

# The Charger Bulletin

The student news source for the University of New Haven

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## Black Student Union hosts first campus Black Lives Matter flag raising

BY MIA ADDUCI  
Student Life Editor

On Feb. 1, members of the University of New Haven community gathered outside of the German Club to raise a Black Lives Matter flag for the first time in campus history.

The event began with Dean of Students Ophelie Rowe-Allen, followed by leading voices of the Black Student Union (BSU) Ariana Eastwood and Saniyah Brinney and guest speaker and alumni U.S. Congressman Jamaal Bowman, the first Black representative of New York's 16th Congressional District.

Rowe-Allen spoke about the value of education within the university community and the value of conversation around the experiences of its Black members. She said, "Black history is all our history."

She closed her statement with a call to action for the community, saying, "Widen your vision so that the history that we share this month and every month come to be our history too."

BSU president Eastwood said that this is the first BLM flag-raising in the university's history. Eastwood also said that BSU "allowed conversation to be discussed not only about what is going on in our nation, but what is going on in this campus."

BSU vice president Brinney said the flag-raising sought to "influence and bring unified light to our beloved campus." She also said that the flag was a symbol to "promote unity and inclusion across all races."



Together, Brinney and Eastwood raised the Black Lives Matter flag.

In his opening words, Congressman Bowman said, "I don't think I've ever been prouder to be an alumni than I am this morning."

Throughout his speech, Bowman highlighted the importance of education and constant discussion throughout the community. He also touched on the history of transformative movements in regard to "being honest about where we came from, how we got here and where we need to

go."

Bowman discussed systemic racism's prevalence throughout society and the value of honest conversation in order to counteract such implemented racism in the current system. Bowman discussed his observations and outlooks on multicultural history education throughout not just the local community but the country as a whole. In his speech, Bowman highlighted how Black History Month falls into a window of 28 days, and still is not

covered across the span of the entire year.

How should these discussions be started outside of Black History Month? Bowman repeatedly said, "Just do it."

Bowman and Eastwood spoke about the need for collaboration within the university community. Bowman said, "different groups com[ing] together throughout the year to do events together and collaborate" would be a step in the right direction. Eastwood also spoke of her desire for the

BSU to do more co-sponsorships in order to attract more people to come out and learn about these subjects.

Black History Month has been observed for the past 52 years, with the BLM activist movement and flag emerging in 2013.

As Bowman said, "This flag raising today, and what this Black Student Union is leading at the University of New Haven, is what everyone in our country needs to be a part of."

The American flag and the Black Lives Matter flag fly outside of the German Club, West Haven, Feb. 1, 2022.  
*Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Kayla Mutchler.*



Ariana Eastwood, president of the BSU, speaks at the flag raising ceremony, West Haven, Feb. 1, 2022.

*Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Kayla Mutchler.*



Members of the university community watch the flag raising ceremony outside of the German Club, West Haven, Feb. 1, 2022.

*Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Kayla Mutchler.*

## Book to screen adaptations to look forward to

BY ANTOINETTE YEN  
Entertainment Editor

I've always enjoyed reading books long before they were adapted into binge-worthy series or films. But above all, I've loved the thrill that comes from comparing the former with the latter. Being an avid reader, screen adaptations appear pale in comparison to the beauty of books, but every now and then, there is a binge-worthy series that does a story justice. Here are some adaptations to look forward to this year.

### 1. "Conversations With Friends" by Sally Rooney

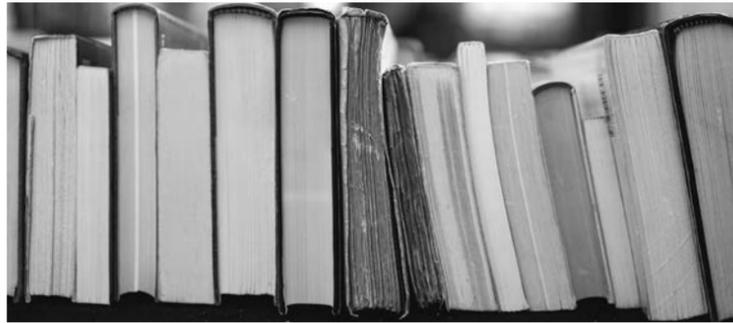
"Normal People" by Sally Rooney was the source material for a Hulu hit in 2020. Her debut novel, published in 2017, is being adapted for the big screen. "Conversations With Friends," which will also be available on Hulu, tells the story of two college students in Dublin and their unexpected relationship with a married couple. The aspiring writer narrates the book, which stars newcomer Alison Oliver as Frances. Sasha Lane plays her best friend Bobbi. Melissa and Nick are played by Jemima

Kirke ("Girls") and Joe Alwyn ("The Favourite"). Frances begins an affair with her husband after befriending Melissa. If it's anything like "Normal People," it'll be incredible.

"Conversations With Friends," is coming this spring.

### 2. "Killing Floor" by Lee Child

Jack Reacher, an ex-military cop, is a drifter. He's just passing through Margrave, Ga., and he's been arrested for murder in less than an hour—not exactly a warm welcome. All Reacher knows is that he did not murder anyone—at least not in this place and not recently. Regardless, he has no chance of persuading anyone in Margrave. "Killing Floor" is irresistible, from its jolting opening scene to its fiery final confrontation.



Books on top of a table.  
Photo courtesy of Unplash/Hermans.

This series just released on Amazon Prime Video, so check it out.

### 3. "Death on the Nile" by Agatha Christie

Kenneth Branagh's adaptation of Agatha Christie's mystery "Death on the Nile" is a follow-up to his witty take on "Murder on the Orient Express." The director returns as mustachioed Belgian detective Hercule Poirot, this time investigating the murder of a young heiress onboard a ship. It's a mystery that, like all Christie's stories, requires a lot of sleuthing to solve. Gal Gadot, Annette Bening and Russell Brand are among the cast members, so you know you're in for a thrilling ride.

