



University of Connecticut student celebrations in the aftermath of the UConn Men's Basketball team victory at the 2023 NCAA Men's Basketball Championship have left 15 people arrested and 16 hospitalized.

University Spokesperson Stephanie Reitz said that while a vast majority of the celebrations were done safely, a small number of students celebrated recklessly.

"The vast majority of those celebrating the Husky victory last night did so safely and responsibly," Reitz said. "A small number chose to risk their safety and that of others by vandalizing or destroying property after the game. UConn Police will investigate the vandalism and other potential criminal offenses that occurred. Those responsible will face arrest and if they are students, sanctions up to and including expulsion."

Some of the vandalism consisted of breaking light poles in the center of campus,

UConn CELEBRATIONS LEAVE 15 ARRESTED, 16 HOSPITALIZED

— by Dylan Champagne | STAFF WRITER | HE/HIM/HIS | dylan.champagne@uconn.edu —

breaking glass windows in some of the buildings including the Student Union, turning a vehicle on its side and setting fire to trash dumpsters and wooden benches.

"15 people have been arrested and charged with various crimes; most of those arrested are UConn students. 16 people were transported to area hospitals for evaluation of injuries, none of which were considered to be significant," Reitz said.

UConn students who engaged in the vandalism may face criminal charges and sanctions by the university. These sanctions may include up to expulsion.

According to Reitz, the UConn Facilities Operations crews worked overnight and into the morning on campus to document and clean up the damage. The damage estimates are still being determined.

Despite the vandalism, classes and academic operations continued as scheduled on Tuesday.



UConn students wander the Storrs campus following the end of the NCAA Men's Basketball National Championship Game watch party at Gampel Pavilion. Following the party, multiple students committed acts of vandalism across campus, leading to a reported 15 arrests and 16 hospitalizations as of print. PHOTO COURTESY OF ANONYMOUS

UConn alumna Grace Rowbotham donates mononuclear cells for medical research

by Dylan Champagne

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University of Connecticut alumna Grace Rowbotham donated her mononuclear cells for medical research twice in the last year through the Gift of Life registry.

The Gift of Life registry is a public bone marrow and blood stem cell registry. The Gift of Life's mission is to cure blood cancer through cellular therapy.

Rowbotham currently lives in New York with her husband and 2-year-old son. She graduated from UConn in 2010 with a B.S. in Sports Management and Business and currently works for Disney.

Rowbotham, who first joined the Gift of Life registry over 10 years ago did not know if she would ever get the call to donate.

"I used to joke that every year I would get a call from Gift of Life asking, 'what's your address, can we update your contact info?' When I picked up this year and they said they were calling about a research opportunity I was like, 'What? Wait! This is really crazy!'"

Rowbotham told Gift of Life.

Digital Communications Coordinator for Gift of Life Jacob Domosh described mononuclear cells (MNCs) as important blood cells for the immune system.

"Mononuclear cells, or MNCs are any blood cell with a round nucleus like lymphocytes, monocytes, natural killer cells (NK cells) or dendritic cells. These cells give selective responses to the immune system and are the major cells in immunity/the immune system," Domosh said.

Rowbotham said that Gift of Life requested that she donate because of her specific HLA type.

"They needed my specific HLA type. The way I looked at it is, I might be a little uncomfortable for a few hours but for people who are suffering from these forms of cancer that's their everyday situation. I only have to sit for a few hours and could potentially have an effect on hundreds or thousands of lives. It's a small sacrifice. The donations lasted about three or four hours each time. Everything went smoothly for me," Rowbotham said to Gift of Life.

Rowbotham also cited her experience as a mom as making her want to donate.

"I'm aware there are a lot of cancers that affect pediatric patients. So I feel like, as a mom anything I can do to improve science for my son and for the future is something I want to be a part of."

Domosh said that there are many ways UConn students can

get involved with Gift of Life.

"If students want to get involved, my recommendation would be to join the registry. Students can order a test kit online to be sent to their home... or they can locate a donor recruitment drive near them, and swab at the event! We always need volunteers as well..."

Domosh said. "They can also apply to be part of Gift of Life's Campus

Ambassador Program and represent us on campus and help organize recruitment drives!"

For more information about getting involved, visit www.giftoflife.org.

