

# The Daily Campus



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Monday, February 7, 2022

**CONFIRMED 2022 COVID-19 CASES AT UCONN STORRS**

as of 9:34 p.m. on Feb. 6 \*positive test results

**28** Current Residential Cases  
(positive/symptomatic)

**72** Cumulative Residential Cases\*

**98** Cumulative Commuter Cases\*

## 'I was raped and UConn silenced me.'

LONE STUDENT PROTESTER AMPLIFIES CLAIM THAT UCONN FAILS SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

by Alison Cross  
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**CONTENT WARNING:** sexual assault, domestic violence

Alexandra Docken stood alone in the rain. Two cardboard signs in her hands declared to the students passing by: "I was raped and UConn silenced me."

On Thursday, Feb. 3, on the stone wall outside the Rowe Center for Undergraduate Education at the University of Connecticut, Docken decided to make her story public.

Last semester, Docken, a fourth-semester molecular and cell biology student, was overwhelmed with grief when she received the call notifying her that the investigation into sexual assault allegations she made against a fellow student had concluded. The university found her alleged perpetrator not in violation of the student code.

With the 60-page final report of the investigation in her lap, Docken said that she began to notice a number of details that did not sit right. Among other problems, Docken said she encountered discrepancies in treatment, a lack of communication with UConn officials and a coercive conclusion that forced Docken to accept the outcomes of the investigation in order to end the process.

"I knew that my case could not have been the only one handled like that. I realized that it was not just my case. It was part of a system," said Docken. "I thought, what can I

found responsible for misconduct accountable; focusing on the impact of trauma on mental health, and responsiveness to survivors."

"UConn is committed to providing a safe, supportive environment on all our campuses and has a range of strategies and practices in place to further that mission," Reitz added.

This is not the first time the university has faced criticism under such allegations. In 2014, UConn made national headlines when it settled a nearly \$1.3 million federal lawsuit in which five students claimed the university botched its handling of sexual assault allegations. At the time of the settlement, UConn maintained that the university did not

*"In the most crude way, I hope it lights a fire under their ass."*

ALEXANDRA DOCKEN

commit any wrongdoing.

Last year UConn recorded the lowest number of university investigations and disciplinary actions for sexual violence since 2014.

In 2020, UConn received reports for 80 incidents of sexual assault, 70 incidents of intimate partner violence (IPV) and 16 incidents of stalking, according to UConn's annual legislative report. The 166 cases resulted in three investigations of sexual assault and one investigation of IPV. In the IPV investigation, the perpetrator was found responsible and received probation and a written warning. The three sexual assault investigations concluded that no violation had occurred or that the alleged perpetrator was not responsible.

The UConn 2020 Clery report, which records crimes that occur on UConn owned or controlled locations and campus-adjacent public property, documented nine cases of sexual assault on the Storrs campus as well as six cases of intimate partner violence and six cases of stalking.

"The most reliable indicator of sexual violence reporting over time on UConn's campuses is found in annual federally mandated Clery reports. Separately, UConn's Office of Institutional Equity's annual report to the state has far broader parameters and therefore larger numbers. They include incidents with no connection to UConn, incidents that occurred before the reporting year, or other circumstances that prevent UConn from intervening in an enforcement role. These reports are critical to help us provide support, but are not an indicator of on-campus single-year incidents," said Reitz.

*"I knew that my case could not have been the only one handled like that. I realized that it was not just my case. It was part of a system"*

ALEXANDRA DOCKEN

On the evening of Aug. 26, 2021, a member of a university-recognized fraternity allegedly raped Docken at an off-campus frat party. Three days later, on Aug. 29, Docken



Alexandra Docken, class of 2024 at the University of Connecticut, is protesting against the school's management of her rape allegation in front of the Rowe building on Feb. 3, 2022. Docken was overwhelmed with grief finding out that UConn found the alleged perpetrator not in violation of the student code. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIA BRZOZOWSKA VIA INSTAGRAM

en said she submitted three separate reports of her alleged assault through three university websites. For days, Docken waited for a response, but according to Docken, she received none.

On the fourth day, Docken said she found another link on the OIE

website. She then submitted a fourth form through OIE and received a response the next day.

According to the investigation report of Docken's case, OIE did receive an incident referral on Aug. 29 from Docken. On Aug. 31, OIE named Kim Colon as the investigat-

ing student conduct officer. But it was not until Sept. 3, five days after Docken's original report, that Colon first spoke with Docken.

See SURVIVORS, p. 3

## Protests demand change for victims of assault

by Corina Wallenta  
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Student protesters at the University of Connecticut gathered in the Student Union on Friday to silently protest the administration's alleged handling of sexual assault cases reported on campus.

"I was raped, and UConn silenced me," read a sign held by Alexandra Docken outside the Rowe Center for Undergraduate Education on Thursday, Feb. 3, sparking conversation around campus and on social media about the university's alleged mishandling of sexual assault cases.

Grian Wizner, second-semester sec-

retary and treasurer for the Revolution Against Rape, attended the protest to show there is a safe spot on campus for survivors and to acknowledge what it took for Docken to come forward.

"For her to do that outside our school was incredibly brave," Wizner said in an in-person interview. "What's mainly going to happen is that UConn might not do anything. It's about us showing UConn that you may not care, but we care."

Friday's protest was the first of many upcoming demonstrations arranged by students and organizations around campus. Two protests outside the Rowe Center are scheduled for noon on Monday, Feb. 7 and 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 9.

See PROTEST, p. 2

The continued increase in medical school application rates

by Hallie LeTendre  
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Medical schools anticipate a competitive admission cycle this year as the number of applications into programs across the nation continues to rise.

The Kaplan education organization announced in a brief that across the United States application rates began increasing in the 2020 to 2021 academic year. A survey conducted by Kaplan revealed that those increases are not going to change in this current application year.

See MEDICAL, p. 2

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HIDING YOUR PAST | PAGE 4

How Rudy Giuliani and politicians use celebrity status to hide their pasts



OPENING CEREMONY | PAGE 5

African American Cultural Center kicks off Black History Month



STATEMENT WIN | PAGE 12

Women's Basketball: Huskies win over No. 7 Tennessee

Tweet of the Day

The Rev  
[@RealPaulCortese](https://twitter.com/RealPaulCortese)

Nothing warms my heart like UConn women's basketball beating Tennessee. God bless America.

## News

# Protesters demand to see change on how UConn handles Sexual Assault cases and survivors

PROTEST, cont. from p. 1

Another protest at the first floor of the UConn Stamford Building is scheduled for 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 7.

Seerut Mir, a fourth-semester student, organized Friday's silent protest to let survivors know she is there for them.

"I am a woman, I am a Husky and I have morals," Mir said. "I see that another girl is speaking up about something traumatic that has happened to her, and I know that I want to be there for her even though I don't know her."

Mir said she wants perpetrators of the violence to be held accountable.

"It's important to me because the

university needs to be held accountable for their actions," Mir said. "It's absolutely disgusting that most of the [alleged] perpetrators and rapists have gotten away."

According to a 2015 article by The Connecticut Mirror, 43 students reported alleged assaults on campus and UConn paid five students a total of \$1.3M to settle a lawsuit filed against the university's mishandling of their sexual assault allegations.

Vivian Hudson, a fourth-semester psychology and music major, believes the administration does not take this issue seriously.

"It's something that definitely gets swept under the rug by the administra-

tion here. As they do with a lot of stuff," Hudson said in an in-person interview.

According to UConn's Title IX website, the university offers support to victims of sexual assault by providing 24/7 emergency resources, the ability to file a police report and emotional support.

Hudson said if the university continues to do nothing about reports of sexual assault, she hopes people will continue to protest.

"Hopefully, people will keep protesting about it, keep sending emails, keep tagging [UConn] in comments on Instagram and social media. Just don't let the issue die down," Hudson said.

Hudson hopes the university will

eventually do something, especially with the issue gaining attention.

"It's up to the student body to keep reminding them about the issue, and I think the more publicity it gets, the more UConn won't be able to ignore it anymore," Hudson said.

Charlise Levesque, a fourth-semester student, helped organize Friday's event despite the upcoming protests.

"This is a very important issue that needs traction," Levesque said.

The student organization PowerUp is responsible for initiating the various protests and walkouts happening.

According to the PowerUp Instagram account, they are a non-profit organization "Promoting the advancement of radical love through organizing, education, and community service."

Benardia Amso, the director of operations for PowerUp UConn and a sixth-semester human development and family sciences major, spoke about why PowerUp is organizing these movements.

"We want to show solidarity to the community, and we want to enact change," Amso said.

Amso was touched by Docken's bravery and wants immediate change for Docken and other survivors of sexual violence at UConn.

"There has been a lot of issues concerning sexual assault, including Title IX, and a lot of students on this campus don't feel protected and don't feel safe," Amso said.

Amso said there are a few changes she wants the university to make. She wants policy change, direct action from the administration and a safer environment for the student body.

"I want there to be legislation passed that improves the passage of how stu-

dents are able to report," Amso said.

Amso said people will see booths set up providing resources and information to survivors at the Monday protest and Wednesday walkout. There will also be allies and survivors speaking out against perpetrators of sexual violence.

"We are just providing a place for students to speak on how they feel right now and speak on their own experiences," Amso said.

Amso said she wants students to check up on their friends, show support and report perpetrators.

"Stand by those students who really need you, who really need you to advocate for them or be the voice for them when they can't be," Amso said. "Not everyone can find the courage that Alexandra found just being there and speaking her truth."

## Resources for victims:

**National Sexual Assault Hotline 1-800-656-4673 (Available 24 Hours)**

**Student Health Services (Confidential) 860-486-4700 (24 Hours)**

**Counseling & Mental Health Services (Confidential) 860-486-4705 (24 Hours)**

**Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence (Confidential) 888-999-5545 (24 Hours)**

**Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline (Confidential) 888-774-2900 (24 Hours)**

**UConn Police 860-486-4800 (24 Hours)**



Students protest the university's handling of cases involving sexual violence in the Student Union on Friday, Feb. 4. The issue was brought to light by fourth-semester molecular and cell biology student Alexandra Docken, who shared her own experience by protesting alone the day prior. PHOTOGRAPH BY ANIKA VEERARAGHAV, ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Medical school applications are on the rise

MEDICAL, cont. from p. 1

"Of the admissions officers surveyed, 50% predict that the number of applicants will stay at last cycle's elevated volume; 33% think that number will increase; and only 17% believe there will be a decrease in applicants," the Kaplan News Release said.

Kaplan's Senior Director of Pre-health Programs, Petros Minasi, gave insight on the reality of what an increase of medical school applications has created for students.

"The number of seats to medical school has stayed the same, but the applications have gone up."

interest and passion in students.

"Some schools have reported double-digit increases in applications received. There is an increase or call to action in students seeing healthcare come to the frontline. This is an increase we have seen in the past two years. The Fauci effect has been a term coined," Munasi said.