You can watch "Death on the Nile" in theaters on Feb. 11.



An announcement that the When We Were Young concert sold out, Jan. 31.  
Photo courtesy of @whemwewereyoungfest on Instagram.

## When We Were Young music festival sparks concern among fans

BY MIA ADDUCI  
Student Life Editor

Live Nation recently announced a massive pop punk music festival, When We Were Young (WWY). Originally scheduled as a one-day event on Oct. 22, 2022, additional dates were quickly added for Oct. 23 and, most recently, Oct. 29.

The original one day event was scheduled to include more than 60 acts spread out across three stages, though recent updates from WWY now advertise "multiple stages of various sizes." As a result of shifts in scheduling and presentation of the event, many prospective attendees are anticipating a repeat of the 2017 Fyre Fest, an event many refer to today as "the world's biggest festival flop."

At Fyre Fest, where ticket packages ranged from \$1,200 to \$12,000, headliner Blink-182, as well as the "gourmet" catering company guaranteed in the VIP packages, dropped out of the festival without notice.

Ticket sales for When We Were Young are running on a system of \$19.99 in nonrefundable down payments and subsequent payment plans, as prices range from \$244.99 to \$519.99.

The festival will be held at the Las Vegas Festival grounds, with headliners including My Chemical Romance and Paramour, and other performers including Pierce the Veil, The Story So Far and Neck Deep.

Fans and concertgoers alike have voiced concerns surrounding the execution of this event. Many are wary of attending another large-scale event organized by Live Nation following the events that took place during Astrofest just months prior, where ten were left dead and numerous

others injured.

Other concerns surrounded the suggestion of placing 62 bands to perform in one venue over the course of just one day, a plan that many online said was "impossible." The event is scheduled to run daily from 11 a.m. to midnight, which therefore would provide a 13-hour window for the entire lineup to take place. Many prospective attendees ran the math on the event, and figured an approximate half-hour show per band if an even distribution were to take place. This allotted time would also contain setup and breakdown for each performer's set.

Upon the announcement of the third date on Jan. 24, where the same complete lineup would perform for a third run, fans took to the Twitter announcement post to voice their concerns. Users have commented on different subjects, including disbelief that "EVERY BAND agreed to a third date," and "thinking about buying a ticket just so I can join in on the inevitable class action lawsuit that comes out of this!"

One user even wrote, "At this point, if you don't see this for the scam it is you deserve to lose your money. There's no way even half the bands have agreed to this, let alone the logistical nightmare it'd be if they did." Many prospective attendees are voicing conspiracies surrounding Live Nation's legal fee debt, saying that the company is "actually just preying on the pop punk scene to pay back their litigation fees."

Despite a widespread variety of concerns, all three dates have sold out entirely as of Jan. 31, and waitlists for each date have already begun compiling lists of names.

## EUPHORIA

The "Euphoria" logo.  
Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

## "Euphoria," I can't take this anymore

BY KAYLA MUTCHLER  
Editor-in-Chief

### Perspective

Three years. I waited about three years for the premiere of season two of "Euphoria."

And I wasn't the only one. The premiere was so anticipated, it actually crashed HBO's servers with its estimated 2.4 million viewers. Yet now, after watching the first four episodes, the anticipation has subsided and it's been replaced by exhaustion.

But, somehow, I still love "Euphoria." Though this season cannot hold a candle to its debut, there is a lot to appreciate.

This is an intense season, to say the least. From Cassie falling in love with her best friend's ex-boyfriend, to Rue struggling with a relapse, and Nate's father, Cal, finally coming to terms with his sexuality, there is a lot to take in.

The issue comes with the narrative. There are many cuts

to random scenes and a little too much "aesthetic." Though these are beautifully-shot and well-planned scenes, the imagery sometimes obscures the actual plot.

This season raises plenty of questions. Who was the mysterious voice who watched Kat during one of her livestreams? What happened to the relationship—or manipulation—between Nate and Jules? And that's just the tip of the iceberg.

However, some fans speculate the reason for the choppiness of this season is a plot device to portray the way Rue is perceiving reality, and she is telling an unreliable version of the story.

I believe "Euphoria" excels in its backstories, specifically with Cal's, where it is nice to have some understanding of his actions, especially after the first season. And though it is difficult to watch, characters such as Rue and Cassie make the show what it is. It is terrifying not knowing what will happen to them, but it

is irresistible to watch.

Yet, much is lacking. This season does not focus much on Kat, a character who, in the first season, joins the online sex work industry and finds love. This season, however, she is barely in it. All we know so far is that she is unhappy in her relationship and struggling with her identity. There have been rumors that show creator Sam Levinson and actress Barbie Ferreira, who plays Kat, got into a disagreement over how Levinson was portraying Ferreira's character. Stories are that Ferreira walked off set and Levinson significantly cut her character.

The series was also just renewed for a third season, so there is no telling what is to come. But I am begging you, HBO, please don't make me wait until 2024 to see the next season. And no matter how much I can't tolerate the choppy storytelling, it is a guarantee that I will continue to watch it.

