

TheCharger Bulletin

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Dr. Henry C. Lee talking to students and colleagues.
Photo courtesy of University of New Haven

Carrying Dr. Henry C. Lee's legacy forward at UNH

BY ALEX SOTO
Associate Editor

Dr. Henry C. Lee's legacy is connected to students who study forensic science at the University of New Haven (UNH). Through his assisting in more than 7,000 major cases, working in every state, 30 countries and as a consultant for 600 law enforcement agencies, he left behind an unmatched legacy following his recent death.

Lee was born on Nov. 22, 1938, in Rugao, China. Lee's parents were wealthy business owners.

"My father used to be so rich, owns half of the town," Lee said in a 2014 lecture at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. This changed in the 1940s when the family fled to Taiwan after the Chinese Civil War. While traveling to Taiwan separate from his family, Lee's father died after the S.S. Taiping collided with a cargo ship and sank.

"However, during the revolution we have to run-for-your-life kind of thing," said Lee. "We went to Taiwan. My father died when I was 5, 6 years old." The tragedy left Lee's family in financial ruin while his mother was left raising him and his 12 siblings alone.

Following his secondary educa-

tion, Lee enrolled at Central Police College (now Central Police University), where he graduated with a B.A. in police administration. This, he said later, was the only path he could afford.

"We can't afford tuition," said Lee in a lecture at Western University in 2016. "In Taiwan that time only two university, one is military academy the other is police college, it's tuition free."

He then became a police officer in the Taipei police department, and eventually became Taiwan's youngest ever police captain at the age of 22.

Lee left this position and relocated to the U.S. in 1965 to do professional policing and forensic work.

Lee's move to the U.S. wasn't out of an abundance of money, he didn't have much on hand to start with.

"When I first come to this country I don't even speak English," he said. "Me and my wife together we have \$50."

He worked multiple jobs after enrolling in John Jay College to support his family and pay his tuition.

"I worked at the NYU medical center as a technician, I wait on tables, also teach karate and kung fu during weekends to make enough money to support the

family also to pay the tuition," Lee said.

Lee graduated from John Jay College in 1972 with a B.S. in forensic science. In 1974, he earned a Master of Science and his doctorate in 1975, both in biochemistry, from New York University.

This was also the year Lee joined University of New Haven (UNH) and founded its forensic science program.

From 1978 to 2000, Lee worked at UNH, served as chief criminalist for the state of Connecticut and was the director of the Connecticut State Police Forensic Science Laboratory. He was also the commissioner of the state's Department of Public Safety and Connecticut State Police from 1998 to 2000.

After retiring from state service in 2000, he became chief emeritus of the state of Connecticut's Division of Scientific Services from 2000-2010.

Lee worked on a number of high-profile cases throughout his career. His most notable was his involvement in the O.J. Simpson murder trial in 1995. Other high profile cases Lee worked on include the 9/11 forensics investigation, the Laci Peterson case, the murder of JonBenét Ramsey and the murder of Helle Crafts, which

led to Connecticut's first murder conviction without the victim's body.

His career, while highly respected, was not without controversy.

Lee faced criticism for his handling of evidence in the 2007 Phil Spector murder case, with Judge Larry Paul Fiddler concluding that Lee hid or destroyed evidence from the scene of Lana Clarkson's shooting.

In July 2023, a federal court found that Lee fabricated evidence in the Henning-Birch trial in 1985 that saw two young men convicted for the murder of 65-year-old Everett Carr. The two men were released in 2019 when their chargers were overturned, having already spent 30 years incarcerated. In September 2023, the two men were awarded \$25.2 million as part of a settlement out of court.

Lee's recent death shook the university community, including alumni.

"I felt in shock cause I had not too long ago went to one of his symposiums and he seemed in high spirits and good health," said Siera Sparks, a 2025 graduate with a B.S. in forensic science. "But I know he's left a legacy and those who take forensic science will remember him forever."

Lee was well respected by

fellow faculty, too. Acting associate dean for the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Michael Lawlor said he believed Lee had a way of connecting with those he was teaching.

"Dr. Lee had a unique ability to explain complex scientific concepts to students, jurors, law enforcement officers, and politicians," Lawlor said. "When he was done testifying or teaching, members of his audiences felt like they understood and trusted him. He used humor to offset frequently horrifying crime scene evidence and, in so doing, allowed laypersons to focus on the important details. 50 years ago, our university provided Dr. Lee with an opportunity to break into a profession that was little understood and appreciated at the time."

Lawlor said Lee set an example that should be followed by students.

"Today, forensic science and crime scene investigation is a career of choice for an ever-increasing number of talented students," he said. "Throughout his career he made it a point to repay the University of New Haven community multiple times over. Each of us has an obligation to follow his lead."

