

The Charger Bulletin

The student news source for the University of New Haven

Volume 112, Issue 16 | February 27, 2024 | West Haven, Connecticut



Employees speak out at the rally, West Haven, Feb. 19, 2024.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Alexis Dawkins-Maldonado.

University employees make waves in ongoing battle for new contract

BY ALEXIS
DAWKINS-MALDONADO
Arts & Life Editor

As negotiations for better pay, benefits and a signed union contract continue between the university and its dining and facilities workers, employees have taken two steps to spread awareness about their cause. The union hosted their second rally at 34 Rockview Street behind campus, where they spoke about workers' conditions and Sodexo's attempts at preventing workers from speaking about their struggles.

"We had a worker from Tex Mex who quit," said Benjamin Williams, a union member working at Sodexo. "It was super hot behind the bar because when working there the flat top pressers need to be constantly kept on,

and there was no fan. He complained about it and the managers told him that it was not that hot. He was uncomfortable and they didn't see it."

The employees voiced concerns about what they said is the university's attempts to stifle the voices from the employees by preventing them from talking to coworkers about the union, to the student body or about the press. "When we first started about getting Local 217 on our side, word of mouth went through management, and became an issue," said union worker Richard Ramos. "[It got] to the point where they were sending us letters in the mail about the union, and putting up notes on the time clock about how we're not allowed to talk about it. They said it with their le-

gal jargon, even though it's our freedom of speech."

Ramos believes the school has not done enough to change the misfortunes of Sodexo employees as well as facilities workers.

"There hasn't really been any change going on," said Ramos. "We've been vocalizing ourselves and putting ourselves out there to get our point across, but we haven't received any feedback yet."

Employees have expressed relief working with UNITE Local 217 and the work the union is doing to help university's employees reach their career goals.

"Even though we haven't seen an impact from the school itself, we definitely have more involvement from our new union, versus our old one," said

Ramos.

Employees said they hope students will assist them in their efforts.

"Just back us up," said Ramos. "Word-to-mouth awareness is the best way we can be helped as of right now, keep posting us, and keep spreading positive messages about us." Williams, along with his coworkers, believes that a deal will get done and ultimately end in the signing of a contract.

"We just have to have hope, that's the point in having a union," said Williams. "You have to have faith in them, that it's going to happen. Even if it's meeting us halfway."

The number of protestors continued to grow, and what was at first a small group of red-shirted individuals became a sea of red in just minutes. The

protestors did not exclusively consist of employees, with most attendees bringing their families, as well as children and even pets, amounting to over 250 people.

Isadora Milanez, a UNITE Local 217 organizer, said the protest included employees from UNH and around the state.

"We just wanted to give a shoutout to all the campuses who showed up today," said Milanez. "We have people gathered around from Southern Connecticut State University, University of Hartford, Central Connecticut State University and more."

The protestors had a target spot, Bartels Campus Center, where they stopped and waited for all who had

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Concerns over TikTok's safety arise on the campaign trail

BY ERIN SMITH
Politics Editor

Last week, Nikki Haley, a Republican running for the 2024 presidential election, mentioned safety concerns for the social media platform, TikTok, while in a town hall hosted by Fox News. Her concerns came after Pres. Biden posted a TikTok about the Super Bowl.

Haley also mentioned former Pres. Donald Trump. "Pres. Trump said he would ban TikTok, and when President Xi asked him not to, that fell to the wayside," she said, referring to Xi Jinping, China's leader. "We should have banned it from the beginning. It is incredibly dangerous."

The app is owned by a Chinese parent company called ByteDance. In China,

domestic laws allow Beijing authorities to demand data from local companies, which means ByteDance could access users' data from TikTok.

In Dec. 2022, TikTok raised concerns in Congress because ByteDance could potentially get information from U.S. users. Pres. Biden signed a bipartisan law called "No TikTok on Government Devices Act," which requires TikTok be removed from the information technology of federal agencies.

Other countries passed similar legislation, including but not limited to Canada, Australia, Belgium, European Union, France, India, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Along the 2024 presidential campaign trail, Haley has frequently brought up concerns over TikTok. In

a Republican presidential debate held in Sept., she said TikTok was "one of the most dangerous social media assets."

