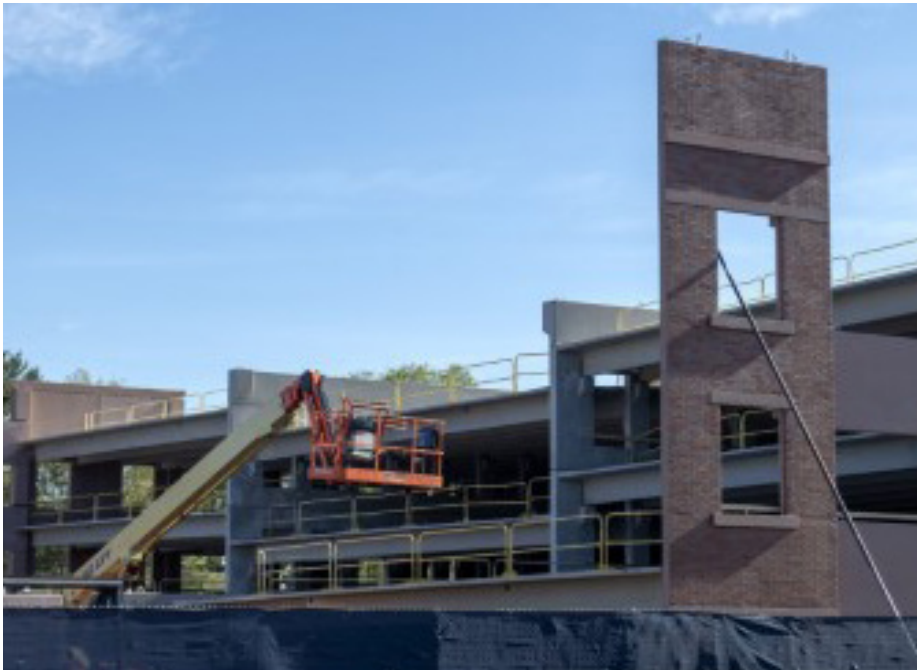


THE RECORDER

May 5, 2021

Volume 130 | Issue 8



Construction is on schedule to be completed by the end of 2021.

Gwyneth McDonald



The parking lot will have a glass walkway connecting it with Willard-Diloreto

CCSU

Campus Construction Continues

BY SAMANTHA BENDER
NEWS EDITOR

Central Connecticut State University continues to work on multiple construction projects which are projected to be complete by the end of 2021.

The Willard and DiLoreto Parking Garage is one of the biggest projects currently underway. Its planning has been in the works since 2016 but its construction did not begin until October of last year.

The approved construction budget for the project is \$19.56 million. The safety of students and all users has been a main consideration throughout the project's design.

Henry D. Altman, campus architect, said the garage will be well-lit and will have emergency call buttons consistent

with other areas of campus. There will also be an extensive network of security cameras covering the garage at each level.

"The design of the garage itself was intended to provide safe vehicular travel in, out and through the structure," Altman said. "A new traffic signalization system will be installed at the intersection as part of the project to provide additional safe passage for vehicles and pedestrians alike."

The garage structure is precast concrete with poured in place concrete foundations. The bridge connecting the garage to Willard-Diloreto is steel and glass with concrete piers.

Altman said that it was important to the university that Central be a good neighbor to the pre-existing style of the surrounding New Britain community.

"Instead of just being a concrete behemoth, CCSU wanted this to have

proportions, colors and materials that were in keeping with the area," Altman said. "The façade of the building employs brick masonry to be empathetic to adjacent masonry buildings."

Miya Laprise, a senior at Central, is excited about the project. Though she won't get to utilize it since she graduates this May, she said it has been fun to watch the project.

"I drive by the construction at least once a day so it has been cool to see the progress," Laprise said. "I think the aerial walkway is a great idea because students won't have to worry about crossing through busy traffic and they'll be able to get to their classes and cars quicker."

Altman said he is pleased with the progress so far.

"With the pandemic there have been some challenges impacting the delivery

schedule, but it is our expectation that the project completion will be on track," Altman said. "The construction team has been terrific and takes safety very seriously; safety on the site, as well as the safety of the CCSU community."

This particular section of campus has been re-energized recently with the completion of services and classrooms.

"The garage will make coming and going to campus much easier, as it will provide additional parking spaces that have been needed, to better serve our students and visitors. The pedestrian bridge will not only provide a physical connection to Willard-Diloreto, but it will also serve as a kind of "gateway" into our campus," Altman said. "The building will be a wonderful addition to campus in many ways, and I look forward to seeing its completion."

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 3

The Growing Pains of Online Proctoring

BY JESSICA BRAVO
CONTRIBUTOR

Some students at Central Connecticut State University say that online proctoring is a burden and an added stress that heightens their anxiety.

Online proctoring is a popular way for professors to monitor their students while taking tests while the students are home due to the coronavirus pandemic. The technology watches for signals that the student may be cheating and alerts the professor.

Olivia Rozio, an undergraduate at Central from Newington, said online proctoring software like

Proctorio makes her feel uneasy as it records her.

"Two of my classes this semester use Proctorio," Rozio said. "I'd say it has more negative effects on students. I already get anxiety over regular tests."

Rozio said she wondered if she would have gotten a better grade if she wasn't so focused on Proctorio.

"I feel like there would have been an improvement if Proctorio wasn't being used because I just feel so anxious," Rozio said.

Helaine Alessio, a professor and chair of Kinesiology, Nutrition and Health Department at Miami University, said she conducted

a study on how Proctorio affects students' grades. She found that students performed about 17 points lower on proctored exams, which resulted in a two-letter grade difference.

