

TheCharger Bulletin

The student news source for the University of New Haven

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Entrance to Campus Pantry and Career Closet.
Photos courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Alex Soto

The university's Career Closet seeks donations ahead of spring semester

BY ALEX SOTO
Campus News Editor

College students are not drowning in cash. This lack of financial freedom can keep students from investing in professional attire they need for jobs and internships.

The University of New Haven's Career Closet is the solution.

The Career Closet is a service that provides students with professional attire they need, for free. These services are crucial to students, however as the student body grows, demand increases and more supply is needed.

Recognizing the importance of professional attire for students, graduate career advisor and graduate student in the clinical health and counseling program, Madison Dougherty sought to increase access to professional attire seeing the impact it has during employers interactions with candidates.

With career fairs taking

place on campus, Diane Polo-Conklin, associate director for health & wellness wants to make sure there are enough resources available to students in need.

"Career fairs are a crucial part of the job search process, so we wanted to ensure we had enough resources for the Spring semester," said Polo-Conklin.

The Career Development Center's Career Readiness Lab is looking to help students, too, with plans to host a "career thrift shop" with items collected for use in the February career fairs.

The Career Closet also enlisted help from Adjunct Lecturer Patricia Kurpnikoff and her diversity and social justice class who helped organize and prepare the Career Closet for incoming donations.

"This project has been so important to helping all students on campus appear their very best when applying for positions with prospective em-

ployers or looking for future internships," said Kurpnikoff. "Professional clothing is often quite expensive for college students to afford and may be hard to find in the right sizes with limited time."

Kurpnikoff also used the opportunity to model her teachings in her Justice class.

"Since I have been teaching Diversity and Social Justice for the College of Arts and Sciences, I make it a point to model what I am teaching students about considering others and finding equitable approaches to ensure all are considered," said Kurpnikoff. "This way, students can truly learn and apply the lessons I have taught to their own experiences."

Kurpnikoff also wants to break stigmas that may discourage students from seeking its services.

"It is a great resource for ALL UNH students and everyone should be comfortable going there to find the profes-

sional clothing they need to save \$ [money] and time," said Kurpnikoff.

The Career Closet's latest clothing drive lasts until Dec. 12. However, the Career Closet will begin accepting donations again from Jan. 22 until Feb. 2, which gives students the opportunity to collect any professional clothes from home during winter vaca-

tion and bring it back for the Spring semester.

For any students interested in donating clothes to the Career Closet or taking advantage of their services, it is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Students are welcome to visit the Career Closet without an appointment during open hours.



Students browsing the Career Closet.
Photos courtesy of Professor Patricia Kurpnikoff

State Representative Seth Bronko speaks at College Republicans event on campus

BY ADAM RELKIN
Politics Editor

Seth Bronko, who serves in the Connecticut State House of Representatives for the 70th district, came to speak at the university last Wednesday, and he discussed and encouraged people to get more involved in local politics.

Bronko started by discussing some points about what it can be like to be a Republican college student and how different it could be from being a Democrat. “I liked kind of tapping into like-minded college students myself, and saw that it feels that I have to as a Republican sort of hide on campus, stay in the closet if you will while everyone else is coming out of the closet as a Republican you gotta be quiet. It felt like you kinda had to hide a bit,” he said.

Bronko was born in 1988 and has lived in Naugatuck since. He graduated from the University of Connecticut in 2011, and went on to co-own a family-run Naugatuck construction company. He also served as part of multiple different boards within the city such as the financial board. He first ran for the Connecticut State House in 2022 as a Republican, and defeated Democratic candidate Jeff Litke by approximately 13%. He won a second term in 2024 in a rematch against Litke by about 10%. This session, Bronkoe is assigned to three committees in the Connecticut State House and has introduced 27 bills into the House this year. During his time at the University of Connecticut, he had also helped build a Republican club on campus from about eight to 10 students when he first joined to about 40



The College Republicans E-Board with the State Rep.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/ Adam Relkin

to 50 when he graduated.

“I love when younger people are interested and want to be involved, and so that’s why I’m here,” he said.

Bronko urged audience members to pay attention to everyone who is being elected at your local level and not just federally.

“It’s very easy to just follow in the national media and only think about what’s going on down in Washington D.C.” he said. “What’s happening in your own backyard affects you way more than anything happening in D.C. so from the local level and the local government to your state government, and then onto the federal government. The federal government has taken up and kinda sucked the oxygen in the room with media and narrative, but if there’s one thing, I can press upon you guys today. Get plugged in locally, know who your representatives are, know who your mayors are, and how your town government works.”

Bronko also took a shot at a Housing Bill that was

signed into law recently by Governor Ned Lamont, on which he voted no.

“What we did basically, is we took your local decision making pretty much out of your local towns hands and put it at the state level,” he said. “They can build these big old housing complexes, leave zero parking, and slap it right in the middle of a commercial district and your local elected officials can do nothing about it.”