The Fall 2023 UConn Campus Ambassador Program application can also be found at: <https://www.giftoflife.org/programs/capapp/18353>

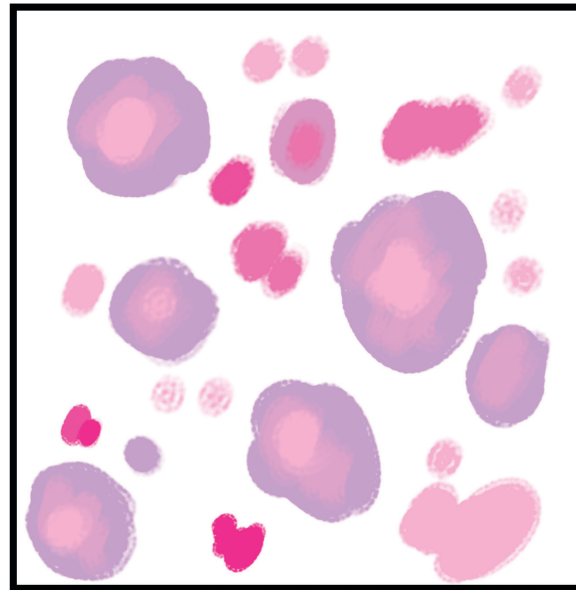


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TAKING THIS BACK TO STORRS 🏆

News

Ex-US Rep. Sarasin dies at 88; headed historical society

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Ronald Sarasin, a three-term Republican congressman from Connecticut in the 1970s who later went on to lead the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, has died. He was 88.

Sarasin died at his home in McLean, Virginia, on March 27, according to an obituary prepared by his family that did not disclose a cause of death.

Sarasin, who was born in Fall River, Massachusetts and grew up in Beacon Falls, Connecticut, was first elected to the U.S. House in 1972 and was re-elected in 1974 and 1976, representing the 5th District in western Connecticut.

In 1978, he won the Republican nomination for governor but lost the election to Democrat Ella Grasso.

Sarasin previously served in the Connecticut House of Representatives from 1969 to 1973.

After serving in the Navy in the 1950s, he went on to graduate from the University of Connecticut and its law school.

“Ron met every challenge with tremendous strength to help us grow in our work and service to reach new audiences.”

After leaving politics, Sarasin was the chief lobbyist for the National Restaurant Association and later president and CEO of the National Beer Wholesalers Association.

From 2000 to 2018, he was president and CEO of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, which is chartered by Congress to educate the public about the Capitol, its history and its people.

In a Facebook post mourning his death, the historical society credited Sarasin for establishing educational programs including a traveling exhibit on the role enslaved people had in building the Capitol.

“Ron met every challenge with tremendous strength to help us grow in our work and service to reach new audiences,” the post said. “We are grateful for his life, his friendship, and the legacy Ron left us all.”

Sarasin is survived by his wife, Leslie, and two sons. A funeral service will be held May 20 at Gonzaga College High School’s St. Aloysius Church in Washington.

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump turned his head toward photographers as he sat, stone-faced with shoulders rounded, at the defense table in a downtown Manhattan courtroom. “Not guilty,” he said in a firm voice during a historic appearance before a judge Tuesday. Trump became the first U.S. president — former or current — to be charged with a crime.

Prosecutors state in a 34-count felony indictment that Trump conspired to illegally influence the 2016 presidential election through hush money payments to two women, including a porn performer, who said they had sexual encounters with him. In addition, charging documents say a payoff went to a doorman who claimed to have a story about an out-of-wedlock child allegedly fathered by Trump.

Earlier, Trump struck a defiant pose, raising a clenched fist as he exited Trump Tower for the short ride from midtown to lower Manhattan. He wore a dark blue suit, white shirt and red tie. Television news helicopters followed his motorcade’s route, allowing viewers around the world to see the former president arrive at New York County Criminal Court.

But demonstrators who gathered at a park across the street were unable to glimpse Trump as he made the short walk from his SUV into the courthouse for the arraignment. Trump supporters, many in red hats, decried the district attorney’s actions, while counter-protestors cheered the indictment. They were nearly outnumbered by police officers and journalists. The court appearance lasted about an hour and the small crowd dwindled after word spread that Trump had left the building.

Trump, stone-faced, pleads not guilty in court appearance



Former President Donald Trump appears in court for his arraignment, Tuesday, April 4, 2023, in New York. Trump surrendered to authorities ahead of his arraignment on criminal charges stemming from a hush money payment to a porn actor during his 2016 campaign.

