

The Charger Bulletin

The student news source for the University of New Haven

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(From left to right) Saniyah Brinney, Hailey Williams, Mary Lippa, Cora Cogil and Secora Chambers seated at the front of the Inaugural Passing the Torch ceremony, West Haven, April 29, 2022. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.

USGA leadership transitions for 2022-2023 school year

BY MIA ADDUCI
Student Life Editor

The Undergraduate Student Government Association (USGA) elections have come to a close, and now, with the semester also drawing to an end, it is time for the electees to prepare to take charge in the upcoming fall semester.

Last weekend, USGA hosted their first Inaugural Passing the Torch ceremony in the Bixler-Gerber quad, in order to transition leadership into the hands of their new executive board.

Adrielys Gomez, the graduating vice president of Community, advocacy and diversity, though not present, left words for her successor, Mary Lippa. Gomez recalled working with Lippa throughout the past year in order to “create a campus that we all feel belonging in.”

Reading on behalf of Gomez, graduating USGA President Sofia Martinez said to “fight the good fight. It will sometimes feel like an uphill battle but remember what you are doing it for.”

Retiring Senior Vice President, Matthew Major, has served as senator, assistant treasurer, treasurer and senior VP over a span of three years. He called his time with USGA “life changing,” and said that his positions taught him “diplomacy, leadership and most importantly, patience.” He expressed his gratitude for the experiences he has gained with USGA, and spoke on his decision to retire from his position to focus on pursuing other avenues in his future.

That afternoon, Senior Vice President-elect Hailey Perez spoke

briefly, emphasizing the value that she held to the immediate sense of belonging she gained as a freshman on the “active and lively” campus, mainly through the prominence of Recognized Student Organization (RSO) interactions.

She proceeded to voice her concerns about RSOs, which “became limited in what they can do” following the eruption of the pandemic. Perez used this as a catalyst to explain her motives for running for the position where she aims to “give back what was given to me and taken from others, and support RSOs in their endeavors to bring back Charger Pride.”

Director of Finance Manny Cortes-Jimenez said that “while in this position, I was able to learn and apply a lot of new skills.” He also congratulated Secora Chambers, the successor for the position, and expressed his confidence in her ability to go far in the finance position.

Martinez said that she held immense value to her two years in said position, “On my toughest days I learned to keep going. On my best days I’ve learned why I keep going for all of you,” and wished the best to the incoming executive board prior to “passing the torch” to USGA President-elect Saniyah Brinney.

Brinney has an array of aims going into her new position of leadership. She is coming off a pre-existing role as vice president of the Black Student Union, which granted her experience in organizational leadership that will translate to her role next semester.

At the ceremony, Brinney’s

speech covered her aims to “make a change for every student on campus” and her desire to reinstate Charger pride throughout the student body.

Brinney is the first Black woman to assume the role of USGA president, and she spoke about her initial concerns of the student body not being prepared for such change prior to her election.

Brinney repeatedly discussed her mission to work towards “breaking boundaries” on a variety of fronts of her rising leadership in university student government.

“I have a passion for helping people,” said Brinney, leading into her aspirations going into the upcoming academic year.

She described her goals to bring the university community together, and drew back to her campaign’s central motif of unity. “I just want us to be engaged again,” said Brinney in conclusion. She is seeking to help RSOs increase activity to levels exhibited prior to the pandemic, rebuilding student life back to the presence it held previously.

“I feel like right now our university is at a standstill; there’s not a lot of engagement,” she said. “We need to come back and unite.”

“I want to have more transparency with myself and the student body,” Brinney said, “and the same thing goes for administration and faculty—I want to work with them and I want to connect them with students. There are students out here who want to do stuff within the university, but they don’t know who to go to. Obviously, the president is the liaison, but I don’t want to just be the liaison; I want to be

the person who connects them.”

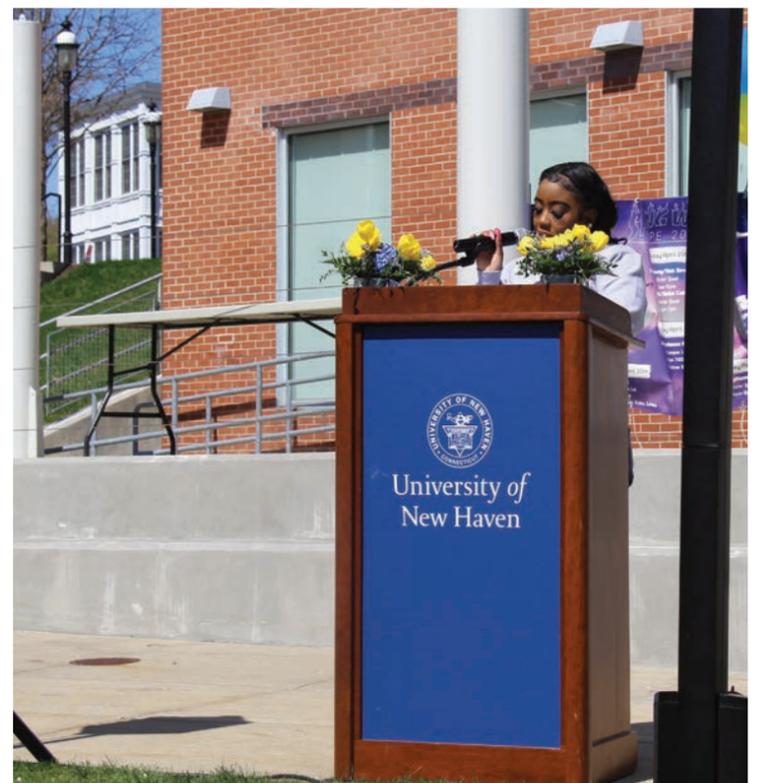
“I feel like that’s where a lot of the animosity between students and faculty comes from, is the lack of transparency,” she said, “and if I can help that and bring everybody together, I feel like we can finally progress and do better to act upon change.”

Brinney also shed light on her intentions to get the students a “wellness advisor,” saying that “mental health is something that a lot of students are struggling with on campus, and I know CAPS is hard to get to, and a lot of people don’t feel seen or heard by CAPS, so if I can I will work with admin-

istration to help us get that.”

