Hamden's happy hour

By K. FAE HULL
Staff Writer

Throughout America, people have been complaining about a lack of third spaces. For those who might not know, third spaces are locations other than work and home where people spend time forming connections and interacting with their community.

Third spaces have been a hot topic lately, with conversations around them taking place across the internet, from TikTok to well-known news outlets.

As more states and cities opt for hostile architecture, and fewer people attend community events in favor of online communities, free third spaces, like libraries, parks and clubrooms are going out of fashion in favor of businesses and places you're expected to pay to enter.

Happy hours have become a growing third space for students, as they make normal restaurant outings more affordable. Happy hours allow students a place to socialize with peers and non-students alike.

"At this point, I've gone to Side Street every Thursday since late August; they all know me by name, and it's a really good community, I think." senior film, television and media arts major Oliver Lee said.

Lee explains how he has been to three happy hours in Hamden: Eli's on Whitney, Haven and Side Street Grille, with him and his friend's favorite location being Side Street.

As one of the Quinnipiac Bananas, a few students who dress up as bananas and watch hockey games; Lee mentions even going to watch them there in his banana costume.

"My friends and I will religiously go to the happy hour at Side Street," Lee said.

The happy hour at Side Street Grille goes from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. It is the cheapest Lee says he has been to, with prices as low as $3. Lee notes the cheapest item, which is the 9-inch hot dog, but they also have nachos, giant pretzels, steak and cheese, egg rolls and more.

Lee notes that his second favorite is Eli's on Whitney. Though the food there was more expensive during happy hour, the event lasts longer. While it is still from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., it spans from Monday to Friday. They serve wings, fried mozzarella sticks and buffalo chicken wraps.

Another restaurant that has happy hours in Hamden is Mikro Depot, a restaurant with a lot of variety. It holds happy hours from Tuesday to Friday, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.. They sell smash burgers, tacos and swap out specials every week.

J Roo's Restaurant, a family-owned place with a large dining hall, holds happy hours from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., even longer than the others. They serve hot honey nuggets, meatball parm sliders and pizzas.

Wood n Tap has a location in Hamden, and they are a Connecticut-based chain restaurant that makes all of their food in-house, allowing for extra wiggle room with allergies and specific dietary restrictions. Their happy hours, nicknamed "Tappy hours," are held Monday through Friday, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. They offer crispy spicy tuna rice, calamari, pretzels and an assortment of desserts including pumpkin cheesecake, creme brulee and brownies.

If you are looking for something fancier, don't mind spending more and are up for a bit of a drive, try out Tavern on State, a place in New Haven. The happy hour goes from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday. They serve french onion soup, pork cutlet and bone marrow.

The Blue Tortuga Bistro and Bar is a Latin American bistro in New Haven known for its desserts including tres leches, churros and chocolate mousse. They serve meatball and cauliflower dishes for $10 during their happy hour, Monday through Saturday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

A Mexican place in New Haven, Camoucho Garage, has happy hours from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. There you can get bites for $8, like quesadillas, tostadas and Mexican hot dogs. They offer discounts to those attending concerts at the Westville Music Hall the same day, and they also do catering and events.

There are tons of options for happy hours in Hamden and nearby. Happy hours are just one of the few common third spaces left for us to enjoy. There are also tons of great restaurants nearby that do not do happy hour and are still amazing, but happy hours do offer a cheaper alternative for students. They also offer a place of community, a place and time to gather and connect.

