

The Charger Bulletin

The student news source for the University of New Haven

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Students at forum discuss remembrance ceremony remarks

BY KELLY ADKINS
Student Life Editor

In response to a comment made during the 9/11 remembrance ceremony on Sept. 10 in the Maxcy quad, an open forum was held in the Peterson Auditorium on Tuesday. With roughly 137

students attending, some doubled up in seats or sat on the auditorium floor.

The Undergraduate Student Government Association (USGA), the Myatt Center for Diversity and Inclusion (MCDI), Dean of Students office and the Muslim Student Association (MSA) hosted the event.

Opheile Rowe-Allen, dean of students, and MCDI director Carrie Robinson gave opening remarks of the forum, where ground rules were set as to how to promote safe and respectful dialogue. Rowe-Allen led with a moment of silence with the intention of giving students a moment to breathe and reflect.

“We also want to heal our hearts and minds, build community and repair harm, that is why we are here,” said Rowe-Allen.

Robinson said that people’s intentions might not be to harm others, but the impact of their words or actions may still cause harm. She encouraged present students to be engaged, to challenge themselves to be uncomfortable; to be willing to take risks to speak their truth.

“We are not going to solve all the problems here today,” Robinson said. “There might not be closure. Actually, there probably shouldn’t be.” She said that the purpose of the gathering was to issue a call to action.

Laila Soliman, MSA event coordinator and director of communications, said that they were not surprised by the incident at the 9/11 ceremony.

“It has happened time and time again, and will probably happen again,” she said. “I want a plan in place... how will the school do better by us?”

Cora Cogill, a sophomore business management major and USGA senator-at-large, suggested that Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs) that engage in public speaking be required to have their speeches screened by advisors or other top-position faculty members.

She also suggested that the university create a website to educate students on the various cultures on campus.

“We may have been taught stuff wrong in the past,” said Cogill.

Hailey Perez, vice president of marine conservation society said that the university should be more active than the students, and mentioned that an email sent after the event by university president Steven Kaplan neglected to mention the comments in question.

Others noted the school’s response. President of the Asian-American Student Union Rebecca Chan-Chao agreed, saying, “Our school as a whole has a tendency to be reactive [and not proactive].”

She said students need to not only check themselves and their peers, but more importantly check the faculty because “they do have more power in their positions than we do.”

Michael Desir, senior music and sound recording major, supported Chan-Chao’s sentiment.

“When we approach conversations where the tone is up here [in front of others], we have to remember that the conversation has a context of pain for every-



The outside of the Peterson Auditorium in the Bergami Center, where the forum was held, West Haven, Sept. 19, 2021.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Kelly Adkins

Continued on page 4

Annual WestFest celebration makes its return

BY ELISA D’EGIDIO
Student Life Editor

WestFest 2021 took place on West Haven’s Historic Green on Sept. 18 from 12 to 7 p.m. This year’s event celebrates the city of West Haven’s 100th anniversary and WestFest’s 6th year.

The event was filled with university Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs) including: The Charger Bulletin, WNHU, Victimology Club, American Criminal Justice Association, Men’s Rugby Club, Rotaract Club and College Republicans.

The West Haven Green was filled with families and people of the community gathering, showing support and having a good time. The event had live music, food and lawn games for all in attendance.

Killian Gruber, a senior political science major, is the chair of the University of New Haven Mayor’s Advisory Commission. With this position, he fundraised

and found sponsors to help support the WestFest event. He also worked together with the university and the West Haven

City Hall to organize this event. “To me WestFest is important because it is a way for UNH students to interact with the

city they live in and [RSOs] are highlighted to West Haven Residents, which is our mission,” Gruber said. “It is also a lot of

fun for everyone attending which is great to see! Plus, everyone in the Mayor’s Advisory Commission gains so many connections and so many unique experiences”

Senior legal studies major Jonathan Rodriguez worked at the Dunk Tank station at WestFest. He said, “All things considered, last year a lot of people had a lot of things happen because of COVID. We are rebuilding, it will get better.”

Rodriguez said he hopes, in the future, to see more rides available at the event along with more community involvement from the citizens of West Haven.

The Mayor’s Advisory Commission website said, “WestFest’s purpose is to foster collaboration, awareness, and goodwill between the University of New Haven and West Haven communities.”

In a letter dedicated to Chargers, Westies, and visitors, Mayor Nancy R. Rossi said, “This is



Children wait to play on a blow-up ride at WestFest, West Haven, Sept. 18, 2021.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Elisa D’Egidio

Continued on page 4

The theater program is back and ready to perform

BY TIARA STARKS
Entertainment Editor

The university theater club is back. This year, they are preparing for their show “Head Over Heels,” a jukebox comedy musical with music and lyrics by legendary rock band, The Go-Go’s. The show will premiere at Bucknall Theater from Nov. 10 through 13.

Auditions for the show came on Aug. 31 with callbacks on Sept. 1.

Last semester, on-campus programs and activities were few and far between amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and the theater club was just one organization that took a hit. Through it all, the club still managed to hold a two-performance showing of William Shakespeare’s “The Winter’s Tale,” which required audience members to show a cleared CoVerified status, wear a mask, and socially distance. For those who could not attend, there was a live stream on Facebook where viewers could comment live during the performance.

With live theater returning to the New Haven area, it comes as

no surprise that the university’s theater program is back in full force, as well, with the first performance just a couple of months away.

This will be the first live musical production since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. With increased safety precautions, in addition to the university’s widespread vaccine and mask mandate, productions are still able to be held with an audience with less concern for transmission.

In the spring, the biennial Student New Works Festival, a student-created short play festival, will be held in-person from April 20 through 23 in Bucknall Theater.

For more information on how to get involved with the Theater Program, contact Prof. Margaret Savilonis at msavilonis@newhaven.edu and Jonathan Yukich at jyukich@newhaven.edu.



