



Global Climate Movement urges world leaders for real climate action at the UN climate talks in Egypt

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From now until the end of next week, civil society groups are discussing the communities most affected by climate breakdown and pushing for world leaders to make decisions regarding the future of those communities.

Called COP27, this conference marks the 27th year the United Nations is hosting such an event to take action on climate goals that were agreed upon under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

COP27 began Sunday, Nov. 6 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt and will continue until Friday, Nov. 18.

This year's discussions involve several crises including the war in Ukraine's effect on fossil fuel prices, fossil gas in Africa, food insecurity in the Global South and global unemployment, according to a press release.

"This year's UN climate talks are being held amidst a global conjunction of crises," the press release said. [The crises are] the war in Ukraine that drove up fossil fuel prices and triggered a new race for dirty energy, in particular the dash for fossil gas in Africa; food insecurity crises in the Global South, unemployment and the exorbitant increase in inflation and the cost of living in many places around the globe."

According to the press release, tens of thousands of attendees will focus on the topic of fossil fuels, which they believe to be the root cause of such crises.



Delegates arriving at the United Nations climate conference in Egypt's Red Sea resort city of Sharm el Sheikh on Monday, Nov. 7, 2022.

"From the 6th to the 18th of November, tens of thousands of people from all over the world will attend COP27 to make it clear that all these crises have the same root cause: fossil fuels," said the press release. "...The only way forward to achieve the Paris Agreement target of limiting global heating to 1.5°C and safeguarding the sustainable development goals is to halt any new development of coal, oil and gas, and to redirect financial flows towards sustainable renewable energy for all."

An international organization called 350.org created a list of demands for leaders to discuss at COP27.

Their demands are:

1. No public finance for new fossil fuel development;
2. Integration of pledges into Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) to be in line with Paris Agreement's 1.5°C goal;
3. Increasing the post-2025 climate finance goal, that strikes a balance with finance for adaptation;
4. Establishing a Loss & Damage finance facility;

5. Achieving clarity on implementation of the Paris Agreement goals.

360.org's executive director May Boeve said the conference serves as a reminder to global leaders of their responsibilities and debts they owe for exploitation.

"We are here to remind global leaders of their responsibilities towards a just transition, press them to align finance flows with the goals of the Paris Agreement, and particularly in the case of rich nations, challenge them to pay the debts they owe to countries in the Global South,

for decades of exploitation," said Boeve.

Joseph Sikulu, 350.org's Pacific director, said areas in the Pacific Ocean are facing damage due to climate change which affect the inhabitants, economies and natural resources.

"In the Pacific we are experiencing impacts associated with a myriad of extreme and slow onset events which affect our people, economies, and natural resources," Sikulu said. "We are calling for those who have contributed most to the climate crisis to take responsibility for the damage to our islands."

Themed Willimantic food festival features new band



ILLUSTRATION BY KAITLYN TRAN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Amanda McCard
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A food festival inspired by singer Ozzy Osbourne took place in Willimantic on Saturday, Nov. 5, marking the debut performance of a unique tribute band.

The festival, called Ozzfoodfest, took place from 12-6 p.m. in Jillson Square Park and was organized by Eastside Food Festivals.

The idea for the event came from Ozzfest, an annual rock and heavy metal music festival founded by Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne, according to East-

side Food Festivals owner, operator and promoter Tony Ferreira. Ferreira explained he had wanted to create an event different from his usual festivals, which were becoming "a little repetitive."

"I was just dying for a new idea," Ferreira said in a telephone interview.

Ferreira said he heard about Ozzlands, an Ozzy Osbourne and Badlands tribute band, from a friend who knew its lead singer. This provided him the new idea he was searching for: an Ozzfest-inspired food festival complete with live music. Ozzlands performed at the festival from 3-6 p.m., preceded by rock-and-roll cover band Styff Kitty.

Ozzlands' lead singer, Ray Sylvestre, is known onstage as Rozzy. He explained that his band assembled about a year ago and was inspired by Jake E. Lee, who was the guitarist for Ozzy Osbourne and later formed the band Badlands.

Sylvestre said that although this was the band's first live performance, it played well and exceeded his expectations.

"It was a great show," Sylvestre said in a telephone interview. "I'm very proud of my band for the hard work they put in."

Sylvestre also said the festival was a welcome opportunity to play, especially because his

band had been struggling to find gigs.

"There's not a lot of places to play," Sylvestre said. "There's a lot of small businesses that are closing down and the places to play are starting to slowly diminish."

The Ozzfoodfest has proven helpful in spreading the word about Ozzlands.

"A couple of club owners have taken notice of what we accomplished Saturday," Sylvestre said.

Besides the music, there was also a wide variety of food available at the event.

"We had everything from Brazilian to Puerto Rican to your regular American comfort food," Ferreira said.

The crowd was diverse in age, with many people falling between 30 and 60 years old. Ferreira also explains that because a lot of younger children tagged along with their families, the festival featured bounce houses.

"Now that was what really put a twist on it," Ferreira said.

Although Ferreira originally thought the Ozzfoodfest would become an annual event, he was so pleased with its execution that he now plans to host it twice a year. He plans for the next one to occur in June.

"It should be very similar, except better," Ferreira said. "Things always get better with time."

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News

EXPLAINER BEAT

by Hallie LeTendre

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Last week, white 22-year-old University of Kentucky student Sophia Rosing was filmed repeatedly saying racial slurs directed at two students of color.

Since the video was posted online, Rosing has dropped out of the University of Kentucky, a WKYT article said.

The night of the incident, Rosing was arrested and charged with assault, public intoxication and disorderly conduct, a WKYT article said.

Noël Cazenave is a sociology professor at the Univer-

sity of Connecticut who spoke on his initial response to the video and modern day racism in the United States.

"I was hoping that people would not reduce what she did and said to the actions of a drunk individual," Cazenave said. "I hope viewers realized that the video reflects what is going on in this country and what we can expect in the future."

Although people like to believe we are moving to a less racist society, Cazenave said videos like the one of Rosing show that racism is still prevalent today.

"I think we are going to see many more of these Sophias

in the future," Cazenave said. "What goes on in someone like her mind to say that word is a product of social facts that she was born into and learned," Cazenave said.

While the actions of Rosing could be seen as violent and derogatory towards an entire racial group, Cazenave highlighted that, even as a person of color, he hopes that others will not combat her words of hate with their own.

"I don't want to participate in the vicious attack of this individual," Cazenave said.

Cazenave teaches one undergraduate course and two graduate courses within the UConn sociology department

with a focus on racism.

Growing up in Louisiana during the Jim Crow South, Cazenave said anger initially

"My attitude in college was that I wanted to grow up one day and kick this system in its ass."

NOËL CAZENAVE

brought about his interest in social justice and breaking down the racist U.S. system.

"My attitude in college was that I wanted to grow up one day and kick this system in its ass," Cazenave said.

Cazenave noted that, sadly, incidents like this video show what the future of society and racism in the U.S. will look like.

"A lot of young folks think that when older people like me die off, that people like Sophia will go away. That's not the case," Cazenave said.

Coining the IPA system term, Cazenave said too many white Americans portray having the Ignorance of not knowing, the Privilege of not needing to know and the Arrogance of not wanting to know.

Ex-Yale coach gets 5 months in admissions bribery scandal

BOSTON (AP) — The former Yale University women's soccer coach whose cooperation with authorities helped blow the lid off the nationwide college admissions bribery scandal by leading the FBI to the scheme's mastermind was sentenced Wednesday to five months in prison.

Rudy Meredith, head coach at Yale from 1995 until 2018, pleaded guilty in March 2019 to wire fraud for taking hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes to help students get into the elite Ivy League university as soccer recruits. In one case, the recruit did not play competitive soccer, prosecutors have said.

Federal prosecutors and Meredith's defense lawyers had recommended no additional prison time beyond the one day he had already spent in custody. But U.S. District Court Judge Mark Wolf said Wednesday that Meredith's greed and his victims warranted a stiffer sentence.

Wolf described the victims as the members of the Yale team who were "betrayed" by being cheated out of having better teammates, as well as unknown victims — young women who might have gotten into Yale had Meredith not decided to essentially sell slots on the team. Those unknown victims may have included women from disadvantaged backgrounds, the judge said.

"You committed a very serious crime and you didn't have to do it," Wolf said.

Before he was sentenced, Meredith, his voice shaking, issued an apology and said he had ruined his reputation and his career because he was driven by greed and the desire to provide for his family.

"It's all my fault and I am

going to pay for this for the rest of my life," he said.

In addition to the prison term, Meredith was sentenced to a year of probation, fined \$19,000 and ordered to forfeit more than \$550,000.

Investigators began looking into Meredith after an executive who prosecutors were targeting in an unrelated securities fraud scheme told them that the coach had offered to help his daughter

to William "Rick" Singer, the admissions consultant at the center of the scheme.

Investigators heard Singer's name for the first time when Meredith mentioned him during that meeting, prosecutors have said. Meredith began cooperating that same month with investigators, who recorded phone calls and an in-person meeting between himself and Singer that revealed the extent of the bribery

agreed to work with investigators himself and recorded his conversations with wealthy parents who paid big money to cheat their kids' way into school.

Singer has pleaded guilty to several charges including racketeering conspiracy and is scheduled to be sentenced on Jan. 4.

More than 50 people were ultimately convicted in the scandal, which involved bogus athletic credentials or rigged test scores

of community service, prosecutors' cited Meredith's assistance in breaking open the case.

"In short, Meredith's cooperation was extensive and significant, leading to the government's investigation of Singer and ultimately helping to secure the conviction of more than 50 parents, coaches, and Singer associates," prosecutors wrote in court documents.

Meredith's attorneys told the judge their client has been "publicly shamed and personally ashamed" and has made progress "toward re-establishing himself as a contributing member of society."

