

# The Charger Bulletin

The student news source for the University of New Haven

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## Baseball takes 3 of 4 from Adelphi in weekend series

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL  
Sports Editor

Teams are tested during conference play to see who can play their best baseball during a long season and make a run for the playoffs. Rivalries come to fruition as players learn what's at stake and the level of play a team needs to hold themselves to in order to come out on top.

The first matchup of the season against a conference opponent

always carries a higher significance than most games as teams want to start strong and show that they are not just able to win regular season games, but also win in the playoffs where every moment is magnified and one play can change the outcome of the game.

The New Haven baseball team opened conference play with a huge series win over Adelphi University, taking three of four games to add to their incredible start to the season. Coming out of the opening games of the season in which the Chargers

finished with a 12-3 record, they continued their hot start at the plate with nearly seven runs per game in the series with timely hits and big innings to carry them to victory.

New Haven swept the first doubleheader on Friday with a big 9-2 win in game one and a 4-1 win in game two to take control of the series. In game one, the Chargers' potent offense struck first with a two-run single by shortstop Kenneth Franquiz in the bottom of the second inning, bringing catcher Josh Lester and right fielder Tyler

Wells around to score.

Adelphi third baseman Albert Ramos started the top of the fifth with a triple to right-center field and later came around to score on a groundout by left fielder Kyle Olson.

New Haven answered right back in the bottom of the inning as second baseman Noah Budzik lined a lead-off single to left field. First baseman Andrew Bianco followed with a bunt single, allowing both runners to advance on a throwing error. Designated hitter Cole Maucere then knocked them both in with a double down the left-field line that gave the Chargers a three-run lead. Third baseman Andrew Cain tripled to keep the inning going and scored on a sacrifice fly from left fielder Owen Pincince to cap off the big four-run frame.

Olson knocked in Adelphi's second run of the game with a single up the middle to make it a four-run game in the top of the seventh.

It stayed a four-run game until the bottom of the eighth when Bianco launched a long three-run home run to left field, making it a 9-2 game and adding insurance runs onto their already sizable lead. Relief pitcher Bryan Pazulski fired four innings out of the bullpen to close out the game and give New Haven their first conference win of the season.

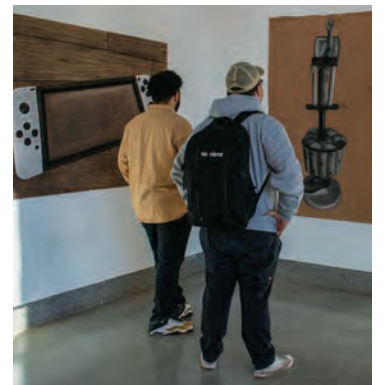
In game two, New Haven picked up right where they left off, scoring three runs in the first inning. This proved to be all they needed as



The Chargers celebrate after the weekend, West Haven, March 26, 2023.  
Photo Courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Rodriguez.



*Dance Dance Evolution*  
ARTS & LIFE, page 3



*Student art showcase*  
ARTS & LIFE, page 4



*MBB at the Elite Eight*  
SPORTS, page 8

Continued on page 5

## Muslim Student Association leads campus in observance of Ramadan

BY JUSTIN COVIELLO  
Campus News Editor

The ninth month of the Islamic calendar marks an important time for Muslims around the world, as it signals the beginning of Ramadan, a holy month commemorating the revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad. It is a month of family, of humility and of self-restraint, and its observance is one of the five Pillars of Islam.

Ramadan is celebrated this year from March 22 to April 20, and although its most well-known facet to non-Muslims is celebrants fasting from dawn to dusk, but many participants, such as Farrah Johnstone, a sophomore graphic design major, will tell you the month is much more than that. "What truly matters is my relationship with God and the steps that I take towards... my fate in the afterlife," Johnstone said. "So trying to do as [many] good

deeds, as much charity and as much consideration of other people [as possible] and reducing my sins... try to come out of Ramadan a different person than I was before."

Worldwide, 1.8 billion people who practice Islam observe Ramadan. Similarly, many of the near 3.5 million Muslims in the United States celebrate.

In a population of 7,513 students, the devoted population of Muslim students often find solace in the Muslim Student Association (MSA).

MSA members began Ramadan with their annual Iman Banquet last week with plenty of food and activities, with the 360-degree camera being a smash-hit. Tickets were \$5, and each ticket was a donation to the Islamic Relief USA's Palestine Fund, raising \$360 for the foundation. And on Sunday, they hosted a viewing of Disney's film "Soul" and led attendants in prayer, also charging \$5 per ticket to fundraise for

their student organization.

As important as this time is for Muslim people, MSA is committed to expanding the worldview of those who do not practice Islam and educating the wider campus community about their widely recognized religion. On Friday, they hosted an information session about the origins of Ramadan, followed by prayer and Iftar for Muslim students to break their fast together. MSA has additional plans for future events throughout Ramadan.

Youssef Ossama, a junior marketing major and vice president of MSA, said "One thing is to have a Muslim community for us, and the other thing is to educate non-Muslims and actually have them join the community... maybe you're interested in the religion and we can help you find faith or whatever [it may be]," Ossama said. "We try to be as welcoming as possible."

He cited Vice President of

Student Affairs and Dean of Students Ophelie Rowe-Allen's email on March 20 that informed students of the coming of Ramadan, observances on campus and how non-Mus-

lim students can be allies as a positive sign.

As the USGA's senator for Muslim Students, Ossama has

Continued on page 5



A crescent moon over Maxcy Hall, signifying the start of Ramadan,  
Graphic courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Andrea Rojas.

# Biden awards recipients of the National Medals of Arts and Humanities

BY ERIN SMITH  
Politics Editor

George Washington once said, “The arts and sciences [are] essential to the prosperity of the State and...the ornament and happiness of human life.” President Joseph Biden quoted this before honoring 23 artists who have made significant contributions to the arts and sciences on March 21.

The National Medal of Arts and National Humanities Medals were awarded last Tuesday. The recipients were nominated in 2021 but the ceremony was postponed to 2023 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The National Medal of Arts honors outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth, support and availability of the arts in the United States.

Past recipients of this award include singer Aretha Franklin, comic book writer Stan Lee and actress Meryl Streep. These awards were created in 1984 by Congress and are the highest honors given to artists by the United States government.

