



CONFIRMED 2022 COVID-19 CASES AT UCONN STORRS
as of 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 21 *positive test results

68 Current Residential Cases
(positive/symptomatic)

83 Cumulative Residential Cases*

252 Cumulative Commuter Cases*

Students protest Interim President Maric's Israel trip

by **Aiza Shaikh**
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University of Connecticut students gathered at Fairfield Way on Monday to protest Governor Ned Lamont and UConn Interim President Dr. Radenka Maric's decision to visit Israel on an economic development mission.

Maric announced her trip in an Instagram post Tuesday.

"I'm thrilled to be joining [Lamont] and other Connecticut representatives in Israel later this month as we focus on strengthening connections between the state and members of Israel's innovation ecosystem," read the post's caption. "UConn has a lot to offer companies looking to expand in the U.S. and we're grateful to have a chance to help strengthen the bond between our regions."

At the protest, members of UConn's Students for Justice in Palestine gave speeches in regard to their thoughts on the university's association and partnership with Israel, claiming that the partnership contradicts the work done by the Dodd Center for Human Rights and Human Rights Institute at UConn.

"As a Palestinian American, it is truly disgusting to witness UConn claim



Students gather outside of the Rowe academic building on Fairfield Way on Monday, Feb. 21 to protest the Interim President's upcoming trip to Israel with Gov. Ned Lamont. The protest was led by the Students for Justice in Palestine organization.

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

that they are nationally recognized for supporting human rights and then dishonoring that statement by supporting Israel's apartheid in the mass killings of the Palestinian people," Norah Kader, a fourth-semester civil engineering student, said at the protest.

"Right now as we speak, thousands of people in Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem are [being] forcibly evicted from

their homes," added Kader. "Children are separated from their families and people are starving. They have nowhere to go and they have no place to call home. These are the same people that lived in these houses for hundreds of years. These are the same people that have lived in these houses before the declaration of the Israeli state."

Kader also referred to a statement

Maric made in a former interview in regard to supporting her students, claiming the statement no longer holds true.

"UConn's current [interim] president Radenka Maric once stated in an interview...that she wants her students to know that whatever struggles they have, the university is there to support them," Kader said. "It is

extremely hypocritical to make that statement and then completely disregard the students' voice."

A 2021 UConn graduate and former SJP member who asked to remain anonymous said the situation is not as complicated as people make it out to be.

"People try to continuously complicate things, to try to push us under the rug," the former member said. "They try to tie us with politics. They try to tie us with religion. They try to tie us with terrorism. All these sorts of things, when in actuality, this is such a simple issue. We're asking for three things. We want peace, we want justice and we want prosperity."

After the protest, SJP social media chair Layan Alnajjar, a sixth-semester marketing major and management minor, said she hopes the protests and rallies will capture Maric's attention and convince her to listen to members of SJP.

"We're really just hoping that the new [interim] president can come and hear our cries and potentially implement something to help us," said Alnajjar. "We're trying to hold onto hope because we know that this administration is very pro-Israel, but we're doing the best we can."

National News

ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE IN NEW YORK CITY AND FLORIDA'S 'DON'T SAY GAY' LEGISLATION

by **Hadley Farragher**
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Christina Yuna Lee was a 35-year-old Korean American who was brutally killed on Feb. 13 in New York City. She was stabbed by Assamad Nash at least 40 times in her home, as reported by CNN.

Lee's murder happened less than a month after Michelle Alyssa Go, another Asian American woman, was killed after being pushed in front of a subway train in Times Square. Both murders are currently undergoing investigation about possible racial motives according to AP News and the New York Post.

Lee most recently worked as senior creative producer for an online media platform called Splice, according to a PBS article. She was described as a creative person by those who knew her.

"Christina was full of life. She radiated positivity, joy and love. She supported her friends in everything that they did. She went above and beyond to make those she loved know she was there for them — never expecting anything in return," Lee's family

and friends wrote on the GoFundMe.com page in her honor.

According to its page, the Christina Yuna Lee Memorial Fund on GoFundMe aims to raise money to donate to various groups. Her family also created a memorial outside her apartment that was later vandalized according to the New York Post. However, Lee's case was not an anomaly. According to NBC news, there has been an increase in anti-Asian hate crimes since last year.

"The compilation of hate crime data, published by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism, revealed that anti-Asian hate crime increased by 339% last year compared to the year before, with New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles and other cities surpassing their record numbers in 2020," wrote Kimmy Yam in the NBC article. The article says that anti-China rhetoric in the pandemic drives people to commit these crimes.

In other news, Florida advances legislation that will regulate how students learn about sexuality and gender. People who opposed the legislation labeled it the "Don't Say Gay" bill. According to the bill, schools will not be able to teach primary grade levels about sexuality or gender.

"A school district may not encourage classroom discussion about sexual orientation or gender identity in primary grade levels or in a manner that is not age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students."

A CBS News article writes that critics worry that not all LGBTQIA+

students have supportive homes. They argue that learning about sexuality and gender is a way for children to make connections that can help as they navigate their identities.

Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis voiced his support for the bill. Tennessee and Montana put in

place similar regulations last year as reported by a BBC News report. However, those statutes were milder in the sense that Florida's bill allows parents to sue schools for any violations of the "Don't Say Gay" bill. Florida's bill would take effect July 1, 2022.



Protesters rally in response to the killing of Christina Yuna Lee in New York City, Monday, Feb. 14, 2022. Lee was stabbed to death inside her lower Manhattan apartment by a man who followed her from the street into her building, authorities said.

PHOTO BY SETH WENIG/AP

Police question student in Hilltop Apartments stabbing

STORRS, Conn. (AP) — University of Connecticut police were continuing to investigate Monday after a weekend confrontation in an on-campus apartment complex left a student and another person with stab wounds.

A second student was taken into custody for questioning shortly after the incident around 11 p.m. Saturday at the Hilltop Apartments, university spokesperson Stephanie Reitz said. No other suspects are being sought, and police and prosecutors will determine whether criminal charges ensue, she said.

The student who has been questioned knew at least one of the other people beforehand, the university said.

All three suffered minor injuries in the encounter and were treated at hospitals. The stab wounds were superficial and treated with stitches.

The 13-building Hilltop Apartments complex houses 1,200 students, according to the university website.

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Tweet of the Day

Barstool Storrs
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not a day goes by where I don't think about how much better life would be if the Storrs Center 7/11 was still around

News

After \$73M win, Sandy Hook families zero in on gun marketing

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — After agreeing to a \$73 million lawsuit settlement with gun-maker Remington, the families of nine Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting victims say they are shifting their focus to ending firearms advertising with macho, military themes that exploit young men's insecurities, all in the hopes of preventing more mass shootings.

The families say Remington used those kinds of ads to promote its AR-15-style rifles like the one used to kill 20 young children and six educators inside the Newtown, Connecticut, school on Dec. 14, 2012.

"This is a case about creating change ... I'm only waiting really to have access to the documents and to figure out how to use that to help drive safety and better practices for the sales and marketing."

NICOLE HOCKLEY

Remington's marketing strategies are expected to be unveiled when the families' lawyers publicly release thousands of internal company documents obtained during the lawsuit. Lawyers for Remington and its insurers agreed to the disclosure as part of the settlement announced Tuesday.

"This is a case about creating change," Nicole Hockley, whose 6-year-old son, Dylan, was killed in the shooting, said in an interview after the settlement was announced. "Right now, I'm only waiting really to have access to the documents and to figure out how to use that to help drive safety and better practices for the sales and marketing."

Hockley, a plaintiff in the lawsuit, has been working with other victims' relatives to stem gun violence through the Sandy Hook Promise organization.

The records could provide one of the most detailed looks yet at the push by firearms manufacturers to popularize AR-15s and similar rifles, gun industry watchers say, especially after a 10-year federal ban on such weapons expired in 2004.

Hockley and outside observers have compared the case to those that led tobacco companies to disclose damaging internal documents and later agree to billions of dollars in settlements over sickened smokers.

It's not clear when the families' lawyers will release the documents. A lawyer for the families, Joshua Koskoff, said the records are being organized for public consumption, a process expected to take weeks.

The documents include emails between employees, internal company presentations and business projections, Koskoff said. He declined to discuss the contents of the records.

"The information that may come out ... there may be features of the way that the gun industry does business that are not either widely known or not widely appreciated," said Timothy D. Lytton, a law professor at Georgia State University. "This is going to shine a spotlight on the industry's role in the issue of the problem of gun violence."

Lawyers for Remington and its insurers did not return messages seeking comment. Remington, founded in 1816 and based in Madison, North Carolina, went bankrupt a second time in 2020, and its assets were later sold at auction to several other companies. Two new companies were created, Remington Firearms and Remington Ammunition.

A message seeking comment was left for Remington Firearms, which announced in November that it will establish headquarters in LaGrange, Georgia. A spokesperson for Remington Ammunition owner Vista Outdoor, based in Anoka, Minnesota, said the settlement involved the former Remington Outdoor Co., not Vista Outdoor or Remington Ammunition.

At the news conference announcing the settlement, Koskoff showed Remington ads that he said appealed to troubled youths like Adam Lanza, the 20-year-old man who carried out the Sandy Hook shooting. Lanza used a Remington-made Bushmaster XM15-E2S rifle that was legally owned by his mother. He killed his mother in their Newtown home before going to the school.

The ads contained messages including "Consider Your Man Card Reissued" and "Clear the Room, Cover the Rooftop, Rescue the Hostage."