Months into her campaign, Haley is still talking about TikTok.

"America can't be the last country to ban TikTok," she said in the town hall, though no countries have fully banned TikTok on personal devices.

The U.S. has more than 100 million TikTok users. According to Statista, 36% of TikTok users are between the ages 18-24 and the second highest age group are people between the ages of 25 and 34.

Madison Murphy, a sophomore at the university said, "I use TikTok for entertainment and to pass time. It has opened doors for so many

musical artists and actors and entertainers and taking that away would create an unstable atmosphere surrounding musicians."

TikTok allows for videos anywhere from three seconds to 10 minutes to be posted. Sophomore Brynna Courneen said, "I use it as a mindless distraction throughout my day in place of tv, YouTube, etc. I also like to find recipes, workouts, and other things to mix up my routine."

Sophomore Sydney Moda said, "I think it is an outlet for many people to create videos and it is also a place for people to see inspiring videos that may help them through difficult times. It allows people to share their music and this has allowed many people to gain a following and in some cases

rise to fame."

Courneen and Murphy said they weren't aware of the debates about TikTok's safety, but said that if the app was banned, they expected new social media platforms would be created in its place.

Moda said she has "seen a lot of the political concerns" and understands "the concern over the safety of TikTok especially because it is not owned by a U.S. company."

"However, I do believe that many companies have the potential to get access to U.S. users' data, not just TikTok," Moda said.

As the presidential election heads toward spring primaries, TikTok could be a focus for contenders. The future of TikTok depends on what candidate wins the election and if Congress agrees on further legislation to ban it.

Task force on child sex abuse cases goes to public hearing

BY MIA ADDUCI
Editor-in-Chief

The Committee on Children is continuing its journey through the Connecticut General Assembly in pursuance of a task force to crack down on the approach taken to child sex abuse cases. On Feb. 22, HB5159 (An Act Establishing A Task Force To Study The Responsiveness Of State Agencies To Issues Concerning Child Sexual Abuse) went to public hearing.

At Thursday's hearing, Connecticut Children's — a non-profit health system exclusively focused on children's healthcare improvement through family centered care, research, education and advocacy — delivered testimony in support of the task force's establishment. In their formal statement, the organization pledged support to "any efforts seeking to improve responsiveness

to issues concerning child sexual abuse," and that "our subject matter experts would be happy to collaborate with policymakers and play a role on this task force."

The public hearing also included testimony from State Victim Advocate and attorney Natasha M. Pierre, in which she gave support for the task force with one amendment to its membership. She discussed the background of the Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA) and its role in protecting victim rights in the state of Connecticut. Pierre advocated for an amendment to the current required members of the taskforce to include a designee from the OVA (either the State Victim Advocate herself or someone selected by her).

The director of the Connecticut Children's Alliance (CCA) also gave supporting testimony at the public hearing. Krystal Rich, who oversees

the CCA's ten child advocacy centers and seventeen multidisciplinary teams, said that "we see the need to reflect on the current response and review what can be done to continue to improve."

She shared that the CCA sees approximately 1,700 child sex abuse victims annually, and through such has seen a need for a change in the language used to address

the issue. Rich took time in her testimony to abandon usage of the term "child pornography," as it "inadvertently implies a level of consent or voluntary participation that is not possible for children, who are legally and ethically unable of consenting to sexual activities." Instead, she says that the term "child sex materials" should be mainstreamed in the

discussion, as it "can contribute to a societal understanding of the severity of the crime and the significant impact it has on victims."

She closed her statement by voicing appreciation for the proposed task force's focus on prevention, and said that "We need to look at our response through the lens of prevention if we truly want to end abuse."

If you were a UNH student enrolled in any UNH course as of March 24, 2020 (other than a non-matriculated high school student) and you did not opt out of the Settlement of Krystian Wnorowski, on behalf of himself and others similarly situated v. University of New Haven, Case No. 3:20-cv-1589 (D. Conn.), you will receive the one-time \$200 Non-Cash Tuition Credit described in the Settlement if you enroll or have enrolled in a UNH course commencing in September 2023 or later. Go to www.unewhavensettlement.com for more information.

