



CONFIRMED 2022 COVID-19 CASES AT UCONN STORRS as of 6:05 p.m. on Mar. 22 *positive test results	19 Current Residential Cases (positive/symptomatic)	327 Cumulative Residential Cases*	322 Cumulative Commuter Cases*
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War in Ukraine shows no signs of stopping as refugees and casualties grow



Protestors from the UConn community gather at the UConn seal on Fairfield Way on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 to spread awareness and support for Ukraine's struggle against Russia. The protest was organized by UConn's Ukrainian Student Association, and focused on protesting for unity and peace between Russia and Ukraine.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIN KNAPP, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/ DAILY CAMPUS

by **Samuel Katz**
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The Russian invasion of Ukraine, which began on February 24, has continued as more cities become conflict zones and the death toll rises.

The invasion, has led to widespread devastation across Ukraine. The conflict has created over 3 million refugees, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. While it is difficult to provide coverage of what has happened every day, here are some of the most important events of the past week in Ukraine.

March 13

Among the civilian deaths, estimated by the United Nations to near 1,000 as of March 19, is Brent Renaud, an American journalist shot by Russian troops on March 13.

"The details of Renaud's death were not made immediately clear by Ukrainian authorities, but

American journalist Juan Arredondo said the two were traveling in a vehicle toward the Irpin checkpoint when they were both shot," said the Associated Press. "Arredondo, speaking from a hospital in Kyiv, told Italian journalist Annalisa Camilli that Renaud was hit in the neck. Camilli told the AP that Arredondo himself had been hit in the lower back."

Renaud's death has led to journalistic groups condemning the attack. Renaud was honored in an official statement by Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson.

"My heart is heavy at the passing of American journalist and Little Rock native Brent Renaud," Hutchinson wrote on Twitter. "An award-winning filmmaker and journalist, Brent made great contributions to the culture and arts of Arkansas."

March 15

U.S. defense analysts have begun to provide new estimates for lost Russian equipment during the war,

clarified by an article from Forbes.

"Oryx, an outstanding open source intelligence site run by analyst Stijn Mitzer, painstakingly documents every confirmed photograph of a Russian loss," said Forbes. "The count stood at 204 tanks and 406 other armored vehicles for a total of 610 lost as of Monday." Most of these losses of armored vehicles are from anti-air Javelin missiles that have been repurposed against Russian tanks. Oryx estimated the javelins fired have had a 93% accuracy rate.

"Again this may be optimistic but it is an indication of just how effective these weapons are (and Russian 'coke cage' add-on armor does nothing to stop them)," Forbes said.

March 16

On March 16, the Donetsk Academic Regional Drama Theatre, located in besieged Mariupol, was bombed by the Russian military. Estimates between news sources, including CNN and NPR, place the

number of people taking shelter in the theater to be between 600 and 1500.

"CNN has geolocated the image and confirmed it is of the theater in the southeastern port city. The word 'children' was spelled out on two sides of the theater before it was bombed, according to satellite images," says CNN.

As of publishing, the search for survivors continues and no deaths have been confirmed.

Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy also gave a speech to Congress on March 16, according to C-Span.

"Right now, the destiny of our country is being decided, the destiny of our people, whether Ukrainians will be free, whether they will be able to preserve their democracy. Russia did not just attack us, our cities, it went on a brutal offensive against our values, base human values, against our right to live freely in our own country, against our right to live our own

future," Zelenskyy said in his address to Congress.

President Zelenskyy appealed again to the United States, asking for further aid in military equipment and a no-fly zone over Ukrainian airspace.

March 20

On March 20, Russian military leader, Andrey Paliy, was confirmed to be killed in the city of Mariupol, according to the Telegraph.

Paliy's death was initially declared by Ukrainian media on March 19, but was only confirmed by outside sources on the 20th.

"Andrey Paliy, the deputy commander of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, is the sixth top military figure to die during the invasion of Ukraine, after he was killed in battle around Mariupol," said the Telegraph. "His death was confirmed in a post on the social media site VKontakte by Konstantin Tsarenko, a former colleague at the Naval School in Sevastopol."

Connecticut lawmakers to vote on 25-cent gas tax holiday

(AP) - The General Assembly is expected to vote Wednesday on a proposal to suspend the state's 25-cent-per-gallon excise tax on gasoline in hopes of easing the pain at the pump for Connecticut motorists.

An early version of the emergency bill would suspend the tax between April 1 until June 30, the last day of the current fiscal year. The broad concept of suspending the tax, announced publicly last week by Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont, has received bipartisan support.

House Speaker Matt Ritter, D-Hartford, said Tuesday the House of Representatives and Senate are also expected to con-

sider a second sales-tax-free week on clothing and footwear in April, in addition to the one typically held in August for back-to-school shoppers, and temporary free bus service to riders.

State legislators and the governor, who are all facing re-election in November, have been under pressure to blunt the state's high gasoline prices. As of Friday, the state's average price for a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline was \$4.37, according to AAA. While that was down 11 cents from the prior week, it was still up 71 cents per gallon compared to February and \$1.47 compared to this time last year.

Connecticut has two taxes that apply to motor fuels. They include

the 25-cent-per-gallon motor vehicle fuels tax, typically referred to as the state's gas tax, and the fluctuating petroleum products gross earnings tax.

"We are simply asking for that tax money to be refunded to the gas stations' owners so that we can pass along those tax savings immediately to the consumer."

CEMA PRESIDENT CHRIS HERB

The Connecticut Energy Marketers Association, which represents the state's motor fuels industry, is urging state lawmakers to refund state taxes the gas retailers have already paid for the fuel in the tanks. If that doesn't happen, Chris Herb, the association's president, warned motorists won't see the gas tax reduction right away. He said Maryland enacted a refund when it implemented a gas tax holiday.

"We are simply asking for that tax money to be refunded to the gas stations' owners so that we can pass along those tax savings immediately to the consumer," said Herb, noting the average gas station has two 10,000 gallon tanks and paid at least \$5,000 in state excise taxes for that fuel.

There are 1,400 gas stations in Connecticut.

Ritter said lawmakers are limited in how much of the state's transportation revenues they can use to lower the fuel taxes. Connecticut pays for its transportation projects every year by issuing revenue bonds that are ultimately paid off with money in the transportation fund and a certain debt-to-revenue ratio must be maintained.

"If we fail that test, we wouldn't be able to issue bonds. And if you can't issue bonds, then you can't get your federal match," he said, referring to federal government's share of transportation projects.

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aldo

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Just saw on sports centre UConn women just made their 28th SWEET SIXTEEN IN A ROW. That's insane

News

Abandoned lobster traps in Long Island Sound to be removed

(AP) - Two decades after Connecticut's lobster industry collapsed, federal funding has been approved to begin removing some of the hundreds of thousands of derelict lobster traps left on the floor of the Long Island Sound, a "ghost fishery" that continues to trap and kill marine life to this day.

The \$569,000 included in the new federal budget bill will finance a coalition, led by The Maritime Aquarium of Norwalk, which will oversee retrieval of the traps. The goal is to eventually hire local charter fishing vessels and fishermen to collect an initial 3,000 traps over two years, ultimately getting rid of abandoned marine debris that has upset the Sound's food chain and become a source of pollution in the waters.

"These are not traps that are still being actively retrieved by fishermen. And yet, what we have learned over years of research, is that they are still traps that are actively catching different marine life," said Jason Patlis, the aquarium's president and CEO. "There's not much lobster to be had, but there are crustaceans that are finding their way into the traps. There's finfish that find their way into the traps."

The effort to remove the old lobster traps in Connecticut waters is similar to the one taken in the New York waters of Long Island Sound. Since 2011, the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County has removed 19,000 abandoned traps — about 91% were still functioning. About a third of those were found to have live crabs, fish and lobsters, including pregnant females, often attracted by other animals that had died inside the trap, said Scott Curatolo-Wagemann, senior educator at the agency.

A similar effort to remove 9% of the "ghost" lobster traps from Chesapeake Bay led to an increase in fisheries by thousands of metric tons, said David Hudson, a researcher in residence at Norwalk aquarium. He predicted that removing the old traps will help the populations of various fish species including tautog, rock crabs, whelk, cunner and sea bass, as well as the remaining lobsters.

It's been estimated that about 1 million lobster traps have been left behind in Long Island Sound, either lost accidentally over the years or abandoned after the region's \$12 million lobster industry crashed in 1999, fueled in part by a massive die-off of lobsters, Curatolo-Wagemann said.

The Cornell cooperative extension service has since worked with the commercial fishing industry to track down and pull up the old traps — an approach Connecticut now plans to follow as well.

"The guys who had stayed in it, most of the guys we're working with are multi-generational fishermen. A lot of them in their 70s. And they were full-time lobstermen at one point," Curatolo-Wagemann said. "They kind of knew over the years where different guys had fished their traps. So their knowledge has been invaluable to us being able to locate these things."