Bronko also took part in a Q&A where he was asked about various topics such as what’s being taught in college, but also about opinions on the political climate such as over the shooting of Charlie Kirk.

“We’re at a point now, where we saw it so clearly after Charlie Kirk died that there are two alternate realities. There are the people on this side who can’t even fathom how this side believes in what they do. There’s like this divide where we’re living in two worlds and it’s part of the problem and it’s why I think your gener-

ation is going to break that and bring back some sense of reality and that’s why it’s so important for you guys to step up and be vocal,” he said.

Bronko also said he feels the Republican Party is falling behind on messaging with how he feels the Democratic Party gets more emotional with messaging.

Bronko also pleaded for the national environment to change towards people before policy.

“We have to separate people from policy and understand that we’re all Americans first, we’re all people first,” he said. “We can argue and debate policy every day, but we have to have it based on the notion of respect and

decency in doing all of that and politics has kind of just turned into this game of name calling the other side it’s the most ineffective drama filled and I think people are just over the drama.”

Ryan J. Wells, the treasurer of College Republicans and a freshmen intelligence analysis major who helped invite Bronko to campus said, “It’s amazing that we can representatives to come down here and talk about how individuals can engage in politics because it’s very important and civic responsibilities are important to me and I’m hoping that I can spread that with the people of University of New Haven.”

If you were a UNH student enrolled in any UNH course as of March 24, 2020 (other than a non-matriculated high school student) and you did not opt out of the Settlement of Krystian Wnorowski, on behalf of himself and others similarly situated v. University of New Haven, Case No. 3:20-cv-1589 (D. Conn.), you will receive the one-time \$200 Non-Cash Tuition Credit described in the Settlement if you enroll or have enrolled in a UNH course commencing in September 2023 or later. Go to www.unehavensettlement.com for more information.

Reflections on Ukrainian combat veterans' visit to university and the realities of modern war

BY RYAN J. WELLS
Contributing Writer

Perspective

Ryan J. Wells is an Intelligence Analysis Major (Class of 2029) and a Corporal within the United States Marine Corps, currently serving as a reservist with 2/25 Fox Company.

On Nov. 12, the university welcomed back to campus Senior Lieutenant Mykola Melnyk, a Ukrainian infantry veteran, who now works as a civilian air defense controller in Kyiv. He was joined by two fellow veterans who had served in Ukraine's special forces, Denys Hayda and Oleh Bonchynskyy.

These three veterans had dedicated themselves to Ukraine's sovereignty since the 2013–2014 Maidan Revolution, a nationwide movement calling for the ouster of a Russian-aligned president. Each subsequently enlisted in the Ukrainian Armed Forces, serving in combat against Russian forces in eastern Ukraine and continuing to fight following the broader Russian invasion in 2022.

They came to the University of New Haven for a program organized and hosted by Dr. Lennon of the National Security Department, who also served as their translator, enabling them to share their unique and insightful perspectives on one of the most lethal and pressing global conflicts of the twentieth century.

The event attracted students from numerous academic majors, all of whom showed strong engagement throughout the discussion. Many remarked that the opportunity to hear firsthand accounts from the veterans significantly deepened and reshaped their understanding of modern warfare. One student, Raymond Keeley, a history major, said that the experience, "just further ingrained into [his] head that governments might have wars but, it's the population that is the most affected."

The Impact of War

Each veteran had extensive combat experience following the Russian full-scale invasion of 2022, such as the battles for Donetsk Airport, the battle of Kyiv and many others.

Their military exploits were extensive, but what proved most compelling were the immense mental, physical and spiritual demands the war placed on its warfighters. Denys Hayda noted that it was not uncommon to have two years of dedicated combat operations without leave, and Sr. Lt. Melnyk, within the infantry, further reinforced that one could remain along the frontlines for 40 days straight before rotation.

A Forensic Science student who attended the event and preferred to remain anonymous found the severity of these frontline conditions particularly striking. They said that, "the only way to get discharged from the military was shocking – you had to be in that rough of a shape in order to get off the front lines." Constant combat operations were already extremely strenuous, and sleep was a rarity; however, the nature of modern conflict had exacerbated those issues.

Oleh Bonchynskyy commented further, and said that aerial warfare was the dominant theater of the war in Ukraine, particularly due to the use of drones and contested airspace. Drones were responsible for 80% of current frontline casualties and were a constant threat to any infantryman, day and night. Denys Hayda explained that in the absence of direct drone attacks, nighttime drone reconnaissance routinely guided indirect fire such as artillery. Extensive combat time and the constant threat of attack meant that there was no time for downtime or rest, which was critical to warfighting and to the health of the infantryman.

Dr. Lennon offered further context to the manpower concerns in the conflict and the context of the veterans' visit: to be discharged from the Ukrainian military, one had to be so severely injured that they could no longer fight. That stark reality resonated deeply with attendees. As the anonymous Forensic Science student said, "I have had many friends who have been previously deployed in active combat, but none of the stories and requirements are similar."

