

Study conducted on the most and least stressed-out college towns

by Dylan Champagne

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A study conducted by Preply reveals the most and least stressed-out college towns in the country, along with other revealing statistics about college student stress-levels.

The methodology for the study involved analyzing thousands of tweets from the latter half of 2022.

“To get a sense of how college students are feeling, we looked at the place they express themselves most: social media, specifically Twitter. We reviewed tweets from students in 150 cities that were posted during the first three months of the fall semester (Aug. 1 to Oct. 1), analyzing them with a machine learning stress measurement tool, TensiStrength,” the study said. “Then, we narrowed down the list of cities to the ones with one or more prominent universities and where the total student body, both graduate and undergraduate, makes up 30% or more of the total city population.”

The study revealed that Berkeley (home to the University of California, Berkeley) was the most stressed-out college town in the country.

“Berkeley, California, home to University of California at Berkeley, is the #1 most stressed-out college town with more than 42% of tweets containing language with signs of stress,” the study states.

The researchers hypothesized that this may be partially due to the cost of living in Berkeley.

“According to the Real College Survey of 2021, 3 in 5 students experienced basic needs insecurity, feeling stress over food and housing, making the towns they live in an added stressor to their college experience,” the study said. “This may partly explain why Berkeley, California is our #1 most stressed-out

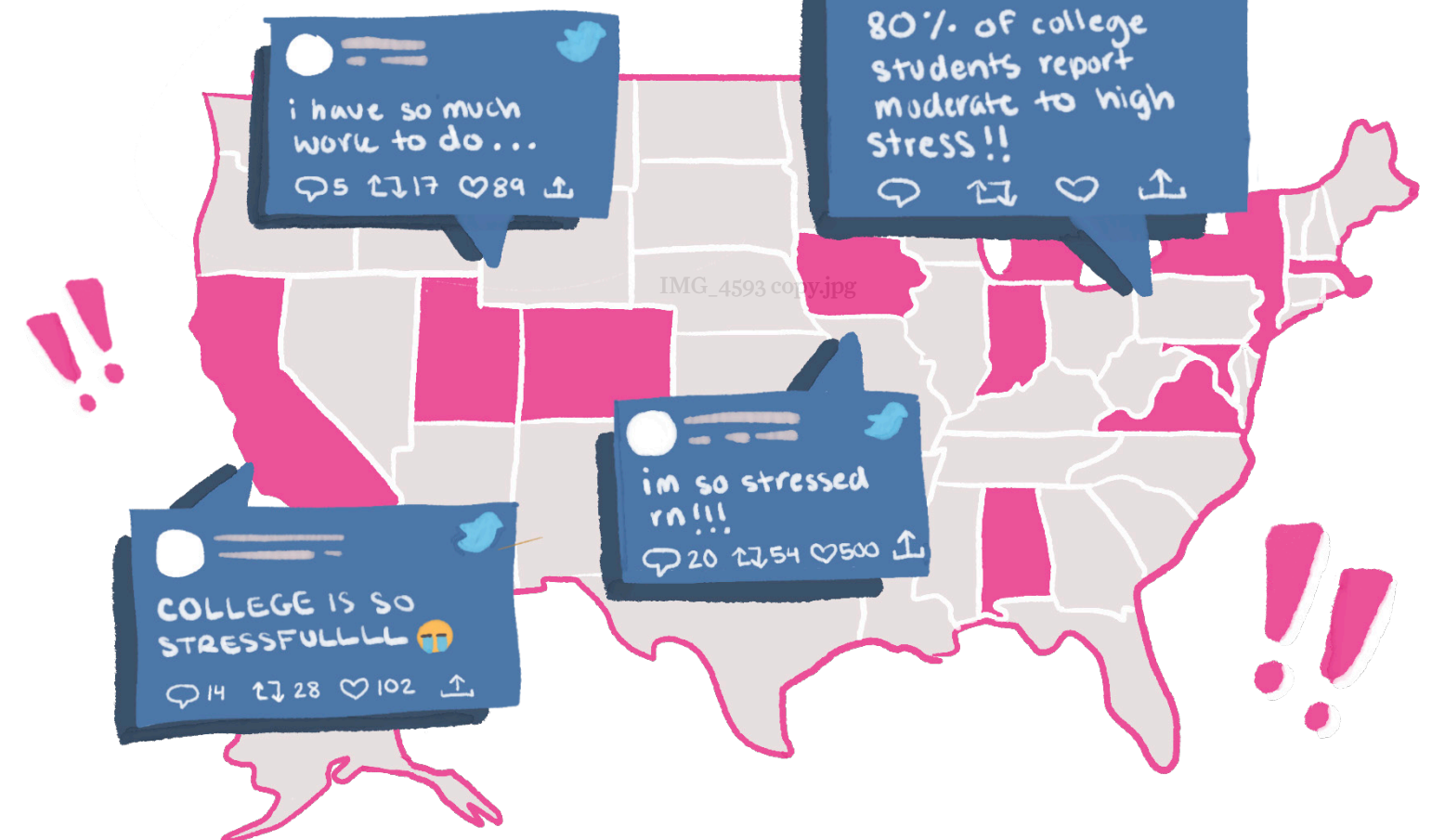


ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

college town. Berkeley’s cost of living is 82% higher than the national average, and accessing basic needs certainly can put a strain on students.”

However, not every college town in their top 10 had a high cost of living. For example, Iowa City, Iowa (home to the University of Iowa) was ranked No. 3 despite only being 7% higher than the national average in terms of cost of living.

Cambridge, Massachusetts (No. 2, home to Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology), College Park, Maryland (No. 4, home to the University of Maryland, College Park) and East Lansing, Michigan (No. 5, home to Michigan State University) were also included in the top 5. For the top 5, the percentage of stress related tweets collected were between 30.4% and 34.5%.

West Lafayette, Indiana (home to Purdue University) was the least stressed-out town in the country, with only 15% of related tweets collected, relating to stress

“Most of the more relaxed college towns are located in the Midwest. Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN is the #1 least stressed college town, with only 14.95% of stressed-out tweets coming from that area,” the study said.

Lawrence, Kansas (home to the University of Kansas), Normal, Illinois (home to Illinois State University), Starkville, Mississippi (home to Mississippi State University) and Bozeman, Montana (home to Montana State University) were also included in the top 5 for lack of stress. For the top 5, the percentage of stress related tweets collected were between 18.3% and 21.4%.

Amherst, Massachusetts (home to the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Amherst College and Hampshire College) was ranked at No. 8 of least stressed-out college towns with 22.3% of stress related tweets collected.

Finally, there were some other key takeaways from the study according to Melissa Stephenson of North Star Inbound.

“The top challenges students faced were academics (52%) and finances (41%)... 75% of college students expressed moderate to serious psychological distress, [and] 80% reported moderate to high-stress levels in the past 30 days,” Stephenson said in an email.

Stephenson also pointed out that, according to one study, more than 25% of college students identified as being at risk of stress-related suicidal inci-

dents or mental health conditions. Racial/ethnic, sexual and gender minorities were at an even higher risk.

The University of Connecticut offers free stress management services for all students and faculty. For more information, you can visit <http://be-welluconn.com>.

UConn also offers free and confidential mental health support 24/7, every day of the year. You may call 833-308-3040 at any time. Student Health and Wellness is also available for free mental health screenings and counseling, which can be scheduled over the phone or via the appointment portal online.

If you are experiencing a serious and immediate life-threatening crisis, such as thoughts of suicide, do not wait to reach out. You can call or text 911 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988

CT joins multi-state lawsuit against Google

by Aiza Shaikh

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The state of Connecticut recently joined a United States Department of Justice lawsuit concerning Google’s dominance in advertising, according to a press release from the Office of the Attorney General.

“Connecticut has joined a... lawsuit challenging Google’s dominant grip on the online advertising industry which allows the company to dictate how digital ads are sold and the terms under which its rivals can compete,” the press release reads.

The lawsuit accuses Google of acting as a monopoly, taking up a large amount of digital ad space over the course of 15 years.

“Google has thwarted competition in this business sector over the past 15 years,” stated the press release. “It has done so, as explained in the complaint, by systematically acquiring control over key ad-tech industry tools,

including the largest advertising exchange where digital ads are bought and sold, and imposing restrictions that have unfairly undermined rivals’ ability to compete.”

The press release also mentioned that Google has “inserted itself into virtually every aspect of the digital advertising marketplace,” allowing the company to earn more from its fees.

“... Google then leverages its market power to direct more business to its own ad-tech products and undermine the ability of rivals to compete, thereby enabling it to collect higher fees for itself at the expense of both the advertisers and publishers it serves as well as consumers,” according to the press release.

Connecticut is the eighth state to announce its association with the lawsuit, joining the states of California, Virginia, Colorado, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Tennessee.

According to the OAG’s Chief of Communications and Policy, Elizabeth Ben-

ton, the state joined the complaint with the concern that Google’s dominance in the advertisement industry could harm consumers if more publishers turn to subscriptions and paywalls for their content.

“... This conduct hurts all of us, including citizens of Connecticut, because, as publishers and creators make less money from advertisements, fewer are able to offer internet content without subscriptions, paywalls, or alternative forms of monetization,” Benton said. “In view of this brazen sustained conduct and harm to the industry and consumers, our state antitrust enforcement proudly joined this highly consequential suit.”

The state’s Attorney General William Tong also made a recent announcement regarding Connecticut’s involvement with the multi-state complaint.

“[Google] has abused its dominance to manipulate advertisement auctions and exchange markets, to co-

erce advertisers into using its services, and to inflate its own profits at the expense of American businesses in violation of antitrust laws,” Tong said. “Connecticut has joined with the U.S. Department of Justice and this bipartisan coalition of states to restore free and fair competition to this broken market.”

The “bipartisan coalition of states” that Tong refers to is made up of 38 attorneys general in the U.S. who are representing the lawsuit in federal court in Washington, D.C.

The trial associated with the lawsuit is scheduled to take place in September 2023.

The press release also mentioned Connecticut’s role in a separate multi-state case concerning “Google’s monopolization of payments for app purchases on the Android mobile device operating system.”

The case, which looks to get relief for affected consumers, is currently pending in federal court in San Francisco, California and has a trial scheduled for November.

Google has thwarted competition in this business sector over the past 15 years.

ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE



Google Ads



Google Marketing Platform



Google Ad Manager

The above photo displays Google’s Ads, Marketing Platform and Ad Manager logos. PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKI COMMONS

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Tweet of the Day

Annabelle Wilin
[@AnnabelleWin](https://twitter.com/AnnabelleWin)
you hit one curb and they swear you can’t drive

News

Reports find Connecticut pays 2nd highest electric bills nationwide

by Samuel Katz
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On Jan. 4, 2023, an article published by Payless Power, a Texas based electricity company, reported that Connecticut has the second highest average monthly electric bill in the country, surpassed only by Hawaii. Gathering data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration describing residential and commercial power costs, Payless Power showed that Connecticut ranks in the top five states in both sectors for power costs.

"Many Americans are struggling financially, and all signs

point to more challenging times ahead. But the greatest financial concerns among our survey respondents were being unable to pay their utility or electric bills (76%) and their rent or mortgage payments (70%)," Payless Power said, citing a survey done by the organization.

CT Insider provided a similar analysis, stating that Connecticut residents pay more in total for their electric bills due to the combination of high costs per kilowatt hour and more frequent electrical usage compared to other states such as California and Massachusetts, who have higher prices per kilowatt hour but consume less electricity.

The increase is in part due to higher prices for natural gas, the fuel source for the power plants of Eversource and United Illuminating, which provide half of the state's electricity. In an article from NBC Connecticut, 56% of Connecticut's energy is generated through natural gas, with 38% coming from nuclear power plants and as little as 4% from solar and biomass power.

"During an online forum this week convened by the Connecticut Public Utilities Authority, Sen. Bob Duff, D-Norwalk, questioned why a utility the size of Eversource does not wield more pricing leverage in procuring the power that goes

over its lines. Duff contrasted Eversource's costs with those of Avangrid subsidiary United Illuminating and members of the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative, which includes South Norwalk Electric and Water and the Norwalk Third Taxing District," CT Insider reported.

The Daily Campus reached out to University of Connecticut Eversource Energy for context, but they provided no comment.

According to the CT Mirror, part of the price increase is from before 2022. The Comprehensive Energy System program in 2012 incentivized residents to move to natural gas, but did not

see an appropriate expansion of pipeline infrastructure. As a result, electricity costs have slowly risen, exacerbated in 2022 by inflation and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

While very little gas in the United States is purchased from Russia, several countries around the world were very dependent upon Russian natural gas, resulting in a rapid transition period to new sources of power generation which led to higher gas prices domestically. According to the Center for American Progress, these prices have been eased by President Biden's use of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Research Beat: Uncovering the mysteries of "Cheater" cancer cells

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Dr. Kshitiz, a professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering and an investigator at the Yale Center of Cancer Systems Biology, along with collaborators Andre Levchenko at Johns Hopkins and Chi V. Dang at Yale and students have discovered a unique aspect of cancer cells. After years of studying these cells in low-oxygen environments, the researchers observed that while most cells are unable to

live without adequate oxygen, select cancer cells are able to continue to grow because of one protein.

Research published by the group details the role of a protein called HIF-1 α in hypoxia as it relates to cancer. Although HIF-1 α is normally responsible for suppressing cell growth, this is the opposite of what the group of researchers observed with the cancer cells.

of HIF-1 α ... thereby continuing to divide and cheat the rest of the cancer cells," Kshitiz explained.

Members of the Kshitiz Lab come from diverse backgrounds and intertwine techniques from molecular biology, computer science, biophysics and more fields to come up with answers to problems ranging from these "cheater" cancer cells to cardiac maturation. This interdisciplinary approach is characteristic of systems biology and the research group which, according to Kshitiz, focuses on taking a holistic approach to a given biological problem.

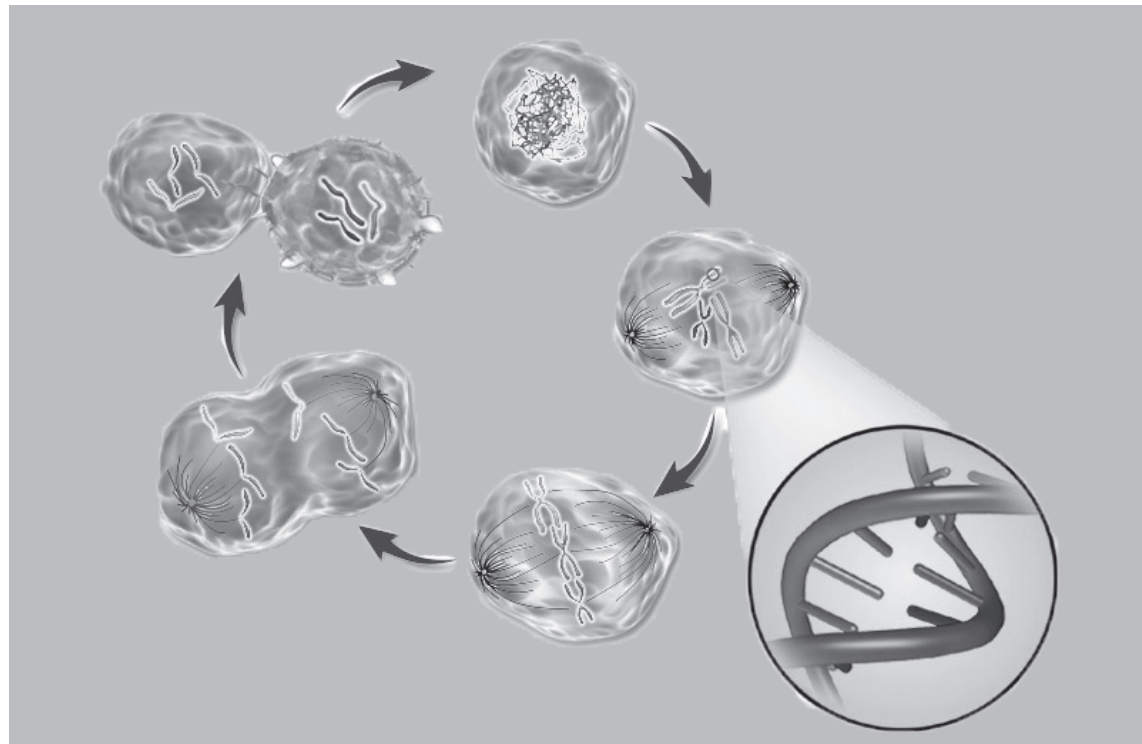


Photo shows the life cycle of cancer cells
PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

live without adequate oxygen, select cancer cells are able to continue to grow because of one protein.

Wanting to gain a better understanding of why this was happening, the group looked deeper into the biological basis of this phenomenon and why these cancer cells were able to "cheat" the conditions as they were.

"It's a beautiful, very elegant system. Oxygen sensing is cen-

"This is a conundrum because we know that cancers keep growing in the body despite a lack of oxygen," Kshitiz said.

Using various techniques, the researchers discovered that a group of cells were defying expectations and the reason these cells were able to do so.

"There was a small number of cells that were cheating, and were basically able to oscillate the levels

"There are recurring themes in biology ... and we try to find the same cycles or the same molecules or pathways getting involved," Kshitiz said.

Future directions for the lab will involve gaining a better understanding of the "cheater" populations, the ways they communicate with other cells, and their effects on the cancer as a whole.

World champion says Rubik's Cube and violin go hand in hand

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — A University of Michigan student is one of the world's foremost "speedcubers," a person capable of quickly solving a Rubik's Cube. He also is an accomplished violinist.

Stanley Chapel says the two fields go hand in hand.

Not only does Chapel say he has equal interest in both, but the 21-year-old says the violin has aided in his speedcubing success.

"Repetition, breaking things down into their smallest fundamental elements, all of these different things that we use to improve at an instrument, and being able to take these into the world of cubing has certainly been a huge help to my progression," said Chapel, a junior majoring in violin performance at the university's school of music, theater and dance.

Chapel, who grew up in Ann Arbor not far from the Michigan campus, solved his first 3x3 Rubik's Cube as a 14-year-old. Five weeks later, Chapel entered his first competition, solving the cube in an average of 22 seconds.

Fast-forward a year to 2017 in Paris, with Chapel placing fifth in both the 4x4 blindfolded and 5x5 blindfolded categories at the World Cube Association World Championship.

At the 2019 world championship in Melbourne, Australia, the recent high school graduate won both events.

Factoring in the time it takes for him to review the cube before placing the blindfold over his eyes, Chapel can solve one in around 17 seconds.

"The deeper I go into the realm of cubing technique, the more I find interest in pushing the boundaries of what's possible there," he said.

Chapel has certain inherent abilities: He is capable of remembering and applying thousands of algorithms to solve a Rubik's Cube and performing one of Johann Sebastian Bach's violin sonatas from memory.

But he also spends hours upon hours honing his craft, including doing regular hand stretches that help Chapel avoid the kinds of aches and pains that come with the frequent and frenetic turning of the cube's sides.

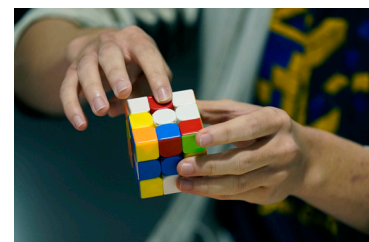
Chapel says years of playing the violin also has contributed to him having "very, very fine motor control already built up."

Later this year, Chapel intends to defend his world titles in South Korea. Since the 2021 event was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chapel is the reigning champion in both heading into the 2023 event in Seoul.

Once he's done with school, though, Chapel isn't sure how speedcubing fits into his future plans.

"I guess it's cool to know that nobody is able to do this," he said. "But, at the same time, giving myself a little bit of a reality check, it's like, 'How much does that actually matter?'"

"It's not going to pay the bills when I'm older," Chapel said, laughing.



University of Michigan student Stanley Chapel explains how he studies the Rubik's Cube before solving the cube while blindfolded, Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022, in Ann Arbor, Mich.
PHOTO BY CARLOS OSORIO/AP

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Psychedelic churches in US pushing boundaries of religion

HILDALE, Utah (AP) — The tea tasted bitter and earthy, but Lorenzo Gonzales drank it anyway. On that frigid night in remote Utah, he was hoping for a life-changing experience, which is how he found himself inside a tent with two dozen others waiting for the psychedelic brew known as ayahuasca to kick in.

Soon, the gentle sounds of a guitar were drowned out by people vomiting — a common downside of the drug. Some gagged; several threw up in buckets next to them.

