



PhD student conducts research on Guillain-Barré syndrome

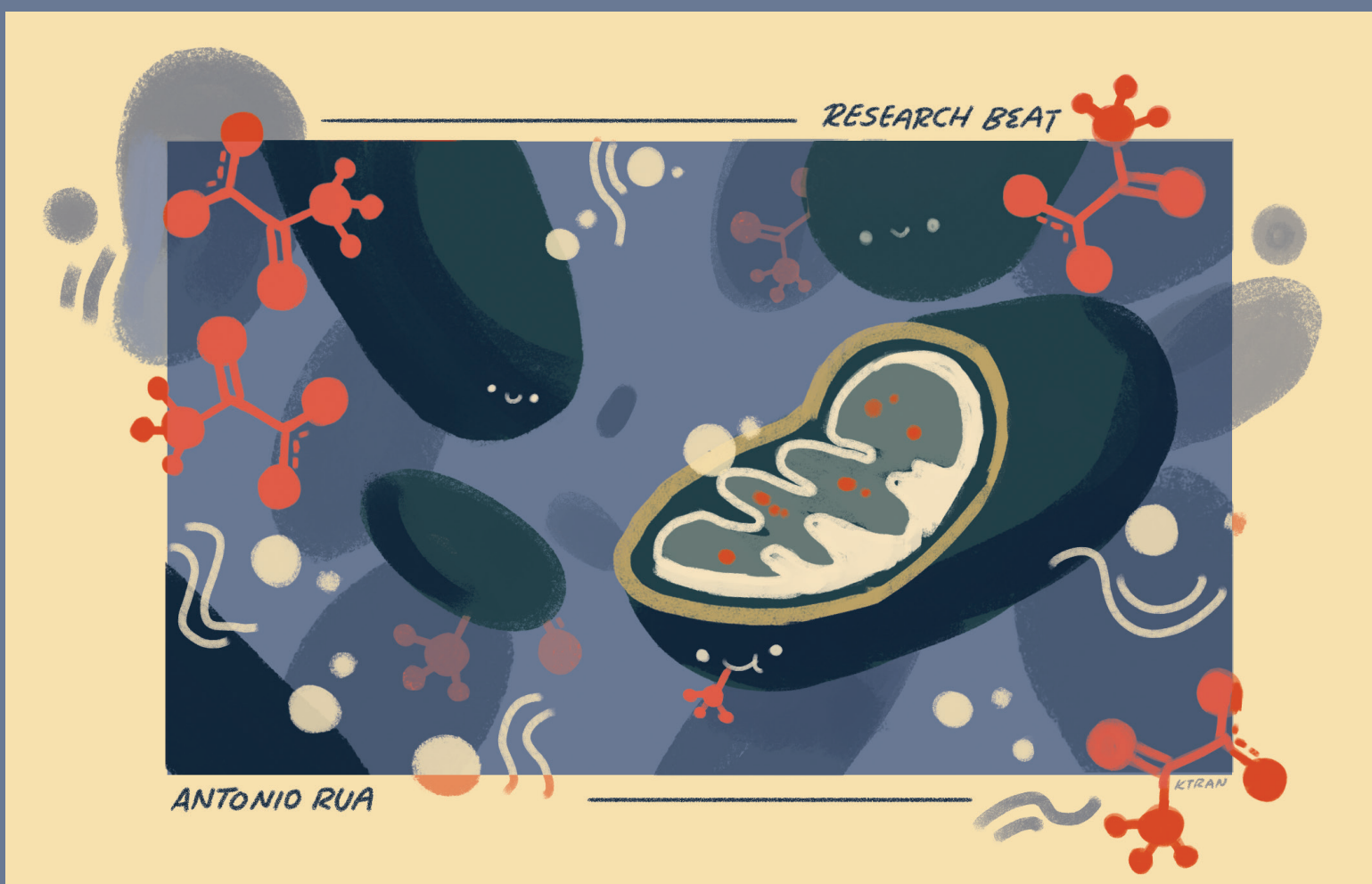


ILLUSTRATION BY KAITLYN TRAN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Sania Chaudhary**
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Antonio Rua, a second-year molecular and cell biology Ph.D. student at the University of Connecticut, is conducting research on metabolisms of those with the rare autoimmune disease, Guillain-Barré syndrome.

Rua said he was recruited into the lab about a year ago through his interest in research of diseased states and the fairly new practice of “NMR.” NMR is a technique that is used to identify various compounds by the behavior of the waves interacting with that compound.

“NMR is Nuclear Magnetic Resonance, and it is used to verify what you synthesize. Essentially, you’re putting molecules inside of a machine and hitting them with radio waves to see how they interact,” Rua explained.

Rua said he focuses on the powerhouse of the cell, the mitochondria, and more specifically, its membrane. He said he changes the mitochondria’s membrane lipid composition and observes the differences in how and how many metabolites (the various products of metabolism) are created.

“Inside of the sample tube, I have a milligram of mitochondria, and I am feeding them a

labeled respiratory substrate, a molecule called pyruvate. I can trace the signal of the C13 label as these mitochondria are performing their metabolism and what they are producing over time – the rises and falls,” Rua continued.

Rua said his short term goal is to publish the work, but he hopes to uncover a lot more:

“I am just identifying the metabolic differences at a base level,” Rua stated. “The end point of this is right now there are no FDA-approved treatments for Barré Syndrome. Hopefully, I can use some of the other unapproved treatments or screen

novel treatments as well as the established NMR techniques to show some form of treatment that can restore wild type, normal average human mitochondria metabolism.”

Rua concluded with gratitude about his current opportunity. He explained that he had experience working in a lab from his undergraduate years at Franklin Pierce University.

“From that experience, I knew I wanted to do something relating to the diseased state, but not in the same way I had done it.”

Rua said, when he arrived at UConn, Dr. Andrei Alexan-

drescu, professor of molecular and cell biology, and Dr. Wayne Mitchell, recent Ph.D. graduate from the department of molecular and cell biology, approached him with the topic. “When they came to me with this idea, I really latched onto it,” he said enthusiastically.

Rua made it a note to say a few words about his principal investigator whose guidance propelled the research.

“I am very thankful that I have a PI that is tough on me when he needs to be but realizes that work-life balance is very much a thing,” Rua said. “I am thankful to have a PI that keeps science fun.”

NATIONAL NEWS: THE AFTERMATH OF CATEGORY 4 HURRICANE IAN DEVASTATES FLORIDA, DEATH TOLL REACHES TRIPLE DIGITS

by **Youngjoon Kwon**
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Hurricane Ian passed through Florida and surrounding areas last Wednesday, leaving behind homes and workplaces in ruins as well as many casualties. The number of people killed is increasing as rescue crews travel door to door to check on survivors.

The death toll from the storm has risen to 101. So far, Ian is ranked as the sixth most disastrous U.S. hurricane since 1980, according to Yale Climate Connections.

The hurricane has deprived some Florida residents of everything. Elizabeth McGuire’s family have said they lost their daughter as well as their livelihood.

