

# The Charger Bulletin

The student news source for the University of New Haven

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## Football surges in second half, beats AIC 54-26

BY TYLER WELLS  
Editor-in-Chief

In front of a sold out crowd of over 4,000 for Family Day, the New Haven football team ran away with a 54-26 victory over visiting American International College. The defense rallied in the second half, giving up just six points as the offense was able to pull away.

Early in the game it didn't look like this would be the case. The Chargers came out firing in the first quarter following a close win over Southern Connecticut State last week, as quarterback Connor Degenhardt found tight end Kevin Foelsch in the corner of the end zone for a 30-yard touchdown.

It was the start of a special day for Degenhardt, who would go on to tally over 300 passing yards and a staggering six touchdowns.

After a quick ensuing drive led to a field goal for the Yellow Jackets and a stalled New Haven drive, the Chargers' defense responded. A ball from the AIC QB was tipped

and intercepted by defensive lineman Xavier Long, who got up with an emphatic celebration as he headed to the bench.

New Haven's offense took over and had a scare when Degenhardt's pass was picked off by the defense. However, penalties on both sides resulted in a reply of the down, saving the team from the turnover.

Just two plays later, Degenhardt had the ball knocked out of his hand in the pocket which was then recovered by the Yellow Jackets and returned to the end zone. The sudden score put AIC up 10-6 and left the crowd stunned.

The following New Haven drive did nothing to help the outlook, as a three-and-out gave the ball right back to AIC to close out the first quarter. When the Chargers got the ball again, the Yellow Jacket defense left wide receiver Kasi Hazzard wide open for a 39-yard touchdown, giving New Haven the lead back.

This sparked an electrifying second quarter that saw New Haven



New Haven wide receiver Kasi Hazzard celebrates after scoring a touchdown against AIC, West Haven, Sept. 17, 2022. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Wells.



Jake Conlan (30) and Christopher Ais (21) after a TD, West Haven, Sept. 17, 2022. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Wells.

tally 21 total points. AIC didn't go away quietly, though, as they connected for a one play, 67-yard touchdown to retake a 17-13 lead.

New Haven responded with a pair of passes to gain 33-yards, and a 28-yard rush by running back Shamar Logan to place the ball within the AIC 10-yard line. Fellow RB Christopher Ais went on to punch the ball in, resulting in another lead change as New Haven went up 20-17.

After AIC again connected on a deep throw, the New Haven defense came up with a stop when defensive back Devonte Miles picked off a pass on fourth down. Just a few plays later, the AIC pass rush was able to get to Degenhardt again and force a fumble, which they recovered deep in New Haven territory. The Chargers defense remained stingy, giving up just a field goal to tie the game.

With just over three minutes remaining in the half and no timeouts, the Chargers were look-

ing for something to swing the momentum their way. This came in the form of return man and WR Terrell Ford.

On the kickoff following the field goal, Ford returned the ball 60 yards to set the New Haven offense up on the other side of midfield. A defensive holding, two Degenhardt completions and a few rushes put the ball on the three-yard line with just 30 seconds left. Degenhardt then turned to Foelsch again, who came down with the back shoulder fade in the corner of the end zone.

In an instant, New Haven stepped into the locker room at half with a 27-20 lead and the momentum in their favor.

With AIC starting on offense to open the second half, New Haven's defense looked to get a stop. They did just this, limiting the Yellow Jackets offense and forcing them to punt after a quiet drive.

Ais then made his presence

known, gashing the Yellow Jackets defensive line and rattling off a 31-yard rush right into the red zone. A pass interference penalty and a four-yard rushing loss placed the ball on the six-yard line when Logan swung out of the backfield and was left uncovered for a pass. He was able to walk into the end zone untouched to extend the New Haven lead to 14.

Just when it seemed as though New Haven was beginning to pull away, the Yellow Jackets responded with another passing touchdown of their own. The point after attempt was blocked by Mazon Walker keeping the score at 34-26. These would be the last points for AIC in the game as the New Haven defense flexed their strength in the second half.

"There wasn't much adjustment," New Haven linebacker Damon Burton Jr. said about the defensive improvement in the second half.

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## Flag raising marks the start of Hispanic Heritage Month

BY MIA ADDUCI  
Campus News Editor

On Sept. 15, Brisa Velazquez, the USGA senator for Hispanic and Latine students, stood in front of the crowd gathered at the German Club to commence the first flag raising in recognition of the Latine community at the University of New Haven.

Under the American flag, a flag designed personally for the university that displays a collage of Hispanic/Latine countries now flies in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, which will conclude on Oct. 15.

On Sept. 15, five Latin American countries celebrate their independence day every year: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. This is why, as explained by Latin American Student Association (LASA) Vice President Kimberly Martinez, the timeline of Hispanic Heritage Month looks "a little bit odd in comparison to other months celebrating marginalized groups."

Dean Ophelie Rowe-Allen spoke on behalf of the new assistant director of the Myatt Center, Jennfier Thorndike-Gonzales, who was unable

to attend.

She said to "remember, honor and praise the legacy and impact of all Hispanic, Latino, Latine, Afro-Latino, Indigenous and other communities in the United States and around the world" during this month.

Many speakers throughout the morning's ceremony recapped the historical progression of how Hispanic Heritage Month came to be. In 1968, Hispanic Heritage Week was made a national observance by President Lyndon B. Johnson. It was not until 1988

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Hispanic Heritage Month flag with the American flag, West Haven, Sept. 15, 2022. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Erick Cuatzo.

## 'Precipice of Extinction' gallery encourages student action for environmental change

BY SAIGE BATZA  
Arts & Life Editor

On Sept. 15, Cheryl Gross, distinguished illustrator, artist and writer, hosted "Commit to Memory: Precipice of Extinction," an informal gathering in the Seton Gallery of Dodd's Hall.

Upon arrival, students and faculty enjoyed food and beverages provided by event organizer and Chair of the Art and Design Department Guy-Serge Emmanuel mingled with guests as Gross displayed her colorful artwork in Seton Gallery.

Gross has been a professional in the industry for approximately 40 years but has been an artist for as long as she can remember. She said, "I was in college but then left for a career as an illustrator and painter. Thirty-five years later I decided to come back to continue my bachelor's and then eventually get my masters."

The artist reflected on many of her major accomplishments, saying she is most proud of the times when she makes headway or a new discovery in a project she's invested in. "I'm also proud of the fact that my work resonates with people, which is very important."

