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The student news source for the University of New Haven

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Elm City takeover: Basketball sweeps Southern Connecticut



New Haven's Derrick Rowland rises for the dunk against SCSU, West Haven, Feb. 16, 2022. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Wells.

BY TYLER WELLS
Managing Editor

In the second installation of the Elm City Series on Wednesday, the New Haven basketball teams walked away with standout wins in front of over 1,000 fans. It was also a night of recognition and celebration, as the athletic department recognized the Black Lives Matter movement and Black History Month, the men's basketball seniors and the Northeast-10 football championship team.

Prior to tip-off, the New Haven Chargers Instagram page honored their Black athletes.

"Know the past, shape the future," the post said as the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) hosted the Black Lives Matter night. "Not just this month, but every game, scrimmage, and competition we are proud to honor and recognize the accomplishments of our Black student-athletes."

Each team donned a Black Lives Matter warm-up shirt created by SAAC highlighting victims of police brutality. Shirts were also thrown to students in the crowd throughout the men's game.

Women's basketball uses late

run to topple Owls

The women's team took the court first, coming away with a 71-63 win over the Owls. Each side came out firing in the first quarter, with New Haven holding onto a 23-20 lead off a pair of early threes from graduate guard Brie Pergola and another from senior guard Camryn DeBose. The Chargers stretched their lead even further in the second quarter, led again by DeBose who added five points early in the quarter. Junior guard Kameryn King, who has stepped up as a scoring threat this season, also added five points of her own.

New Haven used this scoring output to take a 39-30 lead into the half.

In the third quarter, New Haven stretched their lead to 17 points off a King jumper, a three from Pergola and a layup from junior forward Aurora Deshaies. A three from junior forward Briana Van Cleaf capped the Chargers' scoring in the quarter, as the Owls would respond with their first extended run of the game: an 11-0 stretch to cut the lead to just six heading into the final period.

The Owls kept the pressure in the fourth, tying the game at 57 with just under seven minutes left.

Despite this, the balanced New Haven offense continued finding baskets. The duo of DeBose and Pergola struck again, connecting on two baskets to give New Haven a four point cushion.

After a Deshaies basket, a Southern Connecticut three cut the lead to just one possession. However, it was Van Cleaf again from behind the arc who lengthened the Chargers' lead. Just a 32.5% three-point shooter on the season, Van Cleaf connected twice from deep in the second half to give New Haven a scoring boost.

This proved to be enough for New Haven as they carried the momentum in the final minutes, walking away with the 71-63 victory.

DeBose led the Chargers with 18 points while Deshaies added 17 points and 10 rebounds of her own. Pergola and Van Cleaf each finished with double digit points, with 16 and 11 respectively. King rounded out the scoring, contributing nine points and leading the team with eight assists.

With the win, New Haven continues their stretch of good play and improves to 9-14 (4-13 NE-10) as of Wednesday.

Men's basketball rides momen-

tum to win

The men took the court next, pausing prior to tip-off to recognize their senior class. Following the celebrations, an energetic crowd was ready to see the matchup unfold.

Each side came out firing early, as the adrenaline of the sold-out crowd fueled a high-paced and intense game. Senior center Majur Majak connected on a layup under the rim after collecting an offensive rebound for the first basket of the game before Southern Con-

necticut came back with an instant response.

The first half continued this way, with each side not being able to pull away. With the score tied at 10, back-to-back layups from junior forward Davontrey Thomas and junior guard Tavin Pierre Philippe gave New Haven a four-point lead forcing Southern Connecticut to take a timeout. After the timeout, the Owls went on a run of their own to take the lead.

Later in the half, Pierre Philippe

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New Haven's Brie Pergola handles the ball against SCSU, West Haven, Feb. 16, 2022. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Wells.

Taylor Swift course offered at NYU

BY ANTOINETTE YEN

Entertainment Editor

Is this the evolution of the music industry? Picture this: Swifties earning college credit at New York University's Clive Davis Institute for brushing up on all things Taylor Swift.

According to *Variety*, Rolling Stone journalist Brittany Spanos will serve as instructor for the course, which is based on Swift's musical impact, legacy and journey, among other things. According to the course description, "students will develop an understanding and appreciation for Swift as a creative music entrepreneur."

The course will run from Jan. 26 to March 9. Students will gain a solid understanding of how Swift established a long-lasting presence in the fast-paced musical landscape. Jason King, a musician and composer, will be in charge of the course.

The Swift syllabus includes a look at the "legacy of pop and country songwriters that have influenced" the pop star, in



Taylor Swift's "Reputation" album. Photo courtesy of Unsplash/Raphael Lovaski.

addition to a study of "the way her creativity and song writing have made her a durable presence in a quickly evolving music industry."

While understanding how other notable names have paved a path for the hitmaker, students will uncover the "politics of race in contemporary popular music" and sharpen their critical thinking skills.

King, chair of the Clive Davis Institute, told *Variety*, "To me, the class was a no-brainer when Brittany first suggested it... she's

a Taylor fan but also understands how to contextualize her culturally, and get students to think more deeply about her and her music through the lens of gender, feminism, race, class, and other categories related to identity."

This is not the first time that NYU's Clive Davis Institute has offered classes on famous celebrities. Swift was even invited for a guest lecture appearance, according to *Variety*.

According to NYU, there is a significant waitlist for the course.

Kanye West transitions to Stem Player for release of "Donda 2"

BY MIA ADDUCI

Student Life Editor

Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, has ditched his connections to mainstream music services such as Apple Music, Spotify and YouTube ahead of releasing his highly anticipated "Donda 2," exclusively on Stem Player.