“One hundred blizzards will not cost you what one hurricane will cost you. My husband’s business wiped out, my daughter is dead ... I never had a blizzard take anything away from me.” Susan McGuire, a Florida resident who previ-



Residents of Florida’s Gulf Coast barrier islands are returning to assess the damage from Hurricane Ian, Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022, in Sanibel Island, Fla., despite limited access to some areas.

AP PHOTO/SCOTT SMITH

“One hundred blizzards will not cost you what one hurricane will cost you. My husband’s business wiped out, my daughter is dead ... I never had a blizzard take anything away from me.”

SUSAN MCGUIRE, FLORIDA RESIDENT

ously lived in Maryland said, according to CNN.

Some islands housing Florida communities have been cut off from the mainland, while other areas continue to be without power. Residents who have lost their homes are struggling to recover their lives and will face many more obstacles.

Thousands of utility workers from 34 states went to Florida to help restore power lines and other equipment, but delayed repairs to the power have resulted in more tragic casualties. An elderly couple died because their oxygen machines shut off after power failure, according to AccuWeather.

Currently, besides residents of Florida and the neighboring islands, hospitals are also paralyzed because staff working in hospitals have lost their vehicles and been disconnected.

“Hospitals in Florida have been experiencing ‘significant pressure’ on capacity since Ian hit,” Mary Mayhew, president and CEO of the Florida Hospital Association, said, according to CNN.

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News

NEW SURVEY SUGGESTS LITTLE PROGRESS AGAINST U.S. TEEN VAPING

NEW YORK (AP) — The latest government study on teen vaping suggests there's been little progress in keeping e-cigarettes out of the hands of kids.

The data seems to show more high school students vaping, with 14% saying they had done so recently, according to survey results released Thursday. In last year's survey, about 11% said they had vaped recently.

But experts cautioned that a change in the survey makes it difficult to compare the two: This year, a much higher percentage of participants took the survey in schools, and vaping tends to be reported more in schools than in homes.

"It continues to be difficult to assess (vaping) trends since the pandemic," said Alyssa Harlow, a University of Southern California researcher who studies youth e-cigarette use.

Despite its persistence, vaping appears to be less popular than it was: In 2019, 28% of high schoolers said they had recently vaped.

Educators say vaping is still a big problem.

Anecdotally, the 2021-22 school year was worse than it was before the pandemic, said Mike Rinaldi, principal of Westhill High School in Stamford, Connecticut. That school year was the first when most kids returned from remote learning following COVID-19 lockdowns, noted Rinaldi, who speculated that many kids may have taken up vaping as they dealt with mental health issues or stress related to the pandemic.

Kids vaping in school bathrooms and stairwells remains "a constant battle," said Matt Forker, principal of the nearby Stamford High School.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention researchers authored the new study, which is based on a Jan. 18 to May 31 online survey of about 28,000 U.S. middle and high school students.

The study asked about use of e-cigarettes and other vaping devices in the previous 30 days. In addition to the 14% of high school students who said they vaped recently, about 3% of middle schoolers said they had done so.

Of those who vaped, about 28% said they did it every day.

Nearly 85% of the youth who vaped used flavored products. Favored brands included Puff Bar and Vuse, followed by Hyde and Smok.

The Food and Drug Administration on Thursday took action against the makers of both Puff Bar and Hyde following months of urging from congressional lawmakers and parent groups.

The agency sent a warning letter to Puff Bar manufacturer EVO Brands, stating that the company never obtained U.S. permission to sell its products and that they are being marketed illegally. Only a handful of vaping companies have received FDA clearance for their products, which must demonstrate a health benefit for adult smokers.

The agency also said it ordered Hyde manufacturer Magellan Technology to remove its products from the market, after rejecting its application for FDA authorization.

The FDA has struggled to regulate the sprawling vaping landscape, which includes both established companies and smaller startups. Regulators have been pilloried by Congress



In this Jan. 31, 2020 photo a woman holds a flavored disposable vape device in New York. A government study on adolescent vaping, released on Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022, finds more than 2.5 million U.S. kids were using some form of e-cigarette in 2022, suggesting there's been little progress in keeping vaping devices out of the hands of teenagers.

AP PHOTO/MARSHALL RITZEL

and anti-vaping advocates for missing multiple deadlines to issue decisions on millions of vaping products submitted by companies.

In the last three years, federal and state laws and regulations have raised the purchase age for tobacco and vaping products, and banned nearly all teen-preferred flavors from small, cartridge-based e-cigarettes.

Some kids also may have been scared away by a 2019 outbreak of vaping-related illnesses and deaths — most of them tied to a filler in black market vaping liquids that contained THC, the chemical that makes marijuana users feel high.

Leaders of one advocacy group said they worry the battle to diminish youth vaping is not going well.

The numbers "may not reflect the much larger reality of youth e-cigarette use that we hear about on a daily basis from parents, teachers, pediatricians, and prevention specialists who are experiencing this urgent and ongoing adolescent public-health crisis," the group, Parents Against Vaping E-Cigarettes, said in a statement.

The FDA tried to ban the leading e-cigarette maker Juul's products earlier this summer, citing questions about its potential health risks. But it's been forced to put that effort

on hold following a court challenge.

In this year's survey, about one-fifth of teens who vape reported recently using Juul, though it was no longer a favorite brand. That's a big shift from 2019, when more than half of teens reported Juul as their usual brand.

Instead, many young people have migrated to e-cigarettes delivering laboratory-made nicotine — including Puff Bar — a loophole in FDA's oversight that Congress closed this year. Despite gaining new authority over those products, the FDA missed a mid-July deadline to issue decisions on the vast majority of those products.

NINTENDO DETAILS NEW GAMEPLAY FEATURES FOR THE NEWEST POKÉMON GAME

(AP) — We're roughly a month away from the release of Pokémon Scarlet and Violet, and Nintendo has released a new trailer. The video details what players can expect in the Paldean journey and introduces new Pokémon.

Earlier this year, we met the game's three starting Pokémon: Sprigatito, a grass-type cat Pokémon, Fuecoco, a fire-type Pokémon, and Quaxly, a water-type Pokémon.

Players assume the role of a student at a Paldean Academy, taking part in a program known as a "Treasure Hunt." The trailer details some of the game's different adventures trainers will encounter.

We learn that you can encounter Terastallized Pokémon in the wild, with Jigglypuff as the example in the video. The Terastal phenomenon is a new feature for Scarlet and Violet. Any Terastallized Pokémon can become a Tera type of any of the 18 different Pokémon types. For

example, Jigglypuff, a Normal/Fairy Pokémon, could be a Fire or Shadow Tera type.

The auto-battling feature, known as the "Let's Go!" command, is also displayed. This lets players give their Pokémon commands and orders to perform on their own without player input. In addition to auto-battles, you can also tell your Pokémon to obtain nearby items.

An encounter with a Team Star base is showcased as well. In a departure from the Pokémon series, the action plays like other action-adventure games, where you are storming an enemy base and battling opposing trainers and other Pokémon. The experience seems to play out in the same style as various Ubisoft games, such as Assassin's Creed and Far Cry, where you overtake an enemy base for your own.