Gross said she hopes students enjoy her artwork, gesturing to

her vivid paintings adorning the walls. She said, "I hope they can come away with the fact that even though they are very colorful paintings, and some may seem a little humorous, it's not really. It's more of an awareness of how our environment is rapidly deteriorating."

She explained her work is a symbol for a greater purpose, one that educates its witnesses on the impact of the unconscious choices we make that inevitably lead to environmental extinction.

"Hence the [title] 'Commit to Memory: Precipice of Extinction,' all these animals that are portrayed are on the endangered species list," said Gross, highlighting one of her paintings that depicted a fish underwater, stuck inside of a used plastic bottle.

The colorful strokes of yellow and blue paint illustrated a much greater symbolism with its explicit message, a call to action to prevent the extinction of endangered species, one small choice at a time.

Throughout her career, Gross has unfortunately come into contact with many people who don't understand the significance of small choices that they make, such as littering trash or choosing not to recycle plastic. She says, "I know a lot of people that



Artwork of a polar bear on display at Cheryl Gross' gallery, West Haven, Sept. 15, 2022.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Saige Batza.

are climate deniers. I had this one guy say to me, 'I don't buy it,' and I said, 'You don't buy it, but it's not for sale.'"

Gross encouraged students at the university to advocate for the betterment of the environment simply by educating oneself via the internet, joining campus groups and utilizing resources on campus. She highlighted the fact that putting things into perspective is necessary to understand

the significance of environmental support.

"When it affects you personally, it's not fiction anymore. It's not fantasy or television anymore." She said, "I'm kind of hoping that people will gain more of an awareness of this, and perhaps join groups and not litter, do whatever they can to help clean up the environment and not contribute to pollution."

Gross advised students to

"do good work" if they hope to follow in her footsteps and use her career path as an example for their own.

She encouraged students to find their own niche and produce work that they're proud of. She said, "Make sure you understand constructive criticism because you need to finish your work and make sure that it's well-rendered."

## New Haven marching band embodies hard work and dedication

BY SAIGE BATZA  
Arts & Life Editor

The University of New Haven marching band has been a staple of half-time at all home football games over the last decade. It was formed in 2009, beginning with only 20 members after football was brought back to the university. Since then, the organization has blossomed into one of the largest student organizations, expanding to nearly 300 members and becoming a statewide success in the last six years.

According to Theo Kissel, a senior forensic science student and the mellophone section leader, the Chargers marching band was "one of the only marching bands in the New England area to have an in-person season and perform a marching show in 2020 during the height of the covid pandemic."

He also emphasized the diversity of students in the organization., "We are made up of students across a variety of majors and both undergraduate and graduate students," he said. "The marching band is an ensemble that requires a unique set of skills, requiring both skilled musicianship to play and perform the memorized music combined with the physical skills

of precise movement and keeping proper form while moving in step with the music."

Kissel also mentioned that this organization of students creates a close-knit family bond after spending all their time together, "building bonds with people that can last a lifetime."

Kissel says the marching band is a great experience for students who love music and want to pursue the marching band long-term or want to branch off into different avenues of music and performance. He said "[It] is a large time commitment but is worth it for those who are willing to dedicate that time. If you put in the passion for music and the commitment to the discipline needed, the marching band gives back skills and bonds needed in life."

Haily Mereschuk, a senior forensic science student and one of the band's feature twirlers, says that, in her opinion, performing at football games is a lot of fun. She said, "I think the marching band provides a sense of excitement and spirit that is different from other forms of entertainment [at the university]."

Mereschuk also says that the crowd really energizes the celebration during their performances. "The interaction with

the crowd is nice and celebrating with the football team at the end of games is really special." She said that "It's a really rewarding program that might be a lot of work but in the end it's worth it!"

Jason DeGroff, the Chargers marching band director, has been leading the program for 13 years. He said, "In 2010 I took over as director and we grew from 20 members to 268 in seven years, making us the fastest growing collegiate marching band in the country for four of those years!"

DeGroff compared their organization to a variety of others, saying, "We are a class, but also like a sports team, and often looked at like a club."

Students in the marching band earn grades for their efforts and participation, work in both large and small groups and, as DeGroff says, "They get to perform for their peers and also football and band crowds as the season progresses."

He said, "It is such a pleasure to work with [the students] each year, and each year is different from the one before."

The annual homecoming game at the university is a special way for the marching band to showcase their performance during the halftime show. DeGroff mentioned that preparing for an event

as big as homecoming takes a little extra effort. He said, "Since we do not change our show each week, getting ready for homecoming is like all the other ones where we are adding on to our show. Seeing all the band alumni who come each year makes it a special event for sure."

DeGroff told students consider-

ing auditioning for the organization that "It takes some time, but not too much, and band students are really good at time management skills. It is work, but very rewarding and what you feel by the end is only understandable to those who have gone through it. The sense of accomplishment and comradery are unparalleled."



University marching band members perform, West Haven, Sept. 10, 2022.  
Photo courtesy Charger Bulletin/Andrea Rojas.

# Myatt Center highlights diversity and inclusion for students

BY SAIGE BATZA  
Arts & Life Editor

The Myatt Center for Diversity and Inclusion, located in the Bixler/Gerber quad on campus, is designed to promote cultural diversity by spreading awareness and education about inclusivity at the university.

Ian Shick, assistant director for LGBTQ+ resources at the Myatt Center, says that the best way for students to get involved with their organization is to “get out and experience the diversity of the campus community.”

Shick encouraged students to join Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs) on campus that represent their own identities and surrounding community, and to even attend events that support identities different from their own. They said, “Come to the Myatt Center events. Whatever you’re comfortable with, but get out and experience the commu-

nity. Through these experiences you will learn a lot about what communities are experiencing and what kind of help and support they are seeking.”

Shick also said that the best way students can improve their commitment to diversity and inclusion on campus is to attend events hosted by the university. “What I mean is to show up to events hosted by the Myatt Center, faculty, RSOs and many other groups. Show up when communities ask for help such as at the Open Forums hosted by USGA last spring.”

They said, “Showing up showcases your commitment and signifies a willingness to be there, in person, for other students. To hear their concerns, build community and work together for a better campus.”

Shick emphasized that the Myatt Center is a space for all students to feel included and represented at the university,

especially “students who are seeking resources to learn more and develop as campus members and leaders, for students who are seeking connection to people who look like them and to experience the world like them and for students who are seeking to be better advocates, allies and accomplices to their fellow students.”