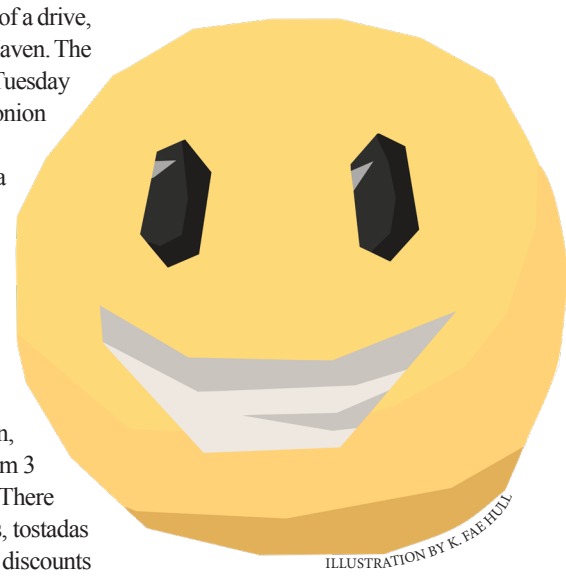

ILLUSTRATION BY K. FAE HULL

The ultimate Thanksgiving break watchlist

By SOPHIE MURRAY
Arts & Life Editor

Thanksgiving break is finally here, which means goodbye to late night study sessions, assignments and early morning classes for a week of relaxation, especially cozy nights on the couch.

Whether you're spending the week catching up on sleep, hanging out with friends or avoiding the inevitable family questions at the Thanksgiving table, finding something good to watch for the holiday is a must.

There is no better time to revisit Thanksgiving classics or discover a new show. From nostalgic movies to iconic Thanksgiving television episodes, here are some movies and shows to add to your Thanksgiving break watchlist.

FOR THE COZY FALL ATMOSPHERE

Thanksgiving break is the perfect time to enjoy the autumn atmosphere. Few shows capture the feeling quite like "Gilmore Girls" does. Between the small-town charm of Stars Hallow, the changing leaves and the inevitable fall vibe, binge watching the show is the perfect background for a relaxing break day.

For a movie option, "You've Got Mail" is another fall favorite. Set in New York City, the romantic comedy follows two bookstore owners who unknowingly fall in love through email while competing against each other professionally.

There's nothing better than a cozy fall vibe set in New York City.

FOR THE THANKSGIVING CLASSICS

Thanksgiving would not be complete without revisiting some of television's most memorable holiday episodes.

"Friends" has become practically synonymous with Thanksgiving because of its many annual holiday episodes. The episodes perfectly capture the chaos that often comes with the holiday, from revisiting Chandler's Thanksgiving horror stories and family and sibling drama with Ross and Monica, to cooking nightmares like Rachel's seven layer trifle, they are a must watch this holiday season.

One of my favorite Thanksgiving episodes is from "Modern Family." In the episode "Three Turkeys," the family prepares for Thanksgiving dinner, but Phil and Luke's attempt to cook a turkey behind Claire's back leads to lots of mishaps. Between family disagreements and unexpected surprises, it's a classic episode that captures the chaos of holidays with your family.

From "Gilmore Girls," a must watch episode is "A Deep Fried Korean Thanksgiving."

Lorelai and Rory somehow manage to fit four different Thanksgiving celebrations into one day, visiting Lane's family, Sookie and Jackson, Luke and Emily and Richard. Between Jackson's deep fried turkey disaster, the awkward family conversations at the Gilmore's, what better way to prepare for the holiday than watching Rory and Lorelai experience several Thanksgiving traditions that so many people can relate to.