# What you should know about the “Great Resignation” phenomenon

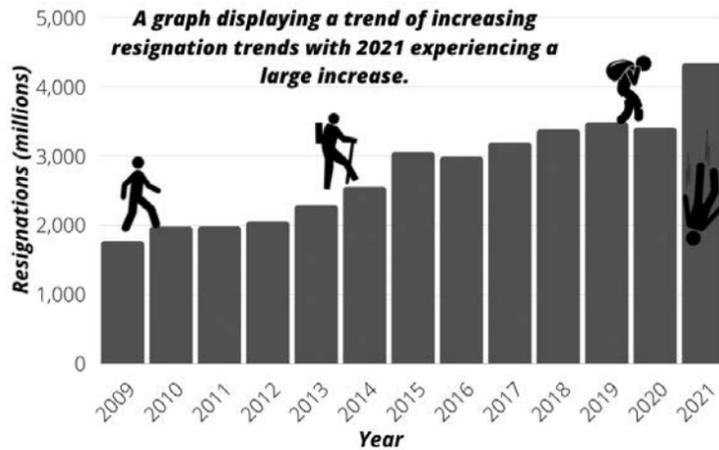
BY LILLIAN NEWTON  
Staff Writer

Over the past few months, more than 33 million Americans have voluntarily resigned from their jobs, leading to the coining of the term “The Great Resignation.” Starting in spring 2021, there has been a wave of employees quitting their jobs for a variety of reasons.

Many older employees have decided to retire early, with their finances boosted by the increasing stock and housing markets. Others are secondary workers, who have had to stay home throughout the pandemic in order to take care of children or because in-person work was made impossible by COVID-19.

At the same time, many employees are quitting to receive better pay or benefits. With varying opportunities arising during the last few years and the job market remaining strong, workers are asking for better pay, benefits, flexibility and

## Resignation Rates By Year



Data from the Society for Human Resource Management

Graphic courtesy of Isabelle Hajek.

treatment. The combination of factors affecting employees and employers alike has given “bargaining power” to the workers, thus resulting in the phenomenon called the Great Resignation.

According to an in-depth analysis of more than 9 million employee records, resignation rates are highest among “mid-career”

employees, who are between the ages of 30 and 45. While historically, turnover is typically the highest for younger employees between the ages of 20 and 25, this number has actually decreased. This is likely due to greater financial uncertainty and reduced demand for entry-level workers.

By industry, the highest rates of resignation can be seen in the

technology and healthcare industries. The analysis found that resignation rates were generally higher in fields that saw drastic increases in demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Analysts believe the stress placed on these areas increased workloads and contributed to employee burnout.

Across the U.S., there are still millions more job openings than there are unemployed people to fill them.

For those willing to commit to their current jobs, the future is bright. A report from the ADP Research Institute showed that in December of 2021, wages for job holders rose by 5.9% compared to the previous year. Employees working at companies with between 500 and 1,000 workers benefited the most from across-the-board raises.

The leisure and hospitality field, an industry that has felt the worst effects of the pandemic, has seen wage stagnation. At the same time, new hires in fields such as professional business ser-

vices and information technology received 12% increases in the wages, on average.

Generationally, wage growth was the most impressive for Gen Z and Millennial workers. Gen Z wages increased by 13.1%, while Millennials saw an average increase of 9.2%.

While the number of workers quitting is what is hitting the headlines, other names have been given to this new era of work. Other terms include: “The Great Reimagination,” “The Great Reset” and “The Great Realization,” all following the narrative that this period has become one in which people are rethinking the role of work within their lives.

Organizational psychologist and professor at Texas A&M University, Anthony Klotz said, “It’s not just about getting another job, or leaving the workforce, it’s about taking control of your work and personal life, and making a big decision-resigning- to accomplish that.”

# Learning from the ascendancy of Trump’s nativist and anti-immigrant rhetoric

BY SAMUEL WEINMANN  
Politics Editor

## Perspective

“For decades, the America-blaming left has been relentlessly pushing a vision of America that casts our history, culture, traditions and founding documents in the most negative possible light,” wrote former U.S. Pres. Donald J. Trump in an op-ed for Real Clear Politics.

This claim was part of a larger commentary by Trump intended to decry Critical Race Theory being taught in schools, which is a concept that acknowledges and addresses the way that U.S. institutions are deeply rooted in oppression, and especially in racism.

Although Trump frequently denounces critical race theory, his entire candidacy and time as president is an example of what the theory works to address—the way that history can repeat itself if not addressed and acknowledged.

Trump ran on a unique set of promises, using nativist rhetoric and a distinct personality to quickly garner the support of millions of Americans. Although his supporters came from different demographics, they were overwhelmingly white, Southern and lower-class. Part of their allegiance was gained by the campaign’s promises of economic growth, though his presidential policies did not reflect that.

As he promised job growth, better wages and more opportunities for American businesses, one of the motifs throughout his

presidency was to provoke and fracture U.S. ties with China. During his term as president, Trump waged a trade war against China, ultimately harming lower-income American merchants.

Trump placed high priority on tax breaks and protections for large corporations rather than protecting smaller businesses and the economic needs of working-class individuals.

In one instance, he implemented the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, which never “trickled down,” or improved economic situations for the working class, as he promised.

Such actions persisted throughout the Trump presidency and raise an interesting question: If Trump’s economic policy hurt the lower and middle classes, and favored large corporations, why would his millions of supporters vote against their own interests?

Much of this explanation boils down to racism—as it invariably does throughout U.S. history.

Part of how Trump gained initial traction was his ability to differentiate himself from other candidates, claiming that he wasn’t a politician, but a businessman, and that his interests were rooted in serving the American people. Many Northerners were put off by his history of racist, sexist and xenophobic remarks and actions. However, his promises caught the attention of one particular demographic: poor, white Americans, living in largely Southern rural areas who say they feel forgotten about in national politics.

His supporters were—and are—deeply cognizant of their



Graphic courtesy of Isabelle Hajek.

own economic position, but lacked critical class consciousness as it applied to the whole population. Critical class consciousness is an understanding of one’s economic position—not just as it pertains to the individual, but as it pertains to an entire social class. This lack of consciousness led them to be more susceptible to Trump’s anti-immigrant sentiments and nativist priorities. Trump successfully convinced his fanbase that their economic struggles were caused by illegal immigrants entering the country, and that the way to solve it would be to “build a wall” and focus on stricter border control.

