

# The Charger Bulletin

The student news source for the University of New Haven

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The university's police department.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin

## University response to shooting disappoints student body

BY ALEX SOTO  
Campus News Editor

Last Monday, an incident on Emma St. left students disappointed with the University Police Department (UPD).

911 dispatchers received several calls before 10:50 p.m. that night for a reported shooting. At the scene, West Haven police officers found one victim, an adult male with gunshot wounds.

Officers provided medical attention to the victim until West Haven Fire Department's arrival.

The man was later taken to the hospital and his current condition is not known to the public.

The following morning, a statement was sent out to all student emails from the Dean of Students Office addressing the incident, stating that no alert was sent out to students as the incident did not involve any students and was off campus.

"No University of New Haven students were involved. In collaboration with the West Haven PD, it was determined that the situation was isolated to an area off campus and that there was no threat to the University's campus," the statement said.

This statement upset several students, with many criticizing it and the university's inaction for not sending out an alert during the incident.

Following the incident, junior Emma Graybill called her boyfriend out of fear and concern of him running into the shooter.

"The incident on Emma Street was a bit scary," Graybill said. "At the time my boyfriend was actually driving down Lydia Street at the time so I had him on the phone because I was worried that he would run into the shooter."

Graybill was one of the students displeased with the university's response.

"The response that UPD

made was a bit lackluster in my opinion," Graybill said. "When [it] says that the situation was handled by the West Haven police and they didn't need to do anything it felt like an undermine of the fear and worry that students had at the time."

While the incident did not take place on campus, many were concerned with its proximity to campus. Emma St. is less than half a mile away from the center of our campus and also less than a 10 minute walk from Forest Hills, an off campus dormitory. The surrounding neighborhoods are also the homes to many university students who choose to commute and rent nearby off-campus houses.

"I understand that it wasn't on campus but it is very apparent that there are students living off campus as well," said Graybill. "And commuter safety should be as equally prioritized as on campus student[s] especially to those

living so close to campus."

The university's reasoning for not sending out alerts is confusing for some, as it would mean the university shouldn't have sent out a number of alerts sent last academic year. In the statement sent to students, the Dean of Students Office states that alerts will be sent out by university police when they find it necessary.

"As necessary, our University Police Department uses an emergency notification system as well as the LiveSafe App to provide timely public safety updates to our University community," the statement reads. However, whatever constitutes an alert as necessary appears to be inconsistent.

On Aug. 29, 2024, an alert was sent out to all students warning of a person near campus with a potential firearm. Another alert was sent after West Haven police found the person of interest and found that the suspected firearm was a glass liquor bottle shaped

like a gun. In this second alert, it was also clarified that the person of interest never entered campus.

This incident did not occur on campus, did not involve a student and nobody was hurt. These factors warranting an alert caused confusion among students as they are almost all applicable to the incident that happened on Emma St. except in the more recent incident, a victim was hit by gunfire, making it more severe.

Looking into alerts from earlier this year, on Feb. 27, an alert was sent out warning students of traffic at First Ave. and Campbell Ave. This alert being sent out indicates that alerts must also apply to commuting students, which make up a sizable amount of renters near campus.

The university has yet to respond to any criticisms of their response.

# A preview of Election Day and what to expect locally and nationally

BY ADAM RELKIN  
Politics Editor

The first Tuesday in November is one of the most important days of the year in the United States, it's Election Day. One of the most important civic duties that Americans hold is exercised on this day, the right to vote.

Normally, the country's biggest and busiest elections are held in even-numbered years, with 2026 being the midterm elections and 2028 being the next presidential election. Many elections are not held in odd-numbered years, there are still plenty to watch for today, including some local to campus and others elsewhere in the country that have garnered national attention, such as governor and mayoral elections.

The West Haven mayoral election is one occurring today. Incumbent mayor Dorinda Keenan Borer is running for a second two-year term and hopes to continue her tenure as the 13th mayor of West Haven. She is running unopposed on the ballot as a Democrat after previously defeating Republican Barry Lee Cohen in 2023, all but guaranteeing a second term for the incumbent.

Down the road from West Haven is New Haven's mayoral election, where incumbent Justin Elicker is seeking a fourth two-year term as New Haven's 51st mayor. His challenger in the general election is Republican candidate Steve Orosco. If elect-

ed, Orosco would become New Haven's first Republican mayor since William C. Celentano was re-elected to a fourth two-year term in 1951.

As part of Elicker's re-election campaign, he has touted how the city's crime rates have dropped, there's been a rise in affordable housing, as well as the creation of a new service called Elm City COMPASS, which is meant to respond to 911 calls related to situations involving mental health crises amongst other situations. Orosco on the other hand has campaigned on issues such as addressing crime with a larger police presence, redeveloping New Haven's Long Wharf and wanting Yale University to contribute towards the city.