*The number of seats to medical school has stayed the same, but the applications have gone up.*

**KAPLAN'S SENIOR DIRECTOR OF PRE-HEALTH PROGRAMS PETROS MINASI**

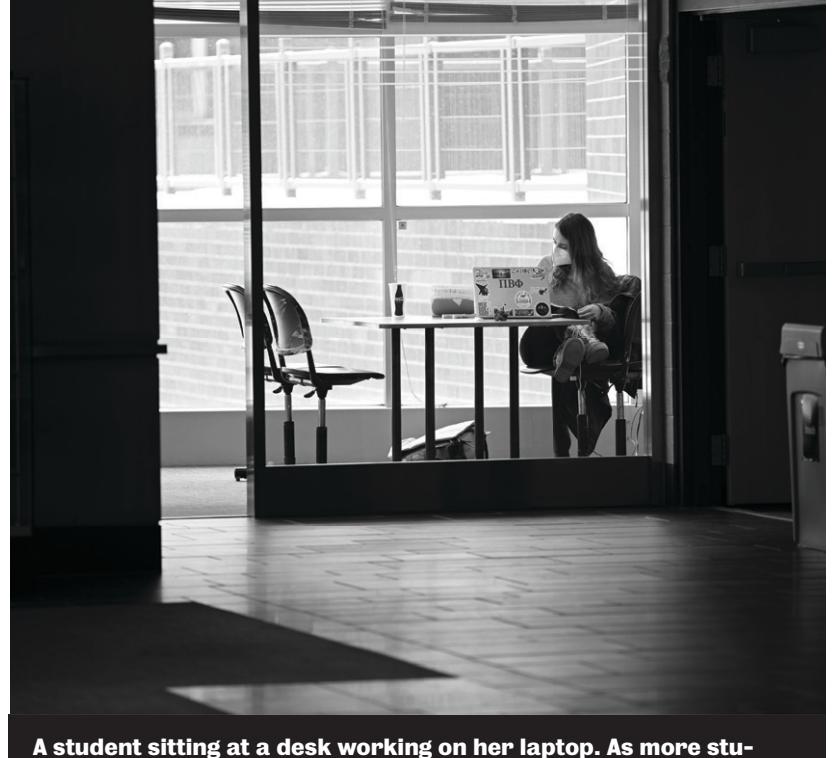
Munasi said COVID-19 has caused changes to the application process that were unheard of prior to the pandemic. For example, interviews have been conducted virtually, rather than in-person.

"Among the biggest changes to

the admissions process is the advent of the online interview in lieu of an in-person interview — 88% of medical schools say they extend this option to prospective students now. This was almost unheard of just two years ago," the Kaplan News Release said.

This transition to online interviews is one change that many medical schools plan to continue to use even in the post-pandemic era, Minasi said. He said school admissions have begun to adjust and adhere to the increase in medical school applicants in order to keep up with the demand. Additionally, he said the increase in medical school applications is seen as a positive for the U.S. and its medical future.

"The positive is that more students are taking the next step to pursue a career in medicine. The U.S. has needed more healthcare providers for years. The number of available seats is moving upwards," Minasi said. "This has been a lifelong dream for a lot of students."



A student sitting at a desk working on her laptop. As more students apply to medical school, there are the same number of seats but not enough space for all the applicants. PHOTOGRAPH BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, PHOTO AND VIDEO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# The Daily Campus

Printing since 1896, The Daily Campus is the oldest and largest independent student publication at the University of Connecticut. The Daily Campus circulates 2,500 newspapers daily and strives to serve the student body by delivering accurate, relevant and timely news and content, both in print and online at DailyCampus.com. Our staff is comprised entirely of students, with roughly 200 undergraduates gaining professional development while contributing to the daily production of the paper, with positions including writers, photographers, copy editors, page layout designers, graphic designers, advertisement representatives, receptionists, delivery drivers and digital producers. Thanks for reading.

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Send corrections to EIC@DailyCampus.com

Monday, February 7, 2022

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# Survivors call on the university to do more

**SURVIVORS, cont. from p. 1**

The university did not comment as to whether this timeline follows appropriate protocol.

Docken said that within the early stages of the reporting process she felt some of the comments made by the OIE attempted to discourage her from continuing the process. Docken claimed that before making a formal report to launch an investigation, she was told to take her schoolwork into account and determine whether she would be emotionally available for the process. According to Docken, she was told that the investigation could take weeks or months. She said that because of these comments, she considered walking away.

Docken said that despite the OIE reiterating the emotional impact of an investigation, Docken said she was not made aware of services within the Dean's office that could alleviate academic stress, nor was Docken referred to mental health services, she said. Instead, Docken said Colon recommended she speak to a UConn faculty member who was not a therapist.

The university did not comment specifically on Docken's claims. Reitz said that UConn's investigatory processes employ a trauma-informed approach emphasizing student agency.

Initially, the university processed Docken's case through the Title IX grievance process. Under UConn's Title IX procedures established in 2020, the Title IX Sexual Harassment and Resolution Process has jurisdiction under "Any off-campus premises that UConn has substantial control over. This includes buildings or property owned or controlled by a recognized student organization."

Docken said that she was initially led to believe that her alleged rape would fall within Title IX's jurisdiction because it occurred at an off-campus fraternity house. According to the investigation report, Docken's case was removed from the Title IX Grievance process in early October after OIE determined the alleged assault "did not occur within the University's programs or activities."

Precipitating this decision was an email between Colon and the Director of Off-Campus and Commuter Student Services John Armstrong, on Sept. 27. Per the investigation report, Colon identified the location of the alleged assault only by nickname and asked Armstrong if he was aware of the house. Armstrong said he did not have knowledge of a residence known by that name.

On Oct. 1, the alleged perpetrator provided Colon with the address for the residence where the alleged assault occurred. The investigation report does not indicate that Colon followed up with Armstrong once she received the address for the house.

The university did not comment on whether such action is typical in determining what properties are under Title IX jurisdiction.

**Docken feels UConn dismissed her allegations as a "he said she said" situation even though five witnesses provided testimony in support of her claims.**

After a failed appeal through Title IX, Docken successfully moved her case to the general student conduct process on Oct. 21, according to the investigation report. Under the Title IX process, the case would have received a live hearing through UConn. The general student conduct process does not require such measures however, students can elect to continue the process and

request an administrative hearing. By Nov. 12, Colon closed the investigation and had determined the alleged perpetrator was found not in violation of the student conduct.

Docken said that she feels UConn dismissed her allegations as a "he said she said" situation even though five witnesses provided testimony in support of her claims, according to Docken. The investigation report states that two witnesses provided testimony to Colon on behalf of the alleged perpetrator. A private investigator for the alleged perpetrator procured a drafted statement from a third student who also served as a witness for the alleged perpetrator.

Docken claims that the alleged perpetrator has a number of other

in limited and specific circumstances. However, even in matters where a student does not want to pursue an investigation, UConn still takes responsive or preventative actions, and always prioritizes support services," Reitz said.

A former UConn student who wishes to remain anonymous said that she experienced a similar situation with OIE while she attended the university. After months of alleged domestic abuse in UConn's dorms, the former student said she gained the courage to report her experiences to the UConn Police Department in February of 2021. Because the alleged abuse occurred on UConn property, OIE took over. But after nearly a year of investigation, the student said her abuse

es falling under the jurisdiction of OIE. Reitz provided the following statement:

"Law enforcement will pursue investigations when they receive a report of an incident, with UConn Police having jurisdiction on campus and Connecticut State Police handling off-campus reports," Reitz said.

Both the former student and Docken said they felt they were treated with a lack of empathy and described feeling stressed and "lost" during their investigations. They said that one of the most damaging parts was needing to relive the trauma of the alleged incidents each time they were questioned or asked to provide another statement.

Reitz said that UConn focuses

even less likely to report assaults. A Department of Defense report determined that among members of the military, only 10% of male survivors reported their assault compared to 43% of female survivors.

Docken said that during the protest, the most powerful moments were when other survivors of sexual assault expressed their support.

In a photo that circulated across Instagram, which received more than 50,000 likes in less than 24 hours, Docken is pictured with an umbrella. Docken said that when it started raining, a student came up to her and shared that she too was a survivor of sexual assault and asked if she could hold the umbrella for Docken. When the student had to go to class, she told Docken to keep the umbrella, because what she was doing was more important.

Docken said she also has a collection of notes from students thanking her for speaking up because it was something that they, as sexual assault survivors, thought they could never do.

"It's insane because you don't know this person at all. And yet, you have such an intimate and strong connection. In that moment, when you're talking to them, there's such an understanding of emotions, feelings, experiences that other people don't necessarily have ... You know, I understand you, I love you, I'm here for you, that kind of thing. And that space, it was just so surreal."

Docken said that she hopes that her protest leads to real change for the UConn community.

"I didn't do this to shame the perpetrators or to get back at them for revenge or that kind of thing. You know, I didn't write his name in big bold letters. I did it as a liberating thing for me and for everyone else who hasn't, or can't [come forward]," Docken said. "I'm realizing after talking to so many people today as well, how much bigger it is than I originally thought ... There could really be a change if I step up to do it. So, I hadn't planned anything else, but I'm willing to go and make my voice heard for all of those who can't."

## Update:

In an email to the UConn community Sunday night, Interim President Radenka Maric announced plans for a university task force to examine sexual violence prevention, survivor support, and the administrative response to allegations.

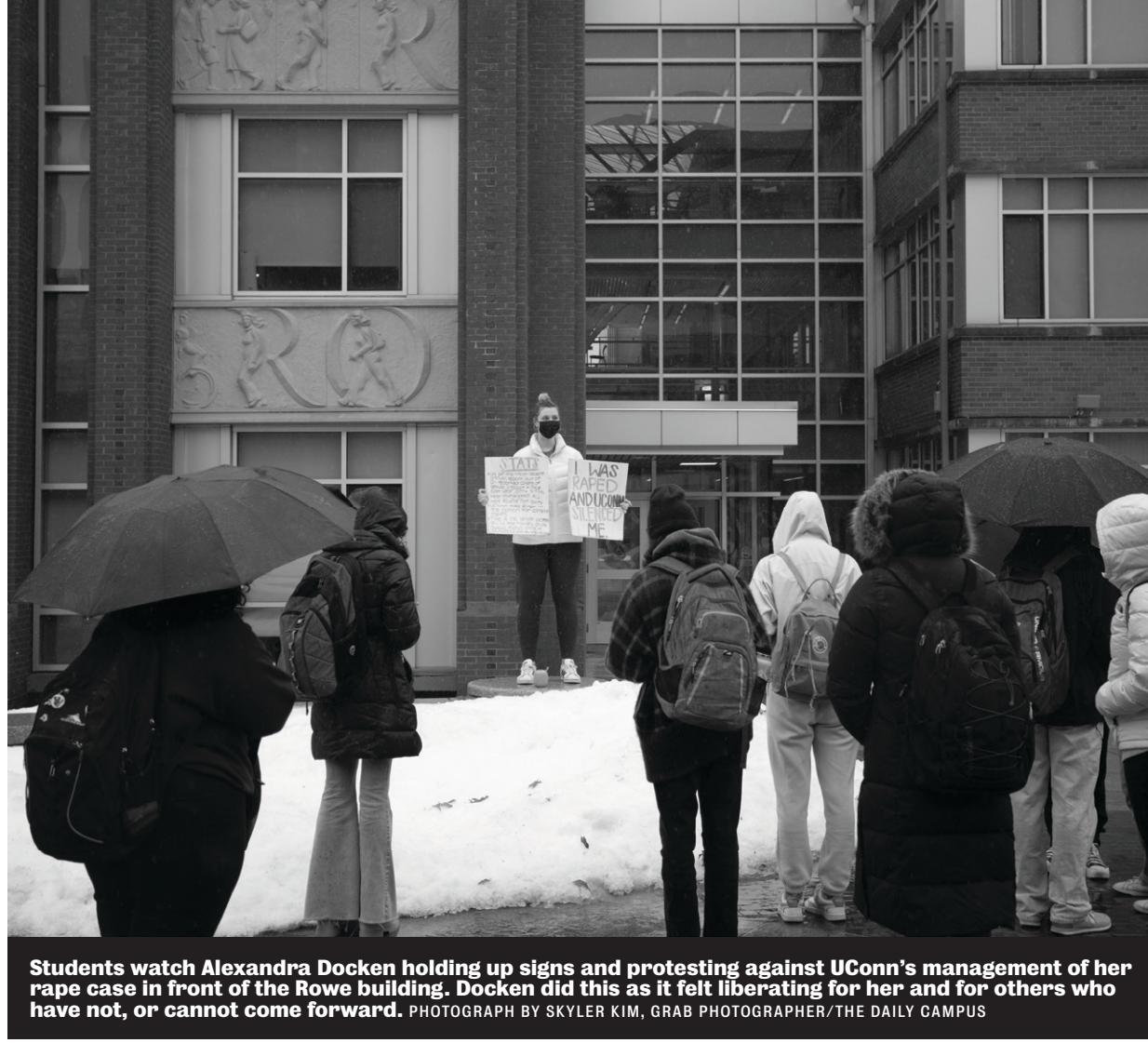
"I have asked Dean of Students Elly Daugherty to join me in bringing together students, staff, and faculty to assess our current educational programs for students (including orientation and online trainings), how we support victims of sexual violence, and the university's processes regarding sexual assault and intimate partner violence," said Maric. "Determining what more we can do will be an essential question for me and my administration."

