

THE CHARGER BULLETIN

The student news source of the University of New Haven.



TWO TERMS STRONG



*Pictured: Sofia Martinez, junior communication major and USGA president
Photo courtesy of Lismarie Pabon, Photography Editor*

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THE CHARGER BULLETIN

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NEWS

Meet your 2021-2022 USGA election winners

BY ELISA D'EGIDIO
Staff Writer

The 2021-2022 Undergraduate Student Government Association (USGA) Election results were released via email on Mar. 11 after elections took place on the Charger Connection website. junior communication major Sofia Martinez has been reelected as the 2021-2022 USGA President and junior forensic science major Timothy Vuong has been elected to be the 2021-2022 USGA Treasurer.

As the Treasurer, alongside the assistant treasurer, Vuong overseas, alongside the assistant treasurer, the \$1.7 million-million-dollar budget allocated to the registered student organizations (RSOs). He has intentions to alter the current early budget process as he describes it as “tedious, time-consuming and stressful for an RSOs to plan an entire plan of stuff.”

Vuong has held the position of Senator of the Henry C. Lee College since fall 2019 and a part of the budget committee. Due to his past experience and knowledge in USGA and the committee and senate, Vuong felt he was “pretty well suited” for the position.

He hopes to change the system to a more by-need basis. “Having served on the budget committee for two years

I know the yearly budget process from both angles, and it is very stressful from both sides,” Vuong said, “from the RSOs perspective you don’t know what potentially can be cut and from the... budget committee perspective you don’t know if you’re cutting something that is really important.”

Vuong said he is very excited to continue working alongside President Sophia Martinez and is looking forward to meeting the other executive board members.

Other USGA positions that were filled include: Hermela Seifu as senator for international students, Ashlyn Mercier as senator for varsity athletes, Sophie Martinez as senator for students with disabilities, Drew Becker as senator for LGBT+ students and Russell Direnzo as senator for commuter students. The senator-at-larges are Nicholas Meaney, Cora Cogill, Emily Lavigne, Laila Soliman, Anna Marcotte, Ciara Wildes.

Sophie Martinez, sophomore national security major is the senator for students with disabilities and this will be her first term in office.

She intends to be their voice to better the overall campus environment.

“This is really important to me,” she said, “I, myself, struggle with mental health issues so I thought if there’s like a position where I can help other people out and maybe help them feel more comfortable about it then this would be the perfect one.”

Martinez said she is eager to reach out to students, wanting to know what their main concerns are. She believes the university is a good school as it is known to value the opinions of their students, and “really tries to make this feel like home,” However, she feels the school

needs to improve on letting their community know they are safe to speak up, which is where she will step in. She hopes the student body will feel comfortable in reaching out to her.

In talking about the importance of reaching out, Martinez said, “Sometimes with this topic, there is kind of a stigma around it. People don’t really want to talk about it. People don’t want to voice their concerns.”

Drew Becker, junior forensic science major, was reelected as the senator for LGBT+ students. They are very dedicated to their position and love to focus on their main project per semester.

Last semester, they were focused on proposing a Lavender Graduation at the university, as they said New Haven was one of the only schools in Connecticut who did not offer it. A Lavender Graduation is a ceremony for LGBT+ students on campus, and they are working to plan the Lavender Graduation alongside the 2021 class president to create one for this year. “LGBT students are less likely than their peers to graduate due to homophobia they may face,

having unsupportive family or just not having the resources to pay for college,” Becker said, “so schools will do a Lavender Graduation a kind of like ‘you did it,’ ‘congratulations.’”

Becker describes their position as a “listen to the population type of position” as they want to hear from the LGBT+ population and effectively advocate for them. As happy as they are with this school, they believe there can be improvements.

“I got involved in USGA because I wanted to make this school better and leave it better for people who are coming after us,” they said. “LGBT students on campus have been asking for change with an abundance of things like people getting deadnamed by offices and getting misgendered. They’ve been fighting the same battle that it’s, like, kind of silly at this point to fight this battle.”

In addition, Becker is focused on getting better diversity training to staff and faculty on campus with hopes that it will now be more up-to-date and inclusive. They also emphasized the importance of making these trainings mandatory.

Vuong, Martinez and Becker all encourage students to reach out and get in contact if there are any questions or concerns. USGA meets every Friday via Zoom at 2:30 p.m.



Photo courtesy of USGA on Twitter

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SPORTS

NE-10 preseason rankings: Where New Haven sits heading into season

BY JOSEPH KLAUS
Sports Editor

With divisions set and schedules released, the highly anticipated Northeast-10 (NE-10) spring season is ready to begin. Preseason rankings were released for the conference and each of the Chargers teams found themselves in the top five in their respective sport. First-place votes are determined by the coaches in the conference with each coach having one vote. Points are determined by projected wins and overall record.

Lacrosse comes in with a chip on their shoulder as they are ranked 15 in the nation

according to the Coaches Poll and 20 according to the Nike/US Lacrosse poll. The NE-10 picked the Chargers to finish fourth in the Southwest division receiving 58 points. The team is highlighted by senior, chemical engineering major, Raven Linton, who was named to the preseason All-American team by U.S. Lacrosse Magazine. Lacrosse opens up their season on Mar. 13 when they face American International College.

The baseball team is ranked fifth in the Southwest division receiving 56 points. Adelphi University earned 86 points and is ranked first in the division. The NE-10 broke the conference up into two divisions, Northeast

and Southwest, assigning teams based on locations. Baseball will have their opening day against Pace University of Mar. 20 with the first pitch at 12 p.m.

On the other diamond, softball received 81 points and four first-place votes, putting them

at second in the Southwest division with Adelphi narrowly edging the Chargers, receiving 87 votes and receiving 10 first place votes. They kick off their season on Mar. 13 against

Stonehill College.

Women's tennis has been ranked fifth in the NE-10 conference receiving 70 total points. Adelphi tops the list with 109 total points and nine first-place votes. The team will look to once again be regionally ranked, as they were last spring before the season was cut short because of COVID-19. The team opens up their season Mar. 13 when they travel to Saint Thomas Aquinas University.

Live broadcasts will be streamed on the Charger Sports Network and also on the NE10 NOW app. Links are available on the New Haven athletics page and also posted on the athletics social media pages.

