Involvement Fair sees bursts with energy

By Brandon Cortés
Features Editor

The Acadenic Quad at the university was transformed Sept. 3 into a maze of tables, banners and eager voices as the annual Involvement Fair took over the heart of campus.

Once a year, the fair serves as the university's central showcase of student life, inviting new and transfer students to explore clubs and organizations that stretch across academic, cultural, athletic and creative interests.

By early afternoon, rows of tables lined the space in front of Buley Library, each one staffed by student leaders ready to make their pitch.

Flyers were stacked in neat piles, bowls of candy doubled as conversation starters and posters promised everything from academic enrichment to late night rehearsals and volunteer opportunities.

Students moved in clusters, some scanning the layout like strategists, others drifting toward whichever table caught their attention. The result was a steady hum of activity, punctuated by laughter, music and bursts of applause.

The range of organizations was striking. The Math Club and History Club represented the academic side, emphasizing the chance to extend classroom discussions into collaborative projects and events.

Newer organizations staked their newfound places as well, eager to make their presence known. K-pop Club, launching this semester, quickly became a center of attention.

At one point, a group of students began dancing in the middle of the quad to a K-pop track, their moves pulling onlookers into an impromptu performance that turned heads and cameras. Theirs was not the only awe-inspiring and crowd-drawing performance, either.

The fair was not confined to a single type of interest. Athletic clubs stood alongside cultural associations, service groups next to arts organizations. Students who stopped by one table often found themselves pulled into a conversation at the next.

A glance at the sign-up sheets showed just how quickly names accumulated—many students joined more than one group, eager to sample the spectrum of what the university offers.

For newcomers, the fair was less about browsing and more about belonging. The energy of the afternoon made clear that there was no shortage of entry points into campus social life.

Whether someone was drawn to the structure of an academic club, the energy of a performance group or the mission of a volunteer organization, the options unfolded row by row.

The density of the fair left an impression. With so many organizations squeezed into one space, students were reminded that campus life is both expansive and interconnected.

A conversation about radio could lead to an invitation to a history event; a quick stop for a piece of candy might turn into a commitment to community service.

As the crowd lingered and tables gradually emptied of flyers, what remained was the sense of momentum. The Involvement Fair showed not only what clubs and organizations exist, but how the university's campus thrives on the connections they create.

The quad, for one afternoon, was not just a walkway—it was the center of a community in motion.



PHOTOS | WADE BARILLARO

Accounting club advertising their club at the Involvement Fair.



Students and club leaders at the Involvement Fair.

From mogul to meltdown: inside Diddy's evil demise

By Solé Scott
Editor-in-Chief



PHOTO | INSTAGRAM

Sean "Diddy" Combs at the Forbes Media Celebration.

The rise and fall of America's self-proclaimed "brother love" is astounding but long overdue.

Sean Combs, known as Puff Daddy or P. Diddy was arrested on Sept. 16, 2024, in Manhattan.

Homeland Security made the arrest after building a case against Combs for sex trafficking and racketeering charges.

His arrest was a year in the making after his singer ex-girlfriend Cassie filed a civil lawsuit against the record producer under New York state's Adult Survivors Act in 2023. This act gave victims a year to file civil claims without the statute of limitations.

The suit was gruesome, as Cassie accused Combs of physically abusing, drugging and raping her in what we now know as "freak offs."

Cassie was groomed by Combs after signing with his record company Bad Boy Records in 2005. The two began dating in 2007.

Added salt to the injury was the leaked hotel footage of Combs severely beating Cassie in the hallway of a hotel in 2016.

The trial of the 21st century started on May 5 and concluded on July 5. During the trial, the world learned details of what happened behind the scenes and what the "freak offs" entailed.

Cassie testified earlier this year while eight months pregnant about the decade-long tumultuous relationship.

The public found out about his bountiful stash of baby oil, and information about the many male prostitutes he would pay to have forced sex with Cassie while he watched soon followed.

The usage of pink cocaine amongst other drugs was also discovered during the investigation.

Sean Combs was found guilty of two counts of transportation to engage in prostitution.

He was found not guilty of racketeering conspiracy, fraud, sex trafficking by force or coercion.

His convictions carry a maximum of 20 years, and as of today, he remains in detention until his sentencing on Oct 3. Combs's lawyers were trying to get him out on bail of $1 million and relinquishing his passport.

The judge ruled against that as the defense previously admitted Combs's history of domestic violence.

As of, Sept. 3, Diddy and his defense team are trying to throw out his prostitution conviction due to the government using the wrong definition.

His idiotic demands caused a nasty side eye and eyeroll from me, as I am in disbelief that Combs wants to be acquitted or have a new trial. Prostitution is prostitution no matter how you package the sexual activity.

Combs has always been a menace and a poser who desperately needed to be in the limelight for any reason possible.

