

THE CHARGER BULLETIN

The student news source of the University of New Haven.



THE BIG PRICE OF A PANDEMIC



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THE CHARGER BULLETIN

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NEWS

A discussion about sex trafficking an OnlyFans era

BY BETH BEAUDRY;
ISABELLE HAJEK
Staff Writers

On March 19, the Office of Residential Life (ORL) hosted a panel on “Human Trafficking and the Evolution of Sex Work” via Zoom in honor of National Women’s History Month throughout March and on the cusp of Sexual Assault Awareness Month to be observed in April.

The panelist discussed how new technology and apps, such as OnlyFans, have shifted the stigma and dangers of sex work as it relates to human trafficking. ORL area coordinator Will Frazier and senior forensic biology student and resident assistant Jennifer Edwards moderated the event. Panelists included Title IX/VAWA Compliance Director for the

Dean of Students Office Ashely Dunn, director of the Center for Forensics Investigations of Trafficking in Persons and Chair of the Forensic Science Department. Timothy Palmbach, and bilingual advocate at the Rape Crisis Center of Milford, and the university’s college advocate Marisol Ramos Cummings.

The panel opened the discussion by discussing demographics who are most vulnerable to sex trafficking such as those who experience mental illness, poverty and homelessness. The common factor in all vulnerable populations is a sense of desperation and a level of naivety. According to Dunn, transgender women of color and LGBTQ+ homeless youths are trafficked and exploited at higher rates than most other demographics.

The panelists said that platforms such as OnlyFans present

increased opportunities for exploitation, especially after the financial need created by job loss during the COVID-19 pandemic. While many of the sex workers are adults and voluntarily in the field, lack of regulation from the app, according to Palmbach, has caused an increase in exploitation, specifically of children. He said that OnlyFans asks creators for their age upon making an account, but does not ask for verification until it is time for creators to accept payment, in which the app then asks for an ID.

“It’s like hiding people in a million little boxes with no keys,” said Palmbach about the ease by which people can be trafficked online and how difficult it is to intervene. He said that apps like OnlyFans market to children on popular social media platforms, like Tik

Tok, and that exploitation often continues as their content may be shared and sold to a third party source.

Dunn and Cummings expressed their assent and expanded upon the lack of regulations. Many of these platforms ask for age verification, not to protect their users, but to protect themselves. This has resulted in a push for additional oversight by non-profits such as the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE), who cites Onlyfans as one of 12 companies who most profit from sexual exploitation on their “Dirty Dozen” list released in February. Onlyfans was joined by Netflix, Reddit and Amazon, among others.

A section of the discussion was centered around defining victimization in order to protect people. Many individuals do

not see themselves as victims of sexual crimes until they are able to reflect on their experiences.

While consensual sex work exists, Dunn explained that there is a “fine line” and consensual sex work can be easily manipulated to be exploitative. This “fine line” is partially what legislation must work to protect people from as sex workers campaign to decriminalize the industry.

Legislation has been passed to try to protect these individuals from exploitation; however, it commonly backfires and causes more harm to those it aims to protect. In some states, part of the sentence for being caught in sex work is to be placed on the sex offender registry along with perpetrators of sexual assaults. Other legislation completely leaves out protections for demo-

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Meet Samantha Zajac, the university’s first registered dietitian

BY KAYLA MUTCHLER
Editor-in-Chief

On Feb. 22, Samantha Zajac, a master of healthcare administration student, began working as the first registered dietitian for the University of New Haven through the school’s food service, Sodexo. Zajac hopes to redefine nutrition at the university and has enjoyed her position thus far.

As the campus dietitian, Zajac is a resource to students, faculty and staff as her role requires her to provide guidance on nutrition, health and wellness. Students are able to book appointments with her during scheduled office hours through Navigate to talk about general nutrition information, dietary restrictions and accommodations, allergies and other food-related topics.

Zajac graduated from Johnson and Wales University with a B.S. in culinary nutrition clinical

dietetics and was a dietetic intern for New Haven until June 2020. She said that her undergraduate degree taught her to not only prepare food but how that food interacts with one’s body regarding nutrition.

Zajac also interned at Auburn University, where she worked in their wellness kitchen for their Division 1 athletes and other students. She said while there she fell in love with working at universities, so she came back to Connecticut and applied to be New Haven’s campus dietitian.

To be a registered dietitian, one must complete a \$1,200 internship and then pass an exam, which Zajac successfully completed.

Zajac said that she hopes to improve the dining program at the university and raise more awareness about nutrition. She said, “I would like my experience to be benefiting students in a health aspect as well as being able to get the items that they

want here on campus.”

“I think there’s a big stigma around nutrition,” said Zajac, “and [an assumption that] you have to eat this certain way all the time, and if I can help break down those barriers and have people understand that nutrition and health is all about what you’re eating as well as what’s satisfying you – and that’s different for everybody.”

Zajac has already provided guidance to students. She incorporated more dietary-restricted food options to My Zone in the Marketplace and is continuing to talk with those students about their needs. On March 25, she tabled in the Marketplace and gave out energy bites with their recipe.

Not only does Zajac provide guidance, but she also works with campus chefs at all Sodexo services and the marketing team to provide and promote new and nutritious food items that students will enjoy.

There are various upcoming programs that Zajac is planning for students to attend, including partnership with the Sustainability Club for an Earth Day farmer’s market.

“So far, I’m enjoying every minute of it,” Zajac said. “It encompasses a lot of my passions – food and nutrition and being able to work with students in the

university atmosphere is great.”

To discuss nutrition, students can book an appointment with Zajac through Navigate on myCharger for Tuesdays and Thursdays. She is also on Instagram, @campusdietitian_sam.

Samantha Zajac

Photo courtesy of U. New Haven



SPORTS

Discussion Charger Sports Spotlight: Hope Cuomo

Continued from pg. 3

graphics such as undocumented individuals, who face deportation if they report exploitation or assault.

Cummings punctuated the juxtapositions in legislation in policy saying, “Who are we? Are we going to let sexual assault happen? Or are we going to condemn them?... Abuse is abuse and everyone needs to be respected.”

While the panelists explained that there are many holes in legislation to be filled, they also provided some actionable ways people can intervene if they suspect sex trafficking is occurring. First, people can look for the signs of trafficking, such as a change in behavior, a new and overly controlling person in the victim’s life, sudden access to money and branding, such as tattoos. They can try to intervene early before the person is isolated by the perpetrator; if the person is isolated, the best course of action is to contact the authorities or health professionals.