The National Endowment for the Arts initiates the selection process for the awards by soliciting nominations from the public and various arts fields. The nominations are then reviewed by the National Council on the Arts— who are composed of presidentially appointed individuals. The Council’s list is then sent to the U.S. president where they make their own considerations.

Created in 1997, the National Humanities Medal honors individuals or groups whose work has deepened the nation’s understanding of the humanities and broadened our citizens’ engagement with history, literature, languages, philosophy and other humanities. For both the Humanities and Arts Medals up to 12 people can be nominated.

Past National Humanities Medal recipients include director Steven Spielberg, the National World War II Museum and singer Elton John.

The President selects recipients of the National Humanities Medal in consultation with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The NEH initiates and administers the nomination and selection process. Recommendations are then sent to the president for consideration with candidates of the president’s own choosing.

“The work of our honorees is as diverse as the nation that celebrates with them today,” said Biden.

Actress Mindy Kaling, who starred in the television series “The Office,” was awarded the National Medal of Arts. She is the first woman of color to create, write and star in a primetime sitcom. Actor and comedian Julia Louis-Dreyfus, who starred in shows “Veep” and “Seinfeld,” collected another award in addition to her 11 Emmys.

“[Dreyfus] embraces life’s absurdity with absolute wit and

handles real-life turns with absolute grace...she is an American original,” Biden said.

New Jersey native, Bruce Springsteen, was also awarded this prestigious award. He adds this award alongside his Presidential Medal of Freedom and 20 Grammys. “A chronicler of American life and resilience and hope and dreams,” said Biden.

The National Humanities Medal was awarded to writer Colson Whitehead. He wrote two back-to-back winning

Pulitzer Prize novels: “The Underground Railroad” and “The Nickel Boys.”

“...He’s one of America’s great storytellers, bringing a fresh perspective to the legacy of the original sin of slavery, elevating our nation’s consciousness around truth and justice,” said Biden.

Poet Richard Blanco, who read his poem “One Today” at former president Barack Obama’s second presidential inauguration, received this honor as well. Biden said his

poetry “...bridges cultures and languages — a mosaic of our past, our present, and our future — reflecting a nation that is hectic, colorful, and still becoming.”

One by one, the 23 recipients went up to receive their medals from President Biden. Ending the ceremony, Biden said “You’re amazing. And you do make the country better. You make us a better place.”



President Biden poses with Bryan Stevenson, recipient of the National Humanities Medal, March 23, 2023. Photo courtesy of @gji\_org on Instagram.

# Trump awaits possible indictment

BY ERIN SMITH  
Politics Editor

The New York District Attorney’s office is investigating former President Donald Trump. The office is investigating Trump over a \$130,000 payment to adult film actor Stormy Daniels made just before the 2016 election to quiet her allegations of an affair between the two. The N.Y. grand jury is investigating whether Trump falsified his records of the hush money payment to cover up a violation of campaign finance laws.

If the jury decides that he falsified his records of the hush money payment, he may get indicted. Trump would be the first U.S. president to get criminally charged.

On his social media site, Truth Social, Trump posted

a message on Mar. 18 that said “THE FAR & AWAY LEADING REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WILL BE ARRESTED ON TUESDAY OF NEXT WEEK. PROTEST, TAKE OUR NATION BACK!”

This caused many Trump supporters to protest outside the Manhattan criminal courthouse on March 21 where the case is being heard. Although Trump was not indicted, as he claimed he would be, there were many police officers ready for the chaos to arise if he was.

Two key witnesses shared their testimonies to the grand jury which will help move along the process. Trump’s former lawyer Michael Cohen testified to a grand jury on

March 13 and Robert Costello— who was a former legal advisor to Cohen— testified on March 20.

Cohen allegedly made the \$130,000 hush money payment to Stormy Daniels in late October 2016 after Trump authorized the payment. Trump reimbursed him, signing monthly checks to Cohen while in office. Cohen pleaded guilty in 2018 to federal charges involving the hush money. The current case is centered on Trump and the Trump Organization which handled the reimbursement payments to Cohen. Before the testimony Cohen said that his “goal is to tell the truth.”

“This is all about accountability. [Trump] needs to be held accountable for his dirty deeds,” Cohen said. The other witness, Robert

Costello, acted as a legal advisor to Cohen during the federal investigation.

Costello’s testimony likely attacked Cohen’s credibility, since Cohen lied about a Trump hotel deal in Moscow in addition to his involvement with the payments to Daniels.

After a two-hour long testimony, Costello said, “I told the grand jury that this guy [Cohen] couldn’t tell the truth if you put a gun to his head.” Cohen may be called back to the courthouse to rebut Costello’s testimony but has not been called back yet.

On March 22 and 23, the grand jury did not meet about the case. About the ongoing pause of the case, Costello said, “I think the DA now has to call a time-out and decide if they can go forward with this case and this witness”.

A Columbia law professor, John Coffee, thinks the law could be a problem for prosecutors to charge Trump. “The New York statute says it’s a misdemeanor if you just falsify the records. It’s a felony if you falsify the record in order to conceal a crime,” said Coffee. “But if the crime is a federal crime that is a different ball of wax. It is not at all clear that N.Y. state has jurisdiction or authority to find a violation of a federal crime.”

With the 2024 presidential election soon approaching, an indictment could be detrimental to Trump’s future presidential campaign. Legal experts say it is a complicated case and every detail needs to be reviewed in order for the grand jury to legally move forward, so it is still unknown when an indictment may occur.

## From injury to victory: An inspiring story about 19-year-old Jordan Fortunato

BY STEPHANIE FINALDI  
Contributing Writer

Once he fell on top of the other player and heard a pop in his ankle, Jordan Fortunato knew his basketball career could be sidelined for a long time.

Fortunato is a 19-year-old student athlete from Milford, Conn. whose life has revolved around basketball ever since he was in high school.

Back in June 2022, he fractured his ankle while playing basketball at his local gym with friends. His team was winning when, as Fortunato went up for a shot, he knocked down the player in front of him. When he was falling to the floor, his foot collided with the other player.

That was when he heard his right ankle pop. “The pain was so excruciating and something I never have felt before and never want to feel again,” said Fortunato. “It felt like my world ended at that moment and [I] knew what was going to happen from that point on.”

After forcing himself to

get up, Fortunato went to the emergency room. He waited about five hours to find out the ankle was fractured and that he couldn’t play basketball for at least two months.

