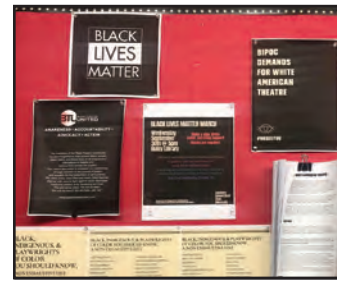




Welles leads field hockey on and off field
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Theatre addresses racial injustice
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SOUTHERN NEWS

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OCTOBER 7, 2020

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March held for racial inequality Community comes together to speak out against injustices



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Students holding signs in protest of racial injustices against Black people.

By Sam Tapper
Managing Editor
By Abby Epstein
News Editor
By Seth Marceau
Contributor

Hundreds of protestors chanted “no justice, no peace” and “white silence is compliance” as they marched towards the Residence Life Quad as part of the university’s Black Lives Matter March. “I’m tired that this movement is a thing, because Black lives should already matter,” said psychology major Camyrn Arpino-Brown, a senior. “When will our voices be heard? The answer is now. The answer has been now for the past 400 years. The alarm has been ringing since 1619; y’all have just been hitting snooze.”

Students, faculty and staff gathered in support of the fight against racial injustice and police brutality across the country. First congregating

in front of Buley Library, the event began with six students replicating a “runway walk,” as they carried sketches of victims of police brutality.

Immediately following, the crowd began to march across campus, led by Arpino-Brown.

In addition to Arpino-Brown, the event had 15 scheduled speakers, including President Joe Bertolino and Vice President of Diversity and Equity Programs Diane Ariza, as well as students and other advocates not affiliated with the university.

When it was Bertolino’s turn to speak, he delivered words of praise and encouragement, but also explained the personal impact this has on him. Bertolino and his partner have an adopted son, Joel, who is Black. Whenever Bertolino sees instances of racial injustice, he said he thinks to himself: “that could be Joel.”

“When I look at what

happens to Black men, Black and brown people in general, it is never lost on me that Joel could be experiencing that at any time, and that Joel can be a victim at any time, and there’s very little I can do about that,” Bertolino said. “It scares the heck out of me.”

Each of the speakers throughout the night brought something different to the rally. Some performed songs, some recited poetry or literature; and others spoke from the heart. Regardless of the delivery, the message was the conversation of social justice needs to be continued.

“I will continue to educate myself; I will continue to fight acts of racism; I will continue to hold myself accountable,” said Student Government Association President Sarah Gossman, a junior. “I’m here to support you.”

See March Page 2

Breakdown of online classes

By Kenneth Baah
Contributor

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the university published a four-part plan detailing the steps and procedures in place to reopen the university and reduce the spread of COVID-19 including the breakdown of online classes.

The university has 64 percent, or 1,491, sections online, running either asynchronously or synchronously. The remaining 36 percent, or 840 sections, are either on-ground or hybrid.

In the College of Arts and Sciences, 58.6 percent of the classes are held online, the least of the four colleges. The School of Business and College of Health and Human Services have 67.6 percent and 66 percent, respectively. Lastly the School of Education had the highest percentage of with 72.7 percent online for the semester.

Social work major Arabelle Ebnoti, a junior, said she feels the shift to online learning has led to a different challenge to learn the material.

“Since everything is online, depending on whether you have a Zoom call or not, you [are] basically teaching yourself,” said Ebnoti.

With all her classes online this semester, Ebnoti has a total of three asynchronous classes and two synchronous.

According to the master schedule, 45.36 percent of the classes are

asynchronous, and 18.35 percent of classes are synchronous.

In the School of Business, like the College of Health and Human Services, has 67 percent of its sections are online. According to the master schedule, 48.11 percent of the College’s classes are asynchronous, and 18 percent are synchronous.

Subjects like Business Information Systems, Economics and Finance have shifted over 80 percent of their classes online, according to the master schedule.

Business administration management major Tarik Heymyer, a first-year student, mentions that he does not feel like he is getting the real college experience with the current format of online classes.

“Especially with learning right now when everything is online, it can make it more difficult especially when you have an asynchronous class and there’s not much that they tell you to do. They just assign stuff,” said Heymyer.

The College of Arts and Sciences, the biggest college in the university, has 16 percent of the sections asynchronous and 41.2 percent synchronous, according to the master schedule.

It has also seen departments like art, chemistry and earth science hold at least 65 percent of their class in a hybrid or on-ground format while the world language department is offering over 90 percent of their courses online.

CSCU’s navigate the reopening process with cautious optimism

By Jessica Guerrucci
Editor-in-Chief

It’s been just over a month since students returned to their campuses, and President of the Connecticut State Colleges Mark Ojakian said he remains cautiously optimistic.

“I think because of all the planning we did in the spring and into the summer to the first part of September, we were ready to be back and ready to put all the protocols in place that will allow things to continue right through Thanksgiving,” said Ojakian.

Each CSCU university (Southern, Eastern, Western and Central) was required to submit a four-point plan detailing their reopening process, including how they would repopulate the campus, monitor the health of students, faculty and staff, contain cases that develop and a plan for in case of a campus wide shutdown.

All the plans are similar, but they each take into consideration the size of the campus and whether it is commuter or residential based. Ojakian said he was pleased with how Southern social justice into their plan. “We can forget at times about the issues that exist in our culture and our society,” Ojakian said, “but I think what Southern was able to do is weave in the transition to online with the continued advocacy for social justice, that I know President Joe [Bertolino] and others on campus consider a very high priority.”

Acknowledging that underrepresented communities and marginalized communities have been affected at a greater rate, Bertolino said it is something he paid close attention to when creating the plan, he recognizes that about 50 percent of students in the residence halls are people of color.

For the plans, similar approaches were taken at Southern and at Central which are more commuter based than Eastern and Western, according to Ojakian. The plans were all changed based on the demographics of the students at each university.

There have been COVID-19 cases on each of the campuses, but Ojakian said it was expected.

Each campus has been testing 25 percent of their

residential population and all student-athletes weekly, up from five to 10 percent as of Sept. 13, and commuters and faculty have the option to self-report.

As of Oct. 1, Southern has had four positive cases, or a .29 percent positivity rate, and an additional 16 people self-reported. Ojakian said the university has done “extremely well,” considering it is in an urban area.

President Joe Bertolino said the results speak for themselves, with the university reporting no cases for the week of Sept. 28.

Central has 28 positive cases, a 2.25 percent positivity rate and an additional 55 self-reported cases, according to the COVID-19 dashboard of CCSU, an outlier in the

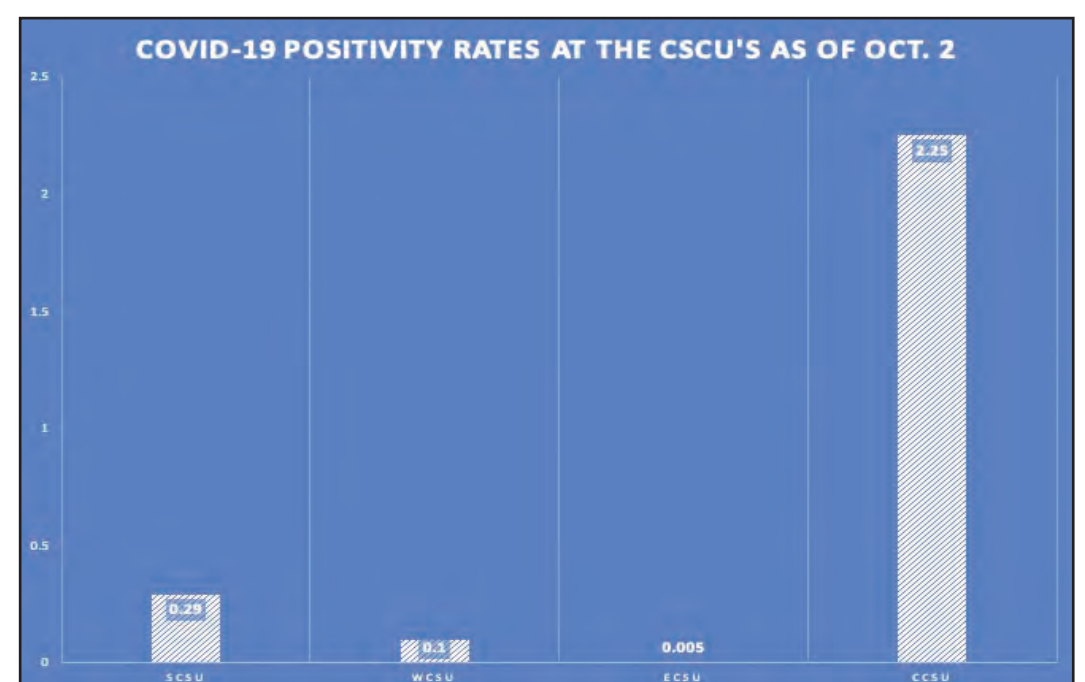
system linked to a “small outdoor gathering” of 15 students off campus. Ojakian said the students were quarantined and isolated.

