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Tuesday, February 8, 2022

CONFIRMED 2022 COVID-19 CASES AT UCONN STORRS

as of 6:21 p.m. on Feb. 7 *positive test results

28 Current Residential Cases
(positive/symptomatic)

72 Cumulative Residential Cases*

221 Cumulative Commuter Cases*

Sexual assault allies protest on Fairfield Way



Students protest outside the Rowe Building in Storrs on Feb. 7, 2022 to speak out against sexual violence on campus. The organizers called out the university administration for what they say is a lack of action against alleged perpetrators of sexual violence.

PHOTO BY BRANDON BARZOLA, MANAGING EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Corina Wallenta

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Students, legislators and campus organizations gathered outside of the Rowe building on Monday to show their support for Alexandra Docken and other victims of sexual assault.

Student-run organizations UConn UNCHAIN and Revolution Against Rape facilitated Monday's protest with support from other campus organizations like PowerUp and UConn Collaborative Organize.

Nell Srinath, fourth-semester political science and journalism major and UNCHAIN president, spoke over the phone on behalf of the organization and facilitated Monday's protest. They said the goal of the protest was to show support for victims of sexual violence and provide an outlet for those who were brave enough to recount their stories.

"The goal of today's protest was to send a message to UConn's administration," Srinath said. "For years on end, our concern about assault and sexual violence on campus have routinely been met with performative emails."

Srinath said UNCHAIN is disappointed with Sunday night's email sent by UConn Interim President Radenka Maric which intended to address the conversations on campus but left students upset.

"We think it was performative. We understand the interim president may have been speaking from the bottom of her heart and that's all well and good," Srinath said. "After a number of protests have already occurred, it shows that they are completely out of touch."

UNCHAIN wanted to remind people that this is a systemic problem affecting cis white women and underrepresented populations such as women of color and trans people.

"People talk about rape and sexual assault and violence in general as the face of a cisgender white woman and

we just want to clarify that although cis white women are definitely affected by sexual violence, so are women of color, so are queer people, so are trans people and so are people with disabilities," Srinath said.

At the protest, Mae Flexer, a member of the Connecticut State Senate representing the 29th district, attended with colleague Gregory Haddad who serves the Connecticut House of Representatives 54th district. Flexer and Haddad said they have been championing legislation for victims of sexual violence for a decade.

Some of the legislation passed by representative Haddad requires all Connecticut universities to establish affirmative consent. According to the Connecticut House Democrats website, affirmative consent requires "active, clear and voluntary agreement by a person to engage in sexual activity with another person."

"We have been working on this issue for a decade and we have some of the strongest sexual assault statutes governing conduct by universities," Haddad said during an interview at the protest. "Clearly, we're still falling short of the promise that's held out in our state statutes because of the conduct of individuals who fail to take each and every allegation seriously."

Haddad said he and Flexer both have daughters at home. He wants his daughter and others to grow up in a world free of sexual violence.

"When we hear about people who not only experience sexual violence but [that their university] has not taken those allegations seriously, to me it's a tragedy, and it breaks my heart, and that's what brings Mae and I here every year," Haddad said.

Flexer said she is tired of UConn students being victims of violence on campus and is upset with the university for not looking into all of the reports filed by students.

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UConn's failure to support survivors is unacceptable



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Preview: No. 24 Huskies to take on No. 18 Marquette

Tweet of the Day

Daniel Connolly

[@DanielVConnolly](https://twitter.com/DanielVConnolly)

UConn women's basketball is up No. 8 in the latest AP Poll

News

President Maric addresses sexual violence at UConn

by Aiza Shaikh

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On Sunday, Feb. 6, University of Connecticut Interim President Radenka Maric addressed sexual assault and intimate partner violence on campus in a letter to the UConn community.

The university's statement was in response to discussions happening within the campus community after UConn student Alexandra Docken stood in protest outside the Rowe Center for Undergraduate Education on Thursday. Docken held two cardboard signs up, one of which read, "I was raped and UConn silenced me."

Maric began her letter by clarifying that while UConn cannot discuss individual students or specific cases, there is "a great deal we can say more broadly."

"First and foremost: I want you to know that the health, safety, and well-being of all our students is our highest priority," said Maric. "UConn abhors sexual violence in all its forms and does all it can to provide victims with compassionate care, resources, and much-needed support in the face of their trauma."

Maric then spoke of the university's commitment to preventing and addressing sexual assault through effective strategies, adding that policies and procedures alone are not a solution.

"We want to eradicate sexual violence," Maric

said. "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."

Maric then asked the community: "What more must we do to support victims and increase education and awareness throughout our community?"

To answer that question, Maric said she and Dean of Students Eleanor Daugherty will be asking students, staff and faculty to assess the university's current educational programs and processes regarding sexual assault and intimate partner violence.

Maric closed the letter with a reminder that she and many of UConn's administrators are also parents who want safety and security for both their own families and the students.

"The safety and security we want for our students is the same safety and security we would want for our own families," Maric added. "Every student should know that you are not alone. I care about you and am here to listen or help in any way I can, as are many others at UConn."

At the end of her statement, Maric referenced the Office of Institutional Equity website for more information and resources regarding sexual assault, harassment, stalking and intimate partner violence.



Alexandra Docken, whose solo protest last week sparked campus-wide controversy, addresses a crowd of student protesters outside the Rowe Building on Fairfield Way in Storrs on Feb. 7, 2022. Several speakers at the protest criticized official statements made by the University of Connecticut and Interim President Radenka Maric, saying their responses failed to address the scope of the protesters' demands.

PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

National News Recap: Beijing Olympics begin, Washington NFL team changes name



Washington Commanders president Jason Wright speaks during an event to unveil the NFL football team's new identity, Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022, in Landover, Md. The new name comes 18 months after the once-storied franchise dropped its old moniker following decades of criticism that it was offensive to Native Americans.

PHOTO BY PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP



United States's Julia Marino celebrates after winning a silver medal in the women's slopestyle finals at the 2022 Winter Olympics, Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022, in Zhangjiakou, China. The silver was the first U.S. medal of the games.

PHOTO BY GREGORY BULL/AP

by Samuel Katz

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On Friday, Feb. 4, the 2022 Winter Olympics began in Beijing, China. Opened by Chinese president Xi Jinping, 91 nations and over 2,800 athletes will compete in a variety of winter sports. 2022 will be the second time Beijing has hosted the Olympic Games, previously hosting the Summer Olympics in 2008.

As of Feb. 6, the Russian Olympic Committee is leading the games with five medals, including one gold according to CBS Sports. In second and third are Norway and Austria, respectively. The United States has won two silver medals and is ranked in 11th place.

"The United States is successful at both Games. In the Winter Olympics, the country is second with 307 total and 105 golds. The United States' best haul at the Winter Games was at the 2002 Salt Lake City games," CBS Sports said.

This year, the first U.S. medal was won by Julia Marino in slopestyle snowboarding, a USA Today article reports. Marino, a native of Westport, Connecticut, initially came in 28th place during qualifying runs for the event but managed to earn a silver medal, her first ever. Marino will also be participating in the women's big air event on Feb. 14.

"It's a run I've been wanting to put down for a long time," Marino told

NBC afterwards. "This season, I didn't necessarily get to put that one down. To do it here just means a whole lot different than anything else and I'm just so over the moon to have landed that top to bottom" said Marino in a separate interview with USA Today.

Viewership of the games has noticeably plummeted according to a Reuters article, noting how the estimated 17 million views was far less than the viewership of the 2018 games. This was claimed to be the result of diplomatic tension over the games, as well as a lack of Americans watching the games on television. The United States, Canada and other countries issued diplomatic boycotts against the games due to concerns of human rights abuse in China's Xinjiang region.

"For Beijing, NBC said it is doing more to simplify the viewing experience, addressing criticism that last summer's content was difficult to find across the company's many platforms, including its Peacock streaming service" Reuters said.

In America, the Washington Football Team revealed their new name, the Washington Commanders, on Feb. 2, according to National Public Radio. Previously known as the Washington Redskins, the NFL team changed its name following the protests against systemic racism, which prompted the changing of several controversial or insensitive names across the country.

"The team scrapped its previous

name — the Washington Redskins — in July 2020 after years of pressure to do away with it because of its racist connotations against Native Americans, a name it had for 87 years," NPR said.

The Commander's owner, founder of Snyder Communications Dan Snyder, had resisted changing the name since 2013, despite lobbying efforts by indigenous groups. Only threats from the team's sponsor, FedEx, to sever ties with Snyder prompted the change.

The change was seen as a major victory for indigenous activist groups, which hope it will influence the removal of other team names and mascots based on stereotypes of Native Americans, according to a Washington Post article.

Sydney Harjo, a 76 year old activist, spoke with NPR about her experience with the word.

"I had lots of things in my personal life using that word," Harjo, a member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, said in an interview with NPR. "When I was a girl, you barely could make it through your young life without getting attacked by a bunch of white people — whether they were boys or girls or men or women. And they would always go to that word."

The Commander's new uniforms, as shown in a series of pictures from the team's Twitter, retain the dark red, brown, gold and black colors previously used by the team.

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Lamont recommends ending mask mandate for schools

(AP) — Gov. Ned Lamont said Monday he is recommending the state end its mask mandate for schools and child care centers on Feb. 28 and allow local officials and school administrators to decide for themselves if masks should be required.

Amid a decline in the state's COVID-19 infection numbers, the governor said residents of the state now have the tools necessary to keep themselves safe amid a growing sense that Americans will need to find a way to coexist with the virus.

"What we got to figure out is, how we as a society, we as a state, learn to live with COVID, which hopefully has a diminishing impact upon our state and community for a long time to come," Lamont said during a briefing with reporters. "And I think we've got the tools to do it. We've got the tools to keep ourselves safe. We've got the tools to keep our schools safe. That's part of living with it."