In Connecticut, the aquarium in Norwalk will be working with Save the Sound, the Long Island Sound-keeper, Project Oceanology in Groton and the New York cooperative extension service to start up the new removal operation for Connecticut's portion of the 1,320-square-mile (3,420-square-kilometer) estuary. Funds from the federal budget bill, secured by the state's congressional delegation, will be used to operate vessels, pay lobstermen to remove old traps and other expenses.



Bobby Kent pushes a baited lobster pot into the waters of Long Island Sound off Groton, Conn. on May 2, 2016. Only a handful of lobstermen still work the waters due to a dwindling lobster population. Federal funding has been approved to begin removing some of the hundreds of thousands of derelict lobster pots left behind on the floor of Long Island Sound, a "ghost fishery" that continues to trap and kill marine life to this day.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT F. BUKATY/AP FILE

Colorado city marks anniversary of deadly supermarket attack

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — With flowers, a moment of silence and a public remembrance for those who died and those still grieving, Colorado residents marked the one-year anniversary Tuesday of a shooting at a busy supermarket in the college town of Boulder that left 10 people dead, including employees, customers and a veteran police officer.

The March 22, 2021, attack at a King Soopers grocery close to the Rocky Mountain foothills shocked a state that has seen its share of mass shootings, including the 1999 Columbine high school massacre and the 2012 Aurora movie theater shooting.

With the slogan "Boulder Strong," residents and elected officials sought to rally a community still searching for answers about why last year's attack happened.

"Let today serve as a reminder that moving forward doesn't mean leaving those we've lost behind," Gov. Jared Polis said in a statement.

The city, home to the University of Colorado, called for a communitywide moment of silence at 2:30 p.m. MDT, about the time a lone gunman opened fire at the store. Polis and others gathered with residents Tuesday evening for a public remembrance in a park downtown.

Flowers adorned a police car parked in front of the Boulder Police Department headquarters with a large photo portrait of Officer Eric Talley, who was shot and killed after rushing into the store with an initial team of police officers. The 51-year-old father of seven left his career as an information technology worker a decade before after feeling a calling to become a police officer.

The nine others killed inside and outside the supermarket were Denny Stong, Neven Stanisic, Rikki Olds, Tralona Bartkowiak, Teri Leiker, Suzanne Fountain, Kevin Mahoney, Lynn Murray and Jody Waters.

Stong, Olds and Leiker worked at the supermarket.

On a cold, blustery day, mourners observed the moment of silence at a police department ceremony honoring Talley, whose family sat under a tent. Police Chief Maris Herold presented Talley's widow, Leah, with a framed uniform pin bearing the date of the shooting and Officer Talley's radio number, given to everyone working for the department, at the time of the shooting. The sun cracked through the clouds briefly.

Speaker after speaker stressed that Talley saved many lives when he rushed into the building despite not knowing how many shooters there were. "The survivors of the attack walk amongst us still," said District Attorney Michael Dougherty.

honor the victims, including Jonathan Ditlow, 19, and his mother, Terri. Ditlow was working at another King Soopers store when the shooting happened but took the opportunity to work as a manager at the Boulder shop when it reopened. He said he's mindful that some of his colleagues are still grieving.

"You just have to understand what people are going through and realize that it is bigger than a job now," Ditlow said.

Investigators have not released any information about why they believe the man charged in the shooting, Ahmad Al Aliwi Alissa, 22, launched the attack or why he may have targeted the supermarket. He lived in the neighboring suburb of Arvada, where authorities say he legally bought the Ruger AR-556 pistol he allegedly used six days before the shooting after passing a background check. However, he is accused of unlawfully possessing 10 high-capacity ammunition magazines, which were banned in Colorado after previous mass shootings.

"We must never forget the Colorado spirit of strength and resilience demonstrated in our darkest hours."

GOV. OF COLORADO JARED POLIS

The remodeled King Soopers reopened last month, with about half of those who worked there at the time of the shooting choosing to return. The store was closed Tuesday for the anniversary; a sign in front with the victims' names read "We Will Never Forget." Ten white roses were placed in a row on a grassy strip between the store and the street.

People paused at the store to

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Takeaways: Jackson hearings turn to race, children’s books

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first full day of questions Tuesday for Supreme Court nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson delved quickly into very big ones on judicial philosophy, terrorism and race, a grueling marathon of debate over President Joe Biden’s historic pick.

Senators wanted to know her approach to the law, her views on “court packing” and her response to claims by Republican Sen. Josh Hawley that she has been too lenient in sentencing child pornography offenders and is generally soft on crime.

At one moment, Jackson simply paused, and sighed, before answering Republican Sen. Ted Cruz, who pulled out children’s books to quiz the Harvard-educated lawyer for her views about teaching the academic subject of critical race theory.

Jackson is making history as the first Black woman nominated for the court, which once upheld racial segregation in America and for 233 years has been filled mainly with white men.

Democrats have the potential votes in the 50-50 Senate to confirm Jackson as Biden’s choice to replace retiring Justice Stephen Breyer even if all Republicans line up opposed. Her nomination is on track for a vote by Easter.

If confirmed, Jackson would also become the sixth woman justice in the court’s history and with three now serving “the closest we’ve ever come

to gender equity,” said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.

Takeaways from day two of Jackson’s weeklong confirmation hearing: ‘STAY IN MY LANE’

With Jackson undeniably well qualified to be a justice on the Supreme Court, senators say, the question, then, is what is her judicial philosophy — will she be an activist judge, trying to set policy, or one who adheres to strict interpretations of the law?

“These are not abstract concepts or political slogans to me,”

SUPREME COURT NOMINEE, JUDGE KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

“I am trying, in every case, to stay in my lane,” Jackson told Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Dick Durbin, D-Ill., who posed it as the first question, an opportunity for Jackson to preemptively lay out her approach to the law. “Without fear or favor.”

SOFT ON CRIME? Much the way Southern senators sought to portray the first Black nominee to the Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall, as soft on crime 55 years ago, some Republican senators see Jackson’s treatment of criminal defendants as one of their strongest arguments against her.

Hawley, R-Mo., set the tone even

before the hearings began, raising concerns that Jackson gave child pornography defendants lighter sentences than required. Cruz and other Republicans have piled on.

On Tuesday, Jackson said flatly, “Nothing could be further from the truth.”

The mother of two daughters told senators she still has nightmares after having pored over the graphic evidence of child pornography cases in her courtroom.

“These are some of the most difficult cases a judge has to deal with,” she told them.

She later stood by her work representing terrorism suspects at Guantanamo Bay as a federal public defender, saying the service ensures due process. And she spoke more personally about her own family’s work in law enforcement, and knowing what it’s like to worry about their safety.

“These are not abstract concepts or political slogans to me,” she said.

Fact checkers have said Hawley is selectively choosing cases, including many in which prosecutors also sought more lenient sentences than federal sentencing guidelines.

CRUZ AND ‘ANTIRACIST BABY’ Cruz veered from legal arguments to the heated debates over critical race theory, an academic area of study that examines the role of race in the founding of the U.S.

Displaying a stack of books on rac-



Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson listens to a question during her confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Tuesday, March 22, 2022, in Washington. PHOTOGRAPH BY EVAN VUCCI/AP FILE

ism from the reading list at Georgetown Day School, a prestigious private campus where Jackson serves on the board, Cruz grilled the nominee for her views on the topic.

“I’ve never studied critical race theory, and I’ve never used it. It doesn’t come up in the work that I do as a judge,” Jackson told Cruz.

Cruz produced a poster-size page from “Antiracist Baby” by noted scholar Ibram X. Kendi and asked, “Do you agree with this book that is being taught with kids that babies are racist?”

“Senator,” Jackson said, sighing. “I do not believe any child should be made to feel as though they are racist,” she said.

She had explained Georgetown was founded in 1945 during legal segregation, when white and Black families came together to educate their children. The board doesn’t make curriculum decisions.

Cruz and Jackson both attended Harvard Law, a year apart, and said they knew one another, though not well.

‘NORTH STAR’

Court packing — the idea of adding justices to the Court — is gaining traction among liberals who want to tip the balance of the court away from conservatives, who now have a 6-3 majority thanks in large part to Donald Trump, who as president picked three new justices.

Ukrainian children find a welcoming classroom in Berlin



Two refugee children from the Ukraine stand in front of a whiteboard before their classes start in Berlin, Germany, Monday, March 21, 2022. Forty Ukrainian refugee children started their first day of elementary school in Berlin on Monday only weeks after they fled the war back home. PHOTOGRAPH BY MARKUS SCHREIBER/AP FILE

BERLIN (AP) — Ukrainian refugee Mariia Kerashchenko tightly clasped the hands of her two children as she walked them through the courtyard of a seedy Berlin building, up a graffiti-covered stairway, and into a modern, sunlit classroom.

Her 7-year-old son, Myroslav, is one of 40 children who started their first day of school Monday, only weeks after joining the millions flooding into Europe to flee the war in Ukraine.

Daughter Zoriana, who is 3, is still too young for the class, which is being taught by two Ukrainians who also fled to the German capital. The lessons, part of a volunteer initiative, will prepare the children for entering Berlin’s regular school system.

“It gets me emotional when I see all the help and solidarity here,” the 30-year-old Kerashchenko, from Vinnytsia in central Ukraine, told The Associated Press, her eyes welling with tears.

