

The Charger Bulletin

The student news source for the University of New Haven

Volume 103, Issue 18 | March 29, 2022 | West Haven, Connecticut

MSA celebrates one year of “community, peace and fearlessness”

BY KAYLA MUTCHLER
Editor-in-Chief

In just one year, the Muslim Student Association (MSA) has made its presence known at the University of New Haven since its virtual beginning on March 15, 2021. From World Hijab Day celebrations to interfaith panels, fashion shows and more, the organization has continued to grow since its founding.

Last Tuesday, MSA celebrated their one-year anniversary in the Alumni Lounge on campus. Students, faculty and staff came out to join the festivities. As guests sat at their tables, a slideshow played on a projector, highlighting some of the key memories from the past year.

Adrielys Gomez, senior behavioral economics major, president and founder of MSA, opened the event. “There is a very big importance of community, and with the support of you all, we have been able to have a successful first year,” she said.

Gomez reminisced on their first event, World Hijab Day, which was held on Zoom, celebrating women around the world who choose to wear hijabs. She also explained how the organization has grown from just an executive board (e-board) of two students to six executive board members. Gomez continued by recognizing all of MSA’s accomplishments from the last year, including their advocacy regarding the importance of interfaith on campus.



Members of MSA, faculty and staff during the one-year celebration, West Haven, March 22, 2022.

Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Kayla Mutchler.

Following the anniversary, Gomez and the rest of the MSA e-board reflected on the event and their organization’s past, and looked forward to the future of MSA.

The MSA e-board is made up of Gomez, Vice President and junior criminal justice major Shahd

Omar, Executive Assistant and graduate chemistry student Abdur Rahman, Treasurer and sophomore marketing major Youssef Ossama, Director of Communications and Event Coordinator and sophomore mechanical engineering major Lai-

la Soliman, and Director of Public Relations and first-year dental hygiene major Nurcan Bozan.

Together, the e-board said that this past year has been a time of “community, peace and fearlessness.”

About a year before MSA’s creation, Gomez asked then-Assistant Director of the Myatt Center Zanaiya Leon if an MSA already existed on our campus, and, at the time, it didn’t. Gomez wanted such an organization because she said she is sometimes the only woman of color in a classroom, as well as the only Muslim student. She wanted to create her “own little community.”

Gomez met Omar through an Arabic professor, who told students about the new club. Omar emailed Gomez and became vice president, and Ossama joined shortly thereafter. Little by little, more members joined, and the club eventually grew into what it is today.

Members of the university community support MSA, though they may not be affiliated with Islam, according to Gomez. She said that at each event, they have about the same amount of Muslim attendees as students and faculty from other religions.

Gomez’s goals for MSA’s future include other members continuing to lead the organization after she graduates, as she said that some multicultural organizations fade away when the founding leadership moves on. She also wants to continue their flagship events and expand them, such as with interfaith panels and open forums.

Although there were many to choose from, the e-board unanimously said that the We Are



Students watch Adrielys Gomez as she gives her opening speech, West Haven, March 22, 2022.

Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Kayla Mutchler.

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Harry Styles announces third studio album after immense buildup

BY MIA ADDUCI
Student Life Editor

Following an elaborate, multi-faceted buildup, Harry Styles officially announced the release of his third studio album, “Harry’s Home,” set to debut on May 20.

On March 18, the You Are Home project—a mysterious account attached to a website that contained nothing more than a solid beige door—teased the announcement and erupted on Twitter. Since then, the door has reopened daily to reveal new images behind it.

Four days prior to the announcement, the official Twitter account wrote, “the door is open, come on in,” sending fans into an anticipated flurry.

It was not until three days later that Styles himself followed the account on Twitter, yet somehow online fanbases almost immediately associated the site with Harry.

On the first day, the door opened to reveal an array of green vines, which fans tied to the cover art of the book “Nature and Selected Essays” by Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Day two was a mere ombre of blended colors, which was associated with the cover of the novel “Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage” by Haruki Murakami.

Day three was a section of the Earth.

Day four was an array of painted mushrooms, which displayed a section of a 1000-piece puzzle

by Cavallini and Co., which Harry Lambert, Style’s stylist, posed in front of a poster of. This evidently ties into the new mushroom theme of Harry’s beauty brand, Pleasing.

On Wednesday, the door opened to reveal what is presumably the cover art for the album, with the same ominous door which consumed the website.



“Harry’s Home” cover art, March 23, 2022.
Photo courtesy of @harrystyles on Instagram.

The mass social media announcement for the release date by Styles himself, HSHQ and the You Are Home project used the same image.

The notations of the images worked to begin spelling out the word “welcome” backwards, starting with “E” for “Emerson,” then subsequently followed by “M” for Murakami, the Earth forming the letter “O” and the “C” for the company that produced the puzzle. On day three, the fragment of the Earth was placed upside-down. Why does this matter? The cover image of the new album displays Styles standing in a room in which everything is inverted, all of the furniture hanging upside-down from the ceiling.

Styles’ response to the announcement was a simple “Welcome home.”

The tweets from the account, which was just verified the day before Styles’ official announcement, are suspected to be lyrics from the upcoming album.

The album was initially speculated to be another “soft rock” album from Styles, yet following this week’s activity, fans are suspecting the theory of a 70s

psychedelic ambiance.

The door opened on the day of the announcement with a link to the same trailer featured on the HSHQ Instagram: a 40-second teaser to the ambiance of the album, with the main scene placing Styles on an empty stage with the outline of a house rising around him.

The depth of the album reveal expands outwards even further, as months prior, Styles renamed the GA pits “Hallway,” “Bedroom” and “Kitchen” for the upcoming legs of his world tour, alluding to the rooms in a house and songs in his prior albums. Fans have speculated about this change from the prior “Cherry” and “Watermelon” hits, titled after songs from the “Fine Line” album he is currently touring, indicating the transition into a new music era for the artist.

Notably, Styles also dressed as Dorothy from “The Wizard of Oz” during his Harryween special at MSG—Dorothy clicks her heels three times to “go home;” this is Harry’s third album.

