

Research Roundup - Brain Cancer Treatment Breakthroughs, Depression and Aging

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT AND YALE UNIVERSITY TEAM MAKES STRIDES IN BRAIN CANCER TREATMENT

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Researchers at the University of Connecticut and Yale University have made significant progress in the treatment of glioblastoma, a particularly lethal and aggressive form of brain cancer.

A new treatment system targets oncogenic microRNAs, referred to more commonly as oncomiRs. These small, shorter strands of RNA not only play a critical role in gene expression, but are also overexpressed in many forms of cancer.

Many forms of modern cancer treatment target miR-21, an oncomiR that displays irregularly high expression in a variety of tumor types, including breast cancer, ovarian cancer and lung cancer, according to Science Direct.

According to 2016 research on microRNA expression published in the National Library of Medicine, hundreds of microRNAs had been identified for their role in the progression of breast cancer, with regulatory modules of microRNA and messenger RNA

contributing heavily to the biological processes that drive cancerous development.

The team from the University of Connecticut and Yale University not only targeted miR-21 but also miR-10b, another prominent oncomiR connected to the development of cancers and progressive diseases when dysregulated.

Test mice received a treatment that attached synthesized peptide nucleic acids to miR-10 and miR-21 oncomiRs. The targeting of two oncomiRs instead of one was a relatively unique strategy, but a two-pronged approach succeeded in extending the lifespan of test mice with cancerous cells. On a human level, targeting of multiple oncomiRs could help personalize successful treatments for certain patients, depending on the makeup of one's tumor.

Yale professor Mark Saltzman and UConn professor Raman Bahal, interviewed in UConn Today, were both optimistic about further application of the group's research. "These results are the best I've ever seen in this sort of aggressive brain tumor," remarked Saltzman.



The collaborative effort between researchers from the University of Connecticut and from Yale University has been targeting microRNAs, a type of RNA that is overexpressed in several forms of cancer.

PHOTOGRAPH BY NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE ON UNSPLASH

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT-LED TEAM UNCOVERS ACCELERATED AGING IN DEPRESSED ADULTS

A team of researchers led by University of Connecticut School of Medicine student Emma Mastrobattista and associate professor Breno S. Diniz have uncovered irregularly aging mitochondria in depressed adults over 70, which contribute to decreased energy and rapid biological aging.

Mitochondria not only power our cells but our entire bodies. This means that when mitochondrial function decreases, either through poorly functioning protein production or by the aging of the mitochondria itself, energy, strength and mood will decline as well.

The research team has not directly experimented yet with reversing aging in the mitochondria, but the study conducted, the largest of its type, provides a clear link between major depression and accelerated aging, not just in the mitochondria but in cells throughout the body.

According to a 2010 publication in the National Library of Medicine, individuals suffering from depression will

also suffer from an increased likelihood to contract various diseases of aging, such as dementia, metabolic syndrome and diseases associated with the cardiovascular system.

Research in Science Direct on stress-induced biological aging has similar findings.

"Stressful life experiences, when occurring repeatedly or over a prolonged period, may accelerate the rate at which the body ages," the researchers conclude.

Interviewed in UConn Today, Diniz corroborates this assessment of depression as contributing to accelerated aging in cells across the body.

"We have seen it in immune cells, in glial cells... in adipose tissue," Diniz explains.

The University of Connecticut-led study and others like it on the impact of depression furthers a re-conceptualization of depression as not just a series of feelings or even solely a mental illness. Major depression is a disease that grips not just our minds but our entire bodies.



University of Connecticut researchers found major links between depression and risk of contracting age-related ailments, including dementia, metabolic syndrome, and cardiovascular diseases.

PHOTOGRAPH BY KAT SMITH ON PEXELS



News

Don't feed the bears! But birds OK, new Tahoe research shows

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Don't feed the bears!

Wildlife biologists and forest rangers have preached the mantra for nearly a century at national parks like Yellowstone and Yosemite, and for decades in areas where urban development increasingly invaded native wildlife habitat.

But don't feed the birds? That may be a different story — at least for one bird species at Lake Tahoe.

Snowshoe and cross-country ski enthusiasts routinely feed the tiny mountain chickadees high above the north shore of the alpine lake on the California-Nevada border. The black-capped birds of Chickadee Ridge will even perch on extended hands to snatch offered seeds.

New research from University of Nevada scientists found that supplementing the chickadees' natural food sources with food provided in feeders or by hand did not negatively impact them, as long as proper food is used and certain rules are followed.

"It's a wonderful experience when the birds fly around and land on your hand to grab food. We call it 'becoming a Disney princess,'" said Benjamin Sonnenberg, a biologist/behavioral ecologist who co-authored the six-year study.

But he also recognized "there's always the question of when it is appropriate or not appropriate to feed birds in the wild."

State wildlife officials said this week they generally frown on feeding wildlife. But Nevada Department of Wildlife spokeswoman Ashley Sanchez acknowledged concerns about potential harm are based on speculation, not scientific data.

The latest research project under the wings of Professor Vladimir Pravosudov's Chickadee Cognition Lab established feeders in the Forest Service's Mount Rose Wilderness and tracked populations of mountain chickadees at two elevations — both those that did and didn't visit feeders.

"If we saw increases in the population size or decreases in the population size, that could mean we were hurting the animals by feeding them," co-author Joseph Welkin said. "Our study shows that feeding these mountain chickadees in the wild during the winter has no effect on their population dynamics."

Sonnenberg said he understood concerns about supple-



This photo provided by the University of Nevada, Reno, shows University of Nevada, Reno student Michelle Werdann feeds a wild Mountain Chickadee pine nuts at Chickadee Ridge in Mount Rose Meadows, Nevada, Friday, Jan. 6, 2023.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JENNIFER KENT, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO/AP

menting food for wild creatures at Tahoe, where bears attracted to garbage get into trouble that sometimes turns fatal, and not for humans. The bears may ultimately be killed because they no longer fear people. He grew up in Bozeman, Montana, and has fond memories of grizzly and black bears at Yellowstone National Park where he learned at an early age "not to intentionally or to accidentally feed them."

"Feeding wildlife is context-specific and comes with nuance," he said.

Bear-human conflicts were extremely rare at Tahoe when Ranger Smith started battling Yogi and Boo-Boo over "pic-a-nic" baskets at fictional Jellystone Park in the popular cartoon that debuted in 1960. But between 1960 and 1980 the human population around Lake Tahoe exploded from 10,000 to 50,000 — 90,000 in the summer. Peak days now approach 300,000 visitors.

The growth spurred more development encroaching on native bear habitat, which led some so-called "garbage

bears" to become dependent on unsecured trash for food. In a few cases, wildlife officials have blamed resulting bear deaths on north Tahoe residents feeding bears in their backyards.

"Should you feed the bears? Of course not," Sonnenberg said. "But given the millions of people that are feeding birds around the world, understanding the impact of this food on wild populations is important, especially in a changing world."

Mountain chickadees are of particular interest because they're among the few avian species that hunker down for the cold Sierra winters instead of migrating to a warmer climate. They stash away tens of thousands of food items every fall then return to the hidden treasure throughout the winter to survive.

They're "prolific scatter hoarders and rely on specialized spatial memory abilities to recover cached food from their environment during harsh winter months," according to the findings published last month in the journal *Ornithology*.

"When they come to your hand and grab a food item," Sonnenberg said, "if they fly away into the woods and you can't see them anymore, they are likely storing that food for later."

Their visits to feeders instead of tapping their own stash, the study said, "may be partially driven by the seemingly compulsive-like nature of caching behavior, as chickadees will cache available resources until they are depleted."

The project included scientists from Canada's University of Western Ontario's Department of Psychology, Kennesaw State University's Department of Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology in Georgia and the University of Oklahoma's Biological Survey.

Sanchez said the Nevada Department of Wildlife's concerns include observations the chickadees are exhibiting a level of tameness around potential predators — humans — which could make them more susceptible to other predators in nature.

She also said in an email the number of people hand-feeding the birds at Chickadee Ridge has increased significantly in recent years, "which means the odds that somebody will feed them in-appropriate food items or handle them inappropriately has also increased."

Sonnenberg added in an email the researchers are "not directly advocating for or against the feeding of chickadees at Chickadee Ridge."

But "what our results do show is that this extra food does not cause chickadee populations in the Sierra Nevada to boom (increase to densities that could be harmful) or bust (decrease dramatically due to harmful effects)," he wrote.

Anyone feeding the birds should only provide food similar to what is found in their natural environment such as unsalted pine nuts or black-oil sunflower seeds, never bread or other human food, he said.

"And always be respectful of the animal," Sonnenberg said. "Behave like you're in their house and you're visiting them."

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Florida backs off athlete menstrual data, but debate lingers

(AP) — Florida has backed off its effort to force athletes to give their high schools information about their menstrual cycles after the debate sparked opposition nationwide, and now, the state is facing questions about whether the plan was based on politics or policy.

Doctors often ask students about their periods to figure out whether they are healthy enough to compete. But the issue exploded when the Florida High School Athletic Association proposed using a form that called for providing that information directly to schools, rather than just to health providers.

Critics questioned whether there were political motives as Republican Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis weighs a run for the presidency. Opposition to abortion and transgender female athletes are core GOP tenants, and DeSantis has signed bills on both issues.

Amid the backlash, the association voted Thursday to recommend that most personal information revealed on medical history forms stay at the doctor's office and not be stored at school. The new form, though, was changed to ask athletes their sex assigned at birth, rather than just their sex.

Here is a guide on the conflict, what experts have to say about it and the lack of data on what other states have been asking families to share.



Two players vie for the ball during the first quarter of an FHSAA Class 4A state semifinal girls high school basketball game in Lakeland, Fla., on Feb. 28, 2018. Questions about female athletes' menstrual history will no longer appear on the medical forms that Florida high school students have to fill out before participating in sports, though the new form will still ask athletes for their sex assigned at birth, rather than just their sex.

