

WBB wins as DeBose caps off Black Lives Matter Night with game winner



The New Haven women's basketball team wears "Black Lives Matter" shirts against the College of Staten Island, West Haven, Feb. 15, 2023. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tori Gonzalez.

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL
AND TYLER WELLS

With seconds ticking down and the score tied, the ball was in Camryn DeBose's hands.

On the wing, she crossed over and lowered her shoulder into the defender in front of her. She drove through the lane and as she's done all year, connected on a big time shot with her body twisting through the air. The layup gave New Haven the slim win, as the final seconds ticked off the clock and the College of Staten Island missed a floater to tie it up.

The finish was a storybook for DeBose, as it came on a night that went beyond basketball.

DeBose, a member of New Haven's Student Athlete Advisory Committee, organized a Black Lives Matter theme for the game alongside the Black Student Union and university alum Bianca Chambers. The night aimed to raise awareness to the Black Lives Matter movement and recognize the many names of those affected by police brutality and systemic injustice in the country.

"I hope [those attending the games] see more about the Black

community, learn about the Black community," DeBose said after the game while donning a "Black Is Beautiful" shirt. "I want people to show up and to know that Black Lives Matter isn't about exclusion but inclusion and that injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere."

While it may have just been a Wednesday night, out-of-conference basketball game, it took a greater meaning in what it means for DeBose to be an athlete and have such a platform.

"I think it means a lot, especially seeing that a student-athlete is just as passionate about a politi-

cal [and] social movement that's worldwide," DeBose said. "When they see us leading, maybe it can get people to engage."

Heading into the night as heavy favorites on the court, New Haven scored the first basket of the game with a DeBose jumper, her first of a game-high 26 points. Two minutes later, she scored another jumper to give the Chargers an early four-point lead.

Staten Island responded with a three from guard Kaia Johnson, but DeBose continued her hot start with another jumper and two three-pointers. With three minutes remaining in the first quarter, New Haven was at 12 points.

New Haven continued their strong offensive start with scores from but forward Aurora Deshaies and guard Kameryn King pushed the Chargers to a 10-point lead with 1:28 on the clock. Staten Island cut that lead down to five with a jumper from guard Elizabeth Lofaro and a three from forward Jenalyse Alarcon, waking up forward Leighanna Lister's jumper to put New Haven ahead by seven for the final score of the quarter.

Lister started the scoring in the second quarter with a layup, assisted by forward Bianca Pendleton. New Haven built their lead back up to double-digits with a layup from Deshaies, ending the game's two-minute scoreless streak.

New Haven continued building their lead to as many as 18 after a pair of free throws from King. Staten Island would not allow the Chargers another basket in the final 4:45 of the half, scoring seven unanswered points to get within 11 going into the break.

Both teams scored early in the second half with a three from New Haven guard Lindsay Hogan and a layup from Alarcon. New Haven stayed in control of the game, keeping a comfortable lead with strong defense and scores from Hogan, Deshaies and Lister.

Staten Island responded, scoring six points in the final two minutes, which brought them within eight going into the fourth quarter.

After a layup from Deshaies, Staten Island guard Ashley Lambert caught fire with eight consecutive points, making it a two-point game with 6:53 remaining. DeBose answered right back with a three, and a pair of free throws from King extended the Chargers' lead to seven.

New Haven's offense could not get back on track after a 30-second timeout, which gave Staten Island a chance to take the game with just over three minutes left. Lambert then knocked down a pair of clutch threes with time winding down to tie the game at 54.

An Indigenous student's thoughts on campus inclusivity

BY JUSTIN COVIELLO
Campus News Editor

The University of New Haven rests on forgotten land. Before European colonists came to a pre-colonial United States, the campus grounds we walk on were inhabited entirely by Indigenous Americans, including the Quinnipiac tribe which once spanned much of New Haven County. Nearby universities such as the University of Connecticut, University of Hartford, Sacred Heart University and Yale University have all done

their due diligence and recognized this blemish in history, so what are we waiting for?

Destiny Ray, a junior cybersecurity and networking major, wonders the same thing. Belonging to the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation, she has been visiting their reservation in North Stonington, Conn. and attending powwows since she was an infant.

Ray spoke with immense pride in her Indigenous roots. Her dad now serves as chairman of the tribe, and that familial success has rubbed off on her.

"It makes me more proud...

because [of] how involved I am with my tribe, especially with how small we are," she said.

The powwows are especially sentimental for Ray. Powwows are held every July at the reservation, they act as a celebration of traditions, family and tribe. People dress in traditional regalia and headdresses and embrace each other in a variety of songs and dances.

Ray also appreciates the powwows because they allow the tribe to not worry about the struggles of Native American life for a day, noting both historical examples

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University introduces new library director

BY JUSTIN COVIELLO
Campus News Editor

Lauren Slingluff, the new library director at the University of New Haven, has a wall lined with a shelf of books of different genres and time periods, ranging from “War and Peace” to “The Canterbury Tales” to “The History of the Colony of New Haven.” She described that location as “a great Zoom background.” A coffee table in the middle of the room carries fidget toys for students, and her desk contains “Burke’s Peerage,” a mammoth novel offering a comprehensive history of the English royal family which she uses as a laptop stand.