She also spoke about her plans to continue open forums between students and faculty, referencing the series that has played out this semester under the leadership of current USGA President Sofia Martinez. Brinney tied this back into her motif of increased transparency, indicating that open forums at the university could be used as a catalyst to further progress towards this goal.

“I feel like throughout my presidency I will, and I believe that I can get the job done for everyone,” Brinney said.



Saniyah Brinney speaks during the ceremony, West Haven, April 29, 2022. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.

Spring Week headliner Blackbear connects with crowd

BY VICTORIA CAGLEY
Community Engagement
Editor

Perspective

SCOPE's Spring Week concert headliner Blackbear performed on Friday night at the North Campus parking lot, with a packed crowd and good vibes to close off the week of festivities.

On April 22, SCOPE announced on their Instagram story that they were aware of a situation concerning the singer testing positive for COVID-19 in the week prior, and that updates were to come. Though the outcome seemed unknown, Blackbear was still able to take the stage.

As students walked through the entrance of North, light up sticks were given out and a choice of free merchandise was given. The opener for the concert, a student, Jayson Dvelasco, did a DJ set that got the crowd ready for the headliner. As Blackbear came out onto the stage singing "me & ur ghost," he got the crowd in a hype for the rest of the concert.

Apart from being a great performer when it came to singing his hit songs, Blackbear seemed to love to engage with the crowd. His stage presence radiated

while making jokes about having COVID and being sick, explaining how he was excited to be away from taking care of his kids and running in front of the crowd. The concert seemed to slip far beyond being a free Spring Week concert and transformed into a real festival feel. The crowd of students erupted in high energy even when they did not know all of the songs he was performing, simply because of the power of his stage presence as a performer. Singing hit songs like "do re mi," "queen of broken hearts" and "my ex's best friend," the crowd roared with excitement.

Students banded together in close packs of friends, singing along and getting the singer's attention during his set. Someone even took it upon themselves to impress Blackbear by throwing their bra on stage, to which he smiled and firmly hung it on his microphone stand for the remainder of the concert. The concert was filled with flashing lights, smiling faces and harmonizing voices. Students seemingly got the stress of impending finals off their backs with the aura of the concert, especially seniors with just two weeks away from graduation.



Blackbear performs as the Spring Week headliner, West Haven, April 29, 2022.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Kayla Mutchler.

Blackbear even took to calling out students who were leaving the concert early, maybe to get ahead of the crowd leaving North Campus, and implored them to stay for the last few songs as he closed out his set. He finished his concert with his top hit, "hot girl

bummer," to which the crowd was ready to give him back three times the energy that he deserved. Lyrics like, "this that college dropout music," and "I hate your friends and they hate me too" were shouted by the entire packed crowd, finishing the

concert off with energy like no other felt by students all across the parking lot.

Blackbear took the term "headliner" and ran with it, being a shining star of the end of Spring Week events and a close to the spring 2022 semester.

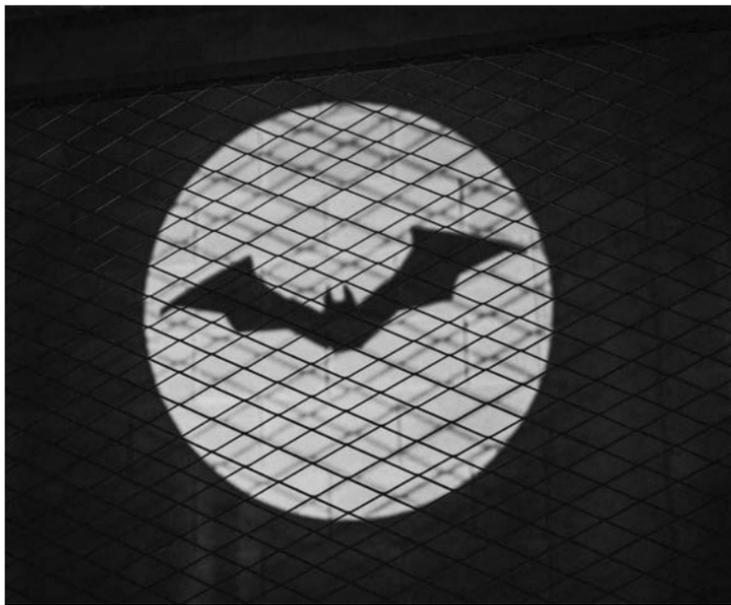
Robert Pattinson set to return for "The Batman" sequel

BY ANTOINETTE YEN
Entertainment Editor

At CinemaCon, the annual trade show for theater owners, Warner Bros. revealed their plans for another crusader story. Their sequel to "The Batman" is in the works, with Robert Pattinson reprising his role as Gotham's most ferocious defender. Matt Reeves, the director of "The Batman," was on hand to announce that he would write and direct the sequel, but he has not yet revealed any details about what the film will entail.

"The Batman," currently the highest grossing movie of the year, is a gritty three-hour superhero adventure, which made its theatrical debut in March, making \$134 million domestically. Those ticket sales remain the biggest for an opening weekend of 2022. This film is also only the second pandemic-era film to surpass \$100 million in a single weekend, following "Spider-Man: No Way Home."

"The Batman" depicted Bruce Wayne's early days as "the world's greatest detective." In his pursuit of justice, the young Dark Knight uncovers corruption



The batsignal from "The Batman."
Photo courtesy of @sg_multimedia.

in Gotham City while on the trail of the Riddler, a maniacal killer, played by Paul Dano. The cast features Zoe Kravitz as Catwoman, Andy Serkis as Batman's butler Alfred Pennyworth, Colin Farrell as the crime-lord known as Penguin, and Jeffrey Wright as Gotham City's police chief James Gordon. Aside from blockbuster ticket sales, the film was well received by critics with an A- CinemaScore.

In his review of "The Bat-

man," Variety's chief film critic Peter Debruge praised Reeves for doing "something relatively unique here, at least by comic-book-movie standards."

