

The Charger Bulletin

The student news source for the University of New Haven

Volume 107, Issue 13 | February 3, 2026 | West Haven, Connecticut



The university's Maxcy quad.
Photos courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Evan Pecorale

Charger Bulletin's commitment to authentic student journalism

BY MIKAELA MOTZ
Editor-in-Chief

Perspective

In a time where there are curated narratives existing across social media platforms, The Charger Bulletin stands for authentic student voices. We cover issues and concerns related directly to students' academic challenges, social lives and civic engagements. By questioning, investigating, reporting and informing our audience, we ensure that stories are told accurately and reflect our campus community.

Student voices have always mattered. Every one of us shares a vital role in shaping our campus culture and holding our community accountable through storytelling. And today, student journalism is more important than ever.

As essential as campus stories are, student journalists must also address national issues. In the past few weeks, we've witnessed families being separated, inhumane acts of violence and calls for social justice reform around the country. These events illustrate the ongoing issue of systemic inequality and power, proving that reporting is essential for keeping communities informed while holding officials responsible.

Accurate reporting is critical because social media can present skewed versions of major news events, withholding the facts that audiences have the right to acquire.

The recent murder of Alex Pretti, an American intensive care nurse for the United States Department of Veteran Affairs shot by Border Patrol agents in Minneapolis, is a

clear example of how differing narratives can emerge from a tragedy.

In a statement from federal officials, Pretti approached the officers armed and posed a threat. Many outlets reported that the Homeland Security agency believed that Pretti had the intent of massacring law enforcement individuals, in which an agent fired defensive shots in fear of his own and his fellow officers' lives.

However, multiple videos that have come to light from bystanders contradict the government's initial claims. Footage shows Pretti holding a cellphone, appearing to be recording the officers, shouting out with the crowd and defending a woman who had been shoved by the agent. Pretti is pepper-sprayed, where he puts a hand up, signaling he isn't a threat

towards the agents and is pulled to the street where he is kicked. In a video taken from the street perspective, it appears that one of the officers detained the handgun that Pretti had before shots were fired. Pretti was a licensed gun owner and witnesses claim they didn't see him resist the officers or reach for the firearm during the interaction.

Pretti also had an encounter with federal agents just two weeks before his death where he is seen yelling at the agent's vehicle and kicking one of the taillights out.

The contrast between the original story and what video evidence shows misleads the public. With various media outlets reporting urgent news, misinformation can spread instantaneously and without proper reporting and fact-checking, stories be-

come altered.

Despite personal beliefs, student journalists carry integrity with each story covered to prioritize accuracy and fairness over bias. By strengthening the credibility of each story, we build trust with you, our readers, and are able to voice the concern of others who may not have the ability to.

As I assume the role of the Editor-In-Chief, I am committed to amplifying under-represented voices, pursuing each story with integrity and fostering an environment where every writer feels comfortable sharing their perspective. The Charger Bulletin has a mission of informing our readers while holding ourselves to the highest journalistic standards.

No story should go unheard.

Power on just to turn your camera off: Are Zoom classes really worth it?

BY JACKSON CHAMBERS
Contributing Writer

Not that long ago, we were sitting in a classroom, learning face-to-face and doing homework and projects on paper, then turning it in the next day.

But then along came COVID, and suddenly going to class in person or writing homework on paper wasn't possible. The age of online classes and assignments turning from written to typed, a virtual "classroom" where teachers could present their lessons over the computer and still be in contact with students.

Eventually society overcame COVID, and we came back to the in-person classroom — no more online classes, everyone thought, until students learned that we don't get precious snow days when we have platforms to learn away from school.

So, what is better? Continuing the momentum of education, or enjoying a nice break in the week? During the recent snowstorm that dumped as much as 18 inches on the state, Connecticut school leaders closed schools and gave students a day off, while in New York City, where residents saw a foot of snow, classes moved online.

College students wake up, go to class, go home, grind out homework for a few hours and then sleep. This cycle repeats itself for months at a time. The weekends are nice, but nothing special. Then winter comes along and so does snow, and snow can make it difficult for classes to happen and sometimes, if the tired college student gets lucky, classes get cancelled. That's a nice break in the cycle, a day to relax and do nothing.

Some New Haven stu-

dents prefer this over Zoom classes. Jake Pinsky and Giancarlo Paonessa, two sophomore forensic science students, do.

"I don't think Zoom classes work efficiently," said Pinsky.

Paonessa said that "no one wants to unmute and turn their camera on."

In addition, Zoom classes aren't interactive, and don't promote participation, an essential part of learning.

Sabrina Paez, a sophomore forensic science major, said she likes to "sleep in, try to catch up on other work for classes." Aleah Shahbazi, a sophomore criminal justice major, said she prefers to do her chores and errands on snow days.

College students are adults, who have adult responsibilities and sometimes, they need extra time to prioritize those. Some people prefer having Zoom class, but not necessari-



View of campus after the latest snowstorm.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/ Evan Pecorale

ly for reasons you might think.

