

THE CHARGER BULLETIN

The student news source of the University of New Haven.



THEY MEAN BUSINESS



Photo courtesy Lismarie Pabon, Photography Editor

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THE CHARGER BULLETIN

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NEWS

Labor rights demonstration forms outside of university

BY KAYLA MUTCHLER
Editor-in-Chief

On April 22, a group of roughly 25 former cleaning service workers employed through Diversified Building Services (DBS) and members of Unidad Latina en Acción (Latin Unity in Action) gathered outside the northern entrance to the University of New Haven to “denounce all the abuses they were subjected to during the time they worked for DBS,” according to an informational flyer.

Organizers were seen holding posters that read “UNH fire DBS,” shouting “When we fight, we win” and handing out flyers regarding the cause.

Max Cisneros, a member of the organization, said, “The University of New Haven contracts a cleaning company called Diversified [Building Services,] and Diversified has been abusing the workers, both through labor... violations as well as sexual abuses.”

In a statement to the Charger Bulletin, University President Steven Kaplan said, “We are not aware that any of the allegations

outlined by the protesters apply to the University of New Haven or any of our contracted services. The University does not and will not do business with any service provider who operates using unfair labor practices. We have no knowledge that this is the case with DBS and its employees, but will continue to investigate.”

Cisneros said that when workers have tried to stand up for their rights in the past, their hours have either been cut or they are fired. The organizers’ goals are for their labor rights to be addressed and that the Department of Labor (DOL) have these workers’ hours be put back, said Cisneros.

A former worker, Nora García, caught COVID-19 while working and began to organize workers to stand up for their rights. Cisneros said that García died from the virus, and organizers continued the group in her honor.

Cisneros also said that an issue lies internally with DBS, where bosses will allocate unearned yet paid overtime to family members or close colleagues,



though not to other workers.

“Supervisors are looking out for their own but at the same time violating the rights of folks who are demanding their rights,” he said.

Cisneros said that DBS forced some workers to apply under false names in an attempt to go around immigration and labor laws, which, Cisneros said, Di-

versified later used as an excuse to fire workers.

The flyer lists the demands of the former workers. They want the university to terminate the contract with DBS, the DOL to investigate DBS, workers to be paid for overtime and the university to hire a new company where fired workers will be reinstated.

The organizers

Photo courtesy of Kayla Mutchler

The organizers have not yet heard from the university about the demands.

“These are folks that are too afraid to come forward, understandably so,” said Cisneros, “so you need higher authority to be able to look at what’s going on here if there’s anything that needs to be addressed.”

May

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MAY 4, 2021

don't miss our final edition

ENTERTAINMENT

Stream these five movies before the month is over

BY ELDRICK GREENWAY

Contributing Writer

April is coming to a close, which means that streaming platforms have dished out more content to be excited about. Here are some notable picks to consider viewing this month: ***The Dark Knight Rises* (HBO Max):**

If you have never heard of “The Dark Knight” trilogy, then put this movie on top of your “to watch” list. It is such an emotional, yet amazing story as it follows Batman (Christian Bale) returning after vanishing for eight years, working alongside Catwoman (Anne Hathaway) to save Gotham from the evil and brutal terrorist, Bane (Tom Hardy). You won’t want to miss out on this exciting adventure now streaming on HBO Max.

***Into The Beat* (Netflix):**

After watching the trailer, inspiration and romance are both understatement for what this film can potentially be once it releases. It follows a teen ballerina (Alexandra Pfeifer) discovering hip-pop for the first time by chance. Now, she has two choices; whether she follows her parents’ footsteps or her new passion for this musical genre. This feel-good film is now streaming on Netflix.

***Mortal Kombat* (HBO Max):**

“Mortal Kombat,” the tournament of ancient martial arts, is finally going to be seen on screen. Mixed Martial Arts fighter, Cole Young (Lewis Tang) goes on a journey, seeking out the greatest champions to fight against the enemies of the Outworld in order to save the universe. If you’re a “Mortal Kombat” fan, you won’t want to miss this film. It is now avail-

able on HBO Max.

***Tom Clancy’s Without Remorse* (Amazon Prime):**

Coming to Amazon Prime is the origin story of John Kelly (Michael B. Jordan), a U.S. Navy SEAL seeking justice for his pregnant wife, who was murdered by Russian Soldiers. However, when Kelly joins the fellow SEAL Karen Greer (Jodie Turner-Smith) and CIA agent Robert Ritter (Jamie Bell), the mission exposes a plan that threatens to engulf the U.S. and Russia in an all-out war. This action-thriller film will be available on Amazon Prime on April 30.

***Arrival* (Amazon Prime):**

“Arrival” stars Amy Adams and Jeremy Renner; what more do you want? This film is about the works of the military as they attempt to communicate with alien lifeforms after multiple spacecrafts appeared all over

the world. This film is based on the book “Story of Your Life,” written by Eric Heisserer – who is also responsible for films such as “Birdbox,” “Final Destination 5,” and “A Nightmare on Elm Street” – and Ted Chiang.

If there is any dramatic, sci-fi movie you don’t want to miss, this is the one. “Arrival” will be streaming on Amazon Prime on April 28.

***Mortal Kombat* poster**

Photo courtesy of *Mortal Kombat*’s Twitter



Olivia Rodrigo: From Disney star to licensed “driver” with “deja vu”

BY AMANDA CASTRO
Managing Editor

Although she has been in the public eye since 2015, 18-year-old Olivia Rodrigo’s rise to superstardom came later in her career. Rodrigo, who starred as Paige in the Disney Channel comedy “Bizaardvark” and Nini in the Disney Plus series “High School Musical: The Musical: The Series,” said she has always wanted a career in music, proving this with numerous posts of herself singing original songs on Instagram. The California native’s “drivers license” became the most streamed song on Spotify in a single week since its release earlier this year, and it lasted eight weeks at the top of the Billboard 100.