Photo courtesy of New Haven Athletics



Charger Sports Spotlight: Brandon LaManna

BY TYLER GARNET
Contributing Writer

This edition of Charger Sports Spotlight features Brandon LaManna, a graduate student with a sports management degree, working on a general business degree. He is a relief pitcher from Long Island, NY who features a fastball, change-up and slider combination for the University of New Haven's baseball team. LaManna wants to pursue his passion for baseball after he graduates, whether it be scouting or in the business side of athletics.

Baseball has been a part of LaManna's life for almost 20 years and is the reason he came back to school for one more year to play a final season after last year's was cut short due to COVID-19. He is a New York Yankees fan and gives credit to them for his interest in playing baseball. As a child, he loved watching them play, specifically players like Derek Jeter and Mariano Rivera. He looks up to Rivera who was the closer for the Yankees and has the most

career saves of all-time.

Just like his inspiration, Rivera, LaManna is now the closer for the Chargers, so there is no better relief pitcher to try and be like.

"I really liked the way Mariano carried himself," said LaManna. He hopes to be like the 1996-2000 Yankees and bring some success to the team

Brandon LaManna

Photo courtesy of New Haven Athletics

this year.

LaManna and the Chargers won the Northeast-10 (NE-10) title his freshman year and hopes they can do it again in his final season.

"Winning the NE-10 on our home field and being able to dog pile on our field is something that I will always remember and something I hope to do again this year," LaManna said.

"It is my favorite memory from all my years of playing so far."

LaManna's favorite part about being on the team is being around all his teammates and winning. In his years on the team, they have pulled together multiple winning seasons and he hopes to continue this success this season. His one personal goal for the season is to break the single-season record for

relief appearances. The current record is 26 games in a season, but he is unsure if that is possible this season with the 32 games they are scheduled to play--but it is still worth a shot.

"It all depends on how the games play out," he said. LaManna was close to breaking this record, appearing in 25 games in 2018.

One thing this pandemic has taught LaManna is that "life can change on a flip of a coin. March 8th was our last game last year when we thought we were only going home for two weeks." Currently, there are plans to have a Spring baseball season for all the players to finally get back on the field.

One tradition the team has before games is hanging their jerseys on the railing of the dugout while they have batting practice and do other drills. Right before the game, they put their jerseys back on, and it might just feel extra special after not being able to play for a year.



SPORTS

Linton sets program record as lacrosse takes season opener over AIC

BY ETHAN CARDONA
Contributing Writer

The No. 15 and 18-ranked University of New Haven women's lacrosse notched its first win of the 2021 campaign Saturday with a 17-7 win over American International College (AIC) that saw graduate defender Raven Linton break the program record for career draw controls. Needing just seven controls to set the mark, Linton finished with 11 on the afternoon to go along with a pair of assists.

Senior Emily Holland led the Chargers scoring with six goals on nine shots, converting three out of five free position opportunities. Junior Marina Skelly matched her six points, finishing just behind her with five goals and adding an assist with the two combining to score six of the first seven goals of the

afternoon.

Freshman keeper Gabrielle Buscemi started her first collegiate game between the pipes, making nine saves. Eight of the Chargers' goals came via an assist, with senior Mary Rishmany leading the way with three.

Sophomore Annie Aquavita opened the scoring just under four minutes into the opening period with a free position score. Skelly followed her with another free position goal five minutes later, before AIC joined the scoring shortly after. The scoring went back and forth through the middle portion of the first half, until Holland and Skelly combined for three goals in less than two minutes late in the opening 30 minutes of play, extending the lead to 7-4.

The two sides continued the scoring right up to the final buzzer, with AIC notching a goal with 10 seconds left in the half. Linton was able to control

the ensuing draw and race down field for a handoff to a cutting Rishmany across the goalmouth, adding another tally with 1.2 seconds left in the first.

It was all Chargers out of the break, with four goals scored in the first seven minutes. Junior Julia Agram was next to add her name to the score sheet, putting two goals on the board in 10 seconds off assists from Linton and freshman Kyra Sparks.

Holland notched two more for herself followed by junior Meredith Karsonovich, capping a streak of nine unanswered goals, and the first eight goals of the half. AIC finished the scoring for the afternoon with a pair of goals, as the Chargers earned the win in their first game since the COVID-19 pandemic suspended the 2020 campaign just two games in.

Next up, the Chargers will make the trip across town to Jess Dow Field to take on rival

Southern Connecticut State University on Wednesday, March 17 at 4:00 p.m. The game will broadcast on NE10 NOW. Check NewHavenChargers.com

for links to live video and live stats.

Photo courtesy of athletics on Instagram



Softball defeats Stonehill in double header opener

BY LYND SAY MILLER
Contributing Writer

Competing for the first time in over a year, the New Haven women's softball team saw their first game on Saturday, opening up their season with a double header against the Stonehill Skyhawks. The Chargers finished the day with two wins.

Securing their first victory with a score of 4-1, bats for the Chargers only continued to heat up as they found themselves on top, 10-2, at the end of game two. According to junior infielder, Mya Case, "it honestly felt great."

Totaling for 14 runs on 20 hits, Case helped lead the way for the Chargers, as she closed out the day with four hits, including a triple and two doubles. Along with Case, junior infielder/outfielder Nahtali Simpson gave New Haven's offense a boost, earning a .750 batting average and stealing five

bases.

"You don't realize how long it's been until you take the field in the first inning and all of

Photo courtesy of athletics on Instagram



those feelings come flooding back," said Case.

Wasting little time, Chargers senior pitcher, Ava Fitzmaurice, was the first to score a run during the bottom of the third

inning of game one. Fitzmaurice played a substantial role for New Haven in their first campaign, rattling off two hits and six strike outs in only six innings, bringing in a 2.33 ERA.

Fitzmaurice shared the mound with junior Mia Iodice as she started the day for the Chargers, throwing an additional six strikeouts in seven innings and only allowing a total of four hits.

Despite facing unprecedented circumstances, Chargers freshmen "have handled it extremely well. They haven't let any of it get to them and they showed that today out on the field," said Case.

When New Haven found themselves trailing the Skyhawks in game two after giving up two runs in the top of the first, freshman infielder Ashley Veisz gave the Chargers a spark, firing an RBI triple deep into right field. Veisz batted in two runs on the day and collected

two hits.

Regardless of going 373 days without conference play, New Haven found themselves selected to finish second in the Northeast-10 Southwest Division. Receiving 81 points and four of 14 possible first place votes, the Chargers finished just three votes behind first place Adelphi.

Before the remainder of the 2020 season was canceled due to COVID-19, New Haven competed in six games, earning an overall record of 3-3.

With the NE10 adopting a divisional format, New Haven's 2021 campaign consists of a 38-game regular season schedule.

