

# The Charger Bulletin

The student news source for the University of New Haven

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## Spring Weekend wrangles Chargers onto the Gravy Train

BY MIA ADDUCI  
Managing Editor

There were no brakes on the Gravy Train on Friday night with the North Campus parking lot filled with a herd of U. New Haven students sporting cow print cowboy hats as the sun set over West Haven.

BbyMutha opened up the night just as the crowd began to tighten up. She stormed into Connecticut with unbelievable confidence, despite not being able to remember whether or not she had ever visited the state before.

BbyMutha's raunchy lyricism had jaws dropping all across the parking lot, at least when she managed to remember the lyrics to her own songs. Her setlist included some of her hits such as "Heaven's Little Bastard," which includes the iconic line "I go to church but only if I f\*\*\* the pastor."

BbyMutha not only sported her own merch paired with a risque miniskirt and dangerously high heels, but even accentuated her performance with a light up whip in the middle of her set. She was clearly feeling herself as she wove between it during her performance, only putting it down to step back to her DJ and select the next song in her

lineup.

Her energy was so high, it was almost possible to tune out the studio recording of each song playing behind her live performance. At one point, she was requested to sing her second most popular song on Spotify: "Cocaine Catwalk," to which she obliged, despite an accurate warning that she no longer knew the words.

At one point, BbyMutha got the crowd chanting along to her song "Frida," repeating the hard-hitting line "F\*\*\* his b\*\*ch, break his heart." This proved to be a SoundCloud style therapy session for the audience who clearly had damaging experiences they should be unpacking.

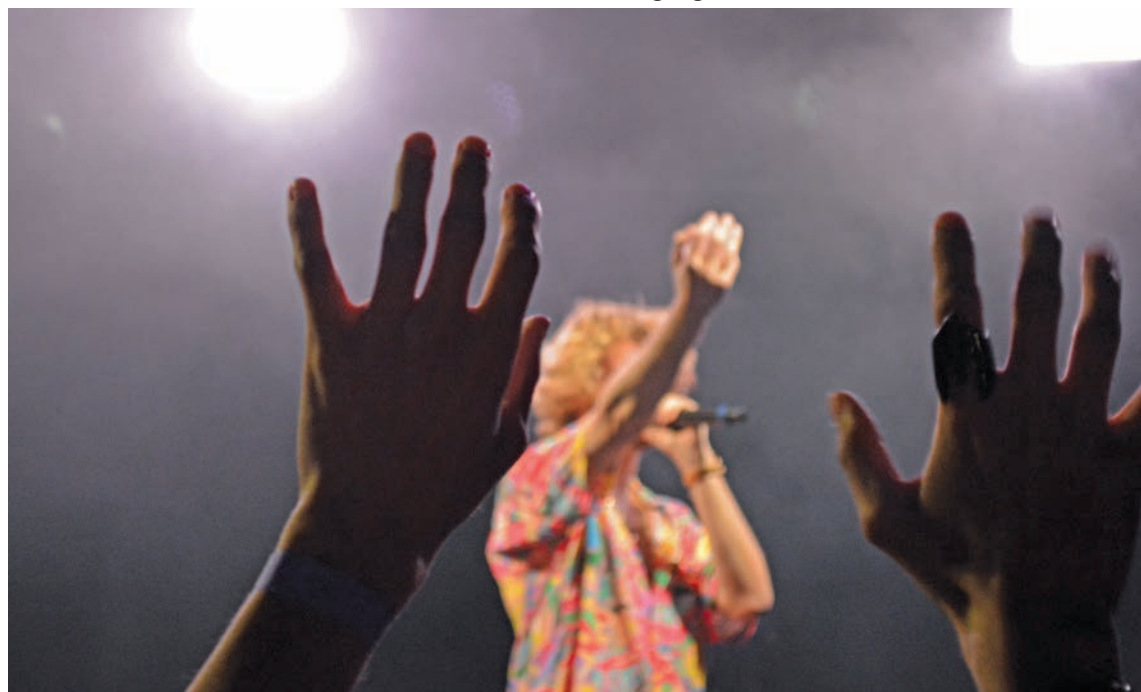
The second performance was that of Bad Suns, a California-based indie rock band that heavily juxtaposed the artist that preceded them.

The group provided a wave of calm that was welcomed with open arms, transforming the ambiance into something that encapsulated a summer evening on the beach.

Their lead singer Christopher Bowman was made for the stage. He optimized the space given to him, gliding around and soaking up every speck of artificial light, somehow still managing to



Yung Gravy points to the sky, West Haven, April 28, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.



Hands up for Spring Weekend, West Haven, April 28, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.

glow warmly underneath it.

Bowman, dripping in sweat, eventually removed his jacket to unveil a tattered muscle tee. Not long after, the lights were all switched to red, and as the boy band sang about love under the heavy saturation, their dark neutral wardrobe expelled even more vibrancy as they deepened their sound even further.

Bad Suns closed their set with their most heavily streamed song "Daft Pretty Boys," kicking the energy into their highest gear to leave the crowd with

enough adrenaline to soon take on their headliner.

In both their sound and complimentary visuals, Bad Suns played perfectly into this year's theme of the kaleidoscope concept.

Students provided their own entertainment between sets, stacking cowboy hats aiming to reach the same height as Yung Gravy, blowing bubbles into the darkening sky, failing to crowdsurf one another towards the stage and even managing to bring in jumbo blowups of a donkey and a

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# U.S. Supreme Court to hear social media cases

BY ERIN SMITH  
Politics Editor

On April 24, the United States Supreme Court announced they will act in two cases to decide whether the First Amendment protects social media users from being blocked by government officials on their personal pages used to communicate their actions for their duties. One lawsuit has been brought up against local school district officials in California and the other lawsuit is against a city manager in Michigan.

In 2021, the Supreme Court faced a similar case involving former President Donald Trump and his effort to block critics from his Twitter account. The lower court's decision of the case found that he violated constitutional free speech rights. Since Trump did not win the 2020 presidential election, the Supreme Court decided

the case was moot, meaning that legal actions cannot be brought or continued after the matter at issue has been resolved, leaving no live dispute for a court to resolve.

The California case, *O'Connor-Ratcliff v. Garnier*, involves Michelle O'Connor-Ratcliff and T.J. Zane — who are elected members of Poway Unified School District. They blocked Christopher and Kimberly Garnier, the parents of three students for making posts about issues such as race and the handling of school finances.