“Every day, I hope that we can go back to Ukraine, but it is

too dangerous for now, so in the meantime it is wonderful that my son can go to school in Germany,” she added.

The classes for the refugees were put together by Burcak Sevilgen and Faina Karlitski, who in only two weeks raised the funds, organized the rent-free classrooms and advertised their program on the messaging service Telegram.

The children nervously clutched their new exercise books, sharpened pencils and erasers as their new teachers welcomed them in Ukrainian on the third floor of the former factory. They will follow their curriculum from back home and also take German language classes. The three hours of school each weekday will be followed by activities such as playacting, painting or handicrafts.

Natalia Khalil, 33, from Rivne in western Ukraine, is teaching the third and fourth graders, while Tatjana Gubskaya, 56, will be in charge of the first and second graders. Gubskaya fled

Ukraine with her daughter and a 7-year-old grandson, who is in her classroom.

“The kids are grateful to have some kind of routine again and meet other children from Ukraine — they and their mothers have all been very stressed lately,” said Gubskaya, who also taught second grade classes before the Feb. 24 Russian invasion.

The teachers will be paid 500 euros per month in donations until they have work permits and can be officially hired.

Sevilgen, 36, one of the two people behind the refugee classes, is a Berlin teacher herself. She and her 31-year-old friend Karlitski, a management consultant, decided to do what they could to get at least some of the refugee children back into school quickly.

“We both have always had an eye for social issues and wanted to help here as well,” Sevilgen said, explaining why they have spent every free minute to organize the classes.

DETROIT SCHOOLS AIM TO CATCH UP, AND THEN SOME, WITH US AID

DETROIT (AP) — For years, Laela Bullock moved to her own rhythm when it came to schoolwork. The switch to remote learning, if anything, brought a welcome break from fights in the hallways of the 15-year-old’s Detroit school, but her grades still lagged.

Things started turning around with one-on-one tutoring this year — paid for with \$1.3 billion the Detroit Public Schools Community District is receiving in federal COVID-19 relief aid.

At last, Laela is reading above her grade level, and on track to graduate on time, said her mother, Alicia Bullock.

“I’m so proud,” Bullock said.

The Detroit school system is putting much of its relief money toward tutoring, after-school programs and other efforts to shore up student achievement. District leaders hope the money will not only help students catch up on what they missed during the coronavi-

rus pandemic, but also fix some of what has been broken for decades.

“This is the first time ... I actually feel we have equitable funding,” Superintendent Nikolai Vitti said in an interview. “Unfortunately, it had to come during a pandemic.”

The district, which emerged from state control a few years ago, chronically has been among the lowest-scoring in the U.S. on standardized tests. In the last school year, less than 6% of Detroit eighth graders who took a state standardized test scored as proficient in math.

Nationally, pandemic relief to schools totals \$190 billion. High-poverty areas received the most per student, with Detroit getting the highest rate among big districts at more than \$25,000 per student, followed by Philadelphia at \$13,000 and Cleveland at more than \$12,000.

The aid invested in academics includes millions for reducing class

sizes, expanding internet access, and tutoring programs like the one attended by Laela. About 1,500 Detroit students participate in that literacy program, which is run by Detroit-area nonprofit Beyond Basics.

Participants include Quandallis Perry-Fisher, a 15-year-old schoolmate of Laela’s at Denby High. He said he was not a fan of reading and struggled to navigate virtual learning when schools went remote in March 2020.

“I was doing very, very bad,” Quandallis said. With Beyond Basics “you have to read to the instructors,” he said. “Now, with the vocabulary words ... I read it myself without asking for help.”

“The schools don’t have toiletries. They don’t have resources,” she said. “Anytime you don’t have (bathroom) tissue, that’s terrible.”

MOTHER, ALICIA BULLOCK

In 2009, then-U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan called Detroit “ground zero” for problems facing American schools. Enrollment has plummeted from 164,000 students in 2003 to about 51,000 as the city’s population dwindled. But

district officials said test scores and graduation rates were on the rise before the pandemic.

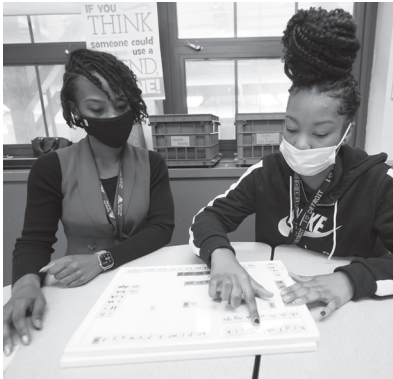
r Detroit and other districts, it’s “really important to get it right” as they decide how to spend the windfall of federal money, said Phyllis Jordan, associate director of FutureEd, an independent think tank in Georgetown University’s McCourt School of Public Policy.

“I don’t see this opportunity really coming around again. This is an opportunity for schools to get things right to address some of the long-standing issues that keep kids from succeeding,” she said.

A challenge for Detroit is how to simultaneously address other, overlapping obstacles that have limited students’ ability to learn.

Alicia Bullock said a top priority at her daughter’s school should be better security and programs that help students avoid fighting. Her daughter complains students have to be patted down for weapons, and classmates smoke and do whatever they want in the school building. The district’s needs are so deep, she said, pandemic funding may not be enough.

Vitti has announced a proposal that includes spending \$700 million in pandemic funding by 2027 on new schools and revamping existing schools to address overcrowding. A final recommendation on how to spend the money will go before the Detroit Board of Education by June.



Student Laela Bullock, right, works with Taylor Rice during a Beyond Basics literacy session at Denby High School in Detroit, Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2021. PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL SANCYA/AP FILE



Principal Tanisha Manningham speaks about the Beyond Basics program at Denby High School in Detroit, Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2021. PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL SANCYA/AP FILE

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COMIC BY KAITLYN TRAN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

►Editorial

HuskyTHON and the US healthcare system

Nearly every student at the University of Connecticut is aware of, has donated to or even participated in HuskyTHON. But for those who are unfamiliar with it, according to its website, HuskyTHON is a year-long philanthropic effort at UConn during which student participants raise money and awareness for Connecticut Children’s Hospital. HuskyTHON culminates in an 18-hour long dance marathon that, this year, will begin on April 2.

UConn is not the only school to participate in such a fundraising event — other schools like Ohio State University, Indiana University, Northwestern University and the University of Iowa all have their own dance marathon events that raise money for children’s hospitals. All of these schools make it known that the event is “for the kids” and all the money raised goes toward a good cause.

It is undeniable that HuskyTHON, and other similar fundraising events, are for a good cause; the money ensures that children and their families can afford the healthcare they need and last year, HuskyTHON raised over \$1 million for this cause.

However, it is important to consider the systemic problems with the U.S. healthcare system that HuskyTHON completely glosses over. Children and their families should not have to rely on college students to raise money for necessary and vital healthcare — what should be a human right. HuskyTHON has always been seen as a “feel-good story”; it is comparable to stories like the one about a high school robotics team building an electric wheelchair for a 2-year-old child because insurance did not cover the cost of a similar chair and another about a teacher in Florida whose colleagues donated their sick days to out of the goodness of their hearts so that he could complete chemotherapy. These stories encourage faith in humanity and altruism, and make people feel good. However, the dark truth about these stories is that systemic issues are what create them and these problems should not need solving in the first place.

The reality of the situation is that college students from around the country should not have to come together and raise money so that children can

have access to healthcare. This is a systemic failure of the U.S.’s healthcare system; it is a system where people cannot afford access to life-saving medications like epinephrine and insulin, where people sometimes use ride-hailing to travel to hospitals because they cannot afford the cost of an ambulance ride and where people try to avoid receiving medical attention altogether due to the sheer cost of it. The U.S. healthcare system is broken and many of these fundraising events, like HuskyTHON, completely ignore this issue altogether.

To an extent, HuskyTHON, and other similar fundraisers at other colleges and universities, help perpetuate these problems. Rather than raising awareness regarding the systemic problems at hand, these events, to put it simply, throw money at the problem. It is a mere Band-Aid on the hemorrhaging wound that is the healthcare system.

Like all feel-good stories, it is then framed as merely a great cause when, in reality, feel-good stories can be quite harmful. Although the act itself may be kind and well-intentioned, feel-good stories often hide these underlying systemic problems altogether, making it so that people are less aware of them. This is the case with HuskyTHON — on the surface, it is for a good cause but it fails to, in any way, address the deeper, systemic failures of the U.S. healthcare system. The perception that the problem — namely that poor people are prevented from necessary medical care — is being solved through individual fundraisers has the potential to direct efforts away from urgent systemic reform.

Rather than solely focusing on the fundraiser element and marketing the event as a feel-good story “for the kids” emphasizing the good HuskyTHON does, HuskyTHON should instead open channels of communication about the systemic failings of the healthcare system in order to spread awareness and create critical discussions on the topic. With more awareness, all students at UConn will have the tools to make more impactful changes in the world while better able to recognize systemic failures and problems prevalent in all facets of the U.S., in addition to healthcare.

