



Scott Burrell
reflects on
baseball career
Page 5



Culture Fest
celebrating
diverse foods
Page 7



Student art
exhibit now
open in Buley
Page 8

SOUTHERN NEWS

WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG

MAY 5, 2021

VOL. 59—ISSUE 24

University encouraging vaccinations Shuttle options available to local clinics to receive doses

By Madeline S. Scharf
Reporter

With the continued vaccination of millions of adults in the United States, projected need for surveillance testing is waning.

According to CDC guidelines, testing for the fully vaccinated has become far more relaxed. Fully vaccinated people who have waited two weeks can “refrain from routine screening testing if asymptomatic and feasible,” according to the CDC website.

Currently, the university still requires weekly testing for all on-campus students. But this is expected to change come next fall.

Jules Tetreault, vice president of student affairs and dean of students, spoke about the university’s tentative plans. “Our hope is to have our complete plans published

in early summer,” said Tetreault.

The university does not make these decisions uninformed. “We follow the guidance of the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH),” said Tetreault. “What they say is what we end up doing.”

The DPH also follows federal guidelines for COVID-19 practices. “The university pays attention to what the DPH says,” said Tetreault. “The DPH pays attention to federal guidelines, the CDC. 99.9 percent of the state guidelines are in line with the federal ones.”

With no official plan yet, nothing is set in stone. However, Tetreault expects testing “won’t be 100 percent like it is this semester.”

Currently, on-campus students are tested once a week. Tetreault said he thinks the testing is “very effective,” and the university “has a fairly

low positivity rate. I think it speaks to the testament of our students, and how they continue to follow the guidelines.”

But as people continue to get vaccinated, the expectation that testing will slow down is apparent. With the CDC saying it is not necessary for those vaccinated, it is expected that testing would diminish.

The reason testing next semester is such a difficult question to answer is because the university and health departments are not sure how many students have been vaccinated. Erin Duff, the university’s COVID-19 coordinator, said in an email interview, “it will have a lot to do with how many students receive the vaccine and then we will know more regarding a plan around how often, who will need to be tested, etc.”

Vaccinations are not currently mandatory to

attend the university. It is unclear if the state will pass a law to require vaccination to live on-campus, as they have done for the meningitis shot.

Right now, all the university can do is empower students to go out and get the vaccine. “We encourage students to get the vaccine,” said Tetreault. “We plan for a 100% in-person fall semester, and everyone plays a role in looking after their fellow community members.”

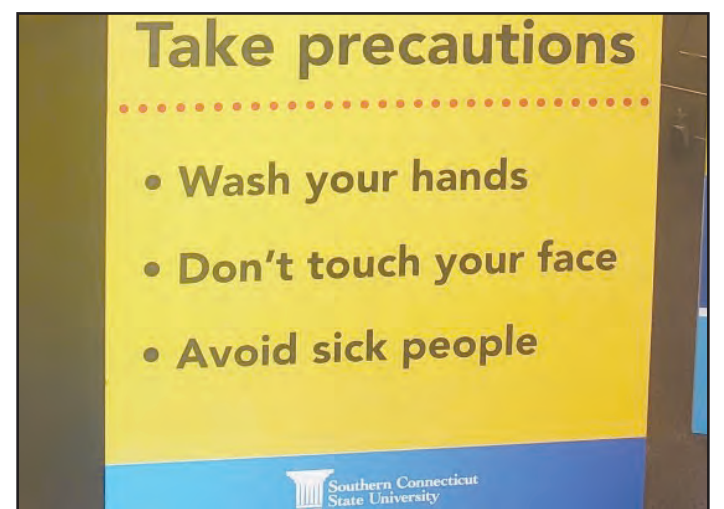
The university has partnered with Yale to provide clinics for students all around the state. “Working with Yale allows students to have access points to vaccination clinics across the state,” said Tetreault. There are shuttle options for on-campus students to a local clinic to receive their doses. There are also more clinics listed on the Yale New Haven Health website.

The university will consider an on-campus vaccine clinic if needed. “We will try to learn how many people have been vaccinated in the fall,” said Tetreault. “If the need for more vaccination centers is seen in our community, we will set one up if it will be effective.”

Tetreault does not know if the on-campus vaccination center will

be needed, though. “Currently, the number of vaccines outweigh how many people want or need to get it,” said Tetreault. “Students just need to find the access points that are all across the state.”

“Continue to take precautions to keep our community safe,” said Tetreault. “Consider vaccination for the safety of our community.”



COVID-19 informational sign located in Adanti student center. PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Bonfire memorial event honoring lost Black lives

By Madeline S. Scharf
Reporter

Students, faculty, and community members gathered around a replica bonfire. Holding plastic candles and flowers, they placed the items around the “fire” of tissue paper and fairy lights: a memorial to Black lives lost.

Standing in a

semicircle on Thursday, April 29, many stepped into the center to read their poetry, spoken word, and thoughts about the struggles of racism, anti-Black rhetoric, and other issues that have plagued minority groups in America.

History professor Siobhan Carter-David and Ala Ochumare, co-

founder of Black Lives Matter New Haven, hosted the event. Many people, from students to professors, spoke at the event, from students to teachers. Some shared poetry, others, their personal stories.

The event was attended by people from all walks of life. The event was described on the university calendar as being a place for people to engage and learn. “We unite to offer a space to listen, share, and reflect on how we can identify ways for community action, inclusivity, coping, and support for each other,” said the event listing.

Students who attended thought the event was a good place to learn and grow. Sociology major Michelle Lumbsprom, a senior, went to the program. “I came because there has been so much racial strife,” said Lumbsprom, “so much aggressive behavior towards people of color. I felt like we needed to come out here to support them.”

Sociology class 298, Abolition, Activism, & Reform also attended the event. Political Science major Jaznelle Nuñez, a junior, is a student in the class. “We came because our class talks a lot about police abolition and reform,” said Nuñez.

Many faculty members from the university also attended this event. President Joe Bertolino discussed how important accountability is. “Students, continue to speak up and confront senior leadership. Hold us accountable,” said the

president. “The senior leadership is engaged in work to help us learn more and be more accountable.”

President Bertolino spoke about plans for an expanded staff for the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to work on issues of racism and inequality. “It is not Diane [Ariza, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion] job to fix it. She is one person. We are going to create a division, so I think we are planning on hiring four or five new people,” said Bertolino.

The President expressed his worries for those in the community and rallied behind change and equity. “But we have work to do,” said Bertolino, “and we are committed to the work.”

The event featured poetry by many different students and community members. Lynette Johnson, a poet, read an untitled poem she wrote about the killings of people of color by police. “We have to say their names,” began Johnson’s poem.

The poem delved into the unjust killings and how the community was saddened by the losses of many people at the hands of the police. “We mourned them like they were family,” said Johnson. The poem concluded with listing many names of people who have died, ending with, “I wrote this poem a year ago, but I had to add ten more names.”

The night was not just a place to voice



President Joe (and his dog) speaking in front of the memorial bonfire. PHOTO | MADELINE S. SCHARF

community issues, but also a place to learn more about these problems and to get support. “One can always be a student,” said Nuñez. “People just need to be willing to learn. This is a good space to learn.”

Coming together was a big theme during the open mic event. “There is strength in numbers,”

said Lumbsprom. “There is only one way to push change, and that is together.”

Students were engaged with this event and are hopeful more like it will occur. “Social justice events are crucial to supporting Black Lives Matter,” said Lumbsprom, “I really think events like these are important.”



PHOTO | MADELINE S. SCHARF

Students placing candles and flowers in front of the eco-friendly memorial bonfire.

First active student donates to endowment fund

By Donovan Wilson
Reporter

Paul McKee becomes the very first active student at the university to become a donor towards an endowed scholarship.