NAACP ends Black History Month celebrations with a bang

BY ALEXIS
DAWKINS-MALDONADO
Arts & Life Editor

As Black History Month draws to a close, the NAACP chapter at the university hosted their two major final events of the month, the Young, Black and Gifted Cafe, as well as the Inspire and Aspire Banquet, both taking place in the German Club.

The Young, Black and Gifted Cafe, took place on Saturday, Feb. 17 and showcased several Black students in various areas, including in song, dancing, rapping and poetry.

The chapter's president, Sadara Funches, welcomed attendees for coming to the event as festivities began as Kevin Honorio, a student at the university, started the

audience with a self-created rap, titled "Love is good." He also showed a sample of his latest rap, titled "Two Percent Tint."

Secora Chambers, student poet and artist, shared several poems and other written pieces throughout the night as well, with pieces titled "Friendship" that discussed the beauty that African Americans hold as well as all other cultures and ethnicities.

The Inspire and Aspire Banquet, hosted last Saturday, took place from 7-9 p.m. The event was even more anticipated than the cafe, evident by the immediate crowd of over 40 people that funneled in during the first 10 minutes of the event. Less than halfway

through the event, all tables set up at the German club were full of friends, family and several other organization members, all eager to join in the celebration of what was accomplished by the chapter.

Following the dinner, the executive board gave several speeches, starting with Brianna Collins, treasurer of the organization. She discussed the many events the NAACP has hosted throughout the semester and said what the flag means to her. "This flag represents our people's resilience, freedom, and beauty," Collins said. She also encouraged the audience to always appreciate black culture and "continue to celebrate after the 29 days of February,

as you are the trailblazers of our success."

After Collins' speech, Alicia Lind-Windham took to the podium and shared what the NAACP is to her. "The NAACP is a legacy, it is a beacon of hope, and we have accomplished so much throughout our year on this campus," she said.

She created a rewind of the major events the NAACP has hosted this year, including creating necessity bags, the Remembering the Forgotten Vigil and going as far as off campus to the Yale Bowl, collaborating with Yale University's NAACP group.

Director of public relations, Jaylen Bowen, decided to share a short film, which consisted of interviews from several

officials in other RSO's as well as the executive board. Each described their personal experience either in the NAACP chapter or collaborating with the chapter and why they are passionate about the organization.

After the executive board members spoke, Sadara took to the stage once again, expressing her gratitude to other RSO's who played a notable role in the success of the chapter this year, including the Muslim Student Association, their direct affiliate on campus. Among the recognized individuals present included Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students Ophelie Rowe-Allen, who was their direct faculty sponsor.



NAACP executive board at their Black History Month celebration, West Haven, Feb. 24, 2024.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Alexis Dawkins-Maldonado.

Maneuvering the radio waves with Bruce Barber

BY BRUNO VOLONTE
Contributing Writer

Streaming services, podcasts and social media have shifted the landscape and approach of the media, but do people still listen to the radio? Bruce Barber, long-time Connecticut radio host and general manager of the school's WNHU radio station, says radio is still relevant.

"In the past," said Barber, "local radio stations -- along with local TV and newspapers -- owned a virtual monopoly in the way that people consumed news information and entertainment in real time. Today — in the age of smartphones, podcasts, streaming and social media — content choices have expanded exponentially."

According to the 2023 report from Edison Research, U.S. adults spend 71% of their time listening to AM/FM radio, compared to 29% of their time streaming audio. Nielsen, the data and marketing measurement firm, said that radio reached more American consumers than any other platform last year.

Barber is best known as the long-running shock jock co-host of "Smith and Barber: The Morning Show" on 99.1 WPLR in New Haven. This experi-

ence propelled him to be one of the leading observers of this evolution of media, especially in radio. He said his longevity is how radio retains its relevance. Unlike streaming services, radio focuses on the local angle.

"Radio maintains its relevance when content is presented by local personalities dealing with local issues, and properly run stations have the opportunity to build wonderful communities around this content," Barber said. Barber came to the university in 2018 to work with students

who want to work in radio.