Gonzales started howling, sobbing, laughing and repeatedly babbling “wah, wah” like a child. Facilitators from Hummingbird Church placed him face down on the grass, calming him momentarily before he started laughing and crawling on all fours.

“I seen these dark veins come up in this big red light, and then I seen this image of the devil,” Gonzales said later. He had quieted only when his wife, Flor, put her hand on his shoulder and prayed.

His journey to this small town along the Arizona-Utah border is part of a growing global trend of people turning to ayahuasca in search of spiritual enlightenment and an experience they say brings them closer to God than traditional religious services. Many hope the psychedelic tea will heal physical and mental afflictions after conventional medications and therapy failed. Their problems include eating disorders, depression, substance use disorders and PTSD.

The rising demand for ayahuasca has led to hundreds of churches like this one, which advocates say are protected from prosecution by a 2006 U.S. Supreme Court ruling. In that case, a New Mexico branch of a Brazilian-based ayahuasca church won the right to use the drug as a sacrament — even though its active ingredient remains illegal under U.S. federal law. A subsequent lower court decision ruled Oregon branches of a different ayahuasca church could use it.

“In every major city in the United States, every weekend, there’s multiple ayahuasca ceremonies. It’s not just a twice-a-year thing,” said Sean McAllister, who represents an Arizona church in a lawsuit against the federal government after its ayahuasca from Peru was seized at the port of Los Angeles.

But with the growth of pro-psychedelics movements has come increased scrutiny. In addition to ayahuasca shipments from South America being seized, some churches stopped operating over fears of prosecution. There are also concerns these unregulated ceremonies might pose a danger for some participants and that the benefits of ayahuasca haven’t been well studied.

“Our knowledge is kind of

limited,” said Anthony Back, a professor at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle. “There is not as much information about safety as the regular other medical treatments that you might get if you went to a regular doctor in the United States.”

It was dark as the Hummingbird ceremony began on a Friday night in October, except for flickering candles and the orange glow of heaters. Psychedelic art hung from the walls; statues of the Virgin Mary and Mother Earth were positioned near a makeshift altar.

A mix of military veterans, corporate executives, thrill seekers, ex-members of a polygamous Mormon sect and a man who supposedly struck it rich on a game show had converged for the \$900 weekend. Many appeared apprehensive yet giddy to begin the first of three ceremonies.

They sat silently, awaiting the arrival of Taita Pedro Davila, the Colombian shaman and traditional healer who oversaw the ceremony.

The brew contains an Amazon rainforest shrub with the active ingredient N, N-Dimethyltryptamine, or DMT, and a vine containing harmala alkaloids that prevent the drug from breaking down in the body.

Those who drink ayahuasca report seeing shapes and colors and going on wild, sometimes terrifying journeys that can last hours. In this dream-like state, some say they encounter dead relatives — one woman saw family members who had died in a car accident — as well as friends and spirits who talk to them.

“When you were invited here, you were invited for a weekend of healing,” Davila told the group in Spanish through a translator, before people lined up for shot glass-sized-doses of the thick, dark tea in plastic cups.

Davila, wearing a fedora, a boar-tooth necklace and beaded chest plate with a jaguar image, locked eyes with each participant, uttered a prayer over the cup, blew on it with a whistling sound and handed it over. After everyone drank and was settled on mattresses, Davila strolled through the tent as the drugs took hold, shaking a bundle of leaves and playing a mournful tune on the harmonica.

“Every process is an individual one and completely different for every one of us,” he said. “We are going to turn off our minds and open our hearts. If you feel like you are dying, die. This is going to allow you to be reborn.”

Gonzales and his wife, Flor, were among several ayahuasca newcomers.

They had driven from California, hoping for relief for Gonzales. He’d battled drug addiction for much of his 50 years, was suffering the effects of COVID-19 and had been di-



Participants lay face down on the grass during an integration circle at an ayahuasca retreat in Hildale, Utah, on Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022.

PHOTO BY JESSIE WARDARSKI/AP

agnosed with early-stage dementia — likely a result of concussions over the years, one from a motorcycle crash and another from an industrial accident. He doesn’t drive due to memory loss, rarely sleeps and is prone to angry outbursts.

“My poor body is dying and I don’t want it to die,” Gonzales said.

Flor Gonzales, 48, had grown weary of doctors and the pills they prescribed. None of it worked and she feared losing Lorenzo. So the born-again Christian who favors natural medicine researched ayahuasca and figured it was worth trying.

“If he’s already sick and he’s been placed on all these medications that have side effects, what do we have to lose? ... It might stop the progression of the illness,” she said. “It might help him ... accept things more without the anger.”

Maeleene Jessop was also an ayahuasca newcomer but was intimately familiar with Hildale, the Utah town where the ceremony was held. She’s a former member of the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, or FLDS, a polygamist offshoot of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The ceremony was held in a tent on the grounds of a house owned by a former FLDS member in Hildale, where Jessop grew up, enduring sexual and physical abuse in the group’s stronghold. Jessop left the church after its leader, Warren Jeffs, was arrested for sexually assaulting girls he considered brides. He is serving a life sentence in federal prison.

The 35-year-old woman has struggled to adapt to life after the FLDS, which controlled almost everything from what she ate to what she wore. Since leaving, she has tried anti-depressants, therapy and other psychedelics like mushrooms to deal with depression and a range of physical ailments, including hearing and vision problems she blames on the abuse she suffered.

“I felt like I needed something more, like I needed a stronger breakthrough. So this is the next step,” she said of ayahuasca. “Hopefully it’s the last step.”

She remains wary of organized religion, but felt like Hummingbird offered what she was looking for — a sense of community and freedom to connect “to a higher power, whether that’s us or the universe or God, whatever you want to call it.”

More than three months after the ceremony, Jessop said she credits ayahuasca with easing her depression and improving her focus. She found some clarity about her life

goals and plans to study communications to help her speak out about abuse.

The roots of ayahuasca go back hundreds of years to use by Indigenous groups in the Amazon. In the past century, churches sprouted up in South America where ayahuasca is legal. Some Brazilian churches are a mix of Christian, African and Indigenous influences.

The movement found a foothold in the United States in the 1980s and interest has intensified more recently as celebrities like NFL quarterback Aaron Rodgers, Hollywood star Will Smith and Britain’s

“We are going to turn off our minds and open our hearts. If you feel like you are dying, die. This is going to allow you to be reborn.”

LORENZO GONZALES

Prince Harry talked about using it.

Some people spend thousands of dollars taking ayahuasca at five-star retreats in the Amazon. In the U.S., the movement remains largely underground, promoted by social media and word of mouth. Some ceremonies occur at supporters’ homes, Airbnb rentals and remote areas to avoid law enforcement scrutiny.

Like many of these, Hummingbird won’t be mistaken for a traditional Western church.

It has no written text and relies primarily on Davila’s prayers, chants and songs, in Spanish and the language of the Kaméntsá people, to guide participants. Davila follows traditions he learned from his grandfather in Colombia, spending several days preparing the ayahuasca.

Before serving the tea, Davila conducts cleansing rituals — like blowing tobacco snuff up some participant’s noses to heighten its effects.

Courtney Close, Hummingbird’s founder who credits ayahuasca with helping her overcome cocaine addiction and post-partum depression, believes the designation as a church helps show that participants are “doing this for religious reasons.” But when it comes to defining it as a religion, Close stresses much depends on individual participants’ experience.

“We just try to create a spiritual experience without any dogma and just let people experience God for themselves,” said the 42-year-old, who participated in about 200 ceremo-

nies and had a vision to start the church at one of them.

Since holding the church’s first ceremony in Joshua Tree five years ago, Close has seen Hummingbird’s numbers grow and its demographic change — mostly from young hipsters to older, working-class people desperate for mental health treatment.

The most jarring moments have been people talking openly about suicide and viewing ayahuasca as their only hope. She recalled a sex crimes investigator and combat veteran who was so depressed he couldn’t speak without crying and told her: “If this doesn’t work, I’m killing myself.”

Close said Davila offered the man ayahuasca then said to wrap him in a blanket on his side so he wouldn’t choke on his vomit. She hoped the psychedelic would provide him with a transformative, death-like experience while remaining physically safe.

“After the weekend, he looked like a different person where I was like, ‘Oh my God. Like, this guy is smiling and talking to people,’” she said.

But Close knows ayahuasca comes with risks, especially when inexperienced users focused on making money start hosting events.

“That’s so dangerous,” she said, recounting instances of people at ceremonies being sexually assaulted, ripped off and sent home without follow-up support.

To improve safety, Hummingbird has brought doctors, nurses and CPR-trained staff to ceremonies, encouraged participants to stop taking certain medications before they arrive, and created an intake process that weeds out those with severe mental illnesses and some heart conditions. They implemented a no-touching policy during ceremonies and stopped offering other psychedelics.

But Close worries a U.S. government crackdown is coming, given the presumption the largely unregulated movement is “an epidemic of psychedelic churches that are creating a public health crisis.”

Back in California, Flor Gonzales is convinced the drug is behind Lorenzo’s improvement.

“The ayahuasca changed him in a lot of ways,” she said. “We’re more optimistic about the future.”

The father of four said he has stopped taking pills for depression, PTSD and insomnia. He still has moments of forgetfulness and doesn’t drive, but says he sleeps through the night and his screaming fits are a thing of the past.

“I feel healthier,” he said. “I feel like a dark force has been taken out of my soul.”



Talia Gross, a retreat participant, plays a sound bowl while waiting for the ayahuasca ceremony to begin at a Hummingbird Church retreat in Hildale, Utah, on Friday, Oct. 14, 2022.

PHOTO BY JESSIE WARDARSKI/AP

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The spring semester's involvement fair took place on Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023, at Gampel Pavilion. The event provided information to students about joining various clubs and employment opportunities. PHOTOS BY SKYLER KIM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



2023

SPRING INVOLVEMENT FAIR KICKS OFF NEW SEMESTER

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On Feb. 2, 2023, the University of Connecticut hosted its Spring Involvement Fair at Gampel Pavilion, where hundreds of clubs for all areas of interest advertised themselves and recruited new members. The fair hosted an amazing range of organizations — from recreational athletic teams and Greek life to political movements, religious communities and academic societies.

Right on the basketball court in the center of Gampel, rows of stands with posters, flyers, representatives and sometimes even treats invited anyone and everyone to learn more about the organizations, sign up for membership, meet members and ask questions.