PHOTOGRAPH BY OCTAVIO JONES, TAMPA BAY TIMES/AP

calling the requirement “highly invasive” and American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten decry-

necologist in Miami, noting that irregular periods are commonplace among young teens.

WHY DID THE COMMITTEE WANT THE CHANGES?

The association's medical advisory committee said it recommended making menstrual histories mandatory based on guidance from groups like the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The pediatrician group, though, insisted that they never intended for information about menstrual histories to be provided to schools. “They're not following our guidance,” said Dr. Rebecca Carl, the chair-elect of the AAP's Council on Sports Medicine & Fitness.

Gerdes didn't immediately respond to emails from The Associated Press asking why the association had misstated the medical group's guidance.

WHAT DOES THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY RECOMMEND?

The American Academy of Pediatrics worked with sports organizations to come up with a set of forms that doctors could use to evaluate would-be athletes, said Carl, also a professor of pediatrics at Northwestern University in Chicago.

One form, designed to be filled out by athletes and their families, inquires about things like drug use, eating disorders, mental health and menstrual histories. Period questions are important because heavy exercise can make menstruation stop temporarily, lowering estrogen levels and increasing the risk of broken bones, Carl said.

But only a medical eligibility form — with no information on menstrual histories — is intended to be provided to a school or sports organization, and it states that clearly. That form includes a spot for the doctor to include information about allergies, medications and whether the student is healthy enough to compete.

There are 26 states that use the latest version of the pediatrician group's forms. Another 23 states and the District of

Columbia use a variation of it. Only one state, New Hampshire, does not have a stated preferred form, said Andrea Smith, a nursing professor at Auburn University, who researched which forms states use as part of a study on cardiac risks in athletes.

The National Federation of State High School Associations recommends that each state has an evaluation process, but doesn't have details on what has been put in practice.

Carl, the pediatrician, said that there is variation.

“But,” she stressed, “they really should only be asking for this medical eligibility form. The AAP has been very clear and consistent on this.”

WHAT IS THE CONCERN ABOUT PRIVACY?

Even making menstrual history questions optional, as they were in the earlier form, raised alarms this fall. The Palm Beach County School District asked the association to ditch the menstruation questions altogether because it was offering a digital option for submitting the forms. In the past, the district maintained the records only in paper form.

“Our concern is really that this is the information for health care providers,” Carl said. “So where does it go when it goes to the schools? I mean, it could go to a third party to store it online. It could go into a filing cabinet that's not protected adequately.”

That was exactly the concern the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists expressed in a statement, noting the information supplied to schools isn't subject to HIPAA, the federal privacy rules that govern the health care industry.

Simms-Cendan, a fellow with ACOG, said she spends lots of time instructing adolescents to even be careful about which period-tracking apps they use to ensure their data stays private.

“There are really unscrupulous people out there,” she said.



The goalkeeper guards the net as girls take part in the first day of tryouts for the Fort Walton Beach High School girls' soccer team in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., on Oct. 10, 2012. The Florida High School Athletic Association axed the questions on Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023, after listening to a flood of complaints contained in letters read aloud during an emergency meeting of the board.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DEVON RAVINE, NORTHWEST FLORIDA DAILY NEWS/AP FILE

WHAT CHANGES WERE PROPOSED?

The proposed revisions to the form included four mandatory questions about menstruation: if the student has ever had a period, the age they had their first period, the date of their most recent period and how many periods they've had in the past year.

An earlier version had asked questions about periods, too, but answering them was optional.

WHO WAS BEHIND THE PUSHBACK?

Anger erupted over the proposal, with Democratic state lawmakers sending a letter

ing it as “dystopian” in a tweet.

Hundreds also went online to sign a Change.org petition called, “Privacy. Period!” Petition writer Jenn Meale Poggie said her 16-year-old, soccer-playing daughter was moved almost to the point of tears when she heard about the proposal.

“That,” Poggie said, “is how profound these young girls are emotionally affected by this type of policy.”

Questions about transgender athletes and abortion added to the debate.

“If this is being used to screen for risk for abortion or transgender, it's a really misguided screen,” said Dr. Judith Simms-Cendan, a pediatric-adolescent gy-

DeSantis thrust himself into the national cultural debate over transgender rights in 2021 when he signed a bill restricting participation in girls sports in public schools to athletes identified as female at birth. He also signed into law last year a ban on abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

The association's spokesperson has said the proposed changes were not in response to concerns about transgender athletes competing in women's sports, as some social media users have said. And association president John Gerdes stressed that neither the governor nor politics played a role in the discussions.

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'LEGEND' UNDERSTATES THE INCREDIBLE LIFE OF BILL RUSSELL

by Maxim Soroka

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RATING: 5/5

Last week Netflix released "Bill Russell: Legend," a two-part documentary on one of the most influential American athletes and civil rights activists in history. This presentation chronicles the amazing life and career of Bill Russell, a hall of fame-inducted center for the Boston Celtics.

With back-to-back NCAA championships, five NBA MVP awards, 11 cumulative NBA championships and the Presidential Medal of Freedom to his name, Bill Russell was one of the most extraordinary people to ever live.

The documentary begins with the end sadly noting that Russell passed away this past year on July 31, 2022. Many fans paid their respects by leaving mementos and flowers at the statue of the iconic player in Boston which was erected in 2013. The city continues to commemorate this legendary player by retiring his jersey number, 6, and making it part of their court for every home game with a darker green six in the middle of the Celtic paint.

Before his passing Russell auctioned off many different forms of memorabilia which raised \$5.1 million which he donated to his charity, MENTOR, which helps afford equal opportunities for youth programs, as well as the Boston Celtics United for Social Justice.

The documentary covers everything in Russell's life starting off with his early youth in Louisiana. His father, Charles Russell, was only one generation removed from slavery and knew firsthand the atrocities the Black community continued to face in the civil rights era. He swore that no one would ever treat him or any of his children like a slave, instilling that perspective within Russell from a very young age. He moved the family from Louisiana to Oakland, California for better work opportunities and to remove them from the bitter hatred

and racism that ran rampant in the south.

Russell also had an extremely close relationship with his mother, Katie Russell, who emphasized the importance of education from a very young age. Russell was only eight years old when the family moved to Oakland and one of the first things his mother ensured he had was a library card.

Libraries weren't open to the Black community in Louisiana so Katie Russell made sure to take advantage of that benefit upon their relocation. Russell spent much of his adolescence playing basketball, going to school and enthralled himself with the works of Leonardo da Vinci at the library in his free time. A profound event that molded Russell into the individual he became was the loss of his mother due to illness at the age of 12.

The documentary does an excellent job balancing the amazing feats of Russell's professional basketball career with the important duties he carried out as a civil rights activist. It definitely doesn't reinvent the genre with the standard mix of family and friend interviews spliced with footage of Russell's playing capability and voiceovers accompanying certain scenes. The talented actor Jeffrey Wright lends his vocals for some brief narration and in place of Russell's voice for personal excerpts. Corey Stoll also carries some of the narration duties for the well-edited documentary.

The film also explored Russell's relationship with the manager of the Celtics, Red Auerbach, renowned for his killer negotiation mentality. Auerbach had Russell coined as a favorite and was going to make him a Celtic by any means necessary.

Once he was drafted Auerbach acclimated the young Russell by reminding him that his responsibility was to help the team win

more games not to focus on his personal game-time statistics. This lesson proved to be even more helpful when Russell routinely played against his rival Wilt Chamberlain later in his career.

The first half of the documentary concludes about halfway through Russell's career once he has helped the Celtics win six championships over seven seasons taking place from 1957 to 1963.

Russell's athletic prowess is not the only thing that is flaunted in this film. After starting his own family in Reading, Massachusetts, Russell still had to deal with severe hate and racism on a daily basis, even from Boston fans. During his career he led a march from Roxbury to Boston Commons in protest of the treatment of Black Americans and collaborated with the prolific leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Russell sat front row at King's famous 'I Have a Dream' speech in Washington after politely declining to stand on stage as to not take credit for any of the efforts used to organize the protest. He also held an interracial basketball clinic in Jackson, Mississippi, one of the most dangerous towns during this era, putting it on despite numerous death threats.

Knowing many of the achievements Russell had achieved in his life I figured I'd enjoy this documentary going in, but was still impressed by the visual storytelling that carries you through this figure's life. If you are a Boston sports fan I highly recommend the watch, but there is also so much more to it than just basketball accolades. I would find it difficult for anyone to not find something they can enjoy about learning from this historical man's life.



ILLUSTRATION BY KAITLYN TRAN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

'Your Place or Mine' brings rom-com legends back together

by Xander Serrano

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Ashton Kutcher and Reese Witherspoon teamed up for the first time since 2006 to star in Netflix's "Your Place or Mine." The film is about two long-distance best friends who change each other's lives while Debbie decides to pursue her dreams and Peter takes care of her teenage son for a week.

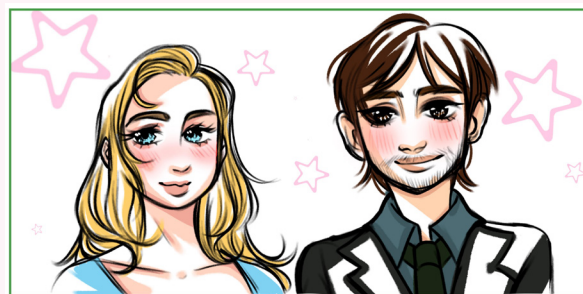
Peter, played by Kutcher, is a bachelor living in New York in an apartment that probably goes for a million dollars in the real world. Debbie, played by Witherspoon is a single mother living in Los Angeles dedicated to taking care of her teenage son Jack.

Peter and Debbie have been friends for 20 years as they call each other every day for 30 minutes to check in on one another. The concept reminded me of the film "Her." While it is a totally different film, with a completely different story, the premise is two characters talking on the phone together, unable to see each other's faces. Similarly, Witherspoon and Kutcher don't share the screen until the last scene of the movie.

bodying the same characters they have played in past romantic comedies, it gives us hope that two big movie stars can share the screen and convince the audience they can actually be together.