"This grounded, frequently brutal and nearly three-hour film noir registers among the best of the genre, even if — or more aptly, because — what makes the film so great is its willingness to dismantle and interrogate the very concept of superheroes," he wrote.

Ava Max's new single is unimpressive

BY MIA ADDUCI
Student Life Editor

Perspective

After an immense amount of buildup on social media, Ava Max finally put the teasers to rest and released her newest single, "Maybe You're the Problem" on April 28.

Max has been revamping her social media presence, which was kicked off with the bold call of dying her hair bright red. In recent weeks, she flooded her Twitter with teasers ranging from written lyrics, videos of song snippets, leaked cover art and pictures from the elaborate photoshoot for the release.

The timeline of teasers began back on March 16, when the artist wrote "Oh it's Comin.'" This left Max with over a month, which she fully took to milk the release of a mere three minutes of clunky lyricism that does not follow her typical seamless flow.

Though out of character for the young artist, the verbiage here hovers just above the line of tacky. For instance, "Worked on myself, opened my eyes / You hate my friends, turns out they were right." I mean, come

on, it fits the soundtrack of a 2010s highschool dramatics movie.

It's giving K-Pop sung in English, and that's not at all what I was expecting. Considering her previous hits "Sweet But Psycho" and "Kings & Queens" were catchy and creative, and her lesser known songs are levels above, I thought the same would be for this single.

The one section that rolled nicely off the tongue fell into the chorus, where she sings, "But with you, it's always my fault / And your short fuse, just like a time bomb / And I think you should take a second just to look at your reflection / Baby, maybe you're the problem."

Seriously though, Ava Max cannot build up hype for over a month, just to toss us listeners a mediocre single that sounds like something sucked out of a miserable time warp.

She says that the guy has "got it all backwards" but in reality, she seems like the one a little twisted thinking she did something exciting with this song.

If anyone needs me, I'll be back in 2020 streaming "Heaven and Hell."

West Haven mayor Nancy Rossi refuses to resign amid COVID relief fund scandal

BY LILLIAN NEWTON
Staff Writer

West Haven Mayor Nancy Rossi is refusing to resign amid widespread outcry over a recent audit which found that the city misused nearly \$900,000 in COVID Relief Funds (CRF).

Many citizens are outraged by the number of scandals that have occurred over recent months involving the city's money being misspent or allegedly stolen. During a city hall meeting last week, dozens of people attended to call for transparency and accountability. Increasingly frustrated residents also repeatedly requested for Rossi to resign. Rossi told the crowd, "I have no intention whatsoever of resigning today or any day." She reiterated this same sentiment, saying, "That is not happening, I am not giving in a resignation now, tomorrow, next week, next month [or] next year. I took this position because I wanted to make a difference."

Some citizens believe that in order to move past the scandals, there needs to be changes made in leadership at all levels. Former West Haven Mayor Ed O'Brien said "I think and this ground behind me thinks it's impossible for us to move forward with you sitting there Madame Mayor."

This meeting comes two weeks after the City Council unanimously passed a vote of no confidence in Rossi and subsequently opened an investigation into the matter.

Throughout this most recent scandal, Rossi and other city officials have argued that West



Haven has made sustainable progress in tracking and safeguarding the city's finances in recent years.

While the city's financial director was hopeful that recently found documents could help improve the tracking of city finances, many citizens still have concerns about the measures being taken to protect the city's financial assets; these concerns come after former City Council Aide and State Representative Michael DiMassa and three others were charged with stealing

from the city's CRF.

Rossi said, "This is an incident that happened. The individuals have been caught. Hopefully, they will be prosecuted and then we can move forward. Everyone in West Haven is not a thief now in city hall."

She also said, "My message to the public is we are going to continue to do good work in West Haven and we are going to go forward and continue to move West Haven forward."

Governor Ned Lamont will decide next month on whether or

not West Haven's finances should be placed under the highest level of state oversight by the Municipal Accountability Board (MARB). The city's finances were already under partial state control through MARB, and a recent unanimous vote on April 14 moved West Haven to a Tier IV status. This gives MARB the ability to approve or reject West Haven's annual budget and gives more power to the board to review city contracts and spend-

ing.
Outside of City Hall, West Haven, May 1, 2022.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Samuel Weinmann.

At the city hall meeting last week, a member of MARB commented that had Rossi had listened to the advice given by MARB over the years, the city could have avoided DiMassa allegedly stealing roughly \$1 million in city funds.

The Governor's final decision to move West Haven to the Tier IV status could come as soon as May.

Lamont proposes new budget, accounting for mental health and gas tax relief

BY SAMUEL WEINMANN
Politics Editor

This month, multiple pieces of legislation have been brought forth regarding tax cuts in Connecticut, primarily related to rising gas prices. The U.S. has recently imposed sanctions on Russia, as well as general financial strains that the COVID-19 pandemic has put on Connecticut citizens.

Last week, Gov. Ned Lamont and other state officials agreed on a new state budget that focuses on tax cuts and other allocations of funds to help families in the state.

The budget amounts to \$24 billion, with nearly \$600 million being used to alleviate tax burdens. The deal that was agreed upon will affect millions of Connecticut residents, and will address mental health programs, gas taxes and various tax credit programs.

The bill also proposes funding for mental health programs for children and early childhood. One of the reasons why this was incorporated into the bill is because these programs "have struggled to pay workers competitive wages while ensuring services are affordable to families," according to NBC Connecticut.

A child tax credit is also accounted for in the proposed bill, which would incorporate a \$250 credit per child for one year. This would be capped at three children under the age of 17.

Additionally, Lamont has proposed an increase in the current property tax credit in Connecticut from \$200 to \$300, as well as expand current eligibility for the program. Currently, only those who are 65 or older, 50 and acting as a surviving spouse, or with certain disabilities are eligible for the property tax credit program.

Addressing the rising tax prices, the bill proposes that the current gas tax holiday put in place by Lamont will be extended until



Dec. 1. This will ensure that Connecticut residents won't have to pay the 25-cent-per gallon tax throughout the year.