Her meteoric growth has undoubtedly been helped by social media, with TikTok users assisting in pushing “drivers license” to 130 million streams within its first week. Social media is

an important outlet for young pop stars, such as Rodrigo, to use to support their work. Users posting videos of musicians and their songs have made it easier than ever for stars to enter into the industry, paving the way for a new path to success, which Rodrigo welcomed with “drivers license.”

Rodrigo is no stranger to TikTok song success. In 2020, her song “All I Want,” written for High School Musical: The Musical: The Series” quickly went viral on the video-sharing platform, setting her up for success on the app.

In addition to becoming a viral sound on TikTok, “driver’s license” was also analyzed by fans, who believed that the song was written about “High School Musical: The Musical: The Series” co-star Joshua Bassett and his relationship with fellow-Disney alum Sabrina Carpenter.

A week later, Bassett responded with his own single, “Lie Lie

Lie,” which was dissected and considered a retort by fans, who also believe the older, blonde girl mentioned in Rodrigo’s lyrics is Carpenter, Bassett’s rumored girlfriend. Carpenter, who is blonde-haired and four years Rodrigo’s senior, released “Skin,” a song that contained lyrics directly relating to “driver’s license.”

Despite this drama, Rodrigo’s fans weren’t the only people to celebrate the release of the song; celebrities also gave Rodrigo praise. Kylie Jenner, Noah Centineo, Charli D’Amelio, Lucy Hale, Hailey Bieber, the Jonas Brothers and a slew of other celebrities shared her album on their Instagram stories, including Rodrigo’s biggest inspiration, Taylor Swift, who called Rodrigo her “baby” on Instagram.

Rodrigo, like many of her peers, regularly streams her life on social media. Her presence on such platforms helps her be-

come closer to her audience in comparison to an older Disney alum; they get to see how a similarly aged actress lives her life.

Her debut single also earned a double-platinum certification and charted at number one in a number of countries, some for several weeks. Her lyrics, full of rawness and emotion, have captivated fans all over the world, setting the stage for a dazzling future. Rodrigo’s mainstream popularity has only improved since her debut at the age of 17 and her continued success at 18.

On April 1, Rodrigo released another single, “deja vu,” which has already broken another collection of records and has also become a viral sound on TikTok, confirming that her debut album titled “SOOR” would be released on May 21.

Rodrigo and her peers are well aware of the many paths to pop superstardom, including TikTok. To fans, Rodrigo is on the cusp of becoming what Taylor Swift

is to Millennials – a breakup song icon. Despite the fact that her music career is only in its early stages, her success is proving that she will become the next Disney-originated music star.

Fans can purchase Rodrigo’s merchandise on her website and can watch season one of “High School Musical: The Musical: The Series,” and stream season two starting on May 14 on Disney Plus.

Rodrigo’s new album artwork

Photo courtesy of Rodrigo’s Instagram



ENTERTAINMENT

There's no time to waste: "Covet" by Tracy Wolff is out now

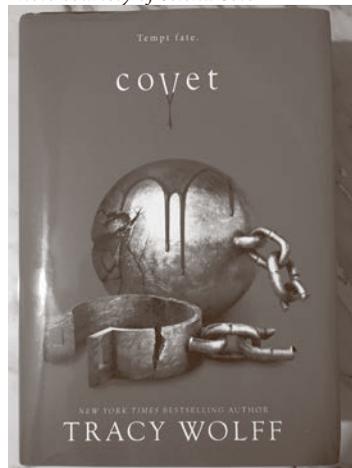
BY SELENA SOTO
Contributing Writer

If you still have not read any of the books in the "Crave" series, this is your sign to do so. "Crave," "Crush," and "Covet" by Tracy Wolff is a Harry Potter meets Twilight fictional book series told from the point of view of teenager Grace, who is forced to move from California to Alaska to attend Katmere Academy, following the tragic and sudden death of her parents. Grace's uncle is the headmaster at Katmere and her cousin Macy is a fellow student.

In the first book, "Crave," Grace soon discovers that Katmere Academy is a boarding school designed for supernatural students that consist of vampires, wolves, dragons, and witches. She is fascinated by the fact that her own cousin Macy is a witch and that her boyfriend Jaxon Vega, is a vampire prince. Grace accepts the fact that her relationship with Jaxon is far from normal. However, her connection to Jaxon runs so much deeper than on a school-girl crush level, she is his mate.

In "Crush," Jaxon Vega's older brother Hudson, the first-born vampire prince, manages to literally come back to life and complicate everything. Jaxon and Grace's mating bond is broken, nearly killing them both. Grace cannot ignore the feelings

Photo courtesy of Selena Soto



she has developed for Hudson, especially considering the memories they made together while she was trapped in stone that she can't quite remember. Grace also struggles with embracing her new identity as the first gargoyle to be born in generations and discovering what supernatural powers come with her new title. Each book in the "Crave" series is better than the last and is filled with suspense, steamy romance, and plot twists you'd never see coming.

In "Covet," Grace tries to pick up the shattered pieces of her and Jaxon's relationship, after their mating bond is destroyed, despite the fact that their severed bond defies all magical knowledge on the subject. To make matters worse, awkward and even more complicated, as soon as her bond with Jaxon breaks, her bond with Hudson starts. Grace tries to ignore her friendship and overwhelming feelings for Hudson in order to spare Jaxon more heartbreak. On top of her love life, Grace begins to plan for her new seat on the supernatural court as not only the only gargoyle but the queen of the gargoyle court. It doesn't help that now that Hudson is her mate, he will take his place by her side and rule as the gargoyle king.

