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Homecoming celebrated virtually A mix of online and on-ground events keep the yearly tradition alive

By Jessica Guerrucci
Editor-in-Chief

The crowded football game, the pre-game tailgate, parade and copious amounts of free food were all put on hold this year as the annual tradition of homecoming switched from in-person to a virtual format due to COVID-19.

"For a while we weren't even sure if we were going to do anything," said Eric LaCharity, assistant director of Student Involvement. "It's really hard to replace homecoming because it's really about people coming back to campus and just celebrating being together and celebrating our university."

When they decided to move forward with the event, LaCharity said Student Affairs and alumni decided to work together to do a mix of virtual and on-ground events.

The week consisted of virtual trivia, bingo, game shows and a scavenger

hunt, events that LaCharity said could easily appeal to wide range of people.

"We've been really pleased with the outcome and the attendance from our students and the alumni," LaCharity said.

Office of Student Involvement Graduate Intern Chelsey Cerrato said since the university usually "goes big" for homecoming, they wanted to bring out the best they could for both the students and alumni.

"What we did keep is everyone doing banners that the clubs and organizations and residence halls and INQ classes can do," Cerrato said, "but instead of in-person we made it virtually."

With midterms around the corner, Cerrato said it was important for students to be able to relax and have fun.

Though all the events were virtual, LaCharity said 200 people attended bingo, 80 for trivia, and 40 for the scavenger hunt.

An on-campus treasure

hunt was also held. Students searched for treasure chests hidden throughout the campus for prizes.

It appeared to help with the stress because when there is incentive to win money or prizes, LaCharity said students did not seem to mind running around campus at 8:30 a.m.

"Students were going crazy about it," Cerrato said. "Our Instagram was blowing up."

Another on-ground event that was held was a dual drive-in movie on Oct. 18, where students could park in their cars and choose between "Remember The Titans" or "Ferris Bueller's Day Off."

He said there is a core group of about 30 students who attended almost every event they put on, so it shows that students who want to be involved in the events are doing so.

English major Lupita Barajas, a senior, said she tried to participate in the treasure hunt but couldn't



PHOTO | JASON EDWARDS

People watching a movie in the Brownell parking lot on Oct. 18.

find anything. Her sister was able to win a her Nintendo Switch.

Even though homecoming was being done virtual, Barajas said it was a good alternative and helped build a sense of community.

"It nice to see so many people really getting involved in [the treasure hunt]," she said. "I feel like I haven't been able to see

that too much on campus this semester just because so many people are either at home because they have nothing on campus, or I just don't see them."

Other students didn't participate in the events, such as psychology major Alyssa Mondia, a sophomore, simply because of the virtual nature of the events.

She said in-person

homecoming brings people together more, but she understands that isn't possible at this time.

"I think it's what we can do for now," Mondia said. "I think it will work if there is attendance, if people actually show up, but I think everyone is definitely going to miss in-person homecoming."

See Virtual Page 2

Masters program approved

By Jose Vega
Contributor

For several years, a new master's program in applied behavior analysis has been underway. Now that it has been approved by the Board of Regents at the university will be starting fall 2021.

Department of Special Education Meghan Brahm said the ABA coursework will help to prepare students to work in all the different fields that will require the skills learned throughout the program.

"Area of focus or expertise can be tailored based on the student's clinical experience," said Brahm. "You will regularly find behavior analysts working in fields such as sports/health and fitness, prevention and intervention in child maltreatment, behavioral gerontology, organizational

behavior management, sustainability, substance abuse disorders, brain injury rehab, animal behavior, et cetera."

College of Education Dean Stephen Hegedus was one of two who presented the program to the BOR, noting that there is a great need for Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) licensed personnel and consultants in Connecticut and across the United States.

The program's mission is to prepare students to use the applied skills learned in the educational and/or therapeutic environments with individuals that may or may not have disabilities. It will also prepare them to pass the BCBA exam and apply to become a licensed Behavior Analyst in the State of Connecticut.

The field of behavior analysts has grown considerably in popularity. According to the U.S.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were only 400 certified professionals in 2000, 10,000 in 2012, and 40,000 in 2020.

Bilingual elementary education major Alexis Woods, an undergraduate, said at first glance, the program seems to have a lot of versatility and gives the chance to work towards helping students understand the world around them.

"I think it's important we think of ways to increase their knowledge and understanding," said Woods. "This new program will be a great way to benefit those who are special education majors, psychologists, etc. to further enhance their knowledge and provide better improved students experiences in and out of school."

The approved program will align with the university's mission of serving the public good

and creating professionals who can affect change in their communities and help different institutions reach their goals.

According to the Board of Regents agenda, "Southern's commitment to liberal arts and professional disciplines means an applied science of learning, used to support a variety of individuals, is an excellent fit."

Elementary education major Olivia Zembruski, junior, expressed her interest in the program, saying it will help her and others like her better understand the behaviors of children who might be facing mental and physical obstacles with their education.

"I want to work with critically ill children in a hospital education setting," said Zembruski. "I can see that doing my Master's in that would help me understand and be able to help a lot of the social/emotional pieces of long stays in the hospital, as well as help the children adjust to life outside those walls."

Brahm said with interest primarily being shown by private companies, she is enthusiastic about spreading the news of a new masters program and said they are in the process of expanding into undergraduate studies in the future.

"We hope to start talking to students at SCSU about the MS opportunity," said Brahm. "We are also in the process of creating an undergraduate ABA option for students at SCSU and hope that will be available within the next few school years."



PHOTO | NEWS.SOUTHERNCT.COM

Dean of the School of Business, Ellen Durnin.

Durnin retiring this school year

By Bernadotte Sufka
Features & Opinions Editor

Ellen Durnin, Dean of the School of Business, has officially announced her retirement at the end of the 2020 academic year.

"I've been very proud to be the Dean of the School of Business for the past 10 years," said Durnin. "I think we have accomplished some amazing things. But also, it's time for me to step away and for new person to come in and take them to the next level."

Her contribution to the university has not gone unnoticed. She has aided students within all the programs the school of business has to offer.

One of them included the "SCSU School of Businesswomen's Leadership Program," where female students in the

School of Business can apply and be granted with career-focused workshops with speakers and experts to enhance their different career options.

"I don't know her personally, but Dr. Durnin gave good advice at the program," said marketing major, Bridget Wilkinson, a senior. "She was really nice and informative. She talked about how to negotiate one's salary and was a very good speaker at the program. She has so much experience."

Durnin may be retiring soon, but she said that did not stop her from going out and accomplishing more. The School of Business building will be expanded into a larger one and she said the works for it have already went underway and will soon be built.

See Durnin Page 2



PHOTO | JOSE VEGA

Department of Special Education in Davis, which is part of the new program.

Changes made to dining 'to-go' system

By Donovan Wilson
Reporter

Trial and error is a major component of the current COVID-19 landscape and the to-go system at Connecticut Hall is going through the same process.

"Students were taking anywhere between six and seven containers at a time," said Dining Services General Manager Anthony Deluca.