If you or someone you know has experienced sexual assault or trafficking and wants to speak with someone, you can reach the university’s campus advocate at marisol@rapecrisiscenterofmilford.org, 203-305-1759 or contact the national human trafficking hotline at 1-888-373-7888. You can also file a crime report to the University Police Department on the university Report It! Website.

Here’s your copy of
The Charger Bulletin!



BY TYLER GARNET
Contributing Writer

This edition of Charger Sports Spotlight features Hope Cuomo, a junior forensic science major with a concentration in biology and a minor in criminal justice. She is from Long Island, NY and is a multi for the University of New Haven’s women’s track team, participating in the heptathlon and pentathlon. Cuomo hopes to work in crime scene investigations upon graduation.

A heptathlon is a track and field event in which each competitor takes place in the same seven events. Those events include high jump, long jump, shot put, hurdles, 800-meter run, 200-meter dash and javelin.

Cuomo became involved with track in middle school by competing in high jump and hurdles. She learned about the pentathlon when she was a junior in high school and convinced her coach to let her do it the following year. The pentathlon has the

same events as the heptathlon, except the 200-meter dash and javelin.

Cuomo said that she likes some events more than others: her favorite event is the high jump; her least favorite is the 800-meter run. Having to compete in all these events is difficult, but the greater challenge is making enough time to practice and train for each event.

Regarding the challenge, she

Hope Cuomo
Photo courtesy of Lismarie Pabon



said, “There are different techniques for all the events so it is important to try and separate it and learn how to do that specific event.”

Cuomo’s favorite part of being on the team is “competing and having everyone come together. Before the meets[,] we would all huddle up and hype each other up.”

She said her favorite memory so far from the school was when she was at conference championships last year, “It was the last

meet of last year so everyone was doing their best to end the season strong and there was so much support to hype everyone up.”

Last year, Cuomo achieved a career record high jump with a height of 1.55 meters. Her goal for this season is to reach 1.6 meters.

COVID-19 has taught Cuomo what she really wanted to do with track which helped her plan out her goals and how she would achieve them.

This season the women’s track team will hold meets where the athletes are split into two teams, being called “blue” and “gold,” where they compete to get the most points. These are set up to monitor progress because of limited meets due to COVID-19. Meets are currently scheduled against other schools, however, they can change due to COVID-19 protocols.

Cuomo said that she would love to return to the fun times she had with her teammates at meets and continue to compete.

University seeks to upgrade athletic status

BY LINDSAY GIOVANNONE
Contributing Writer

University of New Haven has begun the ambitious process of becoming an NCAA Division 1 (D1) school. Director of Athletics and Recreation at the university, Sheahon Zenger, said that this movement is necessary for growth and will “provide more opportunities and a better experience for both student athletes and the student body.”

The process of becoming a D1 school is not one that occurs overnight but may take three or four years to complete.

Of the NCAA’s three divisions, D1 is the most competitive for its athletes and schools. Member institutions must sponsor at least seven sports for

both men and women, as well as additional scheduling criteria. Schools with football teams in the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) have to meet attendance and the minimum financial aid award range requirements.

In 2029, there is an expected enrollment cliff among colleges; because of the declining U.S. birth rate post-2008 recession, fewer students will be attending institutions of higher education. According to the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPAHR), northeast universities are expected to lose more than 11% of their overall enrollment. By being a D1 school, the university will attract a greater number of athletes and students.

Zenger said that the priority in becoming a D1 school is to

“find the right conference to fit in,” and to “enhance the student experience while also maintaining the integrity of the university’s athletics.”

The university’s athletic department is nationally recognized for its excellence and seeks to continuously improve. This includes the vision of the Peterson Performance Center, the first athletic facility to be built on campus since 1969. The Center will feature a full strength and conditioning center and a new locker room for the football team. The Department of Athletics and Recreation has already announced that women’s rugby will be offered as a varsity sport in fall of 2021 to begin competing in spring of 2022. This is the third varsity sport added since 2017, follow-

ing field hockey and e-sports.

Strengthening the university’s athletics department and elevating the overall student experience is paramount to Zenger and the entire administration, “I do college. I love college. And I want every student at this university to love college too.”

Photo courtesy of New Haven Athletics



STUDENT LIFE

It's Commuter Appreciation Month? Commuters don't think so

BY BETH BEAUDRY
Student Life Editor

It's Commuter Appreciation Month at the University of New Haven, and commuter students are feeling disappointed because of the lack of publicity and proper event planning.

Some of the events were meetings or programs held by the commuter club. While the club assisted the Center for Student Engagement, Leadership, and Orientation (CSELO) in planning the month, many students felt that there were not enough options.

"I feel like we should have at least a few events each week to make it seem like we're more appreciated," said sophomore civil engineering major and the club's executive assistant, Yasmine Charles. "It's just like, 'here's a few events here and there,' and that's all we get. I don't feel like they did enough."

Commuter club vice president and sophomore chemistry major Natalie Deesources, felt that most of the responsibility fell on the club.

"I feel like [the commuter club has] been trying to do events each week, but there's only so much we can do because we're just students as well," said Deesources. "We can't allocate all of our time to planning things."

Some events that were planned for commuters included a giveaway for a succulent and a food truck voucher. Senior forensic science major Erin Stevenin, said that these events are inconvenient, and not considerable of students who are fully remote.

"The giveaways required you to be on campus at specific times to participate," said Stevenin. "For commuter students

living far away and remote students, this isn't a great set up."

Deesources said that while the giveaways did require in-person attendance – as well as an art night that required supplies to be passed out – the commuter club tried to create events that were mostly remote.

Other events include Twisted Thursday events that, as Stevenin pointed out, "would have happened anyway."

On March 16, Stevenin posted to the Class of 2021 Facebook group saying, "Are any other

Graphic courtesy of Christopher Colquhoun

COMMUTER APPRECIATION MONTH

commuter students overwhelmed by commuter appreciation month?"

Stevenin received several replies of students with the same sentiment.

"This is my first year as a commuter student, so I thought that this lackluster appreciation month could have been due to [COVID-19]," said Stevenin. "However, the comments from other students suggested that it's like this every year."

University commuter liaison Erica Gardner emailed Stevenin that same night, inviting her

to join the commuter club in a meeting to share her thoughts on Commuter Appreciation Month. Ultimately, Stevenin responded with an email detailing what she thinks the university can be doing better for commuters.