Although this class consciousness is a necessity, it isn’t an accessible reality for many southerners who don’t have access to education or have the opportunities to study economic

corporations, and forced it into the arms of immigrants who have historically supported this country’s economic needs.

It was this nativist rhetoric that excused him from four years worth of inexcusable actions in the eyes of his fans.

While this was in the past, it is telling of the need for class consciousness. If Trump supporters had a more nuanced understanding of U.S. history and how capitalism has created the conditions in which many of them are living (rather than immigrants), then we would be able to unite against a common enemy, which isn’t ourselves, but capitalism.

Since the beginning, the U.S. government has been making poor white Southerners protect the meager bones thrown to them, hoarded from the people of color only one caste below them who are starving, while the powerful feast upon the spoils of both of the disenfranchised groups’ underpaid labor.

This historical trend manifested itself in Trump’s ideology, proving that when not addressed, history can repeat itself, proving the need for concepts like critical race theory.

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Graphic courtesy of Kayla Mutchler.

## Critical Criminal Justice Alliance takes new approach to conversation on campus

BY MIA ADDUCI  
Student Life Editor

The newest criminal justice organization at the University of New Haven, the Critical Criminal Justice Alliance (CCJA), has hit the ground running, working towards, as their president Mallory Ferrick said, “creating a generation that knows how to improve the system that we created.”

The CCJA is a club for students looking to further their exploration into the criminal justice system and to meet others to engage in an open conversation about issues within it.

Ferrick, a senior criminal justice major, and vice president Kira Lichtblau, a junior criminal justice major, said they hope the CCJA becomes a space that is open for students of all majors in order to “give everyone on this campus the opportunity to come talk about issues they see in the system in a safe space.”

When discussing what differentiates them from other criminal justice-centered organizations on campus, Lichtblau said, “We felt that the other organizations were catering more towards professional development structure and there wasn’t really a space to just talk about and be critical of issues and voice your opinions.”

The CCJA has begun discussing the history of policing and the origins of mass incarceration.

The CCJA is hoping to facilitate an environment surrounded by education this semester through using the criminal justice system to educate on the “intricacies of the system in order to begin connecting



Members of the CCJA meet in Kaplan 105 during their weekly meeting, West Haven, Feb. 1, 2022.

Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Kayla Mutchler.

the student population with each part of society,” said Lichtblau.

The leaders of CCJA said that the current criminal justice system is one that this generation must learn to live in, and therefore those in the student population must “know how to interact” with it.

Future goals for the CCJA include

integrating guest speakers who can provide insight into the criminal justice system that undergraduate students have yet to experience. Their executive board is working with advisor Kevin Barnes-Ceeney to facilitate broader discussions

with these external connections.

Their most recent meeting, which took place on Feb. 1, covered the history of mass incarceration.

For those interested in getting involved with the CCJA, reach out to [mferr10@unh.newhaven.edu](mailto:mferr10@unh.newhaven.edu)

or [klich1@unh.newhaven.edu](mailto:klich1@unh.newhaven.edu)

via email. You can also follow their Instagram, [@unehavenccja](https://www.instagram.com/unehavenccja). Meetings are Tuesdays at 6 p.m. in Kaplan 105 and on Zoom, which will be provided on Charger Connection and their Instagram.

## Spring semester check-in: How do the students feel?

BY SAIGE BATZA  
Student Life Editor

The spring semester is in full swing at the University of New Haven. While many students feel prepared and ready to conquer the work ahead of them, others are reluctant to return to campus and feel unsure about what lies ahead.

Students at the university shared their opinions about returning to campus after the winter break. With the campus climate constantly changing, the university has returned to green COVID-19 status.

Ava Robertson, a freshman

music industry major, said she feels optimistic about the spring semester. “I’m really enjoying my classes so far. My goals are to make the Dean’s List and [to] make more friends.”

Shahd Omar, a junior criminal justice major, also said she is looking forward to the spring semester. “I’m excited to make new memories with my amazing friends and bettering myself this semester.”

One of Shahd’s goals is to get into law school after she graduates next year. “Hopefully this is one of my best semesters on campus for me and all of my fellow Chargers.”



Students work inside of the Bergami Center for Science, Technology, and Innovation, West Haven.

Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Jenelle Johnson.

Although many are feeling well adjusted to the spring semester, other students are questioning their ability to succeed.

Adrielys Gomez, a behavioral economics major, said she is already feeling the weight of her workload this semester.

“I feel like other factors may be making it a bit more difficult for me; as a first-generation college

student, the date of my graduation is slowly but surely approaching. And that brings along its own questions,” Gomez said.

“Am I expected to work automatically? Will I be able to find a job that fits my needs? I can see that it won’t be easy, but that doesn’t mean that it won’t be impossible,” Gomez said. “I have to be able to push away my

negative thoughts, and focus on my academic goals, that will get me to the finish line.”

For those feeling anxious or unprepared, there are resources at the university that are willing to help, such as the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) to ease the transition back to campus.



Students sitting outside of Bergami Hall, West Haven.

Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Lismarie Pabon.

# University community gathers to celebrate legacy of MLK Jr.

BY JASON KULL  
Contributing Writer

On Jan. 26, university community members gathered in the Beckerman Recreation Center to acknowledge the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

After opening words from Dean of Students and Chief Diversity Officer Ophelie Rowe-Alten and President Steven Kaplan, senior Michael Desir sang the Black National Anthem, “Lift

Every Voice and Sing,” and “If I Can Help Somebody.”

Following this, those who have shown exceptional commitment to the ideals of Dr. King through their work, making a difference both on and off campus, were recognized. These Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarships were awarded to junior Anta Fall and sophomore Katiushka Ruiz.

Martin Luther King Jr. Vision Award student recipients were

sophomore Mary Lipa, senior Adrielys Gomez and graduate student Richard Concepcion.