On an informal Instagram poll, of 31 Connecticut students, unrelated to Alessio's research, 74% reported feeling uncomfortable while taking proctored online exams.

Alessio said over the years, she felt the need to start using Proctorio for a medical terminology class she taught online. Alessio said she noticed everyone in the class got comparatively better grades when it was taught online.

"We found that the

distribution of grades for the sections taught online was very narrow. In other words. Everyone was getting A's," Alessio said. "Whereas when it was taught face-to-face, it was a more of a balanced distribution of grades."

She said this prompted her to examine students' performance on online proctored tests and ones that weren't.

"Every time the proctoring software was used, the grades were significantly lower," Alessio said.

Alessio said that despite the results of her study, she always uses proctoring software on her online courses.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



PAGE 8 Women's soccer falls in first round of NCAA Tournament.



PAGE 5 A review of Faster Than Light.

THE RECORDER

Student Center
1615 Stanley Street
New Britain, CT 06053
860.832.3744
centralrecorder.org

Editor-in-Chief

Ryan Jones
ryan.michael.jones@my.ccsu.edu

Managing Editor

Kelly Langevin
kelly.langevin@my.ccsu.edu

News Editor

Samantha Bender
samanthabender@my.ccsu.edu
Ryan Brooks, Assistant
rbrooks@my.ccsu.edu

Lifestyle Editor

Julia Conant
juliaconant@my.ccsu.edu
Sarah Wall, Assistant
sarahwall@my.ccsu.edu

Sports Editor

Ryan Jones

Layout Editor

Ryan Jones

Copy Editors

Jurrel Racine
jurrel.racine@my.ccsu.edu

Social Media Editors

Isabella Chan
chan2017@my.ccsu.edu

Staff Writers:

Shwar Zaidi
Samuel Pappas
Avery Jones
Molly Ingram

A Goodbye to CCSU and Online Learning

BY RYAN JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

“And now, the end is near, and so I face the final curtain.”

I write this almost two weeks away from graduation, meaning that I am officially old, despite the fact that I am typing this from my childhood bedroom.

I remember my first step onto CCSU's campus in 2017. I was nervous, but excited for the next four years. 2021 sounded like such a distant future at the time, and it was, relative to 2017. For starters, we were not in a global pandemic in 2017.

Obviously this was the storyline of the last year and a half, but I think its effects are still understated in terms of education. The world was thrown into turmoil and we were thrown back into our childhood bedrooms, going on the worst possible “study abroad” trip I could imagine.

One thing I have heard a lot recently is people telling me things like “you’ll never forget this year” or “this will be a great story to tell your kids one day!” But honestly, does anyone remember the past year?

Our everyday lives were essentially stripped away from us; the only escape some of us got was going to work and getting berated by the Karen's of the world.

After a summer of staying inside or separated from each other, we all went back to school. Except we didn't.

We were back online yet again, something that was to be expected, but not easy to cope with. Taking classes online is certainly not the worst thing that

came about from the pandemic, but it still puzzles me to this day.

We all know that the first semester online that started in March was a disaster. Students and teachers alike were checked out, and rightfully so. Online learning sounded like a fun idea at first, but it was something not sustainable. There is a dehumanizing feeling you get: sitting behind a screen in your room, tuning in and out to what your professor and classmates are saying. If a lot of students and professors felt this way, why did we go and do the same thing this year?

Some of us were happy to turn our cameras on last March, but by May of this year, most people were frankly spent from trying to make this work.

This new way of learning sent a lot of students packing, and I don't blame them one bit. I'm paying the full price of a regular tuition, but I honestly can count on one hand the things that I will retain from the last academic year.

To be blunt, it sucks. I don't want to have a pity party for myself when there are clearly bigger issues in the world, but this is probably the last way I could have imagined spending my final semester at CCSU.

Sometimes in life you have to roll with the punches. I would argue that we all have in the past year, and that's something to be proud of. While I did a lot of complaining in this article, my main point stands that this past academic year has been a struggle

for everyone involved.

That's something to be proud of, for everyone involved! We've made it into the home stretch now, and whether you got the grades you wanted or not, knowing that you were able to get through one of the most chaotic events in our lives while still going to school should be reason enough to smile.

I may not have realized it in the moment, but my four years at CCSU were definitely some of my best. I met some of my closest friends along the way, got to run this paper and have honestly learned more about the real world than I could have imagined. While I'm chomping at the bit to walk across that stage, it will be a bittersweet goodbye to the university I called home for the last four years.

It's been a fun four years writing for this paper and being able to immerse myself in the happenings on CCSU's campus. I will miss CCSU sports, Hill Top's salad bar and Elmer's Trivia Night the most.

My advice for those of you who won't be walking the stage in a few weeks? My advice for those of you who won't be walking the stage in a few weeks? Focus less on your future and more on what you're doing today. Make the moments you're experiencing today memories that you can learn from and laugh at. Lastly, try not to eat at dining halls too much, I can't imagine that was good for me.

Interested in joining the Recorder next fall???

We will be running a “training camp” this summer to help students learn the ropes of reporting, editing and running a newspaper.

If interested, contact ryan.michael.jones@my.ccsu.edu

Thank you all for reading along this semester!

R

Restaurants React to Lifted Restrictions

BY KELLY LANGEVIN
MANAGING EDITOR

On May 1, Governor Ned Lamont eased COVID-19 restrictions. The curfew for restaurants got extended until midnight and limits on party sizes for outdoor seating were eliminated.

"I know a lot of business have been effected due to the covid-19 pandemic and I think from now on restrictions are being lifted and businesses are going to be booming and it's going to be going up from there," Mckenna Trunk, a bartender and server from 75 Center said.