This bill—if passed—would have a profound influence on a variety of populations, especially undergraduate and graduate college students at the University

of New Haven. Many students at the university either commute or use a car to get to their jobs and other daily commitments. Continuing the gas tax holiday would save students money as gas prices in Connecticut contin-

ue to rise.
Outside of Green Fuel, West Haven, May 1, 2022.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.

Additionally, the child tax credit program could alleviate financial strain on students at the university with children.

If approved, the bill is currently set to take effect on July 1.

Charger Bulletin seniors reflect on their experiences as graduation nears

BY SAIGE BATZA
Student Life Editor

Perspective

The Charger Bulletin staff at the University of New Haven prides themselves on their commitment to publishing authentic print and digital media while maintaining an environment that celebrates diversity and inclusion among the campus community. A handful of members from the editorial staff will soon graduate, each leaving behind an unforgettable legacy that we hope to remember long after they have graduated. These graduates include Kayla Mutchler, Isabelle Hajek, Lismarie Pabon, Jada Clarke and Victoria Cagley.

Mutchler, the current editor-in-chief of The Charger Bulletin, says that she hopes incoming leaders of the organization “foster an inclusive environment and expand upon its new design” after she graduates. She said, “I am proud to say that our community has expanded and become more close-knit since I joined as editor-in-chief in 2020, and I know that it will only continue to get better. Also, since I redesigned the newspaper as part of my honors thesis, I hope that future leaders keep pushing for better as the media continues to change.”

Mutchler said that her favorite piece she has ever published was “CSA takes West Haven to Paris during spring fashion show.” She said, “While sitting in a

crowd wearing designer clothing, watching models command the runway, with my hand cramping from the amount of notes I was taking, I experienced a newfound passion—fashion reporting—and I felt like a true journalist.”

Mutchler also said that she enjoyed writing “Students protest lack of action after 9/11 ceremony remarks.” She said, “It was one of the first times I and others within the organization got a taste of true journalism, where we were able to go out into the field and report... I was beyond proud of our staff that day, for their dedication to accuracy and their professionalism. I am elated that we got to experience journalism for what it really is.”

Mutchler said that the most rewarding part of being editor-in-chief has been “seeing my fellow journalists succeed while being the leader of The Charger Bulletin. It is always a goal of mine to inspire those around me, whether it be in large or small ways. I can confidently say that I have helped foster an environment that pushes our staff to do their best and continuously educate themselves, while reporting accurately and fairly,” she said. “I can only hope that as they continue to grow, they will inspire those around them to do the same. It was an honor to lead this organization, and I will never forget the memories I made here.”

Lastly, Mutchler encourages all members of the university to join The Charger Bulletin. She

said, “If you love writing, join; if you have never written an article before, join. There are so many educational opportunities within The Charger Bulletin, from writing articles to broadcasting in a weekly news program. I encourage anybody to join, as they are guaranteed to learn something new,” she said. “The people within this organization are some of the best I’ve ever met, and it’s an environment that I hope more people want to be a part of.”

Isabelle Hajek is the opinions editor for the newspaper and head editor for Charger Bulletin Magazine. She reflected on the inspiration for her writing and what ultimately led her to join the organization during her first few years at the university. She said, “I came into the Bulletin without any expectation to achieve a leadership role, I really was just looking for a more creative and constructive outlet for my thoughts outside of the context of the classroom. Looking back, now as the newspaper’s opinions editor and the magazine’s head editor, I am proud of how far I have come.”

Hajek said that it is hard to pick a favorite article that she has written during her time with the Bulletin. She says, “Personally, I am partial to longer form journalism as with the magazine, so the most rewarding pieces I have authored probably are the ones I have published there. The first that come to mind are ‘Say the Word; Say It’ which dealt with the orgasm gap and its social im-

plications, and ‘Preservation or repatriation? The reality of museum exhibits,’ which was about stolen art/artifacts and features a professor who is an expert on the subject here at the university.”

Hajek said that being a part of The Charger Bulletin has provided opportunities to “explore my academic interests and expand my knowledge base in writing and communication.” She also said, “I always enjoy losing myself in writing and having a productive outlet for the information I have. In academia, there are so seldom opportunities for students to be published, have by-lines and receive that exposure, I am grateful for the opportunities that this experience has afforded me.”

Lismarie Pabon, the photography editor for The Charger Bulletin, said that she has enjoyed working for the organization throughout her time at the university. She said, “I was able to lead a staff and create images and art on behalf of the school.”

Pabon looks forward to her future after the Bulletin, saying, “It has prepared me to be a leader and helped me to practice being an effective leader. It has helped me learn how to manage issues with others on a team and learn how people receive delegation and tasks given to them.”

Jada Clarke, the multimedia editor and director of Charger Bulletin News said that her experience within the organization “has helped me develop my journalism skills and discover what I want to do when I graduate.”

“It gave me an opportunity to try new things and produce captivating content through Charger Bulletin News,” she says. “My time with The Charger Bulletin has allowed me to learn from my mistakes so I can find success in the future.”

Victoria Cagley, the community engagement editor, said that her time with the Bulletin has been the most consistent aspect of her undergraduate experience at the university. She said, “I could always look to it for comfort and stability, as well as a chance to be creative and grow as a person. I have learned so much throughout my time at the Bulletin, like how to be a leader and collaborate with friends on projects. I know that The Charger Bulletin will continue on as a strong organization on this campus because of the way that we amplify the voices of campus and are sure that people’s stories are being heard.”

Moving forward, Cagley would like to see the future of The Charger Bulletin to recognize that “creativity and courage are what will make you thrive,” she says. “Be bold and go outside of the box, your future self will thank you for it.”

Lastly, Cagley encourages up-and-coming leaders of the organization to “have fun and be friendly.” She says, “College is meant to be such an exciting time, make friends and memories while you have the chance.”



(From left to right) Kayla Mutchler, Isabelle Hajek, Lismarie Pabon, Jada Clarke and Victoria Cagley, West Haven.
Photos courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Charlotte Bassett and Lismarie Pabon.

To Write Love on Her Arms rebrands as a university organization

BY SAIGE BATZA
Student Life Editor

To Write Love on Her Arms (TWLOHA) is a student-run university organization that promotes mental wellness and the prevention of suicide ideation and drug addiction, while supporting those who struggle with self-injury.