Throughout the semester, the Myatt Center will be hosting events around campus centering on diversity and inclusion. During September, there will be several on-campus events, such as various celebrations for Hispanic Heritage Month and Rosh Hashanah, as well as spread awareness on National Gay Men’s HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. October will include the LGBT History Month Flag Raising and Indigenous People’s Day, as well as National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11. Nov. 1 will mark the first day of Native American

Heritage Month, and on Nov. 21, the Myatt Center will be hosting an event for Trans Day of Remembrance. The month of December marks the beginning of holiday festivities as the semester comes to a finish.

“Our space itself is a resource to meet students and access

books, movies, comics and other media about diverse experiences, and [about] the work that has been done, is currently being done and needs to be done to create a more equitable world,” Shick said.



Outside of the Myatt Center, West Haven, Sept. 3, 2022.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Erick Cuatzo.

## Students attend first in-person Career Fair since COVID-19

BY SAIGE BATZA  
Arts & Life Editor

After two years of anticipation, the Career Development Center (CDC) has returned to host their first in-person Career Fair since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Sept. 15, students anxiously gathered in the Beckerman Recreation Center to meet with businesses and organizations regarding available internships, and both part and full-time job opportunities in the New Haven area.

Organizations in attendance included the New Haven Police Department, Drug Reinforcement Administration, Rape Crisis Center of Connecticut, Yale Conference and Events, York Analytical Laboratories, All About Kids Pediatric Dentistry and the Whitney Rehabilitation Care Center.

Baki Izzat, the CDC’s employer relations manager, said her primary goal is to help students on campus navigate their way in the world. “My advice for students looking for careers is to ask questions. Be open, don’t

be afraid to ask questions, there are always resources around you. You never know who you’re going to meet.” Izzat said that the students who are bold enough to ask her questions are almost always the ones who are hired for the job.

Izzat encourages students to stay connected using online resources. “I’ve even encouraged our campus departments to go digital,” she said, emphasizing the impact that digital media has had on university resources since the start of COVID-19.

Tammy Leno, human resources manager of Vista Life Innovations, is looking for students who are interested in applying for leadership positions such as life skills instructors, program instructors and job coaches. She said, “We focus on providing programs and services to adults who have disabilities. The goal of our programming is for our population to be able to live an independent life.”

Leno encourages students to participate in internships and part-time jobs during the school year to gain more experience. “Don’t be afraid to network

and talk to people in different industries just to ask questions and learn a little bit more,” she said, “It’s the perfect exploration period.”

Dominique Kunz, advocate and community educator for the Rape Crisis Center of Milford, encourages students to get involved with the organization. “We have advocates who speak different languages, backgrounds in trauma influence or previous education in psychology or criminal justice, even those who want to work in social services,” she said. “We’re open to almost any discipline of study. We serve a wide population of students, so we do best if we have a very diverse application of advocates.”

Megan Palluzzi, program director for Yale Conference and Events, provided a wide range of available opportunities for university students to plug into this semester. She said, “We usually hire about eight to 10 assistants who work with a program director one-on-one during all of their events to figure out all of the logistics.”

Palluzzi discussed their programs that run part-time during the spring semester and full-time during the summer. Available positions include operation and hospitality coordinators, and office managers and assistants. “We’re just looking for people who are looking and willing to do and try everything. You can be the friendly face that people see when they get to campus.”

Palluzzi advises students to regularly check their email and update their resumes as often as possible when applying for a job position at Yale. “You never know when the opportunity might arise.”



A student speaks with an employer at the Career Fair, West Haven, Sept. 15, 2022.  
Photo courtesy Charger Bulletin/Charlotte Bassett

## Family Day takes campus by storm

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH  
Contributing Writer

At 9 a.m. on Saturday, University of New Haven students and their families filed into the Beckerman Recreation Center to check in for Family Day. Activities ranging from lawn games to craft corners were available to students and guests to enjoy all throughout the day.

Katya Sandoval, a first-year studying forensic science, brought her mom from Colorado to join in on the fun. She said, “My mom hasn’t been able to come up to campus yet, so it’s going to be fun to show her around and be able to do activities with her.” One of Sandoval’s most anticipated events was the football game at Della-Camera Stadium where the New Haven football team played against American International College.

For those that brought kid relatives to join in the fun, there was an “Inflatable Fun Fest” for kids and adults to enjoy.

Eliza Hall, a junior clinical psychology student, is the Novelty and Variety Committee Head for SCOPE. One of Hall’s duties was keeping an eye on the children climbing the inflatable structure, making sure no one got hurt. She said, “We are just creating a fun environment for students, to bring your families.”

In Hall’s opinion, the biggest perk of the fun fest on the Bixler/Gerber quad was that it was “All age inclusive, anywhere from babies to older people.”

Hall said the most popular inflatable was the Ninja Wall, where there was a 7-foot, 9-foot and 11-foot wall people had to jump over. People were gathered around it and made sure to start running from a distance to beat it.

Towards the other end of campus, near Bergami Hall, lawn

games like giant Jenga were set up for people to play.

Madison Seaha, a freshman majoring in forensic science, was playing Ladder Toss with her parents and grandparents. “It’s nice to see everyone again and get to hang out for the day” she said.

Seaha also said, “I kinda liked lunch and just sitting down and getting to catch up with everyone.” While Seaha mentioned she is expected to return home in the coming weeks, there were many other students on campus that will not be able to see their families until Thanksgiving or Winter Break.

Kassi Borden, a sophomore interior design major, said the free food was the most exciting aspect of the event. Borden also said that the Charlie the Charger blow-up “took me by surprise.” While it was unexpected, families were able to take photos with the inflatable Charlie to commemorate this day.

Music by the check-in was provided by WNHU, the university’s radio station. Jimmy Case and Maudjeani Pelissier, both studying music and sound recording, were on WNHU’s afternoon shift. Case says, “We are essentially DJs playing music here for all the families coming in and signing in for the event.”

As the night rolled in, people made their way to Zolad Stadium to see the men’s soccer team play against American International College. Brianna Diaz, a senior criminal justice student, also plays for the women’s basketball team. She said, “I just hope the Chargers can pull off a win.”

The final event was the Encanto Movie Night playing in the Bixler/Gerber Quad. The family-friendly movie playing under the stars was the perfect way to close out a big day.