CT Metro-North stations to receive \$43 million in audio and visual upgrades

BY ADAM RELKIN
Politics Editor

The Connecticut Department of Transportation recently announced that 28 stations, part of Metro-North's New Haven Line network, will receive upgrades in audio and visual displays on the platforms. The plan, Project 0300-199, will provide new LED signs, audio address systems, a new visual information system along with other upgrades such as signage and cable upgrades. The mainline New Haven Line, New Canaan Branch and Danbury Branch will all have station upgrades. The Waterbury Branch was not included in the plan. Four stations on the mainline New Haven Line aren't mentioned in the plan, Stamford, Stratford, New Haven Union Station and New Haven-State Street. Construction is expected to begin in spring of 2027 and finish in a year. Track closures will occur at night

during hours when Metro North trains are not running. The graphics and signs present at the platforms will provide more information about train status, and alerts are expected to be easier to read even in harsh weather with the use of more reliable equipment. The new signage will also give more directions to commuters regarding other platforms and bus stops. The audio systems will also be split into zones at the stations to ensure specific parts receive certain information needed. The audio systems will also be adjustable depending on if trains are passing by and to also mitigate any noise complaint risks from nearby neighborhoods. The new upgrade systems for both audio and visuals will be synchronized to avoid confusion. The equipment will also be built with climate-controlled cabinets holding together the electrical and network systems with the intention of also extending the life of the equipment with better protection of sensitive

wires and cables. The project will be fully funded by the state of Connecticut with an estimated cost of \$43 million. One of the factors for the project is to improve accessibility for people with disabilities, including people who use hearing aids. A cloud-based system will also be used to monitor elevators and escalators for safety purposes. Despite these advancements, some think more needs to be done. Dora Crespo, a senior international affairs major, commuter assistant and USGA vice president of community, advocacy and diversity, said, "I think it's a good upgrade because it's more accessible for others to be able to visually see and hear it because I know a lot of people come in with headphones, hearing aids, or any sort of thing that retains them from being able to hear the system." She said, however, that she felt that all the train cars also need upgrades in sound as some don't contain speakers to alert passengers to what



The West Haven train station.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/ Evan Pecorale

the next stops are. Christina Parrales, a business administration major and commuter assistant, said that West Haven's station needs an upgrade. "There's a lounge area, and yes, they have monitors set up but most of the times you're getting more of your information from the app itself, and not necessarily from the images that are around you," said Parrales. She also said that upgrades are needed at New Haven Union Station, which is not part of the current plan. Kayla Dohna, a psychology

major and commuter assistant said, "Before I've had track changes and it's sometimes unintelligible (the speakers) and you can't hear anything about what they're saying regarding track changes or even on the trains itself when they're saying to move back a certain amount of cars because some certain doors open and you can barely hear it." She agreed with the point Parrales made about New Haven Union Station being excluded, given how popular the station is with students.

Third wave of No Kings brings thousands to New Haven Green

BY ADAM RELKIN
Politics Editor

A third nationwide protest known as "No Kings" brought 8 million people to the streets across the country on March 28, and roughly 8,000 to the New Haven Green. The No Kings protests are meant to build a movement and stage nonviolent marches and rallies against the Trump administration. The first two protests occurred last year in June and October. The flagship rally took place outside the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul with other notable rallies in New York City, Washington D.C. and Los Angeles, among others. In Connecticut, 50 rallies and events occurred statewide including in, besides New Haven, Hartford, Danbury and Bridgeport. At New Haven Green, the march began after 3 p.m., according to Shane Lennon, a member of Greater Westville Indivisible, which organized the event. Nan Becker, the founder and leader of Greater Westville Indivisible said, the rally that was organized "was a full-on partnership with the ACLU and Connecticut For All, New Haven Federation of Teachers, and New Haven Rising, and we are Greater Westville, and we all got together because we care about what is going on in this country

and want to make sure that we get our community connected, feeling together and not alone, and focused on that we have voices and we can use them." More than 30 organizations tabled around the Green throughout the event with booths and pamphlets for people to take. Andrew Rice, a Democratic candidate who is running against long-time Rep. Rosa DeLauro to represent Connecticut's 3rd District, tabled and took part in the later march around downtown New Haven. "Today is a great showing for our democracy," Rice said. "Right now, we are going through an authoritarian fascist takeover of our government and the fact that there are thousands of people out here is showing that people still believe in democracy and are still willing to fight for it." Another candidate for office present at the event was Democratic state representative Josh Elliott, who is running in the Democratic primary for governor against incumbent Ned Lamont. "These are my people; these are people who see what's happening in our country," Elliott said. "They're frustrated, they're actually motivated to come out and be public, organized, say what they want to say." Elliott said he attended eight rallies throughout the day. During the rally, the main speaker was Leslie Blatteau, New Haven Federation of Teachers

president. She said, "We demand that elected officials stop sending billions on imperial wars and imagine the communities we can build, and that's what we're here for, to clarify our vision, to feel part of something bigger..." She introduced the mayor of New Haven, Justin Elicker, who encouraged the crowd to continue fighting back and discussed what the city has done against the current administration. "When Donald Trump tried to attack us on our climate change money, we sued," said Elicker. "When Donald Trump tried to attack us because we are a sanctuary city, we sued. When Donald Trump tried to co-up us into his anti-DEI, we sued. When Donald Trump tried to take away SNAP benefits from our community, we sued. Four lawsuits and counting, New Haven stands up and we are the only city in the state of Connecticut that has any lawsuit against this administration." Elicker also encouraged participants to leave the sidelines and take more action through various initiatives. Connecticut Attorney General William Tong also spoke at the rally, and began with repeating the scream, "NO KINGS." "There are so many scary things, but I am not engrained. We are not afraid to stand up to this unstable wannabe dictator and tell him, NO! NOT IN AMERICA!" he said. "I have



"No Kings" protestors in New Haven.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/ Adam Relkin

sued this president 50 times since last January, and I'm not going to stop. I'm going to keep going, he's going to flood the zone, but I'm going to flood it right back." After the rally, a march was organized around downtown New Haven starting and ending back at the Green. Some streets were closed off to traffic to ensure the safety of participants. Most signs addressed issues such as authoritarianism, ICE, climate change, the Epstein files and foreign wars. Some participants were also seen in inflatable costumes such as frogs, piranhas and unicorns. The Rev. Scott Marks of New Haven Rising, one of the rally speakers and march leaders,

said after the march, "Today, there needs to be a great coming together, and sometimes people look at parties, they look at colors, or look at genders, or all these different kinds of things. But this is a moment in time, where we all need to come together." "Today was about no kings, no wealth, no leader, no billionaire should be dictating to the people. It's time for the people to rise up," Marks said. In response, the Trump administration took to social media and downplayed the protests, and referred to them as "Trump Derangement Therapy Sessions."