Academic clubs and organizations related to almost any major and school at UConn could be found at the fair — business, healthcare, STEM, visual and performing arts and more. Joining can be helpful in many ways: obtaining new skills and knowledge related to your area of study, meeting fellow students interested in the same discipline, finding potential internships and employers and simply improving your resume by getting further involved.

Joining can be helpful in many ways: obtaining new skills and knowledge related to your area of study, meeting fellow students interested in the same discipline, finding potential internships and employers and simply improving your resume by getting further involved.

There were also plenty of activism and volunteering organizations, Habitat for Humanity being one.

“Our main mission is to build strength, stability and self-reliance in partnership with families in need of decent and affordable homes,” said Maya Flash, a sixth-semester psychology major.

“Even though our actions have been limited due to Co-

vid, this semester we want to build and construct more, so I am looking forward to that,” added Erin Olearcek, a sixth-semester political science and economics major and the club’s co-chair of fundraising.

A few clubs made their first appearances this spring. Fejiro Akhuetie-Oni, a fourth-semester physiology and neurobiology major, presented a new community service oriented club called Diversity In Healthcare.

“The purpose of my club is to cater to underrepresented communities in regards to the medical treatment they receive and the access that they have to it,” Akhuetie-Oni said. “We plan on volunteering opportunities throughout the semester like a pop-up medical clinic, volunteering in hospitals and nursing homes and participating in walks and marathons. We want to bring awareness to inequalities present in the healthcare system.”

Although the club was just established, Akhuetie-Oni revealed some of the events planned for this semester, including its participation in the Walk for Pancreatic Cancer in April.

Plenty of creative and visual arts clubs and organizations were at the fair as well. These clubs focused on poetry, painting, ori-

gami, creative writing, crafting, baking — the list goes on.

Some organizations, like Care Cakes, specialize in combining creative hobbies with community service.

“The main goal of Care Cakes is to get a group of people together and decorate cupcakes so we can do something good and donate to the soup kitchens,” said Alyssa Stancato, a sixth-semester finance major and the club’s fundraising chair. “My favorite memory was the club getting all together before Halloween, decorating themed cupcakes and delivering them locally.”

Academic clubs and organizations related to almost any major and school at UConn could be found at the fair — business, healthcare, STEM, visual and performing arts and more.



Valentine's Day

is in the air

at the

Benton's First Thursday

by **Maxim Soroka**

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The Benton Museum held their monthly First Thursday event yesterday evening. With February beginning this week, the museum did not want to miss a moment to share their excitement for the quickly approaching Valentine's Day holiday. The theme of this First Thursday was a collaboration between the Benton staff and the University of Connecticut's own Club Swift. It was complete with heartwarming decorations, beautiful art, a fun card activity, hits by Taylor Swift and a rocking open mic.

I started off viewing the galleries, coming across one of their current exhibitions, "Encounters with the Collection: Celebrating Art by Women." I had the chance to view a very profound piece titled "A World Made Flesh" (1994) by Lesley Dill. It powerfully conveys many of the thoughts and attitudes women have toward themselves as a result of mainstream society. Dill said the piece was inspired by the poem "A Word made Flesh is

seldom," by American poet Emily Dickinson. Its beauty lies in its literal depiction of phrases and words darkly painted on female bodies.

The next exhibit, which I hadn't seen previously, was titled "Raid the Archive: Edwin Way Teale and New Works" which was composed of both historical artifacts and new pieces of art. I was particularly fascinated by the sculpture "Ribbon Map, The Anatomy of a Journey" (2022) by Hanieh Kashani. It was one long, but narrow, strand of paper composed of small photographs and old book pages. It was wrapped delicately around two metal beams and draped lower as the wrap continued through them, almost reminiscent of a human rib cage.

For some students, like sixth-semester economics major Yizhan Cai, it was the first First Thursday that they were attending. Cai was drawn to the event after seeing an ad for it on Instagram.

"I'm a person who is kind of interested in museums so after class I told my friend we would come here," said Cai.

Cai's friend, Tongxin Xie, an eighth-semester economics

student with a minor in digital marketing, added that this was her first time at the Benton Museum and came only after Cai asked her to. The two seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves while viewing the exhibitions and making Valentine's Day cards.

I then walked into the final exhibit, titled "Seeing Truth: Art, Science, Museums and Making Knowledge" which was also where the Valentine's Day card making activity was held. Stickers, stamps, paper and glitter covered the mobbed tables as everyone rushed to make a beautifully personal Valentine. Some soft Taylor Swift in the background kept everyone laughing and singing along.

Before heading downstairs, a collection called "Silver Skeleton Series: Full Skeleton" by Valerie Hegarty caught my eye. These wonderfully creative objects made me smile with intrigue as it depicted many Victorian household items made of human bones.

There was also pet therapy — a collaboration with Student Health and Wellness — where they brought in an

adorable Newfoundland. I didn't quite get the chance to pet him due to his popularity, but he seemed to bring a lot of joy to many of the students there. He was nearly the size of the polar bear rug that was displayed on the far end of the exhibit. It was borrowed from UConn's own department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, which they received from an illegal trophy hunter in the 1980s.

My night ended with talented students performing their hearts out at the open mic portion. A trio of friends performed a marvelous cover of Taylor Swift's "Enchanted," hitting their stride in the chorus with some of the audience members singing along with them.

They were followed up by Richmond Le, an eighth-semester healthcare management student who shocked the crowd with an acoustic version of "Welcome to New York" and was aptly met with thunderous applause. Le also had a nice lead up with the mic, talking about the immaculate vibes of the event and how happy everyone seemed to be there.



A student performs at the open mic night at the Benton's First Thursday event on Feb. 2nd. This forum occurs every first Thursday of the month at The Benton Museum. PHOTO BY IZZI BARTON, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Life

@dailycampuslife



by Abby Bonilla
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Depression is a form of mental illness that is estimated to affect about 5% of adults, or about 280 million people worldwide, according to the World Health Organization. It is also the leading cause of disability worldwide.

Also according to WHO, depression is a mental disorder characterized by a low mood and/or a loss of interest in activities that usually bring you pleasure. For example, if you are depressed you may find yourself sleeping more and engaging with friends much less. Your appetite may change and you might find yourself eating more or less than you usually do. You may start to fall behind in school and work. Overall, depression affects almost every aspect of your daily functioning.

It's important to stay on top of depression or depressive episodes because depression can lead to self-destructive behaviors such as self-harm. In some cases, depression may become so prevalent that the person experiencing the disorder either attempts or succeeds in taking their own life. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for people ages 15-25. It is estimated that about 1 million people every year commit suicide.

However, there is hope for dealing with depression. In college, it can be easy to fall into depressive episodes. But by getting ahead of the episodes, you can have an easier time managing them.

Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and dialectical behavioral therapy (DBT) are two types of talk therapy that have proven effective in treating depression. Medication treatment is also an avenue that many people

choose. There are various types of medications used to treat depression, but selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors are most commonly prescribed. If you think you may benefit from these treatments, it's important to reach out and find a therapist or a prescriber for medication. Getting outside, exercising enough and eating well can also be effective factors when it comes to dealing with depression.

While not for everyone, psychedelic drugs have also been scientifically proven to help with treating depression. Psilocybin mushrooms can improve depression, anxiety, anorexia nervosa and addiction. Ketamine treatment is also becoming more commonplace. Today, there are dedicated ketamine treatment centers across the nation. During the treatment, you are monitored by a nurse or doctor while receiving an infusion of the chemical ketamine. Sometimes there is also a therapist present to guide you through the process.

Ketamine treatment is proven to help treat severe depression, severe PTSD and suicidal ideation. It is also believed to help alleviate symptoms of numerous other mental illnesses like eating disorders, bipolar disorder, anxiety, addiction and obsessive-compulsive disorder. However, psychedelic treatment for mental health disorders is usually not recommended for patients with a family history of schizophrenia or other conditions that cause paranoia or delusions. It's important to be self-aware and know what might work for you and what might not.

If you are looking for mental health resources at UConn, visit the Student Health and Wellness website or call 860-486-4705 for more resources and information.



PHOTO BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

'Freeridge' shows new sides of 'On My Block'



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

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"Freeridge" brings a familiar neighborhood back to life. is brought back to life after the ending of the well-known series "On My Block." This spin-off features a few familiar names: Keyla Monterroso Mejia from "Abbott Elementary" plays Gloria, and Tenzing Norgay Trainor, who is often recognized by his role in "Liv and Maddie," stars as Cameron. Of course, "Freeridge" also brings over a few characters from the original series. Really, who could forget Peggy Blow, an endearing and mysterious abuela who made "On My Block" memorable for its viewers. But does "Freeridge" really bring life to the neighborhood as well as its predecessor?

"On My Block" left viewers with more than a few questions after it hinted at a new friend group exploring magic and curses at the end of the series. The opening of "Freeridge" gave viewers a memorable introduction to two of these friends — or should we say bickering sisters just one fight away from expulsion? Ines, like many younger sis-

ters, finds every way (though sometimes unintentionally) to bother her inevitably annoyed older sister, Gloria. Part of this includes her injecting herself in Gloria's friend group, which is made up of two other high school students; Demi and Cameron have been victims of Ines's tormenting far too many times. Still, these four friends often find themselves in peculiar situations, leaving them to depend on each other no matter how bothersome one of their members may be.

Pulling from a similar theme as "On My Block," "Freeridge" focuses on a curse accidentally released by the four friends as they try to alleviate the problems taking over their lives. Peggy, the peculiar abuela from "On My Block" adds to the suspense as she comes back from the dead and begins offering a large amount of much-needed money to the friends in exchange for a curse-ridden box.

The personality of each member of the group shines as they react to the impacts of this curse or, at least, what they believe are the effects. Demi wholeheartedly believes in the curse and coerces the group to do so as well, while Gloria showcases her older sister personality as she speculates about

the truth behind the mishaps in their lives.

As they navigate through the curse, personal problems and, of course, all the drama every teenager loathes (or possibly loves?), the characters create a warm, touching tone even in the midst of sorrow, vulnerability and heartache. The importance of relationships, both family-wise and friend-wise, plays just as big of a role in the spin-off as it did in "On My Block," truly making its mark as a teen comedy-drama.