# UPD reflects on campus security following multiple breaches

BY TYLER WELLS &  
MIA ADDUCI

As students returned from their first day of classes on Aug. 29, they were hit with an announcement from the University of New Haven's automated safety messaging system. This alerted the university community that a student was robbed at knifepoint on Ruden St., just off of Main Campus.

This was the second armed robbery in the last year. A little after midnight on Dec. 5, 2021, two university students were held at gunpoint and robbed outside of the C-Store. The suspect, according to the university police department (UPD), arrived and fled from the scene in a stolen car. The robbery shook the university community, sparking conversation and worry about safety on and around campus.

Then, on Sept. 8, another issue occurred when an unknown man was seen walking through various unlocked campus buildings and eventually in Harugari Hall, where he stole a professor's wallet from their office.

Chief of the UPD Adam Brown spoke on campus safety following the wallet theft, saying that the man entered four university build-

ings. When asked what changes have been made to better ensure the safety of students, he said, "The University continues to have patrols on and around campus 24 hours a day, 7 days a week."

The university has increased their mobile patrols as well, with officers on bikes and golf carts monitoring campus and the immediate surrounding roads. The redesign of parking around the Dunham and Westside parking lots was also done in part for safety, limiting the access points to campus and making it more streamlined through UPD-manned checkpoints.

However, Brown said that the university would not disclose such changes publicly for safety reasons.

"For the protection of our campus and our University community, and based on best practices across law enforcement, we do not divulge public information about our campus patrols or comprehensive security plans," he said.

The responses to such incidents have drawn criticism from students as well, especially for the incident on campus last December.

"Upon receiving any type of emergency call, our sworn officers immediately respond to



The University Police Department sign, West Haven, Sept. 18, 2022

Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Wells.

assess a situation and investigate," Brown said, and would not elaborate further.

"We continually examine and assess all public safety protocols," he said. "We encourage anyone to contact UPD if they witness something on or near campus that is out of the ordinary."

Chief Brown did however clarify that UPD works closely with the West Haven Police Department (WHPD) in support of one another to ensure quick response to any incidents in the area. WHPD did not respond to

an interview request.

While the city of West Haven has gotten a poor reputation for crime among students, its statistics lay below national averages. For violent crimes, the city has about half the national average in the same categories. Robberies, for example, happen 60.5 times per 100,000 residents, whereas the national rate is 135.5.

In the state of Connecticut, a person has a 1-in-558 chance of being a violent crime victim, while someone in West Haven has a 1-in-639 chance. For the most part, West Haven is a safer com-

munity than many assume.

The general crime rate has also seen a steady decline since the 2008 recession, showing decreases until 2018. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to an increase in crime rates across the country largely due to the loss of jobs.

The University of New Haven is also not the only institution that has to deal with issues of local crime. American International College, located in Springfield, Mass., has dealt with multiple instances of gunfire around campus, even with bullets hitting university buildings.

Even bigger schools, such as the University of Southern California, deal with local crime. The university reported 7.74 incidents per 1,000 students, even as their campus is primarily fenced off from the surrounding areas. Campus safety continues to be an issue everywhere, and the University of New Haven is another trying to figure out how to make the surrounding areas safer.

Brown reminded the community that "No one, regardless of the setting they are in or the protections and precautions in place, is immune to the impact of crime," and encouraged all individuals to be vigilant.

# Sodexo addresses food safety concerns

BY MIA ADDUCI  
Campus News Editor

Sodexo, the university's dining vendor, has recently addressed concerns about cross-contamination within the realm of students' dietary restrictions.

Juan Dominguez, the general manager for Sodexo at the University of New Haven, and Samantha Zajac, registered dietitian within dining services, spoke to clarify procedural precautions in light of student concerns.

Dominguez said that the company has allocated people who handle foods with certain restrictions, such as vegan meals and gluten-free items as well as indicating that labeling systems are in place to designate different categories of products.

"We have specific equipment, and we color-code [food] to ensure that from one day to another things do not go in the wrong direction," Dominguez said about allergen-friendly preparation.

Zajac spoke further on Simple Servings, the university's hot station for allergen-conscious food. "Everything is purple, and we have the sneeze-guards down so that students don't come up and self-serve to prevent against cross-contamination. We have plates behind the line that the attendant will take, and put the item(s) that the student requests on," she said.



The MyZone allergy free cabinets in the Bartels dining hall. West Haven, Sept. 15, 2022.

Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.

Countertops like the ones in MyZone and other allergy-friendly sections are cleaned when the service is open for Simple Servings, which is notably not open all day. Cleaning occurs at the start and end of the day, between usages where cross-contamination could possibly occur and at 2:30-4:30 p.m., when the hot station is closed.

According to Zajac, all items in these cabinets are labeled and that their current protocols, which outlined discard dates, allergen labeling and more packaging and cleaning protocol are both more sanitary and conscious of cross-contamination,

reducing risks.

In terms of utensils, the pair said that any concerns with cross-contamination had not yet been considered until the item was placed on their radar.

"Nobody has brought that up at this time," Zajac said. "But in the interim, if that was a concern, I would suggest we use the plastic [utensils]."

"We can set up silverware or plasticware, if they want to totally make sure that it's totally protected from contamination," Dominguez said.

Dominguez also mentioned a new addition being made to Bartels.

Starting this week, a separate salad bar will be added for students with dietary restrictions and allergy concerns.

Zajac continued to discuss the required allergy training that Sodexo as a company holds as standard for their employees. Interactive allergy training occurs with all staff twice a year, and records are kept of completion.

Fifteen staff members also hold Allertrain U certifications, which indicate five years of training in food allergies including celiac. This is in addition to food allergy topics being discussed weekly, as described by

Zajac.

"It's important that we have those checks-and-balances in place," Zajac said.

Repeatedly, Zajac and Dominguez said that they want students to reach out with questions and concerns, as they find communication to be an essential component in ensuring the comfort and safety of students at the university.

"Knowing the students' feedback is sometimes where we struggle," Zajac said, "if we don't know, we can't assist and make sure that their needs are actually met."

Zajac works with many of the students who have allergies and restrictions on campus, and encourages others to reach out for guidance on any dietary-based concerns. The pair is very open to suggestions, commentary and concerns, and reinforced awareness about the wide range of different restrictions present throughout the student body.