Slingluff has over a decade of experience in collegiate library services. In that time, she served for four years as the associate dean of the University of Connecticut’s library, as well as seven years in multiple roles at Wheaton College Massachusetts.

She earned her bachelor’s degree in religious studies with a minor in gender and sexuality studies and graduated as magna cum laude from St. Lawrence University. She also received her master’s degree in library and information science from Simmons University. Slingluff

got her start in librarianship as an undergraduate student, working in her university’s library archives and special collections. Her motivation to continue in the field came from her love for learning.

“When you work in an academic library, you get to learn all the time,” she said. “Every time you support someone on their research project, you’re getting to learn about their topic with them.”

One thing that Slingluff

especially appreciates about the University of New Haven is the quaintness of the campus and how it lends itself to an increased dedication to students’ success.

“I was getting tours on campus and people knew each other,” she said. “This is the environment I want to be in: collaborative, creative people [with] a sense of community and a really clear purpose that is all about student success.”

Slingluff is using her first

two months as a “listening tour” to find out exactly what the campus community likes and dislikes about the current state of the library. One thing she is looking to implement in future semesters is a variety of “stress-busting” events around midterm and final exams such as board game nights and therapy dog visits, in order to bring students relief during the most stressful times of the academic year.

Many students currently use

the library for its auxiliary functions, such as the Center for Learning Resources, Writing Center, group study and printing areas. But it seems that many have lost sight of the primary function of the library: being set free in a labyrinth of literature with the ability to explore texts, where the prevailing noise is merely the whisper in your head as your eyes gloss the pages.

To combat this, Slingluff said that she wants to market the library as more of a place where “the books are front and center,” with the inclusion of leisure reading stations and increased awareness about special collections and archival material. “University should be a time where you are pursuing knowledge and developing yourself as a whole person,” she said. “That means that you get to pursue things that are of interest to you, and the library wants... to make sure that happens.”

In her quest to help create “the library of the future,” Slingluff wants to make the library a more collaborative space where students know that the librarians and staff are committed to aiding them in their academic journey.



Lauren Slingluff in her new office, West Haven, Feb. 16, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Charlotte Bassett.

Muslim Student Association holds collections for Turkey and Syria

BY JUSTIN COVIELLO
Campus News Editor

After a catastrophic series of earthquakes that devastated the populations of Turkey and Syria, the University of New Haven came together to do their part and send over supplies. Leading the civil engagement was the Muslim Student Association (MSA), who coordinated two events last week.

On Feb. 6, two earthquakes struck Turkey and Syria, both registering magnitudes higher than seven on the Richter scale, less than 12 hours apart from each other. The death toll has climbed to over 40,000, with innumerable others being injured, displaced or otherwise affected.

Starting on Feb. 12, they concluded a four-day drive, accepting items such as gently used clothes and blankets, as well as medical supplies to be sent to Turkey. Youssef Ossama, MSA vice president and junior marketing major, said MSA “received over nine full bags of donations.”

Last Thursday and Friday, they

accepted cash donations, which would be sent through the All Aid Syrians organization, raising \$260 to send to those in need.

These acts of community service are nothing new for MSA, as the organization is dedicated to hosting one drive per month, even in the welcomed absence of tragedy.

Ossama recognizes that many students cannot often commit to donating, saying “We’re college students. We don’t want to [ask too much] of students,” he said. Ossama preached the importance of sharing initiatives to combat donation inactivity, such as “taking pictures of what [MSA] is doing, posting them on Instagram and telling friends to donate.”

For those that were able to help, no matter how big or small the contribution, Ossama would like to thank everyone that donated to the drives.

“[MSA] is very happy and very grateful for it and hopefully we get that support for every single drive that we have,” he said.



MSA members at their Syrian Aid table, West Haven, February 16, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Sadara Funches.

Controversy arises surrounding the first AP Black Studies course

BY ERIN SMITH
Politics Editor

February is National Black History Month, which honors African Americans throughout United States history and commemorates their struggles and triumphs. The first Advanced Placement (AP) class in Black Studies was announced Feb. 2 at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture, with teachers and academics in attendance, and faced immediate criticism. The course lacked topics such as Black Lives Matter, reparations, queer studies and police brutality that people at the unveiling thought were essential to the course. This made supporters wonder if the College Board had bowed to criticism from Florida officials. “We all suspected that the changes to the curriculum were

prompted by political pressure,” said Robin D.G. Kelley, a historian at the University of California, Los Angeles, in an email. The College Board, headed by David Coleman, is a nonprofit organization that administers SATs and AP courses throughout high schools in the United States. Coleman said the motivations for the changes in the course were not responses to criticism. But when the course was displayed to the states’ Department of Education (DOE), Florida sent a letter to the College Board that rejected the course. Jason Manoharan, vice president for AP program development, and Florida state officials met to discuss the content. After the meeting, Manhoran said, “I have interacted with many DOEs — this DOE acts as a political apparatus. It’s not an effort to improve education.” Manoharan, who is one of the primary decision makers, said

the term intersectionality was removed from the course because it was “filled up with political rhetoric.” Intersectionality is the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage. In a statement from the College Board released on Feb. 11, they said, “they [FDOE] also claimed that we removed terms like “systemic marginalization” and “intersectionality” at their behest.” Florida officials shared a chronology of their communications with the College Board on Feb. 7, which increased people’s suspicions about the course changes. The College Board said in their Feb. 11 statement, responding to Florida’s letter, “... Florida expresses gratitude for the removal of 19 topics, none of which they ever asked us to remove, and most

