



CONFIRMED 2022 COVID-19 CASES AT UCONN STORRS
as of 8:47 p.m. on Apr. 6 *positive test results

70 Current Residential Cases
(positive/symptomatic)

445 Cumulative Residential Cases*

361 Cumulative Commuter Cases*

War in Ukraine: Russia leaves behind massacres in liberated towns



A tree in the South campus quad is decorated with ribbons that mirror the colors of Ukraine's flag on March 8. President Joe Biden is seeking to place higher sanctions on Russia as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which began on Feb. 24.
PHOTOGRAPH BY BRANDON BARZOLA, MANAGING EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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Close to six weeks have passed since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, believing the war to be won in days. Ukrainian forces, provided with mass international donations, weapons shipments and volunteers, have not only halted Russian advances but pushed back against what is considered the second most powerful country on Earth.

In wake of the counter-offensive around the capital city of Kyiv, Ukrainian soldiers have discovered evidence of civilian massacres, as well as wide-scale looting and rape in the city of Bucha, 10 miles from Kyiv with a population of approx. 30,000 before the invasion.

The Guardian was the first news group to report the killings on April 3, when Ukrainian

tanks arrived at the city, finding devastation along the roads and homes of the town.

“Reporters from Agence France-Presse saw at least 20 bodies, all in civilian clothing, strewn across a single street in Bucha, and the body of a missing Ukrainian photographer, Maksim Levin, was discovered in a nearby village,” the Guardian reported.

Russian soldiers have repeatedly been accused of war crimes throughout the invasion, notably the shelling of evacuee convoys from the besieged city of Mariupol, according to the Guardian. However, the initial 20 fatalities were only the beginning of the horrific actions.

“All these people were shot,” Bucha’s mayor Anatoly Fedoruk told AFP, adding that 280 other bodies had been buried in mass graves in the town. “These are the consequences of Russian occupation,” the Guardian said.

The Sun spoke with Oleksei Reznikov, the Ukrainian Minister of Defense, about the killings in a video uploaded to YouTube. Reznikov arrived in Bucha on April 3, as the first major Ukrainian official to visit Bucha and the survivors in the town.

“This is not a special operation, these are not police actions, these are ordinary racists who committed crimes against civilians.”

OLEKSEI REZNIKOV

“This is not a special operation, these are not police actions, these are ordinary racists who committed crimes against civilians. They raped, killed, shot them in the back of the head. The whole world needs to know about this,” Reznikov said.

Survivors have also reported looting by Russian forces in Bu-

cha, including jewelry, electronics, kitchen appliances, clothing and motorcycles, including those of murdered civilians.

Russian officials have denied any responsibility for the action, claiming that the mass graves and destroyed buildings were faked to justify Ukrainian provocations. An article from CBS quotes the Russian Foreign Minister’s explanation, citing supposed evidence of forgery in the videos taken of the victims.

“Maxar Technologies provided nine images taken of Bucha on March 18, 19 and 31 to Reuters. At least four of the images appear to show bodies on one of the town’s roads, Yablonska Street. The city was occupied by Russian forces until about March 30,” Reuters said in an article refuting the Minister.

According to Forbes magazine, President Joe Biden is seeking to place higher sanctions on Russia and encouraged other members

of NATO to do the same. Biden even urged the investigation into Bucha to continue so it could be used as evidence in a trial on Russian war crimes in the invasion.

“This guy is brutal, and what’s happening in Bucha is outrageous and everyone’s seen it,” Biden said to reporters, according to Forbes.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited Bucha on April 4, calling the murders an act of Russian genocide against Ukrainians and requested further military support from NATO, according to a video from CNN.

As more cities are liberated by Ukraine due to the Russian withdrawal from the north of the country, many, including the BBC, Pope Francis and Zelenskyy himself fear that the scenes in Bucha will become commonplace — brutalized survivors among the countless dead victims of what the Russian government calls a “Denazification campaign.”

Lawmakers agree on tax cuts though debate over how, when

(AP) - While Democratic and Republican legislators agree taxes in Connecticut should be lowered, especially given the state’s large budget surplus, there was continued disagreement Wednesday over which taxes should be targeted and when taxpayers should expect to feel some relief.

The Democratic controlled Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee was expected to advance a major tax bill along mostly party lines that includes Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont’s proposals to increase and expand the local property tax credit and accelerate the planned phase-in of the pension and annuity income tax exemption.

While some GOP committee members praised some of the tax

reductions in the package, they contend taxpayers need assistance as soon as possible given the high rate of inflation. Any changes to tax credits, they said, won’t be felt immediately.

“The people of Connecticut want relief now,” said Sen. Henri Martin, R-Bristol, the ranking Senate Republican on the tax writing committee. “What we did a few weeks ago regarding the 25-cent reduction in (the gas tax) was a great step forward and I think we can do more. We can do it through the sales tax, we can do it through the meals tax, and people would feel that immediately rather than later.”

But Democrats contend their tax proposals provide both short- and long-term relief and don’t jeopardize fiscal improvements the state has recently realized.

“We believe that this proposal before us today threads that all-important needle of meeting the moment when it comes to helping those who are having a really hard time in the state right now afford basic things like child care and food and trips to the gas station,” said Rep. Sean Scanlon, D-Guilford, the committee’s co-chairperson.

Scanlon defended a provision in the tax bill that allows the state to spend higher-than-anticipated revenues, essentially departing from a revenue cap that lawmakers adopted in the 2017 budget. Scanlon said the proposed change would create a funding stream for three yet-to-be-approved initia-

tives: a new child income tax credit program, additional mental health services for children and more child care assistance.

Scanlon also stressed that while Democrats would like to cut taxes sooner and in larger amounts, the federal government currently restricts how much tax relief states can provide under rules governing how federal pandemic relief funds can be spent.

The General Assembly’s Appropriations Committee is expected to vote Thursday on the spending side of the new state budget. The separate tax and spending packages will become the basis for closed-door talks between legislators and the governor’s administration over the coming weeks.

“We believe that this proposal before us today threads that all-important needle of meeting the moment when it comes to helping those who are having a really hard time in the state right now afford basic things like child care and good and trips to the gas station.”

REP. SEAN SCANLON

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News

Alex Jones appears for questioning in Sandy Hook Lawsuit

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Alex Jones was questioned Wednesday by lawyers for families of Sandy Hook victims in Connecticut, where a judge had ordered the Infowars host to face mounting fines until he appeared for a deposition.

Relatives of some of the 20 children and six educators killed in the 2012 Newtown, Connecticut, massacre sued Jones for defamation after he said the shooting never happened. A judge found Jones liable for damages and a trial on how much he should pay the families is set for August.

Jones, who lives in Texas, had defied a judge's order to appear for a deposition in the case, saying he was too ill. But Connecticut Judge Barbara Bellis said there wasn't enough evidence that Jones was too sick to attend and ordered him to come to Connecticut for questioning and pay escalating daily fines until he did so. Jones paid \$25,000 in fines for Friday and \$50,000 in fines for Monday, according to court records.

A spokesperson for the families and their lawyers at Bridgeport-based Koskoff, Koskoff & Bieder declined to comment on the deposition Wednesday.

“The trial’s going to be about ordinary people’s ability to say I’m not buying it, I want to raise questions, I want to draw my own conclusions.”

NORMAN PATTIS

Jones said in a video on the Infowars website that the deposition began Tuesday and was to continue Wednesday. He said in the video that the families' lawyers began the deposition by “demonizing” him for his questioning official versions of events.

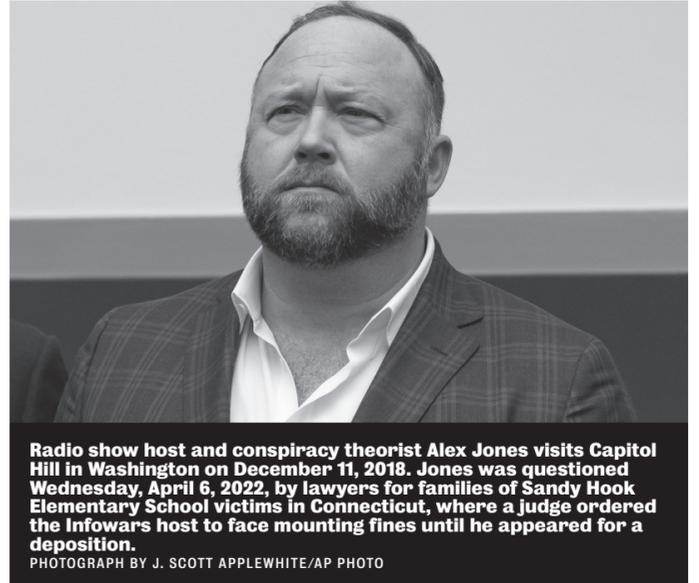
“It’s just totally insane to sit there and watch this happen and to watch them lick their lips and lick their chops and think we’re

going to finally shut Alex Jones down,” Jones said. “These people want to put us in prison for our speech.”

Jones' lawyer, Norman Pattis, said tempers flared at times during the deposition on Tuesday, and much of the questioning was not related to the school shooting.

“I had the impression watching the attack on Mr. Jones that this trial will be about something far greater than what happened at Sandy Hook,” Pattis said on the video. “The trial’s going to be about ordinary people’s ability to say I’m not buying it, I want to raise questions, I want to draw my own conclusions.”

The deposition was held at the Bridgeport office of Koskoff, Koskoff & Bieder. After it ended Wednesday, Pattis filed a court document asking Bellis to return to Jones the \$75,000 in fees he paid, which the judge said he could request only after sitting for questioning. Bellis did not immediately rule.



Radio show host and conspiracy theorist Alex Jones visits Capitol Hill in Washington on December 11, 2018. Jones was questioned Wednesday, April 6, 2022, by lawyers for families of Sandy Hook Elementary School victims in Connecticut, where a judge ordered the Infowars host to face mounting fines until he appeared for a deposition.

PHOTOGRAPH BY J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP PHOTO

Jones missed the originally scheduled deposition in the case on March 23 and 24 in Austin, Texas. He cited a health issue including vertigo that his doctors initially thought was a serious heart problem but turned out to be a sinus infection.

The plaintiffs have said they have been subjected to harassment and death threats from Jones' followers because of the hoax conspiracy promoted on his website show. Jones has since conceded the shooting did happen.

Will Smith resigns from film academy over Rock slap



Will Smith, right, hits presenter Chris Rock on stage while he was announcing the award for best documentary feature at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles on Sunday, March 27, 2022.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP PHOTO

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Will Smith resigned Friday from the motion picture academy following his Oscars night slap of Chris Rock and said he would accept any further punishment the organization imposed.

Smith in a statement released Friday afternoon said he will “fully accept any and all consequences for my conduct. My actions at the 94th Academy Awards presentation were shocking, painful, and inexcusable.”