Maric condemned sexual violence and said that UConn "does its best" to support and care for survivors. She called on the university community to work together to transform the culture of UConn's campuses.

"We also have a solemn and serious obligation to do all we can to combat, prevent, and address sexual assault in our community through the most effective strategies. We want to eradicate sexual violence. But policies and procedures alone will not achieve this. We need to work together to continually shape a culture on our campuses that is rooted in respect, awareness, supporting one another, and an extreme intolerance towards any form of sexual violence," said Maric.

Maric said that student well-being and success are her top priorities. She said that UConn and its community must do more to address sexual violence.

"No one should stand alone," said Maric. "To me, that is the unresolved question for our university: 'What more must we do to support victims and increase education and awareness throughout our community?'"



**Students watch Alexandra Docken holding up signs and protesting against UConn's management of her rape case in front of the Rowe building. Docken did this as it felt liberating for her and for others who have not, or cannot come forward. PHOTOGRAPH BY SKYLER KIM, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS**

alleged victims that have chosen not to report. Docken said she does not know why the university chose to side with the alleged perpetrator.

According to Docken, Colon told her she could request a hearing, but the hearing body would come to the same "not in violation" conclusion. Docken said that Colon also told her that an appeal would not be possible unless Docken had new evidence.

By December, Docken had decided to no longer move forward with the investigation. However, in order to close the investigation, Colon told Docken that she had to resolve the case via an "Administrative Conference" where Docken would need to accept the recommended outcomes of the investigation and forfeit her right to future appeals.

In an email to Colon, Docken said she did not agree with the investigation's recommended outcomes but said she would accept them because she did not wish to move into a hearing.

"I felt pathetic. Like I had just lost," Docken said, "I felt like a letdown not only to myself but everyone else because, at this point, other people knew I was going through this."

In response to Docken's claims, the university did not comment specifically on its administrative conference policy for student misconduct investigations. Instead, Reitz provided the following statement.

"UConn uses a trauma-informed approach - among best practices advised nationwide by experts in the field -- that gives agency to impacted students by letting them decide whether they wish to participate in an investigation or hearing. The University honors their wishes and if they decline, it only proceeds

case was dismissed in January because she had graduated.

The former student said that, to her knowledge, the alleged abuser is still enrolled at UConn.

"I was not treated right," she said. "I shouldn't have had to be afraid of going to work or walking around campus in case I saw him. I was very disappointed because UConn's reasoning was that it became a 'he said she said' situation, which made me feel invalidated and that they didn't care about me, although there was clear evidence, photos, videos, witness statements, that the abuse happened."

According to the former student,

***Even in matters where a student does not want to pursue an investigation, UConn still takes responsive or preventative actions, and always prioritizes support services.***

**UNIVERSITY SPOKESPERSON  
STEPHANIE REITZ**

UCPD documented her alleged abuse, but she said it ultimately did not affect her case.

"The police had taken pictures of my wounds at the station and submitted them to the case as well, but even that was not enough to be conclusive," she said.

The former student added that the university needs to do more to believe survivors and hold perpetrators of sexual violence liable for their actions.

"They need to do what they say they will when something like this happens. If they say they will protect their students, they should protect their students. Otherwise, they're just lying to them. There are so many cases that get swept under the rug, and it's not good," she said.

The university did not specify what factors result in UCPD cas-

on the impact of trauma on mental health for survivors.

Docken said that she leaned on her hometown best friend and sorority sisters at Alpha Epsilon Phi for support throughout the process.

"Those girls were at that party. They were the ones who brought me home and put me back in bed after it happened. And they were the ones with me when I submitted a form. They're the ones who were willing to talk and, you know, give their statements. They were the ones who called me when I cried," said Docken.

Docken said that she understands that the investigating student conduct officer must be impartial, but she said that at times her tears were met with a numbing absence of "emotional reciprocity." Docken said that UConn needs to provide more compassion and mental health resources specific to survivors during the reporting and investigation process.

"Hopefully this [protest] doesn't just blow over and become another statistic. I hope that they will listen to survivors for input on how to not only make this campus safer, but also more emotionally safe," Docken said. She added that she hopes UConn will "support survivors and continue to advocate for the safety of everyone so that our numbers and statistics can go down because right now, they're very bad."

According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, three out of every 10 sexual assaults are reported. Among female college students, reporting rates are even lower.

***"I did it as a liberating thing for me and for everyone else who hasn't, or can't [come forward]."***

**ALEXANDRA DOCKEN**

Only 20% of college women report their assaults, according to an 18-year study by the U.S. Department of Justice. Research has shown that male sexual assault survivors are

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Daily

# Opinion

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**► Editorial**

## UConn still needs to support its students amid COVID-19

**W**hile the University of Connecticut may be three weeks into the Spring 2022 semester, students have only been on campus and attending in-person classes for one week at this point. The university announced on Dec. 30, 2021 that they would begin the spring semester virtually, citing hopes of protecting community health as the reasoning behind this decision. Residential students moved back in the weekend of Jan. 28, 2022 and began in-person classes the following Monday. This transition from starting the semester online to being back on-campus has been a difficult one.

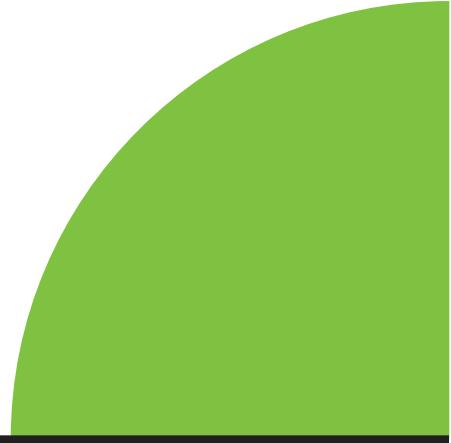
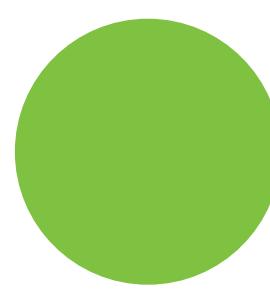
The Daily Campus reported students struggling with online learning in its most recent iteration, especially those students experiencing housing or food insecurities. While students could apply to live on-campus during the initial virtual period, the limited nature of these spots required students to demonstrate a need for such housing. If approved, students were unable to leave campus for any reason during the period of remote learning, and also experienced limited dining options and no guests or access to the Student Recreation Center. Moreover, in a Feb. 2 2022 email from Associate Vice President and Dean of Students Eleanor JB Daugherty, UConn reported a significant number of positive tests since the return to campus. Thus, the campus is remaining in the red COVID-19 alert level for the time being.

With the overwhelming uncertainty in the air of what the rest of this semester will look like, UConn should be aiming to make such transition periods as painless as possible for students. Accommodations are necessary, as it is immensely difficult to be a student right now. When the pandemic started in March of 2020 and UConn made the transition from entirely unrestricted, in-person schooling to entirely online education amid initial lockdowns, it was justification enough for severe changes to the university's pass/fail policies. Specifically, after the pandemic began, UConn made adjustments so that students were able to declare classes as pass/fail toward the end of the semester rather than during the initial few weeks, and there were fewer restrictions regarding which classes could be put on pass/fail. This semester, students were expected to switch from virtual learning to in-person learning in a matter of days in addition to the increased threat of sickness due to more contagious COVID-19 variants, and they did not receive any additional support from the university.

Additionally, move-in this semester was perhaps more confusing and difficult, considering the requirement for all students to submit pre-arrival testing. This is not to say the increase in COVID-19 testing was a bad idea or not worth it, but it was up to students to arrange their own testing with little help from the university.

What's more is that there is no protocol for how a student will arrange to keep up with their classes if they test positive or need to quarantine during the semester. It is up to students to reach out to professors, and it is up to each professors' discretion as to how to handle each situation, when really a universal policy requiring some alternative materials in the event of sickness or absence would be in students' best interests.

COVID-19 is not going away anytime soon and this fact needs to be addressed. In essence, UConn needs to better accommodate its students with the same resources and flexibility they provided when the pandemic began. That requires open communication between students and administration, and ample warning before any decisions impacting students are made.



## SOUNDING OFF

### RUDY GIULIANI, AND HOW POLITICIANS USE CELEBRITY STATUS TO HIDE THEIR PASTS

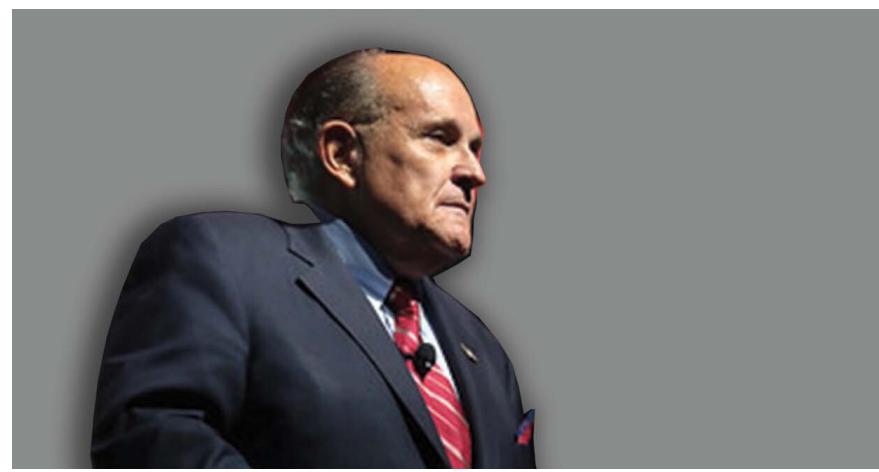


PHOTO COURTESY OF GAGE SKIDMORE VIA FLICKR

**by Sam Zelin**  
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For anyone who has not yet heard, disgraced former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani was recently a contestant on Fox's game show "The Masked Singer." The episode he is featured on is set to air in March, according to CNN, and upon learning of his involvement with the show, judges Robin Thicke and Ken Jeong walked off the set. Now, this is a funny story, but there's a lot more to unpack here about the nature of how America views politicians.

For starters, this is not a conversation about whether or not those with celebrity status should enter the political arena — that's an argument for another day. The takeaway from the Giuliani debacle is a conversation about the opposite topic — whether those who gain political power should be treated as celebrities during their terms and after they leave.

Naturally, Giuliani is an incredibly extreme example of a politician gaining celebrity status. While some politicians leave their positions with a bang, Giuliani's last public position as the personal lawyer to then-President Donald Trump ended with him being linked to the incitement of the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection at the capitol. It's only been a year since then, and the fact that he's already making whimsical TV appearances is an atrocity. Giving someone like him a platform only serves to muddy memories, so that bad acts can be more easily forgotten.

Giuliani is not a man who should be remembered as "that ex-mayor who appeared on 'The Masked Singer.'" He should be recalled as "the man who called for 'trial by combat'" with the only opponents in mind being those who upheld a free and fair election.