“Harry’s Home” is available for pre-save on major streaming services.

Kanye West banned from Grammys, artists react

BY ANTOINETTE YEN
Entertainment Editor

The 64th Grammy Awards, officially known as the 2022 GRAMMYs Awards show, will be held on Sunday, April 3, at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

According to a spokesperson for the controversial artist, rapper Kanye West, now legally known as Ye, has been barred from performing at the 2022 Grammy Awards due to his “concerning online behavior.” Last Friday, The Blast was among the first to report the following which was later confirmed by one of Ye’s representatives.

This year, Ye has been nominated for five Grammys, including Album of the Year for Donda, and Best Rap Song for “Jail.” So far, the artist has received 75 Grammy nominations and has won a total of 22 Grammys throughout his career.

The Recording Academy’s decision came just days after Ye used racial slurs against Daily Show host Trevor Noah, who will host the Grammys this April. This comes on the heels of months of Ye sending inappropriate messages to his ex-wife Kim Kardashian and her current partner, comedian Pete Davidson.

Last week, the 44-year-old was suspended from Instagram for a day for calling Noah by a racial

slur, which violated the platform’s hate speech, bullying and harassment policies.

Noah spoke out against the rapper’s recent aggressive behavior toward Kardashian, with whom he has four children. Noah said Ye’s behavior should not be dismissed and that his attempts to win back Kardashian were becoming “more and more belligerent.”

“You may not feel sorry for Kim because she’s rich and famous,” Noah said, “but what she’s going through is terrifying to watch and shines a spotlight on what so many women go through when they choose to leave.”

Ye responded to Noah’s comments with a now-deleted post on the social media platform, writing an alternate title and lyrics to “Kumbaya” that included a racial epithet.

The record producer was already under fire for releasing a disturbing animated music video to his single “Eazy.” The song includes the lyrics, “God saved me from this crash / Just so I could beat Pete Davidson’s a**.” In the Claymation video, Ye is seen kidnapping and dismembering a figure that bears resemblance to Davidson. It was released the same day that Kardashian was declared legally single on March 2.

Throughout the controversy,

Ye has claimed that he is simply trying to reunite his family by using his art to work through his feelings.

West is currently being defended by The Game after the Donda rapper was barred from performing at the 2022 Grammy Awards.

In an Instagram post shared Friday evening, the 42-year-old rapper made a reference to the Grammys’ decision to remove West from the show, writing, “as if we didn’t know it was coming.”

“Time & time again they show us that they only want to STEAL the culture, not allow you to ever be their equals. In a more than obvious move for reasons of minuscule actions,” The Game wrote in his caption.

He later said that West’s exclusion “could be” because Noah is hosting the event before implying that “there was a conversation held amongst his team & the academy that led to the decision.”

The Game also suggested that the decision may have been due to Instagram’s recent decision to suspend West’s account for 24 hours “for reasons unknown” after the rapper allegedly used a slur on Noah’s page he commented on West’s split from Kardashian.

“We’ll just say it’s all of the above & a continuous disrespect for us & all that we have brought



to the table in entertainment, media & sports over the last 100 years especially,” The Game said in his caption.

“Speak your mind in this country for yourself, family or your people & you’re ostracized immediately & if you push them hard enough they will stop at no ends to try and put an end to you as a whole,” he said. “I for one, have never been scared to speak my mind even understanding what the consequences may be.”

Afterward, a source told People that Kardashian was “furious”

Ye performs on stage.
Photo courtesy of Creative Commons/furvetson.

about the music video. “She thinks it’s way too violent and is upset,” the insider said, noting that the reality star is “completely over all of this and she wants it to stop.”

On Sunday, Noah reacted to the news of West’s removal from the Grammys lineup on Twitter, writing, “I said counsel Kanye not cancel Kanye.”

The 2022 Grammy Awards will air on CBS on April 3 at 8 p.m.

Iran launches missile attack against Iraq, striking near new U.S. consulate

BY LILLIAN NEWTON
Staff Writer

Earlier this month, Iran, in an unprecedented attack against Israel, used 12 ballistic missiles to hit the Iraqi capital of Erbil. According to Kurdish officials, the attacks seemed to target the U.S. and its allies, with some of the missiles landing near the new U.S. consulate. The attack did not cause any damage to U.S. facilities and no Americans were injured, according to a U.S. state department spokesperson.

The missiles only caused material damage and one civilian was injured, with no reported deaths.

Iraqi officials said that Iran produced the missiles and Iran's Revolutionary Guards claimed responsibility for the attack. Iranian state media said that Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps conducted the attack against Israeli "strategic centres" in Erbil. However, Kurdish officials repeatedly insisted that there are no such sites located in or near Erbil.

The missile attack comes just four days after Iran vowed to get revenge for recent Israeli air

strikes in Syria that killed four people, including at least two members of the Revolutionary Guards.

Days after the attack, officials have stated that the strikes occurred as an act of retaliation for a previously secret airstrike conducted last month by Israel on an Iranian drone factory. The "tit-for-tat" strikes showcase an alarming escalation in the long-running shadow war between the two nations. The expansion of the conflict has entangled both the U.S. and Iraq into the mix as well.

For years, the war between Iran and Israel has remained largely covert in an effort to prevent a full-scale war that neither side wants to bring about. Previous attacks have been mostly brief, limited and deniable in nature.

In a statement, the Revolutionary Guards Corp warned Israel that "once again the repeating of its evil actions will be met with a firm and destructive response." Further adding, "We also assure the Iranian people that the country's security and stability is a red line for the Iranian armed force."



Missiles point toward the sky.
Photo courtesy of Camva.

The strike, which hit in a sparsely populated area north of Erbil, is thought to have been calibrated to limit retaliation by the U.S. and its allies, especially with the minimal impact the attack caused.