The Garniers sued the two school district officials in federal court, claiming that their free speech rights were violated. The accounts that blocked the parents were claimed to be personal accounts. The district officials mentioned in their petition to the Supreme Court that even though they posted work-related information on their

social media pages, these accounts were not created in conjunction with their jobs and the school district has no control over their personal accounts.

According to the Garniers' court filing, both elected members had public Facebook pages identifying them as government officials.

Zane's page was titled "T.J. Zane, Poway Unified School District Trustee." While in O'Connor-Ratcliff's Twitter and Facebook accounts, she referred to herself as "President of the PUSD Board of Education" and linked her official email address.

The case was ruled in favor of the parents in 2021. The San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals also found that the school board members had presented their social media accounts as "channels of communication with the public" about school board business.

The Michigan case, *Lind-*

*ke v. Freed*, involves Kevin Lindke who was blocked on City Manager James Freed's personal Facebook page after posting about COVID-19 criticism. Lindke also sued the federal court in violation of his free speech rights.

Freed's Facebook page identified him as a "public figure," and he posted about city programs and policies, despite the Facebook page being connected to the city manager's personal account and not connected to the Office of the City Manager. In this case, a federal judge ruled in favor of Freed. The Cincinnati-based 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found that Freed had not been acting in his official capacity when he blocked Lindke from Facebook.

The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals from the Michigan case, said the block function was unconstitutional only if the function is used as part of the page owner's

official duties or if the official's governmental duties required him to operate the social media page.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals from the California case, said that a government official's personal social media page could be considered a public forum. Therefore, it would be covered by the First Amendment's prohibitions against certain state action restricting public speech if the page owner was using the page to communicate about their official duties.

The two different outcomes of these cases are causing confusion within the lower courts on whether the First Amendment allows a government official to block social media users from commenting on personal pages.

The cases will be heard at the Supreme Court's next term which starts in October.

# President Biden announces new environmental justice initiatives

BY FAITH ARCURI  
Contributing Writer

President Joe Biden announced new environmental justice initiatives last Friday, aimed at helping disadvantaged communities protect against disproportionate environmental pollution.

The order directs federal agencies to prioritize issues of environmental justice, the latest in a series of steps from the administration as it seeks to deliver on its goal of achieving net-zero carbon emission by 2050.

It also "makes clear that the pursuit of environmental justice is a duty of all executive branch agencies and should be incorporated into their missions," the White House said in a fact sheet.

Among other things, federal agencies will be required to prevent adverse environmental and health impacts on certain communities and are called on to "actively facilitate meaningful public participation and equal treatment."

"Under this order, environmental justice will become

the responsibility of every single federal agency," Biden said. "Environmental Justice will be the mission of the entire government, woven directly into how we work with state, local, tribal and territorial governments."

This order comes as many environmental justice groups have been frustrated at the administration's recent approval of a major Alaska oil project. It has been reported that the administration is planning to roll out new rules to regulate planet-warming pollution from natural gas power plants — a move that could face legal challenges.

The executive order alludes to racial discrimination in environmental policy, citing issues such as pollution that have created disproportionate outcomes, which drew the displeasure from conservative groups.

"During this period of historic inflation, high gas prices, and burdensome energy costs, it is time to recommit to unleashing American domestic energy reserves, not imply that traditional energy

is racist," said Alfredo Ortiz, the CEO of Job Creators Network.

Biden's new order directs agencies to work closely with impacted communities and improve "gaps" in scientific data to try to tackle the impacts of pollution on people's health, said a White House official. If toxic substances were released from a federal facility in the future, the order requires federal agencies to notify nearby communities. The order comes a few years after Biden announced the "Justice40" initiative, vowing to direct 40% of federal climate and clean funding from new legislation to disadvantaged communities. The Department of Commerce and the National Science Foundation will also join the initiative.

Biden has made a commitment to environmental justice since his inauguration in 2021 with initiatives including Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs to Resettle Refugees and Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Migration and the creation of

the Climate Change Support Office.

"In two years, we're making real progress in the most ambitious environmental justice agenda in history," Biden said at the White House before signing the order.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) recently unveiled provisions in his debt limit proposal that would overturn clean energy tax credits passed in the Inflation Reduction Act last year. The proposal also includes HR 1: the GOP's version of an energy permitting bill.

Republicans, Biden argued, would "rather threaten to default on the U.S. economy, or get rid of some \$30 billion in taxpayer subsidies ... than getting rid of \$30 billion in taxpayer subsidies to an oil industry that made \$200 billion last year."

Republicans on the House Energy and Commerce Committee have set up a hearing to argue that the process of subsidizing clean energy and electric vehicles threatens human rights and national security. The committee members

describe Biden's targets for wind and solar growth along with electric vehicle adoption as unrealistic, arguing that diversifying the nation's energy mix will create a more reliable and secure system.

A CBS News YouGov survey conducted earlier this month found that roughly two-thirds of respondents want climate change addressed in the coming years. While 91% of Democrats agreed, only 44% of Republicans did. Republicans were also more likely to see efforts to reduce climate change as something that would hurt the economy.

Those complaints have not seemed to slow Biden, who pitched the move as a way to create a more just nation.

"Yes, we're determined to strengthen the ambitions — our ambitions and actions," he said Friday. "And yes, we will include communities that have been denied basic security, basic dignity that comes from clean air — having clean air, clean water, clean energy jobs and environmental justice."

# USGA's Pass the Torch brings in a new wave of voices

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH  
Arts & Life Editor

The end of an era is something that we all must face. Right now, many students are preparing for the end of their college careers, including figures on the executive board (e-board) of the Undergraduate Student Government Association (USGA). This has prompted a turnover in leadership, therefore ushering in new faces.

Despite the wind trying to sweep the tables clear at the Bixler/Gerber Quad during Charlie's Picnic and the Pass the Torch ceremony, many students still showed up to see this transition of power of the 2023-24 USGA e-board.

There were two tables on each side of the podium: one for the current e-board and another for the incoming one.

Current USGA President Cora Cogill started her speech with a thanks to those attending the ceremony, saying, "We come together to celebrate all the work that has been completed to enhance the campus community."