For those in attendance, this reality was seen not just through what the veterans



Sr. Lt. Mykola Melnyk exchanges a patch with a University of New Haven student who serves in the National Guard..
Photo courtesy of Evan Lennon

said but through seeing them in person. Sr. Lt. Melnyk had lost his legs, and Oleh Bonchynskyy had lost the use of his right eye (and even continued fighting until further injuries). Their experiences starkly illustrated the strains on Ukraine's combat manpower and the totality of the war in its effect on the entire population. The anonymous Forensic Science student said the conversation, "helped open [his] eyes to the struggles and most importantly, the cost of the war."

Ukrainian civilians are heavily drawn into the conflict because of the Russian military's methods of warfare. Most operations, as noted by Denys Hayda, took place within residential areas, and the Russian military targeted any Ukrainian presence – military or otherwise. Raymond Keeley remarked that one of his key takeaways was that "American doctrine didn't work in Ukraine." This observation captured the stark mismatch between America's military experiences and the Ukraine War realities the veterans described. National Security major Benjamin Lovell reflected that his main take-away was that "the normalization of irregular warfare" in the Russia-Ukraine War. "What was once waged between centralized military units now involves whole populations," he continued.

Lessons from the Ukrainian War Veterans

The three veterans spoke extensively about how modern warfare was fought and the differences between the American training they had received and the realities of the Russo-Ukraine war. This topic resonated strongly with some attendees. Raymond

Keeley also remarked that one of his key takeaways was that, "American doctrine didn't work in Ukraine." This observation captured the stark mismatch between America's military experiences and the Ukraine War realities the veterans described.

One of the central themes of the discussion was the limited support networks and sense of community available to Ukrainian veterans within their own country. Denys Hayda mentioned that there was little to no professional care for combat PTSD in Ukraine, and Sr. Lt. Melnyk mentioned that he wished the growing veteran community in Ukraine could learn to support each other as veterans do in the United States.

Students were particularly struck by the veterans' honesty. As Lovell said, "I enjoyed how honest these veterans were, especially when talking about the realities of warfare that they and others like them faced and continue to face." For him, the most striking story was "Mykola training in Germany with the United States military, which was incredibly professional, but not training in modern war."

The veterans spent more of their day answering questions from motivated students even after the allocated time had ended. Many others and I found the strength of heart and courage that these three men exemplified deeply encouraging in a way that one had to witness firsthand to understand. Students repeatedly described the event as a transformative experience. As one noted, "It helped bring the main story of those who have suffered directly to us... I have never really learned this much depth from it until

the presentation."

Recognizing Our Common Humanity

I recommended that the next time someone has the opportunity to speak to a veteran of war, they should speak to them as human beings — ask them their motivations, how they felt and what helped them make it through. As a United States Marine within an Infantry company, I could say from my own experience asking my seniors, the answer was always the same: those to your right and left were why you kept going. We all had our own reasons, ideologies, faiths or other factors driving what we did, but the community you built was the community you endured adversity with, no matter how severe.

I was glad to see that other attendees, especially those who might have not had direct military experience, found the event meaningful not only for its lessons on modern warfare, but also for what it revealed about courage, sacrifice and how individuals rise to extraordinary challenges. For example, Ben Lovell concluded that meeting Ukrainian veterans was "highly valuable," helping him "deepen [his] understanding of the realities of modern war."

Another student reflected, "I couldn't imagine how hard it is to live in a country that was invaded by a foreign country." He added, "there was definitely a powerful essence in the room with them. A lot of emotions could be felt from their voices when they spoke." Ultimately, he offered a powerful summary: "I personally believe it was a very important moment that all students should experience."

“Zootopia 2” delivers a wildly fun and adventurous story in a must-see sequel

BY NATALIA LIZAK
Arts & Life Editor

Perspective Spoilers ahead

After eight years, the bunny and fox duo of Judy Hopps (Ginnifer Goodwin) and Nick Wilde (Jason Bateman) made a recent return to theaters with “Zootopia 2.”

In a story that is equal parts amusing and engaging, the Disney animated sequel shows more of the Zootopia world as Judy and Nick find themselves on another adventure full of ups and downs. The film’s debut reflects its appeal, as it took in more than \$556 million globally over Thanksgiving weekend and scored the “second biggest Thanksgiving opening ever,” according to Rotten Tomatoes.

Sequels are usually hit or miss, and while “Zootopia 2” was inevitable, it is anything but a miss. Take its 96% rating on Rotten Tomatoes’ Popcornmeter. Viewers are enjoying the new story, and it is easy to see why.