Stevenin spoke on the

period in the fall where commuter students were not allowed on campus. She said that the university could have increased events during Commuter Appreciation Month to make up for the time lost.

She said, "The school demonstrated that they don't really appreciate commuters by having a poor attempt at a commuter appreciation month."

According to Charles and Deesources, CSELO is planning to host a town forum to receive feedback on commuter appreciation month. Commuter academic peer mentor Amanda Rickett will be sending students a Google Form survey asking for opinions.

"I want a campus community that allows all students to participate and get involved no matter where they are located or how comfortable they are with in person events during [COVID-19]," said Stevenin.

The mind behind the notes of positivity posted across campus

BY BETH BEAUDRY
Student Life Editor

Guests visiting the University of New Haven's campus may be surprised to see sticky notes placed across buildings, light fixtures and furniture, but to many students, seeing these small messages of encouragement has become a regular occurrence.

Sophomore forensic psychology major Mary Lippa anonymously began this project in 2019, evolving into the Recognized Student Organization (RSO), Happy UNewHaven. She wrote inspirational messages such as, "You are loved," "You are not alone" and "Start the day with a [smile]." Other sticky notes offer phone numbers to suicide hotlines and additional information on mental health.

Junior criminal justice major Ashley Price said that when she first heard of Happy UNewHav-

en, she thought it was a great idea.

"I love seeing quotes posted around campus, it definitely helps to brighten my day," said Price. "I feel it also boosts the positivity on campus, which is something we all need right now."

Lippa started writing the sticky notes after her therapist advised her to find ways to make other people smile. She said that mental health has always been an important topic in her life, and she wanted to raise awareness on the subject and help to spread positivity. She attempted this project in high school, but that her peers did not respond as kindly to the notes. She knew that she wanted to try again in college, and was overwhelmed with positive reactions.

At first, however, there were many questions as to how she could post the notes on school property. Lippa said that one

day she had gone out to post the notes, and was stopped by a facilities worker who told her she was not allowed to leave the notes around campus.

For verification on the issue, Lippa called the vice president of facilities, who told her it was not an issue to post these notes around campus.

With permission from facilities, as well as multiple suggestions that she turn the project into a RSO, Lippa decided to take her work to the Center for Student, Engagement, Leadership and Orientation (CSELO).

On Sept. 19, 2019, Lippa posted on the Happy UNewHaven Instagram that she had initiated the process of becoming an RSO. Lippa finally introduced herself as the creator of the project, as she had run the account under the alias 'M.'

The announcement was written on a series of sticky notes, one reading, "This RSO will focus on spreading positivity

& warmth, and on breaking stigmas, especially, but not only, involving mental health and suicide."

The organization had some difficulty starting, as COVID-19 hit during the early process of becoming an RSO. Now, the organization is known for the sticky notes they put up in addition to the discussions they hold on mental health.

"I received a lot of positive feedback from the sticky notes and so far I've received positive feedback for meetings and the topics that we discuss," said Lippa. She said that many students thank her for beginning the project.

"On a college campus where there are many stressed out students and faculty, I believe seeing the sticky notes posted around campus gives a positive and reassuring feel," said freshman hospitality and tourism management major, Emily Smidt, who has also expressed

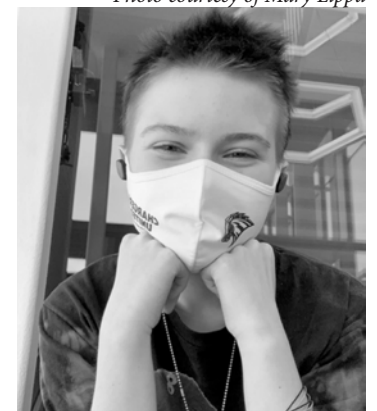
interest in joining the organization. "We live in a world where we can all use more positive affirmations than ever before."

Price said, "The organization is definitely achieving their goal of making the campus happy even if only for a few minutes in the day."

Students interested in joining Happy UNewHaven can attend meetings on Tuesday at 5:30. More information can be found on Charger Connection.

Mary Lippa

Photo courtesy of Mary Lippa



STUDENT LIFE

Managing money amid a pandemic: How the university made it through

BY TYLER WELLS
Staff Writer

When students walk across the University of New Haven's campus, it is clear that life is different. From weekly COVID-19 tests to updating the CoVerified app, New Haven has been forced to shift their operations around an unprecedented challenge. So far, the university has largely succeeded.

For graduate student and business administration major Gaetano Famiglietti, the shift in university norms has been apparent.

"Not a single one of my classes was in person in the fall," Famiglietti said. "It was a weird feeling. I was a student, but it never really felt like I was 'attending' school."

While Famiglietti lives off-campus, his experience of classes moving online highlights the university's attempt to save operating costs.

In the last year, educational institutions have struggled with reopening while keeping students and faculty protected. Universities have been hit

Photo courtesy of Kayla Mutchler

particularly hard by the COVID pandemic, being forced to adjust to online courses and virus outbreaks. It has exposed previous challenges in the higher education system, including the rising costs of tuition and accessibility.

However, throughout all of this, one of the hardest battles they have had is staying afloat financially.

The university acted during the beginning of the pandemic, shutting campus down and sending students home last year on Mar. 10. The move was made to protect students from the virus and avoid a potential outbreak. However, it also aimed to ease projected losses including \$10 million in room and board credits for the spring semester. University President Steven Kaplan also said in a March 25 email to faculty that the university could lose \$5M more during the summer semesters.

"We can minimize that loss if we can teach most, if not all, of the summer courses online," said Kaplan. The university did not have in-person classes over the summer.

Kaplan also announced a reduction in employee pay and

salaries that began last April. The cut ranged from 3% to 9%, depending on the salary. While the cuts were originally slated to be in effect until June 30, they are still in effect today.

Deborah Flonc, the budget director at New Haven, said that the university has yet to decide when many of these cuts will be reversed, as it depends on how the pandemic progresses.

"I don't anticipate that it will be this fiscal year, just with the costs that we are incurring," Flonc said. "Everything is really driven by how the pandemic plays out."

However, since this news about New Haven's financial status was posted at the beginning of the pandemic, little has been publicly released since. Student tuition is already set to increase by \$1,200 for the 2021-2022 school year. The standard housing fee for the base dorms is also rising by \$669 from last year.