Cogill also discussed how being a part of USGA has impacted her personally. She

said, "USGA holds a special place in my heart, and it always will." She went on to share a personal story of when she was appointed as the Vice President of Operations (VPOPS) and had FaceTimed a dying family member to tell her the news, which was their last conversation. She said, "At that time, I made a promise to myself to do my best in the position in honor of her."

Cogill thanked the five e-board members sitting next to her as well, saying "Each day, they woke up, they did their job and they did it with a smile on their face." She said she would miss Secora Chambers making music playlists, Jenn Tucci being the USGA mom, Ella Galvan laying on the Center for Student Engagement, Leadership and Orientation's (CSELO's) couch, Sankofa Benzo sprinting between classes and Darby Brown simply being Darby.

Cogill then thanked CSELO and Greg Overend, the USGA advisor, whose "sense of humor and friendly personality" always made Cogill and the e-board smile.

The next speech came from the current senior vice president (SVP) and president-elect for next year, Dar-

by Brown, who said she was proud to serve under Cogill during the past few months. Brown also read a quote from Walter Lippman, which she changed to describe Cogill, saying, "The final test of a leader is that [she] leaves behind [her] in other [people] the conviction and the will to carry on."

Brown then turned to the current e-board to her right and said, "As much as I am excited to serve alongside my new e-board... leaving you guys will be really, really hard."

She then said, "I wasn't here for a long time, but I was here for a good time. You all made it a good time, and I am grateful for that."

Brown also told them that no matter what they were doing next, she knew they would do great, as evidenced by their hard work and dedication during their USGA membership.

The next speech came from the vice president of operations Jenn Tucci, who talked about how the USGA e-board are constantly on display, whether that is at events or simply walking around campus. Tucci admitted that this kind of popularity scared her at first, but she soon realized that

the e-board's growth as both students and leaders was on display, too.

"I've had the opportunity to watch my colleagues and senators grow and learn to express themselves," said Tucci. "It's been heartwarming to watch my peers showcase their talents through events and otherwise."

Ella Galvan, the current vice president of finance, began her speech by saying how she never thought she would serve on the USGA e-board. Despite being scared to take that next step, Galvan said she was glad to do so. Galvan also gave a shout out to Mary Lippa, the former USGA vice president for community, advocacy and diversity, who was sitting in the audience.

The USGA director of finance Secora Chambers was up next at the podium and began by admitting nervousness when first joining USGA. Chambers also thanked the professional staff and diversity peer educators at the Myatt Center for Diversity and Inclusion, who talked her into joining USGA.

Up next was the USGA sergeant-at-arms Sankofa Benzo, who commended the e-board for the work they

did this academic year. Benzo highlighted some of the events that USGA hosted, including but not limited to the Black History Month Showcase, the Women Poets and Writers Spotlight and many others.

Benzo also said, "Student leadership and advocacy are such important aspects of the student experience." She continued by saying how proud she was to accomplish all the goals she set for herself in this role.

There was a break from speeches to pass the medals onto the 2023-24 USGA e-board members: president-elect Darby Brown, vice president of engagement-elect Brisa Velazquez, vice president for community, advocacy and diversity-elect Youssef Ossama, vice president of finance-elect Ella Galvan, director of finance-elect Giselle Rau and sergeant-at-arms-elect Mason Smith.

While it is sad to see a close coming to a great team of students who care about the campus community, the incoming USGA e-board should be embraced due to their dedication and upcoming accomplishments for the 2023-24 academic year.





## “Insomnia: A Senior Exhibit” celebrates graduating art students

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH

Arts & Life Editor

Honors presentations and capstone projects are rolling around with the semester’s end coming soon. Students in the Department of Art and Design were able to display their honors projects at the Seton Gallery under the latest collection: “Insomnia: A Senior Exhibit.”

The opening of the exhibit allowed for a grand reveal of the work, with food and drinks to replenish onlookers as they admired the art. There were Insomnia cookies as well to play on the name of the collection.

As soon as you walk into the gallery, there is a sign that says the show was created “in honor of the many late and sleepless nights that made this show possible,” hence the title “Insomnia.”

This exhibit celebrates the work that the artists made, which ranges from

simple posters to large-scale, 3D pieces.

The largest project is a collection of furniture by Jake Puff, a graphic design major who created a chair, side table and magazine rack, which is part of “The Sustainable Cut,” a magazine that Puff created. According to Puff’s statement posted next to the project, “This project focuses on promoting sustainability by providing an alternative method of furniture production that avoids the mass production of furniture.” Each of the pieces has rounded edges and details in the plywood that was used to give a futuristic look — appropriate for an artist looking toward the future of design.

Another standout piece is a collection of 12 dishes by Nichole Licata, an illustration major who drew animals from the yearly Chinese Zodiac calendar: a mouse, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat,

monkey, rooster, dog and pig. Licata’s statement says, “This thesis has been an opportunity to learn more about my cultural background and form a greater connection to my ancestry.” Each dish has an animal with heavily shaded details and flower branches, each dish having different flowers that correlate with the personality traits of people born under a certain animal year.

The effort put into the details of this personal collection was evident in the precise lines and close shading on each dish.

Each of these students were able to put their passions and backgrounds into their creations and make something beautiful.

These were not the only pieces on display at the gallery. If you want to see the other results of these students’ hard work, check out their art at the Seton Gallery until May 10.



Licata’s display, West Haven, April 27, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Charlotte Bassett.



A view of Puff’s exhibit, West Haven, April 27, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Charlotte Bassett.

## Ace Turk rocks the German Club with high energy

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH

Arts & Life Editor

Students walked into the German Club this past Wednesday and were met with a phenomenal performance with powerful music when student artist Ace Turk held his first headliner. Once he told the DJ to hit it, the audience sat back, listened and cheered for the next hour.

The first song performed was “shapeshifter,” which is the second song on Ace Turk’s EP “flame feelings.” The quick pace of synthetic piano matched the musician’s high energy, evident in his jumping around on the stage.

His vocals were killer, dragging out the last word in the line, “I love the way you’re ruining your life.”

Next up was “everyone’s waiting,” a single he released in 2022 alongside “true colors,” which he

performed later in the night. The slow succession of beats paired with emotional lines like “everyone’s waiting to feel something for the first time,” had hearts pumping at the rawness of a song like this.