McKee is a Bernard Scholar recipient, a psychology major and has a near-perfect GPA of 3.97. He plans to pursue a Ph.D. in cognitive neuroscience.

"Paul reached out to the financial aid office asking how to start a scholarship. Michelle Johnston reached out to

Paul to teach him what starting a scholarship meant," said Judite Vamvakides, assistant vice president of alumni relations.

Michelle Johnston, director of donor relations, is on medical leave until June 7, so Judite Vamvakides will be managing her regular duties.

Paul McKee is a current student and is now the first in the school's history to donate and start a scholarship. His process started with reaching out to the financial aid office, where

scholarships mainly run through, and inquiring on how to start a scholarship. Johnston then reached back out and informed him on what starting a scholarship means and how to begin everything done in order to get a scholarship, specifically an endowed one, started.

Vamvakides said, "there are two types of scholarships, endowed scholarships and awarded scholarships."

An endowed scholarship includes a donation of 25 thousand dollars that then collects interest over time. That

interest is used to grant scholarships to students. Donors for an endowed fund have the option to donate five thousand dollars every year for five years to reach the eventual \$25,000 if they cannot pay it up front. The other option for donors is to do an annual scholarship with a similar payment plan of five years, except the installment plans are much smaller, at only \$1,000 a year.

"Our colleagues at Institutional Advancement informed me about Paul's intention to create a scholarship fund. I signed the Memorandum of Understanding and called Paul to thank him," said Bruce Kalk, dean of college of arts & sciences.

As Vamvakides said, the donors are most commonly alumni looking to help future

students or local citizens who really believe in the message southern is pushing, such as their focus towards the social justice movement. At this year's day of care, the university was able to get over 1700 donors to donate over 628 thousand dollars for a variety of different funds, including scholarships. Kalk said, "after all, endowed funds are permanent, so literally generations of students will benefit from his generosity."

As reported by Vamvakides, endowment funds "live in perpetuity," or last forever. Annual scholarships do not work in this same way. Endowment funds usually generate about \$1,000 worth of awards for students, but that depends on how the stock market is currently performing, according to Vamvakides. The interest that forms is because the university invests in the

donated \$25,000.

"I don't think my little role in this gift merits an interview, but I will gladly let you know about my involvement in it. Our colleagues at Institutional Advancement informed me about Paul's intention to create a scholarship fund," said Kalk.

The Office of Institutional Advancement had a large role in this process and connected all the right people in order to make it happen. Institutional advancement includes a few different subsections, one of those being alumni relations which Vamvakides is from which usually works closely with getting scholarships done as they are usually donated to by alumni. Institutional advancements is essentially the missing link between inquiring alumni, students, partners, et cetera and getting them to the right people.



PHOTO COURTESY | ISABEL CHENOWETH/SCSU

Headshot of Paul McKee

SGA inducts new members

By Caitlin O'Halloran
Reporter

SGA president Sarah Gossman called all group members to an executive meeting.

The meeting then moved into the elections with the Chair of SGA, Madison Miceli, inducting the new members and listing their positions with SGA.

"Congratulations to everyone who won in this year's election for both class government positions and SGA representatives," said Miceli.

Miceli inducted the members by having members from classes of 2022, 2023 and 2024 introduce themselves and the position that they will be holding, including those year's vice presidents, secretaries, treasurers, and other positions on SGA.

Each of the members were then led by Miceli to be sworn into their positions.

"Now that we have everyone inducted for reps at large, we are now going to go into nominations for president of Student Government," said Miceli before opening the floor to the members to vote for the president.

Vice President of the Board of Student Experience Brandon Lovene voted Sarah Gossman as the

nomination for president, followed by most members.

"I know we do have a lot of new faces and for those of you that don't know me, I was the president last year and I am very excited to be serving as the president this year," said Gossman. "I think that we are in the home stretch of COVID so that's really exciting. I'm really happy to have an on-ground presence next year, I really want to hit the ground running with SGA and have that on-ground presence that we've all been really missing."

This weekly SGA meeting was the second to last that the group will be having before the end of the spring semester.

"One of the things that I've really wanted to make a priority in the spring semester is really getting to know reps more than just their rep responsibilities, but knowing people on a personal level," said Gossman.

Students were able to cast their votes for the 2021 spring elections on OwlConnect and had a total of 173 votes for the members.

"For SGA, we only elect the president and then from there the president will appoint the other positions, executive vice president, vice president for board of outreach and communication, vice president for board of student experience, vice

president for academic experience, the treasurer and the secretary, so those are positions she chooses and will appoint them next Friday," said Assistant Director of Clubs and Organizations, Daphney Alston.

The main topic of this weekly meeting was to introduce and to welcome the new members and their new positions on SGA.

Following the introductions and members being sworn in, Gossman and Miceli met with the new reps to explain general information of SGA and the final part of the meeting was closed off to the public.

"I understand that this pandemic has brought on so many stressors of life, mental stressors, emotional stressors," said Gossman, "I know it's been really hard, but I want myself to be your go-to person, I want the future E-board to be your go-to person, I want you to feel comfortable coming to me with anything that you need, any concern that you have, any idea that you have, I want this organization to feel like a place where you belong and to make it feel like you're not just a rep and you're not just mandatory coming on a 1-3 on a Friday, I want it to feel like you're enjoying yourself on a 1-3 on a Friday," said Gossman.

Online fundraiser held for 6-year-old leukemia patient

By Caitlin O'Halloran
Reporter

The Pediatric Cancer Awareness Organization (PCAO) held an online fundraising gala for a six year old battling cancer.

Sophie Tzunum was chosen as PCAO's "Child of the Year." She is a six-year-old first-grader from Naugatuck with High-Risk Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.

"Our mission is to just let kids be kids and to bring back childhood," said president of PCAO Olivia Zembruski. "We focus on all types of pediatric cancers. We're not like leukemia driven organization or brain tumor organization, we're just helping kids that need help."

Sophie has been in treatment since Jan. 28, 2020, and is on the track to complete her treatment by June of 2022, according to Zembruski.

"We're hosting this virtual gala where people can purchase a different level ticket at different prices and then all the money raised is going to go towards Sophie's family. We're going to cut them a check to go directly to them and then they can use that money to help offset the cost of treatment because a lot of childhood cancer treatment is not covered by insurance so it is very pricey," said PCAO vice president Regina Misercola.

The event took place on Friday, April 30, at 7 p.m. on WebEx.

"I really am a strong proponent for patient advocacy, I think it's so important that the community responds when there is illness and health issues on an individual basis as well as sort of on a more broad-spectrum basis of making available the appropriate resources to people who are in need," said adviser of PCAO, Sarah Crawford.

PCAO works closely with the chosen child of the year, including putting on events she can participate in, such as an Easter egg hunt, Christmas celebrations, a birthday parade for her birthday and other smaller things like hangouts with Sophie.

"This family is extremely special because this is not their first run with childhood cancer, Sophie's older sister Scarlett, I believe they're 16 months apart, is a leukemia survivor," said Zembruski. "Scarlett was declared three years cancer-free in December of this past year."

There are four different levels of tickets that could have been bought, which is where most money is raised for the fundraiser. Then, there are different amounts for the organizations honorary sponsors ranging between \$50, \$75 and \$100.

"The support from the Southern community and the New Haven County community in general has really blown our organization away, we always say it takes a village to raise a child, but it takes a special kind of community to support a child and a family through

their battle with cancer, especially a family going through it their second time," said Zembruski.

There was a special message from Sophie and her family at the event, a performance given by The Voice's Taryn Papa and Forever Miss Connecticut 2019/2020, a childhood cancer survivor and SCSU student, Jillian Duffy.