Dominic Pirozzi, a sophomore forensic science major, said, "there are some benefits to online learning. It is beneficial for the instructor to offer some methods of learning."

These unexpected breaks in classes, especially classes that meet less frequently, can interrupt learning. As Pirozzi said, students are paying for their education and they might as well have classes.

Some students are old enough to remember

proper snow days, where they did nothing but catch up on sleep, homework and relaxation. But in a post-COVID world, we have solutions to combat not having a physical place to learn. States such as Connecticut prefer giving hardworking students the day off, while others prefer to continue education no matter the weather.

So what is better? Keeping up the hard work or getting a much deserved day for rest and relaxation, a debate that will be around for years.

Honoring a lifetime of service: Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame welcomes 14 inductees

BY GARGI DOGRA
Contributing Writer

On Jan. 22, the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame (CVHOF) invited the community to celebrate a gathering of 14 veterans at its annual induction ceremony. The celebration honors those who have shown exemplary leadership, advocacy and community service throughout the state. Charles M. Pickett, a veteran from New Haven, was among the inductees.

Every year, the induction ceremony honors individuals whose influence reaches far beyond their years of active service. Triple Distinguished Military Members are service members who have earned multiple high-level military medals for exceptional service, bravery and leadership from different branches, diverse backgrounds and varied experiences in the military. They all share a common thread of continued commitment to serving others, even in civilian life.

Family members, veteran comrades, state government representatives and local authorities were present at the ceremony.

The CVHOF opened in 2005 to recognize the service of veterans who have not only fulfilled their duty in the United States Armed Forces (USAF) with distinction, but have also been instrumental in their communities afterwards. The inductees for the Hall of Fame are chosen based on their military service and post-service contributions, such as public service, education, nonprofit leadership, veteran advocacy and community involvement.

Veterans who qualify for induction must have an honorable discharge and be firmly rooted in Connecticut. Members of the public can submit nominations, which are then reviewed by a selection committee appointed by state leaders. Inductees are forever honoured members of the Hall of Fame, receiving official certificates



Inductees of CVHOF
Photo courtesy of CT House GOP

and medallions as a token of their service.

With veterans from a wide variety of backgrounds serving us in multiple ways, this year's 14 inductees manifest this variety. Thomas M. Brockett has been active in community leadership and youth programs, and Pamela A. Townsend has contributed to education outreach efforts. Pickett and Alex J. Plitsas have supported local government initiatives and helped build strong organizations for military people and their families.

Other honorees — includ-

ing Dennis F. Lisee, Michael D. Monaco, William J. Newman, Kenneth W. Korsu, Michael A. Rogalsky, Everett G. Shepard III, Juliet A. Taylor, Russell E. Vibberts, Jr., Sherri L. Vogt and Adele E. Hodges — represent a wide range of continued service through nonprofit leadership, veteran advocacy, civic engagement and community development.

The selection of a veteran from New Haven in this year's group underlines the city's enduring ties to military service and community leadership. It also points to

how local communities are instrumental in backing veterans during their transition from military to civilian life and as they go on with their service commitment.

The CVHOF isn't just a way the state remembers its veterans. It also portrays how their influence is still felt today and will be in the future. Through telling the stories of those who are leaders, mentors and advocates, the Hall of Fame dispels the myth that military service is over once you are discharged.

The university's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

BY MAYA PACHECO
Campus News Editor

At the university's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration last week, university president Jens Frederiksen said the event "reminds us of the important responsibility we all share individually and collectively in building a world that reflects the values and ideals of a brighter future for all."

The celebration included awarding those who continue to go above and beyond in demonstrating diversity and inclusion in their lives.

"We recognize those who embody the spirit of service and justice in our community," said Jade Roman, assistant director of the Myatt Center for Diversity and Inclusion.

The civil rights leader's birthday became a federal holiday in 1983, when Pres. Ronald Reagan signed the King Holiday Bill that recognizes the third Monday in January as Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

On Tuesday, the first university awards announced were the MLK Jr. Scholarship Awards, which were given to sophomore Dorian Levy and freshman

Antwain Johnson.

Levy is a criminal justice major with a minor in general psychology and concurrently pursuing a Master of Public Administration. Levy is also the vice president of the Black Student Union and sergeant-at-arms of the Caribbean Student Association.

Johnson is a communications major with a concentration in film and is actively involved in community service work. He is a board member for the Coalition for Peace and Empowerment, a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering youth in using their voices and talents.

The MLK Jr. Vision Award was awarded to Dr. Janet Garcia-Hallett, an associate professor of criminal justice. Garcia-Hallett research is primarily focused on "the detrimental impact of incarceration on communities of color and the intersectional obstacle women of color face before, during, and after incarceration."

"Dr. King reminded us that a dream requires vision, courage, and action," said Garcia-Hallett. She explained what vision and action mean in her dream of helping women who have been impacted by our prison

system.