With a runtime of 1 hour and 48 minutes, the story starts roughly where the original film

left off. Judy and Nick have gained minor celebrity status after solving a case from the first film, and their newfound confidence leads them to believe they can single-handedly take down any case. Acting recklessly during a specific sting, they get taken out of the field by Chief Bogo (Idris Elba) and put into a “Partners in Crisis” therapy group. While on probation, Judy believes she’s found a new conspiracy to investigate, and she drags Nick along with her.

Her suspicion pays off, as we are finally introduced to the scaly blue critter whose face has been featured on several of the film’s posters, Gary De’Snake (Ke Huy Quan). In search of an important book, Gary crashes the Zootennial Gala, and Judy and Nick try to stop him. Without knowing his full story, the assumption is the snake is out to attack the wealthy Lynxleys family to get the book, though what is revealed is a deeper truth to Gary’s doings, and in true Judy nature, she follows the underdog to discover his side of the story.

Gary becomes a sweet,

lovable new character, and it is refreshing to see a film divert from the villain trope that snakes usually serve. Viewers are also introduced to the beaver podcaster Nibbles Maples-tick (Fortune Feimster), whose quirky nature is an interesting addition to the group. She not only aids Judy and Nick while they are on the run, but she also serves up comedic relief. Focus is also put onto the Lynx family, mainly Milton Lynxley’s (David Strathairn) youngest son, Pawbert (Andy Samberg).

Quan delivers an outstanding performance as Gary, and his charismatic moments help fill some of the gaps within the story’s plot. His emotionally-charged voice acting during the film’s more intense scenes are compelling and adds significant depth to the film.

The film’s animation is also stunning, from the liveliness of Zootopia to the newly revealed areas of the city. References to iconic pop culture moments, such as Ylvis’ 2013 hit “The Fox (What Does the Fox Say)?” and the hedge maze from the 1980 classic “The Shining” provided plenty of amusement



“Zootopia 2” movie poster at Cinemark
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/ Evan Pecorale

within the film’s chaos. Without spoilers, the film’s plot twist of one of the new characters was unexpected, and delivers jaw-dropping shock value.

“Zootopia 2” is a great sequel that touches on real world issues such as displacement, corruption and wealth. Although things settle back into everyone being happy once more in the end, the film still does the

job of addressing topics that some other animated children films would overlook. The plot succeeds in keeping viewers engaged while providing content for fans who have been waiting to see these characters on the big screen again. The post credit scene also offers hope of there being more adventures for Judy and Nick, and leaves viewers excited for what’s next.

“Wicked: For Good” opens to praise and critique

BY ANNE LEE
Contributing Writer

In “Wicked: For Good,” Ariana Grande plays the perfect and popular Good Witch, Glinda, and the Wicked Witch of the West, Elphaba, is played by Cynthia Erivo. Both “Wicked” and its sequel were directed by Jon M. Chu, who is also known for his work on “Crazy Rich Asians.”

“Wicked: For Good” explores the reason why Glinda wants to develop real magic skills, instead of depending on her popularity to wield power in Oz. Meanwhile, Elphaba aims to reveal the truth about the Wizard of Oz and prevent the animals of Oz from going mute.

“I thought [Wicked: For Good] was so good. I love all the music,” said Julia Zeidman, an undergraduate criminal justice student. “I’ve been listening to it on loop non-stop.”

The movie also explores how being born with green skin or looking like a beautiful fairy impacted the lives of two women drastically. While the first film portrays the redemption of Elphaba through Glinda’s efforts to make Elphaba more popular, its sequel engages both Glinda and Elphaba to become

more authentic and realistic.

In “Wicked: For Good,” after several failed attempts to convince the Munchkins living in Oz that the Wizard of Oz was a hoax, Elphaba realizes she must recognize her own limits to save Oz.

Similar to the Broadway production of “Wicked” both films are musicals. The song “For Good” begins with Elphaba singing, “I’m limited,” and both Glinda and Elphaba sing that they have both “been changed for good,” since they knew each other.

“I watched it over Thanksgiving break with my family, and personally I just didn’t enjoy it as much as the first one,” Sadie Perkins, a business management student, said. “I know the second act struggled in the musical itself, and I just didn’t love the new songs, or like, I don’t know, just how [the story] went. It just wasn’t as good as the first one.”

The choices made by the media and production team of “Wicked: For Good,” including its release during the holiday season, contributed to its box office opening of about \$150 million in North American theaters. The movie runs for 2 hours and 17 minutes.

Criticisms of the film in-



“Wicked: For Good” movies posters at Cinemark.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/ Evan Pecorale

clude the color correction used, causing certain visuals to appear washed out, including the appearance of the scarecrow character later into the movie.

“I had some issues with the scarecrow makeup,” said marine biology undergraduate Katelyn Carpenter. “And there was some acting that was just kind of corny in a way. But overall, I really liked it. I was having fun. I teared up a little bit and the music was really beautiful.”