However, even with all the laughs it brings, "Freeridge" does fall short in some areas. At times, it may feel as if you are just watching high schoolers go back and forth with insults and comebacks. Thankfully for viewers though, the show doesn't try too hard to be relatable or dramatic and keeps its tone as lighthearted watch.

With its quickly timed jokes and a sprinkle of magic, "Freeridge" is able to carry the same characteristics that made "On My Block" a well-loved series. It is truly a spin-off that isn't just a replica of the original. If you are looking for a lighthearted watch, tune into the slightly magical neighborhood of "Freeridge."

Rating: 3.5/5



"Freeridge" is a new Netflix comedy that premiered on Feb. 2. It features four friends who accidentally unleash a curse. PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB



Opinion

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CARTOON (IF YOU CAN CALL IT THAT) BY SAM ZELIN, MANAGING EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

► Editorial

UConn communications remain inadequate

On Tuesday, Jan. 24, the University of Connecticut announced that all bus traffic on Gilbert Road, including four bus stops, would be closed starting Feb. 1, and new detours would take effect that day. The closing and detours came as a result of the construction of a new residential complex and dining hall near South campus; however, this announcement was made via Twitter on an account called UConn Transportation — an unverified account with only 108 followers. The tweet has been viewed fewer than 1,000 times and there has yet to be an official email from the university informing students of this change to the bus routes.

The lack of official communication from UConn on a change that will affect many students is just the latest in a long trend of mediocre communication from the university. The extent of communication from the university comes through the form of emails that fail to properly inform students of recent administrative actions and decisions that will have an impact on them.

This lack of communication at the university has been evident across multiple departments and groups over the past year. One of the major communication breakdowns occurred last April during the aftermath of a stabbing that occurred at Hilltop Apartments. Residential Life didn't release any official statements in the wake of the incident, which led to the student body being uninformed and fearful about the events that took place. Despite Director of Residence Education Amy Crim claiming that ResLife had developed an "enhanced communication procedure" in the wake of the event, this procedure has seldom been used and seems to be merely a guise for the department to defend their mistakes. At the time, the Editorial Board pointed out UConn's need to improve its communication strategies in the name of student safety, yet no visible changes occurred.

But no other institution at UConn has been more lacking in its communications than the board of trustees. During the selection process for university president, there was little communication from the board except for an occasional email. This resulted in a lack of transparency in the process and an overall lack of awareness among the student body of the process, which the Editorial Board noted after the appointment of Radenka Maric as university president. A similar storyline occurred when Anne D'Alleva was appointed as university provost in December, as there was even less communication during her appointment procedure.

Finally, the dramatic fee raises approved by the board of trustees last semester was preceded by a Daily Digest announcement of two hour-long town halls for community members to give feedback. With barely two days advance to hear about and proliferate news about proposed fee changes, graduate and undergraduate students were left virtually unable to make a meaningful showing to the town halls and express their opposition to the drastic increases. As such, poor communication is a reflection of a larger lack of democracy; if the community is not directly involved in decision making, why do they need to be notified about policy changes?

UConn continuously isolates a student body that is not only under informed about university policy decisions, but is rightfully skeptical and untrustworthy of the institution. In order to regain this trust, The Daily Campus Editorial Board calls for a renewed effort to improve communication with the student body. Improved communications will create a culture of transparency and will show that UConn is making an effort on behalf of the student body. Such improvements may include giving students more notice for important university decisions; restructuring the Daily Digest interface to highlight major institutional changes; and taking comprehensive public awareness strategies as was the case prior to the switch to Google Duo two-factor authentication — students will be hard-pressed to forget the flood of signs and fliers advertising that change. But if changes don't occur and communication from the university continues to be lackluster, the Editorial Board encourages students to hold the administration accountable to its basic duties.

The 5 best movie soundtracks



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"A Virgem de Saint Tropez," Hareton Salvanini

It's difficult to quantify one's appreciation of a particular piece of music; One's Spotify Wrapped or Apple Music Recap makes an attempt by virtue of ranking minutes listened, top genres and other metrics. Global charts fulfill the same need, presenting listeners with a specific country or the world's most listened-to songs. A simple issue, however, arises when discussing the "best" music, as often the songs we listen to the most often do not always correlate with the songs we think are the most musical, complex or emotional.

A similar issue is that songs created for cinema or Broadway seldom find themselves on these charts. Aside from some historical outliers, most of the songs on these charts or in our annual recaps tend to be radio hits or songs from albums produced independently from any other creative project. Hence, this article. Below is my list of what I think are the five most compelling movie soundtracks, and I hope that I may introduce you to some new, Owen-approved soundtracks that I believe subsist as stand-alone albums.

"La Planète Sauvage," Alain Goraguer

Backing the peculiar, psychedelic 1973 French animated film, "La Planète Sauvage," or "Fantastic Planet," the Cannes winner is filled with plucky French-style guitar, eerie choir vocals and an arachnid harpsichord. Lovers of Françoise Hardy, Cortex or any well-produced French artists are likely to find themselves entranced by the album's sinister strings and dissonant flute atop classic jazz-inspired basslines and brief saxophone solos. Songs such as "Deshomisation (I)" and "Ten et Tiwa dorment" introduce the album's almost supernatural motif—a melody which was later sampled by Mac Miller on his infamous "Faces" EP on the song "Insomniac" feat. Rick Ross. Yet, where the early half of the album includes calmer, transient melodies, songs in the latter half such as "Mort De Draag" and "L'Oiseau" descend the project into chaos, aligning with the plot of the film. I can't speak highly enough of this album, or film at that, and I highly recommend both.

"Tron Legacy," Daft Punk

To switch the mood and prevent myself from giving too much credit to the French, Daft Punk's "Tron Legacy" stands out amongst the crowd — God dammit not again. Scratching almost every inch of a music lovers' brain, the album is comprised of horn-forward, symphonic pieces such as the opening "Overture," "Rinzler" and "Adagio for TRON" all while intermixing aspects of techno, house and EDM elements in traditional Daft Punk fashion. Then suddenly, transitioning from "Nocturne" to "End of Line," the album blossoms into the lead-synth program fans expected once Daft Punk was announced as the composers of the film's soundtrack, establishing a launching ground for tracks like "Derezzed," which holds up in the worlds of cinema and underground clubbing. The album ends on a grand note, with "Outlands, Pt. II," which in my opinion encapsulates the entirety of the project: a profound, kick-ass amalgam of classical and hyper-contemporary sounds.

"Howl's Moving Castle," Joe Hisaishi

Although it was nearly impossible to pick from any of the Studio Ghibli films, especially with the likes of "Spirited Away," the soundtrack to "Howl's Moving Castle" ranks slightly above the rest. The album presents the movie's well-known leitmotif in such a diverse array of colors, from the staccato violins in "A Walk in the Skies" to the stunningly beautiful, unfortunately brief "Heartbeat." It's difficult to even pick songs to talk about here; they're all brilliant. "The Flower Garden" unleashes Hisaishi's true potential, once again re-introducing the listener to yet another form of the aforementioned motif, though now supported by an ensemble of strings and almost miniscule chimes. From the opening "Merry-Go-Round of Life" to the closing rendition of the same title, uplifted by an ambient vocal performance from Chieko Baisho, the album is perfect top-to-bottom.

"Call Me by Your Name," Various Artists

I'll admit this is the only film on this list that I haven't watched, though I think this truth only aids argument, as this soundtrack is breathtaking. The arpeggiating notes in "Une barque sur l'océan" offers up a flowing piano performance that falls somewhere between Satie and Rachmaninoff — as Ravel typically did. And before you say, "sure, there's plenty of soundtracks that serve as powerful collections of classical music," I raise you this album's trump card: Sufjan Stevens. With a touching remix of "Futile Devices" situated between two piano movements, the album truly covers all bases. Steven delivers a heart-rending addition to the project with songs reminiscent of "Carrie and Lowell," with the song "Visions of Gideon" furnishing the soundtrack with an ethereal closing piece. It's remarkable, really.

Honorable mentions include "A Star is Born," "Ratatouille" and the "Yves Saint Laurent" soundtrack — thanks Grace. While it pains me to limit this list to just five, I am willing to die on the pretentious hill that the albums mentioned above are the best five soundtracks in cinema. I'd happily listen to them for the rest of my musical lifetime with no hesitation or regret.

LOGO BY KAITLYN TRAN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Taco Tuesday!



“The Rock” sits with its fresh coat of paint outside North Garage on Thursday, Feb. 2nd, 2023. For years this rock has allowed students to express themselves through art, and earlier this week was re-painted with the statement “Taco Tuesday”. PHOTO BY JORDYN RIVERA, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Rapid Fire: Real-life TV shows!

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 premise of a television show would you choose to make real?

Madeline Papcun, Opinion Editor:

“The Muppet Show.” Obviously. At this point, I think the only thing that could fix the dystopian hellscape we call “Earth” would be the chaos of the Muppets running rampant throughout daily life.

Nell Srinath, Associate Opinion Editor:

I'm gonna have to go with the news. It'd be crazy if all of that stuff was real.

Harrison Raskin, Editor-in-Chief:

“One Piece,” no real competition. Eating magic fruit makes you rubber and for the most part, everyone understands that the government is a tyrannical capitalist empire bent on crushing peoples' movements.

Dan Stark, Weekly Columnist:

I need a “Regular Show” real life version right now. Seeing Benson, a literal walking gumball machine, and Muscle Man would be wild.

Owen Silverman, Weekly Columnist:

“Better Call Saul,” only so I can call upon James McGill, Esq., attorney at law to resolve all of my (il)legal issues.

Sam Zelin, Managing Editor:

I'd have to say “Phineas and Ferb,” specifically one line from its theme song. If the only problem our generation had to deal with was “finding a good way to spend [summer vacation],” that would be a much less stressful world.

UConn in the Pros: Bouknight back in G-League, Drummond finding role with Bulls

by **CJ Dexter**

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NBA:
James Bouknight (2019-2021): Midway through his second season, the former No. 11 pick has had a rough time carving out a role early into his NBA career with the Charlotte Hornets. The former Husky guard averaged just 4.6 points per game during his rookie campaign and it hasn't gotten any better in his second season, averaging 4.3 points in 26 games. Bouknight has bounced between the Hornets and their G-League team, The Greensboro Swarm, throughout the season and was optioned down to the G-League on Jan. 31.