Steve Zahn adds to the comedic element in the film playing the character Zen, a gardener who has worked for free in Debbie's garden for a few years now. While I wished he had a stronger role and more scenes with Kutcher, Zahn does not disappoint every time the camera goes on him. For those who don't know, Zahn has been in the movie business for years, recently starring in the first season of HBO's "The White Lotus."

Cinematographer Florian Ballhaus shot the film. This is my first time hearing of him, but the cinematography in this film gave it an early to mid 2000s rom-com look. The incorporation of 80s hits music in the film adds onto its great energy. It was a break from adding in cheesy modern pop that most new films use nowadays.



This premise provides warmth and heart to the movie. Both characters show how much they look forward to hearing each other's voice by their expression on their faces as they hang on to every word the other says. The audience roots for Debbie and Peter to get together from the beginning until Jesse Williams' character, Theo, comes into the picture smitten with Debbie.

"Your Place or Mine" follows the format of your typical rom-com, but it's refreshing to see such big stars. Even though Kutcher and Witherspoon are essentially em-

"Your Place or Mine" has a lot of heart in it and is one of the better rom-coms Netflix has released. Wesley Kimmel who plays Jack, adds to the film's chemistry by playing the shy lost teenage kid everyone roots for and wants to see fit in and be happy. Kimmel and Kutcher share the screen in some genuine scenes that really felt like a role model helping someone who admires them. It is light-hearted and there are no lulls in the story.

"Your Place or Mine" is streaming on Netflix now, go check it out.

RATING: 4/5

ILLUSTRATION BY ZAIRE DIAZ, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UConn's Formula SAE team is our very own slice of F1

by Raymond Ollivierre

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One of our college's best-kept secrets is just 15 minutes away from UConn's main campus in a depot building. The UConn Formula Society of Automotive Engineers team meets three days a week to design, fabricate and assemble their own Formula SAE racecar. Formula SAE is a collegiate version of Formula 1-3 and challenges students to develop a racecar within a nine-month time frame and then take it out to compete at the Michigan International Speedway. For fans of engineering, racing or marketing, this might be one of UConn's best clubs.

I recently sat down with Abhi manyu Sukumaran, an eighth-semester mechanical engineering major and a driver who works with sponsors to procure funding or manufac-

turing for the students.

"The club is composed of roughly 120 due paying members and 40 sponsors who collaborate with each other. While a lot of our students are mechanical engineering students, all majors are welcome and encouraged to participate," Sukumaran said.

After the unveiling of the car and livery in late March, the team will continue to test the car until the competition in mid-May, where 40 students will travel to Brooklyn, Michigan, to compete for a week.

The main events that take place over the week include autocross, endurance, figure eight and drag racing. These events are designed to test the reliability and performance of the car under high and low-speed conditions. Each event placement is awarded using a point system that factors in the documentation on various aspects of the car like schematics and cost proposing. There's no cap on the budget for Formula SAE, but more money

doesn't always mean a better car.

The amazing thing about Formula SAE is that it takes place all year round but most of the work is done by December. This group of students works tirelessly to improve on every iteration of the car and using software such as Siemens NX, they're able to do aerodynamic and rigidity testing all on the computer. Siemens is actually one of the main sponsors of the team, so the software that would normally cost \$40,000 is given for free instead.

The scope of the building facility is far larger than what one would expect for a student-run club. Not only does the facility include a full machining shop for all the student's needs, they actually create carbon fiber parts in-house. Carbon fiber is known for its lightweight yet rigid structure and is one of the most expensive customizations you can add to any car. This same material makes up the side panels of the car along with the wing and nose cone.

Powering the car is a Yamaha

R6 motorcycle engine that was rigorously tested in the largest water-based dyno I've ever seen. That same engine is paired with the stock transmission mated to a floppy paddle gear system that allows the driver to shift with two paddles behind the steering wheel. The four chosen drivers are also trained on a simulation rig set up in the cockpit of an older model to help them work on their driving skills.

Luka Ligouri, another eighth-semester mechanical engineering student, is one of the drivers for the team and sheds some light on how the events work:

"For every main event, there are two drivers so I drive skidpad and acceleration, and then another driver drives the same events on our team. But a driver can only drive two events to avoid teams from abusing their best driver and also to prevent the driver from getting fatigued."

This system is not unlike other sports competitions that seek to allow a wider variety of com-

petitors to participate instead of using the same people. What makes this even more impressive is that the Formula SAE car can top out at 80 miles per hour; when you're sitting less than six inches off the ground it takes nerves of steel to drive something like that.

There's far too much for me to cover in one article and this is only scratching the surface of how complex the process gets. For a person who's a fan of cars or racing, this is like being a kid in a candy shop. Everywhere you look there's something going on and the community surrounding this team is truly impressive. Student involvement varies, but whilst I was there, there were no less than 40 students. If it's been your dream to be a part of a racing team, Formula SAE can bring that to reality.

For information on how to get involved go to: <https://www.uconnformulasae.com/>

“Somebody I Used to Know” is the rom-com equivalent of flat soda

by Raymond Ollivierre
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Fresh out of Amazon’s movie studio comes this Valentine’s Day’s latest small-budget rom-com. Starring Allison Brie and Jay Ellis, “Somebody I Used to Know” sees our main character, Ally, pine after a decade-old ex to get back together. Despite having a pretty well-assembled cast of actors, this comedy of errors becomes a trainwreck of guilty pleasures.

Ally is an overworked Hollywood executive who returns home after having her reality TV show canceled. Following a quick flight back to her hometown in the middle of Washington, she reconnects with her old boyfriend Sean, who’s now getting engaged. After an exciting night galivanting around town, she kisses him in an attempt to reconnect the spark she lost all those years ago. Unfortunately, her attempt at sex fails and she’s sent home rejected.

Ally’s strong type-A personality works against her repeatedly throughout the film as she constantly feels the need to stick her nose in everyone’s business. Her main method of success comes from her ability to manipulate others by forcing them to open up about their biggest insecurities. While this worked well on the cast of her reality TV show, her constant attempt to use this on people she cares about is borderline sociopathic.

The writing in the movie is pretty hit or miss, with some scenes feeling a lot more chaotic than others. It follows the same sort of basic template as most Disney channel original movies, with the two main female characters pitting themselves against each other. However, Disney presents this idea for younger audiences, while “Somebody I Used to Know” takes almost every chance it gets to interject a sex joke. Done cleverly, it’s like a perfectly executed double-

hand spring at gymnastics practice but here, it’s closer to landing your crotch on a balance beam.

Danny Pudi makes an appearance as Benny to play the “I’m not sure this is a good idea” best man to both Sean and Ally. I’m not saying this is pandering to “Community” fans, but I’d be lying if I said it wasn’t obvious. Despite his best efforts – rather pathetically – Benny is unable to convince Ally to leave the wedding alone after Sean’s mother

JoJo decides to make her the main videographer.

What’s a girl to do when her ex-boyfriend from 10 years ago is getting married to a woman he’s known for six months instead of sleeping with her upon their reunion? Sabotage his entire wedding apparently. Instead of focusing on new and uncovered territory, the writers were content to return to basics under a more modern lens. The movie acknowledges this in a scene where Cas-

sidy, Sean’s fiancée, asks Ally if she’s going to recreate the plot of “My Best Friend’s Wedding.” Ally answers no, then immediately plans to make the wedding miserable by inviting Cassidy’s estranged family.

Ally is vindictive, awkward and irresponsible. She’s a hard character to root for, a terrible friend and an unsympathetic daughter. But those aren’t completely irredeemable qualities, it’s rather that her character arc is uninspiring and bland. We don’t see any major changes in her behavior throughout the movie and instead are left wondering if she actually learned anything.

Nothing about this story stands out. The writing sounds like a conversation at a college dining hall table, the cinematography is barebones and the soundtrack is pretty underwhelming. But as a comedy, it redeems itself only through visual gags and cringeworthy moments – although not on purpose.

The formula for a good romantic comedy isn’t apparent, but mostly because very rarely does anyone try and make a good romance movie. It’s a genre swimming with mediocrity, and instead of director Dave Franco drawing inspiration from the greats like “Clueless” or “When Harry Met Sally,” he creates the least common denominator of comedy movies instead. Good enough to hold your attention with a partner, but dull enough that you’ll forget it in a week.



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

rating: 2.5/5

by Benjamin Lassy
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Sometimes history is full of curveballs. Out of the blue comes a farcical, improbable event that one would never imagine appearing in history books. And remarkably, this ordinary February week is full of such topics. So without further ado, let’s begin!

On Feb. 13, 1961, three daring prospectors were hard at work in Olancho, California, a rural western town with a dry, fairly harsh climate. The three were processing geodes, some of which contained beautiful – and quite lucrative – crystals. But when one prospector cracked open a geode, he found something entirely unexpected, something that breaks the history of humanity. Can you guess what he found?

Well if you guessed it was a 1920s era spark plug, you would be correct – and should become a historian! Encased in the hard rock deposit was a Champion spark plug, used in countless engines, most notably the classic Ford Model T.

Filled with speculation and excitement, the prospectors brought it to be inspected by a geologist; they knew they had a remarkable piece on their hands. Press and academia were shocked when geologists dated the geode over 500,000 years old. Imagine, the entire timeline of human history would be completely null and void! In fact, a date so far in the past was considered to be before the emergence of Homo sapiens.

Perhaps it was made in Atlantis? Or maybe it is proof of an ancient space faring race? Sadly, all of the proposed theories have one thing in common: zero sure proof research and evidence. The geologists who initially dated the rock would neither reveal their methods nor release a paper articulating their findings.

Once real researchers – spark plug collectors to be precise – had access to view the artifact, there was unanimous agreement that it was simply a spark plug encased in a corroded metal housing.

Sadly it was no proof of ancient aliens, though the hunt for that will no doubt continue. For the adventurous, you can lay your eyes on the artifact at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle.

