



UConn designated as bike-friendly university



A bird's eye view of Fairfield Way on the UConn Storrs campus. The first week of Spring 2023 classes came to an end today and students are getting back into the swing of school.
PHOTO BY IZZI BARTON, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Aiza Shaikh**
STAFF WRITER
She/her/hers
aiza.shaikh@uconn.edu

For the first time, the University of Connecticut has earned “Bicycle Friendly University” status by the League of American Bicyclists, recognizing the campus as environmentally friendly and supportive for biking.

The designation makes UConn one of 221 higher education institutions in the United States to ever be recognized for having a campus built with good conditions for biking. Six of those institutions, along with UConn, have achieved this status for the first time this year.

“UConn being awarded Bicycle Friendly University by the League of American Bicyclists recognizes UConn’s great features, such as the ro-

bust programming at Student Recreation and bicycle rentals at Cycle Share,” SHaW nurse practitioner Coryn Clark, who was part of the working group that put together UConn’s BFU application, said in an email.

Colleges and universities considered bike-friendly have factors that make them “ideal environments to incorporate bikes,” according to the BFU program’s website.

“Colleges and university campuses are unique environments for their high density, stimulating atmosphere and defined boundaries,” reads their website. “Many colleges and universities have built upon these good conditions and embraced the enthusiasm for more bicycle-friendly campuses by incorporating bike share programs, bike co-ops, clubs, bicycling education classes and policies to promote bicycling as

a preferred means of transportation.”

Campuses are evaluated based on five categories called the Five E’s: engineering, encouragement, education, enforcement and evaluation.

Clark, a bicyclist herself, said she encourages students to make biking a habit and continue it beyond college for wellness.

“As a nurse practitioner and bicyclist, I am interested in fostering healthy habits that students can use while in college and beyond, for lifelong wellness,” Clark said. “Bicycling helps physical fitness and helps combat stress. Also, bicycling is another way people in the UConn community can decrease the use of fossil fuel burning vehicles, which is important for the environment.”

UConn’s new bike-friendly designation isn’t the only one in

Connecticut. Ten of the state’s cities and towns, including Mansfield, Hartford and Farmington, have earned “Bicycle Friendly Community” designation in the past. Yale University is so far the only other higher education institution in Connecticut to have received the designation.

After Mansfield was recognized as a bike-friendly community in 2017, the working group, along with Mansfield community advocates, have been collaborating to bring the same designation to UConn’s Storrs campus.

“The Bicycle Working Group was started in August 2018 to assess the current conditions and advocate for changes that improve the access and safety for bicycling,” Clark said. “We have members from many departments and from Mansfield organizations.”

In January 2022, UConn developed its first Active Transportation Plan, a project focused on “reducing pedestrian-vehicular conflicts and increasing safety and connectivity throughout the campus core,” according to the ATP website.

UConn’s BFU designation also allows them to continue progress towards its newly established ATP, according to Clark.

“This [BFU] designation (bronze level) also gives UConn impetus to continue progress on its recently adopted Active Transportation Plan,” Clark said.

More information about UConn’s Bicycle Working Group, biking trails at the Storrs campus and an interactive bicycle parking map can be found at the Office of Sustainability’s website.

New housing opportunity opens for the signing community

by **Sania Chaudhary**
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
she/her/hers
sania.chaudhary@uconn.edu

New ASL Community Housing has opened for the 2023-2024 school year. The residential opportunity is available to Deaf, DeafBlind and hard-of-hearing students, as well as hearing students who know American Sign Language. The new housing will be located on the sixth floor of Watson Hall in the Alumni Quad.

Lauren Gobler is the coordinator of ASL Community Housing. She stated the reasons why the community came to existence.

“What we wanted to create was a highly immersive space for students to use the language more frequently and to welcome people who are Deaf, DeafBlind, and hard-of-hearing. We wanted

to make it their space as it is a really key part of our [UConn] program missing right now,” said Gobler.

The new residential opportunity has been in the works preceding the COVID-19 pandemic when activities were brought to a pause, but the idea had been floating around for much longer, Gobler said.

“One professor, who is retired now, said she was trying to make this happen for 30 years. She said she couldn’t retire before it happened, so it has been talked about for a while, but now we were able to actually do it,” Gobler said.

Gobler restated that the housing was for signing individuals, but welcomed those who could not sign to reach out to her to learn more about the community through various events like weekly signing dinners.

“Just spreading the word is also really important. There

are deaf and hard-of-hearing people on this campus who have never gotten in touch with the ASL program because everyone has their own story ... It’s great to know there is a welcoming space for them where they can live with each other and get the accommodations they need,” Gobler said.

A Youtube video posted on the ASL Community Housing webpage featured various events like “Silent Movie Night” and “Silent Game Night” where the mentioned activity includes a visually immersive and interactive environment for those who know or are practicing ASL.

Along with Donna McNeill, the previous ASL Community Housing coordinator, Gobler thanked the professors for supervising the beginning of the project and Residential Life for being open and accepting to the project.



Drawing of “friends” in America Sign Language.
PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

“I definitely want to thank Donna McNeill. She graduated last year. She is my co-founder, she did all of the grunt work before COVID hit. She didn’t get to experience this but she paved the

way for it,” Gobler said.

If you have any questions about ASL Community Housing, feel free to reach out to the student coordinators, Lauren and Vivian, at uconn.asl.community@gmail.com

In India, deity decorating a calling for Hindu temple artist



Visitors to the Anantha Padmanabha Swamy Temple in Chennai, India, take photos of the fully decorated idol of the goddess Durga on Nov. 29, 2022. PHOTO BY DEEPA BHARATH/AP

CHENNAI, India (AP) — The former computer professional — now a very specialized type of artist — locked his gaze on the deity before him.

On a recent afternoon, 33-year-old S. Goutham was perched on a ladder at the altar of the goddess Durga at the Anantha Padmanabha Swamy Temple in Chennai, India. Goutham — his hand moving steadily — was pleating a green silk sari to adorn the deity.

“You cannot get tense when you are doing this work,” he says. “You can’t do this if you are not patient. You need to become one with her.”

A computer science graduate, Goutham quit his job nearly a decade ago to pursue his calling. He has since followed in the footsteps of his ancestors as a fifth-generation decorator of temple deities.

In Hindu temples, idols are mostly made of materials such as black granite, white marble or five-metal alloys that have sacred significance. These deities are worshipped as physical, tangible representations of god (Brahman) who is believed to be infinite, omnipresent and beyond comprehension. Worship in a Hindu temple includes bathing these deities in milk, decorating them with colorful clothes, flowers, perfumes such as sandalwood, jewelry, and even weapons such as swords, clubs and tridents. Oil lamps are lit at the altar, and sacred chants and foods are offered to the gods.

Decorating the deities is a millennia-old practice that is described in the Hindu epic Ramayana, and Goutham has been learning the art since he was a toddler. He crafted his first formal decoration when he was 13 — at the very altar where he stood 20 years later on a day in November.

He has done thousands of decorations, ranging from relatively simple ones that take an hour or two to complete, to others that are more complex and take several days.

Goutham said he became interested in decorating deities as a child because of his father.

“When you are little, your father is your hero,” he said. “I wanted to be just like him.”

The first lesson Goutham got from his dad was about the weapons each god would hold. He heard stories about the power of each weapon and how gods would wield them.

“The personality of the deity and the story of the god or goddess could change depending on their weapons, the clothes they wear, the expression on their face or the position in which they are sitting or standing,” he said.

When he sets out to decorate a deity, Goutham says he has a concept of what to do, but doesn’t start out with a sketch. He goes step by step — placing the deity’s hands, feet and weapons. Then, he moves on to the clothes and jewelry. Gradually, the god’s form manifests.

There are rules about the types of materials that can be used on deities.

“The human body is made up of earth, water, fire, air and space, and everything you see naturally occurring on Earth is made of these elements,” Goutham said. “To show this, we decorate deities using things that occur in nature and are a representation of these elements, like copper, cloth, coconut fibers and so on.”

He says decorating a deity combines elements from art, dance and yoga, in terms of the hand gestures and postures the deities assume. Man-made materials such as plastic are prohibited. Goutham says he uses little pins to hold fabric together, but makes sure the pins don’t directly touch the idol.