75 Center, named after its location on 75 Center Street in Southington, has been impacted like most businesses have due to the pandemic.

"Every business' profit decreased because of COVID, but I think we are going to be really busy and it's going to help us make more of a profit," Trunk said.

According to Trunk, last week she saw a number of customers enjoying the extended curfew.

"I think people are ready to party," she said.

More restrictions being lifted is on the horizon for Connecticut restaurants. Starting May 19, all restrictions except for mask wearing indoors will be lifted. Mask wearing will not be required outdoors. The Department of Health and Safety will be issuing guidance on their continued use.

Restaurant's have not been allowed to be at 100 percent capacity in over a year. Trunk said that this change is a big win for

restaurants.

"I believe that our sales are going to go up by at least double the amount of what it has been," she said.

Although Trunk is looking forward to some sense of normalcy, she stated there is no way of knowing what things will look like.

"I think it's just like a waiting game honestly because I don't think anyone knows how people are going to respond. I think you have to play it by ear and see how it's going to go."

Besides the financial aspect, Trunk also said that more people will be able to experience everything 75 Center has to offer.

Taco Tuesday's, karaoke on Wednesday's, a DJ throughout the

week and bottomless brunch offered on Saturday's and Sunday's will be booming Trunk said.

"We do bottomless mimosas, manmosas, bellini's and you can mix and match. It's \$15 a person, so we're definitely going to see an increase [sales] when things re-apon.

According to Trunk, tables in the back game room might also be taken out so more people can stand.

For more information regarding Trunk's business, visit 75Center.com.

Check out the broadcast version of this story at the Recorder's website! centralrecorder.org.

A Look at CCSU's Construction Process

PHOTOS BY GWYNETH MCDONALD



Online Proctoring Struggles

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Without monitoring, if the instructions are to not use an outside resource, then how would you know they didn't?" Alessio said.

Alessio said she understands why students feel anxiety but doesn't see it different from being monitored in person.

"It's probably very stressful to know you're being watched," she said. "But I can imagine it's also stressful being watched while your professor walks around the room in a face-to-face test environment."

Rozio said she felt anxious about Proctorio watching her but she also said she couldn't even take her first exam until she made a stop at Best Buy.

"My computer didn't come with a compatible microphone," Rozio said. "So I had to go get a microphone that worked with Proctorio, and that was expensive."

Sarah Brown, an undergraduate at Central from Southington, said her statistics class uses Proctorio on all tests, and she worries often about the software.

"I get a lot of anxiety using Proctorio for quizzes and exams mostly because my professor says that there are some issues that can happen," Brown said.

Brown said that Proctorio is a hassle and often has bugs.

"During the last quiz I took, I

experienced a lot of problems with the software," Brown said. "I shouldn't have to worry about something going wrong when I should be focused on my quiz."

Brown said her statistics professor was understanding but couldn't help fix Proctorio. It was up to her to contact customer service and advocate to get the problem fixed.

"I had answered ten questions on my quiz and then after that, Proctorio wouldn't let me save my answers," Brown said. "At one point, it went to a black screen and kicked me out."

Julianna Vass, the president of Central's Psychology Honor Society, Psi Chi, said online proctoring is unfair because there are already enough distractions for students who are remotely learning.

"We're still adjusting to taking tests and exams online," she said. "We aren't used to it, so our level of anxiety increases."

Vass also said online proctoring is an invasion of the students' privacy, which also adds to the test-taking anxiety.

Jessica Hatrick, an undergraduate at Central from Woodbridge, said she never used any form of online proctoring prior to the pandemic forcing classes to switch to virtual.

"At first I was unsure, but as I was

taking my test, I was only focused on that," she said.

Hatrick said she adjusted to online proctoring quickly.

"The way I like to look at it is I wouldn't be uncomfortable [in an] in-person class with the professor watching me, so why should I be now?" she said.

Belmin Sadzak, an undergraduate at Central from Southington, said he was indifferent towards Proctorio when he took exams for his psychology class last semester.

"I don't like it, but I don't mind it either," Sadzak said. "If I know the topic or subject, I am confident in myself to do well on the test."

Sadzak said he didn't think Proctorio had any negative effects on his grades.

Daniel Woldeab, an associate professor in the Individualized and Interdisciplinary Studies Department at Metropolitan State University in Minnesota, has also been interested in researching the effect of online proctoring students during exams.

Woldeab has taught online classes for some time and recognizes students' anxiety heightening when they take proctored virtual exams over in-person exams.

"What makes online proctoring different [from in-person exams] is the

medium," he said.

Woldeab said there are many different questions professors and students should ask themselves.

"Can we assume every student is comfortable with being monitored?" he said. "Can we assume a student who exhibits some anxiety to have higher anxiety when they're taking exams on a different medium than usual?"

Woldeab said that all online proctoring is not the same. Some exams are monitored through software and others have a live proctor.

During Woldeab's study, a big problem arose, he said. A female student of Muslim faith was being proctored by a human and was told to take off her hijab during the initial scan in of her environment.

After refusing multiple times, the student had to report the incident and work with the university to get it resolved.

Woldeab said that online proctoring is a problem that needs to be solved, but he is not sure who is responsible for fixing this issue.

"Whose responsibility is this? If this is an issue, then whose problem is it?" he said. "Who should be concerned about this? What should we do about it? Is it the responsibility of academia?"

“Play The Hits!” From May 5, 2012

BY RYAN JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Well folks, we’ve finally reached the end of the semester. This is the last issue of the Recorder coming out until fall, but as Smash Mouth says, “the hits keep coming and they don’t stop coming.”