"It's been hard with COVID to get involved with hospitals because usually, we go and hangout with kids who are in treatment in hospitals but obviously we couldn't do that this semester, but even barring all of the obstacles I still think it's pretty incredible that we've been able to raise so far over \$5,000 for Sophie," said Misercola. "So still doing good things and what we're going to continue to do this year and then next semester and the semesters coming is just continue to help the kids that are fighting or will be fighting cancer."

During the event, Crawford gave a presentation about leukemia and positively spoke on the research that is being done for these types of issues and illnesses that arise

"I think this is a wonderful thing to do. I think it's so great that students are involved, there's so many students in the Pediatric Cancer Awareness Organization, I'm so impressed," said Crawford. "They are such giving people, they really are. It's just been a wonderful experience for me to associate with them."



PHOTO | OLIVIA ZEMBRUSKI

Members of the Pediatric Cancer Awareness Organization pose after the fundraiser.

Preparing me for the real world in journalism



By Abby Epstein
Managing Editor

The first moment I stepped into the newsroom, I knew I wanted to join the newspaper. Everyone had so much energy, got along and always

welcomed newcomers.

The newsroom became a place I knew I could always go no matter what. Plus, spending time in there made it easier to bond with everyone quicker because the whole staff would hang out in the newsroom when we were not in class.

By creating those bonds, I made some of my best friends from the newspaper.

Not only did new friendships develop, but so did my writing skills. Starting off as a news writer and writing three stories seemed like a ton, but it allowed me to learn AP Style better and get corrections on my writing weekly. During layout on Monday's

pages go through the copy desk at least two times, where stories are edited even more.

I would come into the newsroom on Monday's to see how the process was and the copy desk would always have corrections to share with me on how to improve my writing.

Spending time in the newsroom learning how busy and hectic Monday's can be helped prepare me for becoming news editor. I was news editor last semester, a position which allowed me to improve my knowledge of InDesign.

No matter what job I held at the newspaper, everyone was willing to help and assist in making

me a better journalist.

Without the help of others, I would never have been able to learn InDesign as fast as I did without assistance.

Interviewing also became easier with each story I wrote.

With needing three sources per story, I was talking to at least nine people a week. This helped with becoming more comfortable with walking up to random people to ask them a question.

Having to interview a minimum of nine interviews a week and some being prominent people at the university, I had to learn quick on what questions to ask and have the

confidence to interview important people.

Now I have no problem walking up to someone in the Student Center to ask them a question for a story.

Not only was the newsroom a fun place to hang out but I also got an understanding on how a newsroom works. How stories are pitched and dealing with writing three stories a week helped me prepare for when I would be working at a real newspaper.

I interned at the local newspaper in my hometown and being a part of the newspaper, I understood much of what they would talk to me about.

When I was handed multiple stories at once

I was not overwhelmed because the school newspaper had prepared me to handle this amount of work.

Joining the Southern News really allowed me to improve all my journalism skills while having fun doing it.

Everyone that is a part of the newspaper is willing to help and is invested in the paper.

I wish I could have been part of the paper for all four years of college, but I am grateful for the time I had there. I am also grateful for the people I met.

It was nice to have people, I could relate to about what it took to be a journalism student.

Given many different experiences to learn from



By Caitlin O'Halloran
Reporter

Becoming a journalism major is one decision that I truly am most proud of. Going into college, I didn't

know what I wanted to do, but I knew I wanted to do something with writing.

I wanted to be able to write and have it have a positive outcome in some way. That specific factor is what lead me to realize that I wanted to do journalism because through that, in some way and at some point, I might be able to help people through it.

Then, once I finally chose journalism, I learned all of the things that it took to be a good journalist and in learning everything about it, I really just loved it.

Then my senior year, I was told that I should try and work for the campus newspaper and I decided

to give it a go. It was such a great experience for me because it was different then the type of assignments I had to do for my classes, I got to apply all of the skills I learned in class in a more serious way.

I got to go out and report on all different topics ranging from news, feature stories and entertainment stories and I truly just loved doing all of it.

It was such a great experience for me to be able to take everything that I learned and actually use that information and put it to work by going out and reporting about important events and situations happening on campus.

There were many different events that I didn't think I would necessarily be fit to cover and when I would get assigned certain stories that I had to write, it gave me a good chance of expanding the typical stories I have been used to and learning a lot about different things on campus through those events.

For example, covering the Student Government Association a few times helped me to learn about things that were going on at our campus that I otherwise wouldn't have known about and further, being able to write about it in an article to spread the information to other

students on campus so they can be aware of these things that they otherwise might never have known about.

There were so many things that I learned with being on the news and something that it's really helped me with was going out and being able to talk to people and interview them.

It was really good practice for me though to go out and have the questions I needed to ask ready beforehand as well as being able to think of things to ask on the spot and being able to think on my feet to keep the interview going.

Another thing I really

loved about it was that when I interviewed some of my sources about an event that their organization was holding, I would get told how exciting it was to be able to put that information out to the campus community and to help spread the word about these organizations and all of the things that they do and to try to get more students involved in those events.

Joining the Southern News helped my wish of somehow doing something good and positive through writing come true. It has helped to prepare me for when I graduate and get a job as a reporter.

The newspaper has improved my writing skills



By Donovan Wilson
Reporter

Well, this is it. The end of four years as a journalism major, one as a reporter for the SNEWS (Southern News) and a lifetime worth of memories.

I do not want to spend all this time on mushy moments, memories and thank you's. Instead, I want to encourage involvement.

The journalism program here is an absolutely incredible involvement, but nothing could have

prepared me more for real life than the Southern news has. In a class, by design, a lot of what you experience is what the teacher says and what you do. However, in the newsroom, you do not just listen and produce work, you network.

Networking is one of the most difficult things to do as a young person transitioning into real life because we spend our whole lives learning how to

listen and now it is time to make others listen to us and help us produce the results we need.

This time, it is not just team members working towards the same goals, often made up of people who owe you nothing and do not care if you sink or swim.

That first angry subject who feels they were presented incorrectly in a story or that first person who treats you like

your interview is not worth their time is going to burn. It will crush you to feel like everything you have worked for might not work out.

Obviously, that is not true, this is just one of many rejections one goes through in life, but know that it is not the end.

However, in that moment, it is going to feel like it is. You may question going in the direction that you have, I know I did.

However, I am more than happy that I learned lessons like this at Southern News, surrounded by people all going through the same things.

A lot of starting your career is also finding yourself and navigating a lot of intense emotions. Especially at a newspaper - we are people's most harshest critics so imagine how much we dig ourselves into.

If there is one thing

I could leave to a future generation of reporters and students, it is to make sure you get involved.

College can teach you a lot of things from books but nothing can teach you the way experience can.

The newspaper is a family full of nothing but tough love - the work may knock you down and out.

But there will always be somebody to give you a hand.

SOUTHERN NEWS

Advisers: Cindy Simoneau
Frank Harris III

Contact information:

Email: scsu.southernct.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

Issues printed by: Valley Publishing, Derby, CT
Follow Us on Twitter: @Southern_News
Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/thesouthernnews](https://www.facebook.com/thesouthernnews)
Visit us online: [TheSouthernNews.org](https://www.TheSouthernNews.org)
View print edition at: [OurSchoolNewspaper.com/Southern](https://www.OurSchoolNewspaper.com/Southern)

Sam Tapper
Abby Epstein

Section Editors

Desteny Maragh
Bernadotte Sufka
Sofia Rositani
Mike Neville
Roma Rositani
Essence Boyd

Staff Reporters

Ed Rudman
Donovan Wilson
Madeline S. Scharf
Caitlin O'Halloran
Bria Kirklín

Copy Desk

Wula Cham
Ellis McGinley

Business/Ad Manager

Sam Tapper

Editor-in-Chief
Managing Editor

News
Opinions & Features
Arts & Entertainment
Sports
Photo
Online

Sports Writer
General Assignment
General Assignment
General Assignment
Photographer

Southern News welcomes any and all comments and suggestions. If we make a mistake, please contact us and we will publish a correction or clarification in the next issue.