As Grace walks on eggshells, trying to keep the peace between the two Vega brothers, she also has to protect all the people she loves from the power-hungry vampire king who just so happens to be the father of both guys she loves. The vampire king will stop at nothing to destroy Grace's reign before it even begins. Grace prepares herself for war, trying to find allies where she can, and is willing to lay down her life if it means that she finally seeks justice for the genocide of her people at the hands of the vampire king and pave the way for

the survival of every gargoyle to come after her.

Once you open the page to the first book of the Crave series, you will not be able to put it down until you read the second and third book. Wolff does an excellent job with developing each of her characters and giving them a voice. So don't be surprised if you find yourself falling in love and rooting for more than one character throughout the series. Wolff also doesn't give too much information away in the beginning of her books, but rather allows readers to put the pieces of the story together along the way. Each book in the "Crave" series does build off of each other, but they all hold their own storyline filled with mystery, romance, action, magic, and suspense. Wolff draws you into this series and keeps you craving more. As the semester comes to an end and you are looking for an entertaining and interesting read (that is not on your finals reading list), then Wolff has written the series you need to covet. I said it before and I will say it again, you will not be disappointed.

All three books, "Crush," "Crave," and "Covet" are out now on the shelves of Barnes and Nobles, and Amazon. The fourth and final book of the "Crave" series, "Court," is set to be released on Sept. 28. The only question left to ask is what are you waiting for?

Here's your copy of
The Charger Bulletin!



Beachside vibes

BY CAM GARDEN
Staff Writer

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As April comes to a close, the bittersweet ending of another school year comes around. Here's the perfect playlist to get you through the finals season slump and into the summer vacation we all deserve.

1. *Magic in the Hamptons* – Social House, Lil Yachty

This song perfectly sets up the vibe for this playlist. It has a nice melody and simple lyrics. It works perfectly for a chill day on the beach

2. *Drunk & I'm Drunk* – Marc E. Bassy, Bobby Brackins

Bassy's hit song features some amazing vocals and harmonies throughout the track. Coupled with the warming weather, this song is great whether you're drunk or sober.

3. *Summertime Magic* – Childish Gambino

From his project Guava Island with Rhianna, Gambino delivers this track with island vibes that can get anyone to move their feet and dance on the beach.

4. *Heebiejeebies* – Aminé, Kehlani

Aminé and Kehlani are the best duo on this playlist. If you close your eyes during Kehlani's part, you can almost pretend that she's singing to you.

5. *Sunday Best* – Surfaces

As usual, a TikTok song had to make the playlist, but "Sunday Best" is an excellent choice. Even though summer 2020 wasn't ideal, this song deserves a second chance at kicking off a great summer.

6. *Life is Good* – Cam Meekins

Simple and easy – life is good just like it should be during the summer.

7. *Endless Summer Symphony* – KYLE

Fairly self-explanatory, this song is great to vibe on the beach or to dance in the sand. Whatever suits your fancy, as long as you're making the best of your summer.

8. *3005 (Beach Picnic Version)* – Childish Gambino

Making a second appearance on the playlist, Gambino's revamped version of his hit single "3005" is perfect for the beach. Might as well have a picnic while you're at it.

9. *Sunshine* – KYLE, Miguel

Miguel's smooth vocals really carry this track. Honestly, an amazing way to end this playlist. If nothing else, get some sunshine and just let your summer be carefree.

STUDENT LIFE

Introducing the Women in Business club

BY BETH BEAUDRY
Student Life Editor

“There is a lack of diversity and equity in workplaces around the world, as well as the society we live in,” said Jocelyn Rodrigues, president of the Women in Business Club (WIB). “I wanted to help form an organization that would empower our students, especially women and minorities.”

The idea of WIB came from Assistant Dean of the Pompea College of Business Candice Deal, professor Khadija Al Arkoubi and MBA advisor Mona Mehrabi, who wanted to create a platform to enhance business opportunities for women at the university. In fall 2019, they presented the idea to Rodrigues, who was a graduate assistant in the dean’s office. Rodrigues agreed to help create the organization, and although

the pandemic delayed the process of becoming a Recognized Student Organization (RSO), WIB became an official club in Nov. 2020.

The organization was originally meant to be solely for students within the college of business, but it quickly expanded to include students of all programs, backgrounds and gender identities. Rodrigues said that while they want to create a platform for women, WIB is also about offering an equal opportunity for education and networking among all people. They also opened the club to a wide range of people.

“While we want to help women and minorities progress, that progress is incomplete without creating awareness and education across all majority populations, as well,” said Rodrigues. “It has to go hand in hand, otherwise it’s very hard to see

progress.”

Tanu Sharma, vice president of operations and communication and marketing graduate student, said, “The main goal of Women in Business is to provide students with valuable educational and networking opportunities regardless of their major or gender identity.”

Meetings and events for WIB center around how to navigate the world of business and the challenges that women and minorities face within the workforce. During Women’s History Month, they held an event featuring “five women from different walks of life.” This included university faculty, an NFL sports manager and other women of different ages and cultures.

According to junior international business major Olivia Jimenez, vice president of mentorship and collaboration, WIB

is a safe space where students can support each other, educate themselves and network. She said that she knew she wanted to be involved since the first general meeting for the club.

“The atmosphere was very welcoming and filled with people who wanted to better themselves. I knew it was something I needed to be a part of,” said Jimenez.

Similarly, Sharma liked the idea of WIB because it offered an opportunity to “support, promote, empower and recognize women in business.”