Koskoff said Remington targeted younger, at-risk males in advertising and product placement in violent video games. The lawsuit said the company's advertising played a role in the school shooting, but did not elaborate.

Lanza had severe and deteriorating mental health problems, which combined with his preoccupation with violence and access to his mother's weapons "proved a recipe for mass murder," a report by Connecticut's child advocate said.

From the 10th grade, Lanza's mother kept him at home, where he was surrounded by an arsenal of firearms and spent long hours playing violent video games, the report said. His medical and school records included references to diagnoses of autism spectrum disorder, anxiety and obsessive compulsive disorder, although psychiatrists say those conditions are not indicative of future violence.

Robert Spitzer, a political science professor at the State University of New York at Cortland and the author of five books on gun policy, said the case will lead gun manufacturers to consider their marketing carefully. Spitzer, a member of both the National Rifle Association and the Brady gun control advocacy group, said his

chief goal is to study all sides of the gun debate.

Spitzer said the Remington case presents a clear warning "to other gun companies that manufacture assault-type weapons to avoid pumping up or emphasizing the military history, the sort of Rambo-like qualities of the weapon. They would be insane to continue to market these weapons by emphasizing those values because they would obviously open themselves up to similar lawsuits."

The National Shooting Sports Foundation, a gun industry group that happens to be based in Newtown, said the Sandy Hook families never produced evidence that Remington's advertising had any effect on Lanza. The foundation estimates there have been more than 20 million AR-15-style rifles sold in the U.S. and asserts that few are used in crimes.

According to the latest FBI crimes statistics, of the 13,600 firearms used in homicides in 2020, about 450 were rifles; more than 8,000 handguns were used.

AR-15-style rifles, however, have been used in many notable mass shootings, including Sandy Hook, the 2017 Las Vegas massacre that killed 58 people and wounded hundreds, and the 2018 school shooting in Parkland, Florida, that killed 14 students and three staff members.

Remington's marketing of its AR-15-style rifles before the Sandy Hook shooting contributed to surging sales of the weapon nationwide, Koskoff said. In the mid- to late 2000s, he said, only about 100,000 AR-15s were sold annually in the U.S. But by 2012, the number had skyrocketed to more than 2 million, he said.

He and the Sandy Hook families blamed a private equity firm, Cerberus Capital Management, which bought Remington in 2007, for being more concerned about profits than safety in seeking increased rifle sales. A message seeking comment was left for the firm.

"This is going to shine a spotlight on the industry's role in the issue of the problem of gun violence."

TIMOTHY D. LYTTON

Cerberus, as Remington's owner, was responsible for shifting a lot of the company's focus from traditional hunting rifles to AR-15-style rifles and for the resulting marketing campaigns, Koskoff said.

"They were using tactics of fear and toxic masculinity and appearing more powerful, and their documents talk about their target audience as military wannabes," Hockley said. "It's not saying that this (the settlement) is going to stop firearm manufacturers in any way. This is about being responsible in your marketing."



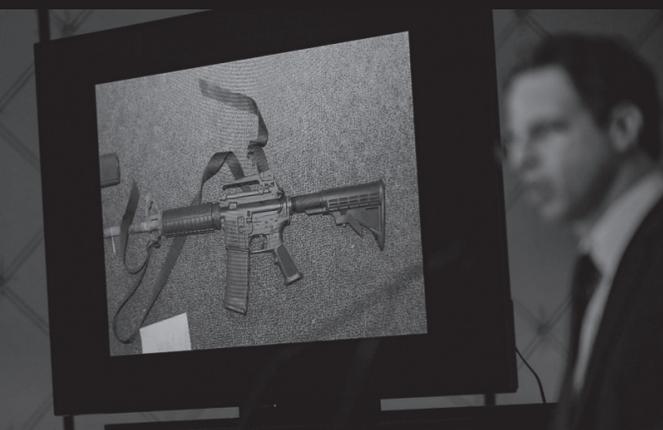
An advertising image for an AR-15-style rifle is displayed during a news conference in Trumbull, Conn., Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022. After agreeing to a \$73 million lawsuit settlement with gun-maker Remington, the families of nine Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting victims say they are shifting their focus to ending firearms advertising.

PHOTO BY SETH WENIG/AP



Ian and Nicole Hockley listen at a news conference at Edmond Town Hall in Newtown, Conn., Monday, Jan. 14, 2013. The Hockleys' 6-year-old son, Dylan, was killed in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting on Dec. 14, 2012.

PHOTO BY JESSICA HILL/AP



An image of the weapon used during the Newtown school shooting is displayed while attorney Josh Koskoff speaks during a news conference in Trumbull, Conn., Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022. 20 young children and six educators died inside the Newtown, Connecticut, school on Dec. 14, 2012.

PHOTO BY SETH WENIG/AP

The Daily Campus

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A year after woman's death on I-84, lawsuits seek answers

SOUTHINGTON, Conn. (AP) — The family of a woman who died while stranded overnight on Interstate 84 after a crash is suing the state.

Jayan Bryan died last February after she and roommate D'Yanna Wallace spent several hours in Bryan's car on the Cheshire-Southington border. Wallace suffered severe injuries and survived, and her family also has sued.

Shortly before 2 a.m., a motorist called police to report a large piece of debris in the roadway. A state trooper moved a vehicle trunk lid onto the center median, according to video reviewed by an attorney representing

the families, Hearst Connecticut Media Group reported.

The women's families contend the trooper should have checked the license plate, which they said was attached to the trunk lid, and searched to find out if there had been an accident.

Video shows the same trooper found the two women trapped inside the Nissan at approximately 7:30 a.m., Hearst reported. Bryan, who had recently turned 25, was pronounced dead at the scene.

"A motor vehicle trunk lid — a very sizable piece of debris — is found on the roadway, it's identified and picked

up by a trooper," attorney Peter Bowman told the news outlet. "He then discards it, throws it to the side of the road. They don't determine who owns the car, they don't reach out to see what the injury is, they don't try to find out."

State police haven't released a report on the accident. Sgt. Dawn Pagan, a state police spokesperson, told Hearst that was because the investigation remains open. Pagan also said it isn't uncommon for accidents to go unnoticed, particularly if there are no witnesses or a lack of evidence such as tire marks or property damage.

Lawmakers seek bipartisan deal on child mental health bill

(AP) — A group of Democratic and Republican state lawmakers on Friday unveiled the beginnings of what they pledged will be major overhaul of mental health services for children in Connecticut, an issue some repeatedly called a "crisis" that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The roughly 100-page bill being offered by the House of Representatives legislators, all members of a bipartisan working group that began meeting in November, is one of several proposals to improve mental health care up for consideration this session, including those from Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont and the state Senate caucuses.

House Speaker Matt Ritter, D-Hartford, predicted the multiple bills will eventually be morphed into one bipartisan piece of legislation that addresses everything from expanding the depleted ranks of mental health workers through student loan forgiveness and other programs to creating peer support programs in schools.

"It's not a rivalry. It's not a competition of bills or ideas, but rather it shows that everybody in this building believes this is an opportunity for us to make major changes in the way we treat mental health for our children," Ritter said of the dueling proposals.

"This should be and must be a bipartisan piece of legislation. Historic changes do not happen often when it is one sided," he said. "We will have our disagreements. We will have votes that go one way or the other. But this is an opportunity to bring people together and show the state and show the country this is what happens when folks work together."

The General Assembly's Public Health Committee is scheduled to hold a public hearing Feb. 25 to hear testimony on the bills, which address a wide range of issues including funding for more mobile crisis units, making telehealth services permanent, expanding the types of mental health treatment options for children and their families, and funding for more in-school social workers and psychiatrists. In some cases, the proposals call for initially using federal COVID relief money to kick-start the initiatives.

There are also proposals that address the increased demand for mental health services for adults as well.

"This is a start," said Rep. William Petit, R-Plainville, a physician, of the bill unveiled Friday. "I think the public hearing process is going to be critical to get input from providers, people on the front lines, of what needs to be tweaked, what needs to be added to."

Black women hold protest in Bridgeport, demand police reform

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (AP) — Black women and their supporters held a protest march in Connecticut's largest city on Saturday, demanding police and government reforms amid accusations of racial insensitivity by the Bridgeport Police Department in how it handled the deaths of two Black women.

About 150 people, including Black elected women and leaders, turned out for the protest dubbed "Black Women Speak! A March for Truth & Justice."

"This isn't just about these two women. It's about the systematic racism that's taken place in Bridgeport for

a long time," state Sen. Marilyn Moore, D-Bridgeport, told Hearst Connecticut Media in an interview. "Black women are tired of it and they're gonna stand up to it."

Lauren Smith-Fields, 23, and Brenda Lee Rawls, 53, were each found dead on Dec. 12 in their respective apartments. While the incidents were unrelated, both women's families said police did not notify them of the deaths in a timely manner. Smith-Fields died from an accidental overdose, according to the state medical examiner, while Rawls' cause of death

has not yet been determined.

Bridgeport Mayor Joe Ganim, a Democrat, has apologized to the families and last month directed the city police department's deputy chief to place two detectives on administrative leave for their handling of the cases. Despite such actions, some protesters called for him to resign Saturday.

There were also demands for a U.S. Department of Justice investigation into the Bridgeport Police Department and a state task force to study the issue of missing and murdered Black women and girls in Connecticut.

State releases guidance as school masking is left to locals

(AP) — Connecticut officials have released guidance for how K-12 schools across the state should handle face mask rules now that local districts are preparing for the statewide mask mandate to end on Feb. 28.