“Hearing that I couldn’t play for that long really scared me,” said Fortunato. “I knew I wasn’t going to be playing to my full potential when tryouts started and I knew I had to like work super hard to get back to where I needed to be with physical therapy.”

He was devastated to hear the news because he needed to train for the upcoming season at Gateway Community College.

“My son was very heartbroken over his injury and when he came home that night my heart dropped into my stomach,” said Grace Fortunato, his mother. “I didn’t know what was to come or if he needed surgery or if he would be able to play again, it’s a lot for a mother to see her child in so much pain.”

Injuries are always a possibility in any sport. Every athlete takes that chance the second they step onto that field or court. An injury is a setback, but an

athlete must be determined to overcome all adversities.

In the National Basketball Association (NBA), game injuries occur when players fall or get hurt elsewhere on the court. There have been numerous injuries that players come back from and are inspiring to others who may have suffered setbacks as well.

There are fans that look up to players like LeBron James or Michael Jordan because they are team players and have great personalities.

One player who stands out in the NBA that came back from a devastating injury was Shaun Livingston, a player of determination who defied all odds.

He was playing against the then Charlotte Bobcats in the 2006-07 season. Livingston was doing a simple lay-up and tore his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), posterior cruciate ligament (PCL) and lateral meniscus, while spraining his medial collateral ligament (MCL), as well as dislocating his patella and tibio-fibular joint

That landing destroyed his knee. In fact, he almost had to

get his leg amputated. He was in physical rehab for months before he could return to the game, and just like Fortunato, it took a couple of months to get back to the sport and practice again.

“I know that all he wants to do is play and be a better player,” said Grace Fortunato. “But we always warned him of the possibility of injury and that if that day were to ever come, he would have to follow doctor’s orders and focus on a quick but safe and speedy recovery.”

Both Fortunato and Livingston had love for the sport and the determination to get back to where they were before the injury.

Fortunately, Fortunato was put into a boot and could still walk with crutches. After countless physical therapy sessions and much hard work, he was able to return to where he was before the injury and ended up making the Gateway Community College men’s basketball team.

As for Livingston, “he sat out all of the 2007-08 season, then returned with the Miami Heat the next year, playing in just four games. Now, Livingston

is with the Milwaukee Bucks. He spent last season with the Charlotte Bobcats, averaging 6.6 points, 2.0 rebounds and 2.2 assists per game.”

Comeback stories are inspiring to others who may be facing a similar hardship.

“The importance of inspirational stories is enormous in our lives as we all need a motivational force to keep our hopes alive and increase our productivity,” said Arjya Kumar Mishra, the vice president of human resources at Genus Power Infrastructures Ltd. “This also helps to improve the value system and we tend to become grounded. Being a reader we relate our life with the character in some ways.”

“Basketball has been a big part of my life,” said Fortunato. “Without basketball, I’m not sure where I would’ve been in life. It has brought me so much happiness and I truly believe this is the sport I was meant to play. I may have setbacks but with hard work and determination, I know I can do anything.”

## Dance Dance Evolution puts students in the groove

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH  
Arts & Life Editor

Listening to music pumping throughout the German Club while watching people dance on stage was how many students spent this past Friday night. Songs like “Dynamite” by BTS and “Locked Out of Heaven” by Bruno Mars helped bring the upbeat mood into the audience and dancers alike for the Student Committee of Planning and Events’ (SCOPE’s) Dance Dance Evolution.

The night started with introductions of the judges: Destiny Ray, the treasurer of PRIDE and junior cybersecurity and networks major, Leo Levine-Aquino, the president of the Latin American Student Association and senior forensic science major and Anabelle Davis, the president of SCOPE and junior criminal justice major.

Five dance teams competed that evening, starting with the Illuminate Dance Club—a dance recognized student organization (RSO) that was created this semester. Their tap dance performance kicked off the night with some great moves despite a music malfunction that caused the dance group to literally pause their positions, but the group managed to push through in a phenomenal way.

The team outfits, which consisted of shorts and blue and green half-shirts, added to the present chemistry between the dancers. The audience was able to hear Illuminate’s dance moves hitting in time to the song’s beats through the dancers’ tap shoes. The judges commended Illuminate’s routine and their powering through the malfunction, with Ray starting off the feedback by saying “goosebumps.”

Next up were three members of the Monsoon Dance Crew, the only hip-hop dance crew on campus. The synchronized movements set perfectly to the beats received awe from the audience. Even the matching purple sweatshirts and black leggings showed just how serious this team took toward perfection. Davis was amazed by the crew’s facial expressions, which added much personality to the performance.

The third performance of the evening came from a trio called Charlie’s Angels, who danced in the style of K-pop. The team’s name was based on the movie of the same name and the outfits matched those of the characters from the 2000 film. Smooth moves and collaboration between the team showed how seriously they took their routine. Between the team’s theme and their energy bouncing off one

another, the chemistry was off the charts, which was noted by the judges.

The next performance of the evening had four members from the Incendio Dance Project, who did a salsa routine. The matching red, flaring dresses added more excitement to the performance, as seen on the dancers’ smiling faces. All of the moves were smooth and synchronized perfectly to the music. Collaborative moves and an iconic final pose from the team showed just how much effort went into the routine. Davis started the feed-

back off in awe when acknowledging the group wearing heels while performing.

The fifth and final team to perform was three members from the Chargers K-pop Dance Crew, who had their first performance that night. The team outfits included animal ear hats, black shirts and blue jeans paired with a white jacket which, when the dancers turned around and stood next to each other, spelled out “OMG.” Joyous smiles could be seen on the dancers’ faces as they performed collaborative moves

with each other. The dance was so smooth and energetic that the judges were in awe, even with Ray saying, “Oh my God.”

Winners of the evening were revealed at the end of the event. In third place was the Monsoon Dance Crew; in second place was the Incendio Dance Project; and in first place was Illuminate. While there were only three winners, all the teams established so much time and effort into creating phenomenal routines that were executed fantastically.



Monsoon Dance Crew onstage, West Haven, March 24, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Presley DePugh.

# Drawing II enlarge objects that are “part of their everyday life”

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH  
Arts & Life Editor

Creating a piece of art is something that takes much time and effort. The students in the Drawing II course understood just that and excelled when its 16 students created personal pieces that are now set in the Seton Gallery.

