



T-shirt raise awareness at VPAS event
Page 2



Students go on a trip with ProCon
Page 3



Volleyball wins fifth straight game
Page 4

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Compassion, empathy and social change

By Danielle Campbell
Copy Editor

"It's been a difficult road throughout the course of the last 18 months. And in my State of the University address. I talked a lot about the importance of empathy, the fact that all of us have gone through so much, some more than others," said President Joe Bertolino, who perfectly summed up the feeling of the afternoon. "We don't know what others in the

room have gone through folks might come to work and put a smile on their face. But we don't know what folks have experienced. The pain, the loss, the sacrifice, the exhaustion."

The Integrated Justice and Social Change Collaborative had its launch Friday, Nov. 5 in the Adanti Ballroom. In the audience were members of the university community and the New Haven community. Students,

staff and residents alike. The message of the day was compassion and empathy.

"The only way that we as a community come out of this is to ensure that we come out of it together as a community, offering each other a helping hand and ensuring that each of us is taking care of the other and that everyone in our community feels as though they belong," said President Joe. "The collaborative and its focus on education, research,



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

President Joe Bertolino speaking at social justice event.

and partnerships are going to move the needle for southern and for the larger community across the social justice spectrum. None of our goals are achievable overnight, but we are finding ways to contribute however we can and to move forward as a community."

The launch of the IJSC collaborative was a way to get the community at large to understand the collaborative and network with each other on social justice issues. There were cards on the tables for attendees to put

suggestions for anyone they thought would be a great resource for the IJSC collaborative work.

"You know, I think about all the work that we're doing it you know, I get emotional about this day today because this looks real pretty around here. I mean, nice flowers on the table, but oh my gosh, it took a lot of work," said Diane Ariza, Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

The intentions of the IJSC collaborative are to create formal and information professional

development, a centralized clearing house, intentional matchmaking and collaboration and engaging the external community.

"Our goal today is to showcase the overall structure, the strategic areas of focus, we hope to engage and the ways for you all to get involved and community with us. And so, the overall vision for the IJSC collaborative is to become an interdisciplinary hub and an umbrella for coalition building, engage action directed addressing and dismantling barriers to equity," said Co-Director of the Collaborative Kelvin Rutledge.

Co-director Sousan Arafah told a story about crossing a bridge and collaboration to explain how "people have the answers. We have the answers. We have the resources, we have the ideas and without asking each other, without connecting somehow, without saying how do I cross the bridge? We don't



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Light refreshments made available for guests at the Social Justice event.

Campus celebrates Indigenous peoples month

By Danielle Campbell
Copy Editor

November is National Native American Heritage Month. The Multicultural Center celebrated the start of this month with "Native Americans Who Rocked The World!," a tabling event where students could win prizes for answering questions on Native

"I actually did learn about how the Three Sisters, what they actually planted for crops because I had no idea there was a separate group that started it off. And I knew more than I thought I did when I was answering the questions," sociology major Aleyasia Watson, a junior, said.

The events took place on Monday, Nov. 1, to

The beans, in turn, pump beneficial nitrogen back into the soil, fertilizing the corn and squash, while the squash's broad, spiny leaves protect the bean plants from predatory animals."

"Growing up I was never really taught this stuff in school. So, it was kind of like a learning opportunity. And hopefully, in the future at Southern when I take a history class about it, I'll learn more information," psychology major Camille Clark, a freshman, said.

"I like the fact that we're actually doing something for a culture that's not really represented here at Southern, and I just think that we need more of it to be honest, because this is like indigenous lands and stuff," Business Administration major Aldric Joseph, a junior, manned the table.

The Jeopardy event was held in the Multicultural Center in the Adanti Student Center. The topics were on food, men and women, sports and games, clothes, tools and weapons. The teams went back and forth with each question, choosing an array with points.

"I think this event brings a lot of cultural awareness to Native Americans, especially for Native American heritage month. But a lot of times people are comparing Native American culture to what they see online or through movies when that's not necessarily the case. So, I think that

this program is a good educational opportunity to actually learn something that is accurate," Business Administration major Kyhanna Burgess, a senior, said.

The students learned about snowshoes, which Native Americans wear during the winter and snow snake, a Native American winter sport.

Multicultural Center Student Ambassador Elijah Ortiz, who led the jeopardy game said, "But I was happy to facilitate this Jeopardy game and the discussions that we had. We learned a lot, got to look up the things that we didn't know and we learned more about them. And overall, it's a fun experience. These nightly events are sometimes educational, and I think that everyone should come to them."