Perhaps the most famous example of politicians-turned-celebrities is the British royal family. In fact, their celebrity has become so much of their identity that it almost seems easy to forget that British royals arguably once held the most political power in the world. Along with simply having celebrity status, the royals also are the perfect example of how that status can

work to erase negative memories. For instance, when Harry and Meghan accused members of the family of being racist towards their son Archie, who is biracial, defensive outrage came from supporters of the family, stunned that anyone would make the accusation that the British royals might be racist. However, to anyone who is vaguely familiar with the historical exploits of the British crown, this was not a surprise at all. British colonialism, all done in the name of the monarch, was a racist, oppressive system, and its impacts are still felt all over the globe. Viewing the royals from only the celebrity perspective allows people to only see the grandiose weddings and the tabloid drama, but all of that masks centuries of oppression.

In past articles, I have written about how historical figures should not be put on pedestals because they were merely human like the rest of us, and this should not be a consideration only extended to those in our past. Obviously, celebrities of some kind will always exist, as it is impossible in the world we live in to stop people from paying attention to certain spheres, like the entertainment industry. However, the political sphere does not have to be one of the ones with a spotlight shining on it. Public servants are in their positions to do their best to better society, not to go on game shows or grace the covers of tabloids.

Of course, those who choose to boost the celebrity status of controversial politicians are equally at fault here. Is it a coincidence that the Rupert Murdoch-owned Fox network was where Giuliani chose to show up? It could be, but regardless of whether it was or wasn't, there are advantages to capitalizing on these kinds of figures. The world loves to read and hear about scandal, and while the reality TV industry showcases myriad examples of this, much scandal also comes from the grim realities of our political system. The key is to understand that there is a big difference between characters on a show and people charged with keeping this country afloat. Those who work to blur that line for their own personal gain are making a mockery of the very positions they represent.

**GIULIANI IS NOT A MAN WHO SHOULD BE REMEMBERED AS "THAT EX-MAYOR WHO APPEARED ON 'THE MASKED SINGER.'" HE SHOULD BE RECALLED AS "THE MAN WHO CALLED FOR 'TRIAL BY COMBAT'" WITH THE ONLY OPPONENTS IN MIND BEING THOSE WHO UPHELD A FREE AND FAIR ELECTION.**



**Life**  
@dailycampuslife

# The African American Cultural Center kicks off Black History Month, seeking justice, love and change



by Joanne Biju  
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On May 25, 2020, George Floyd was placed under arrest by Minneapolis police. Officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for over nine minutes, killing him before he could even make it to the station.

About a year after his wrongful death, the City of Minneapolis announced a settlement of \$27 million to be paid out to Floyd's family, represented by Benjamin Crump. Specializing in civil rights, Crump has also represented the families of Trayvon Martin, Ahmaud Arbery, Martin Lee Anderson and Breonna Taylor — all victims of racial injustice.

Even more influential than the record-setting settlement, was the nationwide resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement.

On Feb. 3, the African American Cultural Center held an opening ceremony for Black History Month in collaboration with the UConn School of Law. The virtual event's keynote speakers were renowned civil rights attorney Crump and brother of the late George Floyd, Philonise Floyd.

Despite being held virtually, presence was strong, with over 200 students tuning in to kick off Black History Month at UConn. Introductory remarks were made by the AACC's director, Dr. Willena Kimpson Price, followed by Alicia Keys' rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing." First performed in 1900 for Abraham Lincoln's birthday, the piece serves as a testament to strength



Graffiti artwork of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. Both Floyd and Taylor tragically passed as a result of police violence and have become some of the main faces of the Black Lives Matter Movement. PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

and perseverance and has been named the "Black National Anthem" by the NAACP.

After the touching song, moderator Geoffrey Young, a student at UConn Law, sifted through incoming questions to ask Crump and Floyd. The audience learned about their path towards civil rights and received profound advice on how to be an ally to the Black community.

Crump discussed his own time in law school, where he was taught the importance of precedent. But he refused to wholeheartedly accept the thought, because had precedent been continuously upheld, much of the nation would still be in chains today.

Throughout the discussion Crump, perhaps jokingly, referred to Philonise Floyd as "attorney" or "my congressman." Yet, it was

clear the weight of those titles rang true, as Floyd passionately spoke about seeking justice for not just his brother, but for the Black community as a whole.

When asked about the impact of his brother's death, Floyd said, in an act reminiscent of his brother's last words, "I feel like I still can't breathe right now."

Harping on the fact that so many Black lives have been lost, not due

to natural causes, but by police brutality, Floyd encourages real change.

"To me, bottom line, there has to be a better way to serve and protect," Floyd said. Speaking in favor of implementing required dash cams, Floyd said, "If you've got something to hide, it's a problem."

In turn, Crump looked back on U.S. history, full of injustices still ingrained in society today: Why are BIPOC still being lynched today?

He cited the Declaration of Independence, which claims to endow us with equality.



UConn's African American Cultural Center logo. LOGO COURTESY OF INSTGRAM @UCONN.AACC

"Look how they kill our children and young people slowly: In every city, in every state, in every courtroom," Crump remarked.

Crump also recommended staples for one's library, deeming the following books as required reading: "The Mis-Education of the Negro," "The Autobiography of Malcolm X," and "The New Jim Crow," along with Floyd's yet-to-be-released book.

Winding down with words of encouragement and choruses of "amen," Dr. Price concluded the inspiring event with the parting words, "May love fulfill you."

Stay tuned for future Black History Month events hosted by UConn's AACC by checking out their website or Instagram.

**ON FEB. 3, THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER HELD AN OPENING CEREMONY FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN COLLABORATION WITH THE UCONN SCHOOL OF LAW. THE VIRTUAL EVENT'S KEYNOTE SPEAKERS WERE RENOWNED CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEY CRUMP AND BROTHER OF THE LATE GEORGE FLOYD, PHILONISE FLOYD.**

# All a cappella groups in perfect pitch at the spring rush concert

by Holianne Lao  
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Two UConn students performing at the a cappella rush concert on Feb. 4. The annual concert serves to recruit new members to each of UConn's a cappella groups while showing off each group's musical style. PHOTO COURTESY OF SHREYA SREENIVAS

The spring a cappella rush concert kicked off the University of Connecticut A Cappella Association's audition process a bit later than expected this semester, but the 10 groups were grateful to perform in person and to recruit members all the same. Originally scheduled for the night of Feb. 4, last Friday's icy weather caused UCACA to reschedule the concert for the afternoon of Feb. 6 in von der Mehden Recital Hall. Each a cappella group performed two songs so potential auditioners can learn more about the different groups' styles and preferences. Friends, family and aspiring a cappella members enjoyed the glimpse into each group's music.

"It lets [the auditioners] get a feel

and a vibe for the groups, let's them see what kind of music they sing," Zachary Kenney, an eighth-semester music and business major, said. He serves as UCACA president and assistant music director for the Rolling Tones. "[Auditioning] is a pretty rigorous process, it's a lot of late nights with callbacks on Wednesday and Thursday."

The coed a cappella groups include Extreme Measures, Notes Over Storrs, Husky Hungama, the Rolling Tones and A Minor. Rubyfruit and Drop the Bass welcome female-identifying students, while A Completely Different Note and the Conn-Men welcome male-identifying students.

"I came because I have a friend [i]n the Conn Men, but all the performances were awesome," Alex Kim, an eighth-semester finance major, said. "This was my first time going to an a cappella concert, but it was cool to listen to the many talented singers on this campus."

Clad in their group colors of black and purple, coed Notes Over Storrs kicked off the concert with Lawrence's "Me and You" and Jacob Collier's "All I Need."

"Everyone did absolutely amazing today so I couldn't be happier! I'm so glad the concert was still able to happen in person, I think it really changes how prospective auditionees experience all of the groups for the first time," Malcolm Patel, an eighth-semester physiology and neurobiology major, said. He was a soloist in Notes Over Storrs' performance. "Notes Over Storrs has been my family since freshman year, and I definitely hope to grow this family a little after auditions this week!"

Other eighth-semester students in NOS commented on the camaraderie group's camaraderie.

"Being in a cappella, specifically NOS, has been the best part of my college experience," Rebecca Mailhot, an eighth-semester nutritional sciences major and psychology minor, said. A sixth-semester member of NOS, she serves as the group's treasurer. "It has been incredible meeting so many people — while we share a love for music, we are also very different and unique! Because of the pandemic, I am grateful for any chance we have at a live performance these days, so I'm so glad we were able to have the rush concert today to mark the start of another great semester!"

The president of NOS echoed her members' sentiments, appreciating the opportunity to perform in person.

"Joining college a cappella was one of the best decisions I've ever made," Julie Borsotti, an eighth-semester theater studies and communications major, said. "I am so grateful that I get to do what I love — sing and perform — alongside my best friends. NOS is truly family. We have worked so hard and grown so much as a group. There have been a lot of bumps in the road with the pandemic going on but it was so great to be back performing in person today at the rush concert and I really look forward to more performances and the rest of the semester!"

Following the all-female Chordials, the all-male Conn-Men

brightened the stage with Andy Grammar's "Fine By Me" and Fun's "Some Nights." Tucker Rathe, an eighth-semester structural biology and biophysics major, served as the soloist for the former, while Noah Frank, an eighth-semester political science and economics major, served as the soloist for the latter.

"The rush concert is a really important event for a cappella at UConn not only because it brings people together, [but] because it [also] is the main event for recruiting new members," Noah Frank, a tenor and music director of the group, said. "After nearly two years into the pandemic, all 10 groups singing together in one space is something that was especially moving to see...I know our group had a blast and we are excited for a great semester ahead!"

Husky Hungama, UConn's only South Asian fusion group, melded Sia's "Elastic Heart" with traditional South Asian music. A Completely Different Note, UConn's oldest all-male group, swept the stage with dapper suits and upbeat songs.

Clad in striking pink and black,

**"Being in a cappella, specifically NOS, has been the best part of my college experience."**

REBECCA MAILHOT

all-female Rubyfruit performed "Archie, Marry Me," originally by Flyte, and "You Know I'm No Good," originally by Amy Winehouse. The former featured soloist Caitlin Daddona with a trio containing sixth-semester students Audrey Rivetta and Stephanie Siracuse and fourth-semester student Linda Nelson.

"[It's] so cool to be a part of an organization of singing people, where each performance means even more post-COVID," Daddona, an eighth-semester environmental sciences major and sociology minor, said. "Empowering ourselves and other groups is just so energizing."

Fourth-semester student Zoe Rapposo served as the soloist for Rubyfruit's latter song, backed by Nelson for vocal percussion.

**"[It's] so cool to be a part of an organization of singing people, where each performance means even more post-COVID."**

CAITLIN DADDONA

"Being a part of Rubyfruit has been a life-changing experience," Elyze Joyce Amora, an eighth-semester nursing major and president of Rubyfruit, said. "It encompasses a varying group of inspiring, talented and unique women, which greatly correlates to our roots of female empowerment and passion for music. There is no better feeling than to be up on stage singing and being ourselves when we're all together."

The Rolling Tones performed a cheerful set of Dua Lipa's "Levitating" and King Harvest's "Dancing in the Moonlight," while the all-female Drop the Bass' set was emotional and poignant.

"I love watching all of these talented students come together, especially Rebecca and Julie, to create magic on stage!" Jordan Theroux, a seventh-semester allied health sciences major, said. She is roommates with Mailhot and Borsotti. "They bring great energy every time I see them perform!"