Meetings can be scheduled with Samantha Zajac through her bookings page.

They both want students to address any incidents they may have with cross-contamination issues in the dining halls, as right now they find that very few get brought to their attention.

Dominguez said that every day, Sodexo is conscious of dietary restrictions, and they value awareness in their services.

## MSA continues tradition of honoring and educating on the forgotten

BY MIA ADDUCI  
Campus News Editor

It was four days following the events of Sept. 11, 2001 when the first hate crimes against Muslims were reported. The University of New Haven's Muslim Student Organization (MSA) invites those in the community to gather each year on Sept. 15, to attend their annual vigil of remembrance.

"9/11 proved to be a tragedy for everyone: those who lost their lives in the attack, and everyone who was blamed for it. So, the Muslim Student Association has committed to remember the victims nobody speaks about," Laila Soliman said in her opening remarks to the crowd in efforts to spread awareness of the events that began on this day.

The vigil then proceeded to be a space for both members of the Muslim community, and vocal allies, to speak out on the issue at hand.

"Not only did the Arab/Muslim community go through the same trauma as any other community went through," said Halima Belemlih, professor of Arabic at the university, "but [they] went through more than that. It went through collective fear and collective shame to the point that after the event,

whenever an attack happened, everyone is praying please God may it not be a Muslim."

She then said that her community suffered from "guilt, shame and fear of backlash for something they as individuals did not do." This is when Belemlih said that a series of attacks on Muslims began.

Belemlih recounted that hijab women were so targeted that a fatimah, or religious ruling, allowed them to remove their hijabs.

She spoke on the subject of Islamophobia, prefacing with her dislike for the usage of that term. She defined it as "anti-Muslim bigotry" and "fear, hatred or prejudice towards Islamic Muslims."

Belemlih dove into the manifestations of discrimination and misunderstanding that stem from this concept, before transitioning to discuss the real-world experiences that have arisen as a result of this issue. She covered events ranging from her kids facing bullying during school, to legal cases taken to SCOTUS.

"What Muslims find unfair is the way that the media treats various cases of hate crimes depending on the identity of the culprit. If the culprit is Muslim, the crime is always labeled as terrorism. When committed by

a non-Muslim, the criminal is either a lone-wolf, has mental issues or [it happened] over a parking dispute, as in the case of the Chapel Hill, North Carolina murders," Belemlih said.

"It was thanks to the religion that advanced from darkness to the light, not to the spiritual ones only, but the technological ones as well," she said.

Belemlih also said that seeing the Quran being burned reigned more devastating to the community than other acts of hate crimes or Islamophobia.

"Make friends. Muslims are very hospitable and friendly. They open their doors to new guests easily and happily," she said, encouraging those in attendance to make strides in the right direction.

To learn Arabic was the next item on her list, followed by taking courses to learn more about their culture. She suggested ones offered by the university.

Following her speech, philosophy professor Douglas Ficek began his time on the stand by thanking MSA for their efforts to organize this event, and for welcoming him as a non-Muslim an opportunity to speak.

He spoke in his remembrance of not only 9/11, but the aftermath that followed, on local, national and international levels.

"Unities are rarely all-inclusive," Ficek said. "We tend to define our unified, collective selves in terms of opposition; in terms of some obstacle, some threat, some evil, and after 9/11 for many Americans, unity meant opposing Muslims, full-stop and without distinction."

He continued to describe how across the country, this group of individuals was seen as a threat, in what he described as a "bigoted" view from many Americans.

"Islamophobia isn't just discursive; it isn't just words. As we all know, hate crimes against Muslims and people mistakenly perceived to be Muslims increased dramatically after 9/11," Ficek said.

He told the crowd that in 2000, the FBI reported less than 30 anti-Muslim hate crimes, but in 2001, there were 480, and three in just the first week alone.

Ficek delved into workplace discrimination, deportation and other items in the realm of unjust Muslim experience as observed from the outside, even such sponsored by the state.

He called this "a problem that sadly endures decades after the 9/11 attacks; a problem for which non-Muslims must take greater responsibility."

Soliman read a speech on behalf of a student who was unable to be in attendance, Aiya

Chahid.

"They say 'never forget,' but I grew up forgetting my identity," they began.

"They say 'never forget,' but my parents forgot to teach me their mother tongue, after being told I would fall behind in school and sticking to English was better. Halfway to 20 and I still don't know the Arabic alphabet. They say 'never forget,' but manners seemed to split the mind of my peers as the history classes kept circling back to a conversation about terrorists to which I have no relation, yet the deafening stares from my classmates made me dread the same day every year. They say 'never forget,' but I'm sure the bullies from my elementary school forgot about how my brother grew up laughing with them as they called him Bin Laden's son."

"They say 'never forget;' how can I? My mom still refuses to wear a hijab after a woman discriminated against us in a parking lot almost 18 years ago," they continued.

Soliman then took a moment of silence in process of the pain harbored by everyone. They then closed the ceremony, saying that they hope everyone takes inspiration from the day's events and aims for the creation of safe spaces for all going forward.

## Flag raising marks the start of Hispanic Heritage Month

*Continued from page 1*

that Congress sponsored a bill that extended the holiday to a month.

Rowe-Allen continued to speak on how the strong cultural backgrounds of Hispanic and Latine subgroups are an integral part of the increased diversity in this county, "making it more diverse, beautiful and culturally richer."

In regards to these cultural groups represented on campus, she said that "they are a fundamental part of the Charger family."

Emphasis was placed on the value of creating safe, welcoming, inclusive spaces for people of all backgrounds on campus. "We will continue to ensure that we create spaces that foster healthy, dynamic, formal and informal interactions between and among all community groups."

During the flag-raising ceremony, multiple representatives from LASA took to the podium to reflect on the value of this heritage month.

President Leo Levine-Aquino and Vice President Kimberly Martinez both spoke anecdotally on the values of culture both in developmental stages of life and being surrounded by it in



Brisa Velazquez speaks at the raising of the Hispanic Heritage Month Flag Ceremony, Sept. 15, 2022, West Haven. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Erick Cuatzo

the college setting. "It can be really lonely in a PWI (predominantly white institution). Sometimes it just feels really nice just being around people who look like you," said Martinez.

Levine-Aquino spoke on his experience of being adopted from Guatemala, and growing

up not being exposed to his cultural roots, saying "I knew nothing about where I was from, I didn't know Spanish and for many transnational and transracial adoptees like myself, growing up without the community is a main struggle."