Children and their families should not have to rely on college students to raise money for necessary and vital healthcare — what should be a human right.

HuskyTHON should instead open channels of communication about the systemic failings of the healthcare system in order to spread awareness and create critical discussions on the topic.



ILLUSTRATION BY CARLIE KUBISEK, ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UConn Group Fitness

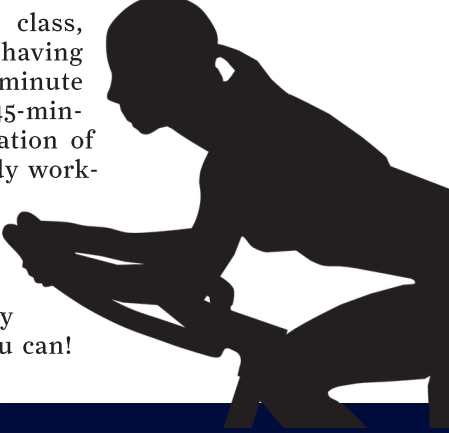
WHICH CLASSES ARE THE BEST?

by Grace Seymour
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Is anyone else a fitness class junkie? I thrive off the knowledge that everyone else in the room is sweating as much as me, and it motivates me to keep an exercise schedule. I am also lazy when it comes to planning a workout for myself, and I love that the coaches have everything set when you come to class. I have definitely saved money in my exercise routine because all of the group fitness classes at UConn are free. As a senior, I can confidently give you the lowdown on the best fitness classes at the UConn Recreation Center.

SPIN

Starting off with my favorite UConn group fitness class, spin is the perfect way to get your heart rate up while having the time of your life. I have only tried the standard 60-minute class, but there are also options to sign up for a 30- or a 45-minute class if you have a packed schedule. The incorporation of strength into this cardio-based class gives you a full body workout that will increase your energy levels throughout the day. The UConn spin instructors are encouraging and push you to be your best self beyond your workout, always ending class with a motivating quote and a deep stretch to thank your body. Spin classes are pricey in the real world, so enjoy this student benefit while you can!



HIIT

If you want to feel a burn and get your sweat on, HIIT is the perfect class for you to try. “High intensity interval training,” or HIIT, consists of short periods of intense exercises followed by brief recovery periods. These cycles are repeated to the point of exhaustion and will definitely leave your body feeling sore for the rest of the week. HIIT classes at UConn are very similar to the workouts offered by Orangetheory Fitness, which heavily focus on increasing your heart rate to burn fat and gain muscle. The UConn HIIT coaches always perform the exercises with the class and explain the cycles beforehand so participants feel confident. These classes also incorporate light dumbbells, BOSU balls and steppers to break up those intense cardio moves.

YOGALATES

Having trouble choosing between yoga and Pilates? UConn offers a class that combines these two low-impact workouts into one relaxing and strengthening session. The yogalates coaches specialize in teaching both yoga and Pilates to balance between the two throughout class. The classes usually begin with some yoga, where participants concentrate on breathing and stretching and then flow into the core-focused Pilates moves for the bulk of the class. The class concludes with a yoga flow and brief meditation to reflect on your day. I recommend trying this class in the evening after a stressful day of work to relax your body and help you enjoy your night.



DANCE FIT

If you are looking for pure fun and adrenaline in a workout, head over to an evening Dance Fit class. The sweat will be dripping after this cardio-filled party, and the hour goes by faster than you could imagine. If you have a strict workout schedule, I recommend taking a break from it and letting loose at Dance Fit. This class shows that exercising does not have to be taken seriously all the time and can actually be the highlight of your day. Dance workouts still incorporate strength moves such as squatting and lunging to feel a burn and break a sweat, so don't go in thinking this one will be easy!



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CLIP ART COURTESY OF FREE IMG



by **Hollianne Lao**
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Since I’m fortunate enough to have a car on campus this year, there are a few restaurants a bit farther off campus I’ve wanted to try like Chuck and Margs — or as it’s formally and long-windedly known, Chuck’s Steak House and Margarita Grill Mexican Cantina —, Hops 44 and Willimantic Brewing Company. I knocked out Chuck’s in September, and I have yet to try Hops, but I recently tried the latter with a few friends. Willibrew, as many call it, is located in downtown Willimantic — about 20 minutes from the University of Connecticut, but the restaurant and brewery still garners recognition in the community. Serving up pub-style food with a wide selection of local beers and craft cocktails, Willibrew is a characteristic, quality spot to grab a meal, drink or both with friends, family or even a casual date.

As we pulled up to the building, I realized I’ve driven by Willibrew multiple times and just haven’t realized that it’s a restaurant. That’s thanks to its historic facade, an old U.S. Postal Service office. The interior is cool and bustling with a diversity of diners, from families with young children to older couples to college students. The menu serves classic pub appetizers, like Bavarian pretzels (\$11) with beer cheese sauce, jalapeño poppers (\$9) with cream cheese filling, fried calamari (\$12) with marinara sauce and plain or cajun onion rings (\$8) served with “sassy sauce” (I don’t know exactly what it is, but my friend ordered the onion rings, and the sauce tasted horseradish-based). Willibrew also serves fried or grilled chicken wings with interesting flavors like everything spice parmesan and a spicy “oy vey.”

If you’ve been to or heard of Willibrew, you may know about their “first class” nachos (\$15). I’m a big fan of nachos, but I don’t eat them as often because they’re pretty hard to eat just on your own, and the leftovers don’t compare to the fresh product. Before I visited, I’ve heard the Willibrew nachos especially are an intimidatingly large order. However, a group of seven hun-

gry women was the perfect size to tackle the topping-laden appetizer, layered with cheese, tomatoes, jalapeños, scallions, a side of salsa and TWO sides of sour cream. A restaurant that is generous with its sour cream earns extra points with me, and Willibrew’s nachos’ name doesn’t lie: they truly are first-class, properly layering the toppings through the tall stack so there is an even distribution throughout.

I was torn between the vodka pasta (\$16) and mac and cheese (\$14), but decided to go with the latter because there’s something so compatible about ordering a cheese-based dish at a brewery, even if I didn’t necessarily order a beer. I ended up ordering a ginger lemon cocktail with ginger beer, vodka and ginger lemon hard seltzer, which was a refreshing accompaniment to my main dish. The mac and cheese, served as cavatappi pasta and topped with buttery bread-crumbs, was the perfect texture, with a creamy cheese sauce and the crunch from the bread-crumbs. However, the sauce itself was a bit lacking in flavor. I wish it had a hit of pepper, paprika or even cajun seasoning to spice it up. When I brought my leftovers home, I doctored it up with some of my own spices.

It’s not that the mac and cheese tasted bad, but I think I expected more. However, considering the delicious nachos, the quality of my friends’ food and our drinks and the ambiance, I would definitely be willing to return to Willibrew. I think I’ll try the vodka rose pasta next time!

Originally founded as Main Street Café in 1991 and operating out of the old Capitol Theatre building in town, the restaurant eventually moved to 877 Main Street. Willibrew eventually moved to its current location, a 1909 U.S. Post Office building abandoned in 1967. When it originally functioned, the dining room was the post office room, the pub was the customer lobby and the private dining room was the Postmaster’s office. Although they have renovated the building, Willibrew still preserves its historical architectural style and roots, further highlighted by the drinks and food it serves.

Rating: 4/5



Ginger lemon cocktail served with Willie’s Superbrew ginger and lemon hard seltzer (\$8).

The “first class nachos” (\$15) at Willimantic Brewing Company truly are first class, heavily layered with melted cheese, tomatoes, jalapeños and scallions, and served with salsa and two sides of sour cream. Shared with friends, the dish was perfectly decadent but not too heavy, lightened by the fresh, plump tomato, bright scallions and tangy sour cream.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AUTHOR

‘Life & Beth’

is a farcical version of comedian Amy Schumer’s life

by Joanne Biju
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“Life & Beth,” not to be confused with the zombie film “Life After Beth,” hit Hulu on March 18. The series, created by comedian and actress Amy Schumer, functions as a work of auto-fiction, playing with different elements of her life. It follows in the footsteps of shows like comedian Bridget Everett’s “Somebody Somewhere” by battling the idea of having to fit in.

The show follows Beth, a woman in her late 30s with a seemingly great life; she’s in a long-term relationship and is up for a promotion at her wine rep job. But as Beth repeatedly asks friends and family if she seems happy, it is made blatantly obvious that she is not. When her mother unexpectedly passes, Beth doesn’t shed a tear, instead launching into an evaluation of her life — past, and present.

“Life & Beth” is a comedy without channeling the traits of a sitcom. The absurdity of Beth’s life is glaring, yet simultaneously riddled with subtleties. The show turns more serious, taking on the tone of a drama during its flashbacks of Beth’s childhood. These moments depict the harsh realities of adolescence, including everything from body-shaming to family finances.