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Sign explaining who Sacagawea is at the tabling.



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Business Administration major, Aldric Joseph, a junior manning a table in the Adanti Student Center.

American culture, and Native American Jeopardy, where two teams compete to answer native-inspired questions.

The tabling event was located by the food court where students could stop by the table, answer questions and take information on the Multicultural Center. There were photos along the walkway with multiple famous Native American figures featuring Sacagawea and Pocahontas.

commemorate the first day of the month and visibly celebrate the heritage on campus.

According to PBS, "The Three Sisters are represented by corn, beans, and squash and they're an important facet of Indigenous culture and foodways. They're planted in a symbiotic triad where beans are planted at the base of the corn stalks. The stalks offer climbing bean vines support as they reach for sunlight from the earth.

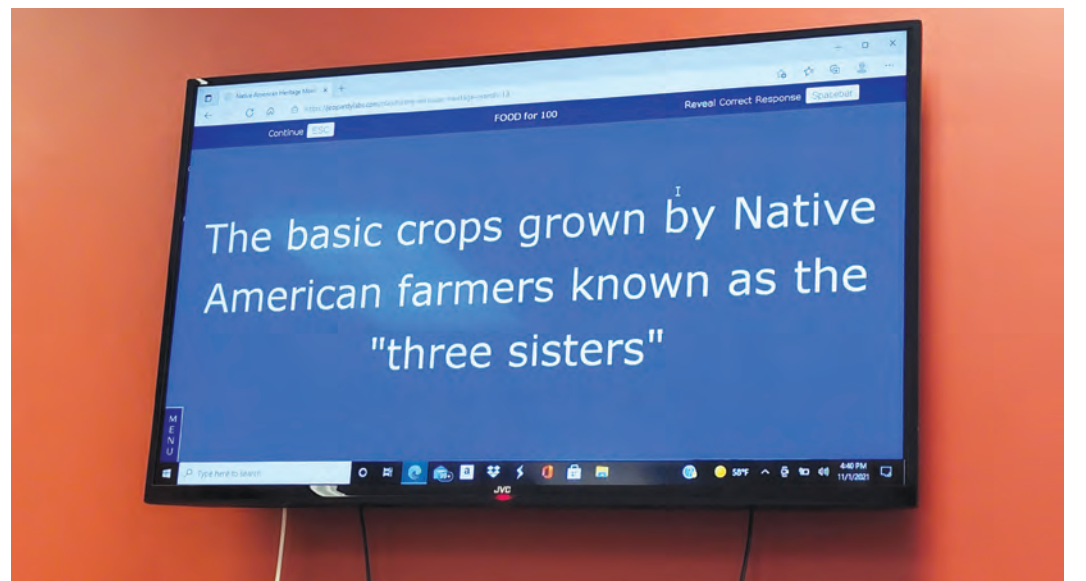


PHOTO | DANIELLE CAMPBELL

"Native American Jeopardy" event held in the Multi Cultural Center.

T-shirts raise awareness for relationship violence

By Tyler Fisher
Contributor

Clotheslines have often been used to display how a large group of people have been affected by violence. In most cases, each shirt, color, and message written and hung up represent a victim and the harm inflicted on them.

Students at the university used markers, T-shirts, and kind words to support victims of relationship violence.

Wednesday's "Create T-Shirts for the Clothes-

line Project" hosted by the Violence Prevention, Victim Advocacy and Support Center had students write messages of support on T-shirts.

The event took place in two locations: the Adanti Student Center and Chase Hall.

"We're raising awareness on sexual violence and misconduct," said Peer Educator Charley Allen. "We're having people make all of these shirts with different statistics or quotes for survivors. At the end of the month, we're going

to display them on the bridge. We're also going to display some in the student center. It's just promoting awareness."

Many students in the Student Center participated in the event, encouraged by their kind hearts and the promise of Insomnia cookies for making a shirt.

Accounting major William Arroyo, a junior, was one of the people who showed their support. He wrote down "violence is never the answer" on his shirt.

"I wrote it because some people have to understand. Guys, especially these days, are very abusive. That's not the right way to go," said Arroyo.

Business management and administration major Britney Szarmach, a freshman, attended the event in Chase Hall.

Szarmach wrote, "Healing doesn't mean the damage never existed. It means the damage no longer controls our lives," on her shirt.