He sources the deities’ arms and legs, mostly made from copper or brass, as well as the weapons and jewelry, from artisans.

He has also created an app and website for those who wish to learn more about this art and dreams of establishing an institution to train artists who can maintain the sacred tradition. While most deity decorators are men, he sees no reason why women cannot learn and practice it.

“Everyone is equal under god,” he said.

Storytelling is an important part of what he does. One of his favorite installations depicts the friendship between Lord Krish-

na, an incarnation of Vishnu, and Kuchela.

“It shows Krishna washing the feet of Kuchela, a poor man, conveying the message that humility is a virtue — whether you are a human being or god,” Goutham said.

The term “idol worship” may have negative connotations in some faiths. But for Hindus, deities — which are kept in temples, homes, shops and offices — serve as focal points “for us to channel our devotions, our actions and serve as a reminder of all the positive values that are associated with those deities,” said Suhag Shukla, executive director of the Hindu American Foundation.

Shukla says this form of worship is a way for her to connect with her ancestors.

“As a second-generation Hindu American, I didn’t grow up

with all these things around me where I could absorb through osmosis,” she said. “But just knowing that I’m part of a tradition that has been passed down from generation to generation is personally powerful for me.”

In U.S. Hindu temples, community members come together to help create the costumes for the deities, and it is an act of devotion, Shukla said.

“No one has to sit there and embroider a skirt or sari for a goddess, but they do it as a display of love,” she said. “It’s humbling and empowering.”

Goutham says he doesn’t view his job as a vocation.

“You can call it service because it brings pure joy to so many and plays a role in our spiritual awakening,” he said. “But in my view, it’s much more than that. It has the power to transform people.”

Goutham has decorated deities in temples abroad as he has in tiny Indian villages and little-known temples. He remembers stopping once at a village tea shop and hearing the locals praise his decoration of their temple deity.

“It really warmed my heart,” he said.

As Goutham placed a crown and garland on the deity at the temple in Chennai, neighbor Sucharithra Surendrababu watched awestruck, snapping images of the decorated goddess on her cell phone.

“I love seeing mother Durga whether or not she is decorated,” she said. “But, when I do see her all decked up and looking gorgeous, it makes me so happy. It’s uplifting and empowering.”

There are some decorations which bring tears even to the artist’s eyes.

“It’s not just something that is pretty to look at,” Goutham said. “It’s about love and faith. When you touch the deities, clothe them and decorate them, you think of them as your friends or parents. You need skill and vision to do this. But above all, it takes heart.”



An idol of the goddess Durga at the Anantha Padmanabha Swamy Temple in Chennai, India, on Nov. 29, 2022. PHOTO BY DEEPA BHARATH/AP

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 5,000 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.

Want to advertise in print or online?
advertising@dailycampus.com

Corrections and Clarifications:
Send Corrections to EIC@DailyCampus.com

Friday, January 20, 2023
Copy Editors: Desirae Sin, Madeline Papcun, Caroline Czuprynski and Danielle Katz
News Designer: Sofia Acosta
Life Designer: Raquel Montelindo
Sports Designer: Lily Juarez
Opinion Designer: Emily O'Bannon, Janella Briones
Photo Producer: Skyler Kim

Harrison Raskin, Editor-in-Chief
Sam Zelin, Managing Editor
Zachary Wisnefsky, Business Manager
Grace McFadden, Digital Editor
Janella Briones, Associate Managing Editor
Emily O'Bannon, Associate Managing Editor
Charlotte Chen, Associate Digital Editor

Thomas Alvarez News Editor Colin Piteo Associate News Editor Jonathan Synott Sports Editor Stratton Stave Associate Sports Editor Erin Knapp Photo Editor Sofia Sawchuk Associate Photo Editor Esther Ju Life Editor Joanne Biju Associate Life Editor	Madeline Papcun Opinion Editor Nell Srinath Associate Opinion Editor Kaitlyn Tran Artist Editor Steven Coleman Associate Artist Editor Amy Eweka Outreach/Social Media Coordinator Sofia Acosta Associate SMOG Van Nguyen Advertising Director Benjamin Pulsifer Circulation Manager
---	---

For more information about getting involved as an editorial, business or digital employee:
Editorial · managingeditor@dailycampus.com
Business · businessmanager@dailycampus.com
Digital · digital@dailycampus.com

Prefer to read our content online?
Check out our newly redesigned website at dailycampus.com and follow us on social media.
Instagram · The_DailyCampus
Facebook · The Daily Campus
Twitter · The_DailyCampus

Want to write or photograph for The Daily Campus ?
The Daily Campus welcomes writers and photographers of all backgrounds, interests, majors and levels of experience. To get involved, it's as easy as attending section meetings on Sunday nights, all at the Daily Campus building, (1266 Storrs Road) or reaching out to an email below:

News (Meetings at 6 p.m.)
news@dailycampus.com
Opinion (Meetings at 5 p.m.)
opinion@dailycampus.com
Life (Meetings at 7 p.m.)
life@dailycampus.com
Sports (Meetings at 8 p.m.)
sports@dailycampus.com
Photo (Meetings at 10 p.m.)
photo@dailycampus.com
Artists (Meetings at 10 p.m. on discord)
managingeditor@dailycampus.com

ACROSS

- 1 Meet portion, or portion of meat
- 4 Film franchise featuring Lightning McQueen
- 8 Regarding
- 13 Portfolio options, for short
- 15 Perched on
- 16 Deteriorating
- 17 “Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of ____”
- 18 NYC gallery with a Bell helicopter on display
- 19 Melted together
- 20 Dinner roll that provides an unexpected boost?
- 23 Pool necessity
- 24 Had as a regular customer
- 27 Outlandish stories about Vietnamese soup?
- 32 Bulky boats
- 34 Lithium-____ battery
- 35 Seized auto
- 36 Tease mercilessly
- 37 Valued at one fancy ballpoint?
- 42 Texter’s “But ... ”
- 43 “Monday Night Football” commentator Aikman
- 44 Young man
- 45 Anklebones
- 46 Golfers who just need to dance, dance, dance before every drive?
- 49 Stretching muscle
- 51 Common Market letters
- 52 Chophouse order, and an apt title for this puzzle?
- 58 Silky fabric
- 61 The “genu-” in “genuflect”
- 62 American tennis phenom Gauff
- 63 Begins
- 64 Low-pH stuff
- 65 Is shy
- 66 Play area
- 67 Egg layers
- 68 After taxes

DOWN

- 1 Command to a prompter
- 2 Actress Moriarty who plays Starlight on “The Boys”
- 3 PlayStation, for one
- 4 Strappy top, for short
- 5 Comprehensive
- 6 Trevi Fountain city
- 7 Like Greenland’s population
- 8 “Zero stars”
- 9 Edge
- 10 Sterile work environs
- 11 Employ
- 12 “Thank you for coming to my ____ Talk”
- 14 Azalea, e.g.
- 21 Park and drive
- 22 “If I Were a ____”: Beyoncé ballad
- 25 Horseracing achievement
- 26 “Will do, hon”
- 27 Crochet loop
- 28 Heckle
- 29 Seydoux of “No Time to Die”

- 30 On the facing pg.
- 31 Compass dirección
- 33 Mails
- 38 Watering down
- 39 Tarzan creator’s monogram
- 40 Also
- 41 Blood groups
- 46 AAA job
- 47 Neo-soul artist Badu
- 48 Boxer’s favorite store, maybe?

