

The Charger Bulletin

The student news source for the University of New Haven

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USGA and Myatt Center host Performative Activism open forum

BY MIA ADDUCI,
SAIGE BATZA & KAYLA
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Staff Editors

On Feb. 24, the Undergraduate Student Government Association (USGA) and the Myatt Center for Diversity and Inclusion hosted an open forum to facilitate discussions about performative activism. Danielle Cooper, a criminal justice professor at the university and director of research at the Tow Youth Justice Institute, helped guide these discussions with the audience. She asked questions regarding what it means to engage in performative activism, determining what constitutes performative behavior and understanding the problematic nature of performative activism as a whole.

Cooper explained the struggles of balancing her own boundaries in the realm of her professional status in contrast with her ability to engage in meaningful activism in her personal life. “What I do in public

is heavily scrutinized... Because I do care about kids in the criminal justice system and I cannot do my job if I can't work with them.”

Adrielys Gomez, a senior behavioral economics major, spoke up about what performative activism means to her as a Muslim woman at the university. “Do we care about another human being because they practice the same religion as us, or because we have a commonality with them?”

Gomez emphasized the importance of recognizing these distinctions, and being careful about what we choose to voice our opinions on.

Aiden Schwab, sophomore forensic science major, spoke up on his presence as someone trying to spread awareness from outside of the impacted demographic. He highlighted a point that was returned to throughout the night, saying, “If you are speaking on an issue that is not yours, it can be very hurtful.”

A large portion of the night's discussion was centered around



Hailey Perez speaks at the open forum inside of Bergami 307, West Haven, Feb. 24, 2022. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Kayla Mutchler.

instances of performative activism on social media platforms. In regards to his own activity surrounding human rights issues online, Schwab said that he tends to lean towards “Retweeting instead of speaking on my own on these issues... I'm not actually adding to the conversation but I'm sharing the conversation.”

Schwab also spoke on the harms surrounding mass reposts on social media, saying that this activity “Buries the actual information” and “turns off the voices that need to be heard.”

In questioning whether this activity was performative, he said it is better to do something rather than nothing.

Liv Night, a junior majoring in

computer science, spoke out on how they found that much of the activity on the university campus is performative. They said how notices sent from administration are addressed to “a mostly white audience,” and how emails are often sent out without intent for action to stand behind them.

They opened up about the lack of support that they felt from the school, and how cultural organizations and the Myatt Center are found to be “understaffed, under supported and under funded.”

Night also spoke about the importance of humility when engaging with performative activism online. “There's always going to be someone that knows more than you about something.”

The conversation then transitioned to issues present in campus life that have gone unaddressed this year, including racial slurs written across the doors of Westside Hall and bananas left outside of rooms in Winchester Hall.

Cooper said she recognizes that more conversations like this need to be held at the university, and she hopes diverse groups of people will start to show up, not just the same faces each time.

Cooper also said she enjoyed seeing people at the event. “To just see people come, really move into the ‘I’ statements, share so many diverse perspectives, I think it was really empowering about what our community can take.”

Continued on page. 5



Adrielys Gomez speaks at the open forum, West Haven, Feb. 24, 2022. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Kayla Mutchler.

President Kaplan talks university transition of leadership

BY KAYLA MUTCHLER
Editor-in-Chief

With a transition of university leadership on the horizon, University President Steven Kaplan will soon ascend into the role of Chancellor and CEO, with current Athletic Director Sheahon Zenger taking over as Interim President.

It all started in 2018, when Kaplan had lunch with Charles Pompea, chair of the Board of Governors. They talked about life, and Kaplan brought up the possibility of retirement so that he may soon spend more time with family, though he wanted to work through the centennial.

Pompea suggested that rather than Kaplan fully retiring, they create a new position at the university that handles more of the day-to-day operations and representation. This would allow Kaplan to run the university and accomplish

his personal life goals.

A month later, they came close to hiring an executive vice president, but the opportunity fell through—then came Zenger, who has worked in academia for over 25 years, most recently as the assistant to

the Chancellor at Texas Christian University until 2019.

He presented his idea of ushering the university towards a Division I athletic standing, and Kaplan said many who witnessed it took him aside and asked if Zenger would

be a good fit as president.

Then, COVID-19 struck.

Nearly two years later, a once pushed-off idea has become a reality with new titles—and Kaplan said it's all about the students.

Kaplan said that about a year ago, board members asked him to consider Zenger. They said to Kaplan, “He has a PhD, he's run a big organization, and he's passionate about the university, and he's got leadership skills and he's articulate.” Kaplan then said, “And I agreed with all of that... but I didn't think the faculty would be comfortable with having a non-academic in the president's seat.” So, he pushed it off, yet the idea came back again.

Kaplan then started talking to Zenger almost every day for about four months and allowed Zenger to shadow him. “The more I worked with him, the more I came to the conclusion that he had what we

were looking for, and has it, in terms of being the surrogate for me.”

This transition does not come at an additional cost. Since Zenger is filling an interim role, there will not be a new athletic director hired, but an interim one—being Jonathan Mays, who is the current senior associate director of athletics—and this will last for two to three years in a trial period. After the first or second year, Kaplan said, there will be a national search for a new athletic director.

Kaplan also said that he will receive a substantial pay reduction to keep this low-cost. “The university is, really, getting two leaders for the price of one in a time where things are really getting challenging,” he said.

With the current geopolitical climate of the country and world,

Continued on page. 5



President Kaplan inside of his office. Photo courtesy of Jill Fazekas.

Sheeran and Swift's "The Joker And the Queen" set for royal debut in U.K.

BY ANTOINETTE YEN
Entertainment Editor

Ed Sheeran and Taylor Swift's new collaboration "The Joker and the Queen" is on track for a No. 2 debut on the Official U.K. Singles Chart following Sheeran's performance of the song at the 2022 BRIT Awards last week and its release last week.

The slow-paced folk ballad single, complete with piano at a waltz tempo and melodic strings is inspired by the 1950s. On Feb. 11, an accompanying music video was released as a sequel to the music video for "Everything Has Changed" starring the same actors.

