

The Charger Bulletin

The student news source for the University of New Haven

Volume 104, Issue 22 | April 18, 2023 | West Haven, Connecticut

Myatt Center's upstander walk combines activism with activity

BY JUSTIN COVIELLO
Campus News Editor

It was the hottest day of the year so far, with serene blue skies overhead and not a cloud in sight, when the Myatt Center for Diversity and Inclusion entreated the campus community to participate in their annual upstander walk last Thursday. The upstander walk was first held in 2016 and offers students, faculty and staff an opportunity to join in solidarity to learn how they can assist in the many fights against injustice.

The stroll began in front of the Marvin K. Peterson Library; guests journeyed around campus as they made stops along the way to hear from a variety of speakers in front of the admissions office, by the Charlie the Charger statue, in the Sheffield Hall gazebo and in front of the Myatt Center, where a concluding luncheon was held.

The first speaker was Timothy Prince, coordinator for leadership at the Myatt Center. Prince, who organized the upstander walk

this year, and defined it as “a meaningful event meant to recognize the efforts made by individuals, organizations and departments in and around the campus community to promote unity and inclusion.” With its primary goal being to spread awareness about social issues pervading through our society, Prince highlighted the symbolism of the walk as an

important takeaway.

“I think that symbolism means a lot,” he said. “I think that even if we’re not all paying a certain amount of money towards a certain organization or cause, just for the sake of taking the time out of our day to put effort and time into a cause like that, I think it makes a big difference... [This walk] was

a symbolic representation, but also physically being able to see everybody wanting to participate in this, wanting to all stand behind something collectively, I think is a big impact that the university could catch onto.”

Ashley Dunn, assistant dean of student support, was introduced as the next guest

Continued on page 5



The Charger community embarks on their walk across campus, West Haven, April 14, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Sadara Funches.



Dance team takes nationals
ARTS & LIFE, page 3



The flag at half-mast
OPINIONS, page 7



Lacrosse over SCSU
SPORTS, page 8

Softball splits doubleheader with SCSU

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL
Sports Editor

It's difficult to come away with wins in both games of a doubleheader, especially when facing your crosstown rival. Teams know what to expect and understand the importance of every moment that plays a crucial role in determining the outcome of the game.

A team's ability to win games is largely built on their pitching staff being able to limit run-scoring opportunities, a fact which proved pivotal in the split of the doubleheader between the New Haven and Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) softball teams. With just four runs scored between the two games, New Haven's pitching led the way to pick up one game in an import-

ant doubleheader, limiting SCSU to just six runs.

Game one started as a pitchers' duel between New Haven right-hander Selena Aponte and SCSU right-hander Jessica Perucki until the top of the sixth inning when the Owls scratched two runs across and took the lead in the late innings.

Second baseman Katrina Roy led the inning off with a single up the middle, and after an error that put a runner in scoring position, Aponte was able to get two quick outs and look to strand the runners on first and second. Right fielder Rachel Miller cashed in on the two-out chance with a lined single to right-center field that plated Roy for the first run of the game.

Third baseman Gabby Festa followed the single with one of her own down

the left-field line, bringing the second run of the inning across that put SCSU ahead by two. Aponte quickly stopped the bleeding with a groundout to third and gave New Haven a chance to bring themselves back in the game.

New Haven went down in order in the bottom of the sixth, bringing SCSU back to the plate looking to add to their lead. They tacked on three runs and took a 5-0 lead as Roy doubled to bring the first run of the inning around to score. Catcher Jacqueline Dumont singled through the left side to make it a four-run game and an error made it a five-run game, proving to be all of the offense they needed to come away with a win in game one.

After getting shut out in game one, New Haven got

on the board quickly in game two after a leadoff double from center fielder Bella Chenet, who stole third and came around to score on a groundout by right fielder Olivia Roberto.

New Haven right-handed pitcher Mia Iodice got the start for the Chargers in game two and she shut down SCSU's lineup, going the distance and allowing just two hits and striking out seven.

Iodice kept the Owls off the board until the fourth, where they took advantage of two throwing errors in the inning, including a throwing error on a wild pitch to tie the game at one. Iodice was able to work around runners in scoring position to keep the game tied going into the late innings.

New Haven responded in the bottom of the inning

with a one-out single from third baseman Ashley Veisz to start the threat, followed by a walk to first baseman Aaliyah Amidon. Pinch hitter Hailey Laforte came through with a clutch single through the right side to take a one-run lead, forcing SCSU to go to the bullpen.

After the pitching change, Chenet delivered another huge hit with a two-run single down the left-field line to go ahead by three and give them a comfortable lead.

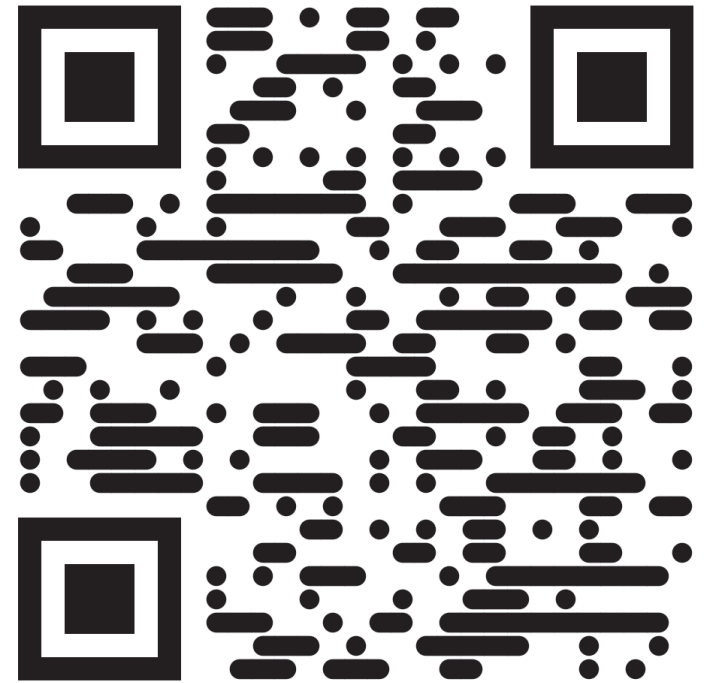
Iodice sent the Owls down in order in the fifth and sixth innings heading into the seventh with the opportunity to salvage the second game of the day. With runners on first and second with two outs, Iodice struck out left fielder Ally Petrella to seal the game and deliver her sixth win of the season.