The Blue and Gold look to their next match up on Saturday, March 20, against the Saint Anselm Hawks at the New Haven Softball Field at 1:00 p.m. These teams have not faced off since the end of 2019 season, when the Hawks ended a championship run for the Chargers.

STUDENT LIFE

Sofia Martinez: How far she's come and where she's going

BY KAYLA MUTCHLER
Editor-in-Chief

In the fall of her freshman year, now-junior public relations major Sofia Martinez would have never expected to become the Undergraduate Student Government Association (USGA) president. With the 2020-2021 school year coming to a close, she has been reelected for a second term. Martinez shared her story and what she plans to do in her final year of school.

USGA advocates on behalf of students in regard to administration, assists registered student organizations (RSOs) with allocating a \$1.7 million budget collected from student activity fees and putting on events at the university and providing leadership positions to students.

As president, Martinez oversees all of USGA. She ensures that the organization is doing its job properly and that students are getting the support they need.

"I set the tone, but I'm not, necessarily, the most important person," said Martinez. "I'm just making sure we all get done what we want to get done."

Martinez is from Argentina

Sofia Martinez

Photo courtesy of Lismarie Pabon



and her family relocated to the U.S. when she was three years old. She lived with her mother and aunt, and in high school, she would work 80-hour weeks to help support her family, which affected her schoolwork.

"I am definitely not the same person I was in high school," she said, "I was not involved; I barely left with, like, a 2.8 GPA."

Martinez received a postcard from the University of New Haven promoting its psychology program, and she decided to visit. She said that she fell in love with the school, specifically because of the student interactions.

When it was time to enter college, Martinez knew that she would have to pay for tuition. She earned \$12,000 to pay for her fall semester tuition from waiting tables, but she knew that she would also have to work at the school through the fall semester.

Martinez said she originally was not interested in getting involved in university programs. However, she decided to attend the First Year Leadership Experience (FLEX) because she wanted to move in early. She soon came to appreciate the program.

"I knew I wanted to be a lead-

er in some way, but I never was given the opportunity to do so," Martinez said. "[The orientation leaders] didn't look at you for what you did in high school; they just looked at you for what you could do in that moment."

Martinez also said she announced that she was bisexual at FLEX to see if she could be open about it in college. She was afraid that she would be judged, but many people were supportive of her.

USGA also came to FLEX, where she learned that she could apply for senate and class executive board. Martinez didn't know if taking up unpaid leadership positions was worth it, considering she would have to work to pay for the following semester, too. She decided to run for class president and ended up getting the position, also applying for senate.

"I really liked the student leadership aspect of it, of just being there for people when they needed someone," said Martinez.

Martinez said that when it came down to paying for her junior year fall semester, she was around \$9,000 short. She was about to drop out of school, when one day, she went to her friend's house and her friend's mother gave her the money she

needed, with the stipulation of keeping above a B average.

"I'm still in awe that she paid \$9,000 for a kid that she does not know to continue her time in college," said Martinez. "Somehow, through the kindness of others, I'm still here."

During her sophomore year, Martinez was elected president and decided that she wanted to redefine USGA. However, many of her plans were thwarted because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Rather than shadowing the previous USGA president, they had to resort to speaking over the phone.

She said that this was both an advantage and disadvantage, as she had to find a balance of preserving what USGA was pre-pandemic and creating new ways to keep the organization going in a new environment.

This year, Martinez said, USGA "changed at its core," funded \$60 thousand into the Chargers Helping Chargers fund, worked with the COVID Task Force about regulations and created ReCharge Days.

"I looked at other terms," said Martinez, "and they, definitely, didn't have as many crises as

we do, but I think, we've been doing as much as we can, which is what is important."

Martinez said that she wants students to know that the USGA works for students. "When I look at other people, I, honestly, think they have more power than we do because they're the ones who get to tell us what to do," she said.

With her second term looming, Martinez hopes to return to in-person meetings (if the COVID-19 pandemic allows it), keep opportunities that the USGA created open, create more programming and involvement with RSOs and give more support to RSOs in a positive way.

"USGA is what you make out of it," she said. "I like the potential of it because I think it could always be doing better. If you don't like USGA, there's still a place for you in it... There's always room for change and we will give you the space for the change."

Students can attend USGA meetings every Friday on Zoom at 2:30 p.m. and follow their Instagram, @humans_of_usga.

Graphic courtesy of Elisa D'Egidio



STUDENT LIFE

Love is in the air, and so is COVID-19

BY KAYLA MUTCHLER
Editor-in-Chief

Starting in the fall of 2020, the University of New Haven implemented policies around campus in an effort to minimize COVID-19 cases, such as restrictions to dining hall services, weekly COVID-19 testing and a stricter campus visitor policy. Some students have reported that changes to the guest policy have affected their relationships, specifically in their love lives.

The campus visitor policy reads that as long as the campus community is in a “green” standing on the COVID Dashboard, students may have one guest in their residential hall at a time, only allowed in communal lounging areas; they are not allowed in the host’s private residence. Guests must be university community members and they are not allowed to stay overnight. If students violate the policy, they are subject to penalties from the Dean of Students Office.

Riley Kolinsky, a junior psychology student and academic peer mentor in a first-year

building, said that the policies have affected her relationship with her boyfriend, Giacomo Cantoni, a junior criminal justice major studying remotely at home in Massachusetts.

“Going from being able to be in each other[s] rooms whenever we’d want to not being able to have anyone in our room was difficult,” said Kolinsky.

Junior accounting major Matthew Nello and junior criminal justice major Sam Bardelli live in the same residential hall, yet find it hard to see each other.

Nello and Bardelli spend time together in the common room of their residence hall, eat meals together and go to the gym together.

Paige Thayer and Jake Scieszko, both junior criminal justice majors, have also experienced a change in their relationship, even though Scieszko lives off-campus.

Thayer said, “I am lucky enough that he lives off campus so I am able to go over to his house to spend time together. However, we have to take

many more steps and precautions to seeing each-other.”

Freshman forensic science major Jenn Tucci said that it is difficult to see her boyfriend, Tim Brogan, a senior in high school.

“Transitioning to college during the pandemic made it really difficult to make friends,” said Tucci. “He was my only support system for a while. It was frustrating that I couldn’t see him and be there for him during his senior year and he couldn’t support me when I became overwhelmed with schoolwork”

Many of the couples shared that they are unsatisfied with the current university safety regula-

Graphic courtesy of Christopher Colquhoun



tions, but some understand why they are in place.