"A lot of people usually feel guilty about being okay after anything like this or anything that happens to them," said Szarmach.

There are many survivors of domestic violence and rape on campus.

The Clery Disclosure, published in the 2021 Uniform Campus Crime and Safety Report, provides a glimpse of what crimes occurred on or near campus from 2018-2020.

The university had 11 cases of domestic violence occur on campus between 2018-2020. Seven of those cases happened in residential facilities.

In the same period, there were 11 cases of rape reported on campus. Ten of those occurred in a residential facility.

There were no dating violence cases report-



PHOTO | TYLER FISHER

Britney Szarmach, a freshman, writing a message.

ed in 2020, but between 2018 and 2019, there were ten reported instances of dating violence. Seven of those crimes happened in a residential facility on campus.

The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, published a report in March of this year, showing the services they provided for the fiscal year of 2020.

Between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020, the CCADV and its 18 member organizations provided support to 37,223 victims of domestic violence.

Out of those victims, nearly 33,500 victims received one-on-one counseling.

Those who participated in the clothesline event were glad to show their support.

"It's important to me because I feel like we're really helping the community," said Peer Educator Clarisse Aminawung.

"This is for the survivors, so it's supposed to make them understand that the community at Southern supports them, and we're here for them."

The VPAS Center offers several services for victims in need of support.

The center's webpage says: "Advocacy and support services are available to all students (full-time and part-time, graduate and undergraduate) who are survivors of violence, including sexual misconduct, bullying, and hazing. Advocacy and support is provided according to the needs of each student survivor with the goal being to empower them."



PHOTO | TYLER FISHER

Students writing messages on t-shirts at VPAS event in the Adanti Student Center.

Food pantry provided for students on campus

By Devin Hollister
Contributor

Not everyone on campus is able to afford a meal plan and hygiene necessities for school. Luckily, the Food Pantry at Southern Connecticut State University has been there to help students in need of food and other basic amenities.

Students enrolled at SCSU can visit the Food Pantry located in the back of the Wintergreen building anytime from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There they can help themselves to non-perishable foods they can take back to their homes or dorms, food options include cereal, canned and frozen foods, bread, produce, and even baby food.

"The Food Pantry is an on-campus resource for students who feel food



PHOTO | DEVIN HOLLISTER

The main view point of the food pantry in Wintergreen.

insecurity is a big part of their lives and they just need a little extra support, so we try and offer that through people coming in and getting as much food as they really need," said Layla Hansen, a graduate student worker and supervisor of the Food Pantry.

Each student who comes to the Food Pantry must sign in with their student

identification number and be provided a bag by the student-workers. From there, they can walk around and take how much they feel they need, with a weight limit of 60 lbs.

Students can also grab other necessities, such as hygiene products and clothes.

A large quantity of the Food Pantry's supply

comes from weekly donations they accept to take in for their stock. The Food Pantry receives these foods and materials every 1-2 weeks through donations of a few support sources, with one of them being PeaPod Services from Stop and Shop, where they get their frozen foods, fresh vegetables and produce, etc. Students and faculty are encouraged and able to donate as well.

Other supporters are organizations such as Julia's Bakery in Orange, CT, for fresh-baked goodies. Expiration dates and conditions of the food are always checked, in respect of giving them to students.

In addition, the student-workers make sure there are plenty of different foods, so students who cannot afford meals on campus are given a variety

to choose from.

Many students, each year, across campuses in the U.S. deal with what the Food Pantry call "food insecurity," the state of being without reliable access to sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food. According to a nationwide survey in 2019, some 45% of college students say they experience food insecurity.

The survey was created by the Hope Center for College Community and Justice at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. It recorded data from 86,000 students from 123 colleges in the U.S. All this shows how SCSU's Food Pantry helps students with this particular financial and personal issue of not affording food, since they pay a lot for other college expenses.

With the need to feed and help students with

these issues being the Food Pantry's primary mission, they ask for their need for donations to be heard and people to help support students on campus who cannot afford regular meals. According to the Food Pantry, they have only been getting 1-2 donations every week from people on campus and are trying to reach a higher goal to have more resources to give to students who are in need.

"We really try to reach out and ask people to help and donate," said Hansen, "because my whole philosophy is that people who come to use this food pantry are people, so donate what you would eat too because, say if you walk through a food pantry, and all you see is peanut butter or beans; I feel they are worth more than that because people are people."