of which remain in the official framework.” “We deeply regret not immediately denouncing the Florida Department of Education’s slander, magnified by the DeSantis administration’s subsequent comments, that African American Studies “lacks educational value.” Our failure to raise our voice betrayed Black scholars everywhere and those who have long toiled to build this remarkable field,” the College Board said. One of the main reasons the course was added was to encourage all students, especially Black students to take AP courses and exams in which they have been historically underrepresented. In a 2017-18 study from the U.S. Department of Education’s Civil Rights Data Collection, 52.4% of white students were enrolled in AP classes compared to only 9.3% of Black students. The College Board said about the course, “This will be the most

rigorous, cohesive immersion that high school students have ever had in this discipline. Many more students than ever before will go on to deepen their knowledge in African American Studies programs in college.” The framework for the course announced on Feb. 2 is “only the outline of the course, still to be populated by the scholarly articles, video lectures, and practice questions that we assemble and make available to all AP teachers in the summer for free and easy assignment to their students,” said the College Board. “This new AP course can be historic—what makes history are the lived experiences of millions of African Americans, and the long work of scholars who have built this field.” This course served to propel more Black students into AP classes to set them up for success in college and the future.

Contenders of the 2024 Presidential Election

BY ERIN SMITH
Politics Editor

In the coming months, possible candidates for the 2024 Presidential election will start announcing their bids for either Republican or Democratic nominations. In 2020, the average date for presidential running bid announcements was March 17, in the next few months more possible contenders should announce their bid. Presently, there are two announced candidates: former Republican President Donald Trump and former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R- SC). Haley previously served under the Trump administration as the ambassador to the United Nations. She left the administration in 2018 after voluntarily stepping down from her position. Trump announced his bid for the Republican nomination on Nov. 15 from his estate in Palm Beach, Fla. “This comeback starts right now, after losing to incumbent President Joseph Biden in the 2020 election,” he said. Trump is facing many legal investigations regarding the Jan. 6 insurrection and the classified documents found in his personal property. Announcing his run for president in November will fend off potential primary rivals and give him an early advantage with deep-pocketed donors, as reported by CNN. Haley announced her run for the Republican nomination on Feb. 14. She is the first competitor against Trump and would be the first woman and first Asian American GOP nominee. Haley has a lot of foreign policy experience, giving her a step up from other potential nominees. She said she wants to help the country

break free from its path of “doubt, division, and self-destruction” and “fading patriotism and weakening power.” President Joseph Biden has not officially announced that he is running, but has said “it’s my intention,” to run for a second term. He would be the oldest president to seek a second term and according to an ABC poll, 58% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents would prefer a different nominee for the 2024 election. The majority of possible candidates have not announced if they

are running, but there are some to keep a look out for as election season approaches. Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-Fla.) could be a competitor for the nomination. He just won re-election for his current role and has built up his status. Some notable things he has done while serving in Florida are opposing coronavirus restrictions, pushing to restrict school discussions of race, sexuality and gender and denouncing “wokeness.” Another possible candidate is former Vice President Mike Pence. He said “in the months ahead,”

he will decide if he will run in the 2024 election. He previously served under Trump and has condemned Trump’s actions regarding the Jan. 6 insurrection. Traveling to key primary states, Pence is advocating for abortion restrictions and is meeting with Christian conservative leaders. Former Secretary of State under the Trump administration, Republican Mike Pompeo said, “in the next handful of months,” he will decide if he is running. Pompeo is also a former director of the CIA and ex-member of the House of

Representatives from Kansas. Some more potential candidates include Republican governors Chris Christie (R-N.J.), Larry Hogan (R-MD), Asa Hutchinson (R- Ark.), Kristi Noem (R-S.D.), Chris Sununu (R-N.H.) and Glenn Youngkin (R-Va.). So far, no Democrats have made efforts to run against incumbent President Biden. It is still early in election season, but in the Spring of 2023, more bids should be announced for the 2024 Presidential election.



A view from within the capitol, Washington D.C., March 8, 2018.
Photo courtesy of Unsplash/Louis Velazquez.

Hospital for Special Care guest introduces volunteer opportunities

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH
Arts & Life Editor

University of New Haven students stopped by Echlin Hall recently to meet Olivia Reed, volunteer services and community relations coordinator for the Hospital for Special Care (HFSC) based in New Britain, Conn. Part of Reed’s job is to organize outreach for prospective interns and volunteers.

HFSC is a non-profit hospital, and the fourth largest acute care and long-term hospital in the United States. The hospital has

locations in New Britain and Hartford, Conn.; both of which have more than 1300 employees, 236 beds and 50,000 outpatient visits per year with eight areas of care expertise including an autism center, brain injury care and cardiac program.

There are many opportunities for students to volunteer at HFSC, such as assisting clinicians in care areas and tending to patients. Reed said the hospital is looking for volunteers who are “self-driven.” The volunteers should also be “passionate about helping [and] being part of our community,” she said.

Reed said she enjoys doing outreach because she loves “meeting other people and connecting with the schools [and] potential applicants who you know may have never even heard of the Hospital for Special Care.”