PHOTO BY TIMOTHY A. CLARY/AP

A protester holds a sign depicting former President Donald Trump among onlookers and members of the media outside Manhattan Criminal Court, Tuesday, April 4, 2023, in New York.

PHOTO BY JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

The Daily Campus

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Biden to host NCAA champs UConn, LSU; doesn't mention Iowa

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Tuesday scrapped the idea of inviting the NCAA champion Louisiana State women's basketball team along with Iowa's players, who lost the title to LSU, to celebrate at the White House. His wife, Jill, had suggested such a nontraditional scenario a day earlier.

But the social media pushback to her suggestion, made on Monday, was swift and unexpected by her staff, and the commentary led her to drop the idea, too. Her spokesperson said Tuesday that the first lady also looked forward to welcoming LSU to the White House.

Caitlin Clark, Iowa's star player, also said Louisiana State shouldn't have to share the spotlight.

The president tweeted Tuesday that both LSU and the University of Connecticut, winner of the NCAA men's basketball title, "showed us the best of what this country can be."

"We can all learn a lot from watching these champions compete," he said, "and I look forward to welcoming them at each of their White House visits." He did not announce dates, and the comment suggested that Iowa will not be joining the winning teams.

Following LSU's victory, coach Kim Mulkey said she would go to the White House if invited. There was no immediate comment from Connecticut, but the team has made the trip to the White House after winning the NCAA title game in prior years.

The first lady, who is a big sports fan, had watched LSU's 102-85 victory over Iowa from the stands in the Dallas arena on Sunday along-

side tennis great Billie Jean King and several college athletes.

During an appearance Monday in Denver with Colorado lawmakers, Jill Biden followed up by praising Iowa's sportsmanship and congratulated both teams on their performance. She noted the longstanding White House tradition of celebrating championship sports teams — and added a twist.

"I know we'll have the champions come to the White House, we always do. So, we hope LSU will come," she said. "But, you know, I'm going to tell Joe I think Iowa should come, too, because they played such a good game."

The suggestion didn't go over well. LSU star Angel Reese, who was honored as Most Outstanding Player, on Monday tweeted a link to a story on Jill Biden's remarks. "A JOKE," Reese wrote, along with three rolling-on-floor-laughing emojis.

Others commenting on social media noted the racial dynamics involved, saying that only winners should be rewarded with a White House visit and that hosting both teams would detract from the achievement by LSU's team, which is predominantly Black. The Iowa team is largely white. Others noted the important role of Black women in Democratic Party politics.

Vanessa Valdivia, a spokesperson for Jill Biden, said the first lady was excited by watching the women's game and meant no disrespect to LSU.

"Her comments in Colorado were intended to applaud the historic game and all women athletes," Valdivia tweeted Tuesday. "She looks forward to celebrating the

LSU Tigers on their championship win at the White House."

During her remarks in Colorado, the first lady also talked about how U.S. women have excelled in athletics since Title IX in 1972 gave women equal rights in sports at schools that receive federal funding.

Clark, asked in an interview if she wanted to go to the White House as a runner-up, said such a visit would be a "pretty cool moment" for the Louisiana team to enjoy alone.

"I don't think runner-ups usually go to the White House," she told ESPN. "I think LSU should, you know, enjoy that moment for them and congratulations. Obviously, they deserve to go there. Maybe I could go to the White House on different terms, though."

Lisa Bluder, Iowa's coach, echoed Clark's comments, adding on Twitter that "we would welcome the First Lady and President to come to Iowa's 'House' - Carver Hawkeye Arena - any time!"