Despite leaving conspiracy theories behind, the next event takes us to an equally improbable historical situation. On Feb. 16, 1249, a Dominican missionary – the same group that burned books last week – led an expedition to the Mongol Empire as an ambassador.

His name was Andrew de Longjumeau, a devout Christian missionary and political advisor to the Kingdom of France. After serving in several royal missions, such as the journey to the Byzantine Empire to receive a golden crown of thorns or the Papal expedition to the Mongols in 1245, Longjumeau proved himself capable of foreign diplomatic action.

Accompanied by a group of other Dominicans and clerks, the party was to head east and meet

with Guyuk Khan, the Mongol leader who potentially supported an alliance with France to fight the rising Islamic powers of the Middle East. And thus, the group set off with gifts and a letter from the King of France for the Khan, traveling for over a year until they finally reached the vast Mongol capital, Karakorum, thousands of miles away from France.

But alas, the group was not greeted with open arms. Picture the reaction of Longjumeau and his companions who struggled for years on the road, only to find that the amiable Khan they sought was dead. He had been killed by poisoning not long before their arrival by a rival Khan. The Mongols sent the party back with threats and an insulting letter to the King.

However, along the way Longjumeau saw “wagon churches” amongst the caravans of the Khanate, a sign of the conversion of some Mongols to Christianity – perhaps sparked

by his own mission years prior. Additionally, he noted several customs of the Tatar and Mongol traditions, such as the complexities of gift-giving, which denoted submission. Clearly there was a complex culture propelling the empire.

Unfortunately, Mongols are often described as a purely nomadic, pillaging culture. Their bloody conquests of Europe and Asia are often the centerpiece of their history, while the intricacies of their court processes and diplomatic traditions are sidelined. Longjumeau’s observations highlight the importance of valuing broader perspectives on a hugely influential culture and empire.

Thankfully after that long journey, we can finish up the week with an event which takes place not too far from home: On Feb. 17, 1863, the Confederate Submarine H.L. Hunley saw its first – and last – use in service. Named after its inventor, Horace Lawson Hunley, the Hunley was the first

submarine in history to sink an enemy vessel.

Let’s face it, the last thing that comes to mind when thinking about the American Civil War are submarines. In a time when the first iron-clads fought on sea and were revolutionary (even though they were just wooden ships with some metal strapped on), the submarine wouldn’t be developed for a few more centuries, right?

Wrong. Submarines captivated the minds of U.S. naval strategists and the Civil War only provided more funding for their crazy prototypes; so by the outbreak of war, the Confederate Hunley and its Northern counterpart, USS Alligator, were to be deployed. Unfortunately, it may have been better if the submarines had stayed on the drawing board.

Imagine this: You and seven others are shoved in a metal trash bin, constantly bashing your heads on the sharp wood and metal surfaces which enclose you. Next, you start cranking at the gear shaft which powers the submarine. Sweat and smells fumigate into the damp, dark vessel. You hardly know where you’re going and are armed with one torpedo at the head of the ship – if that misses your target, it is a sure defeat.

On the evening of the 17th, the Hunley made its move. The USS Housatonic was partaking in a blockade of Charleston, South Carolina, which needed to be broken before the city could be resupplied. The crew of the submarine approached the Housatonic and set off the torpedo. It was a direct hit. However, while the Housatonic sank, so too did the Hunley.

The submarine never returned that night, and the exact cause of the sinking still remains highly debated, as no clear damage was done to the vessel and no emergency procedures were employed by the crew. The Hunley would remain lost until its rediscovery in 1970 and was raised in 2000. It now has a dedicated museum.

And that concludes This Week in History. Hopefully these events raise some interesting thoughts! I’ll see you next week!



LOGO BY KAITLYN TRAN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

This Week In History: Feb. 12 - Feb. 18

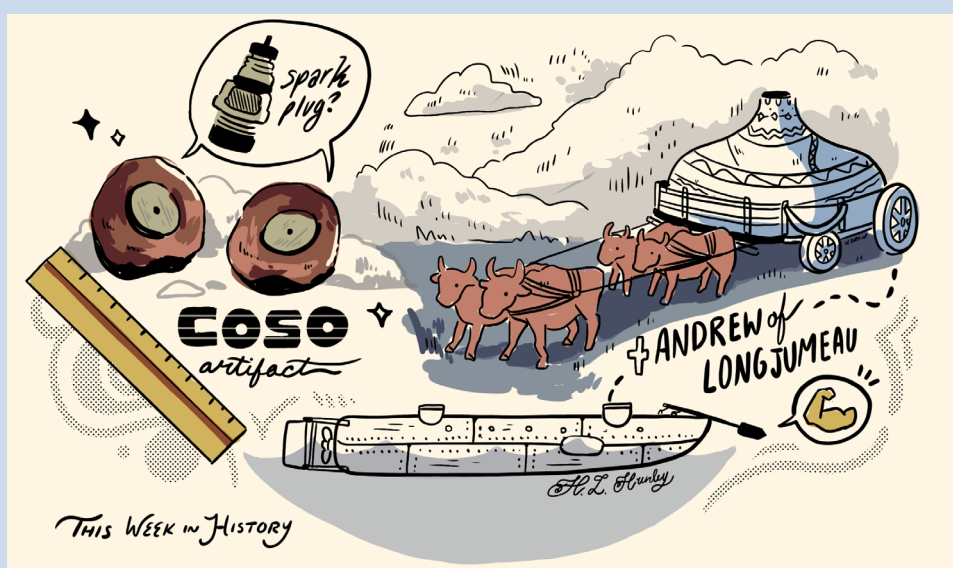


ILLUSTRATION BY KAITLYN TRAN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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JANET PRITCHARD'S 'MORE THAN SCENERY' CAPTURES THE BEAUTY AND HISTORY OF YELLOWSTONE PARK

by Maxim Soroka

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On Thursday evening, the Benton Museum hosted a launch party celebrating the release of UConn Fine Arts professor Janet Pritchard's book, "More than Scenery: Yellowstone, An American Love Story." The event was held as part of the museum's "Seeing Truth" exhibition programming.

To start off, Pritchard said a few words about her project, before the floor opened up for some light discussion. There was a small table set up for the purchase and viewing of Pritchard's book. Nearby, refreshing beverages and hors d'oeuvres were delicately set up for guests.

The book itself was formatted in a near picture book style, Pritchard's photographs being the focal point of her work. Although the book is far from a travel guide, many of the photos of nature and

wildlife were compelling for a visit to Yellowstone National Park. One shot depicted a herd of bison grazing next to the road, which was taken from a bus window. The piece conveys the size and majesty of these mighty creatures, who stand six feet tall at the shoulder and can weigh up to 2,000 pounds.

The pictures were insistent on capturing the natural beauty of the park. A vast amount of scenic photographs illustrate the speechless landscapes of Yellowstone, filled with powerful waterfalls and stern mountain ranges that slope into gentle valleys.

Many of her photographs are coupled with influential quotes from other authors or small informational anecdotes written by Pritchard. Although many of the images were of the incredible terrain of the park, some also documented Pritchard's inspiration for the project, including one of a collection of vintage

postcards by photographer F. Jay Haynes.

In an interview, Pritchard expanded on her photograph of Gardner River, located near the Yellowstone entrance in Gardiner, Montana. When the river flooded last June, it destroyed parts of the road that bordered it, causing mass evacuations and prolonged closures. However, the chances of repairing the path are slim to none.

"It's not 100% — but it's leaning heavily that way and it'll probably happen — they are not going to build the canyon road again because they know that flooding is going to happen again," Pritchard said. "500-year floods aren't 500-year floods anymore."

Pritchard also explained how much of Yellowstone's origin story is tied to the formation of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

Following the Hayden Expedition of 1871, photographer William Henry Jackson

and painter Thomas Moran gathered images and artwork of Yellowstone.

"[Moran] brought back watercolor sketches, Jackson brought back photographs, they took them to D.C. and they said, 'Here's proof of the stories we've been hearing. These things are really there and they're like nothing else we've ever seen,'" Pritchard said. "We need to protect this landscape."

Jay Cooke, the financier of the railroad, realized he had an ideal destination for his project. He created brochures promoting the newly discovered Yellowstone, printed with the slogan, "Alice's Adventures in the New Wonderland." The materials are photographed in Pritchard's book.

"500-year floods aren't 500-year floods anymore."

JANET PRITCHARD

REBECCA BLACK'S DEBUT ALBUM GAVE A GOOD REASON TO GET DOWN ON FRIDAY



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

RATING:
7.5/10

by Taevis Kolz
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For many, the name Rebecca Black sends shivers up their spine. Her hit, "Friday," was inescapable in 2011. It was an unrelenting force that assaulted the ears of retail workers and the general public alike. Twelve years after "Friday," the fates have bestowed upon the world "Let Her Burn," Rebecca Black's debut album. How does it stack up? Very well, actually.

To summarize, "Let Her Burn," is a massive improvement on all fronts. Black opts for a modern, sleek sound that can almost be described as hyper pop at some points.

For those who have been keeping up with her, this change is hardly a surprise. In 2021, she released a remix of "Friday" with bounce pioneer Big Freedia, electropop duo 3OH!3 and hyper pop artist Dorian Electra. Additionally, with her 2021 EP, "Rebecca Black Was Here," it was clear she was taking influence from artists such as Charli XCX.

"Let Her Burn" strikes a key balance between mainstream pop and the more out-there, futuristic stylings of hyper pop. Black also boasts a surprising amount of variety in sound design that can be found both across the album as a whole and even within single songs. Take the opening track, "Erase You," for example. Instrumentally sparse verses are separated by a percussive, breakbeat-filled chorus. Black's vocals are also smooth as silk, demonstrating what an improvement 12 years can make in the right hands.

Black's knack for writing extremely catchy hooks is being

used for the powers of good this time. The best showcase of this is "Sick," a song about seeing your ex and being upset that they're happy. Black's attitude is hilariously petty but relatable all the same. "I don't want you for myself / I don't wanna see you with somebody else," she sings on the first verse.