At the beginning of the semester, the to-go containers were left where the plates used to be, allowing students to take as many as they wanted.

This resulted in students taking several containers at a time, sometimes for friends who didn't have any dining plans.

Students would also ask for a container, receive one, and then remain upstairs longer to eat more food.

The new procedure, rather, will be that the student will receive two coupons that allow them one container at two different food stations.

Students currently receive one white slip, redeemable for a small container, and one blue slip, redeemable for a large

container. Students are also given a travel cup to fill with the drink of their choice. Drinks will be the only thing students have to serve themselves.

"We have to offer the to-go service. It is partially in place the way it is for social distancing purposes," said marketing manager Elizabeth Floyd.

The only other major difference between this and the usual procedure is that there is no 15 minute restriction in place for how long a student can be upstairs.

The disconnect comes from the school recently switching over from their previous company, Chartwells, to Sodexo, who is finding their footing while also adapting to the new COVID-19 lifestyle.

One of the major differences this year is that the Conn. Hall dine-in capacity is lower than in previous years. Not allowing dine-in and take out at the same time has allowed more capacity for students to dine-in. The more people taking up seats that don't need to, would be counterproductive to the reasons why the system is in place.

Another upcoming

system is the online food app for the campus called Bite U. The app is available but not yet fully functional. Once it is, students will be able to view menus online, filter the options to their favorite foods and load in their Hoot Loot card to access their points and meal plans from their dorm. There is also the option to load in a credit or debit card.

Many of these options are available to limit the amount of touching that is involved in the food purchasing process and hopefully will cut down the exchange of money. These guidelines also exist at other schools Sodexo works for.

The app will be able to geo-locate, letting the university know where the customers are located and automatically pull up all of the campus dining options. The app also identifies what options are vegan, gluten free or tailored to religious beliefs, to make it easier for students to decide.

All the nutritional data was presented within the app.

"We want to make this part of campus life as accessible for students as possible," said Deluca.



PHOTO | DONOVAN WILSON

Slips students receive to take out food at Connecticut Hall.



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

A picture of Connecticut Hall where students go to eat meals.

Durnin

Continued from Page 1

"We have completed the design phase and we are about to go into the construction phase," said Durnin.

She said they are talking about a groundbreaking in late March or early April. It will be a new 60,000 square foot building on the corner of Farnham and Wintergreen. It will be the first net zero building that the state of Connecticut builds.

"What that means is we will produce our own energy; we will produce more energy than we consume. This is really exciting, particularly since we have the program in public utilities management. It's going to be great to be in a building that really exemplifies what we're teaching and what we believe," Durnin said.

The building itself has the fewest classrooms on campus. With this new project set to date, it will create a better setting for

students under these business majors.

"She will be leaving, and we will all be missing her so much. She has been a wonderful contribution to the School of Business," said Professor of Marketing Young Kyu Kim.

"She hired me. She was one of the people I met when I applied for this position three years ago. I cannot forget the phone call from Dr. Durnin that they were going to hire me. It's a good memory of her," said Kim.

As her retirement approaches, Durnin said she will not forget her time at the university. Her plans after are to spend more time with her family and do some fun things she has not had time to do.

"I'd like to stay connected with Southern and the School of Business," Durnin said. "I would like to help them as much as I can on any of the initiatives that they have. I'd love to work with the new Dean when he or she arrives to help them transition."



PHOTO | NEWS.SOUTHERNCT.COM

Durnin at the Leadership Awards Luncheon in 2019.

SGA reflects on registration

By Desteny Maragh
Reporter

At this past Student Government Association weekly body meeting, the new class of 2024 representatives were sworn in.

SGA President Sarah Gossman lead the meeting and told each new representative to hold up their right hand while they repeated after her.

The new SGA representatives at large include Zainab Seyal, Andrenia Barajas, Kyle Mashia-Thaxton and Michelle Morales.

For the class of 2024, the president is Britny Gildersleeve, Vice president will be Joshua Saliva and treasurer will be Daphne Ciarcia.

Each representative spoke simultaneously: "I hereby solemnly offer to fill strictly and consciously the duties that have been bestowed upon me by the undergrad student body of Southern Connecticut State University, in accordance with Student Government; with the respect for student rights."

New representatives said they ran for a variety of reasons; to give a voice to low-income first-generation students; or to represent persons of

color and the Muslim community.

After the swearing-in, the meeting's focus shifted to updates from each representative and what they have been doing to meet goals and make a difference for students.

While reflecting on last week's meeting on registration with the university's president, Gossman said "we're kind of at the point where we know the policy is not going to change and although that is very frustrating to hear that we didn't get what we wanted, I want us to recognize that we made tremendous strides."

Last week during the SGA meeting, President Joe Bertolino made comments pertaining the new registration prioritization issue.

"We were looking for ways to incentivize our resident students. I don't think Julie and I anticipated the response that was received. There's lessons [we're] learning and there were mistakes made," he said.

Julie Edstrom, vice president of Enrollment Management, said they tried to make changes with students in mind.

"We tried to adjust registration based on the recommendations we heard. We want to make

sure seniors get the classes they need, we made sure all seniors have first priority as they normally do," she said. "Somebody loses in whatever kind of registration priority scenario we put together."

SGA spoke this week, on just how much their voices matter and how important it is that they continue to be involved in major decisions affecting the student body as a whole.

"I think it's important to note that if SGA completely did not step in, there would be definite consequences," said Gossman.

For example, if SGA failed to bring awareness to some flaws in the registration change, there would be a first-year freshman on-campus student who would have registration privilege over a commuting junior.

"I think where student government needs to act now, is advocating the waitlist," said Gossman.

Last week, Gossman brought up a registration solution of using the waitlist feature already there to calculate how many students need certain classes, as a tool for adding needed sections.

For example, if PHY 100 had 100 students who are registering and

there's only 2 sections open. Instead of telling 40 students they are on a waitlist, they should use the data from the list to offer more classes.

Bertolino and Edstrom apologized and took accountability for their lack of student involvement in the registration and also offered to speak with SGA directly regarding any future projects.

"It's our job to ensure students are getting the classes they need because this registration problem brought a lot of ongoing issues that the university has and the registration issue kind of exposed underlying issues," said Gossman. "What they did was unacceptable, but it is our responsibility to make sure that doesn't happen again."

Last week, Bertolino said he can use students' help in two ways: deciding if more on-ground classes are needed and what classes students need.

SGA said they will be working to ensure the needs of everyone are met.

Soon, SGA representatives said they will also be advocating for the student experience to be the best that it can.

"Something we are pushing for will be more on-ground classes to faculty," said Gossman.

Virtual

Continued from Page 1

He said a virtual event is better than nothing at all, but still the deterrent is simply the online format since students are already sitting in front of screens for most of the day.

"This is just my perspective, but the concept of just going home to be on another screen, like you watch TV, play your video games, whatever you do, so with that mentality, with that mindset, and I'm not saying people won't be interested. I'm sure they still will, but everything's online,"

Ramos said.