Students celebrate carnival during Caribbean Week

BY ANNE LEE
Contributing Writer

The Caribbean, which consists of 13 recognized countries and more than 700 islands, is home to diverse communities under a shared Caribbean identity.

From March 30 to April 3, the university's Caribbean Student Association (CSA) paid homage to their roots with a week full of activities for their third annual Caribbean week.

"What makes Caribbean week special to me is, the fact that we're at a PWI (pre-dominantly white institution) and we [don't have] time throughout the school year to celebrate Caribbean culture," said Tiffany Figuereo Mateo, president of CSA.

"We're trying to express the Caribbean culture on campus," said Fatima "Fati" Asencio. "We had different food trucks, such as an empanada food truck. A new addition we have is the meals at Barts. On Monday we had Mangú with fried cheese and salami, and

later that day we had stewed chicken. [On Wednesday] was the Trinidadian doubles, which I heard were really good, I'm so mad I didn't get it."

Asencio is the vice president of CSA, and the vice president of the university's chapter of NAACP.

"What makes Caribbean week special to me is it's like bringing home to campus," said Jaziyah Baptiste, a student in the university's BFA interior design program. "I know that we don't really have a lot of Caribbean or West Indian food on campus, and it makes me kinda sad because at home, that's all I really get."

On Tuesday, CSA hosted a steelpan and paint session. The steelpan is an instrument from Trinidad and Tobago. When the British controlled the Caribbean, they banned drums, out of a fear that the drums would incite revolt. In defiance of British law, Caribbean people created other types of drums from bamboo (Tamboo Bamboo) and vari-

ous containers (steelpan).

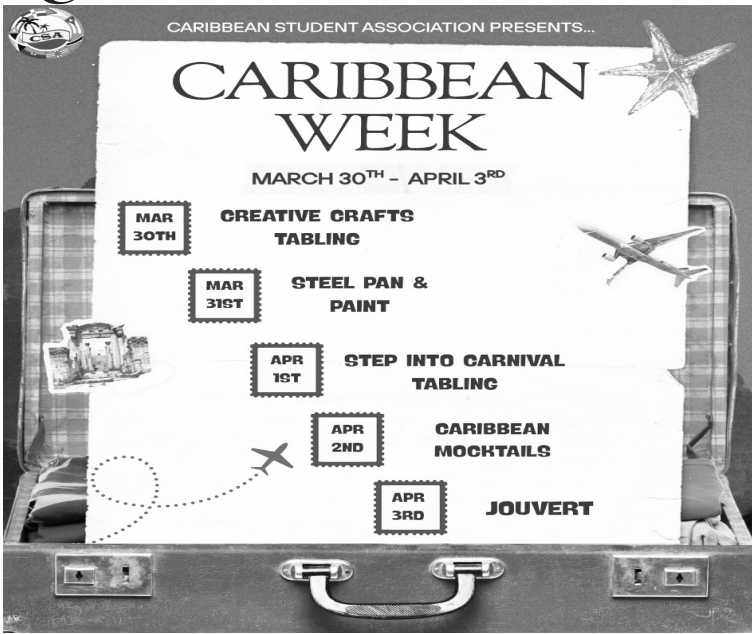
"Everyone got together and invented the steelpan by using pots and pans and testing them out," said Sterling Betancourt, a steelpan pioneer, to BBC. Betancourt grew up in Trinidad and Tobago.

At meetings and events, CSA plays music with uniquely Caribbean sounds. This includes dancehall, which originated in Jamaica, and Soca, which developed in Trinidad as a combination of Soul and Calypso music.

When the French controlled the Caribbean, they brought slaves from Africa to the island as well as the tradition of Mardi Gras, or Carnival. On Monday, CSA hosted a table at Bartels Hall with crafts related to the celebration of this holiday, inviting people to paint masks alongside other crafts.

On Thursday, CSA gave out mocktails for a small social event, while focusing on Caribbean culture on campus.

Finishing up Caribbean week, on Friday, CSA hosted J'ouvert.



Caribbean Week infographic.
Photo courtesy of @newhaven_csa

"Ending the week with J'ouvert, a celebration of freedom from slavery back in our Caribbean countries, that's important to us, [and in addition] to being able to bring Caribbean food to campus and to allow people to connect with Caribbean culture," said Mateo.

CSA holds weekly Tuesday meetings from 9 p.m.-10 p.m. and also plans a major event for Black and Latino Alumni

Weekend. This year's CSA fashion show is set for the evening of April 24 at 7 p.m.

"Having a Caribbean week to celebrate our culture [...] it really means a lot to me," said Baptiste. "Also, having our flags [up] or even for CSA to have these events for us, it means a lot. [Caribbean week is] only a week, but it should be more. It means a lot that they are advocating for people who not within the majority."

Acting Police Chief of NHPD receives Alumni Fellowship Award

BY ALEX SOTO
Associate Editor

"He answers the call of being a good cop," said Michael Lawlor, acting associate dean of the Henry C. Lee College in regards to New Haven Acting Police Chief, David Zannelli.

