

# The Charger Bulletin

The student news source for the University of New Haven

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## Flag raising commemorates start of Black History Month

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH  
Arts & Life Editor

The Black Lives Matter flag currently flies over the German Club on the East side of campus for the second year in a row, following the flag raising ceremony hosted last Wednesday.

That morning, numerous individuals from across the campus community gathered together in light of the start of Black History Month.

The opening speaker at the event was Khristian Kemp-Delisser, the director of the Myatt Center for Diversity and Inclusion, who spoke on some societal trends in the current day. “Some observations I made recently are that voting levels [from] the Black community haven’t been as high as [during] the Obama administration,” said Kemp-Delisser. “Memphis, as you know from the Black civil rights era, is roiling from a spectacular failure of authority and break of [public] trust.”

Kemp-Delisser introduced Interim President Sheahon Zenger, who said, “I look around the platform here and appreciate everyone [for] coming out in the cold and joining us. I look forward to this moment. I can’t help but reflect on the last couple of weeks of honoring Dr. [Martin Luther King Jr.], and particularly our interface service where we heard from so many people of different backgrounds.”

Linda Copney-Okeke, the director of the Accessibility Resource Center and winner of the uni-



Donald Moses addresses the crowd, West Haven, Feb. 1, 2023.

Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Kat Swistak.

versity’s Philip H. and Susan S. Bartels Advocacy, Leadership and Service Award, was also present at the event. After addressing the audience, Copney-Okeke introduced Donald Moses, a university alumnus who graduated in 1980.

“We have had more than

enough of our sense of awareness for Black Lives Matter within the past four or five years,” said Moses.

He told students to “reach out to alumni; develop a rapport; build a network of mentors. How can someone consider themselves to

be a part of a chain, if they are not a link?”

Kemp-Delisser highlighted this question and said “that’s going to stick with me,” before introducing Black Student Union (BSU) President Ariana Eastwood, a senior forensic science major.

“As a Black woman majoring in forensic science, I face the harsh reality of pursuing a career within the criminal justice system,” said Eastwood. “Interestingly enough, a year ago today, I discussed how the system consists of discrimination, racism [and] oppression to historically marginalized groups,” she said. “This is indeed still an issue but it is still difficult to fathom these issues because... people who should be fighting together, are oftentimes against one another.”

The crowd then paused for a moment of silence to “acknowledge the life of Tyre Nichols and the many other African American men and women who have died due to police brutality.”

The BSU president talked about the Recognized Student Organization which she currently leads, informing the audience that it was started in 1973 after the Civil Rights movement. On the intentions and missions of the BSU, Eastwood said it serves as “a forum for faculty, staff and students to have an open discussion about a variety of crucial issues.”

She ended her speech by saying that the flag raising “cannot, and should not, be the end of this university’s call for justice.”

Eastwood and the BSU Vice President Aaron Brooks, a junior marketing major, then raised the flag.

For more Black History Month events, check out the message titled “University Celebrates Black History Month through February” under the “Happening on Campus” tab on MyCharger.

## Senior Day marks 7th straight win for WBB

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL  
Sports Editor

The New Haven women’s basketball team came away with another win on Saturday afternoon for Senior Day, honoring their seven seniors: Camryn DeBose, Kameryn King, Briana Van Cleaf, Alyssa Stevenson, Aliyah Wright, Brianna Diaz and Leighanna Lister.

During their seven-game win streak, the team is averaging 65.2 points per game while allowing just 56.2 points. Now sitting at 13-7, the Chargers have put themselves in position to make a deep playoff run.

Forward Aurora Deshaies placed New Haven on the scoreboard with two jumpers in the paint, followed up by a jumper from guard Lindsey Hogan off a steal by Lister. The defense was strong for the Chargers early in

the game, forcing turnovers to give themselves more opportunities to score.

American International College (AIC) tied the game at 10 on a free throw by Kayla Robinson

but New Haven answered back with a pair of free throws to retake the lead. The Chargers built on their lead in the final minute of the quarter with a three-pointer by King to take a

four-point lead going into the second quarter.

Deshaies broke the Chargers’ early slump in the second with two layups to put them up by

*Continued on page 8*



The New Haven bench celebrates against AIC, West Haven, Feb. 4, 2023.

Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Rodriguez.



The BLM flag, West Haven, Feb. 1, 2023.

Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.

# Previewing Super Bowl LVIII: Number one seeds face off

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL  
Sports Editor

The stage for Super Bowl LVIII has been set, bringing the Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles to Glendale, Arizona to play for the title. Both teams were the number one seed in their respective conferences and will be playing for their second Super Bowl title in five years.

If you appreciate a good storyline, this game will have plenty of refreshing content with lots to follow throughout the game. Already coined “The Andy Reid Bowl”, the Kansas City head coach will be facing the team he coached for 14 years. “It’s going to be awesome, man! What a great Super Bowl,” Reid said in his press conference after the AFC Championship.

Eagles’ center Jason Kelce and Chiefs’ tight end Travis Kelce will make history as the first matchup of brothers ever to play in the Super Bowl. “Win or lose, I’m done being a Chiefs fan,” Kelce said after the Eagles defeated the 49ers in the NFC Championship. Both brothers are future Hall of Famers, making this matchup even more special for fans and the Kelce family.

The game itself will be a battle of two juggernauts, with the Chiefs’ high-flying offense going up against the Eagles’ dynamic pass rush. Philadelphia led the league with 70 sacks in the regular season, which could be a cause of concern for the Chiefs and Patrick Mahomes, especially.

Mahomes has been limited physically since he suffered a high ankle sprain in the divisional round against Jackson-

ville, notably walking with a limp and being forced to stay in the pocket more. This did not stop him from continuing to move completely, sticking with the normal game plan to let him improvise plays, finishing with 43 passing attempts in their win over Cincinnati.