- 50 Feel
- 53 “... cut ____”: end of a carpentry maxim
- 54 Bridle strap
- 55 Canvas shoe brand
- 56 Frozen treat brand
- 57 Station
- 58 Distress signal
- 59 Likely (to)
- 60 Leaves for dim sum

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

S	L	E	D		P	A	B	S	T		S	E	A	L
C	O	R	E		E	L	L	I	E		P	A	R	E
A	W	O	L		S	A	U	N	A		A	S	K	S
M	E	D	I	O	C	R	E	G	R	A	D	E	S	
P	R	E		R	I	M	S			L	E	I		
I	S	S	U	E				C	E	O		N	Y	E
					G	L	O	B	A	L	S	E	P	T
S	T	A	G		S	E	P	I	A		I	O	N	A
G	E	T	S	T	H	E	P	O	I	N	T			
T	A	T		E	A	R				A	T	L	A	S
			R	O	N			B	A	L	I		O	R
		C	A	P	T	U	R	E	B	Y	F	O	R	C
M	I	C	E			R	I	T	A	S		S	E	A
A	T	T	N			N	O	T	S	O		S	A	D
T	E	S	S			S	T	E	E	L		A	L	E

01/20/23

1	2	3			4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12
13			14		15					16				
17					18					19				
20				21					22					
		23						24				25	26	
27	28				29	30	31				32			33
34				35							36			
37			38					39	40	41				
42							43					44		
45					46	47					48			
	49			50						51				
			52				53	54	55				56	57
58	59	60				61					62			
63						64					65			
66						67						68		

By Wendy L. Brandes
©2023 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

01/20/23

CLASSIFIEDS

Policy: Classifieds are non-refundable. Credit will be given if an error materially affects the meaning of the ad and only for the first incorrect insertion. Ads will only be printed if they are accompanied by both first and last name as well as telephone number. Names and numbers may be subject to verification. All advertising is subject to acceptance by The Daily Campus, which reserves the right to reject any ad copy at its sole discretion. The Daily Campus does not knowingly accept ads of a fraudulent nature.

IN CONVERSATION: SOFT POWER, GEOPOLITICS AND RELIGION

by Benjamin Lassy
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
benjamin.lassy@uconn.edu

Today, the International Studies Association hosted another event in their IR Book Talk Series, which sees scholars and experts from various universities and backgrounds discuss both their work and the broader field of international relations.

The event focused specifically on the subjects of geopolitics, religion and soft power within the context of recent historical events. In essence, the scholars sought to highlight the importance and validity of religion in modern relations across the globe.

Speakers came prepared with presentations or statements on studies, papers and research they had conducted on various topics related to the subject.

Jeffrey Haynes, professor emeritus of politics at London Metropolitan University, was the first to present. With over 40 published books and many years of experience in the field, Haynes focused primarily on Turkey-Ghana relations.

Haynes began by discussing the construction of the National Mosque of Ghana — a momentous effort funded by the Turkish government — in addition to the subtleties of religious influence upon education and government cooperation. Expressing that soft power — the non-coercive, non-militaristic cooperation of nations — was particularly fueled by religion in the relations between Turkey and Ghana. Haynes defined Turkey’s actions as a blend of both soft and hard power, defined as “smart power.” The

next presenter was associate professor Peter Henne from the University of Vermont, whose contributions to the discussion centered around the difficulties present in researching and measuring the effects of soft power, along with its use.

Unlike a concrete and countable action such as a treaty or diplomatic move, soft power and religious influence are hard to scale as they are often ever-changing and usually out of the public eye. This topic was later revisited by other speakers, who added the notion that perhaps soft power was on a spectrum, not necessarily easily measurable, but at least definable.

Henne also used historical context to discuss the controversies and downsides of soft power backed by religion. Highlighting both Barack Obama’s response to the Russian invasion of Crimea in 2014 to attempt to rally pro-Ukrainian sentiment, as well as Vladimir Putin’s connection with the Russian Orthodox Church, Henne sought to uncover the presence of soft power in the modern world stage. In both instances, non-violent, subtle pressure was in play, swaying the decisions of nations and the minds of civilians.

Next, speaker Ahmet Erdi Öztürk, professor of international relations and politics at London Metropolitan University, had a unique viewpoint on Turkey’s use of soft power in particular.

Due to its influence in countries such as the aforementioned connection with Ghana, Turkey has a form of religious soft power it employs on surrounding nations.

In addition, the Turkish government under President Erdogan uses soft power derived from religious values in order to better manage the country’s development and political scene. Thus, due to this internal and external use of soft power, Öztürk argued that Turkey follows an ambiguous path — one that is achieved through the use of religious soft power.

Lastly, speaker Peter Mandaville, a former official, academic and now leader of the Geopolitics of Religious Soft Power Project at the Berkeley Center, championed an approach to soft power which emphasized its use and recent discovery in reshaping the modern understanding of international relations and religious boundaries.

Later discussing the role of Buddhism in China in order to appeal to traditional values, as well as the connection between Christians and Muslims across the world due to their power in influencing a nation’s actions, Mandaville articulated that the field of international relations has many components which all “cross-fertilize” into the modern era of political interactions. To conclude, Mandaville referenced a University of Georgetown article which discussed the topic of Buddhist soft power in China in more detail.

This event was made possible by the contributions of the following sponsors: Jeffrey Haynes, Peter Mandaville, Peter Henne, Ahmet Öztürk and Jocelyne Cesari. The International Studies Association plans to have another Book Talk event in February focusing around Sikh nationalism and other topics.

'That '90s Show' is nothing like 'Girl Meets World'

by **Karla Perez**
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
karla.perez@uconn.edu

If you are anything like me, you love old shows your parents watched when they were your age. The nostalgia makes the program exponentially more enjoyable. Those were the times when cheesy scripts were still funny. However, some things are better left alone, as many people have expressed in their input on reboots for shows such as “Boy Meets World” or “90210.” The remake is almost never as good as the original. Whether it is because they try too hard or don’t try hard enough, the initial nostalgia is rarely captured in the revamp.

From what I have seen so far, “That ‘90s Show” is different. Netflix’s newly released sitcom is a reboot of “That ‘70s Show,” and the essence of the original successfully translates into the reboot.

The characters grew up, but their humor remained and has been passed down to the new generation of Point Place dwellers. The show takes place in 1995 in which Eric and Donna are married and raising their daughter Leia. As much as he may try, Eric struggles to pass down his adoration for “Star Wars” to his daughter.

Apart from the “Star Wars” dilemma, Eric finds himself struggling with many aspects of parenthood that only become more apparent while he and his family visit his and Donna’s hometown of Point Place, Wisconsin. Within their first week, Leia befriends Gwen Runck, the girl who lives in Donna’s old room next door to the Formans.

This friendship leads to Leia meeting the rest of Gw-

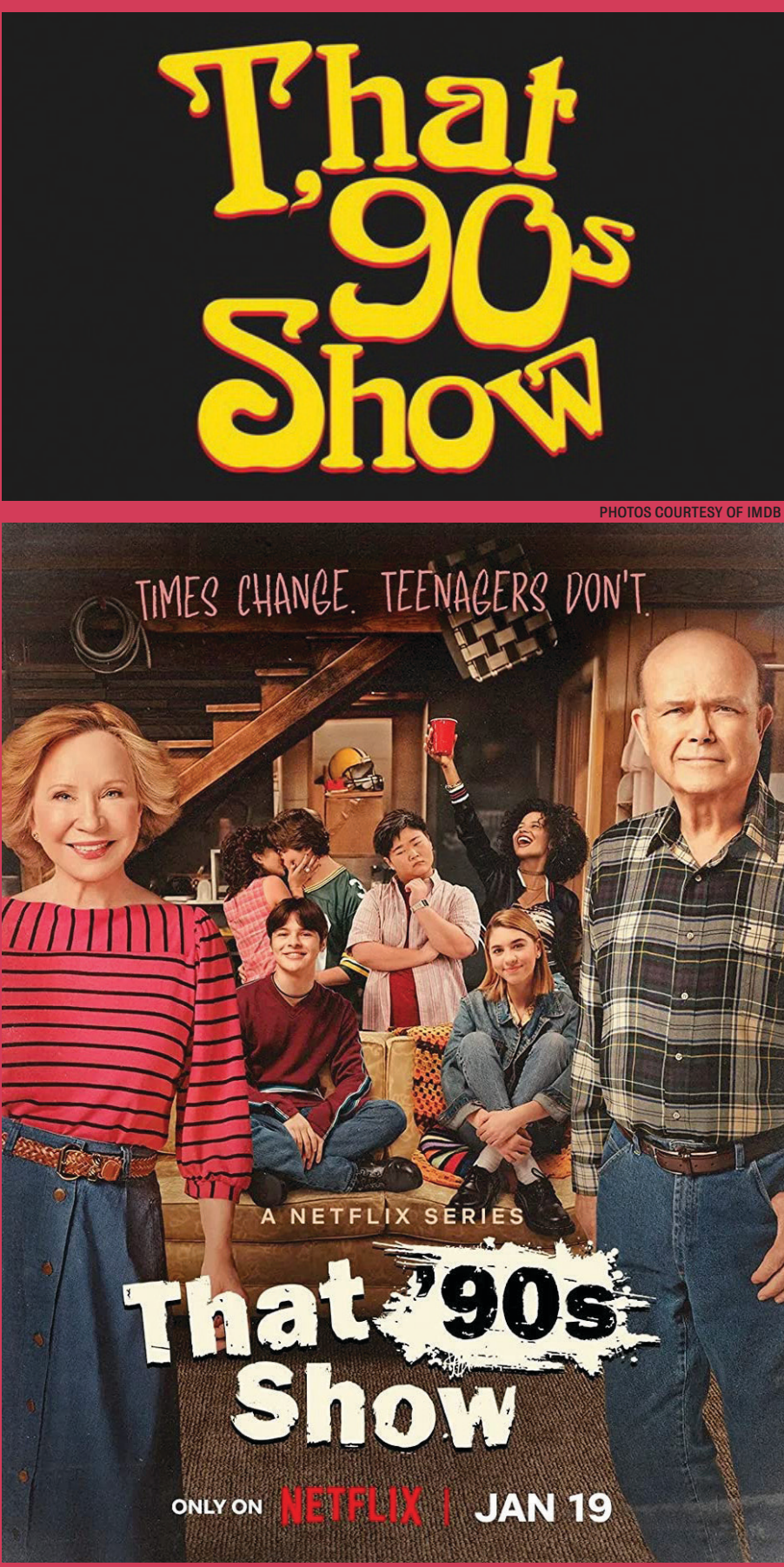
en’s crew, quickly demonstrating a reflection of the original friend group and all their mischief from 20 years ago. You get Nikki and Nate, whose hot-and-cold relationship emulates the iconic situation between Jackie and Michael. There’s Jay who carries on the bromance with Nate to reflect that of Michael and Steven. Finally, Fez’s legacy continues through the wholesome character that is Ozzie.