The Stem Player device holds a retail value of \$200, and will be the sole source of access for all of West's upcoming music, according to the artist. He took to social media to express the motives behind his newfound boycott against the most populated streaming services. On Feb. 18, he wrote on his Instagram, "I turned down a hundred million dollar Apple deal. No one can pay me to be disrespected. We set our own price for our own art."

West has also repeatedly spoken up on the lack of proper

compensation of artists through mainstream platforms, in saying that artists only get 12% of the sales yielded from their music.

The Stem Player itself is a circular handheld device with 8GB of storage and delivery now including "Donda 2" pre-downloaded to the system. It also grants users the ability to "control vocals, drums, bass, and samples" in order to alter the music and add effects to isolated components of sound. It also includes bluetooth capabilities and touch-sensitive light sliders on the display.

Sales for the device have allegedly surpassed the \$2 million mark within the first 24 hours.

The highly anticipated album "Donda 2" is set to release today, Feb. 22. West is also expected to perform in Miami on the day of the album release.

West encourages fans to "Go to stemplayer.com to be a part of the revolution."

Big Thief breaks barriers with new, genre-bending album

BY SAMUEL WEINMANN

Politics Editor

Big Thief released their expansive fifth album "Dragon New Warm Mountain I Believe In You" earlier this month. Spanning 20 songs and an hour and 20 minutes, the Brooklyn quartet sings about loss, change and love—in no particular order.

Before the album was officially released, the album was rated a nine out of 10 on Pitchfork, one of the most influential music rating websites since the early 2000s.

"Big Thief's ambitious yet unburdened fifth album is a 20-song epic of kaleidoscopic invention... rambling far beyond the bounds of their previous work," Pitchfork wrote.

Shifting from their signature indie-rock style, the band moved toward their folk roots in this album, with each song creating its own world—and atmosphere—of sound.

Lead singer Adrianne Lenker's voice is unique and captivating. Although her solo work is genius, the 30-year-old singer-songwriter synergizes with three bandmates to create an album that is more ambitious than the first four.

The album starts slow, with a song that is perfectly suited to the band's evolution. In "Change," Lenker sings softly over a slow drum beat, accompanied by the calming strum of an acoustic guitar. "Would you live forever, never die/ While everything around passes?" she

implores. In "Change," Lenker croons about the importance of change, while also embracing the pain that comes with it.

Lenker then applies the concept of change to love and relationships: "Could I feel happy for you/ When I hear you talk with her like we used to?"

The instrumentals—ironically—don't change throughout the song; they remain consistent. Lenker then takes a stark shift. "Death, like a door/ To a place we've never been before," she reaffirms, as the song comes to a close.

Although the song begins in a heart wrenching manner—a signature move of Big Thief—the album doesn't stay that way; it changes.

This change isn't represented only in the themes of the songs, but the genres too. Although the first few songs on the album have folk and country roots, the sound of the album pivots on its title track, "Dragon New Warm Mountain I Believe In You."

The song begins with wind-chimes and the quiet strum of a guitar. Almost immediately, however, the song moves into a world of its own as the band comes together and creates a song that sounds almost extra-terrestrial. Lenker adds onto that sound, as she sings in a hushed voice "It's a little bit magic/ Like a river of morning geese/ In the new warm mountain/ Where the stone face forms and speaks."

Big Thief takes this alternative sound, and runs with it on "Blurred View." The song

begins with a low electronic humming, followed by a steady drum beat, complemented by eerie atmospheric noises. In a similarly hushed voice, Lenker sings "Within the last kiss/ I am the genesis/ While the earth rolls bleeding from its axis."

She then continues, embracing the fact that she contains multitudes. "I am the magazine.. I am the private room... I am the water rise... I am the sweaty sheets... I am the right brain..." she sings in various parts throughout the song.

With this shift in genre, one might expect the rest of the album to follow suit. Big Thief, however, didn't want to remain stagnant. The following song, "Red Moon," takes on more of a country sound, and is upbeat, humorous and energetic.

"I've been here before, looking at the wild country/ Open the screen door, talking with Diane Lee—that's my Grandma!" Lenker announces as the fiddles take center stage.

Through the following songs, Lenker and her bandmates switch between a country sound and an alternative indie sound, leaving the listener on their toes. The album as a whole is an example of the change that Lenker sang about in the album's opening.

This change reaches its climax in "Simulation Swarm," perhaps the band's more technically impressive and captivating song.

The song starts off quiet and steady, with the sounds of drums and guitars creating a mystical atmosphere. Although the sounds



Cover of "Dragon New Warm Mountain I Believe In You" by Big Thief. Photo courtesy of @bigthiefmusic on Instagram.

of the song are entrancing, Lenker's lyrics are what makes this song such a masterpiece. "A relief, beckon deep blue/ Fettered in the magnet sun/ Eat the gun as it feeds you," she sings as guitar harmonics ring in the background. Her voice grows more urgent as the song presses on. "From the 31st floor of the simulation swarm/ With the drone of fluorescence/ Flicker, fever, fill the form," she hushes.

Although the lyrics are largely ambiguous, it is clear that Lenker yearns for those lost in her past. "And you could be my brother/ Once again, fall asleep with our backs against each other/ You believe, I believe too/ That you are the river of light who I love,"

she sings, potentially referring to her brother who was given up for adoption before she was born.