Tara Franklin, a senior criminal justice major, is the current president of the organization. She said, “The organization was founded in March of 2006 by Jamie Tworowski. Around this pe-

riod Jamie had a friend who was struggling with mental health issues. Her self-injury led her to being hospitalized for her safety. He wrote about these events in a blog post called ‘To Write Love on Her Arms’ that gained a lot of attention.”

“Eventually this post became a nonprofit organization of the same name,” Franklin said. “Several years later TWLOHA established the UChapters program, where students at universities could found their own chapter of TWLOHA and spread its message. However, the UChapters

program has been discontinued as of a couple of weeks ago, leading us to rebrand.”

Franklin, along with other organization leaders, look forward to positive changes in the works for the organization. She said, “Once the spring semester concludes we will be running as an independent organization under the name Operation Semicolon. We chose this name as the semicolon holds much significance in the mental health world. We plan to function as we normally do, we just won’t have a national organization looking over us

anymore.”

Franklin also spoke about how the removal of a national organization’s presence will allow for more freedom in the way that they approach events throughout the year. This is something that they are seeking to encourage in order to “create original events that we can set as a precedent for future semesters.”

The organization will still hold meetings “based on the same concept of mental health education and awareness.”

Franklin reflected on the impact that the organization has had

on the university over the past decade, saying, “We have been successful with our mission of educating and spreading awareness about mental health.”

“During my time at UNH I have noticed that mental health is holding much more importance, and it is being spoken about at higher rates,” she said. “Of course, I cannot attribute all of this to our organization, but I believe we have contributed to this new environment.”

She also described the com-

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Secrets revealed: Who is the tuxedo cat by Forest Hills?

BY NEVA BOSTIC
Contributing Writer

A sociable tuxedo cat has been recently roaming the streets of Simon Place looking for attention from University of New Haven students. However, most students do not know who the cat is, or where it comes from. Many have noticed that it will walk the streets and trot behind differ-

ent groups of students on their ventures back to the Forest Hills Apartments from campus.

“Bob’s Cat” the mysterious emotional support animal for Forest Hills residents, does not actually have a name, but the feline does have a place in every student’s heart.

Some students have tried to figure out more about the cat’s background. Sophomore Corinne Quagliar, a criminal justice major

and resident of Forest Hills, calls the cat “Mittens.”

“At first, I thought it was a girl, but then one day I was driving by and he was in a driveway, you know, getting frisky with another cat so I found out that he’s a boy. That’s really all I know about him,” Quagliar said. “He’s a little skittish. I like to stop and pet him if I have time, even if I don’t have time, he’s like an emotional support cat.”

Ever since the first sighting, students have been raving about the cat. Some have even made up different names for him. They look forward to the days where they can stop and give the fluffy cat some well-deserved attention, with no recollection of who he actually is.

“I call the cat Mittens, but everyone else calls it Whiskers,” said Skylar Galvez, a sophomore criminal justice major and Forest Hills resident.

Galvez said she only sees the cat on the strip from Ruden Street to Forest Hills. The farthest she has ever seen him is at the stop sign before the edge of campus and Westside Hall.

Carlos Rivera, sophomore history major and Forest Hills resident, recently uncovered the truth behind the cat’s mysterious sightings. “I met the owner of the cat walking back from Forest,” said Rivera.

He was walking back to his apartment, wearing his ROTC uniform, when he was stopped by a neighbor. A man known as “Bob, the Veteran,” according to Rivera, stopped him to talk about

his experiences in the army.

Rivera noticed the cat was on the porch of the man’s home and asked him if the cat was his.

“He said that he’s had the cat for years,” said Rivera. “I asked him, ‘why don’t you keep the cat inside’ and he said that he can’t contain the cat inside and that it likes to roam free. The cat is really nice, everyone knows the cat, and no one tries to hit it or steal it, it just does its own thing so it’s okay.”

Rivera asked what the cat’s name was, and the veteran said that it didn’t have a name. However, the owner’s name is Bob, so he said that makes the cat’s name, “Bob’s Cat.”

This cat is different from the rest around the Forest Hills area. This part of West Haven is a home to countless skittish cats who roam about random backyards that don’t appear to be their real homes.

Officials say that the state’s feral abandoned cats are on the rise. Laura Burban, the director of the Dan Cosgrove Animal Shelter in West Haven, says that inner cities tend to see more stray animals outside because of apartment complexes and units that people move out of and abandon their pets. Just a few miles away, Karyn Putney, a volunteer at Dan Cosgrove Animal Shelter in Branford, said she recently trapped a group of feral cats being fed and sheltered behind a restaurant.

Rest assured, the mystery cat of Forest Hills does in fact have a home.

TWLOHA

Continued from page 4

community presence and value of the organization. “We also utilize TWLOHA meetings as a safe space for students,” she said, “which we believe better the emotional composition of the school. Most importantly, we can ensure that any attending student doesn’t feel alone and is educated on what they may be experiencing. In turn this prompts them to seek appropriate help. Therefore, we try to present as many different resources as possible to students whether it be on campus or off.”

Franklin says that the most important aspect of the organization is spreading awareness about mental health regulation. “We are a very small organization, but we try our absolute best to make an impact on campus in the form of mental health awareness,” she said. “We hope to continue doing this during our final two meetings as To Write Love on Her Arms, and then following semesters as Operation Semicolon.”

The organization leaders said they want to emphasize the importance of this change, that will hopefully continue to make a positive influence on our campus during the coming semesters.

For more information regarding this organization, visit their page on Charger Connection or email TWLOHA@newhaven.edu.



Bob’s Cat stands outside of his house, West Haven.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.

Study Abroad Office discusses COVID-19 safety protocols at Prato campus

BY STEPHEN GANGI
Contributing Writer

Recent outbreaks in the COVID-19 pandemic have raised the question of whether traveling internationally is a feasible possibility anymore. The university leaders, alongside Prato campus Dean of Students, Kevin Murphy, have been working to find answers to each question and have shared their plans to safely revamp the study abroad program to protect students who chose to participate. The University of New Haven has offered a study abroad program in Prato, Italy since the fall of 2012. Participation in the program was growing steadily until the pandemic struck and international travel was restricted, shutting down the program until its reopening this semester.