For the first time in the series, Pokémon Scarlet and Pokémon Violet will allow

players to create their own TMs at the TM machine at every Pokéstop. You will use materials found in-game to craft your TMs.

Legendary Life

Next up, we learn about the Path of Legend, a storyline that tasks trainers with seeking out legendary herbs in the region of Paldean. We see the trainer fighting off against Klawf, the Stony Cliff Titan Pokémon. The encounter feels similar to those who played Pokémon Legends, where players will encounter enemies that feel like challenging boss battles.

In terms of new Pokémon introduced in Pokémon Scarlet and Pokémon Violet, the trailer introduces a new evolution form of Girafarig. Farigiraf subtitled a "Long Neck Pokémon," has a unique appearance in that it seems to have its tail attached to its head.

In addition to the new evolution form, Farigiraf has two new abilities:

Cud Chew: When a Pokémon with this Ability eats a Berry, it will eat it one more time at the end of the next turn.

Armor Tail: It makes opposing Pokémon unable to use priority moves.

The town of Artazon is featured in the Scarlet and Violet trailer. A part of the "Victory Road" storyline, these features will feel familiar to Pokémon veterans. Players will take part in various Gym tests before battling with a Gym leader. The Terastal is highlighted here, too, as a way to add depth to Pokémon combat.

The game isn't all about Pokémon battles, though. Sometimes it's important to slow down and focus on the little things, like customizing your Pokémon trainer appearance. In addition, players can take selfies in-game to

highlight their journey across Paldean. It's as if Pokémon Snap was brought into a traditional Pokémon game.

In what may be the day's most important news, you can go on picnics with your Pokémon, bathe them, and spend some quality time with your companions outside of collecting and battling. Pics feature sandwich-building mini-games that give your Pokémon various buffs to use in-game.

Finally, we get a glimpse at what an in-game raid battle looks like, where trainers can work together to find powerful Pokémon enemies.

There's a lot of depth found within the Paldean region, and we're excited to get hands-on with the next Pokémon adventure.

Pokémon Scarlet and Pokémon Violet will release exclusively for Nintendo Switch on Nov. 18. Its online multiplayer will feature ranked play.

The Daily Campus

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Jury begins deliberations in Alex Jones' Sandy Hook trial

WATERBURY, Conn. (AP) — A jury began deliberations Thursday to decide how much conspiracy theorist Alex Jones should pay for pushing the lie that the 2012 Sandy Hook School massacre was a hoax.

A lawyer for the families of eight people killed and an FBI agent who responded to the mass shooting told jurors in closing arguments that Jones started lying about the shooting the day it happened and provided the machinery that allowed that lie to spread.

Jones' attorney countered by telling the jury his client didn't "invent the Internet" and argued jurors should not award excessive damages just because they are angry about the harassment the families went through at the hands of others who also believed the lie that the shooting was a hoax.

The attorneys presented closing arguments in the trial to determine how much Jones and his company, Free Speech Systems, should pay for representing to the audience of his Infowars show that the shooting at the school in Newtown, Connecticut, was a hoax staged to impose more gun control laws.

The six-person jury, comprised of three men and three women, began deliberations late in the day, charged with completing a form that will detail a dollar amount each of the 15 plaintiffs should receive.

Before deliberations, the judge didn't give jurors explicit instructions on how to arrive at dollar figures for the damages. She told them to use their life experiences and common sense in determining damages that are "fair, just and reasonable."

In closings, plaintiff attorney Christopher Mattei told the jury that it was because of Jones and his massive Infowars platform that the families have been subjected to a decade of torment at the hands of conspiracy theorists.

"As soon as he did it, everyone else came coming in over him," Mattei said. "The threats, the harassment, the fear, the al-



Norm Pattis, attorney for Alex Jones, addresses the court during his closing statements in the Alex Jones Sandy Hook defamation damages trial in Superior Court in Waterbury, Conn., on Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022. H. JOHN VOORHEES III/HEARST CONNECTICUT MEDIA VIA AP, POOL

legations of actors, when every single one of these families were drowning in grief. And Alex Jones put his foot right on top."

Defense attorney Norm Pattis opened his arguments with a 19-minute video from a 2018 episode of Jones' Infowars show in which the Jones accuses the media of misrepresenting his position for "questioning" Sandy Hook and bringing it up long after he acknowledged the shooting happened.

"It's edited and then it's brought back up as if I'm bringing it back up," Jones says in the video.

Mattei suggested the jury should award the plaintiffs at least \$550 million, telling them Jones will spread lies about other shootings and other families if they don't make him understand the harm his comments caused. Mattei tied that dollar amount to the estimated 550 million views of the Sandy Hook content on Jones and In-

formers' social media accounts from 2012 to 2018 — an estimate provided by a plaintiffs' expert witness who said he reviewed the content.

"It is your job to make sure he understands the extent of the wreckage that he caused," Mattei said. "Because you know damn well he doesn't get it."

Another plaintiff attorney, Joshua Koskoff, told the jury that lies like the ones Jones tells, get people killed.

"We don't know when, but it is going to happen at some point," he said.

Since the trial began Sept. 13, testimony has mostly centered on the relatives and the FBI agent who say they've been harassed for a decade by people who believed Jones' claims that the shooting never happened, and that the parents of the 20 slain children were "crisis actors."

The plaintiffs said they have received death and rape threats,

mail from conspiracy theorists that included photos of dead children, and had in-person confrontations with hoax believers. They sued Jones for defamation, intentional infliction of emotional distress and violating Connecticut's unfair trade practices law by profiting off the hoax lies.

Pattis noted the plaintiffs' lawyers did not show monetary harm to the families, "no doctor's bills reports, very few mentions of treatment." He told the jurors that punitive damages are by law limited to attorneys fees and they should not confuse those with compensatory damages, which should be for losses caused by Jones.

"This is not an action to compensate the folks at Sandy Hook for the loss of their children," he said. "Alex Jones is not (shooter) Adam Lanza."

Jones, whose show and Infowars brand are based in Austin, Texas, was found li-

able for defaming the plaintiffs last year. In an unusual ruling, Judge Barbara Bellis said Jones had forfeited his right to a trial as a consequence of repeated violations of court orders and failures to turn over documents to the plaintiffs' lawyers.

Jones did take the stand for a contentious day of testimony earlier in the trial, saying he was "done saying I'm sorry" for calling the school shooting a hoax. However, he declined to put on a defense Wednesday, and his lawyers rested with putting on evidence or witnesses.

Outside the courthouse and on his show, Jones has repeatedly bashed the trial as a "kangaroo court" and an effort to put him out of business. He has cited free speech rights, but he and his lawyer were not allowed to make that argument during the trial because he already had been found liable. His show is also broadcast on many radio stations.

Koskoff pointed out the Jones was not in court to hear any of the families' testimony, and called him a "coward."

Pattis has suggested the relatives were exaggerating their claims of being harmed and falsely placed the blame for that harm on Jones.

"Alex invented fear, Alex invented anger, Alex invented what's wrong with this world," Pattis said. "Kill Alex and we'll all live happily ever after. Do you believe that for one moment?"