The album, a confusing yet compelling blend of genres, closes in the perfect way with "Blue Lightning," which takes on a country sound as Lenker croons "I want to feel so happy that I cry/ Yeah I want to be the shoelace that you tie/ Yeah I want to live forever 'til I die," she announces as the song comes to a close.

This album, a winding path of genres, emotions and themes, is one of Big Thief's best, exemplifying the way that change is necessary—not just in life, but in art.

The perfect storm: COVID-19, social media and political unrest

BY LILLIAN NEWTON
Staff Writer

Perspective

With the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic, many people have turned to social media platforms to stay connected and entertained. Online platforms such as Instagram and Twitter have allowed individuals to remain in contact with friends and family, especially during the first wave of the pandemic and throughout long periods of quarantine.

This overwhelming use of social media has not only led to a higher degree of connections made during the pandemic but also to an overwhelming spread of misinformation. While efforts have been made by companies to flag and take down posts including false statements or depictions, users are still bombarded with images, articles, and posts depicting false information.

In turn, due to increased connections and the sharing of ideals and information (including misinformation), political unrest and discontent have also risen over the course of the pandemic. Prior to the start of COVID-19, large protest movements around the globe grew 2.5 times between 2011 and 2019, according to

the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP). The IEP later found that in 2020 alone, global civil unrest had increased by 10%. Across 158 countries, the IEP counted over 5,000 instances of pandemic-related violence. Since 2008, violent demonstrations are at their most common point, with peaceful protests also on the rise.

In 2020, the U.S. saw more than 22,000 demonstrations, the world's highest count. Starting in May, demonstrations arose with the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, with some protests and counter-protests involving rioting, clashes with police and altercations with heavily armed militia. The record turnout organized by BLM can be largely attributed to social media sites and platforms, allowing for communication and organization during the pandemic.

The Jan. 6 Capitol Riot is another symptom of increased social media use and literacy. During this riot, thousands of Donald Trump supporters marched to the Capitol, attempting to interfere with the certification of electoral votes from the 2020 presidential election. Rioters assaulted Capitol police, destroyed property, trespassed and sent congressional staff into hiding.



Rioters storm the U.S. Capitol, D.C., Jan. 6, 2021.
Photo courtesy of @committeetoprotectjournalists on Instagram.

On the day of the riot, Facebook's user reports of "false news" hit over 40,000 per hour. On Facebook-owned Instagram, Trump's presidential account was reported most often for inciting violence. Similar to the BLM movement, rioters had planned out the insurrection using social media.

One social media app in particular has come into the spotlight in regards to such mass political communication during the pandemic. Telegram is a social media app used by right-wing

extremists due to its almost non-existent moderation, encryption of chats, file sharing and its mass communication features. Right-wing extremists have adopted Telegram as a favorite form of communication after being kicked off platforms such as Twitter and Facebook.

This combination of political unrest, increased social media connectivity and the increase in misinformation have led to a rise in demonstrations and protests.

Globally, political unrest and demonstrations are rising in

countries such as Thailand, Columbia, South Africa and Myanmar. From Brazil to Belarus, people are angry about the economic hardships they have had to face. They are angry that citizens in higher classes have been the first to receive government aid, medical treatments, and vaccines throughout the pandemic. They are also angry that their leaders were not able to do a better job at containing the virus before it became uncontrollable.

President Biden plans to appoint a Black woman to SCOTUS

BY JENELLE JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

President Joe Biden is committed to his campaign promise to appoint a Black woman to the United States Supreme Court as a replacement for Justice Stephen G. Breyer, who is retiring at the end of the current term session in June. Biden has said that he plans to announce his decision by the end of February. "Once I select a nominee, I will ask the Senate to move promptly on my choice," he said.

Breyer is 83 years old, and the oldest member of the Court. He is also one of three remaining liberal justices. Breyer's plan to retire will allow Biden to appoint a successor and maintain the current 6-3 split between conservative and liberal justices in the upcoming midterm elections. Democrats are trying to avoid a situation similar to that following the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. After Ginsburg's passing, former Pres. Donald Trump appointed Amy Coney Barrett, leaving the court with a conservative majority.

At this point in time, there is a lot at stake for the democratic party. Senator Gary Peters (D-MI) said in a written statement that "Protecting Roe v. Wade, coverage for pre-existing con-



Outside of the U.S. Supreme Court, D.C.
Photo courtesy of Openverse/*rboed*.

ditions, workers' rights and so many other issues central to the lives of every American are all on the line."

"The person I will nominate will be someone of extraordinary qualifications, character, experience and integrity. And

that person will be the first Black woman ever nominated to the United States Supreme Court," said Biden. He also said that this kind of appointment is "long overdue."

There have been 115 Supreme Court Justices, and 108 of them

have been white men. This means that the remaining have either been a person of color, a woman or both. A Black woman, however, has never served on the court.

Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) said, "The court should reflect

the diversity of our country, and it is unacceptable that we have never in our nation's history had a Black woman sit on the Supreme Court of the United States—I want to change that."

There have only been two African American men that served on the court: Justices Thurgood Marshall and Clarence Thomas, and one woman of color: Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who is Hispanic.

There is a large pool of eminently qualified Black female jurists, attorneys and legal scholars that could be potential justices, although this hasn't always been the case. Throughout history, Black women were unable to access the necessary education to enter the legal profession. There are now a substantial number of Black women that are experienced attorneys and scholars.