The storyline continues from where Swift's 2013 single featuring Sheeran, "Everything Has Changed," left off with child actors Ava Ames and Jack Lewis playing the now grown-up versions of themselves. The video films the text messages exchanged between the two characters, which is, in fact, a



Taylor Swift and Ed Sheeran.
Photo courtesy of @teddysphotos on Instagram.
real exchange between the singers originally shared on Swift's

Instagram account in 2015. A framed photograph from the "Ev-

everything Has Changed" music video appears in the "The Joker

and the Queen" video.

The song is an apt fit, in tune with Sheeran and Swift's other three collaborations, "Everything Has Changed," "End Game" and "Run." Their latest single exemplifies their songwriting capabilities and creative imagination, items that both songwriters are known for.

The music video is a nostalgic piece that demonstrates the evolution of both Sheeran and Swift. The video captures emotional pain with the lead actors in their dorm rooms holding photos from their elementary school. Fans were quick to notice this from the "Everything Has Changed" video.

"Me and Taylor first met and wrote + recorded our first song together in 2012, ten years ago now, I'm so so honored to have her on this song," Sheeran tweeted after the video premiered. "Not only is she the best singer/songwriter in the world but she's also a very close friend, I'm very lucky to have her in my life."

5 contemporary country music artists you should listen to

BY LINDSAY GIOVANNONE
Sports Editor

Country music has definitely faced some growing pains and controversy over its long history. Many fans are split over the introduction of pop music into country music, and if this style can even be considered country music. In my opinion, country music should echo tradition and avoid becoming too reliant on the success of pop music.

These are five contemporary artists you should be listening to right now.

Zach Bryan

Arguably the best singer-songwriter in country music right now, Bryan embodies the musical amalgam of the U.S. It is obvious that Bryan puts his heart and soul into each song he produces, and I have never pressed skip when listening to one of his albums or EPs. His first studio album, "American Heartbreak" will be released May 20.

Album recommendations: "DeAnn" and "Quiet Heavy Dreams"

HARDY

An absolute juggernaut singer-songwriter, HARDY stands apart from other artists particularly because of his usage of



Chris Stapleton performing on stage, Knoxville, Tenn., Dec. 12, 2022.
Photo courtesy of @chrisstapleton on Instagram.

clever wordplay and storytelling. He is also the pen behind most of fellow country singer Morgan Wallen's songs. HARDY's innovative HIXTAPE, a redneck spin on mixtapes, combines classic rock elements with traditional country themes. As HARDY's presence in the genre grows, his lyrical ingenuity has yet to falter.

Album recommendations: "HIXTAPE: Vol. 1" and "A ROCK"

Avery Anna

Avery Anna is an absurdly underrated artist. Her profoundly heart wrenching songs center on the complexity of toxic relationships. If you want to have a lump form in the back of your throat, her music will do just that. While she has only released four singles

so far, Anna's talent is already evident. I'm excited to see what she has coming up next.

Song recommendations: "Just Cause I Love You" and "Narcissist"

Chris Stapleton

Stapleton's music transcends genres. Even the pickiest listeners will find something of his to enjoy. Stapleton's ability to incorporate so many different concepts into one album, while keeping it grounded, is his greatest strength. His songs are crooning odes to love, death and culture. With these themes, Stapleton discards old cliché lyrics and replaces them with expressive poetry.

Album recommendations:

"Starting Over" and "From a Room: Volumes 1 and 2"

Tyler Childers

Childers is a must on this list. His songs are powerful tributes to his upbringing in Kentucky and encapsulate a robust range of emotions in his albums. Childers stands apart from many other popular country musicians in that he hasn't changed his style from his bluegrass-folk sound. Some country artists fall victim to the influence of popular culture, becoming "pop country," but Childers has stayed true to his roots.

Album recommendations: "Purgatory" and "Live on Red Barn Road"

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The Postal Service Reform Act and USPS' financial crisis

BY LILLIAN NEWTON
Staff Writer

Last week, a bill that would overhaul the United States Postal Service's (USPS) finances and allow the agency to take steps to modernize its services cleared the House 342-92. The rare show of bipartisan support thus far indicates a possible favorable outcome for the bill as it heads to the Senate to be approved.

Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has pushed for a swift passage of the document, vowing that the chamber will eventually

pass it even as the passage has hit a few snags in the process.

The bill, entitled "The Postal Service Reform Act," would require retired postal workers to enroll in Medicare when eligible and would remove a previous requirement that forced the USPS to cover their employee's health care costs years in advance. The bill also requires USPS to create an online dashboard that would include local and national delivery time data and deliver mail six days a week. According to the House Oversight Committee, these changes would save the

USPS nearly \$50 billion over the coming decade.

These mandates come as the USPS faces a severe financial crisis, announcing that for the 2021 fiscal year, there was an adjusted loss of \$6.9 billion, while the 2020 fiscal year presented an adjusted loss of \$7.9 billion.

Unlike other government agencies, the USPS typically does not receive taxpayer funding and instead relies heavily on the income made from selling postal stamps and package deliveries. The USPS operates with limited financial benefits of being a federal agency while still bearing the costs.

Unlike private services such as the United Parcel Service (UPS) and FedEx, USPS is unable to set their own prices or excise unprofitable delivery routes. Instead, Congress sets these rates and maintains that the USPS must deliver to all households. This includes remote towns in the Grand Canyon, where mail must be delivered by mule.

Passed by the House in August of 2020, the USPS enacted another transformation plan, titled "Delivering for America." This act prohibits the USPS from making changes to operations or levels of services that were seen before Jan. 1, 2020, and helps to establish requirements for processing election mail while providing additional funding for the Postal Service Fund. The USPS has also created a 10-year plan in order to successfully achieve the goals outlined in the Delivering for America Act.

Chairwoman of the Committee of Oversight and Reform, Carolyn B. Maloney introduced the act after the new Postmaster General Louis DeJoy enacted unprecedented changes to the operations and organization of the USPS, criticized as largely political. Chairwoman Maloney said, "A once-in-a-century pandemic is no time to enact changes that threaten service reliability and transparency. The Delivering for America Act would reverse these

changes so this fundamental American service can continue unimpeded."

While The Delivering for America Act was the first step in the USPS' movement to become more financially stable and to modernize the service, the addition of the The Postal Reform Act is aimed to further allow the USPS to find success and stability in the coming years. While many legislators hail the The Postal Reform Act as an important step for the future of the USPS, some disagree.