The MLK Jr. Student Vision Award recognized two students, senior Anita Omary, a diversity peer educator for the Undergraduate Student Government Association (USGA) and vice president of Community Advocacy & Diversity, and graduate student Charmi Bharatkumar Desai, with a bachelor of dental surgery. Desai is active in the student public health association and the Indian Student Council.

"In the middle of things is how Dr. King lived his life. How he fulfilled his calling to be an agent of change in the tumultuous times in which he lived and died," said Martin O'Connor, winner of the 2026 Philip H. and Susan S. Bartels Award, Advocacy, Service & Leadership.

O'Connor is a professor of practice for the fire science and emergency management department. He served the New Haven Fire Department for 30 years, and retired as chief of the department in 1998. He became an attorney in Connecticut and an ordained deacon of the Archdiocese of Hartford.

O'Connor mentioned the Latin phrase, "In medias res,"



University's MLK presentation of awards & scholarships.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/ Maya Pacheco

meaning in the middle of things, to showcase King's fight through intense moments and the inspiration in fighting through our own tumultuous times.

Senior Jamesha Barrett, a public health major, performed the poem "I Will Rise" by Maya Angelou, that set the tone for the keynote speaker, Eric Clemons.

Clemons is the CEO and president of Connecticut Center of Arts and Technology, ConnCAT and the Connecticut community outreach and revitalization

program that creates art-based educational environments for underserved students and training programs for unemployed adults. ConnCORP, developed in 2018, was designed to explore and implement opportunities for economic development and investment in New Haven.

Clemons shared his vision for change through his project with Dixwell, known as a historically black community, and its ongoing issues with poverty.

"Profound heaviness but a good heaviness," said Clemons at the end of the celebration.

The university pushes for a discussion on disability

BY MAYA PACHECO
Campus News Editor

What would happen if you broke your leg at school and required crutches, or were bound to a wheelchair? Getting around should be easy with elevators, except your classes are in Echlin and your dorm room is on the third floor of your Forest Hills apartment, a building with no elevators.

"Disability is the only marginalized population that you can become a part of at any point in your life," said Deborah List, assistant professor of practice and program director for Bachelor of Science in Public Health.

List and Tara Lutz, assistant professor and training director of the University of Connecticut's (UConn) University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), collaborated to spark these questions and thoughts of disability in public health.

Two years ago marked the beginning of many conversations between Lutz and List.

To gather data, Lutz surveyed all public health programs in the state to see who had coursework on disability.

This is how Lutz came across List's coursework on disability at UNH, which set up the two schools to collaborate.

"While some people had discussions in their coursework about disability, nobody else but the University of New Haven had actual full coursework in their public health program about disability," said List.

The coursework was developed by List in 2021 as an elective class on disability across the lifespan within the public health program. A course developed after conversations held here at the university centered around "fully embracing a diverse set of topics around women, gender, race, but we really didn't have a course fully on disability, particularly in the health program," said List.

These conversations paved the way for fully developing the research that would help incorporate not only discussions but full lessons on

disability at the two universities. When conducting the research, the two professors sent out a survey to students to gather data for this project.

"The goal of the project was really to do this baseline assessment on our students in the school of health sciences, both our clinical and non-clinical, and ask them what they know about disability, what they understand about disability, and how much it is talked about in their coursework," said List.

The results showed that students are interested in having additional course content on disability at The University of New Haven and UConn.

"We talked about next steps, and one of those would be sort of replicating the study at other schools," List said.

List also contributed to conversations on universal design with her colleagues, especially with Yevgeniya Rivers, an associate professor of practice in the math and physics department and director of the Math Zone. Along with another colleague, Ellen



UConn and UNH logos.
Photo courtesy of UConn Athletics and UNH YouTube

Belitzky from the Pompea College of Business, List and Rivers served on a Universal Design for Learning (UDL) panel in March.

"We discussed the ways in which we design our courses to give students 'voice and choice' as UDL suggests," Rivers said.

These discussions pointed out what steps should be taken to have the work recognized and applied, ongoing support of faculty was one of those steps. When Rivers was an interim director of the teaching center, she organized a Faculty Learning Community (FLC) for faculty to discuss UDL and trou-

bleshoot together. Although once leaving the position, this FLC did not continue.

Rivers also mentioned taking these steps through student learning and having them evaluate campus accessibility, discussions that are held in List's course on disability. She suggests having more of these courses and discussions with the students and faculty.

"The end goal is a class full of students who are eager to attend and contribute to class because they are active participants and agents in their learning. Wouldn't this make teaching even more rewarding?" said Rivers.

Phones & Netflix: Could a new age movie-watching habit redefine storytelling?