The “Something So Little Can be so Big for Us” gallery features artwork by all the students in the Drawing II course. The purpose of the pieces is for the artists to look at small objects that have meaning to said artists, then enlarge them on four-foot by six-foot craft paper by drawing their object of choice with black and white charcoal.

The show opened prior to spring break on March 7. The pamphlet handed out to viewers says, “The smudges, shadows, and linework in these drawings index a careful process of looking – an examination of the details, nuances and intricacies of something the artists interact with daily but may not always take the time to behold.”

Drawing II is a general education course run by the Department of Art and Design that non-art students can take. One student includes Alyssa Leon, a junior forensic psychology major, whose artwork is now up in the Seton Gallery in Dodds Hall.

Leon’s drawing was of a baby

alligator that she saw on vacation recently. Leon said, “We were holding baby alligators and so I decided that was a special moment for me recently, and it was something small and it was cute, and I wanted to blow it up big.”

Leon took special care with her piece, as the hyper-detail on the alligator’s scales and eyes made the piece more realistic. This is especially true when looking at the shadows that the alligator cast onto the hand holding it. The replicated texture of the alligator makes you want to reach out and touch the drawing just to feel the faux scales.

Farrah Johnstone, a sophomore graphic design major, drew a mabkhara – an incense burner. Johnstone said, “It’s commonly used in the Middle East, and my mom gave it to me when I first came to college.”

Johnstone said the biggest challenge was figuring out where the project was going and how to increase the size of a small object. “I’ve never done something at that big of a scale,” said Johnstone. Johnstone figured to just “go with the flow” when drawing, which worked out as the piece was well done.

If you are unfamiliar with what a mabkhara looks like, you will be able to know it is a wooden object just by looking at the shading, which mimics a wooden shine. Despite the object in the

drawing being dark, Johnstone made the holes and lines of the incense burner stand out.

Johnstone was amazed at how the small object could be accurately enlarged to be nearly several feet. The larger recreation of a sentimental gift made the small details of the object stand out more than before.

Ariana Zuniga, a first-year art major, made a large-scale drawing of her eyes. Zuniga said, “behind my eyes, I have my whole personality, and my eyes are very distinct.”

Zuniga took up the whole paper to draw not just her eyes,

but also her nose and the curves of her face shape. Shading was a large part of what made the drawing special, along with the thin lines used to replicate Zuniga’s eyelashes and eyebrows. Those thin lines and shading collaborated in a phenomenal way when replicating Zuniga’s iris and pupils, which forced the viewer to get closer just to look in awe of the hyper-realistic picture.

Zuniga said that the most challenging part of creating the piece was transferring the picture and measurements to the drawing. The whole process took 12 hours

for Zuniga, which was spread over two to three weeks of in-class time.

Despite the long process, Zuniga and others were proud of their work. Alexander Puz, a professor who instructs one of the Drawing II courses, expressed pride in the students’ work. Puz said, “I think they all really rose to the occasion and made some beautiful work.”

If you are interested in seeing the “Something So Little Can be so Big for Us” gallery, head over to the Seton Gallery by April 9.



Students observing the art in the gallery, West Haven, March 9, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Alexander Puz.

# Myatt Center’s Open Mic Night rocks Women’s History Month

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH  
Arts & Life Editor

Coffee and treats were laid out in the Bergami Center of Science, Technology and Innovation. Diversity Peer Educators (DPE’s) from the Myatt Center of Diversity and Inclusion along with members of the Women of Color Collective were there to greet students either coming to watch or perform at the Women’s History Month Open Mic Night.

The first act of the night included a moving poem written and spoken by Kiana White, a junior business management major.

The poem was about White’s life experiences as a woman of color. The first line was “To be a woman of color means to look at yourself in the reflection. What do I see?” White’s response to her question was that she saw a young Black girl who was “fearless in speech but afraid to state her beliefs.”

White transitioned to a discussion on the experiences of women of color, which includes seeing at least two people who look like you in the classroom who are working twice as hard as their white counterparts while not receiving the same credit. Members of the audience were nodding their heads in agreement to these statements.

Following White’s poem was a musical performance by Will Hinck, a senior music and sound recording major. Hinck gave a phenomenal performance on acoustic guitar while singing greatest hits from famous women in music. The songs included “Toxic” by Britney Spears, “I Will Survive” by Gloria Gaynor and “You’ve Got a Friend” by Carole King. Cheers went out once Hinck finished his performance.

Another musical act came from the band Sock Drawer, which consisted of lead singer Alyssa Gonzalez, a first-year

health sciences major, bassist Ben Keane, a first-year music and sound recording major and lead guitarist Ben Carter, a first-year music and sound recording major. One of the songs performed was “Pissed,” which is about the male gaze and people only looking at women for their bodies. Gonzalez’s vocals were powerful, practically demanding that everyone stop and pay attention. Loud shouts and clapping were more than enough proof that Sock Drawer knocked it out of the park.

After the performances concluded, a karaoke machine was brought out for audience members to use and test out their vocals. Songs were performed, such as “Malibu” by Miley Cyrus, “Dancing Queen” by Abba and “Leave the Door Open” by Bruno Mars, Anderson .Paak and Silk Sonic.



Will Hinck performing songs written by women in the Bergami Center, West Haven, March 25, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Charlotte Bassett.

## Ramadan for students

BY JUSTIN COVIELLO  
Campus News Editor

*Continued from page 1*

worked with university administration to create a welcoming environment for students like him. He helped to prove that dining options which were marketed last year as halal were actually not halal, instead were simply not haram.

The ability to swipe twice at dining halls during the dinner meal period so that students can have food in their dorms when they break their fast for example, or the inclusion of “halal” food at the Simple Servings station in the Marketplace, are both resolutions for which Ossama fought.

Johnstone said a next step would be for the university to resolve: dining hours during Ramadan for Muslim students. She said students may have classes that run past the hours of operation for locations such as the Marketplace, leaving the students nowhere to eat halal

food on campus.

All is not bleak, however, Ossama and Johnstone both said they appreciate the efforts of professors on campus to accommodate Muslim students breaking their fast. They are happy with how the university has progressed in its recognition of this holy month in just the past year, but they also understand that you cannot become complacent with progress.

“With [university dining] you need to keep pushing, pushing, pushing because they don’t do anything on their own; they don’t self-educate,” Ossama said. “But I am glad that they are receptive.”