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Dance team returns to West Haven after claiming national rankings

BY LILY FLEMING
Contributing Writer

Earlier in the semester, the University New Haven Dance Team traveled to Wayne, N.J. to compete at the Dance Team Union competition, their first collegiate-level competition. After taking home a couple of regional titles, the team did not wait to get back to work before continuing to put many hours into rehearsal to prepare for the College Classic National Championship. Earlier this month, the team managed to place themselves on the national map in both division II pom and jazz.

Coach Ashley McCain spoke on how the intensity of practices kicked up this semester. Her dancers highlighted this in reflection of the season. “Practice in both the fall and spring semester challenged our team in

many ways,” said Sage Sarrazin, a sophomore studying forensic psychology. “Fall semester we mainly focused on learning and really memorizing the choreography. During the spring semester we worked extremely hard to work through the dance movement by movement to look like a true unison dance team.”

Sarrazin said additional competition practices ranged from four to six hours. “It was an adjustment for all the girls on the team, but we all collectively worked together to switch our work shifts and cancel plans when we needed to be there for our team.”

On Wednesday, April 5, the New Haven Dance team headed down to Orlando to compete at the College Classic. Once the team arrived, they had practices and classes before taking the stage. McCain said, “we

worked even harder in Florida and were so inspired by the other teams that we were able to see [them] perform.”

McCain explained that the team members had to trust one another during this process. “The bond they have with each other is more important than any dance technique,” she said. “The athletes need to build each other up, support one another and ultimately be each other’s biggest cheerleaders.”

“Since my freshman year in 2019, we had talked about the possibility of competing as a team, but with obstacles such as COVID, this was a difficult goal to reach,” Lauryn Bonanno, a senior criminal justice major, said. “Through this experience I have learned the valuable lesson that hard work and dedication will allow you to achieve your goals.”

Olivia Sisk, a senior criminal justice major and one of the dance team’s captains, said competing at this national competition was her greatest accomplishment. She said, “Four years ago, I never thought I would be able to go to competition, I never even knew what a dance team competition was like, I had only ever done studio dance.” Sisk was grateful for the experience

during her final year of college with the best team.

After long rehearsals and months of practice the New Haven Dance Team showed how much their hard work paid off by placing second in D2 pom and seventh in D2 jazz. This was a great accomplishment for the dance team and a memorable moment for the graduating seniors.



The dance team after awards at the College Classic National Championship, April 9, 2023. Photo courtesy of @unehdanceteam on Instagram.

OGISL vows to “step it up this year” for Graduate Appreciation Week

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH
Arts & Life Editor

Charger Connection is regularly updated to advertise a multitude of events for University of New Haven students to attend. However, many of these events are geared toward undergraduate students, even going as far as to be in a category specifically for that group. As of Tuesday, April 11 there are 42 events in the graduate category, being hosted until May 3; the same number of undergraduate events will be held by April 16.

The small ratio of graduate to undergraduate events is disheartening. According to student body statistics from the spring 2022 semester, the university has a population of 5,023 undergraduate students and 2,490 graduate students. Despite graduate students making up a small percentage of the university, the Office of Graduate and International Student Life (OGISL) is working to show appreciation for those that may not feel acknowledgement of their place at the university.

April 10 marked the beginning of the 10th annual

Graduate Appreciation Week (GAW) when OGISL hosts a variety of events in honor of their graduate population.

The GAW Kickoff at the Alumni Lounge on Monday provided a calm beginning to the festivities. A cheese and meat platter fed the graduate student attendees while they enjoyed violin music and chatted with one another.

Steven Macchiarolo, the director of OGISL, said, “we’re very excited to see the program kind of grow and turn into what it is today.” He was ecstatic to see their engagement numbers go up from last year, demonstrating the popularity of the events across the university.

Macchiarolo also said that he wants all students to attend each other’s events, regardless of graduate status, so nobody is left out. Inviting everyone to these GAW events allows undergraduate and graduate students to mingle and enjoy the events with one another.

For those that were not afraid to venture off campus for some adventure, there were multiple chances to get some fresh air and explore. Foodies got the chance to

participate in a pizza crawl, visiting different pizzerias in the area such as Frank Pepe’s, Sally’s and Zuppardi’s.

On Friday, students were also able to visit the wonderful world of Broadway in New York with a trip to see “MJ: The Musical.” Thrill-seekers had the chance to go to Six Flags New England on Saturday and go on various rides such as the Tomahawk, a ride that you can swing back and forth in a mechanical, well, tomahawk.

At-home events also took place for those that wished

to stay on campus but also enjoy themselves. There was a Sip ‘n Paint on Wednesday evening in the German Club that served as a moment for students to enjoy an alcoholic beverage and express themselves creatively.

The finale event on Sunday night was the largest, taking place at North Campus to fit all the performances, activities and attendees. OGISL was able to pull in some amazing talents to attend and entertain.

Some of the talent included Long Island-based come-

dian Andrew Washington, “Voicetramentalist” and actor Michael Winslow (“Spaceballs”) who can imitate more than 1,000 voices and “The Clairvoyants” duo Amelie van Tass and Tommy Ten, who are world-renowned mentalists that appeared on “America’s Got Talent.”