"Nobody likes to see the cost of tuition go up," said sophomore criminal justice major Alessandra Alves. "UNH is already really expensive so raising the price doesn't look good

to students."

Flonc said that the increases are likely not related to the COVID pandemic.

"From a budget perspective, I don't anticipate that we are going to have the need for greater than usual tuition increases," Flonc said.

According to Flonc, this follows the plan that New Haven has approached the pandemic with; cut costs while maintaining the quality of education. These cuts have come in the form of minor changes, Flonc said.

"Every decision about where we spend money, where we cut spending, is always with the students as the first thing we look at," Flonc said. "Things like conferences for staff, forgoing a membership for a year, the pay cuts... those cost-saving measures were intended to avoid having to do anything that would directly impact the students."

This reflects the adaptations colleges and universities have made with the severe financial toll that has been taken. According to a group led by the American Council on Education, the pandemic has had a greater impact on their financial situations than first expected. In September, the group wrote

to the House of Representatives requesting a supplemental funding bill to "include at least \$120 billion for higher education."

With the new \$1.9 trillion COVID relief plan, there is more hope for universities to receive federal funding. \$35 billion of that is allotted as additional relief for helping higher education institutions cover student aid and reopening costs. However, it is unclear whether private universities will be included.

The university has still had to spend money on food for the dining hall, maintaining classrooms and operating facilities like the Beckerman Recreation Center for students. However, COVID has forced spending on a testing system, personal protective equipment (PPE) and room sanitation.

Despite this, the university has remained in a sustainable spot financially.

"We went into the pandemic in a good place," Flonc said. "Other universities that may have been on the verge of struggling, the pandemic probably amplified those struggles. Compared to other schools, we're probably doing better than some and maybe not as good as others."

Graphic courtesy of Elisa D'Egidio



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ENTERTAINMENT

The Snyder Cut is finally here

BY EMILY
MCDONOUGH &
ELDRICK
GREENWAY

Contributing Writers
After years of fans demanding Warner Brothers (WB) to release Zack Snyder's version of "Justice League," they announced that Snyder will be finishing his version of the film last year and it has finally come to HBOMAX.

When "Justice League" was filming in 2016, Snyder had to step away from the project to deal with a family tragedy. Snyder decided to bring Joss Whedon on to finish the film. Whedon rewrote and reshot parts of the movie, changing the plot and bringing it down to its two hour theatrical cut. After the original "Justice League" was released in theaters, fans were unhappy with the final product. They believed a different version of the movie existed and took to Twitter, calling for WB to #ReleasetheSnyderCut.

It is apparent in the first five minutes of "Zack Snyder's Justice League," that this version told a very different story in comparison to Whedon's

A scene from Justice League
Photo courtesy of Creative Commons

version. From the character development to the score, every aspect of the film was changed. The most obvious difference between the two films is their runtimes, Snyder's version is four hours and two minutes, while Whedon's was two hours. Even though this was longer than most superhero films, four hours was truly needed to fulfill Snyder's vision.

The heroes are what make this version stand out. In this film, the little things matter and Wonder Woman, played by Gal Gadot, actively demonstrated this in a wide variety of ways. The iconic fight scene at the beginning of the movie, where she saves the hostages in the museum, was outstanding. The audience will also enjoy a short yet heartwarming moment with Wonder Woman and a young girl she saves, telling her she can be whoever she wants to be. Cyborg and Flash, played by Raymond Fisher and Ezra Miller, were also given more time for character development, placing them above comic relief.

There was also more focus on other characters, such as Lois Lane, played by Amy Adams. She was a relatable character because of her struggle with depression after losing her fiancée

Clark Kent, Superman, played by Henry Cavill.

The main villain, Steppenwolf, was also allowed more time and his origins were better explained. He is an antagonist that exceeded the strength of the Justice League, Amazons and Atlanteans. As the film progresses the audience is constantly shown how powerful he is.

Snyder was also able to include Darkseid, a Thanos-like villain, and Desaad, who acted as Darkseid's messenger. When Darkseid first spoke to Steppenwolf, Snyder did an amazing job demonstrating how much Steppenwolf feared him. Steppenwolf knelt in front of Darkseid, his armor retracting, showing how vulnerable he was, which was something cut from the 2017 version.

Darkseid's appearance was meant to set up a sequel movie. Despite the fact that Snyder said that he had plans for two more Justice League movies. Warner-Media CEO Ann Sarnoff said that with the release of "Zack Snyder's Justice League" it will conclude Snyder's superhero trilogy.

"Zack Snyder's Justice League" is now streaming on HBOMAX.

Snubbed Grammys

BY CAM GARDEN
Contributing Writer

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We all know that the Grammys, among other award shows, have been recently scrutinized for their racism and unfair reward system. While there were some excellent nominations and winners this award season, there were a few artists who were snubbed.

1. Savage – Megan Thee Stallion featuring Beyoncé

Billie Eilish's "Everything I Wanted" won "Record of the Year" over "Savage," which Eilish herself recognized was an incorrect decision during her speech for the award. "Savage" first became popular in March 2020 with the help of a viral TikTok dance. From there, it dominated the radios and pushed Megan Thee Stallion to her current level of notoriety. Savage also kicked off a year of strong female empowerment in music.

2. Rockstar – DaBaby

Also up for "Record of the Year," DaBaby's song would have been another excellent winner. The fairly new, young artist released his song in the heat of the pandemic and right before the George Floyd protests. The song and his live performances have been praised for their commentary on the harmful nature of police culture in America.

3. Be Your Girl – KAYTRANDA

Another song popularized by TikTok, Kaytranda is a breakout artist in the 2020 music world. Although she won a Grammy for "Best Dance Recording," she lost the award for "Best New Artist," to Megan Thee Stallion.

4. Last Supper – D Smoke

D Smoke was another rapper up for the "Best New Artist" Grammy. His song "Last Supper" was first performed on the music competition show Rhythm & Blues, making him the show's first winner.

5. Canyon Moon – Harry Styles

"Canyon Moon" is one of the best songs on Harry Styles' album "Fine Line." Its strong vocals and beautiful melody make it a fan favorite. As a part of his best album, it should have helped push Styles to win "Best Pop Vocal Album" over Dua Lipa's "Future Nostalgia."

