



CONFIRMED 2022 COVID-19 CASES AT UCONN STORRS
as of 6:03 p.m. on Mar. 24 *positive test results

11 Current Residential Cases (positive/symptomatic)

338 Cumulative Residential Cases*

328 Cumulative Commuter Cases*

Lawmakers pass bill aimed at teaching ‘American principles’

Kentucky school systems are altering their social studies curriculum to include more legislation and content such as the Mayflower Contract, the Declaration of Independence and others. The bill passed moves to incorporate more controversial or “negative history” into the curriculum.

See **PRINCIPLES**, p. 2

Detroit schools aim to catch up, and then some, with US aid

The Detroit school system is using pandemic relief money to benefit the students that may have been affected during the Covid-19 pandemic. After school programs and one-on-one tutoring sessions have been freely offered to students that are struggling or falling behind.

See **DETROIT**, p. 3

UConn School of Business hosts global business leadership in sustainability summit

by **Dylan Champagne**
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The University of Connecticut School of Business is hosting the Global Business Leadership in Sustainability Summit on Friday, March 25 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the UConn School of Business in Storrs. This half-day event brings together professionals, faculty and students to discuss important sustainability topics for businesses while also highlighting the existing “sustainability initiatives” going on across UConn.

Any UConn student can attend, regardless of major, and registration is free with an option for either in-person or virtual attendance.

Arminda Kamphausen, associate director of global business programs and conference organizer, said the idea for the summit evolved from their previous speaker series.

“We have actually been hoping to pivot our Global Business Leadership series to focus on sustainability since before Covid,” Kamphausen said in an email. “That program was previously a speaker series, but we thought it would have more impact as a 1-day event. We have increased our focus in the School of Business around this space and of course the students have been eager to learn and do more to use business for good.”



The outside of UConn School of Business. Professionals and sustainability enthusiasts will meet here to discuss business leadership.
FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The summit will kick off with a keynote panel featuring representatives from UConn, the public sector and the corporate sector answering questions about sustainability in business.

After the panel, there will be breakout sessions focused on corporate social responsibility and environmental social and governance, how businesses can measure their sustainability efforts.

The summit will end with a closing debrief, reflecting on lessons learned and plans for the future. It will also conclude with a networking reception for students.

Kamphausen hopes students

come away from the summit with not only a better understanding of business sustainability, but with many other takeaways.

“We hope that students will come away with a better understanding of what it means to do business sustainably, obtain resources to support them in the areas that they are passionate about, learn more about what UConn and the School is already doing along the lines of sustainable education and work, and connect with other like-minded students, staff, faculty, and business professionals to encourage them and build a network for future work,” Kamphausen said.

National News: A somber set of headlines

by **Hallie LeTendre**
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Three stories from national news this week feature the sobering topics of mass shootings, police brutality and COVID-19. The following are quick summaries of what is currently happening with each:

AT LEAST NINE MASS SHOOTINGS REPORTED ACROSS THE U.S. IN THE PAST WEEK

A New York Times article by David Leonhardt released Thursday reported that there were at least nine mass shootings that took place across the nation in the past week.

Crime experts define a mass shooting as an event in which at least four people were shot.

The recorded shootings which took place just last week occurred in Virginia, Arkansas and Texas. Additionally other states across the country have also reported shootings, the article stated.

Recent data suggests that crime rates have risen by nearly 30% since 2019, signifying a high in gun violence that hasn’t been seen since the early 1990s in the U.S. Leonhardt posited that because gun violence in the U.S. has been seen at such large rates, it is often not broadcasted or widely talked about leaving many to not be aware of its prevalence and occurrence.

OFFICERS UNDER INVESTIGATION AFTER A MAN WAS KILLED WHILE BEING TASED BY POLICE

Five police officers in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania are subject to be fired after a man who was suspected of bicycle theft was tased to death in October, a CNN article by Ray Sanchez and Claudia Dominguez reported.

A medical examiner ruled the death of the man to be an accident, as it was declared to be a result of lack of oxygen to his brain.

According to a Pittsburgh news network report, the officers used the taser because the suspect was not cooperating or complying to orders.

The five officers’ names have not been disclosed. Each officer will have two weeks to challenge the firings, Public Safety Director Lee Schmidt said.

The article stated that the officers will have the opportunity to retire.

The incident has sparked the Pittsburgh police bureau’s panel to recommend changes to their policies and procedures regarding police training, according to Sanchez and Dominguez.

HOW THE THREE LARGEST CITIES IN THE U.S. POPULATIONS DROPPED DUE TO COVID-19

New York: An AP article by Mike Schneider stated that New York, New York saw over 320,000 residents move out of the city in the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, births outweighed deaths and an increase in international residents occurred. Despite this, the New York metro area saw its population drop to just under 20 million residents that year.

Los Angeles: The article also mentioned that Los Angeles, California saw just under 200,000 residents move out of the city. Births outweighed deaths, however Los Angeles saw the second largest drop in population across the U.S. in response to the first year of the pandemic.

Chicago: Schneider stated that in the greater Chicago, Illinois area, a little over 90,000 residents moved out of the city. Their births also outweighed deaths, but the increase was seen at a smaller rate than most other major U.S. cities.

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All these electrical engineers at UCONN need to show their worth right now

 **INSIDE MADDIE’S MIND | PAGE 4**
Has representation improved?

 **HUSKIES IN HOLLYWOOD | PAGE 5**
UConn alum produces feature film, “Dash”

 **WBB SWEET 16 | PAGE 12**
UConn women’s basketball heads to Bridgeport to play Indiana

News

Lawmakers pass bill aimed at teaching ‘American principles’

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — Kentucky lawmakers voted Thursday to designate a set of historical documents and speeches to incorporate into classroom work — a response to the national debate over critical race theory.

The Republican-dominated Senate, on a 21-15 vote, sent the education measure to Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear. Other key features of the bill would shift principal hiring and curriculum setting authority to superintendents and away from school-based decision-making councils.

House lawmakers inserted the hotly debated provisions dealing with civics instruction into what had been a school governance measure designated as a top priority by the Senate.

Most of the Senate debate Thursday revolved around the additions to the measure. In the end, senators accepted the changes by the GOP-led House and advanced the bill to the governor.

Supporters say the two dozen historical documents and speeches listed in the legislation would offer a strong foundation for social studies work by Kentucky's middle and high school students.

Opponents of those provisions have called them an overreach by the legislature into curriculum decision-making by local school districts.

“It sets a bad precedent to establish a list of these documents in statute,” said Republican Sen. Whitney Westerfield.

GOP Sen. Max Wise said the documents show the “good and bad” of U.S. history. Incorporating them into classroom work rein-

forces “the American principles” students should be learning, he said.

He offered assurances that the measure won't stifle the free speech of teachers or students. Wise sponsored the separate measure on the topic that was inserted into the bill sent to Beshear.

“There is nothing in this that will tell a teacher you cannot teach

Critical race theory is an academic framework that examines how racism has shaped public policy and institutions such as the legal system, and how those have perpetuated the dominance of white people in society.

on a certain subject matter,” Wise said Thursday.

Documents listed in the measure include the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and the Monroe Doctrine. The bill also lists speeches by Abraham Lincoln, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Ronald Reagan.

Critical race theory is an academic framework that examines how racism has shaped public policy and institutions such as the legal system, and how those have perpetuated the

dominance of white people in society. Multiple GOP-led states have banned or limited the teaching of critical race theory or similar concepts through laws or administrative actions.

Meanwhile, the parts of the bill shifting key school governance decisions to superintendents and away from school-based decision-making councils also sparked debate.

Supporters said that assigning curriculum and principal hiring decisions to superintendents would strengthen public accountability for key decisions that determine school and student success.

“It gives our schools back to the community at large,” said Republican Sen. John Schickel.

The bill's critics worry that consolidating more authority with superintendents would weaken the influence of teachers and parents in school decision making.

The school-based decision-making councils were created by the landmark Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990. The councils include parent and teacher members. The idea was to empower those closest to the students in helping set school policies.

The bill's opponents also objected to a provision affecting Louisville by moving much of the day-to-day decision-making from the locally elected school board to the school superintendent. That part of the bill — also tacked on by the House — says how often the school board can meet.

In criticizing that provision, Senate Minority Floor Leader Morgan McGarvey said: “How would we feel if Washington set limits on how often this body could meet?”

ARIZONA LAWMAKERS VOTE TO RESTRICT TRANS ATHLETES, SURGERIES

PHOENIX (AP) — The Arizona Legislature passed bills Thursday to prohibit gender reassignment surgery for minors and ban transgender athletes from playing on girls sports teams, joining a growing list of Republican-controlled states attempting to restrict transgender rights as they gain more visibility in culture and society.

Republican Gov. Doug Ducey has not said whether he will sign either bill. Two GOP governors this week bucked conservatives in their party and vetoed bills in Indiana and Utah requiring trans girls to play on boys sports teams.

Republicans have said blocking transgender athletes from girls sports teams would protect the integrity of women's sports, claiming that trans athletes would have an advantage.

Many point to the transgender collegiate swimmer Lia Thomas, who won an individual title at the NCAA Women's Division I Swimming and Diving Championship last week.

But there are few trans athletes in Arizona schools. Since 2017, about 16 trans athletes have received waivers to play on teams that align with their gender identities out of about 170,000 high school athletes in the state, according to the Arizona Interscholastic Association.

“This bill to me is all about biology,” said Republican Rep. Shawna Bolick, who said she played on a coed team in the 1980s but could not have made the high school boys team. “In my opinion, it's unfair to allow biological males to compete with biological girls sports.”

Critics said the legislation dehumanizes trans youth to address an issue that hasn't been a problem.

“We're talking about legislating bullying against children who are already struggling just to get by,” said Democratic Rep. Kelli Butler, fighting back tears.

Until two years ago, no state had passed a law regulating gender-designated youth sports. But the issue has become front and center in Republican-led statehouses since Idaho lawmakers passed the nation's first sports participation law in 2020. That law is now blocked in court, along with another in West Virginia.

“This bill is creating a pointless and harmful solution to a non-existent issue,” Skyler Morrison, a 13-year-old trans-

gender girl, told lawmakers during a committee hearing earlier this month. “It's obvious this bill is just an excuse to discriminate against transgender girls.”

Republicans around the country have leaned into culture war issues including transgender rights. The debate and vote on the transgender sports legislation came the same morning the Arizona House passed a ban on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy. Republicans said little during debates on all three bills.

Arizona is one of 20 states that have considered legisla-

“This bill is creating a pointless and harmful solution to a non-existent issue ...

