Students celebrate on Strawberry Day

By Valentina Toro
Features Editor

Students stopped by Adanti Student Center Room 217 on Feb. 17 for chocolate covered strawberries, specialty drinks and festive decor as Programs Council hosted a National Strawberry Day celebration.

The event, held from 2–4 p.m., featured classic chocolate covered strawberries, Dubai chocolate strawberries and strawberry flavored drinks arranged across themed tables decorated with red-and-white checkered accents and strawberry inspired signage. The setup drew students in between classes throughout the afternoon.

"I work as an involvement assistant and saw them setting up the event, and I figured when I was done working, I'd just come get a chocolate strawberry," recreational therapy major Lindsey Caplan, a sophomore, said.

Students filtered into the room in small groups, some lingering to talk while others grabbed a treat before heading to their next commitment.

The atmosphere felt light, offering a midweek pause during a busy stretch of the semester.

Though National Strawberry Day is not a widely recognized holiday on campus, the event introduced many students to the unofficial celebration for the first time.

Themed decor helped transform the room into a more festive setting than a typical weekday gathering.

The simplicity of the setup appeared intentional.

Without performances or formal programming, the focus remained on interactions allowing students to shape their own experience rather than follow a structured agenda.

ProCon regularly hosts themed drop-in events designed to create accessible social spaces for students. Unlike larger campus events, National Strawberry Day operated as a casual, come and go experience.

No registration was required, and students could participate for just a few minutes if they wished.

Its location inside the Adanti Student Center made it convenient for students already passing through the building.

Many attendees appeared to stop in after spotting the decorations or noticing the event while heading to other commitments nearby.

The relaxed environment encouraged informal interaction, with students chatting over drinks and their dessert choices.

While the event was simple in format, the bright presentation and themed menu created a celebratory atmosphere that distinguished it from routine campus activities.

Even for those unfamiliar with National Strawberry Day, the event offered a small but memorable break in the academic day — one built around sweets and a shared appreciation for a strawberry themed surprise.

Beyond the sweets themselves, the event functioned as a reminder of how smaller campus programs can shape the daily student experience.

While major events often draw large crowds, themed pop-up celebrations like National Strawberry Day provide a different kind of engagement, one rooted in spontaneity and accessibility rather than spectacle.

The visual presentation created a moment of curiosity, turning what might have been an ordinary walk between classes into an opportunity to participate. For Caplan, the decor stood out as much as the food itself.

"I think there were really cute decorations for this event," Caplan said. "Not all events get this festive."



PHOTOS | LILY RAND

Students line up for chocolate covered strawberries.



Students gathered around a table with strawberry themed gift boxes.

Campus chapter advocates for gun safety

By Valentina Toro
Features Editor

A new student-led chapter of Students Demand Action is taking root at the university, driven by a personal connection to gun violence and a desire to give students a platform for change.

Interdisciplinary studies major Grayson Mott-Morin, a junior and the chapter's president, said the timing felt urgent, particularly after recent campus and national incidents that heightened safety concerns.

"I've always been passionate about gun safety, especially growing up in Connecticut when Sandy Hook happened," Mott-Morin said. "I had family who were in the school that day. They weren't victims, but it's always stayed with me. It just reinforced that this is something we need here."

The Students Demand Action chapter at the university, affiliated with the national Everytown for Gun Safety movement, focuses on gun violence prevention and civic engagement.

The 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting left a lasting mark across Connecticut, shaping conversations about school safety and firearm legislation statewide.

For Mott-Morin, those memories coupled with more recent campus safety scares made bringing Students Demand Action to the university necessary.

The club was already in the approval process when a campus threat occurred last year, but the incident strengthened the group's resolve.

Mott-Morin said the goal is not to create fear but to provide students with tools and opportunities to take action in ways that align with their interests and comfort levels.

The main mission of Students Demand Action, Mott-Morin explained, is to give students resources to engage in activism surrounding gun safety.

That involvement can range from educational programming to political participation.

"We want students to feel like they're not helpless," Mott-Morin said. "Whether that's working on a campaign, learning about legislation or just understanding what's happening, we want to give them resources so they don't just have to sit and watch what's going on in the world."

The club plans to host presentations on gun safety, voter registration drives and informational sessions explaining how legislation works and how students can participate in advocacy efforts.

Protests may also take place, either on campus or in nearby areas such as the New Haven Green or the Capitol in Hartford.

In addition to activism and civic engagement, the group hopes to screen documentaries that highlight personal stories and the broader impact of gun violence worlwide.

Mott-Morin said these events are intended to foster conversation and awareness rather than division.

For its first semester as a recognized organization, the primary goal is visibility and momentum.

Leaders and members hope to introduce the chapter to campus and build a foundation for long-term engagement.

Mott-Morin says the club is positioned to serve as a resource hub whether students are interested in policy, grassroots organizing or simply learning more about gun violence prevention.

By offering different entry points for involvement, the club aims to meet students where they are.

"This semester is about getting started and letting people know we're here," Mott-Morin said. "We want Southern students to know they have a place to turn if they care about gun safety and want to make a difference."

Owls Decide: AirPods or Headphones?

By Valentina Toro
Features Editor



PHOTOS | LILY RAND

"It depends on the day. I like both, but I prefer sweatpants."
-Communication major Rachel Gregory, a junior



"Sweatpants because they're comfy, and you can dress them up and down."
-Communication major Lizandra Jimenez, a senior



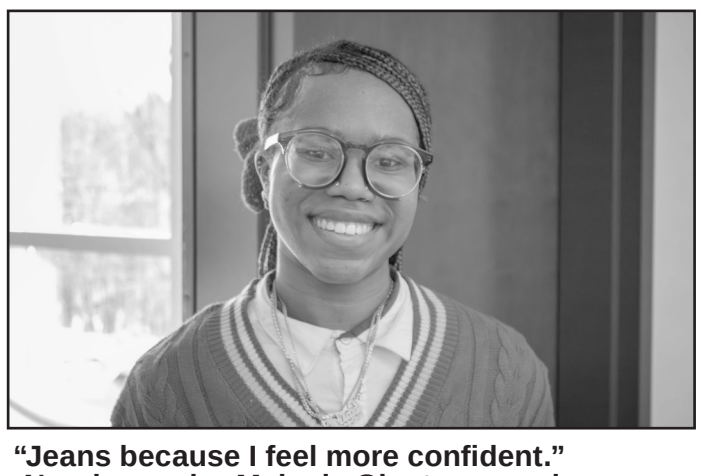
"Sweatpants: I feel comfy and relaxed."
-Communication major Michelle Thomas, a junior



"Sweatpants: it's just more comfortable."
-Psychology major Caitlin Romaniello, a senior



"Sweatpants because they're more comfy."
-Recreational therapy major Lindsey Caplan, a sophomore



"Jeans because I feel more confident."
-Nursing major Melanie Gloster, a senior