“As a News TV Producer in India, I have covered several women-related issues,” said Sharma. “And I always believed in the power of women supporting women. Women accomplish amazing things when we support each other.”

On May 6, students can look forward to Pompea Entrepre-

HER, a business pitch competition. It is an opportunity where competitors can promote their business, network and possibly win a cash prize.

WIB is also hoping to create a mentorship program in the future, where students can shadow a professional in their field. Rodrigues said that the university is in the progress of creating a mentorship program, and once it is complete, WIB will assist in helping students find the mentorship they need.

The Women in Business club is still new; its executive board is continuing to establish a presence on campus and is working to create more events, but its members have big plans for the club and even higher hopes for University of New Haven students.

Members of the club
Photo courtesy of Lismarie Pabon



STUDENT LIFE

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is ending, support is ongoing

BY BETH BEAUDRY
Student Life Editor

Since originating in 2001, April has been nationally observed as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). It is a time used to learn about the long history of the movement, to show support and help to encourage a positive change.

On April 1, the Dean of Students Office released an email informing students of the history of SAAM, details of the university's sexual harassment and misconduct policies, university resources and information on events that will be held

throughout the month.

The email stated that the Dean of Students Office and the Myatt Center for Diversity and Inclusion are hoping students attend the events as a way to, "bring awareness and educate others about the steps being taking to prevent sexual assault, harassment, and abuse and ways to create a safer culture on our campus."

Some events included a reading of survivor stories hosted by Alpha Sigma Alpha, an open mic night "themed around trauma and survivorship," SAAM tabling and educational Zoom discussions held by various

university offices.

There has also been a 30 days of SAAM social media campaign on the Wellness.UNe-wHaven Instagram page. This campaign includes educational tips, community shout-outs and featured an "Anti-Street Harassment Week" from April 11 to 17.

Katarina Carroll, an intern at the Title IX Compliance Office said that even with the events being online, there has been a good student turnout.

"I think with a month as big as SAAM students are more inclined to learn and be involved in general," said Carroll.

"Unfortunately it is something that impacts universities greatly therefore students are just the right individuals to stand against it."

According to Carroll, a way that students can show support to SAAM and their peers who are victims is by attending events centered around sexual assault awareness and making themselves aware of resources both on and off-campus.

"On campus, we have both confidential resources such as counseling, medical and the LiveSafe app, and nonconfidential such as university police and online reporting options," she

said.

Students can visit the 'Resources for Survivor's page on myCharger to learn more about the different on- and off-campus counseling opportunities, health services, the university's Milford Rape Crisis Center advocate and numbers to different help hotlines.

"In general, the best way to support a survivor is to listen," said Carroll. "Ask what they need in that moment and do your best to support decisions they make."

Big Tuesday is ready to "rendezvous"

BY KAYLA MUTCHLER
Editor-in-Chief

The university's student-run record label, Rise Records, is providing a professional yet self-controlled experience to two recording artists in the West Haven area. One band is Big Tuesday, and they have just released "Rendezvous" off of their upcoming extended play (EP) "For You."

There are four sophomore members in Big Tuesday: lead singer, rhythm guitarist and music industry major Elise Browell, drummer and music industry major Lee Jones, bassist and

Big Tuesday

Photo courtesy of Kayla Mutchler

music industry major Bobby Huiskamp and lead guitarist and music and sound recording major Sean Tierney.

The group formed during their freshman year. Tierney and Huiskamp were roommates who played together in their free time and discussed forming a band. The two met Jones through the Audio Engineering Society and asked him to be the drummer. Then, one day, Huiskamp heard Browell singing in the stairwell and asked her after class to join their band.

Before Browell joined, the other three members used a random word generator, and thus, the name "Big Tuesday" was born.

Big Tuesday has since released three singles called "Wonderland," "Where We Stand," and "All Over Again."

Their new single, "Rendezvous" came out of a natural jamming session during one of their rehearsals and recorded a riff in voice memos. About two weeks later, Huiskamp and Tierney were put into quarantine, so Browell and Jones wrote lyrics to the song in about two days.

"Rendezvous" is the first original song that Big Tuesday is releasing in their sophomore year.

Browell said that in the last two years, they have worked on creating original tracks. "'Wonderland' was our first, real, like, big project that we did and that everybody, like, really supported and loved," said Browell. "I think we're just trying to keep that energy from that first song and continue it throughout our music."

Huiskamp said being signed to Rise Records is beneficial because they get the experience of being in a professional record label, yet they own all of their music. The record label is mainly used for the distribution and promotion of music. However,



Browell and Jones performing

Photo courtesy of Kayla Mutchler

the program is in the process of being redesigned, which he said made for a confusing year.

"I think that's, like, super great because it's easier than just the four of us, like, having a plan. It's nice to have, kind of, a team that is designing things for us," said Browell.

Tierney said that recording has been a great experience so far because they get to do it with their friends outside of the band in Dodds Hall.

Big Tuesday is in the process of creating their EP. They plan to record with a private studio after finals week and release it at the beginning of the fall 2021 semester.

"[We] definitely [want to] just milk as many recordings as

we can out of the University of New Haven, get in the studio and play around New Haven," said Jones.

Jones said that they hope to stay in the band after college. "I feel like we just love making music and I think we just want to continue that for as long as possible."

On May 2, Big Tuesday will perform the songs from "For You" including "Rendezvous" in the Bixler/Gerber quad at 1:30 p.m. You can follow Big Tuesday on Instagram @thebigtuesday and listen to their music on any major streaming platform.