A Minor, UConn's oldest coed a cappella group, proved there's strength in numbers with one of the largest groups on stage Sunday afternoon. Performing "Follow the Light," originally by Cory Wong, and "Dancing by the Devil," originally by Demi Lovato, the group's dynamic movement reflected the singers' masterful vocals. Creating weaving circles and dramatic lines in time with the music, A Minor similarly closed out the concert in dramatic fashion.

"A cappella has shaped my UConn experience for the last four years," Tommy Dowd, an eighth-semester political science and economics major, said. He is also an eighth-semester member of A Minor, formerly serving as president. "It has allowed me to keep doing something I love while meeting some of my best friends."

Each group may have slightly different processes, but in general, interested students must submit an audition video by 11:59 p.m. on Feb. 7. To move forward in the process, some auditioners will attend callback auditions in the music building on Wednesday and Thursday.

"After they're done with callbacks, [auditioners] can fill out a preference sheet of who they like the best out of all the groups they were called back for," Kenney explained. "We come together as an organization, and the groups put who they want on the board. If two groups want the same person, we go into the preference sheet and validate and find out their top choice, and that's the group they end up in."

Kenney explained UCACA's adaptations to COVID restrictions during last year's audition process.

"Our vice president last year, Marc Sokolson, is very well-versed in audio and video editing and we commissioned him to put together a virtual rush concert where we all recorded videos with our individual parts," Kenney said. "He went in over a course of a couple of weeks and put together 10 completely unique, professional music videos."

The university's code red status at the beginning of the spring semester required the concert to be moved from its original date and location, Jan. 28 in Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. However, in general, Kenney described how UCACA has been able to recruit and perform in a similar capacity to pre-COVID, with virtual initial auditions to "reduce traffic in the music building."

"The rush concert was a great showcase of talent, and I enjoyed all the performances," Shreya Sreenivas, an eighth-semester physiology and neurobiology and computer science major, said.

## Get ready for Winter Weekend!

by Naiiya Patel  
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This upcoming weekend marks the Student Union Board of Governors' 43rd year celebrating Winter Weekend. From Feb. 10-12, UConn students will have the chance to score free goodies and relax at all the events planned. Winter Weekend will hopefully be a perfect way to help UConn students transition back in-person after spending the first two weeks of the semester online.

Since UConn students returned to the Storrs campus under a red COVID-19 alert level, SUBOG hopes to create a balance between traditional Winter Weekend events and current health and safety guidelines. Many of the classic Winter Weekend events like One Ton Sundae, Moonlight Breakfast and Valentine's Care Day will still be held, but SUBOG held sign-ups where students reserved their spots. This way, there will be smaller numbers of people per hour, and all events, besides the movie, can function in a grab & go format so more students can enjoy what each event has to offer. Although the sign-ups have passed, for students who did not sign up in advance, there is an option to arrive within the last half hour of each event to pick up any unclaimed items.

One of the most anticipated events for Winter Weekend is the traditional One Ton Sundae, which has been held every year since 1979. In previous years, students have waited in long lines for hours to receive a bucket that they

could fill with as much ice cream as they wanted. SUBOG collaborated with the Dairy Bar to fill two life-sized boats with gallons of various ice cream flavors.

This year, however, SUBOG has opted for pre-scooped buckets in five options containing various combinations of popular flavors: Oreo, Chocolate Brownie Fudge, Husky Tracks, Mint Chocolate Chip, the Class of 2022 Senior Scoop (Chocolate with Cookie Dough pieces and Marshmallow Swirl) and a dairy-free option of Raspberry Sorbet. The sign-ups ensure that there will be no long lines and students can pick up their bucket on Feb. 11 during various pick-up times throughout the day.

If you are a senior who missed the Google Form to sign up, don't fear!

"We will also have a surprise for seniors coming soon for those who missed their chance at One Ton Sundae," Victoria Marchetti, major weekends chair of SUBOG, said.

On Feb. 10, students can have breakfast for dinner at Moonlight Breakfast in the Student Union Ballroom. SUBOG is expected to serve traditional breakfast items, including eggs, scones, bacon, sausages, fruit and more. In an effort to be more allergy conscious, SUBOG will feature several dietary alternatives, including dairy-free whipped cream and turkey bacon.

For the first time at Moonlight Breakfast, there will be a waffle bar for students to customize their own waffles. Besides food, there will be tons of crafts and activities, including DIY lip balm and faux snow globes. Students will have a chance to grab Winter Weekend merch along with

three \$10 gift cards as part of a give-away for locations around campus.

Valentine's Care Day on Feb. 12 in Student Union 104 is an opportunity for students to self-reflect and enjoy self-care goodies, like face masks, candy, sleeping masks, chocolates, tea and other treats just before Valentine's Day. Students will also have another chance to grab Winter Weekend merch. The grab & go will be more prevalent here, as students will arrive during their time slot, receive a bag and then pick up any items available at the stations.

This year, in the Student Union Theater, SUBOG will be playing Disney's "Encanto" each night on Feb. 10-12. The widely popular film was released on Nov. 24, 2021. Part of the Winter Weekend fun will be heading down at night to the SU Theater and enjoying the critically-acclaimed animated film.

One major impact that COVID-19 has had on this Winter Weekend is the loss of the Ski Trip. SUBOG's usual trip to a ski resort has been canceled. Since the campus has entered in Red, travel trips for SUBOG and other Tier III organizations are no longer permitted. As of now, it is postponed until next year, guidelines permitting.

Despite all the obstacles, SUBOG hopes to make Winter Weekend as accessible as possible for all students while still remaining safe. If you have a chance, try to stop by any of the events and experience Winter Weekend for yourself. Be sure to follow @subogatucconn on Instagram for more information on what's to come.



Official movie poster for the 2021 film, "Nightmare Alley." This film follows Bradley Cooper as his character, Stanton Carlisle, joins a carnival company and travels the world. PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

## 'Nightmare Alley': A brilliant noir thriller from Guillermo del Toro

by Zachary Wisniewsky

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Though released in theaters back in December, director Guillermo del Toro's latest output "Nightmare Alley" has hit streaming, being added to HBO Max just a few days ago.

An adaptation of a 1946 book, the film takes place in the late 1930s as Stanton Carlisle (Bradley Cooper) joins a carnival company and learns from the masters of trickery. What unfolds is a spiraling noir, full of twists and turns.

There are a number of reasons why "Nightmare Alley" works as a film, but you can't start anywhere else than del Toro's greatness as a director. In his first film since the Oscar-decorated "The Shape of Water," del Toro mixes genres masterfully, taking a psychological thriller and adding noir as well as his signature horror elements to it. It is just impossible to imagine what this picture would look and feel like with a different director at the helm. Especially in the

nomination in the supporting actress category, either for this role or perhaps in her role in the film "Don't Look Up."

While the cinematography and acting are absolutely brilliant in this picture, the only reason I would not put this above del Toro's other works is due to the pacing. As we have discussed in many past reviews, a strong pacing and rhythm are essential to the execution of a film. A film needs to move at the pace where the scene transitions feel most natural and where the audience does not get bored due to constancy or lack of new material. "Nightmare Alley" has many scenes that are incredibly well-paced, but there are quite a few sequences that feel a bit too long. The film certainly did not need to be two and a half hours. I think a two-hour runtime would've fit it much better. The film stays interesting throughout, but the plot gets much more enthralling as you progress deeper, and I think that narrative should have gotten rolling a bit earlier in the runtime.

Nonetheless, "Nightmare Alley" is a brilliant thriller, with fantastic cinematography and direction from the masterful del Toro, and brilliant performances from Cooper and Blanchett.

sequences that take place in the carnival, del Toro's mastery of horror imagery is on display yet again. That being said, I would not consider "Nightmare Alley" a horror film, as there are only a few scenes where the horror elements are at the forefront.

"Nightmare Alley" is also elevated by Cooper's performance. It has been quite some time since Cooper played the lead in a feature film (his last being in his directorial effort for "The Star is Born"), and this film makes it clear that it has been far too long. Other actors may have played this role in a more over-the-top fashion, but Cooper's more subdued, naturalistic performance is much more effective and allows for character arcs to unfold in a more interesting way. Cate Blanchett is also fantastic in this film in her supporting role. She does not have as many scenes to shine as Cooper does, but when she does, her performance is electric. I can see her earning an Academy Award

Rating: 4.35/5



The cover art for Tyrone Power's 1946 "Nightmare Alley." PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

## UConn Tell Me About It: Coming out and making friends

by Homie B

Welcome back to "UConn Tell Me About It." I'm Homie B., UConn's anonymous advice-giver for any and every question on your mind. In this edition of the column, we'll advise one reader's anxieties about coming out and another reader's question about making friends. Let's dive in!



PHOTO COURTESY OF PSYCATGAMES.COM

**Q: I've never been in a relationship, hooked up with someone or really ever had a crush. I thought I would eventually find a guy someday and just wrote myself off as weird. But in the last year I've realized that I'm queer (lesbian). It's taken me some time, but I'm finally becoming confident in that. The problem is, I'm so scared to tell my friends and start putting myself out there. I'm still nervous of what people will think and how things will change. Any advice?**

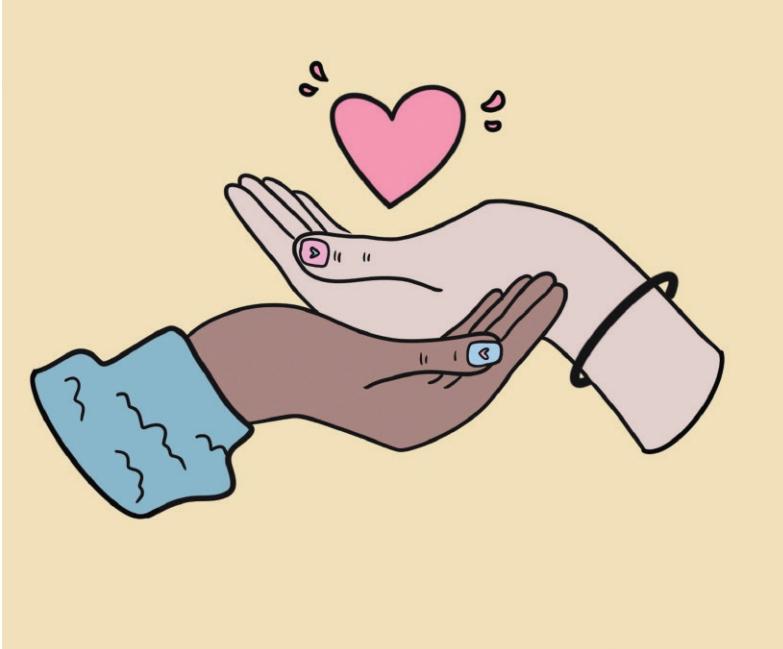
You are who you are. No amount of willingness to change yourself to accommodate the needs of people around you is going to change that. Change is scary, but it's necessary. You can't live forever without sharing this part of yourself with the world. You deserve love as much as anyone else. Remember there are resources on campus like The Rainbow Center and mental health services to guide you if you need help at any point. Now, let's talk about how to get you out there to explore this new part of your identity.

Firstly, let's talk about coming out. It's okay to be scared about how things will go if you come out to your friends. You can probably already anticipate the way that

your friends will react. However, in my opinion, you shouldn't weigh your friends' immediate responses too heavily. If they have known you for a long time, they might feel a little taken aback. But, what really matters is what they do or say after their initial response. If they are your real friends, they will accept this part of your identity. If they don't, they might not be the type of people you should surround yourself with, anyways.

In terms of being scared to put yourself out there, the only way to squash that fear is to face it. Not every date or hookup you go on is going to be amazing. But eventually you'll go on one that is! You just need to be brave enough to do it.