If this is your first time checking out “Play the Hits!,” we pick a random week and year and dive into the top five songs of the time. We’ve covered a lot of different genres already, from the folksy tunes of the 1960’s to the age of disco in ‘80’s. The charts are taken from the Billboard Hot 100, which is archived at Billboard.com. We won’t be going too far back in time for our last edition, though.

Instead, I will be torturing myself with easily the worst grouping of songs I have come across for “Play the Hits!” Without further adieu...let’s dive into the week of May 5, 2012. I am already regretting this.

Number 5: Glad You Came - The Wanted



For a group called “The Wanted” I can not find one desirable trait between them. Daniel Ahs Karlsson

I am not having a good time. “Glad You Came” checks in at the five spot this week. It comes from a British group who calls themselves the Wanted.

First question, who would want this?

I think my favorite part of the song is the verse. They rhyme “on me” with “on me” three times. That’s poetry in motion folks. Outside of rhyming the same words with each other, the lyrics to this one are also just pretty creepy. I get that it’s a song meant to be played in the club, but to me it’s just a story about a guy begging some girl to keep drinking and hook up with him at the club?

Maybe I’m wrong. I don’t really care.

The music itself is a blast, too. If you remember a few weeks ago we discussed producer Phil Spector’s “wall of sound,” which drowns out singers through heavy orchestration. This song would be Spector’s dream. The riff is simple, but actually pretty catchy. Then, a million other sounds come into play, further giving you the feeling of a packed club with a bunch of creepy white dudes yelling at girls about how much they bench press.

Number 4: Boyfriend - Justin Bieber

Things just keep getting better as we head into the number four spot this week with the Bieb’s “Boyfriend.” Continuing the theme of really creepy men, Bieber whispers (?) the verses, telling the girl all of the wonderful things he would do if given the chance to be her boyfriend.

The great things he offers? Being a gentlemen, keeping her on his arm and never letting her go, among other great things. My favorite lyric was when Bieber described his perfect date. “Chilling by the fire while we eating fondue.” Truly, lyrics from 2012 are our version of Shakespeare.

The music behind Bieber is pretty bare bones during the verses, which I think suits the song pretty well. During the chorus, there’s an acoustic guitar playing with absolutely zero emotion behind it, which rocks.

Number 3: Payphone - Maroon 5 Feat. Wiz Khalifa



What is going on??? Vevo

Maroon 5 was a factory for hit songs from the early 2000’s on and this one is no different. I normally can get behind that; Levine’s voice is great and he certainly knows how to write a catchy song. However, I am sorry to admit that I absolutely hate this song.

I think that stems from a number of different reasons. For starters, it was one of the first pop songs to really implement a rap verse into it, which is totally wacky and crazy! Wow! I guess Wiz Khalifa’s verse isn’t that bad in it, I just hate that this inspired a lot of other pop bands to do the same. I will say that I really enjoyed the bridge to this song. It was a little tongue in cheek self own when Levine sang “one more f*cking love song, I’ll be sick,” which I greatly appreciated.

I would be remiss to discuss this song and NOT mention the video. I mean, what was that? I am not the type of person that thinks music videos have to match the song exactly, but I am baffled watching this. It’s like an action movie? Explosions, police chases and...Adam Levine. It’s hilarious in the regard that it makes no sense. I sincerely hope that’s what they were going for.

Number 2: We Are Young - fun Feat. Janelle Monae



“We are young! We can do anything!” MBR Records

Okay, before we get into “We Are Young,” I have a major gripe with the group fun that is completely unrelated. Their song “Some Nights,” which

coincided with the release of “We Are Young,” is the most blatant rip off of a song I may have ever heard. Listen to Simon and Garfunkel’s song “Cecilia.” It is quite literally the same exact melody.

Anyways, back to the matter at hand. Anyone who was alive in 2012 will remember this song. You couldn’t turn on the radio without hearing it. EVERYWHERE. When I first heard the song way back when, I thought it was pretty good! It’s one of those cheesy songs every indie group tries to write; a stadium anthem declaring to the world “We are young! We can do anything!” It’s annoying and a trope that is too often overused, but let them have their fun, pun intended.

The instrumentation in the song is crafted pretty well. A heartbeat-sound drum line accompanies some spaced out piano chords during the verses, leading into this grand refrain in the chorus that will be stuck in your head for weeks. The band is fun, this song is fun! What can I say.

Wait, they said they can burn brighter than the sun? The sun?

Number 1: Somebody That I Used To Know - Gotye Feat. Kimbra



R.I.P this man’s career. UMG

Continuing the trend of artists we haven’t heard from since 2012, the number one song for our final edition of “Play the Hits!” is “Somebody That I Used To Know” by Gotye. For once, I think the number one song is actually deserving of it! The song starts off pretty slow, relying mostly on some muted guitar playing behind a xylophone riff. The fact that there is a xylophone riff is enough for me.

Then, Gotye’s vocals shine in the chorus. The music intensifies a bit, and Gotye belts out the song’s title in the voice of a scorn lover.

The song discusses the difficulties of break-ups, how people go from lovers to complete strangers.

This song certainly got its fair share of spins in 2012, and I certainly did not think I would be happy listening to it for this week’s list, but honestly it’s a great song! It’s catchy, the music is a perfect accompaniment, and the lyrics actually mean something!

Who Is Addison Rae?

BY SHWAR ZAIDI
STAFF WRITER

Addison Rae is a famous TikToker, music artist and dancer with more than 7.9 million followers on TikTok. But you might be asking who this famous star that everyone is obsessed with is? Why do people like her? Why do some hate her? What is she up to? Keep reading to find out more.