One prospective study abroad student, junior communication major Jada Mirabelle, said, “This past fall semester, I was considering studying abroad at our Prato campus in Italy but decided not to because of COVID. I didn’t know if it would be entirely safe to study abroad during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

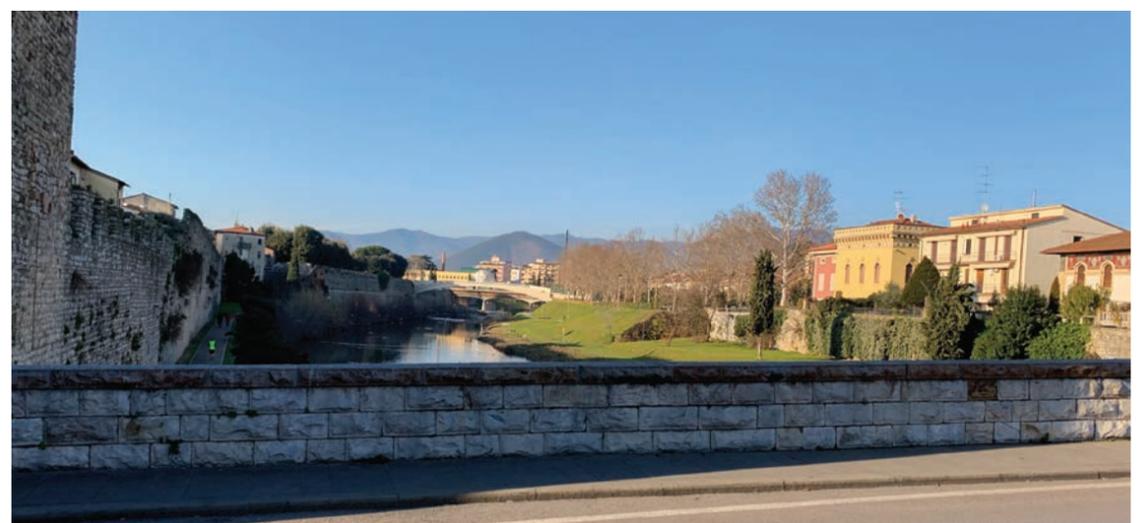
The university’s home campus has observed COVID-19 guide-

lines to protect each student under its care. These policies and regulations have also been implemented abroad.

Students interested in traveling abroad should ensure they complete each requirement implemented by the campus COVID Task Force prior to submitting the online application. These guidelines include social distancing inside campus buildings, with a facial covering inside classrooms and hallways, in addition to proof of vaccination and receiving booster shots that are available in-person. Although the main campus no longer requires face coverings inside buildings, it is still mandated in Italy, where COVID-19 cases have slightly increased to 70,000 on average after decreasing from 180,000 to 54,000.

Acquiring a mandated visa has also become slightly more difficult, though the university is willing to assist in the process, said Murphy during a virtual interest meeting for the program.

Murphy also responded to questions regarding the difference between the study abroad program offered now versus what it was prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and if any differences in activities have been made. “Like every



A view of the Bisenzio river; Prato, Italy.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Kayla Mutchler.

university,” he said, “we spent a lot of time writing protocols and guidelines and we reopened to a record number of students.”

We follow very similar protocols to the main campus,” he also said. “We have had four cases of COVID in the semester so far. Mask wearing inside the classroom is the Italian law. If anything has changed it’s that we have gotten better at online learning. We are back to normal out here.”

In order to further promote the program, Murphy has been working with university students

to spread information regarding activities and events. “You get three things from studying abroad: personal, professional and academic development,” he said.

In efforts to ramp up the program once again, incentives have been offered to students, including weekend excursions to nearby museums, shops and cities in Florence and Prato, where no additional fees are charged. Guided tours are also directed by Murphy, while the possibility of having relatives visit the weekly sports events hosted outside the residential halls on

campus.

The university also offers assistance to all family members trying to find reasonable hotel rooms and restaurants in the area, such as with a university-sponsored Prato family Facebook page. A weeklong spring break is also offered each semester, which allows students to enjoy their free time.

These efforts have been relatively successful this semester, with a record 100 students currently overseas. The deadline for the 2023 spring semester is scheduled for Oct. 28.

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What freshman year at the university taught me

BY SAIGE BATZA
Student Life Editor

Attending the University of New Haven has been one of the best experiences of my life. It is hard to believe that it has already been a year since I took my first few steps on campus, eagerly awaiting my future as a college freshman. Overall, this year has given me a tremendous amount of opportunity to grow academically and emotionally.

My first few weeks on campus were incredibly eye-opening, and to be completely honest, not much has changed since then. The first experiences I had at the university opened up a new, unexpected chapter of my life. Looking back, I now realize those experiences perpetuated growth in me that I didn't know I needed.

I am a psychology major so, naturally, I was given courses that corresponded with my major during my first semester. In the beginning, I was so focused on my studies that I wasn't



A computer displays Saige Batza's articles. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Saige Batza.

even aware of the opportunities available to me at the time. After connecting with new friends and attending the Involvement Fair in September, I found several organizations on campus that piqued my interest, one of which was the Charger Bulletin newspaper.

Writing for different sections of the newspaper during my first semester was an incredible opportunity for me to dive deeper into student engagement and become more familiar with

campus life.

By the end of the semester, I was an active staff writer for the paper. Since then, I have become one of the Student Life editors, which has been the most fulfilling and rewarding aspect of my involvement on campus. Overall, this new experience has taught me that change isn't always a bad thing, even if it means it wasn't what you initially expected it to be.

During my first semester, I was

also elected as the Class of 2025 Sergeant in Arms, which has been an important part of my college experience, to say the least. I am grateful to have the chance to represent the Class of 2025 alongside such a powerful and dedicated group of women who make up our executive board. From this experience, I learned that being a leader requires a certain amount of responsibility, commitment and wholehearted dedication that fosters an abundance of growth and independence.