“As much as I would love to see adjustments to the guest policy,” said Kolinsky, “I know in my heart that they were put in place to keep myself and the entirety of campus safe.”

Cantoni said, “I understand why such regulations are needed, but if I go through all the necessary precautions, getting tested, isolating[,] etc., I shouldn’t need to go through a half-dozen extra hoops to get my visit cleared by the school.”

Nello said that he does not understand why they cannot spend time together in one of their private dorm rooms. “I think that if we are both green and everybody in both of our rooms is green and nobody has

any known contacts to COVID then I don’t see why we can’t hangout more normally and I don’t get why all those policies are lifted when you are eating together.”

Tucci said she would like to see changes with red-state considerations. “My state is controlling

cases, yet the school won’t take them off the red state list. This prevents me from visiting and getting my vaccine.”

Scieszko said that he feels that since Thayer and himself are both tested weekly, they should be able to see each other. Thayer said that she would like to see a more lenient visitor policy.

However, couples are finding creative ways to keep their relationships alive amid the guest restrictions.

Cantoni and Kolinsky and Tucci and Brogan said that they use video chatting devices to stay in touch. In September, Cantoni and Kolinsky took COVID-19 tests and had a weekend getaway at an off-campus hotel where they took day trips to an outdoor, uncrowded location.

Tucci and Brogan send each other care packages and letters. Cantoni and Kolinsky and Thayer and Scieszko also each participate in virtual movie nights.

“My advice to other couples,” Thayer said, “especially those in harder situations if they both live on campus is to stay strong and to be patient.”

Hospitality and tourism program adapts amid COVID-19

BY BETH BEAUDRY
Student Life Editor

As the hospitality and tourism industry adapted to a cut in travel and virtual living because of COVID-19, so did education among those entering the field. The hospitality and tourism program at the University of New Haven used to feature out-of-state trips, team projects, and event planning. Students would work at the student-run dining spots on campus: the Hazell Nut Cafe located in Maxcy Hall and Jeffery’s Fusion Restaurant in the bottom of Harugari Hall. Both of these dining options are closed for the remainder of the 2021 spring semester along trip

planning and field trips.

This does not mean that students enrolled in this program are not getting the experience they need.

Jan Jones, coordinator for hospitality and tourism management, said that while the cafe is closed, there is a new course titled Cafe Management where students can develop a new business plan for the cafe.

“While it is exceptionally difficult for all of our industries right now, we are focused on teaching new skills and providing online hospitality related training,” said Jones. “Last semester students developed online webinars related to the travel industry and explored

technologies that are changing our industries.”

Another change that Jones made to the department was the capstone course. Now, students are creating a 80-mile virtual race in Connecticut that highlights Black history and innovation. According to junior Jocelyn Reed-Dubose, who is in the class, destinations in the race will include historical sites and Black owned businesses.

The race will go through three districts - Hartford, Farmington and New Haven - before ending at the University of New Haven. Students are working in collaboration with the Old State House and Connecticut Sports & Convention Bureau

to create the race. Near the end of the class, the prototype will be presented to a Connecticut Marketing Firm and the state’s Office of Tourism.

“The goal of this project is to promote Connecticut in global markets virtually in hopes that when people can travel again they will want to visit these sites in person,” said Jones.

This project also offers the community and students a chance to learn more about Black history within Connecticut.

“You don’t have to wait until Black History Month to learn about this stuff,” said Reed-Dubose. “And just to find out that there’s so much of it

here in Connecticut, where you don’t think too much happened because it is a Northern state, but there’s Black history everywhere, you just have to look.”

Along with the capstone project, Reed-Dubose feels that hospitality and tourism classes were adapted well to teach in a time of COVID-19, and to teach about how the pandemic is changing the industry.

“We’re all getting ready to graduate and we have to deal with the fact that hospitality and tourism have to transition to that online platform,” said Reed-Dubose. “I do feel like it is preparing me, just differently than what a previous semester would have looked like.”

ENTERTAINMENT

The books that gave us “Bridgerton”

BY AMANDA CASTRO
Managing Editor

After the Netflix period drama series “Bridgerton,” became the streaming sensation of the year, I discovered that the series had been based on a novel. Naturally, I felt compelled to read the books. The first of eight books written by Julia Quinn, “The Duke and I,” was the focus of the first season of the steamy Shonda Rhimes-produced drama. With Lady Whistledown still being the town’s gossip in the novel along with the ups and downs of the main couple’s romance, she adds a comedic effect to a book that will keep readers at the edge of their seat.

“The Duke & I” has a conventional romantic feel to it, which is understandable given the fact that it was published about 20 years ago. Unlike the series, the oldest Bridgerton daughter, Daphne, is now in her second season in society, and despite many marriage offers, none of them have piqued her interest. Daphne is maybe too familiar with men; having grown up with three older male siblings, she’s seen as a great person and a good friend, but not a romantic partner. In the book, she says that no one had regarded her as more than a friend – and she wanted nothing less.

Enter Simon Bassett, the Duke of Hastings, who has written off marriage in favor of a vow to his poor excuse of a father. Despite the town knowing this, “ambitious mamas” do not take the hint of him never wanting to marry because he is the most eligible bachelor of the marriage market and no one will let him forget it. Simon is close friends with Daphne’s older brother Anthony, the viscount of the family, and when the duke sees Daphne trying to deal with an overbearing suitor, he is eager to help her. Obviously, Simon thinks up a plan to stop the mamas by claiming to be courting

Daphne, and Daphne will immediately become more appealing to other men, who will now admire her more after seeing Simon’s attention – they’d pretend a romance.

This fake romance leads the pair to develop real feelings for each other and trouble ensues when Anthony catches Simon and Daphne in a compromising encounter at a ball. The two are forced to marry after the encounter, after a duel, threats from her brothers and a slew of other intrigues. But, while Daphne’s honeymoon is a blissful sexual awakening, it isn’t all cherry-popping and loving. Simon has assured Daphne that he is unable to have children, but when she learns that his “cannot” really means “will not,” their young marriage is in jeopardy.

