



## USG holds debates for upcoming spring election



The University of Connecticut Undergraduate Student Government office in the student union. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Dylan Champagne**  
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The University of Connecticut Undergraduate Student Government hosted debates for the upcoming spring election Wednesday night. The open positions debated include president/vice president, chief diversity officer, comptroller and an undergraduate position on the board of trustees.

In the presidential/vice presidential debate, Ramon Peters (for president) and Christopher Lema (for vice president) debated against Jon Heiden (for president) and Peter Spinelli (for vice president).

Peters and Lema are not currently directly involved with USG. Peters currently serves as president of the UConn Business Connections Learning Community.

Both Heiden and Spinelli are currently involved in USG, with Heiden serving as external affairs director and Spinelli serving as vice president.

In their opening statements and in many questions, Peters and Lema critiqued USG on their communications efforts.

"It is unfortunate that USG did not promote this debate until the day of, as many students were unaware of this. It is a shame that USG posted the student body role only two days before the intent to run form was due. I have heard several times that the information is available, but how hard do we have to search?" Lema said.

Peters further emphasized this issue of students not being kept in the loop and went further in saying that USG members are not always accessible.

"The role of USG is to advocate for students ... We are supposed to ask the tough questions that we need answers to. We are not supposed to be out here hiding in our offices, not being able to be reached. We have to be here for you. Our role is to serve you ... and that is always going to be our role," Peters said.

Heiden and Spinelli both refuted this criticism stating that USG is full of hard-working, proactive students.

"I think I will not go out on a limb to say that USG isn't hiding in their office ... I look across the room at senators who sit through four hours of senate, who go through each and ev-

ery person's thing that they are working on ... people who spend too much time working for students. I have never entered a space at USG who has ever been unaccepting of any opinion," Heiden said. "I do agree that we need to market to more students, but I think that it is not a problem of inaction. It is a problem of not letting students know."

Heiden went on to say that USG communications is not at fault; rather, students need to come together to communicate better.

Heiden and Spinelli stated that they believe that the main role of USG is to fill in where the administration falls short. They highlighted many of the current USG initiatives aimed at providing students with essential services, which they are a part of.

"For Jon and I, the main role of USG and the role it has been in our time in the organization already has been to fill in those gaps where the administration falls short ... and that is in action providing those services and resources that students absolutely need day to day to really help them get through being a student here on campus. Things like providing free Plan B for our students, to expanding and making our Tier 2 funding system more accessible ... things like Husky Market and transitioning now to Husky Harvest, an on campus food pantry for students in need ... to expanding our Period Box and Tampon Time services," Spinelli said.

Some initiatives Heiden and Spinelli plan on continuing if elected are expanding services for food insecurity on campus, connecting students with alumni and putting out a policy agenda in conjunction with state legislators. They also want to push the administration for more long-term funding for short-term initiatives and possibly secure external funding from alumni.

Peters and Lema agreed with some initiatives such as connecting students with alumni but emphasized other initiatives such as more direct communication and "elevating" UConn's satellite campuses.

"My vision for USG is one where students are empowered and they are in the know of what is going on and what is not going on. There shouldn't be things that are hidden from us, we shouldn't have to search

for information, we shouldn't have to look for information ... Furthermore, my vision is one of the students. I want to talk to each and every one of you and want to know what you want ... it doesn't matter what I want, because I am here to serve you," Peters said.

Peters and Lema also came out in support of the #SaveUConn protests.

"Furthermore, I love the Save UConn protests. I have some criticisms, but I love that that happened and I want to do more things like that. We should have more protests when we have problems," Peters said.

For the role of chief diversity officer, Interim Chief Diversity Officer Tae'Niajha Pullen and Angelo Montes debated.

Montes stated his goal if elected is to communicate more with the student body.

"I plan on communicating [more] to the student body. I think it is extremely important that we advocate and understand what each role is. A problem that we face a lot is that students don't know what the role is. They think it is for diverse students in UConn itself, rather than to be working within USG ... I want to push for more communication for the student body," Montes said.

Montes also stated his intent of making USG and UConn more inclusive for neurodivergent students.

Pullen, who currently serves as interim chief diversity officer, believes in pursuing a deeper relationship with the cultural centers.

"Definitely most urgently is repairing and cultivating a deeper relationship with the cultural centers here on campus. The cultural centers affect groups of students, marginalized students, first-handedly ... this is where students go, this is their safe space," Pullen said.

Pullen also focused on her current initiatives such as a Women's History Month banquet and her push for more gender-neutral housing.

In the debate for comptroller, current USG Comptroller Ben Keilty debated Charisma Farrington.

Keilty described the comptroller role as more of a support role.

"The comptroller role is not primarily an advocacy-focused role. It is more like a support

role ... so there is a lot of financial policy, a lot of financial procedure, a whole lot of deadlines and a whole lot of reading the law. Making sure that we can get those checks out on time... make sure everyone gets the funding they need," Keilty said.

Keilty emphasized his current initiatives as comptroller. He described his efforts of streamlining Tier 2 club funding and his work towards a more transparent UConn and USG budget. He also acknowledged that while USG is not perfect, he wants to continue to work on initiatives that matter to the student body if re-elected.

"I just want to address that USG and I are not perfect. We are never going to be. There is always still work to do. That is why this coming year I want to work with UConn purchasing to further decrease deadlines so we can get more stuff out to clubs faster ... to create a funding advisory board made up of student organization treasurers so that they can then recommend changes to policy and procedures and to create more transparency in the USG budget," Keilty said.

Farrington made it clear that her role as comptroller would be more of an advisory role if elected, especially for marginalized groups and clubs on campus.

"My goal if elected as comptroller is to be a voice for students in regards to money that USG has. I understand that Ben says that it is not really an advocacy thing, but I strongly disagree with that because if elected I will be the voice of what our funding goes to," Farrington said.

Farrington emphasized the need for change, especially in today's times.

"Our comptroller this year does a phenomenal job, but there is always room for change ... especially when the times we are in now are calling for change," Farrington stated.

In light of "inflation," neither candidate outright opposed a request for a fee increase for USG but both stated that they would only consider it if the student body supported it.

In the debate for undergraduate student trustee, four undergraduate students debated.

Eric Meade opened the debate by stating that he will fight hard against tuition hikes.

"As your undergrad trustee, I will fight as hard as I can

against unfair and unneeded tuition hikes ... there is no reason UConn should be threatening to charge an extra \$3,000 per year without first looking more into what they can do to stop students from paying more," Meade said.

Leo Gold acknowledged in his opening statement that he believes there needs to be more of a fight on the administration side and that he will put more pressure on funding that matters for students.

"As student trustee, my goal is to focus on real issues that students have identified to be the most pressing for them. Such as student safety everywhere, spending smarter and streamlining club funding. Then work to develop a pathway for progress into the future ..." Gold said.

Anya Metha emphasized in her opening statement a push for more undergraduate representation on the board of trustees.

"First I have a question for you all. Can you raise your hand if you can name three members of the board of trustees? ... Can anyone tell me what the board of trustees does? ... They have total control to make decisions with our money, without our input. Having one graduate and one undergraduate on a board of 21 members is unacceptable," Metha said.

John Durham focused his opening statement on bringing more transparency to the board and on uniting the student body.

"My promise to you as your trustee is that I will represent all of the voices from all corners of UConn ... Whether you are at Storrs or one of the regional campuses, whether you play soccer or lacrosse, whether you sing or work in a lab. And now it is more important than ever for us to work together as one community to leave UConn better than we found it. As your trustee I will be there for you, I will fight for you, and I will make UConn to be the best that it can be," Durham said.

USG spring elections are slated to take place digitally from noon on Feb. 28, 2023 to noon on March 2, 2023.

While USG has yet to release a full candidate information list, most candidate positions can be found on Instagram. The full USG spring election debates can also be watched on the UCTV Youtube account.

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# News

## One year after Russian invasion, Ukrainian students reflect on their experiences with the war

by **Samuel Katz**  
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On Feb. 24, 2022, the Russian military invaded Ukraine from several directions, referred to at the time by the Russian government as a “three-day special military operation” in a speech Russian President Vladimir Putin gave in response to claims of suppression and ethnic cleansing of Russian speakers from the country.

It has been 362 days past the initial deadline.

“Ukrainian men, women and children showed unimaginable courage and tenacity in the defense of their homeland, standing their ground against an armed force considered to be larger, stronger and better organized than they were,” said NPR in a special podcast episode on the anniversary of the invasion.

Over several months, initial Russian advances were ground to a halt. In some regions Ukrainian counterattacks managed to drive out the invaders.

The toll of the war has had both material and human costs. Along with reports of equipment losses by government statements and independent accounts, the war has created the largest refugee crisis in Europe since World War II. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, it is believed nearly eight million Ukrainians have fled the country, the majority to neighboring countries such as Poland, Romania and Slovakia. Many millions more are displaced inside Ukraine, living far from their homes in occupied territory.

An article from the Wall Street Journal on Feb. 3 estimates 30,000 Ukrainian and 60,000 Russian soldiers have died in the past year, with about triple the number of wounded. A report by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on Jan. 3 provides a total of nearly 7,000 Ukrainian civilians killed and 11,000 wounded since the invasion, with 188 killed in December of 2022 alone.

For Kateryna Koval, a fourth-semester psychology major originally from Ukraine, the past year has been one of immense stress, panic and grief.