"I jumped on the opportunity to share my accumulated knowledge with the next generation of broadcasters and podcasters," said Barber.

The path from mainstream radio hosting to academia suited Barber, he said. Many radio hosts align with positions in media hosting, like TV hosting, podcasts and executive roles at other stations. Students at the station on Ruden Street acknowledge the decline of radio listeners but say they believe they have the opportunity to have an

impact at WNHU.

"The campus station provides a unique academic experience where the audience tuning in is other university students," said Isabella Idarraga, a junior at the university. "As a listener, I feel that WNHU does a good job creating shows that New Haven is interested in."

In the evolving media landscape, streaming services and digital platforms redefine how media consumers connect with content. Barber says that radio's history, community-driven programming and reach prove the pow-

er to maneuver radio waves goes beyond generations and technological shifts.

"Radio maintains its relevance when content is presented by local personalities dealing with local issues, and properly run stations have the opportunity to build wonderful communities around this content," said Barber. "I know from experience. I was the morning show co-host at 99.1 WPLR in New Haven for 18 years — and Chaz and AJ [who also host on WPLR] have been there for another 20."



Bruce Barber in his office at the WNHU station, West Haven, Feb. 19, 2024.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Erick Cuatzo.

University employees make waves in ongoing battle for new contract

BY ALEXIS
DAWKINS-MALDONADO
Arts & Life Editor
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fallen behind to catch up to the rest of the crowd. Campus police, workers and curious students crowded the entrance and the windows to witness the employees standing up for themselves.

As the protestors gathered around the back of the hall, several speakers stood on the picnic tables. With a hush going through the crowd, several employees spoke on their struggles with Sodexo and not receiving the benefits that they deserve. The most notable speaker was named by the crowd as Joe, a facilities worker.

“I have heard stories from single mothers to single fa-

thers taking care of children during my time working here at this university,” he said amidst cheers from the crowd.

“I want to personally thank each and every one of you,” he said. “I know it’s not easy to give up what free time you have to protest. Take a look around you and look at your coworkers, we all have to have each other’s backs, regardless of job classification.”

He finished his speech saying, “Be loud, be proud, let’s make UNH hear our voices.”

After the round of applause from the audience, Milanez handed out pins to every protestor who attended. The audience vowed to never take them off of their uniforms until they receive the raises and benefits they need in a new contract.



Attendees of the Sodexo/Facilities workers rally, West Haven, Feb. 19, 2024.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Alexis Dawkins-Maldonado.

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BY VALENTINA ORTIZ ELIAN

This list is made by a chronic TV show re-watcher who struggles to sit through things at times



"Heartstopper"
(absolutely captivating)

"Love is Blind"
(drama at every turn and a good conversation starter)

"Abbott Elementary"
(my gut hurts from laughing so hard)

"Bob's Burgers"
(mildly funny but overall a comfort watch)

"The Simpsons"
(a good laugh but also serves as great background noise)



By Zaria Dickerson-Parker

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Office: 203.932.7182
Printed by Valley Publishing Co. Derby, CT.
Archives can be found at ourschoolnewspaper.com/Charger

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

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

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Understanding universal basic income

BY ZARIA
DICKERSON-PARKER
Contributing Writer

Imagine you get a check in the mail every month and you are not expected to pay it back. How much of an impact would that money have on your life?

Guaranteeing residents a universal basic income (UBI) would provide people with a stipend to be used for anything with no questions asked. Currently, no countries offer a UBI, though there are smaller programs around the country where cities such as Phoenix and Los Angeles have experimented with the program.

The Bridge Project is a three-year old New York City-based organization that provides single mothers of color with financial assistance. Their clientele includes 600

families whose monthly stipend ranges between \$500 and \$1,000. That help is critical in helping mothers care for their children. According to Statista, in 2022, 48.1% of Black single mothers lived below the poverty line. According to 2023's The State of Babies Yearbook, 20% of all Black and Native American infants and toddlers live in deep poverty. The national rate for all babies living in poverty is 18.6%.