On Sept. 30, a debate was held between Elicker and Orosco with other issues being debated such as ICE raids and possibility of National Guard deployment within New Haven County, funding of city police, New Haven's school district, homelessness and drug use. Regardless of the winner, this will be New Haven's last mayor elected to a two-year term, as a ballot initiative passed by voters overwhelmingly in 2023 will increase mayoral terms in the city to four-year terms starting with the 2027 election.

Outside of Connecticut, there are several other elections across the country getting national attention, such as the New York City mayoral election. Incumbent Mayor Eric Adams withdrew from the race after running as an inde-

pendent candidate, which dropped the race to three frontrunners.

Democratic nominee Zohran Mamdani, viewed as a rising star within the party after a come from behind victory in the primary held in June. Republican nominee Curtis Sliwa, repeats as the nominee after losing to Adams in 2021. Independent former New York governor Andrew Cuomo, who is staying in the race following a loss to Mamdani in the Democratic primary.

Mamdani, who has served as a member of the New York State Assembly since 2021, has gained notoriety for how he's ran his campaign with promises such as freezing apartment rent, making city buses free, increasing taxes on the wealthiest residents and plenty of other policies, going as far as wanting to arrest Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu if he visits the city.

Despite calls from Cuomo's campaign to drop out, Sliwa is remaining in the race and has implied he'd rather be hit by a truck or be impaled rather than dropping out to endorse Cuomo. Sliwa, who founded the Guardian Angels in 1979, has run on a heavy promise of cracking down on crime by hiring more police in areas such as subways and general streets.

Cuomo on the other hand has run on platforms such as reforming the education system, reforming healthcare, combating antisemitism and addressing issues both Mamdani and Sliwa have pledged as well. This mayor-



Lawn signs endorsing candidates in West Haven. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Evan Pecorele

al race is expected to be the most watched nationwide today.

While most governor elections are held in midterm years, there are two being contested in New Jersey and Virginia, both with term-limited incumbents meaning a new governor will take office for four-year terms. In New Jersey, Mikie Sherrill who represents the state's 11th congressional district is running as the Democratic nominee. Former state assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli is repeating as the Republican nominee after losing narrowly in 2021. The race is expected to be one of the closest nationwide, with most polls showing Sherrill winning by as little as one percentage point and few going above five percentage points.

If elected, Sherrill would become only the state's second female governor, and Ciattarelli would become the first Republican elected governor since Chris

Christie. In Virginia, incumbent Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears is running as the Republican nominee and former congresswoman Abigail Spanberger is running as the Democratic nominee. Spanberger has led polls consistently in high single digits but on occasion has had some polls give double digit leads. Regardless of the winner, Virginia will elect a female governor for the first time in state history.

Other notable elections to watch nationwide include ballot initiatives such as California Proposition 50, other statewide Virginia elections such as for Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, mayoral elections in large cities such as Minneapolis, Seattle, Miami, and plenty of others. Regardless of winners, the outcomes will show how Americans continue to exercise their important civic duties by deciding their leaders.

## Leaked offensive messages in Young Republican group chat sparks outrage

BY ADAM RELKIN  
Politics Editor

On Oct. 14, messages from a group chat of Young Republican chapter leaders nationwide were leaked by Politico. The group chat contained thousands of messages that included language that was racist, sexist, antisemitic, homophobic and that promoted violence. The chat included nine leaders from four states: New York, Kansas, Vermont and Arizona.

The Telegram chat named, "RESTOREYR WAR ROOM," included more than 2,900 pages of messages over the course of seven months. Some examples of the more notorious messages included ones that suggested sending political enemies to gas chambers, praising Adolf Hitler, referring to Black people as "watermelon people" and monkeys. Some messages joked about and applauded rape while also suggested such occur towards political opponents. Multiple slurs were also found to have been used over 200 times.

Following the leak, outrage within the party and the Kansas Young Republican chapter was shut down. Danedri Herbert, chair of the Kansas Republican Party said, "Their comments do not reflect the beliefs of Republicans and certainly not of Kansas Republicans at large, who elected a Black chair a few months ago."

Michael Austin, chief executive of the Kansas Black Republican Council also condemned the comments and said, "Such conduct is not merely offensive. It is a betrayal of the very principles upon which our party was founded: the defense of liberty, the abolition of slavery and the belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every human being."

William Hendrix, the Kansas Young Republican chair who took part in the chat, was also fired from a job he had under Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach.

The New York Young Republican group also shut down and disbanded later in the week after a unanimous vote among party leaders.

Following the vote, New York Republican Party chair Ed Cox said that the New York State Young Republicans (NYSYR) was already in a broken state and needed to change heavily regardless of the leak or not amongst leadership. Republican members of congress from New York also expressed frustration and anger, such as Mike Lawler who represents New York's 17th Congressional District. In an X (Twitter) post he said, "The deeply offensive and hateful comments reportedly made in a private chat among members of the New York State Young Republicans are disgusting. They should resign from any leadership position immediately and reflect on how far they have strayed from basic human respect and decency."