Philadelphia’s pass rush, led by edge rusher Haason Reddick who tallied two sacks against the 49ers, was still able to manage seven quarterback hits de-

spite only 18 passing attempts. San Francisco played almost the entire game without a true passing game after quarterback Brock Purdy tore his ulnar collateral ligament (UCL) in the first quarter but the Eagles were able to stand tall and fully disrupt their offensive game plan.

The Eagles’ offense will face a daunting task in figuring out how to put up points against a strong Kansas City defense

known to make big stops and get the opposing offense off the field in key situations. Philadelphia put up a staggering 69 points in their two playoff games, especially impressive considering that their number one receiving threat, A.J. Brown has not posted more than 30 yards in either game.

Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts had an MVP-type season, going 14-1 in his 15 games played this season but has not been relied upon as much in the postseason. With two blowout victories getting them to the Super Bowl, Hurts has been able to cruise along without having to make a big play with the game on the line. Against a team like Kansas City who can put up points in bunches, Hurts and the rest of the offense will need to respond to pressure and rise to the occasion.

There will be plenty to watch for in this game, and as we get closer to kickoff the anticipation is going to build up and set the stage for what should be a highly competitive game. Two of the league’s top teams will face off in just under two weeks in a game which could either end up a defensive battle or a shootout that comes down to the last possession.



The Kansas City Chiefs’ two Super Bowl titles, Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 1, 2021.  
Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons/Conman33.

## The end of an era: Tom Brady retires after 23-year career

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL  
Sports Editor

Tom Brady’s illustrious 23-year career came to an end on Wednesday morning, when in a surprising video posted to his Twitter account, he said that “he’s done for good this time.” With a legendary career that spanned across three decades and finished with seven Super Bowls, Brady is considered by many in the football community to be the greatest football player of all time.

Starting his career as the 199th overall pick to the New England Patriots in the 2000 NFL Draft, Brady came into the league as a longshot to become a franchise quarterback. Starting his career as a backup behind four-time Pro Bowler Drew Bledsoe, Brady was not given an opportunity to play from day one, only throwing three passes in his rookie campaign.

That opportunity instead came in 2001 when Bledsoe suffered a lung injury in a week 2 matchup with the Jets, sending Brady into the game

and the near future. He completed five of his 10 passes for 46 yards in a 10-3 loss. The loss was just the start of a wonderful career for Brady that would change the trajectory of the league forever.

New England was known as one of the worst organizations in football before the emergence of Brady, but his breakout season in 2001 led the Patriots to their first Super Bowl title in franchise history

and changed that narrative in just one season. With him under center, the team continued to dominate the league, finishing with a winning record for his entire tenure with the team, headlined by an undefeated 16-0 regular season in 2007.

In his 23 years in the NFL, Brady would go on to set an unprecedented amount of wins by a quarterback (251), passing yards (82,914), passing touchdowns (649) and Pro

Bowl appearances (15).

His combination of seeing the whole field and pure arm talent allowed him to dominate the league for as long as he did, which has never been seen in the history of the league. His leadership ability earned him the respect of every player and coach he ever played with, paving the way for his six Super Bowl titles with New England and one with Tampa Bay.

On Feb. 1 last year, Brady announced his retirement for the first time before coming back for one last season with Tampa Bay. “We have unfinished business,” Brady posted on his Instagram, ending his brief 40-day retirement.

In his 23rd season, Brady captured another NFC South title despite finishing with a losing record. The team struggled mightily throughout the season, but with his steady hand at under center, the team was still able to come up with clutch moments to give them another postseason berth.

His final season ended in the Wild Card round with a 31-14 loss to the Cowboys, going 35-66, with 351 yards, two touchdowns and an interception.

Brady’s unprecedented career will surely earn him a spot in the Hall of Fame, leaving behind a legacy that changed the course of the NFL forever. His legacy on the field will never be forgotten, paving the way for future generations of quarterbacks.



Tom Brady on the field against Washington, Washington D.C., Aug. 28, 2009.  
Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons/Keith Allison.

# President Biden is the one of many officials to take home classified documents

BY FAITH ARCURI  
Contributing Writer

President Joseph Biden told reporters that he is cooperating with investigators and has “no regrets” about how his team handled the discovery and disclosure of classified documents from his time as Vice President during the Obama administration.

“I think you’re going to find there’s nothing there. I have no regrets,” he said in his first public comment since the Justice Department assigned a special counsel to investigate how the documents ended up in Biden’s residence and former office.

A series of classified documents were discovered by Biden’s attorneys on four separate occasions between November 2022 and last weekend.

The first set of documents were found in early November in Biden’s former office at the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement in Washington, D.C. and a second set was found about a month and a half later in Biden’s garage at his Wilmington, Del. home.

Biden said the documents were found in a box in a locked closet at the think tank and were turned over to the National Archives as soon as they were discovered on Nov. 2.

The documents found in Wil-

ington appear to be related to his time as Vice President and his tenure in the U.S. Senate. They were found after Biden’s counsel offered full access to the premise as the department investigates his possession of classified material, said Biden’s personal attorney, Bob Bauer.

“DOJ [Department of Justice] took possession of materials it deemed within the scope of its inquiry, including six items consisting of documents with classification markings and surrounding materials, some of which were from the President’s service in the Senate and some of which were from his tenure as Vice President,” Bauer said.

He added the department has “full access” to Biden’s home, “including personal handwritten notes, files, papers, binders, memorabilia, to-do-lists, schedules, and reminders going back decades.”

Biden repeatedly told reporters that he takes classified materials seriously and that he and his team have been cooperating with the DOJ and National Archives since they were first discovered before the 2022 midterms.

The White House refused to comment on the nature of the Biden documents, including why the documents were in his possession for a long period of time without anyone noticing.

But CNN, citing a source familiar with the matter, reported among the items discovered in the private office last fall were 10 classified documents, including U.S. intelligence memos and briefing materials that covered topics including Ukraine, Iran and the United Kingdom.

The timing of the discovery and delayed disclosure of the documents by the Biden administration has Republicans in an uproar, many calling the president a hypocrite for chastising former President Donald Trump — who is currently under investigation for mishandling documents and other charges — after hundreds of pages of classified documents were found in an FBI raid at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida.