SPORTS

Charger Sports Spotlight: Nahtali Simpson

BY TYLER GARNET
Contributing Writer

Nahtali “Tali” Simpson is a junior music and sound recording major on the softball team with hopes to one day be involved in the music industry as an artist or a manager. She is a middle-infielder who mainly plays second base but also can play outfield. Simpson has been playing softball for 11 years with her last three years on the varsity team

Nahtali Simpson

Photo courtesy of Lismarie Pabon



at the University of New Haven.

Growing up, Simpson played soccer, basketball and tennis. One day, her friend joined a summer travel softball team, inspiring Simpson to try out as well, ultimately making the team.

Simpson said that her favorite part of being on the school team is “meeting different people. I joined late my freshman year since I walked on so I didn’t know anyone yet. Everyone quickly welcomed me to the team and now they will be a



Nahtali Simpson

Photo courtesy of Lismarie Pabon

part of my life forever. We have become a family.”

All of her favorite memories from being on the school team include traveling with her teammates on the bus. Between Simpson not playing much her freshman year and last season being cut short because of

COVID-19, being able to bond with her teammates on long road trips was a fun experience for her. “Last year we were able to go to Florida so that was a fun trip because we got to go to Disney and my freshman year we got to go to Tennessee where I have never been.”

Even though Simpson and the softball team were recently able to travel for a game, she said it is not the same because of COVID-19. She said that if there is one thing the pandemic has taught her, it would be to “not to take anything for granted. I know people say it a lot but you don’t truly get it until something is taken away from you.”

Simpson is happy to be able to get back on the diamond and play softball for the first time in over a year after almost not having a season at all. Her personal goal this year is to try to have the most stolen bases in a single season. She is also taking in every moment because she knows that everything can quickly change. Simpson is happy to be able to play softball again with the Chargers, who are currently 16-4 and fighting for first place in the NE-10 softball standings which, according to Simpson, is the “cherry on top.”

Baseball splits with Southern

BY JOSEPH KLAUS
Sports Editor

The Chargers honored their five graduating seniors in their double header slate against cross-town rival, Southern Connecticut State University, on Saturday.

The Chargers took game one of the double header, honoring their seniors with a 4-3 win. Dylan Chiaro and Andrew Bianco each delivered clutch hits, driving in runs for the Chargers when it mattered the most.

Brandon Lamana grabbed the win on the mound, shutting the door on the Owls in the sixth and seventh after pitching himself out of multiple runners on situations.

The Chargers looked to carry

the momentum into game two, but struggled to get the big hit with runners in scoring position. The Blue and Gold stranded 11 runners throughout the game, with at least one in each inning.

Multiple times the Chargers inched back into the games, getting within one run, but were unable to grab a lead after surrendering four runs to the Owls in the fourth. The Owls man-

aged to continue to pull ahead and push runs across on their way to a 10-3 victory with five Owls scoring in the ninth.

The Chargers return to action next weekend as they travel to Pace for two Southwest divisional double headers against the Setters, with first pitches coming at noon on Saturday and again on Sunday.

Photo courtesy of New Haven Athletics



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Graphic courtesy of Elisa D'Egidio

POLITICS

The people's champion or the people's president?

BY ELISA D'EGIDIO
Staff Writer

Professional wrestler and highest-paid male actor Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson announced on the Today Show that with enough support, he would potentially run for U.S. President.

From 17-time champion to People's "Sexiest Man Alive," Johnson's wide-ranged resume might just have a new edition: President of the United States. His new NBC television series, "Young Rock," shows an older, fictional Johnson running for president in 2032, teasing this idea.

In an interview with Willie Geist, that aired on April 18, Johnson said, "I do have that goal to unite our country and I also feel that if this is what the people want, then I will do that."

"I am passionate about making sure our country is united, because a united country, as we know, is its strongest. And I

want to see that for our country," said Johnson.

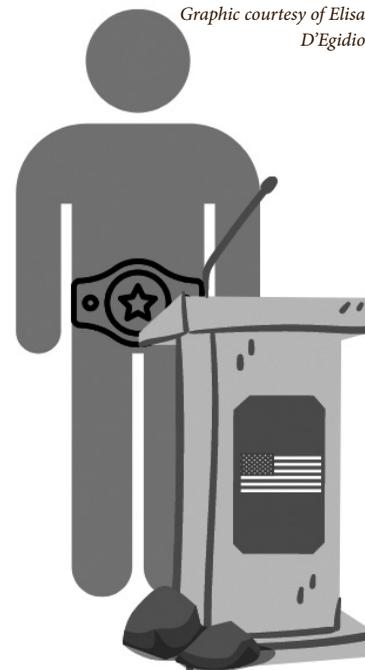
His potential presidential run has quickly gained popularity, as a new poll shows that at least 46% of the almost 30 thousand adults surveyed would support the former WWE star.

On April 9, Johnson tweeted "Not sure our Founding Fathers ever envisioned a six-four, bald, tattooed, half-Black, half-Samoan, tequila drinking, pick up truck driving, fanny pack wearing guy joining their club - but if it ever happens it'd be my honor to serve the people".

This is not the first time that the former WWE superstar teased a presidential run. When the topic was brought up in a 2017 GQ article he said it is "a real possibility." While on "The Ellen Show" in 2017 he also said he is "seriously considering" a presidential run in the future.

Fear of having another non-politician president seems to be a common trend on Twit-

ter. User @laurapy responded to one of The Rock's tweets saying, "You're a great guy, truly, but governing is really hard, and I'd really prefer someone with more experience with that. Consider...getting some experience in govt between now and



then? Sit on a committee in your town/city, perhaps?"

User @alexterra03, however, proudly shows his support saying, "I'd vote for the people's president"

In Sept. 2020, The Rock took to Instagram to publicly endorse President Joseph R. Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, saying, "As a registered Independent for years now with centrist ideologies, I do feel that Vice President Biden and Sen. Harris are the best choice to lead our country, and I am endorsing them to become president and vice president."