Rebecca Black reaches staggering levels of self-deprecation on this album. On "Destroy Me," which features industrial synths and jungle-like breakbeats, she reveals how fragile and easily damaged she is. On "Crumbs," she keeps going back to the same person despite how horrible they make her feel. Standout lyrics include, "At your worst, you're still my best" and "I get off on getting hurt."

On the raunchy "Doe Eyed," the contrast between its cute, sugary synths and vulgar, sexual lyrics is something to behold. The addition of Black's infectious vocal melodies makes this track an instant highlight.

Rebecca Black's persona becomes much more developed in the final three songs. On "Cry Hard Enough," she blames herself for staying with someone who cheated on her and ended up cheating again. This track also features a standout vocal performance. "Look At You" sets itself apart by being genuine and kind; Black has no ulterior motives. It's honestly refreshing for a pop song - especially one on this album - to feel so honest and pure.

The closing track, "Performer," revolves around the conflict of personal identity. Black sings about the vulnerability that comes with being true to yourself and the masks we wear around others. It also features a sudden transition to rock instrumentation that should not have worked as well as it did.

If anything, "Let Her Burn" left me wanting more. Despite a couple songs feeling a bit underdeveloped ("Misery Loves Company," "What Am I Gonna Do With You"), many

have strong concepts and smart ideas. Besides themes of self-deprecation and the usual pop topics centering around love, this album feels more like a collection of songs than a cohesive, front-to-back experience. Finally, Black seems like she is still finding a signature sound.

I sincerely hope we don't have to wait 12 more years for another full-length album from Rebecca Black. She has improved leaps and bounds in all aspects of her artistry, and I look forward to seeing how she continues to carve out her identity in the current pop landscape. Give this album a chance; if "Friday" was an evil, it was a necessary one.



Opinion

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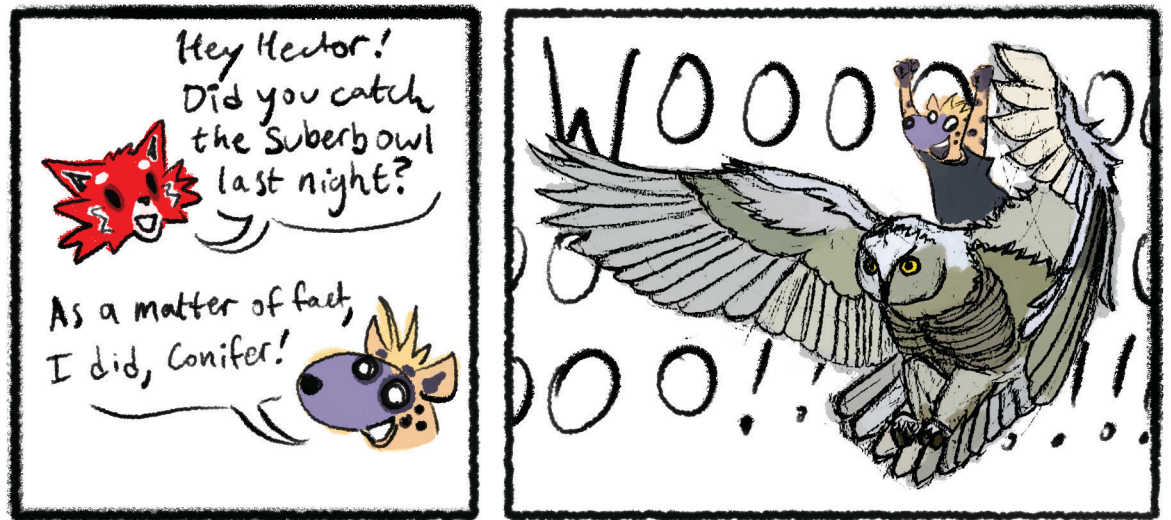
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COMIC BY STEVEN COLEMAN, ASSOCIATE ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

SLC'23

If Lionel Messi taking HGH isn't unfair, trans athletes should be left alone too



ILLUSTRATION AND LOGO BY KAITLYN TRAN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Sam Zelin**
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During the FIFA World Cup this November, I finally got into soccer (or football, whatever you want to call it). While there were many amazing performances during the tournament, it would be pretty hard to deny that Lionel Messi was the protagonist. From a shocking upset to open the tournament to winning a thriller against France for the championship, Messi and the Argentine side seemed to be following some sort of script. With all the praise and notoriety Messi has received throughout his career, (let's face it, I've known his name for over a decade despite just getting into the sport now) I decided to read up a bit on his life story, and I learned something very interesting.

According to Bleacher Report, Messi took Human Growth Hormone as a child to treat a growth hormone disorder he had. This treatment allowed him to grow taller than he would have naturally, as well as "help [him] deal with a variety of internal issues, such as pituitary function, skin and teeth problems, poor vision and lower immunity."

In conversations I've heard about whether Messi is the greatest soccer player of all-time, or if he deserves all of the accolades he has accumulated, this is not a prominent point used against him. More importantly, the sporting bodies that have governed his play have never tried to disallow him from competing.

Unfortunately, this is not the case with transgender athletes.

There are an unfortunately large number of attacks on trans athletes from the scholastic level to the Olympic one, and

one happens to be going on right now in the state of Connecticut.

District 47 Representative Doug Dubitsky has put forth H.B. 6213 for the 2023 session, which includes the following language:

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened: That title 10 of the general statutes be amended to prohibit student athletes who were born of the male sex from participating and competing in women's interscholastic athletic events."

A statement of position in the bill later

If FIFA, which governs a sport whose arguably greatest competitor ever is someone that underwent a hormone treatment to give him a more comfortable life, chooses to deny trans women that same courtesy, fairness is not the real reason why.

said that the reason for the amendment would be to "eliminate unfair competition in women's interscholastic sporting competition."

Fairness to cisgender female athletes is often something that comes into play when those who wish to limit trans athletes' rights to compete make their arguments. Whether discussing those who transition

medically, those who simply compete in a gender designation not aligned with the gender they were assigned at birth or both, and it's simply not an argument made in good faith.

If fairness in sport really was all this was about, Messi wouldn't be where he is today. Sure, the Connecticut example and his case aren't exactly the same, as one pertains to high school student athletes and one relates to the highest echelon of competition in the world, but the attacks on trans athletes extend all the way up the ladder.

According to a June 2022 Reuters article, FIFA (the governing body for international soccer) is reviewing its rules related to trans athlete participation following a move by the international swimming governing body, FINA, to restrict trans women from competition, opting to create a new category for them to compete in instead.

After the FINA rule change, trans women can only compete in international swimming if "they can establish to FINA's comfortable satisfaction that they have not experienced any part of male puberty beyond Tanner Stage 2 (of puberty) or before age 12, whichever is later."

If FIFA, which governs a sport whose arguably greatest competitor ever is someone that underwent a hormone treatment to give him a more comfortable life, chooses to deny trans women that same courtesy, fairness is not the real reason why.

In the end, when someone makes a decision that will allow them to live a life that they are comfortable living, no matter how they identify, they should not be penalized. In the case of trans athletes, those who aim to punish them make it very clear that transphobia is their motivation, and not athletic fairness. Dubitsky's bill is a perfect example — he did not bother to use language respectful of trans identity, because he clearly doesn't care.

Opinion StudyBreak

Photo of the Day | Lights on the lake



The planetarium's night light is reflected on Swan Lake on Feb. 12, 2023. After a series of warmer weather, the ice on Swan Lake has mostly melted away.
PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sylvia, what are you doing for Valentine's Day? I'm struggling with my gift for Vy.

Well, they *are* nice rings...

You know, I feel like there's a lesson in here somewhere.

I guess she does wear a lot of jewelry...

I just got Sek-rion something silly, you know. He probably forgot the date anyway.

The delivery is more important than the product, I've found.

Ha ha! I love Christmas!

CONNOR & PEPPER #301
"VALENTINE" #1-13

COMIC BY CONNOR RICKERMANN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

MMM... THIS CHUPACRISTA TASTES SO GOOD!

YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY EATING THAT RIGHT? LOL!

WHAT? LOL-NO!...

LEMON FLAVOR!

SUDDEN CRAVING

KRISTA 2/19/23

COMIC BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

ACROSS

- 1 Large file
- 5 Bumpkin
- 9 Well-connected co.?
- 12 Chap
- 13 Hebrew for "spring"
- 14 Nodded discreetly, maybe
- 16 Beset
- 18 Rihanna album with the hit single "Work"
- 19 Book full of legends?
- 20 Caper
- 21 Australian member of the music supergroup LSD
- 22 Info needed to schedule a book tour, say
- 24 "Welp"
- 29 Singer Morissette
- 30 Sweet-talk, say
- 31 Bit of hardware
- 34 Broods
- 35 Racket
- 36 Bake, as eggs
- 37 Vegetable with golden and Chioggia varieties
- 38 Jupiter, to Saturn
- 39 "Change Sings: A Children's Anthem" author Gorman
- 40 Not taking a back seat
- 43 Hardest to reach, maybe
- 45 "LOL, I can't even"
- 46 Still on the market, in a way
- 47 Accessory to pair with an eye patch, maybe
- 53 Bridges in Hollywood
- 54 Thread-weaving aid?
- 55 Gives in to the munchies
- 56 "The ___ U Give": Angie Thomas novel
- 57 Cristiano Ronaldo's jersey number
- 58 Finch family creator
- 59 Couple
- 60 ___ leches cake

DOWN

- 1 City near Tahoe
- 2 "The West Wing" Emmy winner
- 3 Vehicle often steered with the feet
- 4 Hits the slopes with a chute
- 5 Go off on
- 6 Layer between the sclera and the retina
- 7 One in a cuddle
- 8 Night before
- 9 "Leave it to me!"
- 10 Going dark
- 11 ___ four
- 12 Abundance for a Chewbacca cosplayer
- 15 Some are fuzzy
- 17 Pens
- 20 Transfusion letters
- 23 GI hangout
- 24 Foot that's part of a meter
- 25 Blueberrylike fruit
- 26 China's weaker counterpart
- 27 What a 26-Down is designed for
- 28 Due (to)

By Rafael Musa 2/11/23

Friday's Puzzle Solved

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

©2023 Tribune Content Agency, LLC 2/11/23

32 Qurratulain Hyder's language

33 Kelly Marie who voices Raya in "Raya and the Last Dragon"

35 "Hey, be serious!"