After Trump left office in 2021, the National Archives said it realized documents related to his presidency were missing. The National Archives said Trump sent 15 boxes of documents that contained 25 items labeled top secret.

Trump was not the only one to take home documents during his time in office: former Vice President Mike Pence was also found with classified documents in his home.

The FBI searched Pence’s Indiana residence last week, a representative for Pence wrote in a letter to the National Archives.

Pence’s lawyers characterized

them as a “small number of documents bearing classified markings that were inadvertently transported to the personal home of the former vice president at the end of the last administration.” He said they were found on Jan. 16 and placed in a secure safe until they could be returned to the proper authorities.

The revelations about the discovery of these documents abruptly ended “Joe Biden’s best two months since becoming president,” said Matthew Continetti in the Washington Free Beacon. “Biden has been on a winning streak since last November when Democrats avoided a midterm meltdown and the Republican Party lapsed into divisive recriminations.” Meanwhile, Republicans stumbled through an “embarrassing” fight over the House speakership.

This has “been embarrassing, politically, for the Biden White House, which has handled the matter pretty badly,” said Michael Tomasky in The New Republic. “Republicans will make a lot of noise, and the White House, because the matter is under investigation, won’t really be able to respond.”

Many Americans believe that both Biden and Trump acted inappropriately when it came to the handling of classified documents but in weighing their severity, a

majority of the public believes that Trump’s actions were more serious, a new ABC News/Ipsos poll reports.

77% of Americans feel that Trump acted inappropriately in the way he handled classified files, while 64% say the same of Biden. Condemnation expectedly aligns along party lines, with 96% of Democrats saying that handling of the documents wasn’t appropriate compared to the 47% of Republicans.

Reaction to Biden’s actions on this matter varies by party, with 89% of Republicans saying that his handling of classified documents wasn’t appropriate compared to 38% of Democrats and 66% of Independents.

This poll finds that more than twice as many Americans think that Trump’s actions were more severe than Biden’s, with 43% saying Trump’s behavior was a “more serious concern” and 20% saying Biden’s behavior was more serious. Still, nearly 30% of the public find the actions of both to be equally serious.

Independents are much more likely to say Trump’s behavior was more serious than Biden’s—43% to 14%.

Biden will not announce whether or not he plans on running for president in 2024 until he gives the State of the Union Address, according to sources.

# Biden hopes to increase access for free birth control and other contraceptives

BY ERIN SMITH  
Politics Editor

On Jan. 30, the United States Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor and Treasury proposed a rule that would remove an exemption to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that allows employers to opt out of free contraceptives for moral convictions.

The ACA was enacted in March 2010 under the administration of former President Barack Obama, which has notably made birth control and contraceptive services free. However, in 2018 former President Donald Trump made a change to the ACA, allowing private health plans and insurers to exclude coverage of contraceptive services if they have a religious or moral obligation.

Former President Donald Trump’s ruling gave “bosses the power to dictate how their employees can and cannot use their health insurance - allowing them to intrude into their employees’ private decisions based on whatever personal beliefs their employers happen to hold,” said Lourdes Rivera, senior vice president for U.S. programs at the Center for Reproductive Rights. About 62 million women depended on free birth control which was taken away by employers who put the exemptions in place proposed by Trump.

The proposed new rule would “create an independent pathway for individuals enrolled in plans

arranged or offered by objecting entities to make their own choice to access contraceptive services directly through a willing contraceptive provider without any cost.”

Women and others who will use the new pathway to get their birth control will have their provider be reimbursed by an insurer on the ACA exchanges. Then, that insurer “would receive a credit on the user fee it pays the government.”

CNN reports that it may take many months to finalize the new rule because “officials expect many public comments.”

If this rule is finalized, it would be a huge step in the Biden administration’s goal to ensure access to reproductive health care.

The Biden administration said this proposal will “further the government’s interest in promoting coverage for contraceptive services for all women, and in eliminating barriers to access, while respecting the religious objections of employers, health insurance issuers, and institutions of higher education to coverage of contraceptive services.”

Since Trump’s administration added the restriction, students at religious universities that provide health insurance to students have not had access to free birth control and contraceptive services. With this new rule, students will have access to free birth control and other contraceptives.

Many people will benefit from this new rule, but it is up to health

care providers to educate their patients on the independent pathway. Providers and insurers will also need to be willing to set it up for people.

Planned Parenthood Federation of America CEO Alexis McGill Johnson said, “Employers and universities should not be able to

dictate personal health care decisions and impose their views on their employees or students.”

Since the Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, where the constitutional right to abortion was overturned, the right to contraceptive services have been important

to those affected.

This proposed rule would be one step forward in the fight for women to regain easier access to reproductive healthcare, after Trump and the Supreme Court made it increasingly harder for women to obtain certain rights regarding reproductive healthcare.



A table of various contraceptives.  
Photo courtesy of Unsplash/Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition.

# Popular food truck The Plate opens restaurant in Allingtown

BY JUSTIN COVIELLO  
Campus News Editor

Food truck fans can rejoice, as campus' favorite food truck, The Plate, is opening a new restaurant right across the street from the university.

The Side Plate will open beneath the Atwood apartments at 1 Atwood Pl., in the space formerly occupied by Mooyah Burgers, Fries and Shakes.

The Side Plate will function as a healthy option for customers, specializing in fruit and poké bowls, smoothies, salads and wraps. Their menu includes their own carefully crafted concoctions, as well as "build-your-own" capabilities. For those looking to indulge, cheat-day delicacies like fried Oreos will also be available.

"It just made sense to offer healthy options," long-time executive chef Ryan Trevethan said. "Of course [students] like the pizza and the burgers, but many of them gravitate toward healthier eating."

The Plate was created in 2015 by Trevethan in an attempt to create a more health-conscious dining experience, while still embracing the ever-popular "fast-casual" style of restaurant like Shake Shack or Chipotle.