The attack also comes after nuclear talks between Iran and world powers reached a stalemate. Negotiators have worked over the last eleven months to

restore the 2015 nuclear agreement that had been put in place, which had previously restricted Iran's nuclear program and removed strenuous economic sanctions put on Iran by the U.S. The negotiations came to a halt after Russia, a signatory to the 2015 agreement, tried to use its final approval of the Iran deal as leverage to open a loophole in the sanctions placed against the

nation since its recent invasion into Ukraine.

Neither U.S. nor European officials are willing to negotiate a broad exemption for Russia from Ukraine sanctions to allow Russia to continue business as normal with Iran, but European officials have stated that they are working to find ways around Russia's demands.

COVID-19 cases surge in China

BY GABRIEL CALDATO
Contributing Writer

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, China has been known for its COVID-zero strategy, which includes international travel bans, extensive lockdowns and widespread testing for the Chinese population.

Until now, this approach has been responsible for keeping the country's situation under control. Even during the Winter Olympics that took place in Beijing in February, the set of restrictions imposed on athletes and anyone directly involved with the Olympics was able to keep positive cases confined to the Olympic "bubble," preventing the virus from spreading to the community.

However, since the beginning of March, China is facing their worst COVID-19 outbreak of the past two years. The number of new cases has doubled across the country due to the increased spread of the Omicron BA.2 subvariant.

This new flare-up is bringing concerns to Chinese health authorities and will challenge the success of the COVID-zero strategy. To contain the recent outbreaks of COVID-19, authorities have established extensive lockdowns in different regions of the country, and while countries in the West are adopting a more flexible approach to the pandemic, China is enforcing some of its most rigorous methods right now. For instance, the population

of the city of Shanghai and the southern tech powerhouse of Shenzhen are facing the return to online classes for all students, restrictions on the operating time of public transportation as important industries and commerce are temporarily closed. Furthermore, residents of Jilin province are indefinitely forbidden from traveling beyond regional borders.

The extent of these measures as had an impact on the daily lives of approximately 50 million people and will also threaten the manufacturing and technological production of one of the most important industrial hubs in the country, leading to a direct negative impact on this year's GDP.

As the local dissatisfaction grows, it is necessary to raise the question: is COVID-zero policy still possible?

Many economists are warning that those harsh crackdowns are hurting the economy.

Evelyn Cheng, the Beijing correspondent for CNBC addressed this issue, saying "Taken together for the spillover effect to other regions, the lockdown and stricter quarantine measures in this round could deduct ~0.5-0.8% from Q1 GDP growth."

Also, citizens are showing signs of weariness due to the government's draconian measures; some residents of Shenzhen have described feeling more apprehensive and anxious since the new measures were implemented and adopted.

Try your luck at this current events wordsearch

R	I	A	A	U	S	U	O	O	G	S	I	F	E
N	O	T	F	D	O	P	U	T	I	N	I	P	T
U	E	T	R	U	O	C	E	M	E	R	P	U	S
R	S	U	F	E	C	M	E	R	U	A	I	G	P
D	E	M	S	S	E	O	I	N	P	V	I	N	E
L	R	R	E	O	N	N	N	S	U	S	N	C	E
S	E	C	O	N	D	B	O	O	S	T	E	R	O
S	C	G	U	O	E	A	I	E	S	I	S	P	R
R	U	S	S	I	A	N	G	A	S	D	L	I	E
T	N	A	I	R	A	V	E	S	A	I	R	E	G
L	R	E	F	U	G	E	E	S	S	D	O	T	S
A	C	O	V	I	D	F	U	N	D	S	G	I	E
A	A	S	F	E	M	O	R	A	P	S	I	I	R
E	L	N	U	K	R	A	I	N	E	I	S	T	T

Conspiracy theory, Ukraine, second booster, variant, refugees, missiles, Putin, Russian gas, COVID funds, Supreme Court

University community adjusts to loosened mask policies

BY MIA ADDUCI
Student Life Editor

As the university community moves into the second half of the semester, staff and students have recently returned from Spring Break to welcome an optional mask policy introduced by the COVID Task Force. While some students have elected to unveil their full faces, others continue to wear their masks.

In some departments at the university, suggestions to maintain face coverings have been made evident. For those in course BIOL 1123, a notice was delivered with the statement that instructors of the course “are asking all students to please continue to wear your masks to lab this week.”

The message continues, “In addition, the length of the lab and our need to work together, increase chances of contagion. We can’t require you to wear a mask, but if most of us do it will provide a good measure of protection. We will revisit this mask request again next week.”

Kate Miller, professor and course coordinator for BIOL 1121/1123, spoke on the new mask policy and the approach taken for the lab.

In clarification that the mask retention was a request and in no way a mandate, she provided insight on the reasoning for the request, saying, “Our labs are nearly three



Students work in the Bergami Center after mask mandate lifts, West Haven, March 27, 2022.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.

hours, and students work together in teams. Some students and instructors expressed some discomfort about returning from Spring Break and being in lab without masks. Our request for masks was

intended to make everyone feel as comfortable as possible, while following the University’s guidelines about voluntary masking.”

“As Coordinator part of my responsibilities include making

decisions about safety and comfort, such as implementing and complying with various Covid policies these past two years, providing and requiring certain safety equipment, and responding to student and

instructor concerns, while delivering quality content,” she said. “Our request was polite and assured them that masking is voluntary. Our main focus in lab is to facilitate hands-on exploration of biological principles, and this request hasn’t affected our service to students or, to my knowledge, their experience of the lab activities.”

Across the student population in the week returning to campus, an array of students can be found both masked and maskless, with some varying from day-to-day.

Julian Thomas, senior marine biology major, spoke on their experiences since returning to campus this past week. “I see less people wearing masks since break ended, especially my friends who said they’d continue to wear them seemed to have given up,” they said.

In terms of personal experience, Thomas spoke on their decision to go maskless most of the time, and said, “A lot of that comes from the fact that I’m tired of wearing masks at this point, and everyone is vaccinated.”

“Without a mask I feel as if I’m presenting myself more organically and that’s better for me,” they said.