The public health and education departments are recommending various metrics for districts to consider as they determine whether to continue requiring masks, including the prevalence of local COVID-19 infections, the vaccination status of students, staff and the community and the amount of planning that's still needed to accommodate students and staff who might be at greater risk of infection.

"Prior to making any significant changes to the mitigation strategies in schools (including universal mask use), the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Connecticut State Department of Education encourage school districts to consider and discuss the unique complexities of school environments, the environmental conditions inside their school buildings, the health of their school populations and



Students listen to a presentation in Health class at Windsor Locks High School in Windsor Locks, Conn., March 18, 2021. Connecticut officials have released guidance for how K-12 schools across the state should handle face masks. It comes as local districts are preparing for the statewide mask mandate to end on Feb. 28, 2022.

PHOTO BY JESSICA HILL/AP

the conditions in their immediate and surrounding communities," according to one of the two documents released Friday evening to districts.

The agencies also included recommended steps districts should take if there is an outbreak, including reinstating a localized mask mandate, limiting the mixing of grades and classrooms during meals and recess, and limiting outside visitors.

Last week, the General Assembly voted to temporarily extend some of Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont's re-

maining pandemic-related executive orders that were set to expire on Feb. 15, including a statewide mask mandate for schools and child care centers. Lamont, however, said he only wanted to keep the mask mandate in place until Feb. 28, giving local school boards time to decide whether masking is necessary in their schools.

He cited the state's declining numbers of COVID-19 infections as a major reason, joining other Democratic governors in rolling back the contentious pandemic restriction. According to researchers at Johns Hopkins, the rolling average number of daily new cases has decreased by 518.1, a decrease of 36.0%, over the past two weeks.

So far, there have been mixed responses to the anticipated change in statewide masking rules by local school officials. The state's largest cities — including Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Waterbury and Stamford — all plan to still require face masks in

schools after Feb. 29 while many other districts have decided to make masks optional, the Hartford Courant reported. Some districts have not yet decided how to proceed and are in the process of surveying parents and staff before making a final decision.

West Hartford is among the dozens of communities in Connecticut that have decided to make masks optional.

"The reality now is that the Department of Public Health has stated that in many places in Connecticut, it is the right time, and safe, to move away from mandatory masking," West Hartford Superintendent Thomas Moore wrote in a recent statement to parents. Given his community's high vaccination rates, plummeting cases in schools and the immunity gained by people exposed to the omicron variant, "March should be a time when West Hartford public schools can move to optional mask wearing."

The Connecticut Interscholastic

Athletic Conference, the state organization that oversees high school sports, announced Friday it will not require student-athletes to wear masks at outdoor and indoor practices or competitions, as of Feb. 28. However, the updated guidance said student-athletes, officials, coaches, game workers and spectators will follow masking rules issued by the facilities where events are held.

Meanwhile, state officials said school districts will receive additional shipments of COVID test kits before Feb. 28. Two kits are supposed to be distributed to each student and staff member. For schools that are ending universal masking on Feb. 28, the state said the kits should be used by all staff and students prior to the mandate being lifted.

"Ideally, one test should be performed at home in the morning prior to leaving for school on the first day optional masking is implemented," according to the state's guidance.

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Cooking is not a gendered task

by Anika Veeraraghav
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When I was a junior in high school, my mom traveled to India for a couple of weeks and since my brothers were in college, it was just my dad and I at home. At some point during this period of time, my dad and I ran into a family friend who asked us how things were going without my mom at home — which was, of course, nice of her. The thing that struck me, however, was when she proceeded to ask me something along the lines of, "So, Anika, have you been cooking since your mom isn't home?"

Now, at 16, I was capable of basic cooking if I had to. However, with school, extracurricular activities and whatever other responsibilities I had at that age, I was preoccupied, and I was privileged enough to have cooking not be a prominent task on my mind. My dad was quite capable of cooking, and, therefore, with a look of confusion, I told her that my dad had been cooking.

Another time, more recently, a different family friend asked me a similar question while I was with my two older brothers; she asked something along the lines of, "Since your mom comes home late from work, do you cook dinner?" I'll be the first to admit that my brothers are much better cooks than I am — yet out of the three of us, I was the one who was asked about this.

A conversation with one of my roommates about this resulted in her agreeing with my observations on the connection between gender and cooking; she told me about how it is treated as an expectation

that she should be able to cook while her male cousins are showered with praise if they are capable of cooking. People often ask her if she knows how to cook with few questions of the sort directed toward her male cousins.

These experiences highlight the double-standards and expectations solely dependent on gender, especially in terms of cooking. Men who are able to cook are highly praised, whereas it is often an expectation that women know how to. Society is praising men for cooking, which should instead be treated as an important life skill, not a gendered task.

Many skills, including cooking, should not be separated based on gender and everyone should be encouraged how to learn how to cook, not just girls.

This is true especially in the Indian and Indian American community; both my roommate and I, being Indian American, have clearly witnessed this firsthand and have grown up surrounded by it as well. From seeing ads on Indian TV channels where men, dissatisfied with their wife's cooking, simply complained

rather than doing anything substantial to change their circumstances to seeing male celebrities being praised for cooking for the first time in five years, these standards have been heavily normalized. It is high time these standards change.

Many skills, including cooking, should not be separated based on gender and everyone should be encouraged how to learn how to cook, not just girls. Not every meal has to be a fancy, four course, five-star-restaurant-quality meal; simply understanding the basics, being able to follow a recipe and being willing to learn is more than enough.

Indian author Ismat Chughtai highlighted the differing expectations between men and women through her works and anecdotes regarding her experiences growing up. Chughtai's works from the early 20th century are still relevant today as, in certain families and societies, the expectation that girls and women should be able to cook properly sometimes takes them away from their education or other important endeavors, showing how these expectations can be detrimental for girls.

Rather than shower men with adulations for cooking — performing something that should be seen as a skill — and expecting it from women, there should be a middle ground; it is equally important for all genders to learn how to cook and perform other domestic tasks. From encouraging all children that it is O.K. to observe in the kitchen to treating cooking as an important life skill, the way society views cooking is in dire need of change.

The importance of emotional intelligence

by Aastha Gupta
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It is no surprise that the COVID-19 pandemic has denied us of many factions of our lives. But, something that has flown under the radar is our ability to discern our emotions and handle interpersonal relationships empathetically: in other words, emotional intelligence. More concerning, COVID-19 has exacerbated a problem that has been occurring for years. Certain research has found that emotional intelligence has been declining in the past decade; the reason, however, is yet to be determined, though there are

potential suspects such as technological use and a decrease in connectivity. More specifically, research has shown that college students are becoming less emotionally intelligent. It is no surprise given the way college students are taught, especially in the COVID-19 era. Lecture halls and the competitive spirit of college are not necessarily promoters of interpersonal connectivity. But, why does this matter?

On the one hand, emotional intelligence is beneficial to so many aspects of our lives: our stress level, how we deal with conflict, etc. On the other hand, research has shown concrete evidence that increasing our

emotional intelligence may aid us in our daily lives. For one, research published in the National Library of Medicine has shown that emotional intelligence is a predictor of academic success; even more important, emotional intelligence is something many employers give importance to. Emotional intelligence, especially in the workplace, can be a massive indicator of how one will interact with others; indeed, a lack of emotional intelligence within yourself and the people around you can be disastrous.

In an evaluation focused on emotional intelligence released by a medical college, administrators found that most people

left their college due to disillusionment rather than academics; disillusionment is often based on poor coping skills, an inability to deal with new conflicts and a personal history where, perhaps, individuals were not taught these skills. This is where college can and should come in to increase one's skills. In an age where mental well-being decreases at alarming rates, colleges need to have accessible mental health facilities. Such facilities can aid students in developing positive coping habits and increase emotional awareness.

Research published in the National Library of Medicine has shown that emotional intelligence is a predictor of academic success.

See EMOTIONS, p. 8



Daily Life

@dailycampuslife



SONGS INSPIRED BY UCONN: The story behind the UConn-inspired student album



Elizabeth He and Andre Mastrandrea pose in front of cows at Horsebarn Hill. Their album, inspired by several UConn hot spots, releases March 28, 2022. PHOTO COURTESY OF ELIZABETH HE

by Jonathan Kopeliovich
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The IDEA grant, one of the University of Connecticut's research grants for driven students, funds a wealth of projects every year. One student designed and built a garden meant for children to learn. Another group of students documented their trip to Yosemite National Park. The creativity of projects inspired Elizabeth He, an eighth-semester molecular and cell biology major, to propose creating a music album.

"Dorm Room POP!" is the name of the upcoming album, produced through a collaboration with He and Andre Mastrandrea, an eighth-semester music composition major. The eight-track album is inspired by a plethora of locations on campus, from the Dairy Bar to Horsebarn Hill.

Because it is both He and Mastrandrea's last years at the university, the students wanted to make something that would remind them of their time at UConn. The album is a swan song to UConn, and they made sure that they poured their hearts and souls into the composition.

"We just start[ed] with a list," Mastrandrea, whose artist name is Ambroggio, said. "Gampel, Homer, Student Union. Those are the easy go-to's, but you kind of need them there. And from there, we also wrote down thoughts, feelings, adjectives and stories that we would describe at each location."

Mastrandrea's favorite UConn place is Avery Point because of its beauty and family history. He's favorite UConn place is the Whitney benches.

The two, who met through the student-run record label UConn Entertainment Group, composed playlists of their favorite songs. When listening to them, they would take inspiration from melodies and chord progressions from those songs.