The pushback over the first

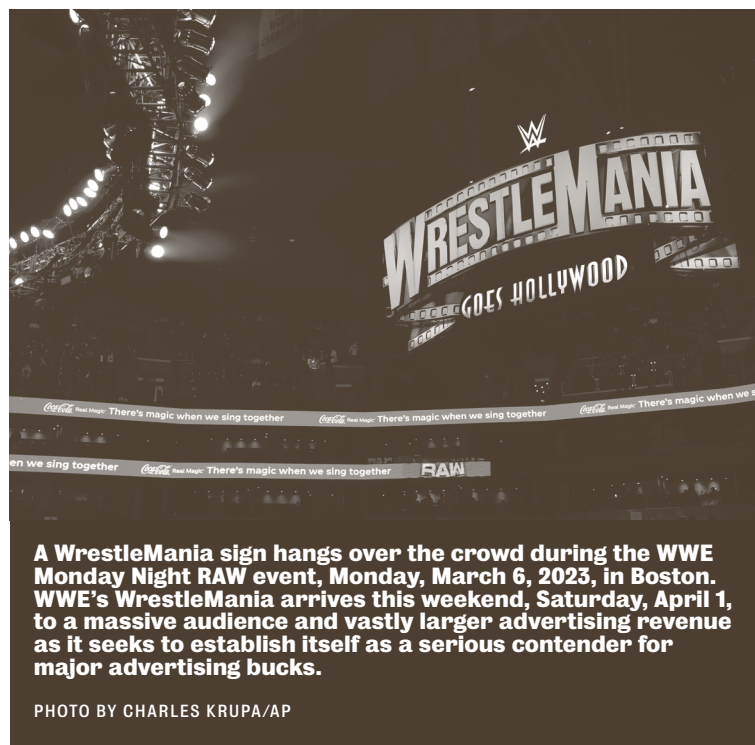
lady's NCAA comments recalled an episode last year when she apologized for saying Latinos are "as unique" as the breakfast tacos served in San Antonio. She had made the comment during a speech in that Texas city to UnidosUS, the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization.

The National Association of Hispanic Journalists and others registered their offense on social media, with the journalists' organization tweeting, "We are not tacos."



First lady Jill Biden, front, makes a point as Colorado Speaker of the House Julie McCluskie looks on during a stop to attend a roundtable discussion on the federal workforce training program to help community college students earn certificates for entry-level jobs Monday, April 3, 2023, inside the State Capitol in Denver.

PHOTO BY DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP



A WrestleMania sign hangs over the crowd during the WWE Monday Night RAW event, Monday, March 6, 2023, in Boston. WWE's WrestleMania arrives this weekend, Saturday, April 1, to a massive audience and vastly larger advertising revenue as it seeks to establish itself as a serious contender for major advertising bucks.

PHOTO BY CHARLES KRUPA/AP

(AP) — WWE is saying goodbye to existing as a family-run business as it joins with the company that runs Ultimate Fighting Championship to create a \$21.4 billion sports entertainment company.

The deal announced Monday between Endeavor and World Wrestling Entertainment, on the heels of its biggest event of the year, catapults WWE into a new era after spending decades under the control of the McMahon family.

Vince McMahon purchased Capitol Wrestling from his father in 1982, and took the regional wrestling business to a national audience with stars such as Andre the Giant, Hulk Hogan, "Stone Cold" Steve Austin, John Cena and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. The company, which changed its name to World Wrestling Federation and later World Wrestling Entertainment, hosted its first WrestleMania in 1985.

McMahon, in an interview with CNBC, addressed doubts among some WWE fans and industry experts that he would ever make a deal for the busi-

ness. "It's the right time to do the right thing. And it's the next evolution of WWE," he said.

In a presentation after the deal was announced, the WWE and Endeavor said that they will cross promote to drive brand awareness and deepen penetration of their overlapping fan base, more than 700 million UFC fans and 1.2 billion WWE fans worldwide.

Ties already exist talent wise between WWE and UFC, with stars such as Brock Lesnar and Ronda Rousey crossing over between the two organizations.

A new publicly traded company will house the UFC and WWE brands, with Endeavor Group Holdings Inc. taking a 51% controlling interest in the new company. Existing WWE shareholders will hold a 49% stake.

The companies put the enterprise value of UFC at \$12.1 billion and WWE's value at \$9.3 billion.

The new business, which does not yet have a name, will be led by Endeavor CEO Ari Emanuel. McMahon, executive chairman at WWE, will serve in the same role at the new company. Dana White will continue as presi-

WWE NO LONGER JUST A FAMILY AFFAIR AS IT JOINS WITH UFC

dent of UFC and Nick Khan will be president at WWE.

"Together, we will be a \$21+ billion live sports and entertainment powerhouse with a collective fanbase of more than a billion people and an exciting growth opportunity," McMahon said in a prepared statement Monday.

He also provided some idea of where the focus of the new company will be, saying that it will look to maximize the value of combined media rights, enhance sponsorship monetization, develop new forms of content and pursue other strategic mergers and acquisitions to further bolster their brands.

Confirmation that WWE is being sold comes after McMahon, a majority shareholder of WWE, returned to the company in January and said that it could be on the block with viewership continuing to rise.