In a similar trial in Texas in August, a jury ordered Jones to pay nearly \$50 million in damages to the parents of one of the children killed in the shooting, because of the hoax lies. A third such trial, also in Texas, involving two other parents is expected to begin near the end of the year.

Jones has said he expects the cases to be tied up in appeals for the next two years and has asked his audience to help him raise \$500,000 to pay for his legal expenses. Free Speech Systems, meanwhile, is seeking bankruptcy protection.

Connecticut releases \$70 million for child care worker bonus

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Full-time Connecticut child care workers will soon receive one-time bonuses of \$1,000 under an initiative created to show the state's appreciation for an industry that's struggling to fill open jobs.

Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont announced that \$70 million included in the latest state budget has been released and will now be available to providers. The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood on Thursday began contacting

eligible child care operators and instructing them on how to apply for the money.

"We need to support this important industry that is vital to families, the workplace, and society," Lamont said in a statement.

Full-time individuals who work in licensed centers, group child care homes, and family child care homes, as well as other programs that receive child day care contract funds, will be eligible for \$1,000. Part-time workers will receive \$400. Child care

operators also will receive additional money to help cover supplemental staff benefits and administrative processing costs. The program is funded entirely with state money.

The Connecticut Association for Human Services reported in July that a quarter of the state's child care capacity was not available to families because of staffing shortages, driven in part by low wages, lack of benefits and historically high staff turnover rates.



The new hats and shoulder bars for the graduates sit on a table before the start of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy's 141st Commencement Exercises, May 18, 2022, in New London, Conn. A U.S. Coast Guard Academy cadet who was expelled for becoming a father will get his degree as part of a legal settlement, his attorneys said Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022. AP PHOTO/STEPHEN DUNN

NEW LONDON, Conn. (AP) — A U.S. Coast Guard Academy cadet who was expelled for becoming a father will get his degree as part of a legal settlement, his attorneys said Thursday.

Isaak Olson sued the academy in December after years of endeavoring to be reinstated as a cadet. He was two months from graduating, with a degree in mechanical engineering and a commission as an officer, when he disclosed in 2014 that his fiancée had given birth to their first child, according to the lawsuit.

"No one should ever have to choose between the honor of being a Coast Guard cadet and the honor of being a parent," Olson said Thursday in a statement released

COAST GUARD ACADEMY SETTLES SUIT OVER CADETS-WITH-KIDS BAN

by his lawyers. He said he was "thankful the academy has reached a settlement that recognizes my right to both."

The Coast Guard Academy confirmed the settlement but didn't give details.

Olson was expelled under an academy regulation that barred cadets from having "any maternal or paternal obligation or responsibility," according to the lawsuit. Olson's lawyers said the policy still stands.

Olson learned of his fiancée's pregnancy in April of his junior year, and the baby was born in August 2013, according to the lawsuit. It said he was never asked about dependents until he got a duty screening application in March 2014 and disclosed the child's birth.

The couple had Olson's parental rights terminated in hopes of enabling him to graduate, and he later went through a long administrative process to try to get his status restored, to no avail, according to his lawyers at the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Connecticut, and Yale Law School's Veterans Legal Services Clinic.

Along the way, Olson enlisted in the Coast Guard, and the couple married and had another child, the at-

torneys said. He is now an aviation maintenance technician, stationed in Alaska.

The lawsuit sought his commission and back pay, since he makes less than he would as an officer. The ACLU said there is no financial component to the settlement, but it does include a statement that will allow him to apply to be commissioned as an officer.

"Becoming a parent shouldn't be seen as a hardship," Olson said in his statement. "I look forward to the day that cadets are given the same rights as the rest of the service."

The federal law that funded and authorized the Defense Department for the 2022 fiscal year gives the military until the end of December to craft "regulations that include the option to preserve parental guardianship rights" for cadets or midshipmen who become pregnant or father children while at one of the department's service academies.

The law applies to the U.S. Military Academy, the Naval Academy and the Air Force Academy — but not to the Coast Guard Academy, which is run by the Department of Homeland Security.

The academy said in a statement that there is ongoing litigation on the subject, so it wouldn't comment.

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SPOOKY SEASON

is underway at

THE BENTON

by **Maxim Soroka**
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The Benton hosted a Haunted First Thursday event last night, and I can't think of a better way to ring in the spooky season. If you are one for fun crafts, great music, impactful art coupled with great coffee and food, I'd recommend stopping by any of the Benton First Thursday events.

When I first arrived at the Beanery, most of the activities were still being set up, so I decided to indulge in some of their delicious mac and cheese to hold me over until dinner. I then made my way upstairs to explore the Benton's latest exhibits, which are filled with many beautiful and thought-provoking art pieces.

The first to catch my eye was a self-portrait by Yukon Mishima titled "Margo Machida," which seemed to have some biblical references with the rib-cage puncture, but was uniquely painted multiple times from different angles. A photograph that profoundly allured me was titled "Bulletproofglass" by Rosemary

Laing, which seemed to have strong yet varying interpretations many could take away from the bloody bride. Not to mention, the first-ever "mirror-selfie" painting I had seen of a young girl and a cat, titled "In the Studio" by Ellen Emmet Rand.

It wasn't just the art hanging on the wall that was compelling, but also a collection of dazzling sculptures accompanying them. One that stood out was "Faucet with Horsehead," which the artist created in response to things they noticed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The horsehead was modeled after the horse statue of Robert E. Lee, which was taken down that summer, thus reflecting some of the civil unrest that followed the quarantine.

I then made my way through the pulp fiction exhibit filled with detailed paintings and drawings that served as cover art for many comic books. A warning marked the beginning of the exhibit, noting that these illustrations were created during a time in which vastly different values from today's were popular throughout the country. One notable artist was James Allen St.

John, whose illustrations were featured in many stories, from Tarzan to epic sea voyages.

After that, I was soothed back downstairs by an amazing cover of everyone's favorite Dolly Parton song "Jolene." The musical group of students performing at open mic night consisted of singer Hannah Doyen, guitarist Lydia Field and one of the two accordion players often practicing around campus, Max Blanchard.

Students spoke positively about different aspects of the event. "I loved the mask-making activity. It was fun to relax and color with friends," said Rachel Ayers, a seventh-semester healthcare finance major. "The musicians that were playing in the lobby were very talented, and it was nice to hear fellow students play," she continued.

The Benton's monthly First Thursday celebrations are a great option for students looking to liven up their evenings. With yesterday being the first warm autumn day of October, it made for a wonderful night to appreciate great art and build up excitement for the soon-approaching Halloween.





Life

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Healthy Huskies

SELF-CARE TIPS FOR MIDTERM SEASON



LOGO BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Abby Bonilla
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With midterms quickly approaching, your stress levels are bound to increase. During this time, your to-do list may be full of papers and exams to prepare for. But it is extremely important to carve out time in your busy schedule for fun and relaxation. If you don't give yourself time to relax, you will surely start to experience higher levels of burnout and stress. Thus, here are some tips to help you during this busy time.