“My grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends are still in Ukraine. Every time I get a notification about an air raid siren somewhere my heart stops. The city where I was born and spent most of my life got bombed over the summer. It was a different kind of pain. Seeing places I would see every day destroyed, people I went to school with dead or asking for help. That day changed me,” Koval said.

Koval continued, describing her inability to sleep or focus on work in the early months of the invasion as Russian forces continued their advances into her home country.

A podcast from NPR on Feb. 18 reflecting on the organization’s own coverage of the war over the past year told similar stories of despair and grief as fathers and sons had to stay behind to fight while women and children were left as refugees. In the early days, many of those interviewed by NPR appeared pessimistic or defeatist about

their own country.

“Some Ukrainians did not feel President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s government had the will to hold against the Russian invasion. A year later, he became a war hero both in Ukraine and abroad. Zelenskyy transformed and so did the nation,” NPR said.

The UConn Ukrainian Student Association has spent much of the year raising awareness of the ongoing conflict, holding a rally on Fairfield Way in early March and fundraising by selling blue and yellow pins, the colors of Ukraine, to raise money for the Hospitalers, a volunteer battalion in the Ukrainian military staffed by paramedics who help evacuate and care for wounded soldiers.

Yusuf Zaidi, a sixth-semester mathematics major, worked with Rescuers Without Borders in May 2022, spending time as a medical volunteer in the city of Lviv.

Individual members of the USA have also done work at Ukrainian cultural centers and churches with fundraisers, or providing housing for relatives who have arrived in the United States as refugees.

Stephania Korenovsky, a fourth-semester healthcare management and global health major, described how her family has sponsored several Ukrainians, including her aunt, uncle and cousin, to live with them.

“There are nine people living in my single-level house right now ... My mom and grandparents helped to start a donation drive out of my church in New Haven [St. Michael’s Ukrainian Catholic Church]. What started

as a donation drive, became a donation center for all those who want to donate anything they can to Ukraine in CT,” Korenovsky said.

These acts of resilience, both by Ukrainians at home and abroad, have directly led to the vast quantities of aid, money and weapons sent to bolster Ukraine’s armed forces against Russia, such as Zelenskyy’s visit to the U.S. Congress. According to Reuters, nearly \$27.2 billion dollars of U.S. aid and equipment has been sent to Ukraine since Feb. 2022. Poland, the United Kingdom, France, Canada and various European Union institutions followed, according to data provided by the Kiel Institute for World Economy. Proportional to national GDP, the Baltic countries of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania have spent the most.

On Feb. 20, NBC reported that Joe Biden had made a surprise visit to Kyiv, meeting with Zelenskyy and reaffirming American commitment to Ukraine in 2023.

“Unchecked aggression is a threat to all of us,” Biden said. “One year later, Kyiv stands and Ukraine stands. Democracy stands, Americans stand with you, and the world stands with you.”

Students from the USA appreciate the aid provided by the United States towards Ukraine, but feel that more powerful equipment that Ukraine has repeatedly requested in aid should be shipped, including tanks and anti-air defense systems, which have been a hot-button issue compared to current shipments of missiles, firearms and artil-

lery pieces.

Sofia Zazulak, an eighth-semester molecular and cell biology major and president of the USA, voiced their concerns about the support UConn provides to Ukrainian students and their organization.

“We have had lots of difficulty getting funding for our events from the administration. Also, I feel as if there is not enough support for international students studying in Ukraine as a result of the war,” Zazulak said.

“There is a pretty big population of Ukrainians on campus. They need help. It is very hard to focus on your academics while every time you close your eyes you see dead bodies and are afraid to wake up in the morning because you are scared of the news the new day will bring,” Koval added.

Looking forward, the Ukrainian student population believes that Ukraine will triumph over Russia in this war, as do most Ukrainians and several high-level members of the U.S. government. While the impacts of new factors such as Russian mobilization waves and the arrival of German armored vehicles cannot be determined, the past year has shown a country expected to collapse under the Russian invasion not only stand its ground, but prove their own capabilities.

“Your help and the resistance of the Ukrainian people will force Putin to withdraw,” Viktor Mykyta, the governor of the Zakarpattia region, said. “But even when Putin leaves, it may not save him. His crimes here will never be forgotten,” Mykyta said in an interview with Fox.

## UConn revamps course modalities for the Fall semester

by **Dylan Champagne**

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The University of Connecticut is changing the way some classes are taught (known as “course modalities”) beginning in the upcoming Fall semester. The changes include adjusting the names of some course modalities while also removing some course modalities altogether. Two new course modalities, In-Person Remote and Online Blended will also be introduced.

Currently, UConn offers eight types of course modalities: In Person, Distance Learning, Online, Service Learning, Hybrid, Hybrid/Blended Reduced, Split and By Arrangement.

Some course modalities

will not be changed. These modalities include In-Person (instruction occurring on specified days/times and in a specified physical location), Hybrid (50% in-person, 50% online either synchronously or asynchronously) and By Arrangement (classes such as independent studies, research and thesis courses where meeting time/style “is arranged” between student and instructor).

The revamp will simply change the name of other course modalities. Distance Learning (instruction occurring remotely on specified meeting days/times) will change to Online Synchronous and Online (instruction occurring asynchronously online, with no specified meeting days/times) will change to On-

line Asynchronous.

The Hybrid/Blended Reduced modality (some instruction, but less than 50% occurring on specified days/times and in a specified physical location... remainder of instruction delivered remotely, either synchronously or asynchronously) will change to Hybrid Limited.

Some course modalities will no longer be offered starting in the Fall semester, including the Split modality. Previously, students in “split” classes would meet during a scheduled class time with groups of students in the class alternating between in-person and virtual attendance. This would ensure at least some in-person instruction, while helping decrease the amount of students physically meeting face-to-

face. This was especially useful during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic when worries about spreading the disease were high.

And while Service Learning (pairing student skills with community needs for class credit) will initially remain the same, it will be “phased out as a mode of instruction once the capability exists for students and faculty to denote these classes by other means,” according to the UConn Registrar’s Office.

Two new course modalities will also be offered beginning in the Fall — In-Person Remote and Online Blended. According to the UConn Registrar Office, In-Person Remote involves blending “off-campus” students with in-person classes at a specified campus.

“All instruction occurs on specified days/times and at a specified physical location. Remote students will participate synchronously from another UConn campus or remote location as specified by the faculty member,” the Registrar Office states.

Online Blended will serve as a mix between synchronous and asynchronous class modalities. According to the UConn Registrar Office, “all instruction occurs online but requires a mix of remote synchronous (specified days/times) and asynchronous online learning.”

The number of classes offered in these new formats is yet to be exactly determined, but will become more clear as Fall Registration rolls out in the coming weeks.

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# AP PHOTOS: 'Imperfect' models in Italy redefine beauty

ROME (AP) — A project on Instagram to highlight ordinary women and their imperfections has transformed into a modeling agency that aims to redefine notions of beauty in Italy.

The Imperfetta (Imperfect) modeling agency, started in 2020 by Carlotta Giancane, has a casting book full of models who defy the industry's pre-established standards of beauty. They are of all sizes and ages, spanning the gender spectrum, some with disabilities or medical conditions like alopecia or vitiligo, visible scarring or who have lost limbs.

Such agencies have existed elsewhere in Europe and the United States. This is the first in Italy.

Sonia Sparta is one of the models. A 28-year-old from Sicily, she has heard adults whisper to children that she was from the circus when they saw the dark spots on her face and body, the result of a form of hyperpigmentation. While she once tried to conceal her condition, she now is conscious of her beauty.

"I changed things so that my weakness, or how I perceived a weakness, became my source of strength, my distinctiveness," she said.

During a recent photo shoot in Rome, models of all shapes posed in underwear, wrapped in sheer organza.

"I feel like a revolutionary because I realize that around me all this did not exist before L'Imperfetta," Giancane said. "It feels like a revolution, a battle to fight hard, because there are so many difficulties."

The agency counts more than 140 models. They are both in Italy and abroad, but it is focusing its work in Italy "because this is where we want to change things," Giancane said. Her models have appeared in advertising campaigns for cosmetic brands, fashion retailers and supermarkets. Much of the work is in online advertisements, but there have also been calls for models in television commercials. Two have appeared on the Milan fashion runway for designer Marco Rambaldi.



Models pose during a photo shoot for "L'Imperfetta (The Imperfect) model agency" in Rome, Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023.

PHOTO BY ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/AP

Lucia Della Ratta, a university student in Rome, hid her albinism for most of her life, coloring her pale hair darker shades and using tanning lotions on her skin. Under the pandemic lockdown, she let her natural hair color grow out and began posting photos on Instagram.

"I felt beautiful for the first time," Della Ratta, said during a break in the photo shoot. The shift still brings tears to her eyes, which she brushes away. "I felt it was my essence, as though it is me, as I really am."

Desiree D'Angelo has had alopecia since she was 10 years old. At school she wore a hat to hide the baldness, but bullying classmates would yank it off. At age 15, a dance teacher persuaded her to accept her condition and stop hiding it.

Since then, she has become a successful dancer, performer and model.

"I like my body, I like my peculiarity. In the end, I have accepted it," she said.



Sonia Sparta stands during a photo shoot for "L'imperfetta (The Imperfect) model agency" in Rome, Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023. Sonia, who has a rare skin disorder called hyperpigmentation, which produces dark spots on her face and body, is one of the models for L'Imperfetta (The Imperfect) model agency that represents 'extraordinarily imperfect' women and men of all sizes, heights, ages, genders, backgrounds and disabilities, people who are difficult to classify into the industry's pre-established standards of beauty.