Macchiarolo’s vow to “step it up this year” is visible in this year’s GAW events. Appreciation for the university’s graduate students could not have been pulled off if not for OGISL and its dedicated staff.



Graduate Appreciation Week Kickoff in the Alumni Lounge, West Haven, April 10, 2023. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Presley DePugh.

There was a mosh pit? In the quad?

BY MIA ADDUCI
Managing Editor

It was already 77 degrees when the Music Industry Club (MIC)'s student showcase started to bring even more heat to the Bixler/Gerber quad. The first truly warm day of the semester was set ablaze as U. New Haven students took to the BSAC patio to flood campus with a diverse array of sounds. The quad beyond the performers continued to grow, and the campus community was pulled together by the sounds coming from MIC's performers.

The late afternoon kicked off with a duo potentially more essential than man and dog: nerd and guitar. Nerd on Guitar had a set that combined covers with originals "Alone Together" and "Parasite." He had a booming personality and a voice with a slight twang that despite being an acoustic set, radiated across the entire span of the quad.

Next to the stage was rising vocalist Sarah Serkosky accompanied by Elise Browell, who is notably part of the founding team of Rose Room Records, a local record company to which Serkosky is signed. The two flooded the quad with electricity supported by two other musicians on the keyboard and drums.

Serkosky's stage was nearly monochromatic black but that did not distract from the angelic nature of her voice. Her lyricism is deeply powerful — in some ways she closely emulates a young female David Kushner — with

hard-hitting lines like "the whole world could be knocking but I'd only let you in." Even with the beating sun overhead, her voice rained down onto the quad from somewhere far above us. The instruments played to her voice, capturing her ability to take charge of her music.

Serkosky also covered "All the Same" by Sick Puppies, a performance which showcased the artist's ability to display the same level of connection to everything she sings regardless of whether or not she wrote it herself. This was wildly impressive this early on in her career.

Browell, who performed on Serkosky's left, was found mouthing the words of the artist's originals throughout the set. The chemistry between the two was clear and their energies contrasted each other powerfully onstage.

Fractured Mentality took over the quad soon after, switching up the vibe as they tackled some heavy metal content. One of the band members even kicked off the first track of their set wearing a neon green ski mask, which turned heads before being tossed to the ground.

The instrumentals went wild in this group, and drummer Ryan Seagull took their sound to the next level with some unbelievable talent.

It was the band's first time performing live together as a group, but from in front of the patio you would never think this was Fractured Mentality's first gig.

They covered "Violent Pornography" by System of a Down, a

song which allowed lead singer Ava Roberson to push her vocal envelope and showcase the level of control she has over her voice. Her ability to enunciate at such a high rate of words per minute was wickedly impressive, especially for someone who is not highly familiar with standing front and center of a growing crowd.

As individuals, the members of this band had incredible personality. Robertson even took a break from flooding campus with her wicked voice to give the crowd a highly requested tattoo tour between songs.

As a collective, the group has plenty of potential to gain maturity in their sound and their chemistry as a group is only just beginning, but Fractured Mentality is one to watch as they continue to find

their footing.

No Rush! headlined the event, earning their reputation as a campus fan-favorite after MIC's Battle of the Bands back in December. Their energy could not be contained within the span of the quad and there's no doubt that their radiance is what made the crowd nearly double in size during their closing set.

Even in the last four months, No Rush! has matured notably as they took to the stage with a collected presence this week. For a band composed of such young members, their interactivity was incredibly applaudable.

The crowd absolutely came alive and did not die down until the set wrapped up.

They continued their trend of playing a wide array of classics

that sucked spectators in. No Rush! skillfully shifted their energy to match that of each and every band they covered.

Their energy ranged from mellow to totally jacked-up, showcasing the band's variety in yet another way. This kept the crowd on their toes, creating an atmosphere that ranged from groups moshing on the concrete to a line of students linking arms and swaying to their slower songs.

An encore was even in session as none of the clusters of students in the quad wanted them to clear the patio.

For more on-campus live music, mark your calendars for next Thursday, April 20 when MIC is hosting a coffeehouse style open mic at the Sheffield gazebo from 3-8 p.m.



Serkosky and Browell on the patio, West Haven, April 12, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.

Badminton Club participates in the Durabird Eastern Collegiate Tournament

BY ANCHAL BHATIA
Staff Writer

"Our first experience in the tournament was extremely enlightening, and it was further inspiring to see all the members of the club be so thoroughly involved and enthusiastic throughout the tournament as well as the practices before the matches," said Shirdi Kummarakuntla, president of the recently formed Badminton Club. Having started in early spring 2023 semester, the Badminton Club is now a family of over 15 members, many of which have participated in the Durabird Eastern Collegiate Tournament organized in Philadelphia in the past week.

Kummarakuntla discussed his impression of the club members, saying, "Everyone eagerly practiced for the tournament and at early hours

at the Beckerman Recreation Center. The participants were invested in the tournament and ensured they used the best equipment, gave their best efforts and worked out with utmost seriousness.

I was pleased to see their enthusiasm towards the sport and was impressed to notice that it was not only limited to the game but also with a fair intention towards learning and improvising in the sport."

"The participants were invested in the tournament and ensured they used the best equipment and ensured they used the best equipment, gave their best efforts and worked out with utmost seriousness," Kummarakuntla said about the club members' eagerness to participate in the tournament and their rigorous practice schedule. "I was pleased to see their enthusiasm towards the sport and was impressed to notice that it was not only limited to the

game but also with a fair intention towards learning and improvising in the sport."

Manoj Kumar, a member of the badminton club and one of the winners for certain matches at the tournament, discussed his experience at the tournament. He believed this tournament to be a great deal as the team got an opportunity to interact and play with several other teams from different universities such as Yale, the University of Connecticut, Dartmouth and Williams, among others. He said, "This tournament helped us learn a lot and motivated us to build a competitive spirit. Besides, exploring our skills and learning from the other participants was a fair opportunity."