Lamont was one of four governors on Monday who announced plans to lift mask mandates in schools. The governor said he has been in contact with some of his counterparts about the move.

The first-term governor, who is seeking reelection in November, has been criticized for keeping a one-size-fits-all school mask mandate in place

by some parents and Republicans, including his probable opponent in the governor's race.

"Two years into the pandemic, it's time to move our state forward. Most local mandates in Connecticut towns have been lifted for months. Now is the time to do the same in our schools by empowering parents to make this decision for their own children," said Bob Stefanowski, a GOP candidate for governor, in a written statement issued Monday morning.

The statewide mask mandate is among nearly a dozen executive orders imposed by Lamont that are set to end Feb. 15 when his public health and civil preparedness emergency declarations are scheduled to expire, following multiple extensions throughout the pandemic, and are expected to be extended by the Democrat-controlled General Assembly. Lamont's plan to end the mask mandate in schools and child care centers is contingent on legislators voting to extend one of the orders that enables the state's public health commissioner to impose mask requirements in certain settings if necessary, such as if another variant emerges.

However, under Lamont's plan, as of Feb. 28 it will be up to local superintendents of schools and other officials to decide whether they need a mask mandate in place. The state Departments of Public

Health and Education plan to provide guidance to schools on mitigation strategies that fit the unique needs of each community, considering every city and town has different vaccination rates.

"We have communities that they have 90-plus percent of their students vaccinated and almost 100% of their educators and staff vaccinated in a school building. That's a very different calculation than if you've got 20 or 30% of your students vaccinated and maybe your educators are still over 90%," said Dr. Manisha Juthani, commissioner of the Department of Public Health. "And that's where we will give guidance as to what decision points different districts and boards can make that's going to work for their schools."

The legislature's Public Health Committee has scheduled a hearing on Tuesday to discuss the continuation of emergency declarations and limited executive orders. A vote by the legislature could come this week after lawmakers convene on Wednesday.

Lamont's administration wants the General Assembly to extend mask mandates in other settings that are considered vulnerable to spread, including state prisons, homeless shelters and health care facilities. Meanwhile, federal rules still require masks be worn on public transportation, such as planes and buses.



An aerial view of the Bridgeport Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport and the Housatonic River on Oct. 26, 2019. The operators of Bradley International Airport are pursuing a potential sale of the airfield.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Authority seeking to buy Sikorsky airport for \$10M

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (AP) — The authority that operates Bradley International Airport and other state-owned airports in Connecticut is seeking to pay up to \$10 million to buy the airport named after aviation pioneer Igor Sikorsky from the city of Bridgeport.

Hearst Connecticut Media reported the Connecticut Airport Authority last week approved a term sheet outlining the potential sale.

The airport has been named since 1972 after Sikorsky, the Russian-born aviation innovator who invented the first practical helicopter, though last fall the city renamed it Bridgeport Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport. That prompted criticism from Sikorsky's sons and others who faulted the city for not allowing public input before vote. Bridgeport has operated the Stratford-based airport since the 1930s.

The airport serves business, charter and private flights but has been eyed for a return to commercial passenger flights. That likely

would require millions of dollars of infrastructure upgrades. The airport currently has an annual operating deficit of about \$500,000.

A recent study commissioned by Bridgeport and airport tenants Atlantic Aviation and Three Wing Aviation concluded a new passenger terminal would cost at least \$15 million, but that the airport could produce millions in revenue for the state through taxes and fees, as well as provide jobs and attract other businesses.

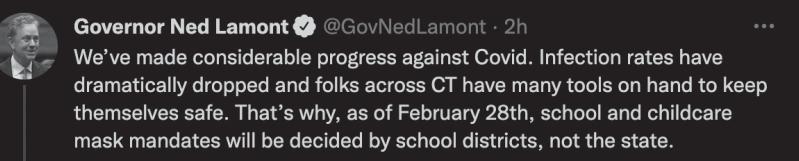
The Connecticut Airport Authority has the ability to raise the money for infrastructure improvements, aviation experts believe.

Airport authority director Kevin Dillon told Hearst he hopes to finalize a deal by the end of the year, though he added a lease agreement could be a fallback.

"That does not mean if for some reason we can't reach an understanding on the acquisition we won't come back and revisit a long-term lease," he said.

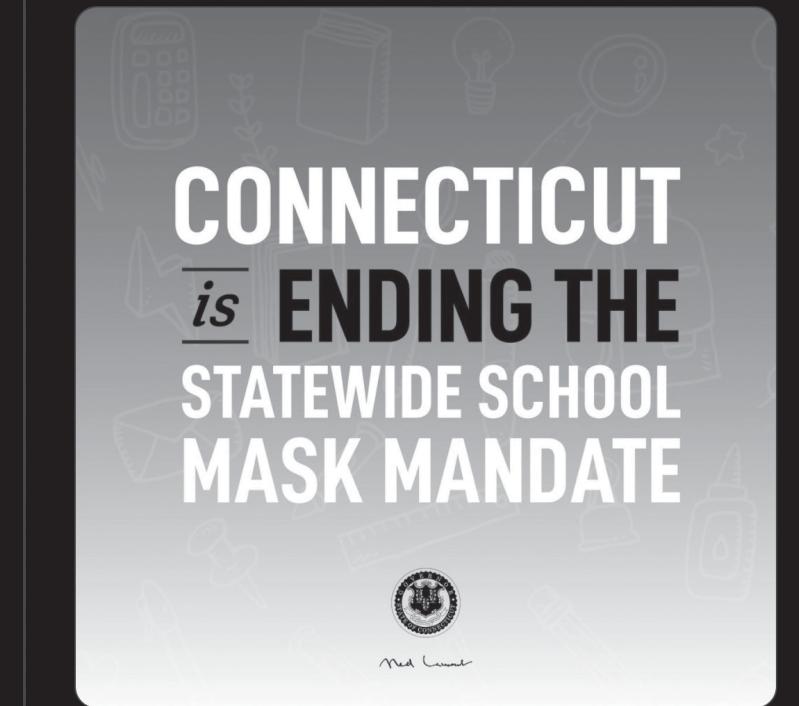
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Governor Ned Lamont @GovNedLamont · 2h

We've made considerable progress against Covid. Infection rates have dramatically dropped and folks across CT have many tools on hand to keep themselves safe. That's why, as of February 28th, school and childcare mask mandates will be decided by school districts, not the state.



Governor Ned Lamont @GovNedLamont · 2h

This decision was not made lightly. Our commissioners at @EducateCT & @CTDPH discussed it with me at length and we arrived at the decision together. I also consulted with other governors in our region who have or will be making similar moves soon.



PHOTO COURTESY OF @GOVNEDLAMONT ON TWITTER

Governor unveils anti-gun violence package with more police

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — An increase in the number of newly trained state and local police officers, reestablishment of a gun task force and changes to some existing state gun laws are among the proposals Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont unveiled Monday in a legislative package aimed at combatting gun violence.

While the governor stressed that Connecticut "is one of the safest states in the country," Lamont acknowledged being "shocked" during his time in office by the large number of guns in the state.

"We have more legal guns. We have more illegal guns," Lamont said during a news conference at the state Capitol. "More guns on the street, more guns in the home means more gun violence and we're suffering from that gun violence."

He added: "You're not tough on crime if you're weak on guns."

The unveiling of Lamont's legislative package comes as the General Assembly prepares to convene on Wednesday for a new session. Republicans, the minority party, have been calling for new legislation to address car thefts and other crimes, especially

those involving juvenile offenders. Some legislative Democrats, however, maintain crime in Connecticut remains at near decades-long lows and there's been a pandemic-driven uptick in certain criminal activity that all states have experienced.

In a joint statement, Republican Reps. Craig Fishbein and Greg Howard, the ranking House Republicans on the Judiciary and Public Safety committees respectively, accused the governor of choosing an "aged election-year tactic of attacking law-abiding gun owners in an effort to distract from his administration's utter failure to address criminal justice policies" that have put police in a bad light and made criminals out to be victims.

"Everyone in Connecticut needs only answer one question to understand: Am I safer today, in my own driveway, than I was before Governor Lamont took office? I hardly think that anyone in Connecticut believes that they are," the two lawmakers said in a written statement.

Lamont's package of proposals is varied, ranging from an update to the state's existing safe gun storage law to an effort to clear backlogs of

cases in court. Following are some of the highlights:

— Doubling the number of police trained annually in Connecticut and providing \$2.5 million to local police departments to help them hire additional officers.

— Provide \$2.5 million to help probation officers reduce recidivism among adults and juvenile offenders.

— Use Medicaid funds to reimburse violence intervention programs in hospitals. Lamont also proposed spending \$3.5 million in federal funds to create a statewide community violence intervention program.

— Require untraceable pre-2019 "ghost guns" to be registered. They were previously grandfathered from the state's current ban on ghost guns. Lamont also proposed a new state license for all gun dealers; a new law that automatically disqualifies anyone convicted of a family violence crime from holding a state gun permit; and an expanded assault weapons ban that includes guns manufactured before 1993.

— Providing additional funding for mobile crime labs that can provide rapid forensic science analysis, including DNA analysis.

Protesters demand UConn take action

PROTEST, cont. from p. 1

"I am so proud of these students for standing up and standing together, but I'm so frustrated," Flexer said during an interview at the protest. "Haddad and I have been working on these issues for the better part of a decade, passing some of the strongest laws in the country."

Ben Viselli is a fourth-semester student who transferred to UConn this semester. Viselli was among the students protesting against the university's treatment of sexual assault survivors. During an interview at the protest, Viselli said he is "angry" because he just paid the university thousands of dollars to do nothing for victims of sexual violence.