Make time for self-care

Perhaps what is even more important than studying at this time: self-care. Self-care can take many

forms. It doesn't have to be limited to doing a facemask or taking a yoga class. Set aside time to do things that make you feel good. If I am feeling stressed, I love hanging out with my friends, going on a hike or reading a good book. There are times when I feel guilty for indulging in activities other than schoolwork, but carving out a moment for myself is the only way to ensure that I don't experience severe stress or burnout.

Study in groups

When you do have to sit down and work, something that helps me is setting up a group study session. I often find myself getting distracted and off-task if I choose to study alone in my dorm. By studying with friends, I am able to get in much-needed social time while also getting my homework and exam preparation done.

Get outside!

As midterms approach, our first instinct is to hole up in our dorm rooms or the library all day to study. But spending all of your time inside can lead to increased levels of stress, and even depression. Take your notes out to the Benton patio or the Student Union lawn. You'll find that being outside will lead to more serotonin and may even help you stay on task.

Eat enough food

When we get stressed, one of the first things to get pushed aside is our food intake. Having a large to-do list will often make you forget to eat. I've run into this issue too many times during midterms and finals seasons. Luckily, there are plenty of food options around campus. Try to get yourself to the dining hall consistently. If

you can't find the time to visit a dining hall on a regular basis, UConn has a multitude of cafes around campus where you can pick up a coffee or a quick bite to eat.

Especially if you are a newer student, midterms and finals can be extremely stressful. This may even be the first time in your academic career that you have been faced with such an overwhelming amount of work and preparation. But don't get too stressed out. In the grand scheme of things, one bad grade doesn't matter more than your own wellbeing. By following these tips, you can learn how to still be on-task whilst also taking good care of yourself.

**Good luck, Huskies!
 You've got this!**

Daily

Opinion

The Daily Campus

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COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

RAPID FIRE

OPINION SECTION
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INSTANT TALENTS

If we're lucky in the Opinion section, we work through our beliefs completely and support them with great arguments. But sometimes, we don't need a deeper reason to hold our convictions. Rapid Fire is for those tweet-length takes that can be explained in just a sentence or two — no more justification needed.

In this Rapid Fire, writers gave their opinions on the question:

IF YOU COULD PERFECT A TALENT INSTANTLY, WHAT WOULD YOU SUDDENLY BECOME A MASTER OF?

**MADELINE PAPCUN,
OPINION EDITOR:**

Definitely cartwheeling. As embarrassing as it is to admit, I'm 20-years-old and have never successfully done a cartwheel, and it doesn't look like I'll be breaking that streak any time soon. If I understood the physics of a cartwheel, I might have a better chance of mastering one, but I can't even begin to wrap my head around how it works and always end up in a heap of limbs when I try.

**HARRISON RASKIN,
EDITOR IN CHIEF:**

Pigeoning. I've always want-

ed a fleet of pigeons I could use to secretly send messages throughout the country without the government reading, but there's nowhere for me to keep the coop and it would probably be very expensive to learn.

**OWEN SILVERMAN,
WEEKLY COLUMNIST:**

Language. Becoming an instant polyglot, or better, Amy Adams from "Arrival," would allow me to communicate with any and all beings, including but not limited to animals and aliens. Unstoppable, I'd be, with a militia of bees, geese and other

pestilent creatures by my side as we march through campus.

**KEEGAN RECK,
STAFF WRITER:**

I would have to choose being a master at wilderness survival. I've always dreamed of being able to sustain myself, completely separated from the benefits of civilization. With an uncertain global future, who knows how useful this skill could be!

**KATHRYN ANDRONOWITZ,
CONTRIBUTOR:**

There's nothing I'd want more than to become an instant

painting prodigy. Sometimes I find myself looking at things and wishing I could just paint it exactly how I see it. For now, I'll just have to display my artistic prowess with paint-by-numbers and stick-figuresque sketches.

**DANA KENETT,
CONTRIBUTOR:**

Stabling myself on a moving bus. Oh how I wish I knew how to do that. Never again getting on that shaky box carrying Homo sapiens with judging eyes, waiting for my fall. Just me, going down that aisle, walking gracefully, looking fire.

Step outside. Barefoot. It's good for you.

by **Rory Monaco**
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Magic isn't real, but when I step barefoot into the soft green grass on a summer's day, I start to think it is.

It's a transfer of energy: taking the anxiety coursing through my veins and feeding it to the earth, watching as she uses it to send nutrients to the trees, to care for the world around us.

I know we all most likely have some experience with this. Whether it be needing to go outside for a breath of fresh air, feeling better after a walk around the neighborhood or just needing to lay in the grass for a while. There are medicinal benefits that we experience when we immerse ourselves in nature.

A study conducted last year tested the correlation between nature and a person's health. Dr. Wen and Dr. Yan, among other researchers, explored forest bathing in Japan and the benefits it has on the immune system. Forest bathing, an immersive experience in the woods where you intentionally tune your senses into the environment around you, is one of my favorite ways to engage with nature. This study found that after spending three days and two nights outdoors, people's immune systems grew stronger and they experienced a reduction in stress. The study stated, "A potential pathway for improved immune function is exposure to phytoncides (a substance emitted by plants and trees to protect themselves from harmful insects and germs), which could decrease stress hormones in the human body and increase NK cell activity." Not only are the benefits of nature apparent in our own emotions and wellbeing, it's apparent in the chemical makeup of our bodies.

The awareness we develop when we tap into our senses extends beyond the outdoors. To me, nature is a tool I use to ground myself back into my body. I become more aware of the rise and fall of my chest, of the birds chirping around me, autumnal leaves fluttering down in the breeze, as I remember what it's like to be in unity with the world around me. While being outside is an incredible catalyst for this type of mindfulness, I remind myself that in every moment I can return to this state. Stuck indoors with computer screens and LED lights surrounding me, I can still reach some semblance of that

peace through tapping into my senses and channeling that earthly energy.

By tapping into this natural beauty that surrounds us, it translates into a direct appreciation for the self. How beautiful, these stars lighting up the night sky. How beautiful, myself and the people around me, knowing we deserve to take up space in this insane world just as much as the stars do. Therefore, by reinforcing our relationship with nature, we are also building our relationship with ourselves and our community. The reason why is reciprocity.

It's a give and take, both the relationships we have with others as well as the relationship we nurture with our environment. I'm only ever going to be as healthy as the environment around me. If the grass I lay on is dying, soil devoid of nutrients, devoid of pollinators flying from flower to flower, I too am going to be devoid of these parts of life. It's up to me, and you and all of us, to do what we can to take care of this place. Yes, for the intrinsic value nature holds and also because we as humans will experience the benefits too.

It feels like this conversation is really esoteric. When I talk about the profound impact nature has on me I'm nervous it'll come off as too heady. I've spent hours laying in the grass on a warm summer's day focusing on how the breeze meets my skin and how lucky I am to lay here and feel this. Then I think of how nature improving our lives is a universal experience. I know that when my breathing matches the rhythm of the earth, I feel immensely better. Who is to say this isn't true for everyone? The only difference being some people are tuned into this and those who can't relate haven't yet had the chance to really connect with nature?