The only elected official in the group chat was Vermont state senator Samuel Douglass, who resigned days after the leak after Vermont Republicans called for his resignation. Republican Gov. Phil Scott said "Those involved should resign from their roles immedi-

ately and leave the Republican party — including Vermont State Senator Sam Douglass." A similar joint statement also came out from all Republicans serving in Vermont's state senate and state house.

While most high positioned Republicans called for resignations and firings, U.S. Vice Pres. JD Vance downplayed the messages and suggested that the people in the chat should not have their futures ruined. Vance said on an episode of The Charlie Kirk show, "They

tell edgy, offensive jokes. That's what kids do. And I really don't want us to grow up in a country where a kid telling a stupid joke — telling a very offensive, stupid joke — is cause to ruin their lives."

Despite the claims of Vance, who is 41, that the participants were kids in college, most participants were in their late 20s and early-to-mid 30s, including 35-year-old Joe Maligno who served as the general counsel for the NYSYR.

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 Whorowski, 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](http://www.unehavensettlement.com) for more information.

# SCOPE hosts RSO Trick-or-Treat event on Halloween

BY ALEX SOTO  
Campus News Editor

Despite the windy and cold weather, campus was full of Halloween spirit on Friday.

As part of a number of Halloween festivities across campus and even off, the Student Committee of Programming events (SCOPE) hosted SCOPE Frights and Delights.

A number of recognized student organizations (RSOs) came to the Bixler/Gerber Quad to table for a trick-or-treat style event.

Organizations saw great success in getting their names out to both new and old students. Some of the most 'popular' tables at the event included The Center for Student Engagement, Leadership and Orientation (CSELO) and the University of New Haven Robotics club.

Robotics Club President, Emma Graybill shared the club's secret for success

and said, "So with the tabling we really focused on being super out there and friendly to people (greeting people and making eye contact when going near the table) to make them feel welcome and engaged."

Many of the organizations gave out fun gifts, however the Robotics table was so popular that they didn't have enough gifts for all.

"If we were to do anything differently I would have asked for more pumpkins as people wanted to take them but we didn't have enough for everyone," Graybill said.

This wasn't the only obstacle the event faced as SCOPE wished they had prepared activities that were better suited for the occasion.

"Something we would have done differently was provide more activities that fit with the weather. It was super windy so some of our supplies were blowing



Maxcy Hall from the Maxcy quad entrance.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Evan Pecore

away," said Mia Zullo, SCOPE's Charger Engagement Director

SCOPE often deals with hiccups coming from supplies and vendors when planning for events, however for this event the obstacle was a factor they couldn't negotiate with, weather.

Despite the challenges faced by weather, SCOPE

is still proud of the event as it was an accumulation of effort and teamwork.

"SCOPE as a whole is always proud of our events. to our events and enjoy themselves," Zullo said. "We all put in a lot of work to support each other and our events."

While this was the only event that fell on the holiday itself, SCOPE had been

building up the anticipation for Halloween steadily with events each day of the week. Students participated in Glow and Gore Golf, a trip to Phantom Fall Fest at Lake Compounce and a Stuff a Reading Buddy Event.

SCOPE's Halloween events fully concluded Sunday, with a trip to Six Flags.

## How the university's housing changes have impacted upperclassmen

BY AZAM HOSTETLER  
Contributing Writer

The current freshman class is one of the largest in the university's history, leading to significant changes to the housing process. Implemented in the spring, these adjustments have resulted in some upperclassmen living in dorms farther from campus as the university tries to accommodate the large freshman population.

The residential building at the forefront of the discussion has been Celentano Hall, which has transitioned from an upperclassmen-only building to one that allows underclassmen to select it during the housing application process. Consequently, some students who believed they were guaranteed a spot in this building have had to search for off-campus housing with short notice.

As a result, upperclass students' housing options are often located farther from main campus, with options such as the Forest Hills Apartments, The Atwood,

Parkview and Savin Court Townhouses, which can be up to two miles from campus.

Cindy Sanders, the director of residential life since last October, said "Placing first-year and sophomores in university housing located closer to the center of campus helps ensure they are near the resources that are most critical to success during the transition to college and the early college years."

Though much of the off-campus housing allocated for upperclassmen are newer with more features, their distance from main campus creates a need to travel farther to engage with campus life.

Celentano Hall, a higher-end building, is also located in the heart of the university's campus and provides the advantages of proximity and quality to students living there.

Pearce Boit, a senior majoring in intelligence analysis and living in the Forest Hills Apartments said, "We've been here the longest, we've



Parking lot that overlooks Celentano Hall and the library.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Azam Hostetter

put the most money into this college. I've been here four years. We've poured a lot more money into this than freshmen or sophomores, so I think it's only fair that we should get priority housing."

Transportation has also become an issue under the new housing policy changes, as having a car is crucial to commute from some of these off-campus apartments. While campus shuttles are available, their limited routes and inconvenient schedules don't always meet the students' needs. Jillian

Carroll, a sophomore majoring in chemical engineering and living in Celentano said, "I think they should build more housing in general on campus, because no one wants to walk from Forest or Atwood."