"I was trying to write a chorus, and I literally texted Andre. I was like: 'What

toppings do you put on your ice cream? Strawberry? Yeah, strawberries, fudge, rainbow sprinkles.' And literally, [those were] just like the building blocks. Once [Mastrandrea] sent that to me, I was just able to write. And so, it's like, 'My head in the clouds... Marshmallow daydream,'" He said about the songwriting for the album.

The creativity derives from Mastrandrea's music production skills and He's vocals and songwriting. The two have experience on both sides of the equation.

Mastrandrea's background comes from experimenting with GarageBand in high school before moving on to buy professional equipment for music composition. He learned how to play the cello and has produced some of his friends' albums. Mastrandrea cited Tame Impala, Nirvana and

Trippie Redd as some of the artists he listens to and is influenced by.

He, on the other hand, takes her inspiration from artists like Clairó, who she started listening to in fall of 2019. Clairó was one of the people who popularized bedroom pop, a genre of music known for its warm and amateur aesthetic, derived from the simple atmosphere of a bedroom.

The album's mix of genres represents the diversity of the creators' musical influences. Mastrandrea talked about his folksy songwriting style and He's pop sensibilities and gave insight into his musical thought process.

"You know what just screams basketball games? Horns. We didn't know where to start. We were just gonna start with horns. And I was like, 'It'd be awesome if we made a rap track that then gets super punky.' But I also wanted it to be upbeat," Mastrandrea said.

Additional plans for the album include an accompanying music video for each song. He and Mastrandrea are also developing a fair use doctrine for their album so that UConn students can freely use it in their own works.

An album release party will take place at the Student Union Theater on March 28 at 7 p.m.

"We just start[ed] with a list. Gampel, Homer, Student Union. Those are the easy go-to's, but you kind of need them there. And from there, we also wrote down thoughts, feelings, adjectives and stories that we would describe at each location."

ANDRE MASTRANDREA

S.H.A.P.E.

hosts anonymous compliment event
'GET ONE, GIVE ONE'
to promote awareness of eating disorders

by Jonathan Kopeliovich
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National Eating Disorders Awareness Week begins Monday, with the public campaign aiming to educate people about eating disorders. S.H.A.P.E., or Students Helping to Achieve Positive Esteem, is a student-run organization backed by UConn's Student Health and Wellness Services. They promote awareness about eating disorders and body acceptance, holding workshops to transform students into peer educators.

S.H.A.P.E. kicked off NEDA with the "Get One, Give One" event. On Monday afternoon, students came to their stand on Fairfield Way to drop off anonymous

compliments. In exchange, they received an anonymous compliment written by another student. S.H.A.P.E. also gave away stickers and bands and hosted a giveaway.

Elizabeth Shaul, an eighth-semester theater design major and S.H.A.P.E. intern discussed reasons for hosting the event. She explained that compliments can go a long way in making someone's day better.

"I think that part of it was talking about, like, in a lot of our discussions and meetings, we talked about giving non-physical compliments to people. And, this is kind of like spreading that awareness," Shaul said. "Because if you're giving a compliment to a stranger, you can't do anything that's physical. If you're not seeing them, you have

no idea who your compliments are gonna go to but you still want to fit that person."

That being said, it is important to be mindful when giving compliments to those with eating disorders. NourishRX, a web blog run by registered dietitians, points out the harmful nature of weight-related statements, saying that "people with eating disorders can't just eat normally." No one chooses to have an eating disorder and pointing out perceived weight changes can reinforce their thoughts about negative body image, the site wrote.

Instead, friends should provide emotional and moral support to those struggling around them. Checking up and just being there for them can make a big difference, Shaul explained.

Mason Tumminelli, a sixth-semester com-

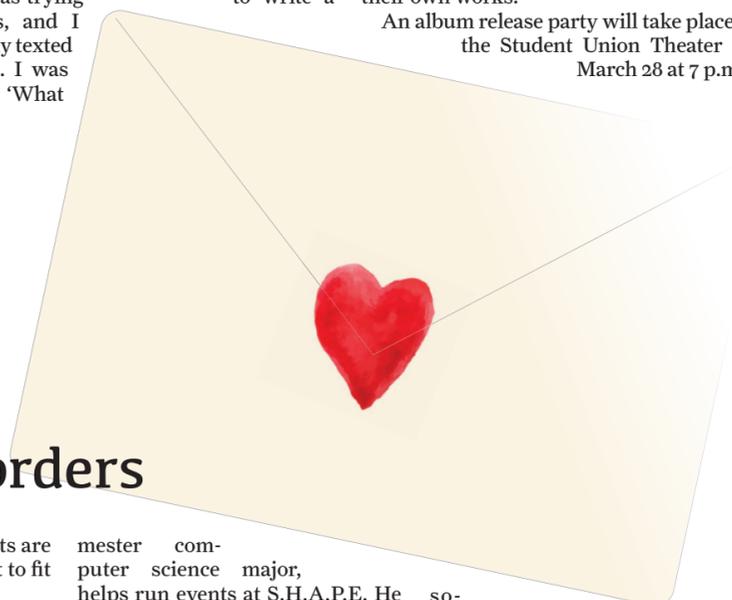
puter science major, helps run events at S.H.A.P.E. He joined the organization because in high school, he had friends with eating disorders that struggled immensely. Now, he wants to help others overcome that illness.

Amy Viens, another S.H.A.P.E. volunteer and a sixth-semester art history major, said, "I joined the club because I've had friends who have struggled with eating disorders before and I didn't realize the impact that day-to-day life has on these people and not being able to identify certain characteristics of an eating disorder. I joined to really be able to do that and help people get through."

S.H.A.P.E. partnered with the Women's Center to create the Body Project which is a "cognitive-dis-

sonance-based body acceptance intervention" for young women to resist societal pressures to conform to an unrealistic body. S.H.A.P.E. also works with Active Minds, a student club that advocates for suicide prevention and mental health awareness.

Other events this week include a virtual Kahoot night about eating disorders on Tuesday at 7 p.m. and another one at 8 p.m. as well as a virtual art show. The theme for the art show is "See the change, be the change" and can be accessed via their website. Submissions will be accepted until Feb. 24 and voting will run from Feb. 25-27.



'The Gilded Age'

BRINGS 'DOWNTON' DECADENCE TO THE BIG APPLE



HBO Max's new drama, "The Gilded Age," features a star-studded cast, including Cynthia Nixon, Christine Baranski (above), Carrie Coon, Morgan Spector (bottom left), Louisa Jacobson and Denée Benton (bottom right). PHOTOS COURTESY OF IMDB.COM, CLIPART COURTESY OF SQUANTIQSHOP.COM

by Gino Giansanti Jr.
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HBO Max's highly-anticipated historical drama, "The Gilded Age," brings period-piece master of the small screen and big screen, Julian Fellowes, across the pond to tell a distinctly American tale with the same glamor of his royalty-adjacent plotlines. Fellowes, best known for writing acclaimed series like "Downton Abbey" and "Belgravia," assembled a star-studded cast whose gripping characters intermingle in the turbulent years of the late 19th century. Having premiered on Jan. 24, 2022, the series is now four episodes in, and I can say with complete confidence that it is sure to impress.

"The Gilded Age" follows warring families and factions in New York's elite society in the decades following the Civil War. "Old money" families whose roots trace back to the Mayflower — think the Astors and Roosevelts — are threatened by "new money" families — like the Vanderbilts and Rockefellers — who make millions off of new industries and factories in the Second Industrial Revolution. Sound boring? It's not, or at least not in the way it's presented.

Audiences enter this world through the eyes of Marian Brook (Louisa Jacobson), a young Pennsylvania farmer's daughter whose father died, who moves to New York to live with her Aunt Agnes (Christine Baranski) and Aunt Ada

(Cynthia Nixon), both of whom are members of the "old money" class. Across the street, in a much more lavish palace than the Van Rhijn brownstone, railroad tycoon George Russell (Morgan Spector) and his wife Bertha (Carrie Coon) move in and worm their way into the most exclusive New York City circles. Along the way, we meet the downstairs staff of both households, whose lives are just as complex as those of their upstairs counterparts, as well as several real-life figures who interact with the fictional personas we follow.

The road to "The Gilded Age" was certainly a long one, as talks of "an American 'Downton Abbey'" began more than 10 years ago. Fans of the sweeping British drama that chronicles the story of the aristocratic Crawley family may be upset to learn that the original intention for this series was to feature the American-born Lady Grantham's family in New York and Newport, Rhode Island, before her move across the Atlantic. The series was originally greenlit by NBC, yet changed hands to HBO with a new plotline and a new set of characters.

I hesitate to make so many references to "Downton Abbey" when discussing "The Gilded Age," but, the stories, eras, characters and cinematic styles are so similar that it is impossible not to. The key difference between them, however, is the scope of the story-telling. While "Downton Abbey" is limited to the manor and the surrounding estate, "The Gilded Age" visits all parts of the island of Manhattan, meeting several families from different backgrounds and ethnicities.

What the show perhaps lacks is the soapiness and scandal of the usual 21st century period piece. "Downton Abbey" has always been the more modest, tasteful drama, compared to the steamier, sexier likes of "Bridgerton" and company.

While "The Gilded Age" is not devoid of scandal, I certainly hope Fellowes can do better than a closeted gay character and a party that nobody attends. However, the season has barely begun, so I'd hardly call that a major fault just yet.

While I have nothing but good things to say about the series, it should be discussed that "The Gilded Age" is yet another drama about rich White people and their problems — something television is far from lacking. So, do we really need "The Gilded Age?" In a certain sense, "The Gilded Age" even matches HBO Max's other drama, "Succession," but with the cast in corsets instead of Gucci.