Imagine if West Haven, where nearly 8% of residents live in poverty, had a UBI program. That would allow families money to pay for necessities at a time when prices have not dropped back to pre-pandemic levels. Inflation rose during the pandemic when items such as toilet paper and

baby formula were in short supply. The shortages meant the items were in high demand and prices rose. Providing a basic income would allow people to bridge the gap.

A universal basic income would also help people who struggle to afford housing in the state, which, according to the Low Income Housing Coalition, is short some 89,000 rental homes that would be affordable to low-income residents. Connecticut housing prices rose 12.3% since last January, according to Redfin Corp., a residential real estate brokerage and mortgage origination services. Last month, according to Realtor.com, the median West Haven housing price was nearly \$349,000, slightly more than 20% over last year's price. A monthly

stipend could mean stable housing for West Haven families.

The time is right for the city to provide its residents with a UBI. The Wharton School at the Univ. of Penn. said such a stipend would most likely be funded by increased taxes. The program is government-funded but that does not mean the money comes without a cost.

UBI would be beneficial but city governments would need to change their priorities and focus less on things such as funding police departments and more on housing and access to healthy food and clean water for their residents. A UBI isn't the only way to create a world where individuals can sustain themselves, but it could be a start.

Lack of body representation in literature

BY ASHLEY SULLIVAN
Contributing Writer

As I browse the romance section of my favorite bookstore, I can't help but wonder: Where are the characters that look like me?

The typical cover is a heterosexual couple -- muscular man and slender woman -- sharing a romantic gaze that would make anyone fall in love. Both characters have idealized physical features, flawless skin, perfect hair and sculpted bodies.

I don't find myself in these characters and the glaring absence echoes louder than the turn of any page. Where is the representation of diverse bodies in the books in which we find comfort? From classic novels to contemporary bestsellers, literature has

perpetuated a narrow standard of beauty.

But then, as Lauren Crawford, adjunct professor at the university, explains, the publishing industry is a capitalistic system that feeds on itself. The industry invests money in authors who will write characters and plots that will make the most money. The industry is not willing to try anything different from the tried-and-true formula, which limits diverse representation in literature.

The literary world should confront this issue. Crawford, who is in the process of writing her own romance trilogy, said authors and publishers have tackled issues of diversity such as race and sexuality while neglecting diversity in terms of body types.

"There was a time when there was no diversity at all," said Crawford. "Now,

there is a measure of it. We've created a platform for BIPOC authors and characters because we advocated for it. The same goes for LGBTQ representation and ethnic folklore/myth. Once the majority of the reader fan base believes they have enough representation, the trend might move toward body type inclusivity."

Publishing companies should think of the countless readers who, when searching for characters who resemble them, come away feeling invisible. Where are the protagonists with bodies that are larger than society's standard of beauty? Where are the heroes whose strength lies not in conforming to beauty standards, but in resilience, intelligence and gentleness?

By neglecting diversity in literature, we perpetuate

harmful stereotypes and deny readers the opportunity to see themselves reflected in stories we hold dear. As avid romance readers, we need to start investing our money in authors who write the characters we see in the mirror. There are stories out there with characters who look like me and you, but with no publishers supporting them, these books are still far too rare.

As Crawford said, if the majority of romance readers "invest in books with body inclusivity and fair, positive expression, then the publishing industry will consider it a good investment to fuel those authors."

That will lead to authors feeling confident and comfortable to write the characters that are important to them, not the characters that conform to impossible beauty standards. Let's go, readers.

Aurora Deshaies leaving a legacy on women's basketball

BY MIKAELA MOTZ
Staff Writer

A native of Syracuse, N.Y., Aurora Deshaies has been a member of the women's basketball team for five years. As a strong forward for the team, Deshaies is just the fourth player in program history to earn 1,000 career points and tally 1,000 rebounds. She also has earned academic distinctions and honors, as well as the dean's list and Northeast-10 academic honor roll.

Deshaies left a significant mark on the organization – and that mark came with some sacrifices.

“Going from high school ball to college ball is a completely different game, especially in the

NE-10, it's very competitive,” said Deshaies. “It was difficult to find that life balance, because playing basketball is like a work job. We spend hours training, and I also have to handle four to five classes.”