He then spoke in gratitude of finding that community

and discovering his ties to his culture after joining LASA at the university. "The Latin community is, has and will always be here," Levine-Aquino said in highlighting the power of multicultural organizations on campus.

Martinez told stories about the presence of culture in her

home that resonated with her to this day, displaying the power behind being raised Hispanic.

Following the ceremony, Velazquez reflected on the ceremony, and the efforts being made towards gaining traction during Hispanic Heritage Month on the whole.

She said that the idea had been developing since last semester, when she accepted her USGA Senate position and saw Saniyah Brinney, current president, organize a flag raising through the Black Student Union for Black History Month. Velazquez said that she wanted to give something similar to the Hispanic community, and it took collaboration between a number of the multicultural organizations on campus.

Velazquez emphasized her aims to make this a new university tradition, and her drive to continue to take charge during her time as senator in future years.

"I hope to promote the month more," Velazquez said about future celebrations. "More students should come, even if you're not Hispanic or identify as Latine, you can always come; we support everyone."

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Susan L. Campbell

300 Boston Post Road | West  
Haven, CT 06516

chargerbulletin@newhaven.edu |

www.chargerbulletin.com

Office: 203.932.7182

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## Student overpopulation exposes lacking infrastructure

BY EDITORIAL STAFF

The University of New Haven has experienced rapid growth in recent years. Under former university President and Chancellor Steven Kaplan, the school saw a 65% increase in student population since 2004, a major change for a smaller university. Every year, it seems as if there is a new “record setting” class size, and dorms become increasingly packed with new students.

This year, the university is welcoming 1,250 new first-year students, most of whom are living on campus, and 200 transfers. This is in addition to the class of 2023 having 1,300 students, class of 2024 with 1,400 and 1,350 in the class of 2025.

While this level of growth is great for the university and all its students, there are some foundational aspects that are lacking.

For example, the parking issue is problematic and well documented. This is in large part an outcome of student overpopulation creating an influx of cars and the need for more expansion.

Students living on campus are forced to park their cars in lots off Main Campus, primarily on North Campus, creating a slight inconvenience in the ease of access. This is also compounded when, in the fall, students are required to move their cars on some weekends because of football games. Though the parking program pauses on the weekends, it can sometimes make it difficult for commuters to then find parking as well.

Considering the concerns surrounding campus safety in the current and recent semesters, the university is left to consider the risks of requiring students to park in distant locations, and walk independently to their

cars.

Commuters have it rough as well. With there being a finite amount of housing on campus (2,800 students according to the 2022 New Haven fact sheet) and a seemingly constant growing student body population, many students opt to move off campus. 48% of the undergraduate community lives off campus, and class schedules create bottlenecks of on-campus traffic throughout the day.

Many members of the classes of 2022 and 2023 remember being placed into forced triples, something that is much rarer in the post-COVID university community. With there only being so many rooms available, will the school choose to return to a forced-triple rooming situation in the coming years?

The university continues to push the limits of their acceptance and add more students. After recent years, the acceptance rate has seen a bump to 94% as of Fall 2021. While much of this is due to New Haven not receiving as many applications as more well-known universities, it does call into question its “selectiveness.” This could potentially impact the perception of its education

quality, even when programs are well-versed and effective for students.

Additionally, if they keep going in this direction, their lack of on campus housing will become an issue.

The university has made it clear that they want to grow, but there are some obstacles that stand in the way of that. First, because of the university’s location there is only so much room for further expansion. Campus is surrounded by neighborhoods, and any expansion would need to begin there.

University-sponsored off-campus housing has also become more popular in recent years, with the introduction of the Savin and Parkview housing options. They would likely need to add more of these to account for any student increases.

We are all for growing this university and increasing the resources it may have available. There is a clear desire from the administration to do this, and it is something that could certainly continue to progress. However, in doing so, there are certain things that need to be taken into consideration to handle the growth.

## Page Six View

BY LINDSAY GIOVANNONE  
Copy Desk Chief

### Column

Andrew Tate, a former professional kickboxer and self-proclaimed “trillionaire success coach” garnered attention after video clips of his misogynistic commentary circulated. For a while, it was almost impossible to be on the internet without coming across Tate’s name.

The clips included him saying women are property, and describing in graphic detail how he has sex with women, which includes slapping, grabbing and choking, as well as what he would do if a woman cheated on him: beat her with a machete. Tate, 35, has said that he only dates 18–19-year-old women because they’re less sexually experienced and he can “make an imprint” on them. Additionally, in 2017, he tweeted that women must “bare (sic) some responsibility” for being sexually assaulted.

Men who pontificate sexist rhetoric are, unfortunately, common on the internet – a space where they can hide behind a screen. It’s usually easy for me to acknowledge this content as ludicrous and move on. I can even laugh at videos of YouTubers or TikTokers mocking these men. But something about Andrew Tate is different. It’s hard to laugh at a man who so emphatically encourages extreme violence against women.

While Tate’s accounts on TikTok, Facebook, Instagram

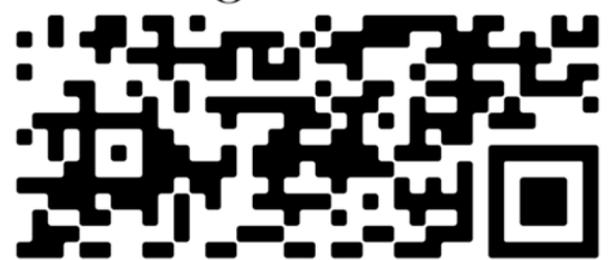
and Twitter have been banned because of hate speech, his lack of social media has scarcely tarnished his image. Prior to being de-platformed, he had millions of followers across social media and developed a cult-like following with numerous fan accounts still reposting his content.

Millions of people subscribed to his ideology and pressed the follow button; they wanted to view his content regularly in their feeds. His millions of followers are individuals who see human trafficking and sexual violence as acceptable. There is no way to defend someone who buys into this rhetoric.

I cannot associate with people who embrace someone who agrees with the ideas espoused by Andrew Tate, a man who said “40% of the reason” he moved to Romania was because law enforcement is less likely to investigate rape or human trafficking allegations. Though Tate reiterated “I’m not a rapist, but I like the idea of just being able to do what I want. I like being free.” If you say, “I’m not a rapist...” and immediately follow it with, “but...” you might want to rethink your ideals.