PHOTO BY ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/AP



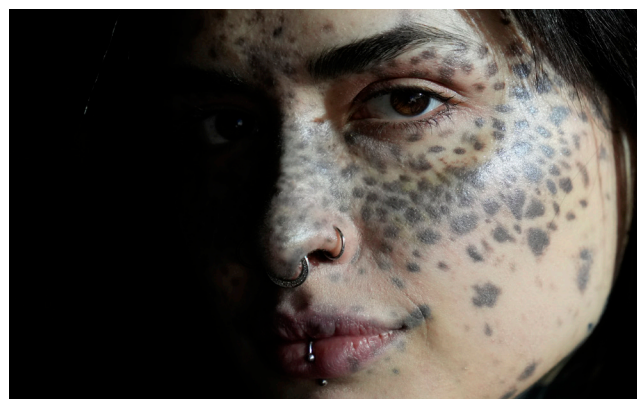
Carlotta Giancane, center, poses with models at the end of a photo shoot for "L'imperfetta (The Imperfect) model agency" in Rome, Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023.

PHOTO BY ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/AP



Models pose during a photo shoot for "L'imperfetta (The Imperfect) model agency" in Rome, Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023.

PHOTO BY ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/AP



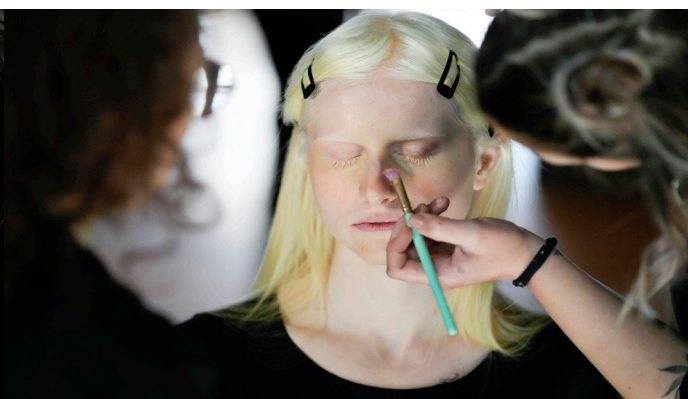
Sonia Sparta poses during a photo shoot for "L'imperfetta (The Imperfect) model agency" in Rome, Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023.

PHOTO BY ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/AP



Claudia La Rosa poses during a photo shoot for "L'imperfetta (The Imperfect) model agency" in Rome, Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023.

PHOTO BY ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/AP



Lucia Della Ratta gets makeup during a photoshoot for the "L'imperfetta (The Imperfect) model agency" in Rome, Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023.

PHOTO BY ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/AP

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Life



★ **Managing Anxiety** ★

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Anxiety is a normal part of everyone's college experience. It's natural to be anxious about upcoming assignments, exams or just feel general college stress. It is important to recognize what is a healthy amount of anxiety, and what may require more support.

Panic attacks are a common part of dealing with anxiety. Panic attacks are described as a sudden episode of intense panic or fear. You may have symptoms such as sweating, shaking, being unable to catch your breath or a rapid heart rate.

If you experience panic attacks, it's important to learn tools to calm yourself down. Listening to music or talking to a friend you trust may help. Breathing exercises have also been shown to help decrease the intensity of panic attacks. Square breathing is a common suggestion for people who experience panic attacks. This consists of breathing in, holding your breath, exhaling and then holding your breath again — all for four seconds each. Often-times the process will need to be

repeated several times until you are feeling calm again.

Getting outside has been proven to be helpful for those with anxiety. A change of scenery and some sun can be very useful in quelling anxious thoughts or moments. If you are feeling anxious, try going on a short walk or making a trip to the UConn Rec Center for some physical activity. Aromatherapy techniques also help some people with anxiety. Next time you are feeling anxious, try using an essential oil. Smelling the oil gets you out of your head and focused on the scent, giving your brain enough time to calm itself down.

If no home remedies work for you, it may be worth your time to talk to a professional. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy has been proven to help work through anxiety and anxious thought patterns. By speaking with a professional, you may be able to find the source of your anxiety and panic attacks. Medication may also be an option to look into. Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors have also proven to be effective in the treatment of general anxiety or panic attacks as well as a host of other mental health medications.

If you deal with social anxiety, exposure to social situations may help you become more comfortable. Luckily, UConn has many opportunities for socialization across campus. Grab a friend and get something to eat at one of UConn's many dining halls and cafés. If you are looking for something to keep you occupied on a weekend, try attending Late Night. They hold events each weekend such as arts and crafts nights and karaoke, among other activities.

The UConn Rec Center also offers group fitness classes throughout the week such as yoga and spin classes. Grab a friend and go together, or go by yourself. It's always good to get active and physical activity can seem a bit less daunting in a group setting.

If you think you may benefit from counseling or mental health support, reach out to the mental health office at Student Health and Wellness. They are equipped with several counselors and mental health resources. They can also make referrals to outside sources of support if needed. Call 860-486-4705 for SHaW's mental health services, or visit the SHaW website.



A NETFLIX SERIES

## MURDAUGH MURDERS: A SOUTHERN SCANDAL

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"Murdaugh Murders: A Southern Scandal," a true crime documentary, premiered on Netflix on Feb. 22. The premise of the show is that it shares the story of an influential South Carolina family's fall from grace.

PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

# 'MURDAUGH MURDERS: A SOUTHERN SCANDAL'

reveals that money and status can only get you so far

by **Karla Perez**  
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Everyone knows the saying "money talks." How far will people go to implement that saying and cross the line from annoyance to a lack of basic morals? How long can someone feel comfortable and secure hiding behind their money and status? On top of that, how long can people of status go untouched before the rest of the community decides to take them down? All of these questions bounce back and forth throughout the course of Netflix's new true crime series, "Murdaugh Murders: A Southern Scandal."

The show discusses six years' worth of events that played out in South Carolina's Lowcountry that resulted in the loss of five lives, each of which connects one way or another to the Murdaugh family.

Up until the unraveling of these tragedies, the Murdaughs had a powerful reputation in the Lowcountry. Some could say that the respect people paid to them was rooted in fear. Their name held so much power that they could get anyone out of trouble no matter the extent. To paraphrase the way Morgan Doughty,

**How long can someone feel comfortable and secure hiding behind their money and status?**

the former girlfriend of Paul Murdaugh, put it, the Murdaughs could snap their fingers and the problems would quite literally disappear without a trace.

The series outlines the investigation of this family and why they seem to get away with so much after Paul Murdaugh becomes the target blamed for a boat crash and the death of beloved Mallory Beach.

To preface the oddity of this situation, Morgan Doughty shares some experiences she gathered in her time dating Paul. The most striking of these stories relates to a car crash that resulted — to no one's surprise — from Paul's insistence to drive under the influence. She describes how when the couple crashed, a sea of guns and trash poured out from the car in all directions. After Morgan tried to call 911, Paul snatched the phone from her hand and

called his grandfather instead. When his family arrived, they quickly stripped the scene of the weapons and interrogated Morgan as to why she called 911 and put Paul's life at risk.

On the night of Feb. 23, 2019, Mallory Beach, Anthony Cook, Connor Cook, Paul Murdaugh, Morgan Doughty and Miley Altman found themselves in a horrific boat accident. This was the accident that cost Mallory her life and sparked the downfall of the Murdaughs. All of the passengers on the boat stated that Paul was the one steering while being severely under the influence and acting aggressive. Eventually, forensic evidence proved this claim.

Despite all the talk, Randolph and Alex Murdaugh, Paul's grandfather and father, attempt to cast the blame for the crash onto Connor Cook so as not to tar-

**How long can people of status go untouched before the rest of the community decides to take them down?**

nish the family name. On top of this, the Murdaughs have family members and friends within law enforcement who help them in keeping conversations about the crash quiet and as discreet as possible. The family goes to the extent of not even telling the Beaches that their daughter has gone missing until hours after the rest of the group is taken to the local hospital, at which point they find out through the Cook family.

Thanks to the forensic evidence that frames Paul as the true person responsible for the boat crash, Paul is charged with three counts of boating under the influence. He pleads not guilty to all three. This act initiates communal anger and confusion and eventually leads to the violent death of Paul Murdaugh and his mother, Maggie Murdaugh.

All of this information can be gathered within the first two out of the three episodes in the series. Every time I thought all of my questions had been answered, five more popped up. Each scene digs up another secret the Murdaughs tried to hide for years. The series is not only about the crime itself, but the journey to achieving long-awaited justice for the Lowcountry community.

Rating: 5/5



# Life

@dailycampuslife

# ‘THE STRAYS’

## is a gripping thriller about imposter syndrome and the color of our skin

by **Raymond Ollivierre**  
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On Wednesday, Netflix released its new psychological thriller, “The Strays,” which follows a woman as her perfect life slowly deteriorates into madness. But rather than review the movie on normal standards — writing, acting, cinematography and score — there’s a lot more thematically at stake that needs to be discussed.

A good psychological thriller presents twists throughout the plot that never feel outlandish. With delicately placed clues, interesting shots and special effects, we the audience are meant to feel like we are witnessing the characters’ delusions. Cheryl, our protagonist, is a fair-skinned Afro-British woman who left her past behind to live in a small wealthy town far from London. With her white husband and their equally white passing children, she lives a lavish life as a theology professor and a deputy headmistress at an upscale private school.