Another famous Hollywood star has also been considering running for office. Actor Matthew McConaughey is considering running for Texas Governor. In a CBS article, McConaughey said, "I would be a fool not to. It's a very honorable thing to consider, you know, what that position would mean. What would it be for me, what would it mean for the people of Texas."

According to the Texas Tribune, McConaughey has not taken part in the Texas primaries since 2012 and has not made any campaign donations. McConaughey has also openly expressed his frustrations with the two-party system, encouraging people to "get aggressively centric."

Twitter user @drake_crump said, "Matthew McConaughey would win the Texas governor race by a landslide in 2022".

These two would not be the first stars turned politicians. Former professional bodybuilder Arnold Schwarzenegger was Governor of California from Nov. 17, 2003, to Jan. 3, 2011. The Rock's peer Glenn Jacobs, more popularly known as WWE's Kane, is the current Mayor of Knox County, Tennessee. Most famously, former President Donald J. Trump was successful in building an empire not only in real estate but in the entertainment business.

Mitch McConnell condemns the involvement of business in politics

BY SAMUEL
WEINMANN
Staff Writer

In a public statement on April 5, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell strongly opposed corporate interference in politics, saying that "businesses must not use economic blackmail to spread disinformation and push bad ideas that citizens reject at the ballot box."

This statement follows corporate backlash to voter suppression laws in Georgia, which made it a crime to give water to voters and banned mobile voting sites.

Although opposition came from large corporations like Facebook, Coca Cola and Delta, major backlash that sparked much public debate and opposition stemmed from Major

League Baseball's decision to move their All-Star game out of Georgia.

Despite McConnell's adamant assertions about business in politics, his past does not align with his current beliefs. Previously, McConnell has been a strong supporter of corporate monetary contributions—shown through his support of the Supreme Court's 2010 decision in Citizens United v. FEC — a verdict that gave large businesses more control over campaign donations, effectively allowing them to operate as private citizens with First Amendment rights.

When confronted about this discrepancy, McConnell said businesses "have the right to participate in the political process," but that it should be limited solely to monetary

donations.

Despite McConnell's warnings, such as his statement that corporations "will invite serious consequences," corporations aren't listening. According to the Washington Post, over 100 corporations have met to discuss ways to oppose these laws in other states.

Starbucks, Target and Delta were present at that Zoom meeting, amongst many other high-profile corporations, showing that McConnell's warnings are largely being ignored. Business executives who attended discussed the importance of equal voting laws and ways that they could use their power and influence to fight for that, such as by "delaying investments in states that pass the restrictive measures."

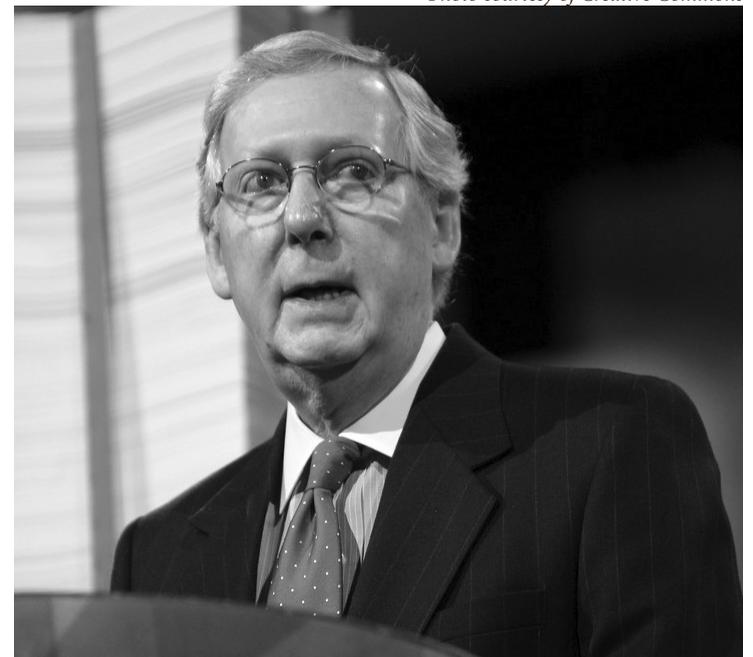
Especially as voter sup-

pression laws are on the rise, corporations are taking McConnell's warning with a grain of salt, and corporate involvement

in politics doesn't appear to be going away anytime soon.

Mitch McConnell

Photo courtesy of Creative Commons



OPINIONS

Has COVID-19 instilled a fear of the outdoors in us?

BY AMANDA CASTRO
Managing Editor

As we were thrust into a “new normal” a little over a year ago, it has been difficult to ease out of that, back into the “old normal.” Masks, face shields or hand sanitizing stations at every corner are a distant memory.

Since the start of the pandemic and the plentiful warnings from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), I have done the most to not leave my household. To me, taking classes remotely and opting for virtual doctor’s appointments – if they’re available – is the best way of ensuring that I do not get sick or worsen my chronic health condition.

Many people might be anxious about leaving their house as more places around the world reduce the severity of COVID-19 guidelines, still

afraid about contracting the coronavirus. Regardless of the fact that one may not know a single person who has been infected with COVID-19, people may fear due to the most frightening aspects of the sometimes fatal virus. This pandemic-induced concern can be related to agoraphobia, a fear-based anxiety condition in which people avoid or fear environments that make them feel embarrassed, vulnerable or frightened.

The apprehension associated with agoraphobia and the current pandemic can make people fearful of everyday things such as shopping, using public transit or participating in large crowds, such as at a sports event or festival.