Ojakian worked with Mayor Erin Stewart of New Britain to see what caused the spike at Central.

Eastern had nine positive cases, or a .005 percent positivity rate and 20 self-reported cases, and Western, whose opening was delayed two weeks due to a spike in Danbury, has had one positive case, a .10 percent positivity rate and four self-reported cases.

While Bertolino said he can’t speak for the other institutions, he said Eastern’s location factors in. This is despite a recent spike in nearby Norwich which has a 6.7 percent

See Reopen Page 2



GRAPHIC | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

A chart displaying the COVID-19 positivity rates at the four CSCUs.

Students offer feedback during SGA meeting

By Desteny Maragh Reporter

Guest speaker Tracy Tyree, who is Vice President of student affairs, addressed a group of students to ask for their opinions on each of their experiences at the university and its overall quality.

The discussion was held at the Student government body meeting on Friday, Oct. 2 at 1p.m.

"The student voice is very important to this process to make sure that we have stayed true to our mission statement," said Tyree.

The university is up for reaccreditation, so Tyree was seeking feedback to ensure all student's needs are being met.

The basis of the meeting was to filter the feedback of likes and dislikes of Southern from the source, the students.

This process of reaccreditation, which happens every ten years, is defined as the official certification that a school or course has met standards set by external regulators.

Accreditation is what allows the university to receive federal financial aid.

Accreditation not only grants financial benefit for Southern, but also shows the success of the university. This displays its ability to keep a diverse and open atmosphere.

Tyree was also joined by two additional guest speakers; Trudy Milburn and Theresa Marchant-

Shapiro.

Both women are leading the reaccreditation process.

"Accredited universities receive that verification that students are assured academic quality and make sure students are getting what they signed up for," said Milburn.

"This is a super big deal for any university to be going up for reaccreditation," said Tyree. "What makes southern unique and special, the statement we put out reflects a balance of how we see ourselves and how we want others to see us, while still aspirational."

The statement put out its titled "The Identity and Mission of Southern Connecticut State University."

In this statement, the university is prided on being a social justice campus, having small classroom sizes and the importance of faculty and student relationships.

The statement reads: "under the leadership of President Bertolino these past four years, the university has continued to emphasize academic excellence, access and service for the public good as ways to advance social justice as its primary focus, emphasizing the values of dignity, respect, kindness, compassion, and civility."

The meeting was centered around getting students input and having a conversation about what they experience, what areas are good and what areas can be improved.

Transfer student Briana Alvelo, a senior, spoke about her experiences compared to her previous school, Quinnipiac University.

"At my other school, I never really felt at home I never had any type of connections with my professors or any faculty or staff," said Alvelo.

She said she felt as though her voice was not heard and there was not space for her to be successful there.

"When I first came here, I immediately found my place and voice. It's a very different environment," said Alvelo.

SGA President Sarah Gossman, a junior, said "students feel their sense of belonging, people are always saying find their confidence and passion."

"The start is here at Southern. Whether they got that inspiration from faculty or a club, they are able to really find a purpose here at Southern," said Gossman.

The statement that was put out reads "in fulfilling our aspiration of being a social justice university within a comprehensive framework, we continually strive to bridge the gaps faced by all of our students, including students of color, those from low income families, and first generation students."

Tyree said the university's identity is of high importance as it is essential that students identify with the statement put out and the words resonate with the actions.

Online

Continued from Page 1

The College of Education has the highest percentage of online classes this semester, with 35.4 percent of classes asynchronous and 34.6 percent of classes synchronous.

Science education and special education classes host 100 percent of their classes online.

Subjects like counseling and school psychology have 94 percent of classes online and the information and library service classes are 85 percent online.

Ebnoti said she hopes to return to the classroom

next semester because that is where she feels the most comfortable to learn.

"I like [in-person] classes because I'm the type of person that gets distracted fast," said Ebnoti. "If I'm in class and the teacher is there, I can pay more attention to the teacher. But yes, I would rather go back to [in-person] classes."

Reopen

Continued from Page 1

"I am pleased with the progress we've made so far, and we continue to have to monitor what's happening and sort of pivot as things shift in a different part of the state," Ojakian said.

As a result of COVID-19 across the system, enrollment is down 5.5 percent as are residential occupancy rates.

Bertolino said the biggest impact was on the first-year class which is down by about 25 percent. While not surprised, he said there will be long-term impacts.

Overall, the university's enrollment is down by five percent.

Looking nationally, Ojakian said enrollment may have declined, but the positivity rates between the colleges are far below the national average.

As for financials, the sudden shift to online learning was costly to the CSCU institutions who had to refund \$23.9 million to students due to the early closure of residence halls.

The \$13 million received in federal aid was not enough to cover the losses.

The state has already rewarded \$5.5 million to the CSCUs from the COVID-19 Relief Fund, Southern received \$703,510 with \$332,512 going toward cleaning, supplies and PPE.

Bertolino said the university has spent about \$500,000 on technology for Hyflex classes and trainings, but this will allow them to have even more online class formats in the future.

As for students who were skeptical of the reopening process, Bertolino said as each week passes, he becomes more confident and hopeful, but he doesn't blame them for holding their breath.

"If we are actually able to get to Thanksgiving that will be a major accomplishment for the institution," he said.

Sociology major Samantha Ottowell, a freshman, said the reopening has gone well compared to other state schools like Western who had to pause their reopening.

"I think for the most

part everyone wants to be here and wants to be able to stay on campus and come back in the spring," said Ottowell.

Exploratory major Grace Olivieri, a sophomore, said she originally returned to school thinking it would shut down in two weeks.

"I think all the kids are coming together to do a good job without partying and throwing huge things which I think is good," she said.

While Olivieri said she knows a spike is possible, she feels the virus is somewhat under control. Students are on the same page and keeping each other safe.

When the campuses were reopening, Ojakian said people were mostly critical of college students, thinking that they would not be able to stop the spread of the virus.

"They sort of sold you all short and didn't think that you had the ability to take a pandemic seriously," Ojakian said. "I thought quite the opposite, that our students in our system could rise to the occasion and actually take this seriously and that's what I'm seeing."

March

Continued from Page 1

Following many of the speakers, Arpino-Brown opened the microphones up to anybody who wanted to say something, whether it be their personal experiences or their thoughts on the movement. In total, 16 different members of the crowd volunteered to address those in attendance.

"The George Floyd murder basically inspired me to speak out and do my own thing, like creating protests and trying to create change in my own community," said biology major Shoshanah Mahon, a freshman. "I feel like that should be shared so people know what I have done and what I have done to try and prevent what I go through in my everyday life."

One advocate who spoke was David Rufus, 23, from Brooklyn, N.Y., who is a rapper more commonly known by his stage name, "Ruffii." Rufus, who heard of the event from another rapper that performed,

Quazel Trower, known professionally as "Quality," read an original poem about Oscar Grant III, an African-American man who was shot and killed by police on Jan. 1, 2009.

"I wrote [the poem] on Jan. 1, 2019, this was 10 years after he actually died," Rufus said. "I wrote the poem on that same exact day, and he died at 22-years old and I was 22-years old also. So, just knowing that in that moment, I think it was destiny or something that was close to me. The fact that we were the same age and both black men, it was a 'that could have been me' type of thing."

After everyone had a chance to speak at the open mic portion, a candlelight vigil was held to honor all the victims of police brutality and racial injustice, such as Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and Trayvon Martin, among many others. Placed in front of the speakers were large sketches of each of said victims.