Zannelli, who graduated from the University of New Haven (UNH) in 2023 with a Master of Public Administration, has worked in public safety for roughly 20 years now, having started his policing career with the Middletown, RI Police Department in 2006. Throughout his career, Zannelli has been tasked with a number of responsibilities, climbing the ranks from officer to assistant chief until he was appointed as Acting Police Chief in January following the abrupt retirement of former New Haven Police Chief, Karl Jacobson.

Zannelli was celebrated Friday by UNH at the Henry C. Lee College of Forensic Sciences Academic Award Ceremony, where he was presented with the Alumni Fellowship Award.

"I was humbled and honored," said Zannelli. "I know that there is no end of deserving candidates, so when I got the call, I was incredibly humbled and honored."

While Zannelli had already been a veteran with the New Haven Police Department (NHPD) before beginning his graduate studies at the university, he gives UNH credit for giving him a "comprehensive view of management."

"Instead of just looking at one or two dynamics, I was exposed to a lot of different things," said Zannelli. "As a captain or as an assistant chief in New Haven, you don't typically deal with a lot of budgeting. But at UNH, as part of what I did, which is Public Safety- Public Administration with a concentration of public safety, I got exposure to the budget. Now I'm the acting Chief of Police, and budgeting is one of my main roles."

During his acceptance speech at the ceremony, Zannelli recognized multiple mentors at UNH.

"I would like to give special thanks to my mentors

here at the university, being Professor Will Carbone, Dean Schroeder, Associate Dean Mike Lawlor, who I know as Commissioner Lawlor. This honor belongs to all of you as much as it does to me," Zannelli said.

In a later interview, Zannelli also credited Stewart Professor in Criminal Justice and Community Policing, Lorenzo Boyd.

"Those are the four that have been pretty influential on me over the years," he said. What made these figures at UNH special to Zannelli were "their lens and their vision and their support."

Zannelli said, "All of those individuals are striving to do better than what we're doing now."

He explained how these four individuals have helped him find ways to battle a current trend in New Haven that sees an increase in non-fatal shootings by teens.

"It's great to make an arrest and get that violent person off the street, but we're dealing with kids, right, so how do we move about this now, to be preventative," he said.



Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences Academic Award Ceremony.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/ Alex Soto

"It's great to make an arrest, but it's better to prevent the incident from occurring in the first place, and all of these individuals have helped me brainstorm, think out of the box."

In a press conference last month, New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker nominated Zannelli to serve as the permanent police chief for NHPD.

"David Zannelli has dedicated his life to keeping New Haveners safe and steadily risen through the ranks to

earn the respect and admiration of his fellow officers and the community," said Elicker. "Every day, the men and women of the New Haven Police Department are doing outstanding work to keep us safe, and I am proud to nominate David Zannelli to lead the department and serve as the next permanent Chief of Police for New Haven."

Zannelli's nomination to serve as permanent police chief is subject to confirmation by the New Haven Board of Alders.

Netflix raises plan costs as high as two more dollars per month

BY NEVAEH LUGO
Arts & Life Editor

Netflix again raised the prices for its user plans on March 26, the second time in less than two years the streaming service hiked its prices.

The company updated its Plans and Pricing page to reflect the new prices. The standard with ads plan went up \$1 a month, while the standard and premium plans, as well as the fee for users in additional households, went up \$2 a month.

This places the current costs at \$8.99 per month for the standard plan with ads, \$19.99 for the standard plan, \$26.99 for the premium plan and a \$7.99 or \$9.99 fee to add additional users depending on whether or not the plan includes ads.

Netflix said new subscribers will see the price change upon joining, while current members will see them reflected in future bills after receiving an email notifica-

tion.

Students aren't happy.

"As someone who doesn't watch all the time, it makes me wonder how they're going to attract new users when they keep jacking up the price," said forensic science sophomore Asa Miller.

Chemical and biomolecular engineering junior Daren Darwish said that she stopped using the streaming service after the Netflix Household update, which established the additional user fee with the help of IP tracking to determine and limit streaming locations.

"I got kicked off it," Darwish said. "And I don't want to pay it myself. I can't split it with someone if we're not in the same house because of the rules."

Darwish said the household update could be especially difficult for college students to navigate when living away from home.

Within each home, the amount of devices able to log in to Netflix is also

limited to two for standard users and four for premium users.

"When you're in the same house, you can't even put all your devices to it," said actuarial science senior Daniyal Shaikh. "You know, because you have your laptop, your phone, and you have your TV."

The company revealed its intentions to update its mobile app and expand its short-form video feature. Beyond that, the company has not announced its future

plans.

"They're getting so greedy when there's not much included with their subscription," said Darwish.

The price update came after the service increased its live features over 2025, with the addition of Major League Baseball games and more video podcast episodes for shows such as Barstool Sports and iHeart-Media offerings.

The company was also

outbid by Paramount Skydance for the purchase of Warner Bros. Discovery in February. Netflix co-CEOs Ted Sarandos and Greg Peters said in a press release that the bid made by Paramount Skydance made the deal "no longer financially attractive" and opted instead to continue to "delight our members, profitably grow our business, and drive long-term shareholder value."