If one isn’t familiar with Schumer’s past, the details put into the series may not be as appreciated. Beth is forced to confront her past when she moves back to Long Island, where Schumer spent her childhood. Her love interest, John, even mirrors Schumer’s husband, Chris Fischer. Fischer is a chef and farmer from Martha’s Vineyard; John, played by Michael Cera, is

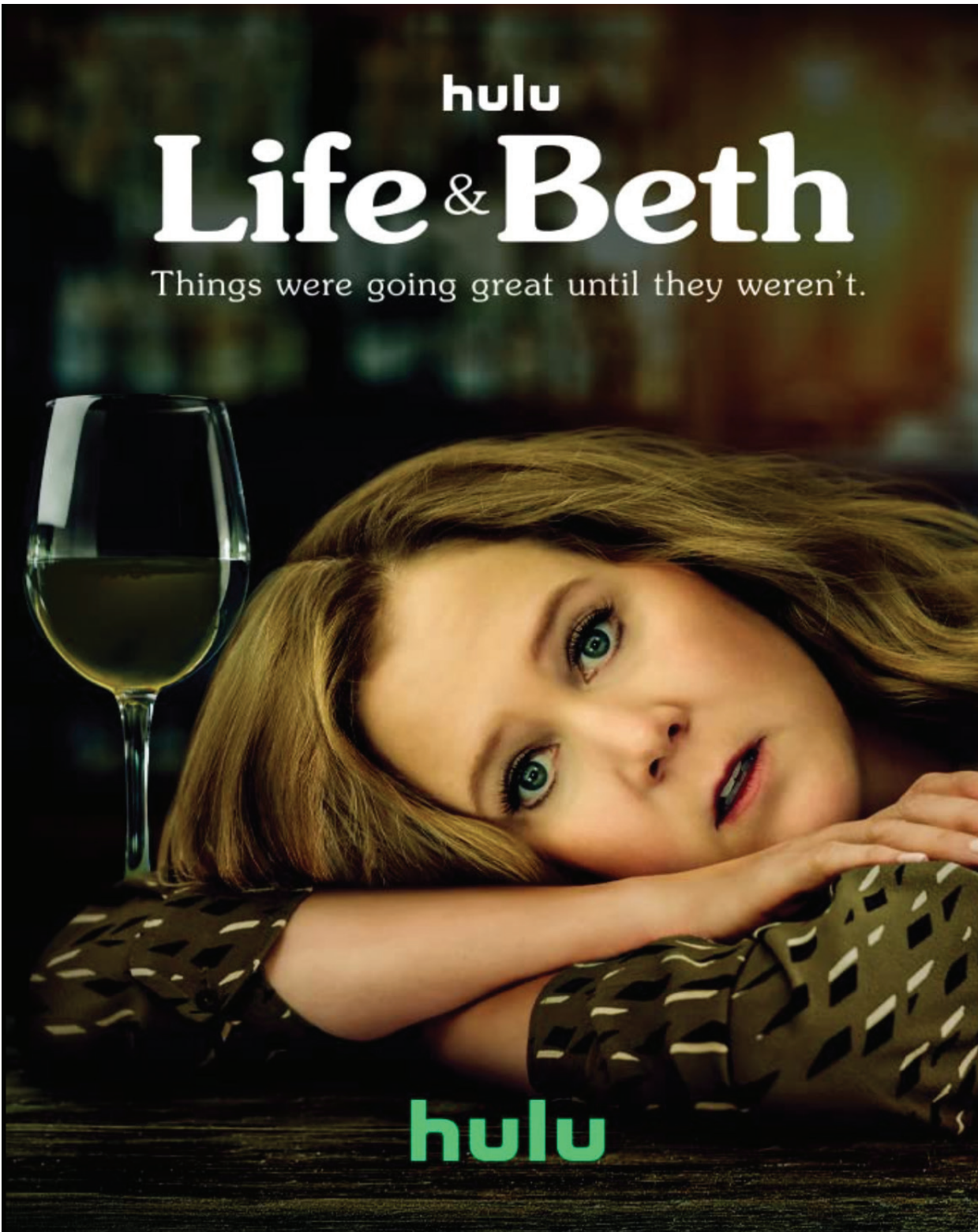


PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

a farmhand on a literal vineyard.

While making an appearance of sorts through Cera in “Life & Beth,” Fischer has recently been featured in other works about Schumer. HBO Max’s recent docuseries “Expecting Amy” trailed her complicated pregnancy, and Fischer guides Schumer through the kitchen in Food Network’s “Amy Schumer Learns to Cook.”

“Life & Beth” is a bit slow to get to the good stuff. While the episodes are rather short, her journey really only picks up halfway through. Yet, what the show excels at is being somehow both poignant and hilarious.

It tackles feelings of isolation, with Beth struggling to keep up with her game of pretend. She navigates love and loss in multiple ways, dealing with romance, lost friendships and sisterhood.

The cast is full of fellow comedians, only adding to the fun; some stars featured are Yama-neika Saunders, Murray Hill, LaVar Walker and Larry Owens. Jonathan Groff even makes an appearance, playing a personal trainer who asks Schumer’s character out solely because he’s fascinated by life in the city.

Schumer has recently made headlines after having pitched the idea of having Ukraine’s president join the Academy Awards via satellite or video segment. She will be co-hosting the ceremony with Regina Hall and Wanda Sykes on March 27.

Ultimately, Schumer’s show “Life & Beth” is a solid watch, likely to be more compelling if you have some familiarity with her life story.

RATING: 3.75/5 STARS

‘WHO CARES?’ by Rex Orange County? Everyone cares!

by Tracy Davidson
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A lot of fans care about Rex Orange County’s most recent album, “WHO CARES?” which released on March 11.

Alexander O’Connor, who goes by Rex Orange County, is a 23-year-old singer and songwriter from Hampshire, England. Prior to “WHO CARES?” O’Connor released three previous albums, all of which garnering much success.

After listening to the album for a short while, it is clear Rex Orange County has a creative vision and understanding of music that goes beyond other artists’ capacity, as he dives into beautiful instrumentals and synths. With strings that sound straight from a symphony, it seems that O’Connor could easily be a professional orchestral composer.

This is the album you want to hear waking up on a sunny day. The warm, upbeat tunes of the album combined with his effortless vocals, pair perfectly with the warm spring weather that will soon be upon us.

On Twitter, O’Connor discussed the motives behind some of his favorite songs on “WHO CARES?”. About the seventh track on the album titled “7AM,” he tweeted, “This song is about not feeling good enough and being like, ‘I’m gonna give up’, when that’s really the last thing you wanna do.”

He continues to relate to his audience while motivating them to keep going. It seems that the most successful music today is able to juxtapose sad, deep lyrics with an upbeat tone and instrumentals.

The only featured artist on this album is rapper Tyler, the Creator who had previously given Rex Orange County the spotlight on his album “Flower Boy.” Rex Orange County owes much of his success to Tyler, the Creator, and fans enjoyed their chemistry on the single “OPEN A WINDOW.” The song starts out with the lyrics: “Can I open a window? / Can somebody open the door? / There’s so many reasons / I can barely take it anymore.” As “Genius” points out, there could be a connection to Tyler’s song “New Magic Wand”, where he raps, “Sometimes you gotta close a door to open a window.”

It is clear that creatively, these two artists are a match made in heaven. The friendship they have formed beyond music has made their joint songs even more special and exciting to interpret.

Rex Orange County debuted the album in a series of solo concerts from London to Los Angeles to Berlin and more. Many UConn students attended the New York City leg of this concert series. Dedicated fans stood outside for hours in the sleet and snow to see him perform at the Blue Note Jazz Club.

“It was so unique to experience such a big time artist so up-close and personal,” said fourth-semester student Sydney Salomon, who attended the concert. “His voice sounded even better in-person.”

The whole concert was a stripped-down version of “WHO CARES?” where Rex Orange County played many of his songs using his voice and the piano or guitar alone on stage. This small, intimate concert experience is a great way for artists to connect with their fans, and it is rare to see an artist with so many fans continue to have these concerts as they rise to fame.

In addition to the solo concerts, Rex Orange County opened pop-up shops in New York City and London where his merchandise was sold. In New York, the lines to enter the store extended for blocks and blocks, as Rex Orange County was promised to make an appearance. The merchandise featured a variety of hoodies, jackets, t-shirts and sweatpants. The price range was a bit more than expected, ranging from \$75 to \$180 dollars; however, the design choice was appealing to fans and merchandise sold out rapidly.

Rex Orange County is set to tour throughout the U.S. and Europe in 2022.

Rating: 4.5/5



Alexander O’Connor, who goes by Rex Orange County, recently released his album, “WHO CARES?” on March 11. Rex Orange County debuted the album in a series of solo concerts from London to Los Angeles, with many UConn students attending the New York City leg of the concert series.

(ABOVE) PHOTO COURTESY OF SPOTIFY

(LEFT) PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Opinion StudyBreak

Photo of the Day | Forget leg day, try this



River Granniss, Nick Papa and Luke Case table on Fairfield Way to raise funds for the UConn Climbing Team on March 22, 2022. Students were able to pay five dollars to attempt to lift 68 pounds for 10 seconds using only two fingers. If they were successful, they were rewarded with climbing team stickers. PHOTO BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, PHOTO & VIDEO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

DYK?

Opossums are the only marsupials north of Mexico.