In terms of their personal concerns regarding the new mask policy, Thomas said, “I do have some worry among those unvaccinated folk who spread without knowing.”



The women’s lacrosse team in a huddle against Molloy College, West Haven, March 24, 2022.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Wells.

This week in Charger sports

BY MIA ADDUCI
Student Life Editor

Are you looking for a way to spend your days as we dip deeper into spring? Check out these sporting events to support your fellow Chargers:

Baseball plays Bridgeport at home on Wednesday, March 30 at 3 p.m. at Frank Vieira Field, and Southern New Hampshire on April 2 and 3 at 12 p.m. on both days.

Women’s lacrosse goes head-to-head with Stonehill on Saturday, April 2 at 1 p.m. at Kathy Zolad

Stadium.

Women’s tennis plays American International at noon. on Saturday, April 2 at the New Haven Tennis Fields.

Softball has a game against Post today on the Softball Field at 2:30 p.m.

Check into this week’s away games following the schedule below:

On Wednesday, March 30, women’s lacrosse faces Le Moyne at 3 p.m.

Men’s and women’s track and field are attending the TCNJ Invitational on Saturday April 2.

Softball is

packing in a busy travel week, playing Molloy on Thursday, March 31 at 3 p.m., Franklin Pierce on Saturday and Saint Michael’s on Sunda, with both double-headers starting at noon.

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Thursday, March 31st, 2022

5:30 pm - Doors open at 5:00 pm

Venue: Pompea College of Business, The Atrium, Orange Campus

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Click here or Scan the QR code:
<https://www.newhaven.edu/business/pompea-entreprenHER/index.php>



Spend your Friday nights at Toad's Place in New Haven

BY SAIGE BATZA
Student Life Editor

Are you looking for a nightclub to spend your Friday nights with friends, but haven't been successful? Well, I've got the perfect place for you. For the past 50 years, Toad's Place in New Haven has been attracting crowds of people, from regular concertgoers to local college students. The national attraction has hosted celebrities including Billy Joel, Bruce Springsteen, The Rolling Stones and Bob Dylan, among many others.

The music club was built as a Yale co-op, across town from Yale University. In 1975, Mike Spoerndle opened the business as an Italian and French restaurant, and later added live music to attract more customers. Spoerndle hosted 25-cent "beer nights," even when the legal drinking age was 18. In 1976,

the club transformed into an iconic music venue and adopted the motto "Where the Legends play."

Early on, Toad's Place held about 1,000 guests at a time, hosting U2 for one of their first performances as a band. Bruce Springsteen made an appearance after his concert at the Hartford Civic Center. In fact, Springsteen showed up to Toad's Place without warning, and performed for a while. This unlikely event helped give Toad's Place the popularity it had been looking for, which drew in crowds of locals and tourists.

In 1989, The Rolling Stones gave an intimate performance to 700 lucky fans after rehearsing for their Steel Wheels tour in Washington, Conn. The tickets for their performance were only \$3.01 each—an unimaginable phenomenon, today.

So, why should you choose



to spend your Friday night at Toad's Place? For starters, the local attraction and nightclub has

hosted award-winning musicians

The sign at the entrance of Toad's Place, New Haven. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Charlotte Bassett.

and celebrities. There is even a wall on one side of the building that shows the names of the stars who have performed there over the years. If you choose to attend one of the live shows, make sure you set time aside to arrive early, as the line is usually wrapped around the building.

Every Friday and Saturday night, you can also head out to Toad's when it turns into a nightclub. Check out their Instagram, @toadsplace, for upcoming themed nights and DJs. Typically, it is 18 and up to party, and drinks are served to attendees over 21 years of age.

You can find a list of upcoming events on seatgeek.com. Upcoming performances include Fangirl Fantasy on March 31, Jukebox the Ghost on April 1, Cousin Stizz on April 5 and many more.



The entrance to Toad's Place on York Street, New Haven. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Charlotte Bassett.

MSA celebration

Continued from page 1

Culture Fashion Show was their favorite event. At this fall event, students of various religions and cultures showcased outfits that represented their respective communities.

The event was so popular among the university community that the e-board had to call maintenance multiple times to bring more chairs for incoming guests.

According to MSA, there's much more left in store to look forward to this year. Currently, Ossama is working on getting Halal food for students and providing them with meals to break their fasts during Ramadan.

Gomez said the club wants to make "UNH a place that's welcoming to [Muslim students], because... when we first created MSA, we didn't have any resources."

Omar said that many students studying abroad who are new to campus use MSA as a resource. She said some reach out to ask about housing opportunities, among other questions.

Soliman said they hope that MSA continues to educate people about topics surrounding and outside of religion. "We would like to stay true to our values and make sure that there is a safe space for muslims on campus," they said.

Soliman is from Egypt, and they said that they were terrified when they first came to campus. They said that to them, "MSA is everything."

"I feel supported; I feel welcomed; I feel safe," they said. "Being gifted that... I want to give back to the community."

"If you've ever been to one of our meetings," Omar said, "the energy is just so calm and everyone there feels welcome."

One thing that members want students to know is that MSA is open to all students of all religions. Ossama said that the group is open-minded and attempts to



give people constructive criticism during their discussions.

Though MSA is still a younger organization compared to some other RSOs, members hope that it will continue to grow. Omar said, "It's like our little flower that

we're watering and we just want it to keep growing and growing—more so a tree, so it can stay alive forever."

MSA meets every Thursday at 6 p.m. in the Myatt Center. For

more information on MSA, you can follow their Instagram, @unh_msa. E-board applications are also available now through Charger Connection.

Attendees speak during the event, West Haven, March 22, 2022. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Kayla Mutchler.

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Printed by Valley Publishing Co.
Derby, CT.

Archives can be found at our-
schoolnewspaper.com/charger

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

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

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We need a steed: It's time for a live mascot

BY KAYLA MUTCHLER

Editor-in-Chief

University of Connecticut, University of Colorado Boulder, University of North Alabama, Louisiana State University, Yale University. Some of these universities are hundreds of miles apart; others are in the same state. But what do they all have in common?