Possible candidates include U.S. Circuit Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson of the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and Leondra Kruger, a justice on California's Supreme Court. Jackson is 51 years old, while Kruger is 45 years old. Being that both women are young, they have the possibility to serve on the court for decades in the future.

Virtual Black OURstory forum charges community into discussion

BY MIA ADDUCI
Student Life Editor

Throughout the month of February, the University of New Haven community has organized a number of events to celebrate Black History Month (BHM). On Feb. 16, the Division for Student Affairs and Dean Ophelia Rowe-Allen hosted a “Black OURstory” forum to facilitate an open conversation.

Hosted over Zoom, the event facilitated a conversation between university faculty members and current and prior students.

Rowe-Allen led the conversation by prompting the group with questions such as “for those of us in particular who are of color, what is our story?”

She spoke of the feeling of holding the burden of “the pressure to educate, the pressure to correct.”

Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions Phil Howard shared Rowe-Allen’s stance, saying, “A lot of times as a person of color you feel like you... have the burden on you to always speak up... and be the one to hold the torch, and that is a lot of pressure.”

The theme of feeling as if the

Black community has to open lines of communication in the community, typically in a manner that weighs on them, was common throughout the forum.

Individuals also spoke on their experiences of discomfort within the university community. One of these individuals, the Deputy Director of Athletics Robin Salters, commented on her presence as a minority in meetings of the athletics department—in some cases, being the only Black woman and one of few Black people in meetings of over 30 people, an experience which she said was “exhausting.”

Aliyah Phipps, community director of Gerber Hall, said that “With certain folks on campus, particularly white men that I have to interact with... I know that the way they speak to me versus some of my other colleagues is not the same, and I feel like sometimes I have to fight for them to listen to me.”

At the current day, students in positions of authority on campus are found seeking to open up avenues of education within their realm of ability.

Jhinelle Dawson, a resident assistant (RA), spoke about her implementation of BHM trivia to get her residents involved, an item praised by many of the faculty present that afternoon. Dawson did indicate, however, that those who participated were limited, and many were people of color themselves.

Many participants commented on the need for an increase in spaces for such discussions like this one. Alongside Howard, who asked the group to consider how to create more opportunities for education,

alum Ronald Pierce said there is a need to make people “feel more belonged even if it’s a challenge for them,” through ensuring that there are spaces for students to discuss these struggles.

Danielle Cooper, university professor and director of research of the Tow Youth Justice Institute, said that her desire was to “create a space to acknowledge that not every moment will be right.” The discussion covered the value of frequent conversation in order to increase education within the university community.

The university will be continuing to open up forums for discussion throughout the rest of the month. For those interested in getting involved in BHM, check out the USGA’s Open Forum event or the Meaningful Solidarity event being hosted by the Black Student Union and Muslim Student Association, both taking place on Feb. 24. More information regarding these events can be found on Charger Connection.



Students participate in the World Hijab Day tabling event in Bartels Hall, West Haven, Feb. 12, 2022. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Ebube Emelife.

MSA hosts World Hijab Day tabling event

BY SAIGE BATZA
Student Life Editor

On Feb. 17, the Muslim Student Association (MSA) hosted a tabling event to celebrate World Hijab Day, the national holiday that took place on Feb. 1. The MSA decided to host their tabling session a few weeks after the holiday actually occurred because of the preparations needed for the event following winter break.

Shahd Omar, criminal justice major and vice president of MSA, shared what World Hijab Day means to her, and how important it is to break the stigma surrounding Muslim women. “Most of the time when people think about ‘Hijabies’ they always have the misconception that they are oppressed which is not the case. People who choose to wear the Hijab have full choice in doing so. It is their choice completely.”

Omar also shared how her experiences as a Muslim still affect her today. “When I was in 5th grade, I actually used to wear... [the hijab] but the town I grew up in, it was something different

there and was not considered normal. I got bullied out of wearing it.”

Having experienced the oppression and discrimination that Muslim women face every day, Omar would like to see the university implement changes in the future to better represent the Muslim community.

“With one of our holidays coming up, Ramadan, a big way that UNH can [support] is by helping students who have night classes,” Omar said. “For some of us, we’re breaking our fast during said classes. They should allow us a quick, little period of time to just eat and drink. Most Muslims break their fast with dates so that will hold them off a little bit.”

Youssef Ossama, a sophomore marketing major and the treasurer and director of public relations for MSA also shared his thoughts on what World Hijab Day means to him as a Muslim at the university: “Especially as a guy, all I can do is support.”

Ossama also shared what the university could do to better support the Muslim community. “We’ve definitely been in touch with dining about having food

prepared for us. We’ve been in touch, not just for Muslim students, but also for Jewish students. I think that’s something, as a whole, that the student bodies are pushing for.”

The MSA encourages students to get involved as much as possible.

“We have our one-year anniversary coming up, that’s something that students should definitely be on the lookout for,” Omar said. “We’re going to be recognizing and showcasing a lot of the things that we have done in our year of officially being founded by our lovely president, Adrielys Gomez.”

“Thursday nights at 6:00pm are usually when we hold our events in the Myatt Center, which is usually around the time when Muslims break their fast,” Omar also said. “Around that time, we’re going to do a quick, little break and pass out food and let people get what they need to break their fast.”

Students who are interested in attending upcoming MSA events and keeping up to date on their organization can visit their Charger Connection page.

Transition of leadership announced at university

BY SAMUEL WEINMANN
Politics Editor

The University of New Haven Board of Governors (BOG) has unanimously approved an official transition of leadership over the next two years. The new plan, starting on July 1, names Pres. Steven Kaplan the university’s first chancellor and CEO.