Film academy president David Rubin said Smith's resignation was accepted. “We will continue to move forward with our disciplinary proceedings against Mr.

Smith for violations of the Academy's Standards of Conduct, in advance of our next scheduled board meeting on April 18.”

Smith loses voting privileges with his resignation. But there are other, less tangible benefits to being part of the academy, Hollywood's most prestigious organization: It bestows industry credibility on its members. It's invitation only, and with a once-a-year membership review.

“I betrayed the trust of the Academy. I deprived other nominees and winners of their opportunity to celebrate and be celebrated for their extraordinary work,” Smith's statement said. “I am heartbroken. I want to put

the focus back on those who deserve attention for their achievements and allow the Academy to get back to the incredible work it does to support creativity and artistry in film.

“Change takes time and I am committed to doing the work to ensure that I never again allow violence to overtake reason,” Smith concluded in the statement.

The resignation came two days after the academy's leadership board met to initiate disciplinary proceedings against Smith for violations against the group's standards of conduct. Those proceedings could have resulted in suspension or expulsion,

and it was not immediately clear what additional punishment he could face.

Had he been expelled, Smith would have joined a small group of men removed from the academy: Harvey Weinstein, Roman Polanski, Bill Cosby and the actor Carmine Caridi, who was kicked out for sharing awards screeners.

On Sunday, Smith strode from his front-row Dolby Theatre seat on to the stage and smacked Rock, who had made a joke at the expense of Smith's wife, Jada Pinkett Smith. Moments later, he went on to win the best actor award for his role in “King Richard.”

Rock, who was about to present Oscar for best documentary, declined to file charges when asked by police. He has only briefly addressed the attack publicly, saying at one comedy concert in Boston this week that he was still “kind of processing what happened.”

Smith stunned Rock, the theater crowd and viewers at home when he took the stage after Rock joked: “Jada, I love you. ‘G.I. Jane 2,’ can't wait to see it.”

Pinkett Smith, who has spoken publicly about her hair loss condition, alopecia, had a closely shaved head similar to that of Demi Moore in the original movie.

After Smith's attack, he returned to his seat and angrily twice shouted at Rock to “get my wife's name out your (expletive) mouth.” When Smith took the

stage again less than hour later to accept his Oscar, he tearfully apologized to the academy but notably omitted any mention of Rock.

The fallout was immediate and intense. Smith had supporters for coming to his wife's defense, but he was widely condemned for responding with violence and for marring both his long-sought Oscar victory and overshadowing the night's other winners.

That included Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson, director of the winning documentary, “Summer of Soul,” and the film's producers. They claimed their awards in the unsettled moments following Smith's attack and outburst, when the room's attention was shattered.

Before the disruption, the ceremony had represented a reset from the pandemic-constrained versions of the past two years. It was back in its home theater, boasted a trio of well-received female hosts — Regina Hall, Amy Schumer and Wanda Sykes — and had tallied several breakthrough winners.

Among them were “West Side Story” star Ariana DeBose, the first Afro-Latina and openly LGBTQ actor to win in the category of best supporting actress, and Troy Kotsur of “CODA,” the first deaf male actor to win the supporting actor prize. The night ended with “CODA” being crowned best picture, a landmark achievement for a streaming service and for a film with a largely deaf cast.

The Daily Campus

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Kentucky governor vetoes transgender girls sports ban

FRANKFORT, KY. (AP) — Kentucky's Democratic governor on Wednesday vetoed a bill that would bar transgender girls and women from participating in school sports matching their gender identity from sixth grade through college.

In his veto message, Gov. Andy Beshear said the Republican-backed measure "most likely" violates the U.S. Constitution's equal protection rights because it "discriminates against transgender children seeking to participate in girls' or women's sports."

The state's GOP-dominated legislature will have a chance to override the veto when lawmakers reconvene April 13 for the last two days of this year's session. The transgender bill sparked emotional debate at times but cleared both chambers with support from large majorities.

Republican-led states increasingly have adopted such prohibitions on transgender girls or women, though the culture war-related bans have been challenged in several states as violations of federal law. Beshear noted that similar measures drew vetoes from Republican governors.

Under the Kentucky bill, a student's gender would be determined by the "biological sex"



Fischer Wells, right, testifies against a bill that would bar transgender girls from participating in school sports that match their gender identity in Frankfort, KY on Feb. 10, 2022. Wells' mom Jenifer Alonzo, left.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SCOTT UTTERBACK/AP PHOTO

indicated on the student's original birth certificate issued at the time of birth.

Republican Sen. Robby Mills, the bill's lead sponsor, has said the measure would ensure girls and women compete against other "biological females."

In vetoing the measure, Beshear said its backers had failed to present a "single instance" in Kentucky of someone

gaining a competitive advantage as a result of a "sex reassignment."

"Transgender children deserve public officials' efforts to demonstrate that they are valued members of our communities through compassion, kindness and empathy, even if not understanding," the governor wrote.

Mills has said the bill reflects concerns from parents across

the Bluegrass State. He said it "thinks ahead" to prevent situations where girls or women are unfairly competing against biological males.

"It would be crushing for a young lady to train her whole career to have it end up competing against a biological male in the state tournament or state finals," Mills said during a debate on the bill.

The governor's veto was hailed by the Fairness Campaign, a Kentucky-based LGBTQ advocacy organization. The group's executive director, Chris Hartman, called it a "harmful piece of legislation that would deprive transgender girls and young women of the opportunity to grow and learn from being on a team, simply because of who they are."

"From the start, this bill has been more about fear than fairness," Hartman added.

David Walls, executive director of The Family Foundation, which supports the measure, said the governor sided "with his woke political base" in vetoing the bill.

"Biology matters, especially in sports, and we look forward to the General Assembly overriding Beshear's tone-deaf veto so that women's sports in Kentucky can be protected," Walls said.

During a committee hearing, lawmakers heard firsthand accounts from a young transgender girl about how important playing for a middle school field hockey is in her life. Fischer Wells talked about the friends she had made and how much fun she had being part of the team.

"It's disgusting that this bill is even suggested," she said. "It's terrible. And I worked really hard and practiced so many hours."

Storms batter aging power grid as climate disasters spread

(AP) - Power outages from severe weather have doubled over the past two decades across the U.S., as a warming climate stirs more destructive storms that cripple broad segments of the nation's aging electrical grid, according to an Associated Press analysis of government data.

Forty states are experiencing longer outages — and the problem is most acute in regions seeing more extreme weather, U.S. Department of Energy data shows. The blackouts can be harmful and even deadly for the elderly, disabled and other vulnerable communities.

Power grid maintenance expenses are skyrocketing as utilities upgrade decades-old transmission lines and equipment. And that means customers who are hit with more frequent and longer weather outages also are paying more for electricity.

"The electric grid is our early warning," said University of California, Berkeley grid expert Alexandra von Meier. "Climate change is here and we're feeling real effects."

The AP analysis found:

—The number of outages tied to severe weather rose from about 50 annually nationwide in the early 2000s to more than 100 annually on average over the past five years.

—The frequency and length of power failures are at their highest levels since reliability tracking began in 2013 — with U.S. customers on average experiencing more than eight hours of outages in 2020.

—Maine, Louisiana and California each experienced at least a 50% increase in outage duration even as residents endured mounting interruption costs over the past several years.

—In California alone, power losses have affected tens of thousands of people who rely on electricity for medical needs.

The AP analyzed electricity disturbance data submitted by utilities to the U.S. Department of Energy to identify weather-related outages. The analysis also examined utility-level data covering

outages of more than five minutes, including how long they lasted and how often they occurred. Department officials declined comment.

Driving the increasingly commonplace blackouts are weather disasters now rolling across the country with seasonal consistency.

Winter storms called nor'easters barrel into New England and shred decrepit electrical networks. Hot summers spawn hurricanes that pound the Gulf Coast and Eastern Seaboard, plunging communities into the dark, sometimes for months. And in fall, West Coast windstorms trigger forced power shutoffs across huge areas to protect against deadly wildfires from downed equipment.

MAINE

The power grid's fragility hit home for Lynn Mason Courtney, 78, a blind cancer survivor living in a retirement community in Bethel, Maine, a rural town of 2,500 along the Androscoggin River.

When Courtney's building lost power and heat for three days following a 2020 winter storm, the temperature inside fell to 42 degrees (6 degrees Celsius). Extended loss of heat isn't something most people are prepared for in a cold state such as Maine, she said, and one resident relied on old camping gear to try to keep warm.

"I developed hypothermia. I was dehydrated ... Two people on oxygen had nowhere to go. They just stayed in the apartment and hoped like hell that the power would come back on."

LYNN MASON COURTNEY

"I developed hypothermia. I was dehydrated," Courtney said. "Two people on oxygen had nowhere to go. They just stayed in the apartment and hoped like hell that the power would come back on."

Winter storms left more than 500,000 without power in Maine in 2017 — more than a third of the state's population. And in recent years, the state has seen record numbers of weather-related interruptions. The state never recorded more than five per year until 2018, but in 2020 it had 12, AP's analysis found.

As with much of the nation, Maine's electrical infrastructure was built decades ago and parts are more than 50 years old, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers.

The brittle condition of the state's power grid and repeated disruptions worsened by climate change worry Courtney.

"When the power goes out, it's extraordinarily difficult and dangerous," she said. "If you're disabled, it's scary. You're not safe."

As the planet warms, storms that threaten power reliability are likely to hit some areas harder, said Penn State University meteorology professor Colin Zarzycki.

A warmer atmosphere holds more moisture, increasing energy packed by storms no matter the season. The phenomenon produces, for example, increasingly destructive tropical hurricanes that strike the Southeast and Pacific storms that cause flooding on the West Coast.

On the East Coast, some nor'easters will convert to rainstorms as freezing weather shifts north. But those that fall as snow could be bigger than ever, Zarzycki said.

And some areas will get less snow but more sleet and freezing rain that can wreak greater damage on electrical systems, because ice-laden equipment is easier for winds to topple.

"Those really high-end nor'easters, the ones that take over CNN for days, those are going to occur with the same or increased frequency," Zarzycki said. "Where these events occur could lead to increased vulnerability, because the infrastructure is not prepared."

LOUISIANA

The combination of at-risk infrastructure and climate change can be deadly: After Hurricane Ida knocked out power to much of coastal Louisiana last year, heat killed or contributed to the deaths of at least 21 people, local coroners reported.

In New Orleans alone, heat caused nine deaths and contributed to 10 others, according to coroner's office records. Most who died were elderly and African American. Spokesman Jason Melancon



Downed power lines slump over a road in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida in Reserve, LA on Friday, Sept. 3, 2021.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MATT SLOCUM/AP PHOTO

could not say which victims did not have power, but 75% of the city was still without power when most died.