Much praise has gone towards the production teams of both films for the casting of two extremely talented singers as Elphaba and Glinda. The choreography and visuals were stunning homages to the “Wizard of Oz” and to the “Wicked”

Broadway musical.

The movie will resonate closely with young audiences, with story beats that are obvious enough to notice references to the first film and subplot that aligns with the original story, the Wizard of Oz.

Throughout the film, there are several reminders that Munchkins hate the Wicked Witch of the West, with the song, “No One Mourns for the Wicked,” and posters that warn of Elphaba’s evildoings.

The attitudes towards Elphaba reveal the current state of how society is quick to call out for the deaths of people who are socially perceived as evil. The film is resolved by uplifting the

sentient animals without directly addressing the stereotypes held towards people with green skin, but animal advocates have expressed appreciation for the film’s messaging of valuing our animal companions.

Jeff Goldblum, who plays the Wizard of Oz, said he was personally impacted by the messaging of the story to adopt a vegetarian lifestyle.

“Working with Jon Chu [...] It’s changed me. After this movie, we talked about animal cruelty. I stopped eating meat and poultry,” said Goldblum on This Morning. “So, this Christmas and Thanksgiving, I may be having another something else.”

The silence between semesters as home routines call

BY MACKENZIE MARQUARDT
Contributing Writer

“We’ll keep in touch!”

Every student says that to a friend from school. The promise often falls short once students get home. As campus empties and everyone slips back into their home routines, the late-night hangouts soon become a distant memory. Backpacks are dumped in childhood bedrooms, group chats fade and the communication that once felt effortless suddenly disappears -- not because of drama or disagreement, but because of the pull of another life.

“It’s like I completely detach the minute I walk into my house,” said junior psychology student Antonia Cannizzaro. “It’s not intentional, it just happens.”

For many students, this isn’t just a change of scenery, but a change of identity.

Cannizzaro said she “completely turns off ‘school me’ the second I get home,” a feeling she’s noticed every break since her freshman year.

When those shared spaces and routines disappear, school friendships begin to require effort – something many students struggle to initiate.

Researchers call this phenomenon context-dependent identity – the way different environments activate different versions of

ourselves.

Senior history student Malcolm Whitmore said, “It really does feel like two different versions of me.”

A 2025 study in *Applied Psychology: Health and Well-Being* said that students often ‘deactivate’ their campus identities during breaks because their home routines, roles and relationships take over. When that identity fades, the friendships tied to it fade, as well.

“Sometimes when I’m home for a long period of time, I forget that school even exists,” said Cannizzaro.

Commuters deal with a different version of that, one that happens even when the semester is in full swing. Instead of fighting a context-dependent identity, commuters have physical social barriers like distance, time and home schedules. Friendships in college rely on campus time, which weighs heavily on commuters as they divvy up hours on and off campus.

Whitmore, who is also a commuter, said, “It’s like two different worlds, I only see my friends when I’m on campus.”

When Whitmore is home, he is balancing coursework with his job, fulfilling responsibilities at both home and school. Research from the *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*

says that commuters experience different social pressures than residential students. Their friendships rely less on proximity and more on active effort, making the silence feel normal and predictable, something Whitmore said he feels every break.

“During breaks, it definitely gets a little lonely,” he said. “School is the only time I get to see them, so when it’s not in session... I miss them a lot.”

While commuters navigate distance in miles, resident assistants witness up close how distance reshapes friendships. RAs spend breaks watching floors empty and then return months later with completely different dynamics.

Former RA Caroline Morris said this shift was impossible to miss.

“As an RA, you notice everything shift,” Morris said. “People come back from break acting totally different with each other.”

For Morris, the changes were even more dramatic when she worked abroad in Prato. After breaks, she said friend groups returned looking nothing like they did before.

“Some groups weren’t friends anymore, and others suddenly became besties,” she said. “Breaks changed all the dynamics completely.”

Research from Braskamp and Engberg in 2011 shows that



Maxcy Quad
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin

students who live or study abroad often undergo significant shifts in identity as they move between cultures, a transition that can strain social relationships during and after breaks. Morris believes this is why friendships were harder to maintain.

“Everyone was focused on what was going on at home,” Morris said. “They’d be trying to catch up with family, so reaching out to friends didn’t always happen – not because they didn’t care, there was just too much going on.”

In a place where home was a continent away, Morris said the silence wasn’t personal – it was inevitable. Students weren’t just stepping out of campus life, but into completely new worlds.

In the end, the silence between

semesters isn’t rejection, but a transition. Students aren’t slipping away from friends, but back into lives they paused before they left for school. Between shifts at home, family routines and different time zones, staying connected becomes less automatic and more intentional.

The quiet does not mean the connection is gone. As the semester picks back up, backpacks are repacked, group chats are revived and routines are rebuilt. Students return to the version of themselves that lives here – late-night talks, shared classes and the people who make campus feel like something close to home again.

Breaks scatter students, but real friendships find their way back to each other through the silence.

