Student brings generational focus to Senate race

By Valentina Toro
Features Editor

Interdisciplinary studies major Justin Farmer, a junior, was 23 years old when he was elected to public office for the first time. Now 31, Farmer balances course-work at the university with a campaign for Connecticut State Senate's 17th District, framing his candidacy as a generational shift in politics.

Farmer, who is a democratic socialist, said his decision to run came from years of work and frustration with what he describes as missed opportunities in state leadership.

"I decided to run because to me, there's a generational conversation that's going on," Farmer said. "It's not so much an age conversation, but it is a generational conversation about where our politics are."

Farmer previously served six years on Hamden's Town Council. What began as a small grassroots effort, Farmer said, expanded into a campaign supported by hundreds of volunteers.

Now living in Westville, Farmer said he has intentionally moved closer to New Haven to deepen his ties to the community he hopes to represent.

He described his campaign as part of a broader effort to "build up the bench," preparing younger leaders to step into office rather than waiting for vacancies to open unexpectedly.

"We might lose elections," Farmer said. "But if we do it right, we will actually prepare a generation of people to lead rather than being in the situation where leaders leave, die, move or get defeated, and then we have no pipeline."

Farmer points to housing affordability and environmental concerns as key issues in the 17th District.

He said rising rent and home prices are making it difficult for young residents to remain in the communities where they grew up.

He also mentioned environmental challenges, including the West River watershed and urban heat concerns in New Haven neighborhoods.

"The demographics of the district have changed," Farmer said. "It's blacker and browner, and with that comes complexity, certain issues that I am more apt to talk about and able to connect on in ways that others won't."

As a younger candidate, Farmer acknowledged facing skepticism about his experience level. At 31, he said he exists in what he calls a "sweet spot" viewed by some as too young and by others as part of an older political class.

"There are folks who say you haven't paid your dues," Farmer said. "But my age is not my wisdom. Those are two different things."

Balancing a Senate campaign with academic work presents additional challenges. Farmer began college at 21 after managing health complications related to Tourette syndrome. He has taken semesters on and off while serving in office and organizing in the community.

Farmer hopes to shift how students view state politics. While national races often dominate headlines and social media feeds, he argues that local and state decisions more directly shape daily life.

"You don't have to agree with someone on everything to be in community," Farmer said. "It's important to vote, but it's important to vote with intention, and that means knowing what you want and paying attention locally."



PHOTO | JACOBIN

Interdisciplinary studies major Justin Farmer, a junior.



PHOTO | NEW HAVEN REGISTER

Justin Farmer adresses reporters during a press conference.

Tubi is the next giant in television streaming

By Solé Scott
Editor-in-Chief

Tubi is arguably the greatest streaming app ever created, and no one can overpower them.

I was scrolling on X and my page flooded with comments about Tubi announcing they will have over 100 Cartoon Network shows starting on March 1.

That is an impressive catalogue to acquire, and the app is entirely free for all to enjoy without the pressure of paying an ungodly amount of money each month.

The streaming app already has the largest catalogue of all streaming services, boasting 275,000 to 300,000 television shows and films.

Knowing that I can watch such an extensive number of shows and movies for free while I am still paying $20 for Netflix is mind boggling.

I started using Tubi last summer after noticing some of my favorite shows and films such as "Moesha," "Girlfriends," "The Equalizer" were available solely on Tubi.

I noticed that this app is a Black American film archive. Their are Black American film classics such as "Poetic Justice," "Crooklyn," "Selma," "In the Heat of the Night" and "Lean on Me."

Old Hollywood movies from the golden age such as "Roman Holiday," "On the Waterfront," "Twilight Zone: The Movie" and "Madame X" are available to watch for free. In fact, there is a whole page dedicated to one of the greatest eras of Hollywood movies.

Their original movies are not bad either, as I have found myself enjoying them at times.

They remind me of Lifetime or Hallmark, which is my guilty pleasure.

I have been a lover of Netflix since 2013 and Hulu since 2016, but after finding Tubi, my love for those apps has dwindled.

Tubi launched in 2014, and in June 2025, it was reported to have over 100 million active monthly users.

I am slowly but surely thinking about canceling my paid subscriptions because soon I will be paying the same price as I would for cable.

Clearly, I have been getting ripped off by these streaming companies.

For instance, Netflix keeps movies for a certain period, then gets rid of them.

I am still extremely salty about "Waiting to Exhale" only being available last December for a week on Netflix.

Oh, and let's not get into how "Romeo Must Die" has not been on Netflix since 2020 after celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Another great feature is their live TV with over 260 channels to choose from. This is available 24/7 with genre-specific channels for every craving.

Now, of course there are a negatives to the platform. There are commercial breaks, the same as watching regular cable, but that does not bother me at all.

Unfortunately, they do not have everything I watch, like "9-1-1," "The Rookie" or "Abbott Elementary." Most of their shows are older, but you can still find new episodes of "The Masked Singer" and "LEGO Masters."

However, nothing beats the cost of free.

Tubi is housing films and shows that were not available anymore outside of physical media. These acquisitions make sure the audience can still view their favorites in a more convenient style.