Student life? No. Similarly priced? No. Best gameday atmospheres? Well, that depends on who you're asking.

The real answer? Each school has a live mascot, and it is time for the University of New Haven to follow suit.

The university is home to the Chargers, a medieval warhorse. Charlie is the armor-wearing, blue and white horse mascot students know and love. Most recently, in 2020, the university constructed a bronze charger statue in front of the Beckerman Recreation Center. While both add to Charger pride, they are incomparable to the energy that a live mascot could bring.

Picture this: it's a Saturday in mid-October. The Chargers are undefeated this season, and it's the annual homecoming game. You're sitting in the bleachers, eagerly awaiting kickoff. But before the game can begin, it's time for the pregame ritual. The band, dance team and cheerleaders create their tunnel for the football players, but they're not coming out just yet. The cannon fires and a live charger with a medieval knight guiding the steed to victory charges onto the field, ringing in the game day festivities.



It's time for that feeling to become a reality.

Students deserve to have their tuition go to something that they can improve their overall university experience. Of course, having a charger on campus wouldn't be a cheap feat, but it would be an investment worth a lifetime. Horses can cost anywhere from \$1,000 to \$10,000. From thoroughbreds to American quarter horses, Appaloosas and more, each breed comes at a different price. The steed would also need food, a stable to live in, a stable hand (if not multiple) and, possibly, a companion animal, since horses are social herd animals.

In addition to the initial cost of the horse, upkeep can cost up to \$6,000 in its first year of ownership, including bedding, equip-

ment, healthcare and more—but this is expected with an animal. A stable for the charger, too, could cost anywhere from \$10 to \$150 per square foot.

But the cost will be worth it when the morale of students is increased.

As the university also pushes itself to a Division I standing, it is important that it keeps up with the standards of other DI schools. Take the University of Southern California or Florida State University—both schools have steeds with people who ride them for the ultimate game day ambiance.

And even if the DI transition doesn't happen for a few years, the investment could start paying off immediately. The University of North Alabama has a lion that

The Charlie the Charger statue, West Haven.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/ Charlotte Bassett.

represents the school, and they're also DI. During the football season, about 1,000 spectators visit the lion per week. Imagine how many visitors our charger would have.

Our beloved charger could be used for more than just game day. There could be events for children to ride it, an area for students to watch it roam the pasture and perhaps even opportunities to pet it. With the stressful life of college always looming on the backs of its students, having a comfort animal on campus would help to alleviate some of that stress.

Happiness, energy, community, entertainment and excitement—this could all come true with the investment of a live mascot.

Colorism in modern days: Enough is enough

BY DESHEANIA
ANDREWS

Contributing Writer

Racism has always existed, but its insidious cousin, colorism, has become rampant—especially in African American communities.

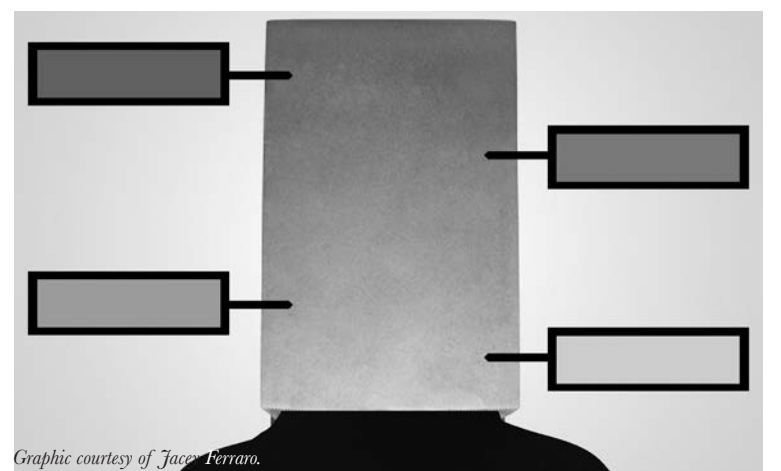
Colorism is a form of discrimination in which people with lighter skin are favored over people with darker skin. This is not a new phenomenon. During the Antebellum Era, many slave owners raped their slaves, leading to a generation of people with lighter skin. African Americans of a lighter skin tone could shed their entire identities by changing their name, moving away and starting a new life, as if they were switching out a deck of cards. African Americans soon realized the privileges of being light skinned and some began “passing” as members of a different race.

This problem only worsened over time. Starting in 1900, a

“test” was invented called the paper bag test. If someone had the same or lighter skin tone than a paper bag, they would be allowed into certain places or considered for hire at more establishments. If you were darker than the paper bag, you would be turned away. A cheap piece of paper arbitrarily determined your race, your success, your future—but the absurd practice was only physically left in the past.

In the media, fan-favorite shows and movies subtly maintain a paper bag test via characterizations and casting. Dark-skinned women on television are often portrayed as argumentative, lazy, the “baby mama” or the sidekick who hangs out with her light-skinned friend. This friend is portrayed as conventionally pretty, shy and deserving of luxury. In today's society, colorism is widespread yet still not talked about.

This form of discrimination holds us back. A 2006 study from the University of Georgia



Graphic courtesy of Jace Ferraro.

found that a light-skinned Black man with a bachelor's degree and typical work experience had a greater chance of being hired over a dark-skinned Black man with an MBA and past managerial positions. A 2004 study by Cornell Law Library revealed that dark-skinned defendants are more likely to be convicted and receive the death penalty than light-skinned ones.

How do we move forward as a society when we are the ones continuing to push this discrimination upon each other?

While we may not be able to put an end to it, we can start the conversation. At the University of New Haven, classes such as “Race, Gender and Class in the Media” cultivate these conversations. Recognized Student Organizations on campus such as the Black Student Union, Caribbean Student Association and NAACP hold meetings and events that bring these topics to light.

It starts with a conversation, and that conversation can start with you.