"I feel like all the voices that we have, all the voices that we can get, all the voices that we can convince - we shouldn't even have to convince, but I feel like eventually all of

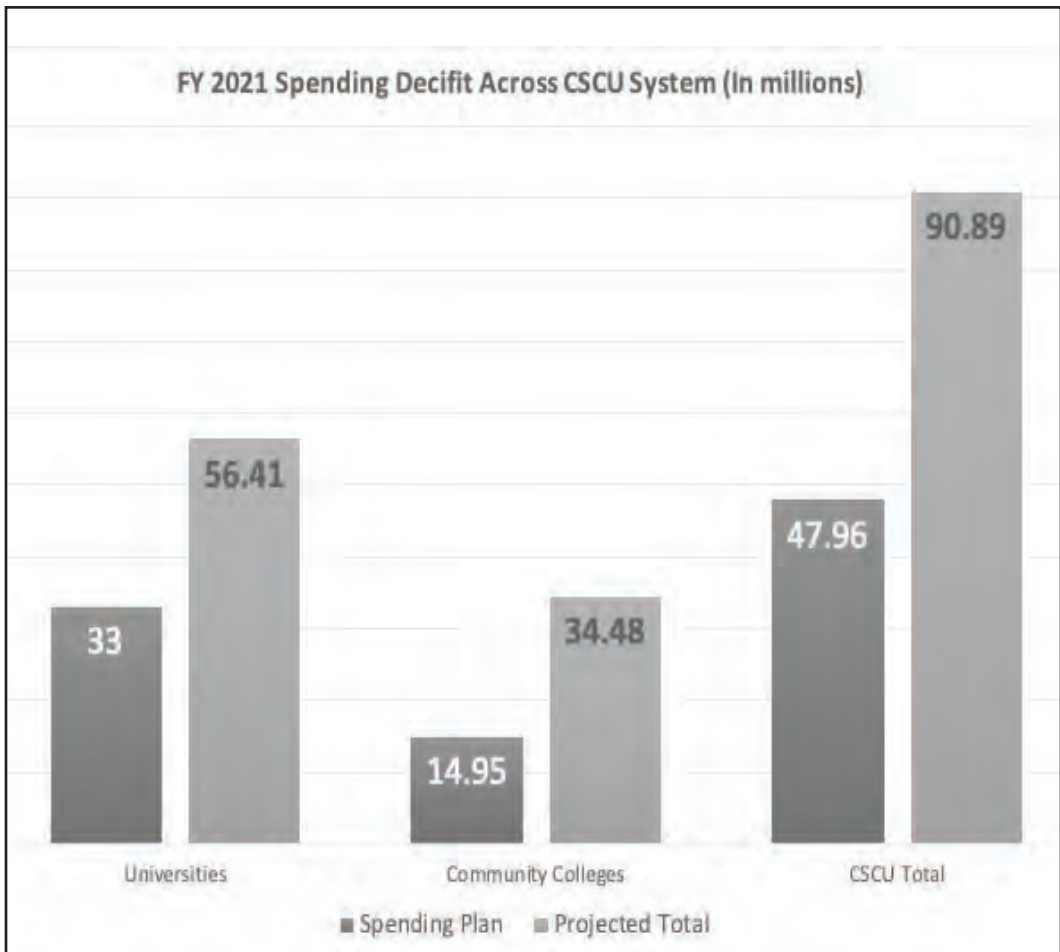
that will come along," said Owls football defensive back Kwadir Delgado-McIntyre, a graduate student. "I feel like the louder we get, the more fair social justice will be."

Ariza was the final speaker of the night, emphasizing the fact that this conversation needs to be had. She said the issue of social justice must be happening on a daily basis; in the hallway, in the classroom, everywhere.

"Students have to speak out; they have to be comfortable enough to feel empowered to do that," said Ariza. "If they don't know how to do that, they have to get allies to help them with that."

Before the rally was adjourned, Arpino-Brown instructed everyone to get together on the quad for a picture. Rather than smiling, all turned their backs and raised their fists into the air to signify empowerment.

"I'm proud to be president of this institution," Bertolino said. "This evening's rally really highlights our care for one another, our commitment to social justice and the pride we take as a community in supporting one another."



A chart displaying the deficits of money in millions since Sept. 17 across the entire CSCU sytem including the community colleges.



Camyrn Arpino-Brown addressing the crowd in the Residence Life Quad.



Students rally in the Residence Life Quad for the Black Lives Matter march.

GRAPHIC | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

BLM March showed true power campus community has



By Sam Tapper
Managing Editor

These are the opinions
of The Southern News
Editorial Staff

Last Wednesday, Sept. 30, the highly anticipated Black Lives Matter March happened on-campus, organized by Camryn Arpino-Brown, a senior, of which I had the opportunity to attend. I have multiple takeaways, but above all, the event showed the true voice our generation of students has.

The world is a bleak place right now, especially in the United States. From the virus that continues to infect people, to all the

instances of racial injustice that have happened in just the last few months, let alone the entire history of our nation.

With all that in mind, it would be an easy thing for this generation of young adults to just take a knee and run out the clock until better days arrive. But on this campus, students not only refuse to be complacent, but they refuse to let their voices go unheard.

This rally was exactly the kind of event that instills

hope on numerous levels. While much of the subject matter discussed was tough, and the stories from students and their experiences with injustice or racial profiling was downright sickening, there was still a sense of hope present.

Even during a global health crisis where large gatherings are prohibited, students took it upon themselves to approach the administration and hold this event. While

having masks on and blocking most of their faces, voices were still heard loud and clear on this day.

The march, in my opinion, was a textbook example for what this university prides itself on. Social justice is not only about acknowledging what is wrong with the system, but also making the effort to educate people on why it is wrong, and what needs to change as a result.

I cannot help but wonder how this event would have

played out in a world where COVID-19 was not a factor. Even now, the rally had a turnout of roughly a few hundred people, the largest gathering I have seen in-person since March.

In short, I applaud the job done by all students in the execution of this event. I applaud those students who took it upon themselves to propose and coordinate the rally. I applaud the administration for sharing their thoughts on the

matter, like President Joe Bertolino and his comments about his son, Joel.

Most of all, I applaud the students who attended. There was no joking around, no horseplay, no games being played.

It was taken seriously, and that is crucial. This generation of young people will be catalysts in the form of a national change. And to make a change on a national level, first you must advocate for change in your own community.

Black Lives Matter.

Phase 3 is good for Connecticut's progress

By Donovan Wilson
Reporter

Connecticut is getting ready to enter its much anticipated phase three of its reopening plan on Oct. 8 and the numbers are low enough to justify this.

Restaurant capacities are going up from 50 to 75 percent. As the amount of people who can be at an indoor gathering increases, it would only make sense that a more monitored facility be able to fit in more people.

Outdoor event venues such as amphitheaters, will now be able to

operate at 50 percent rather than 25. This makes even more sense than restaurants as it is outside and helps keep people connected while also safe.

Indoor performing arts venues will begin to open in this phase as well, operating at 50 percent capacity.

This one worries, me as it encourages indoor concerts which will definitely further the spread of germs and pathogens more than anything else.

Bars remain closed but walk up bars at events will now be allowed. I think this is good as bars

are a major component of our lives and drinking is something that a lot of people enjoy, especially during a pandemic we need some kind of relief from our daily lives.

Graduations can now be held indoors with a cap of 200 people. This personally makes me very happy as a senior because I think it provides motivation for a currently stressed group of students.

All in all, most likely the decisions being made aren't necessarily huge, it is partially why I'm for it. It allows the state to test the waters before

possibly implementing more changes in the coming future. This will all depend on this phase's impact on the COVID-19 numbers.

The only slight worry in my mind is the massive jumps in capacity. Most places that are able to jump up in capacity are going up by 25 percent from whatever percent was previous.

We should have only gone up by 10 just to see if there were any complications before drastically upping the allowance of people into certain vicinities.

As long as numbers

stay low, this can cause a lot of good in a way of keeping people controlled. Allowing easier congregations in controlled public areas will cut down on people congregating illegally and participating in things that may up the number count more rapidly. We need to keep the people controlled in order to keep the virus controlled.

Realistically, this does not change much in the way of where we can go and do. Realistically, this only changes the amount of people who can go where we've been able to go for the better part

of the last 6 months. The capacity of people in one area is a major component in terms of the status of COVID-19 and should not go unnoticed or ignored..