While the majority of the events were virtual, LaCharity said they are still trying to imagine new ways for on-ground experiences with events like "Let's Make a Deal" or a "Kick back in the quad" since there are still residential students looking for things to do.

There are limitations to on-ground events however. With COVID-19, the 'Let's Make a Deal' event was limited to 200 people, but LaCharity said the event still had a good turnout.

As the weather gets colder, LaCharity said on-ground events will be more limited because of

the limits set on indoor spaces. The ballroom in the student center and the Lyman Center can hold larger events, but smaller spaces will limit what kind of on-ground events can be held.

While they try to encourage residential students to get out of their dorms, LaCharity said the school acknowledges that students are paying activity fees even if they aren't on campus, therefore the events were mostly centered on being virtually to ensure they were accessible.

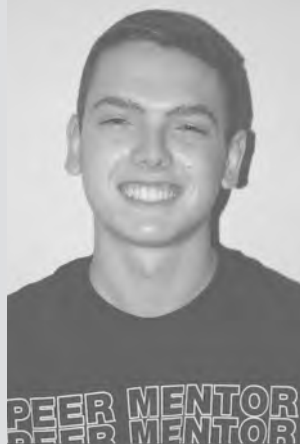
Students may miss the energy and spirit that an on-ground homecoming brings, LaCharity said

with COVID-19, but this was the best they could do while still taking into consideration gathering limits, and the fact that there could be no sports aspect as part of the celebration.

With it being a university tradition, the events still went on.

"We felt like it had to happen," LaCharity said. "We've seen so many universities in Connecticut and across the country just take a step back and not do homecoming activities, so we felt really good about being one of the few who tried to move forward and do it and I think we did it pretty well."

Fall semester is feeling like a ticking time bomb



By Sam Tapper
Managing Editor

These are the opinions
of The Southern News
Editorial Staff

Midterm exams are happening and midterm grades are slowly being filed, signifying that we are roughly halfway through a semester like no other. Each day feels like its own little victory, but the thought that everything could drastically change in an instant still looms over in people's minds.

To some of us, these past eight weeks have felt like eight years, and it has felt like lifetimes since there was that feeling of life "as we knew it." The reality: this is all developing at lightspeed, and the world is a different place now even from when we started school in August.

In recent weeks and days, the U.S. has surpassed eight million positive COVID-19 cases. For reference, the country's population, (according to the U.S. Census Bureau) is roughly 330 million. That means that roughly one out of every 41 people have tested positive.

Even the President of the United States, after months of downplaying the virus' severity, tested positive. For reference, a sitting president contracting a deadly disease is, in fact, a national emergency, regardless of whether President Trump wants to admit to that.

It is an unprecedented

event. I think there has only been one other case around the year in the 1800s.

Case-in-point: the world is still figuratively (and in some cases, literally) burning while we are proceeding with our semester. Indeed, this can be chalked up as a positive, as despite what is happening around us, we are still able to function and go about our duties - a testament to the commendable efforts the administration went through to get us back here.

In contrast: as a university, it feels more as though it will not be at this point, but when? Students and faculty have all, from

what I have witnessed, been cooperative when it comes to new campus guidelines, but we can only control so much. Even with the mask wearing and all the plexiglass separation, this virus does not take pity on those who work to prevent it.

As a university, we have done a tremendous job so far, and that is a fact. Not only are we still on-campus after eight weeks, but there have been no legitimate signs of an outbreak; no temporary flex to online-learning or nothing.

However, every time I see the COVID-19 Dashboard email come into my inbox from Patrick Dilger, I am

petrified. After viewing each dashboard so far, I have been relieved every time, but all it takes is one spike to throw our semester on a roller coaster.

Am I personally scared for my health? Not necessarily, no. While I certainly do not want the virus, my fears mainly lie with my 87-year-old grandmother and my parents, both over 50.

My fears lie with those students who cannot complete a semester with online learning. My fears lie in many places, and yours should too. This is serious business.

So please, continue to follow the regulations.

Digital homecoming brings a new atmosphere

By Donovan Wilson
Reporter

For the first time, the campus held their first ever digital-only homecoming from Oct. 12 to 17 and it felt somewhat like a desperate and awkward attempt at creating a continued sense of normalcy.

Homecoming is obviously usually one of the biggest, if not the biggest, event on campus during the fall semester. However, with COVID-19 and its regulations now in place, things had to

change for it to still be possible. With that being said, the events were either online or extremely small.

There was very little in the festivities that felt different from the events you would see on a usual week in normal times. They were seemingly fun events but they were all pretty much in the vain of giving away prizes to students through an activity or some sort of digital demonstration, activity or conversation.

It just all felt like unrelated events all under the same branding for

no reason other than not being able to have a typical homecoming.

Homecoming usually revolves around football as it is a football centric event. As I'm sure you are aware, football and sports in general aren't exactly happening at the moment.

Still, having homecoming while not having football seems like going to the reception for a cancelled wedding - what are we actually celebrating here?

The sentiment behind the festivities is pretty obvious to me. The higher-ups in the college

are obviously trying to continue giving students a sense of normalcy and decided this was the best way to do it. Homecoming is a tradition and having something, even if it is virtual, is better than nothing.

However, if you're a kid and your mom took away your toy train but gave you a toy plane and called it a toy train, would you be satisfied? Of course not. You know that a plane is not a train.

With all that said, it is a very sweet sentiment and sort of thoughtful way from the school as

they are trying to make students feel like they're still connected to campus despite the distance. The social distancing makes sense, but it felt as if there should have been some other event in place of homecoming that was at the same time but didn't have the same name.

Calling it homecoming creates an initial hype around it, but due to it being rather a run of the mill, when compared to the usual homecoming activities makes the hype fizzle out very fast. If you bill it differently, you have the potential

to draw up better student involvement and excitement.

In the end, homecoming was a success, regardless of how you feel about it personally, because it kept our students happy and most importantly safe.

The fundamentals and logistics could definitely have been better sorted out and the event itself could have been a lot better but the fact that it happened was nice within itself. COVID-19 is hard, to say the least, but we will get through it together and have fun doing so.

Registration process should not have changed

By Sofia Rositani
Arts & Entertainment Editor

This year, registration is already looking different. Instead of following the year the students are in, it will also differ if you are a resident or commuter. As much as this idea seems good, it causes issues for students including myself.

Registration will have students who are residents get first pick on in-person or hybrid courses, two hours before commuters can. Of course, commuters will get first pick at online only courses also. Seniors have priority overall,

which is something that has not changed.

This will be difficult for students because as a resident, some of the classes I may need to take will be online only, and it may be the same for commuter students who can only take a certain class in-person.

"Those students found themselves in a financial contract so looking ahead to spring registration, we wanted to be sure that those students had some priority," said Edstrom, according to an article by the Southern News.

This means that because I spent more money as a resident, I get to pick classes earlier.

I do not think that it is very fair to commuter students who pay just as much to get an education at this university. I understand that the university is in debt and that we, as residents, are helping, but that does not mean we should get priority over what classes we can take.