OPOSSUMS AND POSSUMS ARE NOT THE SAME ANIMAL. IN AUSTRALIA, A POSSUM IS A COMPLETELY DIFERENT ANIMAL.



Opossums slow the spread of lyme disease by eating 90% of the ticks that attach to them.

THEY'RE IMMUNE TO MOST SNAKE VENOM, EXCEPT THE CORAL SNAKE'S.

FACTS COURTESY OF MENTALFLOSS.COM

Sudoku

		5	2		7			
8				5				3
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	3				2			
	2	4				1		
			6				4	
	4					3	1	
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COMIC BY DIONEL DE BORJA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Jon’s Take: What signing Trevor Story means for the Red Sox

by **Jonathan Synott**
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On March 20, 2022, it was announced that All-Star shortstop Trevor Story would be signing with the Boston Red Sox in a six-year, \$140 million contract, the largest acquisition for Boston since Chief Baseball Officer Chaim Bloom took over in 2019. Formerly working with the frugal Tampa Bay Rays organization, Bloom finally broke the bank for his guy but still got him on a solid deal, an average of \$23.3 million a year. For reference, this is roughly around the same average annual value as designated hitter J.D. Martinez and fellow shortstop Xander Bogaerts.

But here’s the thing. Both Story and Bogaerts cannot play shortstop at the same time, leaving Story to likely play second base for the first time in his professional career. He has some experience at the position in the minors, but it is unclear how his defensive game will translate to the other side of the infield. As evident by the mass contract given out on Sunday morning, the Red Sox don’t seem too worried.

With the signing, the lineup projects Alex Verdugo, Jackie Bradley Jr. and former on-and-off second baseman Kiké Hernandez in left, center and right fields, respectively. The infield should consist of power bats Rafael Devers at third, Bogaerts at shortstop, Story at second and Bobby Dalbec or newcomer Triston Casas at first base, with Christian Vasquez behind the plate and Martinez as the designated hitter. That’s a loaded lineup, especially if Casas, the current No. 16 prospect in baseball, is everything he’s projected to be.

Story is coming off of a down year offensively — if he had slashed .294/.363/.554 with 35

home runs like he did in the penultimate, full MLB season in 2019, he probably would’ve brought in a much larger contract. As he enters his age 29 season, Bloom doesn’t seem too concerned about Story’s bat. And why should he be? Most players have these kinds of “off-years,” and when your worst season (.251/.329/.471) is still above league average, it’s

not too shabby. In fact, the Red Sox, who finished seventh, second and third, respectively, in the MLB in OBP, SLG and OPS, all have lower 2021 averages than Story. That’s an improvement even before the new acquisition plays to his potential.

How about the impact on the defensive side? Story, historically, is an above-average fielder at

shortstop. I realize he is playing out of position, but for now, let’s assume he adapts well based on his minor-league experience and the defensive shift being only 90 feet to his left. His 2021 .975 fielding percentage doesn’t exactly wow anyone (although it is drastically better than Devers’ numbers), and actually his play at second over someone like Chris-

tian Arroyo would decrease the team’s already paltry .979 fielding percentage.

Thankfully, there’s more to playing defense than fielding percentage. Take, for example, Rtot, or the total zone total fielding runs above average, which takes into account a few other metrics and calculates how many runs the defensive player was directly worth based on plays made throughout the year. Story’s Rtot in 2021 was 9 runs above average, while the Red Sox combined for -64 runs, ranking last out of 30 teams.

How about a statistic you may have heard of, defensive wins above replacement (dWAR)? Very similar to the popular wins above replacement, this statistic only considers the defensive aspect of the game. Taking last year’s starting eight (excluding the pitcher), Boston had a combined 1.4 dWAR, an average of just 0.175 per player. Story finished 2021 with a 1.6 dWAR himself, which would’ve ranked second on the team behind Hernandez. Adding in Bradley Jr’s 1.3 dWAR and taking out the departing Hunter Renfroe and benched Arroyo’s -0.5 and 0.7 dWARs, respectively, and the team gets significantly better defensively. By no means are they a top defensive unit, but they’re becoming less and less of a liability with little-to-no cost to their offensive production.

It will be interesting to see Story’s shift over to second base, but as an already solid defensive player with background experience at the position, it should be a smooth transition by the end of the year. With the addition of Story, the Red Sox have made themselves a better team in not one but two aspects of the game, with or without the projected offensive increase to his typical statistics.



Trevor Story as a member of the Colorado Rockies. This offseason, Story signed with the Boston Red Sox, PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Why Reds pitcher Hunter Greene can be a star

by **Evan Rodriguez**
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Baseball is back in action and there’s plenty to talk about, whether that’s new stars in new locations or how teams can improve before the upcoming season.

There’s also the wide collection of rising stars looking to prove their worth and potentially grab an Opening Day roster spot for their team. Monday’s game between the Cincinnati Reds and Chicago Cubs featured one of those rising stars, a young right-handed pitcher named Hunter Greene.

In Monday’s loss to the Cubs, Reds fans got to see a little glimpse of what the 2017 first-round pick could do on the mound. There was certainly much to be impressed by with Greene. Despite a single inning of relief, the 22-year-old demonstrated why scouts gave him a grade of 80 on his fastball with seven pitches reaching at least 100 mph, including a 101 mph pitch that struck out Cubs outfielder Narciso Crook.

Reds manager David Bell gave the rising star plenty of love in some words following Monday’s game.

“He looked like he belongs here,” Bell said. “More importantly, he felt that.”

Bell also noted that he believes Greene is ready to make the jump to the big leagues at Great American Ball Park. With everything scouts have seen from the pitcher and the potential of what he can do on the big stage, it’s no surprise that Reds fans could be seeing a new ace in their neck of the woods very soon.

It’s been a fairly long journey for the 22-year-old. Greene was selected second overall in the 2017 MLB Draft and was already building his case for a potential leap with an appearance at the Futures Game before needing Tommy John surgery due to a 2018 injury. When he came back, he practically looked just as good as he did before the injury, rising to Triple A after just seven starts

with the Chattanooga Lookouts. With such a tough journey to where he is now, it’s no wonder why he’s the No. 1 prospect in Cincinnati’s farm system.

What separates Greene from his fellow pitchers? You immediately have to point to the rising star’s bread and butter pitch, his fastball. Not only does Greene have great control on the pitch that gives plenty of hitters a hard time, but it also routinely hits triple digit speeds. His own mechanics on his windup and release give a great boost on the ac-

celeration of not just his fastball, but his other pitches. If Greene continues to dominate with that fastball, hitters should be ready for some trouble.

The key to Greene being able to take the next step is the development of his other pitchers. While he does have an encouraging slider that can reach high-80s speed to mix in with the fastball, he’ll need more to work with. He’s thrown in some sliders and an improving changeup to mix up hitters, but that may not be quite enough. Considering that Greene did have

some trouble in Triple A where he went 5-8 with a 4.13 ERA and experienced hitters were able to hit well off him. Some more development on his other pitches could be just what he needs to take the next step into the pitcher that the Reds need him to be.

Still, Cincinnati may not have a choice to bring up Greene. Their pitching rotation does not exactly jump off the page with a clear-cut set of talent. The team just traded away Sonny Gray to the Minnesota Twins and have some holes to fill in their rotation.

Could Greene be that guy? It’s definitely possible in 2022 and with some Spring Training starts up ahead for the young arm, he’ll have some more chances to prove what he can bring to the table over more than an inning.

Regardless of what happens with Greene, he undoubtedly has the potential to make some noise on the mound if he plays his cards right. He has the tools and mechanics to fool hitters and grab plenty of strikeouts in the big leagues. He’s a special talent that can be a star.



Hunter Greene of the Cincinnati Reds, drafted in 2017, is making waves in 2022 spring training. PHOTO COURTESY OF @MLB ON INSTAGRAM

Photo of the Day | Raining supreme



The Huskies wins against the Quinnipiac Bobcats with a final score of 8-0. The team played with high performance in the pouring rain and won all three games against the Bobcats within the week. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Point/Counterpoint: Should the First Four be abolished?

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The First Four: Many college basketball fans consider it the ultimate appetizer to the NCAA tournament. Created in 2011 with the purpose of creating more at-large bids, the First Four gives fans and players four extra games before the Round of 64 even starts, spread across the Tuesday and Wednesday prior. The idea is that you make the worst four automatic bids (No. 16 seeds) fight their way in and the worst four at large teams (No. 11 and 12 seeds) earn it. Despite theoretically being the worst at large teams though, these No. 11 and 12 seeds have actually found success in the tournament. In every year except 2019, at least one of the two survivors made it to the second round. Even more surprising, two such teams made it to the Final Four — 2011 VCU Rams and the 2021 UCLA Bruins. Today, staff writers Stratton Stave and Sam Zelin debate whether the First Four is good for the sport or if it should be abolished.