It's obvious this bill is just an excuse to discriminate against transgender girls.”

Skyler Morrison

tion to restrict gender-affirming health care. The bill originally would have banned all such care for minors but was scaled back to restrict only irreversible procedures, such as surgeries related to gender reassignment.

Similar legislation passed the Idaho House earlier this month but it died in the Senate amid concerns from some Republicans about restricting parental rights.

Supporters of the Arizona bill said it would prevent children from making permanent decisions that they might later come to regret. Republican Rep. John Kavanagh compared the vote to the Legislature's unanimous decision in 2014 to ban genital mutilation.

“We should stand the same way today because this is mutilation of children,” Kavanagh said. “It is irreversible. It is horrific.”

Critics said the decision should be left to parents, their children and the health care team caring for them. They said surgeries are only performed after extensive care and therapy.

“We're talking about our kids, who are already going to be taking the proper steps with their parents to be able to be who they are,” said Democratic Rep. Andres Cano.

MANY BAFFLED BY TALIBAN RENEGGING PLEDGE ON GIRLS' EDUCATION

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A news presenter on Afghanistan's TOLO TV wept as he read the announcement. Images of girls crying after being turned back from school flooded social media. Aid groups and many others remained baffled.

The Taliban have so far refused to explain their sudden decision to renege on the pledge to allow girls to go to school beyond sixth grade. Schools were supposed to reopen to older girls on Wednesday, the start of the new school year.

The ban caught even the Taliban-appointed Education Ministry unprepared. In many places across Afghanistan, some girls in higher grades returned to schools, only to be told to go home.

The move may have been designed to appease the Taliban's

hard-line base but it came at the expense of further alienating the international community. The world has been reluctant to officially recognize Afghanistan's new rulers, concerned the Taliban would impose similar harsh measures and restrictions — particularly limiting women's rights to education and work — as when they previously ruled the country in the late 1990s.

The United Nations children's agency told The Associated Press on Thursday they were blindsided by the announcement.

“We were blindsided,” said Sam Mort, UNICEF's communications chief in Afghanistan. “All the messages, all the actions that had been taking place led us to believe that schools were opening, and as we understand it, that's what our

counterparts in the Ministry of Education believed as well.”

Ahead of the planned reopening, in remote and deeply conservative villages — where women teachers may not have been available to educate girls — arrangements were made for older male teachers, who were considered acceptable, to step in and teach all-girls classes beyond sixth grade.

Coincidentally or not, the Taliban leadership was summoned on Wednesday to southern Kandahar province amid rumors of a Cabinet shuffle, which was later denied. Still, reports have persisted of declining health of the elderly, Taliban-appointed Prime Minister Hasan Akhund, a hard-liner.

Since the Taliban seized power in mid-August during the last weeks of the chaotic withdrawal of U.S. and NATO forces from Afghanistan, there have been reports of divisions among Taliban leaders, with lines drawn between the hard-liners and pragmatists.

The Daily Campus

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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 coronavirus 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 in-

cludes 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.

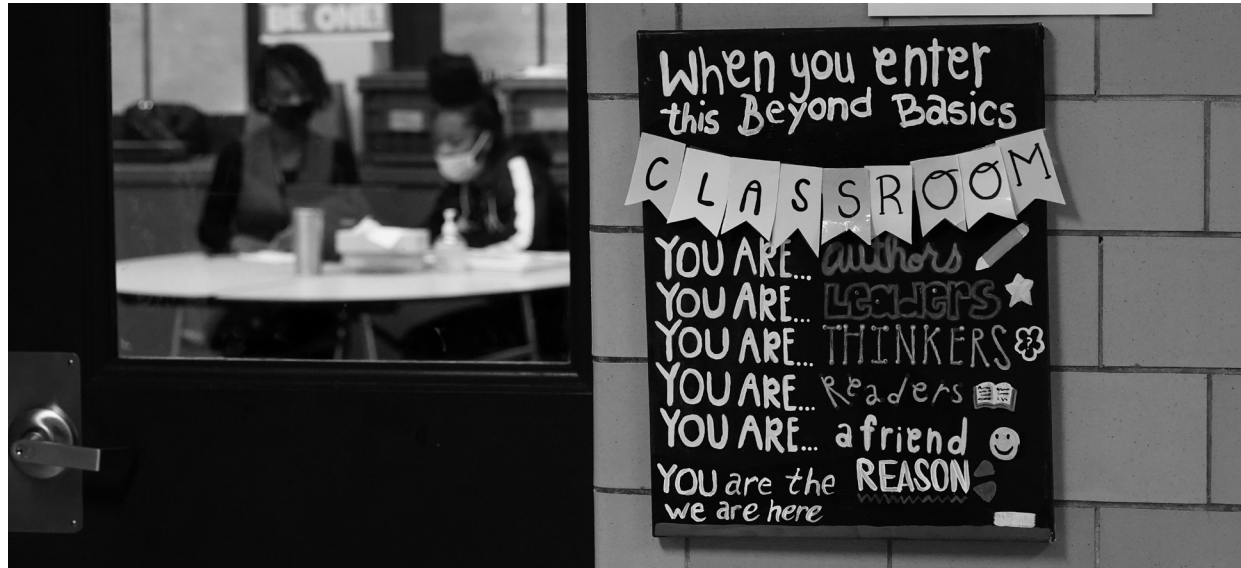
"I don't see this opportunity really coming around again. This is an opportunity for schools to get things right to address some of the long-standing issues that keep kids from succeeding."

Phyllis Jordan

"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."

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.

For Detroit and other districts, it's "really important to get it right" as they decide how to spend the windfall



Student Laela Bullock, background right, works with Taylor Rice during a Beyond Basics literacy session at Denby High School in Detroit, Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2021. Detroit's public school system is investing much of its \$1.3 billion in federal COVID-19 relief aid to improve learning for its students and help fix what has been broken for decades. PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL SANCYA/AP PHOTO

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.

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

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.

The district also plans to spend \$189 million to reduce class sizes; \$169 million for more after-school and summer programs, electronic devices and internet access; \$169 million in raises for teachers and other employees; and \$34 million on programs to provide for

the social and emotional needs — and mental health — of students rocked by the pandemic.

One parent, Aliya Moore, thinks more of the money should go toward technology improvements and student mental health.

Moore, a PTA president at her 12-year-old daughter's school, said many students suffered during distance learning.

"You don't know what the home has looked like, how the schools have been safe havens for these kids," she said.

Vitti has blamed some of the district's performance on low expectations and limited professional development when it was under state control, most recently from 2009 to 2017. Before the pandemic, he said, the district was making progress, including a grade-level literacy curriculum.

SACRAMENTO TEACHERS STRIKE AS MINNEAPOLIS WALKOUT CONTINUES

Thousands of teachers and other school workers in Sacramento walked off the job Wednesday as the California capital became the second big U.S. school district this month to see a work stoppage over pay and staffing shortages as a teachers strike in Minneapolis entered its third week.

The disputes in Sacramento and Minneapolis, where teachers walked out March 8, come as school districts across the country deal with fallout from the coronavirus pandemic and limited resources.

Across the country, union workers are seizing the opportunity posed by tight labor markets to recover some of the power they feel they lost in recent decades as unions shrank in size and influence. And experts expect to see more labor strife as the country emerges from the pandemic.

The Sacramento City Unified School District canceled classes Wednesday at its 76 schools, affecting 43,000 students, after negotiations failed with the Sacramento City Teachers Association and the Service Employees International Union Local 1021.

The unions — representing 2,800 teachers and 1,800 school employees — voted overwhelmingly earlier this month to strike. Teachers say Sacramento has serious staffing shortages despite federal funding and a district budget surplus that it could tap.

"The district has misplaced priorities and no sense of urgency," said teacher union president David Fisher.

These labor actions are part of a trend across the country that

started with the pandemic, said Steve Smith, spokesman for the California Labor Federation, which includes SEIU Local 1021.

"Workers are really fed up with poor treatment, generally few safety protections, low pay. Many of these are essential workers who really stepped up to keep our economy going in the roughest of possible times," Smith said.

Bradley Marianno, a professor of education policy at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, who studies teacher unions and collective bargaining, said teacher strikes were on the rise before the pandemic, and he expects to see educators making more noise again after two stressful years.

"Tight labor markets create bargaining power," Mariano said, adding: "School districts are saying this: 'It is difficult to staff classrooms right now.' And real or not that perception creates bargaining power for teachers unions to negotiate higher teacher pay."

Elsewhere in Northern California, teachers in the Mount Diablo district in the San Francisco Bay Area reached a tentative agreement on Saturday. In Sonoma County's Cotati-Rohnert Park district, teachers returned to work last Thursday after a six-day strike. Spokespeople for the two largest national educators' unions said they knew of no other teacher strikes on the horizon.

The Sacramento district said that the 2% pay increase it proposed is what it can afford. It's also offering to pay 100% of health care coverage.

More than 4,500 educators and support staff are still on strike in Minneapolis, where negotiations often have been acrimonious. The talks have yielded incremental progress on the big issues of pay, class sizes and better mental health supports for the district's 29,000 students, but no breakthroughs.

"We're sticking this out till we get it done," Shaun Laden, a leader of the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers, said in a video Tuesday.

Union leaders have insisted that the Minneapolis district is flush with cash, thanks in part to pandemic relief funds, while administrators say they aren't. The district says the "last, best and final offer" it made this week would require at least \$10 million in budget cuts.

In a video message Tuesday, School Board Chair Kim Ellison

called it "a robust offer" that significantly raises pay and should be more than sufficient "to figure out an agreement that works for both parties and gets our children back in school as soon as possible."

"Kids have missed enough school. Their education and mental health are at stake. They will continue to suffer if the adults continue to fight among themselves."

Darrell Steinberg

Marianno said that the influx of federal funds is making school district budgets across the coun-

try look better, but administrators are hesitant to allocate those short-term funds for long-term raises.

Minneapolis administrators have pointed out that the approximately \$70 million in federal aid in their budget is one-time money that would force painful cuts when it runs out if it's used for long-term obligations.

Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, who helped break a stalemate between teachers and the district in 2017, urged both sides there to do everything possible to end the strike immediately.

"Kids have missed enough school. Their education and mental health are at stake. They will continue to suffer if the adults continue to fight among themselves," Steinberg said in a statement Wednesday.