“It’s pretty incredible - just connecting - making connections and telling people about the amazing things that we do at [HFSC],” she said.

Ashish Upadhyaya, a professor for the School of Health Sciences and the director of the Health Professions Advising Center, helped Reed put together the session. Upadhyaya said he

likes having events such as this because it is “helping students forge those professional networks and helping them... having those professional connections is so important.”

Upadhyaya said he holds information sessions to help students get real-world opportunities, but also to help organizations such as the HFSC.

“The Hospital for Special Care really could use volunteer help,” he said. “It’s for a very good cause.”

The requirements for volunteer eligibility include education and training provided by HFSC,

being fully vaccinated against Covid-19 and being available to work at least three hours per week for four to six months.

Perks include gaining professional experience, meal vouchers for those working over four hours per shift, free parking and much more.

If you want to learn more about the volunteer opportunities and fill out an application, make sure to visit the HFSC volunteer website. The application will be on the same page, which requires an HFSC account to access.

Winter Guard prepares for upcoming competition

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH
Arts & Life Editor

For those who don’t know, the Winter Guard will be traveling to Naugatuck High School in Naugatuck, Conn. for the Musical Arts Conference (MAC) competition next Saturday.

Gia Burgener, a junior chemical engineering major, takes positions on both the rifle line and saber line. “I do not have any specific jobs,” they said. Burgener’s job on the guard is to support the team as much as they can, which ranges from answering choreography questions to cheering teammates on.

Burgener said their favorite part about the competition is “seeing everything coming alive after the show has been worked on in parts.” These parts include uniforms arriving, show silks

being taped to the poles and the choreography coming together.

Burgener said it is great “to take it all and to perform your heart out in front of an audience that loves to cheer your team on.” The passion pouring from this team is immense, and it will show itself when the guard performs.

The team values interpersonal support in their endeavors. “If one of us sees that someone is struggling with a part or confused about counts, for example, we will always help each other out,” said Burgener. They said it is important to “build each other up and cheer each other on” because of the frustration that can easily come when vying for success.

CiCi Bushay, a sophomore English major and member of the dance line, discussed the challenges of the upcoming competi-

tion. “Even though it is our first competition, the competition season has already started,” said Bushay. “The judges will expect more from us, regardless of the fact that it is our first competition this year. Our first competition is the same week that the lac [lacrosse] start-of-season rules stop being used because we’re farther into the season.”

Despite the challenges ahead, Bushay hopes that the team will “have fun” since it is “the first competition of the year, so the energy is going to be really high.”

Bushay also said that even before the competition begins, both team members and observers have been supportive toward the Winter Guard. “Everyone with cars offers rides to people who can’t drive, we help each other with hair and makeup before we go on, veterans talk

rookies through every step of the day, we stretch together, and get our minds calm and ready for the competition as a team,” she said.

Kenziy McClure, a senior theater arts major and co-captain of the Winter Guard team, said there has been “a crazy amount of rehearsal and learning to prepare for competitions.”

“Trying tricks and teaching each other new things is as enriching and fun as it comes,” said McClure. They said that their hope is for their love of performing and for the sport to shine through to the audience.

McClure also admitted nervousness when preparing for the team’s first competition, “It is really hard not to be nervous during shows with so many moving parts, but trusting each other through every stage of the process, from auditions to rehearsal to performance, gets us



Winter Guard rehearses, West Haven, Feb. 19, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Charlotte Bassett.

through to being excited to burn the place down,” they said.

McClure says they will cherish every minute spent on the floor with the rest of the Winter Guard.



Winter Guard rehearses at North Campus, West Haven, Feb. 19, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Charlotte Bassett.

MSA welcomes Judge Clifton Graves to speak during Black History Month

BY JUSTIN COVIELLO
AND PRESLEY DEPUGH

Black History Month events are ongoing throughout February, with the latest one being a speech from Judge Clifton Graves of New Haven, Conn. The Muslim Student Association (MSA) invited Graves to talk to students at the Myatt Center this past Friday.

The event started with a reminder about donations being made to assist the people of Syria after the catastrophic earthquake which struck the country. Then, Adrielys Gomez, a graduate student studying business administration and the president of MSA, introduced Judge Graves.

Graves is a probate judge who previously worked in advocacy and is “an experienced lawyer, educator, public service administrator,” said Gomez. Graves’ resume includes assisting residents returning home from incarceration with Project Fresh Start, being Alumnus of the Year at the Frederick Gunn School and being awarded a Distinguished Citizen Award from Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro.

When Graves went up to speak,

he engaged the audience in call-and-response. “Mountain, move out of my way. Mountain of intolerance, move out of my way. Mountain of indifference, move out of my way. Mountain of injustice, move out of my way,” Graves and the audience said. “Because I am somebody, and I can be anything and will be anything, anything, anything I want to be. With my mind, I can conceive it. And my heart can believe it. And I know, I know, I know I can achieve it. Mountain, mountain, move out of my way.”

After this interaction, Graves said, “I had the experience and an opportunity to serve and to understand and appreciate the importance of diversity and the respect one must have for different points of view, and I applaud you and appreciate you students, all of you.”

“You learn from each other. You learn from others,” said Graves.