There is an uncertainty for many students like Carroll who worry about the future of their housing selection process.

Sanders said the ability to live farther from the center of campus can actually be a positive for upperclassmen,

because it can "...foster more independence and better reflect settings that replicate what they may live in after graduating."

Ultimately, some students may enjoy the benefits of privacy and separation that living off-campus offers, while others are affected by not having a choice in living off-campus. This is not an issue that will be solved immediately, but engaging in discourse that presents a variety of perspectives is a step in the right direction.

## Guillermo del Toro's "Frankenstein" brings a new adaptation of the horror icon to life

BY NATALIA LIZAK  
Arts & Life Editor

Following its limited theatrical release in October, Oscar-winning director Guillermo del Toro's "Frankenstein" arrives on Netflix Nov. 7. The \$120 million adaptation of Mary Shelley's iconic novel is being praised for its craftsmanship, from stunning gothic visuals to emotional storytelling.

"Frankenstein" follows scientist Victor Frankenstein (Oscar Isaac) as he brings to life his monstrous creation (Jacob Elordi), a story that according to the film's synopsis, "ultimately leads to the undoing of both the creator and his tragic creation." With an 85% critic rating and a 95% audience rating on Rotten Tomatoes, the film continues to gain praise since its original debut on Aug. 30 at the Venice International Film Festival.

"Guillermo Del Toro's 'Frankenstein' is a breath-taking coup, an exhilarating riposte to the conventional wisdom about dream projects.

The writer-director makes something almost new, and definitely rich and strange, out of a story we all thought we knew well," said American film critic Robert Ebert.

People who have yet to see the film have also praised del Toro for taking on this adaptation.

"While I haven't seen it yet, it's great to see such a creative and visionary director like del Toro give his own spin on a classic story like Frankenstein," said vice president of the university's Cinephile Collective club, Sean Green. "While others might think of it as an unnecessary remake, I've seen that del Toro only takes on projects that he's truly passionate about and does everything he can to get them made."

Others agreed.

"Visually—based on the trailer—the film appears to be what one would expect from del Toro: masterfully staged and visually stunning," said university professor Paul Falcone.

To del Toro, the film was a

lifelong passion project. In an interview with Variety, he said, "It took 30 years. It's a movie I wanted to make before I even had a camera. It's been my Mount Everest to climb."

While doing interviews about his film, del Toro has also spoken out against the usage of generative artificial intelligence (AI) in film.

"AI, particularly generative AI—I am not interested, nor will I ever be interested," he said. "I'm 61, and I hope to be able to remain uninterested in using it at all until I croak. ... The other day, somebody wrote me an email, said, 'What is your stance on AI?' And my answer was very short. I said, 'I'd rather die,'" del Toro said in an interview with NPR.

His comments ignited the discussions surrounding the use of AI in film.

"Because of his drive for passion projects, it made me happy to see a titan of the industry like him take such a definitive stand against use of AI in film," Green said. "As someone just getting their



"Frankenstein" movie poster.  
Photo courtesy of IMDb

foot in the door, I've already seen how AI has damaged the industry and will continue to take jobs. Honestly, I'm very worried about AI, but I find del Toro's commitment to human artistry genuinely inspiring."

As a professor in the film and media studies department, Falcone said, "Many of my students, young filmmakers themselves, also reject the

use of generative AI in their work."

"I believe this is a natural reaction to the fear of being replaced," he said. "However, AI is here now and here to stay, and filmmakers—as well as the broader film industry—will inevitably find ways to incorporate it into their creative processes just as we have in our film curriculum."

## NBA gambling scandal exposes deeper mafia ties behind the headlines

BY ASHLEY CRAIG  
Contributing Writer

As the NBA faces one of its biggest scandals, headlines have focused on the star names involved, but a deeper story lies behind that involves organized crime and a gambling network that stretches far beyond the court.

Federal investigators announced more than 30 arrests this month in relation to illegal sports betting and rigged poker games, revealing connections between professional basketball figures and members of New York's most notorious mafia families. According to The New York Times, the operation linked the Bonanno, Gambino, Genovese and Lucchese families to an underground gambling ring that recruited NBA insiders to lend credibility to high-stakes poker games and betting operations.

Among those charged were Portland Trail Blazers head coach Chauncey Billups, Miami Heat guard Terry Rozier and former NBA player Damon Jones. Federal prosecutors allege the group participated in or benefited from schemes involving rigged poker games equipped with X-ray card tables, special sunglasses and

manipulated shuffling machines used to cheat players out of millions. The Associated Press said that the gambling network operated in Manhattan, Miami, Las Vegas and the Hamptons, often under mafia protection.