In 2020, at about the same time the university chose to bring in



The new location for The Side Plate, West Haven, Feb. 3, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Charlotte Bassett.

food trucks as another dining option for students at the height of the pandemic, Trevethan saw an opportunity to bring food to those who were more uneasy about indoor dining. With a standing reputation already established between his truck and

the university population, no other location made quite as much sense for The Side Plate.

There are currently plans in place to allow students to use their university ID cards to spend dining dollars and food truck swipes at The Side Plate, and

The Plate's food truck will continue to visit the university.

Trevethan already has plans to tap into the university community as a source of employees, saying, "We do have some [University of New Haven] students that live [in the Atwood apart-

ments] that work for us," and cited the popularity of the open house they held for the restaurant last summer.

The Side Plate will be open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Awards ceremonies continue throughout spring semester

BY JUSTIN COVIELLO  
Campus News Editor

With the conclusion of the Martin Luther King Jr. Recognition Awards, the spring semester looks to continue the awards season with two more sets of nominations now available.

The Faculty Excellence Awards seek to honor the instructors who go above and beyond to be a positive light on campus and exceptional resource for their students.

Nominations are now live in categories such as Excellence in Teaching by Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty, Teaching by Lecturer Faculty, Teaching by Part-Time Instructors, Online Teaching Pedagogy, Experiential Learning as well as Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Access and Belonging.

Eligibility for these awards will largely take into account actions from the past year, with the university saying, "The committee reviewing the nominations will focus primarily on activities during the period [of the] summer 2022 through spring 2023, although

we recognize that an outstanding achievement may be the culmination of several years of accomplishments."

For more information or to access the nomination form, check the "Happening on Campus" tab on MyCharger. A ceremony will be held in May to commemorate the winners, with those honored receiving a monetary prize and certificate. Nominations for the Faculty Excellence Awards are due by Feb. 10.

Meanwhile, The Phenomenal Women Awards are entering their fifth year on campus, aiming to spotlight students, faculty and staff alike for being phenomenal.

All who are nominated will receive a certificate, a shoutout on social media and what the Undergraduate Student Government Association describes as "an exciting surprise."

Nominations can be submitted on Charger Connection under the "forms" tab. Nominees must be submitted by March 1, and will be announced on March 24 for the Phenomenal Women Awards.

## New residential guest policy changes introduce visitor pass

BY JUSTIN COVIELLO  
Campus News Editor

The Office of Residential Life has updated their residential guest policy, now requiring all visitors who do not attend the university to go through a registration process.

In an email sent out on Jan. 27, Tammy Mulrooney, associate director of residential operations, detailed the new steps which residential students will have to go

through in order to bring people from outside the campus into their residence.

Visitors should fill out the guest registration form prior to arriving on campus. The form can be found through myHousing under the Documents and Resources tab, and it must only be filled out once per guest.

New to the guest policy is the visitor pass, also located through myHousing. The visitor pass

cannot be completed until after the guest registration form is filled out. Visitors are expected to have a device on hand to be able to show university officials their visitor pass whenever prompted.

All information pertaining to the updated residential guest policy can be found on pages 175 and 176 of the student handbook. Infractions of the guest policy will be cause for a student conduct hearing.



A car being labelled as a "guest" vehicle, West Haven, Feb. 3, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Charlotte Bassett.

# Muslim Student Association holds World Hijab Day tabling

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH  
Arts & Life Editor

Tabling done by Recognized Student Organizations (RSO) throughout the academic year is one of the ways that these organizations are able to interact with the student body. The Muslim Student Association (MSA) took that tabling approach for World Hijab Day on Friday morning.

“World Hijab Day is very important because it highlights the importance of hijab for women in Islam and in our religion and why they wear it and how it could be empowering,” said Youssef Ossama, a junior marketing major and vice president of MSA. “And it also kind of rebuts the construct that some people believe that the hijab is to oppress women when in reality, or to Muslim women, is usually to empower them and give them the freedom of choice to choose to either wear it or not to wear it.”

The tabling consisted of MSA members talking about the hijab and handing them out to passersby. The MSA vice president went on about the success of the event. “People from all colors, religions, races, nationalities came to the table to try them on,” said Ossama. “And it was a great experience, I feel like everyone enjoyed their time and

learned new stuff. We had multiple people tell us like ‘oh this is so beautiful’”

“It looked like it went pretty well since they ran out of hijabs like two hours before they were supposed to be finished,” said De’Andra Hall, a junior hospitality major and member of MSA. “A lot of people did like going over there, asking questions about it and taking photos with

the hijabs on.”

Hall, who is new to MSA, talked about what made this particular tabling stand out. “This one I really like because it is interactive with the actual table; because most of the table events, they’re kind of just people talking at you.” Hall said, “You can ask questions; you’re actually interacting with the people that actually know more about

hijabs and what they mean.”

Ossama talked about ways for people to educate themselves more on hijabs and hijabis, who are Islamic women who wear hijabs. “I’d recommend that you actually speak to a hijabi woman and ask her what it means to her and why she wears it. And I think that will bring a lot of insight,” said Ossama. The MSA vice president also recommend-

ed doing research online and talking to a Muslim person if they want to learn more about the religion.

The World Hijab Day table is just one of the many events MSA is holding and participating in. If you want to find more MSA events, check out their Charger Connection page or their Instagram page.



Farrah Omar, Youssef Ossama and Secora Chambers (left to right) stand at the MSA World Hijab Day table, West Haven, Feb. 3, 2023. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Sadara Funches.

## Smudgeout's new single is what we've been 'Waiting' for

BY MIA ADDUCI  
Managing Editor

Get your headphones ready on Feb. 10, when solo artist Smudgeout, more widely known as university student Deanna Fielding, releases her new single “Waiting.” Fusing the genres of neo-soul and rock, Fielding showcases the nuance that stands behind the ability to take multiple layers of sound and back her bone-chillingly radiant vocals.