Katie Ragle sits with her daughters Eliana, left, and Delilah, right with headphones, as they support their teachers at Alice Birney Waldorf Inspired K-8 School in front of the Serna Center in Sacramento on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, during the start of the Sacramento City Teachers Association strike. PHOTOGRAPH BY HECTOR AMEZCUA/THE SACRAMENTO BEE VIA AP

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COMIC BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Inside Maddie's Mind: Representation is everything



ILLUSTRATION BY KRISTA MITCHELL, ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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Representation is one of the most important aspects of media, yet it is simultaneously where most media today is lacking. In general, we can think of representation as how media texts present to their audience different demographics, including gender, age, sexual orientation, race and religion, among others. And in Western media, many demographics are therefore underrepresented, including women, people of color, LGBTQIA+ people,

people of non-Christian religions, and people with body types other than thin.

It seems really simple to say that of course we want to see ourselves represented accurately in the media we consume. However, this is not reality. Hollywood is extremely white and male. And this leads the media produced by Hollywood to also be extremely white and male. While this is not to say that Hollywood is the only producer of media, all media will inherently have traces of the society and culture that created it, and is thus reflective of said society.

Looking at the statistical side of things can paint a better picture of the lack of representation for marginalized groups in the media. UCLA's 2021 diversity report states that only in 2020 did people of color and women nearly reach proportionate representation among film leads when compared to their white male counterparts.

Perhaps this is a great stride given the film industry's historical lack of representation for people of color and women in film leads, but we should be better than this overall. And behind the camera the statistics are worse. The report explains that people of color remained only 25.4% and 25.9% of film directors and film writers in 2020, respectively. Similarly, in 2020 women only accounted for 20.5% of film directors and 26% of film writers.

Interestingly enough, the same 2021 diversity report from UCLA found that films where less than 11% of the cast represented minority groups performed the poorest among global box office receipts in 2020. Thus, it is not a stretch to say that audiences want to see diverse casting in films created by diverse groups of people. We have made strides overall, but there is still a long way to go.

Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, states in Jennifer Siebel Newsom's 2011 documentary "Miss Repre-

sentation," "You can't be what you can't see." It's one of the standout quotes of the film, essentially meaning that audiences need to see people like themselves on screen and in positions of power to best understand that they can achieve similar things. The argument is not that you need an exact blueprint to "break the mold" so to speak and become something amazing. However, it is true that people need to have some idea or a glimpse into a reality where it can be done. Hence, the importance of representation of all demographics in the media is tenfold.

This is not just a rallying cry to diversity the numbers on paper. Overall, Hollywood and other types of media need to look more representative of America's real population so they are true to the real world. Representation needs to exist, and it needs to be positive.

This requires characters being fully developed, rather than two-dimensional caricatures based on harmful stereotypes. For example, in order to have a positive effect, LGBTQIA+ representation needs to be more than Pixar placing an undefined lesbian couple briefly in "Finding Dory" in 2016. In this case, it should look more like Officer Specter in Pixar's 2020 film "Onward," who briefly mentions having a same-sex partner without it being a big deal or selling point of the movie.

Another good example would be the 2018 movie "Crazy Rich Asians", which was the first film in 25 years to have a majority-Asian cast. "Crazy Rich Asians" is another step in the right direction, proving that a movie's cast does not have to be mainly white for it to be a box-office success. Moreover, the characters in this movie are not based on offensive stereotypes, nor are they shallow or superficial.

Moreover, movies like the 2017 film "Hidden Figures", that highlight the achievements of women and people of color in STEM fields, are additional examples of positive representation we should hope to see more of in our media consumption.

It's not too much to ask for the media we consume on such a constant basis to be representative of the reality we live in. The world is diverse; our movies, television shows, books, magazines and video games should reflect this.



POINT / COUNTERPOINT

Are there more doors or wheels?

by Harrison Raskin
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In this Point-Counterpoint, Opinion editor Harrison Raskin and contributor Owen Silverman debate the number of doors and wheels in the world, without relying on any official statistics. Their argument relates to the quantity of each item on Earth in the year 2022.

and Owen Silverman
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Point: Harrison

Rather than simply any entrance through which someone might pass, I'll be charitable and consider doors as hinged objects that open and close in such entryways. While thus excluding many potential doors, we can still say there are far more doors than wheels in the world.

One simple explanation is that built, immovable structures far outnumber wheeled vehicles. In order for there to be more wheels than doors, there would need to be more vehicles than buildings. Factoring in bicycles, rickshaws and other two and three wheeled vehicles, the average number of wheels-per-vehicle shrinks substantially below the number of doors-per-building. Further, factoring in the number of buildings with more than four doors, the average doors-to-building ratio is far higher than wheels-to-vehicle. Finally, by knowing there are more buildings than vehicles in the world, we know that there are more doors than wheels.

But the nail finds its place in the coffin of the wheels argument while considering cabinets. Yes, this is unfair because people don't go through these doors. But because cabinet doors are shaped and function exactly the same as building doors, and often designed to appear similar, we must consider them doors. This means, in every house that has cabinets, the number of doors-per-building skyrockets. In societies where almost every house has a kitchen with cabinets, we add billions of doors to our count, far outpacing the most ambitious figure of wheels.

Point: Owen

By definition, a wheel is "a circular frame of hard material that may be solid, partly solid, or spoked and that is capable of turning on an axle." With this in mind, I believe that cars and other vehicles alone can be used to prove the claim that there are more wheels than doors in the world.

The wheel-to-door ratio is significant for our argument, as there are objects that possess both wheels and doors. A four-door sedan, as the name suggests, has four doors (brilliant work happening over here at the DC). However, it also has four wheels, six if we include the spare tire and the steering wheel, meaning that these vehicles have, at the minimum, a 2:1 wheel-to-door ratio (six wheels to four doors). I mention this because four door cars are the only ones in which the wheel-to-door ratio is even close, as coupes possess a 3:1 ratio, and larger trucks such as 18 wheelers come in with a whopping 10:1 ratio (20 doors, 200 wheels). The only vehicles that (initially) seem to have more doors than wheels are planes and boats.

But let's not forget the latter half of the definition above: "Capable of turning on an axle." This opens the door to every gear in said plane or boat being included in our count, as well as every other gear on the planet, catapulting our wheel-to-door ratio through the roof. Almost every mechanism on Earth utilizes gears, adding upward of trillions to our net wheel count, and it is by virtue of gears that the number of doors becomes no more than a diminutive attempt to stand up to their circular superiors.

See COUNTERPOINT, p. 8

The reality of gas prices

by Keegan Reck
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Oil is the blood of a modern economy. Without oil, a strange geological phenomena in itself, industrial society may never have reached the heights of human progress seen today. Being intrinsic to everyday life, oil and petroleum products are always coupled with controversy — environmental impacts, overdependence and most currently, gas prices.

There are generally three recent happenings to explain the current price movement: Government policy, the conflict in Ukraine and price gouging.

As is well known, gas prices have been surging. There are generally three recent happenings to explain the current price movement: Government policy, the conflict in Ukraine and price gouging, which will all be examined.

U.S. President Joe Biden stated during a press conference that "it's simply not true that my administration or policies are holding back domestic energy production.

That's simply not true." It turns out Biden is correct in claiming that his policy is not significantly impacting domestic energy.

The Keystone XL pipeline cancellation is often a primary criticism of Biden's energy policy. Even if the pipeline were to be completed by now, it would have negligible effects in oil security and pricing. There is merit in stating that Biden's hostility towards oil infrastructure may signal higher risks to producers, but it is difficult to quantify the significance of Biden's signaling.

Equally merited, former President Donald Trump's positive signaling could have promoted overdrilling and unfruitful overinvestments in oil production. It is worth noting as well that the Biden administration has outpaced Trump in terms of drilling permits on public land, showing he may not be as hostile to gas as perceived. Ultimately, turning to public policy to explain gas price hikes has no convincing arguments.

The U.S. does not rely heavily on Russian oil, which only makes less than 2% of imports. While a majority of imports are from Canada, the conflict in Ukraine still does impact domestic markets. Oil, being an internationally traded commodity, will globally influence prices. Europe relies heavily on Russian energy, which will lead to rippling effects on prices abroad.

See GAS, p. 8

Daily

Life

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A HUSKY IN HOLLYWOOD: UCONN ALUM ALEX MOLINA'S UNIQUE FEATURE FILM 'DASH'

by Zachary Wisnefsky

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Though there are a number of UConn alumni who are thespians, including Bobby Moynihan, Meg Ryan, Austin Stowell and Tony Todd, it is not every day you see an alum producing and starring in a feature film.

Alex Molina graduated from UConn in 2010 with a degree in psychology. He was a member of the UConn football team, performing on the stage of Rentschler Field as a wide receiver and special teams player.

Now, Molina is producing and starring in the independent film "Dash" which will be premiering online at the film festival Cinequest next week.

"Dash" bears an interesting style — it is filmed in one take, with no cuts or edits. The film surrounds an adulterous rideshare driver whose life unfolds during one of his nightly drives through the streets of Los Angeles.

The Daily Campus was lucky enough to speak with Molina and Sean Perry, the film's writer, director and producer, virtually.

Back when Molina was a UConn student, he never once considered a career in acting, instead becoming one almost by fate.

"It was purely based in fear," Molina said. "When I was at UConn I took a public speaking class and I thought it was going to be very easy ... but something about the structure of that class scared the bejesus out of me. It was the only time I ever cheated in school. I had notecards which were supposed to be like bullet points. I was so petrified that I had another set of notecards that had every word written out that I was gonna say. So I turned in the cards with the bullet points and I used the notecards that had my whole speech written out. I was completely panicked and I felt like crap for cheating after. It was my doing theater after college to try and kick the fear of public speaking, [that] was how I got into the world."

Though Molina had gotten into the world of theater through that local work post-college, it took some time before he fully immersed himself in it.

He earned his MFA from Harvard's theater program, moved to NYC and participated in a number of off-Broadway productions. The Big Apple is where Molina met Per-

ry, his now producing partner, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Perry had an opposite entrance into the film realm, having ingrained himself in the world of movies ever since his childhood in rural western Pennsylvania.

"My dad always had a camera around," Perry explained. "It was quite the combination of having a camera at my disposal, loving films, and having a bunch of cool friends that were down for any crazy idea

I had ... After high school I went all in, I worked in construction for 10 years... and used all of that money to continuously make films. Every summer would be like one big film, put all our eggs in this one basket. It progressively got bigger and more ambitious."

This has been a long time coming for Perry; his filmmaking career is decades in the making.

"I was a very ambitious young kid," said Perry. "I [made] a film that was feature length when I was 20, which I would consider the worst

was that version."

This one-take, raw-footage style concept required intense planning and preparation from Perry and Molina's end to make "Dash" a reality. They hired a stage manager, Liz Haroian, something that is usually done for theater productions. Haroian helped organize the rehearsal process.