While much of the coverage has focused on the downfall of NBA figures, fewer outlets have examined the criminal infrastructure behind the operation. The Guardian said that "the Bonanno, Gambino and Genovese crime families ... had pre-existing control over non-rigged illegal poker games around New York City and became involved in the rigged poker games, taking a cut of the proceeds and enforcing the collection of debts."

"It has nothing to do with legal gambling and everything to do with those in positions of power in places like the NBA getting in bed with La Cosa Nostra," said FBI Director Kash Patel, warning that the operation involved "acts of extortion, fraud, money-laundering and wire fraud."

The FBI's statement confirmed that intimidation and violence were used to collect debts when players or participants lost large sums, further underscoring the mafia's involvement. Yet as the story

Name/Family	Role in Case/Operation	Mafia Connection/Involvement
Chauncey Billups	Coach; connected to rigged poker games	Bonanno, Gambino, Genovese families
Terry Rozier	Player; insider betting investigation	Not specified
Damon Jones	Former coach; linked to both poker and betting schemes	Bonanno, Gambino families
Gambino Family	Organized and funded poker operations	Central role in network coordination
Bonanno Family	Enforced debt collection and intimidation	Partnered with Gambino and Genovese operations
Genovese Family	Provided network access and protection	Supported high stakes poker logistics
Lucchese Family	Managed side betting and money laundering	Operated connected underground betting circuits

gained traction online, much of the narrative focused on the star athletes rather than the criminal networks that enabled them.

In response to the scandal, federal authorities are turning their attention to the NBA's leadership. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver is expected to testify before Congress following the indictments related to the scandal. A letter from the House Committee on Energy and Commerce has requested a formal briefing with Silver by Oct. 31, as lawmakers seek to understand how such large-scale corruption could occur under the league's oversight.

NBA players have also voiced frustration about how quickly the scandal has shifted from structural corruption to a

player-driven narrative.

"Me personally, that whole world was introduced a couple years ago, and I don't think they took players into consideration, especially with the energy and the behavior that goes around gambling and how that directly correlates to players," said Celtics forward Jaylen Brown in an interview with Sports Illustrated. "We don't benefit from any of the profits or anything like that, but we've got to deal with a lot of the extra negativity and scrutiny behind all the gambling stuff."

Legal experts say this scandal is a test for both the NBA and federal regulators, especially as sports betting becomes in-

creasingly normalized through league sponsorships and mobile apps. If organized crime groups can infiltrate these spaces by exploiting relationships with athletes, it poses a risk not just to the league's image, but to the integrity of professional sports.

As investigations continue, questions remain about how much the NBA knew and whether federal oversight can keep pace with a sports landscape increasingly intertwined with gambling. For now, the public narrative remains focused on players, but the deeper story may be the one unfolding behind closed doors, where organized crime continues to bet on the game.

Graphic of key figures and Mafia connections the media is focusing on.  
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Ashley Craig and Natalia Lizak

# Chargers fall to 4-5 after 35-20 loss to Sacred Heart



Joe Fragale punting the ball.  
Photo courtesy of Olivia Faulkner

BY ADAM SIGAL  
Staff Writer

The New Haven Chargers (4-4) went into Fairfield looking to bounce back against the Sacred Heart University (SHU) Pioneers after a tough loss the week prior. SHU (5-3) entered the matchup in a similar position, also coming off a defeat and trying to protect home turf as both teams pushed toward the postseason. With each side eager to get back in the win column, the first half delivered the kind of intensity expected.

New Haven opened strong in the first quarter, and moved the ball efficiently through the air behind quarterback AJ Duffy before settling for a 39-yard field goal from Liam Quigley to start the game with a 3-0 lead. The Chargers defense brought early pressure too, with a combined sack from Rikervin Encarnacion and Frederick Borkey to hold the Pioneers scoreless. New Haven controlled field position and tempo, heading into the second quarter on the front foot.

Sacred Heart flipped the script in the second quarter with its run game. Mitchell Summers powered the Pioneers down the field and

punched in a six-yard touchdown which put SHU up, 7-3. The Chargers responded as Jalen Smith ripped off a 73-yard run to set up Jayden Shwed's two-yard touchdown and retake the lead 10-7. But, the momentum slipped away late as a blocked punt and an interception set the Pioneers up with short fields. Summers scored again with 51 seconds remaining to give Sacred Heart a 14-10 advantage at halftime.

The Pioneers opened the third quarter with the ball and continued to test New Haven's defense on the ground. The Chargers had an early stop, but the offense could not take advantage, and went three-and-out, which gave the Pioneers another chance to extend their lead.

A deep connection to Dean Hangey and a costly unsportsmanlike penalty on New Haven set up Sacred Heart inside the 10, where Chuck Webb powered in a 10-yard touchdown to advance the lead to 21-10. New Haven later pushed across midfield with a big gain by Brian Thomas Jr., but a turnover on downs stalled the drive, and the Chargers entered the fourth quarter still searching for answers.