Fielding’s audio engineering background shines equally as powerful as her vocals, while she lays out this limit-pushing single surrounding self-introspection into one’s flaws.

She said her solo work is “a project for my mixing, recording and producing.” This ties heavily into how Fielding describes the process of writing her solo work, in which she finds herself thinking more with her “math and theory brain,” but this should not distract you from her ethereal range of vocals and powerful lyricism, which construct an incredibly layered emotional piece.

This particular project has been in the works for a good while, as Fielding explained how the process began during her time in Nashville, Tenn. where she made connections that advanced her sound production. With this song, she collaborated with another intern, who helped her produce the piano tracks.

Fielding talks about the baggage

that floats around in your brain, and how such getting “pushed out into space” was the design inspiration behind the cover art for “Waiting.”

Sonically, Fielding said that this piece is very different from her future planned releases, which are looking to err more into the genres of punk and grunge sound.

Diving a little deeper into her lyricism, Fielding voiced awareness in her focus on visual and textural verbiage, which is found to have almost created a poetic ambiance

within her songwriting.

There is absolutely no doubt that this song will play on a loop after listeners get a first taste of Smudgeout’s newest stream of sound. When this single is flowing directly into your ears, it’s as if you’ve become engulfed into a world constructed by the sonically genius; allow yourself to be immersed within it.

Be sure to follow Smudgeout on Spotify and check out Fielding’s official website at [deanduzmc.wixsite.com/smudgeout](http://deanduzmc.wixsite.com/smudgeout).



A picture of Deanna Fielding, West Haven, Feb. 2, 2023. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mariah Towles.

## Alternative activities for Valentine's Day

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH  
Arts & Life Editor

Valentine’s Day is a day where all love is celebrated through people gifting each other chocolates and jewelry, having dates or hangouts and just being kind to one another. While this holiday is a joyous occasion for many, it can also be a difficult time for people who do not have close or romantic relationships, especially with the latter being the closest tied to Feb. 14.

Despite Valentine’s Day having the connotation of love for others attached to its name, it should be important to remember that love for oneself is top priority. Here are some ways to practice that.

### Go out to a social event

If you are having trouble trying to meet new people, going out to a party or club that you may know will help with that struggle. Parties are good places to meet people, especially if you know the host or people attending because they are more intimate and there are more people you have likely met. You can mingle with other people and if you are having trouble going up and talking to them, you can point some things out or talk about the weather or day. Just come up with

a good conversation starter and get talking.

### Test out a new hobby

Interested in learning how to knit? Take the time on Valentine’s Day to check out a how-to video or an article on the subject. If you are interested in doing something that will enhance or add to your skill set, take the chance to do so.

### Check out that movie or show

Taking risks can also involve the harsh decision to watch that television show or movie you have been hesitant to watch. Maybe that movie on Netflix will be either a flop or your next obsession, so do not let hesitation prevent you from that likely success.

### Practice self-care

Self-care can appear in many ways: it could be having an at-home spa day, doing some meditation, going out to shop and much more. Doing whatever you need to do to make yourself feel good or better your mind and body are highly suggested. If you do not know where to start when practicing self-care, look at a list of self-care activities.

If you are feeling down on this particular Valentine’s Day, look no further than this list of things to do to lift your spirits.

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**A commitment to freedom of speech**

BY EDITORIAL STAFF

**Editorial**

As a news publication, we hold to the idea of free speech and we try to serve an important role in offering it to all.

Every week, our Opinions section strives to be a microcosm of the public discourse going on in our communities. These reflections are meant to challenge and push the reader's thinking, and sometimes that might be upsetting. Our hope is that discussing these opinions, whether we personally agree with them or not, will drive readers to consider the argument and look beyond the conclusion. It is that conversation that can create change more than anything else.

As an Editorial Staff, it is our responsibility to step away from our bias in favor of open conversations. In a world of divided news networks, this is the core of what it means to be an impartial organization.

This leads to difficult conversations as we strive to reach decisions about what is wrong or right, and when choosing not to publish something is for the greater good. If an opinion crosses into hate speech, then we reserve the right to decline

a piece to protect our audience from certain harm.

We also reserve the right to publish what might be a controversial piece, and as such readers reserve the right to be upset about any opinions they read. But a different side does exist. Opinions with which readers don't agree should drive those readers to question why those opinions exist and the social conditions that bring about such a conversation. Understanding these conditions and having these discussions can foster growth rather than build barriers, but we must be open to these discussions even when they may at times be uncomfortable. We must go beyond sudden reactions to create real progress. As social media drives us to isolation through screens, this can draw our humanity together to form interpersonal connection rather than external division.

The Charger Bulletin will adhere to our beliefs and the belief that words and opinions have merit, regardless of whether you agree with them. We will not publish inherently harmful or violent ideas but we will provide a forum for members of society to have fruitful discussions. We abide by the First Amendment and will continue to do so as an Editorial Staff.



A person holds a free speech sign, London, March 25, 2005. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons/Simon Gibbs.

**Page Six View***U.S. response to Chinese 'weather balloon' came too late*BY LINDSAY GIOVANNONE  
Columnist**Column**

On Saturday a Chinese balloon was spotted floating over Montana. The Pentagon stated that the balloon had been in U.S. airspace for "a couple of days" and was "attempting to survey strategic sites." Chinese authorities insisted that the balloon is a "civilian airship" for weather research and was simply "affected by the westerly wind."

Because a completely innocuous aircraft from a rival global power just accidentally floats across the Aleutians, down through Canada and near U.S. intercontinental ballistic missile bases. Right.

Lynn McMurdie, professor of atmospheric sciences at the University of Washington, said that the balloon floating off course is "a plausible explanation" but "it's preposterous [the Chinese] didn't guess it would end up in North America." It also simply doesn't resemble a weather balloon. Most weather balloons are about twenty feet in diameter, but the Chinese balloon was estimated to be as big as 90 feet. Other key differences were the inordinate amount of equipment it was equipped with and its large distance of travel.