Rae grew to fame last July after posting her first TikTok, dancing with her mom. Rae became a TikTok sensation overnight. She became so popular on the social media platform that she decided to sign on to a talent agency and become a social media influencer. Rae's net worth is roughly \$2M and she gained \$14,500 through sponsored posts on social media, according to the Sun. She also has her own Youtube Channel, sells products with her merchandise and has even appeared on "Keeping Up With The Kardashians" after befriending Kourtney Kardashian. Rae has also dived into the music scene with her song "Obsessed," which talks about self-love. Rae has millions of fans and likewise hundreds of fan accounts, such as an "Bebaddii" on Instagram, who posts updates and selfies related to Rae.

Aniela Zawisza, a biology student at Central Connecticut State University who follows Addison Rae on Instagram, said she admired how Rae worked hard on getting to where she is today. However,

Zawisza also mentioned that other people work very hard for their music while Rae easily got into the industry because of her following and money.

"I found Addison Rae on TikTok," Zawisza said. "I like how she knows how to work hard and make her own bag. However, some people try to work very hard for a career in music and dancing and are very talented, but she has been so successful because of her money and followings. Her music really isn't all that, I think she is talented and works hard for the life that she has made for herself, but I don't think her music is her gig."

According to People Magazine, Rae said that black creators deserve all the credit, though these creators were not credited during Rae's appearance on the Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon.

Helen Moore, a psychology student at CCSU, said she wasn't a huge Rae fan because she did not credit the black creators on Fallon's show. Moore added she didn't believe Rae had any talent and should do more to give back to the community.

"I heard about Addison through my friends who mentioned her name in conversation, but I don't like her so much because all she does is make TikToks that aren't even that good in my opinion," Moore said. "She got famous for doing dances and being pretty, but she has no actual talent. I think she should do something that'll help the world and

spread awareness for situations because she has an enormous following."

Stephanie Tang, a CCSU student, said she was a fan of Rae because she thinks she has a great fashion style, has a healthy body and makes good TikTok dances. She added she believed Rae gets a lot of hate because of jealousy, but Tang admitted she wasn't a fan of her music.

"I follow Addison Rae on Tiktok. I think she is pretty, very fit with a normal body and I think she is relatable," Tang said. "I think many people are not fond of her because of jealousy for being rich at a very young age off of TikTok. I don't like her new song that came out, but it's catchy. I think she is smart and getting the bag. I believe she will use her popularity to branch out to other venues, and if you have the opportunity, you should."

Rae's song "Obsessed" talks about self-love and being there for herself as she had a lot of critics after she became famous. Many people on Twitter are not a fan of her music and people are annoyed that random TikTok stars are getting into the music industry with no talent.

"ADDISON RAE RANDOMLY JUST DROPPING A SONG PLS NO MORE TIKTOKERS TRYING TO START A SINGING CAREER," a tweet mentioned in a New York Post article about Rae read. There are also a lot of hateful comments on Rae's YouTube channel related to her music.

Rae also was in a relationship with

Bryce Hall, an American YouTuber, but recently broke up with him. Rae was nominated for a People's Choice Award for "Top Social Star."

Whether people love her or hate her, one thing everyone can agree on is that it's evident Rae is building herself up as a celebrity. Her platform continues to grow as she makes music, TikTok dances and gets involved in the world filled with fame.



"Faster Than Light": Stargazing and Strategizing

BY SAMUEL PAPPAS
STAFF WRITER

Procedurally generated exploration games are dime-a-dozen these days, but in 2012, Subset Games released what I consider to be the pinnacle of roguelike permadeath games: FTL: Faster Than Light.

In FTL, you command an intergalactic federation ship in the far reaches of space. Your mission is to cross the galaxy and return to the Federation Base before the enemy Rebel fleet catches up to you. Your ship starts off weak, but as you explore, battle enemies and make tough decisions, you can upgrade your capabilities to give the Federation a fighting chance in the final battle.

FTL is a brutally hard game. I've played about 20 hours over the last few months and still have yet to beat the game on even the easiest difficulty. The journey itself has been very absorbing and fun however, even if all of my attempts end in a fiery explosion.

FTL is played with a top-down perspective. Your spaceship consists of several rooms that all serve different functions and a menu at the bottom of the screen that lets you divert power to different systems. The meat and potatoes of FTL is spaceship combat.

Combat is a careful and intense game of management. Firing upon an enemy ship is as simple as clicking the room you want to damage and waiting for your weapons

to charge, but complexity quickly grows until every encounter is a struggle for survival.