While Ramadan is a huge part of many Muslims’ lives, persistent fasting can take a toll and so it is important to neither be insensitive to a person’s condition nor their faith. The university reminds all students to respect the values of their peers. Ramadan Mubarak.

## Recent report provides outlook on community wellness

BY MIA ADDUCI  
Managing Editor

CT DataHaven released their annual Community Wellbeing Index, which shows stark inequality in the region, yet a high quality of life. Here are some of the highlights:

The Greater New Haven area has a home ownership rate of 60% in comparison to West Haven’s rate of 51%. In Connecticut, the home ownership rate is 66%.

West Haven’s personal wellbeing index score is 678, compared to New Haven’s at just 389. Connecticut holds an overall rating of 696.

Over the past 40 years, demographers have reported an increase in income inequality in the area, or a rapid increase in the median income of higher-income towns compared to lower-income towns.

Across all ages, West Haven has a poverty rate of 11%, with New Haven’s at 25%. Connecticut’s poverty rate is 10%, and the United States’ is 13%.

New Haven has a low income rate of 49%, compared to 29% in West Haven, 22% across Connecticut, and 30% across the U.S.

Food insecurity has been on the

rise across Connecticut since the COVID-19 pandemic. In the Greater New Haven area, Latinos have the highest food insecurity rate at 34% as of 2022. Close behind is the Black population at 25%, with an overall food insecurity of 17% across all races in the area.

The report also outlined vehicular access in the area. Across all households, 6% of white households, 23% of Black households, 16% of Latino households and 11% of Asian households do not have access to a motor vehicle.

For households with no employed members, 69% of Black households do not have access to a vehicle, with 47% of Latino, 37% of Asian and 33% of white households facing the same issue.

In contrast, the rates of access to a motor vehicle within households with one worker are much lower. Six percent of white households, 21% of Black households, 16% of Latino households and 18% of Asian households with one employed member do not have access. There is still a notable gap between races, even when employment is a contributing factor.

The racial notation of a household is determined by the racial identity

of the head of the household.

In the Greater New Haven area, 12% of people do not have internet access, and in West Haven 11% of people do not have internet access. In New Haven, 17% of people do not have internet access. In households where the net income is less than \$50,000 annually, the numbers rise drastically, with 20% of people in this income bracket in West Haven lacking broadband access, 26% of New Haven and 25% of the Greater New Haven area.

In housing data from 2020, Asian households had a median value of \$325,000 at the highest end of the region, while Black and Latino households shared the lowest point with a median income of \$200,000.

In education, within six years of graduating high school, only half of public school attendees within the Greater New Haven districts have a college degree. This follows a 76% enrollment rate within one year of graduation.

For further information surrounding these subjects, among many others, publications in future weeks will reflect the information provided by DataHaven’s latest index.

## Baseball takes the weekend

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL  
Sports Editor

*Continued from page 1*

right-handed pitcher Thomas Eletto picked up his fourth win of the season with four innings of work, allowing only two hits and striking out five.

Maucere started off the inning with a one-out double to the left-center field fence and then scored on a single to left field by Pincince. Center fielder Robert Taylor brought in the second run with a groundout, followed by a single to left field by Lester that plated Pincince.

Eletto made quick work of Adelphi in the first two innings, facing the minimum six batters and striking out shortstop Jack Wishner to start the third before allowing a home run to catcher Jose Matos to make it a two-run game.

New Haven answered right back in the bottom of the inning as Cain hit a solo home run to right-center field to stretch their lead to three, a lead which would hold for the rest of the game.

The bullpen dominated Adelphi’s lineup behind Eletto as relief pitcher Michael Gatti fired two scoreless innings, getting himself out of a prime scoring chance for the Panthers with runners on second and third with one out by striking out two consecutive batters to eliminate the threat. He then fired a quick sixth inning to set the game up for closing pitcher Drew Silverman, who did not allow a baserunner and closed out their 4-1 win and sweep of the doubleheader.

Adelphi looked to split the series in Sunday’s doubleheader as they shut down New Haven’s lineup

in game one with a 5-0 shutout victory. Catcher Alec Maag broke the scoreless tie in the top of the fifth inning with a solo home run to left-center field that would prove to be all of the offense they would need. First baseman Michael Draskin knocked in a key insurance run with a double to right-center field and later came around to score on a single by Maag, stretching the Panthers’ lead to three.

Third baseman Albert Ramos added the final touch in the top of the seventh with a two-run home run to left field as Adelphi achieved their first conference win of the season in a five-hit shutout.

New Haven’s offense got right back on track in game two as Pincince singled to lead off the bottom of the second, followed by a single from Taylor who would both scored on a double to right center to take a 2-0 lead.

New Haven followed up their two-run inning with a huge third inning, scoring five runs with two outs capped off by a three-run home run by Franquiz to take a commanding 7-0 lead.

Adelphi fought right back with a two-run home run by right fielder

Tim Feliz in the top of the fourth, followed by two home runs in the fifth from Draskin and Maag to make it a two-run game. Olson tacked on a single to right field in the sixth to cut New Haven’s lead in half.

New Haven’s offense exploded in the bottom of the sixth as Bianco crushed a two-run home run off the batting cages beyond the left field fence. Maucere followed the home run with a double and scored on a double from Pincince, who later scored on a double by Taylor down the right field line. Lester capped off the five-run inning with an RBI single to center field.

They added two more runs in the seventh, taking a 14-7 lead as Gatti and relief pitcher Matt Minio closed out the game with two scoreless innings to clinch the series win for New Haven.

The Chargers will now go on the road for a non-conference matchup in Staten Island, N.Y. against Alliance University on Wednesday, March 29. First pitch is scheduled for 1 p.m. as the Chargers look to continue their hot streak at the plate before their first conference



New Haven's Robert Taylor up at bat, West Haven, March 26, 2023.  
Photo Courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Rodriguez.

## KGR hosts “Say What?” talent show



Luke Bazzanno mid backflip, West Haven, March 25, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Charlotte Bassett.



YouLoveKev performs, West Haven, March 25, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Charlotte Bassett.

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# It's time for a change to campus dining

BY EDITORIAL STAFF

**Editorial**

The dining services offered on campus are ever changing, with new additions like Moe's Southwest Grill being welcomed every few years. Now, with a growing student population, it is good to reevaluate our dining and see what could be done to make it a better experience for students.