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

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

Visit www.TheSouthernNews.com for more.

OPINION

WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG

MAY 5, 2021

PAGE 4



By Sam Tapper
Editor-in-Chief

As soon as I got to campus as a freshman, I was afraid to get involved in my major. I still had no idea what I wanted to do yet and I had no clue what I would be any good at.

Fast forward to my sophomore year. I was taking Dr. Simon's Journalism 200 course and had learned I really was not terrible at journalistic writing. Despite that, he always told me I needed to get involved with the campus media if I had any hope of having a future in journalism. I was still horrified at the idea of getting involved.

After a lot of cowering, I sucked it up and began contributing for sports, because ultimately, I realized what I wanted to do was sports write. From being a contributor to becoming the sports writer, I had found a home at The Southern News. From working each week

I can't believe I got to this point

with the athletic communications team to getting to know every athlete I possibly could, I felt at home on the athletic beat. I was literally living the dream.

Naturally, in went my application to become the next sports editor, a position I had my eyes set on from the moment I met Prof. Simoneau in the journalism department. But sometimes, life goes in a different direction than you expect it.

Upon interviewing for the position, I was offered a drastic promotion to managing editor, which would immediately follow another promotion to Editor-in-Chief the next semester. Essentially shooting from the bottom all the way to the top with no stop in between to gain experience.

I did not accept right away. I was nervous, honestly scared, again. As quickly as I found my niche for something in sports journalism, I felt as if I was abandoning it. Plus, I had seen what the executive editors did each week and never did I ever see myself as cut out for the

job.

As was the theme all along, I spent the summer going into it nervous for what was to come, clearing my head of all doubts I had in myself. Just as I did before starting my first staff position at the paper. And just as I did before I started contributing.

Despite all the nerves, as quickly as it all came, it ended. As I look back on my time at the Southern News as a whole, whether it was covering the Owls' beat or major news stories like the university's Black Lives Matter march, I am proud of myself for taking the low-risk high-reward shots I took, and most of all, I am proud of stepping up when I needed to step up.

Ultimately, I made a name for myself, something I never did in my hometown. And the manner in which I did it - becoming Editor-in-Chief of the school newspaper and earning several awards for my work - is beyond humbling. I never would have thought any of this was possible when I was in high school.

Enjoyed my four years



By Mike Neville
Sports Editor

I still remember my first time stepping on the university's campus. There is a saying you know where you want to go to school as soon as you step foot on campus. I found that out to be true with Southern.

When I entered as a freshman four years ago, I was a timid but also over the top social work major looking at the next eight years of education; social work is an exceptionally long time.

This all changed after a semester with Professor Frank Harris's Journalism 135 course on multimedia.

Professor Harris said to me that I had a good voice, and I should take on broadcasting with WSIN. I took his advice to heart, and I have had the privilege of being "The voice of Southern sports" during my last four years here.

The journalism professors here really care about their students; all of us. If it were not for Professor Harris, I would have never switched to journalism.

I have always been passionate about sports. When I found out I could make a career in it that did not involve playing, I was hooked.

I put broadcasting first. I fondly remember calling baseball, basketball and football games with Mike Riccio and Quinn O'Neil my freshman and sophomore years.

Although the calling of homeruns and touchdowns never stopped, I embarked on a new journey in my junior year. I began writing for the Southern News.

Under the guidance of Hunter O' Lyle, the sports editor at the time. Which is ironically the position I find myself in now, I embarked as a contributor for the section.

I remember my first sports story. A piece on the track and field team winning a championship. This was also the first and only time I had a story that was on the front page of the entire paper. A weird flex the common individual would not understand.

I continued to contribute to the sports section until the COVID-19. Besides mass panic, a feeling of hopelessness arose.

Would I ever write again? Would I be able to cover a game again in both the broadcast booth and writer's chair?

There were so many unanswered questions that revolved directly around COVID-19.

With so much uncertainty in 2020, I applied for sports editor during the summer and got the position within two days.

This year was so different. Instead of covering games and writing about them, profiles and features became normal.

I did not think I would cover a game again during my time at Southern. To be honest, I grew incredibly frustrated and debated leaving.

I was never one to back down, and I pushed through. This spring, I finally got my hands back on a box score. The wait was worth it.

During my time at Southern, I have been part of many things. I've done my fair share of charity events and participated in the week of welcome. I enjoyed my time as an athlete with the rugby team here and formed a band of brothers I will never forget. Met friends who have become my family that will be the aunts and uncles of my children, if I ever have any.

Above all, the one thing I got the most out of was my time with the Southern News. I became a better person and writer and learned much about myself I never knew.

It is still unbelievable that my time here is really ending. It does not feel real. If you were to ask me, would you do it all over again? I would answer simply - In a heartbeat.

Learned many skill sets

By Essence Boyd
Online Editor

Had I known all the skills and life lessons I would have learned at the Southern News prior to joining my sophomore year, I would have joined a year earlier.

Unlike some, my journey did not start at the evolution fair or as something I always wanted to accomplish and to tell you the truth, when I started off at SNEWS was not even a journalism major.

However, after my first semester as a staff member my life was completely altered forever. Besides changing my career path, the SNEWS also changed my perception of the news and reporters in general. They were no longer the enemy of the people rather than story tellers on a mission to inform the world of all of the injustices the government committed against the people every day.

While taking Professor Jodie Gil's copy-editing course my freshman year, second semester I learned what the SNEWS was and decided -without any prior editing our writing experience- to apply for the vacant position as copy editor.

My first time walking into the newsroom I did not know what to expect. On television you always see newsrooms as these fast paced environments that are filled with smoke with

hundreds of moving parts and an overseeing boss who yells at the staff continuously to pick up the pace.

If you replaced the smoke-filled room with food from the Adanti Student Center, yelling with laughing and the overseeing boss with Professor Cindy Simoneau; this is what it is like to be in the Southern newsroom.

During my time at SNEWS I held the roles of copy editor, news editor and online editor; and I must say copy editors have one of the most strenuous, time consuming and stressful positions at any publication. However, being a copy-editor is the role that I recommend everyone looking to join a new staff start in. Not only do you get to know the AP Stylebook inside and out, but you also learn how to appreciate all of the other roles as you are not able to complete your job until everyone does theirs.

Throughout every aspect at SNEWS I was pushed to grow as a journalist and as a person.

Reporting stories pushed me to grow outside of myself as I was forced to speak to random students in addition to faculty that I would never have reached out to otherwise.

Being part of the SNEWS also taught me how to persist. A lesson I learned quickly as a SNEWS staff member was that people are most likely going to be reluctant in being interviewed

by campus media.

From staff members to students most people are going to either not respond to your emails or ignore you 100 percent. Many times, I found myself having to show up at a staff members office in order to conduct an interview or stop students in the academic quad.

Although during the time I found this to be the most annoying thing ever, how persistent I am is one of the things that I pride myself on today.

Lastly, being part of the SNEWS taught me how to use my voice regardless of who did not like what I had to say.

During my time here at Southern I have written many opinion pieces such as "Southern is not a true social justice university" as well as numerous pieces addressing the cultural appropriation that takes place on campus. As a former peer mentor and resident advisor as you would assume the backlash that I received for these articles was astronomical.

Although I am excited to move on to the next phase of my life and see where I end up, I am sad to say goodbye to my undergraduate years at Southern and goodbye to the newsroom. I made some of my best memories and friends in that newsroom. I would recommend anyone who is looking to join any club do so you never know how it will change your life.