BY NEVAEHLUGO
Arts & Life Editor

On episode #2240 of the Joe Rogan Experience podcast, which released on Jan. 16, actor and film producer Matt Damon made a comment that sparked a resurgence in the ongoing conversation of phone dependence, this time from a filmmaking perspective. According to a 2023 study conducted by YouGov, 91% of samples taken from the U.S. were shown to at least sometimes check their phones while watching TV. In response to the growing popularity of the practice, which the study called “second screening,” Damon suggested a new style of storytelling to accommodate the divided attention of viewers. “It wouldn’t be terrible if you reiterated the plot three or four times in the dialogue because people are on

their phones while they’re watching,” Damon said. “And, so then it’s going to really start to infringe on how we’re telling the story.” Communication professor Nicki Chavoya disagreed with plot repetition being necessary. As a professor, she refused the idea of having to teach her students to adjust their work in this way for audience attention. “I’d rather teach them original, honest filmmaking from the heart,” Chavoya said. “And then if they can make a good film, but then have to adapt once they start directing for Netflix, then so be it.” However, movie theaters continue to persist in their phoneless atmospheres, creating a contrast between the experiences of screening and streaming. “If I choose to go to a movie theater and see a movie, I’m not really thinking about checking my

phone,” criminal justice senior Taylor Cotton said. “If I’m at home, I get a phone call, maybe I’ll answer it, but I’ll pause the movie.” Chavoya agreed that the commonness of streaming has also normalized a convenience that comes with watching movies. “At home, you’re watching something and you can easily go to the bathroom, get a snack, check your phone and it makes sense that people need to be reminded of the plot many times,” she said. “I don’t like it. I don’t appreciate it, but I see that that’s where our lifestyles have changed quite a bit.” Despite this shift in movie watching culture, music and sound recording senior J.D. Smith didn’t believe the burden fell on filmmakers to adjust their storytelling methods. “It is really just us being addicted to phones and not



The Joe Rogan Experience Podcast logo.
Photo courtesy of IMDb

having that much attention to detail,” Smith said. However, forensic psychology senior Kayla Dohna, said that her movie-viewing experience wasn’t negatively impacted much, if at all. “I hear what’s going on,” she said. “And it’s not like I’m sitting there on my

phone. It’s more checking if I have notifications or anything urgent to respond to.” Her take on her “second screening” moments were a lot less grave for the filmmaking world, and even lighthearted. “I feel like I am magically the best multitasker in the world,” Dohna said.

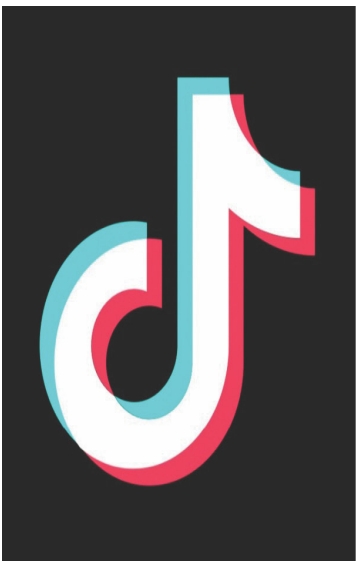
Wake up, it’s 2016 again! But why are we turning back the clock with this trend?

BY NATALIA LIZAK
Managing Editor

A new year offers a chance for people to discover and try new things. For some, 2026 hasn’t been about discovering the new, but it’s more about revisiting the old, and the year people are longing to revisit is 2016. A 2016 trend has swept its way across social media, a time filled with Snapchat dog filters and palm trees. The electronic sound of “Let Me Love You,” by DJ Snake and Justin Bieber has gone viral online after the start of the new year. According to TikTok, in the U.S. the 2016 hashtag surged by more than 450% in recent weeks. Additionally, TikTok users are embracing the 2016 nostalgia, with searches for 2016 makeup and songs surging 600% and 290% between Jan. 1 and Jan. 11. The trend has gained widespread praise online, with posts generating thousands to millions of likes. Even popular celebrities are participating, with singer Demi Lovato posting her own TikTok captioned, “happy 2016!!” Seeing people post their throwback photos,

recreating 2016 Musical.ly lip-sync videos and embracing the year’s distinct aesthetic has some users reminiscing on the era, while others crave to recreate life from 10 years ago, and make 2026 the new 2016. The phenomenon of wanting to bring back the past when entering the new year is nothing new. Last year, videos were posted on TikTok saying how 2025 was going to be the new 2015. Why are people craving to recreate or relive the past rather than live in the new year? And why do trends like this even happen? “Trends like this are good examples of what sociologists call ‘collective behavior,’” said Dr. Jeffrey Debies-Carl, a professor in the department of psychology and sociology. “These are activities that large numbers of people participate in, possibly across different locations, that are relatively unplanned and spontaneous.” According to Dr. Debies-Carl, these trends can include a variety of different things such as unusual crowd behavior, fads (short-lived crazes) and even riots. He said these types of things get our attention because they “tend to include novelty we aren’t ex-

pecting and may even violate existing social norms.” But they are not entirely unstructured. “It’s the initial onset and form that are more random,” Dr. Debies-Carl said. “Emergent norms and expectations quickly form, and the whole episode tends to have a life course that is fairly predictable.” “Usually these things run their course pretty quickly because it’s in large part the novelty that we find appealing,” he said. “They rarely make a lasting impact on the culture although there are exceptions. Who remembers planking, coning, or the pet rock? However, the Frisbee is still very much with us.” Debies-Carl said that social media apps didn’t necessarily create new phenomena, rather they increased the rate at which phenomena emerged, spread geographically and created means of participation because of things such as video sharing. Trends like these arise because of a variety of different explanations, though they all emphasize the social nature of human life. In this particular case, a key motivation seems to be placed on a feeling of