Plus, if I am not separate from nature, then the people around me are also not separate from nature. It is this thread connecting all of us. It's a commonality we all have that I use to humble myself and draw near to my community.

We all have this one thing in common: being a part of nature. Tapping into this part of ourselves is integral to our wellbeing. The more I'm aligned with nature, the more I feel like myself. I want this for everyone else, too. It's why I say next summer, leave your shoes off when you go outside. Sink into the soil and feel the earth breathe in tandem. Immerse yourself in this radical beauty.

SUPERHEROES AS GUERRILLA THEATER

by **Ben Charles Gladstone**
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The next powerful political movement at the University of Connecticut is not the left, nor the right, but people dressed as superheroes. This is because they use performance art to deal with the real problems we deal with in a way traditional politics has failed to. I first realized this on "Sin Awareness Day," when fundamentalist Christians attempted to warn students away from what they viewed as sin. The UConn Joker believes that "Unfortunately there is no clean or ethical way to eliminate bad speech, so what we need to do is simply counter it and defend against it with good speech, with acceptance, with positivity." By demonstrating this philosophy in an entertaining way, he and the other superheroes drew more positive attention to libertarian principles in a day than the traditional libertarian movement, which I was part of, did in years.

The movement is also helping with people's mental health. UConn Spider-Gwen told me about how putting on the suit helped her with social anxiety by providing anonymity, and also positive interactions. This is also a growing movement, as UConn Batman said he's making more costumes for people. It also taps into a long history of street performance such as that by the Youth International Party, also known as Yippies. For instance, Abbie Hoffman held a mock exorcism at the Pentagon and pretended to try to levitate it, while the "exorcists" wore costumes and

witch hats and used noise-makers. The tactics even remind me of guerilla theater like the San Francisco Mime Troupe performed, only impromptu and the other side didn't know they were playing a role.

The most recent influence I see, however, is online trolling, specifically trolling that is found on the UConn Reddit page. A troll known as BaristaMan88 started a campaign about urinating in barrels that started three years ago and concluded a month ago. The posts themselves are funny, but what makes the bit really work are the reactions. The exchange with notUCPD, an account parodying the campus police, is where the trolls on r/UConn started to interact with each other and it got interesting.

All this has been done before, but what really makes the UConn superheroes unique is their use of pop culture characters to subvert expectations. It reminds me of what Adbusters did with subverting advertisements and is an effective way to reach a generation raised on the Marvel and DC franchises. The performances break through the psyches of the type of people parodied in the "consoom product" meme, but in a positive way by showing the product can have other uses than consumerism. The mythos of the Marvel and DC universes can even be experienced rather than merely watched, even if without the fantasy elements, and we go from watching superheroes to becoming them.

This movement of positivity isn't even confined to the students. Arguably the most well-known character at UConn is Luis Diaz,

also known as Soop Doop. While he may not dress in a weird costume or do wild performances, his shout of Soop Doop makes people happy. It also ties in well to the more theatrical guerrilla art at UConn by making a feeling that one is free to do what they want positively.

This culture of free art is why I like UConn, and it should be promoted more to prospective students alongside the more formal aspects of student life, that way UConn can become an even better college for the alternative art scene. Paul Graham wrote an article about why nerds are unpopular in high school, but the things he said resonate with me now more in college than they did in the free-thinking charter school I graduated from. The pressures on the modern college to graduate students, along with the increased scrutiny by parents due to students not being able to afford the grossly overpriced tuitions, led to colleges becoming subject to the same dynamics as high schools in Graham's era. Already, parents are tracking their adult offspring using location apps, as decried by a former university dean of students. Along with the peer bullying that occurs in fraternities and sororities, as most are aware, but also in the heavily linked gossip networks that form based on clubs and in dorms, and are accelerated and made all-encompassing by the internet and group chats. By creating a spectacle, one creates a brief escape from this social panopticon and by promoting this to prospective students, one creates a critical mass that is looking for the experience of freedom rather than petty drama.

Opinion StudyBreak

Photo of the Day | Pup-arazzi Thursday



UConn police dog, Officer Carson, welcomes students at the Student Health and Wellness fair on the Storrs campus on Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022. Carson is a part of the UConn Police Station's community outreach program. PHOTO BY EMILY O'BANNON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sudoku

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| 7 | 5 | | | | 1 | | | 8 |
| | | | 5 | | 7 | | 9 | |
| | | | 6 | | 9 | | 3 | |

WOMEN'S SWIM AND DIVE: HUSKIES PREPARE FOR FIRST MEET OF THE YEAR AGAINST NORTHEASTERN AND URI

by **Connor Sargeant**
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The UConn swimming and diving team is preparing for a new season against familiar opponents. UConn's first meet is on Oct. 7 and 8 against New England rivals Northeastern and URI. The Huskies are coming off of a 6-3 record, where they were runners-up for the Big East Championship. They were also selected as a Scholar All-American Team, as the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America picks this distinct honor. It is noted that the Huskies accumulated a team average of a 3.59 GPA to earn this honor.

The Huskies will hope to repeat history, where they beat both Northeastern and URI last season 156-122 and 190-105, respectively. They will be led this year by captains Caitlin Spencer, Audra McSharry and Kayla Mendonca. Two of them previously faced these opponents, as Spencer finished sixth overall with a time of 4:45.49 in the 400 yard IM against Northeastern. In the same meet, Mendonca helped her team take the gold in the 400 Yard Medley Relay with a time of 3:50.85, second in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:11.79 and first in the 200 yard medley race with fellow teammates Katelyn Walsh, Linnea Anderson and Melissa Lowry. McSharry did not compete at the meets last year against the Huskies or Rams.

"I am incredibly excited and grateful to be a part of UConn Nation! I am very much looking forward to taking UConn's diving program to the next level."

DIVING COACH DAVID MCKOWN

UConn will have some new faces across the pool, most noticeably the new diving coach David McKown. McKown was the head diving coach at the University of Indianapolis, where he led his divers to the men's 1-meter championship, and even got the Greyhounds to their first national championship in program history. McKown has even said that "I am incredibly excited and grateful to be a part of UConn Nation! I am very much looking forward to taking UConn's diving program to the next level." It will be exciting to watch what he does with the diving program in not only this meet, but for the season, where he will be hoping to match the success he had last season at the University of Indianapolis.

Northeastern is hoping to build off of their first meet where they defeated Vermont 165-134. This will be URI's first meet of the season.

This matchup against both schools once again should be in UConn's favor, but that doesn't mean the visiting Huskies and Rams can't surprise the home team. Both squads were able to showcase their successes last year, as Northeastern and URI finished 5-3 and 5-2 last season, respectively.

This meet is a must-win for the Huskies. This year, they are hoping to win the Big East Championship, and repeating their victory from last year is the first step in doing that.

This meet will start at 5 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. on Saturday. Both days, events will occur at the Wolff-Zackin Natatorium in Storrs.



UConn women's swimming and diving put on a dominating display in their exhibition matchup against Providence College, successfully concluding their regular season on Feb. 5, 2022 at the Wolff-Zackin Natatorium in Storrs, Conn.

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



The climax of the meet happened when UConn senior Katelyn Walsh broke the pool record for the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:02.18 in her last regular-season meet swimming as a Husky.