Stratton: Over the past 11 years, the First Four has become a staple of March Madness week. As people fill out their brackets, they get to scout teams that will be playing later that week in real time through games between teams that are fighting to earn their way into the tournament. And even better, the games have consistently been exciting. Let's talk UCLA-Michigan State last year, a game that went to overtime. This year, Indiana-Wyoming and Texas Southern-Texas A&M CC were both decided by fewer than 10 points. The best one this year was Notre Dame-Rutgers, which went to double overtime and included a number of crazy shots to decide it. Who doesn't want more crazy and unpredictable games? No true college basketball fan will say no to an extra buzzer beater or nail biter. It's a great way to keep the engagement at a peak level as they bridge the gap between Selection Sunday and the first Thursday of games with a set of meaningful matchups. There is no reason to get rid of it as of now.

Sam: When it comes to March Madness, or any other competition with a restricted number of applicants, there will always be snubs. While giving the extra teams a chance to technically be a part of the event is a nice concept, it's only nice for the teams that make the First Four. With an even bracket of 64 teams, the teams that make it get in, and the teams that don't are all left waiting for next year. Instead of having an awkward pre-tournament, it would make more sense to have a clean break at 64, and then have all teams that don't make that cut play in the National Invitation Tournament (NIT). The NIT's current purpose is specifically to create a stage for teams left out of March Madness to be able to compete for a championship, and having all the teams that barely missed the Big Dance, instead of only half of them, could make this competition more exciting and appealing to fans. On the topic of fan appeal, scrapping the First Four would also place more emphasis on conference play, with teams having more at stake due to a smaller pool of teams making March Madness.

Stratton: Although I do think that the NIT is a great platform for teams that didn't make it to get on a big stage, it's sort of outdated. Unless you're a mid-major squad on the rise, most teams don't care very much about the NIT. For high majors, it has become March Madness or bust, without room for consolation prizes. Another massive benefit of the First Four is that it gives 16 seeds that wouldn't have a chance to win a game a very winnable one. In the history of the NCAA tournament, only one No. 16 seed has beaten a No. 1 seed. Now with the advent of the First Four, two 16 seeds get the chance to win games. Even better, the more wins a team gets, the more money their conference is awarded. Per the Washington Post, for every win a team gets, their conference is awarded \$1.67 million. This opportunity for lower level teams to get money for their conference is massive and is a great reason to keep the games in existence.

Sam: While giving the little guy a chance is a nice sentiment, that shouldn't be the goal here. The evenly-rounded 64-team format places all competitors on an even playing field, with each team having to play the same amount of games to get to each stage of the bracket. If preserving this format becomes the goal, we get back to the problem that the NCAA originally created the First Four as a solution for: Because more automatic bids were created, the NCAA had to find a way to fit all of these bids in without sacrificing at-large spots. In the end, the solution to this problem shouldn't be arbitrary extra games, it should be decreasing the number of automatic bids. If a conference on the whole routinely performs worse than its competition in the tournament, it should be put in jeopardy of losing its champion's automatic bid. This will allow the NCAA to keep the most competitive conferences in the tournament, while still rewarding standouts from conferences that are less competitive in at-large selection. In the end, the competitiveness of March Madness is the most important part of it, and again, there will always be snubs regardless of the format.



Rutgers' Ron Harper Jr. (24) shoots over Notre Dame's Paul Atkinson Jr. during the first half of a First Four game at the NCAA men's college basketball tournament Wednesday, March 16, 2022, in Dayton, Ohio. PHOTO BY AARON DOSTER/AP

Softball hosts Army in Wednesday matinee home opener

by **Sam Zelin**
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After 25 games on the road, the Huskies' softball team has finally returned home. Burrill Family Field in Storrs will play host to UConn and Army, with the first pitch set for 3 p.m. on March 23.

The Huskies and Black Knights have only squared off twice before in their history, with each squad claiming one victory. This also marks the first time either team will be the true home team, as both previous games were played at neutral sites.

Since UConn's conference games began, the team has been on a steady

upward trajectory. With a 5-1 Big East record, its overall record is now over the .500 mark at 14-11. Army has yet to play any conference games, currently sporting an 8-18 record coming into Wednesday.

For the UConn offense, two players to watch for are Lexi Hastings, who took home Big East Freshman of the Week honors this past weekend, and Sami Barnett, who also earned weekly honors. Hastings recorded six hits against Georgetown, with an on-base percentage of .500 and a batting average of .462 on the weekend. Barnett batted .636 this weekend, with two RBI. In total, UConn has four players batting over .300 this season, with Briana Marcelino and Reese Guevarra

joining Hastings and Barnett. On top of just hitting, Hastings and Marcelino have been tearing up the basepaths, with 14 and 17 stolen bases, respectively. Marcelino has yet to be caught stealing this year.

On the mound, Meghan O'Neil had a great weekend against Georgetown, tossing 11.2 innings while only allowing one run.

For Army, the team is coming off a 3-3 weekend at the Maryland Invitational, hoping to capitalize on momentum from its last game, a 10-2 defeat of Monmouth on March 20. Maddie Wilkes currently leads the team in batting average with a .361 on the season, but she's only started 11 of Army's 26 games. Kayla Edwards has

been more consistent, starting every game so far and leading the team in hits with 24, while maintaining a .286 average.

Pitching for Army has been relatively consistent, but each of the team's four main pitchers have hovered around their collective 4.73 earned run average so far this year. Jolie Duong has the most innings under her belt with 63.2, and she has a 4-5 record for the season. After her, the pitcher with the most starts is Olivia Farris, who is currently looking for her first victory after starting the season 0-10.

While Army has certainly not started off the season with as good a record as UConn, this may be

deceiving due to its lack of conference play thus far. Only playing the game will tell, as the Huskies aim to catapult from their 2-1 weekend against Georgetown, straight through this game and onward to the upcoming DePaul series this weekend. For the Black Knights, they're also getting ready for conference play as well, as they face Lehigh for three games this weekend, their opening series of Patriot League play.

This mid-week one-off game could end up affecting both teams significantly, so make sure to show up or tune in at 3 p.m, with the game being broadcast on FloSports.



UConn Huskies sweep the 3-game series against the Butler Bulldogs behind a 1-0 win on a rainy Sunday afternoon in Storrs. The game was called after 5.2 innings due to the storm. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Baseball: Hook C comes home for more games at Elliot Ballpark



The UConn baseball team beats UMass 9-2 on a cold afternoon in Elliot Ballpark on Friday, March 2, 2021. UConn will now play more games at home after a long roadtrip. PHOTO BY MAGGIE CHAFOULEAS, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Taylor Coonan**
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Following the trip out west to several schools in California, UConn baseball is ready to play on its own field. This was the last long stretch of games on road, and the Huskies will be in Storrs more regularly for the rest of the season, beginning with a Wednesday game facing the Bryant University Bulldogs.

UConn will take the field with a 14-4 record, and Bryant comes to Connecticut 6-10 on its season so far. Most recently, the Huskies faced the University of California- San Diego, winning the series 2-1. They won this past Saturday

and Sunday, but lost Monday; all games were decided by a single run. All weekend long, the UCSD Tritons gave the Hook C steady trouble before getting just one win on the series.

Prior to UCSD, UConn lost 7-1 to Long Beach State University. This was a full-180 from the game right before that where the Huskies beat the University of Southern California Trojans 7-1. UConn opened the trip with a three-game series against Pepperdine University, which the Hook C won in the first two games. There, the Huskies held the Waves to only two runs before Pepperdine beat UConn in a close 6-5 game.

Despite the losses, UConn is playing fairly consistent base-

ball. Dropped games were due to repetitive mistakes on defense, or just coming up short by a run or two needed to force extra innings and overcome the opponent.

Bryant started its season strong by sweeping its first series of 2022 against East Carolina University. After that, the Bulldogs lost nine straight games to various clubs. While the losses were consistent for Bryant, the way the team lost wasn't. Some nights, it was by one or two. Others, specifically against Old Dominion, resulted in a demolishing of the Bulldogs. Old Dominion beat Bryant 7-6 one night only to stampede the next night and finish 23-7.

At this point in the season, the only team that the Huskies and Bulldogs have both faced is the University of Hartford Hawks. UConn played Hartford at home on a day that was far from balmy as the weather in Florida, where the Huskies played several games before the home opener. UConn head coach Jim Penders was reluctant to attribute the game's mistakes and "goofiness" to the cold, unsure of what caused such a messy game. Nonetheless, the Huskies beat the Hawks 8-3 with hits and key outs when needed to prevent Hartford from running up the score.

Bryant, too, defeated Hartford's team when they played last week. The Bulldogs beat

the Hawks 12-3, as seven runs in the third inning alone gave Bryant its fourth win of the season at that point. Considering both teams held Hartford to three runs, it'll be interesting to see how their offensive and defensive plays will contribute to the final score. UConn has had strong at-bats from Casey Dana, Zach Bushling and Erik Stock all season, with Dana's breakthrough coming this past weekend. Coupled with limiting the opponent's runners on base, the Hook C can start another win streak.

The game on Wednesday, March 23, begins at 3:05 p.m. in Storrs, with broadcasting by FloSports and ESPN 97.9.