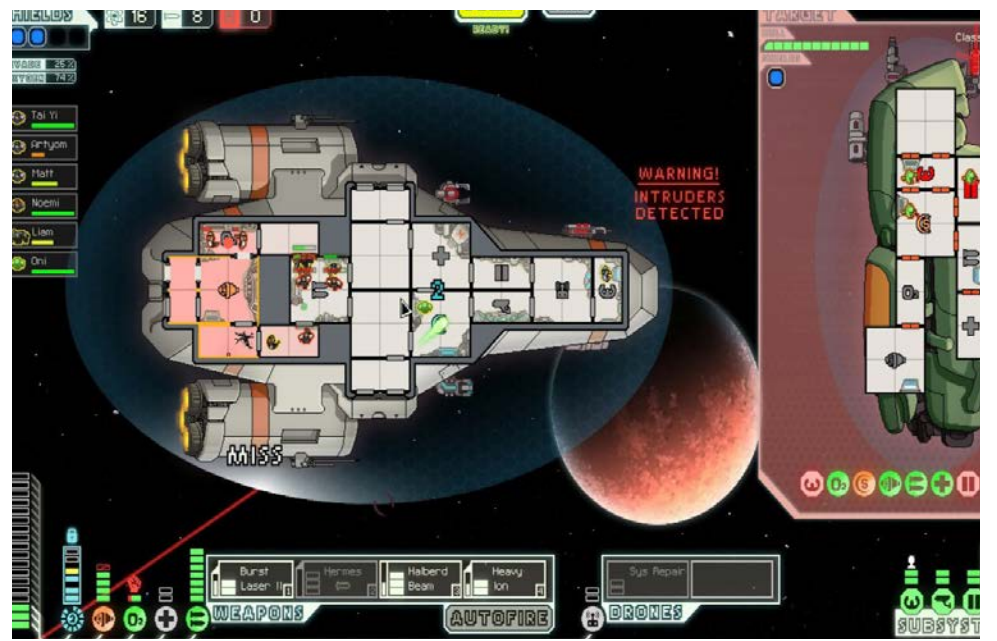
On one occasion, my ship was nearly destroyed and all of my crew were killed, save for a single person. In a desperate attempt to save my run, I opened all doors of my ship and put the last of my power into maintaining weapons and shields while disabling the oxygen systems. The enemies who boarded my ship suffocated, and the fires were extinguished. My last crewmate frantically charged the weapons at the last possible moment, and I unleashed my entire arsenal, allowing my sole survivor to continue the mission.

The enemy ship, seeing it had no way of repairing the damage, surrendered and offered me the last of its supplies, which allowed me to survive into the next sector.

Outside of combat, managing and upgrading your ship, as well as responding to different random events, makes up the core of FTL's experience.

Information is conveyed to the player by the use of text screens that explain the situation. While not as glamorous as cutscenes or voiced dialog, it still does wonders for fleshing out the world and characters who inhabit it. On your journey to the Federation Base, you'll encounter all kinds of bizarre, threatening, and comical places and characters, all of which enrich the experience and endear you to the struggles of your crew.

The rush of outsmarting your



This might be a lot to look at but believe me when I tell you things are not going great for this guy.

SUBSET GAMES

opponents and overcoming the odds is what keeps me coming back to FTL. The difficulty may be off putting to some, but for players looking for a smoother experience, you can consult the FTL wiki, and check out the subreddit for advice and tips from the community. FTL is a game that benefits from shared knowledge and experience.

While the core of FTL's experience is wonderful fun, the biggest downside is the nature of rogue-like games means that not every playthrough will be consistently challenging or enjoyable. Some bad luck

in the early game can leave your ship incapable of defeating opponents in the more difficult sectors, but for every failure, you gain knowledge and further your understanding of the mechanics. I recommend playing on the Easy difficulty, as that will allow you to see more of FTL's content before you're up for a greater challenge.

FTL: Faster Than Light is available for \$10 on steam and iPad. If you enjoy strategy games with mountains of content to keep you coming back, then I can't recommend a better experience.

“United States Vs. Billie Holiday”

BY AVERY JONES
STAFF WRITER

This Hulu film is one that would engage anyone and compel them to tell their friends and family about it. “The United States Vs. Billie Holiday” is a touching, eye-opening, romantic and dramatic work of art. The actors and actresses play their roles flawlessly and the film sheds light on what it was like for not only the late, famed jazz singer and songwriter Billie Holiday, but also African American female singers in the 1930s and ‘40s.

The story as it is written is engaging in its own right. To amplify the impact of the film, the performance of the extremely talented actors and actresses, such as American singer/songwriter Andra Day, is unparalleled.

Andra Day started her career in 2012 and released her first album in 2015, titled “Cheers to the Fall.” In 2016 she also released an EP called “Merry Christmas from Andra Day.” Her success brought opportunities for her songs to be heard in movies like Tyler Perry’s “Acrimony,” starring Taraji P. Henson, in which she wrote and sang a song called “I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free.”

Director Lee Daniels was in the middle of the last phase of the movie “The United States Vs. Billie Holiday” when the horrific murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor happened. He says he quickly realized it was the perfect timing for a film that would address a lot of the problems that are rooted in our country’s history.

Since Holiday’s death in 1959, her presence in pop culture has remained. Her hypnotic phrasing can be heard in the work of many extremely talented and unconventional soul singers.

With Day making her acting debut in



Holiday’s smash hit, “Strange Fruit” peaked the interest of the FBI.

Hulu

the lead, the movie does not shy away from the very turbulent aspects of Holiday’s life. It was filled with representations of the relationships that had clear, lifelong holds on her mental state, as well as depictions of substance abuse, arrests and betrayals from multiple people in her life.

Through it all, the story draws a clear connection from Holiday’s distress to the extreme racism that was prevalent at the time, portraying it as the most significant

disturbance in her life. A performance delivered powerfully by Day speaks on behalf of all frustrated African Americans then and now.

To add another dimension to Billie Holiday’s impact, the film touches on the singer’s relationship with actress Tallulah Bankhead. Holiday broke through a lot of norms before her death. By speaking out against the government and against racism, she expressed to the audience that

it is important to stand up for what you believe in.

The film also largely focuses on the harassment Holiday endured at the hands of the FBI, who described her song “Strange Fruit” as an incendiary – something designed to cause fires.

To take the singer down, the agency zeroed in on her heroin addiction and assigned a black agent named Jimmy Fletcher (Trevante Rhodes) to track and arrest Holiday, all because her song was viewed as a dangerous trailblazer.

Even as Holiday was surrounded by personal issues and career setbacks, she continued to sing her truth, “Strange Fruit,” until her death in a hospital room.

The United States Vs. Billie Holiday definitely brings the late singer right into the 21st century’s public eye. The song “Strange Fruit” is being sampled and covered by praised R&B singers and people are beginning to understand that it is, unfortunately, still a relevant song to this day.