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Dave & Busters trip with Programs Council

By Sarah Shelton
Features Editor

Arcade games, free food and prizes became student's Friday night as they shuffled on a bus for Program Council's, ProCon, trip to Dave & Busters.

"I'm one of the advisers for ProCon," Assistant Director of Student Involvement & Leadership Development Eric Lacharity said. "This is the second time we've done this event. The first time we did it, it went

over really well so we were like 'we gotta do it again.' It's a nice opportunity for students to get off campus, play some games, get a nice dinner and relax."

Dave & Busters is a restaurant and arcade located in Milford Mall. Lacharity said the weekend programmers set up the entire event, including working with Dave & Busters and the bus company.

"I got to sit back and watch it all happen," Lacharity said. "We trust them [programmers] with

everything. We feel like they have done such a good job with developing as a committee and they work very autonomously."

Weekend programmer Matt Berry, a senior, was one of the programmers who set up the trip.

"We contacted a special events program coordinator at Dave & Busters and told them which location we wanted to go to, what we wanted in our room and how many students we were having so we had enough food and game cards," Berry said.

28 students attended the trip and ProCon gave one game card to each student with \$35 worth of credits on it. They provided a party room for everyone to sit and eat in. The food consisted of cheeseburger sliders, salad with bread, fruit platters, french fries, and mini hotdogs. They also had chocolate-filled churros for dessert.

"My friend told me there was a spot open last minute [someone dropped out hours before]," communications major Spencer

Lane, a freshman, said. "She was about to drop out and then she saw a spot open and was like 'you should come.' I do believe this shall be a fun night."

Lane played a bunch of games, including Mario Kart and Family Guy Bowling, but was more interested in the food and Sonic the Hedgehog.

"I mainly came because I saw the Sonic the Hedgehog meme that was like 'alone on a Friday night? You're pathetic' and I was like 'that can't be me,'" Lane said.

This led Lane to also get a mystery Sonic stuffed animal with the tickets he earned. The stuffed animal came in a box, and there was an option of all the different Sonic characters you could get, but since it was a mystery you were unaware of the prize inside.

"I got the only character out of the box that I didn't want," Lane said. "It was 750 tickets, and I got the one I didn't want. This box was behind another one, I specifically chose this one. If I didn't believe in my

own hubris I could have had Sonic."

Before arriving, Lane said he was most excited about the food. Biotechnology major Eva Rodriguez, a freshman, agreed.

"I'm looking forward to eating right now, I'm hungry," Rodriguez said. "I'm also looking forward to going to the mall. I didn't know it was in the mall."

Towards the end of the night, some students left to go into the mall, not knowing it was closed and got locked out of Dave &

Busters, not knowing that would be locked up too.

"We left the mall, and it's closed, we can't get back in," healthcare studies major Luke Molwitz, a freshman, said. "Hypothetically we can, there's cardboard in the [outside entrance] door."

Molwitz and his friends walked from the inside exit/entrance all the way outside the mall to get in from the outside entrance.

"I played a lot of coin games, got gummy bears and was locked out," Molwitz said. "It was fun."



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

Spencer Lane with his SONIC mystery box toy.



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

Arcade games at Dave & Busters in Milford mall.

MCU introduces Harry Styles

By Sofia Rositani
Editor-in-Chief

"Game Of Thrones" actors, BTS and Harry Styles were a few exciting parts of Marvel's latest film, "The Eternals."

While the film was interesting, it was also very long. I sat there trying to keep my eyes open. The movie started at 9 p.m. and ended at 11:30 p.m. The movie was two hours and 37 minutes long. The movie would have been more interesting if they did not jump back and forth from the past and present.

I was so excited for the film only for it to be a long-drawn-out film of historical events and some fight scenes. I did like the actors in the film, and I can say I have a favorite character, Druig, played by Barry Keoghan, an Irish actor who I first discovered on the HBO show "Chernobyl."

I really enjoyed Druig's character because unlike the other characters who were optimistic about the human race, he knew the truth and would constantly try and take control of them to stop them from killing each other. It also helped how he looked great in a leather jacket. His relationship with the first deaf superhero in Marvel, Makkari, played by Lauren Ridloff, best known for "The Walking Dead." Their relationship is so cute, and while we did not get a lot of their relationship on



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Druig and Makkari in post credit scene of "Eternals."

screen, I know we will get to see more in the next films to come in Marvel.