Inside of Bucknall Theatre, West Haven
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin /Lismarie Pabon

Stars flaunt fashion at the Met Gala’s post-COVID comeback

BY ANDREA ALVERCA
Contributing Writer



Lil Nas X at the Met Gala, Sept. 13.
Photo courtesy of @lilnasx on Instagram

Since its inaugural year in 1948, the Met Gala has become one of the most famous and prominent events in the world. The fundraiser is held for the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City to mark their annual fashion exhibit. The event celebrates the theme of the Institute’s exhibition. Guests that are invited to the Gala are expected to choose a fashion designer to collaborate with for an outfit that coincides with the theme of the exhibit.

The Met Gala has been held on the first Monday of May since

2005. However, the event was canceled in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 Gala was split into two parts with the first arriving on Sept. 13 and the second coming in 2022.

This year’s exhibit is titled “In America: A Lexicon of Fashion,” opening to the public on Sept. 18, and making this year’s Gala’s theme “American Independence.”

Timothée Chalamet, Billie Eilish, Amanda Gorman, and Naomi Osaka were this year’s co-chairs. Amanda Gorman wore a blue Vera Wang dress inspired by the Statue of Liberty; Naomi Osaka sported a custom Louis Vuitton bustier and skirt, with a design representing her Haitian and Japanese backgrounds and reflecting her beliefs on biracial heritage playing a role in the American Dream; Billie Eilish stunned in an Oscar de la Renta gown inspired by Marilyn Monroe; and Timothée Chalamet wore a Haider Ackermann blazer paired with several 1920s Cartier brooches and All-Star Converse to pay tribute to Chuck Taylor.

Yara Shahidi wore a custom

Dior gown with an attached cape as a tribute to Josephine Baker. Kendall Jenner channeled her inner “My Fair Lady,” her sheer and diamond-studded dress designed by Givenchy. Olivia Rodrigo, who won three VMA awards the night before, donned a black lace catsuit by Saint Laurent inspired by her love of punk rock music.

Lil Nas X paid homage to Lady Gaga’s four-outfit change from the 2019 Gala with his own three, custom outfits. Styled by Versace, the 22-year-old rapper arrived in a regal velvet gold cape with a golden suit of armor underneath. Lil Nas X removed the armor, revealing his final outfit of the night: a black jumpsuit embellished with gold jewels.

Needless to say, the Met Gala did not disappoint in its first half of the exhibition.

Next spring’s gala in May 2022 will launch its second part, the exhibit titled “In America: An Anthology of Fashion.” This exhibit will open to the public on May 5, with both parts of the exhibition to close on Sept. 5, 2022.

Must-read Marvel comics you should check out this fall

BY ELDRICK
GREENWAY &
EMILY
MCDONOUGH
Staff Writers

Comics captivate readers. Even though we don’t have superhuman abilities like Captain America, Iron Man, or Spiderman, the writers give these characters real world issues that readers can relate to, blended with creative and heroic abilities. Here are our comic book recommendations for anyone who loves strong, emotional storytelling and action packed adventures.

The Death of Captain Marvel (Jim Starlin)

The legendary Jim Starlin has worked on a wide variety of comics, but “The Death of Captain Marvel” is definitely the one that stands out. After collapsing while defending the galaxy, Captain Mar-vell is exposed to a nerve gas that gives him terminal cancer. For a book that was written in the 80s, it beats out the many modern comics of today. You can purchase the tragic yet outstanding “The Death of Captain Marvel” comic book at Comic Issues and Amazon.

Young Avengers - The Complete Edition (Allen Heinberg and

Jim Cheung)

It’s 2021, and with shows like Falcon and the Winter Soldier, Wandavision and Hawkeye taking over phase four of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), it’s time to learn who the Young Avengers are. The Young Avengers consist of Iron Lad, Kate Bishop’s Hawkeye, Hulkling, Kid Loki, Miss America, Noh-Varr, Patriot, Prodigy, Speed, Stature, Vision, and Wiccan. This comic is the perfect introduction for the Young Avengers. Writers Allan Heinberg and Jim Cheung illustrate realistic teen issues and incorporate it into glorious action and adventure scenes. You can purchase “Young Avengers: The Complete Edition” off of Amazon or the Bulk Bookstore.

Young Avengers: The Children’s Crusade (Allen Heinberg)

This nine-issue Avengers event by Allan Heinberg and illustrated by Jim Cheung focuses on the Young Avengers: Wiccan, Speed, Hawkeye, Hulkling, Patriot and Stature. Wiccan’s powers start to spiral out of control like his mother, the Scarlet Witch, and she might be the only person who can help him. The Young Avengers set out to find the Scarlet Witch who has been missing for quite some time with help from Magneto and Quicksilver. You can buy “Young Avengers:

The Children’s Crusade” at Barnes and Noble or Amazon.

Hawkeye (Matt Fraction)

Matt Fraction and David Aja’s run of “Hawkeye” has become an iconic fan favorite. This comic is a great way to learn about Clint Barton’s past, and to get a feel for the relationship between him and his mentee, Kate Bishop, before Hawkeye premieres on Disney+. In this story, Clint Barton is taking a break from being an Avenger. When his new neighbors are threatened by a track-suit wearing European mob, he realizes the need to stand up and protect his home and his friends. It’s recommended to read “Hawkeye Private Eye” by Kelly Thompson beforehand, which focuses on Kate Bishop being on her own in L.A. This is a great way to get to know the new Hawkeye.

Black Widow (Nathan Edmondson)

“Black Widow” by Nathan Edmondson is an action-packed mystery about Natasha Romanoff atoning for her past life before she joined the Avengers. With the help of her lawyer, Issah, she is taking on mercenary jobs to help financially support her past victims. While undercover in Russia, Natasha uncovers a plot from a new villain, The Hand of God, that spans the globe. In



A stack of Marvel comic books.
Photo courtesy of Unsplash/Erik McLean

addition to a great story, the comic’s artist, Phil Noto, draws for this story and his art is absolutely breathtaking while bringing something new to the character of Black Widow. You can buy all three volumes of “Black Widow” on Amazon.