Postal service expert at the Lexington Institute, Paul Steidler said, "The bill is woefully insufficient because it does nothing to improve mail service. It takes the pressure off of the Postal Service to better understand and to reduce its costs. And it doesn't sufficiently empower the Postal Regulatory Commission, which right now is very small and has very tiny resources compared to the Postal Service."



USPS van parked on a street, San Francisco, Dec. 28, 2021.
Photo courtesy of Unsplash/Sean Boyd.

Joe Biden nominates first Black woman to serve in the U.S. Supreme Court

BY SAMUEL WEINMANN
Politics Editor

On Friday, U.S. Pres. Joe Biden officially nominated Ketanji Brown Jackson, 51, as the Supreme Court Justice to replace soon-to-be retired Justice Stephen Breyer. If confirmed, Jackson will be the first Black woman to fill that role, making this a historic move for the country.

According to CNN, Jackson previously clerked for Breyer, was a federal public defender in Washington and was a commissioner on the U.S. Sentencing Commission. She was also appointed by former Pres. Barack Obama to serve on the federal district court in Washington, D.C.

This nomination will not shift the Court's ideological balance, as both Breyer and Jackson are left-leaning.

According to the New York Times, Breyer swore Jackson into the federal district court in 2013, and he said that she "sees things from different points of view, and she sees somebody else's point of view and under-

stands it."

This nomination has a likelihood of passing fairly quickly, given Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer's stance on the nomination process. In January, Schumer said that he was hoping to see a quick nomination timeline, and to confirm the nominee in a timeframe similar to Amy Coney Barrett in 2020.

Jackson's chance of being confirmed by the Senate is also fairly high, given that she was confirmed twice by the Senate to the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Many Senators have praised Jackson in the past, with Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) saying earlier this year that "She is extremely well-qualified in terms of character and intellect," and that she is "extraordinary in conducting herself."

Jackson graduated from Harvard Law School in 1992 and got her law degree in 1996. She has extensive experience as a public defender, and in 2021, said that "Public service is a core value," to her and her family. This background as a public defender is also a first in the Court's history.

How the "Dear White Staffers" Instagram page is working to unionize Capitol Hill

BY SAMUEL WEINMANN
Politics Editor

Over the past couple of years, an anonymous Instagram account under the name of "Dear White Staffers" has been raising awareness about the treatment that many BIPOC individuals experience while working in the White House. This treatment includes low pay, toxic office cultures and discriminatory practices.

With approximately 82,000 followers, Dear White Staffers has been making national headlines, appearing on prominent news sources such as The Washington Post, Politico and The New York Times.

Although some of their Instagram posts take on a lighter tone with memes and humorous videos, their impact has been profound.

On Feb. 3, Drew Hammill, an aide of U.S. Speaker Nancy Pelosi, tweeted his support for Dear White Staffers' efforts to unionize, writing, "Like all Americans, our tireless Congressional staff have the right to organize their workplace and join together in a union. If and when staffers choose to exercise that right, they would have Speaker Pelosi's full support."

Dear White Staffers has been welcoming of this support. On Feb. 4, the page shared an article from The Hill about Pelosi's support for unionization and captioned the photo "WE CHANGED THE ENTIRE CONVERSATION."

On Feb. 8, White House press secretary Jen Psaki addressed this push for unionization, saying that "Biden supports the right of any individual to... join a union," and that "Capitol Hill staffers are certainly individuals who are pursuing that."

Dear White Staffers posted and celebrated the news on the same day it occurred.

Although no definitive action has been taken in Washington yet, the page's reach has been expanding, and they have been gaining momentum ever since.

Many House staffers have anonymously shared their grievances on the Dear White Staffers Page, though views on unionization vary.

According to Jordan Harris, staff assistant at the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and a university alum, unionization is a "a good idea," but "won't work for every single office." Harris elaborated, saying that with "435 offices... it's self explanatory, seeing how the House works."

Although Harris was in support of unionization, his view was that getting all offices to do so would be unrealistic. "Imagine if [the offices of Marjorie Taylor Greene and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez] had to agree on workplace initiatives," he said. "Even the simplest things, you're not going to [see]."

When asked what a good path forward would be, Harris said "I would love to see more training available... they do have sexual

assault and harrasment training, but... people don't take it in."

Although it's unclear what the future of unionization will be, it's becoming a topic that is increasingly spoken about in Congress.

Moreover, although the topic of unionization holds weight for current staffers, it also holds weight for political science students at the University of New Haven, many of whom are either planning to study in Washington, or are currently studying in Washington in the Washington Institute Internship (WII).

A number of students are currently interning in D.C. as a part of WII, and many university alumni are also actively working in D.C. Improving working conditions on Capitol Hill, and creating a more transparent working environment has positive ramifications for all future and current employees in Washington.

The Dear White staffers Instagram page did not respond to a request to comment.



The Capitol Building, D.C.
Photo courtesy of Unsplash/Joshua Sukoff.

University opens up discussion surrounding “Russia’s War Against Ukraine”

BY MIA ADDUCI
Student Life Editor

On Feb. 25, an email from Dean Ophelie Rowe-Allen invited the university community to join a speaker series from the College of Arts and Sciences and Department of National Security, discussing the warring affairs of Russia on Ukraine and the activity of Putin in those regards.

The panel of speakers included a group of representatives from the aforementioned university departments, who spoke from a number of diverse perspectives surrounding Russia’s ongoing invasion of Ukraine.

The first speaker was Matthew Schmidt, associate professor in the national security department, who introduced the group of over 175 students to the history of conflict between Russia and Ukraine. He began with commentary on how the conflict began in 2004 with the Orange Revolution and briefly described the timeline that led to the

invasion that occurred on Wednesday morning.

Schmidt proceeded to discuss the two reasons connected to the development of Putin’s activity. The first, he described as being linked to the realist theory, was that Putin “talks about wanting to protect Russia from the possibility of a NATO-Ukraine” from the potential of invasions of Russia. He continued to debunk these fears through a geographical explanation of point proximity of the concerned actors, and then closed his point by saying that the suggestion that NATO would seek to invade Russia is simply “absurd.”