The staff and faculty recipients were Assistant Director of the Myatt Center for Diversity and Inclusion Zanaiya Léon and Associate Professor and Director of Research of Tow Youth Justice Institute Danielle Cooper, respectively.

Yohuru Williams—who is a professor, author, activist and

founding member of the Racial Justice Initiative at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota—gave a keynote presentation. Williams said he planned on giving more of a sermon rather than a speech. He spoke of the ways in which people can change the world around them and how one does not have to do big things to make a big impact.

“Dr. King’s values are our values,” said Williams. “The world

changes according to the way people see it.

Williams also said, “If you can alter even by a millimeter the way people look at reality, then you can change it.”

He ended his keynote with a call to action by saying we are continuing the ripple of hope from those who pushed for change in the past saying, “Charger or Challenger? I can’t tell the difference.”



University community members sit inside of the Beckerman Recreation Center for the event, West Haven, Jan. 26, 2022.  
Photo courtesy of *Charger Bulletin*/Jason Kull.

## Look out for these new COVID-19 policies in place for February

BY FINLEY CHAPMAN  
Contributing Writer

For the start of the new semester, the COVID Task Force has released new directives for students, staff and faculty. Since the list can be overwhelming, here is a guide for what’s new, and what hasn’t changed. More detailed information is available on the COVID Dashboard, as well as in an email that was sent out by the COVID Task Force on the morning of Jan 28.

Booster shots were required for eligible individuals by Jan. 31. A major new directive that came into effect on Feb. 1, divides students, staff and faculty into categories based on vaccination and booster status. Each category has different requirements and protocols based on these statuses.

Category A includes people who are fully vaccinated but did not receive their booster shot and were eligible. This category also includes individuals with a medical exemption for the booster. If you are in this category, you must wear a face mask at all times, including outdoors. You must also maintain 3 feet of social distance, and you will need to be quarantined for five days if you are a close contact

to someone with COVID-19 and you cannot take part in any university travel.

Category B is for people who are fully vaccinated but aren’t eligible to get their booster yet. Once you qualify for your booster, you must get it and submit it to CoVerified within 30 days. If you do not submit your booster record, you have to follow the same guidelines as people in category A.

Category C contains people who are fully vaccinated and boosted. You are considered fully vaccinated but should still submit any symptoms you have to CoVerified.

Finally, Category D is composed of people who are partially vaccinated or unvaccinated but have an approved vaccine exemption. If you are in this category, you need to get tested every seven days to continue having a green CoVerified status. You must also wear a face mask indoors and outdoors, maintain 6 feet of social distance and cannot participate in any university-sponsored travel.

In addition to these new guidelines, the COVID task force put the campus back to green status on January 31. This means that all buildings on campus are open without capacity restrictions and

that students can return to signing other university students into their dorms. As an important reminder, students should continue to wear masks inside any campus buildings and report any symptoms to CoVerified in order to stop possible transmission and new cases on campus or in the community. For COVID-19 related questions, the COVID Task Force is available at [Covidtaskforce@newhaven.edu](mailto:Covidtaskforce@newhaven.edu). If you need to report symptoms, or if you have any health questions and concerns, contact Health Services at (203) 932-7079.

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# University strategic plan: Actions must follow words

BY ISABELLE HAJEK  
Opinions Editor

At the end of the fall 2021 semester, the university released its five-year strategic plan. Listing five Outstanding Success Possibilities (OSP), the plan was written using student and faculty feedback, including surveys such as the Campus Climate Survey.

Each OSP has its own overarching goal with various outcomes, deliverables and sub-deliverables: Market-responsive education (OSP 1); transformative student experiences (OSP 2); Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Service (OSP 3); Customized Educational Models (OSP 4); People First (OSP 5).

In an email to the university community on Jan. 27, campus president Steven Kaplan laid out recent actions that the school has taken in accordance with the strategic plan. He said that a "Connected Core" for six-course, two-program tracks is to be launched in fall 2022, as part of OSP 1. Two grants submitted to the National Endowment for the Humanities also fall under this category.

The email also highlighted the newly created Campus Climate Response Team that will develop a model and system to address "racial or bias incidents on cam-



Graphic courtesy of Isabelle Hajek.

pus," as part of the third OSP.

The university has a long history of students asking for more from the administration in regards to taking action and being transparent. With the recent improvements outlined in Kaplan's email, and the expectation that more will follow, this may mark the beginning of the university actively listening to students' voices.

In the Campus Climate Survey, a student said, "Leadership should continue to make this a

priority and take action - it is no longer time for words and fancy emails... We need to stop doing what is easy and looks good on the balance sheet at the end of the year and take bold action to ensure that we are an inclusive environment for all."

This comment was followed by another student saying, "I have no clue what goes on in the administration. I feel as tho[ugh] the administration is so far removed from students' lives not many will know what to say here."

But demands for change have not only surfaced in anonymous surveys. Students have also taken action to fight for the change they wish to see.

Some recent outcries include the making of the Instagram account OrganizeUNewHaven following the internal appointment of Lorenzo Boyd in 2020, student demonstrations in response to comments at the 2021 9/11 Memorial Ceremony and a formal letter to the university by the Black Alumni Network in 2021 that listed actions and steps that should be taken.

While many of the pleas for action are related to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) efforts, students have also come forward to address campus operational issues like housing, parking, dining and academics.

The strategic plan is a transparent document that holds the university accountable for its students and community. However, only time will tell if action will follow the words so carefully crafted on the page. In five years time, when students look at the state of the university knowing what was promised to them, I am confident that they will be just as outspoken and determined as those who preceded them in demanding more.

# Here is why I love Betty White, and you should, too

BY STEPHEN GANGI  
Contributing Writer

Betty Marion White Ludden, known by many across the world as simply Betty White, died in her home in Los Angeles after a 76-year career in the television and film industry on Dec. 31, 2021. Gracing us with her kindness and comedic personality that made all of her roles memorable, she was loved by many. She starred in the "Golden Girls" and "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," always managing to make us smile even on the toughest days.