All and all, Phase 3 is a major step in terms of the infrastructure of Connecticut working towards a more open state with more of our old lives and routines being back into play.

It may not seem like much to the general public's eye, but it is a safe and integral move for our state to be taking and it will help get our economy up and running once more again.

Interruptions take control of presidential debate

By Jessica Guerrucci
Editor-in-Chief

Between comments like "Will you shut up, man?" and name calling, the true star of the presidential debate between Joe Biden and President Donald Trump was the interruptions, which begs the question of whether microphones should be cut.

The debate was called "a hot mess" or a "train wreck" and some argued it was not even a debate. How can anyone decide on who they want to vote for when the two

candidates won't stop talking over one another?

While microphones likely won't be cut due to concerns of bias by the moderator or privileging one candidate over another, the idea was still thrown around.

While Chris Wallace let the debate spin out of control, Trump was able to interrupt Biden 71 times, according to Washington Post - prompting Biden's request for the president to shut up.

Everything from name calling Biden calling Trump "the worst president ever," Trump

making questionable comments about race and refusing to condemn white supremacy directly, I found myself laughing at the TV rather than actually learning about the candidates.

Obviously, the purpose of a debate is to help better understand the candidates' positions and ultimately decide who you want to vote for, but many of us, including myself, left feeling stressed and had no clarity on anyone's stance.

Whether it's muting microphones or not, the next debate will need more structure. Some

pitched that they just mute them during the two minutes they're given specifically to talk. Some want to give the moderator that power.

Also, Trump suggested that he doesn't want any rules to change and is not in favor of muting the microphones.

"Why would I allow the Debate Commission to change the rules for the second and third Debates when I easily won last time?" Trump tweeted.

However, Biden said change is needed, according to an article on CNBC.

"I just hope there's a

way in which the debate commission can control the ability of us to answer the question without interruption," Biden said.

Still, Wallace raised concerns over the interruptions being picked up on the other candidate's microphone, making that method almost ineffective.

While the moderator acknowledged that he did not control the debate as well as he should have, I cannot imagine being in his shoes when you have two candidates who don't cooperate all the time.

Some said Wallace should have stood up

and changed his body language or been more tough, but we'll see how the next moderator handles it before we call him out for not being able to keep it on track.

As voters and students are concerned, these debates are important because we're part of the generation who can have an impact on the election.

I wanted a chance to learn more about my candidate and his stances so that going into the election I was making an educated vote and instead I left feeling like I got nothing out of it and it was a waste of time.

SOUTHERN NEWS

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Black Lives Matter march draws a big crowd

By Roma Rositani
Photo Editor

Last Wednesday the university held a Black Lives Matter March. Students were able to speak about social injustice. President Joe Bertolino joined and spoke out at the march. There were signs of fallen victims of police

brutality such as Elijah McClain and Breonna Taylor, they also held a candle light vigil in honor of them.

Students, faculty, and community members held up handmade signs "Trans black lives, queer black lives, poor black lives, young black lives, old black lives, all black lives matter."



President Bertolino speaking at the BLM march.



Siobhan Carter-David talks at the march.



"Your black friends are exhausted" a sign reads.



Quazel Trower, also known as "Quality," raps about social injustice.



Students hold a candle light vigil for fallen victims such as Tamir Rice and George Floyd.



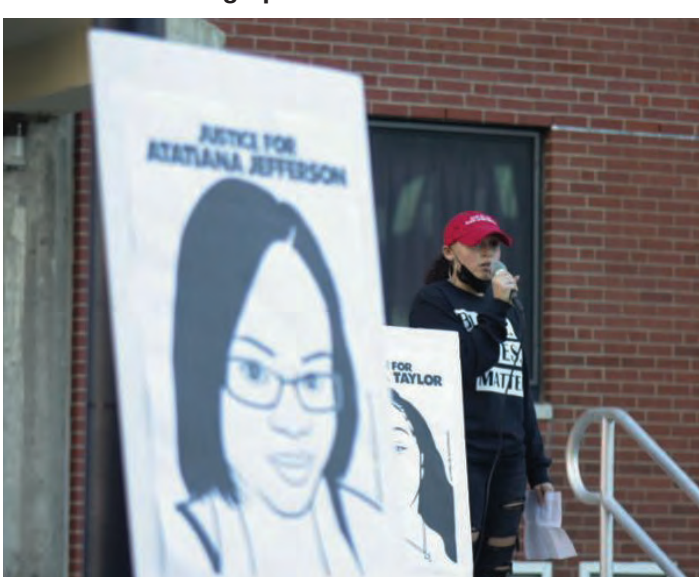
President Bertolino listens to speakers at the march.



Student use a mega-phone so she can be heard.



Students hold social justice sign as they lead the march.



Student Camryn Arpino-Brown speaking at the BLM march.



Students listen to speakers talk about social injustice.



Students and faculty protest for social injustice using signs and their voices.

PHOTOS | BRIA KIRKLIN

Owls work to minimize spread of virus Athletes randomly selected for testing as contact in practice increases

By Edward Rudman
Sports Writer

Phase Two for athletics has now been in place for a week, allowing for equipment to be used and up to 25-30 athletes and coaches to train together. With this increase in contact, there will be an increase in testing for COVID-19 starting the week of Oct. 5.

“The plan with testing right now is it’s going to start next week I believe, and it does change depending on where we are in the season,” said Lisa Dupuis, head athletic trainer. “Our plan going forward is to test 25 percent of the student athlete population on a weekly basis. We call it surveillance testing and it’s completely randomized who gets chosen.”

No matter what the testing results end up being throughout the semester, the percentage of athletes tested every week will remain at 25 percent unless the school is instructed

otherwise, according to Dupuis.

The percentage has the potential to change once athletic programs start competing with other college teams and traveling begins next semester.

If an athlete is to test positive for COVID-19, that athlete will then go through contact tracing for possible cases that could have spread around campus. Furthermore, all the athletes that train in the same bubble with the positive case will have to quarantine as well.

“If someone on the team does test positive and they’ve been working out in a bubble of 30, then that entire bubble will go into quarantine so that we prevent the spread,” said Dupuis.

Athletes and non-athletes alike who live on campus will be quarantined at the North Campus townhouses.

There are 36 units available, coming to a total of 144 people. If additional space is required at any time, Residence Life will

work with the COVID-19 Coordinator, Erin Duff, to determine how to meet the need, according to the university.

Each unit will have food available immediately upon moving into quarantine and a schedule of further food deliveries and contactless drop off will be determined in consultation with the student once moved to the quarantine housing.

“They can participate in virtual workouts and I think every team is going to be dealing with this a little differently. As long as the athletes can remain asymptomatic, which is a key factor, they can continue to work out while they’re in quarantine. They can’t go out for a run or anything like that, it must be inside,” said Dupuis.

Off-campus commuters will be required to self-report if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or have tested positive and will have to quarantine themselves at home.

“I think the university did



PHOTO COURTESY | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Members of the volleyball team practice in the Pelz gymnasium.

a great job at preparing for on campus quarantining by a providing substantial amount of space in case of an outbreak. For testing, I think they are doing the best that they can with the randomized testing, but I feel like commuters should be included in the testing

if they are coming onto campus,” said IDS major Juliet Hrynyszyn, a senior.

It will be important for all students, faculty, and athletes to continue taking the situation seriously and remain social distancing throughout the semester.

“It really comes down

to being able to continue to reinforce and maintain those mitigated behaviors,” Dupuis said. “Wear your mask, wash your hands, don’t touch your eyes, nose and mouth; the more they do that, the less likely they will catch it and minimize the risk of spreading it.”

‘Sell out the Stadium’ introduced

By Edward Rudman
Sports Writer

Homecoming is swiftly approaching, and while there may be no sporting events to attend, alumni and members of the community can still support athletic programs virtually through the ‘Sell Out the Stadium Campaign’.

“It’s a way for us to enhance funds for our athletic teams in a different way,” said Tiana Williams, assistant director of Annual Giving. “With them not being able to take on the fields and the courts this season, we wanted to make sure that we’re still being able to show some support for our teams.”

