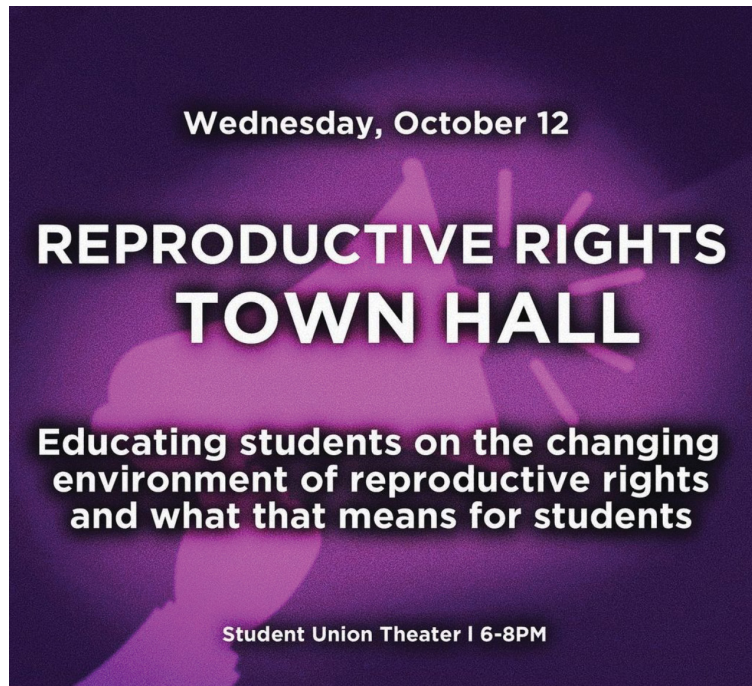




USG hosts Reproductive Rights Town Hall



The flyer for the reproductive rights Town Hall event that was posted on the USG Instagram account, that took place late on Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2022. PHOTO COURTESY OF @USGUCONN ON INSTAGRAM

by Sara Bedigian
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On Wednesday, Oct. 12th, Aanya Mehta, multicultural and diversity senator of the University of Connecticut's Undergraduate Student Government and Undergraduate Title IX advocacy coordinator, led the Reproductive Rights Town Hall. The event began with a panelist discussion featuring community leaders and was followed by a Q&A session where the audience could submit their questions for the pan-

elists to answer.

The panelists from UConn Health, Student Health and Wellness and the Women's Center began by explaining the resources that their organizations provide. Dr. Cara Delaney, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at UConn, spoke about the reproductive resources available through UConn Health. These services include contraception, abortion care, medication and surgical abortion, pregnancy care and more.

Kathleen Holgerson, director of the Women's Center, ex-

plained that, unlike UConn Health, the Women's Center does not provide direct abortion services; however, it is a location where students can obtain free period products, safer sex supplies and most importantly, information regarding the different options that are offered and tailored to your specific needs.

Suzanne Onorato, director of Student Health and Wellness, detailed the array of resources offered, including sexually transmitted screenings, abortion care, sexual assault resources, emergency contraception protection and education about sexual health. In addition, she said Glovebox is a resource where you can order safer sex resources online for no cost and they will be delivered to your mailbox on campus.

The panelists articulated how most of these resources are included in a student's fee bill, with the exception of certain medical services which require insurance that can be obtained through the university.

"We are committed to the health of our students so calling us is never a wrong choice," Ellyssa Eror, medical director of Student Health and Wellness, said.

The conversation shifted into how currently reproductive rights are at the forefront of political debate and how the Supreme Court decision over the summer outlawing Roe v. Wade affects access

to reproductive resources in Connecticut and across the country.

"There is a lot of confusion about what is happening nationally and how that relates to the state of Connecticut and what the law allows," Onorato said. "We want to provide resources and inform people about the laws and accessible sources."

Mae Flexer, Connecticut state senator, was also in attendance and emphasized how in Connecticut, "we have one of the strongest abortion rights laws in the country." However, due to the change at the federal level, people can't be comfortable because their rights can be taken away. Now, we only have one law in place protecting us and not the double protection coming from the federal level like we used to."

Holgerson said expressed the how we need to find ways to help not only members of our community, but also people from all over the country.

"We all know someone who doesn't live in the state of Connecticut, and we need to work on what we can do to bring communities across the country and across the world together over these issues," Holgerson said.

As the conversation continued, the panelists explained how UConn students can make a difference in the fight for reproductive justice.

"Using your voice and collective action and organiza-

tions like Planned Parenthood that are doing the work and putting your support behind the organizations," Holgerson said.

Delaney said there are other ways to make a difference too, such as attending events and activities happening on campus throughout the year.

"Avenues like this town hall are really important, and we really want to make that when we are creating new resources. We want your opinions and hear from all of you about the ways we can best support you," Delaney said.

The leaders encouraged students to get involved and make their voices heard in any way they can and know that they can always reach out for support.

"As students, you guys are in the optimal position to do something, do something to protect people, because it will be a very different world if some of these things happen," Dr. Molly Brewer, gynecologic oncologist at UConn Health said. "Those at UConn Health really want to hear from the students and how we can help and what you all need."

In conclusion, the panelists emphasized taking advantage of the resources that the different organizations around campus have and using their voices to create reproductive justice despite growing divisions making that make reproductive resources harder to obtain.

ATTORNEYS ARGUE OVER SCHOOL SHOOTER'S FATE: DEATH OR PRISON

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — The prosecutor and defense attorney for Florida school shooter Nikolas Cruz agreed Tuesday that his 2018 attack that killed 17 people was horrible, but disagreed in their closing arguments on whether it was an act of evil worthy of execution or one of a broken person who should be imprisoned for life.

Lead prosecutor Mike Satz and his defense counterpart, Melisa McNeill, painted for the 12 jurors competing pictures of what drove Cruz's attack at Parkland's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Valentine's Day.

For Satz, Cruz was driven by antisocial personality disorder — in lay terms, he's a sociopath. He deserves a death sentence because he "was hunting his victims" as he stalked a three-story classroom building for seven minutes. He fired his AR-15-style semiautomatic rifle into some victims at close range and returned to wounded victims as they lay helpless "to finish them off."

Satz pointed to Cruz's internet writings and videos, where he talked about his murderous desires such as when he wrote, "No mercy, no questions, double tap. I am going to kill a ... ton of people and children."

"It is said that what one writes and says is a window into their soul," Satz said as the three-month trial neared its conclusion. The killings, he said, "were unrelentlessly heinous, atrocious and cruel."

McNeill said neither Cruz nor herself has ever denied what he did and that "he knew right from wrong and he chose wrong." But she said the former Stoneman Douglas student is "a broken, brain-damaged, mentally ill young man," doomed from conception by the heavy drinking and drug use of his birth mother during pregnancy. She argued for



Nikolas Cruz sits at the defense table for closing arguments in the penalty phase of Cruz's trial at the Broward County Courthouse in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022. FILE PHOTO/AP

a sentence of life without parole, assuring them he will never walk free again.

"It's the right thing to do. Mercy is what makes us civilized. Giving mercy to Nikolas will say more about who you are than it will ever say about him," McNeill told the jury.

Cruz, 24, pleaded guilty a year ago to murdering 14 students and three staff members and wounding 17 others.

The jury will only decide his sentence, and a unanimous vote is required for death. Jurors can vote for death if they believe the prosecution's aggravating factors such as the multiple deaths and the planning outweigh the defense's mitigating circumstances such as his birth mother's drinking. They can also vote for life out of mercy for Cruz. Deliberations are expected to begin Wednesday.

Cruz, dressed in an off-white sweater, sat impassively during the presentations, occasionally

exchanging notes with his attorneys. A large number of the victims' parents, wives and family members packed their section of the courtroom, many of them weeping during Satz's presentation. The mother of a murdered 14-year-old girl fled the courtroom before bursting into loud sobs in the hallway. Just minutes earlier, the families had greeted each other with smiles, handshakes and hugs.

Satz meticulously went through the murders, reminding the jurors how each victim died and how Cruz looked some in the eye before he shot them multiple times.

"They all knew what was going on, what was going to happen," Satz said.

As he had during the trial, Satz played security videos of the shooting and showed photos. He talked about the death of one 14-year-old girl. Cruz shot her and then went back to shoot her again, putting his gun against her chest.

"Right on her skin. She was shot four times and she died," Satz said. He then noted a YouTube comment, which jurors saw during the trial, in which Cruz said: "I don't mind shooting a girl in the chest."

"That's exactly what he did," Satz said.

His voice breaking, Satz concluded his two-hour presentation by reciting the victims' names, then saying that for their murders "the appropriate sentence for Nikolas Cruz is the death penalty."

McNeill during her presentation acknowledged the horror Cruz inflicted and said jurors have every right to be angry, "but how many times have we made decisions based solely on anger and regretted it?"

She focused on her belief that heavy drinking by his birth mother, Brenda Woodard, during pregnancy left him with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. She said that accounts for his bizarre,

troubling and sometimes violent behavior starting at age 2.

"There is no time in our lives when we are more vulnerable to the will and the whims of another human being than when we are growing and developing in the wombs of our mothers," McNeill said. Woodard "poisoned him in the womb. He was doomed in the womb."

She said Cruz's increasingly erratic personality left his widowed adoptive mother, Lynda Cruz, overwhelmed. He punched holes in walls when he lost video games, destroyed furniture and killed animals. Visitors described the home as "a war zone," McNeill said.

She pleaded with the jurors to give Cruz a life sentence, telling them that even if they are the only holdout they shouldn't fear what the reaction will be from the families or the community.