Netflix logo.
Photo courtesy of IMDb

New Tomodachi Life: Living the Dream demo excites players for upcoming release

BY NEVAEH LUGO
Arts & Life Editor

In preparation for the release of Tomodachi Life: Living the Dream to the Nintendo Switch and Nintendo Switch 2 on April 16, Nintendo recently released a demo version of the game. As a long-anticipated sequel of the 2014 3DS game Tomodachi Life, which follows a similar gameplay style, the official release date of the new addition to the Tomodachi Life world was announced in the January Nintendo Direct.

The game allows players to oversee an island and populate it with fully customizable characters, called Miis. Features allow for alterations to be made to each Mii's hair, clothes, voice and personality, as well as draw finer details onto their faces by hand, making room for creativity to resemble friends, family, celebrities and anything the

player's imagination can come up with.

The demo, called the "Welcome Version," was announced and released on March 25 to give players a taste of what's to come for the full release.

"Haven't played the first game, but this one, the demo seemed pretty fun," said Joshua Raynor, a senior esports major. "There was a lot of character customization and I'm just looking forward to that as well."

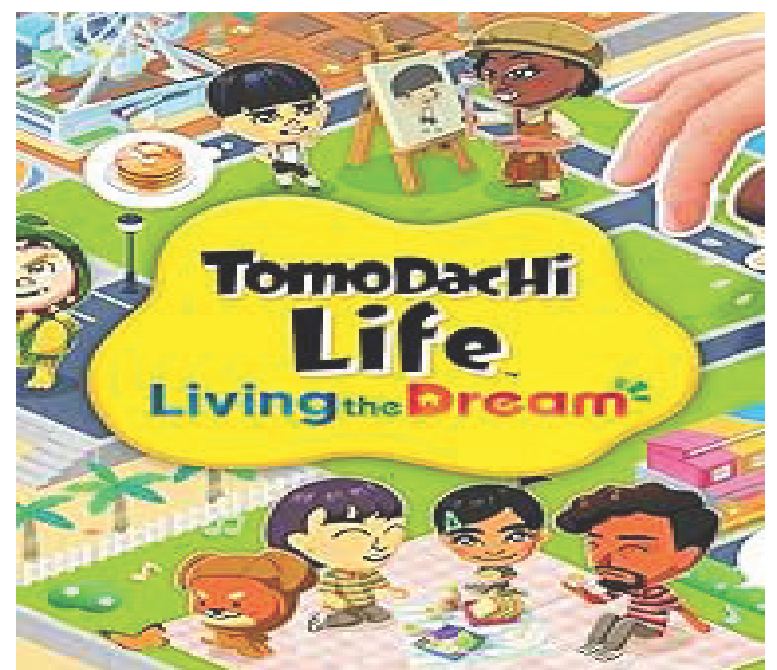
Nico Violante-Fletcher, a sophomore arts and creative technology major, said, "It looks really good, it looks really fun. I like how much freedom you have now in the game. In the original Tomodachi Life, you didn't have as much choices as you do now. It just seems really fun."

Some of the most notable differences between the games include the additions of customizability in the Miis' genders, sexualities and pronouns. While

the first game's character creation had a binary choice of male and female with each gender's traditional pronouns automatically attached, the new game introduced a nonbinary option, as well as they/them pronouns, with the ability to change pronouns independently of gender identity.

"I'm a huge fan of customization in video games," said Violante-Fletcher. "Like, literally every game I play, even if it's not the main focus, I always go for that."

Aside from the customization options, the game also offers a wide variety of random encounters between Miis, which serve as opportunities to build and grow relationships between the custom characters. These relationships can range from a simple friendship to something a little more romantic, and different relationship milestones are accompanied by randomized cutscenes.



Tomodachi Life: Living the Dream cover poster.
Photo courtesy of IMDb

Certain interactions also rely on player input for content, as well as to determine the outcome. Players online wasted no time in seeing how far they could test the limits of what their Miis can and can't discuss.

"I feel pretty good about the game itself," said Raynor. "I mean, the interactions, the NPC dialogues, they're all pretty fun."

Through making choices for the development of their own island of custom residents, Tomodachi Life: Living the Dream leaves players at the helm of their own gaming experience, while still leaving room for occasional surprises. This unique style of play leaves players to continue anticipating the game's full release.

The benefit of mental health education throughout colleges

BY MIKAELA MOTZ
Editor-in-Chief

Perspective

In college, we join extra-curriculars, meet lifelong friends and find people who make it feel like home. But there's something a lot of students lose, and it's themselves.

In films and TV shows, college is often described as one of the best times of our lives. Students can be independent, take on new opportunities and spend the day creating memories with friends. But some struggle in silence.

Amid social challenges, academic pressures, uncertainty surrounding their future and other personal stressors, many students find themselves overwhelmed as they lose track of priorities and their own health. Students have expectations of succeeding and many feel that by asking for help, they are weak.

Burnout has become

increasingly common throughout college campuses, and studies have shown an increase in mental health issues among students. A Healthy Minds Network survey conducted between 2024-2025 shows that 37% of students have moderate or severe depressive symptoms and 33% with moderate or severe anxiety symptoms. Additionally, studies show that suicide is the second leading cause of death in young adults and as a collective community.

With alarming rates of mental health symptoms among students, mental health education should be mandatory in all universities.

Azam Hostetler, the executive assistant of Active Minds, a mental health advocacy group on campus, said there is a mental health epidemic throughout the country and that from a young age, people are taught to not express such emotions.

"Especially at this age, a lot of people don't know

how to navigate those [feelings] or even talk about them," said Hostetler. "I don't think they [students] should be forced to open up about anything, but if they have the skills in the back of their minds, in terms of being educated, that doesn't just help them in college, that helps them for life."