Following a similar notion, Prakash Reddy Mukku, another winner at the tournament, expressed his views toward this tournament and stated it to be a great oppor-

tunity. He said, "Through this tournament, we gained a fair chance to meet with new members and players from several universities and explore their way of playing this game. Indeed, they played very well, which helped us learn through sheer observation. Moreover, playing under a competitive spirit added to our enthusiasm which helped us perform better."

Moving on, he talked about the badminton club, the motivation behind starting this club, and his future goals with the club. Kummarakuntla said, "Badminton is a sport that many individuals enjoy, but unfortunately, there was no RSO at the university and thus, I chose to start a badminton club." Adding further, Kummarakuntla shared some of his goals for the club and said, "I wish to see the club's growth at professional levels, and I aspire to see

students indulge in this sport in the longer run. To achieve these goals, we aspire to seek more support from the university in marketing, equipment, and financial regards in the long term."

Kummarakuntla thanked the club's coach and advisor, Sri Teja Chinnam, director of enrolment operations at the university, who supported the intent behind setting up this RSO. The badminton president also stated how the club is open to all, whether someone is a professional or a beginner. He said, "We are always looking to welcome new members and would love to meet students from every course and major involvement in our sport. Besides, we highly encourage beginners to join the club as we can help them evolve and improve their skills to a greater extent."

Community upstander walk

BY JUSTIN COVIELLO
Campus News Editor

Continued from page 1

speaker. She emphasized the role of choice between being a bystander and an upstander. It is often difficult to insert yourself in a situation which demands your attention and be an upstander, but that pales in comparison to the un-comfortability of the person whom you'd otherwise be ignoring as a bystander. Dunn called on the words of Holocaust survivor Elie Weisel when she said, "What hurts the victim most is not the cruelty of the oppressor, but the silence of the bystander."

There are many ways in which one can define an upstander, but Interim President Sheahon Zenger seemed to invoke Occam's razor as he offered perhaps the simplest and most all-encompassing answer imaginable: an upstander, at its core, is a friend.

"What if we just treated everyone as a friend?" Zenger said. "And what would a friend do in situations like we're talking about? We'd be an ally, we'd be an upstander, we would connect and we would help... I know I may sound like a corny old guy saying this, but what if we just embraced love? Love and friendship; wouldn't this all just be a better place for all of us? And isn't that kind of what this upstander walk is all about?"

The upstander walk then officially began in front of Anemone and Steven Kaplan Hall. Mary Lipka, a senior psychology major, spoke about the discrimination, hardship and bias that affects the queer (and specifically the transgender) community across the world today and how the university can do better to protect all of its members. She also provided examples on how painfully easy it is to be an ally, saying, "Using correct pronouns is suicide prevention... Access to gender-affirming care is suicide prevention."

A study conducted by the Minnesota Department of Health reported that "transgender and nonbinary youth who reported having pronouns respected by all the people they lived with attempted suicide at half the

rate of those who did not have their pronouns respected by anyone with whom they lived." And a study conducted by The Trevor Project revealed lower percentages of adolescents who considered or attempted suicide after receiving gender-affirming hormone therapy (GAHT) than those who sought GAHT and did not receive it.

The next stop along the route was the Charlie the Charger statue where Cora Cogill, a senior business management major, spoke on behalf of the Undergraduate Student Government Association (USGA) about sexual harassment and violence. She cited the National Sexual Violence Resource Center statistics that found 43% of men and 81% of women, including one in four undergraduate women at 33 of the nation's major universities, will experience sexual assault, harassment or misconduct. Cogill continued to acknowledge "the higher risk that gender- and sexual-minority groups face" with these issues.

Albi Beshi, a clinician at the university's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), spoke in the Sheffield Hall gazebo about human nature and how being a bystander can be seen as the "default" human setting. He asserted that you must be active in standing up for those who may be unable to stand up for themselves as opposed to retreating to that safe feeling on the sidelines.

"But the unfortunate reality of our world is [that] so many of our peers, so many of our friends, family, neighbors, loved ones, coworkers, colleagues live in unsafe worlds," Beshi said. "So it's an unfortunate dynamic of human nature to prioritize safety when others are unsafe."

The final speaker of the morning was Dean of Students and Vice President of Student Affairs Ophelia Rowe-Allen, who stood in front of the Myatt Center as she thanked Prince, Dunn and the rest of the speakers of the day, and implored attendees to share their stories over lunch in order to grow the upstander movement one conversation at a time.

"We must stand in solidarity with each other here in the Charger community," Rowe-Allen said. "So what I'm encouraging you all to do is to stay a few more minutes, and if you could continue the conversation, right, you may have stories to tell... what you have learned today, we want to sprinkle it all around, right, and spread it and let it grow so that others may be able to see the work that we are doing here on the University of New Haven campus."

The upstander walk was successful in continuing these conversations while evoking emotional and thoughtful responses out of those in attendance. Sankofa Benzo, a senior cybersecurity and networks major, drew upon similar motivations as Zenger with her definition of an upstander.

"Empathy," she said. "I think oftentimes we focus on the courage and strength of those who have been upstanders for us, but seldom do we acknowledge their empathy. In the face of injustice and discrimination, the cruelty of the world feels suffocating so having someone with acute awareness and sensibility can then help bolster your own strength and courage."

Criminal justice professor Danielle Cooper drew her motivation to participate in the upstander walk from a couple different sources, saying, "I am inspired to participate in the upstander walk by the examples that my parents have set for me. They encourage me to build community and fight against injustice anywhere that I am. I am also inspired by the members of our campus, especially our students, who show up in support of [diversity, equity and inclusion] efforts in many different ways."

The fight to dismantle hate is a constant one, and we cannot become complacent in our efforts to create a world which abides by the platinum rule. By advancing these discussions and offering a platform for people of marginalized groups to speak their truth, the upstander walk is an important event to foster a campus community that is determined to create a welcoming environment for all.