Gesturing toward the victims' families, she said, "There is no punishment you could ever give Nikolas Cruz that would ever make him suffer as much as those people have and as much as they will continue to suffer every single day."

"Sentencing Nikolas to death will not change that. It will not bring back those 17 dead people. Sentencing Nikolas to death will literally serve no purpose other than vengeance," she said. Instead, she said, "Look into your heart. Look into your soul. The right thing here, not the popular thing, is a life sentence."

Cruz's massacre is the deadliest mass shooting that has ever gone to trial in the U.S. Nine other people in the U.S. who fatally shot at least 17 people died during or immediately after their attacks by suicide or police gunfire. The suspect in the 2019 massacre of 23 at an El Paso, Texas, Walmart is awaiting trial.

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News

ACT test scores drop to lowest in 30 years in pandemic slide



New students at Bear River High School in Grass Valley, Calif., gather to see their school schedules during the first morning of school. ACT test scores made public in a report Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2022, reveal a decline in preparedness for college-level coursework. FILE PHOTO/AP

PHOENIX (AP) — Scores on the ACT college admissions test by this year's high school graduates hit their lowest point in more than 30 years — the latest evidence of the enormity of learning disruption during the pandemic.

The class of 2022's average ACT composite score was 19.8 out of 36, marking the first time since 1991 that the average score was below 20. What's more, an increasing number of high school students failed to meet any of the subject-area benchmarks set by the ACT — showing a decline in preparedness for college-level coursework.

The test scores, made public in a report Wednesday, show

42% of ACT-tested graduates in the class of 2022 met none of the subject benchmarks in English, reading, science and math, which are indicators of how well students are expected to perform in corresponding college courses.

In comparison, 38% of test takers in 2021 failed to meet any of the benchmarks.

"Academic preparedness is where we are seeing the decline," said Rose Babington, senior director for state partnerships for the ACT. "Every time we see ACT test scores, we are talking about skills and standards, and the prediction of students to be successful and to know the really important in-

formation to succeed and persist through their first year of college courses."

ACT scores have declined steadily in recent years. Still, "the magnitude of the declines this year is particularly alarming," ACT CEO Janet Godwin said in a statement. "We see rapidly growing numbers of seniors leaving high school without meeting college-readiness benchmarks in any of the subjects we measure."

The results offer a lens into systemic inequities in education, in place well before the pandemic shuttered schools and colleges temporarily waived testing requirements. For example, students without

access to rigorous high school curriculum suffered more setbacks during pandemic disruptions, Babington said. Those students are from rural areas, come from low-income families and are often students of color.

The number of students taking the ACT has declined 30% since 2018, as graduates increasingly forgo college and some universities no longer require admissions tests. But participation plunged 37% among Black students, with 154,000 taking the test this year.

Standardized tests such as the ACT have faced growing concerns that they're unfair to

minority and low-income students, as students with access to expensive test prep or advanced courses often perform better.

Babington defended the test as a measure of college readiness. "Now more than ever, the last few years have shown us the importance of having high-quality data to help inform how we support students," Babington said.

Test scores now are optional for first-year student admission at many institutions. Some colleges, such as the University of California system, even opt for a test-blind policy, where scores are not considered even if submitted.

But many students still take the tests, hoping to get an edge in admissions by submitting their scores. Tyrone Jordan, a freshman at test-optional Arizona State University, said he took the ACT and the SAT to get ahead of other students and help him receive scholarships.

Jordan, who wants to pursue mechanical engineering, said he thinks his rigorous schedule at Tempe Preparatory Academy prepared him for college, and the standardized tests helped support him and his family financially.

"All the test did for me was give me extra financial money," Jordan said.

While Jordan was always planning to take the test, many students struggle with access or choose not to take the test since their universities of choice no longer require it. In Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Tennessee and Wyoming, everyone is tested.

Connecticut's Panel: LAMONT'S OFFICE VIOLATED FOI IN AP CASE

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — The Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission ruled Wednesday that Gov. Ned Lamont's office violated state open records laws by taking more than two years to fulfill a request filed by The Associated Press in 2020 for documents related to the COVID-19 reopening committee.

The commission, which voted unanimously in favor of a hearing officer's recommendation that Lamont's office be ordered to "strictly comply" with the state's FOI law, also voted to require staff to undergo training in the law.

The Associated Press initially filed an FOI request on May 21, 2020, seeking any and all written and electronic communications concerning plans to reopen the state's economy following pandemic-related shutdowns. The information was sought as part of a 50-state project by The AP to determine whether and how reopening plans across the country were being influenced by various interest groups or individuals.

After multiple follow-up requests, The AP didn't receive any documents until eight months later. However, the majority of emails were not

provided to the news organization until June 9. A limited number of text messages were provided on July 29.

Representatives for Lamont's office conceded during a September hearing that the documents were not provided promptly, testifying they were short-staffed and focused on pandemic-related issues. They said additional staff have since been hired and updated computer software obtained to search for documents more easily.

"I think we're getting things sped up," Lamont said Wednesday. "I hope that's the case."



Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont delivers the State of the State address during opening session at the State Capitol in Hartford, Conn., Feb. 9, 2022. FILE PHOTO/AP

The Daily Campus

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ALEX JONES ORDERED TO PAY \$965 MILLION FOR SANDY HOOK LIES



Erica Lafferty, daughter of deceased Sandy Hook Elementary school principal Dawn Hochsprung, listens to a replay of recorded testimony from fellow plaintiff Bill Sherlach played for the jury during the Alex Jones defamation trial at Superior Court in Waterbury, Conn., Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2022. FILE PHOTO/AP

WATERBURY, Conn. (AP) — The conspiracy theorist Alex Jones should pay \$965 million to people who suffered from his false claim that the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting was a hoax, a jury in Connecticut decided Wednesday.

The verdict is the second big judgment against the Infowars host over his relentless promotion of the lie that the 2012 massacre never happened, and that the grieving families seen in news coverage were actors hired as part of a plot to take away people's guns.

It came in a lawsuit filed by the relatives of five children and three educators killed in the mass shooting, plus an FBI agent who was among the first responders to the scene. A Texas jury in August awarded nearly \$50 million to the parents of another slain child.

Robbie Parker, who lost his 6-year-old daughter, Emilie, said outside the Connecticut court that he was proud that "what we were able to accomplish was just to simply tell the truth."

"And it shouldn't be this hard, and it shouldn't be this scary," he added, his voice breaking.

Jones wasn't at court but reacted on his Infowars show.

As courtroom video showed the plaintiffs' names being read out along with the jury awards to each, Jones said that he himself had never mentioned their names.

"All made up. Hilarious," he said. "So this is what a show trial looks like. I mean, this is the left completely out of control."

Jones' lawyer, Norm Pattis, said the verdict was higher than he expected. He plans to appeal.

The trial featured tearful testimony from parents and siblings of the victims, who told about how they were threatened and harassed for years by people who believed the lies told on Jones' show.

Strangers showed up at their homes to record them. People hurled abusive comments on social media. Mark Barden said conspiracy theorists had urinated on the grave of his 7-year-old son, Daniel, and threatened to dig up the coffin. Erica Lafferty, the daughter of slain Sandy Hook principal Dawn Hochsprung, testified that people mailed rape threats to her house.

"I wish that after today, I can just be a daughter grieving my

mother and stop worrying about the conspiracy theorists," Lafferty said outside court. But she predicted that Jones' "hate, lies and conspiracy theories will follow both me and my family through the rest of our days."

To plaintiff William Sherlach, the verdict "shows that the internet is not the wild, wild West, and that your actions have consequences."

He had testified about seeing online posts that falsely posited that the shooting was a hoax, that his slain wife, school psychologist Mary Sherlach, never existed; that he was part of a financial cabal and somehow involved with the school shooter's father; and more. He told jurors the shooting deniers' vitriol made him worry for his family's safety.

"Going forward — because, unfortunately, there will be other horrific events like this — people like Alex Jones will have to rethink what they say," Sherlach said.

Testifying during the trial, Jones acknowledged he had been wrong about Sandy Hook. The shooting was real, he said. But both in the courtroom and on his show, he was defiant.

He called the proceedings a "kangaroo court," mocked the judge, called the plaintiffs' lawyer an ambulance chaser and labeled the case an affront to free speech rights. He claimed it was a conspiracy by Democrats and the media to silence him and put him out of business.

"I've already said 'I'm sorry' hundreds of times, and I'm done saying I'm sorry," he said during his testimony.

Twenty children and six adults died in the shooting on Dec. 14, 2012. The defamation trial was held at a courthouse in Waterbury, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) from Newtown, where the attack took place.

The lawsuit accused Jones and Infowars' parent company, Free Speech Systems, of using the mass killing to build his audience and make millions of dollars. Experts testified that Jones' audience swelled, as did his revenue from product sales, when he made Sandy Hook a topic on the show.

In both the Texas lawsuit and the one in Connecticut, judges found the company liable for damages by default after Jones failed to cooperate with court rules on sharing evidence, in-

cluding failing to turn over records that might have showed whether Infowars had profited from knowingly spreading misinformation about mass killings.

Because he was already found liable, Jones was barred from mentioning free speech rights and other topics during his testimony.

Jones now faces a third trial, in Texas around the end of the year, in a lawsuit filed by the parents of another child killed in the shooting.

It is unclear how much of the verdicts Jones can afford to pay. During the trial in Texas, he testified he couldn't afford any judgment over \$2 million. Free Speech Systems has filed for bankruptcy protection. But an economist testified in the Texas proceeding that Jones and his company were worth as much as \$270 million.