"His law-abiding life for the three and a half years since his guilty plea demonstrates his commitment to again play a positive role in society, as he did before he so uncharacteristically sacrificed his hard-earned reputation and good name and fell in with William Singer and his scheme," they wrote.

The last defendant linked to the investigation to go to trial was acquitted by jurors on all counts. A federal judge in September also ordered a new trial for former University of Southern California water polo coach Jovan Vavic, who was accused of taking more than \$200,000 in bribes.

Two parents — John Wilson and Gamal Abdelaziz — are appealing their convictions, and a judge recently ruled that the two can remain out of prison while they challenge the convictions.

The longest sentence in the case so far has gone to former Georgetown University tennis coach Gordon Ernst, who got 2 1/2 years in prison for pocketing more than \$3 million in bribes.



Rudy Meredith, former Yale women's soccer coach, departs federal court, in Boston, March 28, 2019, where he pleaded guilty to charges in a nationwide college admissions bribery scandal. Meredith was sentenced to five months in prison Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2022, for his role in the college admissions bribery scheme. FILE PHOTO/AP

get into the school in exchange for cash.

Authorities set up a sting in a Boston hotel room in April 2018 and recorded Meredith soliciting a \$450,000 bribe from the father.

He helped investigators unravel the wider bribery scheme dubbed Operation Varsity Blues by leading them

scheme.

The judge said in court Wednesday that Meredith's cooperation was "truthful, complete and reliable," and he would have faced several years behind bars had he not cooperated.

Singer, who paid Meredith a total of \$860,000 in bribes, later

to get children from wealthy families into elite U.S. universities. Among those convicted were actors Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin, and Loughlin's fashion designer husband Mossimo Giannulli.

In asking for a sentence of time served followed by a year of supervised release, with 50 hours

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Blumenthal wins 3rd Senate term, fends off Trump-backed Levy



U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., and his wife, Cynthia, celebrate his re-election, Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022, in Hartford, Conn.

FILE PHOTO/AP

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal on Tuesday won a third term in office, fending off a challenge from first-time candidate Leora Levy, a Republican who was endorsed by former President Donald Trump.

Blumenthal, the state's former attorney general, focused much of his campaign on being a backstop for abortion rights in Connecticut and Democratic policies in Washington. Blumenthal vowed to

fight any effort in Congress to impose a national abortion ban that would override Connecticut's current law. Abortion is legal in Connecticut with restrictions.

In a victory speech in Hartford, Blumenthal promised to reach across the aisle and work with Republicans on issues such as fighting inflation, cutting taxes and protecting Social Security and Medicare.

He said the nation needs to

find its way back to "the common ground that brings us together," but said it is also facing a dangerous time because of divisions and threats of violent extremism. He alluded to political clashes ahead.

"When the fight comes, I will be there for you. And the fight will be coming. It will be more difficult now than before. But we need to stand together. And I will stand with you to fight for the people of Connecticut,"

Blumenthal said.

In the Republican primary, Levy defeated the party's endorsed candidate, former state House Minority Leader Themis Klarides, a social moderate. Levy received a late endorsement in that race from former President Donald Trump, who also held a fundraiser for Levy at his Mar-a-Lago club in Florida.

Levy had hoped to become the first Republican U.S. senator from Connecticut since

Lowell P. Weicker Jr., who served from 1971 to 1989.

Appearing with her family on Tuesday night, Levy told her supporters that even though she lost the race, she will not stop fighting for them.

"I will not stop fighting for our state, for our freedom, and for our great country. I feel the weight and the responsibility of the hopes and dreams of so many here in Connecticut who yearn for change," she said.

Levy tried to make the race more about President Joe Biden than Trump, working to capitalize on voters' concerns about inflation and financial struggles.

She also took a socially conservative tack that hadn't been seen much in Connecticut statewide elections, opposing abortion rights except in certain situations and taking a stand against various gun control measures. Levy has also made parents' rights a major campaign issue, calling for the end of "indoctrination and discrimination" in Connecticut schools after a Greenwich assistant principal was apparently secretly recorded saying he'd prefer not to hire politically conservative staff, including Roman Catholics.

Some moderate Republicans predicted that Blumenthal, 76, would sail to victory after Levy won her party's primary in August. Party leaders had originally hoped Klarides, who supports abortion rights, would be a strong contender, especially after Blumenthal registered his lowest job approval rating since taking office in 2011 in a Quinnipiac poll conducted in May.

14-year-old boy held in fatal Seattle school shooting

SEATTLE (AP) — A judge on Wednesday ordered a 14-year-old boy arrested in a fatal shooting at a Seattle high school to remain in custody pending a charging decision by prosecutors.

A 15-year-old boy who police say was with him when he was arrested and had a handgun in his backpack — possibly the weapon used in the shooting — was also ordered detained.

Both boys had initial court appearances Wednesday, one day after the shooting at Ingraham High School left a student dead.

Police arrested the pair on a public bus about an hour after the shooting.

Judge Averil Rothrock, of the Juvenile Division of King County Superior Court, found probable cause to detain the 14-year-old for investigation of first-degree murder, unlawful possession of a gun and possession of a dangerous weapon at school.

Rothrock found probable cause to detain the 15-year-old for unlawful possession of a firearm as well as rendering criminal assistance.

The Associated Press is not naming the boys because of their age and because they have not yet been charged.

The King County prosecutor's office said it cannot file charges before it receives additional documentation from the Seattle Police Department. The deadline for filing charges is Monday.

No previous cases for the 14-year-old nor the 15-year-old have been referred to the King County prosecutor,

spokesman Casey McNerthey said Wednesday.

Authorities have not released the name of the student killed Tuesday. Superintendent Brent Jones said the shooting seemed to be a "targeted attack." Multiple students witnessed the shooting, police said.

Classes at Ingraham were canceled Wednesday. Other nearby schools had modified lockdowns all day, with a

"Both boys had initial court appearances Wednesday, one day after the shooting at Ingraham High School left a student dead. Police arrested the pair on a public bus about an hour after the shooting."

heavy police presence and afterschool events canceled.

According to the K-12 School Shooting Database, an independent, nonpartisan research project, there have been 272 gun-related incidents at U.S. schools this year, including cases where a gun is brandished, shot or a bullet hits school property. Those include the May 24 shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, that killed the 19 children and two adults.

Fresh off victory, Lamont considering gas tax cut extension



Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont (left) talks with state Rep. Bobby Sanchez while making a campaign stop at the Pulaski Middle School polling place in New Britain, Conn., on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022. FILE PHOTO/AP

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont, hours after winning a second term, said Wednesday he is considering additional steps to help make life more affordable for residents, including extending the state's gas tax holiday beyond its looming Dec. 1 expiration date.

The Democrat said he has asked his budget director to review state gas tax revenues and budget reserves to see what can be done before the General Assembly convenes in January.

"I've got to see what we can afford and we're going to model this out," he said, noting he wants to make sure there's still enough revenue to fix roads and bridges. "Right now, I think we're in decent shape, but I'd like to sit down and talk with the legislature about how we can continue a gas tax cut beyond December 1st."

Inflation and affordability were key issues in the race for governor. Lamont often pointed to the wide-ranging Democratic tax-reduction package he signed into law ear-

lier this year that included about \$600 million in cuts, including continuation of a 25-cent-per-gallon gas tax cut until Dec. 1. His Republican challenger Bob Stefanowski argued that more needed to be done, proposing a \$2 billion tax relief package.

During a morning radio show on Wednesday, shortly after conceding the race to Lamont, Stefanowski said he urged the governor during a phone call to "take care of both sides of the aisle" and try to help everyone who is struggling with high inflation.

"I think he's a good guy. He's probably going to try to do the right thing. But, you know, we're headed into a 40% increase in utility costs and rolling blackouts. I just hope he puts the people first. I'm sure he'll try his best," Stefanowski said.

Lamont, who appeared with fellow Democrats outside the state Capitol for a victory news conference, insisted he understands that residents are facing financial pressures. Besides pledging to

enact some kind of immediate relief before the regular legislative session — something Democratic legislative leaders have also discussed — Lamont said he plans to work with lawmakers after January to find other ways to make the state more affordable.

"I'm going to make sure that I do everything that I can to make sure to help the middle class during this incredibly tough time," he said.

Lamont also stressed Wednesday that he plans to submit legislation to extend spending limitations included in a bipartisan state budget deal reached five years ago and are scheduled to expire in 2025. There have been some suggestions by some lawmakers to scale it back and divert money to other initiatives.

"I think it served us very well, and I am going to be asking the legislature to continue that going forward," Lamont said. "It gives us a clear sense of direction and how we're getting our fiscal house in order."