His discussion transitioned into discussing Islamophobia. “Educate your fellow students with non-Muslim students... An entrenched ignorance [has been] passed, and it’s been socialized,”

he said.

Graves said that students “play a crucial role in educating and enlightening your fellow students and faculty and staff about your religion, your culture [and] having that support.”

He said, “Don’t shy away from taking it and using every opportunity that you have to enlighten, educate, inform about your background.” Graves urged the students that if they have the information and ability to educate their peers to prevent ignorance, they should take the opportunity to do so.

Graves closed out his speech by having the audience once again repeat the speech he gave in the beginning before bidding them goodbye.

Graves’ appearance at the university made way for students to listen to the words of an experienced advocate for social change. Despite being just a speech, Graves impacted the audience by telling them that they all have the power to educate their peers and make positive changes.

An Indigenous student’s thoughts on campus inclusivity

BY JUSTIN COVIELLO
Campus News Editor

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such as the brutality of colonization as well as recent battles like the Eastern Pequots’ fight for federal recognition.

“When we’re all together... during the powwow, it’s a really nice [and] happy time. Besides that day, we are struggling everyday,” she said.

Ray is a prominent advocate for Indigenous people on campus. Most notably, she was a speaker at the inaugural kick-off event for Native American Heritage Month celebrations last November. She has also thought about starting a Recognized Student Organization (RSO) for Indigenous students, saying “it will benefit a lot because [students] will know what land they’re on... and what the truth is with history and not just the history you learn in high school that is... whitewashed.”

However, she has been hesitant to begin such an RSO due to worries about low attendance and the club’s success after she graduates.

Fears about the success of an RSO due to factors outside of her control such as these largely fall on the university administration and making sure that Indigenous

communities feel welcomed and accepted at our university. Ray sees recent conversations about a land acknowledgement on campus as a starting point, but it must not end there.

“I feel like the university can definitely do better [marketing to indigenous communities]. They could give scholarships and do programs with tribes,” she said, citing the Eastern Pequot Archaeological Field School’s partnership with University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Another area where the university is severely lacking in support for Indigenous people is the classes provided. “Putting Native American classes [in the curriculum], that would be really great,” Ray said, mentioning topics such as Native American history and art. “But at the same time, you have to know what is appreciation versus appropriation.”

Every movement has to start somewhere, and a plaque acknowledging the cement we walk on every day or the first of many Native American heritage celebrations are important, but these symbolic victories wane quickly. It is up to the university to constantly adapt and help students, like Ray and countless others, feel not only included, but that they also feel a sense of belonging here.

Ace Turk kickstarts a new era with EP ‘Flame Feelings’

BY MIA ADDUCI
Managing Editor

Sometimes, finally releasing a new artistic project feels “just cathartic as hell,” and for Ace Turk, formerly known as Dakotaxela, creating his hot off-the-press EP “Flame Feelings” was just so.

He started the project back in late December, and as of this past Friday the five-song collection is now available to your ears on all major streaming platforms.

This collection showcases the artist’s usual poetic lyricism, but this time he takes his power to new heights as his sounds reach incredible depth. Ace Turk dives into a depiction of the intense feelings that he finds “burning up inside.” He discussed the original single off the EP, its title track “Flame Feelings,” and how it dives into the feelings that come with overstimulation as a neurodivergent person. He explained that the other songs in the EP showcase things that produce these “flame feelings.”

The final two songs to be completed in the project were “Permafrost” and “Blood Pact,” which happens to also be the song that opened the EP.

This selection was an incredibly powerful move when leading into the entire tracklist. There is an overtone in “Blood Pact” that lies across the lyricism throughout this EP, and it begins right away with this first song. Lines like “promise me we won’t feel alone” set the stage for the deeper progression of Ace Turk’s broad inner monologue.

The second song is “Shapeshifter.”

In this song, Ace Turk ropes listeners in with a whirlwind of thought-provoking lyricism, with punch-packing lines like “we’re mindless creatures destroying ourselves and putting each other in tears.” The mirror euphemism in this work is amazing, though you absolutely need to give it a listen to learn that for yourself.

The title track “Flame Feelings” was originally written unplugged,

a version that he said he would likely take to the stage if he were to perform the EP live. This song was placed as the final item on the tracklist: a powerful choice in tying the EP together.

Beyond that, the song titles across the five-song tracklist fit strongly together to further tighten the cohesion behind this project.

Ace Turk wants listeners to “be the

person you want to be.”

He also said that as an individual, “I do what I want and if I’m the black sheep I don’t care.”

Clearly, his creative juices are always flowing, as he said that “My notes app is my best friend” in taking down lyrics and voice memos.

The artist only recently underwent his rebranding under a new artist name, which was another item he

sought to highlight with this release.

Ace was a nickname in elementary school that stuck with him, and with that in mind, he curated a new name for himself that created better opportunities for image-building in his career.

Ace Turk reflected on his personal growth and the parallels between such and his career choices. As he realized that he changed as a person, it became time to rebrand under a changed artist name. “I keep evolving,” he said. “I just know I’m a different person now, but it changed me for the better.”

This project is showcasing “just another evolution of my sound.”

He explained this by saying that it is as if “You’re on a hike and you see a cliff in the background and you think ‘that’s a nice view’ and then you go up a mile and you can still see that view, a little bit, but you also see this whole new view, and that’s how I feel. There’s still vibes of my older stuff, but there’s all of this new stuff.” This is the voice of a true creative mind and there comes no surprise in how vivid his music is.