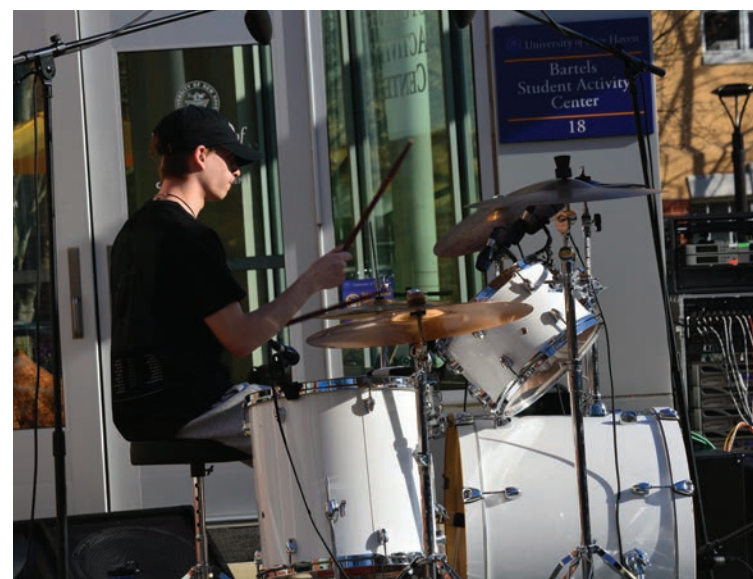
Recapping this week on campus:



Baseball plays SCSU, West Haven, April 16, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Charlotte Bassett.



Participants of the upstander walk, West Haven, April 14, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Sadara Funches.



MIC's student showcase, West Haven, April 12, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.



Hoopfest 3v3 tournament, West Haven, April 15, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Charlotte Bassett.

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Printed by Valley Publishing Co.
Derby, CT.Archives can be found at
issuu.com/chargerbulletin

Since 1928, The Charger Bulletin has been the official student news source of the University of New Haven.

Recipient of 1st Place - ASPA Annual Contest/Review for Scholastic Yearbooks, Magazines and Newspapers, 2020, 2021, 2022.

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Page six view

Country music is okay after all

BY LINDSAY GIOVANNONE
Columnist

I'm in the top 1% of listeners on Spotify's New Music Friday country playlist, and I consider myself a connoisseur of the genre. As a lifelong listener of country, it's been fascinating to watch the genre evolve from the 2000s hesitant conglomeration of pop, rock n' roll, Americana and bluegrass to one where even the most niche subgenres have gone mainstream alongside pop-influenced and bro-country.

I believe we are in a golden age of country music. Singer-songwriter Zach Bryan – who was put on my radar in 2019 after his powerful debut album “Deann” – is dominating the country charts with his alt-country tracks alongside the juggernaut Morgan Wallen, who recently released another pop-country album lauding whiskey and women.

While we're only four months into 2023, there are already a myriad of phenomenal projects and songs out. Here are my top three favorite or most-anticipated country releases so far.

Megan Moroney – Lucky

With her big blonde hair, colorful outfits and sparkly persona, Moroney echoes Shania Twain and Dolly Parton, and much like Twain and Parton, she has set herself up to make a massive impact in country music. I first learned about Moroney after she released her hit single, “Tennessee Orange” in September 2022. The emotional, crooning song tells the story of Moroney, who is from Georgia, falling in love with someone from the University of Georgia's rival school, the University of Tennessee.

Moroney released “I'm Not Pretty” on Feb. 19, a cleverly named song about an ex-boyfriend's current girlfriend scrolling through Moroney's Instagram and pointing out her flaws. Less than a month later, on March 10, she released the title track of her debut album “Lucky,” a punchy song about a fun (and possibly regrettable) night out with friends. Moroney's creative songwriting prowess has only continued to grow since her first EP, “Pistol Made of Roses,” and fans eagerly await the release

of all 13 tracks on May 5.

Luke Combs – Gettin' Old

I cannot make this list without mentioning Combs' fourth studio album “Gettin' Old.” I was a bit disappointed in his previous album, “Growin' Up,” so I had low expectations with the release of “Gettin' Old,” especially since it acts as a companion to its underwhelming predecessor. However, Luke Combs defied all of my preconceived notions and delivered what will probably be one of the best albums of 2023.

It has the usual slew of songs about growing up in a small town, drinking, family and failed romances, but stands out among other albums with similar themes – and not just because it's a Luke Combs release. There's something cohesive and mature about the coming-of-age saga told in “Gettin' Old,” which he intertwines with the familiar and warm feeling that his listeners have grown accustomed to.

HARDY – the mockingbird & THE CROW

Michael Hardy – who performs as HARDY – might just be one of the best country singer-songwriters of the 21st century (sorry, Zach Bryan). The Mississippi native has penned many of his friend Morgan Wallen's top hits such as “More Than My Hometown” and “Sand in My Boots” along with Blake Shelton's “God's Country” and Florida Georgia Line's “Up Down.”

“the mockingbird & THE CROW” is HARDY's most ambitious release yet. The 17-song album starts with the country sound which he is most known for but transitions to rock halfway through with the title track “the mockingbird & THE CROW” followed by “SOLD OUT,” which is HARDY's ode to his roots and that, despite now having a spot in the country limelight, he refuses to cave to popular pressure. For older HARDY fans, listen for a reference to his previous album, “A ROCK,” in the song “TRUCK BED.”

If you haven't heard “the mockingbird & THE CROW” yet, do yourself a favor and spend an hour listening to some of the best storytelling and lyricism country music has to offer.

Welcoming accepted students as we look toward next year

BY EDITORIAL STAFF

Editorial

Accepted Students Days mark a moment toward the end of the school year where the university community can begin looking toward the next generation of students coming to New Haven. It allows us to celebrate the thousands of new faces that will be walking onto campus in the fall, while also encouraging us to think about the ways in which campus may change in the next several months.