Rumors swirled about who would possibly be interested in buying WWE, with Endeavor, Disney, Fox, Comcast, Amazon and Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund all in the mix.

McMahon said on CNBC that there were several buyers interested in WWE, but that combining

with Endeavor is the right move.

"It makes all the sense in the world for all these synergies that we have to extract all of the value that we can out of the marketplace," he explained.

Media industry analysts viewed WWE as an attractive target given its global reach and loyal fanbase.

The company held its marquee event, WrestleMania, over the weekend. The two-day spectacular, held at SoFi Stadium in California, topped the existing global viewership record by 28% on the first night. On the second night, it beat the existing global viewership record by 33%. Merchandise sales for WrestleMania 39 climbed 20% from a year earlier. Last year, WWE booked revenue of \$1.3 billion.

The company is also a social media powerhouse. It surpassed 16 billion social video views in the final quarter of last year. It has nearly 94 million YouTube subscribers and has more than 20 million followers on TikTok. Its female wrestlers comprise five out of the top 15 most followed female athletes in the world, across Facebook, Twitter & Instagram, led by Rousey with 36.1 million followers.

WWE had more than 7.5 billion digital and social media views in January and February of this year, up 15% from the same time frame a year ago. And WrestleMania 39 had more than 500 million views and 11 million hours of video consumed over the two days of the event, a 42% increase over last year.

The new company plans to trade on the New York Stock Exchange under the "TKO" ticker symbol. Its board will have 11 members, with six being appointed by Endeavor and five being appointed by WWE.

"We like the assets of UFC and also WWE in a world where linear TV is losing market share to streaming, thus live sport content is in high demand," wrote Jeffries analyst Randal Konik said in a note to clients.

The transaction, which was approved by the boards of Endeavor and WWE, is targeted to close in the second half of the year. It still needs regulatory approval.

Shares of World Wrestling Entertainment Inc., based in Stamford, Connecticut, are up 33% this year, but fell nearly 4% in Monday afternoon trading. Shares of Endeavor, based in Beverly Hills, California, slipped more than 7%.



Roman Reigns holds up the WWE Universal Championship after defeating Jey Uso during a match on Oct. 25, 2020, in Orlando, Florida. Reigns and Cody Rhodes will be in the main event of WrestleMania 39 on April 2, 2023, in Los Angeles.

PHOTO BY WWE/AP

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ACROSS

- 1 Wardrobe of one's dreams?
- 11 "And then ___!"
- 15 Honor won seven times by Nikki Giovanni
- 16 Makeshift sled from a cafeteria
- 17 Information for the record
- 18 Competent
- 19 Radio host Shapiro who sings with Pink Martini
- 20 Org. whose website has a "Travelers' Health" page
- 21 Tarnished
- 23 Pique periods
- 25 Navigation software once called FreeMap Israel
- 27 Tweak
- 28 Full-bodied
- 30 Flat rates?
- 32 Before
- 33 Field trip?
- 35 Org. with conferences
- 36 Prune
- 37 Cholesterol-rich burger toppers
- 40 Venue with programmes
- 43 Cuarón Oscar winner about a domestic worker in 1970s Mexico
- 44 Hoodwinks
- 47 100%
- 48 Best Driver and Best Jockey, e.g.
- 50 Flounder's best friend, in a Disney film
- 52 Monet's cathedral city
- 54 Careful handling
- 56 Danish shoe brand
- 57 Lose it
- 59 Homes on the road, briefly
- 61 Fell
- 62 25-Across et al.
- 63 "Can you drive me?"
- 66 Little more than
- 67 Heart-to-hearts
- 68 Olympic archer?

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By Tom Pepper & C.C. Burnikel

2/18/23

- 69 Holds one's ground
- DOWN**
- 1 Rice dishes
 - 2 "Ya with me?"
 - 3 Cleaning agent
 - 4 Datum requested by winery websites
 - 5 Defunct Ford div.
 - 6 Mug alternative
 - 7 Garage type
 - 8 ___ of This Swirled: Ben & Jerry's flavor with cookie bits
 - 9 Charisma
 - 10 California sch.
 - 11 Buy time
 - 12 Revolutionary?
 - 13 One source of toxic behavior
 - 14 Systane dose
 - 22 One of the oldest types of pasta
 - 24 Crowd ___
 - 26 Emmy-winning star of "Euphoria"
 - 29 Onslaught
 - 31 Elements added to a photo's metadata
 - 34 Ocho ___, Jamaica