Pete Hegseth accused of war crimes in Caribbean Boat Strike

BY ADAM RELKIN
Politics Editor

Incumbent U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth is under new scrutiny and investigation following a new report which alleged that Hegseth ordered to “kill them all,” referring to survivors on a ship that was attacked twice. For context, since early September the U.S. has conducted various missile strikes in the Caribbean and Pacific Oceans, alleging drug smuggling on ships. Over 80 people have been reportedly killed in these missile strikes. With these strikes being in the vicinity of South American nations, President Trump has also threatened to strike on land in Venezuela and potentially Colombia.

“If they come in through a certain country, or any country, or if we think they’re building mills, whether its fentanyl or cocaine ... anybody doing that and selling it into our country is subject to attack. Not just Venezuela,”

Trump said. In response to the threats, Colombian President Gustavo Pedro invited Trump to come watch the country destroy and crack down on cocaine laboratories and also urged Trump not to strike on Colombian land claiming that it would be a declaration of war.

Now, one of the strikes from early September is under major scrutiny following the report on a Sep. 2 strike on a boat that allegedly was carrying narcotics. After the first strike of the boat, two survivors were spotted on the ship and according to the Washington Post, “Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth gave a spoken directive, according to two people with direct knowledge of the operation. “The order was to kill everybody,” one of them said.

The attack killed 11 people in total. This could constitute a war crime, as those who are wounded in attacks are not allowed to be attacked again under the Second Geneva Convention. This is also

mentioned in the Pentagon’s own Law of War manual which states, “Members of the armed forces and other persons ... who are wounded, sick, or shipwrecked, shall be respected and protected in all circumstances.”

Hegseth has denied the accusations in a post on X (Twitter) where he said, “Our current operations in the Caribbean are lawful under both U.S. and international law, with all actions in compliance with the law of armed conflict—and approved by the best military and civilian lawyers, up and down the chain of command.”

Despite this, the House and Senate Armed Services Committee have begun an investigation into the Sept. 2 attacks and if the second strike constituted a war crime. In an interview with NPR, Jim Himes, who represents the 4th district of Connecticut in the U.S. House of Representatives and is the Ranking Democrat for the House Permanent Select Committee

on Intelligence said, “I’m very interested in this video being released because, again, you know, this is a - the visual is two men who are about to go under the waves, observed for a lengthy period of time, shipwrecked sailors killed by the United States. Again, not in the fog of war, not because they pointed an AK-47 at an American service member, but just because there was this absurd notion that clinging to a piece of wood, they were still capable of hostilities, which is the legal question.

The alleged order in the attacks was given to Navy Admiral Frank Bradley although according to Himes, “The admiral confirmed that there had not been a ‘kill them all’ order, and that there was not an order to grant ‘no quarter.’ Despite this, multiple members of Connecticut’s congressional delegation such as Himes have called upon Hegseth to resign U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, who after calling for his resignation, also said, “He

is ultimately responsible for not only the second strike on that virtually destroyed boat, killing two individuals who were in effect out of the fight, which were murders or war crimes, but he is also accountable for the entire series of strikes on the boats that were destroyed, along with more than 80 deaths.”

Connecticut’s other U.S. Senator Chris Murphy, as well as representatives John Larsen from Connecticut’s 1st district and Joe Courtney from Connecticut’s 2nd district, have also called upon Hegseth to resign. Hegseth also went under fire for another post on X (Twitter) showing the cartoon character Franklin the turtle being used in a fake edition of the children’s books called, “Franklin Targets Narco Terrorists.” The Franklin publisher Kids Can Press said in a press release that, “We strongly condemn any denigrating, violent, or unauthorized use of Franklin’s name or image, which frankly contradicts these values.”

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Charger Bulletin Crossword

#7

By Lynelle Fernandez

ACROSS

- 1 Taurus animal

5 Live ____ (Taco Bell slogan)

8 Ones getting their degrees in December or May, for short

13 Double-reeded instrument similar to the clarinet

14 "And yet, here we ____"