A National Library of Medicine article says that students often don't receive mental health education, which makes it difficult for them to understand prevention methods, symptoms and benefits of treatments. This highlights a critical gap in mental health awareness as students may not be able to identify what they are experiencing or don't know where to get help.

By integrating structured mental health courses into colleges, students will be well equipped with tools to recognize and treat symptoms. These courses would also assist students in learning different strategies in



terms of coping with mechanisms and mindful exercises.

Rather than waiting for students to reach their breaking point, these initiatives for mandatory education should be taken now to promote prevention and awareness.

Today, conversations about mental health continue to carry a stigma that often discourages people from speaking out and creates a fear of judgement among students experiencing other

pressures. With mandated courses, these conversations will become consistent and normalized, fostering a safe environment for students where their vulnerability is encouraged, rather than judged.

No student should have to navigate the dark times of their life alone. If these courses are able to help even one person make it through their hardest day, they're a necessity.

Is reposting enough? Why online activism still matters

BY JULIET LEGASSA
Contributing Writer

Perspective

The shift happens almost instantly. When a headline drops and within minutes, social media stops being social. Suddenly, selfies and the highlight reels of people's lives are buried under bold-font infographics, urgent captions and similar posts copied and pasted across everyone's story.

It's like you can see the moment your timeline turns political. It feels like if you're not reposting, you're silent, and if you are reposting, you're part of something bigger.

For a while, it feels powerful, and important. As if we're all paying attention at the same time. But then a week passes, and the posts slow down. The algorithm moves on, and so do we.

That's why social media activism gets called "slacktivism," and can be seen as "overhyped." It can look like

we're confusing posting with actually doing something. An article from Muse Magazine talks about how Instagram story activism can blur the line between awareness and performance.

Stories disappear after 24 hours and reposting something takes two seconds. It's easy to wonder whether people share posts because they care, or because they're worried about what others will think. These days, silence can mean complicity.

Many people feel tension when it comes to posting on social media. According to a 2023 report from the Pew Research Center, social media can distract from important issues or make people think they're making a difference when they're not. There's a difference between liking a post and actually showing up somewhere to protest and push for change.

However, people can go too far. The Pew report found that nearly half of social media users say they've done at least one



activism-related activity online, whether that's sharing information, joining a group or encouraging others to take action. Sadly, that doesn't seem like a lot. For a generation that gets most of its information from a news feed, awareness begins online. Before someone attends a protest, signs up to volunteer or donates money, they see an alert on social media.

On college campuses, social media is the universal bulletin board. It's how events spread, how

students call out issues and how conversations start. Even if someone only reposts once, that repost might reach someone who didn't know about the issue. Awareness doesn't solve everything, but it matters.

Posting a hashtag is not the same as real-world activism. It shouldn't replace organizing, voting or having hard conversations. But, it is not fair to dismiss it as meaningless. Social media activism

can be shallow, and sometimes it is. At the same time, it gives people a low barrier to entry. It allows voices that might not be amplified by traditional media to be heard. It spreads information faster than any flyer ever could.

Maybe the problem isn't that social media activism exists. Maybe the problem is that we expect it to be the whole movement instead of just the starting point.

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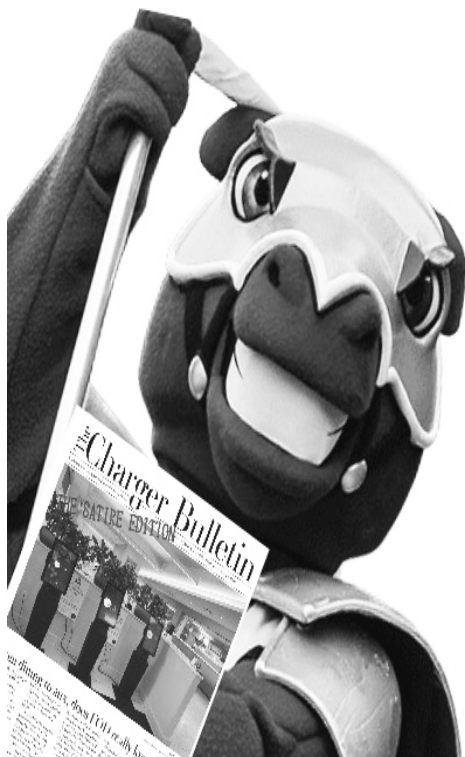
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Women’s tennis extends win streak and defeats Adelphi, 5-2



BY MIKAELA MOTZ
Editor-in-Chief

Victoria Togores and Pierina Lescher playing a doubles match.
Photo courtesy of Olivia Faulkner

After a win over Chicago State University, the Chargers faced off against the Adelphi University Panthers. After nine matches, three doubles and six singles, New Haven won, 5-2. Sophomore Victoria Togores and junior Pierina Lescher shut out their opponents Roisin Boyd and

Katarina Liedbeck, 6-0. Junior Manon Hallemans and freshman Sofia Lazaro finished their match with a close 6-4 win over Genesis Beltran and Sara Lindeman. The Chargers were unable to complete the sweep in doubles matches as freshman Addison Rosser and senior Valentinna Ferrarini lost 6-1 against Oda Solevag Halvorsen and