The good thing about this happening is that Banner Web will not crash like it usually does during registration day, which will definitely help with the anxiety of getting the classes I want.

"The number of students who live on campus by year included 13 graduate students,

110 seniors with 90 or more credits, 241 juniors with 60 to 89.5 credits, 387 sophomores with 30 to 59.5 credits, and 698 freshmen with 0 to 29.5 credits. These students will be getting priority over commuters on registration day," said Robert Demezzo, according to an article about registration.

Due to such a small number of residential students this semester, it will not help students who absolutely need a certain online course because then they will have to go on the website during the commuter's turn and try to get the course they want, which

can ultimately crash the site and in turn ruin the commuters' chances of getting a class they want.

I feel bad for the freshmen because it is already hard enough to get classes they want as it is, but with this added portion, it will only make it way more difficult for them, especially if the university has more online courses than in-person classes.

This will also be the first time they have picked their own courses, which means their anxiety will be high because they would want the classes they had decided with their INQ professor. As a Peer

Mentor, some of my students are worried about what will happen since half are in-person and the other half are at home doing class virtually and since this is such a new way of doing registration, I cannot offer them a lot of my knowledge on what will happen when they do register.

Students who pay to get their education at Southern should get to pick their courses with students in the same year at the same time rather than at different times because they could not or would not pay extra fees to stay on campus. It only makes sense this way.

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Advisers: Cindy Simoneau
Frank Harris III

Contact information:

Email: scsu.southernct.news@gmail.com

Newsroom Phone: 203-392-6928

Fax: 203-392-6927

Mailing Address:

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

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'Mini-Golf To-Go' tournament held



Officer Sergio Nunez (left) takes turns playing mini-golf in the the Res Life quad with students Kayla McKay and Merril Jones.



Students take part in a game of mini-golf while taking proper social distancing precautions.



Merril Jones (left) and Officer Nunez take turns putting the ball.

By Roma Rositani
Photo Editor

On Oct. 14, Keith Alan and Marcia Schultz owners of the Prospect, Conn. based company 'Mini-Golf To-Go' brought a nine hole mini golf course to campus for students and faculty to play a tournament.

Students who attended

were able to play a fun game of mini-golf while competing against each other.

Mary Pelkey, a student, was the winner out of her group.

One person in each group had to keep score for the team to see who had the lowest par at the end of the night.



Curtis Smola on third hole at mini golf event.



Friends make their way to the third hole to keep playing.



Jasmine Graciano (left) putting the golf ball with Jordan Pennatto.



Brendan Estaci (left) putting the ball.



Students watch as they take turns putting the golf ball.

PHOTOS | BRIA KIRKLIN

Students encouraged to vote

Registration event held outside of Moore Field House

By Edward Rudman
Sports Writer

With the 2020 presidential election nearing closer by the day, athletics hosted a voter registration event outside of the Moore Field House on Monday, Oct. 12 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and have another event planned for Oct. 26.

"It's important to get out and vote. You know, if anyone wants to see change in the world, the election is where it starts," said Jay Turiano, assistant coordinator of Athletics Facilities. "We wanted to set the event up for the students and if anyone isn't registered to vote, they can come here, and we can easily register them to vote."

The event was hosted by athletics, but any student could show up and get registered to vote. The Northeast 10 conference asked all the schools within the NE10 to host a voting registration event and Southern happily obliged, according to Turiano.

To register, students went to the table that was set up outside of the field house and staffed by

Turiano. They filled out the registration forms and the university takes care of the rest.

"People, despite of all the issues going on, should be telling young people to get out and vote. It's like young people are taken out of the equation sometimes. I think exercising the right to vote should've been emphasized even earlier," said wide receiver Kwadir Delgado-McIntyre, a graduate student and member of the Owls' football team.

Traditionally, college

students are among the lowest of age groups when it comes to voter turnout although recently, university students turnout has increased.

The number of students that voted in the 2018 midterm elections increased from 19 percent in 2014 to 40 percent, according to the Institute for Democracy and Higher Education at Tufts University.

A total of 7.5 million college students voted during back in the 2018 midterm elections.

Voting rates were similar across different types of institutions; the highest rate was 42 percent at private doctoral universities and the lowest being 37.8 percent at public two-year colleges. The research conducted by Tufts also found that the voting rates of all ethnic groups was increased across the board, with black female students voting at the highest rate of 43.3 percent.

This increase in voter turnout from university students is no

coincidence, as colleges have started to emphasize the importance of civic learning and community engagement by students, according to Forbes.

"I think Southern hosting the event is huge because it really opens the door for people who may not know how to register or may not have the resources to do so. I think it's really great that we're doing that," said quarterback Jackson Ostrowsky, a sophomore. Turiano emphasized that the current students are a part of the next generation that will eventually end up leading the country in the future, which is why its important to get out and become politically involved now.

"I think it's very important to get out and vote because our generation is the generation who is just now starting to be on the doorstep of political activity and run things in our country," Ostrowsky said. "I think that for our voices to be heard, voting is the best way to do it. Everyone that has the ability and the opportunity to vote, should vote."



PHOTO | SAM TAPPER

Outside Moore Field House where the voter registration event took place.



'Owl or Nothing' a hit so far

Column By Mike Neville
Sports Editor

Students and followers of Owls athletics will not have to look far to enjoy their beloved teams with the debut of the 'Owl or Nothing' podcast.

The new podcast hosted by Jay Turiano, Christopher Lynn and occasionally Ken Sweeten features athlete interviews Tuesdays and Thursdays.

With four episodes out already, the podcast has done an exceptional job at not only providing sports news, but entertaining content as well.

Episode one was a feeling out process with opening music that could be described as alternative, describing what the podcast is going to discuss and an introduction to the hosts.

The most exciting part of the podcast was when Jay Moran made his presence felt, discussing his life, and career as an athletic director and mayor.

Towards the end of the podcast, Moran made a comment that would end up naming the podcast saying, 'It's owl or nothing,' which could translate to give your all at Southern.

Following episode one, an opening theme for the podcast was introduced by Chris Lynn saying "Stand Up, Owl Nation".

This added an engaging theme to the podcast and gave listeners something to get excited about.

Having great chemistry from working with one another for so long, Turiano and Lynn are easy to listen to and give you a brotherly vibe.

In the future, an interview on Scott Burrell could be a big draw with a possible discussion on his career at UConn, playing with Michael Jordan and being the only athlete ever drafted in the first round of the MLB and NBA.

Another possibility would be expanding past Southern. Perhaps a few blasts from the past could make their appearance on 'Owl or Nothing'.

Some names that come to mind are Kevin Anderson, a former MLS star and current Columbia University Men's Soccer coach, or Kevin Gilbridge, who won titles with the New York Giants as an offensive coordinator.

With a bright future, the 'Owl or Nothing' podcast may be a stepping stone for developments to come.

Football players discuss team dynamic

By Abby Epstein
News Editor

Despite still being months away from a potential kickoff, football players are looking at the dynamic of their team and gave insight on the upcoming season as well as themselves.