Tyrese Martin (2020-2022): After being drafted late in the second round by the Atlanta Hawks, Tyrese Martin has been on the NBA roster for the majority of the season but has seen limited playing time. Martin has only appeared in 12 games this season, averaging 1.3 points per game.

Rudy Gay (2004-2006): At 36-years-old, journeyman small forward Rudy Gay has returned for his 17th season in the NBA with the Utah Jazz. Gay has carved out a very solid NBA career with averages of 15.9 points and 5.7 rebounds while suiting up for the Grizzlies, Raptors, Kings, Spurs and Jazz. On the season, Gay is averaging just 4.4 points and 3.1 rebounds per game. With his numbers reaching career lows across the board, the end of the road may be approaching for the former Husky forward.

Andre Drummond (2011-2012): Sitting at No. 13 all-time in rebounds per game, veteran center Andre Drummond is midway through his 11th season in the NBA with his sixth different team in four years. Far removed from his prime, Drummond has found a role off the bench for the Chicago Bulls with averages of 6.0 points and 6.5 rebounds per game this season. Drummond is a two-time All-Star and four-time league



Chicago Bulls' Andre Drummond dunks a basketball against the Houston Rockets. Drummond played for UConn from 2011 to 2012.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @DRUMMOND ON INSTAGRAM

leader in rebounds. The Storrs legend spent the first eight seasons in the league with the Detroit Pistons and has since suited up for the Cavaliers, Lakers, 76ers, Nets and Bulls.

NFL:
Byron Jones (2011-2014): Eight years after getting drafted in the first round and setting a handful of NFL draft combine records, cornerback Byron Jones battled an Achilles injury this past season and did not see the field for the Miami Dolphins. Jones has had a very solid career in the NFL with the Dallas Cowboys and Dolphins, being named to the All-Pro 2nd Team and Pro Bowl in 2018.

Folorunso Fatukasi (2013-2016): The former UConn defensive tackle was drafted in the sixth round of the 2018 NFL draft by the New York Jets and recently inked a three-year deal worth \$30 million by the Jacksonville Jaguars. Folorunso Fatukasi started 13 games this past season and recorded just 24 tackles and 1.5 sacks.

Travis Jones (2018-2021): Travis Jones is the most recent Husky to be drafted into the NFL, with the Baltimore Ravens selecting him in the third round in last year's draft. As a rookie, Jones played in 15 games this season and finished with 24 tackles and one sack.

Matt Peart (2015-2019): Drafted in the third round of the 2020 NFL Draft, Matt Peart has made just six starts in three years for the New York Giants. Peart played limited snaps this past season and didn't make any starts.

Andrew Adams (2012-2015): After going undrafted in 2016, defensive back Andrew Adams has found solid playing time across his NFL career making 46 starts over 100 games played. Adams was a backup defensive back on the 2021 Tampa Bay Buccaneers Super

Bowl team and currently plays for the Tennessee Titans.

Ryan Griffin (2009-2012): One of the most prolific tight ends in UConn history has found solid playing time across 10 seasons in the NFL. Making 67 starts across 134 games, Ryan Griffin has played for the Texans and the Jets, and he currently plays for the Chicago Bears. Griffin has racked up 2184 yards and 14 touchdowns over his NFL career.

NHL:
Tage Thompson (2015-2017): The highest NHL draft pick in UConn hockey history has broken out in a big way these past two seasons after a slower start to his NHL career. In just 49 games this year, Tage Thompson has tied his career high in points with an even 34 goals and assists for the Buffalo Sabres. Thompson has developed into one of the league's best centers this season

and currently has the sixth-best odds of winning the Hart Trophy. MLB:

George Springer (2009-2011): The star of the 2011 Huskies Super Regionals team and highest MLB draft pick in UConn history has done nothing but produce in nine major league seasons with the Houston Astros and Toronto Blue Jays. In nine major league seasons, George Springer has been selected to the All-Star team four times and led the Houston Astros to a World Series Championship in 2017, winning World Series MVP. In 2021, Springer inked a massive six-year contract worth \$150 million by the Blue Jays in free agency where he now serves as an everyday starter for the club. This past season, Springer batted .267 with 25 home runs and 76 runs batted in, earning him his fourth career All-Star Game appearance.

Matt Barnes (2009-2011): The ace of the 2011 Huskies Super Regional team has found a role as a relief pitcher during his nine-year major league career. Matt Barnes spent the entirety of his major league career with the Boston Red Sox before being traded to the Miami Marlins just four days ago. Barnes was a member of the 2018 Red Sox World Series-winning team and was selected to his lone All-Star game in 2021.

Nick Ahmed (2009-2011): At age 32, Diamondbacks shortstop Nick Ahmed is set to join former Huskies Barnes and Springer as the only remaining players from UConn's historic 2011 Super Regional team that are still on MLB rosters. In nine seasons at the major league level, Ahmed's bat hasn't quite come around as the Diamondbacks had hoped, but he has established himself as one of the best defensive shortstops in baseball with back-to-back Gold Glove awards in 2018 and 2019. Ahmed will look to stay healthy going into his 10th season with the Diamondbacks, as he only appeared in 17 games this past season.

Track and Field: Huskies set to compete in pair of Boston meets

by **Bridget Bronsdon**

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The UConn Huskies are headed to Boston to compete in the Crimson Elite and Scarlet and White meets on Feb. 3 and 4. Coming off of record-breaking performances at the Dr. Sander Colombia Invitational, the team will return to the track looking to build on their momentum.

This past weekend, the Huskies attended the Dr. Sander Colombia Invitational to claim top titles. The men's team placed second with a score of 95 following closely behind UCLA's score of 101. Similarly, the women battled it out for a third place finish with a score of 76.5, not too far behind UCLA's 187 and South Carolina's 108.

Last weekend's performances dominated all events. Travis Snyder continued his winning streak with a vault of 5.47 meters to break his own school record. Snyder is now ranked No. 13 in the NCAA for pole vault and was named the Big East Field Athlete of the Week.

On the track, Terrel Williams displayed an impressive showing in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 7.75 seconds to take home a first place win. For the women, A'lyyah Thomas was the competitor to watch as she set two personal records in the long jump (6.07 meters) and 60 hurdles (8.62 seconds). These accomplishments granted Thomas the Big East Field Athlete of the Week, alongside Snyder. In the 5,000-meter, Caroline Webb took home a first place win and a personal record with a time of 17:07.56. This event placed Webb at No. 23 in the NCAA.

Looking ahead, Boston is set to host the Crimson Elite and Scarlet and White meet this upcoming weekend. The Huskies are on track to continue a hot streak

of personal bests whilst climbing the ranks toward UConn's records. The men's 200 will be an event to watch as Wellington Ventura and Joseph O'Brien are both hovering closely around the Big East all-time record of 21.04 seconds. Earlier this season, Ventura and O'Brien demonstrated outstanding times of 21.41 and 21.50.

The men's team also features mile-runner James Maniscalco. Maniscalco's personal best of 4:05.57 in last weekend's showing has placed him at No. 8 all-time in UConn's record books. Maniscalco is a top contender in the mile for the upcoming meet with Samuel Geislers's time of 4:08.53. The women's team also features A'lyyah Thomas and Taylor Woods battling it out in the long jump with marks just millimeters apart.

The women's mile will continue to be one of the most anticipated events as trio Jenna Zydanowicz, Chloe Thomas and Randi Burr continue to place just seconds apart. Zydanowicz currently maintains the team's top seed with a remarkable time of 4:48.20. This time placed her at No. 10 in the all-time UConn record books. Chloe Thomas is close on Zydanowicz's tail — with a time of 4:48.30, nearly identical.

O'Brien is another athlete expected to dominate the track this upcoming weekend. O'Brien, the current school record holder of the men's 300 with a time of 33.55, maintains an exceptional record this year.

The team is expected to carry this momentum into their seventh meet of the season. Amidst fierce competition, the Huskies will expect strong performances across all events including, Kasey Savage (high jump), Natalia Surdej (weight throw) and Jai-lya Ash (60 hurdles).



Athletes gearing up for the Boston meets.
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Sports

Photo of the Day |



The UConn women's basketball team narrowly comes away with a win against Villanova, capturing a 63-58 victory at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. on Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023. The Huskies' win broke Villanova's nine-game win streak, while adding to UConn's win streak of 13 games on the season.

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

Swimming and Diving: Huskies face one more hurdle in pursuit of perfect season

by CJ Dexter

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After a week-long break, the UConn women's swim and dive team will be back in action at home against Big East rival Providence College this Saturday at noon. Both teams are coming off of a win and hope to carry over that momentum as their swim seasons are nearing an end.

Providence looks to keep its hot stretch going, as they are coming off a 161-139 win over the University of Maine. Providence (2-7) has not had much success this season, and are hoping to upset the undefeated Huskies. Despite this lopsided record, the Friars have had their fair share of success, most noticeably against Assumption University, where they won 169-76. In this meet, they won 11 of the 12 events where junior Katie Winklosky led the way taking the gold in three events, the 200-meter SC freestyle (2:12.09), 400 SC freestyle (4:43.02) and the 200-meter SC IM (3:29.79). If Providence is to succeed against the Huskies, they will have to lean on their leaders like Winklosky, who faces a tall task in leading

a team many have counted out before they have even begun.

This season for Connecticut has been one to remember. The women are currently 8-0 and have beaten teams one by

and the University of New Hampshire by scores of 188-111 and 186-114, respectively. Despite these seemingly lopsided scoreboards, this UConn swim team has also had many close

tain their current strategy: get ahead early and don't let up. Take their most recent meet against UNH, for instance. The Huskies won the first six events in that meet and 13 of 16 overall. They have also done well in winning events with razor-thin margins. Last week, UNH swimmer Audrey Mahoney put up a time of 52.90 seconds, which is generally enough to win; however, UConn's Maggie Donlevy won by .11 second. While some may see a win in an event like that as luck, how can it be when this squad has compiled close wins like this all season. These close finishes could ultimately be the Huskies' downfall, as Providence is riding on a hot streak looking to come home with a big upset win.

While finishing undefeated is nice, it is not at the top of the Huskies' priority list. From day one, Connecticut's sights have been set on bringing a Big East title to Storrs. They will be able to do so on Feb. 25, when the competition will be the stiffest. That meet will take place at the Nassau County Aquatic Center in East Meadow, New York.