During a usual homecoming, one ticket for Jess Dow Stadium is \$10. The concept is that each increment of \$10 donated is one seat filled at the stadium since the seats aren’t actually filled. Donors have the option to choose which athletic

program they would like to donate to and support.

Donors also can contribute more than \$10 dollars, as there are suggested giving amounts to donate: \$10, \$50, \$100 and \$200. Each donation will come with a set amount of incentives. The more money donated, the more incentives people will receive.

Donors of \$50 or more will gain access to an online tailgate event during Southern’s virtual homecoming on Oct. 17 at 1 p.m. that will entail cooking demonstrations of classic tailgate foods and drinks. The demonstrators for the tailgate are the Director of Training and Digital Support Services for the Office of Higher Education Melissa Georges, Assistant Coordinator of Athletics Facilities Jay Turiano and former Southern football player (2003-2005) Maurice Edwards.

There will also be an array of special guests, prizes, and more,

according to Southern’s Athletic Website.

“We’re challenging our teams to really push this out and we have an extra incentive for them to get an additional thousand dollars to the team that brings in the most donors. So, it’s made it pretty fun this past week,” said Williams.

Since the student athletes have started promoting the fundraiser, it has taken off “very well” according to Ken Sweeten, associate director of Athletics and Athletics Communications.

“I’ve been working with the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, there are students who have been sending me videos and other media,” said Sweeten. “It’s a good collaborative effort and it’s gotten an amazing reception, not only on campus, but in the D2 community as well. There’s been a lot of people reaching out to us from places in Colorado, California saying that’s a

brilliant idea, we’re doing the same thing.”

As of Oct. 2, the fundraiser has already reached its goal of 200 donors, as an outstanding 202 donations have been made for a total of \$9,701. The fundraiser will still open for another 17 days, ending on Oct. 19 at 11:59 p.m.

On the list of deciding which program to donate to, donors can choose to donate to the General Athletics Fund, which is critical to the department’s ability to provide a first-class student athlete experience and supports all of the department areas, sports programs and student athletes, according to the Southern Stadium Sellout donation page.

“We just want to say a thank you to our donors and the VIP tailgate will be for them,” Williams said. “It’s definitely something that we appreciate with our donors. It’s great to have the support from alumni and the community.”

‘Owl or Nothing’ podcast debuts

By Mike Neville
Sports Editor

A new semester brings on a variety of new challenges, beginnings and for Jay Turiano and Chris Lynn, new opportunities, courtesy of their new podcast ‘Owl-Or-Nothing’.

“The popularity of podcasts and the prevalence and challenge of competing with other athletic departments in a unique way was the main factor,” said Ken Sweeten, Associate Director of Athletics Communications.

Sweeten said the idea for a podcast has been in the works for over a year, and that research on the equipment and topics was an essential part.

“People use their phones a lot for information,” said Sweeten. With COVID-19, more people are staying indoors, so now really made a lot of sense.”

Chemistry between hosts Jay Turiano, assistant coordinator of athletic facilities and Chris Lynn, assistant director of athletics is not a problem since the two have known each other for so long.

“Jay and I go back years and years, we’ve known each other since I coached him in basketball, so the chemistry has always been there,” said Lynn.

When asked by Sweeten to be the hosts of the podcast, they could not turn down the offer.

“It wasn’t a hard decision in finding who would be the right fit for the podcast,” said Sweeten. “Knowing them for years and how well they work just made sense.”

The podcast opens every episode with the slogan, “Owl Nation stand up” spoken by Lynn.

“Going into the podcast, me or Jay had no prior experience in this type of field,” said Lynn.

The podcasts feature athlete and alumni interviews that range from talks about their athletic careers at Southern, to pizza reviews.

Before the first episode, Sweeten said the name for the podcast was still up in the air, until a comment was made by Athletic Director Jay Moran in episode one.

“Towards the end of the podcast Moran said ‘it’s owl or nothing,’ so we decided that’s what we were going to go with,” said Sweeten.

With media being online nowadays, Sweeten said he believes the podcast will help promote athletics for years to come.

“It’s going to help promote the athletics here at Southern, put our school on the map,” said Sweeten. “The goal is to promote the product in a unique way.”

Sweeten made his podcast in episode four alongside Turiano to talk with football players Cameron Kelly and Mekhi Barnett. Sweeten said he looks forward to making more appearances on the podcast in the future.

‘Owl or Nothing’ has already made its way onto iTunes, Spotify, and Apple Podcasts, just to name a few notable media platforms for this type of sports media.

To get updates on the Owl or Nothing podcast, students and followers can find the page on Instagram @owl_or_nothing.



PHOTO COURTESY | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

A promotional poster for the Owls ‘Sell out the Stadium’ movement on the athletics website.

Ground service works through COVID-19 pandemic

By **Gabriela Cuapio**
Contributor

Southern's ground service crew begin each day by collecting trash, broken glass and even dead animals on campus.

"Our goal is to make sure that campus looks presentable and safe for the kids too," said Ground Service Supervisor, Eddie Pagan.

Because of Covid-19, the United States experienced a rise in unemployment. The Connecticut Department of Labor released a news statement on June 19 stating that there were more than

635,000 unemployment claims submitted.

Pagan and the ground service crew were among some of Southern's staff that continued working regular hours through the pandemic.

Associate Director for Custodian Grounds Jeff Payne said that the universities facilities department employs over 100 custodians, yet there are only six custodian ground employees.

"The guys are a very independent group," said Payne. "They're a tough group, they take care of business."

Pagan said the crew

begins their tasks at 7 a.m. every day and during winter season they get to campus as early as 3 a.m. for the snow removal process. Planting, leaf blowing, and cutting grass; are among the ground tasks for the grounds crew.

"If we have a work order that something needs to be fixed we'll prioritize it and take care of that first," Pagan said.

Recent storms in town have kept the crew busy, they've had to clean up fallen branches and cut down trees, according to Pagan.

For Pagan and the crew, completing tasks while

working around students can be challenging.

"While we are cutting grass or plowing snow, students sometimes walk in the path with their headphones on sometimes they can't hear us," he said. "They're our priority. They're here to learn, not worry about getting hurt or someone running them over."

Pagan has worked at Southern for 30 years and said he has adapted to changes on campus.

"We had more acreage, more workers but as you see the acreage got smaller because of new buildings, more sidewalks, so it's

harder to maintain now," he said.

Modern equipment has helped facilitate the crew's job, according to Pagan.

"We've always had the right equipment, but they have definitely become more advance now," he said. "We have a machine called 'Toro. It cuts grass but at the same time picks it up, so we also use it to pick up leaves in the Fall."

Pagan said it is important for everyone to get along.

He said that spending daily hours with the guys created a strong bond between them making teamwork more effective.

Crew member Robert

Coppola said he has been working in landscaping his whole life and enjoys working with the crew at Southern.

"That's probably the nicest thing you know, when you feel happy coming to work," Coppola said. "They're all good people."

Payne said that custodian and ground service crew are an important group to Southern.

"This is the crew that is essentially on campus on day-to-day basis," he said "They're crucial for information and feedback, basically the eyes and ears out on the field."



PHOTO | GABRIELA CUAPIO

Jonathan Londono cleans up a pile of leaves from Jennings Hall on Oct. 1.



PHOTO | GABRIELA CUAPIO

Thomas Wiczkowicz and Robert Gil cut down tree on Oct. 1.

Welles leads by example

By **Edward Rudman**
Sports Writer

Getting involved on campus is an important aspect of college, something field hockey forward Karley Welles understands very well. "I am involved with a few clubs; Counsel for Exceptional Students, Golden Key Internationals Honor Society and community service. I like to keep myself busy outside of school and field hockey," said Welles.

Welles is also a double major in collaborative education and liberal studies with a concentration in social science and English. Outside of the university, she is the assistant site director for the Parks and Recreation Department of Newington, Conn.

Welles has been described as a leader by setting an example for her teammates and coaches. She has worked hard to get to where she is.

"We have four seniors this year and she might not be a captain, but she's a leader in her own right with how she contributes to the team dynamic in a sense of keeping everyone engaged and making sure that she is responsible for always checking in, being on time and setting that good example for other teammates," said Head Coach Kelley Frassinelli.

Welles started playing field hockey in her freshman year of high school. She had played soccer throughout her childhood but decided to switch to field hockey in high school, not knowing anything about the sport.