It was not until Saturday, five days after the balloon was first spotted, that it was shot down by an F-22 six nautical miles off the coast of South Carolina. President Biden approved a plan to shoot the balloon down Wednesday, but was told to wait by Pentagon officials who said there was a high risk the falling debris could "potentially cause civilian injuries or deaths or significant property damage." The U.S. Navy and Coast Guard are in the process of

recovering fallen debris, which has spread as far as seven miles.

The Beijing foreign ministry originally gave no indication of potential retaliation over the U.S. destroying the balloon saying, "China regrets that the airship strayed into the United States" and that they were planning to "maintain communication with the U.S. to properly handle the unexpected situation." However, on Sunday, mere hours after the so-called weather balloon was shot down, China condemned the U.S. for using armed force, calling it "an excessive reaction that seriously violates international convention."

At that point, destroying the balloon was arbitrary - it had already floated thousands of miles over the U.S. and collected data. Why not pop it over the remote Aleutian islands? This forces the question of what the Department of Defense's \$773 billion budget is going to; dealing with a balloon should not be a monumental task for a group with nearly one trillion dollars.

This instance should destroy the notion that the U.S. is untouchable and omnipotent. China flaunted its power by floating surveillance equipment the size of a blue whale across the U.S. for five days without any issues aside from the Department of Defense looking at it and President Biden saying he was "gonna take care of it." The choice to shoot down the balloon was a great one, but it was executed too late.

The U.S. government should float a weather balloon over China and see how long it takes them to blow it out of the sky - presumably before it glides thousands of miles over their most sensitive intelligence sites.

**La vita oltre i nostri confini:  
Life beyond our borders***When the romanticism leaves and you're left behind*BY STEPHEN GANGI  
Executive Business Manager**Column**

When you have the ability to take a trip, what factors come into your decision making? Is it the cost? Could it be the excitement of traveling someplace new? Or do you consider the stories you've heard throughout your life of a place more marvelous and beautiful than your home?

Couples often refer to their first vacation together after their marriage as their honeymoon. Frequent travelers are also familiar with the term, but for different reasons. The honeymoon stage is a period of time when entering a new environment or region and feeling as though the world has never been more bright and colorful. Being so overcome with the joy and the excitement of "living your dream," one tends to overlook the smaller and not as exciting details. The usual period of time when the honeymoon effect wears off occurs after you've already booked your ticket and are making your way back home, but what happens if the honeymoon effect wears off earlier than anticipated? All those little details start piling

up, creating a weight heavier than you have ever felt before. Doing so while knowing that your closest support system can sometimes be an ocean away can be overwhelming.

Being away from home for so long can be a challenge. It isn't easy to take steps in an unknown and uncharted territory. But when you are there and when that honeymoon phase wears off, what do you do?

This is something that is real and often transpires to many people but this is something that can be managed and helped. One doesn't need to feel alone. If you're like me, you'll try to find some familiarity in the environment around you. Look for any details that remotely replicate the feeling of comfortability or home.

I come from a hometown that's on top of a mountain and rich in forests and lakes. Staying within the inner city of Prato, most of the plants were away for winter. In a city that has been inhabited for thousands of years, not many grassy spots remain but it wasn't until I ventured outside the city walls - and yes, the city is quite literally surrounded by medieval walls - that I was met with a big lush park just beyond

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## To be queer, but never queer enough

BY MIA ADDUCI  
Managing Editor

### Column

I wish that we lived in a world where gender simply did not exist. Gender expression and sexual identity— as much as we'd like to think have become points of societal nuance— are ages behind where they should be, and the most damaging perpetrators are sometimes people within the LGBTQ+ community.

It's as if there is a competition to be as queer as possible, as openly as possible, and if you aren't gay enough for the gays then your viewpoints on life are perceived as homophobic.

Topics surrounding gender and sexual identity are not identical from person-to-person, and it isn't any person's place to discredit the thoughts and feelings that bring the most comfort to another individual simply because these ideals don't work for them.

I am gay, and I think that gender is the most damaging concept known to man. There's no escaping it. Gender-nonconformity has become a third gen-

der, transitioning has become a process which is under constant scrutiny and if you don't decide what you "want to be," then you are "queerbaiting" and betraying the entire community.

Gender and the way in which it is a driving force in shoving sexuality into restricting boxes is far too outdated to remain a topic of "debate" across people with varying identities.

I shouldn't have to shout from the rooftops that I am a homosexual in order to be respected, and I shouldn't have to publicly open up about the pressure that surrounds solidifying my gender as a queer person in order to be validated, especially with the dangers from the status quo that threaten these divergences.

Labels are harmful, and forcing people to let such a small fraction of their identity consume large amounts of their public image simply to protect them from the scrutiny that comes from using their voice is not fair.

Yes, I am gay, but that is not the first thing that I want people to know about me. I am gay, but I'm also a poet and a journalist.

I am gay, but I also crowdsurf in sweaty rooms for fun.

I cannot count the amount of times that queer people have "assumed [I was] straight," or the amount of times that I have been accused of providing "unwelcome commentary on a community that [I am] not a part of."

I am gay, but since I'm not gay in the way that you are, my voice doesn't matter; maybe it is immediately seen as an outside threat, and you will continue to apply damaging assumptions to me in order to validate your actions that directly attack another queer voice that drowns inside the roars of those aiming to oppress us.

These experiences are not exclusive to me, but unlike the people who have done damage to my comfort in my sexuality, I will not try to speak for anyone but myself.

All queer voices matter, even if they don't project the same song.

Let us be queer, and let us all be queer in peace. I don't have to force myself to be "queer enough."

## Practice what you preach

BY MIA ADDUCI  
Managing Editor

### Column

The University of New Haven prides itself on diversity: it promotes its Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) events until we're sure the fingers of the administration will fall off from typing so much. We also know that promoting and fostering diversity is important; the institution uses our wide range of student demographics and profiles as a marketing tactic when trying to rope in the next wave of Chargers.