"We had about ... 14 days from first Zoom rehearsal to shooting ... But it



The movie poster for "Dash." UConn alum Alex Molina produced and starred within the upcoming film, which will premiere at the Cinequest Film & Creativity Festival. PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

film ever made. There's been hundreds [of projects] over the years. Whether they've been short films or proof of concepts or that one feature films... It's been over a decade of extensive study and self-taught stuff."

Though Perry has been a long-time filmmaker with countless project ideas and concepts that manifested over the years, "Dash" was actually a recent creation. The project was born from the constraints of COVID-19, as numerous filmmakers and actors in the L.A. area were without work for months.

"We had so much free time at our disposal," Perry described. "We had actor friends of ours sitting around and that was ... our mentality, stop spiraling start doing."

Molina had very limited feature film experience before "Dash," but this sort of production style was right up his alley.

"I loved that whole idea and process, because my background is in theater," Molina said. "So I was like 'Great, this is something that I'm more familiar with. I haven't do[ne] a lot of film or TV ... That whole hybrid between film and theater was very intriguing to me."

With its ambitious concept and style, Perry and Molina worked hard to keep the film's budget in check.

"[I]n the independent film world, there's a legendary film called 'El Mariachi,'" Perry said. "[The] movie was made for \$7,000 [and] that was my cutoff, we [were] not gonna surpass that. We [have kept] it at that level. Luckily for us, the cut that was accepted by Cinequest

slowly built up from Zoom rehearsals to then a few rehearsals in our backyards with folding chairs set up as a car," Perry explained. "Then we transferred into the car parked and rehearsed everything in the car parked. Then we had one night to basically do a dry run, which is us testing camera and testing the actors so they get to go through the whole process. Then we had three tries to shoot the whole film. Three nights, one try per night."

This preparation was borderline tedious for Perry and Molina, who had to become experts of the late-night streets of Hollywood.

"Building that route and timing it up perfectly with the script as it was written and dropping off and picking up 10 different people during the movie was a legitimate logistical nightmare," described Molina. "Sean and I would ... jump in the car around 9 or 10 and we would drive to time up the routes and get a good idea for how long each traffic light would run for, how much traffic was in each intersection, things like that."

Even with all this preparation, the three-night shooting plan was needed to get "Dash" completely right.

"The first night there [were] foreseeable circumstances, we had a feeling the first night would cause a lot of technical issues," Perry explained. "Actors were nervous ... lines were flubbed, camera kept bouncing off the mount... The second night was the night we ended up using ... The next night was maybe a little bit better. ... We went back and forth and decided that the second take was much more raw and real."

Before the film's release, its unique concept is driving much of the anticipation, but Perry doesn't believe that the form of the movie will supersede its content and story.

"Alex and I talked about the [innovativeness of the concept] from the beginning," Perry described. "We knew that the gimmicky ploy of a true one-take film mounted to a car, that has salesmanship right there. We're hoping that that gets their attention, but what we're seeing so far is that people that have watched it are loving it. You watch it and there's moments you're at the edge of your seat and your heart is pounding. You're living with his character, there's no escape"

After shooting and in the midst of over a year of post-production work, Molina and Perry began searching for the right release path for "Dash" looking at a number of film festivals. At the top of the list was Cinequest.

"We applied to a few festivals, Cinequest was the first one to respond so we offered them our world premiere," Molina explained. "Because of COVID, they're doing a hybrid festival where they're splitting it up into an online portion called Cine Joy which will be from April 1 to April 17. The in-person festival will be in August."

This is just the beginning for "Dash." Though it is a small-budget film, Molina and Perry have big plans.

"Our goal would be to start to deal with a distributor and see what they think is the best plan of action for getting this film out to the masses," Molina said. "We have a few options for plans that we want to do that we'll be in communication with them about. Ultimately we want to get as many people as possible that can see the film if they're interested."

This is also the start of something for these two new Los Angeles residents. Molina and Perry have created a production company called Spam Pictures that is looking to produce a number of Perry-penned projects in the coming years

"I'm just kind of being the Robin to [Perry's] Batman and supporting him along that journey," Molina said. "I also might be submitting on a few other things as an actor out here in L.A. and maybe trying to develop a little bit of a theater scene and figure out what theater has to hold in L.A. [It] isn't the most popular thing out here but it would be nice to do because I miss the stage."

"We've been working on this for a year straight," Perry said. "As far as what's next, I want to give my brain a 24-hour break and then move on. I want to stick to the feature film world for a little bit longer ... I think our next viable option, I think we're torn between ... a drama thriller again or we have a rom-com that I'm really excited about...There's a lot of different options but realistically, we'll be working on this project in terms of sales and distribution for the next couple months."

Needless to say, "Dash" is the beginning of Molina and Perry's careers in the feature film world. With several other projects in the pipeline, it may not be long until this duo becomes a mainstay in Hollywood.

For more information on "Dash" visit the film's website.

LET'S GET LIT-ERARY: BOOK COVER SHOWDOWN

by **Joanne Biju**
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Gaining traction on Booktube is no easy task; the community is largely dominated by founding members who started their channels in the 2010s. But recently, Jack Edwards and Steph Bohrer have found great success with their bookish content.

Edwards, a recent Durham graduate with a degree in literature, is known for rating celebrities' taste in books. Bohrer offers a fresh perspective with her passion for new adult literature. Last month, the two collaborated to compare book covers in the United Kingdom and United States.

Not everyone may know that book covers are different in the UK, as they are specifically designed to appeal to a distinct market. But book covers are not the only things altered when books are adapted — grammar, spelling, titles, locations and even endings can vary.

One of the most commonly cited changes is the switch from “Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone” to “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone” — done to better convey the presence of magic to an American audience.

Sometimes the changes made don't make as much sense; one change baffling readers is the case of Emily Henry's “People We Meet on Vacation.” The U.K. edition is called “You and Me on Vacation,” and while the title is more straightforward, “You and Me on Holiday” would have been more appropriate for the market.

No matter how much we want to deny it, most of us still judge books by their covers; they usually function well as indicators of a book's vibe, genre or plot. The following covers do just that, but in very different ways:



*Note: U.S. covers are on the left, UK covers on the right

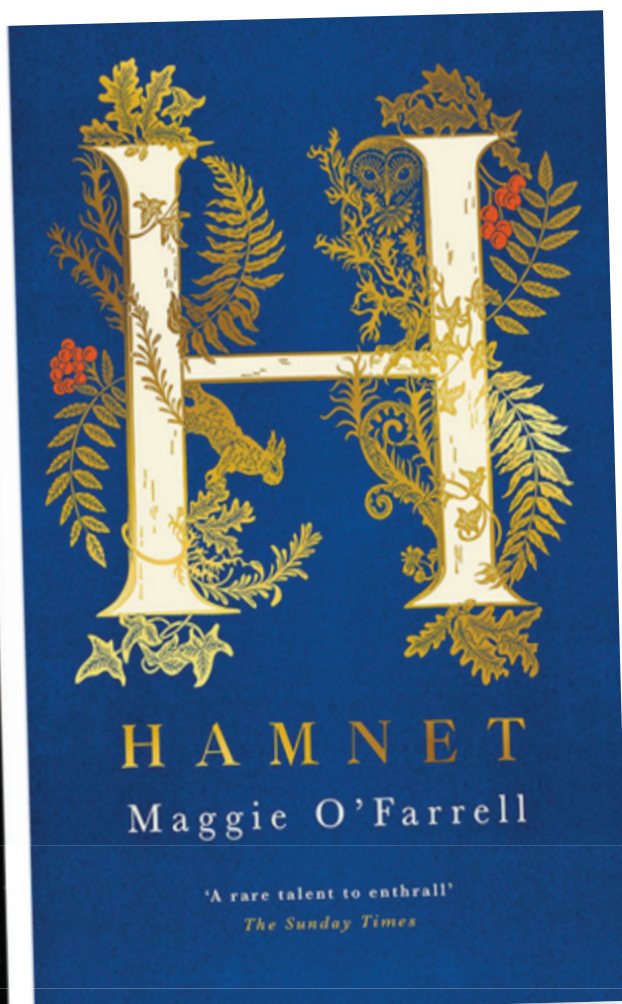
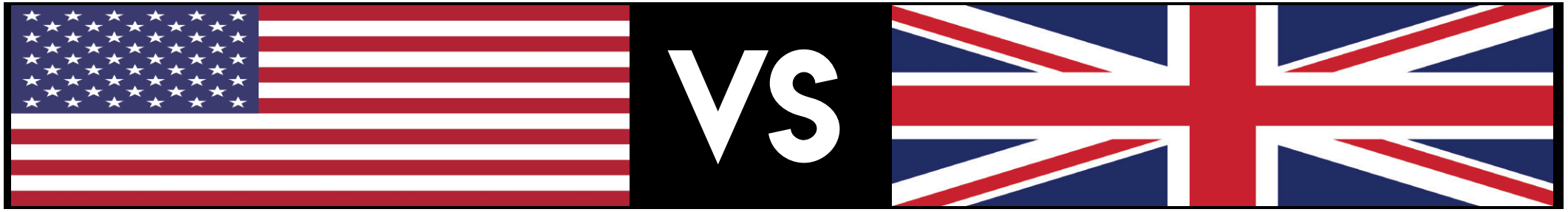


PHOTO COURTESY OF ASH INFINITE LIBRARY

“HAMNET” BY MAGGIE O’FARRELL

Though the U.K. cover tells us virtually nothing about O’Farrell’s novel, the gilded letter H is much more attractive than the illustration and bannered text on the U.S. version. When thinking about which you’d rather be caught reading, the U.K. edition wins hands down. It appears to be a rich and sophisticated read, on par with the reputation of Shakespeare — fitting for the contents of the work.



“NORMAL PEOPLE” BY SALLY ROONEY

The U.K. cover is unlike anything I’ve seen, nestling the protagonists of “Normal People” in a sardine tin. The image is so evocative, sending me down a spiral of symbolism. In contrast, the U.S. cover suggests absolutely nothing about these people or their relationship. While it’s nothing to be ashamed of carrying, it simply does not match the depth offered by the U.K. version.