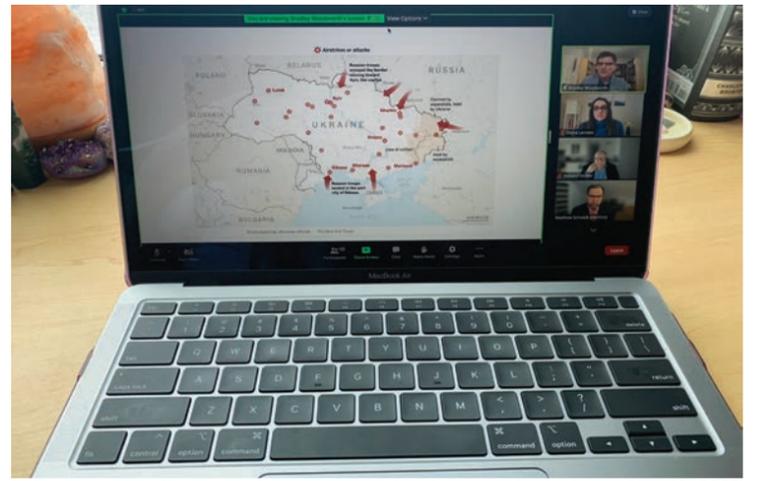
The second point of Putin’s invasion is tied to the beginning of his time in leadership. Schmidt went into how his early speeches had “a theme about nationalism, where he says the greatest catastrophe of the 20th century was the collapse of the Soviet Union.”

Howard Stoffer, associate professor of national security, spoke on the ways Putin is not fit to run Rus-

sia, citing that both his active and intended activity were not rational. Centering the discussion around Putin’s current nuclear affairs, Stoffer said that “This is criminal behavior. It is criminal to threaten to use nuclear weapons against any country that doesn’t have them.”

Daria Kirjanov, practitioner in residence for the Division of Humanities, spoke on the current conflict from a Russian perspective. She repeatedly said that her focus lays on spreading awareness about the position of the Russian people, not the government nor those advocating for Putin’s behavior. The primary points in her discussion fell under the categories of Russian solidarity with Ukrainian people that has been occurring across the globe, and an increase in censorship on Russian media.

“Despite these really damaging violations of basic freedoms, there has been a powerful expression of opposition in Russia to this war,” Kirjanov said in regards to the true perspective of those within



Professors virtually present information on Putin’s activity, West Haven, Feb. 25, 2022.

Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.

the country taking a hard stance to authoritative activity. She then continued to cover the value of the Meduza peace movement, which “is really taking steam.” This motion is run by Russian activists and journalists to resist the activity of Putin and spread information within and outside of the country.

Maintaining up-to-date informa-

tion surrounding foreign affairs within the university community remains important, as Dean Rowe-Allen indicated in writing, “it is particularly important for us to stay informed and participate in the programs and events across the University that bring us together to learn about and better understand significant global events.”

Career Development Center hosts virtual STEM career fair

BY STEPHEN GANGI
Contributing Writer

On Feb. 24, the Career Development Center (CDC) hosted a virtual STEM Career Fair, featuring representatives from 50 different local and nearby companies, including Yale New Haven Health, New York State Department of Civil Services and Consigli Construction Company. All representatives opened virtual chat rooms in order to speak to students individually, offering a multitude of positions based on a student’s qualifications, resume and cover letter provided prior to the beginning of the event. Students were able to sign up for specific time slots, either group or individual, with any company of their choosing. This event provided an incredible opportunity to those seeking current and future arrangements in their field.

The CDC is a campus resource available to all undergraduate and graduate students. They provide a plethora of tools and resources to assist in the education process. These tools range from assistance in choosing the right major to fit your interests, to training in areas such as

resume building, interviewing and finding internships, with the goal of “[connecting] you with the services and resources you need to map out the career you envision.”

Students who were interested in attending were sent an email prior to the event, with available time slots for each of the representatives who would be present. Some meetings were in a group setting, while others were held individually. During the meetings, companies provided students with information regarding their available positions and corresponding qualifications.

Opportunities such as the Career Fair provide ways to increase students’ ability to network, find areas of excellence in the industry of their choice and begin building up their resumes, which will lead to more opportunities down the road. If interested in future events hosted by the CDC, check out their page on Charger Connection.

You can contact the Career Development Center through email at: careerdevelopmentcenter@newhaven.edu.

What you should know about imposter syndrome

BY STEPHEN GANGI
Contributing Writer

Imposter syndrome, otherwise known as the imposter phenomenon, is prevalent in high-achieving people, specifically women, and among college students. The syndrome is loosely defined as “doubting your abilities and feeling like a fraud.”

To put it into perspective, students, especially around the U.S., may question whether they deserve some of the accomplishments they have or they may wonder how they can live up to the expectations of others.

Imposter syndrome was first mentioned in 1978 by a Georgia State University psychology professor, Pauline Clance and her colleague Suzanne Imes. It was recognized during a study of high-achieving women. It is important to note that the women in this study were at odds with themselves, and that prevented them from being able to internalize and accept all of their achievements.

Further research into the condition determined some of the risk factors. Although the syndrome is not officially on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, it is widely acknowledged by psychologists and counselors across the nation. These factors include personality traits such as perfectionism, and can be heavily influenced by family background and early development. It can more commonly be seen in children who come from families who place a priority on achievement and

success.

In terms of college students, the syndrome can take multiple forms, including self-doubt, a lack of self-confidence or the belief that all achievements or accolades came by accident. Second-guessing yourself in class, and convincing yourself that there is no chance that your answers could be correct when completing work is considered a sign of the syndrome in college students.

In order to overcome this phenomenon, there is more that needs to be done with how society expresses their opinions about younger generations. In the majority of cases where imposter syndrome was studied, it was observed that the syndrome is mostly brought upon a college student, or a high-achieving woman, as a means of further enforcing societal beliefs and

standards. This, of course, although being an extremely outdated and misinforming cause, can play a massive role in how one perceives oneself and others. Focus on confronting one’s inner thoughts, and rephrasing how they speak to themselves is essential when trying to overcome imposter syndrome.

Why could this be important to you? Imposter syndrome is not often taught to the populations of people that it is shown to affect. Many may feel lost and unable to come to terms with their achievements and even feel disappointed in their lack of gain. It is important to remember that there are many people who also struggle with this phenomenon.