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LET'S GET LIT-ERARY: BOOK COVER REBOOTS

Original covers
on the left and
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by **Joanne Biju**
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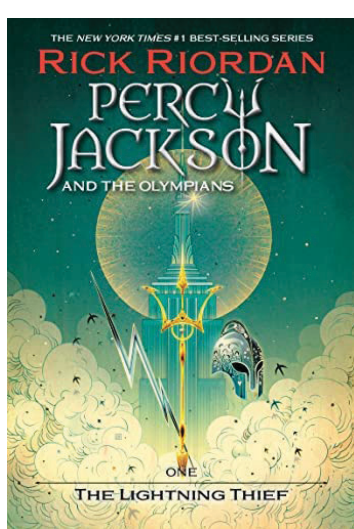
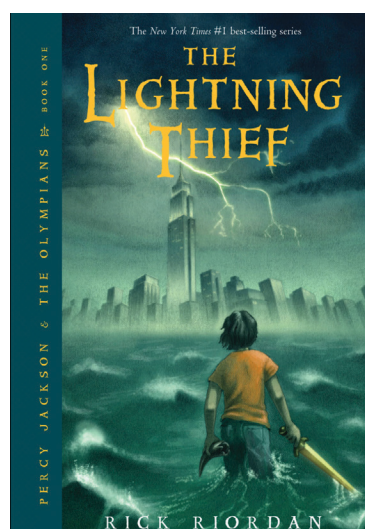
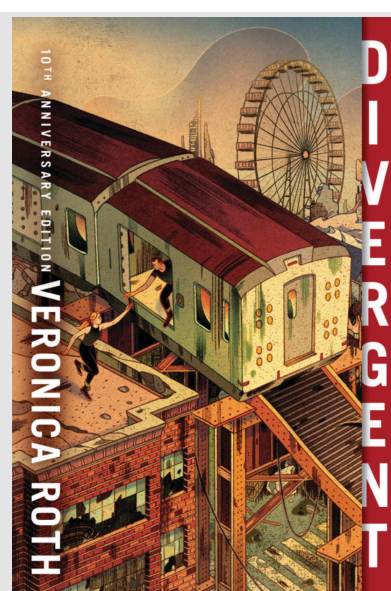
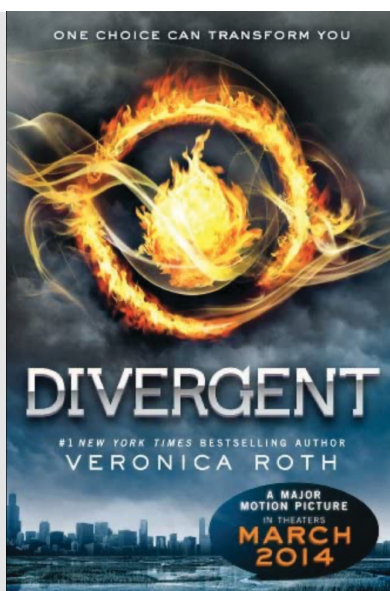
Every so often, books will get cover reboots; sometimes these redesigns elevate the book and other times they are entirely unnecessary. While changes in cover designs are likely a marketing strategy aimed at selling more copies, the reception varies. New readers are likely indifferent, but fans either jump at the opportunity to add new covers to their collection or scour the internet in search of an out-of-print copy.

Let's take a look at some books that have recently undergone a cover reboot:

“Divergent” by Veronica Roth

Luckily, the “Divergent” series is still sold with its original covers, but a fun 10th-anniversary edition was released in 2021. The new set is exclusively sold in paperback and creates an image of post-apocalyptic Chicago when lined up next to each other. The cover of the first book is especially striking, as it features the scene where Tris jumps onto the Dauntless train along with the Centennial Wheel in the background.

While the updated covers do lose the faction symbols, the original covers never featured every symbol in the first place; Abnegation, Erudite and Candor were all missing. Ultimately, the new covers are cohesive, hinting at themes of desolation and brewing resistance in a way that perfectly embodies the nature of dystopian literature.



“Percy Jackson & the Olympians” by Rick Riordan

This series has gone through its fair share of cover reboots. However, I will always stand by the original covers; the illustrations were classic and each book had a distinguishable color palette. The cover of “The Sea of Monsters” did an incredible job depicting Percy and his friends crossing the bridge under a cyclops’ watchful stare.

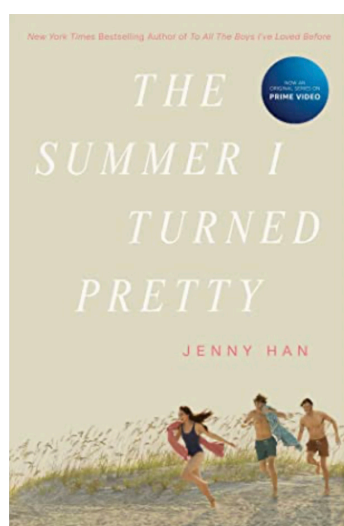
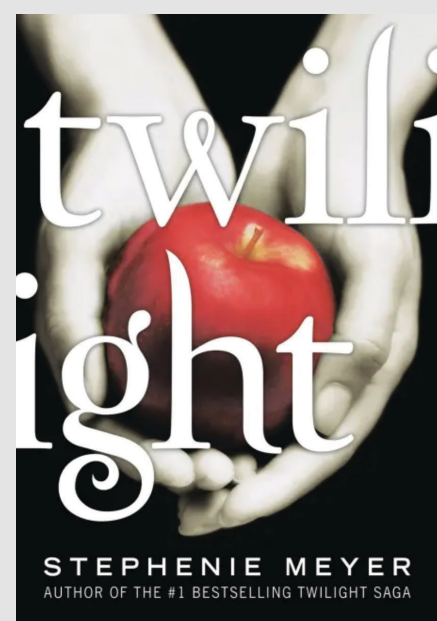
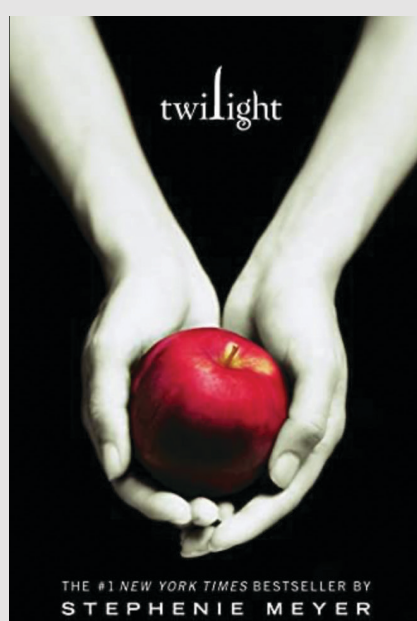
The covers were first rebooted in 2014 and while they featured the same primary plot elements, the color palettes were all the same. This, in addition to the titles being shrunk down, made it difficult to tell which book was which.

In preparation for the upcoming Disney+ adaptation, Riordan’s novels received yet another reboot in May of 2022. In my eyes, the redesign was a flop. It feels “trendy” and impersonal; not once was Percy featured on the covers. The spines are somewhat appealing though, with each featuring a Greek god or goddess atop a stone column.

“Twilight” by Stephenie Meyer

The images on the original “Twilight” covers were cryptic enough: a torn piece of ribbon, a “bleeding” flower and a chess piece. The apple presumably cupped by Edward on the cover of “Twilight” also felt disconnected from the other covers, which featured objects on their own. While the chosen objects have symbolic value, they aren’t the best indicators of each book’s plotlines. However, their stark contrast from the black background is a notable feature. In fact, the “Crave” series by Tracy Wolff, also featuring vampires, mimics the aesthetic on its covers.

The “Twilight” cover reboot should have aimed to address the aforementioned issues, but instead only adds to the confusion. They feature the same key objects, but the typography is enlarged and titles are split up without rhyme or reason. “New Moon” remains normal, but the letter “i” in “Twilight” and “Eclipse” are cut off, while it appears to be whole in “Breaking Dawn.” These cover reboots were completely uncalled for.



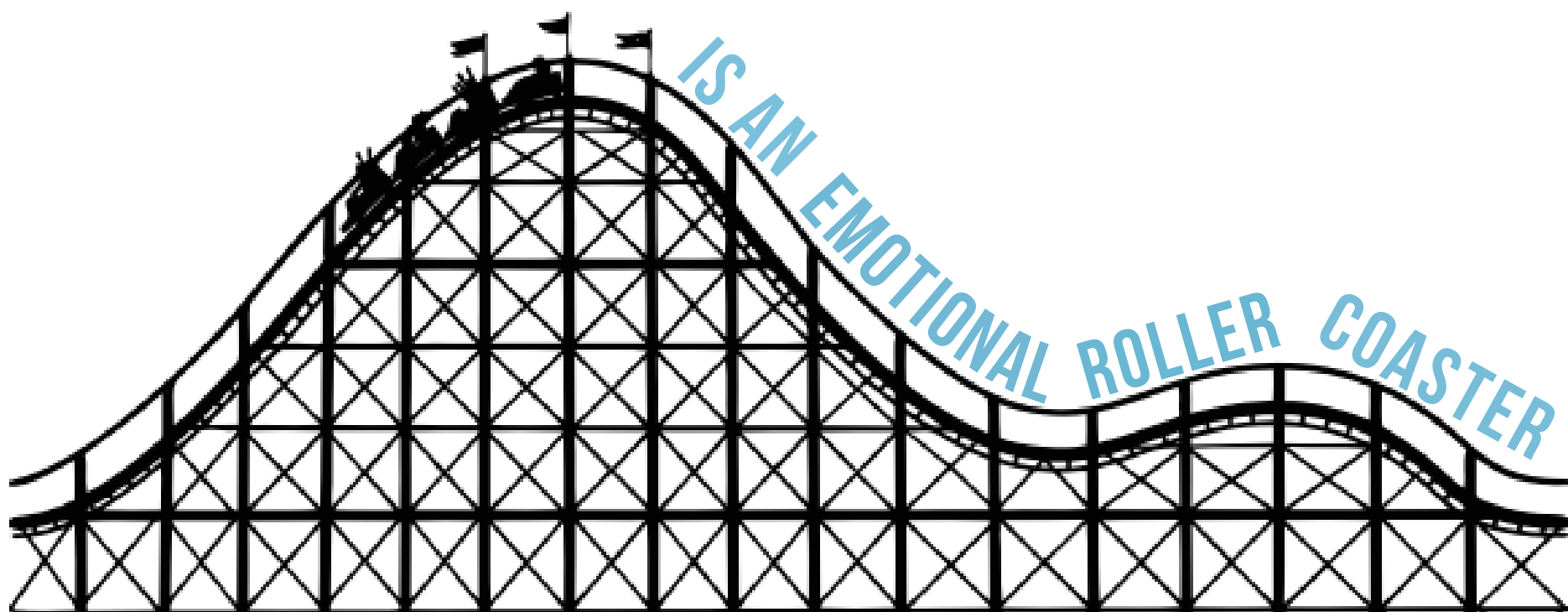
“The Summer I Turned Pretty” by Jenny Han

The original covers of “The Summer I Turned Pretty” featured real people on the cover — an act that seems cringe-worthy, but was fairly typical of its time. As a general rule, using models on the covers of fiction novels should be avoided. That way, it doesn’t take away the magic of using your imagination to envision characters. Some readers even fan-cast actors as characters.