David Sneed, 65, died in his wheelchair on the 12th-floor of the subsidized apartment where he'd been without power for several days after the storm hit Aug. 29.

Sneed was obese and had a cognitive impairment that made walking difficult, so he used the wheelchair most of the time, said Rev. Ken Taylor, a professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where Sneed was a doctoral student.

Three days after the storm, Sneed called Taylor in near-panic and said he was unable to leave because the building's elevator was not working. So the next day, Taylor went to Sneed's apartment to bring him food and water — and it felt like 100 degrees (38 degrees Celsius), with no windows open.

When the professor returned the following day, he found the elevator was working. Sneed said he'd go down to the first floor where it was cooler. But when the reverend came back to check on him again, Sneed didn't answer.

When an apartment employee opened the door, Sneed's body was in the bedroom, slumped in his wheelchair.

"I speculate that he had rolled into his bedroom to put on some pants to go downstairs ... and the heat or his heart or a combination of the two" killed him, Taylor said. The coroner's office said Sneed died from the heat.

The financial toll of storms is huge — Louisiana's largest power company has said it will cost an estimated \$4 billion to repair damage from the hurricanes of 2020 and 2021. State regulators have ap-

proved \$3.2 billion of that, which Entergy Corp. estimates will add \$8 a month for 15 years to the average residential bill.

Problems with the grid and costs to fix them are expected to grow in coming decades, said U.C. Berkeley's von Meier.

Much of the grid was built decades ago, and the majority of power transmission facilities are now at least 25 years old. That's forced utilities to quadruple spending on the U.S. transmission system since 2000 to about \$40 billion annually, according to Department of Energy data.

Billions more will be spent, with costs passed on to consumers, but those efforts won't keep up with problems from climate change, von Meier said. "Rates will go up, reliability will go down," she said.

CALIFORNIA

In California, widespread anger erupted in recent years as utilities such as Pacific Gas and Electric Co. imposed deliberate power outages to guard against wildfires.

Almost 200 California wildfires over the past decade were traced to downed power lines that ignited trees or brush, including a record 41 blazes in 2021. Among them was a 2018 fire that ripped through the Sierra Nevada foothills town of Paradise and killed 85 people, resulting in criminal involuntary manslaughter convictions of PG&E. Another fire blamed on PG&E last year burned almost 1 million acres (390,000 hectares), 1,300 buildings and much of the Sierra Nevada town of Greenville.

Now when wind storms are forecast and the landscape is dry, utilities cut off power to hundreds of thousands of customers, sometimes for multiple days, to reduce fire risk.

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COMIC BY ANNA IORFINO, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Carson's Commentary

Come on, Clarence!

by Carson Swick

STAFF COLUMNIST
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Before I begin, I must express my pleasure with the decision of University of Connecticut administrators to fully lift the mask mandate this week. Doing so was long overdue, but absolutely the right move. I especially appreciate the power granted to students included in their email announcement: "Students cannot be directed or otherwise compelled to wear a mask if they do not wish to."

With that out of the way, I must now express my displeasure with America's most senior Supreme Court Justice, Clarence Thomas. For those who haven't heard, the actions of Thomas' wife, Virginia "Ginni" Thomas, have put the justice in hot water.

[Ginni Thomas] called Joe Biden's victory "the greatest Heist of our History" and urged [Mark] Meadows to advise Trump against conceding the election to Biden.

On March 24, an explosive report from Bob Woodward of The Washington Post detailed Ginni Thomas' involvement in the aftermath of the 2020 presidential election. The report revealed Ginni Thomas had texted then-President Donald Trump's chief of staff, Mark Meadows, days

after Trump's loss in November 2020. In this text conversation, she called Joe Biden's victory "the greatest Heist of our History" and urged Meadows to advise Trump against conceding the election to Biden.

The existence of Ginni Thomas' texts was uncovered by Woodward's report, and confirmed when Meadows handed over his information to the special House committee investigating the events of Jan. 6, 2021. As if her messages weren't bad enough, Ginni Thomas also attended Trump's infamous "Save America" rally at the White House that day — though she did not march to the Capitol and claims to have left the premises before Trump even spoke.

Translation: We get it, Ginni. Just like Boris Johnson, you didn't inhale. Even if Clarence Thomas had no involvement in his wife's shenanigans — which we'll probably never be able to prove definitively — her actions damage the credibility of both Thomas as a justice and the Court as an institution.

First and foremost, there is the principle of judicial neutrality. Neutrality is best defined as the idea that judges and SCOTUS justices should (a) take an impartial view of the Constitution when ruling on the law and (b) maintain a healthy degree of independence from the executive who appoints them. While many on both sides of the political aisle have criticized neutrality as an impossible standard to maintain, Ginni Thomas' actions clearly fall outside what is appropriate for her husband.

The Saturday, April 2, episode of "Saturday Night Live" illustrates this better than I ever could. As part of a broader skit titled "Fox & Friends Cold Open: Supreme Court Confirmation," Clarence Thomas' char-

acter (played by Kenan Thompson) answers the Fox News panel's questions vaguely without confirming or denying any of his wife's actions. His catchlines, "That's what they say" and "I guess we'll see," drew repeated laughs from the audience. Meanwhile, Ginni Thomas' character (Aidy Bryant) hangs onto her visibly uncomfortable husband and embraces her role as "the Yoko Ono of the Supreme Court."

Though it is satire, the SNL skit raises an important question about judicial neutrality: What legitimate reason does Ginni Thomas have to text Meadows about "the greatest Heist of our History?" I have no qualms with Ginni Thomas' activism, even if it is not historically the place of a SCOTUS spouse. But when said activism transforms into backdoor executive branch dealings that would make Richard Nixon blush, Thomas has compromised neutrality and affected her husband's jurisprudence.

This is most obviously evident by Clarence Thomas' stance in the Trump v. Thompson case, which SCOTUS declined to hear back in February. The case weighed the public interest in releasing many Jan. 6-related documents with Trump's claim of executive privilege — as a former president — for keeping these documents private. Thomas was one of several justices to vote against hearing the case, but he was the only justice to imply he would rule in Trump's favor if enough others voted to hear the case. On the issue of judicial neutrality, Thomas is guilty by both association and action.

What should be done about this? That answer depends who you ask. Senate Minority Leader Mitch Mc-

Connell (R-Ky.) says nothing. Some Democrats and left-leaning thinkers have argued Thomas should have recused himself from the Trump v. Thompson deliberations, as well as recuse himself from all 2020 election and Jan. 6-related cases moving forward. Others, such as MSNBC Opinion columnist Mehdi Hasan, have argued that Clarence Thomas' conflict of interest and extreme partisanship in rulings are grounds for impeachment by the House of Representatives.

Hasan notes that, in SCOTUS's 230+ year history, only one justice has ever been impeached: Samuel "Old Bacon Face" Chase. Appointed by President John Adams as a staunch Federalist justice, Chase's tendency to rule with his own partisan views instead of the law earned him this flattering nickname. But in Chase's impeachment trial, the Senate recognized the dangerous precedent of removing independent justices and acquitted him.

While I have argued that Clarence Thomas compromised his independence as a justice, his shortcomings are not equal to those of Old Bacon Face's. An analysis of the partisan leanings of each current justice by political scientists Andrew Martin and Kevin Quinn named Thomas the most conservative incumbent, at a margin of +3.03 to the right of center. However, the -3.959 score of Justice Sonia Sotomayor — an Obama appointee and the first Hispanic person confirmed to SCOTUS — means Clarence Thomas is actually not the most "radical" justice serving today.

While impeachment is ill-advised and unlikely, let's imagine the House Democrats become energized by

the pending confirmation of Ketanji Brown Jackson to SCOTUS, which is likely to happen before the end of this week. Jackson's confirmation is certainly an achievement for Democrats, but it accomplishes little in changing the Court's ideological composition — the outgoing liberal, Justice Stephen Breyer, will be replaced by the incoming liberal, Jackson.

But if Thomas, a staunch conservative justice who has served for more than 30 years, is further plagued by this scandal, it could absolutely become a situation that transforms SCOTUS' ideological composition. A conviction on any article of impeachment is impossible without a Democratic supermajority in the Senate, but the combination of political pressure from this scandal and Clarence Thomas' age — he will be the oldest incumbent justice after Breyer's retirement — could push America's second Black justice to an early retirement.

In other words, if Clarence Thomas becomes the next 1990s appointee to follow Breyer out the door, the future balance of SCOTUS gets a lot more interesting.

Since Anita Hill first accused him of sexual misconduct more than 30 years ago, Clarence Thomas has been no stranger to controversy. But because this controversy hits him so close to home and reveals far more involvement in the executive branch than is advisable or appropriate for a Supreme Court Justice, Clarence Thomas should recuse himself from cases related to the 2020 election and the events of Jan. 6, 2021. And if Ginni Thomas is called before the committee, she better be ready to explain herself.

The Proper Way To Assess: Why testing sucks

by Aastha Gupta

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Exams are stressful and often not a true reflection of our intelligence, yet we pay \$30,000 a year to have our intellect determined by a number. I must admit, exams are sometimes a necessary evil, a way to determine if what is being taught is being retained, but having exams as the only evaluating measure can result in an inaccurate representation of intellect. Teaching to ensure good grades can also lead to students focusing on memorization rather than application — a technique that creates students ill-prepared to face problems in which they must utilize that information.

High school was not perfect, and like most people, I was ready for the next chapter of my life. But the one thing I missed was the creativity when it came to assessments of our understanding. Writing our own soliloquies after reading Shakespeare. Recreating the trenches of World War I. Walking in the forest after learning about sedimen-

tation. And yes, though group projects and presentations could sometimes be remarkably frustrating, they forced me to learn teamwork and communication skills. These projects all made me not only truly learn the material but also gain the skills I would need to succeed as an adult. Indeed, a Forbes article notes that only 13% of adults believe that college graduates are prepared for the workplace. The switch from an immersive learning environment to sitting in a room and listening to a lecture was a sharp change. Compared to the projects and book reports of my youth, tests felt like a poor reflection of my understanding nor did they aid in the challenges I would face in the workplace.

Something I always found interesting were the complaints my parents made about work. It usually was not about not knowing the specifics of how to do a task (since they could ask someone or just look it up) but often it was about the people they worked with. This is not just a problem my parents face. On LinkedIn, the first challenge listed is a lack of com-

munication. Being in school surrounded by peers promotes socialization, but we are not often put in situations where our judgments are questioned. Indeed, usually if we meet someone we don't like, there is little pressure to have to meet them again let alone work on a career-defining project with them. In real life, you have to depend on others. You have to build rapport. In real life, you will never find yourself isolated and having to know all the answers unless you find yourself taking an exam.