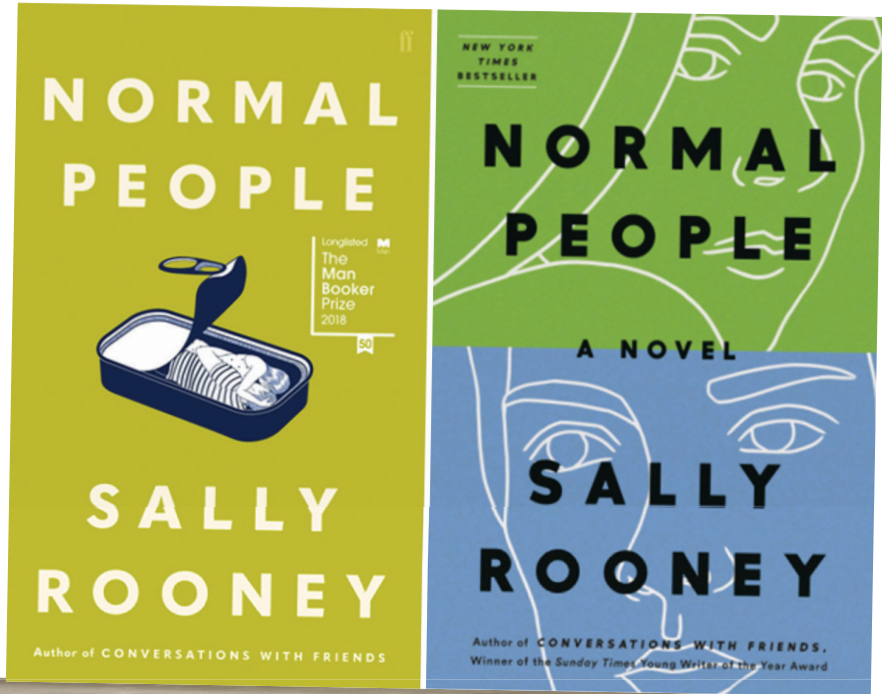


PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON

“WRITERS AND LOVERS” BY LILY KING

Both these covers truly shine, yet they offer vastly different expectations. The illustration style of the U.K. cover suggests that the novel will read as a romance, but the novel is a more somber tale, primarily dealing with grief and class differences. The color scheme of the U.S. edition does a stronger job conveying that, while also referencing the protagonist’s waitressing job.

“A LITTLE LIFE” BY HANYA YANAGIHARA

The U.S. cover for “A Little Life” is far more compelling than the U.K. one. While I’m normally opposed to featuring real people on book covers, this black and white still shot carries so much meaning. It suggests that the plot of “A Little Life” will wreck you, almost functioning as a trigger warning for its heavy contents. The U.K. edition gives readers some idea of the novel’s setting, but that’s about it. However, the designs of the two covers align with what one would expect from a nonfiction book, so that’s a markdown for both.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON

Opinion StudyBreak

Photo of the Day | Show your strength on Day of Strength

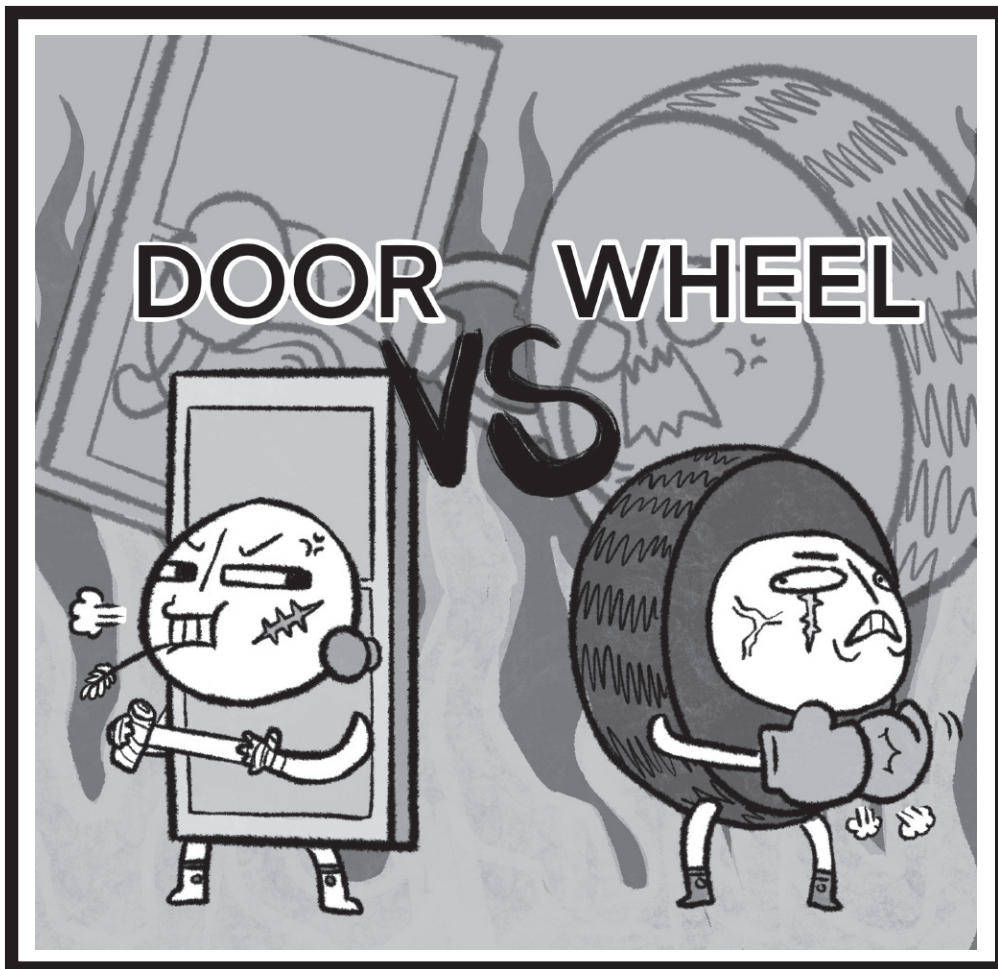


As a way to raise money for HuskyThon Day of Strength, students smash an old junk car with a mallet on Fairfield Way on March 23, 2022. To help reach the \$250,000 one-day fund-raising goal across all HuskyThon participants, students could pay \$3 for one hit or \$5 for two hits. PHOTO BY ERIN KNAPP, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

POINT / COUNTERPOINT

Are there more doors or wheels?

ILLUSTRATION BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COUNTERPOINT cont. from p. 4

Counterpoint: Harrison

The greatest counter-argument to door numerical supremacy is the phenomenal amount of vehicles. There are more cars than people in most countries of the world, and some extensively rely upon cars for basic transportation such as in the United States. There are also many bicycles without any doors.

However, vehicle doors substantially diminish this advantage. Most modern cars, the most common vehicle, have four doors, which therefore do not increase wheels-to-doors. Most cars do not have spare tires, and the small number of cars with less than four doors still have two. Further, almost all motorized bicycles have at least one door compartment for engine access.

Disregarding the bourgeois dictionary, it would be uncharitable to consider axles, and other turning circular features as wheels. Cabinets should be considered doors only because they allow passage, and they look exactly like the doors on buildings and homes; exact in function and aesthetic to the doors we know and love.

Axles, on the other hand, look dissimilar to external wheels, and function to spin the wheels themselves, not to carry a vehicle or receive friction against a ground as wheels do. If an axle is required in the turning on any given wheel, the axle should be considered part of the wheel, not a second wheel. Wheels were invented thousands of years before axles, which did not arrive until advanced vehicles in recent centuries. It would be ahistorical and disrespectful to science to suggest that axles are the same as wheels.

Counterpoint: Owen

I must give Mr. Raskin credit for bringing up office buildings, as any given city skyscraper easily consists of 20-50 floors, each with numerous rooms accompanied by doors. Additionally, cities such as New York or Chicago, despite having a large population of drivers, easily have more buildings than cars.

However, my colleague forgot about one thing: Office chairs. These buildings' doors are corporate portals leading to rooms filled with office chairs, most of which are mounted on rolling wheels (typically four, one for each leg). For every room, one door is vastly outnumbered by the number of wheels on each chair, making my opponent's claim that more buildings than cars equates to more doors than wheels nothing more than a fallacious blunder.

Secondly, to combat the kitchen cabinet argument, we must not forget about drawers. Most sliding drawers found in a home, whether it be for silverware or clothing, rely on sliding apparatuses that consist of, you guessed it, wheels. Additionally, cabinets seldom exist outside of the kitchen, whereas many other rooms in homes have drawers, each of which contribute to our total wheel count.

I raise one final question: what about sliding doors? Whether between rooms or cabinets, there are plenty of doors that rely on sliding tracks rather than hinges to open and close, and much like our aforementioned drawers, these tracks require wheels. In light of this, it has become increasingly clear that we live within a utopian, wheel-dominated world — one which will continue to roll forward.

What's behind the increase in gas prices

GAS, cont. from p. 4

The biggest issue with gas, however, is consumer dependency. Gas is very inelastic, which means when the price of gas rises you are not as likely to change how you buy gas. "I never check gas prices" is a common expression that reflects this behavior.

Research from the National Bureau of Economic Research indicates that consumers are generally making up for the more expensive gas by paying more out of their pocket. As well, in upward price shifts, prices often move upwards faster than recovering to lower prices. Ultimately, consumers are hurting a considerable amount when prices soar.

Crude oil prices peaked shortly after the conflict in Ukraine began, but have generally been falling since. President Biden tweeted claiming that oil and gas companies are padding their pockets as the price of crude oil has fallen while gas prices have remained unchanged. At the time the president tweeted, crude oil had fallen from \$120 to \$95 per barrel, but has since risen to \$110 per barrel. Though Biden's tweet is empirically correct, it does not tell the full story as he only demonstrates the difference between crude oil and retail gas.

According to a Twitter thread by an MIT professor, wholesale gasoline has in fact followed crude oil trends, as opposed to retail gas. Wholesale gas is the gas sold from refineries by oil companies to retail gas brands for the reselling of gas at gasoline stations. These retail brands, as it turns out, are the ones driving up prices, not necessarily gas producers.

Biden's tweet is not entirely accurate, as gas prices move more closely with Brent crude oil, an international benchmark for gas pricing, rather than the domestic benchmark cited by Biden.

Big oil may be temporarily exempt from censure, as the blame begins to shift to gas retailers. Currently, oil com-

panies seek to flatten production and stabilize the industry. With the uncertainty of oil production coming out of a recession, oil companies are desiring stability in order to ensure support from investors rather than to increase oil production, which would help to drive down prices.

This evokes the question: Why should oil production rely on the confidence of investors? As a critical commodity in daily life, oil has shown that market forces cannot be entirely reliable when American citizens depend heavily on gas. Oil refineries are not built often, and oil production is being held back as gas retailers enjoy the benefits of increased prices, while oil companies look for financial balance.