His leadership and operational control will largely remain the same, according to BOG Chair Charles Pompea, but he will dedicate more time to fundraising, and creating “strategic partnerships” with the university and other stakeholders.

While Kaplan shifts roles, he will be temporarily replaced by Interim President Sheahon Zenger, who is currently the director of athletics and recreation.

According to an email sent to the university community from the BOG, Zenger will “serve as the internally-facing and community leader of the University.”

Zenger’s job will focus more so on university branding, as well as ensuring that we exceed our revenue targets, according to the email.

Zenger’s duties will include the implementation of the recently announced 2026 Strategic Plan.

Zenger joined the university community in 2019, and has worked and co-taught with Kaplan in the past.

In Zenger’s eight-year career at the University of Kansas, he grew the university’s budget from \$69 million to around \$100 million, and also played an integral part in the construction of multiple new university buildings. According to the University of New Haven BOG, he was a “highly successful fundraiser.”

The new plan won’t change the power dynamics substantially, and according to the email, will be “fully budget neutral,” meaning that there will be no costs necessary for the transition of power.



Pres. Steven Kaplan (left) and Sheahon Zenger (right), who will take part in the transition. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/University of New Haven.

Resident or commuter: Students share their experiences

BY JULIANNA
PEGNATARO
Contributing Writer

One of the most challenging decisions after receiving that long-awaited high school diploma is making a plan for the future. A significant decision that can cause stress for local incoming freshmen and transfer students is deciding whether to reside on campus, or commute.

Sophomore psychology major Aryana Agili said about her campus experience as a residential student, “I have never experienced a boring day. Every single day has always left me with a story to tell, some days even having five different stories.”

Sophomore criminal justice major Lexie Lajoe said living on campus helped her gain new

skills, “I have had the chance to experience living away from home and the growth that has allowed for.”

A primary concern for most students when it comes to being a resident surrounds COVID-19 restrictions. Agili spoke about the impact that COVID-19 has had on her resident experience. “I’ve only been here for two years which hasn’t allowed me to have a COVID-19-free experience in my dorm,” she said. “Sometimes, restrictions make it so hard to see other friends, and especially my boyfriend.”

Although Agili faced those setbacks as a resident, she said she remained resilient. “Even with COVID-19 restrictions, I can easily say I’ll leave this school with lifelong friends.”

Agili said that despite the



The outside of Bethel Hall, West Haven.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Ebube Emelife.



The outside of Gerber Hall, West Haven.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Jenelle Johnson.

setbacks with the pandemic, she has been able to get involved on campus, supporting several clubs such as the American Criminal Justice Association, Alpha Lambda Delta and club tennis.

Along with COVID-19 affecting residents, another issue that this population faces is their lack of confidence when meeting new friends; this can especially be nerve wracking for incoming freshman and transfer students. “Growing confidence was hard at first,” Lajoe said. “You have to interact with a lot of new people on a daily basis. But it has been easy to get involved on campus. You can be as involved as much or as little as you want here.”

One thing that Lajoe wants to see the university improve at is spreading awareness about resources on campus for incoming freshman residents. “The university could do better at clarifying the rules and resour-

es, so they are easier accessed.” She said that with an increase of available resources, the incoming freshman along with the rest of the student body will feel less stressed about their transition to campus.

Emiliano Vega, a junior majoring in computer science, says that his experience as a commuter “has been mostly good, but it could be better.” He said that one of the most positive experiences he has from being a commuter is getting to meet other commuters at the Bartels Student Activity Center on campus.

Sophomore criminal justice major Juliana Proestakis, said being a commuter has benefited her financially. “I don’t need to pay for housing which saves me and my family a lot of money we don’t need to be spending when I live so close to school.”

Some of the challenges that students may face if they choose

to commute is that it can be difficult for them to see their residential friends at the university, Proestakis said, since they have to follow certain rules when entering dorm buildings.

Some students agreed the university could make changes when it comes to supporting commuters. Vega said that, “As a commuter, getting involved on campus [these] last two years was difficult mostly because I didn’t really know anyone outside of my classes.”

“The University should hold more events for commuters to meet each other,” Proestakis said. She also shared an idea about the dorm policy, saying, “I would say to make it a better experience for commuters to feel more at home, is to allow commuters to enter dorm buildings freely so this would make it easier for commuters to hang out with their friends.”

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88.7 WNHU Liaison

Carl Giannelli

Adviser

Susan L. Campbell

300 Boston Post Road | West

Haven, CT 06516

chargerbulletin@newhaven.edu |

www.chargerbulletin.com

Office: 203.932.7182

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Homosexuals: The newest plague infiltrating the Florida school system

BY MIA ADDUCI
Student Life Editor

The U.S. is infamous for the censorship of the public education system. From the removal of classical books from literature curriculums, to the way that a strictly Euro-centric rendition of “national history,” only truly covering the achievements of white folk is taught.

Most recently, Florida legislation is actively considering passing a bill that would ban any conversation surrounding the subjects of gender identity and sexual orientation in the public classroom setting.

The proposal reads: “A school district may not encourage classroom discussion about sexual orientation or gender identity in primary grade levels or in a manner that is not age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students.”

Now, clearly, a couple of selected phrases in this horror film description resonate with the same ambiance of a child trying to write a coherent sentence. Such a profound lack of clarity

from a government motion is terrifying, as not only are the people running one of our largest states incredibly homophobic, but also illiterate.