However, as the COVID-19 vaccines become more widely available a growing number of people are discovering that they are well protected against the

virus and may desire to leave their houses more often or at all. Yet, this does not mean that just because most people have recently become eligible to take the vaccine, they should let their guards down.

Individually, the COVID-19 vaccines are very effective, but they will become more effective after everyone has had one, according to the New York Times. The vaccines currently available will shield consumers from serious illness and will almost certainly prevent them from contracting COVID-19.

The goal for healthcare professionals is to eventually reach “herd immunity,” which happens after a large portion of the population has been exposed to COVID-19 or has received the vaccine. Cases would be rare.

In order to reduce anxiety generated by the virus, vaccines and the media should ease into

depressing. According to the Anxiety and Depression Association of America (ADAA), small steps toward that objective are prudent. It is important to

be able to work to both protect oneself from the virus as well as from the anxiety going out can produce.

Graphic courtesy of Elisa D'Egidio



How confident do students feel about finals?

BY KIANA WHITE
Contributing Writer

May 12 will mark the end of the spring 2021 semester. Despite the relief students may feel as summer approaches, how confident do students feel about finals? For many college students, final exams are a continuous cycle that is dreaded and often disliked, especially in a pandemic.

This upcoming semester could also have less COVID-19 restrictions, such as more in-person classes, since the beginning of the pandemic. For some remote students, the workload is consistent, but their motivation levels are decreasing.

Junior communication major Jenelle Johnson has remained remote for the duration of the Spring semester. She said, “Remote learning hasn’t negatively impacted my grades, but it did affect my motivation. Being away from my friends and cam-

pus life caused me to feel like school was no longer worth it. Remote learning began to feel mundane, and I became discouraged because this wasn’t how I envisioned my junior year.”

Similar to Johnson, student life as a commuter has its downsides according to senior economics major Hannah Providence. She has also faced both struggles of preparing for finals and remote learning. Although most of her classes are online, she continues to stay engaged by emailing professors, using campus services and staying organized. But the question arises, how has university faculty helped to prepare students for finals?

“The main thing I look for with faculty is their ability to communicate,” said Providence. “The professors who are responsive, quick to answer my questions, quick to grade and provide meaningful feedback on my work, and easily accessi-

ble, are the professors who are preparing me to perform well in their course.”

Even with the faculty’s willingness to help students succeed, there are still exhausting effects that finals have on students. This semester has been a trying time for many students, especially first-year students, ultimately having their first year in college completely during the COVID-19 pandemic. Freshman general business management major Kayá Francis feels a great amount of pressure when thinking about taking finals.

“When thinking about finals, I do tend to get nervous before, during, and after the test because I want to make sure I do my very best,” said Francis. “I know that I’ve studied and asked all the questions I could, but sometimes you can blank out during test[s], or you could be having a bad day.”

Francis also said, “studying, as all college students know, can

be unapologetically draining.”

As the weeks progress, students’ best hope is to study, stay organized and reach out for help when needed.

There are multiple resources for students on campus. This includes the Center for Learn-

ing Resources for homework and counseling services and the Center for Student Success. All these resources can help increase their success in preparing and taking finals.

Photo courtesy of Lismarie Pabon



VIEWPOINTS

Deconstructing taboo topics: The value of academia

BY CAM GARDEN &
ISABELLE HAJEK
Staff Writers

For most students, the value of academia is highly regarded as the ultimate sign of success. Even more so, the definition of higher academia has become muddled with economic propositions that directly feed into capitalism rather than embracing the noble pursuit of knowledge.

The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators wrote, “As the rising cost of college and increasing student debt levels continue to

garner public attention in the media and on Capitol Hill, the value of a higher education has been closely scrutinized.”

On the same page, they list a multitude of studies and analyses that support the fiscal need for higher education, ultimately contending that it is worth the price paid. However, education and academia remain deemphasized in present society while overcharging people for access to knowledge.

For the fiscal year 2021, the federal education budget was reduced 8.4% to 66.6 billion while the defense budget experienced a .01% increase to 705.4 billion with a planned emphasis

on “modernization of a more lethal force.” This comes after years of public and political push for more attention given to education and multiple studies reflecting a gross underfunding of the education system.

In 2018, the American Federation of Teachers released a statement that showed a \$19 billion annual deficit in education funding. In 2020, this number rose to \$150 billion in an analysis conducted by The Century Foundation. Both statements, and many like them, explain the lack of resources afforded to students and teachers alike in the K-12 system, specifically caused by a lack of funding.

This issue of devaluing education pervades budgets and K-12 education, further infiltrating the world of higher academia through information and access gatekeeping. Despite programs such as Michele Obama’s 2020 “Reach Higher” campaign and President Joseph Biden’s election platform on education, the structure of higher academia remains an exclusive one.

This exclusivity or higher academia is best modeled by the academic publishing industry. While there are some open-access sources, they are not the majority; most academic journals and articles require payment to be accessed. Large publishers such as Reed-Elsevier, Wiley-Blackwell and Springer control the majority of publications requiring individual subscriptions for access. If a person is enrolled in university, they may have access via their institution, but it comes at a cost.

Graphic courtesy of Isabelle Hajek

Increasing subscription costs have recently led to what one Vox article coins as the “Open Access Wars,” as librarians and universities try to haggle down subscription costs and sometimes make the hard decision to reduce their subscription, and thus, access. This war has resulted in reduced access to academia, not only for the average American but also for those actively invested in academia. Springer chief publishing officer Inchcoombe said that this devalues the pursuit of education and information and that “Open access is absolutely in the best interest of the research process.”