Prior to her engagement, Daphne had no idea what sex was all about. She has little knowledge of the details of raising children, other than the fact that it occurs during marriage. As a custom, the mother of a bride is meant to give their daughter “the talk,” and Violet, Daphne’s mother, failed to provide her with any real, concrete information about what she called “the marital act.” There’s no talk of body parts or anatomy, no explanation of how it all functions, and no mention of how babies are born. It’s only after a housemaid makes a random remark about a “seed” and “womb” that Daphne begins to piece together what sex is and realizes that Simon has chosen to “spill” his seed beyond her womb. She feels misled by Simon, who, rather than explaining anything to her honestly, led her to think that he was biologically incapable of fathering children. Simon was well aware that Daphne has no idea how it all worked; he does an excellent job of exposing her to sexual gratification while not explaining concepts to her that

would go against his own goals of never siring heirs.

The tensest point in the novel – and possibly the most problematic – was when Daphne finds out that Simon refuses to have a baby; not that he can’t have a baby, and how she responds. Daphne initiates intercourse in his drunken state, and Simon is a willing partner despite this fact until they reach the climax, where Daphne, on top of Simon, refuses to let him pull out as he usually does. He feels betrayed and abandons her. But this is not where it ends and I will not be spoiling it for you.

“The Duke and I” was the first period drama and romance novel I had ever read, and I was surprised at how fast-paced it was. Apart from the problematic climax, I can’t argue that “The Duke and I” was an engaging and enjoyable read. The characters are hilarious, especially Daphne’s older brothers, who are both fiercely protective and hilarious. There are many flaws to be found in the novel itself, but it is important to remember that it was published about 20 years ago. I’d like to think that a writer today will portray Daphne and Simon’s central tension in a different way.

Now that I am a big fan of the series, there were many points in the novel in which I wondered about the rest of the Bridgertons, but considering that I have seven more novels to read, I’m sure that I won’t be missing too much of them for much longer.

You can purchase “The Duke and I” from Barnes and Noble or wherever books are sold.

“The Duke and I”

Photo courtesy of Amanda Castro



Get lucky playlist

BY CAM GARDEN
Contributing Writer

Follow the Charger
Bulletin on Spotify!



St. Patrick’s Day is steadily approaching and is known for being a celebratory day to bring people luck. If a green t-shirt, crossed fingers and four-leafed clovers won’t do the trick for you here’s a playlist that can help you get into the mindset of feeling lucky. That being said, this playlist could be the extra push that you need.

1. “I Gotta Feeling” – The Black Eyed Peas

This hit classic is the best way to get a party started. It’s great for pre-gaming or just to get hyped up before you tackle the rest of your day.

2. “Don’t You Worry ‘Bout A Thing” – Tori Kelly

Kelly’s rendition of this Stevie Wonder classic is an absolute masterpiece. Not only do her strong vocals carry the song over a powerful melody, this song acts as a simple reminder to listeners that it’s ok to let loose and not ‘worry about a thing.’

3. “Don’t Stop Me Now” – Queen

I’m sure listeners will agree that this song is the ultimate pump-up jam and another great tune to sing along to with your friends. Get comfortable, have fun and maybe you’ll even be able to get lucky enough to find someone to have a good time with.

4. “Juice” – Lizzo

This next song is great if you want to take a pause and remind yourself that you are the most important person in the room. Lizzo is such an amazing artist with an undeniable talent for reminding people that they’re always the boss.

5. “Home Alone” – Ansel Elgort

Elgort’s lyrics speak to what every person is thinking at the end of a night out; that they don’t want to go home alone and according to the song, if you’ve played your cards right, you won’t run into that problem.

6. “Lucky Strike” – Troye Sivan

So you shoot your shot, nothing happened, but you’re still feeling a little bit lucky, now what? The melody is simple and elegant and one of the best songs to listen to when you’re driving home from a night out.

7. “Get Lucky” – Daft Punk, Pharrell Williams

What’s a ‘get lucky’ playlist without the obvious choice: “Get Lucky” by Daft Punk? It sits right in between being a pump-up party track and a chill laid back tune. This song can be whatever you want it to be but it without a doubt, works perfectly for this playlist.

8. “Warm On A Cold Night” – HONNE

HONNE’s song brings a more sensual and personal feel to the evening. Just as the title suggests, having that special someone right beside you can make you warm on a cold night.

9. “Last Friday Night” – Katy Perry

Ending with a song almost as iconic as the first one, “Last Friday Night” is a great morning-after song for those times when you, hopefully, have landed after a night of getting lucky. If all else fails, find a way to make your own luck.

Movie theaters are back

BY TIARA STARKS
Entertainment Editor

California Gov. Gavin Newsom confirmed on March 10 that movie theaters will reopen at 25% capacity “with reserved seating only where each group is seated with at least 6 feet of distance in all directions between any other groups.”

Los Angeles County released its own operating guidelines for restaurants, movie theaters, gyms, outdoor live events and theme park reopenings as the county plans to move to the less-restrictive “red” tier of California’s reopening plan.

On the east coast, New York State Gov. Andrew Cuomo also announced that movie theaters will be able to reopen as of Mar. 5 at 25% capacity with no more than 50 people per screen and guests must wear masks, social distance and agree to other protocols. Patrons are not required to present a negative COVID-19 test when purchasing a ticket.

This is the same protocol that is being used at large arenas like Madison Square Garden and Barclays Center that reopened in February.

According to an op-ed pub-

A movie theater

Photo courtesy of Creative Commons



lished in USA Today, New York resident Patrick Ryan attended three movie showings in two days once it was announced that theaters were reopening. Ryan said that he was comfortable returning to in-person movie viewings; however, he noticed that some theaters were still a bit lax on protocol.

“Although no one at AMC came into my showing of ‘The Mauritanian,’” said Ryan, “to ensure everyone was seated safely apart, fortunately, my small audience of seven had enough common sense to sit in separate rows. There were also posted signs around the auditorium that if you feel uncomfortable with your reserved spot, you are ‘free to move to a socially distant seat after the feature presentation starts.’”

To help increase awareness of reopenings, movie theater companies such as Cinemark and AMC have created pages on their websites to give information as to what theaters will be reopening as well. The reopening of theaters comes at the same time that highly-anticipated films will begin to debut including but not limited to “Godzilla v. Kong” on Mar. 31, “The Unholy” on Apr. 2, and “Voyagers” on Apr. 9.

TikTok puts a spotlight on WeWore-What influencer, Danielle Bernstein

BY ISABELLE HAJEK
Staff Writer

On Feb. 24, self-proclaimed “Entrepreneur, designer, founder” and New York Times best selling author, Danielle Bernstein joined the video-sharing app, TikTok and debuted her first video for her brand “WeWoreWhat.” While TikTok has become a platform where many up-and-coming businesses have begun to thrive, Bernstein’s membership refocused a spotlight on a year-long controversy surrounding her brand.