36 Exhaustive analysis?

38 Member of the fam

39 Jazz pianist Jamal

41 Bindi, e.g.

42 In order

43 Lipstick container

44 Youngest Oscar winner

48 Bit

49 At all

50 Queen's realm

51 Helpful blackjack cards, maybe

52 Helpful blackjack card, maybe

54 High deg.

Softball: Huskies battle in first weekend tournament

by Noah Reed

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UConn softball participated in the Buzz Classic this past weekend, winning just one of its three games played. During this weekend, the Huskies took on Georgia Tech and the University of North Texas. In total, UConn was scheduled to play five games, but its matchups against the University of Illinois Chicago and Saint Francis were canceled due to rain. Here's how each game they were able to play went.

UConn started the season and weekend against the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets, winning a thrilling game in its first matchup. Freshman Hope Jenkins took the mound in her first collegiate start with her twin sister, Grace Jenkins, behind the plate at catcher. Hope helped her own cause with a sacrifice fly in the first to put the Huskies up one. Georgia Tech responded with three runs of their own in the second on a Madison Dobbins single and a Paige Vukadinovich triple to go up 3-1. UConn was able to put pressure on Georgia Tech in the fourth and took advantage. With two runners in scoring position, Savannah Ring singled, pushing a runner home to put the deficit to 3-2. Just a few batters later, catcher Grace Jenkins stepped to the plate with the bases loaded. In just her second collegiate at-bat, she took the 0-1 pitch to left field for a grand slam, putting the Huskies up 6-3. Despite the Yellow Jackets scoring a few runs late, UConn was able to hold onto a tight 6-5 victory, its first of the season. Hope Jenkins picked up her first win with four strikeouts and just two earned runs in five innings pitched.

Game two versus Georgia Tech was more of a pitching duel. UConn's Payton Kinney and Georgia Tech's Blake Neleman faced off in a rubber match. Mallorie Black put the Yellow Jackets up 1-0 in the fourth on a single to right that scored Vukadinovich. Hope Jenkins tied the game in the sixth with a double to center to score Savannah Ring in what was the Huskies' second hit of the game. The tie didn't last long as in the bottom half of the inning, Black was able to draw a walk with the bases loaded, which pushed the go-ahead run in for the Yellow Jackets. This proved to be enough as Georgia Tech took game two

with a score of 2-1. The storyline for this game was how Teleman carved up the UConn lineup. She struck out 13 batters, allowed just two hits and gave up one run in a complete game performance.

On Saturday, the Huskies started their day against the University of North Texas Mean Green. North Texas came in having won their previous two games outscoring their opponents by a score of 13-0. They carried that momentum into Saturday's game, dominating the Huskies in a 10-2 victory. The scoring started early with a three-run home run by Mikayla Smith in the second inning. Smith would pick up her fourth RBI of the day two innings later with a single that would bring Molly Rainey in, putting the Mean Green up four. North Texas would end up scoring four more times in the fourth inning, five runs in total. Shortstop Jana Sanden would bring in the first run of the game for UConn on a sharp single to center but the score remained 8-1. Kailey Gamble tacked on another run with a solo shot to add yet another run for North Texas while Cierra Simon singled to bring their run total up to 10. Grace Jenkins hit her second home run of the weekend to cut the lead to 10-2, but that was all the Huskies had left. The Mean Green drew nine walks in the game to go along with their nine hits on route to their third win of the season.

UConn was scheduled to take on the University of Illinois Chicago on Saturday afternoon, but it was canceled due to rain. The same happened with their game against Saint Francis on Sunday morning, which was also canceled because of the weather. This ended the Huskies weekend at 1-2.

Some leaders in statistics after the first three games: Grace Jenkins leads the team with two home runs and five RBIs, outfielder Aziah James leads with a batting average of .429 and pitcher Payton Kinney currently has a .300 ERA. As a team, UConn had an 8.05 ERA giving up 17 earned runs in three games. Their opponents pitched a 4.05 ERA against the Huskies, striking out 28 batters and allowing just nine earned runs.

UConn heads to Gainesville, Florida, next weekend to participate in the T-Mobile tournament and is scheduled to face the University of Florida, Bowling Green and Central Michigan University in what should be another competitive weekend.



The UConn softball team competes against Georgia Tech and the University of North Texas in the Buzz Classic this past weekend. The Huskies took a victory against Georgia Tech with a score of 6-5, but unfortunately suffered a loss against Texas with a score of 2-10.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SKYLER KIM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Tennis: And those Caissons roll over the Huskies

by Ajeeth Vellore

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Despite some momentum coming into the weekend, the University of Connecticut tennis team lost in what may be the closest 7-0 this team will be a part of. On Friday, Feb. 10, the Huskies played extremely tough against a very talented Army squad in West Point, N.Y., leading to some tight contests that would not end up going the way of Connecticut.

The day started with surprise showings in the three doubles sets. Though doubles-2 could not provide much resistance, the doubles-1 duo of Olivia Wright and Maria Constantinou and doubles-3, consisting of Doga Selen Takunyaci and Caroline Cook, found very competitive strategies that translated into hard-fought sets. Despite the perceived rankings gap between the two schools, and thus between these two specific sets of doubles opponents, both matches came within two points. Matter of fact, the doubles-3 set came to a tiebreaker, which the Army team

of McKinnley Smith and Anna Loureiro barely managed to take. UConn's tennis director Glenn Marshall even noted that the doubles side of the meet went well, saying that "[the women] set the tone early during doubles," giving the team much-needed energy to start the day.

Unfortunately, that would not continue into the rest of the meet when the singles portion began. Despite a strong start, thanks to singles-1 Wright taking her first set to tiebreaker, as well as singles-4 Isabel Petri Bere and singles-6 Cameron Didion walk-

ing away from their first first-to-six with wins, none of them could hold on to that lead. Wright folded in two sets, while Bere did in three and Didion did in a super tiebreaker. Beyond those three, no one could put up much of a fight — Army's singles-2 Elizabeth Gilbert, singles-3 Emma Sy and singles-5 Ylan Duong took convincing wins as Army completed their clean sweep of Connecticut.

There was some sense that UConn could be walking into a tough match this weekend, and the result is reflective of that. However, what it does not show is the level of fight

that they had in themselves to move past the idea of playing against a group that many may consider to be far superior, and yet, push them to five tough sets out of nine. There was no sign that the whole team would back down to the challenge and on that front they delivered tremendously. Thus, despite what the final record may say and what UConn's overall record may be, these women demonstrated that they have to continue playing hard even if they might be overmatched. They will likely carry this mentality forward and hopefully, use it to secure more wins in the future.

TRACK AND FIELD: HUSKIES RETURN TO BOSTON FOR EXPLOSIVE PERFORMANCES IN VALENTINE INVITATIONAL

by Bridget Bronsdon

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The UConn men's and women's track and field teams wrapped up an explosive weekend with unprecedented performances at the Boston University David Hemery Valentine Invitational. While this weekend proved to house the fiercest competition with teams such as Northeastern, Boston University and Georgetown competing, the team continued to raise the bar as they set countless records and took home numerous top-five finishes.

On the track, team frontrunner Terrel Williams proved that he is no stranger to heated competition. In the highly anticipated 60-meter hurdles, Williams battled it out with Ethan Exillhomme of Northeastern and Jayden Smith of Davidson for a third-place finish. With a time of 7.80 seconds, the sophomore has consistently proven that he is the sprinter to beat. Williams will be the athlete to watch as

the team wraps up the indoor season at the Big East Championships in the upcoming weeks.

Similarly, Richmond Kwaateng took home a first-place finish in the 60-meter invitational preliminaries with a time of 6.81 seconds. This accomplishment has tied Kwaateng for No. 10 all-time in the UConn record books. Also in the 60-meter, freshman Max Ringwall ran the event for the first time this season and finished in 7.44 seconds, an impressive feat for the versatile freshman.

Likewise, the women brought exceptional performances to the table. Emily Lavarnway executed a flawless race in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.59. This performance earned Lavarnway a seat at the table in the UConn record books as she is now placed at No. 7 all-time.

As for the 200-meter, competition from Princeton, Columbia and Harvard was relentless. However, Mia Dansby and Jaia James held their own and proved to be unfazed by their opponents. Dansby secured herself a 15th-

place finish with a personal best of 24.72 seconds. James additionally broke her personal record with a time of 24.98.

The 400-meter was the main event for the Huskies as five athletes broke personal records. For the men, top contender Wellington Ventura was seeded first out of 249 athletes. Ventura battled it out to place second with a time of 47.14 seconds, following on the heels of Tomas Kersulis of Cornell with a time of 45.78. In addition, sophomore Anish Rajamanickman earned a personal record of 49.15 and a place of 56 out of 246 athletes.

The women brought the same heat to the 400-meter race as Jalal Cooper (56.75), Jessica Starr (57.55), Gabrielle Davis (58.34) and Caroline Rice (59.29) all broke personal records. Cooper, Starr, Davis and Rice all placed within the top half of athletes.

Looking towards longer distance events, the 800-meter race secured four athlete's personal records. Celia Chacko placed 76th out of 248 athletes with a

personal record of 2:12.23. As for the men, Samuel Geiser (1:53.11), Josh Stone (1:54.61) and Zachary Barry (1:56.09) all demonstrated remarkable finishes.

Adding to the accolades, senior Christopher Lepore finished the 5000 with a time of 14:00.21. This achievement will earn Lepore a seat at the table of UConn star-athletes, placing him in the books at No. 3 all-time. Comparably, junior Kabir Chavan is closely on Lepore's tail with a time of 14:18.60 and is No. 7 all-time at UConn. The two 5000 runners will be a duo to keep an eye on as the team rings in the 2022-2023 indoor season at the Big East Championships. This season's records suggest it may be possible for either athlete to bring in a No. 1 title.