"Seeing that [photo of Docken] re-

minded me of all the problems that this school has not addressed, and as someone who is new here, that makes me really angry," Viselli said. "I just gave them thousands of dollars. I just made a huge life decision to go here, and they can't even do the bare minimum of protecting other students."

Along with the crowd of protesters chanting "do better" and "protect our pack," movement organizers shared anonymous stories on behalf of student survivors.

Protest organizers also created a safe space for students who felt comfortable sharing their stories, and those who did expressed feeling unsafe on campus because their perpetrators walk free as a result of the university failing to take their claims seriously.

"We stand with you, we believe you. UConn, protect your students, UConn do better," chanted protesters.

Resources for survivors:

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)



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COMIC BY ANNA IORFINO, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

► Editorial

UConn's failure to support sexual violence survivors is unacceptable



ILLUSTRATION BY HIRAM CHIMID, ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Content warning: sexual violence, domestic abuse

Over the past five days, the University of Connecticut community has participated in an increased amount of discourse about the treatment of sexual violence survivors on our campus. It all began last Thursday, when UConn student Alexandra Docken stood alone in the center of campus holding a sign that said "I was raped and UConn silenced me." Docken later went on to share the experience of reporting her assault with The Daily Campus, and ultimately both her protest and her story became widely shared on social media.

So far, students have organized several protests, and there are more to come. But students shouldn't have to demand justice for survivors in the first place. It is the university's responsibility to ensure that justice is rightfully served to survivors who are hurt on campus or in UConn-affiliated spaces. Allowing abusers and rapists to continue their time at UConn with no consequences is a horrific failure of the UConn administration and is a direct contradiction to the purpose that UConn serves as an inclusive and accessible learning environment.

Docken, and other survivors' stories, have shown that the university cares more about ending investigations quickly and quietly than actually listening to the experiences of their students and advocating for them. Docken's experience exemplifies this. She was told that she needed to verbally accept the outcome of her investigation to close the case, despite being vocal about not agreeing with the way that it was carried out. Giving students ultimatums and discouraging them from pursuing further action against their abusers is not a trauma-informed approach to addressing sexual assault. Treating survivors with human decency is not too much for students to ask for from a university that they pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to attend.

UConn must change its handling of these cases immediately by making the reporting and investigation process transparent for those who wish to report violence that they experience within our community. The administration must do better to treat students with empathy and compassion when

they seek help. Students have made this message clear by protesting and sharing their stories. But the response that we have received from UConn thus far could not be more insufficient.

In a letter to the UConn community on Sunday, Feb. 6, Interim President Radenka Maric addressed the topic of sexual violence at UConn. Maric's letter begins, "As your president for seven days and faculty at UConn for 12 years, I place student well-being and success as my top priority." This introductory paragraph immediately shows a theme of avoidance that is present throughout the letter. While it is important in some cases to acknowledge the background and intent of administrators when talking about university-wide issues, remedying the traumatic experiences of sexual assault survivors is not one of those cases.

Other word choices, such as calling the outrage "discussions taking place mainly on social media," and referring to herself and other UConn administrators as parents come across as attempts to undermine the issue at hand and paint UConn in a pleasant light. Maric and the public relations team at UConn could have, and should have used this letter as less of a public relations opportunity and more of an acknowledgement that UConn has failed to protect its students.

Maric goes on to say that the UConn administration will work to evaluate "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." This is a step in the right direction, but without immediate changes to the existing, harmful processes, our community is not safe.

The UConn administration cannot let this assessment drag out and ultimately lead to no action as has been the case for other issues, like the university's inaction towards the issue of climate change. While Maric's letter has opened the floor for discussion, the UConn administration has made no promises for positive institutional change. Listing this issue as "a priority" is not enough. As students, we demand and deserve better treatment for survivors now.

Modi's promotion of religious divide in India cannot be overlooked

by Anika Veeraraghav

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In January 2022, a BBC News article reported on a school in the Indian state of Karnataka that barred girls from attending classes if they chose to wear a hijab. Due to this rule, six students have begun protesting and photos of these students standing outside the entrance to their school have gone viral.

It is no secret that Islamophobia is extremely prevalent in India. The ruling government party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), is headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has constantly divided the nation with his polarizing views. In 2019, Modi enacted the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which ensures that India paves a path for citizenship for undocumented refugees of all minority faiths besides Islam. Coupled with the National Registry of Citizens (NRC), which provides a list of all legal Indian citizens based on certain documents in the state of Assam, 1.9 million people were declared stateless, the majority of whom were Muslim, because they were unable to prove they were legal citizens.

In addition, in 2019, Modi's government revoked the area of Kashmir's autonomous status, giving the government more control over the Muslim-majority area. Giving the central government more authority over Kashmir has also led experts to believe that there could be a future demographic shift in India's only Muslim-majority state.

Prior to the official change in status, the government heightened security presence in the area, placed restrictions on movement and suspended communications for two months showing the government's blatant disregard for human rights. The United Nations even expressed concern over the internet shutdown at the time.

Through his actions, Modi has proven that he is a dangerous, bigoted leader who is dividing the nation with his polarizing views. The district of Udupi in the state of Karnataka, where the school has banned girls from attending class while wearing a hijab, is known as a stronghold of the BJP; this is not the first instance that Muslims in the area have faced Islamophobia and hate speech simply due to their beliefs. Just one day before the school first began barring women wearing hijabs from attending classes, a group of boys wearing saffron shawls — saffron being seen as a Hindu symbol — went to the school to protest against Muslim women attending the school wearing hijabs.

Yes, this religious divide did not appear just after Modi was elected — clearly, the

sentiment has been present for years before. However, Modi has given a voice to those who believe in Hindu supremacy; since he was elected, the BJP has been spreading divisive language and an "us versus them" philosophy. Since he was elected in 2014, mobs made up of Hindu zealots have gone after Muslims suspected of killing cows, hate speech spread like wildfire and Modi's critics who voiced their concern online were swiftly shutdown.

In a New York Times article, retired historian Adithya Mukherjee was quoted saying, "In plain language, this is what we now call communal fascists." Mukherjee went on, saying that India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru once warned that majority Hindu communalism would be to blame if fascism ever came to India.

Modi's religious divisiveness is not solely limited to perpetuating Islamophobic ideals either; Modi's actions, such as anti-conversion laws, have also created tensions with Christian communities as well. Attacks against Christian communities in India have also been on the rise, with anti-Christian vigilantes attacking schools, churches and worshippers. In 2021, there were 305 attacks against Christian populations and their places of worship in India, with human rights activists fearing that some attacks may have gone unreported. Reports have also shown that government officials have aided in these attacks against Christian communities and Hindu extremists have justified the attacks, claiming they are protecting Hindus from being converted.

It is clear that polarization and religious hostility is endangering many populations in India. Modi's blatant disregard for these minority populations is horrifying and immensely harmful. His wealth of extremist supporters is also rather unwavering, working to further creating divides among the population regardless of the consequences.

When Modi ascended to his position as prime minister, he came with promises for the economy and education. Yet rather than completing his promises for the economy and achieving his GDP target, he has instead perpetuated hatred and bigoted views, making decisions serving to harm certain populations. Modi's government has done nothing but amplified the voices of extremists, creating an extremely harmful environment for non-Hindus, especially Muslims and Christians. Modi's government touts the belief that Hindus in India are marginalized and targeted for their religion — which is clearly false. The government's neglect of minority populations and disregard of human rights cannot be overlooked or brushed aside.



Daily

Life

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ALBUM RELEASES ON FEB. 4

by Abigail Bonilla
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On Feb. 4, two new, highly-anticipated albums were released: Bastille's "Give Me The Future" and Mitski's "Laurel Hell."

Bastille's "Give Me The Future"



"Days like these, you wanna get away / Close our eyes, pretend we're miles away / Hear the sound of my heart exploding," Dan Smith, lead singer of Bastille sings.

Some tracks, however, are downright odd. The song "Stay Awake?" starts off with the voice of some sort of artificial intelligence system, while "Plug In" swells with synth choir. Fans of synth pop or dubstep styles will enjoy this album. Personally, though, I found that "Give Me The Future" does not live up to Bastille's previous albums.

Rating: 2/5

Mitski's "Laurel Hell"



Mitski previously explained in a conversation with Apple Music that she took a long hiatus after her fifth album "Be The Cowboy" and is still feeling the burnout and gloom that the music industry imparts on artists. The opening track seems to communicate that Mitski is learning how to re-navigate being a person in the music industry.

"Let's step carefully into the dark/ Once we're in I'll remember my way around," she sings in "Valentine, Texas." She lends more upbeat sounds in songs such as "The Only Heartbreaker" and "Love Me More." Yet, "Laurel Hell" has an underlying finality in its lyrics. In her track "I Guess," she also showcases this finality. "I guess this is the end / I'll have to learn to be somebody else / It's been you and me, since before I was me / Without you, I don't yet know quite how to live," she sings.

The song seems like a thank you to the fans that have supported her over the years, and a new step into a life outside of the industry. Many speculate that "Laurel Hell" may be Mitski's final piece of work. The album sounds like a final goodbye to her fans and her career. The songs seem as if Mitski is recalling memories of her life and career -- both happy and sad. One thing is for sure, though: if "Laurel Hell" is Mitski's final album, it is a wonderful departure to an expansive career.

Rating: 5/5

Feb. THIS WEEK IN HISTORY 7-13

by Gino Giansanti Jr.
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In 1776, future first lady Abigail Adams wrote to her husband, Founding Father John Adams, to "remember the ladies" when drafting the government of the new United States. Well, Mrs. Adams, in "This Week in History," that is exactly what we are doing. This week, we pay tribute to five famous female figures of history who had undeniable impacts on our shared culture and way of life. So, let's dive in!

On Feb. 11, 1805, Sacagawea, the Shoshone guide of the Lewis and Clark expedition, gave birth to her first child.