BTS did have a song in the film and when I say I jumped from the seat, I jumped from the seat and was singing the lyrics to "Friends" by Park Jimin and Kim Taehyung from BTS. I was so excited to hear the song and then see their names at the end of the credits. That was one highlight of the film.

This led me to the best part of the film, Harold Edward Styles, when he was shown in the post credit scene the collective amount of squeals and gasps that came from so many women in the audience, including me, was astounding. I know I was very excited to see him enter the Marvel Cinematic Universe where he has already signed a five-movie

contract. The film itself was a little dry but the moment Styles came on to the screen it was well worth it.

Styles plays the God of love Eros aka Star fox who is Thanos's more attractive and favorable brother in the comics and now this film. He was introduced by Pip the Troll, voiced by Patton Oswalt. It was a great entrance even though it was 30 seconds at most. All I know is that this film may have been long, a little boring and had a few characters who were not great, but the moment I saw Styles it was so worthwhile. I left the theater very excited for the next phase of the Marvel universe.

The next Marvel film to come out is "Spiderman: No Way Home" which I am looking forward to with the past Spidermen returning to their roles, allegedly.

OPINIONS

Bugs infesting West Campus

By Sarah Shelton
Features Editor

I hate to admit this, but I hate bugs. When they are outside it is okay, but when they invade my personal space, I am grossed out.

Last week, after a long day in the newsroom, I came to my room to find a dead lady bug on my windowsill. My first thought was "wow that's bad luck." It was right next to my rose quartz pendulum too.

Many Ladybugs have been in my room for a week or two and now I'm finding out it is also happening to my friend who lives in Neff Hall.

I am confused by how so many bugs are getting in. I know in my suite's common area, our window screens, that were installed not too many years ago, are not on properly and our window is constantly open at the bottom so we have dead bees and flies behind our couch. This actually terrifies me because my one fear in life is bees. Yes, I could walk through an entire haunted trail with no reaction, but when a bee lands on me I am terrified. I cannot even pick them up because I am scared of them, dead or alive.

We submitted a work order to get our screen fixed early October and were told there is nothing they can do about it, so bugs are constantly able to get in. But how are ladybugs in my room? The room furthest from the common area.

Before the ladybugs, it was gnats. Now it is spiders.

This weekend, I went home early Saturday morning to go to work; that afternoon my roommate sent me pictures of our walls with baby spiders all over the place. Right now, the spiders are only by our common area and her side of the suite, but I do not want them to move to my side as well. This honestly disgusts me. Spiders?

Ladybugs and butterflies seem to be the only bugs I can handle.

My roommate and her mother have contacted many people in Residence Life about this and seemed to be getting somewhat ignored. When contacting the hall director, they were told our hall director was not at work. They were also told by someone who works here to message them privately, they got no response.

I am hoping before this article is published they will help us with the problem, but I am starting to doubt it, especially because of all of our other ignored work orders. Our dehumidifier is broken, they came to look at it and said they would get us a new one and then did not. My roommate's shower light is also broken, this

work order was submitted in Sept. and they came Nov. 8, only to fix the light, after her mom contacted them. Honestly, it makes me feel like they only fix problems when parents get involved. Why are our opinions and feelings not as important as our parents? We are the ones who live here.

After talking to some residents, I learned the person who lives on the floor under us, directly under us, also had a bug infestation. I love the ResLife staff, but I feel like they are not helping us. My roommate is on the verge of evacuating and I may also consider it because if I see a spider close to my room, I will not be happy. It makes me feel unclean. I just want something to be done about this before the infestation affects our entire suite.



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

Dead bees and flies under the window, behind couch.



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

Our window open underneath the screen in my suite.

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Volleyball wins its fifth straight A record-breaking performance from Taylor Jones lead the way

By Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor

Setter Taylor Jones, a sophomore, set a single game record for the university during Saturday, Nov. 6's win over the Assumption College Greyhounds, tallying a staggering 57 assists.

What makes the feat even more impressive is how Jones broke the record on the final play of the game to seal a win, which clinched the Owls a spot in the NE10 Conference tournament, and it only took her four sets to do it.

"I'm really excited about that. That's really good news. I'm glad I did it on the last point. I wish I did it a little earlier, but that's okay. No pressure," Jones said with a grin.

Aside from one set, the victory was business as usual for the Owls team, coming off an impressive five set win over rival University of New Haven, in which they were down two sets to zero and rallied all the way back.