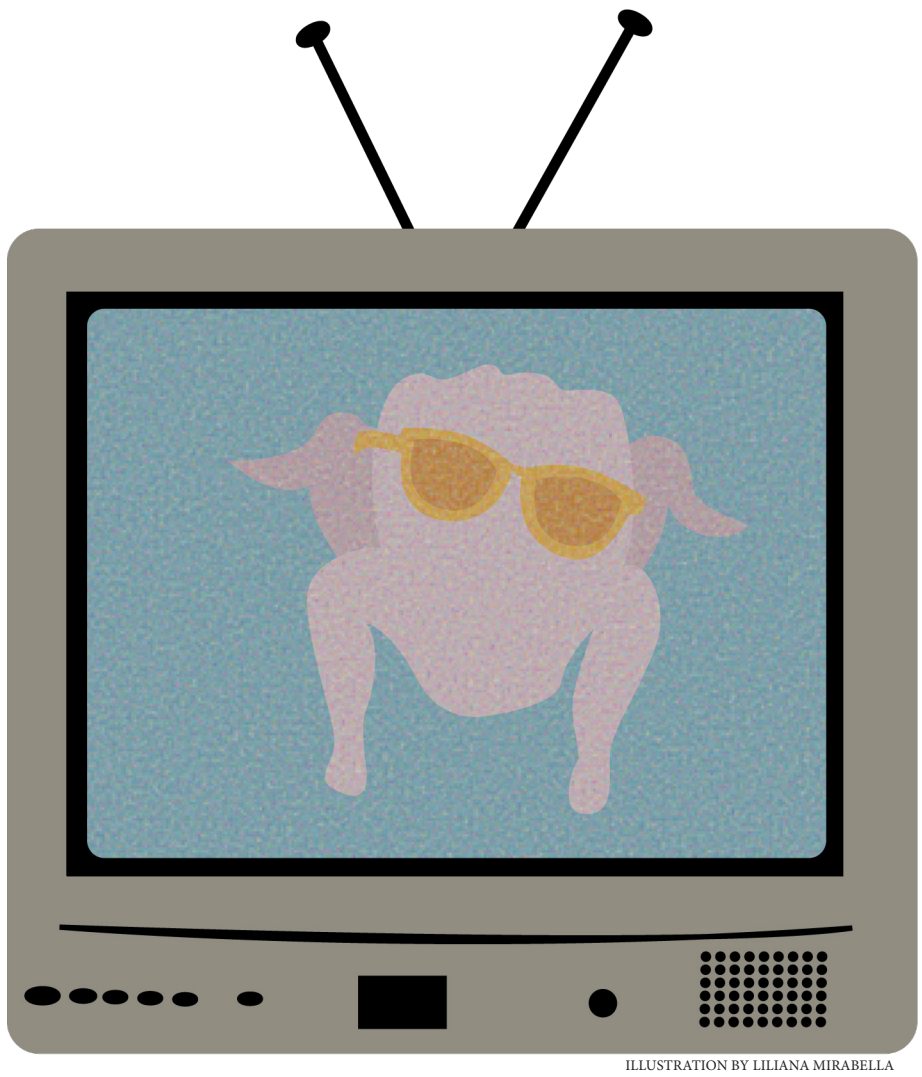

ILLUSTRATION BY LILIANA MIRABELLA

FOR A COZY MOVIE NIGHT

Sometimes the best way to spend a Thanksgiving break is by revisiting a classic. "When Harry Met Sally" is the perfect movie for a chilly November night. Set in New York City, the romantic comedy follows Harry and Sally as they navigate their friendship and relationship over the course of several years.

Between the iconic New York fall scenery, and the classic love story, it is such a comforting must-watch for the fall time.

"Little Women" is another perfect addition to the watchlist. Based on author Louisa May Alcott's novel, the film follows the four March sisters as they grow up, navigate relationships and discover their own paths in life.

Between its heartwarming family moments, nostalgic storyline and cozy atmosphere it's a perfect movie to watch when you're spending a night in.

FOR THE THANKSGIVING DINNER PREP

When I'm helping my family prepare Thanksgiving dinner, I love having something on in the background, and why not have it connected to cooking.

"Julie & Julia" is a perfect choice, following two women who find inspiration through their love of cooking.

"Ratatoille" is a lighthearted fun option, following Remy the rat who dreams of becoming a chef in Paris.

"It's Complicated" stars actress Meryl Streep as a bakery owner navigating family drama and an unexpected romantic situation.

These movies bring plenty of food and cooking to help bring some entertainment, and maybe even some motivation to a kitchen while everyone prepares for the holiday.

Whether you're revisiting an old favorite, catching up on a Thanksgiving episode of your favorite sitcom or finding something to play while dinner is being prepared, there's no shortage of options to fill your holiday break.