In her 10 years in the industry, Bernstein has amassed a social media following, with 2.6 million Instagram followers and now, over 30.5 thousand TikTok followers. Her presence on social media has led to multiple modern-day muckrakers exposing her clothing line for exploiting and stealing from small businesses.

In her first video posted to TikTok, Bernstein introduced herself and her journey from a college “street style photographer” to a successful business owner and, most recently, a philanthropist, teasing at what her content would consist of.

Bernstein’s video was immediately met with backlash

as users began commenting on and dueting the video with allegations that ranged from copyright infringement to theft. Although portraying the image of a self-made business owner, the videos under the hashtag “#westolewhat,” created in response to Bernstein’s pilot presence on TikTok and dedicated to exposing her many alleged indiscretions, has over 927.9 thousand views.

A now-deleted TikTok of Bernstein shows her lip-syncing to a Cardi B audio: “I want to thank my haters.” Bernstein has since turned off commenting and duets on her videos, and although she has given comments on allegations in the past, she has not done so on this incident.

Recently, WeWoreWhat was called-out by lingerie brand The Great Eros for using their signature packaging paper as a pattern on a swimsuit. Before The Great Eros could sue, Bernstein filed a legal complaint against them, asking the court to recognize that she did not violate Eros’ intellectual property.

“I am an advocated and committed supporter of small businesses, and as an entrepreneur and designer, I hold creative liberty and ownership in the highest regard,” Bernstein said.

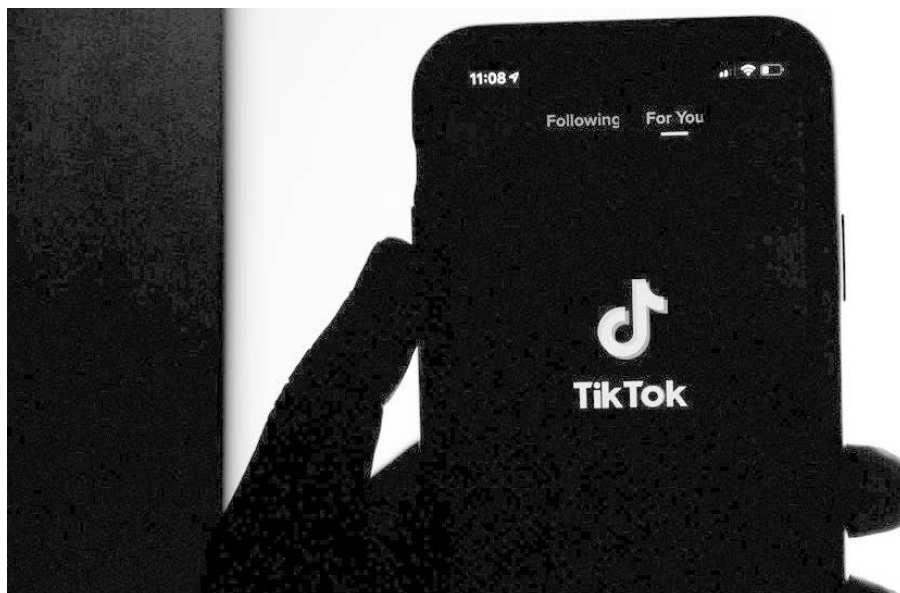
Eros countersued WeWore-What along with her retailers, Onia, Saks, Shopbop and Carbon 38.

Bernstein has had multiple other controversies related to copyrights in the past. In May 2018, she was accused of stealing designs from multiple different jewelry brands; in March 2020, she was accused of copying Cecile Bahnsen designs for her new Macy’s fashion line; in July 2020, she was exposed for lying about using a pair of vintage shorts, actually from an Etsy shop, as inspiration; again in July 2020, she stole fashion masks designs from a Latina-owned company after soliciting the company for samples to endorse. Bernstein has also faced criticism after testing positive for COVID-19 in July 2020 and teaching her followers how to hide cellulite.

Despite the negative response to her brand and social media presence, Bernstein has posted a total of 17 videos on her TikTok and 16 Instagram posts, ranging in content including poses to “elevate that mirror pic,” behind the scene looks at her business practices and multiple iterations of fashion tips.

TikTok

Photo courtesy of Creative Commons



POLITICS

\$1.9 trillion stimulus bill passes Senate: What to know

BY TYLER WELLS
Staff Writer

Following 27 hours of debate in the Senate, a third COVID-19 relief bill passed on Saturday after a 50-49 vote. The \$1.9 trillion stimulus bill now moves back into the House of Representatives for final confirmation before reaching the president.

President Joseph R. Biden's proposed relief bill offers a third round of stimulus support to the American people. The package will send additional direct payments of \$1,400 to millions of taxpayers making \$75,000 or less. It also provides jobless aid payments of \$300 through Sept. 6.

"Today I can say we've taken one more giant step forward in delivering on that promise, that help is on the way," Biden said after the Senate passed the plan. "It wasn't always pretty, but it was so desperately needed, urgently needed."

For college students, the new stimulus package carries good news. After being left out of the

first two stimulus checks, the new deal includes an additional \$1,400 per college student that are listed as dependents. The check will then be given to parents who qualify for the stimulus.

The legislation also introduced more public funding into sectors directly impacted by the pandemic. This included funding into vaccine distribution and testing, rental assistance and school reopening costs.

This drew criticism from the GOP, who viewed the stimulus package as an extension of liberal policies.

"This isn't a pandemic rescue package," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said. "It's a parade of left-wing pet projects that they are ramming through during a pandemic."

However, the bill remains one of the most popular ever in public opinion. In a poll by The Economist, 66% of Americans said they support the \$1.9 trillion relief plan, with just 25% opposing it. The remaining 9%

were "not sure."

Democrats have suffered from in-fighting that forced changes in Biden's original plan. The most significant of which included preventing an increase to the minimum wage and lowering the number of people with access to the stimulus.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) had proposed an increase to the federal minimum wage, the first such increase since 2009. However, it did not win enough Democratic support as members of the party disagreed in including the wage increase in the stimulus bill.

The inner-party disagreement also led to a 12-hour stall on Friday, as Sen. Joe Manchin III (D-W.Va.) sided against the Democrats on unemployment aid. This forced the party to compromise, decreasing the unemployment aid amount by \$100. The current unemployment benefits deal expires later this month.

The party came to an agreement with stimulus accessibility, cutting the income cap

for receiving the full check to \$75,000. This dropped the level from \$100,000 in Biden's original proposal that was approved by the House. Because of the cut, around 12 million American adults will now not receive any stimulus support.