On the surface level, it seems like a fairly understandable plot. A Black woman of fairer complexion seeks to hide her roots while mingling amongst the white upper class, using her husband as an elevation of her status symbol. It is not just implied but shown that Cheryl, who goes by the name of Neve to her Caucasian compatriots, was disgusted with her own skin and the treatment she had received as a Black woman within London. In a drastic attempt to change her status, she dons a wig and a posh accent to further separate her from her urban past. This cleansing of any resemblance of Black culture is only exacerbated by her children’s growing interest in Black culture.

Very rarely do we as Americans take time to consider how our issues mirror those across the world in Europe. Racism within the UK takes on many different forms, but the universal truth is that BIPOC are always made to feel uncomfortable in their skin. Bleaching is even a popular skin-lightening technique used by those of darker complexion to make their skin lighter. It is no secret in the Black community that lighter-skinned men and women receive far more preferential treatment than their dark-skinned counterparts. While this same trend extends to the Asian and African continents, it is most popular amongst BIPOC living in predominantly white regions.

“The Strays” seeks to look at this dichotomy in the extreme, asking what would happen if you went so far as to appear white that you could even “blend in.” Progressive and conservative people on all sides would argue that Black women of all shades are popular in Western culture, focusing on the success of Beyoncé and Oprah as the two pillars on which all arguments seem to stand. But when your example of a universally-beloved Black wom-

an is the fairer-skinned Beyoncé, who’s had increasingly blonde hair throughout her career, versus Oprah, a daytime talk show host who was told she wasn’t pretty enough for television, it only proves colorism is alive and well. Most people probably don’t even notice that Beyoncé is 1) wearing a wig, 2) straightening her hair and 3) is blonde on purpose because that’s what markets to the largest population internationally.

Without giving away too much of the plot, “The Strays” creates a feeling of unnerve that makes my skin crawl on a deeply personal level. As you watch this family slowly lose its nerve as secret after secret is revealed, each

scream in anguish earns its place at the table. At no point is a sense of stability ever restored, as both sides struggle to come to grips with their place within society and each other’s lives. Cheryl’s masquerade as a faux-Caucasian woman à la Rashida Jones is beyond impressive, and each antidepressant popped by her only lends to the feeling that she’s a hairpin trigger away from ending it all.

But throughout the film’s relatively short runtime, I couldn’t help but feel that these themes would be lost on someone who’s never experienced colorism. I can remember as a Black man having arguments about who’s darker than who, the idea of light-

skin privilege and those who were made to feel ashamed of their darker skin. Yes, all Black lives matter, but how could a culture of orange peel spray tans and skin cancer-inducing tanning beds understand? When do we get to the conversation of some Black lives mattering more than others?

This movie is not as analog as “Get Out,” which broke ground for its exploration of interracial relationships mixed with horror. It instead trades in the “us versus them” mentality that we’ve been conditioned to for more of an “if you can’t beat ‘em, join them” narrative. This shift serves the movie well because for once we’re treat-

ed to something outside of our American norms in exchange for a British perspective. There’s far more I could discuss on the production of the film along with the pacing, but I think that’s better suited for the back seat.

“The Strays” will probably never reach the cult status of “Get Out” or any other cult films that followed in its footsteps and that’s what I love about it. This film explores the idea of what it takes to be privileged and where sacrifice ends and self-harm begins. If we are willing to throw away our identity and families to live the ideal life, undoubtedly the imposter syndrome will catch up with us.

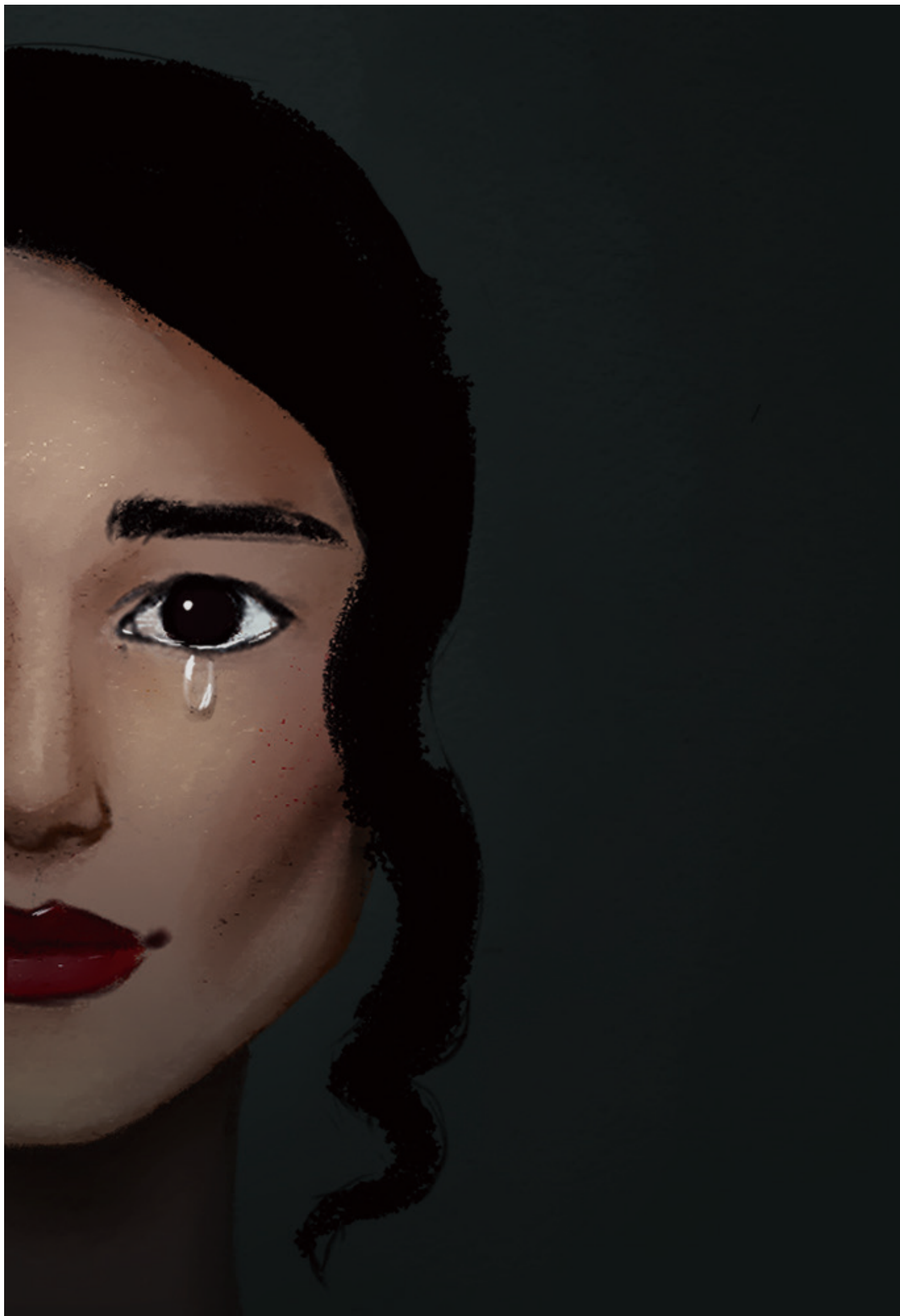


ILLUSTRATION BY ANNA IORFINO, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# Opinion

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COMIC BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# REPRESENTATION OVER PRESTIGE: REASSESSING UNDERGRADUATE RANKINGS

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With the past few weeks consisting of numerous discussions surrounding the financial future of the University of Connecticut and its constituents, and in the light of recent editorials, I think it's worthwhile to assess what exactly UConn is fighting to preserve. Aside from the blatant transparency exhibited by the university's actions and comments regarding a not-high-enough budget proposal from Gov. Ned Lamont, the answer may lie in the comments shared by President Radenka Maric during Wednesday's board of trustees meeting.

Maric shared the "President's Report," a presentation regarding updated statistics on the undergraduate student body. In it she emphasized rising SAT averages of first-year applicants — comparing UConn scores to the likes of University of California, Berkeley — as well as the 4.1 average years to graduation and \$1.2 million return on investment from a bachelor's degree over a 40-year span. While these numbers signify a positive trend in the quality of applicants and post-graduate outcomes, why should this matter? And more importantly, who do these numbers matter to?

Students, of course; but there's more to it than that. If the past week taught us anything, it's that the university has made no attempt to hide its anterior motives behind anything it does. Funding, recognition and prestige plague the college atmosphere, and UConn is not exonerated from this obsession. Talks of making UConn a "public Ivy" and shifting away from the land-grant university it once served to represent through increases in federal

funding and admissions statistics is a frightening reality.

UConn nearly imploded when the news broke that it was no longer a top-25 public university. With U.S. News and World Report ranking the university 26 overall, alongside the likes of UMass-Amherst and Texas A&M, the 10-year streak was broken. Maric's emphasis on SAT scores — an exam proven to show preference to white, upper-class test-takers — despite UConn switching to a test-optional admissions process through the Fall 2026 semester is a troubling reminder that college admissions, and the administrators that continue to tout its importance, will always show preference for students of privileged backgrounds.

Despite promoting its initiatives in the international sphere through programs such as the Dodd Human Rights Impact or the more than 1,400 undergraduate students hailing from countries outside of the U.S., it's moments like these, as subtle as they may be, that remind one that underneath any U.S. institution lies centuries of western settler-colonialist ideologies that have continued to shape the admissions process and the undergraduate experience as a whole.