"Anyone out there who wanna be a recording artist and wanna stay a star and don't have to worry about the executive producer trying to be all in the videos, all on the records, dancing—come to Death Row," Suge Knight said at the 1995 Source Awards.

He is a sexual deviant that should be in prison for life due to his horrendous crimes, even the alleged crimes like, orchestrating the death of rapper Notorious B.I.G., or Biggie as we know him.

This is a hot take, but over time, it seems more believable considering what followed afterwards.

Biggie, whose real name was Christopher George Latore Wallace died on March 9, 1997, in a drive-by shooting in California just six months after Tupac was killed in an identical manner. 16 days after he died, his second studio album, "Ready to Die," was released.

That title alone sends a shiver up my spine.

I would not be surprised if they reopened the investigation into his ex-wife Kim Porter's death, as she died under mysterious circumstances after falling ill with pneumonia out the blue.

Porter and Combs had a physically abusive relationship, as friends say Combs punched Porter in the face, resulting in her getting a nose job.

Now his crimes have caught up with him after flying under the radar for over 30 years. I grew up with the saying that "God does not like ugly." This case just makes me wonder, who are the other predators in Hollywood that we do not know of yet?

I don't know what the future holds for Combs, but his actions have ended his career.

Inside of Radio Club

By Brandon Cortés
Features Editor

On the second floor of the Adanti Student Center, tucked behind racks of equipment and walls lined with posters, the university's radio club, WSIN, hums with life.

The lights on the soundboard flicker as members lean into microphones, playlists roll through speakers and a place students can call home

The club has been around in some form since the 1990s, but the pandemic nearly silenced it.

After COVID-19, membership dwindled, meetings fizzled, and the station faded into the background.

The revival came when a new general manager, studio art major Mahogany Rich, a junior, stepped in and members decided to rebuild.

"We really started fresh," Rich said. "When I joined, it was quiet. Meetings were late, energy was low, and the space wasn't being used to its potential. I didn't know much at first, but with help from everyone else, we brought it back to life."

That rebirth gave communications major, Gerryki Willisms, a junior, a place to thrive.

Williams has been part of the club since his freshman year and has held roles ranging from PR Manager to Webmaster, even temporarily stepping in as acting General Manager sometimes.

"I just love music," Williams said. "Once I found out there was a radio station on campus, I wanted to get my playlists on the air. It pushed me to dig deeper, find new stuff and share it with the campus body."

Williams, who has a concentration in film, Television and Media Production, also uses the station as a training ground for technical skills.

He has edited station IDs, experimented with sound engineering and learned the ins and outs of the board that controls the studio's broadcast.

"It gives me experience I can carry into film editing and production," Williams said. "It's fun, but it's also building my future."

What sets the Radio Club apart is not just the programming—it is the culture.

The studio is as much a hangout as it is a workplace. Students drift in to play video games on the club's PlayStation or Xbox, debate music genres, or crash on the green couch after a long day of classes.

"For me, it's bigger than music," psychology major Joylen Sandy, a junior, said. "This is like a second family. We bonded over music, but it goes farther than that. We go to shows together, hang out outside the station—it's its own culture."

That culture spills into the wider New Haven music scene. Club members regularly attend local pop-punk and rap shows, repost band events on social media and host interviews with artists.

The club plans to strengthen those ties by collaborating with local bands, organizing performances and one day hosting its own shows like those at peer schools University of Connecticut and Yale University.

The programming itself is eclectic. Members produce podcasts on everything from film reviews to interviews with local talent. They are encouraged to get creative.

Weekly meetings often feature music-themed activities, from playlist nights to experimental watch parties. One upcoming event will screen "The Wizard of Oz" synced with Pink Floyd's "The Dark Side of the Moon"—a classic mashup rumored to align perfectly.

"It's about creating experiences," Williams said. "We want people to come in, listen and discover something new."

Learning the ropes is part of the fun. New members are not handed manuals—they are encouraged to experiment.

The equipment is sophisticated, with stabilizers, CPUs and a main board that controls the studio's sound. Much of the knowledge comes from tinkering, trial and error or learning from older members.

"It's community-driven," finance major Julio Merced, a junior, said. "Someone shows you how to run a channel, you try it, and eventually, you teach the next person."

For newcomers, joining is simple. Students can walk in during meetings held every Thursday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., sign up for a slot or even pitch their own show.

Some stick around for years; others pop in for a single broadcast. Either way, the door is open.

The club's ambitions are growing. Members hope to establish a 24-hour broadcast schedule with rotating genres and shows, making the station a constant presence on campus.

They envision more collaborations, more events and more reasons for students to treat the studio not just as a station, but as a hub for creativity and connection.

For now, Radio Club remains exactly what it needs to be: a place where students gather, share their love of music and build friendships that last beyond the broadcast.

"You walk in for the music—but you stay for the people," Sandy said.