This centers around Food-On-Demand (FOD), one of the campus's two main dining halls that is already being looked at by the university. The recent decision to charge

students for a takeout box at FOD was met with widespread criticism, leading some to believe that there will be more plans for the future of FOD.

While FOD is a good food option, and many students get a majority of their meals there, it could be worth it to start moving away from that style of dining. It offers a course-style meal, as opposed to the buffet-style at The Marketplace.

It is different, yes, but it is still the same Sodexo food that students can get across campus. There is nothing that makes it unique.

There are a few ways that the FOD dining option could be changed to

give students another good dining choice on campus.

The first and most obvious would be to have another company come in and open a location there, similar to how Moe's did. Something like a sandwich shop would give students a refreshing choice. It would also be more eye catching for new students making their college decisions.

Another option would be to offer students a diner experience, complete with everything that you'd find at a local, hometown diner.

This could be open to both students and staff and be a place where they could get a quick coffee and meal.

With either of these choices, the

most important thing is that it is a location that remains open later. With every dining location closing between 8-10 p.m. each day, students are left with slim choices late at night. World of Wings (WoW) used to be open until 2 a.m., but that has not been the case since the COVID-19 pandemic started.

As the university is looking to attract more students, it is time for a change to dining. While FOD is a popular option, there are ways it could be changed to become better for the students.

## Page Six View

*The IRS needs help, and there is no solution*BY LINDSAY GIOVANNONE  
Columnist**Column**

April is perhaps America's most maligned month for one reason: tax day. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) makes filing taxes as muddling as possible. Numbers and acronyms litter the website: 1040, 1048, W-2 and W-2C. For the average American, these terms invoke an eye twitch – and for good reason.

TurboTax, FreeTaxUSA, Jackson Hewitt, IRS Free File, Tax Slayer, H&R Block and Liberty Tax— among others— are all different sides of the same cumbersome coin. I've been filing my own taxes since I was 16 and the process has yet to become easier. Just this week, I spent three hours attempting to verify my identity to the IRS. Despite providing the IRS with my Social Security Number, passport, driver's license, academic transcript, student ID, W2 form, two old 1098s and a face scan, the agency still did not consider me a real person.

I'm fortunate that I had the time to sit and struggle with a government website. For those that don't, these time-consuming steps can cause inordinate stress. The IRS even has its own webpage called "Tips to take the stress out of tax season."

Every year when I use TurboTax's free file, I can't help but wonder if there is a better way to do this. While the IRS deserves much of the flack it catches – its audits target the poorest wage earners at five times higher than other Americans – abolishing it or cutting its budget only exacerbates issues.

For instance, in January the House Republican majority voted to cut funding for the IRS.

The vote was an effort to repeal the \$80 billion increase in funding the revenue agency received last year as part of the Inflation Reduction Act. These funds, which would be received by the IRS over the next decade, were going to be allocated toward going after wealthy tax-evaders and improving their customer service.

The Republican-proposed bill was formally called the "Family and Small Business Taxpayer Protection Act" and was scarcely longer than a page. While restricting the government's reach is a seemingly noble pursuit, cutting the IRS's budget would only benefit millionaires. Interestingly, of the bill's 54 cosponsors, five are among the wealthiest in Congress with their respective net worths ranging from \$12.4 million to \$157.2 million.

Because of these budget cuts, the amount of IRS enforcement funding has been cut by 24% since 2010, while the number of tax returns has increased by 9%. Furthermore, a 35% decrease in audit operations staff has caused the overall audit rate to fall by 45%. Most alarmingly, corporations with more than \$1 billion in assets are being audited 51% less than they were ten years ago, and the audit rate for individual filers with more than \$1 million in annual income is down by 61%.

The idea of giving government agencies even more of my hard-earned money is a slippery slope, but allowing wealthy earners to cheat their taxes and place burdens on lower-income Americans is worse. As of right now, there is no clear-cut solution to the IRS's inefficiency other than throw more cash at them and hope they keep their promises.

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

*The American interpretation:  
American politics abroad*BY STEPHEN GANGI  
Executive Business Manager**Column**

Politics: a topic that is often accompanied by feelings of anger and anguish, but for some, feelings of inspiration and motivation to make change. Despite how it may impact each person individually, politics is a topic that makes its way into every American household at least once within each four year presidential term.

With the election year quickly approaching, I've already witnessed this discussion arising among close friends even while studying abroad. I find that this topic proves to be much more interesting when observing European citizens' thoughts about American politics.

During my time abroad, I've noticed that many Europeans have the perception that most Americans embrace conservative political ideals, particularly around gun control, with many taking notice of the inability of Americans to come to an agreement on the matter.

Europeans also discuss—as do Americans—genocide and its influence on modern history. With social media providing a medium that allows for global information sharing, both Europeans and Americans have been present to witness an ongoing genocide of people in America, primarily towards those within the LGBTQ+ community and other minorities.

The term genocide has deep meaning and is usually associated within the American education system with Nazi Germany during the Second World War, but it is a tragedy that has occurred throughout other regions of the world and has a deeper meaning than extermination. Genocide is "the deliberate and systematic destruction of a group of people because of their ethnicity, nationality, religion, or race." While most are informed on the meaning of the word, which was coined by Raphael Lemkin in 1944 — combining the Greek prefix *genos*, meaning tribe or race and the Latin suffix *cide*, meaning killing—many are unaware of the 10 stages of genocide and the stages that lead to stage nine, which is associated to the word's general meaning: extermination.

These stages, as described by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust foundation are as follows: classification, symbolization, discrimination, dehumanization, organization, polarization, preparation, persecution, extermination and denial.

By that definition, with certain laws and bans being placed on different aspects of education and lifestyle, the U.S. has entered stage seven of genocide.

**To read the complete column, head over to [horseshoemag.com](http://horseshoemag.com) and click to the "Interpretive" section.**

## I've had five majors, and that's okay

BY NOELLE MILLER  
Contributing Writer

I never thought having multiple college majors would be viewed as a bad thing until I shared my history on the first day of my journalism class. I told my professor and classmates that I have had five different majors, and I watched jaws hit the floor.