Minus the decor in Donna’s childhood room, every other aspect of the original set remains untouched. Even major props such as the iconic van that holds many of the stories from “That 70s Show” was rebooted to emulate the original. To make the correlation even more clear, the transitions between scenes are completed by crazy-colored backgrounds and mirrored images of the different characters acting like their carefree selves, just as the transitions were done in the original sitcom.

Leia and her new friends follow in the footsteps of figuring out who they are, who they love and what they want in life just as her parents and their friends did 20 years ago. Eric and Donna struggle with the realization that those kids are “learning the ropes” just as they did, and are still learning how to go about parenting wisely.

As the two parties continue to learn about these new stages in life, viewers are still kept just as entertained as they were when the original show was released. The 10 episodes currently available on Netflix make me excited to see what else is to come out of the reboot in future seasons.

Rating 5/5



“That ‘90s Show” is a reboot of the popular sitcom “That ‘70s Show.” The sitcom follows the life of Leia Forman, the daughter of Donna and Eric Forman, as she stays with her grandparents. PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB



THE ART OF AWKWARDNESS IN HBO’S ‘THE WHITE LOTUS’

by **Maxim Soroka**
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
maxim.soroka@uconn.edu

If you haven’t heard of Mike White’s “The White Lotus” by now, then you must be living under a rock. This unique dramedy that offers an inside look at the personal lives of the rich and famous on vacation is like nothing I’ve ever seen before. The pettiness and sheer cringe of character interactions makes audiences erupt with laughter, or at least wince at the awkwardness.

The show is set up with an ensemble cast consisting of some heavy Hollywood names. Most notably, Aubrey Plaza, Theo James and Michael Imperioli joined the cast as members of the rich elite alongside the ever so fabulous Jennifer Coolidge, one of the two returning characters from the first season. However, not every character on the show comes from such wealth as many are employees of the White Lotus resort or other service workers.

Recently, Coolidge won a Golden Globe for her portrayal of Tanya in the series. Her co-star Haley Lu Richardson, who plays her assistant on the show, described what it was like to work with Coolidge in an interview with The Hollywood Reporter, explaining how she was unable to tell “where Tanya ends and Jennifer begins.” White also brought home a Golden Globe for Best Limited Series for writing and directing the show. The two

close friends shared an intimate exchange of words thanking one another in their acceptance speeches.

If its accolades aren’t enough to motivate your interest in the show, I would recommend watching an episode or two to see if it’s the right fit for you. Between the writing and the performances, the show does an astonishing job balancing the inherent humor of incredibly awkward situations while also mixing in cumbersome drama to keep the plot moving. Given that it’s an HBO original, the show does live up to the service’s standard of nudity and vulgarity, so I wouldn’t recommend watching it with Mom around.

Some of the characters include three male relatives spanning three generations who trace their family roots while also dealing with their inclinations for infidelity. Other plots revolve around two young — and very successful — married couples, as well as scheming escorts, the hotel manager, a mysterious and eccentric group of gay men and so many more wildcards. What’s fascinating is how each plot overlaps with another, often through strange instances. It’s captivating as an audience member to watch two characters encounter each other as complete strangers, yet you already know so much about them.

Season two was filmed along the stunning coastline of Sicily. With the first season taking place in Hawaii, and rumors of

the third one moving to an undisclosed location in Asia, there is no expense spared on tracking down and flaunting some of the most beautiful vacation spots in the world. Every season so far has also been shot in an actual Four Seasons Hotel, granting fans the opportunity to stay at the exact same spots where the story unfolded.

My only small complaint of the show is the inherent jealousy that can fester as a viewer. In a comical way, I found myself very envious of the characters lounging on the beach and sipping their champagne as I sat on my stained couch in my apartment. If you are someone who doesn’t enjoy the decadent display of greed and ego to an almost disgusting degree, then you may not enjoy this show. But even though all of the conflicts emulate first-world problems, the writing and performances are worthy of appreciation on their own.

As I started off saying I have never seen anything like “The White Lotus” on television before, it feels borderline historic. It aired during HBO’s premiere spot — Sundays at 9 p.m. — meaning it was the show that drew the most effort by everyone involved along the process. That effort pays off immensely in one of the most entertaining shows streaming today. Though it sounds like there will be a decent wait until season three, that means you have plenty of time to get caught up on the first two.

Rating: 5/5



“The White Lotus” is an HBO Max dramedy that released its second season on Oct. 30. This series has gained critical acclaim and contains a cast of remarkable actors.
PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Daily

Opinion

The Daily Campus

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Harrison Raskin..... EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