The redesigned version of “The Summer I Turned Pretty” cover fixes this issue and uses a cute font and beachy colors to retain the YA feel. Each cover features a few shells, but is otherwise nondescript. Though they don’t say much about the plot, they are definitely an upgrade from the original covers.

In a rare occurrence; however, the television tie-in cover takes the cake. While not technically a cover reboot, I find this version of “The Summer I Turned Pretty” the most appealing. The color scheme and typography is clean and simple — appealing to a slightly older audience. While it does feature actors from the Prime Video adaptation of the series, they don’t take up enough room for their presence to be distracting. The image of them running down Cousins Beach sets the scene without being overly flashy.

'NEAL BRENNAN: BLOCKS'



CLIPART COURTESY OF FREESVG

by Karla Perez
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Everyone appreciates a comedy show that helps them relax. When we decide to watch a comedy, we want something that will make us laugh. I'm not talking about an occasional chuckle or slight smile; we want to cry tears of laughter. Ideally, we want the kind of show we need to take a break from because of how much we're laughing. Netflix houses a good amount of these kinds of comedy specials. However, I regret to admit that their new special, 'Neal Brennan: Blocks,' is not one of these lighthearted comedies.

Brennan's special did have some good aspects. For example, he outlines his screenplay using a set of blocks that represent various aspects of his life. This choice not only creates a nice illustrative backdrop, but

also adds an interactive element to the special. Brennan arranges the blocks randomly throughout the show, making the audience wonder which one he'll pick up and explain next. Some never get picked up, while others are moved multiple times and have prolonged stories behind them.

Another factor of Brennan's comedy special that I appreciated is something that many of my favorite comedians do as well: using jokes as a segue into an expression of opinion on a particular topic. Sometimes these exclamations are enlightening, sometimes they're aggravating and sometimes they're relieving. I believe that these snippets make the show feel more personal as the audience can learn about another side of a comedian apart from simply being funny. Whenever comedians do this, it creates a stronger, more intimate connection

with the audience that cannot be overlooked.

As those of many comedians do, Brennan's tangents often touch upon controversial topics, one of which is gun control. He explains the statistics behind gun violence and how the tragedies of gun violence come in multiple forms. While still maintaining that gun violence in schools and other public areas is disgusting and disheartening, he sheds light on how suicide and self-harm also contribute to the all-too-high number of gun deaths. Brennan critiques those who believe that gun control is the only solution and that mental health can be overlooked. He urges people not to stop at one or the other, but instead to strive to accomplish both.

While Brennan is undoubtedly an excellent public speaker, his profession is in comedy. He has some good moments scattered throughout

the show whenever he touches on why he doesn't want kids, his weird relationship with his dog or what it was like dating a model — spoiler, it wasn't all that great. However, there is a rather dismal motif Brennan squeezes in far too many moments: the phrase "something's wrong with me."

When done correctly, self-deprecating humor can actually be the best kind of humor; it is ironically sad, yet relatable to an extent. Unfortunately, it feels like Brennan takes the self-deprecation to the point where it comes across as self-pity, especially when nearing the end of the special. He closes the show in a somber tone expressing how he feels like he is not successful enough in any aspect of his life. He's almost begging both himself and the audience to accept him and tell him that he is enough. It's a weighty topic that may be better suited for a one-on-one conversation, not a comedy show.

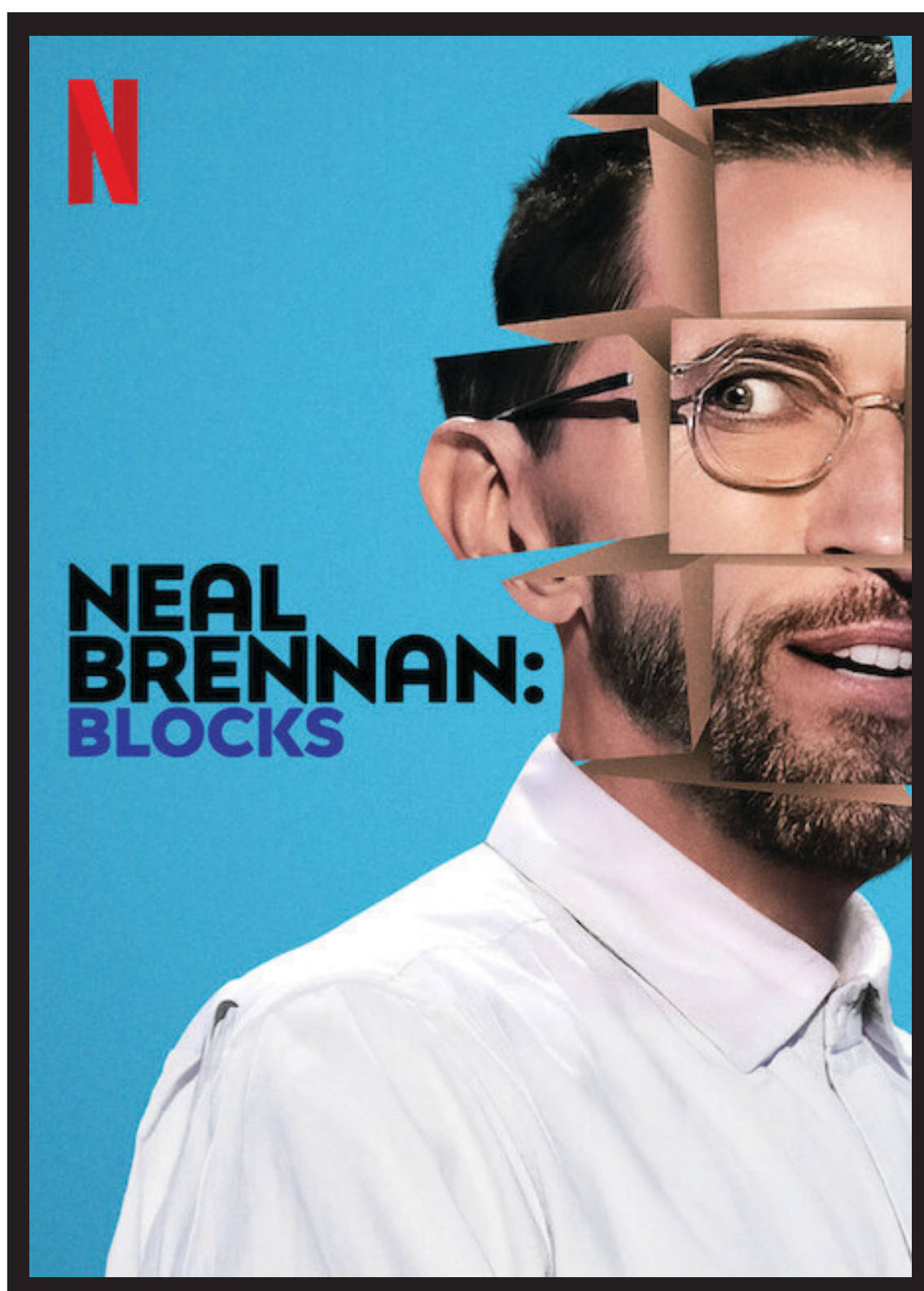
"I regret to admit that their new special, 'Neal Brennan: Blocks,' is not one of these lighthearted comedies."

Everyone is entitled to a personal preference when it comes to humor, so while I may not have enjoyed this comedy thoroughly, that doesn't necessarily mean that someone else won't. I encourage you to take the time to make a judgment for yourself. If you don't find yourself switching to another show halfway in, you may have just discovered your new favorite comedian.

RATING:



CLIPART COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



Netflix's new special 'Neal Brennan: Blocks,' is a comedy show that is based on various aspects of Brennan's life. Brennan's jokes consist of self deprecating humor and controversial topics. IMAGE COURTESY OF IMDB.COM



Life

@dailycampuslife

Long River Reading Series:

A monthly space for UConn's literary artists

by **Taevis Kolz**
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With nightfall arriving earlier than expected following the end of daylight savings, members of UConn's creative writing community took to the Philip E. Austin Building for the Long River Reading Series yesterday evening. A monthly open mic night that has been running consistently for over 20 years, the LRRS welcomes students eager to share various forms of artistry including poems, fiction, visual art, skits and even music in a friendly environment.

This month, the LRRS hosted UConn student authors Julia Brush, Valeria Diaz and Camryn Johnson. They read original works of poetry and fiction, touching on a variety of subjects and shrouding the room in different emotions.

The LRRS welcomes students eager to share various forms of artistry including poems, fiction, visual art, skits and even music in a friendly environment.

A clip from the first episode of the TV series "The O.C." began the night. After which, Brush read multiple short abstract poems she wrote.

The room's atmosphere was casual yet respectful. Between readers, the host, graduate assistant director of creative

writing Daniel Healy and the audience conversed, chuckling and making small talk. However, when each reader took the floor, audience members went silent. They listened attentively, showing their appreciation for each reader, pondering and digesting their words.

Following up Brush was

"To go up in front of 20 people who you've never met and open your heart up to your most vulnerable state is one of the best and strongest things a human being can do."

DAVID CABECEIRAS, STUDENT

Diaz, who shared an intense work of fiction about talking to and eventually heading to a man's apartment in the dead of night. After ending on a cliffhanger, it was clear Diaz's words had made an impact on listeners.

"It was so raw," said David Cabeceiras, a third-semester creative writing major. "When somebody gets that real and forces you to live through their hardest moment in their life, it's just astounding to me. To go up in front of 20 people who you've never met and open your heart up to your most vulnerable state is one of the best and strongest things a human being can do."