Valued my time at SNews



By Desteny Maragh
News Editor

Editing, writing, and reporting on the Southern news has been a journey of growth and evolution for me.

Since joining the newsroom in 2020, my journalistic skills have been put to the test more times than I can count, but the challenge has made me a better writer and editor.

Gaining skills that one can only learn in this field: paying close attention to detail, having

a way with words, and knowing the difference between counsel and council.

Journalism is a direct line of communication to the world, and the job is to deliver messages to your audience clearly and accurately. It is a rewarding feeling to share constant information with my peers.

In today's hyper-online flux world, there is easy access to news and information, so easy that it is a click away. Fast-paced information sharing has allowed me to stay on top of current news, politics, and hot topics that I can incorporate in the newsroom.

There are endless categories of topics to cover. This past year alone I have written about the Black Lives Matter movement, the 200th anniversary of women's right to vote and the rise of TikTok.

Writing and editing on the Southern News is something I initially thought I was choosing for myself but overtime,

I have realized that I operate more as a public servant.

Being news editor means my work is the first thing people see when they pick up a paper, and it is critical that the information I put out is factual and reliable.

A highlight of my time here is being named a finalist in the Society of Professional Journalists' Mark of Excellence Awards, in the category of feature writing for my story, "Drumline works to empower and motivate."

I value my time here at the Southern News because I am leaving with skills that I will use in my personal and professional career.

Journalism can be looked at as a comparison to life, not every story in your paper will be the most joyous or interesting. Some stories are sad or upsetting but every story deserves to be read and acknowledged.

Life may not always be easy to read, but that does not mean we put the paper down.

Lacrosse loses on senior day Crosstown rival UNH spoils send-off, beats Owls 13-10

By Edward Rudman
Sports Writer

Women's lacrosse lost a back-and-forth battle against the University of New Haven 13-10 Monday, April 26 at Jess Dow Field.

The game was close throughout, with the score tied at 10-10 with under six minutes left to play. The Chargers were able to take control and scored three unanswered goals to end the game.

This was the Owls' most competitive game against a ranked program to date this season and it shows the progression the team has made in the last two years, according to Head Coach Kevin Siedlecki.

"I probably say once a week, we are going to beat a ranked appointment eventually. It might be this week and it might be next week or it might be next year, but we are going to beat a ranked opponent," said Siedlecki. "We have to recognize that it could be any day and today was almost the day."

The Owls came out in the first half with an aggressive game plan

that saw them out-shoot and score the Chargers leading into halftime.

They jumped out to 2-0 lead to start the game, which the Chargers were able to respond and equalize by tying it up at 2-2. The Owls then rattled off three unanswered goals to give themselves their largest lead of the game, at 5-2.

UNH was able to find the back of the net one more time in the first half and the score going into the intermission was 5-3.

Attacker Karlie Rowe, a

junior, scored four goals in the game and two of them came in the first half barrage the Owls put together. Rowe leads the team with 12 goals on the season, according to Southern's athletic website.

"Offensively, you just have to find a weakness in their defense and you need to expose it as much as you can before they catch on," said Rowe. "So obviously, we found a weakness early on in the game."

For the start of the

second half, the Chargers made the necessary adjustments to get back into the game and scored three quick goals to take their first lead of the game at 6-5.

The teams traded goals afterwards which tied the game at 7-7 up until midfielder Mia Pulisciano, a junior, scored the lead taking goal for the Owls.

With the game at 8-7, the Chargers scored twice to take back the lead at 9-8. Midfielder Molly Kelly, a junior, came up

with the equalizer to even the score up at 9-9.

The two teams then traded goals for the last time in the matchup leaving it at 10-10 with the final minutes in the game remaining.

The Chargers were able to take control and scored three goals to put away the game.

"I thought it was a good team effort and everyone put 100 percent in and even the players off the field were cheering us on and that helped a lot," said Kelly. "Everyone was there to play today."

The Owls won 13 draw controls on the day, compared to UNH's 11. Midfielder Kelly Jagodzinski, a junior, notched nine out of the 13 draws, her second most in a game this season. She leads the team with 38 on the year, according to the university's athletic website.

"Winning the draws, it creates more offensive opportunities, so I knew that we needed to step up. I think we did a really good job on controlling it tonight," said Jagodzinski. "It was a great team effort and so I'm glad we came out that strong."



PHOTO COURTESY | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Lacrosse team members posing for a picture during senior day earlier this year.



Jake Paul bad for boxing

Column By Mike Neville
Sports Editor

Myself, along with the rest of the world, are still trying to wrap my head around what is going on in the world of boxing.

One of the most misunderstood greats of boxing, Floyd Mayweather, is going one-on-one with a YouTube kid. His younger YouTube brother just knocked out a former Olympian wrestler and UFC fighter Ben Askren. In the first round, might I add.

Unless you have been living under a rock or do not own a social media account, you would know I am talking about Logan and Jake Paul.

Once considered the laughing stock of the internet who has been demonetized time after time, these fools are now getting credit.

No, I mean really. They are convinced that they are professional boxers. What they are doing in the process is defaming the name and sport of boxing.

Jake Paul especially, the younger Paul brother. He knocks out a youtuber and washed-up NBA player Nate Robinson that he thinks he can walk among the greats of Tyson and Ali.

After knocking out Robinson cold, the "Problem Child" as he calls himself really is becoming a problem and it must stop.

Paul has called out the notorious Conor McGregor, Ryan Garcia, Nate Diaz, and other professional fighters who are the real deal.

Ben Askren, a former Olympian, took the call to fight Paul. In the process, he hoped to put an end to the fake fighter.

Well, the complete opposite happened. Much like what happened to Askren versus Jorge Masvidal, the man was knocked out by Paul. Cold, in the first round.

Paul, to give the kid credit, looked good out there. He was calm and collective throughout. The only problem is the man he was facing is a washed-up UFC fighter who is coming off major hip surgery.

Many believe that Askren was bribed into taking the loss to get the one-million-dollar payday, the biggest in his career.

No matter what you want to believe, one thing is for certain: this kid needs to be stopped and an end needs to be put to the name of Jake Paul.

Scott Burrell reflects on baseball career

By Mike Neville
Sports Editor

When you hear the name Scott Burrell, the University of Connecticut, Michael Jordan, Bulls and basketball all come to mind immediately.

Burrell, the men's basketball coach at Southern Connecticut State University, has made a career of being a successful role player in the world of professional basketball.

The Scott Burrell you don't know is the baseball flamethrower who threw well over 90 MPH and the only professional athlete to be drafted in the first round of the MLB and NBA drafts. Burrell's love for the game of baseball, like many, started at an early age right down the road.

"I've been around sports, my dad coached at Yale. As a baby I would go to all the Yale baseball games he coached baseball, so I was around all those guys," said Burrell.

Scott's growing up around his father learned from the best. He coached baseball at Wilbur Cross High School and later was the head baseball coach at Hillhouse High School. He also coached American Legion Post 47 baseball from 1956 to 1967 and won several zone championships. The Yale baseball program was his biggest accomplishment.

"When you are young you just watch. You pick

up things and try to imitate things that other people did," said Burrell. "I loved doing that. I had so much fun back then and I have great memories of those days."

Although Burrell went on to win championships with the great Michael Jordan, basketball was not his first love.

"It was between baseball and basketball, always," said Burrell. "I don't know which came first, but it was those two."

Burrell's baseball career started right in his hometown of Hamden, Connecticut. He would go on to place at the

town's high school, under the watchful eye of Vin Virgulto.

Before Burrell made his decision to embark on his academic and athletic career at Hamden High School, there were many options for him.

