” according to Eurovision Song Contest.

The festival does run extremely late into the night, usually due to final decisions on the winner. For this year, it went as late as 2 am.

Last year’s winners of Sanremo 2021 and Eurovision 2021, Maneskin, has stolen the heart of the world, and their worldwide success is a first that has come from Italy. This band has changed the whole outlook this festival can have for singers who win.

While there were fun moments at the festival, there were also moments that made some people uncomfortable, such as Achille Lauro’s performance.

Sanremo Bishop Antonio Suetta said the performance contained “words, attitudes and gestures that are not just offensive to religion, but to human dignity,” according to ABC News.

In a statement, Suetta said he considered not saying anything, knowing that his protest would only draw attention to the performance. But he said he also felt he could not stay silent because Italy’s RAI state television had allowed images that “mocked and profaned the sacred signs of the Catholic faith by evoking the gesture of Baptism in a dull and desecrating context.”

As a Catholic, that did make me uncomfortable to watch, and I have never been a huge fan of Lauro prior, but this really ruined my outlook on him. I do not want to support a man who uses such sacred moments in a religion. Getting baptized is a moment between you and God, you become your purest at that moment and to mock it in a room full of Italians, who are most likely Catholic, does not look good.

Now for the winners of the annual Festival di Sanremo: in third place, we had Gianni Morandi with “Apri tutte le porte” (Open all the doors), in second we had Elisa with “O Forse Sei Tu” (Or maybe it’s you), and in first place we had Mahmood and Blanco with “Brividi” (Chills).

“Before competing in Sanremo, all contestants are required to tell broadcaster Rai whether they would be willing to represent Italy at the Eurovision Song Contest should they triumph shortly after the show, the pair confirmed that they will travel to Turin,” according to Eurovision Song Contest.

This is Mahmoods second win, his first being in 2019 with his song “Soldi” (Money). While Blanco is not the youngest to win Sanremo, he is still young at the age of 18 years old winning the contest. They will be representing Italy at the Eurovision Song Contest in Turin, Italy this May.

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Issues printed by: Valley Publishing, Derby, CT

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PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Mahmood (Right) and Blanco (Left) accepting the Sanremo award at the festival.

Exciting end in Men’s Basketball

Late-game heroics helped the Owls hold on to the 77-76 win

By Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor

Men’s basketball scored its second straight close victory by defeating the American International College Yellow Jackets 77-76 at James Moore Field House.

The Yellow Jackets came into the game reeling, having lost nine straight. Over recent years, they have given the Owls fits, having won four straight with the Owls last victory against them coming in 2018.

“They’re relentless,” guard Lyron Bennett, a sophomore, said. “They always battle. They never give up and they’re definitely very tough on the boards.”

At the start of the game, the opposition did not appear as though it would pose much trouble for the home team.



Guard Lyron Bennett with possession of the ball during Saturday’s win over AIC.

The Owls started the game hot, jumping out to a 16-2 lead, with everybody contributing. It looked like it was going to be a game of bully ball until AIC went on a 10-0 run to make things competitive again in the

first half. Things were beginning to look grim after AIC took the lead and a slam dunk by Yellow Jacket guard Walter Covington capped off a 9-0 run to put them up four, forcing Owls’ head coach Scott Burrell to call a timeout.

Whatever adjustment they made must have worked, because the Owls went on a 7-0 run of their own out of the timeout.

Each team traded the lead in the final minutes of the half and the Owls went into break with a 37-35 lead.

“There’s been a lot of games when we could’ve quit and it would’ve gotten ugly,” guard Ulyen Coleman, a junior, said. “But we compete, and I think that’s the biggest thing you can say

about any team is being competitive.” At halftime, Coleman had nine points and a team-high five rebounds.

However, the second half was reminiscent of the first. The Owls would begin to pull away, leading by 14 at one point, only for AIC to storm their way back to within striking distance.

“We’re a hard nose team,” Coleman said. “Sometimes you have lapses though which really kills us, but when we’re focused, I think that’s our strongest attribute.”

Bennett drilled a three-pointer with just over three minutes left in the game to put the Owls up by nine, and it felt like the shot to ice the game at the time.

“We worked on it earlier,” Bennett said. “As soon as the defender backed off, I

felt I had enough space to take it.”

AIC would go on one final run in the moments to follow. Suddenly, it was 72-70 in favor of the Owls with just 40 seconds left to play.

Coming out of a timeout, the ball went to guard C.J. Seaforth, a senior, who hit the dagger three-pointer to put them up two possessions with very little time left.

“Coach set it up for me,” Seaforth said. “He puts a lot of confidence in me, my teammates put confidence in me and it’s a big shot and I come up big in big moments.”

AIC did their best to come back in the final seconds, but a Bennett layup put to bed any chances of it, and the Owls won 77-76 to improve to 6-11 for the season.

Bennett and Coleman led the team with 20 points apiece and Seaforth chipped in 17, with 11 of those points coming in the second half.

“We’re all killers,” Seaforth said. “When we all get it going, giving it. Passing it. Swinging to each side. We have a good team. We have a lot of scorers.”