After Diaz finished, the mic was opened to potential audience members. Cabeceiras stepped up to read three original works: a piece of fiction, a poem and a reflection on a walk he took through campus.

Johnson finished off the scheduled readers with an emotional poem and a psychedelic work of fiction. The mic was once again opened for audience members to read their work. The final piece, an abstract guide to chronic migraines originally published in the WHUS magazine "Exposure Therapy," was shared.

"[To me, the Long River Reading Series] means community, fellowship among literary artists - students who may not have known each other and maybe wouldn't have seen each other - coming out and sharing their work with each other," said Healy.

Closely related to the LRRS is the Long River Review, UConn's student-staffed literary journal of art and literature that has been running since 1997.

"It's went from being a student literary magazine to a yearly, nationally-distributed professional literary magazine," Healy said.

The next Long River Reading Series will be held on Dec. 7. As always, students will be welcome to showcase their writing and art to a friendly, respectful community of their peers.



CLIPART COURTESY OF FREESVG



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The next Long River Reading Series will be held on Dec. 7.

As always, students will be welcome to showcase their writing and art to a friendly, respectful community of their peers.



Opinion

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COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

SOLACE IN SILENCE

by Rory Monaco
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I saw a dark-eyed junco outside my window the other day, stepped outside to meet the frost-laden grass and heard the songs of winter: the songs of the dark-eyed junco.

This bird making its way back to Connecticut indicates how Game of Thrones was right; winter is coming. It's time to tuck away our summer gardens, bring the cozy sweaters out of the boxes and fill our mugs to the brim with hot tea and honey.

My whole life, I have been a summer gal. This past summer, I spent each day bare-

foot working on a farm down the road from my house. If I could wake up with a morning joe in hand while I let the goats out, watered the greenhouse and walked around the fields every summer for the rest of my life, I would. That's what summer is: planning my days around the amount of daylight, maximizing my time in the sun and acquainting myself with the planet around me.

It's difficult because I try to align my life in accordance with the seasons. Come winter, I try to see the ways in which I can slow down, let old ways die and reform myself in preparation for the spring. It's like an imitation of the changes that come each New England season: some

moments I try to embrace the liveliness of July, the softening of November, reflection of January and revitalization of April. To live in stagnancy, to spend too much time in one season, does no good for the soul.

OK. So I ask myself, "Then what?" Like so many others, I dread the winter months. Summer reminds me of life and joy and spending days in the ocean learning new ways of being alive. Winter reminds me of desolate periods where darkness fills more space than light — where it's so dull and dismal that even the plants lose their vitality.

I'm determined this year to not project the dismay of winters past onto these next few months. I love summer

because of what a celebration it is. How can I channel similar energy into the winter months? How can the crystals forming from yesterday's snowfall bring as much beauty as the dahlia's petals in the sunlight? Because there is beauty there. Come December morning, when the dark-eyed juncos sing and the sunlight glistens off the snow, I know I can find beauty in darkness.

It's time we put effort into embracing the "wintering" that comes each year. The quietude is not something to be feared; in the absence of summer's noise, what is left to hear?

In November at the farm, we plant garlic for next year's bounty. We tend to

the earth and prepare her for next year's season.

What seeds can I plant and nurture this winter? In what ways can I use this time of rest to prepare myself for next summer?

This is not to say that winter is going to be a consistently "jolly ole time." Just as summer has its bad days, winter will too. This is more to say that there can be concerted efforts into cultivating positive times in these cold months. As someone who finds most of their serotonin in things outside that are touched by sunlight, winter is daunting. It's cold and menacing and makes my bones shiver.

I can accept that and still find what is good in each day.



ILLUSTRATION BY ANNA IORFINO, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Opinion

Huskytalk | Where do you think the UConn seal is?



“It’s chained up with do not enter construction tape under Homer B because the university heard too many people were getting injured trying to run to the Jonathan statue.”

Laura Tedesco
Marketing Major
3rd semester



“It’s definitely under Bookworms in the sketchy basement chained up.”

Chloe Piegat
ACES
3rd semester



“My instant thought was in the basement of the library. I think there’s a tomb down there.”

Giselle Malloy
Natural Resources Major
9th semester



“I think they put it in depot campus with all the scary stories so that people will really be haunted when they step on it.”

Tomas Persano
Management and Engineering for Manufacturing Major
5th semester

DON'T IGNORE NOVEMBER

by **Dan Stark**

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November is arguably one of the more neglected months of the year. It isn't as hated as January, but it doesn't get the love that the spring and summer months get. To many, November simply exists. It fades into the background like white noise. Personally, November has always been one of my favorite months, as I think there's a lot to be appreciated during this month. It's time November gets the love it deserves as one of the better months of the year with its many redeeming qualities.

One of the main reasons that November is often overlooked is because of the coming Christmas season. There's a significant group of people

who declare, "It's Christmas season!" right at midnight on Nov. 1. Not only is this annoying, as many of these people will start blasting the same old Christmas songs you're going to hear all December, but it also completely ignores what November should be. November represents a break between the excess of Halloween and the mass commercialization and sensory overload of the Christmas season. Just because advertisers start up their Christmas ads on Nov. 1 doesn't mean you should focus on the holiday season yet. It's important to take a break from the holiday-focused mindset in order to not be overwhelmed by these seasons. While the barrage of holiday-focused media may be enjoyable at first, you're probably going to need a break after hearing "All I Want for Christmas is You" for the 20th time in a week.

Once you're able to tune out the incessant corporate advertising and Mariah Carey's voice, there's a lot to enjoy about November. One of the best parts of the month is that you'll finally be able to wear your fall clothes and not have to worry about the weather. October's wild temperatures swing from freezing cold mornings to blazing hot afternoons, which make it impossible to dress appropriately. November tends to be a bit cooler, so it's the perfect time to bust out flannels, scarves, knit hats and other fun fall clothes to keep you warm and stay in style.

November is also a great time for sports fans. The NFL, NBA and NHL are all in full swing, so there will always be a game to watch if you're ever bored. But of course, there's one major sport that starts in November: college basketball. It's no sur-

prise that the start of college basketball season is one of the most anticipated moments of the year, especially given how great our teams at the University of Connecticut have been. The start of basketball season brings the UConn student body together like nothing else, and you can feel a certain electricity now while walking around campus. With both men's and women's home games hosted nearly every week at Gampel Pavilion on campus and the XL Center in Hartford, there are many opportunities to go see a game and feel even more connected to the UConn community.

Finally, November contains another much-anticipated moment for students: Thanksgiving break. Thanksgiving break is a necessary time of rest and decompression during the fall semester, especially with final exams looming in De-

cember. The one-week break is a great time to destress, see family members and do things back home that you've missed. Whether it's hanging out with old friends, watching your favorite movies or getting a hot, fresh egg sandwich from your favorite deli (can you tell I'm from Long Island?), Thanksgiving break is the perfect time to do your favorite activities and take a well-deserved mental break.

If you're feeling down right now, remember that November is the month of self-love. Use this month to make time for yourself and do what's best for you. From taking a break to catching a basketball game at Gampel with friends, November is the perfect month for you to be yourself and enjoy the best parts of fall without the influence of the Halloween and Christmas seasons.



COMIC BY ZAIRE DIAZ, ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY ZAIRE DIAZ, ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Around Hockey East:

NO. 14 PROVIDENCE SWEEPS NO. 5 UMASS, HENRY WELSCH SHUTOUTS VERMONT, LEVI SETS NEW RECORD

by Ben Snyder
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Some opening notes on this week's action: This was the first weekend of the season where there were no out-of-conference games. All the series were sweeps.

No. 14 Providence earned a massive sweep against No. 5 UMass

The Friars took down the Minutemen 7-4 in front of a raucous crowd at Schneider Arena in Providence this past Friday. Providence got out to a 4-0 lead and were able to weather the comeback attempt. Boston Bruins prospect Riley Duran had a hat-trick and New York Rangers prospect Brett Berard, the son of the 1995 NHL Draft No. 1 overall pick Bryan Berard, had two goals and an assist. LA Kings prospect and October's Hockey East Rookie of the Month, Kenny Connors, had a goal and an assist. His teammate and Ottawa Senators draft pick Tyson Dyck also contributed a goal and an assist. On Saturday in Massachusetts, the home team held a 3-1 lead thanks to Quincy, MA native Mikey Adamson's first NCAA goal. Providence's captain Parker Ford led the comeback with a goal and an assist in the period. Berard completed the sweep as he netted the game winner in overtime. Tampa Bay Lightning draft pick and team captain Max Crozier had three assists this weekend and was named Hockey East Defender of the Week. The Friars jumped up into the top-10 in the national ranking for the first time this season, as they were tabbed No. 9. UMass was pushed out of the top 10 and is now ranked No. 11. Both teams

will have another big test this weekend, as the No. 9 Friars will battle No. 7 UConn and the Minutemen get set to take on No. 14 Boston University.

also had a four-point night, as he provided a goal and three assists. The Wildcats were then shutout the next night on home ice. Hryckowian stayed on fire as he potted two goals and Ca-

No. 17 UMass Lowell shut-outs UVM

The River Hawks' defense was suffocating this weekend, as they kept the Catamounts

defend the cage as he made 25 saves. Alternate Captain Zach Kaiser and senior Ryan Brushett provided the offense. Welsch was fittingly named Hockey East Goaltender of the Week. The No. 16 River Hawks will have some time to celebrate their stellar defensive performance as their next game is not until Nov. 15 versus Boston College. Vermont will look to get back on the scoresheet as they host a UNH team desperate for a win.