"I think he was thinking about Notre Dame," said Virgulto. "He can throw a football 60 yards then pitch, so there were lots of schools that wanted him."

During his first year at Hamden, Burrell became the catcher for Virgulto's team on the varsity level.

"He was a catcher his first year and I said, my God, nobody is going to

steal against this kid," said Virgulto. "We put him on the mound, and it was just a different world."

The decision to make Burrell a full-time pitcher worked perfect. He hit well over 90 during his time in high school and beyond.

Before being a starter at the University of Connecticut for basketball, Burrell almost became a pitcher for the Hurricanes at the University of Miami.

"Coach Calhoun put a lot of pressure on me. The importance of staying home and building bridges and playing Big East basketball pushed me away from playing baseball," said Burrell.

Those bridges and staying close to home have always been a big part of Burrell's upbringing.

This was seen firsthand during his time in high school: Being there for coach Virgulto after he suffered a massive heart attack.

"Him (Scott) and about 90 other ball players came over to my house to watch the NCAA tournament," said Virgulto. "That was one of the biggest things that helped me get back that season."

Out of high school, Burrell got the opportunity of a lifetime. He was drafted in the first round of the MLB draft by the Seattle Mariners, but he did not sign.

Scott's baseball journey did not end there. He was drafted again, this time

in the third round of the 1990 draft by the Toronto Blue Jays.

"Toronto allowed me to go to school and play baseball. The Mariners said just play baseball, negotiations didn't work out in the end for me," said Burrell.

This effectively ended Burrell's baseball career until a short stint with Toronto, but his minor league career taught him a new lesson.

"My time in the minor leagues, it helped me grow up, being away from home for the first time. In a different country my first year I was in Canada," said Burrell. "I loved it, I also hated it."

Burrell. The love for the game never dwindled away for Burrell. What it came down to was playing against the best athletes.


"You were playing against the best players day in and day out," said Burrell. "The fan base at UConn was electric and all those things pushed me towards basketball."

If he would have a successful career in the majors, we will never know. We are just left with "what if?"

Many people daydream about living their childhood dreams. Baseball has popped up a time or two for Burrell.

"My life would have been very different," said Burrell. "You never know what baseball could have brought. Basketball brought me to the highest level of and I don't have any regrets for that."

SCOTT BURRELL



FIRST
ROUND
PICK
IN
TWO
SPORTS



One former UConn star (Scott Burrell) has the unique distinction of being portrayed with professional player cards in two different sports (basketball, baseball). Burrell was a first round pick in the 1989 amateur baseball draft by Seattle Mariners but elected to attend college at the University of Connecticut and play basketball. After his freshman basketball season at UConn in 1989-90, Burrell was selected in the 5th round of the 1990 baseball draft by the Toronto Blue Jays and he played two summers (1990, 1991) of Class A minor league ball as a pitcher in the Blue Jays' farm system. After his four-year college basketball career concluded in 1993, Burrell was again a first round pro pick, this time in basketball, when he was picked in the first round of the 1993 NBA player draft by the Charlotte Hornets. Scott played a total of eight seasons in the NBA as a member of four different franchises (Charlotte, Golden State, Chicago, New Jersey).

During the 1997-98 season Scott Burrell earned a Championship Ring as a valuable member of the NBA Champion Chicago Bulls

ILLUSTRATION COURTESY | TODAY.UCONN.EDU

Athlete card of Burrell, with baseball and basketball.

Annual Cultural Festival offers diverse experiences

By Caitlin O'halloran
Reporter

The 2021 Cultural Festival took place outside of Connecticut Hall on April 28 and April 29, offering cultural cuisines for the university.

The event was held by the Multicultural Center and the Office of International Education and was in partnership with Residence Life and Student Involvement.

"We definitely want to celebrate all the diverse cultures that we have here on campus, especially with us being a social justice school. We want to make sure that every student is made to feel that they are at home and they have something that represents them each and every day," said Office of Student Involvement and Leadership Development graduate intern and student in the Bilingual Multicultural Education/ TESOL Program Chelsey Cerrato.

The Cultural Festival had food trucks that offered food options such

as Caribbean, Indian, Mediterranean and Hispanic/Latino food.

"This is a traditional, actual Southern event that happens every spring semester," said student ambassador for the Multicultural Center, Cherika Urquhart.

"Because of COVID, it has been hard on us, but we wanted really to bring this event back for the spring semester, bring everyone together so we know that we are united. No matter where you're from, what your background is, we're just all together as a family at Southern."

At the festival, students were also able to learn about study abroad program opportunities and other multicultural organizations that Southern has.

"I came out because I feel like I don't do anything and I live in North, so I never come out and it's a nice day and I feel like it's a little bit different because they have different food trucks than usual," said health care studies major

Kelly Anne McPhoy, a sophomore.

There were some performances done by groups like Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS), Greek organizations, Caribbean Student Association (CSA) and many other cultural organizations.

"We're putting this event on pretty much to celebrate all different cultures and I think it's especially important because during COVID, we don't really get that many times to really celebrate ourselves and celebrate different cultures and diversity throughout Southern so I think it's really important to have two days at least to be able to do that," said Student Ambassador of Multicultural Center, Andreina Barajas.

The food trucks at the festival were Claypot Chef, Glen's BBQ, Mr. Softee and Taco Santa Inez.

"As far as collaboration, it's just important for all the offices to get together and that there's no isolation because

Southern, we're such a family-oriented school. We always want to make sure that we're collaborating with offices and other organizations that have the same vision as much as our school vision basically," said Cerrato.

All mandatory COVID-19 procedures and guidelines were enforced and were to be followed by students, requiring a mask and social distancing and a check-in table that students had to stop by before entering the event.

The tables were all kept at an appropriate distance from one another for students to sit at and enjoy their meals from the food trucks.

The two-day event was held in the Lot 3 across from Connecticut Hall with tables and a tent students could sit under. Even though it rained on Thursday, the event was still held outdoors and still had guest organizations.

Pre-COVID, the Cultural Festival was a one-day event but due to the

pandemic, it was split into two days so that students could get the chance to still experience the different cultures that make up the school.

Cerrano said, "especially with everything that's been going on, from last year, last spring with everyone having to leave school and not really having a happy ending and then going into the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 year, we want to make sure that students are getting the reassurance that we still care for them."



PHOTO | CAITLIN O'HALLORAN

Students waiting to get their order at the food truck during the Cultural Festival.

Students direct one-act plays

By Madeline S. Scharf
Reporter

Plays directed, performed, and managed by two students were put on for the university's theater one-act plays. The plays were "With This Ring" by Kimberly Barger and "Insufficiency" by Carl Djerassi. Students Kori Ligon and Ariana Harris directed each play, respectively.

"With This Ring" was a raunchy, comedy play about a man trying to retrieve his ring from his ex-fiancé. Through funny mishaps, he ends up finding out why the wedding was called off and, with help from his best friend, gets re-engaged.

"Insufficiency" was a trial play, with twists and turns much like a crime show. The audience followed along to see if the main character, a chemistry professor, murdered his co-workers for not giving him tenure.

Director Ariana Harris described in a director note why the play "Insufficiency" was chosen for the one-acts, despite its slightly complicated chemistry plot. "I'd like to think that even audience members outside the realm of academia can see themselves, their coworkers, and their friends and relatives in the characters. Everyone knows jerks like Jerzy and sweethearts like Steffy, even if they don't know about bubble-induced aggregation," said Harris in the director's note.

A lot of work went into making these plays a reality. Theater major Nick Moran, a sophomore, worked in sound design for "With This Ring" and sound engineer for both productions. "Sound design is the audio aspect of theatrical design," said Moran in an email interview. "All the sound effects, music, the way actors sound through the microphone and the way everything else sounds is all done by the sound designer."