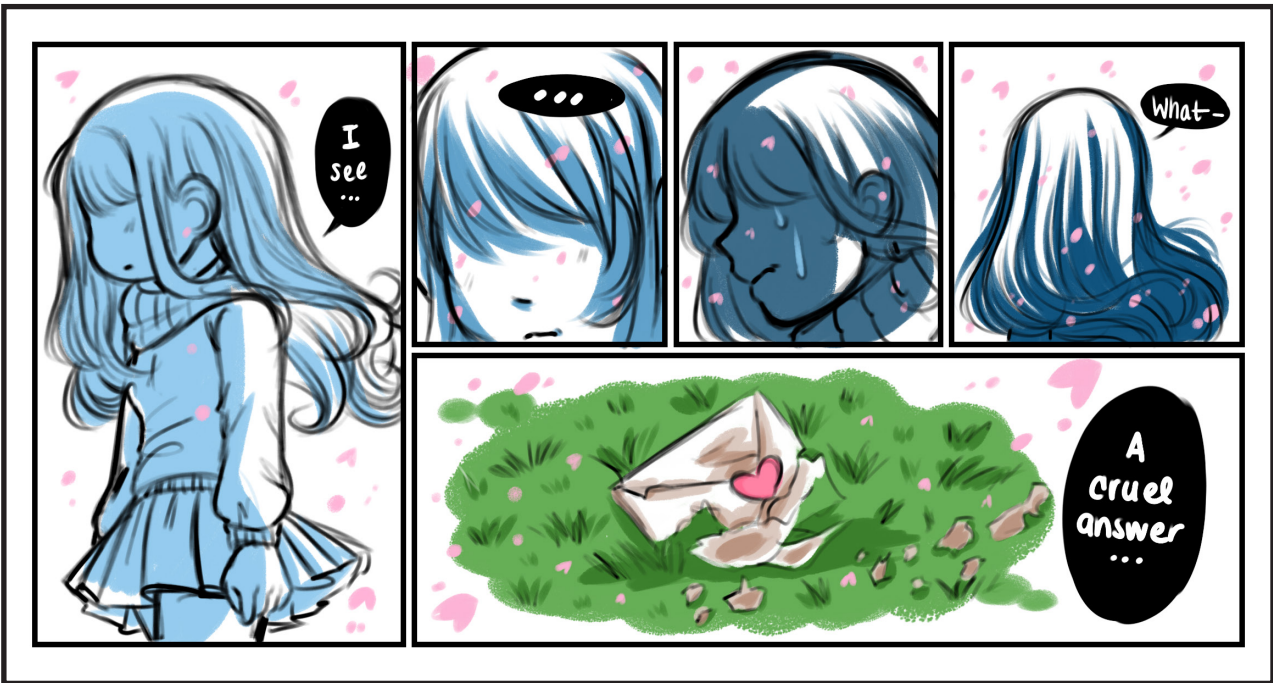
Madeline Papcun..... OPINION EDITOR

Nell Srinath..... ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

Owen Silverman..... WEEKLY COLUMNIST

Dan Stark..... WEEKLY COLUMNIST

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed by individual writers in the opinion section do not reflect the views and opinions of The Daily Campus or other staff members. Only articles labeled "Editorial" are the official opinions of The Daily Campus.



COMIC BY ZAIRE DIAZ, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



On AI “art”

“Art is the mirror of the soul,
Reflecting life in strokes and scrolls.
A brushstroke tells a story true,
Of visions seen and dreams pursued.
With colors bright and lines so bold,
Art speaks in stories yet untold.
A canvas holds a world inside,
Where beauty lies in every tide.
In every stroke, a heart doth beat,
In every shade, a tale complete.
Art is the voice of our desire,
A never-ending, fiery fire.
It’s a window to the soul,
And makes the world feel whole.”

-Chat GPT, Jan. 19, 2023

by Owen Silverman
WEEKLY COLUMNIST
HE/HIM/HIS
owen.silverman@uconn.edu

Expanding at a rapid, startling rate, artificial intelligence offers an infinite dimension of possibilities to those willing to explore its capabilities and poses an existential threat to some of those who have. AI-generated communication through the newest version of ChatGPT has left computer scientists practically drooling over the power of such an interface, professors worried and helpless to the newest form of plagiarism and students curious of

the powers and utility that AI programs may yield. I’ve even found myself having full-fledged conversations with them — a la Joaquin Phoenix in “Her” — late at night or throughout the day, stupefied by the fact that a robot is, for lack of a better term, “getting to know me.” Yet, for all the AI-pessimists out there, concerned about some form of a world-dominating technological takeover, I can confidently say there is one thing AI will never take: art. What is art? What can we consider art? Can AI-generated images and poems be considered art? While the first two questions have plagued philosophers and gap-

yearing nepotism babies alike, the latter poses a simple answer. No. Let us first explore the first two questions, and attempt to come to some formal understanding of what constitutes something as art. Art is a dynamic mechanism for the expression of beliefs, experiences, values and imagination. One who engages in the virtue of Art does so by presenting an argument of sorts, much like this article, through which their views on the world around them may be recognized and, in most cases, criticized. Whether it be a painting, poem, novel, sculpture or building, art allows for the individual to

translate their experiences onto a new, tangible medium. So how do we decide what is considered art? There’s no obvious response, nor is there any numeric expression or formula we can use to generate an objective answer. Yet, we seem to generally be in universal agreement when it comes to what may be considered art. Paintings, for one, like those of Van Gogh or Picasso, are cherished by curators and viewers alike, either for the technical skills they utilize, or for the emotions they draw out of us — this last part is essential in our definition of art. Although there remains some contentious pieces out there, you and I would likely see eye-to-eye when contemplating why a self-portrait of Van Gogh is considered art, and why a trash can on the side of the road isn’t. Yet, the existence of plagiarism introduces another aspect of art: originality. One cannot simply copy line-for-line “Pride and Prejudice” and present it to the publishing industry as their own work. The credit for said work belongs to Jane Austen, and any copy produced by another individual would be deemed as nothing more than a transcription. Unless the new copy introduced a significant change in the plot, such as the movie “Pride and Prejudice and Zombies” — I won’t comment on the quality in which it was done so — the new work remains nothing more than a reproduction. But what about art that utilizes other art? Does this mean that collages are not art? What about songs that sample other songs? Are these not art too? To this I say yes, they are. Art that draws from other forms of art are considered original when done so in a unique and transformative way. Whereas the Jane Austen replica is devoid of any creative choices, a collage or sampled song employs the creations of others, presenting an amalgam of another’s art mixed in with one’s own ideas, to produce a new, unique piece. For sampled art to be considered art, and not simply plagiarism, it must present itself in a transformative way that both acknowledges its influence while also announcing its own original perspective. So, what is art? Although it remains vague, art must include some aspect of expression, derived from experience or beliefs, originality and a transformative approach. This brings us to AI art, or should I say AI “art.” The poem at the beginning of this article was generated by ChatGPT upon being prompted the command, “Write me a 12-line poem about art.” — it ended up being 14 lines, I’m not quite sure how, but who am I to set a limit on the creative process? Almost instantly, it spit out this ... well ... something less so reminiscent of Joyce and perhaps closer to the works of a wise, cartoon turtle. To put it simply, this poem stinks. I’d expect this quality from a reasonably intelligent third grader, or perhaps a brilliant chimpanzee. But not from a chatbot that is, according to Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft, “fascinating to see how these generative models are capturing the imagination.” And before you tell me I’m being too harsh, that ChatGPT and other AI are advertised as a sophisticated chatbot and not a replacement for poets and painters alike, I will say, “Ok, but is this art?” Aside from the quality of the poem, as there is an abundance of

mediocre poetry that I’d consider art, AI-generated poetry, painting or anything cannot be considered art for the mere fact that it is “generated,” and not “created.” I know this sounds obvious, but given the prevalence of AI-generated “art” exhibits and printed poetry books, it’s time I set my foot down. AI art is not art. Is it poetry? Sure thing. Does it evoke emotion? Perhaps to some. But is it drawing from its own experiences, its own beliefs and ideas or thoughts about the world? No, and it never will. I must give the chatbot credit, as when you ask it more philosophical questions about the meaning of life, or love, it is quick to remind you that it is, in fact, nothing more than a computer program, incapable of experiencing any true emotion or free will. While toying around with the interface, it produced for me another poem that included the line, “The wind in my hair / the grass beneath my feet.” As ridiculous as this sounds coming from a computer, I believe this illustrates my point perfectly. AI are incapable of expression, of true creation; rather, they are relegated to mere “generation.” What is considered a creative process for humans, in which decision-making and varying experiences are met with long, ponderous thought, exists beyond the realm of capabilities for AI. So why are we treating AI “art” as true art? Have we become that tired of what is already out there? Are we so desperate for new art that we have turned to computers to do the dirty work of artists globally? I’d like to think we’re not. I asked ChatGPT about AI art, and what it thinks on the subject. It offered me an interesting perspective. According to the bot, AI art opens the possibility of fresh perspectives, free from human bias, and also removes that pesky thing that is time from the equation, as it is capable of producing millions of poems a second. But why is this a pro? Certainly, the goals of, say, the publishing industry are fixated on quality over quantity — sure books may be printed in the millions, but there is no need for a million more books a year, people don’t read as is. Even if AI poetry were to be considered art, there is no demand for its excessive flooding of an already overpopulated, and underappreciated, literary market. Now, this may sound like an overexaggerating of a problem, or rather an overreaction to a not-so worrying topic. Who cares about AI art anyways? Yet, I felt like this needed to be said: AI “art” is not a replacement for human art, as it isn’t even the same type of thing. Although likely nobody is concerned that ChatGPT will become the next Austen or Joyce, it is concerning to see the amount of attention given to AI-generated paintings, poems, etc. Maybe it isn’t the existential threat some art concerned about — computers are a lot better than humans at most things, anyways, so there will always be something to worry about. With this in mind, I do not think AI-generated “art” is threatening the integrity or careers of current, or past, human artists. However, I will do my best to ensure that it never will, as contributing to the progression of AI’s colonization of the arts is a death wish for any creative mind. Roko’s basilisk may do a better job explaining this than I can, I encourage you to check it out.