However, it was not the most emotional, as Ace Turk took a break between songs to introduce “flame feelings,” a song he said was the most personal and his favorite. The slow beginning of the song and low-toned vocals when performing proved why it was such a favorite. The strong impact also hit the audience when Ace Turk threw out lines like “will I find my path or burn my way through life?” Even the extra announcement of the word “feelings” when singing the title in the song showed the audience the effort put into perfecting this creation. The audience’s love was shown

by them waving their hands to replicate Ace Turk and the DJ’s actions.

Up next was “true colors,” which is “the most cathartic song” Ace Turk said he created. He then asked the audience to turn on the flashlights on their phones and put them up. The slow pace of the piano evolved to incorporate synthetic beats, which paired nicely with Ace Turk’s slow movements around the stage. At one point, he was on his knees while singing, further proving that he knows how to move an audience.

The next song was another single from last year, called “melt into the floor.” When he wasn’t singing, Ace Turk walked and danced around the stage in fluid movements, matching the calm yet quick pace of the song.

Ace Turk then performed a cover of “Aqua Regia”

by Sleep Token, which had elements of synthetic pop and alternative music blended with the slow but high-pitched beats. The audience began to wave with Ace Turk as he got onto his knees again to sing.

The next song was “witness marks,” which Ace Turk said is about people who watch our every move to try to prove we are a bad person. He assured the audience that, in that current moment, they are a better person than they were at their worst moment. A ticking sound mixed with the beat started the song along with Ace Turk nodding to it before diving into the vocals.

Ace Turk then performed “permafrost,” which has a quick beat that paired nicely with lines like “I’ll crawl through the permafrost ‘till I get to you.” It showed the perfect duality of an up-

beat melody placed next to hard-hitting lines. That upbeat energy was carried into Ace Turk’s jumpy dance during the vocal break of the song.

Before going into the next song, “sighthound,” Ace Turk thanked everyone for coming, saying that he expected a lesser number in the audience. The ultra slow beat at the beginning set a haunting tone before it picked up yet kept that tone with the dragged-out vocals.

The final song of the night was “distillery,” an edgy song with a quick pace and outstanding lines like “I’m attracted to the dark just like the moths are to the light.”

The concert ended with a satisfied audience and a proud solo artist walking out of the German Club. If you want to listen to Ace Turk’s music, check out his Spotify and immerse yourself.



# All aboard the Gravy Train

BY MIA ADDUCI  
Managing Editor

*Continued from page 1*

naked man.

Finally, DJ Tip took to the stage to kick things into gear before Gravy made his appearance. He played an immensely wide range of hits as everyone waited for the main act of the night, though some may argue that the show had already begun once Tip tore open his backpack to throw Zebra Cakes and Little Bites into the ravenous crowd.

Once everyone was amply amped up, Yung Gravy really woke everyone up as he stepped onstage to open with “Good Morning.”

He announced having received his first bra of the night by the end of his first song, and expressed wicked excitement for what he called Friday night’s “parking lot turnup.”

Performing some of his greatest hits off of his discography, including “Oops,” “Cheryl” and “Mr. Clean,” the energy from the Kaleidoscope stage was unwavering for the rest of

the night.

As Yung Gravy got deeper into his setlist, so did his level of interactivity with the crowd. His “banter” was a full-fledged conversation, and not once during the night was his next move a predictable one.

His bra collection grew impressively, but his give-and-take with the university students expanded far beyond that. Gravy repeatedly pulled out stacks of Lunchables from the side of the stage and proceeded to sign each one individually before tossing it into a direction that he felt was giving him the most enthusiasm.

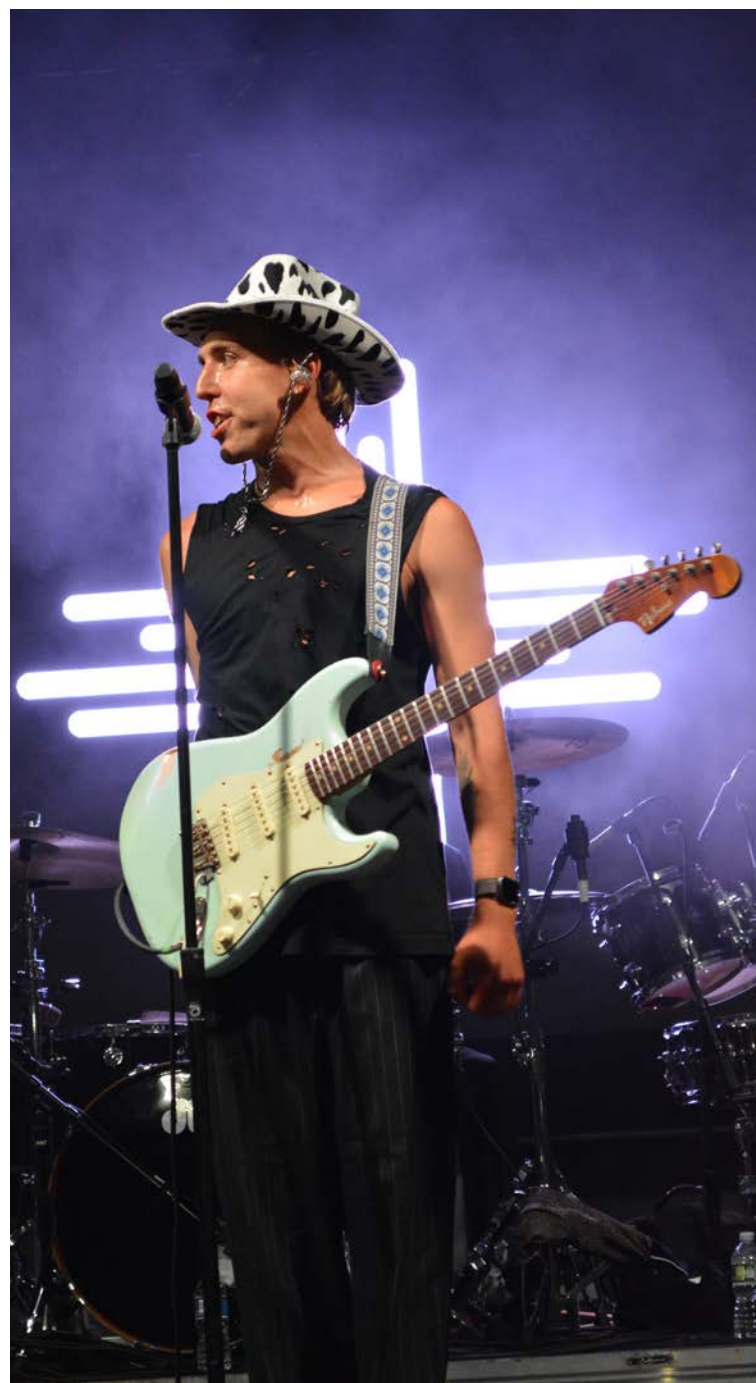
The rapper had an interesting relationship with pasties that he collected from the crowd, which he decided to strictly call “chicken cutlets.” Not only did he put one on and wear it for a portion of his set, but he took another off of the DJ table and signed it. Upon returning it to the crowd, Yung Gravy watched a group of students fight over a piece of silicone that was on an unknown member’s