A lawyer for the families in the Connecticut case, Josh Koskoff, said that "if this verdict shuts down Alex Jones, good."

"He's been walking in the shadow of death to try to profit on the backs of people who have just been devastated," Koskoff said. "That is not a business model that should be sustainable in the United States."

UVALDE SCHOOLS SUSPEND ENTIRE POLICE FORCE AFTER OUTRAGE

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Uvalde's school district suspended its entire police force Friday amid fresh outrage over the hesitant law enforcement response to the gunman who massacred 21 people at Robb Elementary School.

The extraordinary move follows the revelation that the district hired a former state trooper who was among hundreds of officers who rushed to the scene of the May 24 shooting.

School leaders also put two members of the district police department on administrative leave, one of whom chose to retire instead, according to a statement released by the

Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District. Remaining officers will be reassigned to other jobs in the district.

Uvalde school leaders' suspension of campus police operations one month into a new school year in the South Texas community underscores the sustained pressure that families of some of the 19 children and two teachers killed have kept on the district.

Brett Cross, the uncle of 10-year-old victim Uziyah Garcia, had been protesting outside the Uvalde school administration building for the past two weeks, demanding accountability over officers

allowing a gunman with an AR-15-style rifle to remain in a fourth-grade classroom for more than 70 minutes.

Uvalde families have said students in the district are not safe so long as officers who waited so long to confront and kill the gunman remain on the job.

"We did it!" Cross tweeted.

The Uvalde school district had five campus police officers on the scene of the shooting, according to a damning report from Texas lawmakers that laid out multiple breakdowns in the response. A total of nearly 400 officers responded, including school district police, the city's police, county sheriff's deputies, state police and U.S. Border Patrol agents, among others.

The fallout Friday is the first in Uvalde's school police force since the district fired former police Chief Pete Arredondo in August. He remains the only officer to have been fired from his job following one of the deadliest classroom attacks in U.S. history.

The district said it would ask the Texas Department of Public Safety, which had already assigned dozens of troopers to the district for the school year, for additional help. Spokespersons for the agency did not immediately return messages seeking comment Friday.

"We are confident that staff and student safety will not be compromised during this transition," the district said in a statement.

"The former DPS trooper who was hired by the district was among at least seven troopers later placed under internal investigation for her actions at Robb Elementary."

The statement did not specify how long campus police operations would remain suspended.

The former DPS trooper who was hired by the district was among at least seven troopers later placed under internal investigation for her actions at Robb Elementary.

Officer Crimson Elizondo was fired Thursday, one day after CNN first reported her hiring. She has not responded to messages left by The Associated Press.

Steve McCraw, the head of the Department of Public Safety, has called the law enforcement response to the shooting an "abject failure." McCraw has also come under pressure as the leader of a department had more than 90 troopers on the scene but still has the support of Republican Gov. Greg Abbott.

On Thursday, after Elizondo was fired, Abbott called it a "poor decision" for the school to hire the former trooper and that it was up to the district to "own up to it."

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UConn Archives and Special Collections hosts open house event

It can be used as a massive resource for research purposes, and is open to the public by appointment from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays.

The archive is housed in the Dodd Center for Human Rights, which is located just south of Homer Babbidge Library.

by Sam Zelin
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On Wednesday, Oct. 12, UConn Archives and Special Collections hosted an event in the archives, showcasing all that the department has to offer. The archive is housed in the Dodd Center for Human Rights, which is located just south of Homer Babbidge Library.

Multiple activities were set up at the open house for guests, a main feature being a walkthrough in the archive's reading room. Six tables were set up, with one table representing the focus of each of the five archivists who work for the department, along with an extra setup of UConn-themed board games (including "UConn-opoly").

Each of the archivists specializes in certain kinds of collections, and the archive holds various different types of materials, from the gear of a 1960s UConn hockey player, to zines and other publications promoting a variety of causes, to objects and images

of industry and infrastructure throughout the state, and much more.

In addition to the reading room walkthrough, personal tours were also available, where university archivist Betsy Pittman walked guests through multiple sections of the building. The first stop on the tour was the technical services wing of Archives and Special Collections, one of two office spaces where behind-the-scenes work is done. The second stop was a floor of the stacks, where archived materials are held. There, Pittman demonstrated how items are stored in the archives, with a system of compact shelving set up with an electronic movement system. There are hundreds of rows of materials, with three floors of shelves in the building.

After guests finished the walkthrough and the tour, there were still other parts of the event to attend. A scavenger hunt was set up, where patrons could gather information from the walkthrough and other parts of the building. Upon completing the hunt,

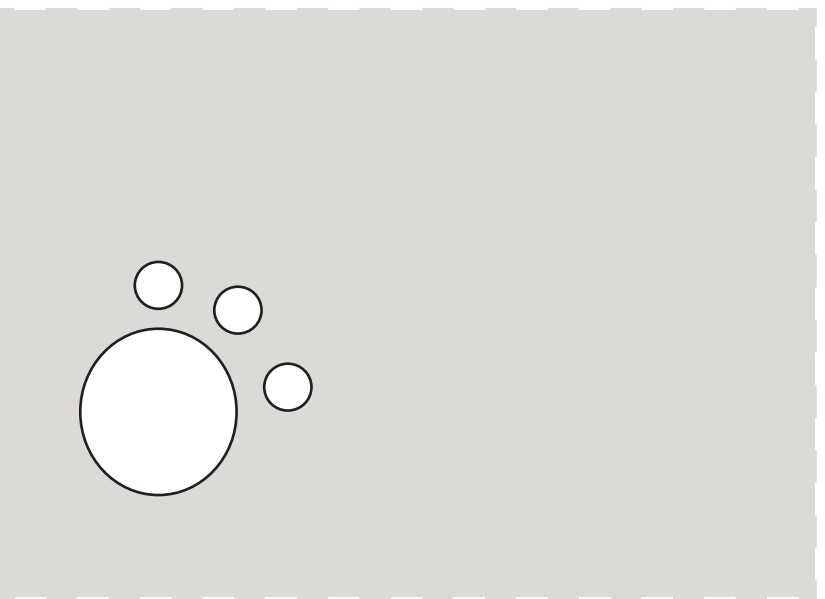
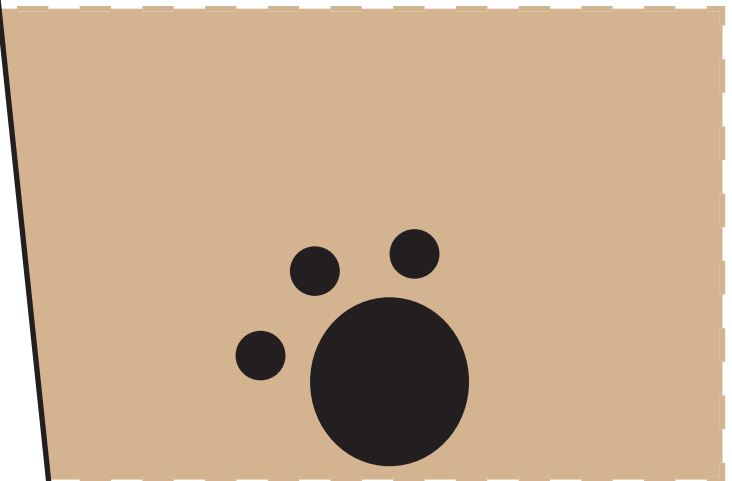
one was eligible to be entered into a raffle for some archive-themed goodies.

The event served as a way to show what the archive has to offer to members of the UConn community. It can be used as a massive resource for research purposes, and is open to the public by appointment from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays.

As an example of how the archives can be used as a resource, a section of ENGL 1007 was set up in the classroom space adjacent to the reading room at the time of the open house. According to English professor Tina Huey, the class was focused on making zines, with help from a kit supplied to them by the archives. The students had to follow the prompt "generations" to design their own zine, interpreting in different ways how they belong to a specific generation, or multiple.

In addition to all the festivities, snacks and drinks were provided, alongside some free archive-themed merchandise including pins and postcards.

To make an appointment to visit the archives, please email archives@uconn.edu, or visit Archives and Special Collections on the UConn Library website.



Various artifacts were showcased for viewers during the walk through. This was an open house event hosted by UConn Archives and Special Collections on Wednesday, Oct. 12. Snacks, drinks, and merchandise were provided to guests.

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Life

@dailycampuslife

WOLVES *get a dose of* *Vitamin Sea in Netflix's new docuseries*

by Maxim Soroka
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An upbeat nature docuseries titled “Island of the Sea Wolves” made its debut on Netflix earlier this week. Narrated by Will Arnett, this tale follows vastly different animal families through their daily life on the North Pacific coast of Canada.

There are three episodes in this collection documenting three seasons: Spring, summer and fall. Spring didn't just welcome the return of much of the area's vegetation — it also brought forth new life with freshly born baby bald eagles and wolf pups. This is prefaced with the difficult but honest journey that many animal mothers in the wild have to go through during pregnancy to foster a nurturing environment for their growing offspring.

One of the creatures that is focused on is a wolf named Cedar. When she discovers she is pregnant, she begins to fear exclusion from the pack, due to her adding extra mouths to feed. Eventually, Cedar must embark out on her own with the difficult task of finding adequate food in the tundra landscape.

A fascinating aspect of the wolves examined in this feature is their unique hunting style. Sometimes they will swim out a fair distance to feed on seal carcasses; other times they hunt on the mainland. Their swimming

skills seems to be an innate ability this species developed given their environment. Prior to this series, I wasn't as open minded about wolves' swimming abilities, probably because one would assume the skill was seldom utilized in

their habitats. It was a great demonstration of a species displaying its natural adaptation for survival in a distant setting.