TikTok and Instagram logos.
Photo courtesy of TikTok and Instagram

nostalgia, longing for the past. “At the individual level, research suggests nostalgia could be triggered by things like stress or other things that put us in a bad mood or make us feel lonely,” Dr. Debies-Carl said. “Interestingly, the experience of nostalgia has been shown to improve mood and increase optimism for the future.” With these posts, he said that this seems consistent. “They express a sentiment that things have taken a turn for the worse since 2016 and that times were better or simpler back then,” he said. “And let’s not forget that

there is a loneliness epidemic underway right now – one that social media and the internet might be partly to blame for, but ironically we also turn to these technologies in hopes of a solution.” Additionally, trends such as this serve as a way to connect with others. “Sharing these individual experiences through collective behavior trends rather than just experiencing nostalgia on your own is likely a way to bond with others, perhaps to identify with others and to legitimate one’s own feelings, and also to experience emotions together,” Dr. Debies-Carl said.

28 Years Later: The Bone Temple review

BY JACK JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

Perspective

Spoilers ahead

Much like the shambling hordes of undead or infected seen on the screen, the zombie movie industry has been lurching in a semi-conscious stupor since “The Walking Dead,” “World War Z” and “Night of The Living Dead.” But thanks to the combined efforts of Alex Garland and Danny Boyle, the genre isn’t dead yet.

Acting as the fourth movie in the “28 _____ Later series,” writer Garland (“Ex Machina,” “Annihilation,” “Warfare”) and director Nia DaCosta (“Candyman,” “The Marvels”) create a bone-chilling mix of horror, action and comedy in their 2026 movie “28 Years Later: The Bone Temple,” the second film in the “28 Years Later” trilogy.

The plot is a sizable step up when compared to “28 Years Later,” which was released last year. Not only has the pacing been improved, “The Bone Temple” builds heavily on the themes and story beats found in the first film, while still introducing new concepts to contest the characters.

Set in an apocalyptic version of Great Britain 28 years after the breakout of a virus that puts the infected into states of blind rage, the movie follows the protagonists from the first movie, as Spike (Alfie Williams) is forced to join a cult of satanists donning wigs and outfits resembling disgraced British rockstar Jimmy Savile. Each member has names that are variations of “Jimmy.” The leader of the cult, a character that we

were introduced to in a gripping action scene in the first minutes of “28 Years Later,” is a charismatic and intimidating man going by “Ser Lord Jimmy Crystal” (Jack O’Connell).

The Jimmies’ spree of terror eventually leads to conflict with another protagonist from the first movie, a former doctor named Dr. Ian Kelson (Ralph Fiennes). Kelson has been spending all of his time since the first movie studying an infected man named Samson (Chi Lewis-Perry). Samson has been showing small signs of intelligence behind the curtain of the rage-inducing virus.

The film’s plot does a fantastic job at making the audience despise the film’s antagonists, the Jimmies, such as during a gruesome scene where they savage a small community in terrible fashion.

While the plot is a step up from “28 Years Later,” the strongest part of the movie was its character writing by Garland. The first, and best, character that the film displays is Dr. Ian Kelson.

Since the bloody apocalypse almost three decades prior, Kelson has isolated himself to the banks of a winding river, surrounding himself with large pillars of bones and skulls as a memorial for all of those that the infection had claimed. As a doctor, Kelson has a sanctity for human life that Ralph Fiennes manages to soak into every line of dialogue, displaying him as a genuinely kind face in the middle of the superficial horror of the Bone Temple. This kindness leads him to forming a bond with a leader of the infected, a massive “alpha” that he named Samson.



Scene from “28 Years Later: The Bone Temple.”
Photo courtesy of IMDb

It can’t be emphasized enough just how impactful Chi Lewis-Perry’s acting is to Samson’s character. At the start of the film, viewers see how the rage virus has completely clouded his mind, with the film sprinkling in demonic and horrifying imagery whenever he is on screen, giving a peek into his inner mind. But as Kelson begins to influence the infected, viewers witness Lewis-Perry begin to interlace moments of lucidity into his character, giving hope that perhaps he is not too far gone.

Another fantastic performance is Jack O’Connell’s as Ser Lord Jimmy, leader of the Jimmies. Hot off his hit performance of Remmick in Ryan Coogler’s “Sinners,” O’Connell shows just how good he is at playing menacing cult leaders.