Last year, we saw a complete overhaul of the parking and traffic structures on campus with the addition of a new quad next to Winchester Hall. This was met with mixed reactions, especially as the change was made without notifying students beforehand.

Whether any similar change is planned has yet to be revealed. However, it is a good time to start thinking about some of the changes we would like to see as the 2022-23 school year comes to a close.

Starting with the parking theme, there needs to be additional spots opened to commuters on campus. Changes made late in the year made way for spots for electric vehicle charging stations, which gas vehicles get tickets for being in. A number of spots in the library lot were also taken away by a construction project for the spring semester. This project is a partnership with

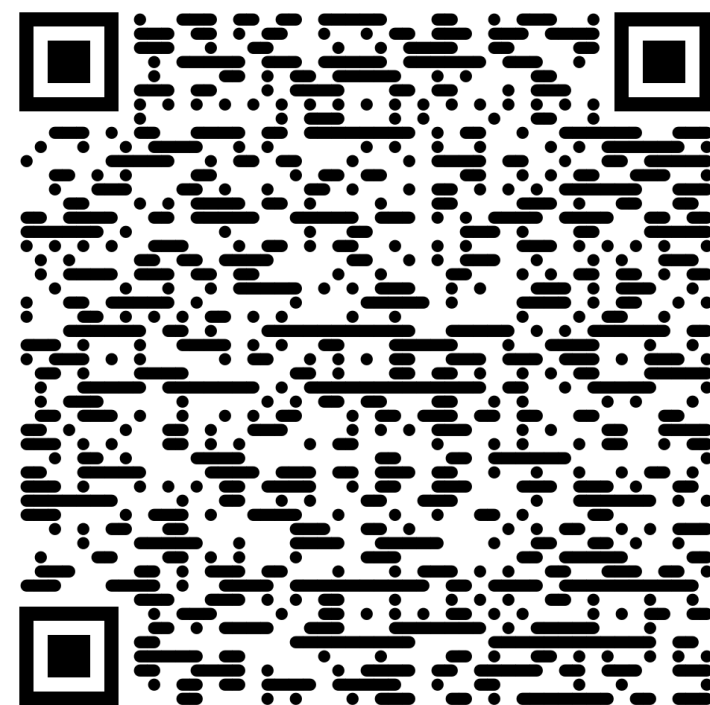
BloomEnergy, and is part of a mission to increase how environmentally-friendly the campus is. It uses solid oxide fuel cells which creates electric potentials that flow to create electricity.

While this initiative has strong goals for the community's environment, its selected location is not ideal, creating a competition for spots throughout the rush hour times of the day.

There is also an issue surrounding the misleading representation of dining when incoming students tour the university. On the off-hours, which seem to take up a significant portion of the day, many of the options at the Marketplace are closed, immensely limiting options for students with dietary restrictions. When stations that offer vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free food are closed during any hours that are not deemed “peak,” students with limitations are left to scrape together something that fulfills their needs. This creates particular difficulty for students who have classes during peak dining times, leaving limited windows to get food during the day.

Shuttles tend to run off-schedule, and for first-years and transfer students incoming without access to a personal vehicle, these means of transportation should not be relied on in order to travel across campus or beyond it.

Listen to Lindsay's country recommendations:



The flag flies at half-mast

BY MASON SMITH
Contributing Writer

I was walking to my workplace when I saw the flag at half-mast which I assumed was for mourning the loss of the five people killed in the Louisville bank shooting and the one person killed in the Jefferson Community and Technical College shooting. Or maybe it was mourning the loss of the three nine-year-old students and three staff workers in the Nashville Covenant School shooting? Even as I am writing this, there was a shooting which injured four people in Paterson, N.J. The flag seems to perpetually mourn the loss of innocent lives. It leads me to wonder, though; when was the last time the flag wasn't at half-mast?

In 2023 alone, the United States experienced 146 mass shootings, meaning there have been more shootings than days in the year. The numbers are staggering—more than 12,000 people have died due to gun violence, with around 43% of these deaths being attributed to homicide or unintentional incidents. The remaining 57% of deaths are from suicide; it seems there is no end to this violence.

What is even more con-

cerning is the lack of meaningful action being taken to address the issue. Instead, some lawmakers have made it easier to obtain firearms and have suppressed oppositional voices. In the aftermath of the Covenant School shooting in Nashville, Tenn., two black Democratic legislators, Justin Jones and Justin Pearson, were expelled by the Republican-controlled House for participating in a protest advocating for stricter gun laws. While a third participant, white Democratic legislator Gloria Johnson, narrowly escaped her expulsion vote. The House cited the violation of the decorum rule as the reason for their expulsion, but I can't help but wonder if this was truly the motivation behind their decision.

On April 3, governor Ron DeSantis (R-Fla.), signed a bill allowing residential gun-owners to carry a concealed loaded weapon without a permit. Unfortunately, Florida was not alone. In fact, it is the 26th state to authorize some form of permitless carry.

I am tired of the constant gun violence plaguing our nation and Congress' lack of action on this issue. It is high time that we implement a federal assault weapons ban to

curb the proliferation of deadly weapons in our society. The fear of being caught in a shooting has become a part of everyday life. I can't even go see a movie without constantly scanning for suspicious characters and identifying possible exit routes; the 2012 "Dark Knight Rises" Colorado shooting where twelve people were killed is still fresh in my mind. Although we live in a state that has stricter gun laws, the recent gun-point robbery on our campus is a stark reminder that no place is entirely safe from gun violence.

Even New Haven experienced an increase in gun-related crimes this year, but criminal justice experts warn against accrediting this uptick as a significant trend. Even if it isn't the norm, it is still a tragic reminder of the need to confront and combat this violence.