Ms. Marvel (G. Willow Wilson)

Jersey City has a new hero with Pakistani-American teenager Kamala Khan, a.k.a. Ms. Marvel. After the Terrigen Mist covers Jersey City, Kamala wakes up with powers that let

her change size and shape shift. While on her mission to protect Jersey City, the new Ms. Marvel runs into the superhero group the Inhumans, and later finds out that she is also part of this group. This comic introduces one of the most likeable characters in Marvel Comics as well as a relatable story about being a normal teenager with everyday responsibilities. You can buy all volumes of “Ms. Marvel” by G. Willow Wilson on Amazon.

Field hockey braves WCU's storm in second season game

BY JOSEPH KLAUS
Sports Editor

Coming off of a 1-0 victory at Pace University, the field hockey team returned home to host No. 2 West Chester University Wednesday night at DellaCamera Stadium, but fell 1-0.

The Golden Rams showed why they were the second ranked team with their onslaught of attacks on the Chargers defense. The Chargers held strong, bending but not breaking, as they fought off 12 shots from the Golden Rams in the first half.

Goalie Keira Integlia stood

strong in the cage for the blue and gold, coming up with saves throughout the first half to keep things level going into half-time.

The second half began, allowing the Golden Rams to immediately press the Chargers, earning two penalty corners to start the third quarter. It was on the second corner that the Golden Rams found the back of the cage off the stick of Sophie Morrison.

The offensive onslaught continued from the Golden Rams but Integlia and the Chargers stood strong, defending the 21 shots on the night along with 18 corners from the Golden Rams.

Integlia finished the night

recording eight saves in the cage for the Chargers while Taylor Geaglone recorded the lone shot for the blue and gold.

The Chargers return to action on Sept. 19 when they travel to Franklin Pierce looking to move to 3-0 in NE-10 play. The match begins at 2 p.m.



Goalie Keira Integlia, West Haven, Sept. 15, 2021.

Photo courtesy of Clarus Studios

Football struggles offensively, loses to No. 22/24 Bowie State

BY TYLER WELLS
Associate Editor

The New Haven football team welcomed nationally ranked Bowie State University to West Haven on Saturday, marking the long-delayed matchup between the two schools. The Bulldogs came into the weekend as the 22nd/24th ranked team in the country, proving to be the first true challenge for the Chargers in the 2021 season, losing 27-13.

The first half highlighted the defensive strength of each team, as the stingy play kept points off the board.

New Haven was limited to 127 total yards of offense in the first half, with most coming from the arm of quarterback Connor Degenhardt going 15-26. On the other side of the field, Bowie State's offensive attack also struggled, posting 122 total yards at the break.

Bowie State's first-half standout was their punter, Kenny

Amaya, who pinned the Chargers deep in their own territory on consecutive drives. The second of these put the ball on the one-yard line, setting up a muffed handoff for New Haven. This jarred the ball free in the Chargers' endzone as Bowie State quickly recovered it for a touchdown, taking a 6-0 lead in the second quarter. Amaya placed seven punts within the Chargers' 20-yard line and proved to be a significant factor in limiting any New Haven momentum.

The score would remain at 6-0 until the end of the first half, as a missed New Haven field goal kept the Chargers off the board.

New Haven came out of the break looking strong, with running back Shamar Logan scoring a rushing touchdown and taking a 7-6 lead, being the highlight for the Chargers' day.

Bowie State responded by scoring three unanswered touchdowns of their own, taking a commanding 27-7 lead. Bowie State's standout defensive line

led this charge, forcing a Degenhardt fumble and tipped a pass that was intercepted. Both of those plays turned into points for the Bulldogs.

The final touchdown of the game came from a Degenhardt sneak into the endzone as time expired to push the final score to 27-13. While the New Haven defense held Bowie State to 251 total yards, the three turnovers proved to be too much for the Chargers to overcome.

Degenhardt finished completing 22 of 44 passes for 177 passing yards while Logan rushed for 50 yards on 12 attempts. Defensively, New Haven was led by defensive back Shawn Tafe and linebacker Ryan Hodgins, who both registered seven tackles. Linebacker Khalim Cisse also added six tackles and a forced fumble.

"It was a great job by our defense all day," New Haven head coach Chris Pincince said after the game. "The only thing they didn't do was create turnovers. Offensively we just didn't do what we were supposed to do the entire day."

New Haven will have to get over the loss quickly as they host crosstown rival Southern Connecticut State University for their first conference game of the season on Sept. 25, with kickoff slated for 1 p.m.

"We have to block better and protect the ball," Pincince said. "You can't turn the football over against good teams and you've got to protect the quarterback."

The Chargers will look to extend their 11-game winning streak over their rivals and keep the Elm City Trophy in West Haven.



The Chargers play against the Bulldogs, West Haven, Sept. 18, 2021.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Wells



Women's soccer plays against SNHU, West Haven, Sept. 18, 2021.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Joseph Klaus

Soccer falls to SNHU

BY JOSEPH KLAUS
Sports Editor

In a 3-1 loss on Saturday night, the Chargers fell to No. 19 Southern New Hampshire University.

In the NE-10 matchup, the Chargers hosted the Penmen looking to turn things around after dropping back-to-back one goal contests to Stonehill College and Bentley University.

The Blue and Gold backline, led by goalie Paige Davis who totalled 11 saves on the night, held strong against the attacking front of the Penmen. In the 20th minute, a Chargers counter attack found the back of the net. Clearing danger out of the defensive third, Vickie Fleming found the center of the field. Cimetta chipped a shot over Penmen keeper Z Kaplan from the yellow

line and found the back of the net, breaking the stalemate giving the Blue and Gold the lead.

After the goal, the Chargers increased the intensity but the Penmen showed why they were nationally ranked, quickly responding by striking four minutes later and leveling the match with a strike from Julia Keller.

The Penmen would rattle off two more goals in the 39th and 48th minutes to take a commanding 3-1 lead. To go along with the lead, the Penmen dominated possession passing around the Chargers and taking advantage of mistakes. The attack continued as the Penmen out shot the Chargers 21-3 on the night.