Wolves weren't the only species up for analysis during this series. Viewers were

also introduced to a blossoming bald eagle romance, as they mate for life. Spiro, the male, was heavily responsible for providing protection and nutrition to his partner while she bore their children. The intimidation and capability

of these airborne predators is chiefly displayed when Spiro and his partner are protecting their hatchlings from a looming, hungry raven.

Many other species studied in this series are those more inclined to an aquatic lifestyle.

There is a comfortable population of sea otters, who while nursing eat 15 pounds of seafood a day to be able to care for themselves and their offspring. Also there is a large amount of seals and sea lions that seasonally inhabit the area and bask in the sun on warm rocks all day.

With seals comes whales, specifically orcas, whose pods track seals as a food source. The area also serves as a pit stop for many other migrating whale species. This is not even mentioning the frogs, salamanders and other little critters that call the forest floor their home.

Whether you're looking for an enriching experience to share in a biology or ecology class or just plain interested in learning more about some of the animals described above, I'd highly recommend viewing “Island of the Sea Wolves.” Arnett gives an adequate vocal performance while also tying in some light-hearted jokes (even though he still kinda sounds like BoJack). “Island of the Sea Wolves” also shares an important message about the changes humans can make to preserve beautiful ecosystems and combat climate change.



Netflix's new docuseries, “Island of the Sea Wolves,” is narrated by Will Arnett and follows different animal families that live on the northern coast of Canada. Embedded in the film is a deeper message surrounding the importance of preserving our ecosystem and combating climate change.

IMAGE COURTESY OF IMDB.COM



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► Editorial

UConn expenditures on student surveillance sets a bad precedent

A Daily Campus report released Monday, Oct. 3 revealed that the University of Connecticut has been surveilling students through social media from 2015 all the way to spring of 2022. According to the article, which was tipped off by a broader exposé by the Dallas Morning Star, UConn has spent at least \$40,000 over seven years using various artificial intelligence softwares to notify the UConn Police Department of student social media activity, ranging from mentions of locations and personnel on campus to controversial speakers and peaceful demonstrations to self-harm.

The Daily Campus Editorial Board firmly believes that massive expenditures on surveilling students as well as relaying student social media data to UCPD sets a dangerous precedent for the privacy and security of the student body in the future. Students should never have concerns over their civil rights to privacy, association and expression, but UConn's surveillance practices have now prompted these legitimate worries.

The investment into Social Sentinel, the principal service that UCPD used to monitor students' social media data, is significant. The Daily Campus has acquired over 200 pages of correspondence between UCPD officials and liaisons from Social Sentinel highlighting tens of thousands of dollars in contracts and contract renewals, as well as location data of "Crowd Sourced events," referring to student demonstrations ranging from a vigil for victims of neo-Nazi violence to counterprotests to lectures given by right-wing public figures such as Lucian Wintrich and Ben Shapiro.

It is possible that the university utilized Social Sentinel and other surveillance programs because they perceived it as a sort of insurance policy against unrest on campus; however, the methods by which UConn and UCPD attempted to prevent that unrest are extremely telling of their priorities. At a university which is "committed to building a safe and inclusive community for all its members," according to the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion mission statement, the university chose not to exclude speakers whose rhetoric is actively harmful to marginalized communities, but to surveil and police students with legitimate grievances instead.

The use of third-party AI to track students speaks to a broader pattern at UConn as well — that of further turning to neoliberalism, or the doctrine of privatizing parts, if not the whole of the institution and raising costs to keep its finances balanced. While problematic, UConn's stint with Social Sentinel is far from the most notable example of neoliberalism hurting the university. In fact, in September, UConn violated its contract with the Connecticut Employees Union Independent by displacing 20 union workers with privately-contracted custodians and moving the former group away from the athletics facilities they originally maintained. According to the union, a greater concentration of privatized jobs at UConn hurts labor's bargaining power. This would effectively empower UConn to engage in further privatization, ultimately harming the representation and job security of the workers who care for campus facilities.

The Editorial Board has previously discussed UConn's dependency on weapons defense manufacturers for grants and funding. Not only do UConn's increasingly tangled relations with the private war industry increase privatization, but it negates any positive human rights or sustainability impacts the university claims to have.

It should not be discounted that surveilling students presents legitimate and dangerous violations of privacy. According to the Daily Campus report, Social Sentinel flagged a post on Twitter in which a student expressed thoughts of self-harm, allowing UCPD to locate them through the IP address and request a wellness check. Even if the intention was to mitigate a threat to student safety, UConn and UCPD's inability to respond in a way that is not carceral but instead trauma-informed demonstrates the potential of AI surveillance to actually exacerbate mental health crises.

The university providing UCPD with student social media data is a valid cause for concern for UConn students and organizations. With the ever-relevant possibility of turnover within the administration and UCPD, students, faculty and staff have little way of ever knowing if the use of programs like Social Sentinel will expand, contract or rightfully end as new personnel come and go. While the past several years of surveillance should teach students and organizations to take digital security seriously, that should not be a burden the community has to shoulder. UConn must take concrete and transparent steps to end the transmission of students' social media information to UCPD.



COMIC BY STEVEN COLEMAN, ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

ENVIRONMENTALISM

WHY WE GIVE THE GOVERNMENT POWER

by Youssef Macary
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I vaguely remember one night a few years ago, when a family member complained about the plastic bag tax newly implemented in Connecticut at the time. They didn't want to pay an extra 10 cents for bags, so instead they opted to use reusable ones. And while their anguish at the concept of having to pay for something that used to be free is completely understandable, I remember thinking that if the simple principle of paying extra money for something you could do for free is causing you to help the environment, then didn't the tax work well after all? In fact, when a similar bag tax was implemented in Chicago in early 2017, a study showed that this was not an isolated incident, as "the bag tax led to a 28 percentage point decrease in the use of any disposable bags... over the next year."

At this point, it is more or less widely accepted that the environment is threatened by human activity. A 2021 poll by Pew Research Center found that 64% of adults in the United States say "reducing effects of climate change should be a top priority to ensure a sustainable

planet for future generations." Yet, if most adults in the United States feel this should be our primary priority, why is climate change such a big issue? I would argue that a significant benefit of our federal republic system, where the people give up some of their personal freedoms in order to create a powerful government that can serve the greater good, is the fact that those in power can make the hard and uncomfortable decisions that many are unwilling to make. The majority of people claim climate change is a big issue, but do their actions truly reflect this conviction?

One of the ways our society has worked to combat climate change is through electric and hybrid vehicles. The same Pew Research Center poll found that 47% of American adults "favor phasing out the production of new gasoline cars and trucks by 2035"; however, another poll conducted that same year found that only 39% of American adults "are very [or] somewhat likely to seriously consider purchasing an electric vehicle for their next vehicle purchase," while 46% answered "not too [or] not at all likely" and 14% "don't plan to purchase a vehicle." Almost half of American adults are willing to phase out gasoline cars, yet fewer

adults are likely to make serious considerations when it comes to purchasing these environmentally friendly vehicles. Additionally, concerning recycling, the EPA reported in 2018 that the nationwide recycling and composting rate was 32%.

What should be noted through all of these statistics is that people in the United States recognize the importance of environmental issues, yet are often not taking the personal steps needed to help fix them. While the mindset and convictions of the American people are in the right place, their actions do not match their convictions, making it necessary for the government to step in and take action. It is also possible that people cannot afford electric cars and other technologies such as solar panels, which is even more proof that the government needs to play a role in creating a more sustainable future. Some of these actions may change our lives or take away certain comforts, but need to be taken for the common good. And at the end of the day, this is the fundamental reason why the people give the government some of our personal liberties and freedom — to make hard choices that help everyone, which individuals alone are not willing to make.

LIVING IN THE MULTITUDES

by Rory Monaco
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Recently I've been trying to replace the "ors" in my life with "ands". I've been trying to see life in the gray, rather than the black or the white. After countless years spent trying to figure out if I'm an extrovert or an introvert, if climate change is the fault of the individual or of our structures or if people are quintessentially good or bad, I've realized all can be true at once.

Navigating life by trying to categorize everything into a binary makes sense since it is an easy way to understand the world around us, but ultimately it's fruitless and in-

accurate. I don't want to live in the black and whites, but rather in the multitude of grays that make up our day-to-day.

I've been vegetarian for the past six years, trying to do my part in reducing meat consumption for the sake of the environment and reducing carbon dioxide emissions. This past year or so, I've been grappling with these ideas: Is it up to me and all of us individually to stop eating bacon, egg and cheeses in the morning, or to take five minute showers instead of 15? What about how I'm doing that while BP spills oil in the Gulf of Mexico?

This isn't to say that reducing individual contributions to the climate is futile. It's more about navigating a

relationship with resources, people, myself and the world around me in a mindful manner. It's because both truths exist at once: I'm going to reduce my individual carbon footprint and I'm going to demand a future that relies less on fossil fuels and utilizes renewable resources — and I'm going to try to not feel guilty if my shower lasts 25 minutes.