If you or somebody you know has shown signs of imposter syndrome, contact the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) located in Charger Plaza.



ADDRESSING YOUR IMPOSTER SYNDROME

- 1 Learn the Facts
- 2 Share your feelings
- 3 Celebrate your successes
- 4 Let go of Perfectionism
- 5 Cultivate self-compassion
- 6 Share your failures
- 7 Accept it

Information from the American Psychological Association

Graphic courtesy of Isabelle Hajek.

Everything you need to know about SCOPE and planning campus events

BY SAIGE BATZA
Student Life Editor

The Student Committee of Programming Events (SCOPE), is a student-led organization that includes five committees: Public Relations, Entertainment, Novelty and Variety, Charger Excursions and Spirit and Traditions. The SCOPE team also hosts annual events, including an Inflatable Fun Fest, Comedy Week, a homecoming concert and more.

SCOPE president and forensic science major Cassondra Runko said that the SCOPE team has plenty of fun events to look forward to in the upcoming month, such as a trip to the Aquarium, make your own scrapbook, Film Week, Family Feud and their spring week reveal party.

Cristina Francisco, a music industry major, is the vice president of finance for SCOPE. She works alongside Genesis Feliciano, a criminal justice major and the vice president of operations. Francisco and Feliciano encourage students to attend SCOPE's general meetings, which are held at 7 p.m. on Mondays in Bergami



Members of SCOPE on stage during Homecoming, West Haven.
Photo courtesy of SCOPE.

Classroom 203.

"We are always looking for event suggestions and prize suggestions. We plan for you," Runko said.

"I think for all of us, we love seeing a good turn out to our events," Feliciano said about the most rewarding aspect of her job.

"Our directors plan their events 2 months in advance, so seeing happy faces after all of the work that was put in is truly a reward. I think it's also having the satisfaction of knowing that people are having fun and are genuinely enjoying themselves. We also like that all of us can gain expe-

rience and skills that are transferable outside the organizations."

Feliciano said that the SCOPE team enjoys engaging with new students on campus. "I'd like to think we are pretty knowledgeable and we are more than willing to guide and support new students as much as we can,"

she said. "During our general meetings aside from scope we go over things like tips for registration, tips on planning events, etc. We try to be a resource for all students."

Providing a message for incoming SCOPE members, she said, "I think the best advice we can give is to become a general member. You can see the process and be hands-on at the same time without the responsibility of planning and executing events. If it's something that interests you, then students can apply to become directors! Scope is tons of fun, but requires a lot of work. I have to thank our team because they often don't get the credit and praise they deserve."

All students are encouraged to participate in upcoming SCOPE events. For more information, send questions to scopechair@newhaven.edu, Scopevpf@newhaven.edu, Scopevpo@newhaven.edu or scope@newhaven.edu. Students can also follow the group's Instagram @newhavenscope. SCOPE-related events are also listed on Charger Connection.

Transition of leadership

Continued from page 1

Kaplan said that this is a difficult time. He mentioned that by 2026, it is predicted that there will be 15% fewer college students due to the Great Recession's plummet of birth rates. Because of this, financial preparations need to be made now to combat this future challenge, which mainly affects states where the majority of university students come from, according to Kaplan.

That's where Zenger's role comes into play.

With being Chancellor and CEO, Kaplan said, "having someone like Sheahon freed me up to do more fundraising, freed me up to focus more on strategic initiatives, on federal and private donations."

Zenger will work with enrollment and increasing revenue streams. They hope to add more online courses, certificates, summer athletic and academic camps and more to generate revenue. He will also focus on the students, such as working with student leadership opportunities and improving student experiences outside of the classroom with Dean of Students Ophelie Rowe-Allen.

"I'd have to say that I've met few people in my career that are so student focused," Kaplan said about Zenger.

As for the fundraising, there is much that will go into this process. "Tuition allows us to be a very good university," he said. "Private funding is what allows us to be a



President Kaplan talks to two people.
Photo courtesy of Jill Fazekas.

great university." The university averages \$15 million per year in private gifts, which goes towards scholarships and university facility upgrades. Of the about \$300 million that has been put into the campus, about half of that has been from private gifts, such as with the Bergami Center for Science, Technology, and Innovation.

Kaplan said that this fundraising takes a long time, but is worth it. He expects that soon the university will start receiving anywhere from \$10 to \$100 million gifts at a time.

"I'd love someday to get someone's name on the university for a couple hundred million dollars because we need more endowment," he said.

After the transition occurs, the Strategic Plan will begin, and Kaplan and Zenger will focus on different aspects of it. Zenger will concentrate on revenue and Kaplan

on partnerships with corporations, businesses, for-profits and not-for-profits.

Kaplan said it is important to strengthen ties with those corporations, as they are the ones who fund students at the university.

Two years ago, Kaplan said he did not think this transition was possible. He accredited this change to COVID-19, where he said he was able to learn that he can "slowly let go of the reins—it doesn't have to be all at once."

Kaplan said he recognizes some members of the university community see this transition as confusing, specifically with the titles and how they involve higher education.

"I think, as it unfolds," he said, "if both of us are successful and it results in more revenue and more funding being available to our faculty, students and our staff, everyone will say 'Wow, this was actually a good idea.'"

Open forum

Continued from page 1

"The ideal would be that this event is too big to have in this room when we have a student population of 5,000," Cooper said.

Gomez explained how the event came to be. In a meeting the USGA had with Dean of Students Ophelie Rowe Allen, they discussed creating spaces for conversations to be more proactive rather than reactive.

"I feel like I saw a lot of different faces today, and people were able to speak up that I never heard from before," Gomez said. "So, it was

definitely a different perspective."

Gomez said that topics of the future forums have not been announced yet, as they will pick them about one to two weeks in advance to maintain relevance.

For those seeking to engage in further discussion with the university community, additional sessions of this open forum series are set to take place on the last Thursday in both March and April, in Bergami Center Auditorium room 307 at 8 p.m.

"These conversations may happen on final Thursdays [of the month], but they can happen at any point in time, and they can continue and they can grow," Cooper said.



Danielle Cooper speaks during the open forum, West Haven, Feb. 24, 2022.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Kayla Mutchler.