In spite of the differing opinions that surround the university as a whole, I know for a fact that I want to enjoy and appreciate the time that I have here. These opportunities have made me a more well-rounded, open-minded and defiant woman, and have opened doors that I never thought I'd walk through. I am grateful for what I have experienced during my first year here, and I greatly look forward to what's to come.

End of the year word search

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Graduation, beach, sunshine, grades, internship, reunion, fun, finals, home, packing, work, moving out

Diversity organizations are an important part of campus life

BY DESHEANIA
ANDREWS
Contributing Writer

A college campus can already be a scary place for many, with new environments, new friendships and an entirely new journey for students. Finding people that you can connect with and relate to is an important aspect of the college experience that is often overlooked.

Imagine walking on to a campus where most people don't look like you or relate to you. For most, it can be a culture shock. It can feel like you stick out like a sore thumb in a room just by entering the door and sitting down. While changing the diversity climate on campus takes many efforts, diversity organizations lead the race in finding your home away from home.

Diversity organizations at the University of New Haven, such as the Black Student Union, Caribbean Student Association and Muslim Student Association, among others, have become a safe haven for many students as they are navigating their way through a Predominantly White Institution (PWI). Programs and

events are held to address many conversations that do not take place often on a college campus where you are the minority. However, these programs are open to students on campus as a safe place to many and a learning space for some.

Destiny Raye, a cyber security and networking major and a member of the PRIDE organization said, "I think that we need these multicultural organizations because it helps teach other people our different cultures and how to appreciate them respectfully, especially at a PWI."

These organizations are a home and a fortress for many people. We find our friends and niches among these groups because of what connects us. However, these diversity organizations also add to the diversity climate on campus. It encourages critical thinking and helps students to learn how to communicate with people from different backgrounds.

A study done by the University of Michigan showed that "educational interactions among racially and ethnically diverse groups resulted in positive learning outcomes such as students feeling more engaged in class



Outside of the Myatt Center for Diversity and Inclusion, which advises many diversity organizations, West Haven. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Jenelle Johnson.

and motivated to study."

Diversity organizations on campus also help to build community and a sense of the feeling "home away from home." The President of the Muslim Student Association Adrielys Gomez said, "These organizations on campus create a sense of belong-

ing. When you attend a PWI, it's difficult to feel like you belong and the organizations and people in it make you feel at home."

These diverse organizations are the first step into changing the campus climate and opening the door to allow more people from different cultures to attend the

university without feeling out of place. These organizations have helped me throughout my college experience to not only build relationships, but to learn different backgrounds and explore opportunities in making a campus a more welcoming space.

Absence policies at small universities are more harmful than attending larger institutions

BY MIA ADDUCI
Student Life Editor

There are benefits of attending a smaller university, including having a personal relationship with faculty and staff, as well as living in a secure environment. However, the downfalls of a smaller university sometimes affect the ability of students to adequately learn course content.

The University of New Haven "boasts" a student-faculty ratio of just 18:1. They drive this statistic for the sake of self-promotion and divert anyone from considering the negativity this can bring.

Only a short drive away, Yale University's lecture halls are filled with anywhere between 50 to upwards of 100 students, as a common component of content distribution in their higher education setting.

On social media, you will find trending videos of students all across the country sneaking into lectures for courses that could not stray further from their major, just for fun. This is because, truthfully, nobody would notice in a room of students that are already packed like sardines. With this in mind, a student could attend class just once, and

if proficient enough in the course content, could still, theoretically, end the term with rather high marks.

At the University of New Haven, the standard policy allows four absences across the span of most classes that run for a complete semester. Additional absences will often result in grade deductions and other penalties, and professors time and time

**"NO
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again reinstate the limitations on absence as stated in their respective syllabi.

The pressure to attend class can be counter-intuitive. A lack of attendance can just as effectively yield high marks. For people with short attention spans, forcing them to sit through regimented course times, with a penalty for lack of compliance, is a failure. It is in many circumstances with no effect to attempt to regulate and mandate attendance.

Even so, such a principle is entirely elementary, and in a setting where full adults capable of independent decisions are paying tens of thousands of dollars to enroll in courses of their selection, who is any administrative personelle to force them to sit in the seat that they signed a check for?

No percentage of students' grades should be determined by their decision to attend a course any number of times. That should not be the finite print of an attendance policy, lingering over the heads of young adults who are learning to balance a heaping load of responsibilities, pulling them in any number of directions.

Whether the reasoning surrounds a lack of attendance due

to any affliction, or whether they surround physical or mental health or external commitments, the decision to not attend class is one that lies in the hands of the student, not the institution.

For instance, in an English course where the entire semester's grade is determined by the submission of four papers, why should it matter whether a student sits and discusses literature for weeks on end, if they are

more than capable of thinking independently? This principle is applicable to any branch of study of your choosing.

To blend in at any larger establishment is to hold the power of just being a number, with less riding on the weight of your name sitting on the list of any professor's desk. To have the option to be invisible is one that should be available at all universities.



Chargers accrue athletic honors to close out the regular season

BY LINDSAY GIOVANNONE
Sports Editor

While the regular season is winding down for the Northeast-10, the New Haven Chargers continue to accumulate the accolades. Baseball, lacrosse, track and field and tennis all took home individual or team honors this past week.

Baseball

Outfielder Tyler Wells nabbed Northeast-10 Player of the Week as well as the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association East Region Hitter of the Week.

Wells dominated the field during the Chargers four-game series against American International College Yellowjackets. He put up 10 hits in 13 at-bats, scored three runs, walked five times and stole three bases. Wells also scored three runs during the doubleheader.

Lacrosse

Women's lacrosse added three accolades to its extensive list last week when Gabby Buscemi, Giana Caprioli and Raegan Bailey were awarded athletic honors.

Goalkeeper Buscemi took home the first national award for the Chargers women's lacrosse team, the Intercollegiate Wom-



Giana Caprioli (right), NE10 Defensive Player of the Week, after the draw in the game against Saint Anselm, West Haven, April 24, 2022. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Lindsay Giovannone.

en's Lacrosse Association Defensive Player of the Week. Buscemi is also a three-time Northeast-10 Goalkeeper of the Week. She made 10 saves against No. 18 Assumption and 18 saves over No. 20 Saint Anselm. Buscemi currently leads all NE10 goalkeepers with 170 total saves.