It is time for better Latine representation in media

BY ANDREA ALVERCA
Contributing Writer

Growing up in a Latin household, I enjoyed helping my mom cook Peruvian dishes, and watching TV when I was allowed. Between the ages of five to eight, being Latine meant one thing: I could watch my three favorite shows on Televisa and Univision: “Sábado Gigante,” “Rebelde” and “La Familia Peluche.” If my dad allowed it, we’d also watch reruns of “Caso Cerrado.”

Like most American kids, I grew up watching Disney, too, especially the princess films. While my favorite princess was Ariel, it sparked my curiosity as to why there wasn’t a princess who looked like me. Sure, there was Pocahontas and Jasmine, but there wasn’t a Latina princess. That changed in 2016, when Disney introduced “Elena of Avalor.” But, even then, Elena wasn’t considered a princess because she did not have a traditional Disney movie and her TV series was canceled after three seasons—tragically, on my birthday.

Latine kids of my generation had “Dora The Explorer,” “Maya and Miguel” and “Handy Manny” alongside our Spanish programs; however, we still lacked representation.



Graphic courtesy of Jacey Ferraro.

The lack of Latine representation also exists at the university. As the only Latina senior of my high school, it was important to me to find a university that had a Latino community. The overall percentage of POC, both undergraduate and graduate, at the University of New Haven is 27.31%, and 11.3% is Hispanic or Latino. To someone who went to a predominantly white high school, that percentage is substantial. Yet, in my four years of attending this university, I have only had three professors of Latin descent.

It’s not just lack of Latine representation in the media that

is troublesome, but the scarcity of leadership figures in the everyday workplace to remind the Latine community of the heights we can reach.

As a new adult, I’ve specifically noticed how the media portrays the women in the Latine community. Most people think of Latina actresses as one of three women: Jennifer Lopez, Salma Hayek or Sofia Vergara. Their success in the industry has made them the faces of Latin America that young Latine women feel a pressure to physically emulate.

American media focuses on Latina actresses that meet their personal standard for the accept-

able Latina woman. According to the U.S. Census, 18.5% of the population is of Hispanic or Latino descent. In other words, it is impossible that, out of the 331 million people that live in the U.S. 61 million look like the media’s standard of Latina women.

However, regardless of the media’s superficial love of Lopez, Hayek and Vergara each has paved the way for more Latine women to enter the media. Lopez inspired women with her role in the 1997 film “Selena.” Selena Quintanilla may not have been Peruvian like me, but she was the first woman who I felt resembled me. She wasn’t white-passing, significantly tall, nor did she have pin-straight hair. She had curls, curves and was what my mom described as “de piel

trigueña,” or olive-skinned.

Salma Hayek recently became the first Latina superhero, Ajak, in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, one of the biggest modern entertainment industries. My excitement and adoration couldn’t compare to how 9-year-old me would have felt. I grew up believing that men were in the position of power. The only superheroes I knew about were all white men; I didn’t hear about Supergirl or Wonder Woman until later. So to see a Latina, immigrant woman portray a character that was not only gender-swapped, but the leader of a superhero group, is groundbreaking.

Sofia Vergara is a talented actress and businesswoman. She’s also recently become a U.S. citizen, which is a goal for many Latine immigrants. I admire her for her courage in pursuing a career in the entertainment industry as a woman whose first language is not English.

Essentially, it is easier for Latine individuals born in the U.S. to get into the American film industry when English is their first language. It is a struggle for immigrant Latine individuals to enter the American industry because of that barrier, which is why there’s so little representation.

“WHILE MY FAVORITE PRINCESS WAS ARIEL, IT SPARKED MY CURIOSITY AS TO WHY THERE WASN’T A PRINCESS WHO LOOKED LIKE ME.”

Paying attention is nearly impossible after a pandemic

BY VICTORIA CAGLEY
Community Engagement Editor

The story is always the same.

I sit down in class and make the effort to pay attention for maybe 10 minutes. I take a couple of notes, and, suddenly, I end up searching phone cases on Amazon while the class content is easily forgotten.

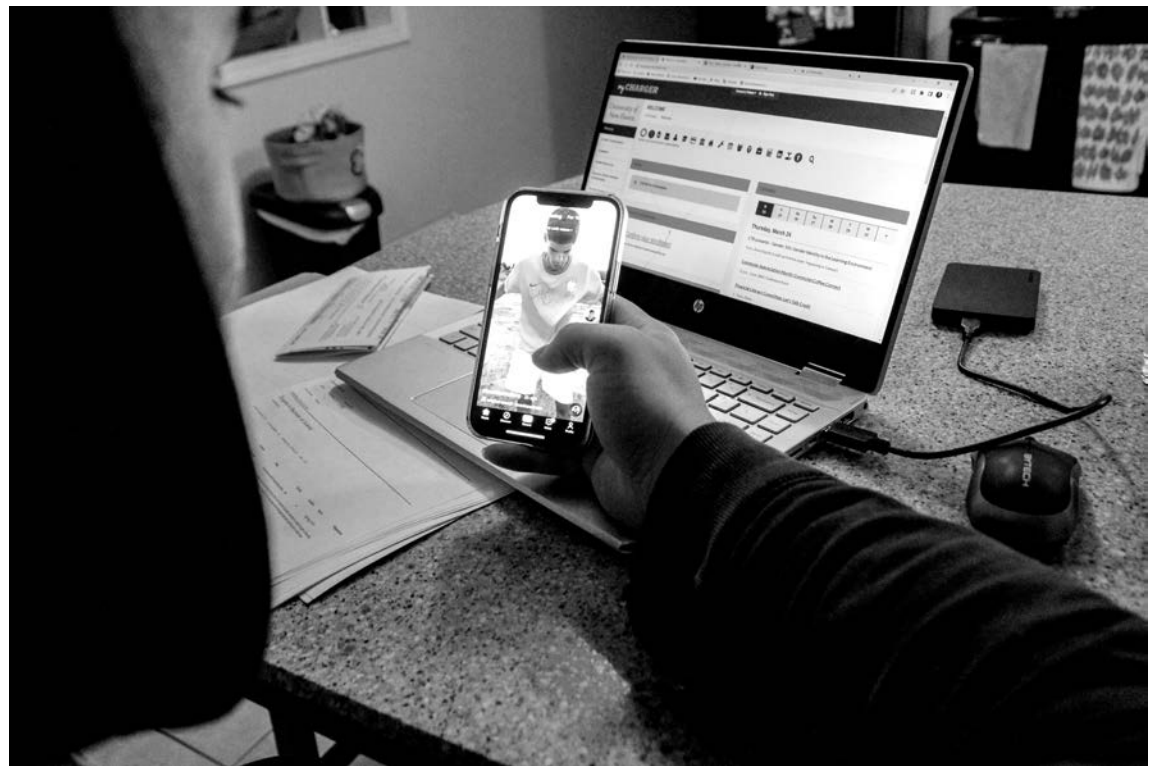
I wasn’t always like this. Sure, the occasional procrastination attempt and slight distraction would plague me, perhaps most often during midterms or finals week, but after the pandemic hit, different social media platforms rose to popularity, and suddenly my focus was just on one thing—the internet. The countless hours of Zoom classes made me feel like I was listening to a podcast and didn’t need to be fully attentive anymore. Now, as a graduating senior with her first complete set of fully in-person classes in two years, I find myself struggling in the classroom as I never have before. My stress levels are through the roof, and I can’t seem to make the time to cope with it.