It's time for our leaders to take action and put an end to this senseless violence. We need to see change that will make our communities safer for everyone. I want to see our flag fly at full-staff again, not as a symbol of mourning but as a sign of hope for a brighter future. We owe it to the victims of these tragedies to do something.

What anxiety means to me

BY WILLIAM HINK
Contributing Writer

Anxiety is something that I feel everyone has experienced in their life. Whether it's stress before a big test or something more existential, anxiety is a part of us.

Now, there is a difference between everyday stress and anxiety: stress usually has a specific cause that the person can trace, while anxiety can pop up unannounced and unexplained. Not to say that anxiety can't pop up under more expected circumstances, however, this has been my experience.

More than a few times, I have swung into full-blown panic for something minor or unexplained. More often than not my mind tends to trace lines between activities and traumas in a way that obstructs my enjoyment. It usually goes something like this: "I want to play this video game I really love. Someone I used to care about but now I'm not on good terms with used to play this game with me. I now associate the game with them. I no longer want to play this game."

Think of it like nostalgia, which in this case refers to associating something with a positive memory, like when you open a new save file of LEGO Star Wars: The Complete Saga and you are transported back to 2011, back to before you were old and crotchety and you had to pay taxes. Instead of those feelings though, you get transported back to whatever negative memory is waiting to make your day a little worse.

It's a difficult thing to manage, especially when you don't exactly know the origin of the anxiety. I have employed the strategy of "Keep it simple, stupid," or "KISS." I first heard this saying when learning about writing and problem solving. I use it as a method of keeping writing concise and to-the-point and use a straightforward problem-solving method that keeps things fast and efficient. I've found the method also helps with managing my anxiety. I can't say with certainty that this method is one-size-fits-all, but I wanted

to share it in case it helps someone else.

The KISS method, when pertaining to mental health, involves one sitting down and doing the most simple, enjoyable and non-harmful activity one can manage. From my experience, anxiety sparks when there's an overload in the system. In this circumstance, the best way to reduce anxiety is to take some time to decompress or distract the mind with some brainless fun. Honestly, just sitting down and watching a show, playing some video games or otherwise relaxing while absorbing stimuli can really help. It's important to make sure that you're not alone with your thoughts; if you're already having anxiety, it's only going to make it worse.

Does this method work 100% of the time? No. Is it always feasible to do this in every environment? No. But ultimately there is no one solution for all cases of anxiety.

Anxiety comes in all shapes and sizes. It can originate from specific traumas or it can show up one day without warning. So your method of management and mine are going to be different.

I've said the word "management" a few times throughout this article and it's because mental illness more often than not, can be managed, not fixed. Mental illness is not always something that goes away. Sometimes it's a permanent part of one's life. In this case, trying to "fix it" only leads to frustration as there is no way to truly get rid of it. Sometimes the best way to treat mental illness is with medication, or with regular psychological counseling such as therapy. I believe that everyone could benefit from going to therapy and taking a deeper look at their mental health and behaviors, but I know that not everyone wants to pursue that route.

Whatever the case, managing stress and anxiety are vital for mental health maintenance, especially for college students with more and more things being loaded onto their already-stacked agenda.



*The flag outside of the library remains at half-mast, West Haven, April 16, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.*

Lacrosse comes away with Elm City rivalry win

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL
Sports Editor

Rivalry games are always circled on the schedule. Teams prepare during the off-season and in practice to come away with a huge win in such an important game. Some teams are able to rise to the occasion and shut down the opponent's game plan, while others walk off the field watching their rival celebrate a win in the midst of a playoff push.

Winning streaks late in the season are always an encouraging sign of good things to come, especially when it comes during a crucial part of the schedule that could make or break a team's playoff hopes. Thursday night marked the third consecutive win for the New Haven lacrosse team as they came away with a 19-12 win over crosstown rival Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU).

With just five games remaining in the regular season, New Haven is currently ranked sixth in the Northeast-10 (NE-10) standings with every game potentially deciding seeding going into the playoffs. The Chargers turned in another great offensive performance, headlined by attacker Raegan Bailey's 100th career goal and a dominant first half that brought them to another big win at home.

New Haven took control of the game from the start as attacker

Annie Acquavita opened the scoring with the first of her two goals on a free-position shot. Attacker Savannah Ernst added her first goal of the game just a minute later to make it a two-goal game early, turning in one of her best games of the season with four goals.

SCSU had no answer early on, as the Chargers scored six consecutive goals to open the game and took a commanding lead. Attacker Bayleigh Takacs notched SCSU's only goal of the first quarter with 6:41 left, but the early struggles continued as they could not maintain possession and generate more scoring opportunities.

New Haven closed out the first quarter with a comfortable 9-1 lead, capped off by a goal from attacker Marielle Colalillo with just 30 seconds remaining.

SCSU made it a six-point game after a pair of goals opened the second quarter, but New Haven answered right back for their 10th goal of the game as Bailey netted her second of five scores.

Just 26 seconds later, Bailey tacked on her third goal to complete the hat trick and made it an eight-point game. Attacker Cameryn Antler stretched the lead to 10 with four minutes remaining in the first half and after two goals from SCSU to cut into the lead, while attacker Caitlin Seleny finished off the Chargers' dominant start with a goal in the final minute of play, taking a 14-5 lead going

into the break.

SCSU cut into the lead early in the second half with goals from midfielder Brianna Shaw and attacker Savannah Feinberg, but could not bring themselves any closer as New Haven's red-hot offense continued to thrive, going back ahead by 10 as Bailey scored her fourth goal of the game with 3:09 left in a man-down situation.

Bailey added her fifth in the fourth quarter for the Chargers' final score of the game in another man-down situation to cap off her historic night and help deliver New Haven a big win against their crosstown rival.