Zuzanna Witkowska. Following the doubles matches, the Chargers won four out of the six singles games. Ferrarini defeated her opponent, 6-4 after Liedbeck retired the match in the first round. In the second singles match, Togores faced Witkowska and won 6-1 and 6-2, respectively. Lescher defeated Boyd in the third singles

match and won the first set 7-5 and the second set 6-4. Lazaro went up against Kayla Castellano in the fourth match and won 6-2 in the first set, followed by a score of 6-3 in the second. The Panthers’ Lindeman defeated Hallemans in the fifth singles. In the first set, Hallemans won 6-2 followed by a 7-6 win from Lindeman in the second set with a 7-3 tiebreaker. Lindeman secured the tiebreaker third set with a score of 13-11. Rosser fell short in

the sixth singles match to Beltran after winning the first set 6-1 and losing the second and third sets 6-1 and 6-2. The women’s tennis team has an overall record of 8-5 and 3-0 in NEC play. The Chargers will host the Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) Knights on Tuesday at the New Haven Tennis Courts. First serve is at 3 p.m. For more information, visit NewHavenChargers.com.

Dunwoody’s six goals not enough as New Haven falls in overtime to Le Moyne

BY DONOVAN RODRIGUEZ
Sports Editor

The Chargers to erase the early deficit and keep the game even heading into halftime. The back-and-forth nature of the matchup continued in the third quarter. Le Moyne regained momentum through draw control success and forced turnovers, which translated into additional possessions. The Dolphins capitalized on those opportunities to briefly extend their lead. However, New Haven responded with resilience, as Dunwoody continued to anchor the offense, finishing multiple scoring sequences and maintaining pressure on the Dolphins’ defense. Defensively, the Chargers showed improvement in the second half, limiting second-chance opportunities and forcing contested shots. Freshman Goalie Ainsley Bourbeau helped New Haven stay within one possession as the game entered the final quarter. Bourbeau finished with 13 saves against Le Moyne. In the fourth, both teams traded goals in a tightly contested stretch. New

Haven’s offensive execution improved late, with cleaner entries into the attacking zone and more disciplined shot selection. Dunwoody completed a standout performance with six goals, leading all scorers and recording what is commonly referred to as a “sock trick.” A “sock trick” in lacrosse, is when a player scores six goals in a single game. Additional offensive contributions from the Chargers helped force a 13-13 tie at the end of regulation. Overtime proved decisive, as Le Moyne secured possession off the draw and capitalized on its opportunity. The Dolphins executed efficiently in the attacking third, converting the game-winning goal to seal the 14-13 victory. Statistically, the game was defined by narrow margins. Le Moyne held an edge in draw controls, which provided extra possessions and proved critical in both regulation and overtime. Turnover differential also played a role, as the Dolphins were able to convert key takeaways into scoring



Karina O'Donnell passing the ball.
Photo courtesy of Charger Athletics / @unewhavenolax

The women’s lacrosse team dropped a tightly contested double overtime decision to the Le Moyne College Dolphins, 14-13. Le Moyne opened the game with strong possession control, using draw wins and quick ball movement to generate early scoring chances. The Dolphins built a narrow lead in the first quarter, capitalizing on efficient shooting and transition opportunities. New Haven responded by settling into its offensive sets, slowing the tempo and creating more deliberate possessions to counter Le Moyne’s pace. In the second quarter, the Chargers found offensive rhythm behind junior attack Helena Dunwoody, who consistently created scoring opportunities both off-ball and in isolation. New Haven improved its spacing and ball movement, leading to higher-quality shots and balanced offensive attack. Midfield contributions and efficient finishes allowed

chances. For New Haven, Dunwoody’s six-goal performance highlighted a strong individual effort and consistent offensive presence throughout the game. The Chargers also benefited from improved ball movement and offensive spacing compared to earlier contests, allowing multiple players to contribute in scoring sequences. However, the inability to secure possession in critical moments, particu-

larly in overtime, ultimately determined the outcome. With the loss, New Haven moves to 2-8 overall and 1-4 in conference play. The Chargers will host the Howard University Bisons on Wednesday for a conference matchup. Draw is at 3 p.m. at Kathy Zolad Stadium. The game will also be streamed on the NEC Frontrow App. For more information visit NewHavenChargers.com.

Baseball drops four games against Stony Brook and Mercyhurst

BY SKYLAR GRIFFIN
Staff Writer

It was a busy week for New Haven baseball, with one midweek game and a conference series on the schedule. After winning last week's series against Wagner College, the Chargers came in with confidence on Wednesday but fell short in a close match against the Stony Brook University Seawolves, 15-12.

The Seawolves struck first and put three runs on the board in the top of the second. Down by three, the Chargers started to chip away in the bottom of the third, adding one run to the board after a line drive out to center field from designated player Casey Cerruto that brought home catcher Jake Russo. The fifth went scoreless, and the Seawolves extended their lead by adding one run in the top of the fifth. The Chargers were quick to answer back and put up two runs of their own in the bottom of the fifth after right fielder Shaun Callahan homered with Russo on base.

The top of the sixth was a huge scoring inning for Stony

Brook, putting up 10 runs in just one inning. The scoring party started with a home run from Seawolves' Nick Dromboski. The remainder of the runs came off a combination of hits, walks and errors by New Haven's defense, who had six total errors on the day. Third baseman Joe Frazzetta helped the Chargers chip away at the 10-run deficit, adding a solo home run in the bottom of the sixth. It was a big day for Frazzetta at the plate, totaling three hits and two RBI over five at bats. New Haven held the Seawolves scoreless in the seventh and eighth innings, and added a combined six runs, with RBIs from pinch hitter Clarke Beattie, substitute first baseman Bobby Herzman and Frazzetta. Stony Brook added their final run in the top of the ninth, leaving New Haven down by five going into the bottom of this high-scoring game. Despite a clutch two-RBI double from pinch hitter Matt McIntire, the Chargers fell short with a final score of 15-12.