This marks the third straight loss from the Chargers after starting the year 3-0. New Haven returns to the pitch on Sept. 21 when they travel to Saint Anselm College for a NE-10 matchup with kickoff at 4 p.m.

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Graphic courtesy of Elisa D'Egidio

Open forum

Continued from page 1

one, and we all grieve differently,” said Desir. “Tone-policing one another on the anniversary of such an event is ineffective. Not everyone is articulate on their pain, nor should we have to be—that’s why we hire professionals who study the work.”

Eve Hein, senior psychology student and treasurer of the American Criminal Justice Association (ACJA)—whose organization’s president delivered the speech—said self-education is an important step, and that “other people do not have to educate you.”

She also said that she, with members of the executive board, are pushing to implement monthly workshops or biweekly discussions for ACJA’s members, where they will address world events and issues within the criminal justice field.

Jillian Fiore, ACJA president, was in attendance; however, she did not speak at the forum. Her lack of response was a subject of the discussion.

In response to this, Rowe-Allen suggested students to be patient.

Destiny Jenkins-Rubins, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), said the forum was “not to punish you for your opinion or to make sure you are perfect, because no one here is perfect. Every single person here

has made mistakes... but at the end of the day you hurt people and made them feel that their religion is moot.”

After the discussion about a public response from Fiore, Jenkins-Rubins asked on the microphone if Fiore would be willing to meet with MSA after the event. Fiore did not verbally comment. It is unknown if this is being worked out privately among RSOs.

Towards the close of open discussion, USGA president Sofia Martinez, asked for the space to grow and work towards progress, and apologized to MSA, Muslim and Arab students for providing a platform that caused them harm.

Shahd Omar, vice president of MSA, subsequently spoke on the behalf of MSA and forgave Martinez, saying that forgiveness is a pillar of Islam.

Other issues discussed during the forum included the lack of funding for diversity peer educators, making mandatory diversity training more extensive, or transitioning it into a three-credit course. Students also noted Kaplan’s absence from the meeting.

At the forum’s close, the USGA executive board launched an anonymous poll where attendees could post feedback, suggestions and action plans that can be reviewed later

“These forums are not just a band-aid to fix it up,” said Martinez, addressing the purpose of this closing poll

Students who were not present or able to use this poll are encouraged to attend USGA meetings, contact Martinez at usgapresident@newhaven.edu or the dean of students at deanofstudents@newhaven.edu.



The Alumni Lounge, where USGA meetings are held, West Haven.
Photo courtesy of Chargerbulletin/Kelly Adkins

Class officer elections are underway

BY KELLY ADKINS
Student Life Editor

It is that time of year again; members of the first-year (2025) and junior (2023) classes can apply to serve on their class executive board.

Class office operates under the Undergraduate Student Government Association (USGA), and is made up of five positions: president, vice president, treasurer, executive assistant and sergeant at arms. Each of these members serve for a two-year term.

Lilyan Lauzon, USGA executive assistant and elections committee head, is in the process of presenting the current class office candidates to the student body.

Lauzon said class office “is a group of passionate students who listen to feedback from their class, help plan fun traditions like the annual Snowball dance, and host events for the class like paint nights or movies nights.”

Lauzon also said that this board is one of the best entry-level leadership positions available at the university, since it is not as large of a time commitment as other opportunities and provides “a great space to grow as leaders.”

She encourages students, particularly those in the classes of 23 and 25, to attend the upcoming events.

On Sept. 20 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Bartels Hall, day one of tabling commenced. Any students who missed it have the opportunity to attend on Sept. 21 from 2 to 7 p.m. to learn about their platforms.

The annual Meet the Candidates Night will follow Sept. 21’s tabling event, from 8 to 10 p.m. in the Bergami Center 307 Auditorium. Students can drop in to further understand the candidates’ platforms and play Kahoot to engage with one another. All those who attend Meet the Can-

didates will be entered to win a \$25 Zuppardi’s Apizza gift card, \$15 Claire’s Corner Copia gift card or a \$10 Amazon gift card.

Students are encouraged to vote, as each candidate requires 5% of their class body’s votes in order to hold office.

Voting will take place on Charger Connection; additionally, there will be voting tables inside Bartels from Sept. 22 through 24 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At these tables, students who show voting confirmation will be entered to win an Apple Watch, \$25 Mecha Noodle gift card or a \$10 Donut Crazy gift card. Students may also email Lauzon at usgaea@newhaven.edu, or direct message the USGA Instagram account (@humans_of_usga) with their voting confirmation to be entered for the same prizes.

The election timeline may be subject to change. Follow the USGA Instagram for updates, or email Lauzon with any questions.

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ILLUSTRATORS WANTED



WE ARE LOOKING FOR STUDENTS TO DRAW FOR OUR NEWSPAPER.

Graphic courtesy of Elisa D’Egidio

WestFest

Continued from page 1

a time to look back on the fun and warm weather as well as a time to look forward to the autumn colors, winter holidays and yes, the fall semester.”

Shoshanna Dansinger, forensic science sophomore, tabled for the university Hillel Club. Dansinger said that this was their first time at WestFest. “It was really exciting. I got to walk around a bit and enjoy the sounds and sights.”

Dansinger hopes to see more food trucks and more RSOs representing the university next year.

Gruber said, “I hope that this year’s WestFest can be a light at the end of the tunnel for some. COVID-19 hit our local communities hard and, while we are still dealing with it, I think it is important to have moments where we can come together as safely as possible. I hope for UNH Students and West Haven Residents it can reverse a lot of

feelings of isolation due to the pandemic.”

This end-of-summer event was sponsored and supported by the UNH Mayor’s Advisory Commission, University of New Haven, WHEAT, City of West Haven, Casa Bianca Pizza, Sodexo, US Alliance Financial and Security Technologies.

Gruber wanted to thank and acknowledge everyone who had a part in making the festival this year, saying “Especially each of our student directors Samuel Weinmann, Andrew Colford, Christyllis Douglas, Christian Zapata, and Cassie Napoli. As well as our Advisor Dr. Chris Haynes. Without their hard work and dedication this Festival would not be possible.”