Granted, this is all said without examining the college ranking system which has historically shown bias towards rich, private and often problematic institutions. Seeing numerous formerly high-ranked schools drop out from the U.S. News ranking entirely should remind administrators of other institutions that the data used in such rankings are often inflated or falsified. A quantitative investigation done by Michael Thaddeus, a mathematics professor at Columbia University, found that there existed multiple occasions in which Columbia had skewed

self-reported statistics such as average class size, average time to graduation and student-faculty ratio, all of which represent significant proportions of the total ranking formula. "When U.S. News emphasized selectivity, the elite universities were drawn into a selectivity arms race and drove their acceptance rates down to absurdly low levels. Now it emphasizes graduation rates instead, and it is not hard to foresee that these same universities will graduate more and more students whose records do not warrant it, just to keep graduation rates," Thaddeus posits.

With this in mind, I can't help but be wary of Maric's emphasis on SAT scores, graduation rate and a massive increase in applicants — which almost always results in a lower yield, and not a larger class size. In an attempt to standardize the human experience, rankings have done little but force universities into identifying areas in which it can establish a mold for its incoming applicants. Ranking Yale or Harvard at number one is not an indicator that Yale is one ranking point "better" than Harvard, just as UConn is not one ranking point "worse" than UMass-Amherst. It's entirely subjective. If I were an applicant looking to become the next U.S. President, and I was deciding between Yale and UConn, statistically I'd select Yale, as they've been responsible for more U.S. Presidents than UConn has — five more to be exact. If I were a No. 1 women's basketball recruit, and my dreams were to make it to the WNBA, however, I'd easily pick UConn.

And before someone leaves some slanderous comment on this piece, what with my captain obvious-level intuition, I'm not done yet, okay? As Colin Diver so eloquently put

LOGO BY KAITLYN TRAN,  
ARTIST EDITOR/THE  
DAILY CAMPUS



it, "Trying to rank institutions of higher education is a little like trying to rank religions or philosophies. The entire enterprise is flawed, not only in detail but also in conception." Knowing that U.S. News places statistical emphasis on graduation rates means it is in UConn's best interest to "improve" this number, even if that means approving students for graduation who previously would not have been ready. The rankings, above all, do little but establish what percentage of the student body has historically been successful in a capitalist-driven role, with no mention of mental sustainability, happiness and purpose, ethical harm to the world and overall quality of life. And yet, high school students are constantly fed this information, with GPA medians and SAT averages becoming etched into their minds throughout the admissions process.

What's worse, however, is hearing it as a college student. The rank of a college such as Berkeley, which as aforementioned Maric com-

pared UConn's statistics to, has no bearing on my college experience. What does, however, is being told that Berkeley, or any university ranked higher than UConn, is "better" than the school we attend. I understand the sentiment that UConn should continue to promote itself as an establishment of education in the eyes of those who deem it important enough to fund; I appreciate this sentiment even, at least when it results in tangible change that benefits the student body. What I don't appreciate, however, is watching a university, which as proven by the last two weeks has done little to promote any sort of financial — or environmental — sustainability, emphasize increases in SAT scores of incoming applicants. Rather than continuing to fight the rankings fight, a battle which many schools have conceded to, the university should assess its values, ensuring that the decisions being made at the university level are done to protect and promote the livelihood and representation of the student body, and not just some online list.

# — RAPID FIRE —

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

In this Rapid Fire, writers gave their opinions on the question: What holiday should we replace Presidents' Day with?

### Madeline Papcun, Opinion Editor:

National Muppet Day. Kermit the Frog has done more for this country than plenty of past presidents — we need to make this happen.

### Harrison Raskin, Editor-in-Chief:

Presidential Assassin Day. Not only would we celebrate Lee Harvey Oswald and John Wilkes Booth, but also everyone who attempted an assassination which then includes our beloved John Hinckley.

### Dan Stark, Weekly Columnist:

NBA All-Star Game Day. It's right around the same time and I would rather celebrate LeBron than some president who wouldn't be able to shoot a 3-pointer to save his life.

### Owen Silverman, Weekly Columnist:

My birthday. While we're at it, we should replace all holidays with a celebration of my birthday, so that I can both celebrate with hundreds of parties, while also breaking the record of oldest-recorded person (by number of birthdays celebrated).

### Sam Zelin, Managing Editor:

Ok, not really answering the question, but this is too funny not to say. Presidents' Day fell on Feb. 20, which happens to be "No Politics Day" according to nationaltoday.com. So, how about we make that the federal holiday instead of lifting up two dusty relics of the past?



ILLUSTRATION BY KAITLYN TRAN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Opinion

Photo of the Day | Vintage finds



Students sell vintage clothes at a pop-up in front of the UConn Recreation Center on Wednesday, Feb. 22nd.  
PHOTO BY HEEMIN KOO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# WHY WE NEED STORIES

by **Grace Sim**  
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**“Humans are storytellers. It is our nature to make up stories, to interpret everything we perceive.”**

DON MIGUEL LUIZ (WRITER)

Stories are an essential part of our lives; we cannot live without them. Ever since we begin to understand language and communication, we listen to stories from our parents and teachers. The stories are not just for entertainment, as they all have important life lessons, such as being nice to others and not giving up on our hopes and dreams. However, soon we move on to more complicated stories; we soon find stories with a twist and turn as the main character's loyal supporter stabs their back towards the climax and the evil one turns out to be good after all. We look for stories that are provocative, stories that stimulate our desires. Eventually, the twists and turns turn out to be

cliché and most of the stories follow the same story plot after all. After a long search for good stories, we lose hope of finding something unique. Something that can give us the same shock we had when we were less exposed to books and television.

Of course, I have enjoyed many books and television series for the past few years. Those stories have affected me in every way, and I still think about how they made me feel emotionally. Unfortunately, out of 100 movies, television series and books combined, I would not finish 90 of them. I would quickly lose interest in the first 10

minutes, the first episodes and the first couple of chapters. It is clear who will fall in love with the main character, when the characters will have a conflict, who is the killer and more. This was not because I have a professional eye for what is a good story or not. It's not because I am very picky and definitely not because I have a unique taste that no one else has. It was because I was addicted to media content that stimulate stronger emotions.

Each day, it seems like our attention span gets shorter and shorter; you can tell that from what the most popular media source is these days.

When we thought that YouTube was the most addictive and dangerous information source 10 years ago, many of the younger generations already found an alternative that is stronger and shorter (TikTok, YouTube Shorts, Instagram reels, etc.). Many are already making stories out of these platforms and people don't really think it's a waste of time. If it was a good story, the 30 seconds were worth it, and if it was not, it's okay — after all, it was only a few seconds long. Or is it? The average time people spend on Instagram reels and TikTok is each 53 minutes and 45 minutes, respectively, which

makes almost 100 minutes in total. This time could be used to read a novel or watch a movie. Sadly, the fear of wasting our time on longer content, like a book or a movie, with an unsatisfying storyline keeps us away from finding a diamond in the rough. At least that is how I feel recently.

As I said, we are already exposed to a million clichés and patterns of what makes a good, popular story. However, there is a reason why through each generation, they still survive to this day and are praised and loved by many people. Plus, even if they follow the same patterns, we can

try to find the uniqueness of these stories. The literary style, how the writer and director capture the scene, and all the little details make the story colorful and meaningful to us. By looking through this kind of perspective, I realized again that all stories can't just be a form of thrill and excitement. It is more like a clump of how much we can grasp the feelings and the artwork put into the story. And if we still don't get those feelings with a particular story, it might not just be for you. There is always time to look for another one. What's important is to never stop looking for a good story that we can't wait to finish.



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# Track and Field: Huskies on the road to victory at Big East Championships

by **Bridget Bronsdon**  
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The UConn track and field team, already heavily decorated in accolades, is expected to continue its legacy this weekend at the Big East Championships in Chicago. Following an unprecedented season of record-breaking times and top-five finishes, the Huskies can confidently close out the season with an exceptional record at their backs.

Earlier this season, Terrel Williams broke the UConn indoor record with a time of 7.71 seconds in the 60-meter hurdles. The junior, currently ranked No. 12 in the nation and seeded No. 1 in the Big East, can expect a first-place finish this weekend. Prior to Williams, the event record was 7.72, set in 2005 by Selim Nurudeen of Notre Dame. Whilst Williams' records suggest a top finish this weekend and it would be the cherry on top, the athlete has already accomplished unparalleled times this season.

Similarly, the women's team has eight athletes ranked in the Big East top 25 for the 60-meter hurdles. Sophomore Jailya Ash is ranked first with a time of 8.31 as A'lyiah Thomas (8.57) and Emily Lavarnway (8.59) follow closely behind with third- and fifth-place seeded times.

As for the pole vault, both the men and women have swept the competition thus far. Travis Snyder and Kali Knott have been true testaments to the team's athleticism. Snyder currently holds the top two jumps in the Big East this season with a personal record of 5.74 meters. Snyder's season records suggest he will be adding to his already exceptional resume this weekend. Knott is currently seeded first in the conference and ranked No. 2 in the UConn record books for her jump of 3.91 meters.



UConn track & field athletes depart from Storrs, Conn. for their upcoming Big East Championship in Chicago, Illinois.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNTFXC ON INSTAGRAM

Across the board, the Huskies have swept the competition time and time again. The 200-meter race will be the event to watch as numerous UConn athletes hold top seeds. Senior duo Joseph O'Brien and Wellington Ventura are currently seeded second (21.23) and third (21.41) and are expected to battle it out with No. 1 seed Joshua Paige of Georgetown. Similarly, Ash is ranked third in the event alongside five other UConn women.