Ser Lord Jimmy is not only cruel and violent, but he commits these instances of intense violence in an almost reverent demeanor, framing the Jimmies as missionaries giving Tithes to Satan, who he calls “Old Nick.” However, O’Connell manages to weave in moments of genuine sincerity while keeping an

air of tense malice, such as when he speaks with Dr Kelson. He paints Ser Lord Jimmy as a fundamentally broken person, whose mind has simply been shattered by witnessing the horrors of the infection at such an early age.

Unfortunately, not every character stood out. The most bothersome of the weaker characters was the first movie’s protagonist, a small boy named Spike. In the first film, Spike goes through an arc of maturing and discovering his ability to come to terms with death and grow as a better person. However, in this film Spike acts like more of a point of view character. Although being played incredibly well by actor Alfie Williams, Spike doesn’t manage to have the same staying power as other main characters.

The other members of the Jimmies also share Spike’s flaw of having too little to do. Except for two of them, the other Jimmies’ only purpose in the movie is to be evil, intimidate and die. This is primarily an issue because the film spends a sizable chunk of the first half displaying these characters,

but there isn’t enough of them to compel the audience. This is not to say that they are terrible characters, just that they are extremely one-dimensional when compared to the complexity of the other characters on display.

The sound design and soundtrack of the film were fantastic. Composer Hildur Guðnadóttir (“Joker,” “Tár”) manages to place viewers into the mindset of the rage-fueled infection with the use of droning strings interrupted by sharp percussive strikes when the scene calls for it. Combining that with scenes shown from Samson’s point of view, each noise is sharp and almost painful, with faint whisperings coloring the rare moments of dead silence.

The film excels at immersing viewers, not through the mind of the survivors, but the mind of the infected. From the needless cruelty of the Jimmies, to the startling and downright aggravating sound design, the film not only puts you on the edge of your seat, but also frustrates and brings you closer to the state that the infected are in.

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300 Boston Post Road | West Haven, CT 06516
chargerbulletin@newhaven.edu | www.chargerbulletin.com
Office: 203.932.7182
Printed by Valley Publishing Co. Derby, CT.
Archives can be found at ourschoolnewspaper.com/Charger

Since 1928, The Charger Bulletin has been the official student news source of the University of New Haven.
Recipient of 1st Place - ASPA Annual Contest/Review for Scholastic Yearbooks, Magazines and Newspapers, 2020, 2021, 2022.

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The only solution is to abolish ICE and hold them accountable

BY ADAM RELKIN
Politics Editor

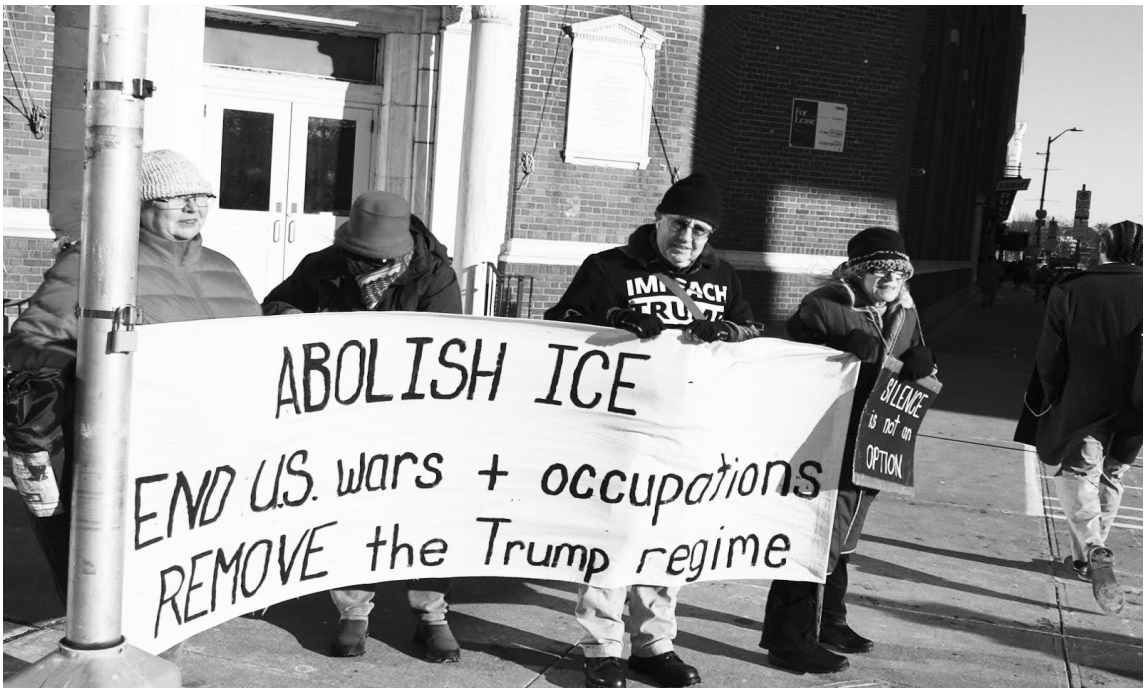
Perspective

Growing up in elementary school, I learned about the horrors of people being taken away from their homes and sent to concentration camps by the Gestapo in the late 1930s and early 1940s in Europe because of their religion, sexuality, disability and political beliefs. I hoped that history would prevent such a thing from happening again. Now, we didn't learn.