History's ultimate working mother, Sacagawea first met Meriwether Lewis and William Clark in the early winter of the same year near present-day Bismarck, North Dakota. A daughter of a Shoshone chief, she was captured and sold into slavery by a rival tribe and was bought by French-Canadian fur trader, Toussaint Charbonneau, who made her his wife. Not exactly a love match if you ask me. Nine months later, she gave birth to their first son, Jean Baptiste Charbonneau.

Just two months later, the legendary expedition began and young "Pompey" came with them, strapped on Sacagawea's back in a cradle the entire trip. The journey would not have been possible without Sacagawea's invaluable knowledge of the landscape, languages and customs. Plus, her sheer presence, and that of her newborn baby, assured the tribes they met that they came in peace.

On Feb. 11, 1916, Emma Goldman, the early 20th century women's rights activist and social justice reformer, was arrested in New York City.

The Progressive Era was a time of tremendous change and activism throughout the U.S. as the nation plunged forward into the modern era. While the economy was growing like never before and men like Andrew Carnegie and Cornelius Vanderbilt built pleasure palaces on Fifth Avenue, their workers were left in abysmal conditions in unsanitary tenement housing, working almost 12-hour days for very little pay.

Goldman, a Jewish immigrant from Russia, entered into the factory workforce and quickly learned the grueling ways of the industrialized American economy. Seeing her fellow immigrant workers lose faith in the American Dream pushed her into advocacy, demanding labor reform and workers' rights. While factory owners and politicians dismissed her as a radical, her powerful oratory skills convinced many workers to speak out against their mistreatment.

Goldman was a strong advocate for women's rights as well. Having spent time as a midwife and nurse, she sought to make contraceptives available to women so they may choose to have children and be able to have a greater say over their lives. Since contraceptives and information about them were illegal, Goldman was arrested and subsequently deported back to Russia.

Her legacy would continue, however, as her activism resulted in America's first birth-control clinic to open in Brooklyn, New York in the same year. This organization would eventually become the modern-day Planned Parenthood.

On Feb. 6, 1952, 70 years ago, Queen Elizabeth II took the British throne at the age of 27 after the death of her father, King George VI.



The year 2022 marks the 70th anniversary of Elizabeth II's ascension as monarch of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. Her father, a beloved ruler who reassured the nation during the grim days of the Second World War, succumbed to illness and died at a young age, thrusting his shy daughter Elizabeth and her husband Philip Mountbatten into the global spotlight.

Seventy years on the throne means that Elizabeth II has served longer than any other monarch in all of British history. She will be honored by the people of the United Kingdom and the Realms of the Commonwealth with a four-day Platinum Jubilee celebration to take place in early June. The festivities will include several soirees, a parade and a national pudding baking competition with judges including Dame Mary Berry (of the "The Great British Baking Show") and the head chef of the Buckingham Palace cooking staff.

On Feb. 10, 1957, 65 years ago, Laura Ingalls Wilder, the beloved author the "Little House" series, died at age 90 in Mansfield, Missouri.

Born in 1867 as the second daughter of Charles and Caroline Ingalls, Wilder traveled throughout the Midwest as a child, living in small agrarian communities on what was then the American frontier. After working as a school teacher for the majority of her adult life, Wilder began writing her experiences as a plucky farmer's daughter in a series of children's books that became the "Little House" series throughout the 1930s.

The nine novels, one of which was published posthumously by Wilder's daughter, comforted audiences of the Great Depression who clung to the heartfelt story of a family learning to make do with what little they had. In the 1970s, "Little House on the Prairie" aired for nine seasons, starring Melissa Gilbert as Laura, and Michael Landon as Charles Ingalls, thus telling Wilder's heartfelt story to another generation.

On Feb. 11, 2012, 10 years ago, Whitney Houston, the 1980s and 90s pop superstar, died at age 48 in Beverly Hills, California.

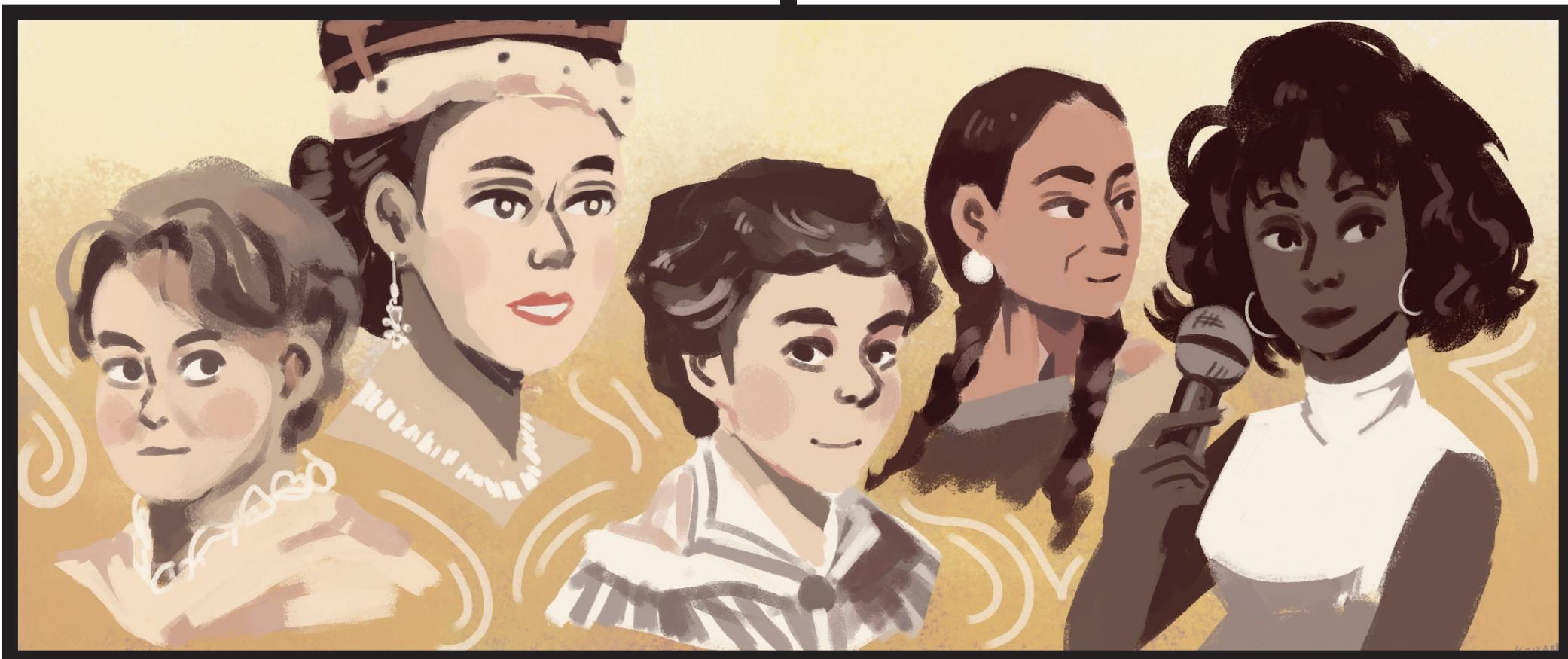
Known for her stunning vocals and beauty, the six-time Grammy Award-winning and 22-time American Music Award-winning artist was found dead in her hotel room bathtub after an accidental drowning. She also had heart disease and cocaine was later found in her system.

Houston's career began while she was in high school, singing background vocals for major 1970s stars like Chaka Khan and modeling for several national magazines, even become one of the first Black models to be featured on the cover of "Seventeen."

In the mid-1980s, she was signed by a record label and released three consecutive albums which included the timeless singles, "Saving All My Love For You," "Where Do Broken Hearts Go" and "I Wanna Dance with Somebody (Who Loves Me)" — the ultimate party anthem of the 80s and beyond.

The year 1992 saw Houston on the silver screen in the leading role of "The Bodyguard" opposite Hollywood-regular Kevin Costner. While fairly successful at the box office, the true success of this film was the release of its soundtrack, which included Houston's legendary rendition of "I Will Always Love You." The powerful ballad became the best-selling single by a female artist in music history and remains well-known to this day.

While the later years of Houston's life were marred by an unhappy marriage and substance abuse, Houston's legacy transcends the boundaries of her brief career, influencing an entire generation of female musicians, from Mariah Carey to Jennifer Hudson, and bringing the love ballad back onto the radio.



BOX OFFICE

Breakdown

'JACKASS FOREVER' STUNTS 'MOONFALL'

by Zachary Wisnfsky
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After last week's fairly uneventful box office with no new releases, this weekend brought two new movies into theaters - "Jackass Forever" and "Moonfall." With two radically different genres and productions, this is an interesting box office battle to explore.

Starting with "Jackass Forever," the film is the fourth entry in the "Jackass" movie saga, based on the eponymous early 2000s MTV comedy series. Led by actor-stuntman Johnny Knoxville, the "Jackass" crew completes crazy and extremely dangerous stunts and pranks for comedic effect. With a reported budget of only \$10 million, there were no high expectations for this film. While the franchise had been successful in the past (with the most recent "Jackass 3D" grossing \$117 million domestically in 2010), it had been over 12 years since a "Jackass" film hit theaters. We live in a whole new world of cinema from 2010 onward, so there were hesitations about this film getting a theatrical release as opposed to heading straight to streaming.

Any hesitations were completely proven wrong this weekend with "Jackass Forever" claiming the top spot with a \$23.5 million opening weekend. Though this is less than "Jackass 3D's" opening of \$50 million in 2010, any film with just a \$10 million budget would be elated with such an opening. Comedies also generally tend to have longer life at the box office, which bodes well for the film's total. Ultimately, I think that "Jackass Forever" is essentially guaranteed to profit after this opening and will likely close its run around \$55 million domestically.