Questions arose and I realized my path was so unconventional that it seemed wrong. Before you start to worry, or feel bad for me, I want you to know that I wouldn't change a thing. Having five majors is what led me here, and I have never been happier. How this happened is a chain reaction of events that have allowed me to welcome change and see it as an opportunity.

I won't disagree that I appear indecisive, but after high school was the only time this observation was true. At 17-years-old, I was expected to make my biggest life decision yet, and it felt like attending college was already decided for me.

I loved science, so I practically closed my eyes and picked biochemistry as a major. By the third day I looked in the mirror and asked, "What are you doing

with this major?" Dumbfounded with no answer, I dropped out of college the next day. With the pressure of going back to school, I soon jumped into a dental assisting program at a trade school where I graduated 10 months later.

I loved my full-time job, but the COVID-19 pandemic took that away. During this strange time, I decided to give college another try. I enrolled in the dental hygiene program at the University of New Haven, where I learned watching someone cut gums was fine, but doing it induced a panic attack.

A national survey from Strata Education Network said 36% of college graduates wished they chose a different major. I was not willing to be part of this statistic, so before it was too late I took my love for healthcare and changed my major to health sciences. The classes I took taught me so many amazing(ly awful) things about American healthcare and suddenly I started all of my conversations with "Did you know?"

I soon realized my true passion was telling people about healthcare, not working in it. I wanted to introduce things to people and influence them. By the end of the

semester, I made my final switch to join the communication department, and I have experienced a passion like no other.

While I feared being judged for pursuing yet another major, the fear of spending my life wishing I had done things differently overcame all other fears. There is no life handbook that says you must enter college at 18-years-old and graduate in 4 years. In fact, there is no life handbook at all, yet it feels like there is until you detour off the usual path and realize you're still on track.

According to the Education Data Initiative — a team of researchers collecting data about the U.S. education system — found that it takes the average student 20 years to pay off student loan debt. Since I'm not the "average student," it will likely take me longer. I will live the length of my life two more times before the U.S. Social Security Administration says that I am eligible to retire. I refuse to spend that time in a career paying back my inevitable student loans with thoughts of what-ifs. I can't tell you where I would be if I followed what was expected of me, but I can tell you that's a what-if I don't mind not knowing.

## The benefits of taking a gap year

BY DANIELLE CATALANO  
Contributing Writer

Taking a gap year has been considered a luxury accessible only to wealthy college-aged students who want to backpack around Europe, but it has become increasingly popular as more students begin to see its benefits.

The gap year allows students to get on their feet and recharge after putting so much effort into completing the past thirteen years of school.

Adults may think the break allows students to sit around and do nothing, but more times than not students use a gap year to experience the real world, which oftentimes includes working.

I spent my senior year of high school debating whether going to college right away was the right plan. My parents pushed me to start college immediately just as my siblings and most other students do. The pressure caused me to hastily pick a school and major strictly because I thought I needed to, which led to changing my major six times in the three years I've been at the University of New Haven. I would have benefited from a gap year to think about

what it was I wanted to do.

There are a lot of negative connotations that come with taking a year off, including using the time off to gallivant around the world and make haste decisions without any consideration for the repercussions and many family members discourage it. Research shows that taking a gap year can be helpful.

A Boston University study in 2021 found that more than 60% of college students fit the criteria for having mental health problems including depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts.

Taking a gap year allows students to work on their coping skills in order to better deal with mental health issues, reducing the strain those issues cause.

The American Gap Year Association (GYA) says that 90% of students who take a gap year after high school have better communication skills and increased maturity and self-confidence.

Apart from the mental health benefits, taking a gap year can be one of the best financial decisions a young adult can make. College students already struggle with money, so why not take an opportunity to grow your bank account?

Students who work either a full-time job or paid internship during their gap year earn money that can be put toward college, resulting in lower student loans. Many gap year programs are accredited by colleges, including Tufts University, Princeton University and Florida State University, which means a student can complete a gap year course and apply those credits to their degree.

College is not the only place students can socialize and connect with people of different demographics, especially if students spend time traveling. The concept that going to college is the only option is outdated and was formed at a time when going to college was viewed as the only way to be successful.

Not going to college right away is not the end of the world. Taking a gap year carries several other benefits besides being able to save money and working on your mental health. It is something that should be more of an option for all high school and college-aged students. Not going to college isn't the end of the world. In most cases, it can be a chance to really figure out your own world and find the path that you are meant to follow.

## Leave the California roll, take the egg roll

BY CHRIS VALENTINE  
Contributing Writer

I had just settled into my seat in the corner of a busy Japanese restaurant when I came to a realization.

"Wait a minute," I mumbled to myself, listening closely to the bustle of the kitchen and taking in the shape of a waitress's nose. Both of my non-Asian friends turned to face me as I began to smile. "They're Chinese."

Amused, I shrugged but ultimately didn't think much of the mostly Chinese staff in the busy Japanese restaurant. One of my friends put a hand over my menu to bring it back down onto the table. I made eye contact with our waiter across the restaurant from over her shoulder. He looked to be South East Asian, like me. With a single, wordless look, I told him we'd need some time. He nodded and turned to help another table.

"Really?" My friend asked, hand still on my menu as she took a quick glance around. Neither she nor my other guest would have noticed if I didn't point it out. "Should we leave?"

"I think that's wrong," the second friend commented with crossed arms, "If they're Chinese, they shouldn't pretend and make Japanese food. I don't get it."

Uncomfortable, I thought about what he said even after the meal. Then that night, I found myself going down a lengthy rabbit hole of historical and cuisine articles alike. The simple truth I learned is that Americans simply pay higher for Japanese meals. According to data collected by Zagat as of 2015, the av-

erage cost consumers paid for a Japanese meal was \$68.94 while the average for a Chinese meal was \$35.76.

American Chinese food has been subject to stigmas since Chinese immigration to America began in the 1800s. We often see Chinese food in the media as greasy, unhealthy packages of flimsy cardboard that are often ordered when the movie's leading lady is at her lowest. Americans tend to push past this cuisine in favor of something "authentic," feeding into the vexing and stereotypical notion of food exoticism. The rich history of Chinese-American resilience that forged Chinese food is written off, continuing a history of unrecognized immigrant labor. With America's attitude toward Chinese food, it is no wonder why so many Chinese people find more luck in selling Japanese cuisine.