You can stream “Flame Feelings,” the EP, now on all major streaming platforms, and immerse yourself in 17 minutes of incredible energy highs and lows that will take you riding along this organic progression of thought and sound.

Keep an eye out this upcoming Friday when the music video for “Flame Feelings,” directed by university student Nick Amico, goes live.



The cover of Acer Turk’s latest EP Feb. 17, 2023.
Graphic courtesy of Ace Turk on Spotify.

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BY EDITORIAL STAFF

Editorial

On Feb. 13, University of New Haven students were stricken with worry and fear as a rumor spread through the anonymous social media site YikYak of a student jumping off Bergami Hall. There were people describing the scene, with others calling for thoughts and prayers in the moment.

In a moment of limbo, students were left with no knowledge regarding whether the rumor was true or not. While it had rapidly spread throughout the student body, there was no definitive answer.

However, there were no reports of such an incident that night according to the university police department. An investigation of the scene that night also showed no signs of any such thing happening.

Under the cover of anonymity, someone posted a rumor that forced residents of the building to check on their roommates. It was done with blatant disregard for the worries of those on campus, without any concern for the consequences for their actions. And still, with the app remaining anonymous, nothing can be done. It is one thing to use the app for silly jokes, but another to cross a line and start such a rumor.

It also falls on us as an educated student body to be smart with the way we interpret information online. In an age where it is so easy to fabricate a lie, an app like YikYak is dangerous

in deceiving a large group of people.

Be wary of what you read or see and where it comes from. Always question it, and check for the source from which it came. This quickly becomes a much broader conversation than just this one instance.

On Oct. 30, 1938, radio listeners in New Jersey tuned in to reports of an alien invasion taking place in their state. They listened as the news channel spoke about an unidentified object at Grovers Mill, with extraterrestrial beings emerging from the smooth ship. Listeners were transfixed on reports of American military members organizing in cities like Philadelphia and Trenton in preparation for an attack.

The story continued, before the voice of director Orson Welles came onto air to announce the program's end. What listeners just heard was an altered retelling of author H.G. Wells' "War of the Worlds" novel. However, some listeners panicked, calling into news outlets and police stations across the country to report an alleged "Martian invasion."

Now, nearly 85 years later, we find ourselves to be susceptible to the same stories on a different medium. In an age with so much information at our fingertips, we are losing the ability to discern the difference between fact and fiction.

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Replace Columbus Day with Super Bowl Monday as a national holiday

BY LINDSAY GIOVANNONE
Columnist

Column

Abolishing Columbus Day has been a topic of debate in the United States since the 19th century. The day was established as a federal holiday in 1971, though it has been recognized by various organizations since the 1790s. Contentions with Columbus Day regard its reverence for the actions of explorer Christopher Columbus, who terrorized the Indigenous people living on the islands he "discovered."

Columbus Day is a divisive holiday that 130 communities and over a dozen states have abandoned, but there is a way to still have a federal holiday and a day off without glorifying genocide against Indigenous peoples: instate Super Bowl Monday as a national holiday.

The National Football League's presentation of the Super Bowl is one of the greatest annual spectacles in the U.S. Billions of dollars are spent on food, apparel and decorations for the game with millions crowding around their televisions.

16 million Americans were expected to skip work the day after the Super Bowl, with an additional 8 million taking the day off in advance. 40% of those who call out from work cite fatigue and 34% say they drank too much.

It only makes sense to commemorate the contributions of Indigenous people in the U.S. and replace the archaic holiday with one that has always brought people together; 113.1 million Americans tuned in to watch Super Bowl LVII, making it the second most-watched game of all time, and an additional 103.5 million people planned to host or attend a party.

Whether you watch for the halftime show, the commercials or the game itself, Super Bowl Sunday serves as a time to get together with friends and family. The unity of American citizens is what the government should be supporting, not their division.

La vita oltre i nostri confini: Life beyond our borders

When the flame burns low; how to deal with burn-out abroad

BY STEPHEN GANGI
Executive Business Manager

Column

As I am writing this, I am sitting alongside the city wall in a small park—one that I recently discovered from the local inhabitants of Prato. It is located right outside the city center and, though it isn't much, it is exactly what I needed to bring me a greater feeling of familiarity abroad.

My hometown is small and located atop a mountain in northern New Jersey, surrounded by nothing but dense forests and beautiful lakes for miles. This little park, situated inside the big city, may not compare to the environment that I know and love back home, but it does provide me with a haven that I can retreat to when feeling overwhelmed or burned out.

College burnout is very real and very possible, even when studying abroad.

Being faced with limitless potential and possibilities, it is easy to forget the initial reason behind signing up to study abroad: advancing in your academic journey and experiencing true independence.

So how do we deal with this burnout abroad? To be honest, I haven't found an answer to that yet. I could give you a little insight into the steps I have been taking to lessen the feeling and to get started on my work, but this process is different for each person. What works for me may not work for you. I've realized, however, that although I feel like I don't know which direction to turn, the answers are usually right there in front of me, waiting for me to take the steps to reach them.