6. Lightning & Thunder – Jhené Aiko featuring John Legend

Losing to Beyoncé's "Black Parade" for "Best R&B Performance," this is still one of the best tracks released by Aiko to date. John Legend has one of the smoothest voices in the music industry and the two of them together create an irresistible R&B feel.

7. Do It – Chloe and Halle

The young vocalist duo was up for the "Best R&B Song" Grammy award this season, losing to "Better Than I Imagined" by Robert Glasper, Meshell Ndegeocello & Gabriella Wilson. Although they didn't win this time around, Chloe and Halle are far from done.

8. HEARTBREAK ANNIVERSARY – Giveon

Almost everyone knows this song now. It also has gained popularity with its presence on TikTok. This song is from Giveon's album "Take Time," losing to "Bigger Love" by John Legend for Best R&B Album.



ENTERTAINMENT

The evolution of sex in entertainment: What's no longer left to the imagination

BY ELISA D'EGIDIO
Staff Writer

Modern entertainment has changed immensely since the entertainment of yesteryear. What once was black and white is now in color and what was silent now has audio. Since the classic movies and television shows from the 50s, 60s and 70s, sex and nudity have become more common in today's entertainment.

William Shakespeare was known to make subtle innuendos within his work. Lines such **WAP performance at the Grammys**

Photo courtesy of Cardi B's Instagram



as, "She would hang on him, as if increase of appetite had grown by what it fed on" from his play "Hamlet" and "Thou wilt fall backward when thou hast more wit" from his play "Romeo and Juliet." Though often overlooked, they were very significant in his era as he included other bawdy matters. This artform allowed the readers to interpret suggestive messages and their double meanings in their own way, all the way back in the 1590s.

In the 50s, the idea of anything sexual on prime-time television was nonexistent. Ricky and Lucy from "I Love

Lucy" were a married couple in real life, and the two slept in separate twin-sized beds. Shows such as "The Munsters" and "Bewitched" from the 60s, were some of the firsts to show married couples sleeping in the same bed, but the characters were only seen holding conversations in bed. Jiggle TV was a new craze in the 70s with shows such as "Charlie's Angels," "Three's Company" and "I Dream a Jeannie" where women were seen in a more alluring light, wearing bikinis, tighter fitting outfits and were allowed to wear cropped shirts, showing off their midriffs.

However, the 60s and 70s allowed some promiscuous behaviors, which can be seen in Playboy. Marilyn Monroe, Pamela Anderson, Jenny McCarthy, Madonna and more have been seen nude in Playboy. In the privacy of one's home, the popularity of this type of pornography was growing privately, yet was being publicly shamed. A Time article from 1976 said "what was once a 'marginal underground cottage industry' had become 'an open, aggressive \$2 billion-a-year' business."

With content from the 90s and early 00s, entertainment was changed forever. Songs with sexual references became the craze, such as "Let's Talk About Sex" by Salt-N-Pepa, "I'll Make Love To You," by Boyz II Men, "Hot in Herre" by Nelly and "Any Time, Any Place" by Janet Jackson. A Time article describes this era by saying, "Society pushed back [women] by reducing them to gruesome sexual fantasies and misogynistic stereotypes." Women are seen in music videos in sexually graphic and explicit manners. Madonna's song "Justify My Love" was so controversial and explicit that it was even banned from MTV.

More recently, in the 2010s to 2020s, entertainment has become completely sex-driven, whether it be featured in literature, film or music. Shows such as "Blue Mountain State" and "Euphoria" revolve around a variety of sexual relations. We have seen Miley Cyrus' "Wrecking Ball" music video and read snippets of the novel "50 Shades of Gray" by E. L. James, in which there is almost nothing left to the imagination or to interpretation.

Since then, music has become more explicit and leaving its mark on the music industry including recent hits, such as "WAP" by Cardi B featuring Megan Thee Stallion, "Savage Remix" by Megan Thee Stallion featuring Beyonce, "Positions" by Ariana Grande and "Physical" by Dua Lipa.

At the 63rd Grammys, viewers watched Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion perform "WAP." As many of the lyrics were censored out, they unchastely crawled across the floor.

In attempts to censor some of these explicit demonstrations, there have been maturity ratings in place, such as Motion Picture Association (MPA) film rating system and the Parental Advisory label (PAL) in hopes to warn an audience of what is to come. With time qualifications for ratings have been changed and updated.

Different types of erotica are promoted all throughout entertainment today. It is no longer considered "suggestive material," as there has been a great shift in the amount of nudity, explicit material and other material in hopes to attract the attention of viewers.

Broadway musical, "In the Heights," set to see the big screen

BY SHAYLEN STANCIL
Staff Writer

The newest trailer for the movie adaptation of the Broadway musical "In The Heights" was released on March 14. "In The Heights" was conceptualized and written by Lin-Manuel Miranda, who is also known for writing and composing the Broadway hip-hop musical "Hamilton." The movie is directed by Jon M. Chu, director of "Crazy Rich Asians" and the screenplay is by playwright and author Quiara Alegria Hudes.

The Broadway production won four Tony Awards in 2008 for "Best Musical," "Best

Original Score," "Best Orchestrations" and "Best Choreography." "In the Heights" also had the most nominations that year, receiving 13 nominations. It ran on Broadway for three years until Jan. 9, 2011, performing over 1000 times. In a 2020 interview, Miranda said that he was inspired to write "In The Heights" because he didn't see Latino stories being told in the musical theater world.

The movie-musical takes place in the New York neighborhood of Washington Heights and was shot on location. It follows the stories of several people and their experiences while living in The Heights; Usnavi

is a bodega owner, played by Anthony Ramos; Nina Rosario is a struggling college student, played by Leslie Grace; Vanessa is a salon worker who dreams of having her own apartment, played by Melissa Barrera. The movie explores many themes such as poverty, heritage and love. Miranda describes it as "a community on the brink of change, full of hopes, dreams and pressures" on his website.