Due to the pandemic, the film could not be brought to theaters, however it has been released on Hulu on February 26.

Daniels expressed that he was at first upset that the film could not have the benefit of being streamed in theaters, the ability to reach a huge audience. Daniels wanted the message of the film to be perceived by the entire country, but has since come to terms with streaming, acknowledging that the message of film still stands.

“The United States Vs. Billie Holiday” is a true must-see for an inside look at the life and hardships of the iconic American singer. So much work went into this film and it is definitely worth the watch.

WORD SEARCH

F	V	J	A	T	U	K	N	C	E	O	U	P	A	S
Z	U	P	N	J	B	Q	E	L	H	E	Y	D	M	R
O	S	M	N	M	R	U	V	H	Y	D	Y	D	E	
J	I	C	P	S	O	K	M	L	J	I	T	Y	I	L
B	D	R	A	W	O	H	A	B	S	V	T	N	R	L
D	I	H	O	Y	S	S	N	O	R	H	I	I	C	E
X	N	L	M	T	G	C	N	A	J	O	G	R	W	S
A	S	I	L	B	C	Y	D	G	Y	E	Q	A	J	X
O	U	H	N	I	J	O	C	E	Q	F	U	F	C	O
X	Y	W	O	B	E	C	R	D	I	Z	A	R	D	Z
I	G	A	Z	B	T	F	K	P	W	V	H	X	E	N
U	E	M	K	B	Z	Y	Y	M	W	G	I	R	G	I
V	X	A	M	O	N	O	R	F	N	J	A	N	B	K
O	H	T	G	K	R	Y	Z	F	N	R	W	Z	S	K
H	B	A	E	C	H	V	M	S	S	V	U	I	J	W

WORD BANK

Proctorio

Addison

Howard

Neuman

Sellers

Billie

The New Look Blue Devils

BY LEONARDO GUERRERO
STAFF WRITER

With every end there is always a new beginning. In 2019, after 35 seasons in charge, Shaun Green announced his retirement from his role as head coach of the CCSU men's soccer team; his vacancy would be occupied by David Kelly, who served as assistant coach of the program since 2013. Kelly would inherit a program that saw few signs of life; having won only five games in the last four seasons (31 games total).

The new era under David Kelly began with the biggest of imponderables: the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced adjustments and cancellations on university academic and athletic activities. The debut season, scheduled for 2020, would be postponed until March of 2021.

When speaking about the cancellation of the 2020 season, Kelly was able to extract positive points: "The pause worked out okay for my program because it gave us the opportunity to focus on redefining the values of the culture, leadership, and character development without being judged on wins and losses," Kelly said. "The pause gave us an opportunity to create a healthy and positive culture based on the belief that my staff and I have set into place in the quest for excellence and in the quest for my athletes to become the best versions of themselves on the field, academically, and in character and service."

Nearly a year and a half later, in March of 2021, college soccer would return in the Northeast Conference. In their opening game, the Blue Devils would draw 2-2 with Mount St. Mary's. In their second, they would lose 1-0 at St. Francis Brooklyn, who would later go on to win the conference. In their third game, the Blue Devils defeated Merrimack 2-1, who won the regular season back in 2019.

Touching back on that big victory, newly incorporated junior Nicholas Wlodarczyk spoke about the significance of that upset: "Merrimack was our first big test to show who we really were and we came out and we shocked the whole conference. That victory gave the sense that we were a big deal and we then went on to beat Fairleigh Dickinson, a strong, powerhouse team, 3-0."

In past seasons, CCSU men's soccer was not a team that gave much to talk about in the NEC. They were a team characterized by conceding many goals, having a losing

record in their seasons and being far away from establishing competition and fighting for spots in the Conference finals; something last achieved in 2013.

Upon defeating important rivals like Merrimack and Fairleigh Dickinson, freshman Iván Farías-Martínez, who would form part of the 2nd Team All-NEC squad, spoke about the resonance of those victories across the conference: "We turned a lot of faces getting those victories," he explained. "In the past, our rivals would play us and they would demerit us. No one was expecting us to do good; the way we performed was very unexpected about us. We proved our rivals wrong; they're not going to take us lightly anymore, they're going to take us as serious competition and they're going to respect us."

The second two games would result in two 4-0s: a loss at the hands of Long Island University, and a victory against Bryant; which in conjoint with favorable results from other teams, put Central in a position in which a victory in their last game against Sacred Heart would have signified a spot in the grand final of the NEC Conference.

"It was the first time in a long time that a CCSU men's soccer team had something to play for," Coach David Kelly highlighted. For the misfortune of the Blue Devils, the match would finish in a 2-0 defeat, culminating the CCSU dreams of disputing the conference final. "We have some lessons to learn and it's also due to inexperience. There's situations you can only learn from if you get through them. You have to make mistakes in order to learn and grow; hopefully this group will have learned those lessons so when we face those same obstacles again, we will be prepared; we will have the solutions for them."

Coach Kelly also spoke about his desire and expectations for the program in the seasons to come: "We're going to have the athletes to achieve attacking style soccer. By next year or the year after, we're going to have a squad full of technical players that can play the game, understand the game, and have the intelligence to put on a good showing."

Chapter one of the new CCSU men's soccer team under David Kelly was one that showed a face unrecognizable from past seasons thanks to the vast improvement seen this spring. "It's a great sign for the future of the program," Kelly said. "The group knows they're onto something special."



The Blue Devils won multiple games this year for the first time since 2017.

Steve McLaughlin



Head coach David Kelly (above) has been an assistant with the team since 2013.