The Pioneers seized full

control early in the fourth as Jack Snyder found Hangey for a 43-yard touchdown to make it 28-10. The Chargers chipped back into the game with a 29-yard field goal from Quigley, but Sacred Heart quickly responded with a bruising drive and another back-breaking play. This time, a 34-yard touchdown run from Snyder that grew the lead to 35-13 with just over three minutes left.

New Haven continued to fight and Duffy marched the offense down the field with completions to Isaac Glaudin and Evan Chieca before connecting with Kevonne Wilder for a 20-yard touchdown strike that cut the deficit to 35-20. The onside kick attempt did not travel the required distance, which brought Sacred Heart to close the game out in victory formation.

After the loss, New Haven is now 4-5 overall. For their final regular game of the season, the Chargers will host the Merrimack College Warriors on Saturday for their senior recognition game. Kickoff is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. at Ralph F. DellaCamera Stadium. For more information on New Haven football, visit [NewHavenChargers.com](http://NewHavenChargers.com).



Kevonne Wilder getting ready for the snap.  
Photo courtesy of Olivia Faulkner

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**Is it harder to learn from professors with accents?**

BY DONOVAN RODRIGUEZ  
Contributing Writer

Every new semester, college students debate if professors with thick accents should teach courses packed with technical material.

It's a touchy subject. Some students claim that accents make it harder to understand lectures. Their frustration often shows up in course evaluations or online sites, such as Rate My Professor, an online platform that allows college and university students to anonymously review their professors and courses.

However, research shows those complaints are not always about clarity and are sometimes about bias

An NPR study report said professors with international accents received lower scores on Rate My Pro-

fessor, regardless of how well they taught. This is where it gets complicated. Students may frame concerns as issues of comprehension, but too often the criticism reflects hidden discrimination or prejudice.

Students at the university say that when they initially begin a new course, they may have a difficult time trying to understand their professor, which makes it challenging to take the professor seriously.

"Honestly, the first couple days it was kind of a struggle," said Sylas White, a freshman sports management major. "It was kind of hard to understand him."

While understanding his professor has gotten easier, he said the biggest challenge was taking the

professor seriously.

White said his professor with an accent has accommodated students by being an avid writer during his lectures and classes. While he taught, he would almost translate on the whiteboard. Having a professor with an accent simply made White more attentive in lectures.

Adam Saada, a freshman health science major, is taking a class from a professor with a slight accent. Saada said he and his peers experience moments of confusion where communication is unclear, but as with other professors with accents, this particular instructor accommodates students to make their lessons easier to understand.

"From the first day I noticed he's a very good communicator; he told us from the jump that English

isn't his first language, so I knew it was going to be somewhat of a struggle, but it's been good so far," said Saada. "As of now I haven't really faced any challenges other than trying to understand him here and there."

In a TedTalk video titled, "Imaginary Accents; or The Power of Subconscious Bias," professor Dr. Valeria Bogorevich, who speaks English with a European accent, explains that students often confuse the way someone speaks with their ability to teach. This connects to the NPR study showing that professors with foreign accents often get lower ratings on sites such as Rate My Professor, even when they are just as effective as their peers. The problem is not understanding; it is bias.

**A look into New Haven football's first Division I season**

BY JULIET LEGASSA  
Contributing Writer

For decades, New Haven football built its name on grit and Division II dominance. So what does Division I have in store for the Chargers?

The University of New Haven started a new era. This summer, the school moved all 20 of their athletic teams to NCAA Division I competition. The Chargers will compete in the NEC, joining schools such as Long Island University, Stonehill College and Central Connecticut State University. According to the university, most Charger teams will be integrated into conference schedules for this upcoming academic year.

However, the football team will continue to compete independently as discussions continue about its placement within the NEC's structure and schedule. The NEC football schedule is updated every two years, and the university missed the most recent deadline to be added to the conference play schedule. For Nikkem "Nike" Reynolds, a senior defensive back who transferred from Stetson University, the Division I shift has added meaning to

his final college season.

"It feels like a new journey, and I'm excited to be part of history," said Reynolds. "For me, coming into a new system is natural. But this is different, we're the first group to play D1 football here. The goal is simple: to make our mark."

The Chargers football program has consistently done well at the Division II level, and head coach Mark Powell said the transition has required adjustments on and off the field.

"The competition is different. The athletes we're facing are bigger, faster, stronger," said Powell. "... more complex, and every week requires another level of preparation."

But preparation doesn't end with game plans, film, practice or lifts. The move to DI has placed additional demands on players' time and energy.

"Kids have more on their plate now, longer travel, tougher opponents, but they're still expected to handle study hall, class checks, everything that comes with being a student-athlete," Powell said. "That balance is part of our identity."

The transition to Division I has brought excitement across campus.

"The response has been unbelievable," Powell said. "Our president, athletic director, and fellow teams have all rallied behind us. Events like the Blue and Gold games show that this isn't just about football, it's about the whole university moving forward together."

Reynolds said alumni support has also been strong.