Andrew Tate is the epitome of why we say, “Yes, all men.” Men benefit from and contribute to systemic rape culture. Tate embodies this. Because when a man rapes, he becomes a millionaire. When a woman protests, she is, according to Andrew Tate, a dumb hoe.

## Interested in more from the Charger Bulletin?



# SCAN ME

# President Biden's student loan forgiveness plan

BY FAITH ARCURI  
Contributing Writer

President Joseph Biden and his administration have recently rolled out a loan forgiveness plan to eliminate student loan debt for lower income families.

This three-part plan is designed to help working and middle-class federal student loan borrowers transition back to regular payment as pandemic-related support expires.

Biden and his administration acknowledged that Pell Grants are significantly less in value in comparison to 50 years ago, further saying how he hoped to change how they benefit this country's economy and education systems.

"Today, Pell Grants cover roughly 32%. That's one third of the cost, as opposed to before. It matters," Biden said at his Aug. 25 press conference. 95% of the borrowers – 43

million people – can benefit from this. Of those 43 million, over 60% are Pell Grant recipients. That's 27 million people who will get \$20,000 in debt relief.

The first step of the plan is extending the payment pause. The Biden-Harris administration previously extended the student loan repayment pause a number of times. However, no one with a federally held loan has had to pay a dollar in loan payments

since Biden has taken office due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The second step is providing targeted relief to borrowers. The U.S. Department of Education (DOE) will provide up to \$20,000 in debt cancellation to Pell Grant recipients with loans held by the DOE, and "up to" \$10,000 in debt cancellation to non-Pell Grant recipients. "Up to" means that someone \$7,000 in debt and meeting the income threshold for \$10,000, is eligible to receive \$7,000 in relief.

Borrowers are eligible for this relief if their individual income is less than \$125,000 or \$250,000 for households. Nearly 8 million borrowers may be eligible to receive relief automatically because relevant income data is already available to the U.S. Department of Education.

An online application will open in early October. Once a borrower completes the application, they can expect debt cancellation within 4-6 weeks.

In terms of filing through the university, students are advised to complete an application by Nov. 15. Students have until the end of the year to file, due to the student loan payment pause being extended through Dec. 31,

2022.

The third and final step is to reconstruct the student loan system, making it more manageable for current and future borrowers.

Income-based repayment plans have long existed within the U.S. DOE. However, the Biden-Harris administration is proposing a rule to create a new income-driven repayment plan that will substantially reduce future monthly payments for lower and middle-income borrowers.

One major change includes the rate in which loans need to be repaid. With the proposed plan, no one will pay more than 5% of their discretionary monthly income to repay undergraduate loans. Biden claims that this plan will save more than \$1,000 a year on average for a borrower, calling it an overall "game changer".

The Biden-Harris administration is working to quickly implement further changes to student loans. Check back to this page for updates on progress. If you'd like to be the first to know, sign up for email updates from the U.S. Department of Education.



A student stresses while looking at their loans, Feb. 25, 2016.  
Photo courtesy of Unsplash/Tim Gouze.

# Who is Liz Truss, Britain's newest Prime Minister?

BY Lillian Newton  
Politics Editor

Elizabeth Truss, known as Liz Truss, was appointed as Prime Minister on Sept. 6 after defeating former chancellor Rishi Sunak with 81,326 to 60,399 votes and winning the Conservative Party leadership election. She will replace Boris Johnson as the U.K.'s prime minister.

Upon winning, Truss promised a "bold plan" to cut taxes and build economic growth; she said that she would "deliver on the energy crisis, dealing with people's energy bills but also dealing with the long-term issues Britain has had on energy supply." Truss' declarations come as Britain faces a growing economic and social crisis.

Truss' platform, which includes a hard line against the EU on Brexit and tax cuts to solve the cost-of-living crisis occurring in the country, proved to be decisive points for many that allowed her to win against Sunak. At the same time, critics have accused her hardline Brexit stance as a new ploy; critics point out that throughout her life, her views have evolved from an

anti-monarchist Liberal Democrat who originally wanted to legalize drugs, into the epitome of Britain's modern Conservative right.

Truss has been largely compared to Margaret Thatcher, who has been widely regarded as the benchmark for Conservative leadership. Thatcher, who played a large role in ending the Cold War, was a "tax-cutting, hard-nosed leader

who took on the unions... like Thatcher, Truss has come from relatively humble beginnings to dominate a world inhabited largely by men," according to an article from CNN.

She was previously appointed Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs on Sept. 15, 2021 and Minister for Women and Equalities on Sept. 10, 2019.

Truss studied philosophy, pol-

itics and economics at Merton College in Oxford. Her career started in 2010 when she entered parliament as the Conservative Member of Parliament for southwest Norfolk, and two years later she was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Education and Childcare.

She is Britain's third female prime minister and the 15th prime minister to serve the

late Queen Elizabeth during her 70-year reign. The queen had invited Truss to form a new government, an important constitutional duty of the queen and a step in the transition of power, just two days before she died on Sept. 8. This meeting marked the queen's last major constitutional action.

The U.S. State Department congratulated Truss upon her win, noting that the department looks forward to working with the new UK prime minister "on a range of important priorities, including continued support to Ukraine in the face of Russia's war."

President Joe Biden also personally called the new Prime Minister to give her his congratulations. During the call, the two leaders reaffirmed the U.S. and U.K.'s "special relationship" while also expressing readiness to further strengthen those ties. Biden and Truss further discussed the importance of close cooperation on a multitude of global challenges including those posed by China, preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, securing sustainable and affordable energy resources, and supporting Ukraine.



Prime Minister Elizabeth Truss, London, June 9, 2022.  
Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

# Men's soccer breaks even with AIC, ties 0-0

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL  
Sports Editor

A high-spirited match of men's soccer between New Haven and American International College ended in a scoreless tie on Saturday night at Kathy Zolad Stadium. It was a back and forth affair with both teams generating quality scoring chances but not finding the back of the net. With the tie, New Haven falls to 0-4-2 on the year (0-1-1 NE-10).

Both teams brought high



Adam Lindstrom, West Haven, Sept. 17, 2022.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Wells.

energy early and often, moving the ball all around the field and looking to establish a lead. New Haven was able to get towards the goal early on after starting the game with the ball, registering two shots in the first five minutes of play. They were unable to get past AIC's goalkeeper, Lucas Morales-Fernandez, who tallied eight saves.