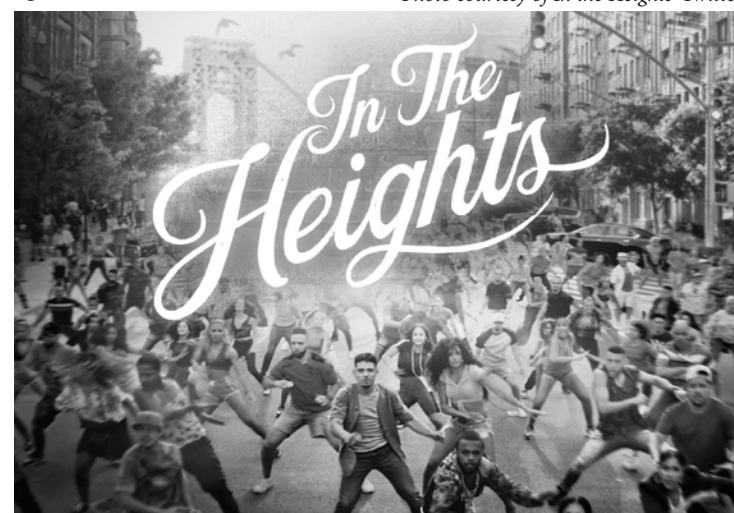
Audiences will also enjoy energetic and vibrant Latin-inspired musical numbers and choreography. Thanks to its star-studded Latinx cast, Chu says, "In The Heights" is poised to bring its moment to another

underrepresented community: Latinos."

"In The Heights" is set to open in theaters on June 11, and

will also be streaming on HBO Max for the first 31 days of its release.

Photo courtesy of In the Heights' Twitter



POLITICS

How American politics have been impacted by the internet

BY SAMUEL WEINMANN
Staff Writer

There is unlimited information at our fingertips; we are constantly being bombarded with news articles, updates from political officials and misinformation. For better or worse, the fast-changing nature of politics can be attributed to the internet and social media. The development of e-government, better communication between officials and constituents and a larger network for campaigning have all fostered a political environment that is more inclusive but riddled with misinformation — decreasing American political efficacy.

One of the biggest changes in politics is the development of e-government — a tool that has existed nearly as long as the internet has. This aims to increase the effectiveness of government

while making government services more widely available to citizens. Although e-government has effectively provided millions with open-source data, government programs and assistance, its inclusivity is limited because of unequal access to the internet.

While e-government enhances government transparency and the connection between the government and the people, social media is also an effective tool. While President Franklin D. Roosevelt once delivered “fireside chats” to increase his connection with Americans in the 1930s, that type of relationship-building has developed into social media updates, in which constituents are able to stay up to date on politician’s actions. As political officials are now able to connect with constituents in an immediate and effective way, that has, in turn, impacted their ability to run a presidential campaign. With social media

being a primary vessel to spread information, they have been well-used by presidential candidates to quickly spread important information.

In President Joseph R. Biden’s political campaign, for example, he sent out a social media guide that laid out tools for his supporters to bolster his campaign. This guide outlined his socials, donation methods and other information for his supporters to share online, highlighting the way that the internet can be effectively used to support a campaign.

Although Biden is not the first president to employ social media to his advantage, the topic of social media in politics was pushed to the forefront by former president Donald J. Trump, especially with the way that he used it to spread misinformation about the COVID-19 pandemic and the results of the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

Arguably, social media has

enhanced American politics and made it more inclusive. On the other hand, it has made misinformation rampant and is inaccessible to some. Politics will continue to change as technol-

ogy does, which means that we must be deliberate in the way that we consume information and engage with social media.

Graphic courtesy of Christopher Colquhoun



Third stimulus payments: A boon or a bust for student dependents?

BY MIA STEADMAN
Contributing Writer

The third round of stimulus checks, valued at \$1,400, is in the process of being distributed, and unlike the first two rounds of payments from the government, tax filers will receive payments for dependents over the age of 17, provided that all other requirements are met. College-aged independent filers remain eligible and will receive their funds directly.

Students at the University of New Haven responded with varying degrees of excitement. For Kayla Edgeworth, a graduate student pursuing a master of public administration degree, the third round of payments could not be coming at a better time.

“I’m currently waiting for my new job to start so it’s nice to

not have to be so stressed about bills for the immediate future,” Edgeworth said.

While the additional funds will be beneficial to students, some feel that the financial relief isn’t as substantial as they would have liked. The threat of future loan payments beginning upon graduation looms in the distance for students graduating in June.

Senior criminal justice major Marita Galliher plans to allocate the money towards paying off some of the private loans she accrued in order to attend New Haven.

She said that she wishes she could use it recreationally, but after not being included in the first two rounds of checks because she is a dependent over the age of 17, she would rather put the money where she feels she needs it most.

“Honestly I don’t think this will even reduce much of my stress because it’ll just be a small dent in the total loans I took out,” said Galliher. “College is just so expensive that 1,400 is not a lot - considering everything. I can’t imagine what it’s like for struggling families right now.”

Parents and legal guardians will be receiving the money on the behalf of their dependents. However, some students aren’t so hopeful that they will actually get to see any of the funds for themselves. Parents or guardians are not required to pass the funds along to their dependents, even if they are older than 18 years old.

“Since I’m a dependent the money is going to be dispersed to my parents, who have already told me that I won’t be seeing any of it,” said senior marine

biology major Elizabeth Ford.

Ford did not receive the first two payments and was disappointed to learn about her payment getting lumped in with her parent’s funds rather than being distributed directly. She also said that she handles most of her own expenses while at school.

“It’s frustrating, but I can’t really do anything about it,” Ford said. “I’d like to actually put the money towards my own expenses, but I know they’re just gonna spend it on something for my younger brother.”

Other students were able to discuss with their parents how to best use the stimulus money. Senior communication major Devin Valentine said that he felt lucky that his mother agreed to split her first two stimulus payments with him. Now, he says that he is going to return the favor by giving her some of

his.

“I’m gonna use the rest to pay off my credit cards since the rent for my apartment is paid off until the end of my lease,” said Valentine. Although, he also said that the payment didn’t bring him any real lasting economic relief.

“It’s nice to have some [short-term] relief, don’t get me wrong,” he said. “But with COVID-19, I haven’t really been able to build my savings as much as I wanted and if I were to be hospitalized for whatever reason it would be an issue.”

Photo courtesy of Creative Commons



OPINIONS

College students should get vaccine sooner rather than later

BY TYLER WELLS
Staff Writer

As of March 22, over 10 percent of the U.S. population has received all doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. Many states have faced difficulties in fulfilling distribution plans and having a completely efficient rollout. In contrast, Connecticut has had a relatively smooth vaccine rollout.

The state was moving through Phase 1c, with vaccine availability expanding to educators, childcare providers and individuals above 55. Adults 65 and older, and residents or staff of select congregate living settings should have already received their vaccines. Noticeably absent from the congregate living criteria were college dorms. The state made the decision on Feb. 22 that the new plan would be solely based on age, interrupting the Phase 1c plan. Now, any adult above 45 is able to register to get their vaccine.