With this in mind, and coming from the mouth that stands behind a face you'll likely see at the vast majority of events held on this campus, there is just one lingering question that must be asked: why aren't we doing better?

Attendance at DEI-centric events is low, despite the best efforts of groups of multicultural students, LGBTQ+ representatives and the Myatt Center staff.

Low staffing and representation in these groups has yet to keep them from developing a full agenda of events offered to the university community. Yet for an environment which so heavily enforces the value of diversity, it is rare to see individuals outside of the groups being recognized at an event;

even those of other minority groups on campus.

Members of minority groups who understand the struggles surrounding a lack of representation should be putting as much care and energy into supporting the events of other groups as they do their own.

This isn't to say students never show up to support other groups' endeavors, but that there is much room for growth. We as a community with the power to enact change should be doing better to focus on areas where we can work together to amplify each other's voices more; to make louder the experiences of groups who otherwise go misunderstood.

We are supposed to be uplifting one another, supporting one another and practicing what we preach, yet instead we seem to make it a greater priority to tear down the voices of not only people in affinity groups outside of their own but also those within the same identities with which they do not see eye-to-eye. This is destructive, hypocritical and does arguably just as much damage to the communities that they are trying to defend as the perpetrators with which they go head-to-head.

DEI is more than a marketing tactic and support should be coming from beyond merely the host organization or select representatives of a subgroup of the student population.

## *La vita oltre i nostri confini: Life beyond our borders*

*When the romanticism leaves and you're left behind*

*Continued from Page 6*

my residence.

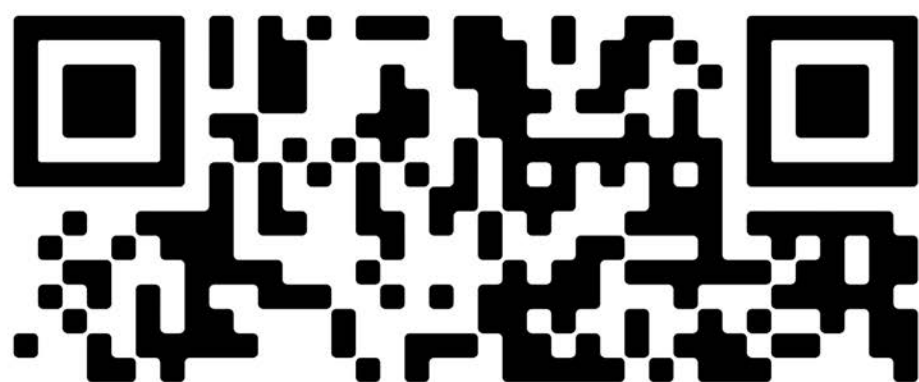
Communicating with those around you is another way one can begin feeling accustomed and less of an intruder to another's home. Talking with the locals is an excellent way of getting to learn more about customs and the local language, as well as finding out about amazing local treasures that you may have missed earlier. Here in Prato, there is an amazing hiking trail that leads up the mountain range right outside the city that I would have never known about if a friend had not told me.

Getting involved in the communication exchange — a program offered by the university where you paired with a local Italian student learning English — is another great way

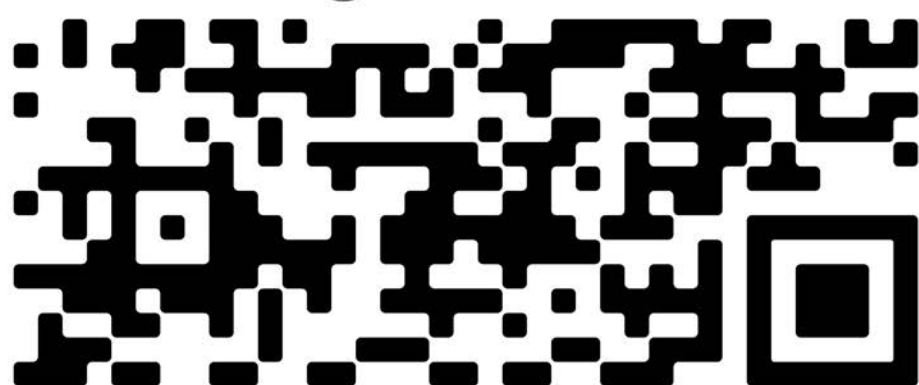
of becoming more involved in the community. I have been told countless times that people who have studied abroad and participated in the exchange continue to talk to their Italian friends to this day; some have even got married to those they met in this program.

All of these options, on top of many more, are all excellent ways of making your time away from home an amazingly memorable experience. Use the school to your advantage, ask for help if you need it and immerse yourself in the experience.

For more information regarding activities and programs relating to study abroad, check online at the Study Abroad tab under student resources on MyCharger.



The Charger Bulletin



SCAN ME

## Longtime coach faces allegations of abusive behavior

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL  
Sports Editor

Last Friday, the Boston Globe launched an investigation into the allegations of abusive behavior from Harvard University women's hockey coach Katey Stone. Stone is in her 26th season as head coach of the team, entering a season full of promise that suddenly took a turn for the worse after the allegations came out regarding Stone's behavior behind the bench.

Harvard's 2021-22 season earned them the number one seed in the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC), in which they suffered a heart-breaking loss to rival Princeton University. Before the team's first game in the NCAA tournament, Stone abruptly stopped practice and called all players to the locker room and let out an outburst that witnesses called "degrading and dispiriting."

Stone accused the players of not paying her enough respect and saying the team was filled "with too many chiefs and not enough Indians." Former Harvard defenseman Maryna MacDonald said Stone looked her in the eyes as she made the comment. "I had learned to navigate a lot of her toxic environment," MacDonald said.

Other players have come out and confirmed Stone's actions, including 2021-22 Ivy League Rookie of the Year Taze Thompson, a descendent of the Cree Nation in Alberta, Canada. Thompson is one of 14 recruited players since 2016 that has left the team, including one of three this season. In the midst of players leaving, the team has also taken a significant hit with a current record of 7-13-3, just a year after finishing 22-10-1.