Caprioli was named NE10 Defensive Player of the Week, the first New Haven Charger to

win this award, after she led the team with 19 draw controls and five caused turnovers against Assumption and Saint Anselm. She leads the team with draw controls and is third in the NE10 at 87.

Bailey was named Rookie of the Week for the third time this season. Prior to this week, she led the Chargers with nine goals and an assist. Against Assump-

tion, she scored six goals—one being the game winner. Bailey tacked on three more goals and an assist in the team's victory against Saint Anselm. Bailey leads the NE10 at 52 goals.

Track & Field

The men's track and field team nabbed three weekly awards after their success at the Jay Carisella Coaches Invitation Meet. Cole Parker was named Field

Rookie of the Week, after he placed second in the long jump at the meet, when he exceeded his initial seeding at 6.66 meters to leap 6.88 meters.

Jonathan Cineus won Field Athlete of the Week after taking first in the Triple Jump on his sixth and final jump. Cineus fouled three jumps before jumping 13.29 meters on his fifth and then 13.96 meters on the sixth. The Chargers also took home Conference Relay Team of the Week. The 4x400 meter relay consisting of Ryan Williams, Blake Jandrea, Kevin Leach-Brown and Jordan Dely finished in 3:20.59.

Tennis

The Chargers tennis team swept the last two Northeast-10 weekly honors. Kacie Banks was named Player of the Week and Karim Carreras was named Rookie of the Week.

Banks, in a doubles match with Alexa Orlando, shutout Holy Cross. She had a fourth singles win during a tiebreaker, where she would come away 10-8.

Carreras, with her partner Lilia Rodriguez, also beat Holy Cross in her doubles match. During her singles, she won at a 6-1, 7-5 decision.

Baseball falls short in series opener against St. Rose

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL
Staff Writer

The New Haven baseball team started off their final home series of the season against The College of St. Rose with an 8-6 loss. A four run top of the seventh inning for St. Rose gave them the lead and they never looked back.

Taking the mound for New Haven on Saturday was Brian Pazulski. Pazulski was in complete control of the game in the early innings, not allowing a hit through the first three innings. He would finish off his outing after six strong innings, allowing three runs and tallying seven strikeouts. Pazulski was able to work around baserunners in the middle innings, keeping the scoring to a minimum.

The Chargers were able to get on the board early with an RBI groundout by Andrew Cain to take a 1-0 lead. New Haven looked poised for a big inning to start the game after a walk by right fielder Tyler Wells and a single by second baseman Noah Budzik. Following Budzik was center fielder Robert Taylor who was able to reach on an error, in which Wells was thrown out at home trying to score. Cain then followed with a groundout to score Budzik and give New Haven an early lead.

New Haven's lead would stay at one until the top of the fourth, when St. Rose was able to bring two runners across to give them a one run lead. After a strikeout to start the inning, designated hitter Nathan Toms was able to start the inning with a single to left field. After a hit by pitch, center fielder Zephaniah Vaughn hit into a fielder's choice, setting up a first and third situation with two outs. Following a walk, second baseman Vince Venditti put St. Rose on the board with a two-run single to right field, scoring Toms and Vaughn. Pazulski was able to get a fly out to left field to end the inning, but the damage had already been done.

New Haven took the lead right back in the fourth, however, plating three runs to take a 4-2 lead. Left fielder Andrew Cain got the inning started with a walk, bringing first baseman Andrew Bianco to the plate. On the first pitch of the at-bat, he drilled a two-run home run to left field to give New Haven back their one run lead. Shortstop Kenneth Franquiz reached on a throwing error by shortstop Jared Reed, and was able to advance to third after a single by catcher Aaron Soucy, setting up a great scoring chance with runners on first and third with no one out. Third baseman Hunter Boag then grounded into a double play allowing Franquiz to score, giving the Chargers a

4-2 lead.

Pazulski was able to end the top of the fifth quietly, bringing up Budzik to lead off the bottom of the inning. Budzik lined a single to left field to start off the inning in hopes to try to increase their lead. Taylor would follow him with a fielder's choice. With two outs in the inning, Bianco continued his strong day at the plate with an RBI double to right center field, scoring Taylor to make it a three run game. Kenneth Franquiz was able to follow him with an RBI single of his own to score Bianco and give New Haven a 6-2 lead.

St. Rose was able to get one run back in the top of the sixth to cut their deficit to three. With one out in the inning, Vaughn hit a double down the left field line to give them a prime scoring opportunity. Right fielder Josh Myers was able to plate Vaughn with a single to right field to make it a 6-3 game. Pazulski was able to work around another error to get the final two outs of the inning to keep it a three run game to finish his outing.

Coming in relief of Pazulski was senior Gary Costello. It was a rough day for Costello who gave up a three-run home run to Toms to tie the game at six. The inning started off with a walk to first baseman Jack McDonald and a single by catcher Derek Haughey. Toms then came up

and delivered the big blow of the game with a game-tying home run to left field. Costello would be taken out of the game without recording an out after hitting left fielder James Ward with a pitch.

Cameron Guarino would come on to pitch in relief of Costello in the seventh, allowing a single and a throwing error to set up another scoring chance for St. Rose with two runners in scoring position. After a pop out to Boag, Ward would come home after another wild pitch by Guarino to give St. Rose a 7-6 lead.

It would stay a one-run game until the top of the ninth when St. Rose would bring another

run home to double their lead. Vaughn once again got the inning started with a walk, advancing to second after a sacrifice bunt by pinch hitter Patrick Henning. Vince Venditti then delivered his second RBI hit of the day with a single to center field to score Vaughn.

The middle of the lineup for New Haven was due up in the bottom of the ninth, but St. Rose sent them down in order to end the game and take the first game of the series. New Haven dropped to 20-17 (5-12 NE10) with the loss and the win brings St. Rose to 18-21 (10-7 NE10).

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