Betty White and her humor were consistent throughout her entire career. She would enter a room, and immediately the sounds of laughter and cheers would roam the halls. It is not surprising that she was welcomed and embraced by even recent generations. Sitting down each night, watching the reruns of "The Golden Girls" with my grandmother and laughing at how naturally funny White and her co-stars could be will always be one of my greatest memories. White had an amazing ability to capture the moment and spread positivity through the screen, both in character and out, and it will be hard to find such a shining soul in the industry again.

White was also known as a defender of diversity and inclusion. Betty lended her support to social movements in response to racism and homophobia.

In an interview with Larry King, White said, "I don't care whom you sleep with, it's about the type of human being you are."

The actress wouldn't sit down and idly watch people fight; she was always willing to lend a hand to those in need, and this portion of her personality got her a reputation in her early days of acting. In her later years she represented what everyone in the industry must strive for, and how sometimes it's necessary to act against what society expects from you, and work towards what you believe in to accomplish your goals. She was an inspiration to many young people looking to make it in the industry and promoted individualism.

Such an impact has certainly left me feeling motivated and confident and has allowed me to embrace myself more than ever before. She was always so perfectly herself.

Following her sudden death, which fell just days before her 100th birthday, people took to social media, spreading awareness and taking a moment to remember the happiness that



Betty white holds a kiwi with a zoo staff member at the Smithsonian's National Zoo, Washington, D.C.

Photo courtesy of Openverse/Smithsonian's National Zoo.

what White's assistant had told her, in her final moments, Betty muttered the name "Allen," her late husband. After her husband's death in 1981, the star never remarried. Lawrence followed up saying, "That's so lovingly sweet. I hope that is true." Her dedication knew no bounds. Even in her final moments, Betty White left in the most critically acclaimed manner, as any actress should. She left us wanting more. The world will forever cherish the memories and nostalgia that Betty gave them. It is important to remember and hold onto these memories, because being the person she was, Betty would have wished to see a smile on everyone's face.

Television actress and friend of Betty, Vicki Lawrence who starred in "Mama's Family" with White said that according to

# Missing white woman syndrome affects women of color

BY JENELLE JOHNSON  
Contributing Writer

On Dec. 12 2021, 23-year-old Lauren Smith-Fields was found dead in her apartment in Bridgeport, Conn. after she reportedly went on a date with a white man, identified as Matthew LaFountain. LaFountain was allegedly the last person to see Smith-Fields alive, and the one who reported her as dead to the authorities. The Bridgeport Police Department failed to contact Smith-Field's family, despite her being deceased for over a day.

"They treated her like she had no family, like no one would care," said Tavar Gray-Smith, Smith-Field's brother.

Lauren Smith-Fields was a young Black woman studying physical therapy at Norwalk Community College. According to her friend, Veronica DeLeon, Smith-Fields created beauty and travel content on various social media platforms.

Smith-Fields' mother, Shantell Fields, went to her daughter's apartment after not hearing from her. When she arrived, there was a note on the door which read, "If you're looking for Lauren, call this number."

After speaking with a detective, the family learned that Smith-Fields had been pronounced dead for almost 48 hours. Upon hearing the news about her daughter, Ms. Fields said, "All I could do



Lauren Smith-Fields in a selfie from her Instagram.

Photo courtesy of @sooolalaa on Instagram.

was just stand there, like if I was frozen. I could not believe what he was telling me, that my baby was gone."

The family's experience with the Bridgeport Police Department included "agonizing silence and stonewalling," saying that they had to implore the police detective to collect evidence from Smith-Fields' apartment. LaFountain was not treated as a suspect or a person of interest during the investigation of Smith-Fields' death.

The detective said that LaFountain "sounds like a nice guy" and told the family to not worry about it.

Their attorney Darnell Crossland said, "When you find a

young lady dead and there's a male involved, immediately they are a person of interest, and they should have immediately collected their DNA."

The family referred to the detective on the case as "racially insensitive" and is planning to sue.

Smith-Fields' case is unfortunately another tragic example of the disparate treatment of Black women compared to white women. Black women are too often stripped of their victimhood—such as with Lauren Smith-Fields—and refused the same treatment of white women like Gabby Petito, whose case reached a global audience—receive.

The Bridgeport police's refusal to take Smith-Fields' death seriously, and the limited awareness of her case, has reinforced the conversation about "missing white woman syndrome." When white women go missing their cases are often investigated more intensely and receive wider media coverage.

In 2020 alone, there were over 100,000 reported cases of missing women of color, and none of those cases received nearly as much attention as Petito's case. Not only is the media coverage between white women and women of color disproportionate, but the families of women of color

often receive little support.

Like Smith-Fields' case, these families are left trying to investigate their daughters' cases themselves.

On Dec. 23, Lauren Smith-Fields would have celebrated her 24th birthday. Instead, her family, friends and many others rallied together, marching in celebration of her life, demanding justice and answers all while grieving her death.

"A part of my soul died," said Shantell Fields. "I will never be the same again. I don't even know how to even move from the next day to the next minute. I am really dead inside."

## Charger Bulletin News Auditions

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11 AT 2PM IN THE  
BERGAMI TV STUDIO



OPEN TO ALL NEW ANCHORS AND CREW MEMBERS INTERESTED IN CBN

Graphic courtesy of Lindsay Giovannone.

## Yik Yak attack: A snow storm revival

BY ISABELLE HAJEK  
Opinions Editor

Nothing says throwback more than university students age-regressing back to middle school while stuck inside on a snow-day by reviving Yik Yak.

Yik Yak is a geolocation-based social media platform with a twist—anonymity for its users. The app bans the use of real names on its platform and writing names in posts is a violation of "community guardrails."