Once I realized how deeply saturated this black-and-white mindset was in my life, I recognized how it seeped its way into almost every aspect of my life — from the small things, of reflecting upon my week and deciding if it was good or not, to larger things

Continued on p. 8

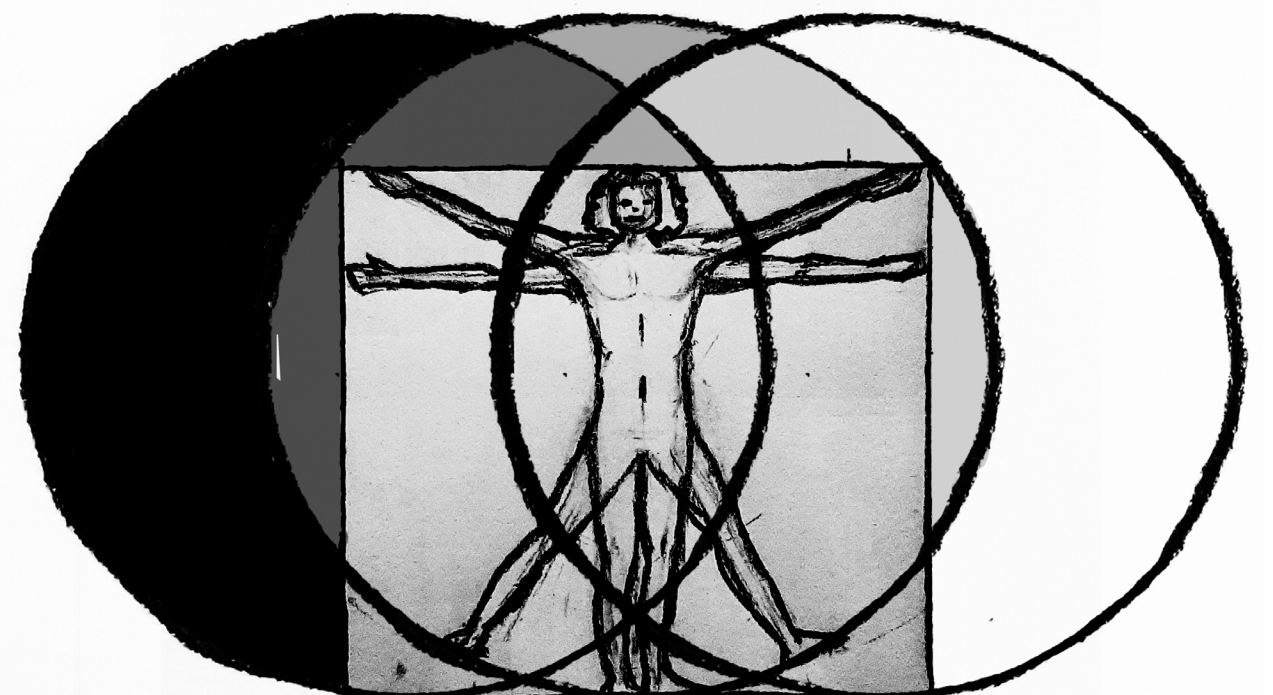


ILLUSTRATION BY STEVEN COLEMAN, ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Opinion StudyBreak

Huskytalk | What is your favorite past Halloween costume?

“I think it was when I was the wolf from Little Red Riding Hood.”

Jake Gallo
Sports Management Major
Seventh Semester



“When I was in elementary school I was Dracula from monsters high. In fifth grade and my friend was Frankie Frankenstein. And I put hairspray in to make my hair pink, my mom put it in pig-tails, and I got to do my makeup.”

Jessica Yoon
Physiology and Neurobiology Major
First Semester



“Mine was Dora the Explorer when I was like 8. I had my bang phase with a bob haircut so it only made sense that I was Dora.”

Erika Cabuco
Accounting Major
First Semester



“A Care Bear from when I was three years old. The pink one, I don’t remember what it was called.”

Lexis Johnson
Digital Media and Design Major
Fifth Semester



Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Point of Grant Wood’s “American Gothic”?
- 5 Knight’s title
- 8 Rescue squad VIPs
- 12 Tibetan monks
- 13 PPO counterpart
- 14 Terra’s Greek counterpart
- 15 “Love Story” star
- 17 Prophetic sign
- 18 Place to go for pro tips?
- 19 ___ closet
- 21 Reddit admin
- 22 ___ vincit omnia
- 23 Tight-lipped
- 24 Pulitzer-winning novelist Jennifer
- 26 *Sports event whose medals feature braille inscriptions
- 31 “ur 2 funny”
- 32 Some autumn babies
- 33 Link letters
- 36 Corn core
- 38 Paramore music genre
- 39 ___ Arbor, Michigan
- 40 Grottoes carved by waves
- 43 Cookbook writer Garten
- 45 *Candy smokes
- 50 Common mixer
- 51 Rapper Lil ___ X
- 52 “Ok, ok! Turn the alarm off!”
- 53 Cheer syllable
- 54 Supreme being
- 57 “Goosebumps” series author
- 58 Ridesharing choice
- 60 Power that enables the Scarlet Witch to rewrite reality, and a hidden feature of the answers to the starred clues?
- 62 Muppet who once testified before Congress
- 63 Darlin’
- 64 Don
- 65 Sunflower edible
- 66 Covert ___

- 67 Gets better in a wine cellar, hopefully

DOWN

- 1 Professional with a fitting job?
- 2 Unethical
- 3 Flatbread served with tikka masala
- 4 Key used to exit?
- 5 Cocktail ingredients
- 6 “Ms. Marvel” star Vellani
- 7 Investment firm T. ___ Price
- 8 Subject of inflation
- 9 “Dancing Queen” musical
- 10 Get really drunk
- 11 Hourglass stuff
- 12 Alpaca kin
- 15 “Stat!”
- 16 Morose
- 20 Campari aperitivo
- 23 Top 10 Lionel Richie song with the lyric “Honey, you’re everything I need”
- 25 Unfilled space
- 27 Spot for a small business?

- 28 Raw bar need
- 29 Stand-up folks?
- 30 Nine-digit ID
- 33 ___ port
- 34 Like tote bags and metal straws
- 35 Opera that inspired “Rent”
- 37 Implore
- 41 Oil in some dispensary products
- 42 Shades for lifeguards

- 44 Really work up
- 46 Deli spread
- 47 Buddies
- 48 Skirmish
- 49 Design detail, for short
- 53 Wishes undone
- 55 Reverberate
- 56 Blue-roofed breakfast spot
- 57 Self-satisfied
- 59 Fish stick?
- 61 Spot for a cucumber mask

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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By Amanda Rafkin
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10/13/22

LIVING IN THE MULTITUDES

cont. from p. 7

of deciding what to do post-graduation come May.

The truth is that my week was both bad and good. I know how simple that sounds, but the idea of accepting multiple truths existing at once has been revolutionary in my life. When I apply this mindset to thinking of post-graduation, I’m hit with the realization that no matter if I move to California or stay in New England, I’m going to both enjoy my decision and not enjoy it. Either path will be filled with moments that make it all worth it and moments where I question my decision. It’s why we need to switch our “ors” to “ands”.

I am going to graduate. If I move far away, I am going to experience moments of joy and moments of longing.

I am no longer vegetarian, and still I care for the planet and aim to reduce my carbon footprint.

I am an introvert and an extrovert. It all depends on the phase of life I’m in and how I connect with myself.

This idea of acknowledging how all events, people, emotions, etc. are composed of opposing traits is from “The Power of And,” a dialectical behavioral therapy (DBT) practice. It is rooted in accepting reality for how it really is, rather than how we wish it existed. The result of reframing my mindset with this has been transformative for me. I’m appreciative of my own ability to accept different truths for a single situation.

I understand how labeling things into a category of good or bad could be helpful — it gives people a sense of control which, in turn, fuels autonomy. However, ultimately living life with a binary mindset is more destructive than it is beneficial. It restricts us, narrowing our understanding of our day-to-day life. It’s freeing to realize we don’t have to subscribe to labels that have been constructed before us. It’s freeing to let things exist as they are without warping them to fit definitions we’ve created.

MEN'S SOCCER: Huskies start flat, finish strong against UMFK

by Jonathan Synott

SPORTS EDITOR

HE/HIM/HIS

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In an unconventional addition to its schedule, the University of Connecticut men's soccer team came from behind to beat the University of Maine at Fort Kent Bengals by a score of 2-1.

The game was a midseason inclusion, coming in the wake of the team's scheduled game against Dartmouth on Sept. 20 being canceled earlier that week. The Bengals, playing not for the NCAA but the United States College Athletic Association, entered the game scalding hot. They won their last 10 games by a combined score of 35-5, and brought that energy to this game as well. As a sure underdog, they had nothing to lose, while the idea of a non-Division I opponent likely contributed to UConn starting the game flat-footed.

It didn't take long for the Bengals to take the advantage. Less than five minutes into the game, UMFK earned a free kick from the far side of the 18-yard box. After the ensuing cross bounced around the box, Damian Jones finished it off by placing the ball past freshman Jayden Hibbert in net.

The nightmare continued for the Huskies, who continued to get peppered with shots and offensive pressure from the Bengals the rest of the half. UMFK ended the half with four shots, three off-target. UConn worked its way into the opposing end of the field on a few occasions, but got nowhere. By the end of 45 minutes, the team had four offside offenses, zero corners

and zero shots. The Bengals' play style included lots of team movement in bunches, making it hard for the Huskies to maintain possession of the ball to do any real attacking.

Connecticut came out much stronger to start the second period, appearing more energized than before. The Huskies put more pressure on the Bengals while maintaining a firm grip on possession, stringing together more opportunities. The culmination of their adjustment came in the 63rd minute, when an inside pass from Bateson Pierce set up Okem Chime for a 1-on-1 opportunity with UMFK goalie John Amoah. Chime took one touch to his right, then fired one in to tie the game at one apiece.