As I walk from my hotel to school, or when I need to grab food across town, I frequently find myself turning to music and solidarity when I need a moment to recuperate from the constant stimulants that surround me. My usual response to this, which usually consists of two airpods and loud music as I walk across campus, isn't a luxury I feel I can afford here. I find myself focusing more on observing my surroundings rather than enjoying the stroll.

I worry more about missing out on the adventure I came here for, as I tuck myself into bed to nap each day and prevent myself from continuing to experience the world I am currently a part of.

As I said, there isn't a means to rid yourself of college burnout. Mine may last longer or be much shorter than yours. But no matter how tough it may feel, I know this is only temporary and subject to change as the days go on and new opportunities present themselves to me.

My goals will still be complete whether I take a day, month or semester to resolve my burnout, and I know I will return home with memories that will last a lifetime. That is what I hold onto. That is what I strive to do. That is what I will accomplish.

Ohio train derailment shows greater problem

BY TYLER WELLS
Editor-in-Chief

Column

On Feb. 3, a train transporting 38 carriages, 10 of which contained hazardous materials, broke an axle and derailed, forcing 2,000 residents of nearby East Palestine, Ohio to evacuate. During cleanup, five tankers holding vinyl chloride — a compound known to cause cancer — were cut open and drained into trenches, where crews burned the substance to keep it from exploding on its own.

However, the burning also sent a huge cloud of dark smoke into the air and has garnered a lot of attention on social media. Three days after the derailment, the smoke plume could be seen from a passenger plane traveling overhead.

While no deaths have been reported following the derailment, locals have been concerned with its impact on the environment. According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), around 3,500 fish were killed from hazardous runoff. Some East Palestine residents have also reported various health issues, including rashes, sore throats and headaches.

Evacuated residents have since been told that they can return home and that pollution levels are not significant enough to have a lasting impact, according to the Environmental

Protection Agency and ODNR. Though this derailment happened far from our campus in West Haven, Conn., the implications have far reaching consequences. There is a clear issue with the threat of toxic chemicals and substances in our environment, along with the lacking rail infrastructure throughout the country.

In a winter that has seen unusually high temperatures, another instance of hazardous materials entering the environment is worrisome. Climate change continues to be pervasive, and the impacts on global weather patterns are becoming apparent. In 2022, an estimated 3.4 million Americans were displaced due to natural disasters. With global surface temperature and the amount of water vapor in the air increasing, storms appear to become more frequent and intense. This can be dangerous for citizens around the country.

A toxic derailment like the one in East Palestine poses a sudden, man-made environmental threat. Local ecosystems can get disturbed, plants and animals could die and the entire way of life can be altered for residents. With all of the commercial trade that happens throughout Connecticut, it is entirely possible that something such as this happens here. The threat of toxic substances always remains a worry, like when a group of toxic chemicals popped up in

some of Connecticut’s water supplies in 2022.

Beyond the environmental impact, the derailment in Ohio reflects the country’s bad railroad system. The U.S. has averaged 1,704 train derailments per year since 1990, with a majority of those being low consequence accidents. However, regulations were rolled back in 2017 for trains transporting hazardous materials.

These regulations removed the requirement for trains with hazardous materials to have air brakes. Though it did not appear to be the issue in East Palestine, it reflects a general disregard for railway improvements both commercially and with transport trains, especially as upgrades such as high-speed rail continues to lag behind other countries around the world.

While East Palestine residents were still figuring out whether it was safe for them to return home, another train derailment took place on Thursday, this time just outside Detroit. The train was also carrying hazardous materials, though that car was able to remain on the tracks.

Accidents happen, but this is turning into a trend that is both concerning and dangerous. It is time for the country to shine a light on its rail travel in hopes to not only improve that aspect of our infrastructure, but also to avoid such toxic derailments.



Fumes from the incident, Feb. 19, 2023.
Photo courtesy of @bigbadflair on Instagram.

Looking inward

BY WILL HINCK
Contributing Writer

Guest Column

Humans are highly subjective creatures. Many people lack the ability to truly look at a situation in an objective way, or the self-awareness and emotional maturity to look in the mirror and see what needs to be improved. Even then it takes a lot of strength to act upon the call for self-improvement, rather than simply diagnosing the problem and saying, “I’ll get on that” or “I promise I’ll fix it.”

I can admit that I haven’t been able to follow a positive track for self-care either. In fact, I would say that a lot of these perspectives come from a personal angle to some degree; either from watching others participate in this behavior or unfortunately acting this way myself.

Why point this out? It’s mostly in the effort to address a problem that I’ve seen time and time again; the inability to commit to true change. Too many times, I have seen someone ignore or straight up deny fault when faced with their mistakes. A familiar example is when someone hurts another person. The victim is blamed for telling people about their experience - because the victim is hurting the abuser’s feelings; this conveniently leaves out the feelings of the abused. Considering how actions can affect others is important, however sacrificing

one’s own feelings for the sake of their abuser undermines the healing process.

The funny thing is that both perspectives can have merit. After all, one situation can have different outcomes depending on who experienced it. An example of this idea is two people looking at the letter “P” on the ground but each looking from a different side. One side sees “P” while the other side sees “b”. In this scenario, both people have vastly different perspectives despite experiencing the same event. However, if a person acknowledges that they have a problem, it is ultimately up to that person to actively initiate positive change. Simply pointing out that “I have issues” does not fix the issue. Knowing you have a problem and not trying to fix it is far worse than not knowing at all. At least someone who is oblivious to their faults doesn’t pretend like they are going to fix them.