“Without question, the students involved with WestFest are some of our finest,” said President Steven Kaplan in a public statement.



WestFest, West Haven, Sept. 18, 2021.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Kayla Mutchler

D&D Adventurers' Guild brings adventure and fantasy to the university

BY ELISA D'EGIDIO
Student Life Editor

Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) is a fantasy role playing game of collaborative storytelling, in which players battle creatures, explore landscapes and roll dice to determine their fates.

This popular game originated in 1974 and has continued to grow as players become their characters and take part in this make-believe world. Dice rolling controls the game, determining points and approving or disapproving tasks.

As the D&D website says, "In this fantasy world, the possibilities are limitless."

The university organization's average game session hosts about five to seven members along with the Dungeon Master (DM), which lasts three to four hours. DMs schedule and announce game sessions, sometimes host-

ing up to six per week.

Maya Villeneuve, DM Skill-master and forensic science sophomore, explained that her

job, along with the other DMs, is to run the sessions and to make sure that all participants feel heard, safe and are having a good

time.

"My favorite part is having a group of people come together who love creating things and creating stories," D&D Executive Assistant and English junior Daniela Perez said.

Communications Guild Head and cyber security and networks junior, Killian Meehan, said it is very easy for students to get involved. If they attend two general meetings and one committee meeting, they are considered an active member.

Perez and Meehan encourage students to get involved. Perez, "you do not need any D&D experience," to come to their sessions. In article nine of their Spring 2021 Constitution, they explain that the Training Guild is responsible for teaching and introducing the rules of D&D to new or inexperienced players.

"You do not have to have any experience with Dungeons & Dragons to come to our meet-

ings. We have had people who have had seven plus years of experience and people – the first time ever playing the game was with us," Perez said.

This organization has given Villeneuve the opportunity to better her creativity skills, improve her public speaking and help her learn how to better think on her feet.

She continued on and said, to her, this organization feels like a family. "In general, it's where most of my friends come from here at school. It is a very tight knit community, we really accept everyone and just try to be open and have fun with everyone.

Meehan said, "It's adventures for everyone. If you want to come and try it, there is room for you."

General meetings are on Sundays at 5 p.m. in Kaplan 104.

Students interested in joining the club can reach out to ddadventure@newhaven.edu.



Graphic courtesy of Elisa D'Egidio and Tyler Hackett

Flooding on campus: The deep-dive into the age-old problem

BY KAYLA MUTCHLER
Editor-in-Chief

In one of my earliest memories as a student at University of New Haven, I trudged through an after-rainfall swamp that was the Maxcy Hall quad. I wore shorts, thankfully, and I took off my Birkenstocks, making my way through, back to Gerber Hall to take a shower.

This is not an isolated occurrence. Most recently, it happened again on Sept. 1. The Bixler-Gerber Quad is famous for its floods; you may have even seen videos of students swimming in it.

So, let's play a guessing game: What do you think one of the

causes of the flooding was?

A) A milk crate stuck in a sewer.

B) Poseidon flooded the Long Island Sound all the way to our university.

C) A pipe burst in the quad.

If you guessed "milk crate," you'd be right. But it's more than that.

Lou Annino, associate vice president and chief facilities officer, is an old hand at floods. Annino joined the university in 2011. That year, he said a similar, worse flood occurred between Kaplan Hall and Dodds Hall. This prompted the facilities department to conduct an analysis of the subsurface drainage

system.

They based the analysis on 25-year and 50-year storm events—large-scale rain events that occur typically every 25 and 50 years—to see whether the pipes could handle significant flooding. Since fixing the issue, the area by Kaplan Hall has not faced substantial flooding.

Annino said the areas between Gerber Hall and Bixler Hall still need fixing. After analyzing the drainage on campus, they found:

1. The university's drainage system is only designed to handle rainfall that only occurs on campus.

2. There is a 24-inch pipeline that runs underground through Maxcy Hall, Gerber and Bixler that is the primary drainage, which discharges onto Ruden Street, and then to the municipal storm drain, off-campus.

3. There are 29 acres of residential land that is at a higher elevation than the campus that drains into the same system the university uses.

The extra drainage from the neighborhoods surrounding campus accounts for about 40% more runoff than the current drainage system can handle.

Annino said facilities contacted the city of West Haven and told them that this is a city-wide, state, and university issue that needs to be addressed collectively.

He also said the university is currently working with the city to create a long-term fix to the issue that will be located off-campus to reduce the watershed brought to the university. Meanwhile, they have taken on-campus measures



Photo courtesy of @unehavenmemes (it really wasn't this bad)

to mitigate the flooding.

Annino said that the most recent flooding was different from those from past years. Typically, flooding occurs from Gerber, through the quad and into Bixler and Ruden Street. This time, flooding occurred between Celentano Hall and Bixler and through Gerber.

He said facilities surveyed the recent drainage from "top to bottom" and didn't find any blockages. Then, they went outside of the property lines—and there lay a milk crate, inside a sewer grate on Ruden Street. This blocked the main discharge area. Hence, the opposite-flowing flood areas.

But it's not just random milk crates, Annino said.

"The effects of global warming are real," he said. "We're dealing with more significant rain events. Handling stormwater is becom-

ing an increasing challenge for all of us—not just the university, but the municipalities, the country, in general.

"We have made significant improvements in our drainage," Annino said. "The fact that I can speak to where the problems are and we've seen improvement examples like in Kaplan, where we have reengineered the drainage and it works, we're making progress."

Annino said he hopes that this summer, they can begin the process of fixing the drainage on campus.

He said that the two project areas will be complicated, as the areas are underneath concrete, stairs, and one is surrounded by large rocks that need to be blasted. It is an expensive project, which is why it cannot happen immediately, according to Annino.



A student lounges next to the flooding outside of Bixler Hall, West Haven.