Competing against "Jackass Forever" in its opening weekend was "Moonfall," Roland Emmerich's newest disaster movie. Emmerich is the director behind films such as "Independence Day," 1998's "Godzilla," "The Day After Tomorrow" and "2012," which all feature disaster scenarios. He goes back to his roots with "Moonfall," which concerns the celestial body falling toward Earth and astronauts trying to save it. Carrying close to a \$140 million budget, critics questioned whether Emmerich's past box-office success would be repeated in this new film environment.

In that regard, they were correct. "Moonfall" severely disappointed this weekend with a gross of only \$10 million.

With its gargantuan budget, unless the film puts together some otherworldly numbers internationally, this film is looking at a \$100 million+ loss. In the end, you question just how this movie was able to get funded, as disaster films are truly a relic of the box office past. We will keep an eye on "Moonfall" in the coming weeks to see if it can perhaps hold well in the domestic market.

In third place is the box office beast that keeps on churning, "Spider-Man: No Way Home." With a \$9.6 million weekend, "Spider-Man" climbs to \$748 million domestically, now just \$12 million behind 2009's Avatar. With only a 12.8% drop from last week, it seems like it will clear that milestone even sooner than expected, likely in the next two weeks. "No Way Home" is showing no clear signs of slowing down any time soon, which leads me to believe the film will close around \$775 million domestically.

In fourth and fifth place this past weekend are two wildly different pictures - "Scream" and "Sing 2." The slasher film grossed another \$4.7 million this weekend, dropping only 34.5%, taking its total to just below \$69 million. "Sing 2" had an incredible drop of only 10.6%, pushing its total just below \$140 million. "Scream" will likely close around \$80 million domestically, while "Sing" will probably lose its voice at \$160 million.

Next weekend brings two new wide releases on the silver screen - the mystery film "Death on the Nile" and the rom-com "Marry Me."

"Death on the Nile" is a spiritual sequel to 2017's "Murder on the Orient Express," as Kenneth Branagh's Hercule Poirot tries to solve yet another murderous caper. The 2017 film grossed about \$29 million on its opening weekend, but with slightly less buzz surrounding "Death on the Nile," I expect the picture to open around \$22 million.

"Marry Me" is a difficult one to judge considering comedies, including rom-coms, have largely vanished from the pandemic theatrical marketplace. But with Jennifer Lopez and Owen Wilson at

the helm,
I think
a decent
number of
people will
be swayed to
go see the film
this Valentine's Day
weekend, and it will gross
around \$20 million.

However, those are simply estimates; they bear no weight on what will happen. All we have to do is sit back, relax and wait and see what the box office rings up next week.

1. "Jackass Forever" \$14 million | 2. "Moonfall" \$10 million | 3. "Spider-Man: No Way Home" \$9.6 million | 4. "Scream" \$4.7 million | 5. "Sing 2" \$4.2 million |

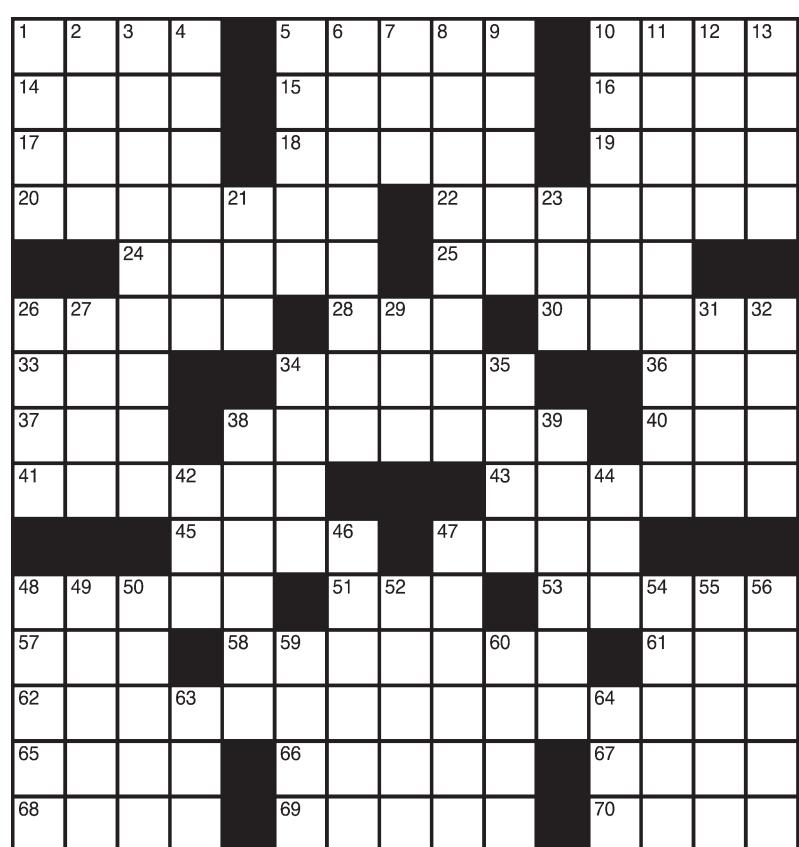
Opinion StudyBreak

Photo of the Day | Working nine to five



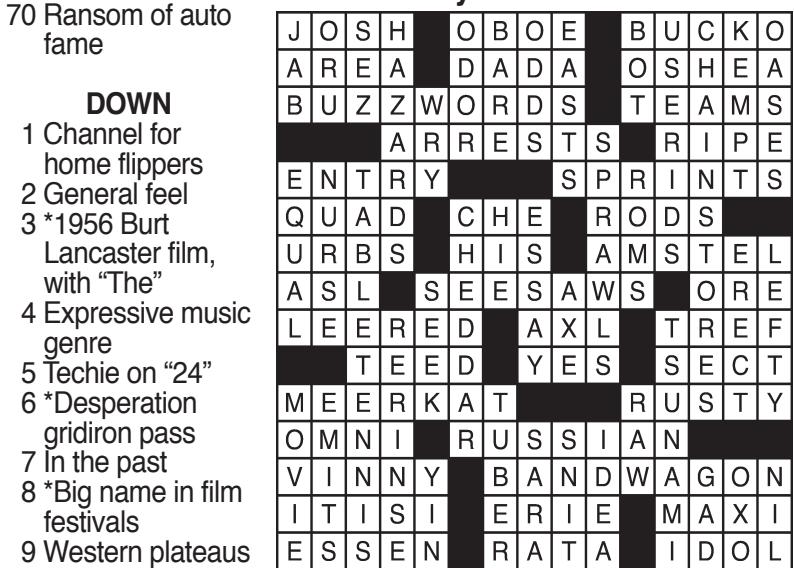
UConn tour guides answer phones, check in visitors and prepare for giving campus tours in the Lodewick Visitor Center on a rainy Monday afternoon. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, campus tours have limited capacity this semester, requiring consistent work from its student employees. PHOTO BY JULIE SPILLANE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Crossword



By Daniel Bodily

Monday's Puzzle Solved



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34 Fur-protesting org.	48 News filler
35 Jacob's twin	49 Trump's VP
38 Field goal expert, e.g.	50 Milker's handful
39 Mark of shame	52 Be a debtor of
42 51-Across alternative	54 Taj __
44 A/C measure	55 Button on a mixer
46 Hit a bunch of pubs in one night	56 Football measures
47 Like the 1-Across vis-à-vis the tortoise, ironically	59 Off-rd. transports
	60 Catnap, e.g.
	63 Ballpark fig.
	64 "Squared" power



COMIC BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Spin Cycle: Is the Pro Bowl worth playing anymore?

by Nick Spinali

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On Sunday, the NFL held its annual Pro Bowl matchup between the stars from the AFC and the NFC at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas. After a plethora of touchdowns and turnovers alike, the AFC squad earned a 41-35 victory over the NFC, the conference's fifth consecutive win in the All-Star contest.

Despite the excitement that the weekend's festivities were supposed to bring to fans, many were unhappy with the lack of competition and fierce play between the players during the game, a trend that has been recurring every year for the last several seasons. Personally, I wasn't looking forward to the game, as at this point in my football-viewing career I've become well aware that the Pro Bowl is a sorry excuse for a professional football game. It was only after seeing a clip on social media of the Saints' Alvin Kamara catching a pass and the AFC defense passing up at least five opportunities to tackle him before the play was whistled dead that I began to wonder whether the Pro Bowl should simply be removed entirely. Most football fans know that the Pro Bowl is a game where the players are trying to have fun and are doing their best to avoid unnecessary injuries, but I feel like not tackling players in a game that literally plays by the defense attempting to tackle the offense draws the line. It's an embarrassment for one of the biggest sports leagues in the entire world.

After questioning whether other people are actually tuning in to see the Pro Bowl in all of its glory, I began to come across some very telling statistics. According to the global data platform, Statista, of the 21 Pro Bowl games that took place from 2000-2020, only seven games recorded 10 million or more viewers. Over that span, the 2011 matchup is the most watched Pro

Bowl game with 13.4 million viewers. For comparison, the Pro Bowl in today's media-driven society is watched by fewer people than the first Super Bowl in 1967, which saw almost 11 million more viewers than that 2011 game. Although exact viewership numbers from this year's Pro Bowl are unclear, it is more than likely that the game was not even the most watched program on Sunday as the Winter Olympics garnered over nine million viewers, a number that the Pro Bowl hasn't eclipsed since 2014. Simply put, people don't want to watch the Pro Bowl, a game that occurs only once every year and features the biggest stars in the NFL.

If the television viewership doesn't convince you that the Pro Bowl is a waste of every fan's breath, then the reaction to the game from former and current NFL players should add fuel to the fire. Sports analyst and former tight end for the Broncos and Ravens, Shannon Sharpe, took to Twitter after Sunday's game, saying "This isn't football... I love the NFL, but this is embarrassing." He later followed up on his quote by stating "Maybe it's beyond fixing at this point, but either tackle [the opposing players] or [the game] is getting canceled. It's called tackle football. The league can't be happy with what it witnessed yesterday."