Passing the baton to the relays, the men's 4x400 meters ran for the first time this season with a time of 3:13.35 and an 8th-place finish. Anish Rajamanickman, Joseph O'Brien, Wellington Ventura and Mekhi Stone exhibited an all-star lineup to put the relay in the books for the 2022-2023 indoor season.

The women's 4x400 meters made sure to match the stellar lineup of men with an equally impressive group of female frontrunners. Jessica Starr, Emily Lavarnway, Jalal Cooper and Raquel Rosa ran a time of 3:44.89 and earned themselves a fifth-place finish.

The field athletes made sure to carry the exceptional momentum from the track. Travis Snyder was able to add another first-place finish to his resume with a pole vault of 5.35m. Similarly, Patricia Mroczkowski earned gold with a first-place high jump of 1.76m.

Other stellar accomplishments of the weekend include Kasey Savage (long jump), Kinslaire Fryer (shot put) and Kevin Cetin (weight throw).

This past weekend finished off the regular season with a bang. As the Huskies look to the Big East Championship in the upcoming weeks, their performances this season have been a true testament to the hardworking nature of the team.

Sports

Photo of the Day | They put up a good fight



UConn men's basketball team struggles to control the ball as it falls to Xavier 89-72 on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023, in Gampel Pavilion.

PHOTO BY IZZI BARTON, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Basketball: No. 21 HUSKIES FALL JUST SHORT OF No. 23 BLUEJAYS IN DEFENSIVE BATTLE

by Jonathan Synott
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At the beginning of the year, it was clear that the UConn men's basketball team had its Jan. 7 date with Creighton circled on its calendar. Some harsh words said by Bluejay Ryan Kalkbrenner about the legitimacy of star Adama Sanogo's Big East Preseason Player of the Year only added fuel to their fire. The Huskies would walk away from that contest victorious, with Sanogo's 26 points leading the way.

Now, the No. 23 Bluejays had a matchup they were looking towards: Feb. 11 at the CHI Health Center in Omaha for round two with No. 21 Connecticut. The fans certainly showed their excitement, bringing a sold-out crowd of 18,286. Despite UConn keeping it close the majority of the way, it was Creighton who walked away with the 56-53 win on Saturday afternoon.

The Bluejays took their fuel and ran with it, jumping out to an early 14-5 lead early. While the home team's offense quickly found a rhythm, the same couldn't be said for the Huskies. Guards Andre Jackson and Jordan Hawkins had trouble finding their footing, each missing their first four shots. From behind the arc, typical sharpshooters Hawkins and Joey Calcaterra finished a combined 0-for-4 in the first half. Meanwhile, unlikely deep threats Sanogo and Hassan Diarra knocked in a combined 4-for-6 before the break.

Connecticut slowly started to work their way back into the game, thanks to some key moments from transfer guard Nahiem Alleyne. The Virginia Tech product added three free throws alongside a nice second-chance jumper in the first half to provide much-needed points.

The Huskies trailed by five entering the last possession of the first half, but a big 3-pointer from Sanogo at the buzzer cut the deficit to two points. This strong shot from the big man gave the team some more momentum despite shooting just 35 percent from the field.

Down the stretch of the second half, there was more of the same back-and-forth, with Creighton leading the



No. 21 UConn upsets No. 10 Marquette with a score of 97-72 at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn., on Feb. 7, 2023. This win against the top-ranked Big East Conference team brings the Huskies back on the national radar after several disappointing losses last month.

PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

majority of the way. Bluejay Trey Alexander hit some big shots down the stretch despite some strong defensive efforts from the Huskies. Alexander finished his night 6-for-8 for 17 points. UConn's

defense started to really limit the Creighton offense in the last ten minutes, holding them without a field goal in over 7:30 of play. Over that stretch, Alexander saw limited minutes, picking up an

early fourth foul after fighting for a loose ball with Diarra.

In the last two minutes of play, Hawkins tried to play hero ball for the Huskies, hitting a big second-chance layup to put the

game within three. A missed free throw from Alexander in a one-and-one opportunity gave UConn the ball back for a potential last possession. Sanogo found room for a 3-point attempt that hit off of the iron, but Hawkins grabbed the ball with limited time to shoot. He ended up making his 3-point shot with less than three seconds to go – or so he thought.

After a long look at the replay, the referees decided that Hawkins' foot was on the line, leaving the Huskies down one point. Even with a quick foul, there wasn't enough time to get the ball down the court and the Bluejays walked away with their eighth-straight victory.

While the breakout sophomore impressed late in the game, it really wasn't Hawkins' night, finishing with 11 points on 4-for-13 shooting and four rebounds. Fellow guard Tristen Newton, fresh off his triple-double performance over Marquette, disappointed as well with two points and four assists in 26 minutes.

Captain Andre Jackson struggled offensively as he seemed thrown off by the Bluejays allowing him to shoot at will. He hit three of his 11 shots and snagged six rebounds in the loss.

One of the biggest storylines was the rivalry between bigs Sanogo and Kalkbrenner. Both finished with shooting percentages in the 40s. Sanogo put up a double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds, while Kalkbrenner had 12 points, six rebounds and three steals.

One of the biggest differences in this contest was the disparity between free throw attempts. While UConn committed 14 fouls to Creighton's 10, the Bluejays got to the line 17 times, earning 13 points from the charity stripe. Meanwhile, the Huskies knocked down all four of their free throws, all coming from two shooting fouls on three-point attempts. Creighton did a spectacular job limiting Connecticut's damage at the line.

With the loss, the Huskies fall to 19-7 on the year and 8-7 in Big East play. They get a week off, picking things back up in a revenge game with the Seton Hall Pirates at Gampel Pavilion. Tip-off is set for noon on Saturday, Feb. 18, and the game will be broadcast live on FOX.

Men's Hockey: No. 13 Huskies lose two over weekend to hot Wildcats

by Nick Spinali
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The No. 13 University of Connecticut men's hockey team caught the New Hampshire Wildcats at the wrong time over the weekend, losing both of the team's weekend matchups to enable UNH's win streak to extend to four consecutive games.

The Huskies and Wildcats played the first of their two contests at the Whittemore Center Arena in Durham, New Hampshire on Friday. UNH got off to a quick start when Connecticut's Roman Kinal was called for interference two minutes into the opening period. New Hampshire's Chase Stevenson dribbled the penalty shot up the ice, lined up UConn's net and wound up a touchdown pass straight by goalkeeper Logan Terness, giving the Wildcats a 1-0 advantage. On the other end of the period, with just over two minutes remaining before intermission, Stevenson once again picked his team up. After teammate Colton Huard's initial shot was deflected before reaching Connecticut's goal, Stevenson crashed the net to recover the loose puck. With his momentum taking him away from the front of the goal, Stevenson turned on his skates and fired a dart from nearly right beside the goal. Amazingly, the puck struck the inside of the pole and fell into the net for a score, raising New Hampshire's lead to 2-0.

Connecticut was able to break onto the scoreboard with a

beautiful display of passing in the sixth minute of the second period. As the puck crossed behind UNH's goal, UConn's Justin Pearson came up with the puck on the rightmost side of the net. As he turned his back, teammate Hudson Schandor cut towards the middle of the ice and Pearson made the connection. Schandor came up with the puck as he crashed the Wildcats' goal, quickly wristing the shot past New Hampshire goalie David Fessenden for a UConn score. With the goal, the Ice Bus cut into New Hampshire's lead, making the score 2-1 after two periods.

The Wildcats answered the Huskies' goal in the second period by taking control in the third. The team did not allow UConn to challenge their lead and tie the game throughout the period. Two goals at the end of the game cemented the victory for UNH. With Connecticut pulling their goalkeeper in favor of an extra skater with one minute remaining, New Hampshire's Ryan Black recovered a loose puck near his opponent's goal and converted a third goal on a diving effort, elevating his team's lead to 3-1. Liam Devlin then managed another open-goal score just before the final buzzer sounded to cement the 4-1 win for the Wildcats.

The contest saw Connecticut fail to convert on its only power play, while UNH was unsuccessful in two tries. The Huskies committed more penalties than the Wildcats, 3-1. Terness recorded 28 saves in the loss,

while Fessenden tallied 24 saves in the victory.

Game two followed on Saturday, also taking place in Whittemore Center. This time it was the Huskies who got on the board first, courtesy of a shot in transition by Harrison Rees in the 16th minute of the first period. The score gave Connecticut a one-goal lead, an advantage which it held up until the 11th minute of the second period. The Wildcats fired off a couple of shots that were all deflected by UConn goalie Arsenii Sergeev before Stiven Sardarian finally gained control of the puck and flicked up a no-doubt shot into the net. As a result, the two teams entered the third period tied with one goal apiece.

The two teams would be tied for only the first two minutes of the third period. At this point, New Hampshire's Huard took the puck towards the center of the ice and rifled off a long shot. Teammate Jake Dunlap crossed into the line of the puck and deflected it ever so slightly, confusing Connecticut's defense as the puck continued its trajectory into the goal. Dunlap was credited with the go-ahead goal as he awarded his team a 2-1 lead. The advantage was short-lived, with the Ice Bus finding an answer just five minutes later. UConn's Kinal found Pearson for a quick slapshot, and the forward slipped the one-timer beyond New Hampshire goalie

Tyler Muszelik, making the score two-all. The third period ended with the score still knotted, and an overtime period was played to decide a winner.

New Hampshire was able to come away with the victory following a score just under three minutes into the overtime period. Both Dunlap and Stevenson broke away from UConn's side of the ice with just one defender and the goalkeeper separating them from the net. As the two approached the Huskies' goal, Stevenson dumped the puck off to Dunlap who found Damian Carfagna trailing the duo. Carfagna received the puck heading straight towards Sergeev and converted UNH's third goal of the game, this one being a game-winner.