There was no shortage of opportunities for New Haven as they finished the game with 21 shots to AIC's four. They kept the pressure on the opposing team throughout the match but were unable to capitalize on any of their chances. Fabio Bastina Andreu led the Chargers in shots with four, with three other players registering three.

New Haven's best chance to score came in the 50th minute, when they fired off five shots in a row, with three spectacular saves by Morales-Fernandez. Midfielder Chris Chyzowych started it off with a shot off the post, followed by Morales-Fernandez's three saves, capped off with a shot by Bastina



Dante Polletta makes contact with the American International College defender, West Haven, Sept. 17, 2022.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Wells.

Andreu that just missed high.

The rest of the game went by quietly with neither team being able to beat the goalkeepers. New Haven goalie Themis Kastoris only faced one shot

on goal, which he quickly shut down.

New Haven will now head up to Worcester, Mass. to face off with Assumption University on Tuesday at Ronald J.

Abdow Field. Kickoff will be at 7:00 pm as the Chargers look to get in the win column. More information can be found at [NewHavenChargers.com](http://NewHavenChargers.com).

# Football surges in second half, beats AIC 54-26

*Continued from page 1*

ond half. "It was more or less just playing our defense... getting back to playing UNH football."

Next, it was Ford making himself known once again.

The New Haven return man fielded the kickoff and shed the first two tackles of his run, finding an opening and outrunning the AIC defense. The bleachers erupted as Ford gave New Haven the exact response they needed, and as fans recognized the special game that he was having on returns.

"It was great blocking," Ford

said. "That's one of the reasons they brought me here, so I just wanted to do what I do."

After the extra-point attempt was missed, the score was 40-26 in favor of the Chargers. This was all they would ultimately need, as the defense held AIC in check for the rest of the afternoon. However, the offense wasn't done yet.

Rolling out of the pocket off a play-action, Degenhardt was able to find Ford wide open in the back of the end zone for the 23-yard touchdown, continuing the receiver's standout day.

"It felt good," he said. "Just

making plays when the opportunity is called."

The final New Haven score came after RB Hunter Cobb was subbed into the backfield for the first time all afternoon. He rushed for 53 yards to set the offense up deep in the red zone, and his fellow RB Jake Conlin punched in an 11-yard rush to stretch the lead to 28.

That is where the score would hold, as New Haven walked away with a 54-26 win.

"I thought our defense played really well," New Haven head coach Christopher Pincince said after the game. "They did a nice

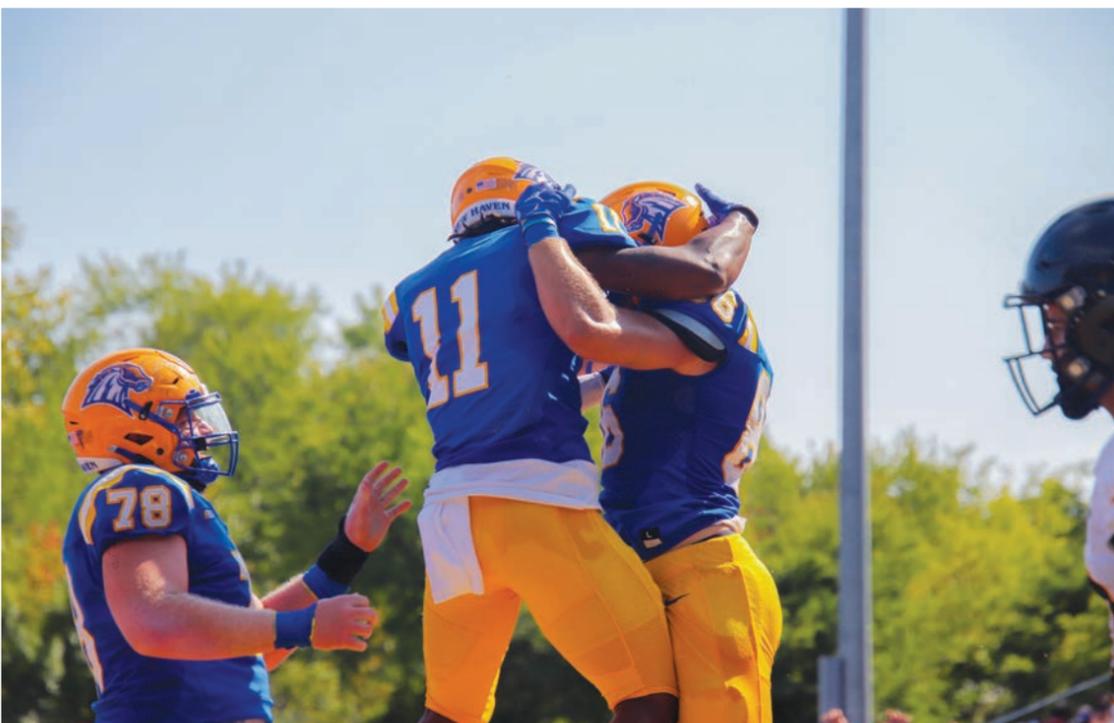
job of answering the bell against a very, very difficult offense to play. Offensively we're not consistent enough."

Degenhardt led New Haven's offensive attack, throwing for 327 yards, six touchdowns and no interceptions. Ais led all rushers with 83 yards and a touchdown, while WR Dev Holmes tallied 103 receiving yards and Foelsch caught two touchdowns. On defense, Burton Jr. led the team with six tackles while defensive back Devon Williams had five tackles of his own and an interception. The defensive line also had two interceptions of

their own, one by Long and another by Jaysen Triunfer.

With the win, New Haven improves to 2-1 (1-0 NE-10) and prepares for a big matchup against Bentley University next week. AIC falls to 0-3 (0-1 NE-10) with the loss.

Next week's game at Bentley will be a rematch of the top two teams in the NE-10 last season. The game is slated to begin at 6 p.m. on Friday night, making it a shorter turnaround for the Chargers. Stats and a stream for the game can be found at [NewHavenChargers.com](http://NewHavenChargers.com).



New Haven's Kevin Foelsch (right) celebrates with Zhyaire Fernandes (center) and William Ayers (left). West Haven, Sept. 17, 2022.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Wells.



Connor Degenhardt attempts a pass against AIC, West Haven, Sept. 17, 2022.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Rodriguez.