body for the earlier parts of the show. By the end of the night, Gravy had written so many signatures that he might as well have branded the North Campus lot with a can of spray paint.

When Gravy hit the point of “Vanessa” in his setlist, the bass was finally kicked into full gear, letting you feel it shaking your chest to its core as the 6’6” rapper jumped around the stage.

By the end of the night, Yung Gravy had managed to tease a country collab with HARDY and Morgan Wallen, sport a New Haven jersey, drop down from the stage to hand out roses to the crowd and close out with a baptismal ceremony by bathing the parking lot with a box of Froot Loops.

The concrete was chalked-up in rainbow as the parking lot began to clear out, and by the end of the night only a couple of neglected cowboy hats remained of the herd, sitting facing the stage long after Gravy and his endless supply of snacks had cleared out.



Bowman onstage, West Haven, April 28, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.

## Students gather around campus for Founder’s Day

BY PRESLEY DEPUUGH  
Arts & Life Editor

Sunny days with warm weather spell out the perfect time for outdoor events. Last Tuesday’s pleasant forecast paved the way for Founder’s Day to take place.

Multiple events were held throughout the day all over campus. In the morning, there was a free breakfast station located outside the Bartels Campus Center, which allowed students to pick up fruit cups, muffins and coffee. Even Charlie the Charger was there to welcome people to breakfast.

At 12 p.m., three main events began. At the Bixler/Gerber quad, there was a kickoff that included a performance from the university’s cheer and dance

teams that all attendees could watch while sitting at the blue and gold tables on the lawn. The Fire Science Club had a barbecue next to Health Services with a line of people all the way to the door of the practice room in Gerber Hall.

In the parking lot at Anemone and Steven Kaplan Hall, there were food trucks serving cookies and coffee. Connoisseurs of sweets had good options, not just with the trucks, but also with a cookie decorating station, Italian ice and a table dedicated to handing out assorted treats.

At one of the tables was Brittany Stanchack, the senior associate director of alumni relations and events, who was excited to organize the event alongside the Undergraduate Student Government Association.

Stanchack said, “It’s a really great day to kind of energize the campus and have everybody be excited and be proud to be a Charger.”

Stanchack also expressed joy that all the students and faculty came out of their offices and classrooms “just to celebrate the day” and show off their Charger Pride.

Another important part of Founder’s Day was Giving Day, where people could donate to fund other university students’ education for the purpose of “turning passion into rewarding lives and fulfilling careers,” according to the crowdfunding page.

Founder’s Day accomplished its mission of bringing people together on this university holiday.



Yung Gravy onstage, West Haven, April 28, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.



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Valentina Ortiz Elian

**Photography Editor**

Charlotte Bassett

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Amber Cholewa

**Advisor**

Susan L. Campbell

300 Boston Post Road | West Haven, CT 06516  
chargerbulletin@newhaven.edu | www.chargerbulletin.com  
Office: 203.932.7182  
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# Page six view

## My final column

BY LINDSAY GIOVANNONE  
Columnist

**Column**

If you have ever flipped open *The Charger Bulletin* to page six and got upset over something I wrote, you'll love this column: my last one.

I stressed over my final 500 or so words being the legacy I leave at the *Charger Bulletin*. This one must be the best thing I've ever typed out hours before my Friday night deadline. While sitting for a bit, staring at my screen, hoping that a polished article would appear before my eyes, I reflected on the lessons I've learned while being a collegiate journalist. Here are my top three:

**Lesson 1: Do it.**

In 2020 I direct messaged the Charger Bulletin's Instagram account asking if they needed more writers. It was my first year at the University of New Haven, and because of the COVID-19 restrictions, I had no friends and figured the newspaper would cure a bit of my boredom. I had never written a single piece of journalism in my life. I had no idea what AP Style was or why I needed to write in it (I'm still not entirely sure), but I wrote my first article anyway, and I'm glad I did.

Two years later, I will be attending graduate school in August to pursue my master's in journalism. If you are interested in writing for the paper, I do suggest emailing rather than using the Instagram direct message feature. **Lesson 2: People will dislike what you have to say.**

I've gotten more than a few messages from people upset about something I've said. The comment section on our website gets brutal sometimes. Your perspective can and will evolve, but don't let it be because a few people were mean to you about it. Your opinion is valid if it is grounded in truth.

To any of the individuals who emailed me all hot and bothered over something I wrote, I want you to know that I did not lose sleep over it.

**Lesson 3: The more you write, the better you get at it.**

My first few articles for the newspaper were chock full of edits and comments. I was baffled by the newspaper's structure and how every type of article has a different flow. Sports recaps blend narrative with news, while opinion blurs the line between a conversation and a research paper. I feel as if I have only recently figured out opinion writing, despite doing it every week for a few years now.

I certainly have my favorite articles, but there is not a single piece I would take back because these first tries at journalism were part of the journey. Seeing my growth as a writer is one of the best feelings.

So, here we are now. I depart in less than two weeks and the newspaper will have a big gap on page six. I trust The Charger Bulletin staff will take up my mission from here and as long as the editorial section exists, wreak some havoc.

# One last push

BY EDITORIAL STAFF

**Editorial**

We have all made it. With the calendar flipping to May, finals are upon us bringing the welcomed glimpse of summer. It has been an exciting year, not only for our organization but also the university as a whole, but we are ready to spend the summer recharging and enjoying the time to ourselves.