From then on, it was only a matter of time until the home team scored again. With 12 minutes to play in the contest, the Huskies earned a corner kick, which they took quickly, passing it short instead of crossing it. The cross came a few seconds later off the foot of Ben Dukes. All Chime had to do this time was flick it off the top of his head, taking new goalkeeper Shamar Jamison by surprise. Jamison got a hand on it, but the ball sailed into the net to give UConn the lead for good in the 2-1 victory.

One of the Bengals' best opportunities of the half came a few minutes after Chime's first goal, when Ronaldo Watson took a free kick from far outside the 18-yard box that was barely

reached by the outstretched hands of Hibbert. The ball looked to be perfectly placed, headed towards the far corner of the net. UMFK also made a last-minute push, but the Huskies were able to shut down the Bengals' hopes of a tie.

One interesting note from this game was the amount of injury stoppages from the visiting team. On several occasions, time had to be called to remedy Bengals players, who all went down with cramping.

Huskies head coach Chris Gbandi took advantage of this unique USCAA opportunity to give some of his guys that don't typically see the pitch a little more playing time. Connecticut's Starting XI consisted of 11 new starters compared to their last contest against Seton Hall. What's more, out of those 11, only two saw any playing time at all in that game.

"I thought it was a good performance," said Gbandi. "It was a game we scheduled to try to get our second group some opportunities and give a lot of credit to [UMFK], 'cause they looked like they were ready to go. For us to actually come back down a goal at half I think shows the character of the group. I'm super happy with the performance."

With the win, UConn rises to 4-6-1 on the year. Up next for the Huskies is a trip to Wisconsin this weekend, where they will look to bring their momentum into a matchup with the Marquette Golden Eagles on Saturday night.

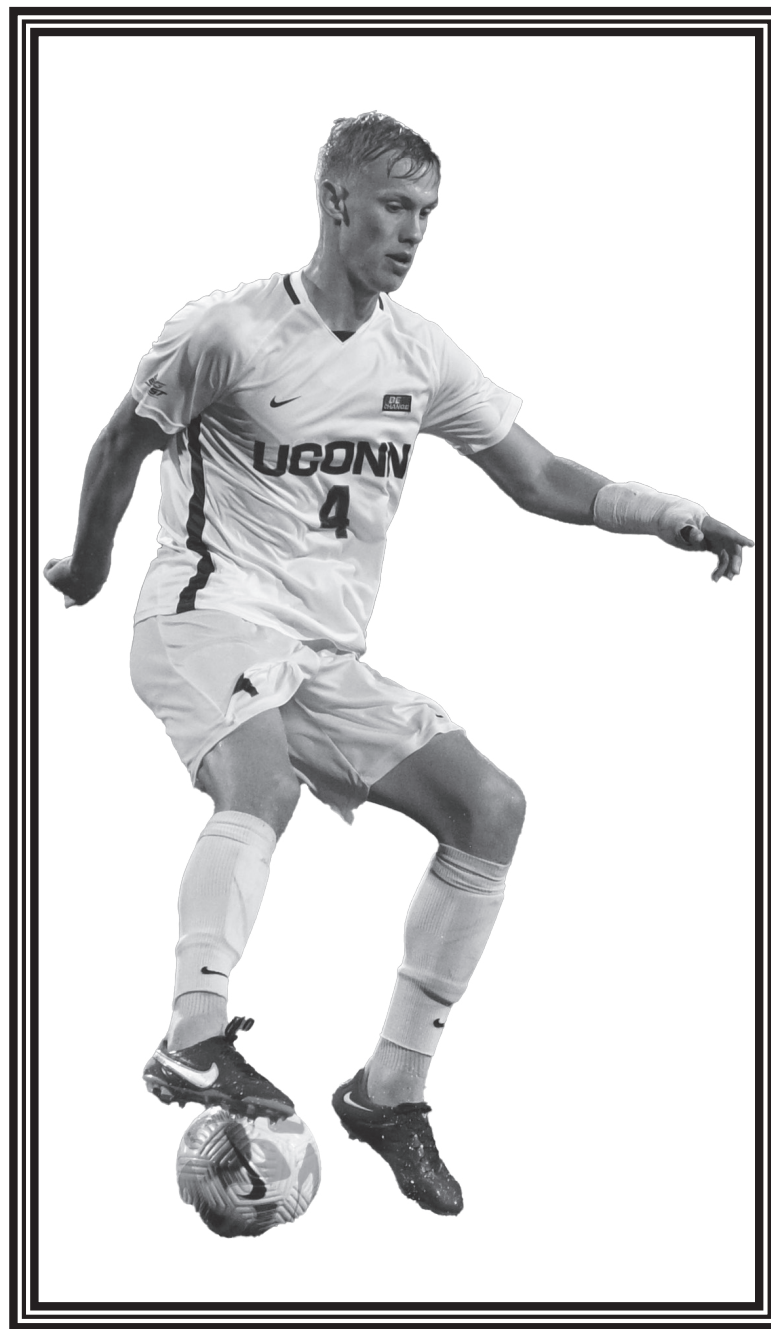


PHOTO BY IZZI BARTON, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

SPIN'S FANTASY FACTORY: Two wide receivers to drop after Week 5

by Nick Spinalli

STAFF WRITER

HE/HIM/HIS

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Welcome back to another edition of Spin's Fantasy Factory! I'm Spin, UConn's self-proclaimed "fantasy football expert." This week, I wanted to focus on two players that are no longer worth holding onto your roster and are droppable for better options on the waiver wire.

Though we fantasy football managers don't always like to admit it, we can never put together the perfect draft. We're bound to over- or under-value players at certain points throughout our drafts, which means we're bound to end up with a few who simply haven't been utilized in real life as we hoped. As a result, these players' values have decreased and some are no longer considered necessary for your fantasy roster:

Allen Robinson II, WR, Los Angeles Rams

Robinson's best game came in Week 2, when he reeled in four catches for 53 yards. Other than that, his second-highest single-game receiving yards tally is the measly 23 yards he managed in Week 3. In all of his other games, the wideout has recorded single game receiving yard totals of 12 yards (twice) and seven yards. If you're keeping a tally, that means that Robinson has amassed a puny 12 catches for 107 yards and one touchdown in five games. There was optimism as training camp ended this fall that Robinson would take on the old role left vacated by Robert Woods, who managed to find fantasy success last season under new quarterback Matthew Stafford. Alas, Robinson's performance so far this year has been the polar opposite of "fantasy success."

In Week 5, Robinson was targeted on only 12% of his routes (seeing five targets against 43 routes run), near the bottom of the list of wide receivers that recorded a catch. His 10.6% targets per route run is the fourth-lowest rate this season for those with at least 100 routes run. The Rams' offense is out of sync, with Stafford playing inconsistently and injuries decimating the team's offensive line; if the offensive line and quarterback play improves, Robinson could bounce back. However, with third-year wideout Van Jefferson nearing his return from the injured reserve list, Robinson could see his number of opportunities decrease even more. Before this season, there was discussion that Robinson could feature weekly top 12 potential at the position. But now, he doesn't look worthy of a roster spot even in the deep-end of fantasy leagues.

Darnell Mooney, WR, Chicago Bears

Mooney is a bit of an odd player to analyze because a vast majority of his fantasy production comes on deep passes and scores. He's never been known as a conservative player — Mooney is at his best when he's being fed 15-plus yards downfield. The only issue with that has been the performance of Chicago's quarterback, Justin Fields, who himself is one of the most conservative players at his position and helms the most run-heavy offense in the NFL. In his second season, Fields has yet to make the sophomore leap as a passer that many anticipated would be in store. As a result, Mooney's fantasy value has diminished.

Through five games, Mooney has been targeted by Fields only 21

times. Only 10 of those targets have resulted in completion, tied for the 129th most receptions in the league. While his 173 receiving yards certainly isn't ignorable (though it's not particularly encouraging, either), 146 of those yards have come in Chicago's previous two games. In fact, he had one game where he recorded negative receiving yards (one catch, -4 yards in Week 2). He's managed to haul in more than two catches in a game just once and has yet to find the end zone. It seems the number of offensive statistics lists where Mooney and Fields find themselves near the bottom of is never-ending. As long as Fields continues to show that he's not a capable passer (he has more interceptions thrown than touchdowns thrown this season), Mooney is best left on the waiver wire — a major disappointment for a player with such big-play potential.