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



The Huskies are set to prepare for a new season, with their first meet scheduled for Oct. 7 and 8 against rivals Northeastern and URI. They hope to repeat history after beating both teams last season.

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

Sports

Photo of the Day | Eyes on the Prize



UConn women's hockey freshman Méghane Duchesne-Chalifoux (15) passes the puck to her teammate, graduate student Carlie Magier (27), during a game. The Huskies would ultimately gain the dominant 7-1 win against Stonehill College on Friday, Sept. 30, 2022 at the Freitas Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn.
PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Soccer: Huskies host Pirates in Saturday night showdown

by Jonathan Synott
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It may have been Jonathan XIV's birthday on Wednesday, but the night's walk-off win against Providence for the UConn men's soccer team marked a different birth — one of a brand new season for the Huskies. They look to build upon their latest victory this Saturday night, taking on the Seton Hall Pirates at home.

Connecticut (3-5-1, 1-2-1 Big East) has had a slow start to the year, winning a couple of early games before going on a winless streak of over a month, which was snapped on Wednesday. The only real bright spot over that span was a 1-1 road loss to Creighton. Injuries have played a legitimate factor, with key pieces like forward Moussa Wade and defenseman

Thomas Decottignies likely out for the season. This Huskies squad is very young, and head coach Chris Gbandi has had no problem rotating guys on and off the pitch to see what works best for his team. With players stepping up as of late, it looks like the chemistry is starting to come together and some results are likely soon to follow.

One of those players finding himself in the starting XI is goalkeeper Michael Stone. The graduate student took over for freshman Jayden Hibbert after four games, and has started the last five for UConn. In his last performance, he battled against a tough PC team and the rain, allowing two goals and making a save.

While sophomore Mateo Leveque dazzled on Wednesday, notching a goal and an assist, it was the Scott Testori show, as the fellow second-year had the game-winning goal for

the Huskies to cap off a 3-2 win over the Friars. Testori was in the game for just 13 minutes, but he sure took advantage of his opportunities. Look for him to do more of the same against the Pirates.

Frantz Pierrot, the team's top scorer, had a rough night in the rain. The Melrose, Massachusetts native added no shots to his team-leading season total and committed four fouls, including one that earned him a card. Credit is well deserved for the Providence defense, who was able to contain and even frustrate the attacking threat. He looks to have a rebound performance on Saturday night.

Seton Hall (4-1-5, 1-0-3 Big East) has had quite the opposite season compared to UConn. Coming into this contest, the Pirates haven't lost a game since Sept. 5 against Portland, their only loss of the season. They have tied exactly half of

their games, but have picked up quality wins over teams like then-No. 10 Oregon State on the road and St. John's. Projected to finish 10th overall in the conference this preseason, Seton Hall currently sits in a tie for third thanks to a great start to the year.

The Pirates are coming off of a tie to DePaul this Wednesday, peppering the Blue Demons with 20 total shots over 90 minutes but not converting a single one in the 0-0 draw. This is the first time since 2003 that Seton Hall is undefeated in their first four Big East matchups, and their five overall ties matches a program record.

Leading Seton Hall in scoring this year is junior Quenzi Huerman. The Palm Beach Atlantic transfer has started in each of the team's games, averaging 79 minutes a contest. Huerman is totaling team-highs with five goals, three assists, 13 points

and 22 shots taken. He hasn't scored in the last two games, which matches his longest drought of the season. Look for him to try to snap that streak this weekend.

One Pirate to look out for this weekend is forward Andrea Borg. The senior was integral in the team's 2-1 win over St. John's last week, having a role in each of the team's goals. Borg sent in a cross that was deflected for an own goal, and his strike in the 85th minute of the contest put Seton Hall up for good, clinching their fourth win of the season. For his effort, Borg was named one of last week's Big East Honor Roll members.

Kickoff is set for Saturday night at 8 p.m. at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium at Rizza Performance Center. The game will be broadcast live by FloSports with stats provided by Stat-Broadcast.



UConn men's soccer triumphs over Providence 3-2 with a tie breaking goal in the 89th minute on Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022 at Morrone Stadium. PHOTO BY IZZI BARTON, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



The Huskies' winning goals were scored by Eli Conway (23), Mateo Leveque (8) and Scott Testori (21) respectively. PHOTO BY IZZI BARTON, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Hockey: No. 20 Huskies host Union in home-opening series

by **Ava Inesta**
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After the No. 20 UConn men's hockey team's successful weekend in Vermont, they will make their first trip of the year to Hartford to play their home opener against Union on Oct. 7 and Oct. 8.

UConn and Union have a very even history. The Huskies have two wins, two losses and three ties against the Dutchmen. Despite this, the two teams have not been matched up since 2014, meaning that each team's roster has turned completely over several times since they last met.

This past weekend, Union defeated RIT 4-3 and tied with Army West Point 2-2.

For the preseason coaches' poll, Union was picked to finish eighth in the ECAC Hockey. The media was a bit higher on them, picking the Dutchmen to finish sixth, a more optimistic and assured viewpoint.

Similar to UConn, Union welcomed many new athletes to the team with 13 total; four transfers and nine first-year

students. Another new addition for the Dutchman includes their new head coach Josh Hauge. On April 15, 2022, Hauge was named the 22nd head coach in Union hockey's history. Previously, he worked for the ECAC Hockey's rival Clarkson University as the associate head coach.

Union played a solid weekend, coming out of it with a record of 1-0-1. A player that did damage in the Dutchmen's opening weekend was freshman Carter Korpi, who had two goals in their first game against RIT. Senior goaltender Connor Murphy made 30 stops against West Point as part of a 52-save weekend. Murphy was a key player in Union's first two games and will play a part in their upcoming games against the Huskies.

For the Huskies, they have dominated the ice defensively as they have only allowed two goals between their first two games. In the opener against Vermont, sophomore goaltender Logan Terness finished the game with 15 saves and in the second game, Arsenii Sergeev had a total of 24 saves. Right off

the bat, UConn's defense has stood strong which propelled the Ice Bus to their first series sweep.

Earlier this week, NCAA Ice Hockey released their week one USCHO Division I Men's Hockey Poll. On the list, the Huskies were ranked No. 20. Additionally, the USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine released their women's college hockey poll as well. The UConn women's hockey team was ranked No. 15. This makes for two nationally ranked hockey teams in Storrs which is definitely something for UConn to be proud of.

After the Huskies sweep against Vermont, junior Andrew Lucas was named Hockey East player of the week. He recorded two assists in each of the games, helping the Huskies to get on the board and to later securing the wins.

Connecticut hopes to improve their record and remain undefeated in their pair of games against Union. On Friday, the puck drop is scheduled for 7:05 p.m. at the XL Center and Saturday's game is set to begin at 4:05 p.m.