When considering what constitutes “age”/“developmentally” appropriate for children, it’s fascinating how the only subjects that deviate from developmental normality are those that, in a convenient manner, deviate from heteronormativity.

The bill seeks to allow for deeper parental control over what is taught in Florida’s classrooms. Consider the notion that these parents who find discomfort in having their eight year old hear about two boys who like each other, or a classmate who doesn’t feel bound to the male-female binary, are the same ones who encourage their sons to flirt with five little girlfriends at the same time, because he is a stud, after all. At eight, he truly is blooming nicely for the women. These are the same parents who somehow envy when another child wins over the kid that they wanted to have over for a romantic play-date. Talk about age appropriate

relationships and behaviors.

The issue surrounding primary school as an explicit item of discussion is also confusing. It may even be considerably ironic that fifth grade, the approximate time where students are often taught about puberty and hormonal development, is still being seen as the threshold for “too young” to be opening up discussion about sexuality and gender. In addition to such irony, ruling out the ability to teach on gender

and sexuality would increase the hazardous lack of inclusion in health education. Eliminating inclusive information in developmental and sexual teachings can very likely leave children with a more severe inability to properly understand their own existence as nothing that pertains to their identity is being spoken to them.

Making history and education even more hetero-centric than it already is will do more damage to LGBTQ+ youth than is naturally placed upon them already, ostricizing their experiences from the vast majority surrounding them.

The Trevor Project found that 59% of LGBTQ+ youth felt unsafe in their educational environment due to their orientation. Reducing inclusivity in classroom conversation by legitimately outlawing the discussion of this portion of Florida’s youth would be incredibly detrimental towards their self images.

Florida: the state where your mask can be off, but if you’re going to say gay, you better cover your mouth, regardless.

FLORIDA: THE STATE WHERE YOUR MASK CAN BE OFF, BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO SAY GAY, YOU BETTER COVER YOUR MOUTH, REGARDLESS.

Is it okay that true crime is becoming more popular?

BY PRESLEY DEPUUGH
Contributing Writer

Podcasts, documentaries, television shows and other forms of media are created to give audiences content about real crimes or mysteries. True crime is an entertainment genre that has grown to be enjoyed by millions through these different forms.

True crime podcasts have become popular with titles such as “Morbidity: A True Crime Podcast” that has 51.7 thousand ratings, and “Crime Junkie,” which has 301.3 thousand ratings. One of the most popular true-crime and supernatural YouTube channels, “Buzzfeed Unsolved,” has 461 videos and 5.16 million subscribers. Buzzfeed’s most popular true-crime video is “The Bizarre Death of Elisa Lam,” which accumulated 27 million views within the last five years. With access to the Internet combined with people’s attraction to crime and horror, these creators and their content were bound to become popular.

Society’s fascination with true crime as entertainment has become a social norm. Despite true crime becoming a media staple, many find this attraction to be problematic. Some concerns can be best summarized by F. Diane Barth’s article “Why do we love true crime — and is it healthy for us?” In this article the psychotherapist writes, “Still, some worry that consuming true crime stories is psychologically unhealthy, potentially retraumatizing survivors of violent crimes

on the one hand and desensitizing viewers and readers to the real meanings of these behaviors on the other.”

Since true crime content recounts actual events, some of its subject matter may be triggering to audience members. The idea of people being entertained by events that destroy lives is off-putting to many.

“Why one person watches it versus why another person watches it can be totally different,” says Kendell Coker, an associate professor of psychology at the University of New Haven.

All true crime media consum-

“PEOPLE HAVE A FASCINATION WITH RATED R MOVIES, HORROR FLICKS, SLASHER FLICKS. ALTHOUGH, SOMETIMES, THESE HAVE SOME CONNECTION TO OUR FASCINATION WITH KILLERS AND WANTING TO UNDERSTAND KILLERS.”



A do not cross police barricade, Feb. 12, 2022.
Photo courtesy of Unsplash/David von Diemar.

ers and creators interact with this content for different reasons, ranging from curiosity about how the perpetrator was caught to thinking about why some situations played out so horrifically. The latter reason for watching this content was discussed further by Coker; he said, “People have a fascination with rated R movies, horror flicks, slasher flicks. Although, sometimes, these have some connection to our fascination with killers and wanting to understand killers.”

True crime is a controversial media that remains one of the most popular genres of fiction and non-fiction stories. There are a multitude of motives to engage with true crime content, aside from the general interest in it. There is no stopping society’s curiosity about why bad things happen. Despite the viewer’s morbid fascination with such content, there is no significant effect this genre has on its viewers. Keep watching your guilty pleasure—true crime—as you like.

Pick a side: Team dubbing or subbing

BY ANTOINETTE YEN
Entertainment Editor

With theaters running at an all-time low due to continuous COVID-19 cases, the popularity of streaming films and TV shows on platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime and Hulu have been on the rise. To keep up with continuous streaming and demand, Netflix has expanded their selection to include not only locally produced films, but also foreign films.

Consider the rise and popularity of K-dramas, “Narcos” and how English-speaking audiences are becoming accustomed to subtitles and dubbing as more foreign language films are set to hit theaters in the near future. After all, choosing between subtitles or dubbed dialogue is a matter of personal preference. If given the choice between watching a non-English language film or television show with dubbing or subtitles, I’d choose subtitles.

As a perceptive and introspective individual, the option of subtitles allows me to hear the actors’ true voices, adding to the reality rather than the realism of the silver screen. Dubbing, no matter how well done, may lack originality. The absence of synchronization between dubbed dialogues and movement of the actors’ mouths can be distracting.