COVID-19 has created new challenges for the theater department to work

around. "COVID-19 has required us to basically introduce another new department," said Moran, "everything needs to be streamed or recorded instead of watched by a live audience."

The concerns over COVID-19 have made the productions a bit more difficult. Sociology major Rain Iaccarino, a freshman, is stage manager for "With This Ring" and assistant stage manager for "Insufficiency."

"COVID-19 has changed how we work. We are all wearing masks and making extra efforts to stop the spread," said Iaccarino in an email interview. "It was difficult at first, but we got the hang of it pretty quickly."

Working on these productions has been a fun activity for many a part of the cast and crew. "Sometimes, it could be pretty stressful," said Moran. "But it was also incredibly rewarding and something I'm very glad to have been apart of. I wouldn't have it any other way."

These two plays were put into the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). In a statement written for the playbook, it said, "by entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in colleges and theater across the nation," said the playbook.

The KCACTF is a program established in former President John F. Kennedy's name. Their goals are to "invite art into the lives of all Americans and ensure it represents the cultural diversity of America," according to a statement on their website.

The plays ran from Apr. 29 to May 1. There were four shows in total, one every night of the three days at 7:30 P.M. and another on May 1 at 2:00 P.M.

Iaccarino said, "congrats to the directors for working so hard and yielding such wonderful productions."

Billie Eilish releases new song

By Sofia Rositani
Arts & Entertainment Editor

"Try not to abuse your power," sang Billie Eilish in a power ballad that struck a few hearts, including mine.

Eilish released this song and music video on April 29, and it came as a shock to many of her fans who had no idea this song was dropping as she posted a different song on her Instagram prior to releasing this one.

The song is very emotional for not just the audience listening to the song and watching the video but for Eilish herself.

"It's a folk ballad with a timely message. In the verses, she dresses down a man involved with a girl in high school, ruining her life for a thrill. In the chorus, Eilish addresses the listener directly, offering advice about mindful stewardship and thinking aloud about how it sucks that we have to navigate strange and ever-changing power dynamics and

how we wear ourselves out conserving and consolidating influence over others," Vulture Magazine said.

The music video is interesting because not only is she singing to a snake, but is also radiating a calm and very tame aura, compared to her other videos where she has black blood coming out of her mouth and eyes with needles stuck in her back.

This video took a different approach by showing Eilish on the side of a mountain in a desert. The cinematography of this video is very aesthetically pleasing with different shots of the sun and zoom ins and pan outs of the desert. The color scheme was almost all the same with it being beige and tan colors alongside Eilish in similar colors. The only color that is not a beige color is the snake, which was, in fact, black and silver.

In the video, you can see the calm snake end up suffocating Eilish as she sits there helplessly;

people are speculating that this snake could be her ex-boyfriend, Brandon Adams.

"You could see "Your Power" as a deeply personal address to Eilish's ex-boyfriend Brandon Adams, a 20-something dating a teenager at the time (who, in The World's a Little Blurry, was revealed to have broken his hand in a fit of anger), making it one of the singer's most direct and revealing bits of writing to date," according to Vulture Magazine.

You can even hear it in her lyrics where she sings about how the person she is singing about thought that she was his age, when in reality she was not.

"This is one of my favorite songs I've ever written. I feel very vulnerable putting this one out because I hold it so close to my heart," Eilish wrote on her social media.

Eilish and her brother Finneas have written many award-winning songs, including the theme song for the

upcoming James Bond film "No Time to Die." Eilish has also won 19 Grammy's and is the youngest artist to win "Record of the Year" multiple times back-to-back.

Eilish recently surprised many of her fans by changing her hair color from black and green to blonde, pulling a Hannah Montana moment. Since she has dyed her hair, this is the first song that has come out and it sounds quite different and unique compared to her other music as she continues to shock her fans more and more.

Eilish has kept herself busy on social media by posting other snippets of another song, which may or may not be her title track for the next album she is releasing. This song sounds just as intimate and emotional as "Your Power."

"This is about many different situations that we've all either witnessed or experienced," Eilish said on her social media. "I hope this can inspire



Billie Eilish being strangled by a snake in her new music video "Your Power."

PHOTO | SOFIA ROSITANI

FEATURES

WWW.THESOUTHERNNEWS.ORG

MAY 5, 2021

PAGE 7

Horoscope boom has yet to reach campus

By Ellis McGinley
Copy Editor

By Sofia Rositani
Arts&Entertainment Editor

Horoscopes: seems like every dating app, TikTok, Instagram bio and even casual conversation is crawling with sun signs and moon signs, Pisces risings and Gemini Saturns. Western astrology, the system most frequently used in the United States, is a type of divination which claims to predict an individual's personality, future, relationships and even financial success.

But social work major Emily Moran, a sophomore, is not very familiar with horoscopes.

"I know I am a Gemini, I know that there's people depending on your sign, they kind of like, have an overall idea of how you act or maybe your emotions," Moran said. "I have definitely seen people joke around about it like 'oh he's a Cancer, that's why he is acting like that.'"

According to BBC, astrology-related searches hit new peaks in 2020. Instagram is crawling with

astrology meme pages, while a 2019 IBISWorld report said the "psychic services" industry was now worth an estimated \$2.2 billion in the United States. The Pew Research Center estimates that 60% of millennials in the U.S believe in "New Age" spirituality, which often works with horoscopes and zodiac signs.

"I know what horoscopes are, but I don't personally read my horoscopes," interdisciplinary studies major Jestina Leslie, a junior, said.

Western astrology says everyone has a "birth chart," a collection of where different constellations was located in the sky when they were born. These constellations are the 12 zodiac signs, as determined by largely Greco-Roman myth. They are divided into four overarching elements: earth, air, fire and water.

Special education major Synthia Saulnier, a senior who says she does not know much about horoscopes, said, "it's not for everyone, I would say. It's not specific to everyone because it can't be 100 percent accurate. I would say, like, 75 percent."

Saulnier is a Sagittarius.

Birth chart signs can be as specific as the Ascendant sign, which changes every two hours, or as broad as Neptune, which changes every 14 years.

Try swiping through Tinder without seeing someone's "Big Three," or their sun, moon, and rising. Most people know their sun sign, the most dominant star sign in the chart: the moon rules someone's inner self, while the rising is how they appear at first impressions.

Joe Bertolino, university president, would seem to be a Capricorn -- an earth sign who is "generous and deep inside, [they] care about the impression [they] leave to those around," according to Horoscope.co. Capricorns are charismatic, ambitious and realistic, the website explains.

President Joe Biden is a Scorpio, the star sign of most presidents, according to the New York Times. (Prior to Biden's election, the United States had elected primarily Aquariuses.)

Horoscopes also have large cultural importance and potential sociological

effects. In India and other cultures, they can be used to determine marriages compatibilities and when someone should marry or have children.

If the university offered a class in horoscopes and astrological signs, Saulnier said she may be interested.

"I think that would be really interesting to learn about, especially as a class, because I mean, who wants to keep writing essays on old people?"

Saulnier said. "But I feel like that would be a really interesting class and a lot of people would like it."

How much someone chooses to believe in their horoscope is a largely personal choice. For those looking to learn more, apps like CoStar, The Pattern or Astrology Zone offer free birth chart readings and even allow users to connect with friends. CoStar and The Pattern are almost social media-like in their

approach to horoscopes, and any screenshot one takes of their CoStar prompts a pop-up, encouraging them to share to Instagram. Friends can even enter "Chaos mode," where they can write messages for their contacts on the app.

Saulnier said, "I don't think it just came out of nowhere, like people. I know that you research on it. I know that type of thing and I definitely believe that it is real."