Photo of the Day | Study buddies



On a gloomy Thursday morning, students stay warm at the Beanery Cafe inside the Benton Museum of Art across the lawn from the Student Union.

PHOTO BY IZZI BARTON, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

TRAVELLING

SHOULD BE AN INVESTMENT TO YOURSELF

by Grace Sim
CONTRIBUTOR
grace.sim@uconn.edu

Every day is a routine we must follow; this Friday may not be that different than the Friday two weeks later. Most of the time this is the case, especially when you are a college student with a curriculum to follow. While most of us like the feeling of stability in our lives and how most things are in order, we tend to get this slight feeling that we are missing out on something. For me, this feeling comes a few weeks into the academic year and it's difficult to ignore. I have tried many methods like trying out a new series on Netflix, or trying out a new menu at a favorite nearby restaurant. Nonetheless, the most effective way to experience the climax of intensive learning is through travel.

Exploring unfamiliar places and surrounding oneself with different people and sceneries is an experience we must all go through while we are students. I think the biggest benefit of trav-

eling is that we get to learn a lot and get to know people from different backgrounds. Although college itself has many characters, we can meet a much more diverse group of people outside school. Especially when traveling in a group or staying at a hostel, you can spark conversations with a variety of people living different lives with different purposes. For example, once I spoke with a traveler from Spain who works as a freelance French translator and another person who just quit her job working in the fashion industry. If I have never explored a new destination out of school, it would have been harder to get to know people in the real workplace and hear about their genuine lifestyle. I used to be fooled by the glamorous image of the fashion industry. Fortunately, by encountering a fellow traveler and listening to her real experience, the reality hit me hard and I no longer considered it as my career path.

Also, depending on who we travel with, the experiences we learn can be a turning point in our lives. Traveling alone helps us focus on our emotions in the present and learn about a new aspect of ourselves. In my experience, once I went to a new art museum, I found out that I prefer paintings over sculptures and that walking is my favorite form of transportation. Additionally, traveling with others is a way to get to know each other and tends to reveal our true nature, so be careful about who you are traveling with!

A lot of college students are in the stage where they feel like they don't know what to do in the future. We are all trying to figure out what we want to do and what we can do, but at the same time, we are busy with assignments and exams during the school year. I believe that traveling simultaneously relieves and intensifies our thoughts about the future afterwards. Traveling helps focus on our current emotions and makes you think out of the blue.

Even the bizarre thought of living in that place forever can help generate possible ideas and hopes for a potential future. Who knows? You might end up looking for a job in your past travel destinations.

In a realistic perspective, many would hesitate to step outside of their house because of how expensive traveling is. It is true that transportation, lodging and other relevant expenses are pricey for a college student, especially in this economy. However, traveling doesn't necessarily mean a one-month trip to Europe. You don't have to travel to the other side of the world and book a luxurious resort. In fact, just going to a nearby place you don't normally go often also counts as traveling. Wherever you go, as long as it's not the same lecture room or the same library — as long as it breaks your routine — is worth it. As there is a famous saying "investment in travel is an investment in yourself." Don't hesitate to invest in traveling during your four or more years at the University of Connecticut.



ILLUSTRATION BY KAITLYN TRAN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

NEPO BABIES IN HOLLYWOOD

RIDING THE “SILVER SPOON EXPRESS”

by Fatima Khan | SHE/THEY | CONTRIBUTOR | fatima.khan@uconn.edu

ILLUSTRATION BY VAN NGUYEN,
STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY
CAMPUS

New York Magazine recently dubbed 2022 the year of the nepo baby. For those who don't know, a nepotistic baby is the child of a professional, such as an actor, who follows in the footsteps of their parents, and gets success due to their parents' fame or reputation. Some famous nepotism babies include Brooklyn Beckham, Bella Hadid, Gracie Abrams and Lily Rose Depp.

Nepotism is one of the most direct means through which success under capitalism is handed down, in an unfair way. It completely undermines our society's impossible mantra of “pulling yourself up by your bootstraps,” that if you work hard enough, you can accomplish anything. Being the child of a powerful agent or person in Hollywood means that you have the resources and opportunities that

most people don't have access to. Not only that, but when your parents are rich, they can devote time and money to your career. And it means always having a safety net to fall back on, when things don't work out.

This is why unsuccessful nepotism babies are embarrassing. From birth, they had every opportunity possible, yet they still couldn't succeed. One pertinent example of this is Brooklyn Beckham. He is best known for being the oldest child of David and Victoria Beckham, with a combined net worth of over \$450 million dollars. Beckham himself has explored many career paths, but has succeeded in none. At the age of 16, he was recruited by Arsenal Football Club, but then let go. Next, he tried his hand at photography, releasing a book called “What I See,” that was ridiculed all over the internet for being terrible. Now, he is following his true “passion” of cooking, and even has his own cooking show, but has faced backlash for that, because people believe that he doesn't know how to cook. The reason he's been able to explore this many career paths, and not face any financial consequences for not succeeding, is because of nepotism.

There have been nepotism babies who haven't liked the backlash of the label. Lottie Moss, the sister of Katie Moss, tweeted this: “I'm so sick of people blaming nepotism for why they aren't rich and famous or successful - obviously it's not fair that people who come from famous families are getting a leg up because of that but guess what? Life isn't fair - if you put your mind to something you can accomplish Anything ! So instead of being negative about other peoples success go and try and create your own !” This response is entirely tone-deaf, pushing the harmful narrative that disadvantaged people aren't trying hard enough to succeed and aren't putting “their minds to it.” Additionally, Lottie Moss' only relevant claim to fame is being Katie Moss' sister.

There isn't one single stand-out solution to this imbalance of power. One suggestion I have is to diversify the people that are making the decisions about who should be cast or picked for a role. This would help level the playing field. Additionally, nepotism babies can also use their privilege for the better. For example, Mia Farrow and Woody Allen's son, Ronan Farrow, used his platform and connections to aid his journalistic investigation of the abuses committed by Harvey Weinstein.

Additionally, there isn't anything wrong with being a nepotism baby, as long as the privilege behind it and the success that comes with it is recognized. And there's no use pretending that some of the most privileged nepotism babies have created their success themselves. They've had an upper hand, since they started riding the Silver Spoon Express, at birth.



COMIC BY ZAIRE DIAZ, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

SUDOKU

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

Turn upside down for the answers

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

Photo of the Day | Ballin’



Nika Muhl dribbles past a Georgetown defender on Saturday, Jan. 15. The Huskies beat the Hoyas 65-50.

PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL: NO. 5 HUSKIES PREPARE FOR BATTLE AGAINST BUTLER

by Stratton Stave
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR
HE/HIM/HIS
stratton@uconn.edu

Not all matchups are created equal. After the No. 5 Connecticut Huskies made mincemeat out of Seton Hall, this matinee against Butler shrinks in comparison. The Bulldogs rank No. 126 in NET and are 7-11 on the year and 2-7 in conference. Their two lone conference wins came against the pair of teams below them, Xavier and Georgetown, both by a large margin. Being the best of the bottom three doesn’t mean too much though, especially against a top-five team like UConn.

This year the Bulldogs started off strong, winning four of their first six games, albeit against mediocre competition. Their schedule started bulking up with a mixture of conference/other power six opponents, causing them to lose five of their next six. That set did include an impressive loss against then-No. 4 Indiana in Bloomington, as they didn’t let the Hoosiers blow them out of the gym. From there, Butler hasn’t impressed with a 2-4 stretch that includes their low-Big East wins.

That final stretch saw the Bulldogs play their first game against UConn. When the teams played at Hinkle Fieldhouse, the Huskies emerged as 33-point victors. After jumping out to a double-digit lead in the opening period, Connecticut didn’t make a meaningful difference in their advantage before half-time. A +18 third quarter sealed the deal and the game was won largely by Aaliyah Edwards’ near double-double, with 20 points and nine rebounds.