"People talk about the tradition here and how much pride there is," he said. "Being the first group of guys to carry that tradition into Division I is something I'll never forget."

Elyssa Bower, a senior communications major and defender on the women's lacrosse team said she shares the same excitement.

"This program has such a strong culture," Bower said. "The players, the coaches, and even the wider community in New Haven are incredibly supportive. That kind of environment makes it so much easier to step into a higher level, because we're not doing it alone. Everyone's in it together."

Not every benefit of mov-

ing to Division I will be evident immediately. According to ESPN and school reports, New Haven won't be eligible for the NCAA championship competition until the 2028-29 season.

This allows New Haven athletics to continue finding their identity in Division I, while also establishing a name in the NEC. New Haven is not the first to make such a transition. ESPN reported that two other NEC schools, Stonehill College and Le Moyne College, are currently undergoing the same transition. The shared experience has put the Chargers at the center of a growing group of programs seeking to establish themselves nationally.

"This first year is about building details and culture that will last," Powell said. "We're elevating a program with a rich history and positioning it for long-term success."

Reynolds agreed.

"We want to be remembered as the first group that started it all," he said. "This season is about more than wins and losses, it's about building the future."

## Volleyball finishes trio of games 2-1 and recognizes their seniors



BY MIKAELA MOTZ  
Managing Editor

Juli De Acharan setting the ball to Josie Foster.  
*Photo courtesy of Olivia Faulkner*

Last week, the Chargers played a trio of games against the Long Island University (LIU) Sharks and the Le Moyne College Dolphins. New Haven fell short 3-0 to the Sharks and finished the two-game series against the Dolphins, ---.

In the first set against the Sharks, the Chargers started strong with

two kills from right side Victoria Trunkl. The Sharks' offense quickly fought back and went on a three-point spree that placed them in the lead for the remainder of the set. Chargers' right side Lauren MacKellar tallied five kills, but it wasn't enough to mount a comeback. LIU won the first set, 25-18.

The second set began with a rally. The Char-

gers put points up with kills from MacKellar and right side Kassadi Avent, as well as from an attack error made by LIU. The Sharks countered with two kills from Bella Correia and an additional kill by Sara Garcia. LIU took the lead on a five-point spree and didn't look back for the remainder of the set. The Chargers again fell short, 25-18.

In the third set, New Haven and LIU went back and forth by exchanging points with dominant offense play on both sides. Both teams had a four-point spree until an attack error by the Chargers put the Sharks in the lead for the remainder of the set. LIU secured the win, 25-21 after a service ace by Miabella Musignac.

The Chargers had their first home win and sweep of the season when they defeated Le Moyne 25-23, 25-14 and 25-21 in their first game. MacKellar led New Haven with 11 kills and middle blocker Naliah Grannell followed with 10. The Chargers tallied 37 kills and 10 errors during the three sets. Setter Juli De Acharan had 29 assists while libero Payton Malinoski asserted defensive dominance with 14 digs.

Before the second

matchup, New Haven honored four senior players; De Acharan, Sofia Kamke, Evelyn Kay Girard and Grannell. The Chargers won 3-1 and secured the series win after four sets; 25-18, 15-25, 27-25 and 25-19. New Haven finished the match with 54 kills and MacKellar led with 18 followed by Trunkl with 10 and Avent with seven. The Chargers tallied 16 errors compared to the Dolphins' 13.

After the trio of games, the Chargers stand 5-20 overall and 4-10 in conference play. New Haven will be back in action for a two game series against Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) beginning Friday. First serve is scheduled for 6 p.m. in New Britain, Conn. For more information, visit [NewHavenChargers.com](http://NewHavenChargers.com).

## Field hockey closes out the season with senior recognition

BY SKYLAR GRIFFIN  
Associate Editor

The Chargers took on the final two games of the 2025 season this week, losing to Mercyhurst University, 2-1 and to Long Island University, 8-0. Forward Emma Beaujouan scored the only goal of the week, assisted by Eliza Caven.

As New Haven closed out their first season as a Division I program, they honored seven seniors for the graduating class of 2026. Those seniors were Erin Smith, Ashley Gambino, Brynna Courneen, Carina Ramirez, Eliza Caven, Bryana Cyphers and Sydney Moda.

Despite a season of tough competition, many of the seniors looked back on their time at New Haven with pride and gratitude. As their final game came to an end, it was a rollercoaster of emo-

tions for both Caven and Courneen.

"I felt a lot of emotions about the ups and downs of how my college career went," said Courneen. "Battling a coaching change, injuries and a change in division, it was a weird feeling to finish this way." Courneen also said that the transition to Division I wasn't what she was recruited for, but she is proud of herself for giving it her all and "rolling with the unexpected."

Caven also said she felt proud after the game on Sunday. "I felt a sense of completion during my last game on the blue as a Charger," said Caven. "It's been 3.5 years of huge ups and huge downs that have helped shape who I am today and looking back on it, I feel proud of where I stand today."