Other states have largely finished their Phase 1b and are beginning to move into their next set of vaccinations. However, the final path forward remains largely unclear as states, such

as Connecticut, are still shifting their approach.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) made recommendations for distribution plans to “decrease death and serious disease as much as possible.” Their plan calls for healthcare personnel and long-term care facility residents to be in group 1a because of their potential exposure to the virus and the likelihood of being a superspreading epicenter.

This plan hasn’t been met with much resistance, as many recognize that those who face a greater chance of health complications should be protected first. However, how the vaccine should be distributed after that is the challenge that faces each state government.

“Keep it simple, stupid,” Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont said of the vaccination plan. “Complications result from states that try to finely slice the salami and it got very complicated to administer.”

This follows a trend: the pathway to a vaccine has been widely overlooked for college students across the country.

The new Connecticut plan would make all residents above

the age of 16 eligible starting April 1.

It would be wise for state governments to follow Connecticut in having college students higher on their prioritization list for the vaccine. This is especially the case after the fall semester showed a correlation between on-campus cases with community cases.

College campuses can be a dangerous breeding ground for COVID-19. It is harder for students living in the dorms to remain completely protected from the virus, making the risk of spread much greater. This was evident at the University of New Haven, where all of the Winchester Hall community was placed into quarantine after a spike in cases.

While the decision from the university’s officials mitigated the spread, it is possible that a student could unknowingly spread the virus beyond the university community, having a far-reaching impact that could increase cases in the greater community.

45.6% of New Haven students are from out-of-state and 12.1% from foreign countries, according to the university’s statistics.

Despite students being largely discouraged from leaving campus and traveling home, there is little stopping them. This puts students at risk of spreading it within the university campus community and their homes.

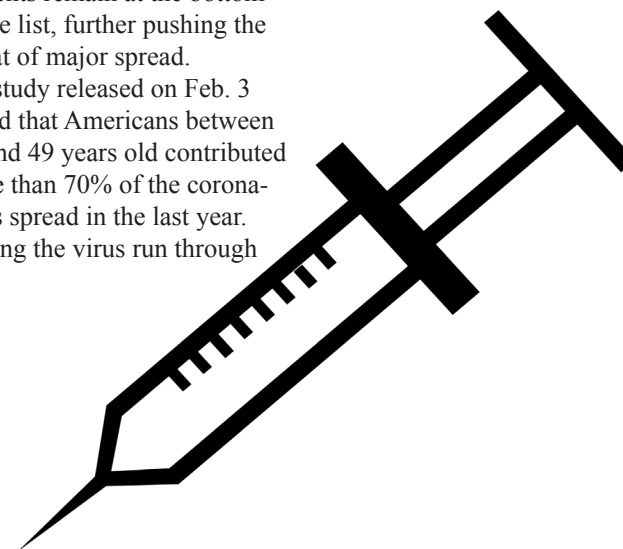
With approximately 19.6 million college students in the U.S., the risk applies to them all. It is critical to consider the importance of vaccinating college students early to prevent potential spreading. Instead, college students remain at the bottom of the list, further pushing the threat of major spread.

A study released on Feb. 3 found that Americans between 20 and 49 years old contributed more than 70% of the coronavirus spread in the last year. Letting the virus run through

these ages by not vaccinating them could affect much of the country.

“Now we can set aside, perhaps, a larger percentage of the vaccines for older Americans, but I think we need to start getting the vaccine out into younger people,” said Dr. Jonathan Reiner, a professor of medicine at George Washington University. “The younger people are the people who are spreading the virus.”

Graphic courtesy of Christopher Colquhoun



URGENT!

Graphic courtesy of Elisa D'Egidio

April

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2021

THE CHARGER BULLETIN

OUR NEXT EDITION

OPINIONS

Teleconferencing software could become a post-COVID normal

BY ISABELLE HAJEK
Staff Writer

Zoom and similar teleconferencing software have been popularized in various industries because of COVID-19 pandemic policies. Businesses, medical practices and entertainment, among other industries, have found their way to using such technology as a method to bridge the gap in contact that the pandemic has brought.

Zoom experienced a 67% increase in use from January to March 2020, in response to pandemic social distancing policies. This is a common trend for most conferencing software that had been available before

Photo courtesy of Creative Commons



COVID-19 as it became a necessity during the pandemic. However, over a year in the pandemic has passed, begging the question: where does this technology fit into the new normal?

One may turn to economic theory. Russian economist and mathematician Nikolai Kondratieff proposed the now widely accepted theory of the Kondratieff Wave. In the theory, he says that when new technology is introduced into the market, the economy experiences significant growth, followed by a crisis that causes a significant decrease that will recover only when the next iteration of new technology is introduced. According to this model, the U.S. along with the majority of the world is in the fifth cycle, marked by increased access to information and telecommunications. Under this theory, teleconferencing software is going to remain normal in life.

Although video conferencing has been used in business

prior to COVID-19, University of New Haven Dean of the Pompea College of Business and economist, Brian Kench, said that the pandemic has made it acceptable in business and other industries. Teleconferencing software has allowed individuals to become more accessible to their employers without residing near the company. This decentralization of industry creates a more diverse job market.

“Increase the flexibility and you’ll see self-selection into those industries,” said Kench, “where they wouldn’t have observed those particular individuals, based on a variety of demographics. But it’s no secret that the finance industry, as an example, is White and male and so by transforming the infrastructure you’re likely to decrease that category and increase the others.”

Kench views the acceptance of teleconferencing software as a positive in many industries, but he acknowledges the barriers

it faces. He said that society will need to address concerns regarding access to technology.

“Access is critical, there’s no doubt about that,” he said, “and there are certainly groups that still don’t have access, so that’s something to work on.”

Mediating this lack of access may prove difficult as Kench said, “there are always people left behind so I think you’re not going to solve it... It’s really about on the margin, can you move it more in the direction that is productive?”

As competition for positions increases, wages may also decrease and the increased access to employees could cause labor laws and company policies to more explicitly dictate the role of technology in employment.

Students have voiced similar and additional concerns regarding the presence of teleconferencing software in education and the workforce. In a survey from the Charger Bulletin, 93.8 percent of respondents report attending more meetings now

than prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and 37.5 percent of students attend multiple virtual meetings at once.