The package also includes a \$350 billion relief package for state and local governments and tens of billions for coronavirus testing, contact tracing and vaccination. The bill has a one-year expansion of the child tax credit system, giving \$3,600 to parents for children under six-years-old and \$3,000 for those between six and 17. This is expected to reduce the number of children

living in poverty by over 40%.

While it fell short of some progressive policy goals, the stimulus bill provides relief at a critical time during the pandemic. It provides the economy with a significant boost, projecting to power economic growth to 6.5% this year.

"COVID has affected nearly every aspect of life," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) said. "The American Rescue Plan will deliver more help to more people than anything the federal government's done in decades."

Biden holding a mask

Photo courtesy of Creative Commons



Adamant defense and criticism arise amid air strikes in Syria

BY SAMUEL
WEINMANN
Staff Writer

Perspective

On Feb. 25, President Joseph R. Biden authorized airstrikes targeting an Iranian-backed militia in Eastern Syria in retaliation to Iranian attacks on Feb. 15 that killed a civilian contractor and coalition troops and wounded a U.S. service member.

Biden's administration justified this attack with Article II of the U.S. Constitution and the UN Charter, relating to presidential war powers and international self-defense.

Despite this justification, Biden has received widespread backlash from Senate Dem-

ocrats for failing to notify Congress and from Syria, who called the attack a "bad sign" on behalf of our new administration.

This criticism is partially borne of Biden's lack of complete congressional consultation, but more impactful was the destructive and inhumane nature of the attack. These strikes killed 22 people and destroyed 3 munition-loaded trucks in Abu Kamal, a city in Eastern Syria.

In defense of the airstrikes, Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said the administration has "acted in a deliberate manner that aims to de-escalate the... situation in both eastern Syria and Iraq." Kirby defined the airstrikes as "defensive" and said that they were "conducted... with diplomatic measures."

This attack is Biden's first military action in office, which has led to concerns regarding his next course of action.

From a national security perspective, Biden may have held his own justifications to call the airstrike, with it being in the wake of the Iranian attacks; however, decisions like these hold more weight than a mere warning. Although Kirby might have framed this decision in a noble light, it's important to recognize the gravity of the issue.

Despite Biden's justifications, attacks like these happen constantly, causing a massive amount of damage and death in Syria, a country already struggling with instability — much of which has been brought on by U.S. military actions. Without sufficient congressional

approval, 22 people (a number likely subject to change) have been killed, and the U.S.'s relationship with Syria and Iran has likely been fractured.

This 'warning' on behalf of the Biden Administration shows that his priorities won't stray too

far from previous presidents, regardless of partisanship. Moreover, it begs an important question — if this airstrike is a "diplomatic" warning, what does undiplomatic action look like?

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OPINIONS

The stock market: A weapon of class warfare

BY ISABELLE HAJEK
Staff Writer

Popular media, such as “The Wolf of Wall Street” and social media influencers, present a sensational and glory filled perspective of the United States stock trade, but the truth is far more sinister.

The origins of the stock market system come from early civilizations’ trade practices and worked to keep money in the upper-classes of society as a weapon in class warfare. By the Middle Ages it was common practice for merchants to buy products at a set low price, understanding that the value would increase when trade was slow or nonexistent. An early form of market manipulation, they would then sell products for inflated prices, earning a profit that they would later lend at high-rates to lower-class individuals who needed money to buy said goods.

It was not until the late 1700s

that the stock market was adopted from the European model in the U.S., first in Philadelphia and later moved to New York, placing the country in the global economy and supporting the western expansion movement.

The stock market is open for any person to invest in. However, for a person to profit from investments, they must have enough disposable income and liquid assets to risk in the market. This requirement for success disqualifies individuals from benefiting from the open market while allowing the rich to accumulate more wealth. During economic crises, such as the Great Depression and the stock market crash of 2008, the wealthy experienced little financial harm, sometimes gaining from tragedy, and the middle class and poor were further disadvantaged. In essence, the system only works for the rich.

According to 2019 data, the top 10 percent of Americans hold 84 percent of stocks; the

top one percent holds 38 percent of that; and the bottom 80 percent of Americans hold 30 percent of stocks. Mirroring stock ownership, in the past century the wealth gap between socioeconomic classes has grown. By 2016, upper-class families held 75 times more wealth than lower-class families and 7.4 times more wealth than middle-class families. In 1983, the gap was 28 and 3.4, respectively.

The operationalization of the stock market is the antithesis of “The American Dream” and meritocratic values held in the U.S. culture. Just as it was intended to at its inception, the stock market funnels money out of lower-classes and holds it stagnant in upper-classes as class warfare. As low and middle class people drudge through 40+ hour work weeks, wealthy individuals sit back and rely on their hoarded generational wealth to support them while throwing the penny stock bread-crumbs to the working class

who support their addiction to affluence.

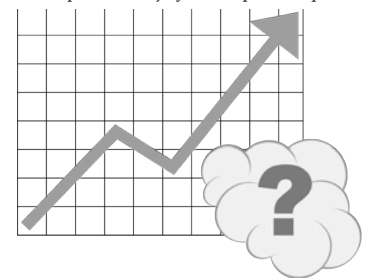
Despite the overwhelming power and influence the wealthy hold, having a comprehensive understanding of how stocks work is the easiest way to fight the cycles capitalism has trapped people in. While the wealthy win the numbers monetarily, they do not have the person-power to compete.

The most recent example of knowledge beating money occurred in Jan. 2021 when a group of Redditors caused the once dead GameStop stock to increase 1700 percent. Other previously low-value stocks were manipulated; BlackBerry increased 280 percent and AMC increased 840 percent. After learning that Wall Street hedgefund tycoons were shorting stocks to leech money out of individual investors, affectionally referred to as “dumb money” on Wall Street, a Reddit page organized thousand of individual investors and inflated these

stocks, allowing “dumb money” investors to see significant payouts.

Understanding the stock market as a tool of oppression by the upper-class is the first step to reappropriating it to operate for the people and not the capital driven oligarchs as it currently exists. The wealth gap and class struggle is increasing while access to information, exposing how the upper-class is siphoning wealth, is expanding. As the French Revolution Era philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau once wrote, “When the people shall have nothing more to eat, they will eat the rich.”