It is true in the post COVID-19 world, demand is outpacing production, with production still recovering. However, it is not convincing that a simple supply-demand argument fully justifies the current price movements.

As a critical commodity in daily life, oil has shown that market forces cannot be entirely reliable when American citizens depend heavily on gas.

This is all without mentioning the environmental impacts of gas consumption and the evident need for renewable energy and energy alternatives that underlie the entire gas-oil conversation. With each gas price hike, the ideas of the nationalization of gas and oil are re-considered, as it is clear the gas and oil industry needs guidance and the public needs protection. Though public policy on gas and oil rarely sees support, an introspective citizen should investigate the benefits of government involvement in gas and oil.

Men's Golf: Sweet home Alabama

by **Xander Serrano**
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After a fifth place finish two weeks ago, the UConn men's golf team is looking to build upon its successes in the Craft Farms Intercollegiate this weekend in Alabama.

Sophomore Tommy Dallahan is currently playing the best golf of his life, coming off an individual championship at the Bash at the Beach golf tournament. Dallahan shot a 12-under, 67-69-65 = 201, which was his lowest tournament score in 16 collegiate events. His victory led UConn to a fifth place finish in the event, just one stroke out of third

place. UConn will send Dallahan and senior Nick Hampoian to compete as individuals, while Trevor Lopez, Caleb Manual, Jared Nelson, and Jimmy Paradise will compete as a team. After this, the Huskies will have one more tournament before the Big East championship begins on April 24. Every match is crucial from here on out.

The University of Southern Alabama will host this tournament, coming off of playing on March 8 at the Tiger Invitational in Opelika, Alabama, where they placed seventh alongside Missouri. Jordan Plunkett continues to dominate for the Jaguars as on the second day, he closed by birdie-ing holes 17 and 18, which was huge for the team. In the

last round, with difficult weather conditions, Jack Hearn shot under par for the first time that week and was able to get two under-par rounds, helping his team. Both golfers look to continue their success and come out of this tournament victorious with the home-course advantage.

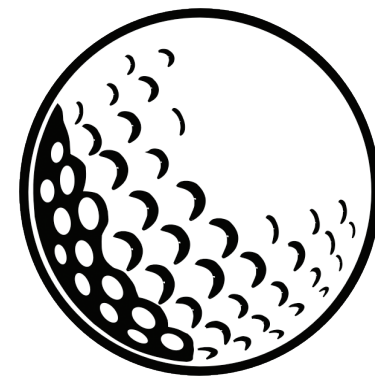
The Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns are coming off a hard fought victory due to battling harsh weather conditions at the All-American Intercollegiate Tournament. Freshman Eli Ortega recently posted a team-low score of three-over 75 in the afternoon. Ortega was rated a No. 1 recruit in Louisiana coming out of high school and No. 61 nationally. The freshman is someone to look

out for in this tournament as he won't have to deal with bad weather that alters his game.

Senior Ty Celone out of Eastern Michigan looks to make some noise in this tournament, coming off his 24th career top 25 finish at the GCU invitational. As a team, the Eagles finished in 10th with a tally of 801 after beginning the day tied for 18th. They posted the 12th lowest 54 hole tally in program history and are a strong contender heading into Alabama. Cam Kellet will compete as an individual while Ty Celone, Marcus Smith, Cougar Collins, Zach Mason and Mark Watson will compete as a team.

UConn will also face Georgia State, Eastern Kentucky, Illinois

State and Oakland. Play starts on Sunday, March 27 and continues until Tuesday, March 29.



Samuels powers Villanova over Michigan 63-55 in Sweet 16

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - Jermaine Samuels scored 22 points and Villanova controlled Michigan in a 63-55 Sweet 16 victory on Thursday night in the NCAA Tournament.

Samuels' 8-of-13 shooting performance, much of it coming on tough drives through Michigan defenders and around center Hunter Dickinson, carried a Wildcats offense that had long stretches of misfiring on 3-pointers.

Samuels battled Dickinson on both ends of the court, and challenged the big man every time he had the ball to divert shots or force outlet passes.

"I just wanted to stay mobile and move," Samuels said. "He's a phenomenal player, so he's going to get great looks at the basket. But that I have teammates behind me gave me all the confidence I needed."

The second-seeded Wildcats (28-7) advanced to the South Region final to play the winner of Thursday night's matchup between top seed Arizona and No. 5 seed Houston. It's the deepest run in the tournament for Villanova since coach Jay Wright won the second of his two national titles in 2018.

The loss ends a turbulent season for the Wolverines (19-15) and coach Juwan Howard, whose team squeaked into the tournament field only to shine in the first two rounds. Howard was suspended for five games late in the season

for hitting a Wisconsin assistant during a postgame handshake line.

"We learned a lot (about) who we are," Howard said. We always talk about Michigan being a family. We've been the most connected group this year because of the fact everyone has been supporting each other. When I walk away from this season, and I look back, there's no reason not to hold your head up high."

Villanova twice led by nine in the second half, but the Wolverines matched their 3-point shooting in spurts and made it a contest. Guard Eli Brooks kept rescuing Michigan with 3-pointers, making 3 of 5. One of Brooks' treys, plus two free throws from Terrance Williams II, had the Wolverines within 54-50 with just over 3 minutes left.

But after Dickinson, who led the Wolverines with 15 points and 15 rebounds, missed near the basket, Samuels blew by him on the other end for a layup. Collin Gillespie followed it with a 3-pointer — his fourth of the game— from the left wing to make it 59-50 with 1:52 to play.

That was the cushion the Wildcats needed, as Michigan closed within six points before Samuels made four three throws over the final 13 seconds to put it away.

Defensively, Villanova refused to yield space under the basket to the 7-foot-1 Dickinson, who came in av-

eraging 24 points in Michigan's two NCAA Tournament wins.

Justin Moore scored 15 points and Gillespie scored 12 for Villanova.

"We asked a lot of (Samuels) him on the defensive end guarding Dickinson a lot. And then on the offensive end, we're trying to move Dickinson around," Wright said. "Which it sounds good unless you're guy that's got to go. You're running around, setting screens, cutting to make him follow you ... He never wanted to come out."

BIG PICTURE

Michigan: Guard DeVante' Jones started 32 games this season but missed the Wolverines' first-round game against Colorado State because of concussion protocols, and was held out of the second half of the second-round win over Tennessee when his symptoms returned.

Jones scored seven and had five rebounds also left the game briefly in the second half when he fell hard to the floor chasing a loose ball.

Villanova: The Wildcats have been launching 3-pointers all season and there was nothing to deter them when they weren't falling against the Wolverines. The Wildcats were 9 of 30 from long range — their ninth game this season with at least 30 attempts. The most was 50 in a win over Syracuse.



Villanova's Jermaine Samuels celebrates a victory over Michigan in the 2022 NCAA Tournament. The Wildcats advance to play in the Elite Eight with the win. PHOTO VIA AP

TIPPING OFF: Peacocks looking to strut their stuff vs Purdue



Iowa State's Tyrese Hunter looks to pass the ball out of pressure in a game during the 2022 NCAA Tournament. Iowa State will play Miami in the Sweet 16 tonight. PHOTO VIA AP

(AP) - A look at what's happening in the NCAA Tournament on Friday:

GAME OF THE DAY

SAINT PETER'S VS. PURDUE

This is where the Saint Peter's storybook run should end, right? Powerful Purdue with 7-foot-4 Zach Edey is favored by 12 1/2 points, according to FanDuel Sportsbook. But this is March, and anything can happen.

Count on fans all around the country, plus a packed arena in Philadelphia, to be rooting for an upset in this East semifinal. No doubt plenty will drive down the New Jersey Turnpike to pull for the Peacocks to become the first 15 seed to make the Elite Eight. As it is, they're only the third team seeded so low to go so far.

Saint Peter's plays great defense but will have to get creative to keep third-seeded Purdue in check. The Big Ten Boilermakers have weapons all over the court in likely NBA lottery pick Jaden Ivey, 6-10 Trevion Williams, deadeye 3-point shooter Sasha Stefanovic and Edey.

For the little team from Jersey City, New Jersey, a lot of eyes will be on plucky point guard Doug Edert. Especially his mustache, which has attracted so much attention it now has its own Twitter account.

A BREWIN' INJURY

UCLA's Jaime Jaquez Jr., who sprained his right ankle in the second round against Saint Mary's, is

hopeful he'll be able to play in the fourth-seeded Bruins' East semifinal against No. 8 seed North Carolina.

"He's going to want to try to play," UCLA coach Mick Cronin said. "The question is can he be effective? Playing is one thing. Can he play well?"

Jaquez is averaging 14 points per game for the season but is averaging 20.5 over the last eight games.

LET'S PLAY AT MY HOUSE

Providence coach Ed Cooley says the Friars' game against No. 1 seed Kansas in a Midwest semifinal is a great chance to show their stuff. He also wishes his team could play more of the sport's biggest brands.

Asked Thursday why the Friars don't schedule more high-profile programs, Cooley said, "The reason we don't play the bluebloods is because they don't want to come to the Dunkin' Donuts Center. Let's call it exactly what it is. We'd love that opportunity and embrace that opportunity."

Among the all-time winningest programs, excluding those that currently or previously played in the same conference as Providence, only North Carolina has played on the Friars' home court. That was in 1978.

JUST CALL ME 'GENERAL'

You've got to admire Tyrese Hunter's confidence — and courage.

The freshman did the unthinkable upon his arrival at Iowa State last summer. He told his teammates to call him "General."

Oh, the audacity.

"I was like, 'Who is this kid coming in and giving himself a nickname? I ain't never heard of that,' teammate

Izaiah Brockington said.

Hunter, whose 11th-seeded team plays No. 10 seed Miami in Chicago, said he started calling himself the "General" at a young age and that the reason is self-explanatory.

"As a point guard you've got to demand the game, control the game," he said. "These guys, they took it on and they took it serious, like you're the 'General,' you're the one that keeps everybody under control throughout the game. So it was big. It started as a joke, but now I feel like that's something people see me as."

Hunter is third in the Big 12 in both assists and steals and was chosen the conference's freshman of the year. His teammates say his nickname has stuck.

"Tyrese has done a great job taking control of the game on offense and defense and bringing everybody together," guard Gabe Kalschauer said. "He's the one -- he's the general on the floor, like his name is."

SWEET HOME CHICAGO

Miami's Charlie Moore has come full circle a couple times in his college career.