Friday's Puzzle Solved

G	R	A	M		A	G	I	S	M			S	K	I	D
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2/18/23

- 38 Like some hockey goals
- 39 Ticked off
- 40 Darts, e.g.
- 41 Goof
- 42 Many a golf instructor
- 45 Kansas setting of "Dennis the Menace"
- 46 Leaves the country, in a way
- 49 Listen to first, say
- 51 Like a winning golf score
- 53 Lets up
- 55 Jack Pearson or Phil Dunphy
- 58 Small songbirds
- 60 Exams no longer considered for admissions decisions at UC
- 64 Itinerary info
- 65 Field worker?

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RASHIDA MANJOO

IMAGE COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

by Alicia Gomez
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SHE/HER/HERS
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On Tuesday, April 4, the 2023 Gladstein Visiting Professor of Human Rights, Rashida Manjoo, moderated an expert panel at the Dodd Center for Human Rights, where experts discussed recognizing and reframing gender-based violence as torture. Manjoo is the former United Nations special rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences.

The panel consisted of four people: an expert in public international law, two human rights activists against non-state torture and a political scientist who is also a Human Rights Institute professor at the University of Connecticut.

These panelists sought to redefine and reframe gender-based violence as torture, utilizing legal clinical work, activism and scholarship to assert how redefining gender-based violence is necessary to improve the response for its victims.

The co-founders of Persons Against Non-State Torture, Linda MacDonald and Jeanne Sarson, shared the story of Sarah, the first woman to come to the organization in 1933. Sarah did not recognize herself as a person entitled to human rights, MacDonald said.

As a child, she was subjected to brutal torture at the hands of her family and strangers. As a result, she could not talk about her experiences out loud, and could only write or draw about them, said MacDonald and Sarson.

Sarah's drawings depicted water torture in a tub or sink, being restrained, tied down, dehumanized and her being trafficked by her father. MacDonald described Sarah's basement as a torture chamber in her home where people threatened her with guns and rape.

"Sarah really didn't know that she was a person when she came to us. She was so demoralized, so dehumanized that she had to learn through us working together that she indeed was a person and that she had human rights and that was very important to her," MacDonald said.

The first step to recognizing gender-based violence as torture is redefining the actors of torture. Gender-based violence is not different in any significant way from what is understood as torture if society admits that tor-

ture by non-state actors is a distinct form of gender-based violence, according to MacDonald.

"Probably most times when you hear about torture you think of state torture which is police or military," MacDonald said. "But what we're here to tell you is about the torture that we hear about and happens to women who are trafficked by families or strangers."

The NST defines non-state torture as "torture that occurs in the domestic or private sphere within families or everyday relationships, human trafficking, prostitution, pornography, groups and gangs," according to MacDonald.

Sarson went looking for information about non-state torture when they heard Sarah's story, but she said there was no information available.

When Sarson and MacDonald visited schools to teach about human rights to groups of 13-year-olds, they brought the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with them. They guided the students through articles 1-7, but cut a hole out of the book where article 5 was. Article 5 of the UDHR states, "No one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

"We had quite a discussion when they had to start realizing that discrimination existed in the Universal Declaration," Sarson said.

After Sarson asked Sarah how she would describe her experience, Sarah replied she had never experienced gender-based violence and that it did not fit her experiences.

Not recognizing gender-based violence as torture makes it difficult for victims like Sarah to heal, Sarson and MacDonald said. Naming it torture may offer "increased legitimacy" to their experience and less tolerance for its practice, David L. Richards, a professor of political science and human rights at UConn, said.

Carla Festerman brought a legal standpoint to the issue, stating that torture has a "clear normative legal framework."

"The crime of sexual violence is recognized in international criminal law frameworks as a crime against humanity or a warcrime," Festerman said. "Judges have the tendency to find that female victims of rape

leads expert panel to recognize gender-based violence as torture

or other gender-based violence experience sexual violence, and they don't list torture as an offense whereas male victims of rape or gender-based violence were considered torture or other inhuman acts."

Through a survey study, Richards found that people exposed to a victim testimony of gender-based violence or expert study were more likely to perceive gender-based violence as torture than people who haven't been exposed. He also found that the more progressive attitudes toward women, the more a person will perceive gender-based violence as torture. Being in the age group 45-64 decreases the likelihood of a person recognizing gender-based violence as torture.