To better this, we can begin with making small changes, such as adding in varying forms of assessments. For example, papers and projects rather than just exams. However, this will be difficult for some subjects. For those, partner tests might be a good option. That may sound like a suggestion from someone who has had a poor experience with exams. And yes, I have. But partner tests would not only ease the burden placed on individual test takers but also allow students to gain experience in working with others.

Indeed, it is the perfect compromise. Students would have to know the material, but if partners disagreed on a question, they would have to dig into why they thought an answer was right. In this way, students would better understand the material while also developing their ability to work with others.

Partner exams are but one idea and they alone will not prepare college students for the quarrels and experiences of the workplace. But for the amount we pay and the time we spend, it may be beneficial for colleges to promote forms of assessment that not only assess their students' capabilities, but also promote understanding and the formation of real-world skills.

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Life

@dailycampuslife

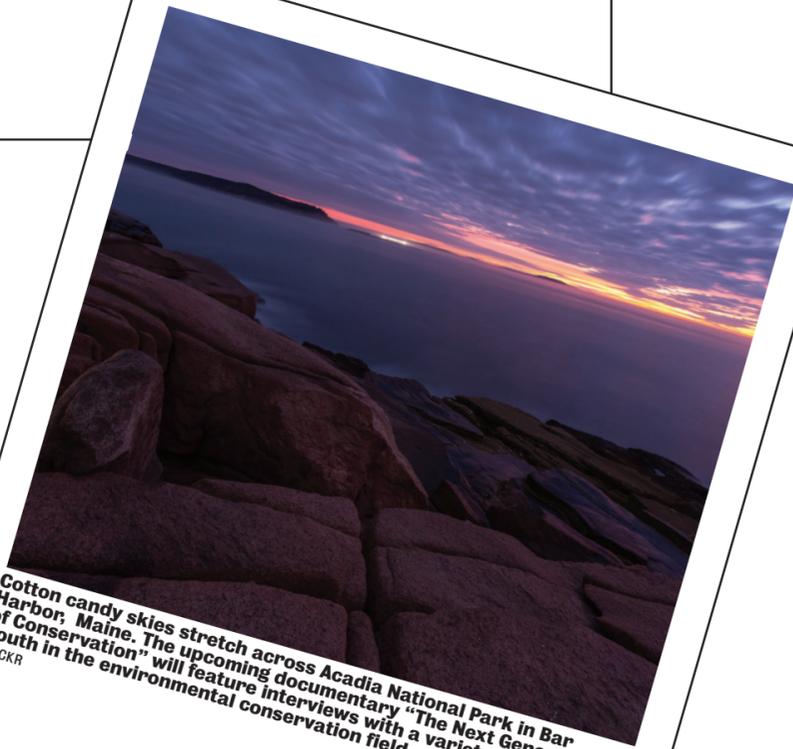
'THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATION':

Highlighting the innovators in the UConn community



In Bar Harbor, Maine, Acadia National Park displays magnificent views of the sweeping landscape. The upcoming documentary "The Next Generation of Conservation" showcases a number of sustainability projects that are currently in the works.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR



Cotton candy skies stretch across Acadia National Park in Bar Harbor, Maine. The upcoming documentary "The Next Generation of Conservation" will feature interviews with a variety of different youth in the environmental conservation field.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR



Otter Cliff and Monument Cove at Acadia National Park in Bar Harbor, Maine, boasts a peaceful, mesmeric natural atmosphere. The upcoming documentary "The Next Generation of Conservation" will feature Acadia National Park as one of its destinations.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

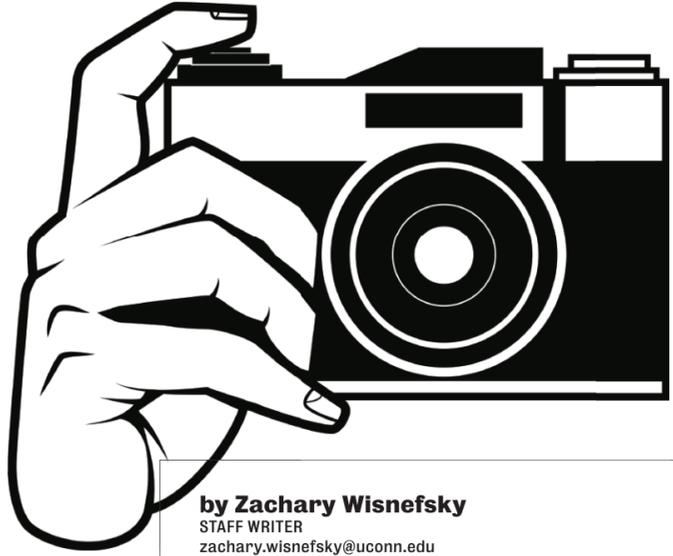


PHOTO COURTESY OF PINGPONG

by Zachary Wisniefsky
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The University of Connecticut is an institution composed of many intelligent, innovative and inspirational individuals. These trailblazers come from a number of different disciplines and backgrounds, diving into their respective interests using their unique skills to create projects that influence the world around them.

This Thursday at 8:00 p.m., some of these innovations will be highlighted in the documentary "The Next Generation of Conservation." The student documentary showcases a number of sustainability projects active in Storrs and around New England.

The film in itself, is an innovation. As much as the documentary showcases the positive changes happening in the realm of conservation by UConn students, the camera could have easily been turned around, with the filmmakers as the subjects.

The Daily Campus was lucky enough to speak with "The Next Generation of Conservation" project manager and producer Lauren Pawlowski via email.

"Our goal for the film was to interview a wide variety of youth in the environmental conservation field, from interns to activists to mentors, in order to hear more about the work they do and to film them in action," Pawlowski explained. "[W]e filmed along the shores of Lake Ontario, off the coast of Cape Cod on a lobster fishing boat, and even from the top of a mountain in Acadia National Park. We hope that by sharing the stories of the younger generation it will allow viewers to picture themselves within the movement and be inspired to get involved, too."

Though we have finally reached screening day, this has been a long process for the documentary team. Pawlowski collaborated with editor Duy Le, photographer Skyler Kim and director Sarah Oxner to make this a possibility.

"We started thinking about ideas for applying to the UConn IDEA Grant program in summer of 2020," Pawlowski said. "We knew it was a great opportunity and we wanted to utilize that. Skyler and I have always been very passionate about environmental issues and sustainability, so we wanted to focus on that topic but in a way where we could combine the skills of all our group members to create something together. It's been about a year and a half of working on this project, from applying to the grant program in fall 2020, planning for the project, filming in summer and fall 2021, and now hosting the showcase event for spring 2022."

Though the timeline and scope of this project was difficult, Pawlowski ultimately viewed the experience as a positive and enlightening one.

"This was a long-term project, but I am proud that we have seen it through to the finish," she said. "It made me realize that I could handle managing the budget, logistics, and planning process for something like this ... Besides the personal skill development, I learned a lot from the people we connected with through this project ... Traveling throughout the northeastern US region for filming made me realize that conservation issues are place-based, and locals are using their skills and resources to engage the community in addressing these issues."

"The Next Generation of Conservation" will premiere to the world today, Thursday, April 7 at 8:00 p.m. in the Konover Auditorium in the Dodd Center for Human Rights. There will also be a still photography exhibit and light refreshments provided after the screening.

Life

by Jordana Castelli

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This past Wednesday the University of Connecticut Center for Career Development held an event called “Making Your Side Hustle Your Main Hustle,” which touches upon the ways people can grow a hobby or passion into their means of livelihood. The CCD welcomed Michelle Ouimette, a business advisor for the Connecticut Small Business Development Center, who focuses on turning one’s side hustle into their main hustle.

The COVID-19 pandemic spurred entrepreneurship. According to the Census Bureau, in 2021, an estimated 5.4 million new business applications were filed. This is 1.9 million more applications filed than in 2019. While becoming a business owner is a dream of many, there are logistical

and rational steps one must take into account.

Ouimette began by stressing the importance of distinguishing between a business and a hobby. While many of us have hobbies, they don’t always translate directly into a business.

“Know that a hobby is something that is done outside of regular work,” she says. “A lot of times it is done for relaxation or personal enjoyment; hobbies are affordable, with sometimes little to no cost.”

Ultimately, the difference between a hobby and a business is that the former is not meant for profit, while the latter is.

“A business is some type of occupation, trade, profession that can be offered in a business capacity,” Ouimette says. “You’re really looking to make a living from it.”

When creating a business, one wants to make sure it is properly credited as a business. This means

there is a digital footprint, a bank account for the business, contact information and more. Before beginning a business, Ouimette encourages assessing your personal readiness.

“One of the first questions I always ask my clients is ‘why do you want to start this business?’” she says. “I like to hear the background story.”

Many of these personal readiness questions can be categorized into three sections: general, business and personal. For business, one can ask themselves, “What problem is this business solving for others?” or “Why do you believe this type of business is sustainable?” For personal considerations, questions range from “What is the goal you hope to accomplish with this business?” to “What is the financial goal you are seeking to achieve?”

“We want to make sure that

when we are looking at the numbers of the business that the profit will meet the financial goal that you have for the business, in order to sustain your lifestyle,” Ouimette said.

The next step is defining your target market. To emphasize the importance of target markets, Ouimette referenced a quote from Saskia Gregory that states, “Defining your target market or niche is the single most important business decision you can make as an entrepreneur.”

When one defines their target market, they are identifying and selecting the customers who are going to benefit from their product and services, and those who are most likely to buy those products and services.

“This will help you segment the market so you can really focus your efforts,” Ouimette said. “It will help you connect that mar-

ket to your value proposition and it’s also going to help you hone in your marketing mix and message so you know how you’re going to best communicate with your customers.”

To help define a market, one can look at geographics (country, city, density and language), demographics (age, gender, income, education and social status), psychographics (lifestyle, concerns, personality and values) and behavior (benefits sought, purchase, usage, intent, buyer stage and life cycle stage).

After defining the market, it is important that entrepreneurs are familiar with their competitors and numbers. Knowing competitors’ business strategies, how they position themselves and their strengths and weaknesses can help business owners to advance. Understanding your finances is essential for staying organized and ensuring business is profitable.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FREESING

MICHELLE OUIMETTE SHARES BUSINESS STRATEGIES ON HOW TO TURN YOUR SIDE HUSTLE INTO YOUR

MAIN HUSTLE

Understanding your finances is essential for staying organized and ensuring business is profitable.

The difference between a hobby and a business is that the former is not meant for profit, while the latter is.

“Defining your target market or niche is the single most important business decision you can make as an entrepreneur.”