The Chicago native started out at California, transferred to Kansas and then back to the Windy City to play at DePaul to help his family care for his dad, Curtis, who had a stroke in 2015. Then, with his father's encouragement, it was on to Miami for his final year.

Now he's back in his hometown to play Iowa State. The point guard played one of his best games of the season in the second round with 15 points, eight assists and nine rebounds in an upset of Auburn.

Sports

Photo of the Day | Surveying the pack



The UConn women's basketball team looks on from the bench during a game where they put on a dominant display in the first round of the NCAA March Madness against the Mercer Bears, capturing a 83-38 victory on March 19, 2022 at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn. This win advanced the Huskies to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sounding Off: Let's bring March Madness' hype to other NCAA championships

by Sam Zelin
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Last Thursday, the trajectory of my spring break experience took a rapid turn. The first round of the NCAA basketball championship kicked off, and from that point on I did nothing but watch the games. I was not alone, as according to Sports Illustrated, the first week of the men's tournament brought in an average of over nine million viewers. The women's tournament also put up massive numbers, hitting the million mark during the UConn-UCF game.

Now don't get me wrong, there was certainly enough content to keep me occupied with just basketball, but why don't we add some more variety to the mix?

Every year, certain college championships like March Madness and the College Football Playoff garner huge viewerships, and rightfully so. However, those are just two of the 24

sports sponsored by the NCAA, so why shouldn't the other 22 get more of the spotlight?

I'm going to be open and honest about this, I have a serious bias here. I'm a fencer, and I personally enjoy watching fencing a great deal. The 2022 NCAA fencing championship began on March 24 and will continue through March 27, with men's and women's foil, épée and sabre competitions. As you can probably tell, fencing's NCAA's do not get the same national attention that basketball does.

Now, I'm not going to insinuate in any way that those two sports should be on the same level viewership-wise. It's an obvious fact that basketball has a far larger fan and player base, but I have one word: Olympics.

Every two years, either the summer or winter Olympics come around and get people to care about a wide variety of sports they barely know the rules of. After the fanfare of the games dies down, the sports with

The sports with highly visible professional leagues continue on their path of big crowds ... while lesser-watched sports retreat into the shadows.

highly visible professional leagues continue on their path of big crowds filled to the brim with diehard fans, while lesser-watched sports retreat into the shadows. It's not like those sports' athletes stop training or competing, they just leave the spotlight. World Championships happen much more frequently than the Olympics, but the easy access the Olympics brings simply isn't there. None of the leagues coordinate when they hold championships, so it would be really hard to have a large event akin to the

Olympics more often than it already happens.

However, here's where the NCAA comes back into play. The NCAA is one organization, which can totally coordinate with itself. It would be amazing if there was some form of massive athletic event, piggybacking off of the most popular college events, that could grant even a little bit of a bigger spotlight to sports without a big one to begin with. Sure, the majority of people would still probably watch basketball and football, but at least other options would be advertised and promoted. Not only would this promotion be good for generating larger fanbases for each of the NCAA sports, but it would also show prospective college athletes that there are other options than the few that get televised regularly. The players with professional aspirations will be the most likely to stick to sports with big professional scenes, but the simple truth of the matter is that less than 2%

of college athletes go on to play their sport professionally.

The few examples I used in this article are simply the tip of the iceberg. I used fencing as the primary example of a sport with less screen time than the heavy hitters, but it is far from the only one in that category. Conveniently, fencing and basketball have their championships at the same time due to both of them being winter sports, but perhaps each season could have its own multi-sport finale of sorts, with one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring.

While this article may seem more than a bit far-fetched, I want to make one final point. The NCAA runs constant ads during March Madness about how its goal is to support college athletics. I think it's high time that they start recognizing that "college athletics" includes more than just the sports that make the most money, and begin to give all athletes the recognition and support that they need.

Track and Field: Tri-meet weekend ahead for Huskies

by Demi Alexander-Nicholas
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Ahead of next weekend's UConn Dog Fight Challenge on home turf, UConn track and field teams will be spread across three meets this weekend. The program will send select athletes to compete at the Raleigh Relays at NC State in North Carolina, while select field athletes will compete in Texas at both the Texas Relays and the Bobcat Invitational.

[Patricia] Mroczkowski was named Big East Field Athlete of the week after her opening performance outdoors last weekend.

Women's competition gets underway on Friday in Raleigh, with team captain Mía Nahom facing the starter in the 3,000-meter steeplechase for the second time this season. Teammate Randi Burr will also be in action on Friday, as she will line up in the 5,000-meter.

The Texas Relays will feature competition from junior Patricia Mroczkowski in the high jump. Mroczkowski was named Big East Field Athlete of the week after her opening performance outdoors last weekend, and she currently leads the Big East in the high jump. The Berlin, Connecticut native also ranks 19th nationally and leads the Big East in the Event.

Team captains Mikyla Rodgers and Emma Chee lead the field for the Huskies at the Bobcat Invitational, with sophomore Jasmine Barrows down to compete in the triple jump. Rodgers will compete in the hammer throw, while Chee will return to action in the pole vault.

On the men's side, captain Eric Van Der Els joins Nahom and Burr, as he takes on the 5,000-meter at the Raleigh Relays.

The multi-events duo, featuring Jordan Torney and Benjamin Grosse, will join teammates at the Texas Relays, as they begin their outdoor campaign. Junior Travis Snyder will join the duo at the Texas Relays, where he competes in the pole vault. Senior Daniel Claxton, is also in action in Texas, as he will compete in the high jump.

The remainder of field athletes will be in action at the Bobcat Invitational at Texas State. Senior Chris Keegan will compete in the hammer throw, while the pole vault will feature action from Tyler Hrbek.

The program enjoyed a few accolades earlier this week, after director Greg Roy was named the Northeast region Men's Coach of the Year. Junior Travis Snyder was named Men's Field Athlete of the Year for the Northeast region. In the first outdoor awards this season, freshman Kasey Savage was named Big East Field athlete of the week.

The Huskies will return to Storrs as they prepare to host next weekend's UConn Dog Fight Challenge at the George J. Sherman Family Sports Complex.

The UConn men and women's track teams compete at the Northeast Challenge meet held at the George J. Sherman Family Sports Complex, on the UConn Storrs campus on April 14, 2019. The athletes dominated the annual home meet with the men scoring 164 points and the women scoring 198.33 points. PHOTO BY JULIE SPILLANE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Softball: Huskies look to keep up the pace as they host DePaul



The UConn women's softball team snatches a win against Eastern Connecticut State, blowing them away 9-1 during a Saturday morning matchup at the Burrill Family Field within the Connecticut Softball Complex in Storrs on Oct. 2, 2021. PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Sam Zelin
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UConn softball is off to a roaring hot start in the Big East.

UConn softball is off to a roaring hot start in the Big East, with its next three conference games coming against DePaul this weekend.

This series will serve as the Huskies' first Big East home games, with their true home opener having been played on Wednesday, a 5-4 come-from-behind win over Army.

The Huskies' and Blue Demons' history dates back to 1994, and UConn has not had an easy time of it. DePaul currently has an all-time record of 14-6 against UConn, but the 5-1 Huskies look to add some tallies to their win column this weekend.

DePaul has played half the conference games that UConn has so far, with only a three-game series against Butler that saw the Blue Demons win one-of-three under its belt. While the team did take two losses, each of the games were decided by only one run.

When comparing the offenses of these two teams, there are a lot of similarities. For starters, both teams walk a lot. DePaul's 80 walks on the season leads its opponents by 30, while UConn has walked 26 more times than opposing teams. Both teams also tend to strike out a lot, with 142 for DePaul and 152 for UConn, but the main difference here is that while DePaul's pitching staff has only struck out 96 opposing hitters, UConn's has 136 total punchouts.

Offensively, the Huskies edge out the Blue Demons by over .020

batting average points. Between the two lineups, the most glaring difference has to be the stolen base. DePaul has swiped 14 bags so far this season, a number eclipsed individually by two separate UConn players. Briana Marcelino sits at 18 steals, while Lexi Hastings added one on Wednesday to bring her total to 16 on the season. All added up, UConn has stolen 55 bases, almost double the Blue Demons' amount.

As for players to watch, both Jana Sanden and Olivia Sappington both had multi-hit games in UConn's Wednesday win against Army, with each picking up an extra-base hit, (double for Sanden, home run for Sappington). The duo combined to knock in four of UConn's five runs on the day. From DePaul, Brooke Johnson and Maranda Gutierrez have been incredibly consistent all season long. Each has above a .350 average, with Johnson specifically holding a monstrous .701 slugging percentage.

Pitching-wise, UConn's staff continues to get better and better, but DePaul's hurlers toss far more complete games (three for the Huskies and 10 for the Blue Demons). Nonetheless, the Huskies' cooperative method has brought them a team ERA of under four, while DePaul's currently sits right above that mark at 4.01.

UConn is 0-3 in Big East games against DePaul, and 0-5 in the two teams' last five matchups, getting outscored 25-7. While all of this is true, UConn has a better home record (2-5) against the Blue Demons than their away record (0-8), and with the start its had this season, now could very well be the time to break the streak.

Game times are 3 p.m. on Friday, 1 p.m. on Saturday and noon on Sunday. All games will be played at Burrill Family Field in Storrs and televised on FloSoftball.

Women's Lacrosse Blazing Huskies return home for bout with Hofstra

by Stratton Stave
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For the fifth straight game, the UConn women's lacrosse team will play a college from New York. It has so far gone 4-0 in that span, with this upcoming contest coming against the Hofstra Pride. Looking a bit more broadly, the 7-1 Huskies have won six straight games, reaching their best start since 2016. Their one loss so far came in a blowout at James Madison, a team which is currently ranked No. 15 and has beaten two straight ranked opponents.

Despite losing their past two games at home, one of which to No. 6 Stony Brook, the Pride have overall had a successful season. They sit at 6-3 and rank 38th in the nation according to Massey, while the Huskies are ranked 21st. Their best win actually happens to be the same as UConn's last one, against SUNY Albany in a game they won by four.

The Pride are led by a two-headed monster, with the first being Katie Whelan, a graduate student out of Long Beach, New York. Whelan is having a terrific season, having scored 25 goals and dished out 10 assists. Whelan leads the team in both statistics, proving herself as its top offensive option with her incredible versatility. She has three games with five goals on the year, but her best performance came in Hofstra's most recent win over Vanderbilt. In the victory, Whelan scored five times and assisted a pair of shots. UConn's defense will really need to key in on the attacker if they want to prevent her from having a repeat performance.