The UConn men's hockey team defeat the Boston University Terriers 3-1 on Saturday, March 12, 2022 at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. The playoff win advanced the Huskies to the Hockey East Semifinals game played at Boston, where UConn faced Northeastern. PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women's Hockey: Undefeated Huskies begin Hockey East schedule with Northeastern



The UConn Huskies face Stonehill College on Friday, Sept. 30, 2022 at Freitas Ice Forum. The Huskies secured another win with a final score of 7-1. PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Sam Calhoun**
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UConn women's hockey (4-0) looks to begin their Hockey East schedule strong with back-to-back games against Northeastern this weekend. The first game is today at 2 p.m. at Matthews Arena in Boston, Massachusetts. The second game will be at home on Saturday at 3 p.m. at Mark Edward Freitas Ice Forum.

Northeastern is coming off back-to-back seasons of making the Frozen Four and has won the Hockey East Tournament the last five years. They come into this weekend with a 2-0 record with non-confer-

ence wins over LIU, including a 10-1 blowout win in the second game this past Saturday.

UConn's only loss doesn't even count towards their record, as they opened the season losing to Quinnipiac 2-1 in an exhibition on Sept. 17. They started the regular season with back-to-back wins over RIT, winning 3-0 and 3-2. The next weekend included two games last week on Friday and Saturday against Stonehill. UConn won both games, 7-1 in game one and 3-2 in the second game.

Four UConn players tie for the most goals on the team with two: Defenseman Claire Peterson (Gr.), forward Carlie Magier (Gr.), forward Riley Grimley and forward Kathryn Stockdale (Jr.). Peterson's

four points also is tied for the most on the team with forward Coryn Tormala (Sr.) and forward Brianna Ware (So.). Tormala, Ware and Grimley are tied for the assists lead with three assists each. Goaltenders Tia Chan (So.) and Megan Warrenner (So.) have been key in the Huskies' four wins so far this season and should continue to split the time in the crease this weekend.

For Northeastern, no one has been more important in their first two wins than forwards Alina Mueller (Gr.) and Holly Abela (Fr.), each coming into today's game with three goals. Forward Chloé Aurard (Gr.) has three assists and a goal for a co-team-leading four points. Senior goalie Gwyn-

eth Philips should be in net for both games this weekend.

The battle of the Huskies has a lopsided history, with Northeastern leading all-time 42-18-12. UConn has lost 14 straight contests, last winning in 2018.

It's a highly anticipated clash, with both teams ranked in the USCHO Women's Hockey and USA Today polls. Northeastern is ranked third in the country, while Connecticut is ranked 15th in the top 15 ranking.

This matchup is also the rematch of last year's Hockey East Championship, where Northeastern won 3-1. UConn didn't make the NCAA Tournament last season because of the loss. The last time Connecticut hosted Northeastern,

the game went into a shootout, with Northeastern coming out victorious.

Northeastern was picked to repeat as the Hockey East champion in the preseason poll, while UConn is projected to finish sixth. Connecticut is clearly the underdog this weekend, but coming into the weekend with a chip on their shoulder.

As Chris MacKenzie's team seeks revenge on the defending Hockey East champions, Northeastern looks to continue their dominance over UConn.

If you're unable to attend either game, today's game will be televised on NESN and both are available to stream on ESPN+.



Sports



HUSKIES TRAVEL TO MIAMI TO TAKE ON PANTHERS

by **Stratton Stave**
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This weekend, the UConn Huskies will get an opportunity to escape the early onset of winter in Storrs, Connecticut and head to Miami, Florida. This trip, though, will be strictly business, as they're set to take on the Florida International Panthers in a game that is very winnable.

The Panthers (2-2) haven't had the best start to their season, despite what their .500 record may indicate. They started off their season with a scare, needing a two-point conversion in overtime to overcome Bryant, a school that ranks in the bottom half of the FCS in most ratings. The Bulldogs opened up a 16-0 lead, but allowed the Panthers to sneak back into the game. The teams went to overtime and traded touchdowns, with FIU converting on a do-or-die two-point conversion to win by one.

They did go into the game envisioning a thriller — never something a team

wants when playing low-FCS competition. The Panthers followed this performance up with a 41-12 loss at FPI No. 114 Texas State and an embarrassing 73-0 loss against Western Kentucky. They managed their first FBS win over New Mexico State, 21-7, the team that ranks No. 130 in the country, or second to last. Who is the worst according to FPI? That would be the Panthers.

Their offense isn't particularly potent with just nine touchdowns on the year, a figure good for 17.8 points per outing. They have just a single rushing touchdown and average south of three yards per carry. Lexington Joseph and E.J. Wilson Jr. split the backfield duties, with neither differentiating themselves so far.

Under center, the Panthers trust Grayson James, who completes just about 60% of his attempts and is responsible for seven of the team's nine scores. He's a dual threat QB who is capable of gaining yardage on the ground, although he hasn't made defenses pay too much this year with less than 20

such yards per game.

On the other sideline will be a very hungry Husky team looking for their first set of consecutive wins since 2017, when they beat Temple and Tulsa. Fresh off an upset victory over Fresno State, the Huskies are in prime position to collect another.

Starting on offense, things really started to click for freshman Zion Turner and his young new-look offense. With the Huskies missing their starting QB, their top two WRS and RBS, others have stepped up. Sophomore RB Devontae Houston found some great holes and was able to break free for a few big gains, which included a late touchdown to take the lead and the win. Turner, who came in looking mature for a first year, is really starting to come into his own. During the game winning drive, he connected a few times with fellow freshman Justin Joly and also slung the ball to sophomore Kevens Clercius for a massive 40-yard gain. Before the drive, he also threw a passing touchdown to

sophomore Aaron Turner, who has established himself as the fastest guy left in the depleted receiver room.

This FIU defense really shouldn't pose much of a threat to the Huskies, as they've only forced four turnovers on the year and allow nearly 40 points per game. Zion Turner has proven to minimize his giveaways with just four in six games and he hasn't thrown a pick since Sept. 3. Additionally, if offensive coordinator Nick Charlton is able to brew up some more trickery like he did during an unconventional flea-flicker against Fresno, the Huskies could

break open for some massive gains.

The UConn defense was able to control Fresno State, holding them to just one touchdown. This FIU offense looks much less scary, so expect another defensive clinic from the Jackson Mitchell-led squad.

Looking broadly, this game is a critical one in the Jim Mora era. This is just the second time the Huskies will enter as favorites (-4.5) and the first against an FBS team. UConn is expected to win. It's one of two remaining games (the other being UMass) that Mora and the Huskies cannot afford to lose. Every other game is all upside. Their hopes of a bowl game also ride on this game. Implications aside, this should be a fun game to watch as Zion Turner and co. look to keep things rolling.

The game will kick off at 7 p.m. and can be streamed on ESPN3.



UConn football battles past Fresno State to capture a 19-14 victory during a Saturday afternoon on Oct. 1, 2022 at Rentschler Field in East Hartford, Conn. This win marks the Huskies' first FBS victory since defeating UMass in 2019. PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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| <p>UCONN SCOREBOARD</p> <p>3 vs. 2 Men's Soccer Wednesday</p> | | <p>Upcoming Games</p> <p>Women's VB, 6:30 p.m. Friday Storrs, Conn.</p> <p>Football, 7 p.m. Saturday Miami, Fla.</p> | | | |