MICHELLE OUIMETTE



PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

The Barista Diaries:

BREAKING DOWN THE ICONIC

by **Grace Seymour**
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Are you eager to change up your current coffee order this spring? It is important to be able to tell the difference between the various classic espresso drinks before you spend \$6 on something new. As a Starbucks barista, I am using Starbucks beverages as models to discuss how popular espresso drinks are made, but you can definitely order most of these at your local coffee shop as well. Let's get to it!



PHOTO COURTESY OF PISOELS

Latte

A latte is arguably the most popular espresso drink ordered at coffee shops. The drink is simply steamed milk combined with however many shots of espresso you desire. For reference, Starbucks adds one espresso shot into tall-sized hot drinks and two shots of espresso into grande and venti-sized hot drinks. The same recipe applies to iced drinks except Starbucks adds three shots of espresso into venti iced lattes. You can definitely get creative with lattes when it comes to milk and flavor options. If you need some extra sweetness, add some vanilla or caramel syrup. One of Starbucks' trending drinks is a blonde vanilla latte, which includes vanilla syrup and blonde espresso shots, which are made with a lighter roast and a smoother texture.

Cappuccino

If you cannot get on board with the thick consistency or large amount of steamed milk in lattes, I recommend trying a cappuccino. A cappuccino is made with the same ingredients as a latte, but the milk is steamed for a few more seconds to create a lighter and foamier experience. If you order a cappuccino, the cup will feel very light and the beverage texture will be airy. Although dairy milks tend to foam up the best for cappuccinos, you can replace them with oat milk or soy milk for the best non-dairy milk results.

Caramel macchiato

If you have not yet ordered an iconic Starbucks hot or iced caramel macchiato, you have to try one on your next coffee run. A macchiato is made "upside down," meaning the milk is poured into the cup first and then the espresso shots are poured over top. If you order a caramel macchiato, there will be vanilla syrup at the bottom of the drink and thick

caramel sauce drizzled on top of the espresso shots. Most people choose to mix this beverage up if it is ordered iced, but make sure to take a photo of it before mixing to capture the picturesque caramel drizzle and espresso shots dripping down the cup. Many coffee shops offer mocha macchiatos as well, which I have yet to try!

Flat white

As a barista, I have noticed that many customers have never heard of a flat white or they have no idea how it is made. At Starbucks in particular, flat whites are made with whole milk rather than the standard 2% milk that most other espresso drinks are made with. A flat white gets an extra shot of espresso and the shots are served ristretto style, which are smaller and more concentrated. There is a feature on espresso machines for ristretto shots that pushes out less water through the grounds and results in a sweeter and richer flavor. Starbucks currently offers a wonderful spring beverage known as a honey almond milk flat white, which is made with almond milk and honey blend syrup. For all my fellow sweet coffee lovers out there, this drink is perfect for you to try.

DRINKS

THIRSTY THURSDAY: BIRTHDAY BEVERAGES

by The DC Life Section

In January, I featured my oldest sister's favorite boozy drinks for her birthday. As my birthday approaches on Sunday, I want to reflect on the drinks that I've come to favor in the year since I've come of age. I'm not sure if I'll be able to enjoy all these beverages this weekend, but maybe you can help me out by making or drinking some of them.

To make measurements easier, remember that one shot is equal to one and half ounces.



Espresso martini (adapted from Preppy Kitchen)

I vowed my first legal drink would be an espresso martini, and I followed through on that promise, as well as enjoyed a few more throughout the year. I love coffee, and the strength and bitterness of espresso perfectly balances the sharpness of vodka. Make this classy drink with the following recipe. Makes one drink

Ingredients:

- Two ounces of vodka
- Half ounce of coffee liqueur, like Kahlúa
- One ounce of freshly brewed espresso (or cold brew concentrate)
- One ounce of simple syrup

Instructions:

Add ice, cooled coffee (if freshly brewed), simple syrup, coffee liqueur and vodka to a cocktail shaker.

Vigorously shake the mixture so foam is formed. Strain it quickly into a martini glass.

Garnish with coffee beans, and enjoy!

Margaritas

I've talked about margaritas many times in this column, so it should be no surprise that it makes my list of favorite drinks. It's a simple and refreshing but also punchy cocktail that's easy to customize with a variety of fruit flavors ... what's not to love? Check out some recipe variations in a previous Thirsty Thursday entry.

Moscow mule (adapted from Liquor.com)

I've come to learn that I enjoy refreshing drinks as much as I love fruity ones, and ginger and lime play a large role in those flavor profiles. Margaritas cover the latter base, while Moscow mules certainly fall within the former category. Try this easy Moscow mule recipe, and don't be afraid to order variations when you see them on drink menus! Mexican mules, which add some classic margarita ingredients like tequila and triple sec, are one of my favorites because they combine margaritas and mules. Makes one drink

Ingredients:

- Two ounces of vodka
- One-half ounce of freshly squeezed lime juice
- Three ounces of chilled ginger beer
- Lime wedge for garnish

Instructions

1. Fill a Moscow mule copper mug (if you want the iconic look) or drink glass with ice, then add the vodka and lime juice.
2. Top with ginger beer.
3. Serve with a lime wedge, and enjoy!



PHOTO COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL

Malibu bay breeze (adapted from Malibu Rum)

This drink uses one of my favorite liquors: Malibu. I enjoy other kinds of rum like Bacardi, but Malibu has a special place in my heart, as do Malibu bay breezes. I first tried the cocktail at a wedding with an open bar at my sister's behest and was immediately smitten ... and eventually drunk. I love making this drink for large gatherings because it's supremely easy to make and a fan favorite among those who like strong drinks and those who don't like tasting alcohol alike.

Ingredients:

- One part Malibu original (coconut rum)
- One part cranberry juice
- One part pineapple juice

Instructions:

1. Add some ice to your glass or container and pour all the ingredients in.
2. Serve with your favorite fruit, and enjoy!

Tequila sunrise (adapted from Baking Beauty)

Along with the previous drink, tequila sunrises became a quick favorite of mine after I turned 21. Perfect for brunch, dinner or after dinner, the sweetness and heartiness of the orange juice plays well with the bite of the tequila. And turns out, they're easy to make!

Makes one drink

Ingredients:

- Four ounces of orange juice
- Two ounces of tequila
- One ounce of grenadine
- Orange slices and maraschino cherries for garnish

Instructions:

1. Add ice cubes to a glass. Pour in orange juice and tequila.
2. Add grenadine, either by pouring down the sides of the glass or over the back of a spoon. This is to ensure that the syrup gathers at the bottom rather than splashes in.
3. Serve with an orange slice and maraschino cherry, and enjoy!

Opinion StudyBreak

Huskytalk | What is the best season at UConn?



“Fall, autumn in Connecticut is beautiful, especially when it first changes to a really nice temperature outside.”

Uthara Sunderesh
Physiology & neurobiology
Fourth semester



“Spring, when people start getting outside more, it’s really nice when everyone is outside again.”

Sahiti Bhyravavajhala
Chemistry
Fourth semester



“Spring, because the warmer weather feels better after the cold weather, and I enjoy spring break because I enjoy being on campus when it is empty.”

Ben Anderson
Digital media and design
Eighth semester

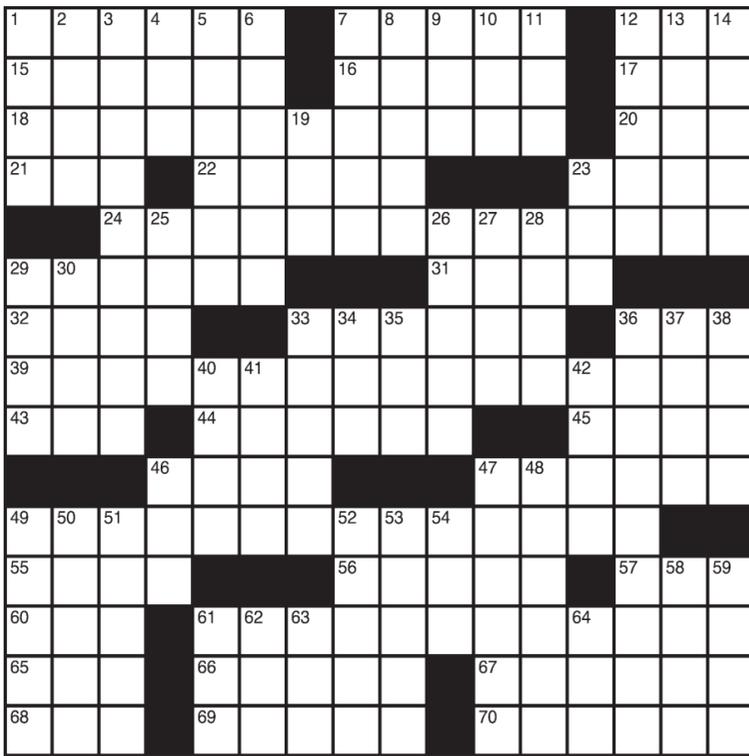


“Fall because I really enjoy the weather, get to see friends I missed over summer break, and it’s refreshing to get back into the campus-life routine after being away for a couple months.”

RJ Taylor
Business
Eighth semester

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Reminder trademark
 - 7 1994 National Women’s Hall of Fame inductee
 - 12 One having a ball
 - 15 Kia model
 - 16 Magna cum ___
 - 17 Get rid of
 - 18 Bracketology event (Cambridge)
 - 20 Narrow waterway
 - 21 Soup served with chopsticks
 - 22 Chill-inducing
 - 23 Sensed
 - 24 Series that included Bugs and Daffy (Augusta)
 - 29 Paso __, Calif.
 - 31 Radamès’ love
 - 32 Texter’s “But ...”
 - 33 Lured
 - 36 Frat letter
 - 39 Risky operations often with code names (Ann Arbor)
 - 43 Tire pressure fig.
 - 44 12-step offshoot
 - 45 A, B or C, but not X, Y or Z
 - 46 Move like water
 - 47 Acted as an informant, in Ipswich
 - 49 Science class visual aid (Joplin)
 - 55 Second word of many limericks
 - 56 “Cheers” server
 - 57 More than -er
 - 60 Pot part
 - 61 Country leaders, and along with names in parentheses, a hint to 18-, 24-, 39- and 49-Across
 - 65 Group of scenes
 - 66 Triumphant cry
 - 67 Anti-anxiety med
 - 68 Gun, as an engine
 - 69 Player in
 - 70 Firmly held ideas