The key redeeming quality to this show, however, is the character of Peggy Scott (Denée Benton), the third main plot the series follows. Scott, a young Black writer meets Marian on her journey to New York and later finds work as Agnes' secretary. Though she lives in the Van Rhijn's servant quarters, she is actually the heiress of a wealthy family of New York's Black elite in Brooklyn who has more money than her employer. While "Bridgerton," rewrites the narrative to include people of color in the upper echelons of society, "The Gilded Age" seeks to tell the story of those who were already there who have yet to have their day on the silver screen. The attention to detail and the historical research that has taken place is commendable.

At the end of the day, this series is definitely one for all fans of historical dramas. Despite any faults, it is escapism cinema at its finest, drawing you into a beautiful world of wealth and wonder, with a phenomenal cast who truly put their all into their complex characters. With such a sweeping ensemble series, one can only imagine what is next in store for any one of the dozens of on-screen personas, but you can bet I'll be first to tune in when it continues.



BOX OFFICE BREAKDOWN



‘Uncharted’ takes over the charts

“Uncharted,” starring Tom Holland and Mark Wahlberg, is this weekend’s top-earner at the box office, surpassing expectations by grossing \$44.1 million domestically. While it is not a favorite among critics, audiences certainly seem to love it. PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB.COM

by **Zachary Wisniefsky**
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Well, I think we can finally say that the box office is back.

Even with the success of “Spider-Man: No Way Home,” there was still hesitancy among box-office prognosticators to make the claim that the box office had returned. “No Way Home” was an event movie, not your typical, run-of-the-mill weekend movie release. Though the film has had an incredible run, perhaps it because millions of viewers eager to get out the house for this one film.

That claim was proven wrong this weekend. “Uncharted,” which is coincidentally a Tom Holland-led picture, exceeded expectations by grossing \$44.1 million this weekend. Though the final data will not be out by this article’s release, the film will likely be able to gross over \$50 million for the 4-day Presidents’ Day weekend. This was beyond Sony’s expectations and the predictions of people like myself. I severely underestimated the opening last week, thinking the film would only gross around \$20 million. The film was not well received by critics, but audiences seem to be enjoying the flick with Deadline reporting it received a B+ CinemaScore from audiences. With a \$50+ million opening weekend, barring any disastrous drops in the next few weeks (which is not out of the question with “The Batman” release looming at the start of March), the film should eclipse \$100 million domestically and likely end around \$120-130 million depending on its legs.

In second place was another surprise, the film “Dog” co-directed by and starring Channing Tatum. This film exceeded expectations this week with a gross of \$15.1 million, far greater than my estimation of \$5 million last week. The film was fairly well-received by critics and audiences, with what sources say was a strong marketing campaign pushing the film to exceed expectations. With a reported budget of \$15 million (not including marketing expenses) “Dog” has put itself in great position to profit. Its drop in consequent weekends will determine the film’s overall profit, but I think “Dog” will end up grossing around \$45 million domestically.

In third place this weekend was “Spider-Man: No Way Home,” which brought home another \$7.2 million this weekend. This sub-5% drop is incredible for the film which is now in its 10th weekend of release. To put this in perspective, this film released during the week of finals and now is still in the domestic box office top three, even five weeks into spring semester. This week, the film officially passed the domestic total of “Avatar” to become the third-highest grossing film domestically. Clearly, the film is not done just yet having another great weekend, moving to over \$770 million domestically. Now, I think the film has a strong chance to surpass \$800 million domestically, becoming the third movie to do so behind “Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens” and “Avengers: Endgame.”

In fourth and fifth place are the last two week’s No. 1 films, “Death on the Nile” and “Jackass Forever” with \$6.25 million and \$5.2 million, respectively. The film “Death on the Nile” had a 51.5% drop, which is average though likely disappointing considering the film’s relatively low opening last weekend. It is hard to see a future where the \$90 million budgeted film will profit. “Jackass Forever” had a fantastic third-weekend drop of 35.3%, pushing the film to \$46.7 million domestically. If “Jackass” can put together a few more solid holds, a \$65 million domestic total is a likely possibility.

Next weekend brings the wide release of one new picture, the Peter Dinklage-led “Cyrano.” This film has gotten good reviews, but its box office success is largely going to be determined by its Oscar-status, for which it received zero nominations. It would be surprising if this film grosses more than \$10 million.

Though “No Way Home” was a historic success, before we could officially declare the box office was back, we needed to see a medium-budget, non-superhero, non-sequel film showcase some sort of success at the box office. Though it’s the superheroes and sequels that drive the box office revenue, it’s those smaller, original pictures that keep the gears turning at the worst times. Both “Uncharted” and “Dog” exceeded expectations this weekend, which we have not seen in a long time at the pandemic domestic box office.

Barring greater large-scale COVID-19 issues, I think the domestic box-office is officially back.

PRESIDENTS’ DAY WEEKEND GROSSES

1. **“Uncharted”**
\$44.1 million
2. **“Dog”**
\$15.1 million
3. **“Spider-Man: No Way Home”**
\$7.2 million
4. **“Death on the Nile”**
\$6.25 million
5. **“Jackass Forever”**
\$5.2 million

Opinion StudyBreak

Photo of the Day | Rise of the Phoenix



Phoenix, a Pomeranian Husky mix, sits in the grass to enjoy the sun on Fairfield Way on Monday, Feb. 21. Phoenix welcomed those that were passing by to stop and pet her for a moment before continuing on their way. PHOTO BY ERIN KNAP, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

We need to re-learn emotional intelligence

EMOTIONS, cont. from p. 4

Something that may be harder to enact is a change in teaching style. Indeed, we have always been told in college that we will be surrounded by people who want to be our friends, but many have found that in the COVID-19 era, this is not often the case. Maintaining relationships takes work, and sometimes it is hard to develop those relationships while also balancing school and extracurriculars. Personally, I always wondered why in the university, lecture-style teaching was so common. Though it has its pros, it does little to foster communication or genuinely engage students. The most ef-

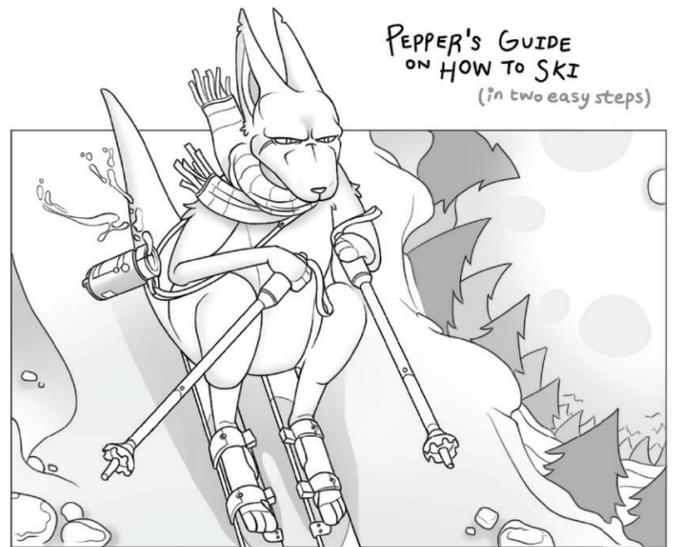
Colleges can actively increase emotional intelligence by changing the way they teach and fostering communication, especially in classes where competition is heavily prevalent and with challenging material.

fective learning I have done is in classes where group work is prevalent and assignments led to interaction with other students. Colleges can actively increase emotional intelligence by changing the way they teach and fostering communication, especially in classes where competition is widespread and the material is rigorous.

More than the physical, emotional intelligence has so much to do with our mental abilities and what makes us human. It is something that we can hone. It becomes a responsibility for us as individuals and the organizations we participate in to increase this vital part of one's skillset.

Sudoku

	6						2	9
		3			6			
1						3		5
	5	9		6	7			
3				1				2
			4	2		9	3	
5		4						6
			6			7		
8	7						4	



① Go DOWN HILL



② CRASH.

CONNOR & PEPPER #692 "SKIING" #100

COMIC BY CONNOR RICKERMANN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

DYK?

Kumquat seeds are polyembryonic, which means they have more than one embryo inside the seed.

KUMQUATS ARE VERY SMALL, EVERGREEN TREES NATIVE TO THE MOUNTAINOUS REGIONS OF SOUTH-EASTERN CHINA.

FACTS COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

Bird is Back: Sue Bird finally re-signs with Seattle Storm

(AP) — Sue Bird officially re-signed Friday with the Seattle Storm, her only WNBA team, in what is expected to be her final season.

Bird, the WNBA assists leader and oldest player in the league at 41, previously announced she would return for one more season. She waited until Seattle recently finished its offseason maneuvers — including bringing back Jewell Loyd and Breanna Stewart — before signing her deal.

Terms were not disclosed. The WNBA supermax salary for 2022 is \$228,094. Bird is a four-time WNBA champion with Seattle. Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James, a four-time NBA champion, will make approximately \$41 million this season.

Bird, from Syosset, New York, helped lead Connecticut to two NCAA titles and was the No. 1 pick in the 2002 WNBA Draft by Seattle. The 2022 season will be Bird's 21st

overall with the franchise, but she missed the 2014 and 2019 seasons due to injury.

"It's rare to have someone play their entire career for one team and Sue has done that for our city, our franchise and our fans," Seattle general manager Talisa Rhea said in a statement. "To have Sue lead the franchise back home, to the city of Seattle, and Climate Pledge Arena is extremely special."