People exposed to a victim testimony of gender-based violence or expert study were more likely to perceive gender-based violence as torture than people who haven't been exposed.



IMAGE COURTESY OF VECTEEZY



Opinion

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COMIC BY ZAIRE DIAZ, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



LOGO BY KAITLYN TRAN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

And on the topic of not making these jobs harder, perhaps we don't need to destroy a significant portion of campus when the basketball team wins a national championship.

by Madeline Papcun
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This week, I've decided to write my column around a pretty simple — though extremely necessary, as of recent events — take: Respect services and maintenance workers, as all they do is work to make your life easier. That's pretty much it; it's not complicated nor is it hard to understand. Still, I'll draw it out into a full column for those of us that need reminding.

In a similar sense, I'm pretty sure most of the origins of my losing-faith-in-humanity comes from working in a local restaurant in my hometown throughout high school, and returning to that job when on break from college for multiple years.

Yes, I certainly made some lifelong friendships with my coworkers while working at that restaurant. However, I'm pretty sure all of those friendships are some form of trauma-bonding from dealing with customers together over the years. You name it, we've experienced it; I've been yelled at, talked down to and at least once a week had to call my manager over to calm down adults twice my age, because they didn't like that I merely repeated a well-established rule of the restaurant (that I certainly had nothing to do with creating, of course) to them.

Of course, working in a restaurant doesn't necessarily lend itself to seeing the

best in people. When people are celebrating big life events — anniversaries, weddings, birthdays, baby showers and more — they want these events to be perfect. Hence, this tends to bring on a lot of stress, and the customers are therefore not necessarily at their best when they're interacting with me. Not to mention, if they have a specific idea about how they want the event to go, and I have to relay the fact that restaurant policy in some way conflicts with their plans, I can completely see why these interactions can get tense, for lack of a better word. It's okay to want something to be perfect. But still, there is no reason to yell at a teenager already catering to your every need when a small detail needs to be changed. And doing so shows the lack of value we attribute to customer service and maintenance worker jobs as a society.

Working in customer service or maintenance is often a pretty thankless job; this goes beyond restaurant work. Think about the people that stay to clean up after you have the time of your life at a concert of your favorite artist, or the call center worker who helps you with a complaint about a product or company. In jobs like these, you need to deal extensively with the general public in its full range from pleasant to unpleasant, often while not getting paid a lot to do so. The least we can do for these workers is to appreciate them, and show them with our actions that this is the case.

So how do we do that? Careful, the answer is so simple it might shock you: We treat service and maintenance workers with respect. This involves verbally expressing appreciation for their work, and doing our best to not make their jobs harder than they have to be. For example, say hello to the bus driver when you get on, and thank them when you get off at your stop. Thank the dining hall worker that manages the computer to swipe you in so you can eat, and the dining hall chefs that make your food. Grab the door for the maintenance person working on your building when they're struggling to carry all of their supplies in.

And on the topic of not making these jobs harder, perhaps we don't need to destroy a significant portion of campus when the basketball team wins a national championship. By all means, celebrate if you truly #BleedBlue and that's your thing. Really, I don't even care that university property was destroyed — though I struggle to believe students won't end up being the ones paying for damages in the end. Still, the damage to our "beautiful campus" doesn't really concern me. However, I do care that there are a lot of workers out there cleaning up today. Their jobs just got a whole lot harder because of a bunch of drunk college kids in a crowd mentality, and that isn't okay. Truly, it's an abysmal lack of respect.

Opinion

Photo of the Day | National Champion welcome rally



The National Champion men's basketball team returns to Gampel Pavilion fresh off the plane from Houston to celebrate with its fans on Tuesday, April 4, 2023. This is the UConn men's fifth National Basketball title and the first win since 2014. PHOTO BY IZZI BARTON, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Anna Heqimi
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Now is the time that high school seniors are deciding which university they want to attend. Most of us are aware of the top universities in the country such as Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Columbia and Brown. Acceptance into one of these institutions is coveted and is seen as a massive accomplishment amongst students, their families and even potential employers. A handful of high schoolers work above and beyond just for a chance to be considered by one of these top schools. For example, when I was in high school, I mostly took honors and AP classes — as did so many of my peers — but why?

Re-

ally, it was to increase one's class ranking and GPA, to be a more desirable candidate to prestigious colleges.