SCSU scored three goals late in the fourth, but it was not enough to come back from their early deficit. The win moved New Haven to 7-6 in NE-10 play with another huge game on the horizon against Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) on Sunday. The two teams were tied for sixth in the conference before New Haven came away with their fourth consecutive win in a tightly contested 22-18 game that put the Chargers one game ahead of SNHU in the conference standings entering the final games of the regular season.

New Haven will now head on the road for their next matchup against Assumption University on Wednesday, April 19. The game is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. as the Chargers look to move up another spot in the NE-10 standings.



The sun sets over the women's lacrosse team, West Haven, April 13, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tori Gonzalez.

Baseball drops 3 of 4 in weekend series vs SCSU

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL
Sports Editor

In a long season, both high and low points are inevitable, as every team sees flashes of successes and losses. Teams are always subject to the rollercoaster of emotions that come with a long season, but the best teams always find a way to slow the game down and get back on track before losing key games late in the season.

Amid an impressive season reaching the number 13 ranked team in the country, the New Haven baseball team dropped their first series of the season, losing three of four games against crosstown rival Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU). The top two teams in the Southwest Division of the Northeast-10 (NE-10) squared off in a crucial four-game weekend series as SCSU sealed the series win in a one-run game that put New Haven two games back of the division lead.

New Haven got on the board early in game one on Friday with three runs in the bottom of the first inning, started by a leadoff double from first baseman Andrew Bianco who advanced to third after a stolen base. After a walk to designated hitter Tyler Wells, Bianco came around to score on an error to give the Chargers an early 1-0 lead.

Left fielder Owen Pincince continued his impressive freshman campaign with a single to right cen-

ter field that scored Wells, creating another scoring chance after stealing second base and advancing to third on a wild throw. Right fielder Shaun Callahan lined a double to right field to cap off the three-run inning and add to their early lead.

Graduate right-hander Izaiya Mestre got the start in game one for the Chargers, firing two scoreless innings before running into trouble in the third. Shortstop Chad Fedeli led the inning off with a double down the right-field line before Mestre got two quick outs with an opportunity to strand Fedeli in scoring position.

A single by right fielder Colin Mason kept the inning alive before a big blow came off the bat of center fielder Andrew Eng who doubled into left-center field and scored on an errant throw that went out of play while tying the game at three.

The game stayed tied at three until the top of the fifth when designated hitter Mike Ferrett broke the game open with a grand slam to give SCSU a four-run lead which proved to be all of the offense they would need to take game one.

New Haven chipped away at the lead with a run in each of the fifth, seventh and ninth innings to make it a one-run game, but could not manage to get the tying run across to complete the comeback.

SCSU took a commanding 2-0 series lead in game one of the doubleheader on Saturday afternoon, coming away with a 7-2 win that

marked New Haven's third consecutive loss. The Owls' offense was alive and well in game one with 11 hits on the game that kept the Chargers' powerful offense quiet.

First baseman Jack Drewry got SCSU on the board in the second with a two-out, two-run home run to right field that gave them an early 2-0 lead. Left fielder Connor Goggin launched a two-run home run of his own in the fourth to make it a four-run game.

SCSU then came up to bat in the top of the fifth with the opportunity to add on after a single through the left side by catcher Billy Sullivan. A groundout moved Sullivan to second and Ferrett continued his hot start to the series at the plate with a double to right-center field that scored Sullivan and gave the Owls a five-run lead.

New Haven got on the board in the bottom of the sixth with back-to-back doubles from Bianco and Wells that made it a 5-1 game. Center fielder Robert Taylor plated Wells with a single through the left side and advanced to second on the throw to make it a three-run game, but the threat ended there, as two quick outs ended the inning and the Chargers' rally.

SCSU added two more runs in the seventh on a double from Ferrett and sealed the deal in the bottom of the inning to take game one of the doubleheader and the first two games of the series.

Left-hander Tyler Sausville got the start for New Haven in game two and earned his third win of the season with a dominant six-inning performance, allowing just one run on four hits and striking out two. Ferret got SCSU on the board first once again with a sacrifice fly to left field that scored Sullivan for an early 1-0 lead in the top of the first. Their lead did not last as the Chargers responded with three runs in the bottom of the inning.

After a single and two walks to lead off the inning, Taylor lined a ground-rule double to right-center field that scored two and kept two runners in scoring position. Catcher Josh Lester knocked in the third run with a sacrifice fly to center to cap off the inning and give Sausville the lead going into the second.

The Chargers tacked on another run in the second on a single to left field by Bianco that plated Franquiz as their offense found their way back to scoring runs early and often.

The score stayed at 4-1 until the bottom of the sixth when New Haven added three more runs to go ahead by six. Taylor scored the first run on a wild pitch before second baseman Noah Budzik lined a single up the middle for the second run of the inning. Budzik advanced to second on another wild pitch before Bianco drove him in with another single.

Closing pitcher Drew Silverman sealed the deal for New Haven with

a scoreless seventh, taking game two of the doubleheader and setting up a potential series split in the finale on Sunday.

New Haven got on the board first in the series finale with a leadoff triple by Bianco to start the threat. Wells hit a ground ball to third which third baseman Derrick Jagello couldn't handle and allowed Bianco to score and take an early 1-0 lead.

SCSU responded with runs in each of the second, third and fourth innings to take a 4-1 lead as their lineup continued to drive in timely runs. After the fourth, the Owls were shut down by New Haven left-hander Liam Carroll, who fired 6.1 innings out of the bullpen, striking out seven and giving the Chargers a chance to spark a comeback and split the series.

New Haven scored two on a sacrifice bunt by right fielder Cole Maucere, as a throwing error sailed over first base and allowed Lester and Taylor to score to make it a one-run game.

The Chargers could not manage to get any more runs across as they dropped the series finale and lost three of four in a crucial weekend series. With losses in four of their last five games, New Haven will look to get back on track in their next matchup with Saint Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) on Wednesday, April 19. First pitch is scheduled for 3 p.m. as the Chargers kick off a five-game stretch against STAC.