A Facebook live called Coaches on Couches, which featured no coaches nor couches, hosted three football players interviewed about themselves and their experiences: quarterback Jackson Ostrowsky, a sophomore, defensive back Kwadir Delgado-McIntyre, a senior, and offensive

lineman Bobby Valeri, a senior.

The interview was conducted by Matthew Letkowski, associate athletic director of compliance. However, only the athlete's answers were heard. Each player answered, starting with Ostrowsky, so the viewers knew when he popped up it was a new question being asked. One question asked to the players was a take on their coaches.

"[Offensive Coordinator Chris Bergeski] is a great coach, really puts us in a position to win, I feel," said Ostrowsky, "really puts me, personally, in a position where I can

get better each day, the stuff I might not pick up on myself, he definitely picks up on. There's not much that gets by Coach Berg."

Valeri took a different approach on the question by addressing the coaches as a whole and what they do beyond the work between the lines.

"The coaches do a great job of getting us prepared with the schemes and everything that we have to do," said Valeri, "they work us out hard and are always pushing us to be better on the field and in the classroom."

Delgado-McIntyre answered the question by addressing how the coaches lead and inspire

athletes off the field rather than the work they do in games.

"They care, you can tell they care, they're passionate about what they do, they're passionate about this school in general, I think a lot of that has to do with the respect I have for them," he said. "When you're passionate for what you represent, it shows a reflection of who you are."

The next question that was asked had to do with their favorite memory from football. Ostrowsky said his favorite memory was his collegiate debut last year at Bentley during their homecoming festivities,

where Southern won behind Ostrowsky's 405 passing yards and four touchdowns on route to a 31-17 victory over the Falcons.

"We played really well [at Bentley on Oct. 12, 2019] offensively and defensively," Ostrowsky said. "It was a big win for us, it was, I think, our second win of the year and that was a big turning point for us as a team. We came together more, and the locker room after that game, it was awesome."

Another question asked dealt with the alumni and the support they give to the football program, especially now with the launch of the Owls' 'Sell Out the Stadium' campaign.

"Alumni give us great support every week and every game, it shows how much of a family Southern Connecticut is," said Valeri.

Letkowski's final question to the athletes was about why people, including alumni, should come out and watch their games at Jess Dow Field.

"You should come out to the games because we are going to show respect and represent you in the right way," said Delgado-McIntyre.

The video has 635 views as of Oct. 19 and counting and can be found on the Southern Connecticut State University Facebook page.

"I call these guys my brothers," Valeri said, "they'll be my brothers for life."



PHOTO COURTESY | WWW.SOUTHERNCTOWLS.COM

Jackson Ostrowsky (center) looking for a target in a 2019 game versus University of New Haven.

Drama is ahead on this season of 'The Bachelorette'

By **Jessica Guerrucci**
Editor-In-Chief

For anyone who loves reality television, after such a long delay, we can finally now return to what is promised to be "the most dramatic season ever" of "The Bachelorette" – however, the first episode didn't bring the drama yet.

Clare Crawley, the Bachelorette, was cast in March, but due to COVID-19 the show was delayed for four months. Now that she's finally had her season, only without the notorious Bachelor Mansion and the global travel.

She was previously on

Juan Pablo Galavis' season as a finalist, "Bachelor in Paradise" and on "Bachelor Winter Games". The latter led to an engagement and split-up after a month.

The show is at La Quinta Resort and Club in Palm Springs, Calif. where Crawley and the 31 men competing for her love quarantined. The process of this quarantine took the first 20 minutes or so of the show, feeling more like a COVID-19 PSA.

Now the promo for the season has host Chris Harrison telling Crawley that she's just "blown up The Bachelorette," coming after rumors spread all summer that

Tayshia Adams, who was on Colton Underwood's season of The Bachelor, was the new Bachelorette after Crawley fell in love with contestant Dale Moss,

Former American football player. Moss, of course won the first impression rose that night, big shocker, and when he came out of the limo, Crawley said "I think I just met my husband" after a 10 second interaction.

While completely unrealistic and stupid. If you like reality TV, you live for these ridiculous moments.

However, it was frustrating as a viewer knowing that Moss seems to be the "be-all, end-

all" and the other men basically didn't exist.

So, if you're bracketing this season or betting on who wins, I'd place your money on Moss – but who knows, maybe the big shocker is that their relationship doesn't work out or he's "there for the wrong reasons."

The only other man that Crawley seemed to take any interest in was Blake Moynes, since he had checked in on her during quarantine, going against the rules of the show. She said this meant a lot to her.

The only other drama to arise was between two contestants, Tyler C. and Yosef, after Tyler accused Yosef of talking

to other girls during the quarantine. Drama that was insignificant and unnecessary.

Crawley, who is 39 years old, was not having it either, with some calling it "high school drama," and immediately sat them both down and made them deal with their issues.

Tyler C. was deservedly sent home for starting drama, with Crawley setting the pace for the season and letting the men know she's not dealing with their nonsense. This has also been teased in promos.

These were the small insignificant highlights of the first episode, with no real fan favorite emerging

yet, except for Moss of course, but even if it was lacking, there seems to be a big twist ahead.

While there's no confirmation that Adams replaces Crawley, it was definitely inferred that Crawley does not stay.

However, if the switch does happen, it really will be "the most dramatic season ever," which is the claim of every season, but this one might actually be it.

Questions still remain, like will the same men stay on the show? or where do they pick up when they were already in the middle of filming. Of course, we'll have to watch and find out.



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

Contestant Dale Moss (left) meeting Clare Crawley in the season premiere.



PHOTO | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

A TV showing the opening screen of "The Bachelorette" premiere.

Students search for treasure

By **Abby Epstein**
News Editor

Find a chest full of gold! Student Involvement hid 12 treasure chests across campus with prizes located inside.

"We wanted an event for homecoming that was on ground, that encouraged students to go around campus," said graduate intern Alandre Alexis.

The chests were hidden around 5 a.m., stretching all across campus from Jess Dow Field to past Engleman. Some students were up and on campus looking for the chests by 8 a.m.

"It's 10:30 and we were getting messages on Instagram at 8 o'clock of students on campus looking," said Associate Director of student involvement Eric LaCharity. "The fact that people are up before breakfast trying to find them is really encouraging to us."

Alexis and LaCharity both said how eager students were to find the chests and were glad students were showing enthusiasm towards the event.

"This morning I had three students corner me and try to pressure me about where the treasure chests were," said Alexis.

Two students who tried to get answers from Alexis were sophomores, Tracy Nham and Nicole Thomas. They came running in and demanding to know where the chests were, saying they have already been looking for two hours.

"We started at 8:30am because he told us they were being hidden at 5:00am, it is now 10:30" said nursing major Tracy

Nham, a sophomore.

Elementary education major Britny Gildersleeve, a freshman, woke up early but was able to find her chest at Jess Dow Field within 20 minutes of starting her search.

"I went to Jess Dow Field because I figured one might be over there and while I was on the actual field, I looked up at the home side bleachers and it was literally right in the center," said Gildersleeve.

Gildersleeve and her friends came up with a strategy of splitting up so that they could cover more ground in less time.