Some other first-place seeds include Ventura in the 400-meter, freshman Mia Dansby in the 60-meter hurdles and Patricia Mroczkowski in the high jump. As for the 4x400 relay, the women's and men's teams are expected to go 1-2.

While the championship suggests tough competition from powerhouses Georgetown and Villanova, cross country and track and field Associate Director Rich Miller emphasized the team's mindset going into the season closer. Miller noted that the team has collectively used "each week as a stepping stone to achieve new goals." Miller also provided insight as to how practice has been shaped by the stacked lineup of athletes. Miller emphasized that, "it's up to us to be at our best, if we're at our best we feel like we can beat anyone. The ultimate goal and definition of a champion is to do it for yourself as well as your teammates." Amidst tough competitors and high stakes, the team has maintained their composure, a true testament to their professionalism.

With an uncanny formula for success, the Huskies have proven to be a powerhouse like no other. The highly decorated team can confidently walk into the Big East this weekend already as champions and can expect to add to the record books.

# Baseball: Huskies travel to Golden State to participate in Cal Baseball Classic

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Last weekend, the UConn baseball team played the Ohio State Buckeyes four times in three Floridian ballparks. The Hook C will stay in one place this weekend, Evans Diamond in Berkeley, California, as they participate in the Cal Baseball Classic against the Cal Poly Mustangs and the California Golden Bears. The Huskies will play Cal Poly once on Friday, Feb. 24, before playing against Cal on Feb. 25 at 5 p.m. EST and Feb. 26 at 4 p.m. EST.

UConn (2-2) split their four-game series with the Buckeyes to begin the regular season, getting shut out in the first game while winning both contests in Sarasota, Florida. Even though they were shut out in the season opener, the Huskies plated 22 runs on 31 hits with six home runs and two triples throughout the series.

Although no one from the Hook C won a Big East weekly award, Corey Morton made the Big East Weekly Honor Roll after posting a 1.035 OPS with one home run and six RBIs in four games. Morton brings star power to the outfield while Dominic Freeberger and Ben Huber, two infielders who bring a lot of power, make up the rest of the heart of the order. Freeberger has just as many RBIs as Morton while posting a .286 batting average and a .992 OPS, already making an impact after transferring from UNC Asheville. Huber, also known as the "Albino Rhino," leads the team with two home runs despite his .167 batting average and .711 OPS.

No announcement has been made via their official Twitter page about this weekend's rotation as of press release, so expect the Huskies to run with the same starting rotation from last week. It starts with Ian Cooke, the sophomore right-hander who pitched six solid innings while allowing three runs with eight strikeouts in a loss. Following him would be Jack Sullivan, who earned the win after

allowing two runs in 5.1 efficient innings in last Saturday's outing.

The rotation shifts from the homegrown products to the transfers as southpaw Andrew Sears would get the nod for the third game. Even without a decision, the Rhode Island College transfer went five innings and allowed two runs in his UConn debut. This also means that righthander Stephen Quigley, who pitched the final game of the series, will most likely not start. Even though he has a 7.36 ERA after allowing three runs in 3.2 innings, do not be surprised if the Wheaton College transfer enters from the bullpen at some point this weekend. Although their rotation is solid, having a strong bullpen is going to be important if the Huskies want to leave the Golden State with at least two wins.

The Mustangs (2-1) are coming off a series win against the Missouri State Bears, one where the winning team scored at least 10 runs in each game, and are hoping to resume a suspended battle against the San Jose State Spartans at some point this season. In that contest suspended due to darkness, Cal Poly found themselves up one heading into the ninth inning.

Offensively, Jake Steels has made an immediate impact on the basepaths with all three of the team's stolen bases and three RBIs on seven hits. While the Allan Hancock College transfer brought the speed, Evan Cloyd brought the power at the plate in the first series of his collegiate career. Across three games, Cloyd batted .455 with five hits, one home run and five RBIs while posting a 1.409 OPS. CSU Bakersfield transfer Aaron Casillas puts runners in scoring position immediately as three of his six hits are doubles, which has turned into five RBIs and a 1.283 OPS.

The rotation is led by Bryce Warrecker, who made his fifth career start last Friday and allowed two runs in five innings of work. Cal Poly picked up the win behind his efforts, but the junior righty is likely going to pitch the series opener earlier Friday afternoon. With

that in mind, expect Travis Weston and his 11.57 ERA to take the bump against UConn in the second game of the invitational for the Mustangs.

The host Golden Bears (3-1) enter with a lot of momentum after knocking off the No. 2 Stanford Cardinal with a four-run first inning on Tuesday at Sunken Diamond. Prior to that nonconference contest, Cal took two out of three against the Houston Cougars, shutting them out in the season opener.

Carson Crawford, Caleb Lomavita and Rodney Green Jr. make up a three-headed offensive core for the Golden Bears. Crawford hit his first career grand slam against the Cardinal and leads the team with a 1.413 OPS as well as eight RBIs. Lomavita leads the team with two home runs as part of his eight base hits with five RBIs to boot. Green Jr. is a speedster on the basepaths with two stolen bases, two doubles and four RBIs.

Perennial ace Ian May pitched eight innings of shutout baseball with seven strikeouts and a walk in the season opener. With him likely pitching the opener against the Mustangs, expect the Huskies to go up against one of Paulshawn Pasqualotto or Connor Sullivan. Pasqualotto got the nod in the second game of the series and pitched one inning in his first appearance since 2021. Sullivan went 4.1 innings in relief in that same game, allowing one run on five hits with four strikeouts. Regardless of who starts the second game, the Huskies will likely face Joe Williams in each team's final game of the invitational. Even though he has a save, the graduate student from Pomona-Pitzer College started the Golden Bears' upset win against Stanford and kept them off the board in two innings.

First pitch for the Hook C is scheduled for Friday at 10 p.m. EST on Cal's Pac-12 Network. Fans who cannot watch the game live can tune into MIXLR.



UConn baseball athlete, Jack Sullivan, warms up for their upcoming game.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNBBSB ON INSTAGRAM

## Sports

## Photo of the Day | Cheerful Crowd



Gampel Pavilion experiences a whiteout as men's basketball levels Providence College 87-69 in Gampel Pavilion on Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023. Their next game is at Madison Square Garden in Queens, New York, versus St. John's University on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023.  
PHOTOGRAPH BY IZZI BARTON, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# NBA: Whose NBA All-Star Game debut performance promises a future All-Star MVP?

by **Lotta Lavonen**  
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When the 2023 NBA All-Star Game commenced last Sunday in Utah, some new promising players rose to the occasion, with game MVP Jayson Tatum and his 55 points scored in the spotlight. While some of the current legends and familiar faces in the competition like LeBron James are nearing the age of 40, the question arises: who are the candidates to compete against Tatum in the future? Attention draws on the six players that debuted in this year's All-Star Game, namely Anthony Edwards, De'Aaron Fox, Jaren Jackson Jr., Lauri Markkanen, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Tyrese Haliburton. What's at stake for these players and how did their performance in Sunday's game reflect their future outlooks? Will one of them become the next All-Star MVP, a title held by the basketball icons of the century, LeBron James and Kobe Bryant, three and four times respectively?

Starting off with Markkanen, "The Finisher," who is the first ever Finnish player to make it to the All-Star Game. Not only that, but he was also the only of the six newbies to make it to the starting

five. While enjoying this nomination, the Utah Jazz forward got to play for his home audience at his home court. He was far from disappointing expectations with his 13 points, five fabulous slams and a 3-pointer. His double-pump reverse slam in the second quarter especially left everyone in awe. His performances during the ongoing season have sparked many promises of becoming a great star, and his outstanding showing in the All-Star Game proves just that.

Gilgeous-Alexander, playing in his fifth NBA season for the Oklahoma City Thunder, made his first appearance amongst basketball greatness after his remarkable performances during the season, most notably his 44-point game against the Portland Trail Blazers in February. In the All-Star Game, his shooting hand was well-prepared with

80% field goal percentage, resulting in nine points. Gilgeous-Alexander has earned the nickname of the unofficial Driving King having the

most drives per game. He is definitely off to a promising growth since his first seasons and could be the next superstar leading the Thunder to post-season success.

The third star from the Minnesota Timberwolves, Edwards, "Ant-Man," did not hold back with his athleticism in the All-Star Game, putting on a show of two-handed slams. Selected as the No. 1 overall pick for the Minnesota Timberwolves, Edwards

has continued to impress with various 40+ or more performances. Although selected to the game as an injury replacement, if he continues to perform as his All-Star show heralds, "Ant-Man"

has the potential to put his name among icons.

Haliburton, currently playing for the Indiana Pacers, showed out in the All-Star Game in his third season in the league. Out of the six first-timers, Haliburton finished as the highest scorer with 18 points in just 13 minutes. The third-year star has made some remarkable performances throughout the season, including a game-winning 3-pointer against the Miami Heat in December. He also stepped up to the stage in the All-Star Weekend's 3-Point Contest, leaving a positive impression for the years to come.

Fox is playing in his sixth season for the Sacramento Kings, headed by the famous coach Mike Brown, while the Kings might be heading to their first playoff performance after almost 20 seasons.

A noticeable part of the promising success of the team has been Fox's improvements in scoring and assists. Some

near 40-point performances earned him a spot amongst the stars, although he was selected as an injury replacement. However, he had a quiet performance on Sunday with nine minutes of playing time. Perhaps his true potential is yet to be seen in the postseason, where finishing without field goals will not be sufficient.