Steve McLaughlin

Weekly Sports Schedule

Baseball:

Friday, May 7 v. Sacred Heart, 3 p.m.

Saturday, May 9 v. Sacred Heart, 2:30 p.m.

Softball:

Saturday, May 8 @ Merrimack, 1 & 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 9 @ Merrimack, 1 & 3:30 p.m.



Women's Soccer Falls in First Round



The Blue Devils finish the season with a 7-1 record.

Steve McLaughlin



D'Arcy said that seniors Erica Bardes and Tess Atkinson will be returning to play in the fall.

Steve McLaughlin

BY RYAN JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After winning its third consecutive Northeast Conference title, Central Connecticut women's soccer was eliminated from the NCAA Women's College Cup after a first round loss to South Florida.

The 3-0 loss in the tournament was the first of the season for the Blue Devils, who finish the year with a 7-1 record.

Neither team saw great scoring opportunities in the first half, but USF was still able to pepper CCSU goalkeeper Amanda McQuillan, putting up eight shots to Central's one. With 4:25 left in the first half, Roma McLaughlin, two time NEC Midfielder of the Year, sent a pass into the box that set up Abbey Chase with a clean look at the goal. Her shot was saved by USF's goalkeeper, however, keeping the

game scoreless heading into the half.

Once the second half got underway, USF's offense began to heat things up. Over a span of 12 minutes, the Bulls scored three goals. This was the first time all season that the Blue Devils had trailed in a match according to CCSU Athletics.

"We knew what to expect from them, then it was a case of would we be able to step up our game and play better than we have this year to match what they were able to do," D'Arcy said. "I thought for long periods of the game we were able to contain them, but in the second half it got away from us. Over a ten minute span or so, the damage was done."

Having exclusively played against fellow NEC opponents this season, the Blue Devils had not played many games in warmer weather. The tournament this year was played in North Carolina, a much warmer environment than the Blue Devils

were accustomed to.

"It definitely played a role in it," senior Erica Bardes said. "We were able to train two days here to try and acclimate a little to the weather but its definitely a challenge, especially playing an opponent that plays in this weather year round."

Senior athletes were granted an extra year of eligibility after the COVID-19 pandemic shut down sports last year. Out of the four seniors on the roster, D'Arcy said Bardes and Tess Atkinson will be returning for the fall.

CCSU women's soccer has had some impressive seasons in its program's history. Eleven NEC Championships only scratch the surface in describing the team's dominance over the last two decades. Still, this year's team still felt different than the rest.

"The bond that we had as a time was quite different from other years,"

McLaughlin said.

The Blue Devils were a perfect 7-0 in the regular season and only allowed one goal, which came with their second string goalkeeper in the net. From an individual standpoint, CCSU swept the NEC awards, taking home Rookie of the Year (Kelly Brady), Offensive and Defensive Player of the year (Jenna Rae Covello and Brianna Williams, respectively), Goalkeeper of the Year (McQuillan), Coach of the Year (D'Arcy) and McLaughlin's aforementioned award. This is the first time since 2006 that a team has won every single individual award.

This fall, the Blue Devils will be looking for their fourth consecutive title in what should be a more normal season. Somehow, four straight championships will not be a record for CCSU, having "been there, done that" from 2002-2005.

Softball Clinches Playoff Berth With Sweep

BY RYAN JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After losing its first series of the season against LIU, Central Connecticut softball put itself back in the win column with a four game sweep over Wagner.

The Blue Devils' offense was firing on all cylinders against the Seahawks, outscoring Wagner 32-9 over the four game span.

Being the last home series for CCSU this season, the Blue Devils honored its lone senior on the roster, Kaitlin Peterson. Peterson made the most of the celebration, going 4-4 in the first game with three runs batted in. She also knocked in her 150th career hit, which puts her into the top 10 all time for CCSU softball according to CCSU Athletics.

Freshman Paige Stringer, the Blue Devils first basemen, continued the dominant start to her career with a homer in game one. Stringer's long ball, her 11th of the season, broke the school record for most home runs in a season.

In the bottom of the fourth, Kim Howard hit a grand slam, putting CCSU up 10-1. The Blue Devils would score once again in the fifth, ending the game with a 11-3 victory.

The Blue Devils again used the long ball en route to victory in game two.

In the bottom of the third inning, Peterson, Howard and Bri Walker each sent shots past the fence, scoring four runs for CCSU. This proved to be all the insurance the Blue Devils needed on their way to a 6-2 victory.

The third game of the series might have had the closest score, but it was still an easy victory for the Blue Devils. Stringer and catcher Rian Eigenmann each hit home



The Blue Devils have clinched a berth in the NEC Tournament.

Steve McLaughlin

runs to start the game, putting CCSU up 4-0 after one inning.

While CCSU scored by way of the long ball, Wagner crept back into this game with some solid contact hitting. Three straight singles scored two Seahawk runs, and a sacrifice fly gave Wagner another run. They trailed 4-3 heading into the bottom of the third.

The Seahawks put in a new pitcher in the third that walked three Blue Devils batters, scoring a run for CCSU with one. This essentially shut the door on Wagner's comeback hopes. The game ended in a 5-3 victory.

The bats continued to fly off the rack for CCSU in the final game of the series. They put up two separate five

spots in the first and fourth innings to cruise to a 10-1 victory.

The Blue Devils will be making up their postponed series against Saint Francis University this week before finishing up the regular season against Merrimack on two days rest.

With the four wins over the weekend, the Blue Devils clinched a spot in the upcoming Northeast Conference playoffs. Their 20-4 record puts them third in the conference rankings. CCSU's four losses this season all come from first seeded Long Island University.