People are being taken by ICE because of their skin color, race and accents. Data from November 2025 showed that almost three quarters of the people taken don't have a criminal history, while another report shows a 2,450% increase in arrests for people who haven't committed crimes. Others are living here legally with green cards or visas, and some are even U.S. citizens; one report from October found more than 170 U.S. citizens who've been detained. People are being held in conditions considered inhumane and some have died living in these conditions with deaths in custody reaching a 20-year high.

Now, we have seen U.S. citizens who have been shot to death by ICE agents, including Keith Porter, Renee Good and Alex Pretti. Americans do not feel safe. Regardless of political party, people are fed up and scared, and the only way to quell these feelings is to abolish ICE, and as the Allied Forces after World War II did to the Gestapo, hold them accountable.

ICE was created in March 2003, as part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) after the 2001 terrorist attacks. ICE was charged with dealing with people in the U.S.



ICE protesters at New Haven Green.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/ Adam Relkin

who violated laws against immigration through investigations, detainments and deportations. Under Pres. Barack Obama, more than three million people were deported by ICE throughout Obama's eight years in office. While Trump deported fewer people in his first term, there was still a lot of backlash from Americans over the separation of migrant families, as well as treatment of people in ICE facilities, with some even being compared to concentration camps.

During the Biden administration, most deportations and arrests came from Border Patrol. Under the second Trump term, ICE has seen a massive increase in funding. As part of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), ICE received more than \$75 billion in supplementary funds through 2029. ICE has more money than the militaries of countries such as Turkey, Spain and the Netherlands. Taxpayer money also helps build detention centers. Guards have been accused of abusing and murdering inmates, such as Geraldo Lunas Campos whose death in a Texas detention center was ruled a homicide by a medical examiner. In a Louisiana detention center, an ICE agent has been charged and pleaded guilty to

sexually abusing a woman who was being held.

U.S. Homeland Security advisor Stephen Miller and Vice President J.D. Vance have said that ICE agents are immune from prosecution. There has not been a federal investigation into Jonathan Ross, the ICE agent who shot and killed Good, as well as the unidentified agents who killed Pretti.

At a New Haven Green protest and later at Rep. Rosa DeLauro's office, multiple participants gave their thoughts on ICE. Heather Swanson, a 16th generation Connecticut resident, said that America is great because of immigrants and targeting them is unamerican. She said her grandparents also fought in World War II against Nazis, and she is the 14th great granddaughter of William Cogswell, who fought alongside George Washington in the American Revolution.

Frank Panzarella, originally born in Germany, also spoke at the New Haven rally.

"In their heads (the Trump administration) it means that illegals shouldn't be in our country even though most of us probably were here illegally if you go ask most Native Americans," he said. "So that whole his-

tory we need to embrace it out there and not let people live in that mythology. We need to isolate ICE, and we need to stop them from being able to take the steps that they're taking."

Where we are now, there is no way that ICE can be reformed. It should be abolished, and anyone who has worked for ICE under this current administration should be barred from ever working in the federal government or part of law enforcement ever again. Training for ICE agents has been reported to be as short as six weeks. A Connecticut police officer requires a 28-week long course. In addition, immigration systems should be replaced, to allow people to come to this country. There should be an increase in the amount of visas, green cards and asylum applications that can be approved. Also, an expanded immigration legal system that will help keep people in the U.S. who have zero criminal record and intend to live, work and contribute to society.

America is a nation built on immigrants; we cannot let that go away as a society and must abolish ICE to ensure that everyone feels safe.

Chargers fall in overtime to Mercyhurst Lakers before senior day thriller over Saint Francis

BY DONOVAN RODRIGUEZ
Sports Editor

The women’s basketball team’s matchup against the Mercyhurst University Lakers had all the energy of a playoff game, but the Chargers came up just short in an 81-75 overtime loss.

New Haven controlled the pace early and looked comfortable on both ends of the floor. The Chargers moved the ball well, attacked the paint and built a small halftime edge behind tough defense and strong rebounding. But Mercyhurst chipped away in the second half, knocking down timely outside shots and forcing extra possessions to keep things close.

When the fourth quarter tightened up, neither side could create much separation. The Lakers eventually forced overtime, where they capitalized on free throws and second-chance opportunities to seal the win.