15 Unsettlingly strange

16 Pinto, lima, or jelly

17 Outer edge of a basketball hoop

18 Formal decree

19 Little dog barks

20 Insect with a queen

21 Parenthetical remark

22 Trip and drop to the ground (2 words)

25 Hockey team defender
- 28 Three, in Italian

29 Direction where the sun rises

33 Grumpy "Sesame Street" character

34 Place for a hoop or stud

35 Flour recipe amounts, usually

36 When repeated twice, words used when consoling

37 Reshares on Twitter/X (abbreviated)

38 Ensnare

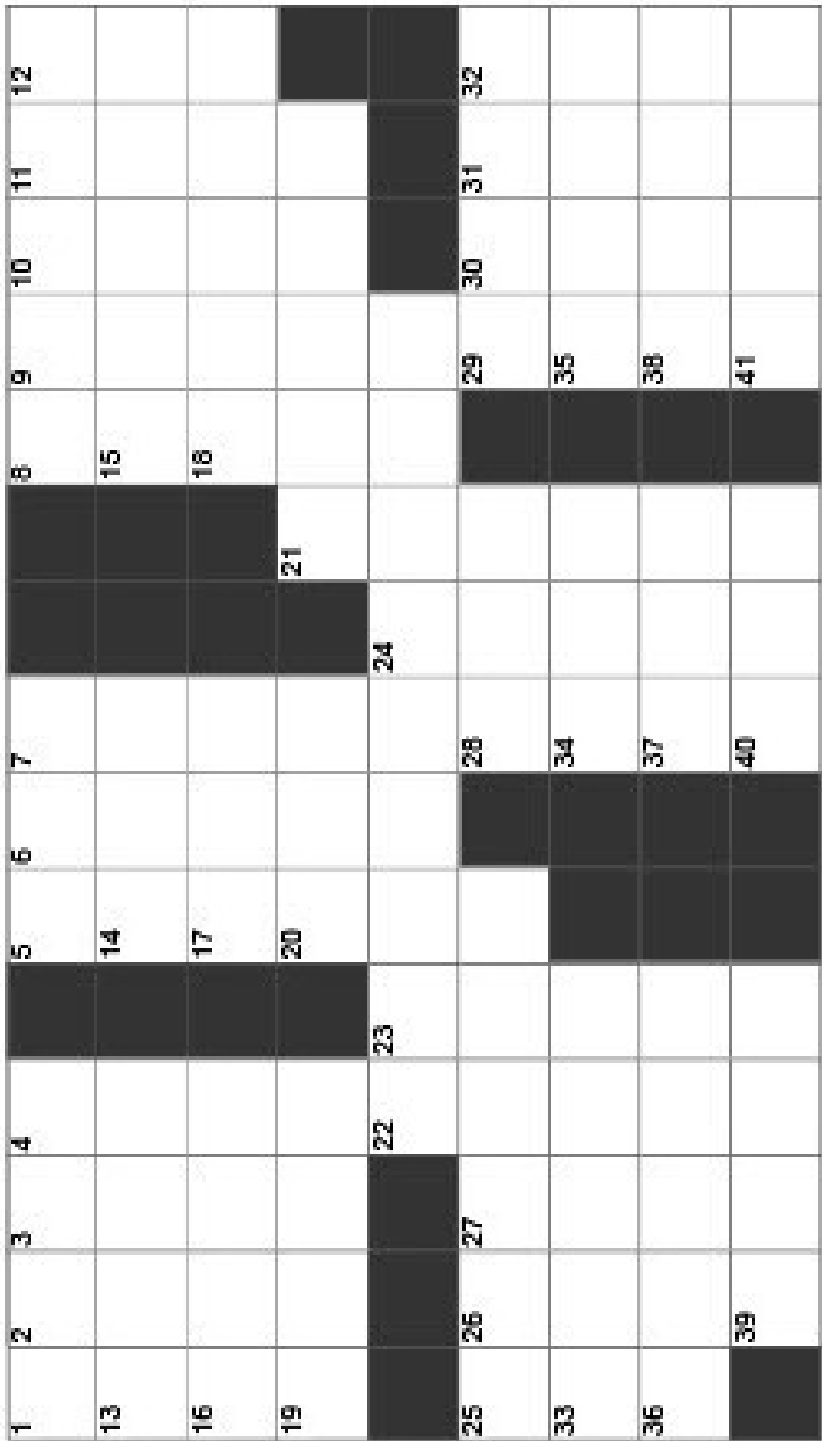
39 Greek war god

40 Use one's peepers

41 Bratty talk
- DOWN

1 Chewy pearls found in some teas

2 Cab company competitor



- 3 Unit of bread

4 Visual effect caused by bright lights in photographs (2 words)

5 Stone for a sculptor

6 Disney friend of Flounder and Sebastian

7 Academic terms that divide a year

8 Honking migratory birds

9 Changes the course of

10 Like a desert climate

11 Board game rollers

12 Word often found between "game" and "match"

21 Opposed to favoring

23 Buenos ____

24 Make a grand speech
- 25 Understood, as a joke's punchline

26 Workplace protection org.

27 Laptop brand alternative to Lenovo

30 Distinctive vibe about a person

31 Places for pampering

32 Vanilla extract recipe amounts, usually (abbreviated)

Chargers fall short in series against Siena University and UMass Lowell

BY ADAM SIGAL
Staff Writer

The university’s women’s basketball team returned home for an important two-game non-conference stretch that would provide a clearer picture of where the team stands heading into the midseason portion of their schedule. Their first game was against the Siena University Saints on Dec. 3 followed by a matchup against the University of Massachusetts (UMass) Lowell River Hawks over the weekend.