The app creates a feed of short posts by other users within a five-mile radius. Users can comment on posts and like (upvote) or dislike (downvote) posts. Those who choose to post on the app receive "Yakarma," a point system based on the amount of posts they make and community interactions with posts, similar to Snapchat snap scores.

The anonymity of the app is both its appeal and its downfall. In 2017, the app was discontinued after years of criticism about the cyberbullying and hate speech on the app, with little consequence to users. Yik Yak returned in Aug. 2021

with promises of improvement, although many users had little hope that the new management would be able to follow through.

University of New Haven students are famous, at least on campus, for snow day shenanigans like phallic drawings in the quad and school-wide snowball fights, but in the midst of Snow Storm Kenan, Yik Yak became a part of that legacy, with grade-school behaviors.

While some of the posts on the site were harmless and remained at the content level that the app promises, others validated the concerns previously voiced. Among the cheeky posts looking for hookups, and commentary about people slipping in the weather and complaining about their exes, others surfaced to spread rumors about students' sex lives and directly commented on people's appearances, all while identifying these people by name—a violation of app guidelines.

The cannon fodder for the app also included greek life on campus. Posts ranged from school-yard taunts to genuine concerns about the organizations' values as they relate to bigotry.

One user wrote, "Does anyone wanna make a club with me that's like a sorority but it's for people that have had bad experiences in sororities. It'll be like a safe space kinda thing for people that wanna be involved."

A different user wrote, "Greek life is what you make it. Each org at any school is going to have its ups and downs, but there's no reason to defer [deter] someone else from wanting to try it and join. if you don't like it u can drop."

Self championed as an app to "find your herd," Yik Yak presents a valuable opportunity for community discourse mixed in with some humor, but, as demonstrated by content taken too far and hurtful rumors spread, the app is liable to mutate into something that would have a your ass dragged to the principal's office and then solidly placed in detention.

As much as the app is fun and creates a platform for some pretty solid feedback, there is a cautionary tale to be told about the app: keyboard warriors and the need to stay kind even when hidden behind the Kevlar of anonymity.

## Our editorial standards: A commitment

BY EDITORIAL BOARD

Since 1928, the Charger Bulletin has served as the official news source of the University of New Haven, striving for timeliness, accuracy and hard-hitting news to keep our community informed.

The opinions section – inclusive of all editorial, perspective and satirical pieces – is an area for students and university affiliates to publish pieces on topics about which they are passionate. As a news outlet, we enjoy all the freedoms and protections of the First Amendment, and we subscribe to the belief that free thought and discourse are a cornerstone to a progressing and ever-changing society.

The editorial staff finds publishing topics that incorporate hate speech, as defined by the American Library Association, is an active hindrance to the Charger Bulletin's goals. In order to ensure that articles are grounded in fact and devoid of harmful prejudice, the editorial staff commits to ensuring the information

provided is accurate, up-to-date and properly attributed.

In an effort to support and facilitate constructive community discourse, opinion articles reflect the perspectives and beliefs of their respective author(s), not those of either the Charger Bulletin publication, holistically, or its individual staff. It is the editorial staff's expectation that all author(s) are individually responsible for responding to reader's criticisms and concerns of their content in accordance with the SPJ Code of Ethics.

The Charger Bulletin has maintained 94 years of success under this philosophy, and the spring 2022 editorial staff anticipates continued success as they uphold these precepts for another year.

# CB

# Men's basketball nets victory, beats Dolphins 80-74

BY TYLER WELLS  
Managing Editor

The New Haven men's basketball team turned to their depth on Saturday afternoon as they beat visiting Le Moyne College 80-74. Without a single standout, the Chargers had 10 players score to give the team a needed boost.

The game opened with neither side finding offense during the first minute of play. Le Moyne started the scoring, jumping out to an early 4-0 lead off baskets in consecutive possessions.

Graduate guard Derrick Rowland, the team's leading scorer this season, got New Haven on the board with a layup. He followed this up with another basket to pace a slow start for the Chargers, who found themselves facing an early seven-point deficit with 13 minutes left in the half. After a timeout, the Chargers began cutting into the lead. Three pointers from junior forward Davontrey Thomas and graduate forward Nick Crocker highlighted the scoring for New Haven as they evened the



Derrick Rowland shoots a free throw against Le Moyne College, West Haven, Feb. 5, 2022. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Wells.



New Haven's Davontrey Thomas takes a layup against Le Moyne, West Haven, Feb. 5, 2022. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Wells.

game at 26.

With under a minute left in the first half and down by one, Thomas caught a pass in the corner and connected on a three to give New Haven the lead. He turned and stared at a boisterous Le Moyne bench before running back on defense. On their very next possession, junior guard Tavin Pierre-Philippe was left open from beyond the arc.

As the clock counted down from eight seconds, his shot found the bottom of the basket to give New Haven their largest lead of the game just before half. Like Thomas, he also turned to the Dolphins' bench and punctuated a strong end to the first half.

Using this momentum, New Haven maintained their lead in the second half. The pace of play sped up as the two sides traded baskets, keeping the New Haven lead at five with 15 minutes to play.

This is when senior forward Antonio Lopez made his presence known; averaging just five points per game, Lopez made a heavily contested layup and a three in two possessions to give New Haven their largest lead of the afternoon. A layup from senior guard Quashawn Lane and free

throws from graduate guard Sean Smith Jr. stretched the New Haven lead to a comfortable 12 points.

Smith, who has found limited time throughout the season, then made an acrobatic layup through contact as the New Haven bench came to life.

Le Moyne, however, responded with authority on the other end; a two-handed dunk cut the lead to seven as they threatened a comeback. For New Haven, Lopez made another basket before being taken out of the game.

"They can't guard me," Lopez said to his teammates as he returned to the bench.