Former NFL player, analyst, and current head football coach of Jackson State University Deion Sanders wrote on Twitter, "Lord help me. I'm watching the [NFL] Pro Bowl and I remember when we were so proud and appreciative of that accolade. We went to [play in] Hawaii to prove [that] we were more than worthy... [which meant that we] competed at practice and in the game... What happened and when?" Many others, too many to fit into one article, expressed their initial reactions to the game both to interviewers and on social media. To sum things up, most reactions weren't in favor of the way that the

game is being played nowadays.

Is there a way to fix the Pro Bowl in its current state? That, I'm afraid, can't be done, for as long as the game lacks any real competitive nature, we will continue to see the same effortless and high-scoring affairs between the AFC and NFC. However, there is real potential for the Pro Bowl if the NFL decides to change its structure from that of a traditional football game to add more creativity to the mix. As we saw Sunday when tackles became nonexistent, the game was essentially played like the ultimate hour-long two-hand touch game. Perhaps if the NFL were to change the Pro Bowl to a two-hand touch format, defensive players will actually attempt to down the offense instead of jumping out of the way to avoid injuring their counterparts. Another proposition, one which I believe most would agree would be the best alternative to today's format, would be a flag football game between the Pro Bowlers from the AFC and the NFC. Granted, there would need to be additional rules put in place so that positions like quarterback, kicker and punter remain relevant in the contest, but the thought of Trevon Diggs sprinting after Tyreek Hill is more enjoyable in my mind than the thought of the entire AFC defense running away from Alvin Kamara as to not injure him. In essence, it seems that flag football would serve an epic follow-up to the skill-based competitions that take place before the Pro Bowl on Saturday.

Whatever the NFL does with the Pro Bowl moving forward, it is clear that the format that is currently set in place is not working for fans. However, that is not to say that the event is without potential, though it is up to the NFL to finally make the move to a more enjoyable viewing experience. Until then, we will be stuck watching a game of one offense versus the other, while the defense simply shows up and accepts their participation trophy.

Of the 21 Pro Bowl games that took place from 2000-2020, only seven games recorded 10 million or more viewers. Over that span, the 2011 matchup is the most watched Pro Bowl game with 13.4 million viewers. For comparison, the Pro Bowl in today's media-driven society is watched by fewer people than the first Super Bowl in 1967, which saw almost 11 million more viewers than that 2011 game.



AFC quarterbacks Patrick Mahomes, left, of the Kansas City Chiefs, Justin Herbert, center, of the Los Angeles Chargers, and Mac Jones, right, of the New England Patriots, stand during introductions before the Pro Bowl NFL football game against the NFC, Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022, in Las Vegas. PHOTO BY DAVID BECKER, AP PHOTO

You don't have to be an Olympian to find exercise thrills in winter's chill

(AP)—Watching what Olympic athletes can do on snow and ice might have you thinking about trying some cold weather activity yourself. And a glance at the thermometer might quickly have you saying, "nahhh."

Before you head back to the couch, know there are experts who say that not only can embracing winter be healthy, even cold-haters can find ways to cope. Some even find it ... fun.

"I always say that it'll feel cold for probably the first five minutes," said Beth Lewis, a professor and the director of the University of Minnesota's School of Kinesiology in Minneapolis. "In fact, if it doesn't feel cold for the first five minutes, you probably are overdressed. But after that, it will feel absolutely wonderful."

Cold weather exercise might have particular benefits. Research suggests that cold aids the conversion of energy-storing white fat into calorie-burning beige fat. And Lewis points to studies that say people who exercise outdoors get more mood benefits than people who exercise indoors.

Cold-haters might point to risks. In its guide to injury prevention amid winter workouts, the American College of Sports Medicine acknowledges several, including frostbite (if you're skiing, sledding, mountaineering or the like), hypothermia and snow blindness. Also avalanches. Which, for most of us, are probably not likely to be an issue.

For the temperatures most people face, proper clothing will be enough. "The only time I would say it's dangerous to be exercising outside is if you have ice," or if the temperature is lower than 25 below zero, or the wind chill is 35 below or worse, Lewis said.

Her own tolerance for an outdoor workout is not quite as extreme. "Zero degrees is my threshold for going outside," she said. "It used

to be negative 10. But now that I've gotten older, I think I'm getting to be more of a wimp."

Her embrace of winter might make most non-Minnesotans look wimpy by comparison. It's also an example of how the biggest barrier to being active in the cold can be mental.

This is a specialty of health psychologist Kari Leibowitz. Before earning her doctorate from Stanford, she spent a year in Tromsø, Norway, 200 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

This was not an easy undertaking for Leibowitz, who grew up savoring summers at the Jersey shore.

"I was never a winter person and always felt kind of 'meh' about the whole season," she said. But when she started asking Norwegians about coping with the dread of winter, they said, "Why would we be afraid of winter? It's such a wonderful time of year!"

People in Tromsø don't see winter as limiting. "There's festivals during the winter," she said. "They're skiing. They're spending time outdoors. And they're finding the opportunities in the season."

Leibowitz now lives in San Francisco and teaches workshops on cultivating what she calls a "winter-time mindset." It is not, to be clear, about grim acceptance or denying serious problems such as seasonal affective disorder.

It is about embracing the possible. Which is what happened to her sister-in-law, a runner who refused to do so out in the New York winter.

After hearing Leibowitz, she saw that cold weather running has upsides. She's not as sweaty as in the summer, and the "refreshing" air helps her wake up. She now runs outside all winter, Leibowitz said. "And she loves it."

Cold does require preparation. She and Lewis both suggested dressing in layers, with a base layer that draws moisture away from the skin. Leibowitz recommends



A sledder leans onto snow on the ground as he zooms down Horsebarn Hill in Storrs during a cold and windy Sunday afternoon on Jan. 30th, 2022. You can find ways to exercise outside during the winter months that doesn't require you to be an Olympian. PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

wool; Lewis prefers a polyester-cotton blend, which she said balances breathability and wicking ability.

A turtleneck seals heat better than a scarf, Lewis said, and a hat works better than a headband. Because winter days are short, have reflective or illuminated gear for being in the dark. She likes reflective suspenders, which can be pulled

over whatever you wear.

Warm up inside before you step out, she said. "I always recommend that people do about five to 10 minutes of some squats or lunges or something." The biggest injury risk is if you're sitting around in the cold weather, then all of a sudden start doing something vigorous, she said.

If you really aim to emulate those

Winter Olympians, don't rush to buy a lot of gear. "I'd recommend renting," Lewis said. Also, do research about what a sport requires. For example, if you want to try cross-country skiing, you'd need to find a destination with groomed trails.

Whatever the Olympics inspire you to try – have fun.

Photo of the Day | Let's Go Huskies!!



The UConn student section cheers on the UConn women's basketball team as they defeat Tennessee 75-56 in a major victory at the XL Center Sunday afternoon. The Huskies took an early lead and held onto the W taking their season record to 15-4. PHOTO BY JULIE SPILLANE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Behind the Ballot: UConn rises and Tennessee plummets following matchup

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

This week's rankings:

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

MARQUEE MATCHUP

To start off, let's take a look at one of the bigger games of the week, where the former No. 12 UConn Huskies took on the then-No. 8 Tennessee Volunteers. The Huskies and emerging freshman Azzi Fudd made easy work of the Volunteers, winning the game 75-56, leading by 25 for a chunk of the fourth quarter. The Volunteers have been on quite the skid as of late, losing three of their last four. Two of those losses came at the hands of unranked opponents, including lowly Auburn, who sits at the bottom of the SEC. This warranted an eight slot drop for Tennessee all the way to 16th, as they look to start rebuilding the positive momentum they had before this rough stretch. UConn is following an opposite trajectory, moving up four slots to No. 8 after winning both of their games last week, including a comeback victory against Creighton, who is currently second in the Big East. The Huskies have won six straight and will hope to keep the strong play moving into this week.

RISERS

No. 10 Oklahoma—The Sooners have been on a complete tear as of late, winning eight of their past nine games, with that one loss coming at the hands of Kansas State and Ayoka Lee's 61 point night. This week, they visited Waco, Texas and beat current No. 9 Baylor close in a statement win that demonstrates how real Oklahoma is. Madi Williams added 20 points, grabbed eight boards and collected six dimes in the victory, adding to her sensational season, where she ranks in the NCAA scoring top 50. Oklahoma jumps into my top 10 for the first time this season.

No. 23 Florida—Where did the Gators come from? Two weeks ago, no one was looking at the Gators seriously, but now Coach Kelly Rae Finley has all the analysts marking Florida as a consensus top 25 team. Florida has played five straight games against ranked opponents. They won four of those games, going two for three against top 10 teams, with the loss coming against No. 1 South Carolina. There may not be a team with more momentum than the Gators,



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 the W taking their season record to 15-4. PHOTO BY JULIE SPILLANE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

as they've moved from not even in my "Also Considered" bucket all the way into my top 25.

FALLERS

No. 7 NC State—The Wolfpack didn't take a huge hit this week after their loss to No. 19 Notre Dame but did fall out of my top five for the first time this year. Losing to a top 25 team on the road is never something to be embarrassed about, but, at the same time, you're supposed to beat the

teams ranked below you. NC State now has just three losses, all to ranked teams, so there isn't reason to panic in the short term. They do line up against a surging Georgia Tech squad this week for a critical matchup to get back to their winning ways.

No. 24 BYU

It finally happened. The BYU Cougars lost a game in the WCC. They had won every single game overall this season aside from a

close one to No. 10 Oklahoma, breezing by their previous eight WCC conference games. They were finally upset by NET's No. 64 Portland, dropping their first conference game of the year. They then turned around and beat NET-ranked No. 28 Gonzaga by double digits in Spokane, Washington. Because of the win, I only dropped the Cougars five slots, but they will need to dominate the weaker WCC competition to maintain a slot in the poll.