The UMass Lowell River Hawk's huddle together before the game. During their game against UVM, Riverhawks managed to pull a win against the Catamounts with a suffocating defense.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRÜDER MEDIA GROUP/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

No. 16 Northeastern sweeps UNH

The Wildcats continue to struggle against Hockey East opponents, dropping their fifth and sixth contests in a row this past weekend. The Huskies beat UNH 6-2 at Matthews Arena in Boston on Friday. Sophomore Justin Hryckowian was the star of the night as he recorded his first career hat-trick and added an assist. Vancouver Canucks prospect Aidan McDonough

nadian Olympian Devon Levi set a Northeastern record with his 12th career shutout. After lighting it up all weekend, Hryckowian was named Hockey East Player of the Week. UNH will hope to snap their losing streak as they travel to Vermont to take on the Catamounts. The Huskies are now tied with UConn for the top spot in Hockey East. No. 15 Northeastern won't have to travel far, as Boston College is next on the schedule.

off the scoreboard all weekend. The Catamounts had a party in the penalty box on Friday as they took nine penalties. The River Hawks made them pay for their errors as they cashed in on the power-play three times en route to a 4-0 victory. Jake Stella, a transfer from American International College, scored his first two goals as a River Hawk. Goaltender Henry Welsch was not very busy as he only faced 11 shots. The next day, Welsch continued to

Merrimack sweeps Boston College

The Warriors and the Eagles kicked off the weekend on Thursday, as the home squad prevailed 3-1. New York Rangers prospect Hugo Ollas was only beaten by the Eagles once - courtesy of Tampa Bay Lightning prospect Eamon Powell's power play tally. Sophomore Mark Hillier led the offense for Merrimack as he set up two goals. The teams got a day off before they battled again at Conte Forum on Saturday afternoon. Merrimack once again got the best of their opponents, as they won 5-2. NY Islanders draft pick Alex Jeffries and Swede Filip Forsmark both recorded a goal and an assist. Junior Zachary Borgiel backstopped the victory with 27 saves. Boston College will hope to end their three-game losing skid, but it won't be easy as they will have to go through Northeastern this weekend. Merrimack's hard work is starting to pay off as they have been ranked for the first time as they are now No. 19. They'll look to extend their three-game win streak as the Maine Blackbears come to town for two games.

Women's Basketball:

NO. 6 HUSKIES BEGIN REGULAR SEASON AGAINST NORTHEASTERN

by Cole Stefan
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It is a battle of the Huskies, but not on the ice, as the No. 6 UConn women's basketball team hosts Northeastern to begin the 2022-23 regular season. With their lowest preseason ranking since 2006, UConn looks to take care of business before they go into their gauntlet of a non-conference schedule that includes home games against the No. 3 Texas Longhorns and the No. 1 South Carolina Gamecocks as well as road games against the No. 5 Tennessee Volunteers.

While the 115-42 exhibition victory against the Kutztown Golden Bears served as a "warm-up" game for UConn, this season opener is the real deal. Despite the loss of multiple key players to the professional leagues as well as injury, there were a lot of positive takeaways from the exhibition that should help the team compete with the nation's best.

Azzi Fudd, a Preseason All-Big East Team selection, is looking for consistency in her three-point shots after making two threes in the first half and seven in the second. Fudd's game heavily relies on the three-point basket, and once she gets into a rhythm, she can be a problem for anyone who guards her.

As Fudd highlighted in the postgame press conference, Lou Lopez Sénéchal is another player that teams could have a hard time guarding. In her UConn debut, the Fairfield transfer dropped 18 points in the first half and secured six total rebounds. Having Lopez Sénéchal, the 2021-22 MAAC Player of the Year, helps fill a huge scoring hole while bringing in a player who impacts

every aspect of the game.

Dorka Juhász, another Preseason All-Big East Team selection, hopes to be the next big center after Olivia Nelson-Ododa left for the WNBA. Juhász made all but one shot in the exhibition, looking like she had not lost a step in her first game since the Elite Eight. If Juhász builds off that performance and exceeds her numbers from last season (7.3 PPG, 5.7 RPG), then she will surely succeed on the hardwood floor.

Nika Mühl thrives on what earned her the Big East Defensive Player of the Year award. When she is not taking shots, she is grabbing rebounds and forcing turnovers as well as setting up big plays for her teammates. In a sense, her actions on the court speak louder than what is displayed on the final stat lines. If Mühl does not get on the scoresheet often, it is because she is establishing herself in other areas.

Preseason Big East Freshman of the Year Ayanna Patterson grabbed a double-double of 10 points and 10 rebounds in her debut and showcased a unique skill in her game as six of her boards came on the offensive glass. On top of her ability to dunk, Patterson can be a force to be reckoned with on offense, especially if she is given more than one chance to score.

Aaliyah Edwards, a Preseason All-Big East Team selection, had a quiet 17 points in the exhibition, but is on the right track to improving from a sophomore season where she averaged 7.9 points and 5.1 boards. As long as Edwards stays out of foul trouble, she will attack the paint and force opposing forwards to miss.

Just like last season, where Aubrey Griffin did not play all year due to a back injury, UConn's depth will be tested. On top of

Paige Bueckers and Ice Brady being out for the season, UConn has to play through the absence of Caroline Ducharme, a Preseason All-Big East Team selection who will sit out the season opener while recovering from a stiff neck. There is no timetable for her return and there is a chance she may have to deal with the injury all season long.

Northeastern (1-0) enters after opening their season with a one-point victory against the Boston University Terriers this past Monday. Derin Erdogan, who shot the game-winning free throws, led the way with 24 points and three steals on 9-14 shooting while Gemima Motema, a Preseason All-CAA Honorable Mention, had 16 points and three blocks.

Having pieces like Erdogan, who averaged 1.1 points per game for the Arizona Wildcats last season, and Motema will be critical to North-

eastern's success under second-year head coach Bridgette Mitchell. The team lost a lot of scoring and veteran experience as Kendall Currence (15.9 PPG in 2021-22), Claudia Soriano (11.8 PPG and 99 steals), Katie May (8.2 PPG) and Emily Calabrese (7.4 PPG, 5.5 RPG) left at the end of the season.

That means several players who did not experience as much time on the court are going to have to step up, and Mitchell has the pieces to do just that. Amongst the returning players are people such as Maddie Vizza, Camille Clement, who had 2.5 PPG in 24 games, and Connecticut native Asha Parker, who played 30 games off the bench but averaged 2.3 points.

But Mitchell built most of this season's roster in the transfer portal, picking up Erdogan, Halle Idowu from Toledo, JaMiya Braxton from Northwestern State, Deja

Bristol from Virginia and Jaelyn Batts from Boston College. Mitchell started three of the transfers in the season opener and is expected to give most of them minutes as she likes to play the veterans.

Northeastern may be expected to finish eighth in the CAA this season, but they can bring a lot of fight to the competition. That said, the key in this game is going to be rebounding. UConn averaged 38.6 boards per game last season while Northeastern averaged 35.2. Northeastern is not known for their defense, unlike UConn, but their ability to crash the glass helps them stay in games. Whoever comes up with a missed shot off the boards more often will come out victorious.

The season tips off at 7 p.m. at Gampel Pavilion. Fans who cannot catch the action in person can watch the game on SNY.



The UConn women's basketball team defeats Notre Dame 73-54 in Gampel Pavilion on Dec. 5, 2021. A ceremony celebrating Olympians who graduated from UConn occurred prior to the game, and many of them were in attendance. In addition, a second ceremony was held during halftime.

PHOTOGRAPH BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sports

Photo of the Day | The court is in session!



The UConn women's volleyball team captures a dominant 3-0 win against Butler in Gampel Pavilion on Oct. 22, 2022. This win extended the Huskies' win-streak to five. UConn will return to the court next in Washington D.C against Georgetown University on Friday, Oct. 28.

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

ROUNDTABLE

UCONN BASKETBALL'S SURPRISE PLAYERS

Every year, there's always a player who does a little more than expected for the UConn men's or women's basketball teams. Whether it's a freshman who picked up the slack for an injury, a late-blooming upperclassman or anywhere in between, there are always surprises. Last year, it was Caroline Ducharme, who had an unexpected stretch of high production in the absence of Paige Bueckers. Another example is Isaiah Whaley, who went from benchwarmer to starter in a very short period of time during the 2019-20 season. Who will that Whaley or Ducharme be this year? The Daily Campus Sports section discusses:

AYANNA PATTERSON

by **Stratton Stave**
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I'm going to go with Patterson here, largely because the talk about her has been quiet compared to many other players on the roster. The 6'2" forward is going to be a force to be reckoned with this year, even if she has to do so in an off-the-bench role. She has all the tools to succeed as a college player. She's tall and incredibly athletic, allowing her to pull down rebounds over most others. Although this UConn team is among the premier shooting squads in the country, the ability to gain second chances is incredibly important and could be the difference between wins and losses against top 10 opposition. There's a lot of talent ahead of Patterson in the rotation, but in the right situations, she'll put herself in prime position to shine.

AUBREY GRIFFIN

by **Cole Stefan**
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During the 2020-21 season, the last time she stepped onto the court in a non-exhibition game, Griffin averaged 6.2 points and 4.8 rebounds. In the exhibition against Kutztown this past Sunday, Griffin posted 6 points and 8 rebounds in 23 minutes while receiving a plethora of applause from the XL Center crowd. After two seasons where she averaged six points per game, Griffin has the potential to post career numbers in her redshirt junior season, especially with the injuries that UConn is experiencing and the departure of players such as Olivia Nelson-Ododa. The best way that Griffin will control the game is when she comes off the bench, as the Huskies already rely on Dorka Juhász and Aaliyah Edwards in their frontcourt. Even if Griffin plays small forward, she can make an impact on defense with her ability to block shots and force turnovers. Head coach Geno Auriemma's teams are known for their depth, which has been proven in recent seasons. Griffin will surely add to that case as the season progresses.