For several years, Bird has said she would annually assess how much longer she wanted to play. She won a record fifth gold medal with the United States at the Tokyo Olympics last summer. Seattle, playing without an injured Stewart, was ousted a few months later in the second round of the WNBA playoffs by Phoenix. Bird was feted with chants of "one more year" by the home crowd.

The 12-time All-Star selection said those chants lingered and helped motivate her to play another season. She's also expressed excitement about getting to play in Seattle's new home arena after spending the 2019 and 2021 seasons in venues around the Puget Sound region. The 2020 season was held in the WNBA bubble in Florida because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Bird averaged 10 points and 5.3 assists last season. She also averaged nearly 28 minutes, her highest total since 2017.



Seattle Storm's Sue Bird dribbles in the first half of a WNBA second round playoff basketball game against the Phoenix Mercury, Sunday, Sept. 26, 2021, in Everett, Wash. Sue Bird officially re-signed Friday, Feb. 18, 2022, with the Seattle Storm, her only WNBA team, in what is expected to be her final season. PHOTO COURTESY OF AP

Sounding Off: Cloud9 should give a good reason for LS' firing

by Sam Zelin

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At 8:14 p.m. on Saturday night, the North American League of Legends community was hit with what may be the biggest shock in league history. Cloud9 head coach Nick "LS" De Cesare was released from the organization, effective immediately. Now, if you don't avidly follow the League Championship Series, this may seem like just another firing. Obviously these happen in traditional sports too, so one might question what all the drama surrounding this specific firing is about. It's important to understand that this story is still very much in the developing stage, but how

the team handles communications throughout the rest of the event will have major implications for how future situations are dealt with.

What makes this such a massive deal is that Cloud9, a perennial top-tier North American franchise, gutted their roster from last year in favor of a team built entirely around LS. This included South Korean players Park "Summit" Woo-tae and Kim "Berserker" Min-cheol, who uprooted their careers in the higher-regarded League Champions Korea to play for LS in America. Cloud9 made it very clear this offseason that their team branding would be centered around LS. The players that swore by his style of play and upheld his coaching phi-

losophy suddenly fired him with no explanation a mere four games into the season.

Now, it's no doubt that having LS as a coach was an experiment. He is a celebrity in the League of Legends world, not just as a coach but also as a streamer and caster. His style of play breaks the mold of the usual strategic status quo. In traditional sports, when this kind of coach is hired, it's usually understood that if things go south, there's a short leash. However, LS' tenure as Cloud9 head coach had not been going badly as of the time of his release. The team was 3-1 and tied for first place in the league.

For a comparison to traditional sports, let's look at the NFL. In

the past season, the Jacksonville Jaguars hired college coach Urban Meyer to lead the team. Meyer is a well-known name in football but was definitely seen as an experiment considering his lack of professional coaching experience. Just like LS, he was released by his organization in his first season of work, but unlike LS' two-week stint, Meyer held the position for 13 weeks. Within his term, Meyer was fined \$100,000 for violating NFL practice rules, was accused of kicking one of his players and was seen at a bar in Columbus, Ohio having inappropriate contact with a woman that was not his wife.

All of those infractions happened before Meyer was let go by the Jag-

uars. LS was let go without any public-facing controversy leading up to the decision. Here's where Cloud9 has an important responsibility to uphold: If this ordeal is allowed to boil over with no transparency from the organization, League of Legends esports will lose a great deal of credibility. The community deserves a substantive answer for why the firing occurred. If a traditional sports team fired a coach that was having a successful season without a valid reason, those involved in the sport would go ballistic. If Cloud9 has a good reason, obviously this move could be justified, but the people deserve to know what that reason is.

Tee Time with T: Nieman breaks record at Genesis Invitational

by Taylor Coonan

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With a packed field full of just about all of the top golfers on the PGA Tour, it was hard to predict who would come out on top at the Genesis Invitational. The tournament took place from Feb. 17-20 at the Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades, Calif.

My guess throughout the weekend was that American golfer Colin Morikawa would be taking home a purse of \$2,160,000 and 550 FedEx Cup points. He ended up coming in second, with 267 shots across four rounds, which was split between him and fellow American Cameron Young. This keeps Morikawa at No. 2 in the world, per Official World

Golf Rankings.

Speaking of second, the Genesis Invitational was the second PGA Tour win that Chile golfer Joaquin Niemann now has secured, finishing Sunday with a total of 265 shots on the weekend and earning \$2.1 million out of the \$12 million purse. Ahead by three strokes, going into the final round Niemann sat comfortable for his finish, which was a 54-hole record and was 3-under 68. He might as well have just called game right then and there, without a need to prove anything further on Sunday but extending the lead to six.

Previously, the 54-hole record was claimed by Mike Weir of Canada, Dustin Johnson of and Justin Thomas both of whom are from

America. All are honorable golfers, meaning that much more for Nieman's win as he set the new record at 19-under 194. The most recent record, held by Johnson, was 17-under. This contributed to Niemann's elevation to No. 20 in the world. Currently, he is No. 32 on TOUR.

Unfortunately, Niemann was unable to break another tournament record, which was Lanny Wadkins' 264 score. It may hurt or help this to know that Niemann missed this by a single shot, as he tallied 265. Nonetheless, it was an impressive performance and an incredible weekend for the Chilean.

Right off the tee, Niemann led the first round at 63 shots and was followed by Cameron Young, who would end up second a few days

later, so this was almost a perfect indication of how the tournament would go. However, Young beat Niemann for 62 on the second round only by a shot. He sunk to 17th on the third round, but it didn't matter considering he had already broken the record by this point and was still ahead by three. He sunk to 30 on the final round, but with such a lead, Niemann had the freedom to do so and still earn the maximum payout and points.

I would also say that the defending champion, Max Homa of America, had a successful four rounds. Homa finished in a three-way tie for 10th place with fellow American Chez Reavie and Rory McIlroy, from Northern Ireland. Homa had two eagles, one in the first and then

another in the final round. He did have 10 bogeys though, which ultimately brought him down but to still come out with a top 10 win is nonetheless impressive.

However, Jon Rahm delivered another disappointing collection of swings. The Spanish golfer continues to score below what would be expected of someone who is currently ranked as the top golfer in the world. Last week's column addressed his lackluster showings as of late and finishing in a five-way tie for 21st place continues to solidify that this week. He attempted to save face with an eagle in the last round, but it wouldn't be enough to cover the 10 bogeys he had.

Hopefully Rahm can pick it up to keep his No. 1 spot for the next stop on the PGA Tour schedule, where he'll be playing next. The Honda Classic, which takes place this upcoming weekend, starts Feb. 24 and ends on Feb. 27. Play travels east to the Champion Course at the PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Defending champion Matt Jones, Australia, will look to defend his title and earn a portion of the \$8 million purse in his pursuit.



Joaquin Niemann, of Chile, tees off on the 17th hole during the second round of the Genesis Invitational golf tournament at Riviera Country Club, Friday, Feb. 18, 2022, in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles. PHOTO COURTESY OF AP

Speaking of second, the Genesis Invitational was the second PGA Tour win that Chile golfer Joaquin Niemann now has secured, finishing Sunday with a total of 265 shots on the weekend and earning \$2.1 million out of the \$12 million purse.

Sports

Photo of the Day | Senior Night at Freitas Ice Forum!



The UConn women's hockey team ties 4-4 with Northeastern at their Senior Night game Friday, Feb 18 at Freitas Ice Forum. After falling behind in the first period, UConn was able to make a comeback in the second and third period, eventually tying the game. PHOTO BY ERIN KNAPP, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Big East Baller Update No. 15: Marquee Matchups

by Cole Stefan
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Get your popcorn ready. Every team is fighting for something, whether it's a ranking in the AP Polls, a regular season conference title or proof that the future has something special in store. With storylines like this, ticket revenues are going to go through the roof, outselling several recent classics. If you were bored by this year's dunk contest, hopefully you will be entertained by reading this past week's batch of Big East games.

Writer's Note: Please rank Creighton, they've exceeded expectations.

Player of the Week: Julian Champagnie - St. John's
Freshman of the Week: Ryan Nembhard - Creighton

No. 10 Villanova vs. No. 8 Providence (Feb. 15): Top Ten Tilt

The first Top Ten conference battle since Xavier (No. 4) and Villanova (No. 3) clashed in 2018, this contest had two Big East foes squaring off in a matchup to determine Big East supremacy. Providence was undefeated at home, but Villanova's a dominant road warrior.

Villanova dominated early, entering the halftime break up by six points. Justin Moore sparked the offense with three 3-pointers in the first 10 minutes before the rest of the Wildcats followed suit. Certain plays such as Jermaine Samuels throwing it down proved why this was the game of the night, but Villanova used a 12-6 run in the final three minutes to maintain their strong lead.

Nate Watson and AJ Reeves woke the Friars up in the second half, but Collin Gillespie hit buckets in Stephen Curry-like fashion, keeping Providence away from the lead. Villanova led by two entering the final minute, but Gillespie provided the dagger with 29 seconds left and forced Providence to foul. In a game that included fans throwing stuff on the court, Villanova proved that this was their league, winning 89-84.

Offense defined this contest as both teams made over 45% of their shots from the field, but Providence was done in by their 21% three-point shooting. Gillespie scored a career-high 33 points for the Wildcats while Moore tacked on 19 of his own. Watson's 20 points and Reeves' 16 led the way for Providence. Villanova may have won this round, but the rematch should be billed like John Cena vs. the Rock at WrestleMania 29 because the storylines are already developing.