"My sophomore year, I really started getting into it when I began playing club for the HTC field hockey club up until college," said Welles. "I played in so many tournaments,



PHOTO | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Karley Welles during a field hockey game last year.

regional and national, and I just fell in the love with the sport and the competition."

Welles chose to play field hockey at Southern due to the variety of majors offered and the proximity it has to her home. Welles said that at the end of the day, if she ends up not enjoying field hockey at Southern, she'd be at a place where she feels she would thrive academically.

On the recruiting side, Assistant Coach Ann Berry met Welles while she was in high school at one of her club matches.

"I saw her a bit on the field in high school. She then expressed interest in coming to Southern and that's when we started getting in contact with her," said Berry.

Welles teammate, forward Chloe Knight, a senior, has gotten to know her well over the years.

"We've been friends

since freshman year, and I feel like we've gotten a lot closer as time has gone on. I feel like that connection outside of field hockey helps with when we're at practice and in games. We know each other's needs on and off the field and it makes it way easier for the both of us," said Knight.

Last season, Welles played in 17 games and started all of them. She recorded a total of 5 goals and 1 assist with a shooting percentage of .179. In her career, she has scored 11 goals and 25 points.

"She has consistently grown since coming in her freshman year," Frassinelli said. "She's grown as a player and not just with her skills but with her leadership as well. Her demeanor on the field, how she interacts with her teammates, she's been a really good leader by example."

Students 'swing' against cancer to raise awareness

By **Abby Epstein**
News Editor

Take a swing against cancer and score a hole-in-one to raise money for pediatric cancer.

"So for every hole-in-one a student scores there will be a donor that will donate a certain amount of money, we are hoping for it to be \$4 per hole because child cancer gets 4% of the National Institute funding," said Regina Misercola vice president of the pediatric cancer awareness organization.

The Pediatric Cancer Awareness Organization hosted a mini golf event where for every hole-in-one a student scored, that money will be donated to the LIVFREE foundation.

"I started working with the LIVFREE foundation when I was a freshman in high school and they're having a mini golf tournament on Saturday. So, this is our mini, mini golf version of that event," said Misercola.

Many students lined up, aimed, and swung in hope of making a hole-in-one, which ended in some success. The majority of participants saw miniature golf as a fun event.

"People like fun little competitive games that's how we work as humans. It's one way to bring awareness in a fun light to bring people together," said psychology major Brian Petrucci, senior.

communication major Chris Wilson, a junior at first had trouble making a hole-in-one, but after a few attempts, he was able to score and bring back his game.

"That was a lot harder than I thought, there are 10 holes and I'm literally two feet away so I should be

able to hit it," said Wilson.

Along with mini golf being a fun activity, people also realized that it was a good way to raise money for cancer.

"I appreciate anytime someone is trying to promote awareness of any cause and I think visibility is one of the most important aspects of all things," said Petrucci. "Raise awareness that's what we need to do."

Taylor Lubin, a member of the pediatric cancer awareness organization, helped assist with the event because of the light heartening appeal.

"It sounded like a lot of fun and it's for a really good cause, so I thought why not. This weekend I will be volunteering at the event in Shelton, so I thought this was a good opportunity to meet new people," said Lubin.

According to the LIVFREE website, the foundation came about when Daniel and Katrina

Vieira's daughter Lauren, was diagnosed with Leukemia. The mission of LIVFREE is to "provide smiles to pediatric cancer patients and their family by offering an unforgettable experience."

"They sponsor trips for families, they have sent families to Disney or to baseball games and other sporting events," said Misercola.

The Vieira's have a landscaping business in Shelton and did landscaping for The Rinks at the sports center in Shelton. Which ended in creating a close relationship with the people who run the rink. This was the beginning of the miniature golf fundraiser.

It was a good partnership, you can bring kids and adults and have a fun experience while raising money for other kids to have fun experiences," said Misercola.



PHOTO | ABBY EPSTEIN

Nursing major Sam Koffman, a freshman during the Swing Against Cancer event.

Students are not in favor of Amy Coney Barrett

By Desteny Maragh
Reporter

The conservative, religious and nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court, Amy Coney Barrett, is not a fan favorite among students.

President Donald J. Trump has selected Judge Amy Coney Barrett to fill Ruth Bader Ginsburg's, the Supreme Court Justice and co-founder

of the Women's Rights, now vacant seat on the Supreme Court.

"Any women who thinks men are still the head of the household and should be treated as royalty, is no women I want in a position of power," said philosophy major Kiana Shane, a junior.

Shane said in today's world, women as a whole are on the rise and are making strides. "We just

lost Ruth," said Shane. "Her dying wish was to have her successor named by the next president, and we all know why."

Project died at age 87 last month, due to complications of metastatic pancreas cancer less than seven weeks before the presidential election.

"Donald Trump selfishly would pick a candidate despite Ruth's wishes, and one whose ideology is

totally opposite of Ruth's," said Shane.

Shane said she hopes Barrett's personal beliefs will not dictate how she makes laws, but she feels it might.

"I'm not mad at her values, everyone can't have the same morals, but she is not at all a good fit for the Supreme Court," said Shane. "Her personal beliefs will hinder the evolution of women's rights."

Ginsburg was a pioneer for gender equality throughout her distinguished career.

She once said, "women's rights are an essential part of the overall human rights agenda, trained on the equal dignity and ability to live in freedom all people should enjoy."

Some students agree with Bader's rhetoric compared to Barretts.

"She is not a suitable candidate for the role because she does check uplift basic law practices," said nursing major Hillary Griggs, a sophomore.

"Stare decisis" is the policy of courts to abide by or adhere to principles proven from decisions in earlier classes.

Meaning, cases like Roe v. Wade should set a precedence in how the

Court system deliberates.

"She literally signed a letter in 2006 against that case which made the right to abortion legal. She should never be able to sit on the Supreme Court," said Griggs.

Barrett's letter said, "It is time to put an end to the barbaric legacy of Roe v. Wade and restore laws that protect the lives of unborn children."

At Trump's nominee reveal, he quoted Barrett saying "Being a judge takes courage. You are not there to decide cases as you may prefer. You are there to do your duty and to follow the law wherever it may take you."

Some students remain skeptical that Barrett will follow the law.

"I don't think she should serve on the Supreme Court because she doesn't care about women's rights," said philosophy major Julie Holub, a senior.

Holub said she feels that Barrett cannot be trusted.

"How can the president be allowed to place this nominee, and have her be pushed through just, but when Obama tried to appoint a new justice before leaving office they said it was improper because his term was

ending," said Holub.

"I am not focused on the betterment of myself, but for everyone in America. So as a liberal, I am concerned how Amy might rule on abortion and the Affordable Care Act because that affects a large demographic," said Holub.

While some students are worried about Barrett's views on women's rights, one is more worried about her views on Stare decisis and how it can affect Massachusetts v. the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The 2007 case proved that greenhouse gases were pollutants under the Clean Air Act, serving as the basis for all the climate policy efforts of the Obama administration.

The case also affirmed that states had the right to go to court to challenge the federal government's failure to act on climate.

"On a scale, we are at one of the worst global climate evolutions ever," said biology major, La-Jean Henry, a sophomore. "California is burning down and if Amy is appointed, she has the power to eliminate basic rights for people to voice their climate concerns."



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | BERNADOTTE SUFKA

Amy Coney Barrett seen on a phone screen accepting Supreme Court nomination.

'Let's Make a Deal' game held at Lyman Center

By Donovan Wilson
Reporter

Keeping students involved in fun events is hard to do during COVID-19, but Student Involvement has found a way to continue the fun.

On Monday, Sept. 28, Student Involvement put a rendition of the famous game show "Let's Make a Deal." Which they called "the biggest event of the semester," on an event for the student body.

The event was based on the popular game show called "Let's Make a Deal" hosted by Wayne Brady, and began airing back in December of 1963.

This year it was held with all the new social distancing guidelines in place. In the Lyman Center, each row of seats only had three available chairs and the overall student capacity was a maximum of 200 with about 120 attending.

According to the CDC website under Event Planning, event organizers should "block off rows or sections of seating in order to space people at least 6 feet apart."

Everyone was required to wear masks and had to RSVP online prior to the event to make sure the event did not go over capacity.