This season has been a roller coaster for the Wildcats, who have ripped off multiple wins against ranked opponents throughout the campaign, though endured a stretch of 13 straight contests without a victory from Oct. 23 to Dec. 9. Despite the hardships the team has endured, they seem to be turning a corner just as the regular season settles into its final few weeks. Prior to their two victories versus the Huskies, New Hampshire defeated No. 15 Merrimack in overtime on Feb. 3 and No. 16 UMass Lowell on Feb. 4, respectively, giving the team four straight wins against ranked teams. The team's overall record on the season improves to 11-18-1, including a 6-13-1 mark in Hockey East play.

With their regulation and overtime wins over the weekend, the Wildcats gained five points on the conference leaderboard, giving them 19 on the season and tying them with UMass Amherst for the conference's ninth spot.

Meanwhile, Connecticut misses a major opportunity to catapult back into the top-three teams in the conference. The team was able to compile a point in the conference standings with their loss in overtime on Saturday, though their 35 points this season still leave them trailing third-ranked Merrimack by one point. The team is still within striking distance of the top spot in the Hockey East as they are only a few points behind No. 1 Boston University (41 points) and No. 2 Northeastern (40 points). The Huskies will require some luck to jump the top three teams in the conference as the number of games remaining in the regular season continues to boil down, limiting the number of opportunities the team has to gain points. UConn's overall record on the campaign shifts to 17-10-3, including a 11-8-2 mark in Hockey East play.

UConn's next game will come against the University of Alaska Anchorage Seawolves. The contest will take place on Thursday, Feb. 23, at the Toscano Ice Forum in Storrs, Connecticut, and tickets will be made available only to UConn students. Puck-drop is scheduled for 7:05 p.m., with television coverage provided by ESPN+ and radio coverage on ESPN 97.9 FM.



UConn men's hockey picks up a 4-3 loss against Northeastern following a Saturday night matchup at the Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn., on Jan. 14. Although being ahead for most of the game, the Huskies lost their lead in the third period.

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



UConn women's hockey loses a hard-fought battle 3-2 against Northeastern in overtime, following a Friday night matchup at the Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn., on Feb. 20, 2023.

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

Women's Ice Hockey: Hard-fought efforts fall short against No. 5 Northeastern, Holy Cross

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The UConn women's hockey team lost both games this weekend against No. 5 Northeastern and Holy Cross.

Both games were at the brand new Toscano Family Ice Forum, but even the home ice advantage wasn't enough for UConn to come out victorious.

UConn scored first on Friday night against Northeastern on an odd man rush in the first period, where forward Amy Landry scored just her second goal of the season, assisted by forward Kyla Josifovic.

Despite a power play early in the second period, Northeastern defenseman Megan Carter found forward Chloé Aurard, who seized a breakthrough opportunity and scored a shorthand-

ed goal to tie the game at one goal apiece.

UConn head coach Chris MacKenzie indicated after the game that Northeastern had one of the best penalty killing units, which UConn's power-play groups were no match for. UConn went 0-for-2 on power plays on Friday, both penalties coming in the second period. The game was even after two periods, in both goals (one) and shots on goal (17).

In the third period, forward Jada Habisch found forward Kate Thurman for the senior's seventh goal of the season. Thurman was the hot hand for UConn about a month ago, where she scored a goal in three-straight games.

The momentum shifted in the battle of the Huskies when Northeastern forward Taze Thompson scored a goal to make it three-straight games with a goal. Thompson also had a goal at the Freitas

Ice Forum against UConn in October; she has six goals this season. The equalizing goal late in the third period was set up by Vermont transfer defenseman Maude Poulin-Labelle, whose shot was rebounded by Thompson.

With 3:32 in overtime, there was no better time for Northeastern defenseman Tory Mariano's first goal of the season. Her clutch effort in overtime was similar to a closer with the name Mariano. The game-winner was assisted by Aurard.

Star UConn goaltender Tia Chan had 30 saves in the loss. MacKenzie credited Chan for being one of the best goalies in the country, calling her "a fierce competitor that we can rely on."

In the other crease, Gwyneth Philips had 19 saves, leading Northeastern to the season sweep over UConn.

Coming off a loss Friday night, UConn played Saturday afternoon in a matchup against Holy Cross.

Just five minutes into the game, the Crusaders struck first, where forward Carly Beniek was set up by Lilly Feeney on a one-timer for the first goal of the game. It's Beniek's first goal in 2023 and her first goal since Oct. 8.

The Huskies answered with a goal of their own, where defenseman Kaitlyn Yearwood got the puck out to forward Coryn Tormala for the senior's eighth goal of the season.

Off Charlotte Sonntag's stick, the Crusaders took the lead for good with the game's final goal coming midway through the second period — it's the freshman's first goal of her collegiate career.

UConn defenseman Camryn Wong was given a five-minute major — a game misconduct for boarding — meaning Wong would not play the rest of the game. The entire penalty was killed off by the Huskies.

With 1:09 left, Chan was pulled in exchange for an

extra skater, but Holy Cross goaltender Madison Beck made sure no shots went through. Beck had 31 saves during Saturday afternoon's game.

Even though UConn outshot the Crusaders 11-5 in the third period, the Huskies could not answer Sonntag's goal. Despite the loss, UConn outshot Holy Cross for the entire game, 32-23.

MacKenzie thought the team "looked a little flat early in the game," which was his biggest takeaway to the team's now sixth straight loss.

The Huskies will look to get back in the win column next weekend as they face Holy Cross yet again in a home-and-home series. UConn will host Holy Cross for senior night on Friday in Storrs, Conn. at the Toscano Family Ice Forum, while the Crusaders have senior day on Saturday at the Hart Center Rink in Worcester, Mass.



Sports

Women's Basketball: Griffin, No. 4 Huskies trudge through win over Georgetown

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It should be easier for the No. 4 UConn Huskies. Everyone is used to things being much less difficult than they have been this year, but thanks to massive injury troubles and an exhausting schedule, every game feels like a war, no matter the opponent. On Feb. 11, the Huskies played the Georgetown Hoyas, the fourth worst team in the conference. It's a game the Huskies would have flown through in years past, but the luxury wasn't there on Saturday as they won 67-58 in a gutsy contest.

The Hoyas got as close as four in the last couple minutes as star Lou Lopez-Senechal fouled out late in the fourth quarter after scoring just five. UConn made just four of 16 tries from deep and turned the ball over 23 times - neither were recipes for success, though, they did dominate the boards 43-23 and shot 23 free throws, which helped the team greatly. Nika Mühl also played the last few minutes with a hurt ankle, which will have to be monitored moving forward.

Dorka Juhasz had a field day on the glass, notching 18 points and 15 rebounds. She was one of the few players who performed well, and they needed it badly. It seemed like she got every board, including the last one that closed the game out. Juhasz only had two fewer defensive rebounds than the Hoyas did as a team, a testament to her effort on that end of the floor.

“Dorka Juhasz had a field day on the glass, notching 18 points and 15 rebounds. She was one of the few players who performed well, and they needed it badly.”

Aubrey Griffin was one of the other notables, collecting 18 points, six rebounds and four dimes, tied for the team high. With the game coming down to the wire, Griffin swatted away an important shot, helping put the game to bed. How the junior isn't exhausted with the intensity she puts forth every game is a mystery, but the Huskies cannot afford to have Griffin take her foot off the gas anytime soon.

The Huskies waited until four minutes into the game before converting their first



The UConn women's basketball team takes on South Carolina at the Hartford XL Center on Sunday, Feb. 5. Despite leading in the first quarter and tying in the second, UConn was defeated 81-77 by South Carolina.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIN EKNAPP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



This is the first time the two teams have played against each other since the final game of March Madness in 2022, when South Carolina beat UConn.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIN EKNAPP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

field goal, falling behind 8-1 early. Mühl broke the drought with a three, but picked up her second foul just after. Connecticut looked weak and tired offensively, trailing 17-13 after a quarter.

In a rare showing of second quarter excellence for this team, the Huskies strung together a 9-0 run, which was capped off by another three from Mühl. The Hoyas answered with four straight points, but benchwarmer Amari DeBerry hit an unusual three to get the lead out to seven. A giveaway by DeBerry enabled Georgetown to cut the deficit to just three in the closing seconds of the half.

“Aubrey Griffin was one of the other notables, collecting 18 points, six rebounds and four dimes, tied for the team high.”

UConn opened the second half with six unanswered points, looking to run away with it, but Kennedy Fauntleroy poured in a flurry of shots as a part of her 24-point performance, slimming the cushion to three. Immediately after, the Huskies closed out the third quarter on an 11-0 run that saw Griffin score six. This put them ahead by 14, their first comfortable lead in a game since they beat Tennessee over two weeks ago.

Lopez-Senechal had a rough outing that she played mostly in foul trouble, but it was good for her to see a shot go in when she converted an and-one early in the fourth. Fauntleroy hit a three to cut things to just 10 and then another got it to nine. Mühl rolled her ankle badly late in the game and was grimacing in pain, but returned soon after.

Lopez-Senechal picked up her fifth foul with less than three minutes left, forcing Auriemma to turn to Inês Bettencourt up seven. The Hoyas scored to make the UConn lead five, extending their run to 7-0. Bettencourt committed the Huskies' 23rd turnover of the contest with 50 seconds left and Kelsey Ransom hit a free throw. Griffin got a clutch block that effectively ended the game, UConn leaving with an eight point win.

Things don't get any easier for the Huskies moving forward as they play host to Creighton this Wednesday, Feb. 15, the third best team in the Big East.

WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

UConn SCOREBOARD



**Basketball
Saturday**

Upcoming Games



INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconnhuskies Starting off the season with a W! #WEbeforeme

TWEETS OF THE DAY



Basil
@BigBasil85
Completely forgot that the Super Bowl is today. Looks like I'm watching some old UConn games.

Justin Bressette
@hawkeye282
I love UConn basketball!!! But who is pumped for UConn football let's go!!!! It's time to shine. I can't wait for UConn football to be back!!!

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