While overcoming the challenges that come with being a student athlete, Deshaies said the hard work was worth it. Until a month ago, Deshaies did not know she was about to make program history in her final season.

“Reaching two huge milestones, 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds, was a big accomplishment that I'm proud of, and I'm happy that my family was able to be at the game,” said Deshaies.

While the emotions of parting ways and

spending her final year at the university are hard enough, Deshaies said she has a heavy heart leaving her teammates and coaches. Without her friendships and close relationship with coach Debbie Buff, the experience wouldn't have been the same for Deshaies.

“It's bittersweet. I've been here for so long, so I've had relationships come and go,” said Deshaies. “But I will say, this year we have a lot of different personalities, and I'm going to miss my team and my coach as well.”

“Our assistant coach, Jason Dunne, really opened my eyes this year since we haven't had the strongest season since I've been here,” said Deshaies. “Life is more

than basketball, and I've been doing this for a long time, so it's all I've really known. He shared that there's much more out there than just basketball and sometimes we don't realize that in the heat of the moment.”

With graduation around the corner, Deshaies says the idea of leaving is stressful. Despite being nervous to part ways with her basketball career, Deshaies said she looks forward to getting in the field for clinical mental health counseling. Although undecided on the specific field of work, she said she is interested in working with children.

And while her final year of playing basketball is soon ending, Deshaies plans to stay affiliated with the sport, specifical-

ly with youth players.

“My plan is to go back home next year and finish my degree online, that way I can start coaching,” said Deshaies. “I just still want to be a part of the game. I want to help kids go through what I did when I was younger.” While Deshaies navigates her future, her legacy will live on in Charger Gymnasium.

For that, Deshaies expressed gratitude toward family, teammates and coaches. Leaving the university behind, she said she'd tell any new college student: “Nobody is perfect, and everyone has their flaws. It's about what you do after you mess up. Do you whine and pout about it? Or do you keep going?”



Aurora Deshaies goes up for a layup against Bentley, West Haven, Jan. 27, 2024.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Rodriguez.

Baseball drops 3 of 4 in Myrtle Beach opener

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL
Managing Editor

Coming off a strong 2023 season with a record of 28-15 (10-10 NE-10), the New Haven baseball team kicked off their 2024 season in Myrtle Beach, S.C. with four games. After taking the season opener in a 6-1 win over Chestnut Hill College, the Chargers dropped the next three with a doubleheader loss to Wilmington University and a 9-4 loss to Post University.

Left-handed pitcher Liam Carroll got the start in game one on Friday against Chestnut Hill, coming away with the win after firing five innings, allowing six hits, no runs, one walk and striking out six.

The game remained scoreless until the top of the third inning when third baseman Joseph Frazzetta lined a double to left-center field which brought center fielder Nick Ungania around to score and gave the Chargers an early one-run lead. After a walk from right fielder Shaun Callahan, Frazzetta scored on an error by third baseman Justin Geiger to double the lead.

Left fielder Cole Maucere stretched New Haven's lead

to three in the seventh inning with a single to center field, which scored shortstop Kenneth Franquiz, who singled earlier in the inning and advanced to second on a passed ball. New Haven tacked on in the ninth with three more runs on a bases loaded walk from catcher Cam McGugan and a passed ball that allowed Maucere to score. The final run of the inning came on a wild pitch that scored Franquiz to take a 6-0 lead.

Right-handed pitcher Jake Zenger came in to close the game in the bottom of the ninth, but failed to get an out after allowing three hits and gave up Chestnut Hill's only run. Closing pitcher Drew Silverman came on to get the last three outs and recorded them in order by striking out the side and giving New Haven the win.

New Haven faced off with Wilmington on Saturday for a doubleheader and lost both games by a respective score of 5-4 and 5-1. After falling behind 4-1 in game one, Franquiz drilled a three-run home run over the center field fence to tie the game at four in the top of the sixth inning. The game would remain scoreless until

the bottom of the ninth when second baseman Erik Grady won the game for Wilmington with a walk-off single to center field and gave the Chargers their first loss of the year.