While finishing undefeated is nice, it is not at the top of the Huskies' priority list. From day one, Connecticut's sights have been set on bringing a Big East title to Storrs. They will be able to do so on Feb. 25, when the competition will be the stiffest. That meet will take place at the Nassau County Aquatic Center in East Meadow, New York.

one. They come into this meet after a successful homestand where they defeated Central Connecticut State University

events that could have gone either way.

If UConn wants to beat the Friars, they will need to main-

Women's Hockey

No. 15 UConn looks to avoid sweep at Boston University



The UConn Huskies play the University of New Hampshire Wildcats at the Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn., on Sunday, Jan. 29. The Huskies were defeated by the Wildcats, with New Hampshire walking away with a 3-0 win over Connecticut.

PHOTO BY ERIN KNAPP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Sam Galhoun

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The No. 15 UConn women's hockey team (16-10-3, 10-9-3) is coming off back-to-back losses last weekend as they travels to Boston to take on the Boston University Terriers (10-15-2, 9-12-2) for the third and final time this season.

The Huskies began last weekend with a high-scoring 5-4 loss to the University of Maine on the road. They came back home on Sunday to host the University of New Hampshire but were shut out, 3-0.

UConn last played the Terriers in November, where they lost both games. Boston University junior forward Catherine Foulem set up goals in both games. She has 12 points this season.

Forward senior Julia Nearis leads the Terriers in goals and points with 10 and 19 respectively.

Boston is on a five-game winning streak, including two shootout wins. Its defense and goaltending have been strong the past few games, with one goal allowed in each of the past three games. UConn's attackers will certainly have their hands full against this stout defense.

Last weekend, the Terriers beat Merrimack and No. 11 Vermont at home. They are 6-6-1 at home this season.

UConn senior forward Coryn Tormala played phenomenally in the loss to Maine, with a goal and an assist. Junior forward Jada Habisch scored two goals in the game. Senior forward Kate Thurman assisted two of the Huskies' four goals.

After being shut out at home on Sunday, UConn looks to get back to the win column.

The Huskies don't have the best history of playing Boston University. Overall, the Terriers lead the all-time series,

31-15-8. However, before a weekend sweep in November, the Huskies had won four of the previous five games.

It will be both teams' first game of February, and it's the last game before the four-team Beanpot begins for Boston University, taking place in Chestnut Hill. After tonight's game, the Huskies will have a week off, hosting Northeastern next week.

UConn ended January on a sour note, so the Huskies will look to begin February with a road win.

Recently, freshman forward Brooke Campbell was named to the 2023 Women's Hockey Commissioners Association Rookie of the Year watchlist. The Essex, Ontario native has scored six goals and has ten points so far this season.

Tonight's game will be a "Red Out" at Walter Brown Arena in Boston, Massachusetts. The puck drop is set for 7 p.m. and streaming on ESPN+.

Men's Hockey

No. 14 Huskies looking for retaliation against Northeastern

by Nick Spinali

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Coming fresh out of a second-place finish in this year's Connecticut Ice Tournament, the UConn men's ice hockey team will look for retaliation against a team that has had its number all season, when they take on the Northeastern Huskies on Friday.

The Ice Bus finds themselves amidst a solid stretch of games as the team won three consecutive contests before losing its most recent game against Quinnipiac, securing the second spot in the tournament. However, UConn has not had much success when taking on the Huskies from Northeastern. In the two programs' first two contests earlier this season, Northeastern was able to prevail and has come away with victories in each. The first of those two wins came in historic Fenway Park in Boston, Massachusetts, where Northeastern dominated their way to a 4-1 that never saw UConn threaten the lead. Northeastern was also the first visiting team to take to the ice at UConn's new Toscano Ice Forum, where they played the role of spoiler, pulling ahead late for a hard-earned win despite being behind for a majority of the contest.

Northeastern has put together a strong showing over the last several weeks, compiling five straight victories against three different Hockey East opponents. First, it took two in a row from Connecticut before ripping off two consecutive wins against No. 15 Merrimack, showing strong poise and determination in both games. In their most recent matchup on Tuesday, Northeastern bested their cross-town rivals in Boston College, narrowly defeating the Golden Eagles 2-1 via a game-winning goal in the third period by Jakov Novak. Though the team remains unranked according



UConn men's hockey pick 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 UConn Huskies lost their lead in the third period where Northeastern broke through scoring three goals.

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

to the USCHO, it's not too far from cracking the top-20 in the nation. The team compiled 93 points in the latest rankings poll, immediately behind No. 20 Notre Dame who received 96 points to narrowly beat Northeastern for the final spot in the rankings.

One player to keep an eye on for the UConn Huskies will be freshman Matthew Wood, who has grown over the course of this season to become one of the Ice Bus's go-to playmakers on offense. Wood leads Connecticut in total points on the season (25), made up of nine

goals (tied-third) and 16 assists (tied-second). He is also fourth on the team in +/-, as the Huskies have outscored their opponents by seven goals when Wood has been on the ice. One of the highest ranked prospects to play their collegiate career at UConn, Wood will turn 18 years old on Monday, which will make him eligible for the 2023 NHL Draft. The latest mock draft projections have the skilled skater being taken in the middle of the first round between picks 13-16. That would make him the highest-selected Husky ever, better than

Tage Thompson, who was selected with the No. 26 pick in the 2016 NHL Draft by the St. Louis Blues. As he continues to get comfortable in his first season as a part of head coach Mike Cavanaugh's system, expect Wood to continue to evolve into one of Connecticut's top point scorers on offense.

For the other Huskies, it will be senior Aidan McDonough helming the team's offense. A 2019 draft selection of the Vancouver Canucks, McDonough leads his team in total points (32), goals (17), and assists (15) this season. Both he and teammate

Justin Hryckowian rank inside the top-25 players in the nation in average points per game: McDonough is tied for seventh with 1.33 points per game, and Hryckowian is tied for No. 25 with an average of 1.08 points per game. UConn will have their hands full containing the duo, as Northeastern tends to dominate their opponents when both are on the ice as evidenced by McDonough's +/- of +14 (third on the team) and Hryckowian's +/- of +19 (first). In its two games against UConn earlier this season, McDonough has compiled three goals and one assist, while Hryckowian has tallied one goal and one assist.

A strong performance from UConn in the Friday contest will bode very well for the team's hopes of climbing back to the top of the Hockey East standings. After coming out of the gate this season as the top team in the conference, the Huskies have since slipped down to the fourth spot as a result of both strong performances by the other teams in the conference, mixed with some bad luck that yielded a few losses over the last several weeks. Northeastern was one of the teams to jump UConn, as they have compiled 37 points in Hockey East play this season, putting them in second place in the conference, and five points better than the Ice Bus's 32 points. As the season reached its final month of the regular season, winning games will begin to have a newfound importance: for Connecticut, a win would keep the team on-pace with Merrimack for the third spot in the conference, while a win for Northeastern would help them challenge Boston University for the top seed in the Hockey East.

Puck-drop is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday night from the Matthews Arena in Boston, Massachusetts. The game can be streamed with ESPN+ and can also be heard on the radio with ESPN 97.9 FM.

Around the Top 25 Women's Basketball: Alexis Morris keeps LSU undefeated, Ohio State struggles to stay in win column

by Ava Inesta

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As women's basketball is passing the midseason mark and March is in the near future, some teams are excelling with some on their downfall. Without further ado, let's get into it!

Best Stat Lines

Caitlin Clark (No. 10 Iowa) against Nebraska - 33 points, 12 rebounds, 3 assists

Caitlin Clark seems to be making consistent appearances in the 'Best Stat Lines' section but her performance against Nebraska should not go unnoticed. Clark dropped 33 points and added 12 rebounds. She is averaging 27.1 points per game which is second in the nation, behind Villanova's Maddy Siegrist. In the second quarter against Nebraska, the junior guard put on a show, helping Iowa to build a lead which resulted in another double performance.

Ashley Joens (No. 18 Iowa State) against No. 14 Oklahoma - 32 points, 7 rebounds

Another player who's weekly stats are just too good to pass by is Ashley Joens. In a top-20 matchup against No. 14 Oklahoma, Joens dazzled for Iowa states scoring 32 points with seven rebounds. The senior guard is known for having standout performances against the Sooners as she scored 27 points in their last contest. Joens was a force against Oklahoma's defense and led the way for Iowa State to earn a revenge win.

Alexis Morris (No. 3 LSU) against Tennessee - 31 points, 6 rebounds, 5 steals

Alexis Morris had herself a career-high night against Tennessee scoring 31 points. The Vols stayed close to the Tigers for the majority of the game, but Morris responded in multiple situations and was able to put LSU over having six rebounds and five steals. The senior guard's fast pace, precise shooting and veteran leadership made a

huge impact on the Tigers efforts to stay undefeated on the season.

Brynna Maxwell (No. 17 Gonzaga) against Pepperdine - 26 points, 6 rebounds

For her season high, Brynna Maxwell dominated the arc, scoring 26 points for Gonzaga. The Bulldogs earned their 14th straight win against Pepperdine and Maxwell was behind all the action. The senior guard is the nation's leading three-point shooter and she really showcased that by hitting 6-straight behind the arc. Her impressive stats came in the second half when she dropped 21 points to propel Gonzaga to victory.

Abby Meyers (No. 8 Maryland) against Penn State - 24 points, 6 rebounds

To help Maryland ease past Penn State, Abby Meyers scored a season-high 24 points. For the Terps fifth straight win, the senior guard led the way on 11-of-19 from shooting with an additional six rebounds. Before this match, Meyers was experiencing a shooting slump but ended that pattern against Penn State as she was effective on only on offense, but on all sides of the ball.

Best Games

No. 6 Indiana downs No. 2 Ohio State 78-65

In a top-10 matchup between No. 2 Ohio State and No. 6 Indiana, the Hoosiers worked to claim the top spot in their conference. The game was close during the first half but Indiana had an explosive third quarter to pull away from Ohio State. The Hoosiers outscored the Buckeyes 27-6 in that quarter and even went on a 17-0 run in that stretch. Indiana sealed the 78-65 victory, holding Ohio State to a season-low of 65 points. To lead Indiana's offense senior Mackenzie Holmes scored 26 points and freshman Yarden Garzon scored 20 points. After having the best start in program history going 19-0, Ohio State lost three games in a row and now sit at 20-3. With the win, Indiana improved to 19-1 but

had played three more games since and have a current record of 21-3.