I hope that if someone can get anything from this piece, it should be to take more care in being introspective. Take the time to actually listen to those who tell you about your mistakes. If you are going to commit to positive change, put in the effort to engage in healthy self-help activities. There is little use for nails with no hammer, and there are no results without effort. In the end, there’s only one person who can actually initiate change in your life, and that person is you.

Stay in-the-know



The Charger Bulletin



Men’s T&F earn 2nd at NE-10 Championships, women’s team 6th

BY TYLER WELLS
Editor-In-Chief

All season, New Haven men’s track and field athlete Jordany Dely has made his presence known. Steadily collecting top three finishes all winter, Dely lined up in the blocks at the Northeast-10 (NE-10) Championship with 60 meters of hurdles in front of him and gold in his eyes.

When the gun sounded, Dely exploded ahead of the pack. Just 8.23 seconds later, he crossed the finish line to earn the top spot on the podium. His teammate, Jordan Emile, finished just behind him, earning silver in the event.

It set the tone for a program-best performance for the men, who finished in second for the first time since becoming a varsity sport in 2008. It was also the most points the program ever scored in the

meet. The team finished with 10 medals overall, including Dely’s gold and Emile’s silver, while Cole Parker and Kenneth Holland finished second and third respectively in the long jump. Jonathan Cineus, Dely and Rutchler Louis earned second, third and fourth in the triple jump.

Dely was not finished yet, taking home a bronze medal in the high jump to give him his third podium finish at the championships. Jason Lorent earned a bronze in the 60m dash, while Ryan Williams took home bronze in the 400m. Parker then earned his second medal of the meet, securing bronze in the men’s heptathlon. Finally, New Haven wrapped up the event with a strong second place finish in the men’s 4x400m, earning them the silver medal and pushing the Chargers to a

second place finish. On the women’s side, the team was led by Molly Clark in the pole vault where she finished with a silver medal. Kristen Washington earned two bronze medals of her own in the long and triple jumps, rounding out the team’s top-three finishes.

A pair of solid performances in the 4x800m and the distance medley relay races also gave the Chargers some much needed points, as they posted fourth and fifth place finishes respectively.

The team now looks forward to the SCSU Last Chance Meet on Feb. 25, before the any qualifying athletes head to the NCAA Championships on March 10. Then, the team will start its spring season. More information can be found at NewHavenChargers.com.



Jordany Dely at the Northeast-10 Championships, Boston, Feb. 17, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Neva Bostic.

NMSU MBB program shut down for hazing

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL
Sports Editor

On Feb. 14, New Mexico State University (NMSU) men’s basketball coach Greg Haier was fired in response to hazing allegations against the team. Players on the team were interviewed by school officials, which led to the program being shut down, according to NMSU Chancellor Dan Arvizu.

“It feels like a gut punch,” Arvizu said. “As a parent, as an administrator, as a member of our community, my alma mater, I’m both disgusted and angry about what has occurred.”

On Feb. 12, campus police released a redacted report that the alleged victim, who was a player on the team, claimed that three of his teammates “held him down with him facing down, removed his clothing exposing his buttocks and began to ‘slap his ass.’ He also went on to state that they also touched his scrotum.” The report also showed that the alleged hazing happened in front of the team for several months.

Criminal charges have not been filed against the team, but allegations of false imprisonment, harassment and criminal sexual contact put an end to a season full of trouble for

NMSU. Haier was in his first season as head coach of the Texas A&M University Aggies, finishing with a 9-15 record before getting shut down. Arvizu has not made decisions about the status of the rest of the coaching staff, and he will be placed on paid administrative leave until the investigation is concluded.

“Hazing is a despicable act,” Arvizu said in a letter to the NMSU community. “It humiliates and degrades someone and has the potential to cause physical and emotional harm, or even death. Sadly, hazing can become part of an organization’s culture, if left unchecked.”

In his statement on firing Greg Hair, Arvizu said that “hazing has no place on our campus, and those found responsible will be held accountable for their actions. I am committed to the safety and well-being of all members of our campus community, as well as to the integrity of our university.” But with current players Shahar Lazar and Kent Olewiler intending to leave the program, as well as four-star prospect, Darius Carr — who announced he is asking for a release from his national letter of intent, Arvizu has a lot of repairs to restore trust in New Mexico State University.

WBB wins on Black Lives Matter Night

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL
AND TYLER WELLS

Continued from page 1

The two teams looked to be headed to overtime, but with just 3.7 seconds left on the clock DeBose knocked in the game-winning layup for the final.

“I was passionate during the game so it felt good to actually get that one,” DeBose said. “It was a team win, but we’ve got to do better.”

The win gives New Haven their 16th of the season, as they were led by DeBose’s 26 points. Deshaies added eight points and 13 rebounds of her own, while King

also scored eight. After dropping a road conference matchup against Le Moyne College on Saturday, the Chargers return to Charger Gymnasium on Tuesday night at 5:30 for their final regular season game of the season against Saint Anselm College. More information can be found at NewHavenChargers.com.



New Haven’s Camryn DeBose warms up against CSI, West Haven, Feb. 15, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tori Gonzalez.