The Owls next play is on Tuesday against Pace University in Moore Field House, looking to make it three straight victories.

“We’re very tough,” Bennett said. “Obviously, we’ve struggled, but we’ve turned over a new leaf now.”

NFL—Flores

By Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor - Opinion



I do not care for making predictions.

Part of the beauty of sports is not knowing. The element of surprise.

It is why I tune in every week.

Unfortunately, the nasty underbelly of the sports industry becomes known sometimes and I must separate the live action I love from the not so glamorous dealings which occur away from the play.

Brian Flores’ class-action lawsuit against the NFL is fascinating. It takes a big story to distract attention from Tom Brady’s retirement, and this lawsuit has done just that by bringing up an issue in the league which has been present for a long time.

The Rooney Rule, which requires teams to interview at least one minority candidate for head coaching jobs and senior positions, is a noble idea but appears to have been taken advantage of and circumvented in the past, leading to minority coaching candidates showing up for what are considered sham interviews.

Understandably, teams being directly sued in the lawsuit are in cover their butt’s mode, but my complaint is that they are not addressing the issue.

John Elway can deny any allegations made by Flores while also supporting his cause or at least saying there is a problem when there are only two minority head coaches, as of this writing, in a league of predominantly black players.

Unless Flores can get other coaches to join the suit and/or prominent NFL players come to his support in a major way, it sounds like he has a tough road ahead of him both legally and career-wise.

He is a good coach. Maybe not great, but he deserves another shot he is now unlikely to receive.

It may not be as polarizing, but there are echoes of Colin Kaepernick’s situation in Flores’ lawsuit. Regardless of the outcome of the case, the risk Flores has taken for this cause cannot be denied and may end up being what he is most remembered for.

Bill Belichick’s mistaken text to Flores will go down in history as well and may end up enacting some real change in the league’s hiring processes.

I will get off my soap box now. It is Super Bowl week, and new stars will be made.

Depending on who wins, we will see a plethora of commercials coming next season featuring either Cooper Kupp or Joe Burrow.

Every transaction the Los Angeles Rams have made has built to this moment, and it is their time, and they certainly have a superior roster. So, while I dislike predictions, I will feed the machine for the big game.

Prediction: Rams win Super Bowl. NFL wins lawsuit. The NFL always wins.



Forward Zack Penn waiting for guard Lyron Bennett to get to his spot on the floor

Women’s basketball splits weekend games

By Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor

Women’s basketball continued its recent stretch of home games over the weekend with a loss on Saturday and a win on Sunday.

After a relatively quiet offense on Saturday, when the Owls lost to the American International College Yellow Jackets 70-59, the offense erupted to the tune of a 105-69 victory over the St. Anselm College Hawks on Sunday.

“We’re all shooters,” guard Patricia Conroy, a graduate student, said. “We’re all scorers. Anyone who has the ball can score, so we just have to move the ball and get it to the open man.”

Conroy was consistent, scoring 12 points in each game.

What changed from Saturday to Sunday was that everybody else started scoring as well.



Forward Jessica Fressle set a new career high in points with 33 during Sunday’s 105-69 victory over St. Anselm.

Forward Jessica Fressle, a graduate student, scored a respectable 15 points during Saturday’s loss, and followed it up with a career-high 33 points in the win over the Hawks.

Fressle posted double-doubles across the two games, including an 18-rebound performance on Saturday, tying her career high.

Fressle has recorded a

double-double in five of her last six games and has 10 for the season.

Guard Delaney Connors, a senior, led the team in scoring on Saturday with 17 points, and followed it up on Sunday with a career-high 11 assists in the victory against the Hawks.

The reason for the lack of offense on Saturday may have had something to do with the officiating. A lot of whistles disrupted the flow of the game and would not be surprising if it disrupted the rhythm of the Owls’ offense.

“It doesn’t help us,” Fressle said. “But we have to control what we can control. We can’t control the refs.”

Officiating would not have made a difference during Sunday’s drubbing, as the Owls had four

players score double digit points and the team scoring 25 points or more in all four quarters. The most points they allowed in a single quarter was 21.

A stark contrast to Saturday’s game when they could only muster eight points in the first quarter which left them playing from behind against AIC all game.

“They’re quickness and they’re ability to shoot when open is what killed us,” Connors said. “We just weren’t in a position to help each other and then get out on our own.”

Sunday’s 105-point performance set a new season high which had previously been 83 from a win last December over the University of New Haven.

Passing played a big role in the win, as the team set a new program record with 34 assists, with the previous record being 31 from way back in the 1999-2000 season.

So, offensively, things seemed to be heading in the right direction for the Owls team sitting at 8-10 on the season.

“We just have to focus on defense,” Connors said. “We have to communicate more. We have to work together more. Work off of each other more and just play basketball like we know we can.”

The Owls next take the court against Pace University on Tuesday, Feb. 8, as they wrap up their four game homestand at James Moore Field House before hitting the road for their next five games.



Forward Katie Williamson being introduced before a game in Moore Field House.