The *Charger Bulletin* would like to extend gratitude to all of our readers and viewers who continue showing an interest in what is going on at the university. Our goal is to provide trustworthy and accurate reporting on anything happening on and around campus, and seeing people interacting with our content helps push us to become even better. It allows us as an organization to reflect and improve upon our practices. As students who are constantly learning and evolving, this helps us to create a better product each year.

The establishment of the newspaper's new sections, Campus News and Arts & Life, have allowed us to more accurately label our content and become more university-centric. This will be even more useful in the future as we strive to change our coverage for the better. Justin Coviello, a senior who took on the Campus News Editor role this semester, has set a high standard of reporting for the section. His presence on the staff will be sorely missed, and we can only hope to fill the void that he will leave next semester.

Our news broadcast, "Charger Bulletin News," has yet again taken another step forward in its quality and

professionalism. It is teaching students the fundamentals of working in a television broadcast, while still providing an excellent product every week. On top of this, the introduction of "Daily Events" provided even more content from the broadcast each week. Producer Andrea Rojas is graduating and leaving the Charger Bulletin this spring, but her contributions will continue to reverberate through the broadcast in the future.

The Horseshoe Magazine has also grown significantly this year, establishing a staff of editors and transforming itself from a thesis project to a legitimate piece of media. It is continuing to trend upwards and is becoming an increasingly important part of the Charger Bulletin each week.

On social media, the *Charger Bulletin's* platforms have taken the necessary steps to move towards a more modern and nuanced look. Its growth has been noticeable in just a semester and will become even better using the experiences from this year.

The *Charger Bulletin* holds itself to the highest journalistic standards every year, despite seeing a revolving door of staff members and contributors. With a year of new experiences, many of which have educated us as a staff, we can prepare for bigger and better things in the future. We encourage all students, regardless of your areas of study or involvement, to use what you have learned this year to make the next even better. If we can come together to improve as an organization, our role as the main source of news on campus will only continue to grow.

# A "shot" at life: the perception of vaccines

BY HIRAL KARELIA  
Contributing Writer

As a student of public health, I often ponder over health inequity and how these barriers can be reduced. Even before the pandemic, the world experienced health inequity due to many reasons, including lack of financial resources, inadequate health infrastructure, lack of education, and existing racism in our communities. The

COVID-19 pandemic has worsened many of these conditions.

One example of this is with global childhood immunization. Per UNICEF, the world has seen the largest sustained decline in childhood vaccinations in approximately 30 years with 25 million children missing routine vaccination in 2021 alone. This is not to forget the recent detections of polio in London and New York, which has alarmed the

world and reminded us that an outbreak anywhere is a threat everywhere.

Children who do not have access to vaccinations are more likely to get sick and die from infectious diseases, like rotavirus, measles, pneumonia, and polio. Per a CDC report, the global immunization coverage dropped down to 81% in 2021, which is the lowest rate in over the decade. 18 million "zero-dose" children did not

receive any vaccines — the highest reported number since 2005.

Vaccination is crucial and as we end World Immunization Week (April 24-30), I urge you to contact Sens. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) and Christopher Murphy (D-Conn.) and Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) to ask them to fully fund global vaccination programs. Join the call for vaccines for all.



# We deserve some bang for our buck

BY FAITH ARCURI  
Contributing Writer

Online classes should be offered at a discounted price at the University of New Haven, considering they already offer online programs such as accounting and homeland security for less than conventional classes.

I guess those programs are the lucky exceptions.

The sticker price to attend the university is \$44,100 per school year - and that's just for the classes. Once you add tuition and fees, room and board and books, you've shoveled out \$68,918.

The saving grace for this price is that you can have the normal college experience - going to classes and getting to spend time with your friends, in and out of the classroom, right?

If only that were the case.

During my time at the

university, I have taken eight online courses, but I have paid the same price as in-person courses, and I'm not sure if the classes were worth it.

During those online courses, I was in a constant state of fear and confusion - fear of never being able to contact my professors in time before an assignment was due, and confusion over the material.

I never felt like I was getting the quality education for which I was paying.

Students and their families don't pay so they can sit in bed, staring into their computer screens all day. Now that the pandemic restrictions have been lifted and the university's operations have gone mostly back to normal, students want to be in class. They want to have the experience that you see in the movies where a crowd of students are together in

the lecture hall, and they are stuck with a strict professor who prohibits outside conversation in their classroom.

They don't want to pay full price for half of the experience, but that is what they are getting. They are paying full price for what, on average, amounts to a deduction in their grades.

A DeVry University study said that taking an online course reduces a student's grades by 0.44 points on the traditional four-point scale, approximately a 0.33 deviation, difference between the expected value and the actual value, relative to taking an in-person course. On average, students taking an in-person course earned a B-(2.8). However, if this course was taken online, they were more likely to earn a C (2.4). Also, taking an online course reduces a student's GPA the following term by 0.15

points. That 0.15 points can be enough for someone to lose a scholarship or financial aid.

One of the main purposes of postsecondary education is to have a leg up once you step into the real world, but how can you do that when you are paying thousands of dollars to an institution that is not properly supplementing your education?

In addition, students who take online courses don't retain as much information as they could in a brick and mortar classroom.

In a study examining physics education, students who studied in an online course scored higher than the face-to-face students because they had more access to information.

In online classes, students have greater access to the internet, but that doesn't mean they are actually learning.

When administering a test, teachers have multiple options: they can lock down the browser so other tabs cannot be opened or record the students as they are taking the test to make sure they aren't using outside resources.

If none of these measures are taken, students can, and will, get crafty about finding answers to a test. They know there are no repercussions, so they will simply Google the answers. This means that they aren't using critical thinking skills and they aren't retaining anything either, which is a big part of learning.

Paying an astronomical amount of money isn't what the college experience should be. It should be about learning. The university shouldn't get to capitalize on our education. That's *our* job.

## These things got me through college

BY MARIAH TOWLES  
Contributing Writer

As I bid the University of New Haven adieu and prepare to roll all of my belongings out of a dorm for the last time, I wanted to make a list of my favorite things that got me through my time as an undergraduate student. These will definitely be following me to graduate school.