Marquette vs. Creighton (Feb. 20): Cyan Ryans

Buckle your straps, and put on



Connecticut's R.J. Cole reacts to a referee's call during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game against St. John's, Sunday, Feb. 13, 2022, in New York. PHOTO COURTESY OF AP SETH WENIG

your cowboy hats. After a double overtime clash in their first meeting, the two programs got together for an Omaha rematch at two past high noon. Whoever won this duel would significantly improve their March Madness profile.

This was an offensive shootout. All three of Creighton's Ryans, Ryan Hawkins, Ryan Kalkbrenner and Ryan Nembhard, had a balanced lion's share at the line, in the paint and from downtown. It took over seven minutes for a Creighton player not named Ryan to score a basket. Marquette needed this win, and they went possession-by-possession with Creighton. After 20 minutes of trading punches and buckets, both teams entered the halftime break with 46 points.

The last two minutes decided this game, and it started when Hawkins made a go-ahead layup off a spectacular Nembhard pass. Each team missed two field goals, but the highlight of the game came in the final seconds. Down by one,

Marquette needed to get to the paint for the game-winning shot. However, Rati Andronikashvili nabbed the ball from Darryl Morsell and forced him out of bounds. Several free throws later, Jones made a three-pointer as the buzzer sounded, but it did not matter as Creighton survived 83-82.

Both teams shot over 50% from the field, but this game belonged to the Ryans. Kalkbrenner had 21 with seven rebounds, Nembhard had 18 and Hawkins had 17 with nine boards. Morsell did everything for the Golden Eagles, finishing with 23 points while Jones had 18 off the bench. If we get a third round between these two teams, it better require three periods minimum.

No. 8 Providence vs. Butler (Feb. 20): Never count out Them Dudes

Back in December, Ed Coolsey told his players to "be them dudes." That mantra has lasted all season and provided a rallying cry for the veteran Friar squad.

Entering the tough atmosphere of Hinkle Fieldhouse, would those dudes step up again?

Butler gave everyone hope in the first half, leading by 15 at the break and limiting the Friars to just 20 points. Behind Aaron Thompson and Chuck Harris, Butler turned the lead into a massive dogpile.

Butler extended their lead to 19 with 17 minutes left, but Providence left everyone on the edge of their seats. After clawing their way back, Noah Horchler banked home a jumper with 26 seconds left to tie a game that could have easily been a signature Butler blowout. Horchler also blocked a potential game-winning shot and Reeves' potential game-winner came up short to end regulation.

The best of this back-and-forth overtime was saved for last. Harris scored a go-ahead layup, but with 39 seconds left, Jayden Taylor fouled Jared Bynum, who made both free throws for the lead. After Justin Minaya forced

a steal and Butler fouled, Bynum missed both free throws, leaving Jayden Taylor with a chance to be the hero. Unfortunately, his potential winning shot bounced off the rim. Providence then miraculously kept the ball inbound and escaped Hinkle Fieldhouse with a 71-70 victory.

Providence has proven all season long that they are "them dudes." Watson made that clear with 22 points while Horchler added 15. Harris had 17 for Butler while Thompson had 16. Providence also turned into the New England Patriots with this win, a team that should never be discounted.

It's wild to think that we're already approaching the final week of February. At this point, every team has less than five conference games to play, and each one of them will impact the storylines heading into the post-season. Perhaps it could cause some sickos to awaken from their hibernation.

Spin Cycle: Ranking UConn's last 5 NBA first round picks

by **Nick Spinali**
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As the self-proclaimed "Basketball Capital of the World," you'd expect UConn to have a strong track record of producing high-quality NBA talent, right? As it turns out, UConn basketball players haven't really caught the eyes of NBA scouts in recent years. The school produced its first NBA draft selection since 2016 when James Bouknight was selected eleventh overall by the Charlotte Hornets in the 2021 NBA Draft.

Despite the recent lack of players to reach the NBA, several Huskies have been selected by NBA teams in the 21st century. In fact, most UConn athletes selected in the NBA Draft have been selected in the first round rather than the second, indicating that those selected possess superior skills than their draft-class counterparts. Since 2011, UConn has had five basketball players become first round draft selections. For the sake of comparison, and to evaluate the professional track records of recent Huskies, I'll be ranking UConn's previous five first round selections based on how they fared on a professional stage: Bouknight, Shabazz Napier, Jeremy Lamb, Andre Drummond and Kemba Walker.

5. JAMES BOUKNIGHT, G, CHARLOTTE HORNETS

Since being selected 11th overall in the 2021 NBA draft, Bouknight has seen inconsistent minutes, has shown flashes of potential and has filled in the cracks by being ejected from his old stomping grounds at Gampel Pavilion. In all seriousness, Bouknight has the tools to become a legitimate NBA player, though he has yet to make the permanent transition to the NBA. When he was drafted, many were under the impression that the Hornets believed in Bouknight's potential as a raw prospect and took a flier by selecting him early in hopes of reaping the results of his development in the future. In the meantime, Bouknight has split most of this season between Charlotte and their G-League affiliate, the Greens-

boro Swarm. For Greensboro, Bouknight has been outstanding, averaging a solid 25.1 points, 7.1 rebounds and 4.3 assists per game. However, on the NBA-level, Bouknight's numbers translate to 5 points, 1.7 rebounds and 0.8 assists per game in just over ten minutes per game. For most of the season, Bouknight's minutes have taken place in garbage time as he has yet to establish a consistent role in head coach James Borrego's rotation. Until the Hornets give Bouknight a chance to play regularly, it will be hard to analyze his professional success.

4. SHABAZZ NAPIER, G, EUROLEAGUE

Once an NCAA Tournament hero for Connecticut, Napier was selected 24th overall in the 2014 NBA Draft by the Hornets and was traded to the Miami Heat on draft night. He would play one season in Miami, in which he averaged 5.1 points, 2.2 rebounds and 2.5 assists per game from 2016-2019. Napier's scoring statistics increased with each year, when he averaged a career-high 11.6 points per game on a career-best 42.8 field goal percentage for the Washington Wizards. Between 2014 and 2019, Napier suited up for six NBA teams, which were the Heat, the Wizards, the Orlando Magic, the Portland Trailblazer, the Brooklyn Nets and the Minnesota Timberwolves. However, Napier's NBA career was short lived, as his 2019 season would be his last in the NBA before becoming a professional player in Europe. Napier signed with Zenit St. Petersburg in the summer of 2021. It is unclear if Napier has seen playing time with his new team, as Napier does not have any official stats recorded on Zenit's official website. Even so, no matter where Napier suits up, he will forever be remembered for his effort leading UConn to NCAA Tournament championships in 2011 and 2014.

3. JEREMY LAMB, G, SACRAMENTO KINGS

Many will easily forget the impact that Lamb has had at each step of his NBA career, but wher-

ever he's played, he's been a steady contributor. The twelfth pick of the 2012 NBA Draft by the Houston Rockets, Lamb was traded to the Oklahoma City Thunder as a part of the deal that sent James Harden to Houston. Being a ten-year veteran, Lamb has averaged a steady 10.2 points per game over an average of 20.8 minutes per game. After being traded to the Sacramento Kings along with Domantas Sabonis, Lamb has officially been a part of five NBA teams, including the Rockets, the Thunder, the Kings, the Hornets and the Indiana Pacers. His best season came in 2018 with the Hornets when Lamb averaged 15.3 points per game on 44.0 field goal percentage. Although his stats won't blow your mind, it's hard to deny Lamb's presence as a steady contributor has been key for every team that he's played for. Despite his professional success, Lamb's career highlight likely was when he helped UConn win the 2011 NCAA Tournament.

2. ANDRE DRUMMOND, C, BROOKLYN NETS

With the ninth selection in the 2012 NBA Draft, the Detroit Pistons selected UConn's Andre Drummond, a one-and-done player in college. Drummond immediately became a force in the NBA, as he was one of the league's better centers for the better part of the decade. Over nine seasons, Drummond owns a career stat line of 13.9 points and 13.4 rebounds per game on a 53.8 field goal percentage. In addition to the Pistons, Drummond has spent time with the Cleveland Cavalier, the Los Angeles Lakers, the Philadelphia 76ers and was most recently traded to the Brooklyn Nets. For many years, Drummond was a major trade candidate around the NBA as one of the premier rebounders in the league. Overall, Drummond's play has made him a two-time NBA All-Star, All-NBA Third Team member, four-time NBA rebounding leader and a member of the NBA All-Rookie Second Team. Despite the NBA becoming a shooter-dominant league, Drummond has managed to stay relevant even with his old-fashioned big-man



New York Knicks guard Kemba Walker (8) drives around Brooklyn Nets guard Seth Curry (30) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022, in New York. PHOTO COURTESY OF AP

style of play. Though he hasn't seen much postseason action in his career, Drummond's regular season play has made him a constant contributor no matter what team he has played for.

1. KEMBA WALKER, G, NEW YORK KNICKS

With the ninth overall pick in the 2011 NBA Draft, the Hornets selected 2011 NCAA champion and Final Four Outstanding Award recipient Kemba Walker. After averaging a solid 12.1 points per game as a rookie, Walker became one of the league's prominent scorers and never averaged below 17.3 points per game between 2012 and 2020. He averaged a career-best 25.6 points per game in 2018, his last season with Charlotte, before he signed with the

Boston Celtics as a free agent. After two seasons in Boston, Walker became a member of the New York Knicks, his hometown team. Over his 11-year NBA career, Walker has been a 4-time NBA All-Star, a member of the All-NBA Third Team and a two-time NBA Sportsmanship Award. Unfortunately, Walker has seen little postseason success after spending a majority of his career with the lowly Hornets, and he has been plagued by a knee injury that has nagged him for the last few seasons. Even if Walker cannot return to his pre-injury scoring form, his sportsmanship and ability to remain humble despite going criminally unrecognized during his prime will always be embellished.