"We figured we should split up and cover different areas of the campus, so we all have a better chance of finding them," said Gildersleeve. "We all worked together and were texting each other the whole time

about the areas we already searched."

Each chest contained a QR code inside which once students scan, tells them the prize they have won. The prizes consisted of a Smart TV, Air Pods, Nintendo Switch Lite, record player, projector, Polaroid camera, \$100 Amazon gift card, Bluetooth speaker, power beats, and tshirts.

"So, part of the fun is finding the chest but also finding out what you won," said Alexis.

Aside from the obvious frustration and constantly having to stay on the lookout, many students enjoyed participating in the treasure hunt.

"It's fun, there aren't that many activities in person on campus so this is the one thing that we can do," said theatre major Nicole Thomas, a sophomore.

Some students were not bothered by waking up at 8 a.m. to start the search, noting that the event took place kind of early.

"It was just something fun to do in the morning," said Gildersleeve, "it was kinda fun knowing we were going to wake up early to do this hunt and try to win prizes."

A couple years ago, Student Involvement did a different treasure hunt based on Game of Thrones which LaCharity said was a success. With the participation Student Involvement saw with the treasure hunt, they will be looking to do more in the future.

"Based on the two times we have done this there is no doubt we'll do this again down the line, maybe not before it gets cold but hopefully in the spring again," said LaCharity.

Bubble format saves pro-sports

By **Edward Rudman**
Sports Writer

The NBA bubble, after three months and zero positive COVID-19 tests, has officially ended with the Los Angeles Lakers being crowned the 2020 NBA champions after defeating the Miami Heat in six games.

The bubble seemed to be off to a rocky start when Los Angeles Clippers' guard Lou Williams left the Disney campus, the location where the NBA set up their bubble, to go to a strip club after quarantine had begun. Since that hiccup, the bubble has had no issues.

Because of the precautions taken by the NBA, the rest of the season was completed within the time frame the league scheduled, allowing the Lakers to eventually win their 17th title as a franchise and LeBron James to win his fourth championship and Finals MVP.

"I think the NBA handled the pandemic pretty well with setting up the bubble for the playoffs, besides from a few slip ups from players leaving the bubble. It really showed promise that we can still have sports and they can still be entertaining," said business management major Tyler Zolkowski, a junior.

With zero positive tests, the NBA proved that a bubble system can work, and it showed with the NHL as well, who set up two hub cities for the conferences to play in during the playoffs, as to decrease travel and unnecessary human contact.

Currently, the MLB and NFL seasons are ongoing, and both opted to not utilize a bubble set up for their seasons. Both leagues have

had to deal with outbreaks and because of it, have had to postpone games and make changes to the schedule. The MLB had to postpone 45 games during their regular season due to positive tests, according to ESPN.

The MLB is currently using a bubble system for the playoffs. Multiple locations have been used as bubble sites for the teams to play in.

The NFL has not made any official statements, up to this point, about whether a bubble will be used for the postseason.

"The NFL should absolutely make a plan for a bubble for the playoffs and it almost seems like they should be using some sort of bubble system now because of all the outbreaks," Zolkowski said. "I think the NFL should at least have a bubble, the same way the NBA did, for the postseason."

The Tennessee Titans most recently had 24 members of their organization, including 13 players, beginning on Sept. 24 test positive. They were unable to practice for a two-week period in order to stop the spread of the virus, according to the NFL website

The NFL has had other positive tests around the league, including four players from the Patriots and two from the Chiefs and Falcons. Multiple games were postponed due to the positive cases.

"The NBA and NHL showed how pro sports can still be played during the pandemic," said marketing major Nick Thomas, a senior, "and I think the NFL should be looking for a solution to their positive cases."



PHOTO | ERIC LACHARITY

Students hold their prizes they won in the treasure hunt outside Engleman Hall.

Students manage their Fantasy Football teams

By Seth Marceau
Contributor

It's week seven in the NFL's unconventional season and fantasy football team managers are in the hot seat.

This is usually when hopes run high and losses bring desperation to the managers as trades and waiver-wire pickups run amok. Due to COVID-19, this season has created a new monster.

"The whole COVID factor that plays into every game, it's something no one has ever seen before," said history secondary education major Adam Pelz, a junior.

Pelz has been managing

a fantasy football team for several years and has had to dedicate more time to the game than before.

"I've definitely become more engaged with the NFL as a whole," said Pelz. "Usually I would set my lineup and kind of just check it on Sunday, but now I follow all of the storylines."

Injuries, game cancellations, sickness - all due to COVID-19. Fantasy football has turned into a part-time job, as most team managers have had to follow sports news almost religiously, in order to turn their team into the unstoppable force they hoped for.

NFL stars such as Saquon Barkley and

Christian McCaffrey suffered big injuries in the second week, with the former being a season ending ACL tear. In a normal year, preseason games are usually to blame for these types of early injuries, but in this case, it could be argued on the absence of such games.

Due to the pandemic, players have had much less time to get ready to play at the elite level. This resulted in both small and serious injuries over the first six weeks, as well as poor performances for some athletes.

"A lot of my players are boom or bust," said business management major Kevin Landrigan, a senior. "There's a lot

of injuries because of no preseason or any training prior to the season. With more injuries, the deeper teams do better."

Game cancellations bring another problem to the table - like a political debate between family members during Thanksgiving.

Games such as the New England Patriots versus the Denver Broncos were pushed a week back due to multiple players testing positive for COVID-19. This in turn makes the fantasy manager rush to change their lineup or to pick new players.

Psychology major Andrew Keeton, a senior, is the commissioner for a fantasy football league.

"We have to worry about games being cancelled the Patriots and the Titans have been cancelled at some points, so you always got to be on the lookout for a back-up or a replacement play," said Keeton.

The NFL tests their players every day, but that doesn't stop the growing list of 20 players who have tested positive over the course of the season, including New England's quarterback Cam Newton. Unlike the NBA, the NFL doesn't have a bubble for players. Flights to different cities and fans at certain stadiums all pose a threat to players and team personnel.

Despite the plethora of aggravations and

stress that COVID-19 has brought to fantasy football managers, many league hosting sites such as ESPN, Yahoo, and NFL Fantasy Football have learned to incorporate new ways to help make a team function.

"We have a feature for if they're out for COVID reasons, you can put them [the player] on the injured reserve," said Keeton.

This feature frees up space for the everchanging landscape of the season and allows team managers to pick up more players from the waiver-wire than usual, so they aren't sacrificing their starting players who tested positive for the virus.

"It's been a rollercoaster," said Pelz.

Students and alumni compete for prizes at virtual trivia night

By Desteny Maragh
Reporter

The university hosted the first ever online homecoming Trivia Night on Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

Student's competed against peers and alumni and prizes were awarded to the top three students and three alumni.

All participants had the chance to win up to \$400. At the highest number of participants, there were 68 people playing live.

Host, Eric LaCharity and Daphney Alston, from the Office of Student Involvement, guided everyone through the event.