The Chargers lineup stalled in game two of the doubleheader as their only run of the game came off the bat of Maucere in the first inning with a solo home run that cleared the center field wall.

Designated hitter Jack McDonald carried Wilmington offensively in game two with two home runs. The Wildcats took the lead in the top of the second after a passed ball allowed third baseman Tyler Pirrung to score and first baseman Tristan Schoendienst brought two more around to score with a single to center field.

New Haven finished their weekend in S.C. on Sunday morning as they dropped their third game in a row with a loss to Post. The Chargers fell behind early as they trailed 4-0 in the third before Callahan cut the deficit to three in the fourth inning with a solo home run to center field. Budzik made it a two-run game after an RBI groundout that allowed second baseman Aedan Forde to score. Post added an insurance run



Cole Maucere stands in against Chestnut Hill, Myrtle Beach, Feb. 23, 2024.
Photo courtesy of Neva Bostic.

in the seventh before Maucere answered in the bottom of the inning with his second home run of the weekend to make it a 5-4 game. New Haven could not take the lead in the late innings as Post added four more runs to take a 9-4 lead that would hold until the end of the game.

On Saturday, March 2, the

Chargers will play their home opener at Frank Vieira Field for a doubleheader when they take on Felician University. New Haven is coming off a strong season at home in 2023 in which they finished with a 10-8 record on their home field. For more information about upcoming games, please visit NewHavenChargers.com.

Track and field dominates at SCSU Last Chance meet

BY SKYLAR GRIFFIN
Sports Editor

After an impressive performance at Northeast-10 (NE-10) conference championships last week, the Chargers stayed local and competed in the Last Chance Meet at Southern Connecticut State University.

For the men's team, senior Nile Colson placed second in the 55-meter dash. Colson crossed with a time of 6.59 seconds, just hundredths of a second faster than his preliminary time of 6.62 seconds.

In the 55-meter hurdles, two Chargers placed in the top three. Senior Jordany Dely took the first-place spot with a time of 7.56 seconds. Close behind Dely was junior Jordan Emile who finished third in the event and crossed with a time of 7.72 seconds.

Sophomore Micheal Celatka finished second in the mile with a time of 4:46.62.

In the men's triple jump, Jacky Marescot finished second overall with a mark of 13.43 meters. Following Marescot was teammate Luis Calderon, who placed third with a jump of

13.12 meters.

The Chargers finished second and third in the men's weight throw. Freshman Jimmy Oreste took the second-place spot with a mark of 16.89 meters. Senior Carlos Rivera finished third overall with a mark of 14.20 meters.

The women's team dominated across all of the events as they continued their incredible season. Sprinter Savannah Sistrunk took home first place in the 55-meter dash. Sistrunk crossed with a time of 7.38 seconds to win the event.

In the women's 55-meter hurdles, the Chargers took home first and second place. Freshman Jada Kamtha came away with the win and ran a time of 8.38 seconds. Following behind Kamtha was teammate Aniya Bush, who placed second with a time of 8.60 seconds.

Distance runners Sarah Rutledge and Gabriella Abruzzo finished second and third respectively in the 800-meter event. Rutledge finished second in the event, running a time of 2:44.28, while Abruzzo crossed with a time of 3:11.81.

In the women's shotput, New Haven took home second and third place. Junior Isabelle

Robinson earned second place with her mark of 11.73 meters. Behind Robinson was freshman Alanah Weaver at 10.98 meters, good for third place.

Gabrielle Teel took home third place in the triple jump as she landed with a distance of 11.83 meters.

Lastly, the Chargers took

home first and third place in the women's weight throw. Jalynn McCown brought home the win in the event with a throw of 14.28 meters. Robinson finished close behind in third place with a throw flying 13.46 meters.

As the regular season comes to a close, the Chargers look forward to their next meet, the New

England Championships. New Haven will return to The Track at New Balance in Boston, Mass on Friday, March 1 for the opening day of the event and will conclude on Saturday, March 2. For more updates, results, and information, visit NewHavenChargers.com.



Jordany Dely in the 55-meter hurdles, West Haven, Feb. 25, 2024.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Amir Phelmetto.