Dating apps could be a good place to start. Messaging people online is a little less intimidating than approaching people in-person. Additionally, there is no guessing game about if the people online are queer or not, and people tend to be more straightforward about what they're looking for. If you're eyeing someone cute in-person, put yourself out there by asking for their Instagram handle or Snapchat. Start talking with them by messaging or interacting with their Instagram or Snapchat Stories. After you get to know them a little better, ask them out. There's no formula for this stuff, but these are some good places to start. Good luck!



**IN TERMS OF BEING SCARED TO PUT YOURSELF OUT THERE, THE ONLY WAY TO SQUASH THAT FEAR IS TO FACE IT. NOT EVERY DATE OR HOOKUP YOU GO ON IS GOING TO BE AMAZING.**

**Q: How can I make friends as a new freshman and someone who is new to in-person school?**

The best way to make friends is to find people that you have things in common with and talk to them. Firstly, find people that you think are cool. You can find people that are similar to you in classes that pertain to your interests, or by joining clubs or activities that you enjoy. If you don't know what you're interested in yet, try something new. Keep an eye out in the Daily Digest — which is emailed to all students every weekday at 11 a.m. — for cool events happening around campus, or browse the clubs listed in UConnContact.

Secondly, start up a conversation! Find a common interest or cool topic that you can talk about with someone around you. Ask if you can follow them on social media, or get their number to keep in touch. The key to building friendships is staying in touch, even if it is in a super casual way. Interact with their social media, or message them if you see something that reminds you of them. For example, if you talked with them about being stressed about an exam, send them that funny TikTok or meme you see about the stress of being a student. Keep in mind that friendships

take effort from both sides: Find people that want to reciprocate building a friendship. Your relationships with the right people will organically grow.

This has been "UConn Ask Me About It" by Homie B. Submit your questions for future columns to this anonymous form. You will be required to use your UConn email to access the form, but no email will be collected from the response. Responses will be published online and in-print on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the semester. See you next time!

# Opinion StudyBreak

## Photo of the Day | Poolside

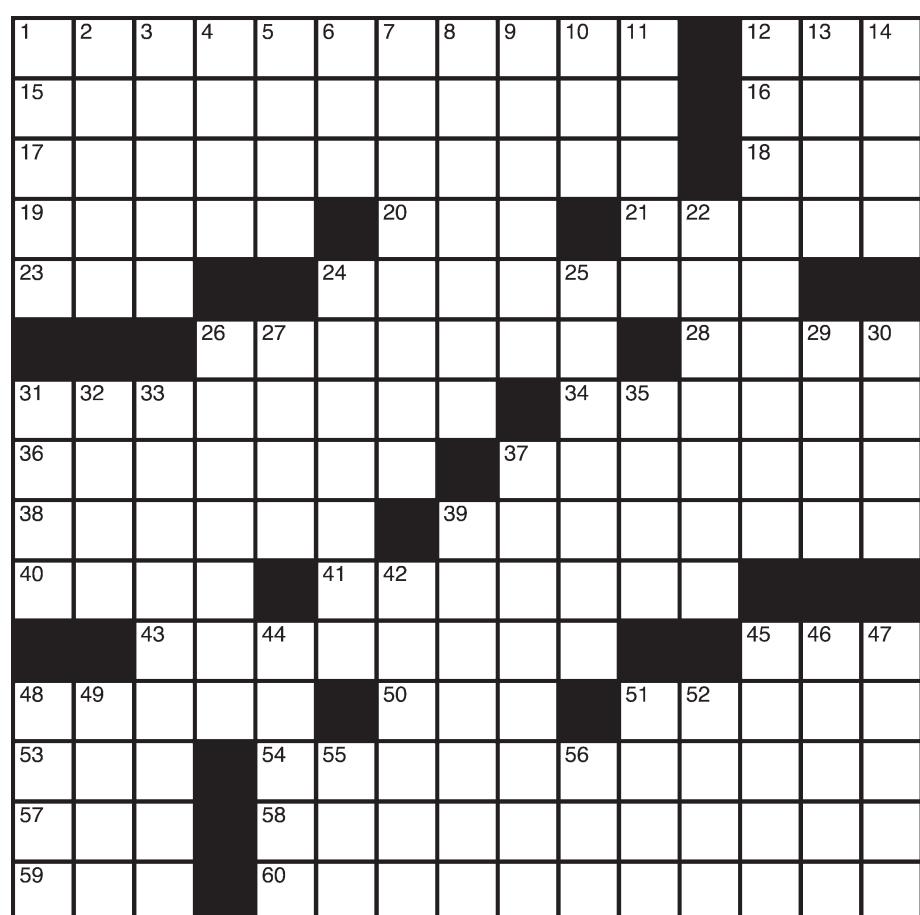


**A flock of mallard ducks feed and bathe at Mirror Lake in the 18-degree weather on Sunday morning. The ducks rest on the ice on the surface of the lake in between dips in the water.** PHOTO BY ERIN KNAPP, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Crossword

### ACROSS

1 Some chocolate purchases  
12 Inflation fig.  
15 Purveyor of fraudulent credentials  
16 Bit of positivity?  
17 Hair, in many cases  
18 Latin word in many academic mottos  
19 Climber's rest stop  
20 Poetic indicator of relative time  
21 Juice extractor  
23 Pasture palindrome  
24 Wouldn't share  
26 Imperious dismissal  
28 Surfboard damage  
31 Shocked big-time  
34 Official who sings in Hebrew  
36 Leverage provider  
37 Where to find "Octopus's Garden" on "Abbey Road"  
38 Utah Jazz center Whiteside  
39 Ran into trouble  
40 Shakespearean last gasp  
41 Neologists  
43 Zoom frustrations  
45 \_\_\_ rule  
48 Love of collectibles  
50 \_\_\_ Kapital  
51 Succumbed to stage fright  
53 Brown or Rice ending  
54 '90s-'00s HBO series with lots of therapy sessions  
57 Comprehend  
58 Impresario's contact  
59 Hibachi waste  
60 Election focuses



By Beth Rubin and Brad Wilber

12/11/21

### DOWN

1 Disorient  
2 Power cord?  
3 Club relative  
4 First name in film designers

### Friday's Puzzle Solved



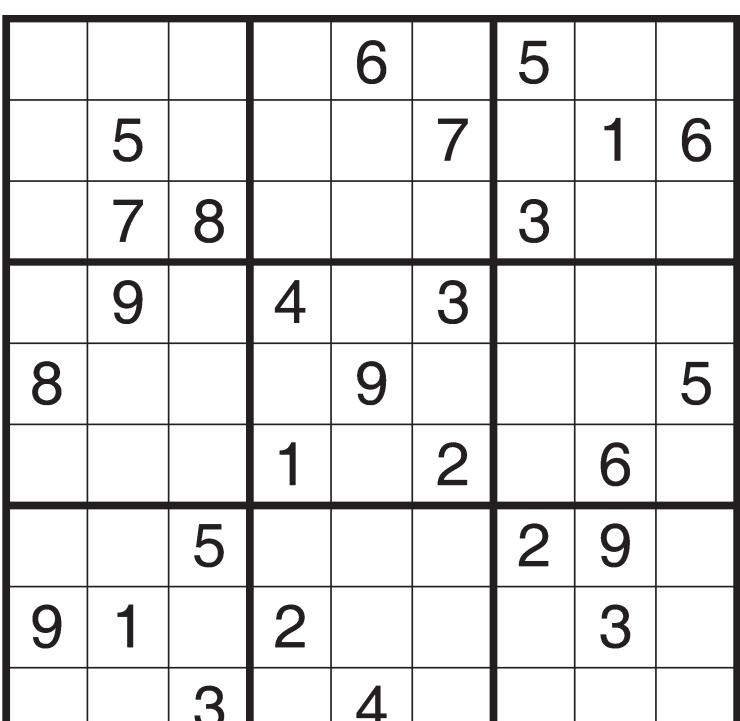
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12/11/21

35 Purim month  
37 Voice used for "Humpty Dumpty," say  
39 Crime novelist Carl  
42 Yale sobriquet  
44 Crosses at obedience school?  
45 "Rouen Cathedral" painter  
46 Thinning layer  
47 Tops  
48 Chevy named for a star  
49 When  
40-Across was spoken  
51 Alpha Phi Alpha, e.g.  
52 Sitar sequence  
55 Hem partner  
56 NBA stat



## Sudoku



# Swimming and Diving: Senior Night success

by Ajeeth Vellore  
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This weekend, UConn honored its swimming and diving team for Senior Night, giving all of their graduating members their final hurrahs in the spotlight. In honoring their 10 seniors, they easily defeated Providence College in a landslide during their exhibition at the Wolff-Zackin Natatorium in Storrs, Connecticut.

Though points were not tallied, UConn proved to be the far superior team, having one of their swimmers place first in every single category. It was domination through and through, as the Huskies posted four sweeps in total, taking over the podium in the 50 yard freestyle, 100 yard butterfly, 100 yard backstroke and 100 yard freestyle races. However, one of the biggest stories of the afternoon was senior Katelyn Walsh, who broke the pool record for the 100 yard breaststroke by four tenths of a second, setting the bar at 1:02.18. In doing so, she not only bested the runner-up in that race by an astronomical 10 seconds, but she also solidified her place in UConn swimming history in her final home race of the season. Thus, she was the star of the weekend, showing her prowess in her best event one final time in Storrs.

Walsh wasn't the only senior who showed out this weekend. Four other seniors won races against Providence: Linnea Anderson, in the 50 yard freestyle and 100 yard butterfly; Molly Franklin, in the 400 yard individual medley; Anna Mecca, in the 200 yard breaststroke and Grace Ali, in the 200 yard butterfly. Overall, the veterans showed their dominance and poise in swimming what will ultimately be their last laps in the pool at home.

Another name stood out this weekend: Freshman Claire Ryland won the 100 yard freestyle, leading sophomore



**UConn women's swimming and diving team competes against Providence College on Feb. 3, 2022 at the natatorium.** PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, GRABS PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Kayla Mendonca and junior Mia Galat in going gold-silver-bronze in the race, in that order. Just one more freshman talent popping up for this young team, giving me more reason to believe that the Huskies have a bright future

ahead of them thanks to the underclasswomen, even though they will lose some talent after championship season.

That win was pretty much a tune-up with an eye toward the Big East

Championships coming up on Feb. 23 in East Meadow, New York. Everything came easy the whole weekend, and with the sold-out home crowd cheering the Huskies on, there really was no stopping them. After comple-

ting their last competition of the season, they look to build on their success from this season by swimming their hearts out in the championships in two weeks.

# Track and Field: UConn defends men's title, women's team nabs 3rd at Columbia Challenge

by Demi Alexander-Nicholas  
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Highlighted by a sweep in the men's heptathlon, UConn men's and women's track and field teams put on an impressive showing at the Dr. Sander Columbia Challenge over the weekend. The multi-event trio of Jordan Torney, Benjamin Grosse and Nicholas Pronovost highlighted the weekend's performances after a dominant display over the two days. The trio held the top three positions at the conclusion of the first of a the two-day discipline before returning on Saturday to complete the sweep. Trailing in third place at the beginning of Day Two, team captain Torney produced a meet record-equalling performance in the 60 meters for second, won the long jump and finished third behind Grosse and Pronovost in the shot put. The trio set new personal records for total points, tallying 5423, 5297 and 5258 points respectively.

"We saw a lot of good solid performances, highlighted by the 1-2-3 finish in the men's heptathlon," said head coach Greg Roy.

Senior and team captain Eric Van Der Els continued to show fine form, with another win in the men's 3000 meters, obliterating his old 8:22.78 personal record to stop the clock at 8:04.36. Junior Wellington Ventura mirrored Van Der Els' win despite being reassigned to the men's invitational 400 meters, with a convincing 47.94-second victory. Classmate Markus Bagley finished 13th overall, clocking 49.11 seconds.