Photo courtesy of @unehavenbarstool on Instagram

Guinean president ousted in military coup: Domestic and international implications

BY SAMUEL
WEINMANN
Politics Editor

On Sept. 5, Guinean President Alpha Condé was ousted in a military coup, dissolving the country's government. The military captured the president, allegedly leaving him unharmed. This occurred primarily because Condé attempted to run for a third term despite pushback from the general public. Although the country's former government no longer exists, a soldier named Mamady Doumbouya is the new self-anointed leader.

After Condé was captured and detained, Doumbouya and other military leaders announced a curfew of 11:00 PM across Guinea and announced a meeting among the country's political leaders, which occurred the following day. The leaders announced that failing to attend the meeting was an act of "rebellion" against the state.

According to Doumbouya, a primary reason for the coup d'état is corruption within the state as well as a general disregard for human rights. According to an interview between France 24 and Doumbouya, Condé is being held with the military and is unharmed.

"The whole army is here... to help build this country... the president is with us, he's in a safe place," said Doumbouya.

Leading up to the coup, domestic tension arose at the prospect of a new constitution. According to Human Rights Watch (HRW), civil society in Guinea raised its concerns about a new amendment in the country's constitution that would permit Condé to run for a third term. These concerns led to a government crackdown on free speech.

Not only did the Guinean government ban constitution-related protests, but they also arrested and killed multiple protesters. HRW also states that these human rights abuses have gone largely uninvestigated, which could be a potential reason for military backlash.

The restaging of the Guinean government is currently in development, which means that the country's leadership is still being determined. On an international scale, the coup could have a variety of implications.

In an analysis by the Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS), there has been a concerning lack of updates from Doumbouya and the rest of the military leaders. In the context of military coups, this lack of transparency

could signify the opposite of what the new leaders have promised: power to the people.

The report also draws comparisons between Doumbouya and other military leaders such as Colonel Assimi Goïta of Mali and Idriss Déby of Chad, who each had a similar coup structure. It included an 18-month transitional government and promises to rewrite an unjust constitution. Whether or not the analysis has correctly assessed Doumbouya's intentions is uncertain, but the new leaders seem to follow similar timelines of other leaders who have assumed larger control than promised.

While the intentions of Guinea's new military leaders are unclear, regional and international reactions are as well. As reported by Al Jazeera, the West African economic bloc has threatened sanctions on Guinea while urging the new leaders to release Condé. Russia also condemned the coup and called for the release of Condé.

Further international reactions are bound to arise, both negative and positive. Currently, however, Guineans, as well as regional and international allies, are forced to wait for further steps from Doumbouya and the rest of the military.

A rocky road: The Taliban's promise of peace

BY NATALIE JONES
Contributing Writer

On Feb. 29, 2020, the U.S. finalized a milestone peace agreement with the Taliban to withdraw U.S. and allied troops over the course of 14 months. Under the same agreement, titled "Agreement for bringing Peace to Afghanistan," the Taliban agreed to refrain from measures that would threaten American and allied security, nor aid forces opposing the U.S.

The U.S.-Taliban peace agreement comes as an end to the decades-long U.S. War in Afghanistan, which started after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. According to a 2019 United Nations report, more than 100,000 civilian casualties have been documented in Afghanistan, including more than 35,000 deaths and 65,000 injuries since 2009.

With the Taliban taking control over the nation as the dust of the final U.S. withdrawal settles, the question of whether the Taliban managed to keep their promise of peace stands. Recent actions by the Taliban have indicated otherwise.

On Aug. 18, amid evacuation efforts within Kabul's airport, the Taliban was observed to be pre-

venting people from entering the compound—including those with the proper documentation and travel forms. Witnesses described seeing the Taliban firing into the air to disperse crowds and when that did not work, pushing and beating people with AK-47 assault rifles.

A Taliban official told Reuters, "We have no intention to injure anyone."

Reports of the Taliban painting over a U.S.-Taliban peace agreement mural, among other works of art across Kabul, have risen. The mural was replaced by a quote describing the Taliban as the "true defenders" of Afghanistan, according to a report in the New York Post. The Taliban flag was painted across the outer walls of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul.

On Sept. 4, the Taliban used tear gas and pepper spray to disperse a women's rights rally in Kabul. Their calls for the right to work and the ability to have a say in their newly established government went unheard as the Taliban fired live rounds into the air. In previous public announcements, senior leaders of the Taliban said women would have rights under the new government.

Days later on Sept. 7, the Taliban used whips, batons and rifle butts to put down the largest protest to date since the Taliban took over in August.

Thus far, it is remarkably clear that the Taliban has not been able to keep their promise of peace. Discrepancies in human rights and political stances present a habitual inability for the Taliban to uphold their public positions.

But, as the Taliban government solidifies itself within Afghanistan in the coming months, is there any possibility that it will move back on the pathway towards peace?

This remains unlikely, as reports continue to rise detailing the Taliban's close ties with Al-Qaeda and seeking out the terrorist group's advice during negotiations with the U.S. in 2020, despite agreeing to break ties under the original peace agreement.

The Taliban's interim government for Afghanistan is also raising concern in the U.S. State Department. The cabinet includes at least one member on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's wanted terrorist list, Sirajuddin Haqqani, who will serve as the interior minister. A number of other cabinet members also appear on U.N. sanction lists.

Biden falls in polls: What this could mean for 2024

BY JADA MIRABELLE
Contributing Writer

Perspective

President Joseph R. Biden, one of the most popular presidents elected with a record-breaking eighty-one million votes, is now facing a major decline in the polls. Biden's overall disapproval rating has risen to 51%, according to the Washington Post.

The major dip in the polls could be because of the Biden administration's recent handling of Afghanistan. An ABC News poll states that 60% of Americans disapprove of Biden's overall handling of Afghanistan; 53% say the withdrawal holds some responsibility for the tragic deaths of thirteen U.S. service members and over one hundred innocent Afghans. These reasons are some of the main factors that are negatively affecting Biden's overall approval rating.