According to a study in the Journal of Community Psy-

chology exploring the stress levels of college students after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, students have been experiencing higher stress levels in relation to their academic performance after the pandemic. Students said that they were uncertain when normal in-person activities would resume and how remote learning was affecting the way they learned.

On March 9, 2020, all University of New Haven students received the first of many foreboding emails from President Steven Kaplan about the closure of campus for about 15 days. A week after that email was sent, another announcement rolled in that we would be learning fully remotely for the remainder of the semester. In the blink of an eye, my sophomore year felt finished and I had no clue what my next two years could look like.

I spent all my time that semester scrolling endlessly on TikTok, constantly on my phone, and it somehow feels like that’s all I still do. Communities on the internet flourished and bloomed with the use of social media applications like TikTok and Twitter, where conversations were facilitated in a time where no one could be face-to-face. We



A student watches TikTok while on MyCharger. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Lismarie Pabon.

lived on the internet for months at a time, and to put it plainly, I became addicted to my phone.

According to my phone’s screen time statistics, I spent 4 hours and 20 minutes on TikTok on Feb. 10, which is interesting, considering I have class on Thursdays.

In an article written by a social studies teacher examining the

effects of smartphone usage in the classroom, it was found that grades inevitably decline, attention spans reduce and students don’t know how to get back on track.

On MyCharger, the Center for Learning Resources page says, “In person or online, the CLR is here to help you,” but somehow every time I find myself in the li-

brary or on the Navigate application to schedule an appointment, I can’t find the checkbox that encompasses what I need help with. I’m not looking for a tutor to help me with the material or to do math equations.

Needless to say, I just want to be able to pay attention again.

Women's lacrosse pulls away late over Molloy, wins 21-12

BY TYLER WELLS
Managing Editor

The No. 18 New Haven women's lacrosse team took home a 21-12 victory against Molloy College on Thursday night after pulling away in the fourth quarter. It was a back-and-forth contest throughout as the Lions continued responding to the persistent New Haven attack.

The win comes off a tough 19-6 loss against No. 3 Adelphi University last Tuesday, where the Chargers were overcome by a strong Panthers attack.

Molloy jumped out to an early 3-1 lead as they netted two consecutive goals to break the tie. The Chargers then went on a run of their own, as goals from junior attacks Camryn Antler and Annie Acquavita and senior midfielder Marina Skelly gave New Haven the lead at the end of the first.

It was the start of a big night for Antler who went on to lead the team in scoring with a career-high of six goals.

The two sides traded leads in the second quarter, as goals from Antler and freshman attack Reagan Bailey

broke the ties. Sophomore midfielder Cypress Levitt added another goal to open a two score lead before Molloy once again responded, bringing it even at seven.

Just before the first half ended, Skelly and Levitt connected again to give the Chargers a two goal lead

going into the break. The momentum carried into the second half, as it was Skelly and Antler who gave New Haven their biggest lead of the night. Sophomore attack Kyra Sparks capped the scoring run, tallying her first goal of the season to extend the lead to four.

Despite responses from the Lions, New Haven maintained their lead until the end of the third quarter, heading into the final period with a four goal advantage, which is when the Chargers began pulling away.

Three goals from both Antler and Bailey paced the 7-0 scoring run,

opening up a 10 goal lead with time winding down in the fourth quarter. When the final buzzer sounded, the Chargers walked away with a 21-12 win.

The Chargers were led by a balanced scoring attack, with Antler leading the way with six and Bailey tallying five. Skelly also added four and Levitt finished with three. Sophomore goalkeeper Gabby Buscemi made 11 saves on the night to help anchor the New Haven defense.

New Haven returned to action on Saturday as well, this time in an away matchup against the College of Saint Rose. While they dropped the game 9-8, Skelly scored a goal to earn her 100th career point. She currently sits at 90 career goals, looking to become the 18th player ever to reach the 100 goal mark in program history.

Skelly will have an opportunity to add to the totals when New Haven travels to Syracuse, N.Y. for a matchup against No. 6 Le Moyne College on Wednesday at 3 p.m. More information on the schedule, along with live stats and streams can be found at NewHavenChargers.com.



The women's lacrosse team in a huddle against Molloy College, West Haven, March 24, 2022.

Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Wells.



Camryn Antler drives against Molloy College, West Haven, March 24, 2022.

Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Wells.



Annie Acquavita lines up for a penalty against Molloy, West Haven, March 24, 2022.

Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Wells.