Following two consecutive personal record performances in his last two races, junior Joseph O'Brien continued with yet another PR in the men's 60 meters as he finished third and clocked 6.80 seconds, just shy of the 6.73 seconds school record. "It felt good to get another PR in the 60 [meters], I feel like I'm progressing well in it, especially being so new to the event," O'Brien explained. "I'm not

thinking about the school record, I don't even know what it is. I just run and if I happen to get it, then perfect," he shared. Classmate Josiah Thompson finished eighth with a 8.96 seconds performance.

The men's sprint hurdles saw freshman Terrel Williams equaling his 7.81 personal best set two weeks ago at the Battle in Beantown, but finishing third on this occasion.

The Huskies produced another impressive display in the men's distance medley relay, with the quartet consisting of Marzio Mastroianni, Mahamed Sharif, Stephen Sutton and Kevin Cawley finishing fourth overall with a season's best clocking of 9:55.06.

In the field, sophomore Richmond Kwaateng finished second in the long jump with a best leap of 7.36 meters for a new personal best. Another PR performance came in the men's triple jump, with freshman Kasey Savage producing a best jump of 14.19 meters, though he finished ninth.

UConn came out on top of a 21-team field, scoring 75 points over 17 events, ahead of the host Columbia Lions, who finished with 71 points. Penn State trailed for third with 69 points, while Cornell and South Carolina rounded out the top five with 64 and 62 points respectively.

The women's team made a tremendous improvement on their placement at the last staging of the meet, where they were 15th in an 18-team field; this time they totaled 51 points behind winners Penn State and runners up South Carolina, who finished on 116 and 80 points respectively.

"I really feel like we're starting to come together — I felt we had a lot of cohesion and synergy as a team," said Roy.

The women's 3000 meters was the lone PR-producing track event for the Huskies, as junior Randi Burr and freshman Rachel Woodruff took big chunks off their previous best times. Burr finished seventh in 9:29.57, smashing her old career-best 9:47.34. In similar

fashion, Woodruff crossed the line in 9:56.36 seconds, bettering her old career-best time by nearly seven seconds. Captain Mia Nahom anchored the women's distance medley relay team to third in 11:15.62. The quartet was completed by freshman Chloe Thomas, who ran the lead off leg, Raquel Rosa and Elise O'Leary.

Women's competition in the field

was highlighted by junior Patricia Mroczkowski's PR performance in the high jump. Earning her third

win in four competitions this season, the Berlin, Connecticut, native topped the field with a best

clearance of 1.80 meters. Making her debut as a Husky, junior Emily Lavarnway finished second in the pentathlon, totaling 3971 points, winning the shot put and long jump in the process.

Team captain Taylor Woods went back to showing true form, taking second place in the long jump with a 6.19 meters effort. Leading the field throughout the competition, Woods fouled twice on her third and fifth attempts, and was edged out on countback.

"Throughout the competition, I was first, paying no mind to my place. All I was focusing on was

bettering my mark on each attempt," said Woods. "During my final jump of prelims, that's really when everything clicked. My run was smooth, my take off from the board was powerful, but I fouled. I'm taking this week to put the last few pieces of the puzzle together and come back next weekend and get after it," she added. Fellow captain Emma Chee was also second in her pet event, the pole vault, with a best clearance of 4.05 meters.

UConn splits the squad next weekend for competition at the Rutgers Open, as well as the BU David Hemery Valentine Invitational.



## Photo of the Day | Smiling for the W



The UConn women's basketball team defeats Tennessee 75-56 in a major victory at the XL Center Sunday afternoon. The Huskies took an early lead and held onto it, taking their season record to 15-4. PHOTO BY JULIE SPILLANE, GRABS PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Wabick records 100th career point, Huskies split weekend

by Jacob Sondik  
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Looking to keep the momentum rolling from last weekend, the UConn women's hockey team kicked off a weekend road trip against Boston University on Friday night in a Hockey East matchup.

The Terriers put pressure on the Huskies and goalkeeper Samantha Carpenter-Yelle with a plethora of shots in the opening minutes, with Courtney Correia, Julia Shaunessey and Alex Allan all putting shots on net in the first five minutes of the opening period. Boston's goalkeeper Callie Shanahan came to

play for the hosting Terriers, turning away opportunities from Ainsley Svetek and Taylor Wabick to keep UConn off the board.

UConn failed to convert an early power play opportunity created by a Grace Parker interference call, with Shanahan protecting the net to send the game into the second period still 0-0.

The Huskies successfully neutralized a BU power play in the second after Amy Landry was called for cross checking. With UConn at even strength, they were able to get on the board first, courtesy of a Viki Harkness goal, her 11th goal of the season, converting an opportunity created by Danielle Fox and Morgan Wabick. This

lead was short-lived, as the Terriers beat Carpenter-Yelle with a short-handed goal from MacKenna Parker, her ninth goal of the season coming late in the second period. Shanahan locked down UConn the rest of the period, turning away several Taylor Wabick shots to send the game to the third tied at one.

The third period was more of the same, as both defenses and goalkeepers were locked in a duel, with both UConn and BU blocking several shots apiece in the opening minutes. The Huskies were forced on the defensive midway through via a Chloe Gonsalves holding penalty, but Carpenter-Yelle saved two shots on-goal from Haylee

Blinkhorn and Lacey Martin to keep the game tied. Throughout the period, both UConn and BU failed to convert the game-winning goal, sending the game to overtime.

UConn had chances to win early in overtime, but Shanahan turned away Natalie Snodgrass, Fox and Danika Pasqua to keep the Terriers in the game. Boston did not have many opportunities in the extra frame themselves, pushing the game to a shootout still tied at one apiece.

In the shootout, it was Boston coming out on top, courtesy of Parker shot that got by Carpenter-Yelle to propel the Terriers to a home victory, snapping the Huskies' winning streak at four.

Next, the Huskies traveled to Durham hoping to bounce back against New Hampshire. UConn had two power play opportunities in the first period, but Wildcat goalkeeper Nicky Harnett came prepared, shutting down the Husky attack and turning away shots from Pasqua, Fox and Summer-Rae Dobson. For UConn, Megan Warrener anchored down the defensive end to keep New Hampshire off the scoreboard, sending the game into the second tied at zero.

The script was flipped seconds into the second period, as Natalie Snodgrass scored her 11th goal of the season coming off an assist from Morgan Wabick. This assist was Wabick's 100th point of her Husky career, and gave UConn a 1-0 lead that they would continue to add onto.

Within the span of two minutes, Fox scored two goals in a row, her seventh and eighth of the season, padding the Connecticut lead to 3-0 after feeds from Jada Habisch and Ainsley Svetek/Alex Anne-Boye, respectively. The UConn onslaught of goals forced the Wildcats to change goalies, putting in Ava Thewes with the hope that New Hampshire could get back into the game.

However, Fox had other plans, scoring her third goal of the game one minute into the third period assisted by a Harkness pass. Warrener and the UConn defense shut down the New Hampshire attack, with the freshman saving 16 Wildcat shots for another shutout. Snodgrass tacked on her 12th goal on the season, beating Thewes and putting the icing on the cake for a 5-0 UConn win, a strong bounce-back performance after falling in a shootout just 24 hours before in Boston.

With the win, UConn swept the season series from New Hampshire, outscoring the Wildcats 10-1 throughout the three meetings. This was the most goals scored for the Huskies since Jan. 7 against Vermont, where they also came out on top, 5-1.

Up next for the Huskies is a home-and-home series with the Providence Friars, as they welcome their Hockey East opponent to Freitas on Friday at 6 p.m. and hit the road on Saturday to Providence for an afternoon affair at 3 p.m. This nationally ranked UConn squad will look to build on their impressive record of 21-6-3 and 15-5-3 in conference play, closing the season strong and building momentum going into the final weekend of regular season contests.



The Huskies sweep Holy Cross 4-0, capturing a win on Dec. 3 at the Freitas Ice Forum in Storrs. The victory improved the record of the UConn women's ice hockey team to 13-4-2 on the season. PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Huskies falter against powerhouse Villanova

by Jonathan Synott  
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Well, there it is. The first blowout loss of the season. After enjoying one of the most successful starts to the year since their last NCAA Championship season in 2014, the UConn men's basketball team has come crashing back to Earth, falling to No. 12 Villanova 85-74. The loss marks the second straight for the team, and the first of the season decided by more than four points.

"This is a valley for us. We haven't played well. We have to have guys step up. We have to coach better. We have to play better," head coach Dan Hurley said postgame.

While the Huskies got the game within seven midway through the second half, this game was really put away early on in the first, when both Adama Sanogo and Isaiah Whaley picked up two fouls apiece just five minutes into the contest. Hurley, who is a big advocate of benching guys with two fouls before the half, was a bit more lenient with his rule today, but the duo only saw a combined 20 minutes before the half.

The foul trouble of the two big men, coupled with a late scratch in bench forward Akok Akok, paved the way for the Wildcats' Eric Dixon to have a breakout day. The redshirt sophomore might not have been the tallest guy on the floor, but he punished the UConn defenders down low. The early foul trouble might've gotten the 6'8" wing cooking, but even when Sanogo and Whaley were aggressive, he was able to find the basket. Dixon finished the day with a career-high 24 points on 10-for-15 shooting, four assists and 12 rebounds.

While Dixon had a career day, Wildcat Collin Gillespie put up similar numbers offensively in what was just another game for the Big East Preseason Player of the Year. The guard finished third amongst all

scorers with 19 points, keeping the Huskies on their toes with his crafty moves and perimeter shots. Gillespie went down with an ankle injury late in the second, but by that point the contest was all but over.

"I just thought we were soft on the backboard, we didn't look like the elite defensive team that we expect to be. Obviously it's hard to win on the road and you're not going to win on the road if you don't pack your defense."

The defensive struggles all game, coupled with a slow start offensively, really hindered the Huskies in this matchup. After the under-16 media timeout, Villanova enjoyed an 11-4 run in which UConn didn't record a field goal. By the end of the first half,

Connecticut was shooting 36.4% from the field and 40% from beyond the arc, a step up from some of their recent performances, but with seven turnovers and 45 points allowed at that point, they trailed by 11 at the break.

Out of the break, the team shot significantly better (60% for the half), largely thanks to the emergence of Sanogo. The big man didn't even attempt a shot in the first half, but finished the contest with 14 points on 7-for-9 shooting. While it's worth noting that Sanogo can score against tough teams like the Wildcats, he needs to step up more in the first half.

In the last three games, the guy on a top-10 list for the title of best center in the nation has had only four

points total in the opening period. For a team that is in the midst of a crucial stretch, that simply cannot be the early production from one of the top scoring options. People are wondering why UConn can't get things going early as of late. Look no further than the focal point of their offensive production. Once Sanogo gets clicking, as we've seen time and again, the whole offense follows suit.

Senior guard RJ Cole had another consistent day, finishing with a game-high 25 points, four assists and two rebounds. His most notable basket may have been to close out the opening session, as he nailed a half-court buzzer beater with ease. Like the rest of the team, Cole turned the ball over quite a bit with five TOs to his name.



The UConn men's basketball team loses to Creighton 59-55 Tuesday at the XL Center. The Huskies seemed to recover from a difficult start entering halftime down 10 points but ultimately could not pull off the win. PHOTO BY JULIE SPILLANE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Men's Hockey Recap: Huskies split series with Providence, win UNH series

by Taylor Coonan  
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The UConn men's hockey team had two key Big East games this weekend and rose to the challenge on both Friday and Saturday night to earn a total of six points heading into this week.

On Friday night, the Huskies welcomed the Providence Friars to the XL Center, although it was more with open fists than open arms. The game was increasingly physical as the game went on, which served in UConn's favor, shown by the final buzzer sounding off at a 2-1 box score.