Looking to get back in the win column, the Chargers traveled to Erie, PA to take



on the Mercyhurst University Lakers. The Lakers started hot by putting five runs on the board in the first inning. The second and third went scoreless, and then Callahan stepped up in the fourth for New Haven and brought home three off a home run. Unfortunately for the Chargers, those three runs would be the only ones brought in, while the Lakers extended their lead in the fifth, seventh and eighth innings, ending the game with a score of 12-3.

Game two saw a similar score, with Mercyhurst taking a 12-2 victory over New

Haven. RBIs for the Chargers came from center fielder Nick Ungania and Frazzetta. The third game of the series saw a much closer score, but the Chargers still fell short by one run. New Haven struck first after an RBI single from Callahan in the first inning. They held the 1-0 lead until the Lakers tied it in the third. New Haven took the lead back in the top of the fifth with an RBI ground out from Herzman that brought in Russo, and then extended the lead in the eighth after an

RBI single from Frazzetta. With a 3-1 score lead going into the bottom of the eighth the Chargers couldn't hold off the Lakers, and they added a late three runs to take the lead and win 4-3.

With the losses, the Chargers are now 3-20 overall and 3-9 in NEC conference play. New Haven will face the Yale University Bulldogs on Wednesday, followed by a three-game series against Long Island University. For more information, visit NewHavenChargers.com.

Chargers struggle against Fairfield and Long Island University



Chargers warming up before the game.
Photo courtesy of Charger Athletics/ @unewhavensb

BY ADAM SIGAL
Sports Editor

Coming off a tough stretch of games against Uconn and Wagner College, the Chargers faced off against the Fairfield University Stags for the second time of the season and played a three game series against their NEC Rival, the Long Island University (LIU) Sharks.

The Chargers have strug-

gled in their first Division I entering the week with a record of 5-18, and looking to add some wins to their column.

In the Chargers' game against the Stags, Fairfield came out swinging, finding early runs in the first inning. Sammie Dougherty was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded to bring in Sarah Bielski, followed by a two-RBI double from Lauren Osland and an

RBI single from Martina Gutierrez, which gave Fairfield 4-0 lead. They added three more in the second and another in the fourth on a Quinn McGonigle homer. New Haven scored in the fourth and fifth with Jess Petit driving in runs, but Fairfield added one more in the sixth on a Dougherty bunt single, sealing the game at 10-2.

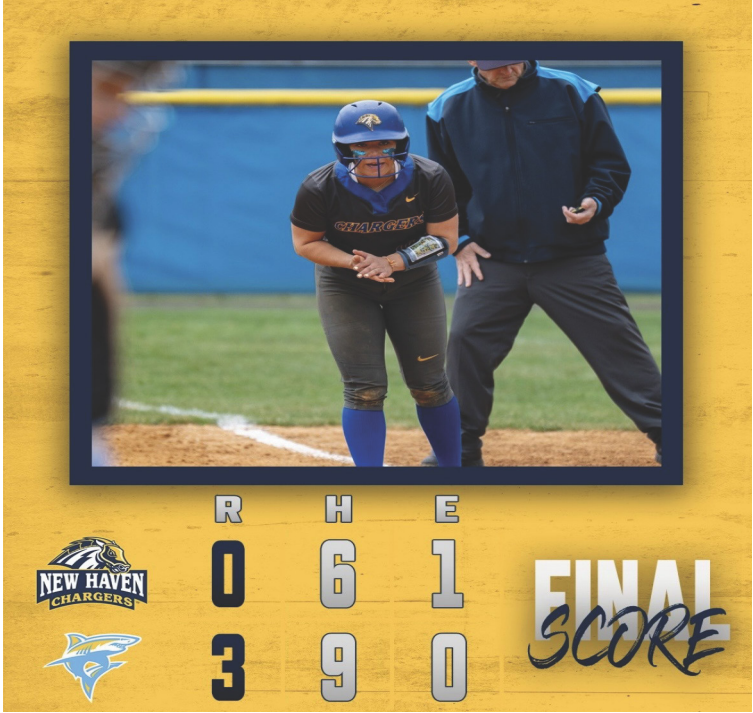
The Chargers struggled to find their rhythm against the LIU Sharks and dropped all three matchups. In the opener, the Sharks got on the board early with a first-inning RBI and added runs in the fifth and seventh innings to claim a 3-0 victory. New Haven managed six hits, led by Emily Ricci's two singles, but couldn't convert any opportunities into runs, as pitcher Sarah Wall stifled the Chargers' offense.

In the second game, New Haven jumped out to an early lead when Petit singled in Jaclyn Piazza in the first inning, but LIU rallied late with a three-run eighth inning, highlighted by RBIs from Jae-

dyn Lincoln and Anais Soto, taking the 4-1 win. The series wrapped up with an LIU 3-0 win as the Sharks scored in the third, sixth and seventh innings, while New Haven was held to just one hit.

The softball team moves on with an overall record of 5-22 and 3-9 in conference play. The Chargers next matches

include a series against the Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) Knights on Tuesday and Wednesday followed by games against the Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) Blue Devils later in the week. First pitch against FDU is at 1 p.m. in Teaneck, NJ. For more information, visit NewHavenChargers.



Post game graphic.
Photo courtesy of Charger Athletics/ @unewhavensb