LOU LOPEZ SÉNÉCHAL

by **Ava Inesta**
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With Lopez Sénéchal only having one year of eligibility with UConn after playing four years at Fairfield University, it gives her that much more of a reason to play a large role this season. At Fairfield, she was the go-to player. Plays were created around her and she was the player that the team looked at when they needed a basket. She led the Fairfield Stags to the MAAC Championship and a NCAA Tournament appearance. She also led the team in scoring for the four years she was there, totaling 1,598 points in her career. Hopefully, all of this will culminate into an intense level of success at UConn. She adds versatility by having experience as a guard and a forward, which will help UConn fill the gaps left behind in Paige Buckers' and Ice Brady's injuries. Lopez Sénéchal gave a glimpse of her offensive abilities when she dropped 18 points in the first half against Kutztown in the team's exhibition game. She joined Azzi Fudd in being one of the team's top scorers — a title that should only continue through the season. This is just the start for Lopez Sénéchal, and I can see her being an offensive weapon for the Huskies this year.

HASSAN DIARRA

by **Evan Rodriguez**
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I think a lot of people were very surprised during Monday's win against Stonehill when Diarra came off the bench and put up 11 points, 7 assists and 5 rebounds in 27 minutes of play. In the end, Diarra would play more minutes than starting point guard Tristen Newton, a player he battled with throughout the offseason for the UConn starting point guard job. Even if Diarra comes off the bench for the rest of the season, he'll still be an important part of this team for the rest of the season. What sticks out to me with Diarra are his abilities to find his teammates for efficient scoring and prove excellent defense off the bench — two crucial areas that this UConn team must succeed in to compete well. While the Stonehill game was just a small sample of Diarra's skillset, I'm predicting that he's going to be surprising people throughout the season.



The Mets-Braves rivalry is very much back

by Cole Stefan
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10.5 games. The first thing that comes to mind when I hear those two words is the division lead on the first day of June that dissipated come October. That division lead belonged to the New York Mets, a franchise who had made moves in the offseason to become a legitimate contender and were cruising through the first two months of the season. The Atlanta Braves, the defending World Series champions, were on the other end of the stick, having struggled during the first few months of their season.

By the time the postseason arrived, the script had completely flipped for the two teams. The Mets — a team campus correspondent Ava Inesta predicted would win the division — found themselves playing in the Wild Card Series against the San Diego Padres (a matchup that I saw in person back in July) while the Braves rested up until the NLDS. There is no perfect explanation for it except for that it just happened. If any other team was in this position, like the Washington Nationals or Miami Marlins, there would be no rivalry to talk about. But these two teams have a history of playing in big games and going after each other that is only going to get better in the future.

This is a rivalry that has been established since Atlanta moved to the NL East in 1994. Historically,

the best moments between these two divisional foes came in 1999. After taking care of their division-winning opponents in the NLDS, the Braves and the Mets met with the pennant on the line. Atlanta won the series after winning the first three games and allowing New York to win the next two to let them think they had a chance. The Mets got their revenge a season later as they took the pennant and won more games in the World Series than Atlanta did the year prior. Between 2001 and 2021, at least one of the two teams made the postseason 14 times, but both never qualified in the same year.

This rivalry has both historical and personal context. In 2004, Hall of Famer Chipper Jones welcomed his third child. Rather than go with a generic name like Larry (his actual name), Jerry or David, Jones decided to name his son Shea, appropriately named after Shea Stadium. The reason for this choice came down to Jones' 19 home runs, 101 hits and .313 batting average at the ballpark (when the place closed down in 2008). His reasoning has fluctuated in the years since, but the fact that Jones took a jab at his rivals brings a unique aspect that not even the Boston Red Sox-New York Yankees rivalry can match.

On the topic of clever trolling, I want to bring up "Narco" by Timmy Trumpet and Blasterjaxx, a song renowned for its trumpets. People who know the tune associate it with Edwin Diaz, the best closer in New York (sorry Clay Holmes), and a fireballer who

surged back to dominance after three years of mediocrity. The song got so popular this summer that even Timmy Trumpet himself performed the entrance live in a game in late August.

What does any of that have to do with trolling? William Contreras, the younger brother of free agent catcher Wilson, uses the hit piece as his walk-up song when he steps into the batter's box. The song is also played whenever he hits a home run, but that has nothing to do with the rivalry — what does have to do with the rivalry is that it draws the ire of fans in Queens who believe no one else should use the song but Diaz. Members from Blasterjaxx have agreed and have asked Contreras to stop using the song, but he has not listened.

This is just a bit of the context surrounding this heated rivalry. Without a doubt, this was the best rivalry in the 2022 baseball season, and I think it is time to break down why that is the case. The first thing that needs to happen, however, is that the roster needs to be constructed (follow me on this one).

I have noticed two different ways that the teams built their roster, and both helped them win. The Mets like to spend big on their players, acquiring them via free agency or trade. That proved to be the case this past offseason when New York acquired Chris Bassitt in a trade while signing Max Scherzer, Mark Canha, Starling Marte and Eduardo Escobar. They will call up star prospects such as Jacob deGrom, Francisco Alvarez and Pete Alon-

so on occasion, but they mostly rely on the strategies the Yankees and Los Angeles Dodgers use to win. When the team owner is Steve Cohen, it just makes sense to spend for the best.

The Braves, meanwhile, take the prospect route and do it in such a unique style that I could write a separate column about it. While teams like the Houston Astros let their stars walk so that they can call up their top prospects (see Jeremy Pena and Kyle Tucker), Atlanta admirably lets their prospects develop and then extends them as soon as they thrive in the big leagues. This has happened to the likes of rookies Michael Harris II, Spencer Strider and Vaughn Grissom. The Braves also add from the outside to help compete, having acquired Matt Olson by trade and Travis d'Arnaud in free agency, but for now, they rely on their never-ending prospect pool.

These two different team-development styles clashed 19 times throughout the regular season. But there were eight games in the final two months that really present the case as to why this rivalry has just now reached its peak and will continue to stay in that position for a long period of time.

If there was any series that I wish I attended one game for, it was the five-game weekend series at Citi Field in early August. The Mets entered with a 3.5-game division lead, but were looking to state their case as to why they deserved the NL East crown. On the other side waited the Braves, who

wanted to snatch the division lead in one fell swoop. New York won four out of the five games, finishing off the series strong after deGrom went 5.2 innings in his first start at Citi Field in over a year while Diaz closed out the ninth. One would think that the division race was over at that point, but it was just heating up.

Fast forward to September 30, where three games defined both team's seasons. The Mets entered Atlanta with a one-game lead in the division and hoped to lock up the NL East crown with a sweep. They had such a prime opportunity to finish the job and win the division, especially with deGrom, Scherzer and Bassitt pitching in respective order. What happened instead became the Braves' best dream and the Mets' worst nightmare.

Behind Dansby Swanson homering in every game, Atlanta swept New York in dominating fashion and took the division lead for the first time all season after the second game. The Braves clinched the NL East for a fifth straight season two days later thanks to a head-to-head tiebreaker while the Mets had to prepare for the Wild Card.

Both teams finished with 101 wins in 2022 and were surprisingly ousted before the NLCS, but this showdown is far from over. I do not necessarily care how free agency or the trade market affects both teams this offseason because regardless of the players who put on the jerseys, this rivalry is back.

Three streaming options for Week 10

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Welcome back to another week of Spin's Fantasy Factory! I'm Spin, UConn's self-proclaimed fantasy football expert. Even though the "expert" portion of that title may be a bit of an overstatement, that doesn't stop me from doing what I enjoy: providing just a bit more fantasy insight to help you set your lineup for the upcoming week.

This week, I'll be focusing on three players you should consider streaming in your fantasy lineups as bye weeks continue to haunt fantasy managers. These are all players that are owned in less than 40% of all fantasy leagues and should be easily acquirable via your league's waiver wire. Predictions are based on matchups, projections, schemes or even just a plain hunch that I have. Without further ado, here are three favorable streaming matchups for Week 10 of the NFL season.

Zay Jones, WR, Jacksonville Jaguars at KC

This season is only Jones' fifth as a professional, though it feels like the receiver has had his fair share of bouncing around the league. After three seasons with the Buffalo Bills, followed by three with the Oakland/Las Vegas Raiders, Jones signed a three-year contract to play for the Jacksonville Jaguars. He's since emerged as quarterback Trevor Lawrence's second option at the receiver position, seeing the sec-

ond-highest number of targets on the team and averaging over 40 receiving yards per contest. He's been consistent all season, snagging at least three catches in every game that he's played in this year, including a monster 10 catch, 85 yards, one touchdown line that yielded over 24 points in PPR back in Week 3. Though the consistency that Jones has displayed this season has been a welcoming sign, he's always been known as a big-play receiver. His next opportunity for major production looms in a showdown with the Kansas City Chiefs this Sunday.

We've seen teams go neck-and-neck as they try to match the offensive prowess of the Chiefs far too many times in the past to ignore this matchup. As long as Patrick Mahomes can suit up for KC, the team will score points, and their opponent will likely need to play catch-up. If history repeats itself, then this week's matchup with the Jags will prove no different. The Chiefs will likely turn their attention towards fellow wideout Christian Kirk, who has run away with the top receiving role in his first season in Jacksonville. That means that Jones will be free to find space downfield, an attribute that has defined his career. Sheer potential for opportunity should alone be enough to convince managers to fire up Jones as a FLEX/WR3 option this week, though he re-

mains on the waiver wire in a vast majority of fantasy leagues. Make sure that you're the manager that picks him up for his breakout game this week.

Jerick McKinnon, RB, Kansas City Chiefs vs. JAX

Kansas City's backfield is one that lacks true fantasy upside; Clyde Edwards-Helaire began the season averaging almost 19 fantasy points per game in PPR formats but has failed to eclipse double-digits in four contests since. It appears that head coach Andy Reid has committed to a three-man backfield of Edwards-Helaire, rookie Isiah Pacheco and the veteran McKinnon. Though each player is cutting into the others' fantasy production, the potential for points in a Mahomes-led offense will never run short. As a result, it's hard to ignore any components of Kansas City's offense even if they're splitting looks with other players. Even if he doesn't lead this backfield in rushing attempts, McKinnon appears to be a good bet for a solid fantasy production this week against Jacksonville.