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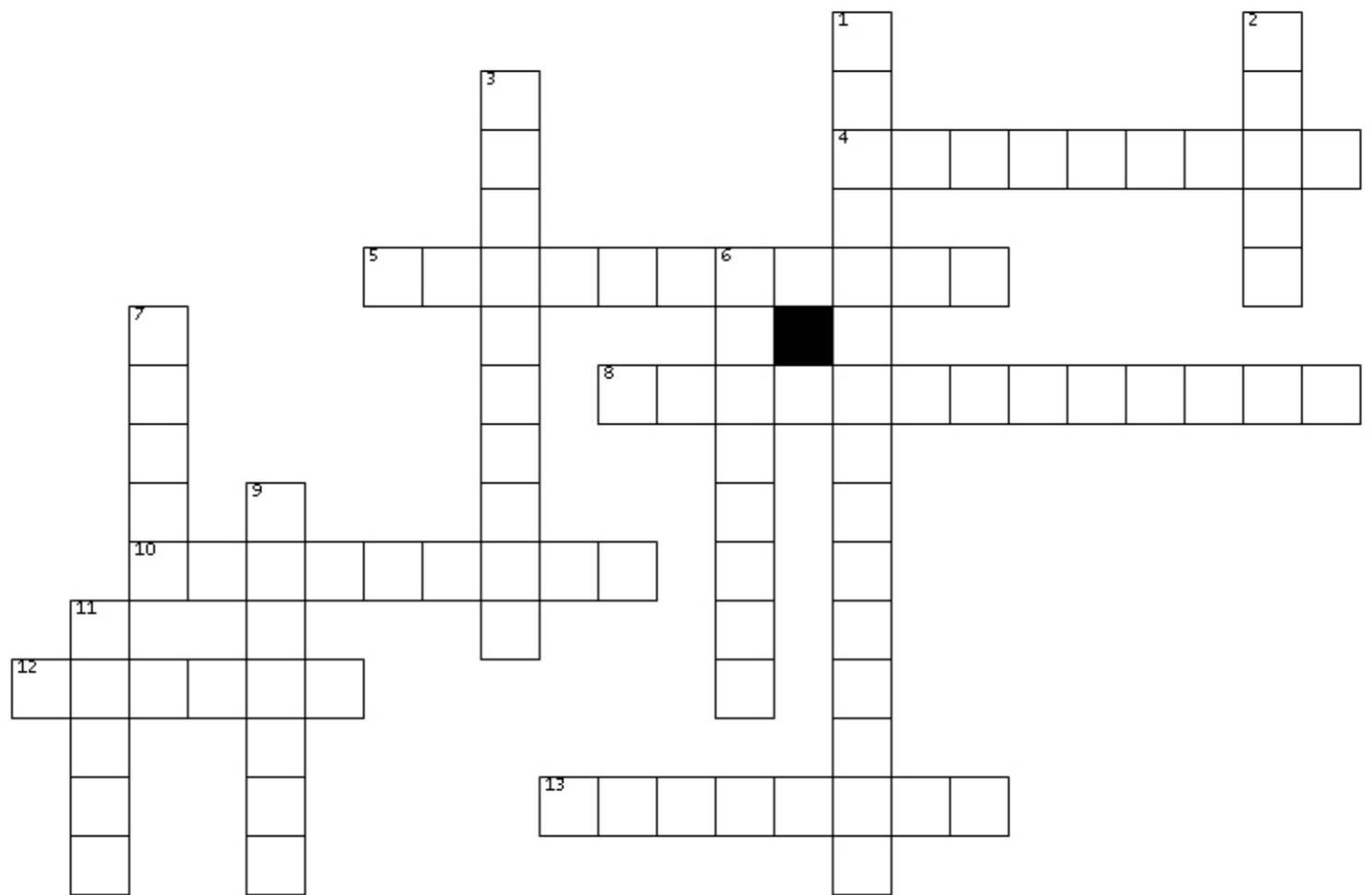
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Complete this Women's History Month crossword



ACROSS

- 4. Instrument used in IUD placement.
- 5. Form of payment that women could not get on their own until 1974.
- 8. "Equality" activism without intersectionality.
- 10. Famous journalist, abolitionist and muckraker.
- 12. Exists on a spectrum.
- 13. Our editor-in-chief's favorite pop star, recently in "House of Gucci."

DOWN

- 1. Pop song about the female orgasm, repeatedly referencing fruit.
- 2. A common symbolic depiction of female genitalia.
- 3. First female journalist in the U.S.
- 6. What men, statistically, can't find.
- 7. The only major U.S. city founded by a woman.
- 9. A major socioeconomic issue surrounding gender inequality.
- 11. Popular feminine footwear originally made for men.

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CHARGER BULLETIN MAGAZINE

Try this sudoku puzzle

			7		9			5
2	1	3	6	5	8			9
5		7	4		1			8
6						5	8	
9	7		8		2			4
4		8	5	1		9		
3	4		1	8	5			6
		2		7				
			2					1

Maintaining masks: The right move for our community

BY FINLEY CHAPMAN
Contributing Writer

Early last month, New York state removed mask mandates for businesses. This decision occurred right after multiple other states either removed or announced the removal of mask mandates after a national decrease of COVID-19 cases. While the decrease in COVID-19 cases is positive news, the removal of the mask mandate sets a dangerous example that the University of New Haven should not follow, considering the number of immunocompromised students at the university, as well as the recently discovered BA.2 variant.

One concern about removing mask mandates is its effect on immunocompromised individuals. When someone is immunocompromised, their immune system is weaker than that of the general population, putting them at a much greater risk of contracting illnesses like COVID-19. Many people in this population have had to isolate themselves at home; while the rest of the world is moving on from COVID, these people are stuck. Toby Cain, a woman with lymphatic cancer who was interviewed by the New York Times, said, "It's like living behind a veil while the rest of the world moves forward."

If the university removes its mask mandates, immunocompromised students could be more at risk of exposure, lost class time,



Students hang out while wearing masks inside of Bergami Hall, West Haven
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Charlotte Bassett.

sickness and hospitalization.

Another major issue with the removal of mask mandates is the newly discovered BA.2 variant. A variant of Omicron, BA.2 has been found in 40 countries, including the U.S. It is unknown what effect this variant could have or if the current vaccines give any immunity against it.