The other head of the monster? That would be Taylor Mennella, the Smithtown, New York, product who is quietly having a very successful season. The midfielder has tacked on 19 goals and eight assists on the campaign, which is second on the team in both categories. Unlike Whelan, Mennella is unlikely to pop off for a seven-point game, but has demonstrated a great deal of consistency and reliability. In all nine games, the junior has not recorded less than two points or more than four. The Pride know what Mennella can offer every single game, and it is likely that the Huskies will just have to deal with her, minimizing other performers from beating them.

For UConn, the player to watch will be Kate Shaffer. The junior from West Hartford has been lighting up the stat sheet as of late, recording a total of 19 points in her last four games. This includes her last contest against UAlbany, where she scored six goals, which is a career high. No Husky other than Sydney Watson has been able to match Shaffer's production in recent games, which is why it will be so crucial for UAlbany to contain her.

The biggest storyline to watch here will be how well UConn's offense holds up. The Huskies have the 10th-most potent offense in the nation, while Hofstra's defense ranks 15th. This clash is worth monitoring. If the score is high, then it's likely UConn wins, but if it becomes a messy game, then the Pride could have the upper hand.

The game will be at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 26, and will air online on FloSports.

Women's Tennis Streaking Huskies look to continue winning ways

by Ajeeth Vellore
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After winning five matches in a row, the UConn women's tennis team is rolling into two home matchups. Their first is Saturday at 2 p.m. against Army, and their second is Sunday at noon against a Big East opponent in St. John's University. As they hit the midway point in the season, the Huskies will be trying to identify who their most consistent performers are and lean on them with the hopes of winning four sets every match.

After a slow 2-3 start to the season, UConn has been on a tear for nearly a month. Coming back from barely losing to Long Island University on Feb. 25, they beat down on Seton Hall, 6-1, and haven't looked back since. The Huskies started by taking three straight at the Magic Lincer courts in Manchester, Connecticut, including the

forementioned defeat of Seton Hall, another 6-1 shellacking against Sacred Heart University and then a 5-2 victory over Quinnipiac University. Then the women took their show on the road, beating Florida Southern College 4-3 and crushing Bethune-Cookman University 7-0 during their spring break tour of the Sunshine State.

UConn's first opponent of the weekend is the Army Black Knights, who come into the meet with a 15-7 record overall, not having faced any Patriot League opponents. They've been on a bit of a slide as of late, losing three of their last four, but before that, held an impressive eight-match win streak. They've really had an impressive season thus far, and it will be interesting to see how it progresses as they inevitably find their way out of this slump and back into the win column. Overall, expect a really dif-

ficult matchup for the Huskies on Saturday afternoon.

UConn's second opponent will be the St. John's Red Storm, who come into this matchup with an 8-5 record overall and a 1-0 record in their Big East meetings. They've been on a hot streak lately, which has led to three straight wins. However, in the larger scope of the entire season, they've been less reliable — two wins in a row followed by three losses in a row preceded this current streak. Given the ebb and flow of St. John's' season up to this point, expect this matchup to be slightly easier than the one against Army for the Huskies.

This will be a solid weekend for UConn. It will be a real test for them coming off 10 days of rest, so the hope is that they'll play with renewed energy and come out of this weekend with a couple more wins under their belt.



The UConn women's tennis team competed against Stony Brook at the Magic Lincer Tennis Club in Manchester, Conn. on Feb. 18, 2022. PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sports

Women's Basketball: Huskies head to Bridgeport for Sweet 16 battle against Indiana

by **Stratton Stave**
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The road continues to get tougher for the No. 2 seeded UConn women's basketball team, as they make the in-state trek to Bridgeport for the Sweet 16. If they win, they're off to the Elite Eight. Even though they are the No. 2 in the region, they will essentially play host to North Carolina State, Notre Dame and Indiana, all of whom are further than an eight-hour drive from Total Mortgage Arena (formerly known as Webster Bank Arena). With the tough competition they will face, the home crowd will be critical as UConn continues to move through its journey to a 14th consecutive Final Four.

The No. 3 seeded Hoosiers have had an up-and-down season, but are strong thanks to the challenges they faced both in and out of conference. After beginning the season 4-0, Indiana hit a tough three-game skid, where it played two teams that ended up being No. 1 seeds, Stanford and NC State, losing both of those games by a combined 11 points. The resilience they developed from this stretch allowed the Hoosiers to win 13 of their next 14 games, which included a win over then-No. 6 Maryland, and the only loss to Michigan, who was also No. 6 at the time.

This streak helped Indiana to their best ranking in program history at No. 5, but they almost immediately fell apart thanks to another brutal stretch filled with 12 games in just 29 days. During a five-game portion of that span, the Hoosiers lost four of five games, with two coming against Iowa, which ended up becoming a No. 2 seed. Entering the Big Ten tournament trending in the wrong direction, things were looking bleak. However, Indiana was able to turn things around in a big way, winning three games, two of which were against top 15 opponents, before running into Iowa in the championship game. In a valiant effort, they lost to the Hawkeyes for the third time this year.

So far in the tournament, the Hoosiers have gotten the easiest route they could have hoped for as a No. 3 seed. They blew past No. 14 seed Charlotte in a 34-point romp, and then ran into No. 11 seed Princeton, a squad ranked in the top 25 and proved they were much better than their seed suggested. With less than 10 seconds to go down by two, Tigers guard Kaitlyn Chen drove to the basket in hopes of forcing overtime, but passed the ball away and turned it over instead, sealing the Indiana win. The Hoosiers were one decision away from potentially being bounced in the first weekend, demonstrating that they are very beatable.

On the subject of lucky teams, one could also point to UConn's fortune in its contest against No. 7 seed UCF. The Huskies won by five, but the Knights' 10 missed free throws were perhaps the deciding factor. The important thing to remember is that neither team is unbeatable, which will make it a very compelling game to watch.

The important thing to remember is that neither team is unbeatable, which will make it a very compelling game to watch

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Grace Berger: Berger is an easy choice for a player to watch on the Hoosiers' side, as she leads the team in both scoring and passing, averaging 16.3 points and 4.8 assists, which are 106th and 48th in the nation, respectively. The do-it-all senior guard has been great all season for Indiana, scoring double digits in 29 of their 32 games. Prior to Chen's turnover in the Princeton game, Berger was the one who hit the game-winner, effectively sending the Hoosiers to the Sweet

16. If the Huskies' defense can effectively lock Berger up, then it will be extremely tough for the Hoosiers to generate much offense.

Nika Muhl: In the defensive battle against UCF where Muhl played just six minutes, all in the first half, Coach Geno Auriemma noted, "we needed somebody who is a scorer. We didn't need anybody to help us play better defense tonight."

Against an Indiana team that is much more imposing offensively than UCF, it will be interesting to see what type of role Muhl plays. Muhl had started 19 of the Huskies' 29 games, so she is clearly valued. The impact she has in this game could be massive in determining who goes to the Elite Eight.

The contest will be broadcast on ESPN at 2 p.m. Saturday.



UConn freshman guard Azzi Fudd (35) defends a Mercer Bears player during a game where the Huskies snatched a 83-38 win against Mercer in the first round of the NCAA March Madness Tournament on March 19, 2022 at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn. PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Baseball: No. 25 Huskies host their first series of the year (sort of)

by **Jonathan Synott**
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After another one-off home game, the UConn baseball team is headed back to warmer weather for another seven-game road trip ...

Sorry, force of habit.

Actually, the No. 25 Huskies are staying in New England for a little while, as they will take on the University of Rhode Island in a home-away-home series on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Connecticut is enjoying one of its

best starts to a season in program history, going 15-4 in the team's first 19 games, the majority of which came on the road. The Huskies earned some special recognition this week for their early sea-

Connecticut is enjoying one of its best starts to a season in program history, going 15-4 in the team's first 19 games.

son efforts, coming in at No. 25 in D1Baseball.com's Top 25 rankings, their first time on the poll this year.

It's not one particular aspect of their game that has made UConn so successful, as the team is well-balanced. The Huskies as a whole are slashing .291/.379/.477 in the early goings, limiting opponents to a total statline of .233/.308/.300. That's a dominant start.

The pitching staff especially has been exceptional, as Connecticut ranks 30th in the entire nation in WHIP with 1.23 and fifth in ERA with 2.56. They also boast an 11th-

best K/9, striking out an average of over 11 batters a game. One Husky on the bump that has been hot lately has been starter Ian Cooke, who excelled in UConn's win over ranked USC last week, going 7.2 scoreless innings. The freshman earned himself Big East Pitcher of the Week honors for his efforts, and is projected to start this weekend against the Rams.

One thing to look out for this week from the pitching side is the performance of Enzo Stefanoni. Through over 28 innings, Stefanoni has fanned 32 batters while only walking one — good for the third-best K/BB rate in the entire country. He should see some time on the hill again this weekend, so look for him to try to improve those numbers even more.

At the plate, the team has been led by offensive MVP Erik Stock. The senior has been crushing the ball to start the year, slugging .615 with 15 RBIs. Last game against Bryant, Stock went 3-for-5 with a home run, a double and two RBIs.

Graduate transfer Casey Dana has been likely the most clutch batter for the Huskies this year,

leading the team with five home runs and 22 RBIs. For reference, Dana has 23 hits on the season, driving in roughly one baserunner every time he gets a hit. While that is a feat that will be hard to continue throughout the rest of the year, if guys like Stock can keep getting on base in front of him in the order, Dana will have plenty of more opportunities to drive runs in.

To say that Rhode Island has struggled to start the year would be an understatement. The Rams sit at 2-17 on the year, beating only Connecticut schools Sacred Heart and Bryant. They are riding a three game losing streak and if things go well for the Huskies, that number could very easily increase to six.

In the all-time series, the Huskies have come out on top more often, as they lead 120-67-5. Including an exhibition game this fall, they've won the last two games and six of the last seven.

First pitch is set for 3:05 p.m. on Friday at Elliot Ballpark. Saturday's game will take place at URI in Kingston, Rhode Island at 1 p.m., and Sunday's matchup will be at 1:05 p.m. back at Elliot Ballpark. UConn's home games will be broadcast on FloSports, and all of the games can be listened to on Mixlr.



The UConn baseball team snatches a 9-1 victory against the Bryant Bulldogs at the Elliot Ballpark in Storrs, Conn. on March 23, 2022. PHOTO BY JULIE SPILLANE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UConn SCOREBOARD

Men's baseball
Wednesday



9 vs. 1

UPCOMING GAMES



Softball, Friday, 3 p.m.
Burrill Family Field, Storrs, CT



Baseball, Friday, 3:05 p.m.
Elliot Ballpark, Storrs, CT



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