In the competitive matchup against the Siena Saints, the Chargers fell short 80-54. Lindsay Hogan provided an early spark with a quick layup and a defensive steal, while Aniya McDonald-Perry contributed 13 points and 10 rebounds, controlling the boards and scoring in traffic. The team’s bench added valuable minutes, hitting timely shots and helping maintain momentum when Siena started to

pull ahead. Several fast-break opportunities and a three-pointer late in the second quarter kept the game close and gave the Chargers chances to stay in contention.

Shooting consistency proved a challenge, as the team finished shooting 32 percent from the field, but they stayed competitive through smart ball movement and defensive effort. Hogan made key drives in the fourth quarter, and McDonald-Perry’s defensive presence led to multiple turnovers.

In their face off against UMass Lowell, the Chargers lost 60-43. Hogan and McDonald-Perry led the team’s effort, combining for 16 points and 16 rebounds while providing energy on both ends of the floor. Addisen Sulikowski and Jasmine McKay added timely scoring off the bench, helping the Chargers stay within striking distance in the first half. Early fast-break opportunities and three-pointers from Hogan, McDon-

ald-Perry and Sulikowski kept the game competitive, but UMass Lowell’s sharpshooters, led by Sabrina Larsson with 22 points, slowly built a lead with efficient scoring from beyond the arc.

New Haven finished 30.4 percent from the field and 26.3 percent from three-point range, while UMass Lowell connected on 41.3 percent overall and 50 percent from long range. Despite the deficit, the Chargers showed resilience with solid defensive plays, including multiple blocks and steals from McDonald-Perry, Hogan and bench contributions that kept the team moving offensively.

The women’s basketball team now has an overall record of 2-6. The Chargers will host the St. John’s University Thunderbirds on Dec. 17 for a non-conference matchup. Tip-off is at 7 p.m. at The Hazell Center. For more information, visit New Haven-Chargers.com.



Mikayla Taylor making a play.
Photo courtesy of Charger Athletics



Head Coach Debbie Buff speaking with her team.
Photo courtesy of Charger Athletics



Addisen Sulikowski dribbling the ball.
Photo courtesy of Charger Athletics



Addisen Sulikowski and Katie Drozd warming up before the game.
Photo courtesy of Charger Athletics

Boston College outlasts New Haven in final minutes, 67-63



BY DONOVAN RODRIGUEZ
Contributing Writer

The New Haven Chargers men's basketball team came within a few clutch plays of toppling the Boston College Eagles over the weekend. The Eagles mounted a second-half comeback and held on for a 67-63 victory at Conte Forum.

New Haven soared out of the gate, seizing control early and riding a 33-23 halftime lead from their fierce defense and efficient scoring. The Chargers appeared to have Boston College's number, as crisp ball movement, few turnovers and aggressive rebounding set the tone.

Senior guard Jabri Fitzpatrick led the squad with 16 points, while forward Stefano Faloppa came close to a double-double with 10 points and nine rebounds. Guard Najimi George added 14 points, and center Andre Pasha chipped in 13, a balanced attack that kept the Chargers competitive throughout. New Haven made 20 free throws out of 24

attempts, shooting an impressive 83 percent on the night.

But, Boston College's second half was an aggressive force. Guard Donald Hand Jr. nailed a three-pointer with 8:34 left to give the Eagles their first lead of the game, 48-46. This momentum never swung back to New Haven. Reserve Fred Payne spearheaded the Eagles' late-game surge, finishing with 18 points, while Hand Jr. scored the bulk of Boston College's final points. He had a clutch jumper and shot 5-for-6 from the foul line over the last 53 seconds to seal the four-point win.

Besides the leading scorers, two other Chargers were able to put points up for New Haven. Guard Maisson Adeleye had eight points and finished shooting 4-for-6 from the field. Adeleye tallied three steals, two rebounds and two assists. Guard Kheni Briggs had two points and one rebound.

As a team, the Chargers had 31 rebounds,

nine assists, nine steals and two blocks. New Haven committed 19 personal fouls and 10 turnovers.

The loss ends New Haven's three-game winning streak, but the Chargers showed determination in their first-ever meeting with the Eagles. They battled through the final minutes, trimmed the lead and forced strategic decisions, until Boston College's composure under pressure proved decisive.

The Chargers now have an overall record of 5-5 which keeps them at .500 early in the season. The performance may serve as a benchmark for the first Division I campaign under longtime head coach Ted Hotaling.

The Chargers will be back in action Wednesday as they face the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) Highlanders. Tip-off is at 7 p.m. in Newark, N.J. For more information visit NewHaven-Chargers.com or tune in on the NEC Front Row app.

Chargers lining up before tip-off.
Photo courtesy of Olivia Faulkner



Najimi George shooting a three-point shot.
Photo courtesy of Olivia Faulkner



Jabri Fitzpatrick dribbling the ball.
Photo courtesy of Olivia Faulkner