A preprint study, meaning it has not yet been peer reviewed,

found that the BA.2 variant could potentially cause more serious cases of COVID-19 on par with the Delta variant. It also causes vaccines to be less effective like the Omicron variant. If this ends up being the case, the university's maintenance of the mask mandate is just further proof of a correct decision.

A CDC study published on Feb. 11 read, "In addition to be-

ing up to date with recommended COVID-19 vaccinations, consistently wearing a comfortable, well-fitting face mask or respirator in indoor public settings protects against acquisition of SARS-CoV-2 infection."

Regardless of vaccination status, COVID-19 remains a dangerous risk for everyone, especially those who are immunocompromised. Discounting a

portion of our community, just so people can remove their masks, is heartless and careless. Removing the mandate in this time period of uncertainty would put the university community, as well as the surrounding neighborhoods, at risk. In such an instance, caution takes priority over a slight discomfort, and the university has shown they care.

Bleeding our pockets dry with female sanitary products

BY LINDSAY GIOVANNONE
Sports Editor

Female sanitary products should be free.

This shouldn't be a radical, polarizing statement, yet it is, largely due to the lack of understanding of the female reproductive system and a devaluing of the female body.

On average, women spend \$18,171 on female hygiene in their lifetime, and they will bleed for a total of 10 years.

While this is a reality for most people with a uterus, and has been since women have existed, there still remains plenty of misunderstanding surrounding menstruation.

At a university where a majority of upper administration is male, it is not surprising that access to menstrual products remains abysmal on campus.

And so, women are left to shoulder the financial burden of this perfectly normal occur-

rence—sometimes without much support. In one recent trip around campus, five of the 26 women's bathrooms in academic buildings at the University of New Haven, a metal box with a sticker asks for 25 cents for a pad or tampon. But all of these were empty, and the other 19 were simply nonexistent.

And, even assuming they're not empty or broken, 25 cents isn't fair. To put 25 cents into perspective, a 40 pack of Always UltraThin maxi pads from Target costs \$5.79. The price of each pad would come out to roughly 14 cents. In a digitized vending machine in Kaplan Hall, you can get three Kotex tampons for \$2.99. A pack of these at Walmart is priced at \$9.27, meaning each individual product costs 20 cents.

There is only one bathroom that offers free pads and tampons in any academic building, and it is presumably made by a student: a small basket of things with a note that says "FREE" written next to it on a piece of paper.



An empty tampon dispenser inside of Bartels Hall, West Haven, Feb. 22, 2022.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Lindsay Giovannone.

This is in the basement of Echlin Hall, and, while it is beautiful to see how students care about one another's well being, it shouldn't be up to us.

The University of New Haven has a total budget of about \$289

million. Yet, all five 25-cent period product dispensers on campus are broken or empty. However, condoms are free and readily available at the health center. Students can ultimately choose to not have sex; but women cannot

stop uterine lining and blood from falling out of their bodies.

It is time for the university to do their part—make feminine sanitary products more accessible and free on campus.

Track and field finds success at NE-10 Championships

BY JOSEPH KLAUS
Staff Writer

For the second time in the month of February, the men's and women's track teams traveled to the Reggie Lewis Center, this time for the biggest meet of their season: the NE-10 Championships. Coming into the meet, the women's team was tabbed to finish sixth by the conference coaches poll, and the men's team was set for 3rd in the conference behind American International College (AIC) and crosstown rival Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU). The program sent 20 members of the women's team and 29 from the men's team to compete.

Women's Team

Kristen Washington jumped into the sand and walked away with two silver medals. Washington first went into it with a seeded jump, followed by her rival from SCSU just behind her. Those two battled it out through the preliminaries and into the finals of long jump. After fouling her first jump she found her mark and progressively increased her distance. On her final jump, Washington landed a jump of 5.61 meters which would hold against the field and earn Washington her first medal.

Following the long jump,

Washington went back to work in the pit, competing in the triple jump. After fouling her first two attempts, she moved into the finals on her third jump marked at 10.83 meters. Washington quickly found her stride in the finals marking 11.21 meters on her second jump. She broke out with an impressive closing jump of 11.79 meters which moved her up three positions on the leaderboard and into second place for her second silver medal. Washington's jump in the triple jump qualified her for the NCAA Division II Track and Field Championships at Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kan. on March 11 and 12.

The Chargers continued to dominate the field and earned their medals as over in the circle, Jalynn McCown won a silver medal in the weight throw. On her first attempt of the event, McCown took command, throwing herself into second place at 14.71 meters. The throw pushed McCown into the finals where she continued to be around that mark securing a silver medal.

In the final field event of the meet, Hope Cuomo took flight and took home a bronze medal in the high jump. In her second day of jumping, after clearing 1.51 meters in the high jump in the pentathlon, Cuomo had the mark that she needed to beat. After clearing the

first two heights on her first jump, she went down to the wire clearing 1.48 meters on her third and final jump at that height. She went on to clear 1.53 meters on her first jump of the proceeding height, beating her jump from the pentathlon. She finished with a height of 1.53 meters placing her in third and after missing a medal in the pentathlon by five points, she took home the bronze medal.

Men's Team

Jordan Emile took home the first medal, silver, in the Heptathlon. The two day event started Thursday morning with Emile starting out hot, winning the 60 meter dash and jumping to the top of the leaderboard. He followed up the win with a first place finish in the hurdles where his closest competitor was a half second behind him. Emile finished second in the long jump and high jump. It came down to the final event on Friday as the top three competitors were separated by less than 200 points. The 1000 meter made the difference as Emile finished sixth in the event and second overall with a personal best of 4509 points, just 20 points behind the first place finisher. Emile finished the heptathlon earning 4509 total points which broke his own previous school record set at the URI Heptathlon set at the beginning of the season when he

scored 4273 points.

Just as they did all year, the Chargers found success in the sand as Jonathan Cineus walked away with his silver medal in the triple jump. After just missing a medal in the long jump, Cineus was not going to be denied a medal at the meet. Seeded at 14.24 meters, Cineus broke that on his third jump with 14.25 meters, pushing him through to the finals. After fouling and missing 14 meters, Cineus came back and jumped 14.60 meters which earned Cineus the silver medal. Not only did Cineus win a silver medal, his jump of 14.60 meters cleared the NCAA provisional mark, qualifying him for the NCAA Division 2 Track and Field Championships.