Graphic courtesy of Christopher Colquhoun



Look at how much can change in a year’s time

BY ELISA D’EGIDIO
Staff Writer

Mar. 9, 2020, I was sitting in the Bixler/Gerber Quad, enjoying the spring day, where students could be seen sitting together, catching up on work and getting a breath of fresh air.

The afternoon was soon interrupted when President Steven Kaplan sent out a COVID-19 update email to the University of New Haven community saying that all in-person classes would be suspended, therefore extending spring break. Cheers of excitement and joy filled the quad, as students celebrated an extended break, unaware of what the rest of the year had in store.

Fast forward to Mar. 9, 2021, a year after being sent home and

on another gorgeous day, the university hosted a ReCharge Day – the closest to normal that we’ve seen this school year.

In a year’s time, I have not seen as many students interacting on campus and engaging with the community. The Quad

The Gerber-Bixler Quad

Photo courtesy of Elisa D’Egidio



was filled with students participating in activities such as cornhole and Kan Jam. Groups of people were laying out on blankets and music was blasting through speakers. With extra safety precautions such as face masks and social distance mea-

sures, students were encouraged to go out and finally “recharge” with their community.

The ReCharge Day schedule listed many on-campus events. ChargerREC hosted lawn games in the Quad, ChargerQuest: ReCharge Day Edition was released and free snacks to go were being offered across campus. Virtual events including a treasure hunt, escape room and Animal Crossing: New Haven were also hosted throughout the day by different groups and organizations.

Students were given the opportunity to participate in a closet pantry in honor of National Women’s Day and Women’s History Month and to thank frontline health care workers with personalized “thank you” notes along with goody bags.

The school promoted food

trucks for lunch, pleasing students with the favorites: Fryborg, Spuds Your Way, Lobster Tails, Silver Sands Pizza and more.

The eventful day continued with a screening of “Wonder Woman 1984” in the Alumni Lounge and a H.O.R.S.E basketball contest in the Beckerman Recreation Center.

Personalized license plates in the Moulton Lounge, macramé kits in the Alumni Lounge and fleece blankets by the BSAC patio were given out to students throughout the fun-filled day.

This was the first sense of normalcy the university has seen in a very long time. Seeing how organized and safe, yet fun and engaging the events were made me hopeful for what is to come for the rest of this semester and even next year.

FUN AND GAMES

THE DRAIN

BY KIANA WHITE
Contributing Writer

Tired, exhausted, and overworked
The feeling as if the world is passing you by
Week by week, day by day, step by step
The feeling is so unreal like I'm living in a dream
Is it me or do you feel it too?

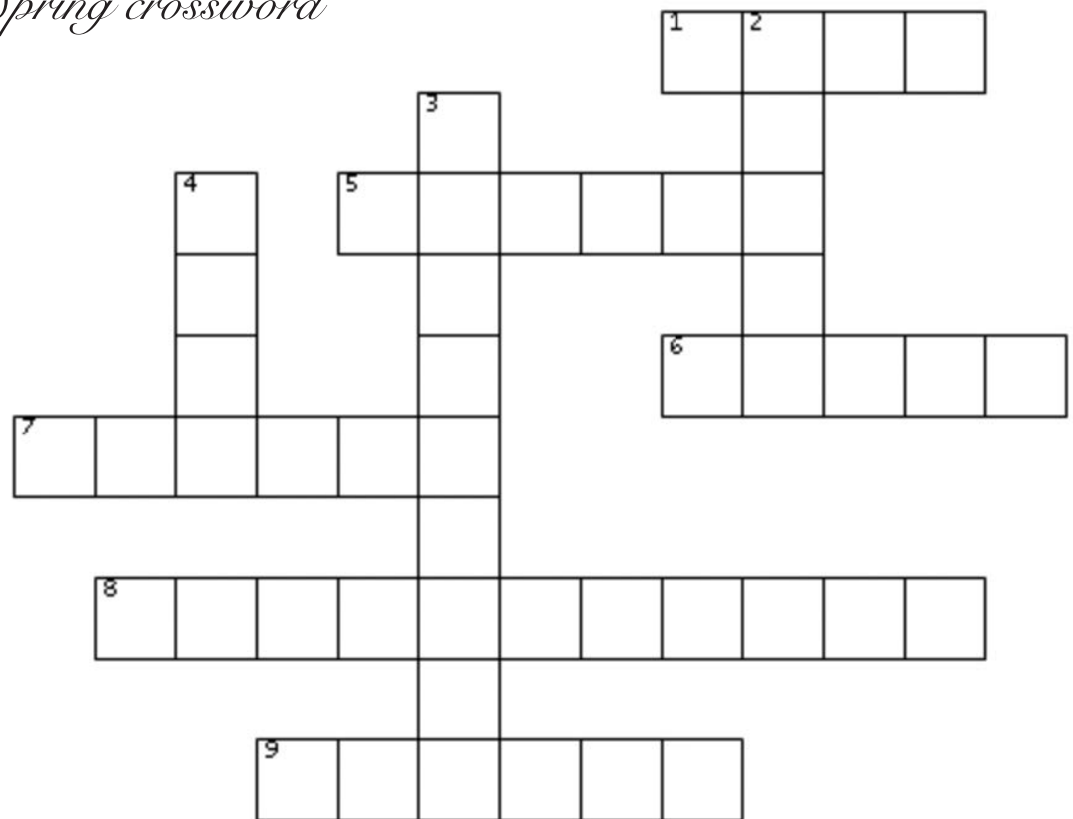
The feeling of being awake but not present
Aware but inattentive
As if going through the motions, just trying to make it by
But of some kind, it's worsening inside
Is it me or do you feel it too?

This feeling of some kind
As if an emotion raging inside
This feeling. This fervor. This sentiment.
This is the drain.

From sleepless nights to relentless studying,
Gnawing at my head to stay awake
From vigorously working to doubtfully living
Waking each day to the tearing and itching touch of its grip
This is the drain.

Working your hardest, yet its fingers lingers near
As if living now is far from endear
Have you felt its firming hold?
Are you experiencing its daunting presence?
Or are you aimlessly walking, turning a blind eye?
This is the drain.

Spring crossword



ACROSS:

- 1. Liquid precipitation.
- 5. Plants that grow back in after the winter.
- 6. To produce a flower.
- 7. Holiday that involves eggs and a bunny.
- 8. A small, nectar-feeding tropical American bird.
- 9. A soft and delicate shade of color

DOWN:

- 2. The month that comes after March.
- 3. Causes sneezing and a stuffy nose.
- 4. An insect that produces honey.

Graphic courtesy of Elisa D'Egidio

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