The Jaguars are yielding fantasy points to opposing running backs at the ninth-highest rate in the NFL this season. In addition, McKinnon is fresh off of a game in which he tallied eight targets, resulting in six catches for 40 yards. His fantasy production relies heavily on game script; when the Chiefs are being forced to throw the ball more, McKinnon tends to see more opportunities through the air. While

the Jaguars may not be in the top-half of the league in terms of points scored, we've seen them put up strands of solid offensive output throughout this season, especially on the road, where the team is averaging more points scored than they do at home. Look for the team to be highly motivated as they come into this matchup as extreme underdogs and challenge Kansas City to make plays with the ball. For fantasy managers looking to navigate through bye weeks, especially in leagues where points are rewarded for receptions, you could do much worse than the pass-catching specialist in McKinnon. Count on him for at least a couple of receptions, though a couple could turn into a few very quickly if Jacksonville can step up against one of the AFC's best teams.

Noah Fant, TE, Seattle Seahawks at TB

Quarterback Geno Smith has done a great job of spreading the ball around this Seattle offense to get all of the components involved every week. Though the team still operates in a run-first scheme, all of DK Metcalf, Tyler Lockett, Will Dissly and Fant have all seen their fair share of opportunities through the air. As for Fant, fantasy managers seemed to write him off as an invaluable fantasy asset after he had a slow start to the season. However, as more time has passed for Fant to become acclimated with Seattle's offense, he has seen his opportunities and production rise.

After not reaching five targets in each of his first four games this year, Fant now has five or more targets in three of his last five games. He's fresh off of his best game as a Seahawk, in which he tallied five catches for 96 yards on six looks last week against the Arizona Cardinals. He'll look to continue the hot streak this week against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The Bucs are allowing the ninth-most fantasy points to opposing tight ends this season. The team just encountered the limping Rams in Week 9, where quarterback Matthew Stafford continued his fall from grace after he completed passes to only four different receivers, none of which were tight ends. That makes Tampa Bay's ninth-highest rate of fantasy points allowed to tight ends equal parts concerning for the team and mouth-watering for Fant, who figures to actually catch a pass in the upcoming contest. Much like Zay Jones, Fant is not the top receiving option on his team and doesn't draw the same defensive assignments as Metcalf and Lockett, which should open more opportunities for him to get free. The tight end position has been fairly dry all season as it lacks true depth beyond the top few players at this position, so any positive streaming option should draw the attention of fantasy managers. Given Fant's upwards trend in the Seahawks offense, consider giving him the nod this week in your lineup.

Twitter's verification problem from the eyes of a sports journalist

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When I woke up this week to see that the Twitter Blue membership now allows anyone to grab a valuable blue checkmark, it was a frightening sight. It may not be the demise of the app, but from a sports journalist who consistently values putting out quality sports content on a daily basis, it may hurt even more.

It's painful because I love the platform. The ability to instantly reach sports fans, especially UConn fans, makes the platform more valuable to me than any other social media platform, including professional marketing platforms like LinkedIn. I can connect with potential future colleagues who can see the quality content I put out and the informa-

tion I provide. I can even keep up with news from other journalists who may have the first scoop on information, whether it's about UConn athletics or other sports leagues across the world. Best of all, I can be me.

But, then it goes back to the blue checkmark.

As great as the content you put out may be, it certainly helps to have that blue checkmark. It gives me confidence that if I were to check out an account for information, the person who is controlling the account has credibility and isn't some random, trolling fan. There are certainly going to be more interested people checking out that account because of it. If you are doing your job as a journalist to publish incredible content, whether it's on sports or another topic, you've earned the right to that increased attention, and you should take advantage of it. You've earned

the ability to have that power.

But, with Twitter now adding a small payroll of \$7.99 to get a blue checkmark of your own, you don't need to earn the luxury that many Twitter users worked hard for. You can now pose as Aaron Judge announcing his next contract for less than the cost of a footlong sandwich at Subway. You can pretend to be Adrian Wojnarowski announcing that LeBron James just requested a trade from the Los Angeles Lakers. You could even pose as a UConn recruit announcing that they have decommitted from the school.

This new change from Elon Musk is not only disastrous, but also incredibly irritating for someone like me. Even at just 363 followers on Twitter, I am now in jeopardy of losing all of the followers I've gained and hard work I've done during my time on the platform.

When I first created a professional Twitter account, I could not have imagined where I would be at this point in time with trust and hundreds of likes from UConn fans for important information from UConn athletics, especially football and men's basketball. I'm now in jeopardy of losing that privilege due to how problematic this new change could be and ultimately cause my audience to leave a once-welcoming community.

Imagine these changes for a Twitter user, especially a sports journalist, who has had Twitter for a long time and has gained a large audience. All of the years they've put into growing that audience could be gone, and I feel for those people. I strive to be one of the sports journalists with a blue checkmark and thousands of followers, providing news for sports fans across the world.

The athletes may have an even bigger dilemma than sports journalists. For years, athletes have used Twitter to be able to communicate with their fans and break important news about their lives. However, with the ability for anyone to deceive Twitter's audience and pose as those athletes, why should they use Twitter to express themselves when an imposter could deceive people like family, friends or other journalists?

I hope that this change doesn't result in the demise of the platform, and I stress how bad this change really is to every Twitter user. If Twitter were to change everything back to the platform that everyone loved, Twitter's audience would have higher confidence in remaining on the platform. However, I worry about its uncertain future as a current avid user.



Sports

FOOTBALL:

FRESHMAN QB ZION TURNER SHOWS PROMISING FUTURE WITH UCONN FOOTBALL

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The UConn football team is the closest they have ever been to competing in a bowl game since 2015, the last time they accomplished this feat. Freshman quarterback Zion Turner is determined to get them there.

Turner assumed the starting role after sophomore quarterback Ta'Quan Roberson suffered a torn ACL in the Huskies' season opener against Utah State. Despite the unexpected start to his collegiate football career, Turner knew he would be able to step up.

"I've always been confident," said Turner. "I've always felt like I'm the best quarterback in the nation. I'll always feel like that and there will never be anybody to tell me otherwise."

The 18-year-old Florida native came to UConn after an impressive career at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Fort Lauderdale, which boasts one of the best high school football programs in

the nation. Turner started 39 games as quarterback for the Raiders, leading them to three back-to-back state championships, a national championship and a record of 37-2 across three seasons.

At St. Thomas Aquinas, Turner racked up 4,951 passing yards, 59 touchdowns and just 18 interceptions out of 590 passing attempts, completing 62.5% of his passes. He rushed for 990 yards and 31 more touchdowns. Turner received offers from multiple schools in Power 5 conferences, but he opted to take his talents to Storrs to play under first-year head coach Jim Mora to help turn the program around.

"He's fun to coach because he's a hard-working young man. He wants to be good," said Mora. "He studies the game, it's important to him, he's all in all the time. He just really has a great desire to improve and get better every single day, so he's easy to coach."

Turner's willingness to learn has not only benefited his coaches, but has also allowed him to take away some valuable personal lessons from his first season with the Huskies.

"Just always have the mentality of the next six seconds, just trying to get through to the next play. Don't put things behind you because you're always going to go back and look at them to review mistakes and things like that, but just always keep moving in a forward, upward direction," said Turner regarding what he has learned so far. "Just always look at your mistakes as ways for you to learn and to approach the game in a better way."

Since Turner took over as quarterback, he has led the team to their current record of 5-5, the program's best in seven years. They now sit just one win away from bowl game eligibility.

"In fall camp, we had an offensive meeting, and coach

[Mora] asked what was one of my hopes going into the season. The first thing I told the team is that I want to take this team to a bowl game," said Turner. "I'm a man of my word, so I've been staying behind it and trying to do my best in getting us [there]."

The coveted bowl game appearance is not just a personal goal, but a team goal.

"Everyone wants to play another game after the season," said Turner. "No one wants to just go home and no one wants to be playing meaningless games right now. We're actually playing for something right now and we're able to use that as motivation to get us through these games."

The Huskies will take on Liberty at home this Saturday and will travel to face Army the following weekend to conclude their regular 2022 season. So far, Turner has thrown for 1,023 yards and eight touchdowns, completing 111 of 186

pass attempts, but he's not done yet, and his development as a player extends beyond the numbers.

"At times you see real growth spurts and then you see a little regression, and I think that's just very normal for a young quarterback playing at this level," coach Mora said. "But there seems to me to be an upward trend, even when he doesn't have a great game throwing the ball. He's become more decisive as a quarterback both in the run game and the pass game. He's become a little bit more vocal as a leader, although I still think the way he leads is by example, and I think that's what is most impactful towards players."

Turner has full faith that he can use his sharpened leadership skills to get himself and his team to where they want to be.

"There's never going to be a time where I'm playing football and I'm not feeling like I can go out there and win for my team," said Turner. "I think that's something that's just in me."



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, CT. This win marks the Huskies' first FBS victory since defeating UMass in 2019.

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

WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

UConn SCOREBOARD


 vs.
 
85 **54**

**Men's Basketball
Monday**

Upcoming Games


 vs.
 
**Women's Basketball 7 p.m.
Thursday
Storrs, Conn**


 vs.
 
**Women's Ice Hockey,
6 p.m. Friday
Storrs, Conn**

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@ark.visuals
No better way to end a day, than a trip to HBH #uconn

TWEETS OF THE DAY



UConn Baseball
 @UConnBSB
 The Springer's are back in Storrs! Little George gets to see #UConn for the first time!

Kevin Freeman
 @CoachKFree
 Congratulations Coach Calhoun and your naming at St. Joe's Gymnasium! #UConn #BigEast #Legend

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