Daily

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Women's Basketball

NO. 2 HUSKIES SQUEAK BY NO. 7 UCF TO ADVANCE TO SWEET 16

by Stratton Stave
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It wasn't pretty. It wasn't even close. But as they say, a win is a win, regardless of how painful this game was to watch; as a result, UConn is going to the Sweet 16 for the 28th straight year.

"I can honestly say that given the kind of season we had, I thought I'd seen it all, but this was a new experience for me," Coach Geno Auremma noted. "It was what we expected: It was difficult, ugly looking. We could have easily let it get away from us, but we didn't. I'm not sure how we won this game, but we did. By going through that, I think I'm a changed person."

On a gorgeous Monday night in Storrs, Connecticut, the UConn Huskies took on the UCF Knights in a complete defensive showdown, collecting a 52-47 victory. This win was largely thanks to the efforts of freshman Azzi Fudd, who scored 16 points in the win.

"The atmosphere was amazing," Fudd noted. "That made the game a lot of fun and helped with our momentum. When my shot wasn't falling, my teammates continued to find me"

To start this one off, Olivia Nelson-Ododa made her presence felt. She hit the first bucket of the game with a tough layup, then blocked a shot at the other end. On the rebound, Tay Sanders grabbed the ball and got it to go, before making another shot close. Paige Bueckers responded with a euro-step layup in transition and UCF netted a pair of free throws, which was followed by a Masseny Kama deuce and an Alisha Lewis three.

Fudd cut the deficit to four points with the three and Bueckers added the cause with a 12-foot jumper. Diamond Battles got her first bucket of the game with a monster 3-pointer, where she was fouled, but missed the free throw. After a bit of a scrum involving a tie up, Brittney Smith added a hook shot, but Fudd nailed another deep ball to close the quarter with UCF leading 18-12.

Early in the second quarter, Bueckers got fouled late in the shot clock on a triple and hit just one of three. After a slew of sloppy possessions that included missed layups, UCF got the first field goal of the quarter—by either team—2:30 in via a Kaba layup. The Knights got over the limit just 3:30 into the quarter, giving the Huskies a lot of free throws in the ensuing minutes. Nelson-Ododa then made an extremely scrappy play, blocking a shot and then drawing a charge all within five seconds, but UConn couldn't score any points to show for it on the other end.

Nika Muhl then rattled in a clutch three at the end of the shot clock to retake the lead, but bailed UCF out at the other end with a foul late in the clock, which ended up becoming another shot clock violation. An empty UConn possession gave way to a shot-clock buzzer beating three by Battles, but Williams responded with a mid-range swish. The Huskies got back-to-back blocks to end the half, taking a 26-23 advantage into the locker room.

Battles and Christyn Thomas each hit jumpers to start the frame, giving the Knights the lead back less than a minute in. Bueckers answered with a jumper to tie things up, but Smith bounced one in to grab the advantage. This didn't last long though, as Fudd

drained her third three of the game to get ahead by two. Edwards extended the lead to four with a jumper and the Knights threw it away on the next possession. Williams hit a tough layup to take an eight-point lead into the final quarter, largely thanks to a 9-0 run that held the Knights scoreless at 5:15.

Late in the clock, in the Huskies' first possession of the quarter, Fudd dropped in a three to make it a double-digit ballgame. Sanders cut into the deficit with a three of her own, but Williams immediately restored it to 11 with her own deep ball. Battles increased her personal total to 10 on the jumper. Fudd drew a foul on her jumper and hit both free throws. Bueckers hit a jumper to force a UCF timeout with 4:50 left in the contest.

Smith swished a wide-open jumper and Sanders hit one from the corner to cut it to seven. Smith narrowed it to five with another and a Nelson-Ododa offensive foul gave the ball back to the Knights. Smith got fouled in the low post but missed both free throws. Williams missed a bunny on the other end, but Kaba returned the favor with an easy miss of her own. With the shot clock winding down for UConn, Bueckers hoisted a three, but airballed it with 1:17 left. Battles got into the lane and drew a foul, hitting both free throws to cut it to three.

Bueckers missed a three and Dorca Juhasz got the offensive board but bricked the putback. Smith drew a foul after a timeout, but her foul shooting troubles continued as she missed one. The second shot went in, but it didn't matter, as the Knights jumped early for a lane violation. Williams was fouled and hit both but committed a bizarre

foul on the other end on Smith, who nailed both. The Huskies hit a few more free throws and then dribbled the ball out, eking out a 52-47 win.

"It was a battle the whole game," Williams noted. "Coming into the game, we knew they were going to be aggressive. It was very ugly, but we got the dub and that's all that matters."

"There's always value when you have to struggle to get something," Au-

riemma added. "Looking around the country, these games are supposed to be difficult."

"I thought we were very poised down the stretch," Williams mentioned. "Kudos to Azzi. She did a great job handling the ball in the backcourt. I'm proud of our team that we held it together down the stretch."

The Huskies will next take on Indiana this Saturday in Bridgeport for the Sweet 16.



During the second round of March Madness, The UConn Huskies face the University of Central Florida Knights at Gampel Pavilion on March 21, 2022. PHOTO BY ERIN KNAPP, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women's Lacrosse: Shaffer and Watson

combine for 12 as No. 22 Huskies defeat SUNY-Albany

by Stratton Stave
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On a cloudy Tuesday in the state capital of New York, the UConn women's lacrosse squad took on the SUNY Albany Great

Danes in a matchup of teams trending in opposite directions. The Huskies entered riding a five-game win streak, while the Great Danes had lost three of their last four. Although this one remained close throughout, the Huskies always felt in control,

pulling away when they needed to and secure the victory.

Shaffer set the tone for the contest in the first three minutes, with a nice solo goal. Grace Coon added another, thanks to a nice feed from a red hot Lia La-Prise. Shaffer got her second on a strong drive to the net, maneuvering the ball past the keeper

ed a trio of solo goals to make it a 4-0 run, putting a considerable amount of pressure on the Danes. Kathryn Sancilio tacked on a goal to narrow the deficit to three, but Huskies star Sydney Watson responded with her first score of the matchup to end the half.

Rowe and Falk opened the third frame with a pair of goals in the first six minutes, once again pulling the difference back to two. Less than two minutes later, Watson took it upon herself to make it a 9-6 game, but Rowe once again bounced back with a score less than 50 seconds later. Over a 32-second span, Watson and Shaffer each added another to their large respective totals, doubling the UConn lead. Katie Pascale and Hogg continued to add to the push-pull feel of the game, grabbing two more goals to reduce the lead to just two again at 12-10.

Landyn White made a save with 6:36 left in the contest and heaved it to Watson at mid-field, who then took the ball the rest of the way herself for the score. Shaffer and Watson each knocked in their sixth goals of the game and thanks to a Lauren Barry goal, the Huskies all of a sudden had extended their advantage to six. Rowe added her fourth of the game, but the dam-

age was done, and UConn pulled out a nice 16-11 win.

SHAFFER BREAKS OUT

Kate Shaffer had 13 goals coming into the game against Albany. She increased this total by 46% on Tuesday, thanks to her massive six-goal effort. Shaffer scored early and often, which is a welcome sign to Huskies fans as they look for a tertiary option moving into the second half of the season. Watson and LaPrise have stolen the show offensively, but is now the time for Shaffer to shine? If she can be half as good as she was against the Danes in future games, the potential for the No. 22 Huskies is nearly unlimited.

WATSON CONTINUES DOMINANCE

Sydney Watson once again proved why she was named a preseason All American. Watson netted a season high six goals on Tuesday, adding to her current season total of 30, which is good for 20th in the nation. She is doing everything that the Huskies could be asking of her and more as the focal point of the offense. If she is named to the national first team, this game will be looked at as a signature moment in UConn's season.



UConn women's lacrosse battled to a 12-11 victory over No. 22 UMass as UConn senior Sydney Watson scored halfway through the overtime period. With the win, the Huskies pick up their first victory against a ranked opponent and improve to 4-1 on the season. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS



On a cloudy Tuesday in the state capital of New York, the UConn women's lacrosse squad took on the SUNY Albany Great Danes in a matchup of teams trending in opposite directions.

and tossing her stick in celebration. Over a four-minute stretch, the Huskies surrendered three straight goals, thanks to the efforts of Albany's Courtney Rowe, Sarah Falk and Bryar Hogg, tying things up. To close up the first quarter, Shaffer completed the hat trick off a deep pass from Madelyn George — a really beautiful play.

Coon, Shaffer and George add-

UCONN SCOREBOARD

Women's lacrosse
Tuesday

 vs. 

16 vs. 11

UPCOMING GAMES

 vs. 
Baseball; today, 3:05 p.m.
Storrs, Conn.


 vs. 
Women's basketball; Saturday, 2 p.m.
Bridgeport, Conn.


INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@paigebueckers
I love you husky nation! BEST FANS IN THE COUNTRY @uconnhuskies

TWEETS OF THE DAY

 **Jamie McGroarty**
@coachmcg11
UConn WBB. 28 straight sweet 16's. Think about that. @UConnWBB is to this generation what UNC womens soccer was to the 80's and 90's

 **@taylor_coonan**
Until Paige Bueckers posts a picture of you with gratitude for your very presence, watch the way you speak to me.

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