Sydney Daniels, captain of the 2016-17 Harvard team and current assistant coach, is suing the school "for alleged racial and other forms of discrimination related to Stone and the athletic department." Harvard has not responded to the complaint and has until Feb. 8 to do so.

Stone's continued abuse of the players started a backlash against the school for bringing her back as head coach. The Boston Globe's report has brought Stone's tactics to light, showing insensitivity to the mental health of players, neglecting education and poor motivation. After facing a formal review in 2022, Stone allegedly made discriminatory remarks to her team following a loss.

"It's a culture of complete fear when it comes to [Stone]," said 2019-20 team captain Ali Peper. Stone has called the pillars in

which she has built her team's culture around a "meritocracy," valuing talent and a team-first mindset that puts the team ahead of everything else.

Stone is also known to prioritize her favored players, treating certain players harshly and causing poor team chemistry. The report showed a number of complaints directed towards Stone but have received little to no answer from Harvard administrators and disciplinary roles.

Stone's resume is one of the greatest in the history of women's college hockey. She was named the first female coach of a United States Olympic hockey team, bringing the U.S. to the gold medal game in the 2014 Olympics in Sochi, Russia, where they lost 3-2 in overtime against Canada. Her 516 career wins are the most by any female coach in women's college hockey, qualifying for 12 NCAA tournaments and reaching the championship four times.

Despite the rich tradition of winning under Coach Stone, players have still come out with their fair share of complaints and criticism against her and the school overall. "I will always cherish my time at Harvard," Peper said. "But it was not without physical and emotional scars."

## Women's basketball wins on Senior Day

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL  
Sports Editor

*Continued from page 1*

six. AIC answered right back, cutting the deficit to as little as three with a pair of scores from Tia-Marie Martinez and Taylor Tomlinson. After a timeout by New Haven, Hogan continued her strong start to the game with her first of two threes to stretch the lead back to six. She knocked down her second with 3:11 remaining in the half to give the Chargers their first double-digit lead of the game.

After another steal by Lister, the offense continued to roll with another layup by Deshaies to cap off their 10-point unanswered streak. Neither team would manage to score another basket in the closing minutes, sending New Haven into the half with a 34-24 lead.

King opened the scoring in the second half to pick up right where the team left off. AIC responded quickly, knocking down two threes to make it a six-point game.

New Haven's defense came back around with six minutes left to play in the third after a steal and score by DeBose on a fastbreak. They continued to add on with a pair of jumpers from

Lister and DeBose that would give them a 13-point lead. DeBose then knocked down a three to stretch the lead again and put New Haven in complete control for the rest of the game.

AIC would cut the deficit down to 13 at the end of the quarter after free throws by Robinson and Tomlinson, going into the fourth quarter with lots of ground to make up.

After a 30-second timeout, New Haven's offense got back on track with a jumper by Deshaies, her final score in her team-high 16 point performance. Guard Gabrielle Stickle added to the lead with a big three to bring the lead to 17.

AIC closed the gap as the final minutes approached, cutting the lead down from 15 to about six. King sank six free throws in the final minute to give New Haven a comfortable lead, resulting in a big 70-65 win in a crucial conference matchup.

New Haven will stay at home for their next matchup tonight against Saint Michael's College. Tipoff is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. as the Chargers look to continue their win streak with just five games remaining in the regular season. More information can be found at [NewHavenChargers.com](http://NewHavenChargers.com).

## Men's basketball beats AIC, gets back in win column on Senior Day

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL  
Sports Editor

The New Haven men's basketball team got back in the win column on Saturday afternoon in a big conference matchup with American International College (AIC), coming away with a 62-54 win. With a current record of 14-7 and five games left in the regular season, the Chargers are in a great position to make noise in the playoffs and make a deep run.

Prior to the game, ceremonies were held for Senior Day, honoring the team's seven seniors: Adriel Gill, Andre Francis, Kendall McMillan, Majur Majak, Ty Perry, Victor Olawoye and Quashawn Lane. Each player was recognized for their contributions to the program and was given a nice ovation from the crowd for everything they've done.

New Haven got off to a slow start on offense, turning the ball over six times and failing to register a basket in the first 4:22 of the game. Lane got the Chargers on the board with two free throws to tie the game at two before Jack Hall knocked down a three-pointer to put AIC ahead by three.

New Haven answered right



New Haven's Victor Olawoye attempts a shot against AIC, West Haven, Feb. 4, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Rodriguez.

back with a three by guard Justin Hendrick to tie the game again, but Hall knocked down another three and followed with a layup to make it a five-point game. Majak registered his first points of the night with a layup, and added another with a big dunk to bring

the Chargers within one.

After a jumper by Jalen Jordan, Hendrick knocked down another three to tie the game at 12. New Haven took back the lead on a jumper by forward Davontrey Thomas, and they continued to add on with a layup from Lane

and a three from forward Sean Braithwaite.

Jordan knocked down a jumper to make it a five-point game, but Olawoye built the lead back up with a three for his first score of the game. With five minutes left in the half, AIC answered

right back with a three from Justice Ellison and a layup from Aguibou Balde to cut the deficit to two.

Olawoye responded with two big shots, with one coming from behind the arc, to put New Haven ahead by six. Hall continued his strong performance from three, and Kanye Wavezwa added a buzzer-beater to cut the deficit to two and send New Haven into halftime with a 29-27 lead.

Majak opened the scoring in the second half with another dunk, followed by two free throws from Olawoye to stretch the lead back to six. New Haven started to take a commanding lead halfway through the second half after two jumpers from Lane and free throws from Olawoye and Majak. Thomas added two threes to give the Chargers a comfortable 14-point lead with 5:07 left to play.

Lane and Braithwaite both sank two free throws with a minute to play to seal the game for the Chargers, who came away with a big 62-54 win. The team will look to build on their win on Tuesday night when they take on Saint Michael's College in a crucial conference matchup. More information can be found at [NewHavenChargers.com](http://NewHavenChargers.com).