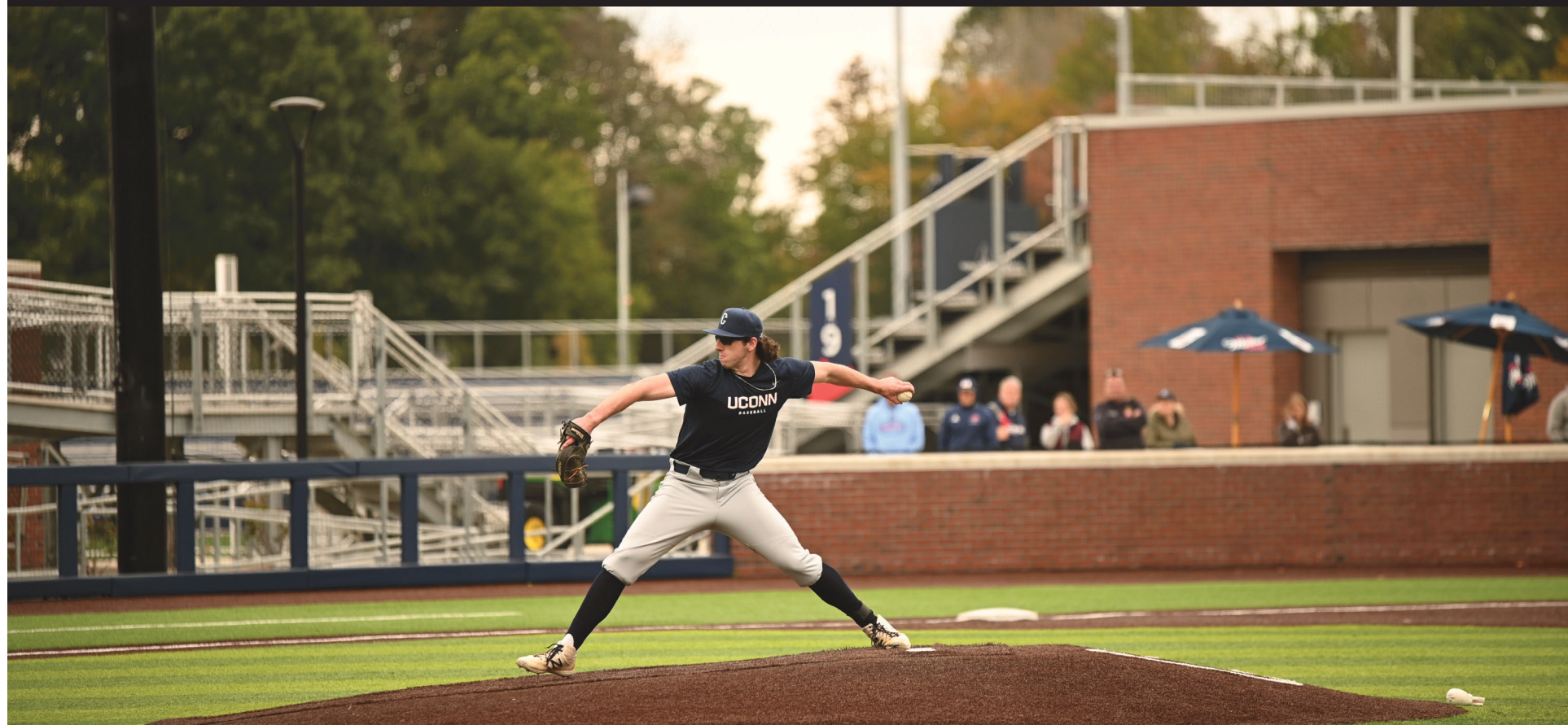
Allen Robinson during a 2019 game, Redskins vs Bears.

PHOTOGRAPH BY NALL PRO REELS/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



Sports

Photo of the Day | 4 Bases, 3 Outs, 2 Teams, 1 Winner



In a 14 inning game, the UConn Huskies take on the University of Rhode Island Rams at Elliot Ballpark in Storrs Ct, on Sunday afternoon. The Huskies beat the Rams 18-3 in their first official game of the season. PHOTO BY ERIN KNAPP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

ROUNDTABLE:

Who will win the World Series?

As the MLB postseason kicks off, there are a number of storylines following the eight remaining teams. The Phillies are this year's Cinderella team. The Guardians are looking to upset a Yankees team that has recovered from their mid-season slump. The Braves are hoping to repeat as World Series champions. Among all these narratives, only one team will emerge victorious. The Sports Section discusses:

Stratton Stave

I know it's a little gutsy to take a No. 6 seed in their first year of existence, but that's exactly what I'll do with how good the Phillies have been as of late. So far (as of Wednesday afternoon), they're 3-0 and show no signs of slowing down. Although Nick Castellanos hit a rough patch in the Wild Card round, he shined in Game 1 of the NLDS, with three hits and as many RBIs. Although the Braves are talented, they're not markedly better than the Cardinals, who the Phillies swept without any Castellanos hits. Bryce Harper has also been absolutely raking, with a .500 average and a homer so far this postseason. Often in baseball, making it past the Wild Card round can be a blessing, as the team has more momentum going into the divisional round. With this being the case for the Phillies and baseball being such a momentum-reliant sport, I'll take them to bring home the hardware for the first time in over a decade.

Connor Sargeant

The Dodgers have the best chance to win the World Series for a simple reason: Weaker competition. The Dodgers are almost guaranteed to at least make the World Series. The American League competition is much stiffer, as the Astros or Yankees will most likely be one of the two teams to represent it. There is not a team good enough to beat the Dodgers in the National League, as they have it all: Starting pitching, a bullpen and a ridiculous lineup. Meanwhile, there are still questions about all American League teams that might not be answered. In the playoffs, pitching is king, mostly bullpen and depth, and I question the Yankees' bullpen. If you asked me this in June, when Clay Holmes gave up an astonishing three runs up to that point and a healthy Michael King shutting hitters down, I would have picked the Yankees. But injuries have derailed them, as DJ LeMahieu is not on the ALDS roster for New York, and oh yeah, Michael King and Chad Green are out for the season. The Guardians, down 1-0 against the Yankees and having to face Nestor Cortes, will soon find themselves in an insurmountable 0-2 deficit against the best-hitting team in the MLB. But their bullpen will be suspect against the Astros, who have been the Achilles' heel to the Yankees making it to the big dance these last few seasons. But as good as Houston is, they certainly have questionable hitters in the team, and the talented Los Angeles will carve them out. The Phillies don't have the talent to beat the Braves, Dodgers, and the best American League team. The Mariners won't beat the Astros, and the Braves won't beat the Dodgers. If this Dodgers team keeps up their MLB-best 111-51 pace and gets everything to go the right way, they have the potential to be the last team standing.

Evan Rodriguez

Even with a fairly depleted bullpen, the Yankees showed in their Game 1 performance against the Cleveland Guardians that they have guys who can step up on offense and deliver. Whether that's the newly acquired Harrison Bader or Anthony Rizzo, offense is so important for a team that's going to need everyone to perform against tough pitching staffs like the Houston Astros or the Los Angeles Dodgers. Baseball fans know guys like Aaron Judge and Giancarlo Stanton are going to deliver on offense, but it's the lesser known names on this team like Oswaldo Cabrera that could be big in the playoffs. Gerrit Cole showed that he is the ace of this pitching staff, and they've got plenty of players to accompany him, like Nestor Cortes and Luis Severino. The key to this team is pitching, especially in the bullpen where they're missing pitchers like Zach Britton, Aroldis Chapman and more. But if this team can get everything to click, they certainly have the potential to win the franchise's 28th ring.

Ava Inesta

As much as it's easy to say that the Dodgers or Astros are going to win the World Series, it's always fun to support the underdogs. Being a Mets fan and watching their heartbreaking loss against the Padres, I am going to have to shy away from a National League World Series pick and side with Seattle. The last time the Mariners made the playoffs was 2001, and this year they broke the playoff drought. Beating the odds, the Mariners made their way into the postseason bracket and already got past the Toronto Blue Jays in the Wild Card series. For starters, Julio Rodriguez has evolved into a stud for Seattle and has been a power hitter all season. The Mariners also have strong pieces in Ty France, J.P. Crawford, Cal Raleigh and Jarrod Kelenic. Pitching is what wins games, and starters Robbie Ray, George Kirby and the addition of Luis Castillo at this year's trade deadline brought Seattle to another level. Now in the postseason, the Mariners showed they can play at the same pace as the best teams in the league based on what happened in Game 1 of the ALDS in Houston. Their offense flourished against veteran Justin Verlander, and it showed what they are capable of. Although they dropped the first game to the Astros, the Mariners still have what it takes to make it to the World Series.

Cole Stefan

I could have picked the Yankees for this roundtable, but I am not going to steal Evan's thunder like that. Instead, I am going to pick the team I predicted to win it all last year to run it back (if they do, I am writing another Column about them, mark my words). This team is much better than last season's, and not just because they came back from a 10.5-game division deficit — sorry Mets fans. There are rare instances where a team calls up two of their top prospects and they instantly thrive. That has been the case with Spencer Strider and Michael Harris II, the frontrunners for National League Rookie of the Year. Put them together with the big stars that won the World Series last year, from Ronald Acuna Jr. to Max Fried to Austin Riley, and Atlanta is as much of a juggernaut as the Los Angeles Dodgers. With most of their young core under contract at least until 2026, the Braves are going to run baseball for the next half-decade.

THE C O L E U M N

I'm not sold on Kyler Murray

by Cole Stefan

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When one thinks of quarterbacks in the National Football League, they think of stars such as Josh Allen, Patrick Mahomes, Lamar Jackson, Joe Burrow and Justin Herbert. These are the people that lead their teams through thick and thin while slinging the ball to wide receivers and tight ends.

There is one quarterback out there with the speed and running abilities of Jackson, the arm of Herbert and the potential of Matthew Stafford. That person is Kyler Murray, the quarterback of the Arizona Cardinals who went first overall in the 2019 NFL Draft and won a Heisman Trophy at the University of Oklahoma. There are people who think that he is one of the top quarterbacks in the league, but I am not one of them.

Until Tom Brady and/or Aaron Rodgers retires, I do not believe that Murray is a top 10 quarterback in the league. He has gotten more offensive weapons via trade to help him improve as the seasons go by, whether it is DeAndre Hopkins or Marquise Brown, but I feel like he does less with more rather than make the Cardinals a Super Bowl contender.

I have not bought into the hype around Murray since his NFL career began. In his rookie campaign in 2019, Murray threw for 3,722 yards, 20 touchdowns and 12 interceptions while rushing for 544 yards and four touchdowns. That same season, Las Vegas Raiders running back Josh Jacobs, who also was a first-round pick, dashed for a career-high 1,150 yards and seven touchdowns.

Murray took home the Offensive Rookie of the Year award when Jacobs clearly deserved it. This is solely based on my opinion, but when a running back rushes for over 1,000 yards in his rookie season, he should be named OROY, especially in today's pass-heavy game (Najee Harris is an exception because Ja'Marr Chase existed in 2021).