The theme of role players stepping up continued even with Lopez on the bench. Crocker, who has mainly helped the Chargers off the bench, cut to the hoop for an open layup then made two free throws in the next possession.

Though New Haven didn't have a specific player they could turn to the entire game, small moments like this helped give the team a newfound energy they have seemed to lack at times.

Le Moyne remained stout despite New Haven's strong offensive output, cutting the lead to four with six

minutes to play. Baskets from Lopez, Lane and Rowland then stretched the score to 71-63 for New Haven.

This seemed to be enough for the Chargers, who then found themselves with a 10-point lead with just two minutes to play. They then turned to their free throw shooting which has been a weak spot this season, ranking third-to-last in the Northeast-10 (NE-10) at 69%.

Despite two booming threes from Le Moyne's Payton Hudson to cut the lead to five with 15 seconds left, a free throw from Lane iced the game and gave New Haven the 80-74 win.

Lopez and Lane finished the game with 13 points to lead the Chargers, while Thomas (12) and Pierre Philippe (11) rounded out the players in double figures; Thomas also led the team with seven rebounds. Senior center Majur Majak added two blocks, a relatively quiet game for him, to add to his third most blocked shots in the country.

With the win, New Haven improves to 12-7 (8-6 NE-10) while Le Moyne falls to 9-11 (5-8 NE-10). The Chargers now enter the final stretch of the regular season, with



Victor Olawoye lines up at free throw line against Le Moyne, West Haven, Feb. 5, 2022. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Wells.

six games in 12 days. They will look to improve their conference rank, as they are third in the Southwest Division.

New Haven returns to the court on Tuesday night as they host the College of Saint Rose at Charger Gymnasium with tip-off scheduled for 7:30 p.m. More information can be found at NewHavenChargers.com.



New Haven's Davontrey Thomas takes a layup against Le Moyne, West Haven, Feb. 5, 2022. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Wells.

# How a team that went 4-1 1-1 last season made the Super Bowl

BY LINDSAY GIOVANNONE  
Sports Editor

The 2022 Super Bowl, to be held on Feb. 13 at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, Calif., will be played by the Los Angeles Rams (LAR) and Cincinnati Bengals (CIN).

The Bengals are an unprecedented contender for Super Bowl champion. Cincinnati finished last in the AFC North for the 2020-21 season, at 4-11-1. In May 2021, CBS Sportswriter John Breech predicted that the Bengals would finish with a 9-8 record and, in their Week 17 matchup with the Chiefs he said, "they haven't caught up to Kansas City yet."

The Bengals concluded the regular season 10-7, and on Jan. 30, became AFC Conference champions after a 27-24 win in overtime at Kansas City. The Chiefs, arguably the most dominant team coming into the 2021-22 season, lost to a team that had not had a winning season since 2015-16.

Cincinnati's last playoff win – pri-

or to 2022 – was Jan. 6, 1991, with a 41-14 win over the Houston Oilers (now Tennessee Titans). In contrast, Kansas City has not had a losing season since 2012, playing in both the 2020 and 2021 Super Bowls, beating San Francisco in 2020 and falling short to Tampa Bay in 2021.

So, how did a team that started the 2021-22 season with a mediocre outlook become a contender for Super Bowl champion?

This massive turnaround can be attributed to changes in coaching staff and players. Head coach Zac Taylor was hired and assembled a new coaching staff, drafting Heisman Trophy winning quarterback Joe Burrow in 2020. Although Burrow's season was cut short because of a torn ACL and MCL, the Bengals added more to their arsenal when they drafted wide receiver and Burrow's former college teammate Ja'Marr Chase out of Louisiana State University and invested heavily in free agents in 2021.

Kansas City struggled in the AFC Championship. The Bengals defense, which gave up 21 points in the first half, responded in the

second by allowing only three. QB Patrick Mahomes and the rest of the Chiefs offense consistently made errors. Mahomes had a few crucial missed throws, including the first play of OT, and the Chiefs appeared to repeatedly struggle with miscommunication. The Bengals defense capitalized on these mistakes and came up big with interceptions and major stops.

Attitude also wins games. In the divisional round, Bengals' rookie kicker Evan McPherson made a game-winning field goal. When McPherson was walking on the field, Burrow said to him, "Looks like we're going to the AFC Championship."

Then, in the third quarter of the AFC Championship game, Mahomes' short left pass was intercepted by the Bengals at the KC 30, before being downed at the 27. After taking the field, Burrow immediately said to his offense, "When we score, we're going for two." There was no if.

After taking a 24-21 lead, running back Joe Mixon could be heard yelling from the bench, "You gotta

believe!"

Cincinnati's confidence and their bend-don't-break attitude is integral to their success. The adaptability of a team on both defense and offense can be a major factor in the outcome of games.

Throughout the game, Kansas City's mistakes added up – clock management was an issue. On the first drive of the game, Chiefs Head Coach Andy Reid called a timeout prior to throwing a challenge flag. The Chiefs burned their remaining 2 timeouts quickly and ended up on the one-yard line to end the first half, unable to score because of WR Tyreek Hill being tackled in bounds. Repeatedly, Mahomes spent roughly 10 seconds scrambling in the back field looking for an open receiver prior to being sacked.

And, despite winning the coin toss in OT, the Chiefs could not secure a victory. The Bengals came up with an interception after Jessie Bates III deflected a pass from Mahomes into Von Bell's arms.

After nine plays and 42 yards, the Bengals set up a 31-yard field goal with 9:22 left in OT. Once again,

McPherson kicked Cincinnati's way to victory.

On becoming AFC Champions, Burrow said, "I think if you would have told me before the season that we'd be going to the Super Bowl, I probably would have called you crazy. Then, you know, we play the whole season and nothing surprises me now."

The Super Bowl will take place on Sunday, Feb. 13 at 6:30 ET and will be broadcast by NBC.



Graphic courtesy of @nfl on Instagram