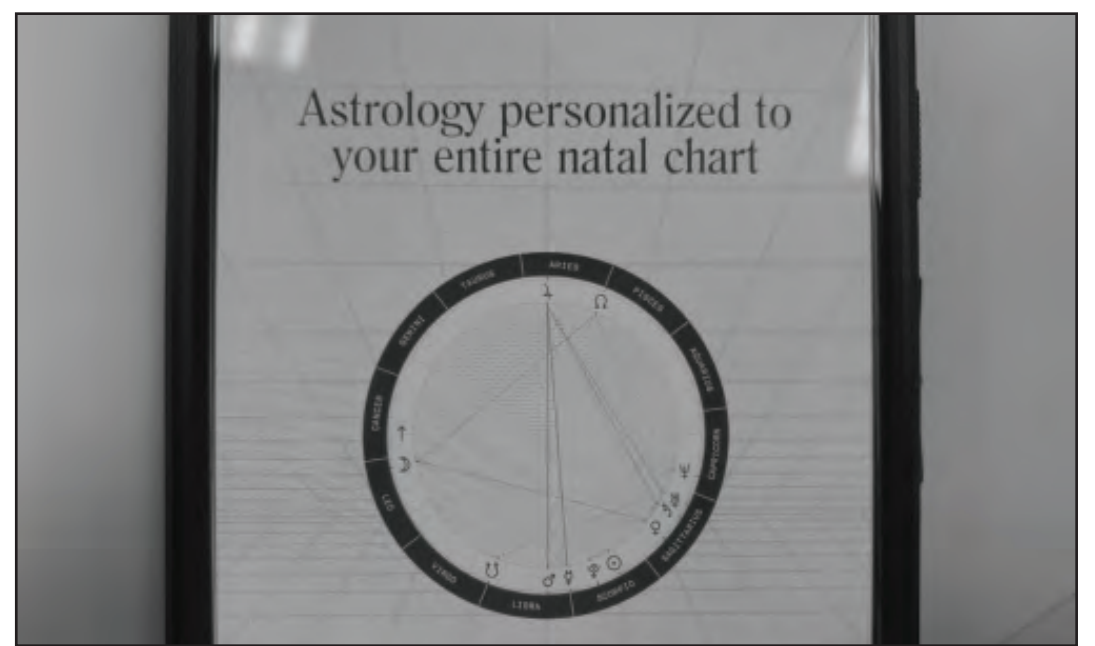
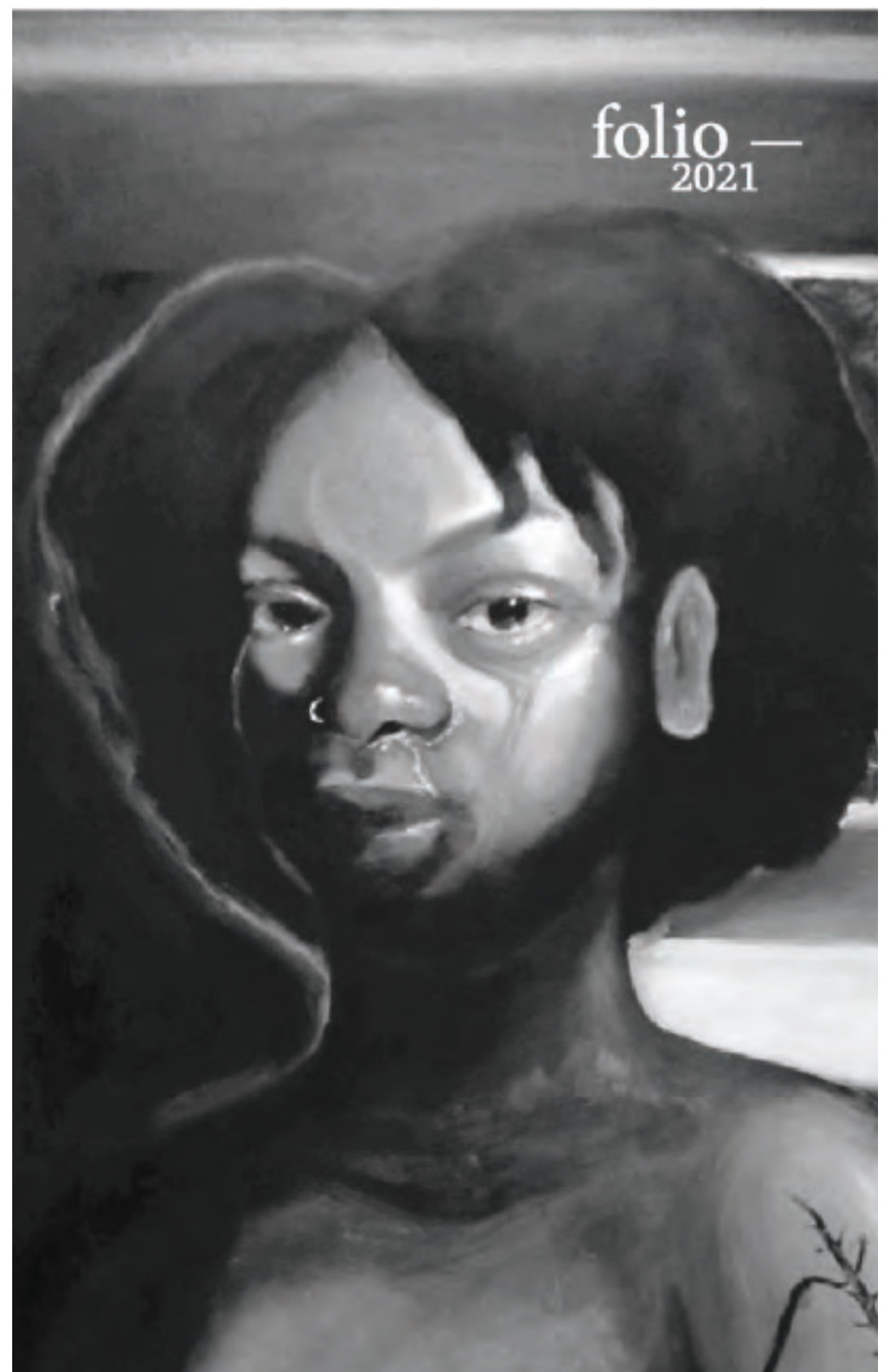


PHOTO | SAM TAPPER

Co-Star phone app displaying a horoscope sign.

Crescent Magazine & Folio Art & Literary

Grab a copy of each from a newsstand around campus; out now!



Photos

Residence Hall Association events

By Roma Rositani
Photo Editor

The Residence Hall Association held two events this past weekend,

which included tie-dyeing and Zumba.

Students were able to tie-dye shirts at the Res Life Quad Saturday evening.

On Sunday night, students were able to join in on Zumba class lead by Sharisma Morales at Farnham Programming Space.



PHOTOS | ROMA ROSITANI

Graduate intern Reaunna Bartell participating in Zumba.



PHOTOS | ROMA ROSITANI

Graduate student Sharisma Morales leading the Zumba Event.



PHOTOS | BRIA KIRKLIN

Students participate in tie-dyeing event held in the Residence life Quad.



PHOTOS | BRIA KIRKLIN

Exercise science major Melinda Knopf, sophomore, preparing shirt to tie-dye.



PHOTOS | BRIA KIRKLIN

Business administration major Quentin Askew (left), sophomore and exercise science major Melinda Knopf, sophomore, tie-dyeing shirts.



PHOTOS | ROMA ROSITANI

Graduate intern Reaunna Bartell (left), following graduate student Sharisma Morales' lead at the Zumba Event.



PHOTOS | ROMA ROSITANI

Graduate student Sharisma Morales participating in Zumba.



PHOTOS | BRIA KIRKLIN

Students participating in tie-dyeing event held in the Residence Life Quad.