"Pick bin 1, bin 2 or this shiny envelope," said Student Involvement Associate Director Eric Lacharity, while hosting the game.

The prizes were all hidden and can vary from being in a blue bin, an envelope, mailbox, or behind the closed curtain

on the stage.

There were a total of 6 rounds held. Each round began with pulling students from the audience in a variety of different ways.

The methods for grabbing students ranged from calling out their names, calling out their student ID numbers or playing a small game between two students who each had something in common to see who would come up on stage and play.

"I'm not going to be mean today," said nursing major Marissa Howard, a freshman.

Once the students were on the stage, the game would begin.

The students would then stand behind the container they wanted to open and prizes.

LaCharity would tempt them to switch with each other and play around with them to make the game more interesting and build up audience involvement.

Within the various containers, or behind the curtain, was either a great prize or a "Zonk," a fake prize. The prizes given away that night consisted of cameras, speakers, headphones, TV's, a box full of gift cards and a vinyl record player.

The "Zonks" given away that night consisted of fake money, chains, Coca Cola, a bird house, a plastic skeleton foot, hand sanitizer and old mints.

"It's guaranteed money," said Student Involvement Graduate Intern Alandre Alexis.

A large component of the show were the Target

gift cards. Each card were used at a time to tempt the players to give up their current position on the stage before even knowing what was in the container, up to \$80 to \$10 and multiple ones at one time, and at times the alternative prize could be a "Zonk."

The remaining gift cards were given to audience members through various games and giveaways. Only one student the whole night folded and took the gift cards instead of a shot at a bigger prize.

Each round featured different components and variations of games.

Round one was traditional, round two involved the use of ping pong balls and trivia questions, round three involved a game revolving around clothing brands, round four consisted of four prizes, round five involved a coin flip and round six went back to trivia but with questions that went along to the contestants strengths.

In between the formal rounds were smaller giveaways for the less fortunate crowd members.

Lacharity and Alexis would play similar games with the audience to giveaway masks and t-shirts and later on in the game, the rest of the leftover gift cards to participants in the crowd.

The shirts that were won during the game show event were exchangeable for different sizes in the student involvement office the next day following the event.



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

Tracy Nham, sophomore, and Sebastian Cordero, sophomore, with their prizes.



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

Let's Make a Deal game show host, Eric LaCharity on the stage.

Theatre department addresses racism

By Desteny Maragh
Reporter

The Department of Theatre put out a statement titled “Our Commitment to Racial Equality” where they voiced their dedication to addressing the systemic racism.

The letter states “as a department, we are dedicating ourselves to strengthening our efforts to fight racism and anti-Blackness while engaging in open, honest, and equitable conversations with our community.”

Theater Department Chair Michael Skinner is working to reflect that mission in his program’s curriculum and performances.

Two years ago, they received a call to action from people of color in the theatre department who felt the program needed a revision to better its inclusivity.

Skinner’s response to the student’s call to action was “you’re absolutely right.”

He said he “embraced” their feelings and said, “how can we start to fix these things?” He also

said the world of theatre is typically controlled by white, cisgender men and has been that way since its inception. He spoke about how he had to first acknowledge the privilege before dismantling it.

“In our courses and productions in particular, it’s this Eurocentric white history, that was how I was taught,” said Skinner. “The question is what can we do to change it.”

He said this revision started two years ago, but the pandemic has given them more time to really focus and analyze the changes needed.

“By default, we had been teaching the white supremacist history, because that’s all we knew,” said Skinner.

“Now we realize that’s not good enough, that’s not right,” said Skinner. “We are now starting to incorporate more works of people of color. We’re trying to do more shows that actually represent the student body.”

The statement put out by the department reads “in the United States the theatre industry has a long pervasive history of racist, non-inclusive, and

inequitable practices and policies that suffuse every aspect of our profession.”

Theater major Ryleigh Rivas, a junior, said this revision was “definitely needed.”

He said he would like to see “more diversity in the program and people of color highlighted more on stage.”

Rivas is of Latin decent and said last year, there was a production centered around an African-American character, but out of the 15-member cast, only three identified as people of color.

Rivas said he is happy that “follow-through is actually happening, and change is occurring.”

According to the statement by the theatre department, their plan is to “renounce past industry practices of whitewashed casting and season selection as well as the lack of properly diverse representation in our curricula.”

“I’m not waiting, we need to put an ‘anti-racism in the art’s course in our curriculum. I would like to get this to be done by next fall,”

said Skinner. “Last year, we didn’t have a single person of color working in our department, it’s important for our students to see that.”

The statement put out by the department included a list of action items that the department is looking to help put in motion.

Some actions are establishing new production protocols concerning scheduling, that will enhance a better work-life balance and promote inclusivity of our working student body and creating two scholarships for black, indigenous, and people of color.

The next production which displays this push of equality is “Sweat,” a play that will be virtually put on by the theater department.

“Sweat” was written by the first woman to have won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama twice, Lynn Nottage.

The department’s process for casting plays will be done with an “increased vigilance regarding color-consciousness so that

university productions accurately reflect the broader student community,” according to the statement put out by the Theatre Department.

This is one of the

steps being taken by the department in hopes of structuring a newer and more inclusive curriculum and overall atmosphere throughout the entire university.

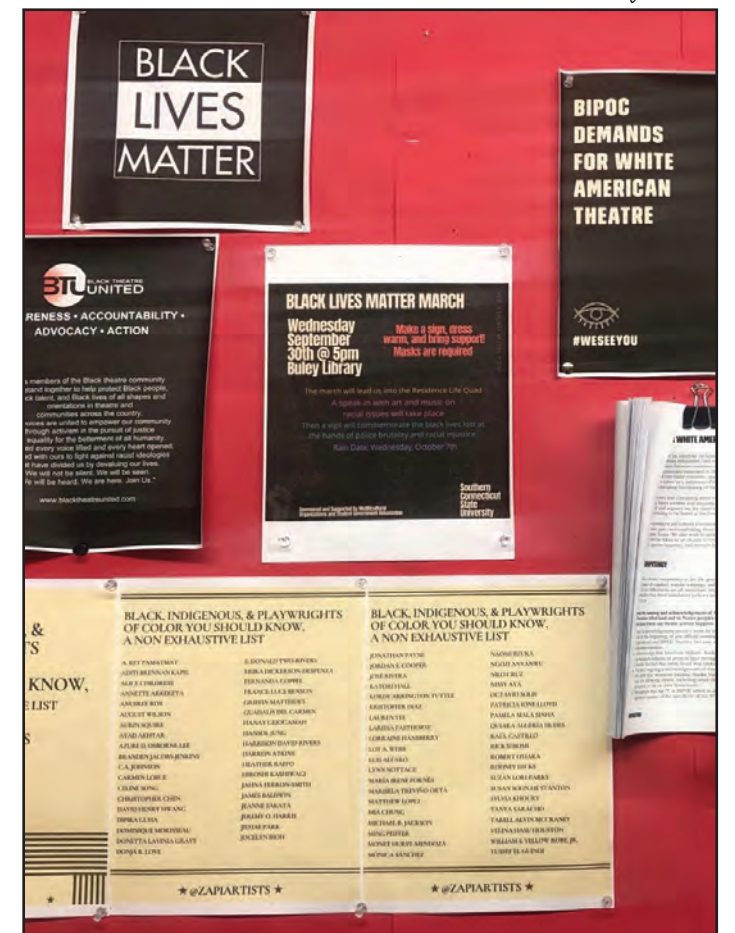


PHOTO | DESTENY MARAGH

Lyman theatre department board for racial equality.

Phantoms sing in new Netflix show

By Sofia Rositani
Arts & Entertainment Editor

“Julie and the Phantoms” is a show that came out on Netflix two weeks ago but is still trending on social media apps like TikTok.

I had no idea what this show was until I was scrolling through TikTok and saw it all over the ‘For You’ page. I had no intention of watching it at first until I saw that Kenny Ortega directed the show.

Ortega directed Disney Channel films that were mostly watched by those born in the 90s and early 2000s, like Hocus Pocus, High School Musical, Newsies, and Descendants. So it was no wonder that it was trending online by people born in the early 2000s rather than who it was originally made for: pre-teens. Ortega was also Michael Jackson’s choreographer and directed Jackson’s final film, “This is It.”