At 7 p.m., LaCharity joined the virtual meeting and said there was a misprint on the flyer and the event was supposed to start at 8 p.m., but to alleviate the mishap, he chose to start early until the main trivia began.

The game night was full of a joking and friendly competition.

The various hosts played upbeat music and lead students and alumni to Kahoot, which is a game-based learning platform used to create, share and play learning games or trivia quizzes.

The first game consisted of 18 questions ranging from different areas of studies like mathematics, history and art.

One student who attended, psychology major Kayleigh Reed, a

junior, said, "I thought I would be better at answering the questions, but I didn't end up winning anything."

She said one of her favorite things in general has always been homecoming season and the traditions that come along with it.

Reed said she is not into sports, so she is not disappointed over the loss of the homecoming game, but she does wish there could be more in-person events.

"Adjusting to having social events online is very hard I miss being able to be with friends and have those intimate experiences in public setting," said Reed.

Back before school opened in fall, the Division II conference said the decision was made by the Council of Presidents of the NE10 and was voted unanimously on the suspension of university sports. The presidents cited the health and safety of its student-athletes, coaches, staff, and wider campus communities as the main reason.

Connecticut has two Universities in the NE10: The University of New Haven and Southern.

The conference did say in a statement that they are working to have the fall sports compete in the spring of 2021. However, this can only happen if it is safe to return to competition.

Alston said the university is "one of the only

schools still celebrating homecoming," as many have decided to cancel as a result of COVID-19.

Alumni joined the Zoom at 8 p.m. to play Kahoot games with fun questions that appealed to both groups like "what is the square root of 12?," "who is the author of the Harry Potter series?" and "what color are Mickey Mouse's shorts?."

Another question was "what year was SCSU founded?" and 24 percent of people got it right. Eric LaCharity joked that "we're going to need to do a Southern only trivia."

Graduate Intern in Student Involvement & Leadership Development Alandre Alexis said, "trivia is the staple game in the student involvement office and while planning for homecoming they just had to incorporate it."

Alexis said they had expectations of how many people would come but, "we had more people than expected."

"If people show up, we did our job," said Alexis.

While planning the trivia game, Alexis said "We needed something that would appeal to both alumni and current students," as it had to be accessible to a wide range of people rather than just students.

Due to COVID-19, giving physical gifts and prizes are not allowed so each winner was rewarded through virtual gift cards.

Alexis said that "overall, the event was a success."

Second debate is canceled

By Donovan Wilson
Reporter

Shortly after the first presidential debate of the 2020 election season, President Donald Trump called off the debate that was originally supposed to take place on Oct. 15.

Right after the first debate took place, Trump and the First Lady Melania Trump tested positive for COVID-19. Right after, the powers that decided that the second debate, would have to take place digitally for the safety of everyone involved.

Rather than go with it, Trump held a town hall the same time his opposing candidate Joe Biden was holding a town hall, so viewers had to choose between watching one or the other.

"Honestly, I believe that it's disrespectful considering the people deserve a digital debate and both parties' interactions to the questions. It's our future president and the people deserve the right to the commentary and input each party is willing to offer," said healthcare studies major Sabrina Viera, a senior.

Not having the presidential debate is generally regarded as a disservice to the American people. Especially in a time where rallies and other promotional activities aren't as readily available, a debate is the main source of a candidate's beliefs and intentions.

Debates tend to be historically crucial to someone's decision in what candidate they get behind

and ultimately end up voting for.

Tump's refusal of a virtual debate comes off as dismissive of the digital platform. In reality, the digital platform is very useful nowadays and helps us carry on business as usual with things such as the election process. A national leader dismissing it is pretty detrimental to the overall scheme of things in the current day landscape.

"Trump didn't cancel it, the commission did because Trump had Corona and they didn't think it was safe. They probably could've still kept it on though because he's recovered and they could've just taken precautions. It's kind of dumb" said exercise science major Jordan Peloquin, a senior.

The case can be made that the mistake came from the more democratic side of things. Trump is seemingly well enough and now has antibodies that would pose no threat to anyone if an in-person debate were to

be held. There is an angle to be taken on the other side using this as an opportunity to make Trump look bad.

Both sides of the coin can make their argument for or against the ultimate decision that ended up in the cancellation of the debate.

"I guess I understand because information doesn't need to be prepared beforehand if it's online," said exercise science major Bella Lanata, a junior.

The other argument is that the debate isn't necessarily the most necessary thing in the election season. With the internet, there are a lot of easier ways to know a candidate's intentions without having to watch a full debate.

In the end, it is nearly, indecipherable how the general public feels, until the results of the election. There is clearly an argument that can be made for Trump, against Trump and against the whole general system in place.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | JESSICA GUERRUCCI

Donald Trump at his Town Hall on Oct. 15.

Want to get involved in campus media?

The Southern News meets Monday's at 1:00 p.m. outside the Adanti Student Center and Earl Hall (weather permitting).

Check out our social media for more information.

IG: @thesouthernnews Twitter: @southern_news

Interested in magazine writing?

Crescent Magazine meets bi-weekly at 1:00 p.m. in Morrill 205 or online via Webex.

Be sure to check our social media to see when meetings are and the location.

IG: @crescentmagazinescsu Twitter: @crescentmagSCSU

'Sweat' casting extended to fill roles

By Ellis McGinley
Copy Editor

The Theatre Department has begun preparations for their second production of the year: "Sweat" by Lynn Nottage.

"Sweat" follows a diverse cast of blue-collar workers in a small, industrial town, where it analyzes the biases and tribulations of the American working class. Nottage, the playwright, is the first woman to win two Pulitzer Awards.

Mike Skinner, Chairman of the Theatre Department, said as part of the department's recent commitment to racial inclusivity, they want to "make sure we have political productions yearly."

The play's cast, which has eight total roles, calls for "two white men, three African-American men, one African-American woman, one Italian-American woman, and one Columbian-American man," according to audition listings.

"An Enemy of the People," the Department's first production of the year, had a total cast of 13, with five actors playing multiple parts.

The production will be directed by Dexter Singleton, executive of Collective Consciousness, a social justice theatre in New Haven. Theatre major Patrick Ballard, a senior, will be the stage

manager of the play.

The university's auditions for the play were extended by one week. Set to open Nov. 19, auditions were supposed to conclude Oct. 7.

"We have not been able to fill the roles," Skinner said. "This show in particular has very specific racial identities in characters."

He said. "Two white males auditioned," thus filling that portion of the call.

"I won't have enough time to devote myself to the production," said theatre major Samhain Perez, a freshman. "I read the plot of Sweat ahead of time to garner my own interest. I found it to be a very easy-to-follow story with important messages. I was definitely interested in being in it."

Perez said he thinks the specificity of the casting also "turned off" a lot of potential actors and actresses.

"The roles were very specific. I'm a white boy. I don't fit any of those," said communications disorders major Sam Gontarz, a freshman.

Nursing major Majesty Moore, a freshman, said she auditioned for Sweat because she wanted to be involved in a show that is about racial injustice, especially with a director that uses his career to address the social injustice in the world through theater.