The one bright spot in that game for Butler was senior guard Rachel McLimore, who scored 18 points on 4-8 shooting from deep. She posts 11 points per game as the leading scorer on a team well into the bottom half of NCAA team points. She’s also the leading passer, dishing out a pair of assists on a nightly basis. It’s going to be an uphill battle for the Bulldogs to even keep things competitive on Saturday and to do that, McLimore will need to see all her shots fall.

The Huskies are coming off one of their most impressive wins of the year, as Seton Hall gave them no resistance. A surprisingly efficient 50-point first half was followed by an even better 53-point second half, helping UConn total their first 100+ point game. Edwards and Dorka Juhasz both notched 20 point double-doubles, while Nika Mühl reached double-figures in assists for the first time in nearly four weeks. What made the game all the more impressive was the fact that



Lou Lopez Senechal is guarded by Kaliyah Myricks of Georgetown. UConn women’s basketball defeated the Hoyas 65-50 at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. on Sunday, Jan. 15.
PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

they played it with just seven available scholarship players, the minimum required to play. Although they dropped in the rankings, the Pirates were a NET top-50 team entering the game and weren’t missing any major contributors. If the Huskies dismantled Seton Hall with a full roster, then it would come

as no surprise, but they were missing both Azzi Fudd and Caroline Ducharme, regular starters.

For Saturday’s game, the biggest keys will be keeping the same intensity that they had for the Seton Hall win. Against Georgetown, they demonstrated very little excitement and drive,

so seeing that continue for a second straight contest would be a welcome sign. It will also be a good opportunity to help get some of the younger players a bit more acclimated to the college game, although they have already been thrown into the fire. One such player is sophomore Amari DeBerry, who

played well in garbage time against the Hall. She scored 13 points and also delivered a spectacular pass while sitting down that broke SportsCenter’s top 10 plays.

The game will tip this Saturday at 12 p.m. EST at Gampel Pavilion and can be viewed on SNY.

MEN’S HOCKEY: NO. 13 HUSKIES LOOK TO RIGHT SHIP VERSUS UMASS AMHERST

by Nick Spinalli
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
nicholas.spinalli@uconn.edu

Following a gut-wrenching, 4-3 loss in the team’s first game at the new Toscano Ice Forum, the UConn men’s ice hockey team will look to get back in the win column versus Hockey East foe UMass Amherst in a rematch of last season’s conference championship.

The Ice Bus finds themselves amidst a recent cold streak, losing two straight games to Northeastern University, as the team continues to search for their first victory of 2023. The first of those two losses came in historic Fenway Park in Boston, Massachusetts, as UConn and Northeastern faced off in this year’s Frozen Fenway. Despite the bright spotlight, the squad recorded a subpar performance, losing 4-1 in a game that saw Connecticut build late momentum, though not enough to challenge the other Huskies. The two teams faced off again the next week in the program’s first game at the new, on-campus Toscano Ice Forum. Despite leading for most of the contest, late miscues and being unable to tally the put away goal cost Connecticut a win, as Northeastern netted three goals in the third period to stun the home team.

Like UConn, the UMass Minutemen are looking to right the ship as they find themselves in the midst of a three-game losing skid, sinking their win percentage to below .500 (.477) for the first time this season. In those three losses, — to Boston College, Boston University and New Hampshire — UMass has been outscored by their opponents 13-5. Against both Boston teams, the Minutemen

found themselves down multiple scores and never really had a shot at mounting a comeback, while in their latest against UNH, the squad was tied with their opponent 1-1 in the second period, though late goals by the Wildcats capsized any hope for the team to tally a win.

Leading the offense for the Ice Bus will be alternative team captain Hudson Schandor. The junior forward has been one of the driving forces behind Connecticut’s offensive attack as of late; though he didn’t record an assist in the team’s last contest, he totaled a combined four assists in the preceding three games. Schandor ranks fourth on the team in points (17), which is comprised of three goals and 14 assists, the latter of which ranks second on the team. He is also second on the team in +/-, as UConn has scored eight more goals than their opponents with Schandor on the ice. Of his three goals, two have been game-winners, tying Chase Bradley and Ty Amonte for the team-lead. With Connecticut’s offense in need of a strong showing on Friday, expect Schandor to continue to operate as one of his squad’s primary playmakers.

For the Minutemen, it will be sophomore Scott Morrow leading the charge as the team’s offense looks to match that of Connecticut. A 2021 draft pick of the Carolina Hurricanes, Morrow leads his team with 20 points, five of which have come via goals scored and the other 15 from assists, the latter of which also ranks first on his squad this season. Both he and Kenny Connors lead UMass in +/- (+4), and he is only one of six players on his team with a positive goal differential while on the ice. As a defenseman, both Morrow



UConn men’s hockey pick up a 4-3 loss against Northeastern following a Saturday night matchup at the Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn. on Jan. 14. Although being ahead for most of the game, the UConn Huskies lost their lead in the third period where Northeastern broke through scoring three goals.
PHOTOGRAPH BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

and teammate Ryan Ufko lead the team in blocks with 32, so expect the second-year star to pose a problem at both ends of the rink against the Huskies.

This will be the first game between the two teams since UMass’ 2-1 victory over the Ice Bus in the 2022 Hockey East Championship. Aaron Bohlinger, who is still with the team, won the game for the Minutemen with a goal in overtime. In the history of matchups between both programs, the Huskies have an overall record of 8-14-2, though UMass has won five of the last six games that have not ended in a tie.

After consecutive losses at the hands of Northeastern, UConn has dropped below the

team in the Hockey East standings, currently ranking third with 27 conference points. With Northeastern set to face the number one team in the conference in Merrimack, Connecticut has a good opportunity to make progress in the conference standings, though won’t be able to do so if they can’t take care of business against UMass. As the team continues to slip in the national rankings and conference standings, winning against subpar teams will start to become a necessity if the team hopes to finish this season amongst the elite college hockey programs. The Minutemen, on the other hand, currently sit in the ninth spot in the Hockey East with 11 points.

The team ranks only one point behind eighth-place Maine, though have some work to do before they can catch Boston College in the seventh spot (19 points).

Connecticut and UMass will play two games this weekend. The first is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday from the Mullins Center in Amherst, Massachusetts. Television coverage will be provided by NESN. The second game will come the next day on Saturday, scheduled for 4:35 p.m. from the Toscano Ice Forum in Storrs, Connecticut. The game can be streamed using ESPN+. Both games can be heard on the radio with ESPN 97.9 FM.

MEN’S BASKETBALL: NO. 15 HUSKIES LOOK TO REBOUND AGAINST BULLDOGS

by Jonathan Synott
SPORTS EDITOR
HE/HIM/HIS
jonathan.synott@uconn.edu

After an embarrassing up-and-down loss to the Seton Hall Pirates on Wednesday night, the No. 15 UConn men’s basketball team returns to action on Sunday afternoon, hosting the Butler Bulldogs in Hartford.

The Huskies enter the game at 15-5 on the year, and 4-5 in Big East play. Losers of five of their last six contests, Connecticut is looking to snap their slump in a big way, and the battle with the Bulldogs presents a great opportunity.

Butler currently sits at 11-9 on the year, including 3-6 in the Big East. Their biggest win was definitely one of the shocks of the Big East/Big 12 Battle, upsetting Kansas State at historic Hinkle Fieldhouse back in November. Recently, the team has won two of their last five, including a home win over Villanova.

The Bulldogs lead a rather balanced attack, sharing the ball between five primary scorers. Manny Bates, Chuck Harris, Jayden Taylor, Simas Lukosius and Eric Hunter Jr. all average between 9.9 and 12.6 points per game, respectively. While Big East Preseason Honorable Mention Harris draws some attention, the Huskies really need a complete defensive game to keep these guys at bay.

At the time of writing, the Bulldogs are ranked No. 93 in the nation in the KenPom ratings compared to the Huskies coming in at No. 6. Butler is ranked as the third-weakest team in the conference by that metric, and is a team that can be beaten with a solid, complete game from a team of UConn’s caliber. When they last met, the Huskies took down the Bulldogs 68-46 in Indiana, a game described as utter domination.