The victory over Assumption at home in Pelz Gym marked five straight wins for the Owls, improving their record to 22-8 for the year, and boasting an impressive home record of 16-2.

With only two games left in the regular season, both at home, volleyball looks to pad their record



Photo | Alvin Furlow — SCSU Athletics (scsuowls.com)

Setter Taylor Jones made Owls history for most assists in a single game with 57 during Saturday's win.

some more in order to finish with the best winning percentage possible heading into tournament play.

"It's definitely helpful to be the higher seed because you get to have homecourt advantage, and nobody likes to come to our gym and play because we have a very strong record here at home," outside hitter Sophia Castellano, a senior, said. "So, the better you finish, the more likely other teams are to be scared of you, and that's intimidation nation."

The Owls never surrendered the lead in the first set against the Greyhounds, playing a

well-rounded game, with a pair of service aces from Castellano, four kills by outside hitter Gabriela Gaibur, a junior, and 14 assists from Jones.

Jones assisted on 14 of the 15 kills for the Owls in the first set, which they won 25-15.

The home team looked loose, like they were having fun. Getting creative with all sorts of chants on the bench, deviating from the usual.

"It's a straight vibe on the bench," Castellano said. "We love to keep cheering and keep it interesting for ourselves and keep the other teams on their toes."

It was the Owls who found themselves on their toes in the second set.

A set which saw five tie scores and four lead changes.

The Greyhounds played their best set of the afternoon and pulled out a 25-21 win, 15 more assists from Jones.

"Our communication was just lacking a little," middle blocker Erika Benson, a senior, said. "We started off a little slow, and it's hard to get out of that, but we know how to play volleyball and we know what we're doing, so we just went back to basics."

In the third set, middle hitter Abigail Epstein, a graduate student, was not about to let the Owls fall further behind.

She rattled off four consecutive kills, forcing the Greyhounds to call timeout, down 7-2 early.

To end the set, Epstein recorded her fifth and final kill to cap off a 25-13 win. Her five kills led the team in the set, along with a service ace in each set of the game, giving her four total. Jones assisted in all 14 kills.

"I'm not that impressed with how we played," Jones said. "I think we could have probably blown them out of the water, but it's okay. It's a good day. We are qualified (for playoffs) now, so I'm happy."

The fourth set would be the stage for Jones'

record-breaking moment. Down early, it took a mini-rally and a service ace from Jones to get the Owls within one and force Assumption to call a timeout.

Out of the timeout, the Owls went on a 9-3 run, and never let go of the lead.

Jones tacked on two additional service aces, giving her three for the set, and assisted outside hitter Kacey Deecher, a sophomore, on the final kill to win the set and with it, the match for the Owls, 25-19.

The team was unaware of the accomplishment by Jones until postgame, where jubilation was visible on the faces of her teammates as they were informed.

"She's an absolute stud," Castellano said. "I'm not even surprised. She's just so good, she works so hard, she pushes us so hard in practice. I can't be more proud of her than I am right now."

Volleyball looks to carry their winning ways and positivity into their final week of regular season play and into the playoffs.

They will play Southern New Hampshire University on Friday, Nov. 12 and on Saturday, Nov. 13, against Stonehill College for senior day.

"The ultimate goal for right now is the NE10 Championship," Benson said. "We work every day for that."

Column—NFL

By Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor - Opinion Column



It is the halfway point of the NFL season, and I still have little to no idea which teams are actually any good outside of maybe three. Because football. Enough said.

Many a new bettor here in Connecticut may have lost some dough, wagering on the likes of the Buffalo Bills, Dallas Cowboys, and Cincinnati Bengals. Teams thought to be good, able to win on Sunday, but all three lost in ugly fashion.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to identify the good teams. The Kansas City Chiefs do not look the same as fans have grown accustomed to. The Los Angeles Rams lost big at home to the Tennessee Titans without Derrick Henry.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers are good. They have a defense, and they have Tom Brady. The Baltimore Ravens are a good team. Lamar Jackson can lead a comeback effort now. The Arizona Cardinals are good, but I doubt anyone would be surprised if they lost in the first round of the playoffs.

I thought the Green Bay Packers were good, and they probably still are, but with no Aaron Rodgers, the warts of the Packers were exposed this weekend. With Rodgers potentially becoming a liability moving forward, it becomes difficult to put a lot of faith in the Packers.