Big East Baller Update No. 13: The luckiest or unluckiest week, depending on perspective

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Thanks to a winter storm that brought freezing rain, snow and ice to the Big East community, the start of February has been just as wild as the start of every calendar year. Not even a full week into the February slate, and there have already been wild results and wilder plays.

In addition, the Big East partnered with the Black Fives Era to celebrate Black History Month with teams wearing shirts with the name and logo of a Black Fives team that defined basketball's history before the National Basketball Association. With that in mind, let's get into the games.

Writer's Note: The Black Fives and Big East Collaboration is cool, and it should be an annual tradition.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK: Jared Bynum - Providence

FRESHMAN OF THE WEEK: Trey Alexander - Creighton

NO. 15 PROVIDENCE VS. ST. JOHN'S (FEB. 1): THE HIGH SCORING CARNESECCA CLASH

The Vandal Athletic Club was an elite basketball team located in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Their caged court (literally) created the perfect environment for their physical style. The St. Christopher Club dominated the streets of Harlem in the 1910s. They used their scientific techniques to develop a winning culture.

The Providence Vandals went up eight at the break behind several three-point shots, finding an answer every time the St. John's St. C's wound down, a 10-point lead turned into both teams exchanging the lead on layups and jumpers, just like the rivalries of the past.

The contest could have swung either way in the final minute. Providence made it a six-point game with 26 seconds to go before St. John's halved that lead seven seconds later. Following two more free throws, St. John's made it a two-point game with 13 seconds left. Still not done, Posh Alexander made a huge bucket with five seconds remaining, but with the Johnnies having to foul, Providence survived 86-82.

Both teams made over 40% of their 50+ shot attempts. Providence had the upper hand led by Jared Bynum's 19 off the bench and Nate Watson's 16. Alexander dropped 29 for the Johnnies while Aaron Wheeler had 16. This was the second meeting between both teams, and offense led the way both times.

NO. 12 VILLANOVA VS. NO. 22 MARQUETTE (FEB. 2): NFC SOUTH TOM BRADY

Tom Brady spent his last two seasons with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and with star players at every key position. By contrast, Villanova did not add a transfer, but thanks to business executive Jay Wright and his superstars, the Wildcats continue to be a title contender. On the other side, Marquette was like the Saints, a talented team led by a legendary coach playing in a big basketball market and bigger football state.

When the Saints and Buccaneers clashed over the last two seasons, the Saints never made it close. Marquette did the same thing as they catapulted to a 14-point halftime lead. The second half was a little closer, but scoring droughts aside, Marquette's offense cooked up the perfect storm with a 16-7 run in six minutes to shut down any chances the Wildcats had at win-



The Big East Conference is a NCAA Division 1 collegiate athletic conference that competes in twelve women's sports and ten men's sports. PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

ning. Marquette did not make a field goal in the final four minutes as they rolled to an 83-73 series-sweeping victory.

Marquette shot almost 54% from the field and Justin Lewis was that guy, picking up 19 points while Tyler Kolek had 18 right behind him. Brandon Slater dropped 18 while Collin Gillespie had 16 for the Wildcats. Like Brady, Villanova could not get past that one pesky opponent this time. But unlike Brady's Tampa Bay era, the Wildcats may get over the hump next regular season.

BUTLER VS. NO. 21 XAVIER AND DEPAUL VS. NO. 21 XAVIER (FEB. 2 AND FEB. 5): NO SPACEX FOR BLOWOUTS

If Xavier was a stock market and close games were their currency, then the recent stretch of conference games caused their market to rise tremendously.

It started with a midweek matchup against the Butler Bulldogs, a team

they beat handily the first time. Xavier was in control early; however, not even an 8-0 run kept the Bulldogs at bay. Butler tied the game for a split second, but a Jerome Hunter three-pointer gave Xavier the lead going into the break.

Despite everything going Butler's way in the second half, Xavier did just enough and squeaked out a 68-66 Xavier victory. Zach Freemantle had 23 for Xavier while Paul Scruggs was next in scoring with 9. Butler got 18 each from Taylor and Chuck Harris.

Three days later, they had a rematch against the DePaul Blue Demons, a team they had to fight tooth and nail with to avoid an upset. DePaul could not finish the job with a big lead the first time, so they went up 13 and took a seven-point halftime lead. Xavier kept responding, amassing a sizeable lead before DePaul cruised to a 13-0 run.

The final stretch belonged to two

players, DePaul's Nick Ongenda and Xavier's Scruggs. Ongenda's dunk kept DePaul ahead, but Scruggs responded to make it a two-point game. Both made just free throws until Brandon Johnson made two free throws of his own to put DePaul up four. Xavier did everything to get a bucket, but not one shot landed in the final 30 seconds and DePaul upset Xavier 69-65. Scruggs had 21 for Xavier with Jack Nunge scoring 12. Courvoisier McCauley had a career-high 21 off the bench while Jalen Terry had 13 for DePaul.

Win or lose, Xavier will always advocate to take close games to the moon.

The month may be short, but that does not mean there will be no mayhem in the Big East's conference slate. Every opponent for every team is daunting, and each team will need to bring their A-game if they wish to be declared the victors. Good luck to everyone in the month that follows.

Sounding Off: Could the MLB lockout be good for the integrity of the sport?

by Sam Zelin
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The biggest problem with baseball as a competitive sport is that MLB, the top-flight professional league in America, does not have a standardized set of rules and regulations. ... as the 2022 season is supposed to kick off in less than three weeks and no deal has been reached yet, it's likely that the season will see a significant delay.

Major League Baseball is currently still in a lockout with the MLB Players Association, and the end does not seem to be in sight with the 2022 season looming. There's no doubt about the fact that this is not good for the league from a financial standpoint, but when it comes to the game itself, there is a conversation to be had.

While much of the lockout negotiations seem to be centered around money, another problem should certainly be addressed - the game needs to be more consistent. According to AP News, "MLB proposed a joint committee, including at least four active players, to discuss potential on-field rule changes." This seems like a good idea, but it should be expanded to include rules on more than just the field, and once rules are decided on, they should have some security built in.

The biggest problem with baseball as a competitive sport is that MLB, the top-flight professional league in America, does not have a



A rain-covered logo is seen at Fenway Park before Game 1 of the World Series baseball game between the Boston Red Sox and the Los Angeles Dodgers Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2018, in Boston. Writer Sam Zelin said that MLB lacks a standardized set of rules and regulations. PHOTO BY MATT SLOCUM /AP

standardized set of rules and regulations. The most glaring issue comes from the differences in the National and American leagues, which each make up half of the MLB. Since 1973, the American League has utilized a designated hitter position, so that pitchers do not have to hit in the lineup, while the National League has only ever used a designated hitter during the 2020 COVID-19-shortened season. After omitting the 20 interleague games each team played in 2021, that's 142 games where the two leagues were essentially playing with different rules. Once the World Series comes along, it's always awkward to watch teams have to adjust to different strategies and ways of playing, and it's especially weird to watch these growing pains happen as teams are on the precipice of winning the championship.

Disparities between the leagues is far from the only standardization problem MLB has. On Nov. 30, 2021, Bradford William Davis of Business

Insider reported that MLB used two different types of balls during the past season. This news came after they had admitted in years prior to experimenting year-to-year with balls that would fly either further or shorter. Whether the change in the makeup of the game ball occurred during the season or between seasons is irrelevant, as that major of a modification without transparency about it destroys any hope of integrity from the MLB. In the National Football League, the New England Patriots were harangued for deflating footballs in the hopes of making them easier to catch, with quarterback Tom Brady receiving a suspension for a quarter of the next season. In baseball, the league did essentially the same thing that the Patriots did but on a larger scale and received no consequences at all.

The last issue to cover is the changing of rules back and forth that MLB has engaged in during the past few years. Whether it's adding

automatic runners to extra innings in an effort to speed up games, the inclusion of a pitch clock or the three-batter rule for relief pitchers, the game is being experimented with in real time, and that shouldn't be what the MLB is for.

At the end of the day, in order to create a product where players and fans alike can feel they are experiencing baseball in its purest form, more factors need to be held constant. Rules for positions and lineups need to be the same across all 30 teams. The league needs to be absolutely transparent about the makeup of the game ball, and not change it once it has been set, at the very least for the season. Rules need to be kept if they are made, and they need to make sense not just from an entertainment perspective but from a competitive one as well.

Experimenting with the rules and regulations of baseball is fine. It's a game that's been around for over a century, and it's understandable that things would need

to be modernized. However, rule changes or manipulation of the game equipment needs to begin at the top level of play. There are already examples of experimental rules being implemented first in the minor leagues or independent baseball leagues, so that they can be tested. Only once these tests have proven that these changes could benefit the league should implementation into the majors be allowed.

Going back to the lockout, as the 2022 season is supposed to kick off in less than three weeks and no deal has been reached yet, it's likely that the season will see a significant delay. Maybe, just maybe, this could be a productive delay. If the two sides can have some meaningful conversations about how to improve the competitiveness and consistency of the sport, alongside equally important labor disputes, perhaps this lockout could provide a healthy reset for America's favorite pastime.



Sports

Men's Basketball: No. 24 Huskies try to right the ship against No. 18 Golden Eagles

by Jonathan Synott

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After a tough week which saw the Huskies drop two straight games, the UConn men's basketball team will attempt to bounce back against the No. 18 Marquette Golden Eagles on Tuesday.

As of late, UConn has struggled to find its identity in the first half, coming out to slow starts and forcing the Huskies to play catch-up. Since the team's offensive outburst against Georgetown last month that saw 52 first-half points, UConn has been held to less than 30 points in each of the three first halves since.