Chargers celebrating Beaujouan's goal.  
*Photo courtesy of Olivia Faulkner*

Courneen also spoke on her time at UNH and said that her favorite memory as a Charger was their overtime playoff win her freshman year against Bentley University. "I felt such a sense of pride in my teammates and constantly looked up to those older than me and

have continued to chase this feeling throughout my career," said Courneen.

Courneen also wants her teammates to remember the impact she left on the New Haven field hockey program. "I want my teammates to remember me as a hard worker and a reliable

teammate," she said. "That was always my goal; to be the best I could be for them. I hope that they feel this way about me and continue this mindset as well... I always wanted to succeed and honor those that came before me, and I hope they continue to do the same."

## Men's soccer ties against Long Island University in a scoreless match



Luke Fiscella taking a corner kick.  
Photo courtesy of Olivia Faulkner

BY DONOVAN RODRIGUEZ  
Contributing Writer

Last week, the Chargers traveled to face the Long Island University (LIU) Sharks but with a fierce, they tied 0-0.

While the scoreboard stayed still throughout the evening, the match brought intensity and physical defense.

From the opening whis-

tle, the Chargers pushed with a high tempo through positional battling in the midfield. Midfielder Daniel Reyes set the rhythm early as he connected with his teammates and helped the Chargers push through the center of the field. The defense was solid as LIU started the game with four shot attempts, three

of which were missed because of the Chargers' defense, and an excellent save by goalkeeper Allesandro Bizzini. The Sharks attempted to counter the Chargers strong defense with speed up the wings, which was forcing New Haven's back line to stay sharp.

Defender Anthony Delgado led the Chargers' defense with center back Miles Foster, laying a foundation which was crucial as LIU attempted many direct shot attempts that were turned away.

New Haven had several promising looks throughout the match offensively. Forward Malik Carter fired a shot that barely missed over the bar after he beat his defender with a sharp cut to get into open space. Shortly after, winger Noah Estrada created another opportunity with a quick burst down the right side, but his driven cross was cleared before it could find a shot in the box.

The Chargers had five players that stayed in the match for the full 90 minutes; Bizzini, defenders Daniel Ehlin, Valerio Del Mastro, Lorenzo Garbarino and Mid-fielder Mathew Salinas.

Though the match ended

without a goal, the result highlighted New Haven's strong defense and resilience as post season positioning becomes urgent. While New Haven cannot compete in the post season due to the transition from DII to DI, they continue to prove themselves as a force to watch out for in the upcoming years. The Chargers held LIU to 0 goals while they were able to score five goals in their last three matches.

After the draw against the Sharks, the team is 4-5-5 overall and 2-2-2 in conference play. The Chargers will move into their next matchup on Thursday as they travel to face the Chicago State University Cougars. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. in Chicago, I.L. Viewers can tune in on the NEC Frontrow app to watch the Chargers. For more information visit [NewHavenChargers.com](http://NewHavenChargers.com).

## Women's soccer drops final two games of the 2025 season

BY SKYLAR GRIFFIN  
Associate Editor

The Chargers played two games this week to close out the season. They faced the Wagner College Seahawks on Thursday and lost 8-0. They also played on Sunday and lost to the Mercyhurst University Lakers, 2-1.

The match against the Seahawks was the last home game of the season for New Haven. Wagner had a dominant first half, scoring seven of their eight total goals. The first goal of the night was scored by the Seahawks' Kelly Gallagher just four minutes into the half. The assist was credited to Alana Goldsmith. The next goal was scored by Riley Frederick, unassisted. Wagner's Izzy Gomez

added the next two goals, back-to-back. Goldsmith then added a goal of her own 31 minutes into the match, assisted by Frederick. The next two goals came from Deirdre Meberg and Megan Knapp, closing the first quarter out with a 7-0 lead over the Chargers. New Haven was unable to mount a comeback, and the Seahawks scored the final goal off the foot of Kara Kilpert.

Sophomore forward Grace Simpson had three shots on goal, followed by senior defender Caroline Ennis with two and junior midfielder Emma Mitchell with one. Senior goalkeeper Caitlin Daley had nine saves, followed by junior goalkeeper Jordan Glalica with one save of her own.

New Haven faced Mer-



Savannah Reed kicking the ball.  
Photo courtesy of Olivia Faulkner

cyhurst on Sunday and fell short by one goal. The Lakers put up the first goal of the match by Maddi Cowburn, assisted by Madison Sievering. The Chargers answered back before the end of the first half, with an unassisted goal from junior midfielder

Esthefany Aguilar, her first of the season. Going into the second half tied, Mercyhurst was able to take back the lead with a goal from Isabella Fiorillo, assisted by Sievering. New Haven was unable to put another one in the net, which finalized the close defeat at 2-1.

Simpson led the Chargers again with seven shots on goal, followed by Mitchell with two. Daley totaled eight saves in the match.

With the losses, New Haven closes out their first season in the NEC conference with an overall record of 0-15-1.