Regarding access, freshman engineering student Laila Soliman said, “[Zoom] has made me realize that the requirement is innately classist... Some people do not have the access to that technology.”

Other students have said that a virtual format is not conducive to learning. Junior psychology major Jocelyn Daly said, “It can be harder to focus on the lecture and fully absorb the content.”

Junior criminal justice major Amiel Perez-Wilson said that he does not, “feel engaged or motivated. There is no desire to go and learn when you have to do it through Zoom”

As the majority of people in the U.S. are expected to be vaccinated by the end of summer 2021, a new normal that integrates technology with industries’ previous models awaits, along with the growths and challenges it will produce.

The problem with affordable healthcare: it exists

BY AMANDA CASTRO
Managing Editor

At the ripe age of 12, I was diagnosed with type one diabetes – clearly, a uniquely American disease because of the obvious sugar factor because type one diabetes is not autoimmune – and I found out that I had to take insulin. Being nothing but a miserly sixth grader, I had no idea that insulin was even a hormone, and I certainly had no idea that not taking insulin would mean my imminent death. I also had no idea how cheap it would be and how little it would cost my parents, who had no expenses of their own. Especially with my father being diagnosed with an odd brain disease that caused him to lose his job, and therefore, his health

insurance. And, God forbid, we needed any medication to survive, my only options would have been to sell one of my kidneys, which are vital for any diabetic to survive without dialysis, or to just drop dead. The latter sounds appealing.

After all, it’s my fault that I’m poor.

With this in mind, healthcare in the U.S. should not exist. It’s a waste of time and money for the government that they obviously do not have. Former President Donald J. Trump and his administration proposed the abolition of Obamacare – otherwise known as the Affordable Care Act – to then find something to replace it with after building a much-needed wall between the U.S. and Mexico. But why replace it at all?

There’s no point to it. No one needs it. The sick are getting sicker, and ultimately it’s not the government’s problem: that’s what GoFundMe is for.

Instead of coming up with a new option for affordable healthcare for poor people, such as college students, eliminating all government-provided hospitals and health benefits, in general, should do the trick. One would pay for medical or similar treatments out-of-pocket if they want to. Neither the insurance industry nor the government would assist or obstruct the operation. It’d be so much simpler. It has strong protection in our Constitution, which protects human rights including freedom of expression and gun possession, but expressly excludes a right to healthcare.

And I think that this fact is ridiculously beneficial.

As for the U.S. Declaration of Independence, while it guarantees our rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, it does not ensure that we can achieve them. Since good health is an important component of happiness, all people have the freedom to achieve it – but the government is under no duty to assist them.

Many factors contribute to happiness, including meaningful jobs, a sense of self, friendships and loving relationships. It is obviously not the government’s responsibility to provide us with the former and it should not be any different for healthcare. And when a college student such as myself needs insulin for an affordable price but cannot find it,

I should just whip up a remedy to lower my blood sugar and try to not die – to me, this seems like a fantastic solution.

At this point, many will question how this will affect those who are ill. It will, by all means, but what fault is that of the government? They are not responsible for us acquiring chronic illnesses or treatable diseases. How are we to hold them accountable? The audacity!

The one thing the government wants us to remember is that an apple every day will keep the doctor away. And we should all do that if we want to live, obviously. And I live by that modest proposal.

This article is considered a piece of satire meaning that it is not to be taken literally or seriously.

VIEWPOINTS

Deconstructing taboo topics: Their function in society

BY CAM GARDEN & ISABELLE HAJEK
Charger Bulletin Writers

Restriction of language and conversation is instrumental in all forms of societal control. Such restrictions range in formality from written sedition laws to socially constructed norms. Taboos are the operationalization of socially constructed norms as topics that are avoided based on the hegemony's moral values.

Taboos are determined by the culture in which they are formed; American taboo topics include race, religion, mental health, sex and sexuality, money and politics. These topics were labeled as taboo to maintain the patriarchal power structure the U.S. relies on. The discussion of

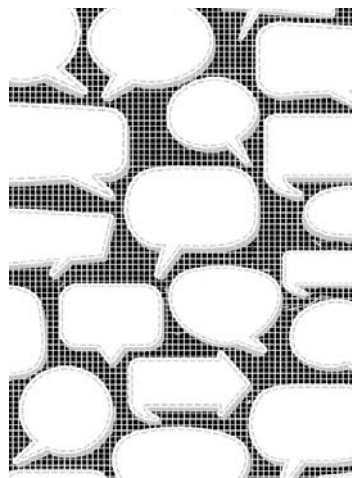
these topics threatens that power structure by highlighting the inequities fostered within the system it created.

Historically, the suppression of taboo topics has been a dangerous practice that further oppresses vulnerable groups. One example that appears both in social practice and legislation is the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' ideology. As it operates socially, it was once expected that people in the LGBTQ+ community did not identify their sexuality, rather hide it, in order to ensure the comfort of heterosexual individuals. In legislation, the Clinton Administration's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy, allowed military personnel to be gay as long as they stayed in the closet. Both forms of this ideology actively worked to silence a

marginalized population.

On a day-to-day basis, people maneuver through taboos constantly. It may be an aunt in a sly, hushed tone hinting that a cousin is attending therapy; a mother that shushes her child when they ask, out of curios-

Photo courtesy of Creative Commons



ity, why that woman is in a wheelchair; coworkers dancing around the topic of salary on a payday. Whether it is in a formal or colloquial manner, taboo topics are unavoidable.

As they function in society, taboos are an agent of fear-mongering. Instead of the perceived use of protecting people by preserving innocence and a set moral code, they objectively oppress minority groups. In discussing taboo topics, they are inherently removed from the taboo classification. As such, society can begin to reevaluate the standards and systems of living it has succumbed to. Progress requires conscious and intentional action. In bringing light to these topics, through conversation and subsequent action, the systems of patriarchal control

can be slowly dismantled.

In recent years, with an influx of information because of a technological boom, it has become easier to discuss taboos with a wider and diverse demographic. Mirroring the trend of increased technology, the policies and ideals of political actors have become more progressive and intersectional. This is in direct correlation to the information technology era. It was once easy to employ the "out of sight, out of mind" mentality, but social media has increased the visibility of minority groups and taboo topics. As a result, the need to discuss these topics has grown exponentially as people in power can no longer ignore the existence and plight of marginalized groups.

Graphic courtesy of Kayla Mutchler

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