According to Rasmussen Reports, 32% of democrats say Biden should resign, and 40% of democrats say Biden should be impeached after his handling of Afghanistan. 52% of all voters—both Democrat and Republican—

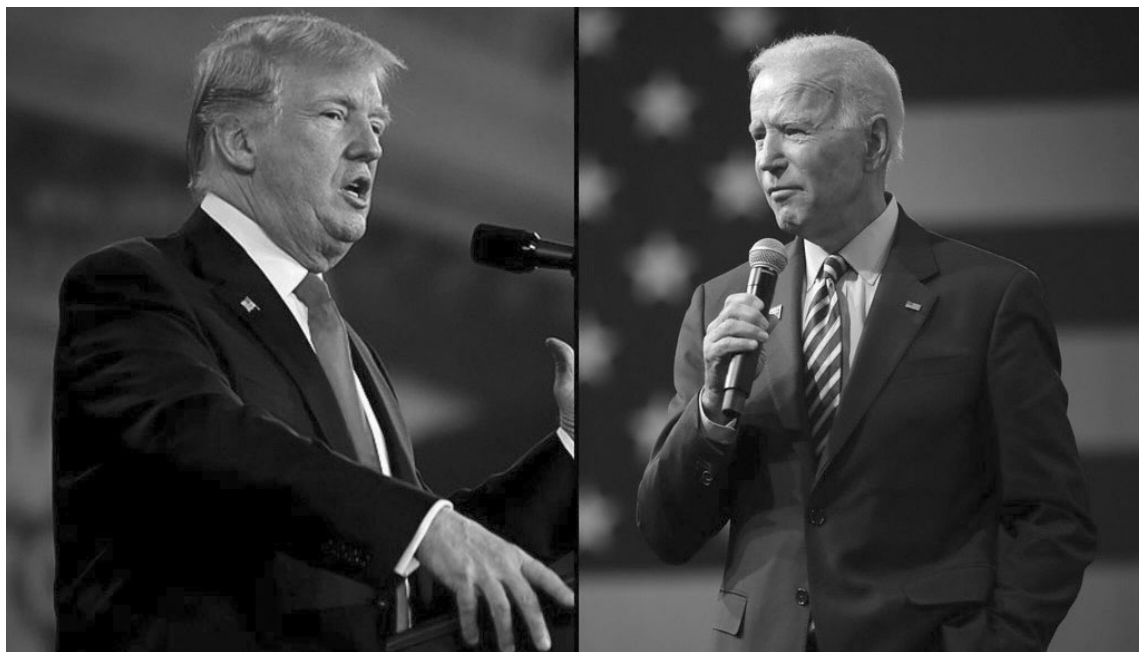
believe Biden should resign after the withdrawal of U.S. troops. Another poll directed by Zogby Analytics shows that 20% of Biden voters regret putting him into office.

For eighteen months, there were no combat-related deaths of U.S. military soldiers in Afghanistan until the recent fatalities occurring in Kabul, raising the question, would a different president have changed

the outcome? This could be one of the explanations for former President Donald Trump's recent lead against Biden in the polls. Emerson College's recent poll for the 2024 Presidential election slightly edged Trump ahead of Biden by 1%. This poll was conducted in August as the events in Afghanistan occurred.

What could this mean for 2024? The Biden administration's withdrawal of U.S. troops

in Afghanistan ultimately led to his decline in the polls. Voters may feel a change is necessary by the time 2024 arrives. This gives Trump an advantage against Biden, along with others who may also run against him. The upcoming weeks and months will make or break Joe Biden's chance in the 2024 presidential race. Will Biden continue disappointing his voters and fellow Americans, or will he be able to redeem himself?



Donald J. Trump and President Joseph R. Biden.
Photo courtesy of Creative Commons

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Here's how to stand out to employers

BY ISABELE HAJEK
Opinions Editor

Approximately 42,680 students graduate with an undergraduate degree annually in the U.S. 68.1% of those students immediately enter the job force and nationally, that number grows to approximately 2 million. These figures grow each year as more programs are developed, school capacities grow and larger classes of students graduate. Considering the amount of competition students face in a saturated job market, they are left to wonder how they can stand out in such a saturated job market.

Sites such as Indeed and Glass-

Graphic courtesy of Elisa D'Egidio



door post multiple professional development articles of the do's and don'ts of resumes, interviews and cover letters, but they do little to explain what students should be accomplishing while in school.

In an article by Ronda Sunder, Human Resources Specialist, she lists 11 different activities to do in college that will help you stand out. Cumulatively, the answer is to diversify your college experience, watch your behavior and use your resources. She lists joining organizations, maintaining grades, holding leadership roles and volunteering as activities that benefit a student's prospects in the workforce.

Sunder also puts forth that personality is an integral aspect of finding work. A study conducted by Pepperdine University found that a "match between personal characteristics and organization culture" is a high predictor of success in a job placement; and as such, to Sunder's point, having an agreeable personality is important in the job search.

Networking has also been shown to be an important part of success in post-graduate employment. Multiple studies have been conducted to show that networking behaviors increase the likelihood of employment. Networking also leads to better salary growth over time. This was also shown for internet networking tools like LinkedIn, but only when the individual used the resource frequently.

Finally, Sunder advises students to use their university's career counseling center.

In 2017, the University of New Haven's Career Development Center (CDC) was ranked 17th in the country by the Princeton review. The CDC offers workshops and advising for resumes, interviews and cover letters, among other job skills. The of-

fice's MyCharger page contains a multitude of resources, including information on the university's Career Closet, where students can get professional clothes for free.

The Competency Learning Experience (CLE) is another edge the university offers students upon entering the workforce, according to the university. Containing six competencies: teamwork, resilience, global and cultural awareness, leadership, critical thinking and communication, the CLE is integrated into all aspects of the university, from the actual classroom to residential learning experiences to leadership programs.

According to the Dean of Students Office, the CLE is meant to, "prepare individuals to successful lives as students, citizens, and professionals, both during their academic course of study and after, with a special focus on their career success."

The university's graduating class of 2020 has a 74.84% career outcome rate as of 6-months post graduation. This is considerably higher than the national average for 2020 graduates, as 45% of 2020 graduates are still seeking employment.