No. 25 Colorado stuns No. 8 UCLA

In an overtime battle, No. 25 Colorado pulled off the 73-70 win against No. 8 UCLA. Senior Jaylyn Sherrod led the Buffaloes offense with 20 points and six assists. The Bruins had slight runs of momentum, but it was never in full control as the game was close for its entirety. With 2.1 seconds left in overtime, Kindyll Wetta knocked down a corner 3-point shot which broke the tie for the game winner. This statement win, Colorado improved to 3-0 against ranked teams at home. Colorado beat the odds to outscore UCLA 42-28 in the paint and 19-9 on the fast break.

No. 20 NC State defeats No. 7 Notre Dame

To earn their second win against a Top-10 opponent this season, No. 20 NC State held off No. 7 Notre Dame 69-65. The Wolfpack started the game hot and in control as it built up a 16-point lead. After trailing 50-34, Notre Dame came back, pulling within three points. At that point, NC State's Diamond Johnson took over and finished with 20 points and eight rebounds. The Wolfpack responded and made plays when needed, especially in the fourth quarter when Notre Dame added pressure. With foul shots made by Johnson, NC State gained a more comfortable lead and sealed the win against the Irish.

No. 24 Florida State upsets No. 16 Duke 70-57

Makayla Timpson lifted No. 24 Florida State over No. 16 Duke 70-57. The sophomore guard had her 11th double-double of the season as she scored 21 points with 10 rebounds and three steals. The Seminoles got off to a hot start and took control from that point on. Duke trailed 30-22 at the half then fell behind even more in the second half when Florida State scored the first seven points. After that, FSU went on a 10-1 run to extend its lead to 47-27. The Blue Devils, had their worst offensive game of the season finishing 19-of-27 (26.4%). Florida State eased its way to victory after outperforming Duke.



Alexis Morris plays in a game for the LSU Tigers. In a game against Tennessee, she scored 31 points. PHOTO COURTESY OF @ALEXISMORRIS45 ON INSTAGRAM



Sports

Women's Basketball: No. 5 Huskies host No. 1 South Carolina in national championship rematch

by Cole Stefan

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All season long, the No. 5 UConn women's basketball team has battled tough competition, regardless of ranking, with a limited number of healthy players. On Sunday, the Huskies face its toughest test of the season as they host the No. 1 South Carolina Gamecocks at the sold-out XL Center in a rematch of the 2022 national championship.

These two programs were scheduled to meet once last year but instead met twice in different tournament finals. The first meeting came in the Battle 4 Atlantis championship game in 2021, with South Carolina holding UConn to three points in the final frame en route to the invitational title.

After their regularly scheduled game in January got scrapped due to having to make up other games, the two familiar foes met in Minneapolis with the national championship on the line. The Gamecocks jumped out to a 22-8 lead in the first quarter and never looked back as they won their second national title. Despite losing its last two games against South Carolina, the Huskies lead the all-time series 9-3.

As of Thursday night, UConn (21-2, 13-0 Big East) has eight players available for Sunday's contest. The Huskies are coming off a 12-day stretch where they played five games but looked tired in its last three despite winning all of them. In spite of its injuries, UConn is tied for the fourth-longest winning streak in the nation with the Gonzaga Bulldogs at 14.

Despite a four-point, four-rebound performance against the Providence Friars on Wednesday,

Aaliyah Edwards has been the dominant force on both ends of the floor. Recently named a Top 10 Candidate for the Katrina McClain Award given to the nation's best power forward, Edwards is averaging 16.8 PPG and 8.9 RPG with a team-leading 25 blocks.

When Edwards gets contained by the opposition, Dorka Juhász takes control on both ends of the floor. Despite both forwards each having nine double-doubles this season, Juhász is averaging one per game with 15 points and 10.4 boards. While she thrives in the paint, Juhász is an underrated three-point threat with 14 shots from beyond the arc.

Lou Lopez Sénéchal has been the team's premiere offensive guard with Azzi Fudd and Paige Bueckers both out of action. Lopez Sénéchal, who averages 16.8 PPG, has scored in double figures all but once and is shooting 47.5% from beyond the arc. Nika Mühl makes up for her lack of scoring (6.9 PPG) with her ability to command the court as she leads the country in total and average assists (193 and 8.8 respectively). Mühl's only weakness is that she is prone to turning the ball over as she has done so a team-leading 77 times.

The biggest wildcard in the starting five is Aubrey Griffin, who would most likely win the Comeback Player of the Year Award if one existed. 21 games removed from missing last season due to injury, Griffin is averaging 13.8 PPG and 7.1 RPG on 59% shooting. Griffin, who has four double-doubles, has scored in double figures in her last six games.

The top-ranked and undefeated Gamecocks have been unanimously voted No. 1 in every AP poll

this year with wins against ranked teams such as the No. 2 Stanford Cardinal. Entering Thursday's matchup against the Kentucky Wildcats, South Carolina averages 82 points per contest and leads the nation in scoring defense at 46 points per game.

The Gamecocks look significantly better compared to last season, but the more things change, the more it stays the same for Aliyah Boston. Boston, who holds the program record for double-doubles in a career, could be the first player to win the National Player of the Year Award in consecutive seasons since the Huskies' Breanna Stewart won it three years in a row from 2014-2016. She has the resume to support her case again as she averages 12.9 points and 9.8 boards per contest with a team-leading 43 swats. Boston, a 60.5% shooter from the field, has picked up a double-double in each of her last six games.

Boston is not the team's leading scorer, however, despite her national recognition and success in her collegiate career. That honor belongs to Zia Cooke, the Ann Meyers Drysdale Award candidate who is tied for ninth in the SEC at 15.4 PPG. While Boston is efficient from the floor, Cooke is the only player to attempt at least 60 threes on the team and is shooting 38% from beyond the arc.

Although those are the only two South Carolina stars averaging double figures in every game, they have a bunch of players that should not be ignored. Those players include Brea Beal, the sister of Washington Wizards' star Bradley Beal, and Raven Johnson. Beal may be averaging 5.1 PPG, but she is just as dangerous on both ends of the



The UConn women's basketball team narrowly comes away with a win against Villanova, capturing a 63-58 victory at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. on Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023. The Huskies' win broke Villanova's nine-game win streak, while adding to UConn's win streak of 13 games on the season. PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

floor as she is second on the team in assists and third in blocks. Johnson plays a game similar to Mühl despite starting two out of the 20 games she has played as she leads the team in both assists (66) and steals (26).

On top of the battle of the boards, the most important thing to watch in this contest is bench play. Unless Caroline Ducharme clears concussion protocol, the Huskies will have three bench players available that average around 11 minutes a game and combine for 7.2 points. South Car-

olina meanwhile has more bench players than UConn has healthy, which means they can rest their starters much longer. While this may seem lopsided on paper, what will make the difference between a close game and a blowout is how quickly head coach Geno Auriemma goes to his bench if his starters get tired or get into foul trouble. Should the Gamecocks draw fouls early and often, the latter is more likely to occur.

Tipoff in this highly anticipated matchup is scheduled for 12 p.m. on FOX.

Men's Basketball

No. 24 UConn looks for road win at Georgetown



UConn Men's Basketball struggles to control the ball as they fall to Xavier 79-82 on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023 in Gampel Pavilion. The Huskies will play their next game against DePaul on Tuesday, Jan. 31. PHOTO BY IZZI BARTON, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Evan Rodriguez

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Back on Dec. 20, many UConn fans were shocked that the Huskies weren't quite dominating a Georgetown squad that had shown recent success. They'd been projected to be dead last

in the Big East by many and while today they are fulfilling that projection, the Hoyas didn't look like the worst-performing team in the Big East. In fact, they were putting one of the few undefeated teams in the country at the time in jeopardy of losing that title just two games into conference action.

While college basketball fans know how the game eventually ended as the Huskies stayed undefeated after a double-digit win, it should still remain a warning for this team, especially as UConn heads to Georgetown's house in Washington D.C. While UConn looks to keep gaining momentum in the sec-

ond half of Big East action, they need to come out firing on all cylinders and continue to show the strength of a roster that should dominate the Hoyas.

UConn's previous matchup showcased a Hoya that could once again give some real trouble for the Huskies, and that's Primo Spears. Averaging 16.8 points, which is second in the Big East behind only UConn big man Adama Sanogo, Spears dropped 19 points at Gampel Pavilion and looked fearsome. While he did end with four turnovers in the loss, it shouldn't change the fact that UConn needs to take Spears seriously on defense, even if it's as simple as putting a stronger defender like Andre Jackson on him.

While Spears dominated in the previous matchup between these two programs, the second-leading scorer for the Hoyas, Brandon Murray, didn't. In fact, he had eight turnovers and cost Georgetown some crucial possessions that they desperately needed. Great news for UConn, but they shouldn't expect that to happen so easily again. They'll need to put out that same type of energy in this matchup and not let a player like Murray poten-

tially catch fire.

The big player that I see with a breakout performance is UConn guard Tristen Newton, and if you've watched the past few games for UConn, you'll understand why. After the East Carolina transfer guard had some underwhelming performances in Big East action, he's really kicked his play into gear with a 23-point performance against Xavier and a 21-point performance in the team's last game at DePaul. Newton was also the team's leading scorer in UConn's last win against Georgetown with 17 points while contributing seven assists. So, you could say the writing's on the wall for another dominant performance as Newton keeps trending upward.

As long as the Huskies show out on defense this game, I can see this being another double-digit victory with the guard tandem of Newton and Jordan Hawkins potentially leading the way again on offense. If the guards can't find their offensive firepower, there's always Sanogo in the paint as the cherry on top of a scary team. Most importantly, though, UConn could really use this win for momentum in its next matchup against one of the toughest foes in the Big East,

WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

UConn SCOREBOARD

6 vs. **1**

Tennis
Wednesday

Upcoming Games

vs. **G**
Men's Basketball, noon, Saturday
Washington, D.C.

vs. **BU**
Women's Ice Hockey, 7 p.m., Friday
Boston, M.A.

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY

@uconnwbb
Cairo -> Storrs
Jana El Alfy has officially enrolled at UConn!

TWEETS OF THE DAY

Alexa Philippou
@alexaphilippou
Very interested to see the WNBA interest Lou Lopez Sénéchal gets after this season at UConn...

Megan Gauer
@megangauer
UConn has played five games in the last 12 days. They have three days off before South Carolina - which isn't much, but more than they've had in this latest stretch, and with just a short road trip home tonight.

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