Behind the Ballot: Indiana takes a hit and North Carolina proves their potential

by **Stratton Stave**
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Hello all and welcome back to my weekly column called 'Behind the Ballot,' where I will share my Top 25 women's basketball rankings that I submit to be included in the Student Media Poll. The SMP is a weekly basketball poll, voted on by student journalists from around the country, and I am fortunate enough to serve as a women's basketball voter. I looked at previous rankings and games from the past week to determine my weekly ballot. With that being said, let's jump into this week's rankings!

RISERS

No. 12 Texas—This week did not have too many good wins, but it did have a lot of losses. Texas was one of the few teams that excelled, picking up a really solid win over No. 13 Iowa State. It wasn't just a win, either. They brought the Cyclones into the Frank Erwin Center and blew them out by 25 points, largely thanks to Rori Harmon's monster performance, collecting team highs in points (20), assists (nine), rebounds (six) and steals (six). Harmon has been the point guard that the Longhorns have needed all season, doing a nice job distributing the rock well to her teammates with nearly five assists per game.

She will continue to be called on as Texas looks to finish their season strong.

No. 18 North Carolina—Another one of those rare good wins that came this week was recorded by UNC, who took down a surging Louisville team coming off an eight game win streak. The game was neck and neck all the way through, but it was a pair of Kennedy Todd-Williams free throws that put the Tar Heels up by one with just 16 seconds to go. Todd-Williams scored 19 points and grabbed five boards on the day and is really starting to find her consistency at the right time. UNC is far from perfect, but they have proven that they are for real and have grown a lot throughout the season. They will be a fun team to watch in March.

FALLERS

No. 9 Indiana—After rising into the top five, Indiana had one of the more disappointing weeks in college basketball, playing in three unranked games and exiting with just one win to show for it. They lost to Nebraska on the road in a game where the Hoosiers just looked lifeless. They then returned home for one against a mediocre (7-7 in the Big Ten) Northwestern team and then lost to Caitlin Clark and Iowa in a game that was not as close as the score suggested. It's not time

to panic, but it would be nice to see the Hoosiers win out and gain some positive momentum going into the Big Ten tournament.

No. 21 Georgia—There have been few teams colder in recent weeks than the Georgia Bulldogs, who have lost four of their last five games, including one to Auburn, who is 2-12 in conference. Losing to a team like Auburn is an indicator that things are going seriously wrong and that changes need to be made immediately. As of late, Jenna Staiti has been less efficient than she had been, shooting under 46% in each of the four losses. When she's doing well, things go much better for the Bulldogs.

UConn

No. 10 UConn—The Huskies continue to bring players back and will need to build chemistry to pull things together and challenge the best teams in the country. It looks unlikely that Paige Bueckers will make her long-awaited return this week, so gelling will need to happen on the fly as things get further. If anyone can do it though, it's the coach who has won 11 titles. UConn continues to win games, and it looks unlikely that they will do so again until the NCAA tournament.

BEHIND THE BALLOT: This Week's Rankings

1. South Carolina
2. Stanford
3. NC State
4. Baylor
5. LSU
6. Louisville
7. Michigan
8. Maryland
9. Indiana
10. UConn
11. Arizona
12. Texas
13. Iowa State
14. Oklahoma
15. Florida
16. Tennessee
17. Notre Dame
18. North Carolina
19. Virginia Tech
20. Georgia Tech
21. Georgia
22. Ohio State
23. Oregon
24. BYU
25. Princeton



The SMP is a weekly basketball poll, voted on by student journalists from around the country, and I am fortunate enough to serve as a women's basketball voter.



Sports

Men's Basketball: No. 21 Huskies host No. 8 Villanova in program-defining matchup

by Jonathan Synott
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Well, this is it. This is what UConn fans have been waiting for since the team's historic 2014 season. It's no longer a question of "will the Huskies make the tournament?" but of "how high of a seed can the Huskies get?" Tuesday is the culmination of all of the team's AAC struggles and the climb back, where No. 21 UConn takes on No. 8 Villanova to try to add another impressive win to their resume in front of a sold-out XL Center crowd.

UConn (19-7, 10-5 Big East) is in the midst of a hot stretch, having won four of their last five contests. Each one of those games has been against a top 60 team in the country, according to the KenPom ratings. With the Villanova game, the Huskies are set to complete a three-game home stretch, started off with wins at Gampel Pavilion over Seton Hall and Xavier. While this team is already a lock to make the NCAA tournament, a home win over powerhouse Nova could give them a massive NCAA seeding boost and a ton of confidence heading into the Big East Tournament.

This week, UConn forward Adama Sanogo made the Big East Honor Roll once again, this time for his heroics in the Huskies' big 2-0 week. He averaged 17.5 points and 12.5 rebounds over the span in a showing of pure domination. The only time where he looked off of his game was the second half of the Xavier game, when the defense specifically stopped the ball from getting inside to Sanogo. The big man has been on fire recently and looks to continue his production against the Wildcats defense.

Another player who has been doing well lately is graduate student RJ Cole. The veteran is averaging 17 points per game over his last four contests, scoring 16 points in the team's latest bout with Xavier. Cole was wildly impressive, taking over the game for the Huskies when they needed him the most. Expect him to continue his leadership role and help out in a big way on Tuesday.

The third member of UConn's "big three" is undoubtedly Tyrese Martin. It was a sight to see for Huskies fans on Wednesday against Seton Hall, where Martin, Cole and Sanogo all put up at least 15 points. Saturday against Xavier saw the same offensive output from Cole and Sanogo, but Martin struggled, going just 2-for-8 for six points. Despite this, he was able to impact the game in other ways, notably on the boards, grabbing 11 rebounds alongside three assists and a steal.

"You can survive one of your all-conference level guys not having his typical offensive game when a guy like Tyler [Polley], a guy like Jordan [Hawkins] steps up and they give you [a combined] 23 points off the bench, and then you play elite defense and outrebound your opponent by 16," head coach Dan Hurley said postgame.

Even if Martin can't get going offensively against Villanova, the Huskies will undoubtedly need his impact on the glass. UConn leads the Big East in offensive and total rebounds per game, as well as rebounding margin. The Wildcats, however, are an aver-



The UConn men's basketball team captures an electric win against Xavier during an afternoon game on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022 at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, CT. Former Huskies James Bouknight and Christian Vital were in attendance, as well as Tik-Tok star Charlie D'Amelio. The Huskies victory gave them their 10th Big East win of the season, while also extending their current win-streak to three straight victories. PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

age board-grabbing team, landing sixth in the conference in rebound margin. If the Huskies can win the battle on the glass in convincing fashion like they did against Xavier on Saturday (+16), it will be very difficult to lose.

Villanova (21-6, 14-3 Big East) have enjoyed a very successful season to date. While they are not in first in the conference, they have toppled top dogs Providence once on the road and will face them at home later in the year. The powerhouse team of the Big East, this team is never out of a game, regardless of score. Their only non-conference losses have come at the hands of teams currently in the top 13 of the KenPom ratings, and their Big East losses are few and far between.

The Wildcats' trademark win may have come just last week, when they came into the Dunkin Donuts Center and beat up on the then-No. 8 team in the country, the Providence Friars. The atmosphere was

loud, and despite the Friars' best efforts, Villanova was able to walk away with a win behind Big East Preseason Player of the Year Collin Gillespie's 33 point performance. XL can get as loud as humanly possible on Tuesday, but know that Nova will still bring it as always.

"Our first couple years, we didn't have much of a chance to beat them, they were significantly better than us. They've played better than us, they've had a better season than us to this point, but now we have a chance to play them at home," Hurley said. "We saw what they did at Providence, you've got to play at a high level... We've earned the right on Tuesday night to play one of the games of the night in college basketball."

One guy to also look out for on the Wildcats is forward Eric Dixon. While bigs Adama Sanogo and Isaiah Whaley got into foul trouble early in the two teams' last matchup, Dixon was able to eat down low, getting 24 points on 10-for-15 shoot-

ing. Since that matchup, the sophomore has been able to reach double-digit scoring in four of his last five appearances and will look to continue his successes on Tuesday.

One thing worth noting is the status of Gillespie and Justin Moore. Villanova's two leading scorers, respectively, are currently at about 80% healthy as both are dealing with injuries. The duo will most likely play, but in terms of their productivity on Tuesday, it is worth keeping an eye on them.

The game will take place at 8:00 p.m. at the XL Center in Hartford, and the game will be broadcast on FS1. Besides the Auburn game, this could amount to the most definable win on the Huskies' tournament resume come Selection Sunday.

"Sticking to our identity, playing defense first, and everything else will come," said Cole on what needs to happen to beat the Wildcats. "Villanova's a great team, but we're a good team too, so we'll see them on Tuesday."

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UConn SCOREBOARD

Women's basketball
Sunday

90 vs. 49

UPCOMING GAMES

Men's basketball: Tuesday, 8 p.m.
Hartford, CT

Women's Basketball: Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Hartford, CT



INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



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What a day in Gampel! #BleedBlue



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Van Jefferson and his wife, Samaria, named their Super Bowl baby "Champ"

GOAL
@Goal
Neymar wants to return to Santos before he retires

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