The friendly rivalry between Jordany Dely and Abdiel Tejada continued at Conference as the two pushed each other through to the finals and into a silver medal for the Chargers. After breaking the 60 meter Hurdle record at the URI Heptathlon, Dely's record did not last long as Tejada broke it again at the Yale season opener setting the new record at (8.27). At the conference, Dely with a vision in mind, flew through the hurdles crossing in a time of 8.18, taking back his school record from Tejada and earning himself a silver medal in the event. Dely's time in the

hurdles also qualified him for the NCAA Division 2 Track and Field Championships.

In the final event for the men, the 4x400 meter relay team of Ryan Williams, Blake Jandreau, Jordany Dely and Kevin Leach-Brown closed out the Conference championships with yet another medal. Seeded with a time of 3:21.26, the team raced in the same heat as rivals AIC and SCSU. Williams came out of the blocks hot and held a slight lead into the hand off to Dely. After a back and forth battle in the middle splits, Leach-Brown received the handoff in second just behind AIC. He held off the pressure from SCSU for a second place finish just behind AIC crossing with a time of 3:19.57 and beating their seeded time and rival Southern to take home the silver for the team.

As a whole, the Chargers won seven individual medals: six silver and one bronze, as well as four silver medals for the 4x400 meter relay in the championships and totaled 66 points, only one point behind their rivals SCSU.

With the conclusion of the indoor season, the team now looks forward to the outdoor season, building off of the success they just found.

A historic overview of university athletic accolades

BY LINDSAY GIOVANNONE
Sports Editor

The University of New Haven has a rich history in athletics and prides itself not only in athletes' accomplishments on their respective teams but in their academics as well.

New Haven became an NCAA Division II institution in the 1980s, and part of the Northeast-10 Athletic Conference in 2008. The storied history of New Haven athletics began in 1960 when the men's basketball team was established as the school's first intercollegiate athletic program, under Don Ormad.

New Haven's Athletic Hall of Fame currently has 186 inductees,

back from the first induction in 1986 and the most recent in 2019. Gina Paolillo was the first woman to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, being the first female athlete to letter in three sports: softball, women's basketball and women's volleyball.

The University of New Haven's football team was inaugurated in 1972, coached by Joe McHugh, and finished with an 0-8 record. The first win for football came in 1975, when they finished the season 2-7. Football's first winning season (6-3) would come in 1978 under head coach Tom Bell. Since these early years, football has had 10 postseason accolades, including four-time NE-10 champions and reaching the NCAA Finals in 1998.

Women's volleyball remains the most decorated program in

Charger Athletics history, with 22 conference championships and 34 NCAA tournament runs, also playing in the Sweet Sixteen 21 times and the Elite Eight 14. The team finished with a 30-2 record in 2012 under long-time head coach Robin Salters. Salters was head coach for a remarkable 24 seasons before passing the torch to Christa Cooper in 2018; Cooper has already brought the Chargers to back-to-back NCAA Division II Championship appearances.

Individually, New Haven athletes are highly accomplished. The Chargers also boast 20 Academic All-Americans; the most recent New Haven athlete to receive this honor was women's tennis player Ivana Andric, who was awarded Academic All-American At-Large Second Team in 2021. Football tailback Roger Graham was ranked the top Division II football player in the nation, winning the Harlon Hill Trophy in 1993.

The most successful student-athlete in Charger history is women's track and field member Shannon Gagne, who graduated from the university in 2011 and is the only National Champion in school history. She holds records in both the long-jump and 200- and 400-meter dashes. Gagne was inducted into the University of New Haven hall of fame in 2017.

University of New Haven's 61 years of athletic accomplishments only continues to grow and, with the school on track to become an NCAA Division I school, the future is promising for the Chargers.

Let's talk about NASCAR

BY LINDSAY GIOVANNONE
Sports Editor

The National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing, known as NASCAR, is a pastime that captures the attention of millions. It was founded as a form of rebellion against the government during the Prohibition era in Appalachia, where small, quick vehicles were used to bootleg whiskey.

NASCAR has three national divisions: the Cup Series, Xfinity Series and Camping World Truck Series. The Cup Series is the most prestigious and consists of 36 races over 10 months, resulting in a NASCAR champion.

The unprecedented levels of danger faced by drivers has normalized tragedy. There have been 28 driver fatalities in Cup Series history, eight occurring at the Daytona 500, giving it the title for deadliest racetrack. Fortunately, there has not been a death since that of racing legend Dale Earnhardt, Sr. in 2001.

NASCAR'S fanbase is an amalgamation of die-hards who know every detail pertaining to cars and their drivers. They hail largely from conservative areas of the United States and are known for their rowdy tailgates and exuberant behavior in the stands.

The fans bring with them a long history of racism and discrimination that continues to haunt NASCAR today. In 2020, fans were banned from flying the Confederate flag at races, after Black

driver Bubba Wallace successfully campaigned against it. Wallace later had a noose left in his stall at the racetrack.

Wallace would not be deterred from racing and said of the incident, "Our sport has made a commitment to driving real change and championing a community that is accepting and welcoming of everyone. Nothing is more important, and we will not be deterred by the reprehensible actions of those who seek to spread hate."

Additionally, 40% of NASCAR's fanbase is female, making them one of the highest female fan bases of any professional sport, and yet there is systemic sexism on the raceway. Women known as "Monster Energy Girls" dress in sexual clothing and pose with the male drivers, trivializing the female fans.

Trailblazing driver Janet Guthrie, the first woman to compete at the Daytona 500 in 1977, has spoken at length about the sexism she faced by competitor Richard Petty, who is now regarded as a NASCAR icon. "Petty said things like, 'She's no lady. If she's a lady, she'd be home.' Or, when someone asked if he thought I could finish the first NASCAR Cup Race at Charlotte, he said 'No.'" Guthrie did beat him at Talladega.

The culture surrounding NASCAR may always confuse me. NASCAR is uniquely poised with the opportunity to once again rebel against the norms and welcome anyone and everyone with a need for speed, but doesn't succeed.



Outside the Ralph F. DellaCamera Stadium, West Haven, 2021.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Lisnarie Pabon.