### Matcha Lattes

For the record, I was on the matcha wave way before everyone in 2022. My matcha journey started in 2017 and I still love it. This was long before Dunkin had them and they were all over social media. I had to endure questions like "Why is your drink green?" and "What is that?" My point is I'm not mentioning it to seem trendy. Matcha has been a must for me to get work done for a while and I can't see it ever leaving my routine. It has the perfect amount of caffeine to get me through an assignment, but not enough to keep me up all night.

### Vision Boards

How I love a good vision board! I am someone who loves to plan everything out; it's a part of my goal setting process. Motivation comes and goes, but what better way to make sure it stays a little longer than cut-outs of all of your biggest dreams and aspirations? It's a reminder of what you're

working for. I like to keep mine on my desk.

### Monthly planner

I think monthly planners are often overlooked, but they are a lovely resource if you know how to use them. I write every assignment in the area designated for the due date and put a little box next to it so I can check my assignments off. I'm a visual learner and I've figured out that this is the best way for me to be aware of how close a deadline is looming and whether I have completed the assignment yet.

### The Center for Student Success

As a first-generation student, there were a lot of policies and processes that were new to me, so the Center for Student Success (CSS) has been a life-saver for me. I've utilized the CSS for just about any inconvenience I've experienced, and they always point me in the right direction. Whether it's academic advising, a possible major switch or class registration, I've found the CSS to be one of the best resources on campus.

I am grateful I discovered these tools over the past four years; these are all the helpful resources that would make school so much harder for me if taken away. I encourage you to give these things a try if you're struggling with finding your go-to academic aids and strategies.

## The reality of being an international student in the United States

BY ELISA BROCHE  
Contributing Writer

International students experience various challenges adjusting to a new environment in a foreign country. These challenges include cultural differences, language barriers, economic problems, social isolation and academic difficulties. As a new semester approaches, focusing on looking out for those who need it most makes a significant difference in our campus environment.

One of the biggest challenges for international students is adapting to a new cultural environment. Students experience culture shock, leading to feelings of anxiety, confusion and isolation. Cultural differences affect social interactions, school performance and mental health of international students. For example, some students have trouble with the norms and values of their host country, which may differ from their home country.

Language barriers can also be a major challenge for international students. Even if students are fluent in the host country's language, they may struggle with slang, idioms and regional accents. This can affect the ability to communicate effectively with colleagues and professors, which can affect a student's social interactions.

Financial issues are another struggle for international students. Studying abroad is expensive and students may have to cover tuition, housing, transportation and living expenses. International students may find it difficult to find part-time jobs and internships due to visa restrictions and limited employment opportunities.

Social isolation is often faced by international students. Moving to a new country can be an isolating experience and students may find it difficult to make friends and connect with their peers. Cultural differences and language barriers can increase social isolation and negatively impact mental health.

Academic struggles are common problems faced by international students. Students may find it difficult to adapt to the academic expectations and teaching style of their host country. This can affect grades and overall academic performance. Students may also struggle with plagiarism, attribution and academic writing that can affect their success in higher education. Integrating a student, giving them a hand or explaining something simple can mean the difference. Citation Styles are new to many students. The use of certain technology is complicated. Patience is also necessary.

There are several possible solu-

tions to alleviate the problems faced by international students. First, universities can offer more specified orientation programs to help students adjust to their new cultural environment. These programs could include language classes, cultural activities and social events that help students integrate into their new communities.

When I arrived at the University of New Haven, the environment was a completely drastic change for me. Every day I experience each of these difficulties while keeping my sights fixed on the goal of graduating.

My time here has not been easy, and many times I felt that life was turning its back on me, but little by little, things are changing. I left my fears and joined groups, I began to make friends and now I enjoy my decision of living in the states.

It is essential to always keep international students in mind. We don't always have the money to go out, we don't know the places or the culture and we do a lot to belong away from our comfort, but when you get to know someone, and they introduce you to their culture, a whole new world opens up. Members of a community should always stay together and welcome those who need a friend or even someone they know they can rely on.



# Regular season ends in doubleheader split with SNHU

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL  
Sports Editor

At the end of every season, teams are given one last chance to take the field and watch all of the progress they have made throughout the season. A long season is going to come with its ups and downs, but being able to go out on the field and play together for the final time is a feeling that every player will experience.

The New Haven softball team closed out the 2023 regular season on Saturday in Manchester, NH, where they took on Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) and split the doubleheader. The Chargers earned a tight 3-2 win in game one before dropping game two by a score of 9-1 to finish the season with a 17-29 record (12-12 NE-10).

Senior right-handed pitcher Selena Aponte got the start in game one for New Haven, doing it all along the way to her sixth win of the season, throwing a complete game on the mound and driving in all three of the team's runs at the plate.

After a leadoff single in the bottom of the first by SNHU shortstop Bella Dickinson, she advanced to third on an error that gave the Penmen an early chance to score with no outs to start the game. Second

baseman Alyssa DiMauro gave SNHU a 1-0 lead with a groundout to shortstop, turned into a double play by New Haven that emptied the bases and kept it a one-run game.

New Haven responded in the top of the second as they brought two runs across to take a 2-1 lead in large part due to a home run. Designated hitter Meg Anderson led the inning off with a single and after pinch-runner Sophia Piccirilli stole second, the momentum seemed to come to a stop after third baseman Ashley Veisz lined into a double play.

First baseman Ashley Veillette lined a single into center field with two outs to keep the inning alive as Aponte drilled a two-run home run to left field that put the Chargers ahead by one.

It stayed a one-run game until the top of the fourth when Aponte brought another run in for New Haven with an RBI single to center field that scored Veisz to give the Chargers a 3-1 lead.

SNHU cut the lead back to one in the bottom of the sixth after a bases-loaded walk to Dickinson with two outs kept the inning alive, but Aponte got out of trouble and allowed just one run to keep it a one-run game with the chance to close it out in the seventh.

Aponte retired the side in order in the seventh, sealing the game one win for the Chargers by a score of 3-2.

Right-hander Mia Iodice got the start in game two, and was faced with consistent base runners and scoring opportunities, allowing six runs on eight hits over 4.2 innings. Along with the eight hits, New Haven committed five errors in the game that allowed SNHU to add to their lead.

SNHU struck for three runs in the first with RBI singles from DiMauro and third baseman Shannon Gifford, as well as another single from catcher Jordyn Resetar that allowed another run to score on a throwing error.