By Bruce Haight

4/7/22

Wednesday’s Puzzle Solved



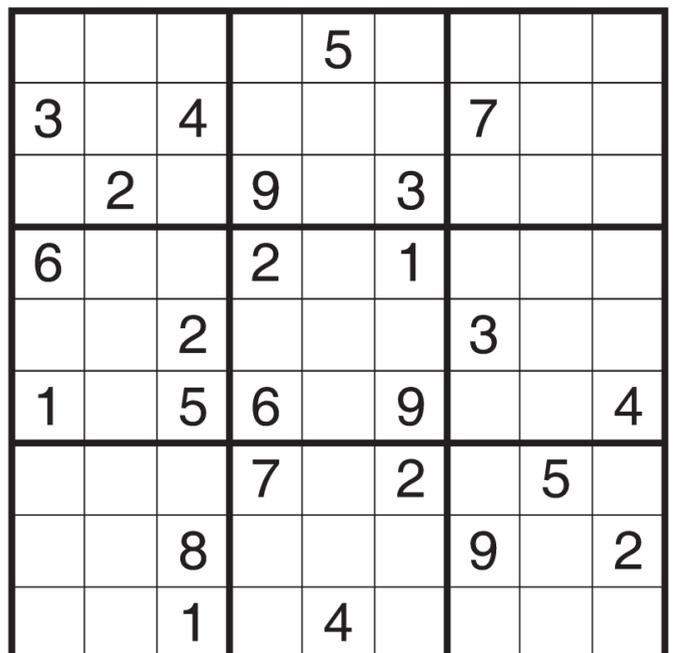
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- DOWN**
- 1 Fanfare
 - 2 Large deep-water fish
 - 3 The Blue Fairy helped Pinocchio escape from him, in the Disney film
 - 4 Eye twitch, maybe
 - 5 Arrival cry
 - 6 They might hold chairs at a circus
 - 7 iHeartRadio fare
 - 8 “The Hunger Games” land
 - 9 French way
 - 10 Some taxi toppers
 - 11 Fellows
 - 12 “___ say it?”
 - 13 Banish
 - 14 Rhythms
 - 19 NFL’s Cardinals, on scoreboards
 - 23 OTC watchdog
 - 25 K-12, in brief
 - 26 ___ kitchen
 - 27 “Balderdash!”
 - 28 Numbers with a colon
 - 29 Lopsided win
 - 30 Publisher Chandler
 - 33 Game delay cause
 - 34 Writer Rand
 - 35 “If u ask me ...”
 - 36 Said goodbye to, with “of”
 - 37 Part of a pot
 - 38 Exploited
 - 40 Locker room powder
 - 41 MLB family name
 - 42 About
 - 46 Charge
 - 47 Milk for losers
 - 48 Carol opener
 - 49 It might be crowned
 - 50 Cooled by rocks, in a way
 - 51 High-def screen
 - 52 Flummox
 - 53 Choral platform
 - 54 World leader with a distinctive suit
 - 58 Assists, e.g.
 - 59 Till stack
 - 61 Brand with a Grabbin’ Grape flavor
 - 62 Laundry brand
 - 63 Mo. named for an emperor
 - 64 Pewter, mostly



CARTOON BY ANNA IORFINO, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sudoku



Sounding Off: The Mets should start looking for some younger star pitchers

by Sam Zelin
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As a lifelong, diehard Mets fan, this article absolutely pains me to write. As the 2022 regular season kicks off, I would love to be able to tell you I believe the team is going to dominate the league and ride the backs of Max Scherzer and Jacob DeGrom to its third World Series title, but I can't. Instead, I'm going to talk about how the Mets need to face the reality that DeGrom just might not be around forever.

Two years ago, it seemed as if DeGrom was incredibly healthy for his age, with a long career ahead of him. From 2017 to 2019, the Mets ace started a minimum of 31 games a year, picking up back-to-back Cy Young awards in the latter two seasons. At the beginning of last season, the pitcher himself told ESPN's Jeff Passan that his goal for the rest of his career was to be an "inner-circle Hall of Famer." Well, it's been almost exactly a year since that interview, and after what started out as a fantastic 2021 campaign, DeGrom has been dealing with injury ever since. He finished the season with less than 100 innings pitched, and on April 1, the Mets announced that their ace would be shut down for at least the next four weeks due to a right scapula injury.

No one is arguing that DeGrom might be losing a step skill-wise. The starts he did make in 2021 were stellar, putting him squarely in the conversation for another Cy Young. However, his questionable longevity could make it very hard for the Mets to build around him, especially in a time when they are trying to be a playoff contender.



New York Mets pitcher Jacob DeGrom prepares to throw a pitch during an MLB game. Currently, DeGrom is recovering from a scapula injury. PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

The same goes for Max Scherzer, as he pitched fantastically last season, but how many more years will he be able to remain healthy is the important question. While he will be starting the Mets second game of the season, he did have some hamstring issues recently.

While the possibility that the Mets seemingly legendary one-two

punch might not be the ticket to the promised land after all, right now is certainly not a time for the Mets to give up and go home. The team has an exciting, young core of players that probably would be way easier to build around for the future. Players like Pete Alonso, Francisco Lindor and Dominic Smith — a group whose average

age is 27 — could definitely form the foundation of a competitive roster that lasts for years to come. Foundation, however, is the key word.

The Angels are currently the best example of the importance of a strong foundation, as Mike Trout and Shohei Ohtani are two of the best players on the planet, and the

team's playoff hopes have not been high for a considerable amount of time. What did the Angels do this offseason to deal with that problem? They went and got as many pitchers as possible, specifically young ones from the draft.

The Mets should be doing this as well. While there is a world where DeGrom comes back and pitches phenomenally and where Scherzer gives the Mets three very productive years, there needs to be a contingency plan. Luckily for the team, it is not hard to think one up. Investing in the growth of pitchers like Tylor Megill, who was just announced to be the opening day starter, and David Peterson, who has shown flashes of promise over the past two years, is very important. These two should only be the beginning, as the team should continue to look for young pitching talent.

The Mets competitive window is coming soon if not already upon us, and if a championship is going to come from it, the team will have to be multifaceted. Veteran leadership is invaluable, but health and youth are also integral to the perfect team. To end with a positive DeGrom take, it's important to look at the Dodgers' recent World Series title. Clayton Kershaw, who at the peak of his career was as dominant as a pitcher can be, won his ring in 2020, six years after he had last won the Cy Young. He won it alongside players like Walker Buehler, a member of a newer generation of Dodgers pitching, but both generations were integral to the process. Ideally, that would be an archetype for a Mets World Series-caliber pitching staff, but the question mark of health looms large.

Olympic gold medalist Sunisa Lee banking more NCAA success

AUBURN, Ala. (AP) — Sunisa Lee needed a respite from the exhausting, all-consuming world of elite gymnastics.

She wanted to go to school, and the ability now for college athletes to make money off name, image and likeness deals made it an easy call.

The Olympic all-around champion who has her sights set on defending her title in Paris in 2024 has capitalized on her still-new-found fame with appearances on "Dancing with the Stars" among other endeavors. The 19-year-old is hardly a normal college freshman.

"Even without the NIL, I knew I wanted to go to college anyway just because I had to come find my love for the sport again," Lee said. "I had to get out of the elite world just because it is so different. This is so much more fun, and having the team be so supportive."

The new NIL rules allowed her to parlay her success in Tokyo last summer into financial secu-

rity without sacrificing the college experience and education. And without spending all day holed up in the gym.

Lee has helped lead the Tigers to the NCAA championships, from April 14-16 in Fort Worth, Texas, for the first time since 2016. She scored her fifth 10 of the season in the regional at Neville Arena, this one on the balance beam to help Auburn edge Kentucky.

The All-American came in ranked first nationally in the uneven bars — where she won bronze in Tokyo — tied for first on the balance beam and second in the all-around.

"I think if the Olympics were a year earlier and this happened, she couldn't make that decision" to attend college, said Auburn coach Jeff Graba, whose twin brother Jess has been Lee's longtime personal coach.

While Lee is competing for NCAA titles, she also feels she has much to prove. Lee's all-around gold came after favorite

Simone Biles withdrew from the competition citing mental health concerns. Lee said she doesn't think she's reached her full potential yet and that is indeed gold medal-worthy.

"I think it's something I just want to prove to myself, because I think I have a lot of doubters," said Lee, a Hmong American who is from Minnesota. "And prove it to everybody else but more importantly to myself."

"I don't want to look back and be like, I could have done so much more. I want to look back and know I gave it everything I had and if I didn't succeed, I didn't. But I gave it my all."

Lee has a leotard line with GK Elite and a clothing line with Pretty Little Thing., which she tracks while living in a dormitory like other Auburn freshmen with roommate/teammate Sara Hubbard. She has splurged on a car and her first designer bag but mostly fears spending too much now and not having enough later.

"I'm so scared to actually use

my money," Lee said. "I'm so cautious with it because I have to be."

She is still taking online courses and spent the fall in Los Angeles for the dancing competition show before officially joining the team in Auburn in December. Lee feels like appearing on "Dancing With the Stars" — she made the semifinals with partner Sasha Farber — makes her "more of an exciting person."

"It just makes it interesting," Lee said. "It's really cool that I'm getting to do all this at such a young age. But then I'm scared. When I get older, what am I going to do then? Because if I do everything now, what am I going to do in the future?"

"But I don't know, it's really exciting."

Lee has also dealt with the sudden fame that comes with being an Olympic champion. She can't just pop into the grocery store or have a quiet dinner out. She even stopped going to Auburn basketball games. It's all a part of the new normal for a teenager who

isn't yet fully accustomed to the spotlight but is eager not to ever come off as standoffish.

"It's really hard, because even grabbing food, people come up to her and are just like, 'Hold my baby. Take my picture. Sign my shoes,'" Hubbard said of her roommate. "I think it's just overwhelming. It's kind of scary when a bunch of random people are just all in your business."

But Graba and Lee's teammates said in the practice gym and around them she's just another Auburn gymnast. Dealing with high expectations is part of the challenge.

"She's probably the one who puts the most pressure on herself," teammate Cassie Stevens said. "But I think she's doing a lot better job handling it, listening to what we have to say. Like, just being you is good enough. It's great actually."

But, added Graba: "You don't win an Olympic gold medal without having that tough-as-nails mentality."



Sunisa Lee, of the United States, performs on the balance beam during the artistic gymnastics women's final at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Tuesday, July 27, 2021, in Tokyo. The 19-year-old Auburn freshman has helped lead Auburn to the NCAA gymnastics championships April 14-16 in Fort Worth, Texas.

PHOTO BY GREGORY BULL/AP

Sports

Photo of the Day | Fighting for the title



In its last game of the weekend, the UConn women's basketball team beats Georgetown and becomes the 2022 Big East Tournament champions on March 7 at the Mohegan Sun Arena. After their 70-40 victory over Villanova, the Huskies took to the court to celebrate their win and receive their team trophy and individual awards.

PHOTO BY ERIN KNAPP, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Column: What a major sporting event does to a city

by Cole Stefan

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I spent the past weekend in Minneapolis covering the NCAA Women's Final Four. While all three college basketball games were fun to watch in person, something else caught my eye that doesn't get enough recognition. Minneapolis went all out for this event.