"We want to be physical every night, but tonight we were extra physical," head coach Mike Cavanaugh said.

Cavanaugh was proud of what he called another "gutsy" win and the way the team worked together to

finish it off.

"I was certainly very pleased with tonight's win. I said to the kids, we're in the same position we were in last week — going into a third period with a tie game — and tonight we found a way to make a play to win the game," Cavanaugh said.

The first period started out slow and seemingly unsuccessful for either team, as the score remained 0-0. Despite being able to generate two power plays, the Huskies failed to capitalize on both of them for an early lead.

"It was a very disjointed special teams night ... There weren't many two-minute power plays, that's for sure," Cavanaugh said.

However, it was a power play that finished out the first period and carried over to the second that got Providence on the board and in the lead at only 47 seconds in. Providence defenseman Max Crozier found the

puck from a couple of other Friars passing and hit a one-timer.

"The one goal they scored was a one-timer, they kind of caught us on a change, but other than that we did a good job of taking away second-chance opportunities and protecting the house in front of Darion," Cavanaugh said.

Not to be outplayed at home, the Huskies came back about a minute later to tie it up and change momentum. Cavanaugh emphasized that, "It was a big goal for us, too, because it was a bounce-back goal only about a minute after they had scored."

Credits went to defenseman John Spetz on the quick net action, supported by forward Vladislav Fristov.

"I thought John Spetz might've had his best game of the year tonight," Cavanaugh said. "Not only scoring the goal, but he was really strong at both ends and he got pucks down to the net. In our defensive zone, I thought

he did an excellent job."

Spetz was proud of not only how he played, but the team's efforts as a whole to set up the scoring opportunity for him.

"It happened quick," Spetz admitted. "The puck came up, went through Vladi's legs and kind of just went on my stick and I was like thinking in my head, like, get to the middle, create a little time. I just kind of sifted it on net and I don't know who was screening but it was a great screen and it just floated in; it was nice."

About 10 seconds past 14 minutes, it looked like the Huskies called game. Rookie forward Chase Bradley approached the Friars' net, aiming to score. Providence goaltender Jaxson Stauber stopped Bradley's stop, but forward Jachym Kondelik found it and sent it past Stauber. However, the goal was overturned after Providence challenged it under the basis that Bradley interfered with Stauber.

Not unlike previous games, as Cavanaugh noted, the third period had both teams playing for a tiebreaker. With less than five minutes in regulation, Spetz sent the puck up to forward Artem Shchaine, who then met fellow forward Ryan Tverberg to win the game. It was Tverberg who had a stick in setting up Spetz's goal, and Spetz made sure the favor circled the ice.

Ahead of this game, Providence was nationally ranked at 17, and No. 4 in Hockey East. UConn is unranked nationally but No. 6 in Hockey East, therefore upsetting the Friars.

UConn's other opponent of the weekend, the University of New Hampshire, is ranked below UConn at No. 9, so the win wasn't an upset over the Wildcats. However, it was probably still upsetting to lose 6-1 with the Huskies on the positive side of the score.

"It was not a 6-1 game ... I didn't think we were very sharp in the first. I thought we played a pretty good second period, but in the third period I thought we played back on our heels and New Hampshire was taking it to us," Cavanaugh admitted

One of the biggest positives from the game for UConn had to be the bounce-back performance of Tyrese Martin. The third-leading scorer for the Huskies, Martin finished with above 50% shooting and double-digit points for the first time in the last three games. UConn is surely hoping his short cold streak has come to an end, as they'll need his crafty scoring down the stretch.

Forward Andre Jackson has been going through a bit of a rough patch as of late, and those struggles didn't stop on Saturday. The starter finished the day with one point on 0-for-6 shooting, two turnovers and a game-worst -17 plus/minus. Since the first DePaul game, Jackson is shooting just 22% from the field. While he isn't the main scoring option on this team, those numbers have to improve soon.

Despite this being the worst loss of the year, in terms of the program, the Huskies will be alright. There's a reason Villanova has held a share of the Big East regular season crown seven of the last eight years — it's an outstanding program. As Hurley has said all year, conference road wins are the toughest to come by, especially against such a highly ranked opponent.

The KenPom ratings still have the Huskies as a top 20 team in the country, and Big East games like DePaul's shorthanded road win over Xavier Saturday remind fans that the Big East is one of the most competitive conferences in the country. There's still a lot of time left in the season, and UConn, a near-lock for the NCAA Tournament, has multiple opportunities to get quality wins under its belt.

"We have a very good team, we just lost a game on the road where they kicked our [butt]," said Hurley. "We've got to be ready to go on Tuesday and go get a win on Tuesday."

The Huskies are slated to take on No. 24 Marquette on Tuesday at the XL Center. Tip off is set for 6:30 p.m. and the game will be broadcast live on FS1.



UConn defeats Providence College 2-1 in the XL Center during a winter storm on Friday night, Feb. 4, 2022. The match was very heated with both teams playing with a high level of physicality. PHOTO BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, PHOTO/VIDEO

after the huge win. "Our goaltender was outstanding, he made some great saves in the first period and some really good ones in the third period, and we were just opportunistic tonight."

The Huskies jumped to dominate early in the game, with Hudson Schandor kicking off the scoring run at just under five minutes into the game. Right before the end of the period, with a minute left, UNH forward Tyler Ward briefly tied the game for the Wildcats.

Ward's goal would be the only one New Hampshire scored all night.

The second period saw three goals from three different Huskies: Jachym Kondelik, Carter Turnbull and Vladislav Fristov; in that order.

Going into the third period 4-1, the Huskies stayed hot and kept up strong defensive efforts, led by UConn goaltender Darion Hanson. He faced more shots on Saturday than Cavanaugh would have liked, but persevered through them for the win.

"We gave up 21 shots last night and we gave up 15 in the first period, which is pretty uncharacteristic of us," Cavanaugh expressed after Saturday's win.

The Huskies upped their shots to finish the final 20 minutes by enough for UNH to pull their goaltender, Mike Robinson, with just under four minutes to go and opt for an extra skater. This served as an opportunity for Artem Shchaine to score on the empty net for what was shaping to be at least a 5-1 victory.

In the final three minutes, Ryan Tverberg increased this lead by another goal with his empty-netter.

The Huskies knew the importance of both the Providence and UNH games, and played like a play-off-caliber team. With eight games left in the regular season, however, Cavanaugh isn't letting the team get ahead of themselves.

"We're not focused on playoffs right now; we're still focused on finishing really strong in the regular season," the coach said.

This continues with a game at Merrimack College on Tuesday, Feb. 8 that starts at 7 p.m.



# Sports

## Women's Basketball: No. 10 Huskies grab statement win over No. 7 Tennessee behind Fudd's 25

by Stratton Stave  
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UConn announced just 46 minutes before tip that star freshman guard Caroline Ducharme would be out for precautionary reasons after she took a few tough hits the past two games. With the game in doubt even before it started, the Huskies needed someone to step up. That person was Azzi Fudd, who got a new career high on the way toward UConn's 75-56 statement home win, all while wearing a throwback jersey.

"I think they've tried to stay pretty positive," UConn head coach Geno Auriemma said. "It's been challenging and they've had to roll with it in a lot of different ways. There was a time where we asked: 'Are we going to see the other side of this?' If we can accomplish what we did today plus adding Paige and Caroline, we can do a lot."

The contest opened up with a Fudd three, who was starting her first career game with Ducharme injured. Tennessee responded with Tamari Key's layup and Sara Puckett's triple. UConn's Dorka Juhasz and Tennessee's Jordan Horston traded buckets. The Huskies hit dual Evina Westbrook and Fudd deep-range shots, stretching the lead to five going into break.

Westbrook started the second quarter scoring quickly with a backdoor cut to the layup, increasing the advantage to seven. Christyn Williams missed a three, which preceded a crazy possession with five Husky offensive boards that eventually led to a Fudd three that took the lead back to seven.

The teams teetered between seven and nine going into the end of the half. On Tennessee's last possession, there was a sizable collision between Lady Vols' Rae Burrell and UConn's Olivia Nelson-Ododa and Juhasz. The resultant call was an offensive foul, but things could've gone either way. The half finished out with a Fudd three, preserving the Huskies a 32-25 advantage. Horstan had a phenomenal half for the Vols, scoring 13 on 4-9 shooting, while Westbrook had 11 for herself.

The second half started out well for the Huskies, with a bizarre Tennessee turnover off the opening inbounds play. Williams hit a free throw and then bounced in a three on the soft rim. Another Volunteer turnover gave way to a Nika Muhl triple, increasing the lead to 14 and forcing the Tennessee timeout. Williams hit a nice midrange shot and Muhl drained a three. Muhl then picked off a pass and laid in the fastbreak bucket, sending the XL Center into a frenzy and forcing another Volunteer timeout with the Huskies up 46-25.

Horston finally broke up the 14-0 run with a pair of free throws, but Fudd answered with a 15-foot jumper. Nelson-Ododa had a pair of blocks on the defensive end, leading to a break where Aaliyah Edwards drew a foul, splashing one of two from the line. She made up for the miss though, drawing a charge just ten seconds later. Fudd then drained another long-range shot, increasing the advantage to 25 points.

Puckett gave Tennessee their first



PHOTO BY JULIE SPILLANE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

field goal of the quarter, seven minutes in with a three, and Horston followed with a deuce of her own. A missed heave by Jordan Walker at the buzzer gave the Huskies a 55-36 lead going into the final period of play.

Tennessee started the quarter off with a Tamari Key block and score. The ensuing play saw Key pick up her fourth foul, forcing Tennessee Coach Kellie Harper to remove her. Nelson-Ododa made one of two and on the other end Horston completed a strong and-one finish. With the lead down to 13, Edwards hit her first three of the season to keep things at a distance and Fudd add-

ed her fifth, sixth and seventh long range shots of the game, grabbing a new career high of 25 to close out the win.

"Aaliyah worked real, real hard at the little parts of the game," Auriemma noted. "It doesn't really matter the number of points you score, but she was active and had a positive impact."

"Today was the first game where she took it upon herself to be present in the entire game," Auriemma added. "We looked for her more, we ran stuff for her more and she took good shots. If you watched the game you'd think she was an upperclassman out there. Azzi looked

happy playing basketball today. She looked like a machine. If we make the NCAA tournament, we're going to be a tough out," Auriemma joked.

"It's hard to not be happy when your team gets you a lot of open shots, and I was smiling the entire time," Fudd noted. "This game definitely helped with being out so much and seeing so many of my shots fall. Hopefully I'll be able to carry it over to these next few games," She said.

"Azzi's like a walking bucket," Westbrook noted. "When the ball leaves her hand, we know it's going in."

Horston gave it her all for the Vols in the loss, scoring 26 points to go along with eight rebounds and three dimes.

"Tough night for us," coach Harper noted. "Obviously we wanted to come out and perform better than we did. Our defense hung tough, but it just wasn't tough enough. We started the second half 0-6 and they were 5-5, which turned it pretty quick. During that stretch, we didn't have great ball movement which hurt."

The Huskies will stay in Hartford for a matinee against the Villanova Wildcats this Wednesday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. EST.

### UCONN SCOREBOARD

#### Women's Ice Hockey

Saturday



### UPCOMING GAMES



Men's Basketball, Tuesday, 8 p.m.  
Hartford, CT



Women's Basketball, Friday, 7 p.m.  
Hartford, CT

### INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconnwbb  
ENERGY

### Squawka Football

@Squawka

Édouard Mendy is the first goalkeeper to keep a clean sheet a Champions League final and in an Africa Cup of Nations final. #TeamSenegal

### PFF

@PFF

The Texans let Eagles DC Jonathan Gannon know that he is not getting the job per @JosinaAnderson.

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### TWEETS OF THE DAY