Dubbed films occasionally feature a handful of actors playing multiple characters, which can make the experience less enjoyable and even a little confusing. However, there are even a few

drawbacks to using subtitles. Picture this: you’re watching a comedy show. I highly doubt subtitles will make you laugh as hard. Some amount of humor, quirks, character traits and authenticity are naturally lost in the process of translation.

Having said that, I’ve always noticed that when I try to multitask between watching the screen and reading the subtitles, I frequently miss what’s happening on-screen, sometimes due to the speed at which the actors are speaking, and sometimes because there’s just too much to read. It changes the way I watch movies. Picture another scene: you are watching a horror film, but your gaze shifts for a fraction of a second to read the subtitles. Have you missed the most amazing part that we all look forward to in a horror film just by reading the subtitles?

However, there are two sides to this coin: subtitles usually require the viewer’s full attention, which may not be a viable option given that binge watching, or any watching, is an act of leisure rather than strain. Users can sit back, munch on popcorn or their favorite movie-time snacks, and still enjoy the movie. As a result, Netflix has set the majority of their foreign films and TV shows (such as “3%” and “Dark”) to be dubbed rather than subtitled by default.

So, let me ask you again to pick a side—are you on team dubbing or team subbing? Perhaps there will never be a final agreement on this issue.



A laptop displaying Netflix.
Photo courtesy of Unsplash/charlesdeluio.

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Books that have been banned in school systems over the years sit on top of a shelf.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Isabelle Hajek.

First they came for the books

BY ISABELLE HAJEK
Opinions Editor

Then they come for your freedom, because when a subjugated class loses their ability to self-educate and communicate with each other, they lose their most powerful weapon.

For “He who knows these things, and in fighting puts his knowledge into practice, will win his battles. He who knows them not, nor practices them, will surely be defeated,” as was written by Sun Tzu in his piece, “Art of War.”

So what does the U.S.’s recent trends of banned books reflect? A declaration of war against people of color, the LGBTQ+ community, other religions, against all othered identities that if raised to equal social positions in the U.S., the ruling white, rich and powerful class stands to lose their influence in partiality.

According to the American Library Association, in 2019 the top reason for a book to be banned was for LGBTQ+ content with eight of the top 10 books being banned for such content. Other popular reasons are more

specific, citing “gender dysphoria” and “transgender characters” as specific sects of the LGBTQ+ community that are considered too dangerous for children to read.

But the reasons are not always so overt; sometimes “political viewpoint” or “racist content” is cited to pull titles such as “Race and Policing in Modern America,” “What is white privilege” and—ironically—“Race and the Media in Modern Society,” employing the fictitious concept of reverse racism to justify reducing the literacy of social justice topics.

There is merit in discussing the developmentally age-appropriateness of the literature that school-aged children have access to; however, that is not what the majority of these reviewed books are being banned for. Whether it is a kindergarten child being taught that it’s natural to want to hold another little girl’s hand or it’s a senior in high school deconstructing race relations in the U.S., with Ibram X. Kendi’s text, these books make complex topics digestible for all ages, and that is

scary for people in power.

Banned books in schools hold the most political traction and media salience, but the education system is not the only institution that faces this censorship—prisons ban books too.

Despite research demonstrating that an education increases the levels of rehabilitation—decreasing recidivism—various books have been banned from prison system libraries, many of which tackle race relations especially where they concern the justice system.

For instance, in the Texas prison system, the book “Autobiography of a Recovering Skinhead” is banned for racial content while it details a neonazi’s journey to defection and “recovery” in realizing white supremacy is wrong.

Tellingly, “Mein Kampf,” by Adolf Hitler, is not on that banned book list.

In the words of Malcom X, “People don’t realize how a man’s whole life can be changed by one book.” Therefore a library can change a society—but not when crippled by censored shelves and pruned content.

Basketball v. SCSU

Continued from page 1

gave the New Haven crowd sudden life. Facing a 23-18 deficit, a long rebound found the hands of graduate guard Derrick Rowland. With numbers on the fastbreak, Pierre Philippe got behind the defenders and cut to the hoops for a soaring alley-oop dunk. Charger Gymnasium let off a resounding roar of approval.

On the next possession, following a Southern Connecticut miss, Pierre Philippe was left open in the corner. He calmly caught the ball and rattled in the three, turning to the New Haven crowd that was now out of their seats.

Despite the sudden momentum shift, the Owls remained largely in control during the first half. They continued connecting on tough jump shots and contested layups late in the half, finding themselves with a 36-31 lead heading into the break.

The Southern Connecticut lead did not last long. Majak came out of the half strong, slamming two dunks and making a pair of free throws within the first three minutes. Senior guard Quashawn Lane then stepped up, drilling a three and making a layup to tie the game at 42.

New Haven's defense, which has been the team's strength all season, stepped up in the second half. Nothing came easy for the Owls' offense, and New Haven opened a comfortable 11-point lead with over eight minutes left.

Even when Southern Connecticut found a response and broke through the defense, New Haven made their shots. Pierre Philippe

added another basket, Majak connected on a jumper and Lane made a pair of layups to keep the lead at 11. With under three minutes left, Thomas was left wide open as the Owls tried a full court press; he sunk the three and practically sealed the deal for New Haven.

With the win already locked, New Haven turned to some high-flying theatrics to provide an exclamation point for the game.