“Julie and the Phantoms” begins with a 90s rock band, Sunset Curve, who died from a bad hot dog right before they perform the “biggest gig of their life,” according to Luke, played by Charlie Gillespie. Luke is one of the main characters of the show who happens to be a ghost. There are five ghosts in the show, one of which is considered the villain, named Caleb Covington, played by Cheyenne Jackson.

Because Ortega directed the show, many familiar faces such as Jackson, who played Hades in “Descendants 3,” and Booboo Stewart who played Jay, Jafar’s son in the “Descendants” films, were in the show.

Due to the director being Ortega, there was music and choreography included in the show. The opening scene itself reminds me of a music video, with the song “Now or Never” sounding like

90s rock. While the show is considered a pre-teen show, the buzz comes from college students, with the audience mostly being girls. The three ghosts in the show are quite handsome with Luke, Reggie (Jeremy Shada) and Alex, (Owen Joyner), being a dream team in ripped jeans that girls are going crazy over.

“Julie and the Phantoms” is a show that goes into heartfelt moments that can make a person cry. Such as the song “Unsaid Emily,” about Luke’s mother that he never got to sing to her before he died. The show can be funny, with Reggie being the comedic relief of the show. It is also very diverse, as Alex is gay and likes Stewart’s character, Willie. It is unknown what will happen next season with the romantic interests of the show. The show also features many characters of color, as the main character Julie is mixed

and her aunt and dad being Hispanic.

On top of diversity being shown, it also shows straight male affection.

“That’s what makes Netflix’s “Julie and the Phantoms” stand out, because it shows, without fanfare, an example of two straight men who are not only comfortable with showing affection to each other but openly embrace it,” according to an article from Den of Geek. “It also manages to take a scene that would normally be used as a joke at the expense of male affection and turns it completely on its head in a way that’s rarely been seen before.”

Netflix has yet to announce if there will be season two, but we do know that many people, especially on TikTok, will be disappointed if there is not one.

There are petitions online that people have signed to get a new season and a tour with the band

Students react to Kardashians ending

By Ellis McGinley
Copy Editor

After 14 years, hit reality show “Keeping Up With the Kardashians” 20th season will be its last. The news was announced in a series of joint Instagram posts by figures at the center of the family, including Kris Jenner, Kim Kardashian-West, Khloe Kardashian, Kourtney Kardashian and Kylie Jenner.

According to CNN, the show premiered in 2007 and rapidly built an empire. It has since spawned two mobile games, “Kim Kardashian: Hollywood” and “Kendall & Kylie,” beauty brands, fashion lines and 13 spin-off shows. Cumulatively, the five sisters have over 550 million followers on Instagram alone.

The family has become a pop culture staple, whether loved or hated—although some students have not paid much attention to them.

“I just don’t like them,” said art education major Sara Larreau, a freshman. “I don’t know too much. I just get bad vibes from them all the time.”

Special Education Major Gina Barron, a freshman, said “I think they’re only famous ‘cause of Kim Kardashian. There was like, a whole show, and then they were like ‘let’s do makeup.’”

The Kardashians have put out two decades’ worth of content; they have been on television for as long as many college students have been alive, if not longer. BuzzFeed News reported that their ratings have been slipping since the 15th season, reaching lows of approximately 809,000 viewers; nothing compared

to their peak of two million.

“I didn’t even know it was ending,” said graphic design major Kyra Catubig, a senior. “I feel like they have so many spin-offs. Sometimes I forget the show is still going on.”

In an oft-quoted 2011 episode of the show, Kourtney Kardashian reminds her sister Kim “there’s people that are dying,” as the latter flounders in a flawlessly blue pool, distressed over losing a diamond earring. Years before, Kim was criticized by her mother, Kris Jenner, for taking selfies while another sister was going to prison. All of these scenes have also been used by people on Tiktok due to the popularity of the show and people in it. The Kardashians have also been a part of events such as the Met Gala, an event for celebrities to wear designer clothing for the night, an example from the met Gala would be Kim Kardashians “wet look” at the 2019 Met Gala. This look also brought controversy for the Kardashians with her small waist size due to the corset she was wearing.

“They are a bunch of exploitative capitalists,” said theater major Nick Moran, sophomore,

The Kardashians have also endured intense outside criticism throughout their time in the spotlight. They have created controversy in scandals like Kylie Jenner confessing to lip fillers, alleged cultural appropriation in their choice of hairstyle and Kim Kardashian’s 72-day marriage to athlete Kris Humphries.

Undeclared Rain Iaccarino, a freshman, puts it plainly: “They’re really annoying.”

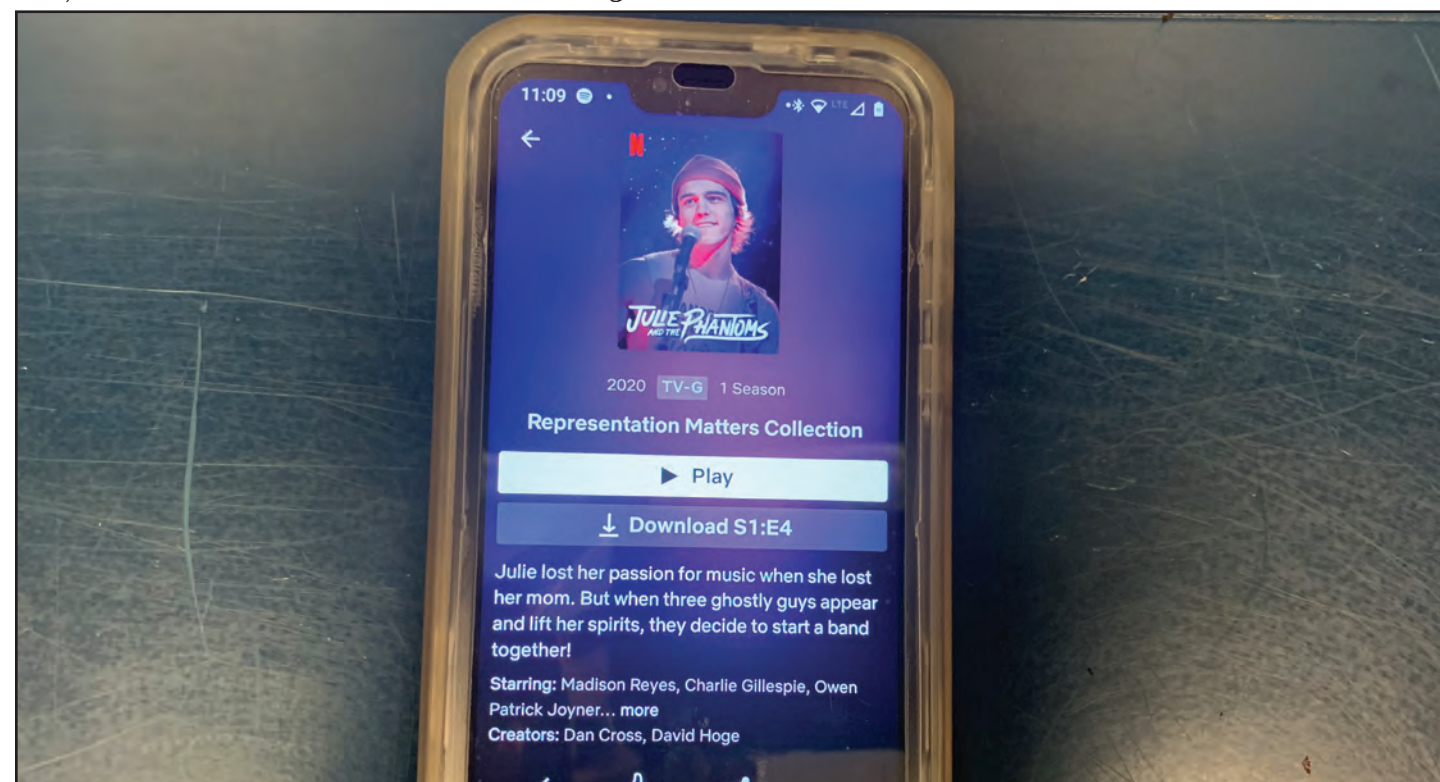


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Julie and The Phantoms on Netflix, image shows Luke rather than Julie and explains what the show is about.