Anyone who flew into Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport would have known about the tournament, from the Final Four decals by the baggage claim to the banners promoting the event around the center of the terminal to the giant bracket located on the arrival level. This city was ready to host a Final Four.

Even within downtown Minneapolis, there were some cool events to attend. On the Saturday between the Final Four and the national championship game, I took a stroll down to the Minneapolis Convention Center, where I ran across a three-dimensional version of the March Madness bracket outside of the building. Spread out to four "sides," this bracket had lines as dense as bricks, with the names of participating teams on both sides.

Within the convention center, there was this "Tourney Town," a festival of college basketball greatness. In this hallowed space, there were basketball-related games that kids could play, merchandise available in a pop-up store, a stage where guest panels were held and a giant picture of each team with a support wall for fans to sign on the back. The convention center made for a cool experience, but it gets better from there.

I walked from my hotel to the Target Center a few times. Although I never found the hotel where the University of Connecticut team stayed, I ran across the University of Louisville and University of South Carolina hotels. The establishments made it very clear where the players were staying by posting the school's logo, as well as the Final Four's slogan on the lobby windows. Two hours prior to tipoff on Sunday, loyal South Carolina fans waited outside as the team boarded their bus to the sound of their fight song.

Large billboards visibly showed support for each of the teams involved, whether it was to wish the players and coaches luck or to show school pride for visiting fans. It gets cold in Minnesota, and the NCAA even

had helpers in the skyway that provided directions to the arena.

Even if Paige Bueckers and the UConn women's basketball team didn't make it to the Final Four, the city would still be buzzing with fans eager to see their team compete for a national title. Bueckers, a Hopkins, Minnesota native, and the Huskies made the experience even more interesting.

All of this made me wonder what a sporting event of this magnitude does to a city. Normally, the city is awarded the event by the league's commissioner years in advance so that cities have time to prepare accordingly. Only in rare instances, like last year's Major League Baseball All-Star Game in Denver or the 2017 National Basketball Association All-Star Game in Charlotte, would a city need to prepare on such short notice.

There's a lot of benefits that come with hosting these big events. At times, the event's logo features some reference to a significant aspect of the city, whether it's Denver's Rocky Mountains for the All-Star game or the vibrant palm trees and sunset orange of Los Angeles that made up the Super Bowl LVI logo.

It goes beyond the logo too,

as an event of this magnitude generates a lot of revenue for the city. Some of that revenue comes from the event itself, but there are two major sources of revenue that should not be forgotten.

The first is from hotels booked weeks in advance. They fill up as the event gets closer to happening, making it impossible to find a room on gameday. Hotels located at least an hour away from the venue can be booked, creating revenue for the surrounding towns as well.

The second source of revenue is the community. The players have the most impact through their charitable actions such as a food drive or planting trees. At the end of the day, the league wants to leave a legacy on the city while inspiring the next generation of superstars.

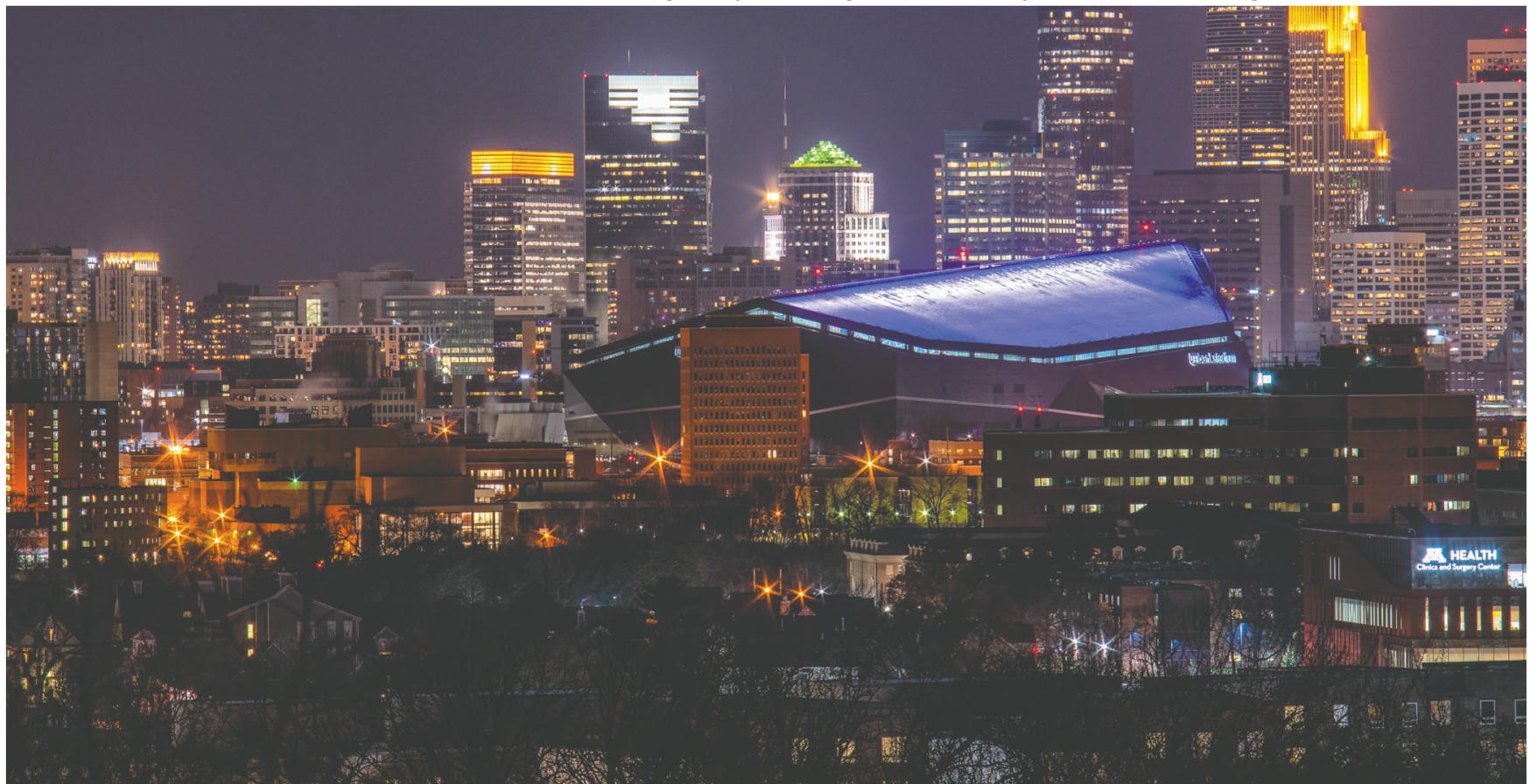
Finally, consider the Olympics and/or the World Cup. When a city or country gets the bid years in advance, they get to work building world-class facilities for the athletes. The facilities, or the trust in building them, are the reason that a city gets selected in the first place. Providing an equitable place for athletes to thrive impacts the sport for generations as well as the local economy.

The only downside to all of

this is what happens after the event ends. With events such as the Super Bowl, any All-Star Game or the Final Four, the leagues pack up their bags and leave while everything else returns to normal.

The Olympics and World Cup are a little different. The 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, was a major success, but issues of gentrification and deteriorating facilities have left many speculating that the city was simply not ready to host the global event. Hopefully, future host cities can take a lesson out of Brazil's book and find ways to have stadiums that can continue to be used long after the games are over, like Atlanta's Turner Field.

In conclusion, major sporting events bring a sense of pride to citizens, as well as immersive opportunities to grow the game when a city is selected to host an event. At the same time, you want to make sure the venues don't deteriorate after the party's over, or the city will spend decades cleaning up the mess. As long as there is this balance between preparing, underpreparing and overpreparing for an event, whichever city is chosen is going to have a few fun-filled days and may be asked to host again in the future.



The Minneapolis skyline is lit up at night. The 2022 women's basketball Final Four was held in the city from April 1 to April 3. PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

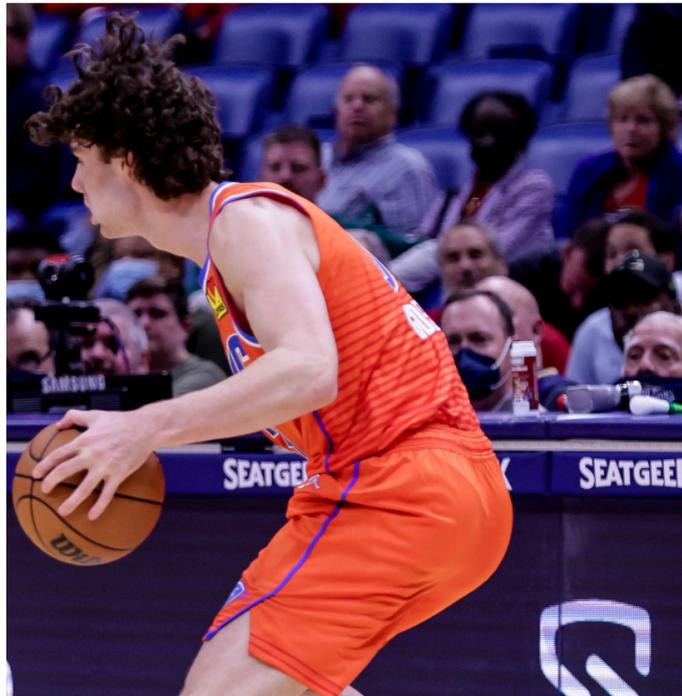
Who should be the NBA Rookie of the Year?

The NBA Playoffs are quickly approaching as the Play-In Tournament tips off next Tuesday. With this comes the end of the season honors and awards as they don't consider postseason performances. The 2021-2022 season was the first for players like Evan Mobley of the Cleveland Cavaliers and Josh Giddey of the Oklahoma City Thunder. They did not disappoint and have each become solid starters for their respective teams, contributing to franchise success. Out of the entire 2021 rookie class, who is most deserving of the Rookie of the Year title? Sports section writers Evan Rodriguez and Cole Stefan have their takes:



Cleveland Cavaliers center guard Evan Mobley prepares to shoot a free throw during an NBA game. Mobley averages approximately 15 points per game as a rookie.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIK DROST



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Josh Giddey dribbles during the second half of an NBA game at Smoothie King Center in New Orleans, Louisiana. Giddey is currently in his first NBA season.