Finally, Jackson Jr., a power forward for the Memphis Grizzlies, made a beautiful one-handed slam at the beginning of the second quarter of the All-Star Game. This season being his fifth in the NBA, Jackson Jr. has shown promising defensive efforts especially since the previous NBA season. Despite not being the highest scorer in the game, his defensive efforts will be crucial if the Grizzlies make it to the playoffs.

It seems that a strong four, Markkanen, Gilgeous-Alexander, Edwards and Haliburton, have the greatest outlooks as the future All-Stars, but to win the famous title of the MVP, now named after the legendary Kobe Bryant, phenomenal performances are required. Therefore, it remains to be seen if any of these players are up for the challenge and leave their name in the history books.

IMAGES COURTESY OF FREESVG



## WOMEN'S LACROSSE HUSKIES LOOK TO BOUNCE BACK AGAINST HAWKS

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

After a tough loss on the road last weekend, the UConn women's lacrosse team is back in action this Saturday, taking on St. Joseph's at home at 1 p.m.

The Huskies (1-1) have had an up-and-down start to the year, taking home an overtime win over Fairfield in their season opener before falling to No. 12 James Madison on the road in a defensive battle. It's early in the season, and this team is working on finding their own identity, especially after losing program top scorer and draw controls leader Sydney Watson to the professional ranks this past May.

Even though the team is only through two games, it took no time for a pair of UConn athletes to take home Big East weekly awards. Defending Big East Goalkeeper of the Year Landyn White start-

ed out the season "white"-hot, totaling 11 groundballs and 32 saves across both contests. Against a stout Dukes offense, White made 20 saves against 27 total shots on goal.

All-Big East Second Teamer Grace Coon is picking back up right where she left off last spring as well, netting herself seven goals and an assist for eight total points on 11 shots on goal. Coon also added one forced turnover. For her efforts, the graduate student earned a Big East Honor Roll nod. Both Coon and White will continue to lead the Huskies moving forward.

The entire Husky back line is coming off of a very strong performance at James Madison, holding a top team in the country to just 11 points at home. Connecticut did a great job of limiting the Dukes' top option on offense, Isa-

bella Peterson, to one goal. While St. Joseph's doesn't necessarily boast a player of Peterson's caliber, it is a good sign of things to come for this UConn defense and their ability to keep themselves in close competition with any opponent.

The Hawks (0-3) may be winless, but they are certainly hungry for a victory. Projected to finish third overall in a decent Atlantic 10 Conference, St. Joseph's is coming off a strong 14-7 season in which they won the A-10 Championship. A blowout loss at No. 2 Maryland was a bit of an eye-opener for the Hawks, but they followed up that weak performance with tough, one-score losses at Lehigh and Villanova. Make no mistake — this team should not be counted out.

St. Joseph's is led by senior midfielder Riley Evans. A

Second Team All-Atlantic 10 selection last season, Evans has been lethal on offense with limited opportunities, scoring six goals on just seven shots, all of them on target. While a shooting percentage as high as that mark may be unsustainable, the Huskies should try to stop Evans from getting a shot off at all costs.

While Evans' six scores is impressive, sophomore midfielder Maddie Yoder tops all Hawks in goals with eight alongside one assist. She's been more of a scorer by volume, taking 19 total shots through three contests. The 2022 A-10 All-Rookie selection is another attacker to keep an eye on.

Gametime is set for 1 p.m. on Saturday at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium in Storrs, Connecticut. Stats will be provided by StatBroadcast.

IMAGE COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

# WOMEN'S HOCKEY: UCONN BEGINS HOCKEY EAST TOURNAMENT AT BOSTON COLLEGE

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The UConn women's hockey team (18-12-4, 12-11-4) has concluded its regular season, finishing fifth with 44 points in the Hockey East standings behind Northeastern University, the University of Vermont, Providence College and Boston College, in that order. They wrapped their regular season up with three straight wins over Holy Cross.

The Hockey East Tournament already began with the two opening round games on Wednesday, with Merrimack College defeating Boston University in overtime and the University of New Hampshire scoring four unanswered goals to take down Holy Cross.

In the quarterfinal round, the Huskies will take a trip to Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts to take on No. 4 seed Boston College (19-14-1, 16-11-0), ranked No. 15 in the most recent USCHO Poll.

UConn has had the Eagles' number this season, winning all three of their matchups. They also have won six of the last seven games in the series.

The Huskies were the runner-up in last year's tournament, falling to Northeastern, who has won the conference for the past five seasons. UConn has made a championship game appearance every other year in those five seasons, but they have never been crowned as champions. The Huskies have made the semifinal round in the past three years and four times since 2018.



UConn women's hockey team picks up a 2-1 loss against Holy Cross at the Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn. on Feb. 11, 2023.

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

Boston College is 5-4 all-time when facing UConn in the Hockey East Tournament, with a 3-3 record in the quarterfinal round. It will be the first meeting in the tournament since UConn won in the 2021 quarterfinal round and its the fourth time in five years they are matched

up in the quarterfinals.

The points leader for Boston College is senior forward Hannah Bilka, with 39 points and a team-high 27 assists this season. On Tuesday, Bilka was named one of the Hockey East Co-Players of the Week. Their leading goal-scorer is

sophomore forward Abby Newhook, with 18 goals.

Other top performers from the Eagles recently include senior defenseman Alexie Guay and graduate student goaltender Abigail Levy. Guay had one goal and one assist, which included the game-winner, on

the road against Providence.

Levy, who was awarded the PNC Bank Three Stars Award, had a .944 save percentage and led the league with 102 saves this past week. It'll be quite the goalie matchup between her and UConn sophomore Tia Chan, as Levy finished the conference regular season with 810 saves, which is the third-highest single-season total in Hockey East history.

Boston College has strong defenders, but there won't be a better defender in this game than senior defenseman Cayla Barnes, who was the runner-up for Army ROTC Defender of the Year.

The format for the Hockey East Tournament is similar to the NFL Playoffs, where the highest seed that advances to the next round faces the lowest seed that advances in the tournament.

The winner of UConn at Boston College will move on to the semifinal round, likely facing the winner of top-seeded No. 5 Northeastern and Merrimack, which begins 30 minutes before UConn's game. The other games in the quarterfinals include No. 11 Vermont hosting New Hampshire and the University of Maine visiting No. 14 Providence.

If the Huskies advance, the semifinal round will be on Wednesday, while the Hockey East Championship will be on Saturday, March 4.

All four quarterfinal-round games will be played tomorrow. The game against the Eagles will begin at 2:30 p.m. at the Conte Forum in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. The game will be available to stream on ESPN+.

# SOFTBALL:

# HUSKIES ENTER THIRD TOURNAMENT

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UConn softball will travel down to Greensboro, North Carolina with hopes of climbing above .500. The Huskies are scheduled to face Indiana University, UNC Greensboro and the University of Delaware in the University of North Carolina Greensboro Invitational.

UConn is coming off a weekend in which they went 3-2, bringing their season record to 4-4. Freshman Grace Jenkins won Big East Freshman of the Week for her performance last weekend while Savannah Ring made the Big East Honor Roll of the Week.

Grace Jenkins leads the Huskies with all four of the team's home runs and nine RBIs. Jenkins along with Ring, Aziah James and Makenzie Mason account for the four hitters batting above .400 in their eight games so far. Hope Jenkins leads the UConn staff with 21.0 innings pitched, along with a 6.43 ERA on 15 earned runs. Sophomore Delaney Nagy made her first three appearances last weekend, amounting 5.0 innings pitched while allowing just two runs. As a staff, UConn has a 6.29 ERA with 34 earned runs. On the other end of the field, UConn is batting .278 as a team with a slugging percentage of .412.

UConn opens the weekend taking on the Indi-

ana Hoosiers. The Hoosiers are lost their last five games, four of those coming against ranked opponents. Indiana has been outscored 43-4 during this losing streak, with three of those losses being by double digits. Brianna Copeland has been their best pitcher so far, starting in two games and appearing in another four to an ERA of 3.13 in 15.2 innings pitched. She has 16 strikeouts and has given up only seven total earned runs. The workhorse of the staff is Heather Johnson, who has started in five games for the Hoosiers to the tune of a 7.64 ERA on 20 earned runs in 18.1 innings pitched. Offensively, Brooke Benson leads the team with seven RBIs and Cora Bassett leads the team with seven hits so far on the season. Indiana scored 17 runs in their season opener against Pittsburgh but hasn't put up more than five runs in a game since.

Similar to Indiana, Delaware also on a five-game losing skid of their own. The Blue Hens started the season in the

2023 Bearkat Classic, sweeping the weekend

winning all four of their games.

They then went on to the Houston Invitational where they lost all five of their games versus five different teams. Kiara Mills leads Delaware seven

RBIs while Katie Scheivert leads the team with a .417 batting average, starting in all nine of the team's games. Emily Winburn has started four of the Blue Hens' games and appeared in another two, collecting an ERA of 1.21 in 29.0 in-

nings on just five earned runs. Relief arm Kendall Shank has appeared in three games so far, amassing a 1.27 ERA in 11.0 innings on just two earned runs.

Unlike UConn's other opponents, UNC Greensboro is coming off a successful weekend, winning four out of five matchups in the Spiro Classic. On the young season, the Spartans are 7-4 and have played solidly on both sides of the ball. Maycyn Brown has dominated, smacking five home runs and 15 RBIs in 11 games. Right behind her is Delaney Cumbie who is batting .419 with three home runs and 7 RBIs herself. Maddie Spell, who appeared in four games and started three, has a 0.88 ERA in 16.0 innings. Pitcher Jorde Chartrand has three starts in six appearances, amassing a 3.21 ERA in 24.0 innings pitched. Chartrand also had a 10-strikeout performance in the Spartans' loss against Campbell last game.