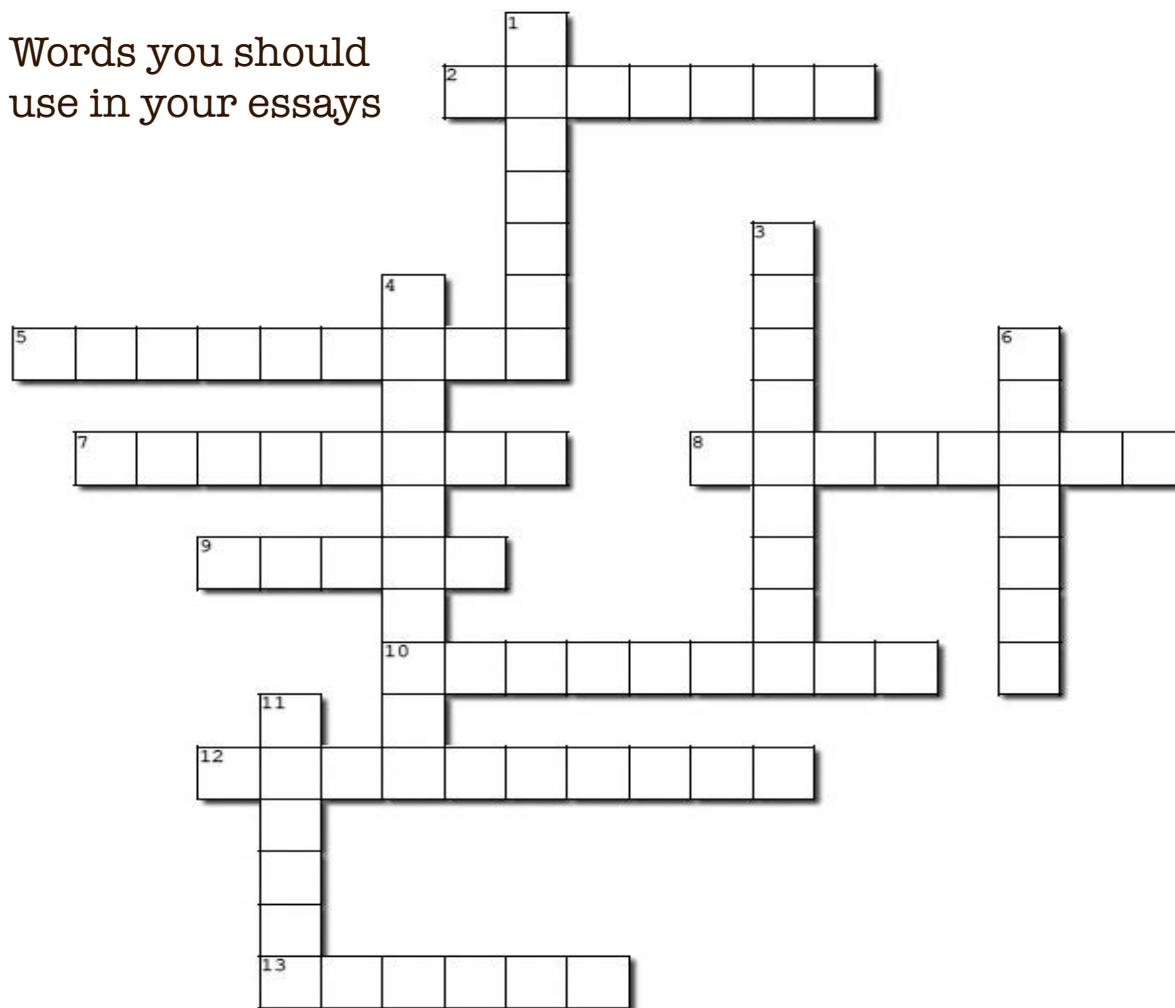
Beyond fiscal access, universities themselves are falling into a pattern of deemphasizing education in favor of credentials, as one Forbes article posits. Despite many universities’ promises in creating “lifelong learners” they seldom follow through, modeling their education like an assembly line producing degree completion rather than educated citizens. Reduced tuition for a second degree and half-heartedly advertised certificate programs do not make a lifelong learner.

Ultimately, education is not valued on a macro-level as seen in funding nor on the micro-level of singular institutions, providing easy access and prolonged educational experiences. Instead, education is viewed as a means to further advance in the capitalist structure of society to achieve a modicum of monetary success, rather than the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake. And even with this understanding, it is only accessible to those with the means. Where education was once used to ascend societal structures and challenge them, it has now become indoctrinated as support for societal structure, however diminutive it may be.



FUN AND GAMES

Words you should use in your essays



Across:

- 2. To be cheerful; sounds like ‘jock.’
- 5. Courageous; A faction in the ‘Divergent’ series.
- 7. Languid, sluggish; ‘Talks for six hours, the convention is _____. Bright young man, yo who the F is this?’
- 8. A beginner.
- 9. To hate.
- 10. Useful.
- 12. Careful.
- 13. Arrogance.

Down:

- 1. Abundant.
- 3. Capable of being shaped, pliable.
- 4. Generous; Opposite of ‘malevolent.’
- 6. Simply tranquil.
- 11. Tastelessly showy.

Get the answers to this week’s puzzles on chargerbulletin.com!

Graphic courtesy of Elisa D’Egidio

CHARGER BULLETIN NEWS

EPISODES OUT EVERY THURSDAY!

CHARGERBULLETIN.COM

A promotional graphic for 'Charger Bulletin News'. It features a woman in a news studio setting, with the show's title in large white letters on a blue background. Below the title, it says 'EPISODES OUT EVERY THURSDAY!' and 'CHARGERBULLETIN.COM'.

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