While Japan is often viewed by the west as more prestigious, Japanese-Americans face a different set of challenges in the form of fetishization and commodification. The west has long had a fascination with anything resembling Japanese culture from old samurai movies to anime in the present day and the western audience has taken to favoring a morphed, bastardized presentation of Japanese culture. And having been snatched into internment camps less than a hundred years ago, Japanese Americans do their best to keep up as well.

Asian cultures do not exist to cater to the American palate. Immigrant experiences do not take away from a community. Let's stop pretending they do.



Egg rolls.  
Graphic courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.

# Lacrosse dominates in 12-7 win vs. Saint Rose

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL  
Sports Editor

After losing three in a row to fall back to .500, the New Haven women's lacrosse team put themselves back in the win column on Saturday afternoon with a 12-7 win over the Saint Rose Golden Knights. A dominant first half carried the Chargers to their first conference win of the season at home as they now sit at 4-3 entering a key stretch of conference matchups.

New Haven's offense was dominant in the first half, scoring just 48 seconds into the game with a goal by midfielder Gianna Caprioli. Less than two minutes later, attacker Raegan Bailey added her first of four goals in the game to give the Chargers an early two-goal lead in the opening minutes.

The offense continued to control the pace of the game and after a turnover by Saint Rose, New Haven kept consistent pressure on the defense as attacker Savannah Ernst tallied her first of a team-high five goals. This was followed by another goal by midfielder Ivanna Hernandez on a free-position shot.

After a takeaway by defender Laura Agbayani, New Haven found

themselves with another prime scoring chance resulting in Ernst's second goal to take an early 5-0 lead. The defense was consistently strong for the Chargers in the first quarter as they generated six turnovers in front of goalkeeper Gabby Buscemi, who only faced three shots in the quarter and tallied two saves.

The second quarter was completely run by New Haven, who scored four unanswered goals to take a huge 9-1 lead. Saint Rose could not manage to generate any offense in the second quarter, turning the ball over six times and only getting two shots to the net, hitting the post on one to keep them at a minimal one goal for the first half.

New Haven struck first once again in the third quarter with Ernst's fifth goal of the game to take a 10-1 lead with 7:20 remaining. Saint Rose's offense started to chip away at the lead with three consecutive goals to close out the quarter as they looked to mount a huge comeback in the fourth quarter.

They would strike again just 21 seconds into the fourth with a goal by attacker Lauren Pendergast to make it a five-goal game, but New Haven broke their scoreless streak

on a free-position shot from Bailey for her third goal of the game.

The Chargers would continue to apply pressure in the closing minutes, firing three shots before Bailey capitalized on another free-position shot that stretched their lead to six with just under

three minutes to play.

Saint Rose would score one more time with 2:15 left to play, but could not manage to overcome the massive deficit they faced earlier in the game. New Haven finished the game dominant with a 12-7 lead, remaining undefeated at home for

the start of the 2023 season.

New Haven will stay at home for their next conference matchup on Wednesday, Mar. 29 against Le Moyne College at 3 p.m. as they look to start another winning streak in a big stretch of games.



New Haven's Justine Doyle runs through the team's tunnel pre-game, West Haven, March 25, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tori Gonzalez.

# MBB's magical season ends in the Elite Eight

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL  
Sports Editor

The final games leading up to a championship are where teams are truly tested to see if their style of play can stand tall against other top teams in the nation. Every team has gone through the ups and downs of a long season, but the true test of who comes out on top is the team that is able to find ways to win games while facing elimination.

Matching up against an opponent that you have never faced before is a challenge to adjust to and make a game plan to shut them down. While some teams rely on their biggest contributors from the season, others are able to put their depth on full display and dominate in a full team effort.

A matchup of two teams with completely different styles of play broke the way of a dominant offense, as West Liberty University commanded a huge 95-58 win over the University of New Haven from start to finish. Averaging over 100 points per game for the season, the Hilltoppers were able to continue their dominant run in which they went 25-3 in the regular season and currently hold a 17-game winning streak.

New Haven was unable to keep up with West Liberty's fast-paced offense that saw all but one player register a basket and a defense that did not allow the Chargers to gain any momentum all game. West Liberty forced New Haven to commit 26 turnovers with a full-court press that the Chargers had no answer for.

West Liberty's offense got off to a hot start as they jumped out to a commanding 13-4 lead in the first six minutes of play, moving the ball and forcing New Haven out of their coverage to knock down easy shots. Their game plan has cemented them as a powerhouse at the Division II level and ranked them at number five in the country, spreading themselves out in a full team effort that was a vital part of their success all season.

New Haven's offense struggled mightily in the opening minutes, scoring just four points in the first 11 minutes. The defensive pressure that West Liberty applied to the Chargers to not be able to control the ball offensively forced errant passes. This gave the Hilltoppers more chances to score, taking a massive 20-point lead with 10:47 left to play.

West Liberty's dominance

from behind the arc was a huge piece of the game plan, finishing the game shooting 16-36. Guard Christian Montague knocked down a three to make it a 22-point game, followed by a fastbreak layup from guard Steve Cannady to give them their biggest lead of the first half.

New Haven flashed a glimpse of offense in the later minutes of the half with threes from forwards Sean Braithwaite and Davontrey Thomas. Guard Kendall McMillan made it an 18-point game on a fastbreak layup, but West Liberty found their offense once again and stretched their lead back to 24 going into halftime.

The Hilltoppers picked up right where they left off in the second half, adding to their impressive display of shooting and finishing with a rate of 51.4% as a team.

Their level of depth allowed for all of their players to filter in and out of the game and still generate enough scoring chances to keep their comfortable lead. Four players tallied double-digit points and 12 of 13 players who entered the game registered at least one basket.

Guard Zach Rasile stretched the lead to 31 after a three pointer with 7:02 remaining as the Hilltoppers continued their

dominant offensive display, going ahead by as many as 40 points in the final minutes.

As the buzzer sounded, West Liberty walked away with a convincing 95-58 win, sending them to the semifinal round for a matchup against Black Hills State University last Thursday.

New Haven's magical season came to an abrupt end with the loss, but it was not before

they made history with their remarkable playoff run by making it farther than any New Haven men's team ever has. They came up just short of their goal, but it was a season to remember for the Chargers, earning individual accolades along the way and posting conference-best marks that highlighted a great season.



The men's team celebrates, March 21, 2023.  
Photo Courtesy of @unehaven and @unehavenmbb on Instagram.