With two teams who have hit the early season struggles and another who is piecing it all together, the Huskies have a great opportunity to capitalize and pick up some early season wins. The teams they play definitely won't make it easy, but the Huskies have shown glimpses of greatness in their first two weekends. This will be yet another great test of UConn's grit and hopefully they can build momentum in the last two weeks before Big East play begins.

The UConn softball team competes against William Paterson University on Oct. 9, 2022. The Huskies swept their visiting opponents 16-0.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SKYLER KIM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# Sports

## Women's Basketball: No. 4 Huskies wrap up road slate hoping to bounce back against DePaul

by Cole Stefan  
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On Tuesday, Feb. 21, the No. 4 UConn women's basketball team lost their second conference game of the season against the St. John's Red Storm. UConn had a chance to complete another comeback in the final minutes of regulation, but ran out of fuel as the Red Storm added a signature win to their March Madness resume. The Huskies look to avoid losing a third conference game for the first time since 2012 as they travel to Wintrust Arena to take on the DePaul Blue Demons.

When these two teams last met, UConn blew out the Blue Demons 94-51 in a rescheduled contest at Gampel Pavilion as Ayanna Patterson returned from concussion protocol. That marked the last time UConn scored more than 90 points and won by more than 20. The Huskies' offense has sputtered over the past month, scoring less than 70 points in five straight contests and seven out of their last eight.

Lou Lopez-Sénéchal has been the offensive catalyst all season long, leading UConn in scoring in each of their past two games. With 40 points in her last two games, Lopez-Sénéchal is averaging 16.4 points at a 45.4% clip from downtown, good for sixth in the nation. Lopez-Sénéchal has scored in double figures all but twice this season but will look to exceed the 20 points she had in the two teams' first meeting.

While she leads the Huskies

in scoring throughout the entire regular season when playing more than 75% of the team's games, Dorca Juhász has been the go-to scorer in conference play. All but one of Juhász' double-doubles this season are against conference foes, and she averages one with 14.4 points and 10.1 boards. With 31 blocks and a 27.7% clip from long range, expect the graduate student to affect the game in more ways than one.

Juhász cannot defend everyone in the paint, which is where Aaliyah Edwards comes into the mix. Edwards has reached double figures all but twice since the middle of January with at least one steal in all but one game and five double-doubles. With 16.2 PPG at a 57.1% clip and 9.0 RPG, Edwards is just as efficient offensively as she is defensively, and there is no perfect way to stop her when she has 28 blocks and 32 steals.

Nika Mühl scored 13 points with three triples in Tuesday's loss, but it is part of a positive trend with regards to her offensive game. Since getting shut out in the first meeting

against DePaul, Mühl has scored in double figures four times this month while playing close to every minute. Combined with her 221 assists and 38 steals, Mühl is making it harder for opponents to stop her anywhere on the court.

The Blue Demons (15-14, 8-10 Big East) are coming off one of their better games in conference play as they lost by just three points at the Finneran Pavilion against Maryland Siegrist and the No. 15 Villanova Wildcats. DePaul can finish no better than sixth in the Big East, which means that they will have

to play on the first day of the conference tournament. Although they are expected to not qualify for March Madness and are 1-8 against Quad 1 opponents, the Blue Demons should not be counted out as they are ranked No. 63 in the NET with a neutral-site win against the (NET) No. 13-ranked Maryland Terrapins.

Aneesah Morrow, who had 29 points in the loss, continues to be one of the best players in the Big East. Offensively, Morrow has scored more than 20 points in every contest since her first meeting against UConn and is second in the conference with 25.7 PPG. Defensively, Morrow enters having grabbed 14 or more boards in each of her last four contests while leading the league with 12.3 RPG. Even though she might not win Big East Player of the Year, her 37 blocks and 80 steals make her a strong candidate to win Big East Defensive Player of the Year.

Darrione Rogers has been DePaul's other valuable weapon on offense. Rogers averages 17.5 points at a 36.4% clip, but her prowess comes both in transition and in the middle of the court. Rogers is third in the Big East behind Mühl and Lauren Park-Lane with 151 assists, but has not had 10 or more in one game since the first day of the month. She finds other ways to be involved as well as she is third on

the team in steals and blocks with 38 and 13 respectively.

Like Rogers, both Kendall Holmes and Anaya Peoples lead the backcourt with their own style of play. For Holmes, it comes with having as many assists as Morrow while averaging 9.4 points per contest despite her 2.5 RPG. Peoples is just as efficient on offense with 9.2 PPG at a 46.2% clip, but is a much bigger threat on defense with 56 steals, including a season-high five against the Huskies in their last meeting. Both guards were contained against UConn last time around, so expect them to step up and contribute on both ends of the floor in a massive revenge game.

Because of how dominant someone like Morrow is, the keys to this game are going to come down to both offense and defense. This is a battle between the top two scoring teams in the conference as the Blue Demons average 77.3 points and the Huskies average 76.8, a number that has been declining since they beat the Tennessee Volunteers. Both teams also sit at the top of the league in total rebounds, with UConn averaging 40.6 and DePaul averaging 41.4. The better team on both ends of the floor will walk out of Wintrust Arena as a winner.

Tipoff in the Huskies' road finale is scheduled for 2 p.m. EST from Wintrust Arena on FOX.



The UConn women's basketball team suffered their fifth loss of the season against St. John's at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. on Feb. 21, 2023. The Huskies were not able to fully recover from the six-point deficit in the first quarter. PHOTOGRAPH BY SKYLER KIM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Men's Basketball: No. 18 hope to extend toughness streak at MSG

by Jonathan Synott  
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Earlier in the season, UConn men's basketball coach Dan Hurley raised some concerns about the toughness of his team. After a tough, nine-point win in a rock fight against Seton Hall, Hurley was asked if he was less concerned about the toughness factor.

"Not after one [game]. We have to do it two more [times], three in a row," said Hurley. "Providence is one of the most physical teams in the country. They put enormous pressure on you with [Bryce] Hopkins and their centers ... we've got to prove ourselves more there."

Fast forward to Wednesday night, when the Huskies hosted the Friars in a top-20 showdown. Thanks to one of their best halves of play all season (and a well-timed \$2 beer night for fans), Connecticut cruised to a 87-69 win over Providence, outrebounding a top board-grabbing squad in the conference 40-20. Star transfer Hopkins had zero rebounds in a whopping 37 minutes played.

But the Huskies are not done yet. The key word for this squad has been consistency, something not easy to come by in a grueling conference like the Big East. But suddenly, after winning five of

their last six, UConn has a chance to extend their toughness streak to three games and exorcise their demons against the St. John's Red Storm on Saturday.

Many fans likely recall the last time these two teams squared off as the Huskies' worst loss of the season, a double-digit blowout — at the XL Center, no less. Throughout the year, Hurley has even made reference to it, still confused about his program's result that day. Six different St. John's players reached double-digit scoring, making it hard to contain just one star player on the court. A 31-point performance from star guard Jordan Hawkins wasn't enough to topple the Red Storm, who shot an incredible 52% from the field and seemingly countered every punch that UConn threw.

Despite grabbing more rebounds than St. John's in that contest, Connecticut was sloppy with the ball, allowing 21 turnovers and 22 points off turnovers.

Now, the tide has turned. The Huskies look like they are absolutely rolling right now, getting consistent offensive production from All-Big East Team candidates Hawkins and Adama Sanogo. Transfer guard Tristen Newton is picking up steam at the right time, and captain Andre Jackson is producing as one of the top glue guys

in the nation. Freshmen Alex Karaban and Donovan Clingan have been stellar in their respective roles, with the former dropping 16 points on Wednesday night. The contributions of the entire team are very reminiscent of their early season undefeated stretch, carrying them all the way to No. 2 in the country at the time.

Vibes are high in Storrs, but can they keep it that way? With a 3-5 conference road record, it's been tough for the Huskies in hostile environments this year. Thankfully for UConn, St. John's plays at Madison Square Garden, sometimes noted as a third home for Connecticut due to the proximity of the state to New York City. Expect a large turnout of Husky fans, despite it being a road contest.

At the end of the day, if Connecticut can keep up this toughness streak, they can compete toe-to-toe with anyone in the conference, or even the nation. Hurley has said that the team's struggles mid-season will prepare them for the rest of the year, and it looks like it has. Time to prove it.

Tip-off is set for 12 p.m. at Madison Square Garden in New York City. The game will be broadcast live on CBS.



Gampel Pavilion experiences a whiteout as men's basketball levels Providence College 87-69 in Gampel Pavilion on Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023. Their next game is at Madison Square Garden in Queens, New York, versus St. John's University on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023. PHOTOGRAPH BY IZZI BARTON, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

### WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

#### UConn SC-OREBOARD



4 vs. 3  
Men's Hockey  
Thursday

#### Upcoming Games



Baseball, 10 p.m. Friday  
Berkeley, CA



Softball, 1:30 p.m. Friday  
Greensboro, NC

### INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconnhuskies  
Ready to make a splash at the BIG EAST Championship

### TWEETS OF THE DAY



**Daniel Connolly**  
@DanielVConnolly  
UConn women's basketball drops three spots to a 2—seed in Greenville 2 after its loss to St. John's

**DuchARMY**  
@statstimmy  
UConn controls their own destiny, if they win out in dominant fashion I think we still have play for final 1 seed or top 2 seed

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