Murray has had some amazing plays in the past that flash brilliance, whether it was the infinitely long two-point conversion against the Raiders in Week 2 or the "Hail Murray" against the Buffalo Bills in 2020. Despite these plays and strong season numbers, he does not perform at a high level on a weekly basis. If I am being completely honest, the sec-

ond play happened because Hopkins' leapt over three Bills' defenders to make the game-winning catch. If Murray wants to be considered as one of the best in the league, he needs to run the ball for at least 50 yards and throw for over 200 yards per game.

Murray also does not have the playoff pedigree that other quarterbacks do. He led the Cardinals to the playoffs once in his first three seasons, but by the time they made it to the Wild Card Round in 2021, they were suffering a second-half collapse similar to the 2020 Pittsburgh Steelers. The eventual Super Bowl champion Los Angeles Rams blew the doors off of them in SoFi Stadium and sent Murray home disappointed.

It is one thing to talk about Murray's talents, but it is another to talk about his maturity. Approaching the final year of his rookie contract, Murray spent the 2022 off-season discussing extension terms with his team. Like most negotiations, there were turbulent times and the struggles to earn more money lasted for months on end.

When discussions did not appear to go his way in February, he did what most dissatisfied players do and

scrubbed any affiliation with the Cardinals off of his social media pages. Negotiations got tense to the point where his camp released a 484-word statement regarding the scrambling quarterback's future. I understand he wanted the big bucks because he made it in the NFL, but he needed to earn that money rather than have it given to him.

He came around and the two sides agreed to a five-year, \$230.5 million extension that keeps him in the desert until 2028. The deal itself has an annual salary of \$46.1 million, the third-highest value in the NFL and is a little over the Oakland Athletics' opening day payroll of \$47.7 million. Despite the handsome extension, one clause in the contract irked me.

Until the Cardinals' front office removed it in July, Murray had to engage in at least four hours of independent film study per week from the start of training camp until Arizona's last game of the season. Most elite quarterbacks take the time to review opposing film in order to improve their craft and win games, but the fact that this had to be explicitly written in his contract signifies that he

may not have been watching film as much as the Cardinals wanted him to.

Murray has not lived up to earning the money in his new contract this season, even though the extension does not kick in until 2023. Through five games, he has 1,241 passing yards for six touchdowns with 133 yards on the ground, but his quarterback rating is as low as it ever has been. There are still 12 games left this season, but Murray currently ranks in the middle of the pack in the passing categories and needs to do better to be considered a top talent.

This is not meant to vilify him in any way. Murray is a remarkable player who has the abilities to alter a franchise like most top draft picks should. He just has not proven his true potential yet, and that is why the argument for him being an elite player in today's game is overrated.

Murray is not a bust — as proven by his new contract — but if he wants to be an elite quarterback, he needs to improve his passing game, continue to mature and prove that he can win in the playoffs. Until he meets all three of those criteria or receives MVP votes in a season, I am not sold on Kyler Murray.



Cardinals quarterback Kyler Murray leads his team out onto the field. from Washington Football Team at Arizona Cardinals, State Farm Stadium, Glendale, Arizona, Sept. 20, 2020

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALL PRO REELS/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



Sports

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL: UConn to host Villanova and Georgetown

by **Ava Inesta**
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This past weekend, the University of Connecticut women's volleyball team returned home from its road trip and earned its first Big East win against the Xavier Musketeers. The Huskies will now continue their conference play at Gampel Pavilion against Villanova at 12 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, and Georgetown at 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15.

Being two huge Big East universities, UConn and Villanova have a long history of matches. The Huskies have defeated the Wildcats in their most recent matches and are currently riding a three-game winning streak. In their previous matches, the teams are tied 6-6.

Coming into this match, Villanova is 5-13 on the season. The Wildcats have struggled in Big East competition and are 1-5 against conference opponents.

Villanova entered this season with a bunch of returning players and a strong freshman class. In Villanova's last match against Georgetown, junior Kiera Booth matched her career-high with 19 kills. Booth has been a consistent player for the Wildcats and plans to continue that pattern against the Huskies. Some other notable players for Villanova are junior Riley Homer, senior Kathleen Johnson and sophomore Rose Crist, who was named Big East Player of the Week in the beginning of September.

Over the weekend, UConn will face off against Georgetown. The

Hoyas are coming off a loss to Butler but have had some positive games against Big East opponents. Georgetown's current record is 4-13 and 2-3 against conference teams.

A player to look out for on the Hoyas is 6-foot-4 senior Peyton Wilhite. In their most recent game against Villanova, Wilhite led the team with 14 kills while hitting at a solid .419.

Another player for Georgetown, sophomore Mary Grace Goyena, was named Big East Offensive Player of the Week in mid-September. Goyena has continued to be a significant part of the Hoyas' offense and has stayed close to the top of their statistical leaderboards. Sophomore Giselle Williams has also played well for Georgetown.

After beating Xavier this past weekend, the Huskies are looking to stay hot and get a win streak going in Big East action. Connecticut's record currently sits at 7-10 and 1-5 against conference teams.

It is important for the Huskies to win, as they are in the midst of conference play and want to put themselves in position to contend for the Big East tournament. The squad has shown a ton of strength and the ability to not back down from a fight. UConn seniors Allie Garland, Caylee Parker and Jasmine Davis are coming off a dominant weekend and hope to continue leading their team down the path to success.



UConn loses to Creighton 2 sets to 3 at Gampel Pavilion. The game was close with UConn leading 2 sets to 0 before falling behind. The team is set to play Villanova on Thursday.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JORDAN ARNOLD, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WOMEN'S SOCCER: Huskies return home looking to bounce back



UConn women's soccer falls to Georgetown University 0-1 on Thursday night Sept. 29, at Morrone Stadium. The Huskies' next home game will be on Thursday, Oct. 13.

PHOTOGRAPH BY IZZI BARTON, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Dante Coppola**
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIS/HIM
dante.coppola@uconn.edu

A difficult loss to the top-ranked Xavier Musketeers on Sunday, Oct. 8 set the University of Connecticut back from the momentum it had been gaining beforehand. Now, the Huskies look to get back on track this week against DePaul at 7 p.m. Thursday and Butler at 1 p.m. Sunday.

The Blue Demons should present a good comeback game for the Huskies, as they sit at the bottom of the Big East with a 2-11 record. DePaul's offense isn't at the same level as UConn's, and defensively they're ranked dead last as well. They are coming off a 2-1 defeat at the hands of Butler, the team that the Huskies will play three days later. The Huskies lost to the Blue Demons last year, breaking their perfect all-time streak of seven victories over DePaul.

DePaul sophomore Katie Godden, a forward from Surrey, England, will be a key player to watch and important for the Huskies to contain. She's scored in each

of her last two matches, and ranks fourth in the conference with four goals to her name. She also boasts three assists, which places her at seventh in that category. Sophomore forward Susie Soderstrom will be another name to watch, as she tends to find the back of the net in games where Godden doesn't.

Meanwhile, the Butler Bulldogs look to pose a relatively close matchup. They have also won more in conference play, winning three games to the Huskies' two. This places them higher in the standings, thanks to their higher point total as a result of playing more games. The offenses are evenly matched, but it's the Huskies' defense that will likely be the tiebreaker here.

Redshirt senior Katie Soderstrom, the sister of Susie Soderstrom, is the one to look out for when the Huskies face the Bulldogs. She ranks sixth all-time in points for Butler, and has been on the all-Big East team three times. The forward is first in the confer-

ence in shots, a full 15 ahead of the next highest player. Unsurprisingly, she is first in goals as well. Redshirt junior Abigail Isgar and freshman Talia Sommer are additional names to look for, with both also being among the highest scorers in the league.

Despite coming off a loss, there is much to look forward to for the Huskies this week. Junior Jada Konte now leads the team in points with 11, as she has become an exciting player to watch on the offensive end. Sophomore Abby Jones is close behind Konte with 10 points, much of that coming from distributing the ball. Junior goalkeeper Kaitlyn Mahoney remains in the top five in the conference for save percentage and saves per game. If Mahoney stays strong, the Huskies could very well snatch both games this week.

Catch the Huskies' kickoff at 7 p.m. Thursday at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium. Both games will also be livestreamed on FloSports.

WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

UConn SCOREBOARD



8 vs. 4

Softball
Saturday

Upcoming Games

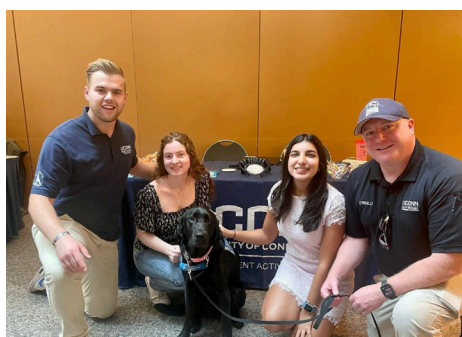


Volleyball, 12 p.m. Thursday
Storrs, Conn



Football, 2 p.m. Saturday
Muncie, IIN

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconnpd_officercarson
@uconnleads is in the Union to answer questions and provide information on student activities. They also give the best pets!

TWEETS OF THE DAY



John Fanta

@John_Fanta

UConn Football has made real progress under Jim Mora in his first season despite the fact the Huskies were dealt a ton of misfortune with injuries.

UConn

@UConn

The University of Connecticut is home to more than 32,000 students, 1,500 faculty, 255,000 proud alumni, and a handsome husky names Jonathan. #UConnNation

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