Every streaming empire now has a new rival, and it is just a matter of time before Tubi officially takes over as the biggest company.

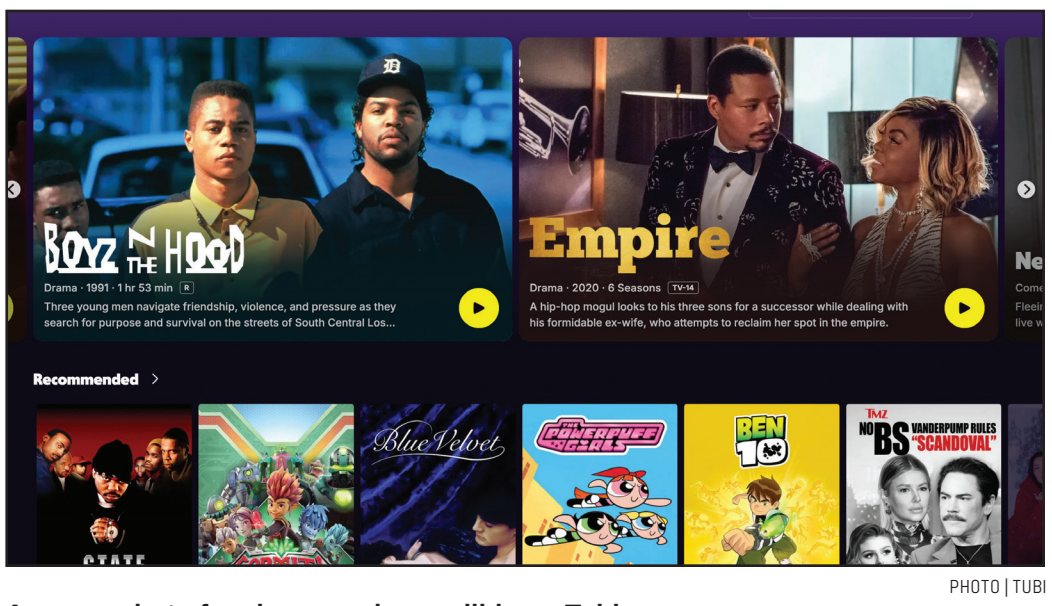

PHOTO | TUBI

A screenshot of various movies availble on Tubi.

Support and solidarity on campus for immigrants



PHOTO | VALENTINA TORO

Business administration major Jerimiah Parra, a junior and president of UndocuAlly Student Alliance.

By Valentina Toro
Features Editor

UndocuAlly Student Alliance is working to break down barriers for undocumented students at the university through advocacy, education and community building.

Founded in 2023, the organization was created to raise awareness about undocumented communities while providing direct support for undocumented and mixed-status students on campus. The club also welcomes allies who want to advocate for more equitable policies.

"UndocuAlly is a club that was made to bring awareness to undocumented individuals, but focusing on undocumented students here at Southern as well," business administration major Jerimiah Parra, a junior and the president of the UndocuAlly Student Alliance, said. "It was made to bring community and bring awareness."

Parra said the club's mission has become increasingly urgent as immigration policies and national rhetoric continue to shift.

While the university brands itself as a social justice-oriented institution, he said undocumented students still face structural challenges that often go unnoticed.

One of the most significant barriers involved a previous university policy requiring students to have health insurance to participate in club sports.

Because many undocumented students do not have access to insurance, the policy limited their ability to engage in campus life.

UndocuAlly members advocated for over a year to address the issue.

With support from faculty and administrators, the policy was eventually reconsidered, marking what Parra describes as a major victory for the organization.

In addition to insurance limitations, undocumented students face other obstacles, including restricted access to on-campus employment and fewer scholarship opportunities. According to Parra, many undocumented students must work multiple jobs off campus and balance full course loads, all while paying the same rates.

The club works closely with its three advisers — Maribel Sanchez, associate director of university access program, Daisy Torres-Baez, faculty and staff diversity recruitment and retention specialist, and Esteban Garcia, bursar — whom Parra described as instrumental in advancing student concerns. He also improved collaboration this year with university leadership, including the interim president.

"We can only do so much as students," Parra said. "When we have staff and faculty on that next level backing us, it really helps make change."

Beyond policy advocacy, UndocuAlly focuses on programming that builds community and fosters belonging.

This year, the club hosted a general body meeting and the Stories in Your Colors event, where students contributed to a mural that will be shared with community organizations in New Haven. Members also wrote cards to undocumented families impacted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Upcoming events include a Know Your Rights workshop scheduled for Thursday, March 5 and a mental health-focused Belonging and Caring event on Wednesday, March 4 where students can create flower bouquets and decompress.

The organization also plans to revive its UndocuJourney event, which highlights personal stories from students, faculty and staff navigating higher education as undocumented individuals or allies.

For Parra, dispelling misconceptions about undocumented students remains central to the club's mission.

"There's a stigma that undocumented students get handed everything, and that's completely false," Parra said. "They're working 10 times harder than most people realize, trying to build a future while facing barriers that other students don't have to think about."