"At first, I was scared about how it was going

to turn out, being on Zoom. However, Dexter [Singleton] eased that worry when he mentioned there will be costumes, props, and people who will work out the Zoom theater format," Moore said.

This will be Moore's second show at Southern.

Skinner said the show had been cast as of Thursday morning, Oct. 15. One minor role, an African American man, had to be cut due to a lack of actors.

If the department does not receive enough auditions, Skinner said they would have no choice but to cancel the production.

"If we didn't fill the cast, then we couldn't do the show. This is the slot that we have to do this kind of show," he said. "We postponed our musical from this semester to next semester; basically, for a learning curve."

According to Skinner, the Theatre Department has staggered their shows based on perceived difficulty; they first did a radio show, "An Enemy of the People," and "Sweat" will be performed on Zoom. The spring musical, which has yet to be announced, will also be produced digitally.

"I don't believe working over Zoom would be easy or sustainable. So many people have different technologies, and it's hard to tell just how reliable they may be," said Perez.



PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN

Majesty Moore (left), Daniel Santana-Gonzalez, Leah Herde, and Matt Lopes before "Sweat" auditions.

In previous years, Skinner said the Theatre Department would reach out to potential actors on the Academic Quad, in casual conversations, and within social groups to try and gauge interest.

"I personally feel the reason we're having trouble casting is the pandemic. I just don't feel

we have the reason to reach the student body the way we usually do," said Skinner.

He also said he doubts that the theater will fully leave the virtual platform behind.

"Even when we come out of the pandemic parameter, the virtual theater is going to be part

of us and our industry--I think for forever now," Skinner said.

He also said interested students do not necessarily have to be theater majors or even involved in the department at all.

To anyone interested in coming to see "Sweat," he said: "come see it."

Bill Burr's monologue sparks discussion

By Desteny Maragh
Reporter

Bill Burr's controversial "Saturday Night Live" opening monologue on Saturday, Oct. 10 on race and Pride Month caused an array of student opinions, even if it is what his fans expected.

"Cancel culture is not about ending someone's career it's about holding them accountable," said biology major Jada Vernon, a sophomore. "I love comedy and I am fond of Bill Burr, but I

don't like when people discuss cancel culture as a negative thing because it's not. It's actually sort of needed, especially in our climate."

Vernon said she is an avid Twitter user and normally gets most of her news from the platform.

"When he was trending on twitter, I went to watch the SNL clips and I was not against most of his set. I thought he made some good points, but his thoughts on cancel culture is the one part he got wrong," said Vernon.

She said cancel culture

is not a new concept and it is not made to just end a famous person's career, but to acknowledge the negative attributes of people in power that may be overlooked because of their status.

Vernon said that R Kelly is a good example.

"For years, R Kelly had allegations, trials and multiple incriminating evidence against him, but no one ever spoke up and said don't listen to this guy anymore," said Vernon.

Vernon said Twitter users were the ones who brought R Kelly's past to light and canceled him and his music in support of the women he hurt.

"Cancel culture should not be feared among celebrities, but it should be something to keep them in check," said Vernon. "You should just do the right thing and you won't get canceled."

A student who said he thought Bill Burr's monologue was hilarious is secondary education major John Green, a freshman.

Green said he loved when Burr spoke about people's reaction to COVID-19 and how he didn't care if the audience wore masks or not.

During his stand-up, Bill Burr said "take out your grandparents. Take out your weak cousin with the asthma, I don't care. It's your decision,"

he said. "If you're that dumb and you want to kill your own family members, by all means, do it."

Another student who said he thought Burr's stand up was great is physics major Austin Stewart, a junior.

"The digs he took at white women were spot on," said Stewart. "It's funnier when it's true."

Stewart said he knows a few people who could have been offended while watching Burr's standup.

"Comedy is not meant to be taken offensive. It's meant for people who it applies to reevaluate what they're doing because it's silly, that why it's made into a joke," said Stewart.

Some of Burr's comments on white women were: "you guys stood by us toxic white males through centuries of our crimes against humanity."

"I was on Twitter and I saw a lot of white women get upset at some of the comments Bill made, but it's true you know," said Stewart.

Stewart said if someone is making a joke about you and you don't think it's funny, it is because the joke is true.

"If more people took the time to listen to what he was saying, they would understand that it is real life problems disguised as jokes," said Stewart.

Burr also said that

white women "rolled around in the blood money, and occasionally, when you wanted to sneak off and hook up with a Black dude, if you got caught, you said it wasn't consensual," during his monologue.

Stewart referenced the 1962 novel, "To Kill a Mockingbird," by Harper Lee and said the whole story is about a "white women lying on a black man."

"That was from the 60s, we're in 2020 and it's still a conversation that we make into entertainment,

it's a serious conversation but people have a hard time discussing it," said Stewart.

Another student who said he thought Burr's monologue was funny is history major, Tyron Jenkins, a freshman.

"Bill Burr is a funny dude, anyone who can make fun of white supremacy while pushing the conversation forward is a good guy to me," said Jenkins. "I hope we as a culture don't cancel him because he looks like he's on the right side of history."

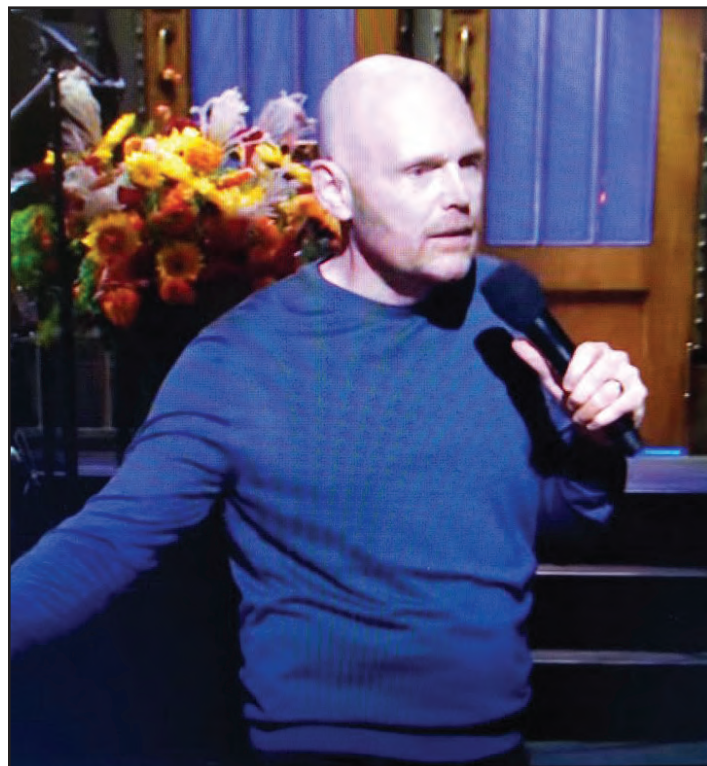


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Bill Burr doing his monologue on "Saturday Night Live."



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Bill Burr and "Saturday Night Live" cast after his monologue.