PHOTO BY STEPHEN LEW/USA TODAY

Evan Mobley

As someone named Evan, I have to support the Cavs' big man, who has been a huge part of why Cleveland is even in a playoff race. If any NBA fan imagined the Cavaliers as a potential playoff team, they would've easily been laughed at. Yet, the Cavaliers sit right at No. 7 in the standings with the Play-In Tournament up ahead. Anyone can see how much Mobley brings to this new and improved Cleveland Cavaliers team and he's been an utter force on both sides of the ball. Despite struggling with the injury bug throughout the season, he's been able to average about 15 points per game along with 1.6 blocks per game. The immediate impact Mobley provides for Cleveland easily makes him not only my pick for Rookie of the Year, but also a future star in the NBA. With the season almost over, I fully expect Mobley to be holding up the prized Rookie of the Year award at the end of the season.

— Evan Rodriguez, Staff Writer

Josh Giddey

While Mobley has become the Cavaliers' next franchise center, Giddey has turned into the Thunder's next big shooting guard. Pairing him with Shai Gilgeous-Alexander until at least 2025 is going to do wonders for a program that has become the draft capital of the world. But why is Giddey their next name-brand superstar? In 54 games, the sixth overall pick averaged 12.5 points, 7.8 rebounds and 6.4 assists per game while averaging 31.5 minutes. Amongst the 2021 rookie class, Giddey ranks seventh in PPG, second in RPG to Mobley and first in APG. With numbers like these, the Australian sensation has the potential to post a Russell Westbrook-like season of a triple-double on average. Giddey is 6-foot-3, so if the Thunder were to splash on a guard in the draft or free agency, then Giddey could transition into a small forward or power forward role. The Thunder could be a playoff contender next season, and Giddey will be a major contributor.

— Cole Stefan, Staff Writer

Stratton's Stand: What this season means for UConn's women's basketball's legacy

by Stratton Stave
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The best women's basketball program is: _____.

Most people would likely fill in the blank with "UConn," a program that spent the greater part of 1995-2016 completely dominating every other schools' program. Now, after it's failed to win a championship in its past five tries, some people are starting to question whether the program is still the standard to be measured against. Look at a team like South Carolina that just won the title; it won two of the past five championships. Is it time to say that it is now the premiere women's hoops school? My answer: not so fast. Let's take a look at a few of the narratives and legacies that were at stake this past Sunday and see where that leaves us, now that the season has concluded.

Geno as the greatest coach of all time?

Put simply, people hate sustained greatness. Here in the state of Connecticut, head coach Geno Auriemma is often seen as a holy figure because of the success he's brought to the state and university, but elsewhere, people love to see him fail. If you measure success as winning the championship and failure as not winning, then such haters are thrilled right now. God forbid a coach makes it to the Final Four (and beyond) and comes out without a title to show for it. With a sport growing as quickly as women's basketball, winning is not as easy as it used to be.

In a sport like men's basketball, no coach goes to the Final Four more than two or three straight years in a row. It's time to treat women's basketball the same. The recruiting pool is getting deeper, and although UConn boasts seven top-five recruits (four No. 1) in the past six classes, the difference between recruiting the fifth best player is all of a sudden much less than that of the 25th best. Auriemma still reigns supreme as the greatest coach ever. Until someone is able to match his unbreakable mark of 11 titles — that still has potential to grow — there won't be a better coach.

Paige as the greatest Husky of all time?

This one is definitely going to be a bit tougher for Paige Bueckers fans to swallow. As good as she has been with winning National POTY last year, it's nearly impossible for her to be the greatest UConn player of all time as many hoped and predicted. Even if she does use her extra year of eligibility that was granted thanks to COVID-19, at best she wins three championships. Looking at someone like Breanna Stewart, she only took four tries to win the championship. And each of the four tries, she was the best player. Even though it took toward the end of the year in 2013 for her to really emerge as the No. 1 option, she played well enough to earn MOP that year. And the next year. And the year after. And one more. Yes, there is more parity now than there was when Stewart played. But looking broadly and purely at achievements, it's not possible for Bueckers to catch up to Stewart. I'm not saying that Bueckers won't have her name up in the rafters in 20 years or that she can't be great. The point is that she has already fallen behind Stewart, therefore, she cannot become the greatest UConn player of all time.

Is UConn still the measuring stick program?

YES, YES AND ALSO YES!!! People love to talk about how South Carolina beating UConn on Sunday was a "passing the torch" moment and now South Carolina is going to dominate the next however many years. This is just not the case. UConn has made 14 straight Final Fours and just made the championship. South Carolina won what was only its second program championship, and although it's a premier program, it's no UConn yet. Aside from a lack of titles, everything about UConn is better than every other school right now. They're still dominating recruiting, with two top-10 players coming in next year. People forget that Final Fours and top five rankings can mean success too. At the peak of the UConn men's success, they were winning an average of a title every five years. Panic happens easily, but I can assure you that there's no reason to do so in this situation. The Huskies are on top.



UConn plays against Marquette University in the semifinals of the Big East women's basketball tournament at the Mohegan Sun Arena on Sunday, March 6. The Huskies won 71-51 after holding a lead the entire game. PHOTO BY ERIN KNAPP, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sports

Softball: Huskies shell Minutemen behind 15-run outburst

by Cole Stefan

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In its last four games, the University of Connecticut softball team scored 12 runs and went 2-2. The Huskies found their footing as they shut out Butler in the final two games of the series, but that was just the beginning as they traveled to Amherst, Massachusetts to play the University of Massachusetts Minutemen.

The first inning

was the quietest of the game. With one out, Reese Guevarra singled and stole second base, giving the Huskies an early opportunity to score. However, she advanced no further as Julianne Bolton got the next two hitters out, striking Jana Sanden out looking to end the frame. Elise Sokolsky, the reigning Big East Pitcher of the Week, struck out the side in the bottom half.

The rain may have left the area, but the Huskies showered runs in the top of the second. Lexi Hastings got the hit party started with a leadoff single before Sami Barnett joined her on the basepaths via a fielder's choice. Two batters later, Erika Coreth singled to second base and brought home Hastings to put the Huskies on the board. Giuliana Abruscato pinch-ran for her and made it to second when Aziah James loaded the bases with a bunted single.

On a 2-0 count, Briana Marcelino brought home two more runs when she ripped a double to right center field. That made it a 3-0 ballgame, but the Huskies were not done scoring. Guevarra walked to load the bases again before Rosie Garcia singled in James for the 4-0 advantage.

Hastings continued to rake, hitting a payoff pitch with two outs to the left field wall. Garcia came around to score standing up as

Hastings cleared the bases, giving the Huskies a 7-0 advantage. UConn only needed six hits and 11 batters while leaving a single runner on base.

UConn did a m a g e the Minutemen, t o u t e who were sent down in order in the bottom of the second, but they were looking for more. Following an Olivia Sappington fly-out, Coreth walked, and James reached on an error before both advanced one base on a wild pitch. Marcelino brought in Coreth on a sacrifice fly and Guevarra singled in James as the Huskies took a 9-0 advantage. During the frame, Guevarra stole her second bag of the afternoon.

After Sokolsky sent down the Minutemen in order in the bottom of the third, UConn added more insurance runs in the top of the fourth. Hastings got on base for the third time with a walk and advanced to third when Barnett singled to UMass pitcher Jenna Bradley, who had relieved Bolton. Emily Piergustavo pinch hit for Sappington, who had gone 0-2 on the day, and promptly walked after Barnett stole second base, her sixth stolen bag of the season.

With the bases loaded, Coreth singled up the middle and brought in both Hastings and Barnett to make it an 11-0 game. This was the first time the Huskies had scored 10+ runs since beating DePaul on the mercy rule on March 27. Rileigh De Weese, who pinch hit for James, grounded into a double play following a passed ball to temporarily contain UConn's scorching offense.

Having pitched 18.1 innings over the last four games, Sokolsky was relieved for Delaney Nagy, who was making her first appearance since March 19. Nagy got into some early trouble as Bella Pantoja walked and Payge Suggs singled to put two runners on with nobody out. That brought Kristina Day to the plate, who had the opportunity to get the Minutemen on the board.

With a 2-0 count, Day sent a softball toward center field, but Marcelino was right there, handing the ball off to Sanden before she threw it straight to Barnett for the 6-4-3 double play. UMass did have a runner advance to third during the play, but Nagy struck Chloe Whittier out to keep the shutout intact.

In the top of the fifth, Marcelino collected her second hit of the day with a leadoff single and stole her team-leading 22nd base of the season while Hollis Wivell was at the plate. Wivell, who pinch hit for Guevarra, walked to join her on the basepaths while Sanden walked two batters later to load the bases. That brought up Hastings, who

was already 2-2 and had gotten on base three times. On a 2-1 count, Hastings hit a softball to deep left field. Instead of landing at the wall, this softball cleared the bleachers as Hastings hit her first collegiate home run.

That home run knocked Bradley out of the game and brought in Kali Puppolo, who got the next two Huskies out. Meghan O'Neil relieved Nagy in the bottom of the fifth, striking out three batters as the Huskies collected their third straight shutout 15-0 and finished 3-1 on their four-game road trip.

Sokolsky, fresh off a complete game shutout on Sunday, pitched three innings and struck out six hitters for her 11th win of the year. She is now up to 92 strikeouts in 90 innings pitched with 22 walks allowed and a 1.89 ERA. Nagy pitched the fourth inning in relief, allowing one hit and one walk while striking out one batter.

Bolton took the loss for the Minutemen, allowing nine runs (eight earned) on seven hits with two walks and a punchout. In 1.1 innings of work, Bradley surrendered six runs on four hits with four walks.

Offensively, Hastings went 3-3, got on base four times and collected seven RBIs for the Huskies. Suggs had the Minutemen's only hit of the game.

The Huskies (21-13, 10-2 Big East) kick off a seven-game home stand with a three-game series against the Creighton Blue Jays. First pitch is under the lights Friday, April 8, at 6 p.m. while the first pitch for Saturday and Sunday is 2 p.m. and 11 a.m., respectively. All three games are available on FloSports with live stats provided by StatBroadcast.



UConn outfielder Reese Guevarra celebrates during a game against DePaul at the Burrill Family Field on Saturday, March 26. The Huskies won 7-3. PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, STAFF



UConn outfielder Lexi Hastings is at bat against DePaul. The Huskies beat the Blue Demons 7-3 at the Burrill Family Field on Saturday, March 26, 2022, to snatch another win in the conference series. PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UConn SCOREBOARD

Softball:
Wednesday

15 vs. 0

UPCOMING GAMES

Softball: Friday, 6 p.m.
Burrill Family Field

Baseball: Friday, 6:05 p.m.
Elliot Ballpark

FINAL

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY

@uconnsoftball
Well that was fun! #WEbeforeme #GotYourSix

TWEETS OF THE DAY

Daniel Connolly
@DanielVConnolly
UConn's three seniors--Olivia Nelson-Ododa, Evina Westbrook and Christyn Williams--have officially entered their names in the WNBA Draft, forgoing their final year of eligibility.

No surprise, but it's official now.

UConn Golf Hat
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