The Penmen added another run in the second, taking a 4-0 lead after DiMauro reached first on an error by Veisz that allowed catcher Abi Gray to score.

New Haven got on the board in the top of the fifth after first baseman Aaliyah Amidon led off the inning with a single and later advanced to second on a wild pitch. Center fielder Bella Chenet brought her around to score with a single to right field that made it a 4-1 game.

SNHU continued to add to their lead in the bottom of the inning with a pair of home runs that put the game out

of reach with a six-run lead. Resetar lined a solo home run to left field to start the scoring, followed by a single from left fielder Ari Ferrier. The big blow of the inning came off the bat of first baseman Abby Lineman with an opposite-field two-run home run.

SNHU added two more runs in the sixth to take a 9-1 lead, giving them the win in game

two and the split of the doubleheader.

The split marks the end of the season for the Chargers, who have a lot to look forward to next season with a team that will look to make it back to the playoffs for the first time since 2021. More information about the program can be found at [newhavenchargers.com](http://newhavenchargers.com).



New Haven's Ashley Veisz, West Haven, April 25, 2023.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Alida Bates

# Offense leads the charge in series win over Saint Rose

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL  
Sports Editor

As the playoffs approach, finding your stride as a team and putting together a string of games to end the season on a high note gives them the momentum they need to go on a run for the championship title. With a spot in the playoffs clinched, the final games allow players to be rested and go into the post-season ready to face the top teams in the conference.

The New Haven baseball team earned another series win over the College of Saint Rose as they continue their recent success with wins in six of their last seven games. The offense was alive and well for the Chargers, scoring 21 runs across the three games to bring them to a 27-11 record (9-6 NE-10) on the season.

New Haven's offense started off red hot, scoring six runs to open up a comfortable lead as they set the tone early in game one. First baseman Andrew Bianco led off the inning with a hit by pitch and after walks from third baseman Andrew Cain and catcher Josh Lester, right fielder Tyler Wells brought the first run around to score with a bases-loaded walk.

The inning continued as designated hitter Matt McIntire hit a sacrifice fly that scored Cain to make it a two-run game, followed by a single from

left fielder Shaun Callahan to stretch the lead to three. Shortstop Kenneth Franquiz then lined a single to left field and advanced to second on the throw to put runners in scoring position with two outs.

Second baseman Noah Budzik capped off the inning with a two-run single to right field that scored Callahan and Franquiz to put the Chargers ahead by six.

The lineup kept manufacturing runs in the top of the second as they scratched another run across with a leadoff single from Cain who got himself into scoring position on a throwing error by left fielder Zephaniah Vaughn. After reaching third on a groundout, Cain scored on a wild pitch to give New Haven a 7-0 lead.

Saint Rose got on the board in the bottom of the second after catcher Michael Nazzaro reached on a dropped third strike that allowed right fielder Tony Soggi to score to cut the lead to six.

New Haven continued to pour it on as they ran their way into another run in the top of the fourth as Cain scored on a double steal attempt that allowed center fielder Robert Taylor to go all the way from first to third on the play.

Saint Rose cut into the lead in the bottom of the fifth with a leadoff home run from second baseman Jared Reed. Designated hitter Louis Gendron made it a five-run game with a single,

followed by another RBI single from shortstop Vince Venditti that made it an 8-4 game.

The Golden Knights chipped away at the lead again in the bottom of the sixth as Reed led off the inning with a double and advanced to third on a bunt single that put two runners on with no outs. First baseman Jack McDonald lined a single into center field that scored Reed before Gendron made it a two-run game with a sacrifice fly.

After an RBI walk from Taylor that delivered New Haven a key insurance run in the top of the eighth, Saint Rose made it a two-run game in the bottom of the inning as Gendron lined another RBI single.

New Haven closer Drew Silverman came on to finish the game, firing 1.1 hitless innings with three strikeouts to give the Chargers the win in game one of the series.

The Chargers dropped game two of the series on Friday afternoon in an extra-innings affair to put an end to their five-game winning streak.

Taylor brought the only New Haven run around to score in the top of the third with a single to right field that scored Bianco and gave them another early lead. Despite having runners in scoring position, the Chargers could not capitalize on any more scoring chances, ending the inning with just one run.

Graduate right-hander Thomas Eletto

got the start in game one of the doubleheader for New Haven, firing five scoreless innings while allowing just two hits with seven strikeouts. He kept the shutout intact in the fifth, stranding three runners on base to keep the one-run lead.

Venditti broke the shutout for Saint Rose with a double to left field that brought pinch-runner Tyler Romano around to score to make it a tie game in the bottom of the sixth.

Venditti also brought the winning runs around to score in the bottom of the tenth with a walk-off three-run home run to take the first game of the doubleheader to set up a rubber match in game two.

New Haven's offense caught a spark early in game two as they took another early lead with a lead-off home run from Bianco. After a one-out walk to Taylor, he stole second and advanced to third on a groundout, coming around to score on a single from Lester to put the Chargers ahead by two.

Budzik added to New Haven's lead in the top of the fourth with a single that scored Franquiz from second but was tagged out trying to advance to second on the throw from left field.

Cain made it a four-run game with a solo home run in the top of the fifth before Saint Rose broke the shutout in a big way with Venditti's second home run of the day that made it a 4-2 game.

New Haven broke the game open in the top of the sixth, scoring seven runs to take a commanding 11-2 lead. Callahan led off the inning with a single and after a walk to Franquiz, Budzik dropped down a sacrifice bunt to move both runners into scoring position with one out.

After an intentional walk to Binco, Cain was hit by a pitch that plated Callahan for the first run of the inning. Taylor followed with a walk before designated hitter Owen Pincince lined a two-run double down the left-field line to make it a six-run game. Taylor came around to score on a wild pitch to stretch the lead to seven before Callahan delivered his second hit of the inning with a two-run single and also scored on a single from Franquiz to cap off the seven-run frame.

Saint Rose cut into the deficit to make it a four-run game in the seventh, but right-hander Randy Ramnarace closed the game out to deliver the Chargers the series win with the 11-7 victory.

New Haven will stay at home for the remainder of the regular season with a midweek matchup against Alliance University and the final series taking on Le Moyne College. The Chargers will enter the Northeast-10 playoffs as one of the top teams in the Southwest Division, looking to make a run at a conference championship title.