But that was a long time ago. With that victory, Connecticut improved to a Division I-best 12-0 record, opening Big East play with a statement. That statement ended a few games later with a loss at Xavier, and it’s been mainly downhill from

there for the Huskies. A team win over Creighton at home was encouraging after two difficult road losses, but a double-digit home loss to St. John’s and Wednesday night’s implosion changed the vibe once more.

This squad has proved they can win games against high-quality teams, we saw it during the 14-0 start to the year. Now, it’s about returning to form and staying consistent, something definitely easier said than done.

One of the main issues plaguing the Huskies has been the backcourt play. Besides second-leading scorer and NBA Draft prospect Jordan Hawkins, there hasn’t been much production from the guards, particularly on offense. This team lacks an RJ Cole-type ball handler, able to score when his team needs it.

For what it’s worth though, starting point guard Tristen Newton had his moments in Wednesday’s match, getting to the line for six as well as scoring a crafty bucket and a 3-pointer in the loss. The East Carolina transfer averaged 17.7 points per game last season in the American, and Newton hopes to improve upon his recent performances offensively on Sunday.

While the frontcourt has typically been the strongest part of the lineup, guys like Adama Sanogo and Donovan Clingan faltered in the second half on Wednesday. They picked up nine combined fouls, caught jumping or committing a moving screen. On offense, there were numerous misses at the rim that they likely wish they could have back. Look for the duo of bigs to bounce back in a big way against Butler.

There are a few Huskies that are question marks for Sunday’s contest. Sophomore forward Samson Johnson, who hasn’t played since opening night against Stonehill, appears to be close to a return from his foot injury. He has been seen in recent games warming up alongside the team with little-to-no limitations.

The other two questionable team members, head coach



UConn men’s basketball suffer a 74-85 loss against St. John’s at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. following a noon matchup on Sunday, Jan. 15. In front of a sold-out crowd, the Huskies added another defeat to their record.
PHOTOGRAPH BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Dan Hurley and associate head coach Kimani Young, both tested positive for COVID-19 prior to Wednesday’s game and did not travel with

the team. If they are both not cleared for Sunday, assistant coaches Luke Murray and Tom Moore would take the reins for the second straight

matchup.

Tip-off is set for 12 p.m. at the XL Center in Hartford, Connecticut. The game will be broadcast live on FOX.



Sports

TRACK AND FIELD: HUSKIES HEAD TO BEANTOWN FOR PAIR OF INVITATIONALS

by CJ Dexter
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
christopher.dexter@uconn.edu

The Huskies began 2023 with an impressive showing at the UMass Invite this past Sunday. Both teams returned to the track after a short break from the indoor season and displayed an impressive showing. The men's team's performance was highlighted by junior hurdles runner Terrel Williams, who recorded a new personal record 7.77 60-meter hurdles time, while the women's team saw freshman Mia Dansby record an 8.77 in the 60-meter dash (fifth place) and a 24.83 in the 200 (third place).

"We had a lot of heat champions and a lot of good personal bests," noted track and field director Beth Alford-Sullivan. "My favorite thing that I took away from the day was we just had a really good competitive spirit across the board."

The Huskies will head to Boston this weekend for the Boston College Eagle Elite Invitational on Jan. 20 and then take part in the Battle in Beantown the following day. The Battle in Beantown will also feature Boston University, Boston College, Albany, Rutgers and UMass Lowell. Friday's meet is at the Track at New Balance in Boston, Massachusetts, scheduled to start at 3 p.m. Saturday's meet is at Boston University's Track and Tennis Center scheduled to start at 12:30 p.m.

The Huskies' men's team will lean on star performances from Richmond Kwaateng (60),

Joseph O'Brien (400), James Maniscalco (mile) and Wellington Ventura (500). While the women will look for more stellar performances by Felicia Quainoo (60), Celia Chacko (mile), Chloe Thomas (flagship mile) and the 4x400 tandem of Jalah Cooper, Jessica Starr, Caroline Rice and Raquel Rosa. Along with the other 36 athletes who recorded top five finishes this past weekend as well.

"We'll tune up a little bit this week and hope for another step forward," Alford-Sullivan said. "Each of the meets this season are built to progress one's performances from the tactics in competition to the physical exertion that it takes to continue to get better."

These invitationals may be a challenge for the Huskies, but they'll be ready, powered by their star-studded lineup headed into Beantown.

The Battle in Beantown will also feature Boston University, Boston College, Albany, Rutgers and UMass Lowell. Friday's meet is at the Track at New Balance in Boston, Massachusetts...



The Battle in Beantown will take place at Boston University. Teams that will be attending this meet are Boston University, Boston College, Albany, Rutgers, UMass Lowell and UConn.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF AP

WOMEN'S HOCKEY: NO. 14 HUSKIES LOOK TO STAY HOT AGAINST NO. 12 FRIARS IN A FRIDAY NIGHT SHOWDOWN

by Benjamin Roy
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
benjamin.c.roy@uconn.edu

Head coach Chris MacKenzie's Huskies have been shot out of a cannon in the second half of the season. On a five game win streak, they have defeated three ranked opponents in as many games, with two coming against Merrimack and Vermont in the new Toscano Family Ice Forum. They captured another victory last Tuesday away at Boston College, defeating the Eagles 3-1.

As they look to add to their momentum with a Hockey East conference matchup against Providence this Friday night, they are most certainly going to have to leave it all out on the ice. The Friars sit tied for second in conference standings and are ranked one slot ahead of the Huskies in NCAA national rankings (12).

In their last matchup, UConn took both games in a home-and-home series with Providence, winning 2-1 on both Friday and Saturday. The Huskies will most certainly turn to their leading scorer Jada Habisch to find the back of the Friars net. The

junior forward leads the team in goals with nine on the season, scoring two in the Huskies' last game at Chestnut Hill. She leads the team in shots on goal by nearly 30 (90).

As they defend their home ice, Providence's Sara Hjalmarsson is definitely going to be a problem for the UConn netminders, whether it be Tia Chan or Megan Warrenner. The graduate student leads the Friars with 15 goals, 14 assists, and nearly 100 shots. In their last

five games, Providence has only won once. This lack of momentum is certainly some-

thing that the Huskies can capitalize on, and remain undefeated against the confer-

ence enemy on the season.

Another Husky to look out for this weekend is freshman forward Brooke Campbell. This Hockey East Rookie of the Year candidate is most certainly a contributing factor to the Huskies' offense, leading all freshmen in offensive statistics with six goals and four assists on the season. Her most recent goal came in the first game ever played at the all-new Toscano Family Ice Forum, as she found the back of the net on a power-play goal.

UConn needs the offensive spark from Campbell and Habisch if they want to trump the Friars this weekend. One area of play that the Huskies can continue to seek improvement on is their power play offense. UConn struggled with this area of play heading into the winter offseason and has found the back of the net twice in 10 power-play opportunities since. Regardless, the Huskies certainly know how to find the back of the net, outshooting their last five opponents 14-4. If they can tidy up their special teams offense to match the rest of their performance on-ice, they undoubtedly will become an even deadlier team.




It is all gas no brakes for UConn as they look to continue to torment the rest of the conference and make their way to the top of the standings, and Providence is next on their surge for the conference championship.

UConn needs the offensive spark from [Brooke] Campbell and [Jada] Habisch if they want to trump the Friars this weekend.

It is all gas no brakes for UConn as they look to continue to torment the rest of the conference and make their way to the top of the standings, and Providence is next on their surge for the conference championship.

WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK




UCONN SCOREBOARD






6667

Men's Basketball
Wednesday

Upcoming Games





Women's Hockey, 6 p.m. Friday
Providence, RI



Men's Hockey, 7 p.m. Friday
Amherst, Mass


INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY





@uconnmbb
Everything starts here.
#weseason

TWEETS OF THE DAY



Golden State Warriors
@warriors
Tonight, we're back in Boston, home of one of the great performances in Final history.

ESPN
@espn
Another honor for Sue Bird's iconic career!
The Seattle Storm will raise her No. 10 jersey to the rafters on June 11

@JonathanHusky14
We'll be seeing our fans this weekend at both games!

Follow The Daily Campus @dcsportsdept