In his final regular season home game, Rowland caught the ball on a breakaway with just one defender to beat. New Haven's 22nd all-time scorer rose in the lane and powered home a right-handed dunk.

They weren't done there. With the final seconds ticking down, Lane got the ball with no one else around him and a chance to tie one final bow around the rivalry game. He elevated to the hoop and sent home another dunk, capping off their season sweep of the Elm City Series.

Lane finished with a team-high 20 points, while Pierre Philippe and Majak added 14 and 12 respectively. Majak also nearly finished with a triple-double, posting 18 rebounds and nine blocks.

The win marks New Haven's fifth in a row and improves their record to 16-7 (12-6 NE-10). Southern Connecticut's loss drops them to 7-15 (4-12 NE-10).

New Haven concluded their season on Saturday with another win at Adelphi, setting them up for a home playoff game this weekend. For more information on the upcoming playoff games for both the men and women, visit NewHavenChargers.com.



New Haven's Derrick Rowland attempts a layup against SCSU, West Haven, Feb. 16, 2022.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Wells.

Football's championship recognized during halftime

BY TYLER WELLS
Managing Editor

The New Haven football team was honored during halftime of Wednesday's men's basketball game for their Northeast-10 (NE-10) Championship. The team captains - Brett Huber, Affiz Din Gabisi and Mike Zecchin - accepted the championship trophy in front of a sold-out crowd in Charger Gymnasium. It is the team's first conference championship since 2012.

The Chargers have waited for their hardware after beating Bentley University 31-14 for the NE-10 Championship on Nov. 6, 2021. Rather than do a trophy presentation after the game, the conference decided to push the recognition back to a later date.

Zecchin also received the NE-10 Offensive Lineman of the Year Award, being the first to do so since Zach Voytek in 2016. Chris Pincince, the Chargers' seven-year head coach, was honored as the NE-10's Coach of the Year after leading New Haven to a 10-2 (8-0 NE-10) record.

During the ceremony, offensive lineman Michael Wilson received the Elite 24 honors. The award is given to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative GPA at the finals site of each NE-10 Championship game.

Connecticut State Rep. Kathy Kennedy (R-119) was also in attendance to officially recognize the team's accomplishments on behalf of the state's General Assembly.

The 2021 season was the most successful for the New Haven

football team in nearly a decade as they made it to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. Though they fell just short of defeating No. 12 Kutztown University, the Chargers finished ranked as the No. 14 team in the country.

Now, the Chargers look to build upon their success for the 2022 season. The process has already started as the team welcomes a dozen new transfers into the program, including some contributors from Division I programs like Albany, Bryant and Wagner. With the team welcoming back a large portion of their championship winning squad, the Chargers are geared up to repeat in 2022.

For now, they will be content with celebrating their long list of accomplishments from this season.



The New Haven men's basketball team in a timeout, West Haven, Feb. 16, 2022.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Wells.

Track and field competes in Wheaton meet, prepares for championships

BY JOSEPH KLAUS
Staff Writer

The men's and women's track teams recently traveled to Massachusetts to compete in the Wheaton Pre-Post Season meet at Wheaton College. In their final meet ahead of the Conference Championships, the Blue and Gold looked to get their final marks and qualify any last members before traveling to Boston next week.

The sand pit continued to be a home for the Chargers as Nile Colson finished second overall in the long jump. After being seeded in the meet with a jump of 6.31 meters, Colson would go on to beat his seeded distance in just his

third jump when he landed a jump of 6.51 meters. Colson opened up the event with a jump of 5.98 meters and progressively increased jumping 6.05 meters on his second and finally jumped 6.51 meters on his third. That play moved him into second place for the Blue and Gold.

Out of the pit, the Blue and Gold continued to fly as Nathaniel Peters took home third in the high jump. After clearing the opening height set at 1.75 meters on his first attempt, Peters would take it to the wire clearing both 1.80 meters and 1.85 meters on his third jumps at both heights. After clearing 1.85 meters Peters just narrowly missed clearing 1.90

meters, which would have given him sole possession of first in the event. Peters finished third overall after clearing 1.85 meters in the event followed by teammate Kenneth Holland who finished in fifth clearing 1.75 meters.

On the women's side, Alexandra Kenealy finished fourth in the 800 meters with a time of 2:30. After being seeded with a time of 2:35, Kenealy shaved off five seconds and set a new personal record for herself in just the second time running the event. The difference between the top and Kenealy was just four seconds, as Kenealy finished in fourth place for the event.

Brendan Moretti took to the track in the 400m and finished fourth

overall at the end of the event. After winning the second heat in the event crossing with a time of 54:32, he had to wait to see how his time would hold up against the remaining competitors. After four heats, Moretti found himself sitting in fourth place in the event, beating out teammate Jason Smith who finished in 10th with a time of (56.92).

Wrapping up the meet, Isabella Bostic competed in the high jump for the first time in her collegiate career and finished setting a new personal record in the event clearing 1.46 meters. After clearing the opening height of 1.41 meters on her first attempt, it took her three attempts to clear 1.46 meters and

finish her in a tie in the top ten in the event.

Hannah Swain continued to round out the top ten in the women's 400 meter dash. Swain would cross in a time of 1:06.45 finishing her in eighth place in the event for the Chargers.

The Chargers have since returned back home to make their final preparations before they travel to the Reggie Lewis Center in Boston to compete against all their conference opponents in the Northeast-10 Championships with events beginning on Thursday and champions being crowned on Friday.

More information on the upcoming schedule and results can be found at NewHavenChargers.com.