And, yes, some of that is attributable to the quality of teams, as Creighton and Villanova are both ranked much higher in the KenPom ratings than Georgetown. But, this is a team that needs to make an adjustment in their approach out of the gate, as it is proving costly in these crucial Big East games.

Some of the problem partly lies in the first-half production of the "key to the offense" in forward Adama Sanogo. When the 6'9" sophomore is cooking with his highlight dunks and contested post hooks, the rest of the offense follows suit. However, when Sanogo is having an off-night, the rest of the team, save maybe RJ Cole or Isaiah Whaley, also struggles with shooting. Sanogo, UConn's second-leading scorer, has come out of the gate with just four first-half points in the past three games combined. Look for him to try

to buck the trend on Tuesday.

Trending Up

One Husky who's been trending upward since Saturday's game at Villanova is freshman Jordan Hawkins. The guard saw most of his playing time in the second half and was able to knock down some deep balls, shooting 3-for-5 with all of his makes coming from beyond the arc. On top of that, Hawkins ended with two dimes, two boards and made an impact on the defensive end with two steals.

The rookie's season has been a bumpy one as he started out the year injured, made his way into the starting lineup due to injured teammates and fell back to earth again. His promising game against Nova, which saw the second-most number of minutes he's gotten since December 11th against St. Bonaventure, could help him build towards a strong finish to the season.

Trending Down

While Hawkins has had offensive success as of late, sophomore Andre Jackson hasn't been able to find the basket. While by no means a top scoring option on this UConn team, Jackson's increasing three-point attempts look like it's making it harder to get into a rhythm. Once you miss a few shots, especially if your teammates are doing the same, it's hard to get something going.

Over the last five games, Jackson has shot just 22% from the floor. More takes at the rim instead of threes and very deep, contested floaters can alleviate that issue. In the last game against Marquette a couple months ago, Jackson shot 4-for-5 for 10 points.

Jackson is surely hoping he can pick up where he left off in the season series offensively.

Behind Enemy Lines

Marquette has enjoyed a very successful season under first-year head coach Shaka Smart. Projected to finish ninth this year in the conference pre-season poll, the Golden Eagles have been, outside of maybe Providence, the shock of the Big East. Smart and Marquette made it known this isn't a rebuilding year out of the gate, upsetting No. 10 Illinois in the Gavitt Tipoff Games.

The team struggled a bit after that win but has been trending in the right direction since a heartbreaking, double-overtime loss at home to Creighton on New Year's Day. The Golden Eagles have won eight of their last nine, including home and away wins over conference powerhouse Villanova and ranked wins over Seton Hall and Xavier.

Marquette's offensive attack is led by redshirt freshman Justin Lewis, who boasts a team-high 16.6 points per game, good for fourth in the Big East. In the last matchup between the Huskies and the Golden Eagles, Lewis torched UConn for 20 points on 7-for-16 shooting alongside seven rebounds.

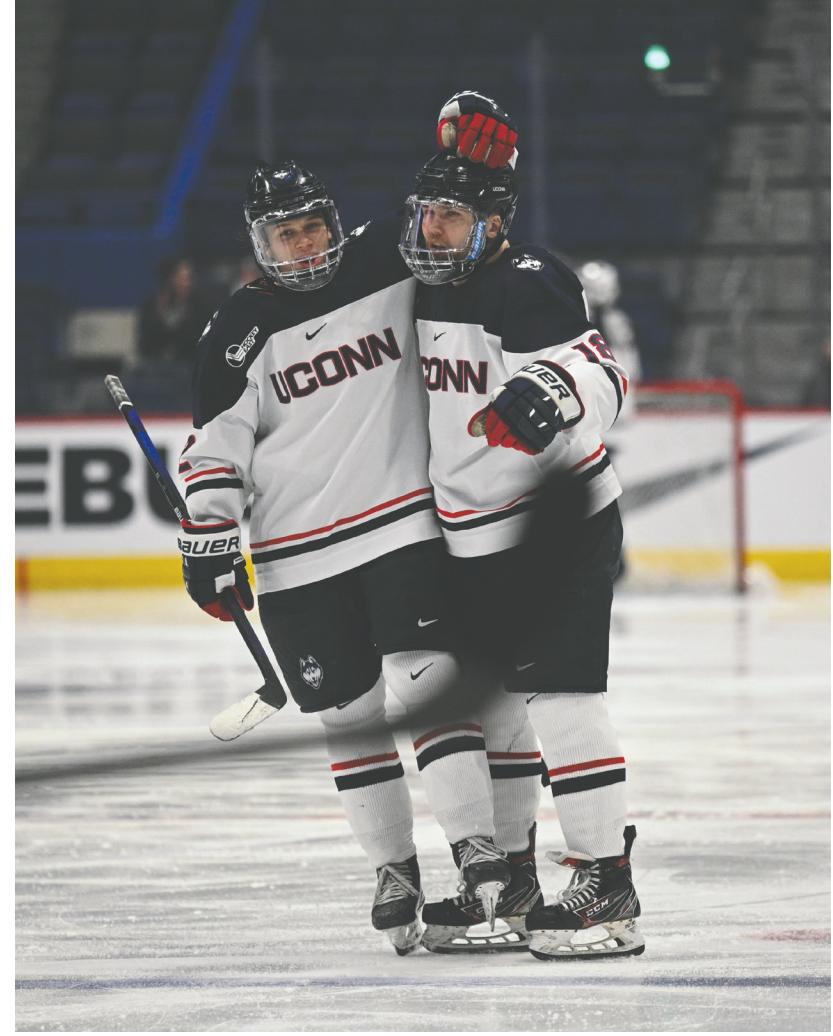
Another key piece for Marquette is shot-blocker Kur Kuath, who is second in the conference with 3.0 blocks per game. Driving guards like Tyrese Martin and RJ Cole will have to stay on their toes to avoid the athletic center.

Tipoff is set for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the XL Center in Hartford. The game will be broadcast live on FS1.



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 Preview: UConn looks to sweep Merrimack in series finale



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 EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Taylor Coonan
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The UConn men's hockey team has the opportunity to extend their win streak to three as they close out another Hockey East series. The Huskies split their series with Providence College and won the series against the University of New Hampshire this weekend. Going into Tuesday, these two wins bring their overall record up to 14-11-0 and 10-6-0 in Hockey East.

It was exactly two weeks ago when the Huskies first met the Warriors this season, welcoming them to the XL Center in Hartford. At the time, they were No. 19 nationally and fifth in Hockey East standings. As of right now, Merrimack is tied with Providence for fourth place in Hockey East, and is unranked nationally but received 36 votes in the latest poll.

When UConn beat Merrimack 3-2, they snapped the Warriors' win streak of five games and served to carry on a brief streak for the Huskies as they beat the University of New Hampshire the weekend before and then dominated Yale at this year's Connecticut Ice Tournament. With the exception of the last game of the tournament against Quinnipiac University, the Huskies have won five of their last six games.

Not to mention, scoring has increased significantly in terms of goals and goal scorers among the most recent contests. Aside from the Providence game, with a marginal victory by only one goal, the rest of the winning games have at least three goals on the board for the Huskies.

However, it seems that the Warriors have the same trend. Since playing UConn, Merrimack had two home games against the University of New Hampshire and the University of Maine, winning both games 5-2 and 5-0, respectively. This puts their collective record at 14-11-1 and 9-8-0 in conference play.

Ultimately, this puts even more pressure on UConn's defense, specifically, because Merrimack is currently on a scoring run in their games as they are tallying up both shots and points on the scoreboard. Last time, the Warriors could only get two past UConn goaltender Darien Hanson.

Head coach Mike Cavanaugh is the first to cheer on his goaltender to achieve his fullest potential. When asked about Hanson's continuous improvements this past weekend and if he is in fact getting better with each game, Cavanaugh said, "I hope so."

He emphasized that, "I hope he keeps getting better. Vince Stalletti, our goaltending coach does a great

job with him and they spend a lot of time watching films, looking at things. He's just a very mature kid, he's played a lot of hockey, I think that was his 102nd game, and that's a lot of games. He's seen a lot, and he's pretty experienced."

In this season alone, Hanson has had 1,438 minutes and 42 seconds of playing time. Within that time on the ice, Hanson's made 641 saves which amounts to a .922 save percentage across the 24 games he's dressed for.

UConn's defense held Providence to 21 shots all night, and Hanson only allowed one to reach the net behind him. Against New Hampshire, the defense wasn't able to limit the Wildcats' shots, but that didn't stop Darien Hanson from making 31 saves, permitting a lone goal to keep the Wildcats from blanking on the night. This was his fourth 31-save game this season.

As much as the Huskies look to Hanson to make the saves, they also want to limit the shots he faces—working hard on both offense and defense to keep the puck in out and "defend the house in front of Darien," as coach noted this weekend.

UConn will travel to North Andover, MA to play Merrimack College on Tuesday, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. The game will also be available for streaming on SportsLive.

UCONN SCOREBOARD

Women's basketball
Sunday
vs. T
75 56

UPCOMING GAMES



Men's Hockey, Tuesday, 7 p.m.
North Andover, MA



Men's Basketball Tuesday, 7 p.m.
XL Center

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



MEN'S TRACK & FIELD TOOK HOME THE TEAM TITLE AT THE COLUMBIA CHALLENGE. UCONN BESTED THE FIELD OF 21 TEAMS, PILING UP 75 POINTS OVER THE 17 SCORED EVENTS.

@uconnhuskies

Highlights from this weekend #BleedBlue

TWEETS OF THE DAY



Sports Illustrated
@S1now

Lamelo Ball and Dejounte Murray are heading to their first-ever All Star Game in Cleveland

Concacaf
@Concacaf

Weston McKennie has been nominated for Concacaf Male Player of the Year!

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