A bit more on Rodgers. I absolutely love sports. With it often comes a natural admiration for athletes who perform at the highest level, but it is so important to remember we do not know these people. Nor do I think we want to, and we certainly do not need to.

Sure, Rodgers is fun to listen to on the Pat McAfee Show, talking books and breaking plays down, but this is only how much of himself he allows fans to see.

To be sure, there are far more unsavory characters in NFL huddles than Rodgers. Someone reading this may have a fantasy team consisting of Tyreek Hill and Kareem Hunt, and there is the thing.

As fans, there is often a disconnect. Rodgers lost fans this past week, but I doubt there are many people in Green Bay trading in their allegiances and Packers' jerseys for a Jaguars because of Rodgers' vaccination status.

I will continue to admire his mastery of an incredibly difficult position, while also acknowledging his deceitfulness and comfortably reminding myself, any difference-maker at quarterback in this league is either a complete sociopath like Brady or has a few screws loose like Rodgers with his bottle of horse de-wormer or Patrick Mahomes with his bottle of ketchup.

A successful week for women's soccer

By Christian Dunn
Contributor

The Owls advanced to the semifinals of the NE10 Conference tournament in dramatic fashion after squeaking in as the eight seed in their final game.

Following a road win versus the College of Saint Rose, the Owls clinched a playoff game after a 0-0 draw at home versus the Stonehill Skyhawks.

"Our team earned the right to be here," head coach Adam Cohen said. "They had the chance to control their own destiny and get to the playoffs and that's what they did."

This matchup was the most important for either team up until this point. Stonehill needed a victory to advance to the playoffs, and the Owls only a win or draw to advance.

"It was really important. That was our goal, to make the tournament," said forward Kelsey Burr, a senior. "So that was the first step, just winning the games we needed to, and I'm just really proud of our whole team for doing that."

For a game extremely important for both sides, and one that did not see its first stoppage of play until eight minutes into the game, the offense was uncharacteristically slow. With scoring chances being scarce in the first half and only a few shots on goal for both teams combined.

The Owls first scoring opportunity would come in the form of a long-range strike in the minute 15 from Riley Ayer, a



Photo | Bria Kirklind

Back Cailleigh Driscoll, a freshman, with the ball.

sophomore, whose shot to the middle of the net was stopped by Saint Rose's keeper.

Some minutes later, a corner kick by Saint Rose was denied by goalkeeper Allie Smith, a graduate student, who pitched yet another shutout this night.

"We just really stayed connected. Communicated well. I made sure there were no gaps in between us," Smith said.

This match marked the seventh shutout for the Owls this season. An impressive feat in a single season.

Following a few more shots near the net, the first half ended when the Golden Knights got their best scoring chance in the half. With under a minute remaining in the first half,

a free kick by Saint Rose's midfielder Hannah Guidi, a junior, nearly found the back of the net but was stopped by a great save from Allie Smith, keeping the stat sheet clean.

Considering only a draw was needed to advance to the playoffs, one must wonder whether Coach Cohen considered changing the gameplan.

"Yeah, but I'm not going to tell you," Cohen said.

A swift and smart response considering the playoff match coming up.

The second half would prove more offensively orientated for either side, with both teams getting multiple scoring chances early.

A shot missed just wide right by Owl Victoria Vera, a freshman, would

be looked back at as the best opportunity for a goal in the game. Soon after, following a blocked shot, once again hit by Vera, defender for the Owls, Mia Mulin, a senior, took the rebound and sent it over the net.

The home team would face yet another last second scare in minute 89. A longshot went off the crossbar, and controlled by Owl keeper Smith, shot by Golden Knight Midfielder Ashley Kendrigan. Both defenses had held out for another 45 minutes, and with playoffs on the line, these teams were heading into extra minutes.

"They don't really feel that much longer," Smith said, "I know for the field players it's a little more challenging, because they've got their legs they've got to worry about, but for me, it's pretty much the same."

Other than a single phenomenal save by Smith in minute 94, the first 10 extra minutes were quiet for both sides.

As for minute 100 and beyond, there were equal scoring chances for either team.

For the Owls, a free kick missed wide left in the minute 107 from Vera yet again, and for the Golden Knights, another scoring chance with seconds on the board, a free kick secured in the air by Smith with under a minute remaining, putting a cap on what was a great evening by her and the defense.

"We didn't want this to be our last game," Burr