Aniya McDonald-Perry, who previously won NEC Player of the Week, carried the offense and poured in 25 points while filling the stat sheet with six rebounds, four assists and four blocks. McDonald-Perry snatched two steals to go along with her

impressive night, further cementing herself as the NEC steals per game stat leader. Lindsay Hogan added 16 points and five boards and Addisen Sulikowski chipped in 14 points with seven rebounds, but New Haven struggled to match Mercyhurst’s late scoring run in the extra period.

“We played hard and first half was one of our better halves against a good Mercyhurst team. They shot unreal second half,” said head coach Debbie Buff, following the contest.

Despite the loss, the effort and physicality stood out. The Chargers battled for every possession and kept it competitive from start to finish, even if the final minutes didn’t fall their way.

Two days later, the script flipped.

On senior day, New Haven responded with grit and heart, defeating the Saint Francis University Friars 57-56 in a game that came down to the final possession.

The Chargers honored their seniors McDonald-Perry and Hogan during pregame, then played like they weren’t ready to let the day end in anything but a win. The contest stayed tight the entire way, with

multiple lead changes and neither team leading by more than a few baskets. Every rebound and loose ball felt huge.

Late in the fourth, with the score tied and the clock winding down, Hogan stepped up in the biggest moment. The senior calmly knocked down the go-ahead bucket in the closing seconds, sending the crowd into a frenzy and giving New Haven the one-point edge they needed.

It was a fitting finish for a veteran leader who had already contributed across the board throughout the game. McDonald-Perry again provided steady scoring and interior presence, while the Chargers’ defense forced key stops late to preserve the lead.

The win moved New Haven back to .500 in NEC play, showing resilience after the tough overtime loss earlier in the week. The Chargers now have an overall record of 7-14 and 5-5 in conference play. New Haven will host the Long Island University (LIU) Sharks on Thursday. Tip-off is at 6 p.m. in The Hazell Center. For more information about the Chargers’ season, visit NewHavenChargers.com.



Shannon McCarthy warming up before the game.
Photo courtesy of Charger Athletics



Addisen Sulikowski about to take a jumper shot.
Photo courtesy of Charger Athletics



Katelyn Simpson playing defense.
Photo courtesy of Charger Athletics



Lindsay Hogan dribbling the ball.
Photo courtesy of Charger Athletics

Chargers split road week and bounce back with win at Saint Francis



BY ADAM SIGAL
Staff Writer

Stefano Faloppa preparing for tip-off.
Photo courtesy of Olivia Faulkner

The men's basketball team entered the week at 9-11, searching for momentum as conference play continued. By week's end, the Chargers came away with a split, after they dropped a road matchup against the Mercyhurst University Lakers before responding with a strong offensive performance over the Saint Francis University (SFU) Friars.

New Haven opened the week with a 70-51 loss at Mercyhurst, a game that swung decisively during a difficult first half. The Chargers stayed competitive early, but Mercyhurst used timely three-point shooting to build separation midway through the period. A series of perimeter baskets pushed the lead into double figures, and Mercyhurst carried a 41-25 advantage into halftime, forcing the Chargers to play from behind the rest of the way.

Despite improved energy in the second half, New Haven was unable to mount a sustained comeback. Mercyhurst extended its lead to

as many as 26 points, controlled the pace and limited the Charger's ability to generate transition offense. While New Haven showed defensive effort and moments of ball movement, offensive consistency proved elusive, and they were unable to match Mercyhurst's efficiency from the perimeter.

Two days later, New Haven showed resilience on the road with an 81-69 victory at Saint Francis. The Chargers held a narrow 41-37 lead at halftime in a tightly contested first half before creating separation midway through the second. A decisive 16-5 run allowed New Haven to stretch the lead into double digits, and the Chargers maintained control the rest of the way.

Senior guard Kheni Briggs delivered one of his strongest performances of the season, and finished with 29 points and five three-pointers. Briggs was impactful late in the game, as he scored 14 points in the final eight minutes where New Haven fended off

the Friars' runs. The Chargers shot an efficient 52.1% from the field and 50% from three-point range, a sharp contrast from earlier in the week.

Jabri Fitzpatrick added 19 points and provided consistent scoring throughout the game, while Andre Pasha contributed 14 points and steady ball handling. Najimi George recorded 10 points, eight rebounds and four assists, anchoring the interior and helping New Haven control key possessions. The Chargers also capitalized at the free-throw line, converting 21 of 27 attempts, which proved crucial in the closing minutes.

The men's basketball team now has an overall record of 10-12 and 5-4 in conference play. The Chargers will take the road on Thursday to face the Long Island University (LIU) Sharks for a conference matchup. Tip-off is at 7 p.m. in Brooklyn, N.Y. and will be streamed on TV: NEC Front Row. For more information about the Chargers' season, check out NewHaven-Chargers.com.



Jabri Fitzpatrick dribbling the ball.
Photo courtesy of Olivia Faulkner



Najimi George going up for a lay-up.
Photo courtesy of Olivia Faulkner