Tackling the top health issues for students

BY NATALIE JONES
Contributing Writer

College is a stressful time for students but it can become dangerous when students don't value their health. Some of the most common health concerns students struggle with include, but are not limited to, the Common Cold, the Flu, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and Mental Health. Here are some ways that you can make sure that you are staying safe:

The Common Cold and The Flu

A runny nose, sore throat and sneezing is something many students have had to deal with. Cooler temperatures with dry air allow for the virus to travel easily, which is why fall and winter seasons see so many cases.

College campuses are a "hot zone" for the common cold according to a Schiffert Health center report. Students are often in close proximity and spend a lot of time together. The CDC suggests that you must wash your hands often and avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. The virus can live on your hands, so make sure to wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and hot water. Frequently touched places such as doorknobs, phones, wallets

and electronics should be disinfected often in order to prevent the spread of germs from the surface to yourself or others. It's important that if you feel sick at all, to avoid going out and having close contact with others.

We all know about flu season, that time of the year when everyone gets sick. Just like the Common Cold, the flu thrives in cool weather with dry air like in the winter and fall seasons. The CDC recommends that you get the flu shot annually, as soon as it becomes available. It's very important that you try to avoid close contact with people, especially if they are coughing or sneezing.

The University Health Center's statement said, "Flu and other illnesses are at their peak. You are advised to stay home or residence hall and avoid contact with others until you are fever-free for 24 hours." The CDC once again reports that hand washing, as well as not touching your mouth, nose and eyes, are some of the best ways for you to keep yourself healthy during flu season.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: The stigma behind them is deeply rooted, but they are more common than most people think. In 2016, the CDC reported that in the past year, 2.5 percent of students found out that they had an STD and five percent of them

reported being discriminated against because of that. In fact, CapRock Health System wrote that over half of the new STI cases every year come from young people from ages 15-24, totaling around 10 million of the people diagnosed with them yearly.

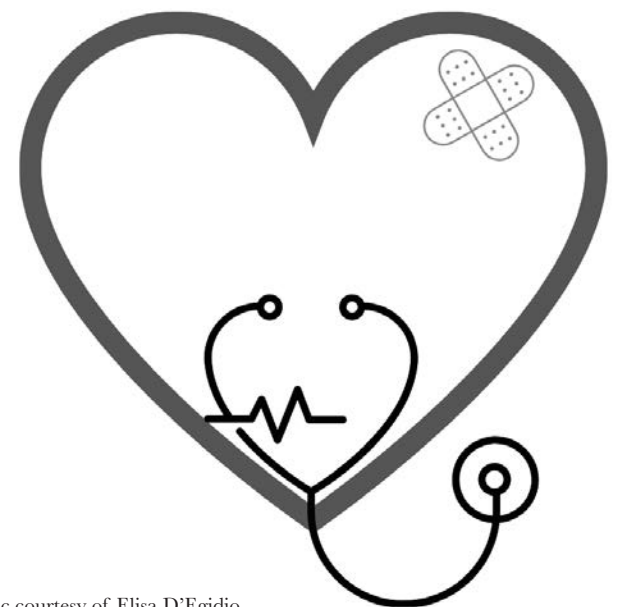
There are a few ways that you can protect yourself without having to abstain from sex all together. The CDC recommends getting vaccinated against HPV as well as always using condoms. They report that a male latex condom "is highly effective in reducing STD transmission."

The University Health Center does supply male condoms if students need them or you could purchase them from C-Store.

Birth control methods such as the pill or the IUD do not prevent STDs, merely preventing pregnancy. It is advised that if you have multiple sexual partners, you should talk to them about their sexual history and make sure both of you have been previously tested. If you need to find a location to be tested, the CDC has a site called GetTested. The CapRock Health System says that this site finds free, confidential, and fast testing near you. Overall, to keep safe you should get tested frequently, have clear communication with your partners and use condoms.

Mental Illness

The Zebra said that over 25 percent of college students have



Graphic courtesy of Elisa D'Egidio

Tackling health

Continued from page 7

had to be treated for a mental illness that they were diagnosed with. College can be difficult for students because there are a lot of stressful moments and students can often find themselves losing motivation. Furthermore,

the article explained that depression can impact a student's studies; in fact, over 20 percent of students said that it did.

Not everyone is comfortable talking to a professional; there are other ways to cope. TimelyMD says that some of the best ways to help yourself include getting adequate sleep, improving your nutrition and dietary habits, avoiding drugs and alcohol and utilizing mindfulness practices. They said that "Getting enough sleep allows the body to recover which helps keep a person men-

tally and physically healthy."

Studying can leave students getting very little sleep, but you should try to get between seven to nine hours per the National Sleep Foundation. Making healthy choices can be difficult, but by maintaining a good sleep schedule as well as getting the recommended nutrients, anxiety and depression can become easier to cope with.

Using drugs and alcohol to cope with your struggles may seem helpful, but as TimelyMD said, they "may work for

short-term relief, but will make symptoms worse in the long run and should be avoided." Instead of using unhealthy coping mechanisms, it is suggested that students practice mindfulness and living in the moment. This can be done through meditation, different breathing strategies and even activities like yoga. For students who continue to struggle, seeking help from a psychiatrist can be beneficial. These are health professionals that can assess the problems you are having and prescribe medicine to help.

Mental illnesses like anxiety and depression can be hard to work through, but with proper coping strategies, they can become much more manageable.

On campus, the Counseling and Psychological Services office (CAPS) provides "individual counseling, support group offerings, group counseling, support and consultation services and medication management." They are available 24/7 at the phone number 203-932-7333 if you need support.

Fun and Games

Across

- 4. Building always under construction
- 5. Abbreviation for on-campus dining in Westside Hall
- 7. Car President Kaplan drives
- 10. Student newspaper associate editor

Down

- 1. University radio station
- 2. Our school mascot
- 3. Where flooding usually occurs on campus
- 6. The best student newspaper ever
- 8. One of the fraternities on campus
- 9. Not Chipotle



Britney just joined the photography section.

She thinks you should, too.