T&F competes at Wesleyan Swanson Invitational

BY JOSEPH KLAUS
Staff Writer

After competing in Myrtle Beach a week ago the New Haven Women's Track and Field competed at the Wesleyan Swanson Invitational Meet at Wesleyan College in Middletown, Conn. The Blue and Gold placed in five events overall, winning two events led by the arms of Neva Bostic and Jalynn McCown.

McCown threw shotput and set the standard in her second throw. After an opening throw of 11.23 meters, her second move was the one to beat. Marked at 11.40 meters, McCown's best throw remained the top. That mark held while teammate Isabelle Robinson finished third in the event with a throw of 10.91 meters. Robinson opened up the event with a throw of 10.32 meters, followed by 10.30 meters which moved her into the finals, where she needed just one throw to get the mark of 10.91 meters, putting her in third place for the meet.

A week after breaking the school record in the javelin, Bostic stayed on top of her game, winning the event at the meet. After an opening throw of 34.99 meters, Bostic followed that up with a qualifying throw of 36.19 meters, which moved her into the finals flight of the event, where Bostic waited until her final

throw to outdo her second. Her final mark at 37.93 meters put Bostic comfortably in first place.

Following her first place finish in shot, McCown competed in the hammer throw alongside teammate Elise Dodel. The two competed against one another, trying to outdo the other with each throw. McCown opened with a throw of 39.87 meters before Dodel beat her with a second throw of 40.53 meters. McCown quickly bounced ahead of Dodel on her third throw, marking at 43.47 meters and advancing to the finals. McCown's throw put her in second place while Dodel's throw of 40.53 meters placed her in third behind McCown.

Mikayla Yatzko jumped into a second place finish in the triple jump. On her third jump, Yatzko reached 10.55 meters which put her into second place in the finals. Yatzko only needed one jump in the prelims to score 10.79 meters which held her against the competition in second place overall.

On the men's side, the Blue and Gold placed in five events overall, winning two events led by Kevin Leach-Brown and Cole Parker.

In the sand pit, Parker jumped into a first place finish, beating the closest competitor by .08 meters. In his best jump, he soared to 6.66 meters in the finals, securing the first place finish in the event.

Back in the field, the arms of the Chargers continued to be strong as Russel Kobierecki finished second in shot put. After opening up with a throw of 11.39 meters, Kobierecki crushed his previous distance with a mark of 13.48 meters. That throw also moved Kobierecki to the finals, where he almost matched it again with a mark of 13.45 meters. Kobierecki's preliminary throw of 13.48 meters would move him into second place where he finished the event.

Carlos Rivera earned second in the hammer throw event. Just before the rain came down in Middletown, Rivera started with a toss of 43.64 meters earning him first place honors. That throw would solidify his place until the finals, where he was narrowly beat out for first place.

On the track, Kevin Leach-Brown took home a first place win in the 400 meters. Leach-Brown took control by winning the event by over a second when he finished his lap in an even time of 50 seconds, as the second place competitor crossed in 51.39, securing the win for the Blue and Gold.

Track and field returns to competition this Saturday, traveling to The College of New Jersey Invitational meet on Saturday.

Softball sweeps AIC doubleheader

BY JOSEPH KLAUS
Staff Writer

Opening day for the New Haven softball team was highlighted by a walk-off triple followed up by a no-hitter by Mia Iodice to sweep the American International College Yellow Jackets and beat out the weather for their first two conference wins and open up their home schedule for the 2022 season.

Game 1

In the first game in West Haven, Selena Aponte entered the circle and dominated from her first pitch to her last. After a leadoff walk, Aponte got the second Yellow Jacket batter to pop up before a single and finished the inning off with a strikeout and another pop up. With their first swings at home, the bats did their work with two outs. Nahtali Simpson stayed hot, advancing to second on an error by the center fielder. Jovanna Hillman spent no time switching places with Simpson, doubling to the right center gap, replacing Simpson and getting the Chargers on the board first while the home crowd got involved in the game early. Turning it back over to Aponte in the circle, it was quick work for her, cruising through the next five innings striking out two batters and allowing only three hits with a strong defensive performance behind her. Down to their last three outs, the Yellow Jackets strung together three hits, tying their game total in that inning and sneaking two runs across. Turning to the home half and the Chargers down one, the rally caps came on with eight, nine, top due up for New Haven. Ashley Veisz led the inning off, reaching on an error; this was the motivation they needed to keep going. Hailey Laforte then advanced Veisz to second and one out with Mya Case and the top of the order up to bat. Case reached first on an infield single, setting up runners on the corners and Hailey Polisano entering the box.

Polisano, looking for her first hit, took the first pitch she saw driving it over the left fielder's head, scoring Veisz from third. Head coach Don Justus coached third wave Case to score from first before continuing her run to Polisano and celebrating the walk-off win.

Game 2

Following the walk off during game one, Iodice wanted her own storyline for the sweep of the Yellow Jackets. After the offense took the story in the first game, Iodice went out and threw a no-hitter in five innings of work, dominating in the circle and finishing with 6 strikeouts on 58 pitches. Iodice would then strike out the side in the first, which set the tempo for the rest of the game, sitting down the Yellow Jackets in each of the 5 innings. In the home half of the second game, the Chargers led off with a single from Jovanna Hillman who advanced to third on a double by Ashley Veisz. Hallie Fredrick soon broke the scoreless streak, singling to center and scoring Hillman and Veisz to get the scoring going for the second game. They were held to two runs, but after one of them, Iodice scored a perfect inning in the third while the offense got going right where they left off in the second. With the top of the order leading off the inning, Mya Case got things started, singling en route to a 8 run inning highlighted by a Veisz grand-slam. The Blue and Gold capitalized on the Yellow Jackets errors, giving Iodice and the team a 10-0 lead. That was more than enough for Iodice, who finished off the last two innings of work, finishing off the no-hitter and getting the sweep of AIC at the end of the day.

With the win, the Chargers improve to 7-7 (2-0 NE-10) and get off to a strong start in conference play.

The Chargers return to the field today with a doubleheader against Post University starting at 2:30 p.m. More information can be found at NewHavenChargers.com.