Some students overwork themselves so much that they become overwhelmed. They miss out on beautiful moments of high school such as hanging out with friends, attending school parties and more just to validate their intelligence by getting accepted into an Ivy League school. Jamie Beaton, the author of his 2022 book "Accepted!" highlights his personal experience with the Ivy schools application process. He mentions that he got accepted into Ivies such as Harvard, Yale and Princeton not because he was smarter than his peers, but because instead of taking four "A" level courses, he took 10, demonstrating his dedication and responsibility. Students try a multitude of ways to stand out amongst their peers, if not taking more AP courses,

they aim for a perfect score on the SATs or ACTs, exhibit their talent in athletics or attain leadership positions in their jobs or clubs. All of these serve the purpose of trying to get accepted into as prestigious of a university as possible.

But is it really worth it for high school students to push themselves to their absolute limit just for the sake of getting accepted into a popular and coveted college? If a student desires to attend an Ivy because of its academic program such as Yale, which has an exceptional law program, or Harvard for studying medicine, those are valid reasons. However, wanting to attend an Ivy just because it is "popular" and prestigious is not.

On another note, students who determine their success and intelligence by getting accepted into an Ivy League school should not be discouraged if they are denied. A financially wealthier student has a much higher chance of getting accepted into an Ivy school than an intelligent yet financially

poorer student. Harvard economist Raj Chetty from "The Atlantic" found that "those who make more than \$630,000 a year—are 77 times more likely to be admitted to and attend an Ivy League school than students coming from families who make less than \$30,000 a year." So then the assumption can be that Ivy schools are more prestigious and coveted because of how expensive they are, making it difficult for acceptance because most families of students make far less than the \$630,000 salary that Ivies want.

Just because something is great for one person, does not mean it will be great for another. Everyone is unique and has different strengths with different values, and each university is unique as well. When considering which university to attend, students should ask themselves questions such as which university has the best academic program for them, do they like the location the university is in, do they value the city life or do they want to be surrounded by nature, do they want to stay close to family and do they value smaller class sizes?

Let's take a

look at the University of Connecticut, for instance. If I was a basketball player, then my first option would most likely be UConn. After asking my friends, very few chose this school because they wanted to be close to their families, while the others used it as a "safety school." Choosing the right school is extremely important. High schoolers should take it seriously and instead of conforming to that pressure of striving to get accepted into Ivies, they should think about how they want their college experience to go and what school they think best captures their personal values and strengths. No student should view the "lesser-known" college that they got accepted into only as their "safety school" after being rejected by "top" colleges. We are putting Ivy League schools on such a high pedestal, but in doing so, we are undervaluing other incredible institutions. Just because Ivy League schools are extremely hard to get into and popular does not mean they are better institutions in comparison to state schools or even community colleges. Let's all take some time to research more about different, lesser known schools and appreciate what they have to offer and then find the one that best fits our preferences and needs.

Choose a college that is right for you



CARTOON BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Word Search

Men's College Basketball National Championships 2023

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

Find the word in the puzzle.
 Words can go in any direction.
 Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

MARCH MADNESS
 STUDENT UNION
 WATCH PARTY
 SAN DIEGO STATE
 CLINGAN
 HOUSTON
 HAWKINS
 RIOT

DAN HURLEY
 GAMPOL
 PAVILION
 LAMPPOST
 HUSKIES
 NEWTON
 FLIPPED VANS
 BLEED BLUE

MEN'S BASKETBALL
 BRIAN DUTCHER
 TRAFFIC SIGNS
 CHAMPIONS
 FIVE WINS
 KARABAN
 SANOGO

Flip upside down for the answers
 to the crossword above!

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

Sports

Photo of the Day | Natty Number 5



The UConn men's basketball team captures their 5th national title after defeating San Diego State 76-59 in the NCAA National Championship game at NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas on April 3, 2023. This win marked the Huskies last championship win since 2014, as UConn's Tristan Newton carried the Huskies to victory with nineteen points while Adama Sanogo was named the Final Four's Most Outstanding player. PHOTO BY SOFIA SAWCHUK, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Connor's Corner Edition #11: Adam Duvall

by Connor Sargeant

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Writer's Note: This article was written as recently as the Boston Red Sox Monday night home game against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Hello and welcome back to Connor's Corner, a column where I discuss a standout performance in professional sports and that player's journey from high school to the professional level. It's finally time for baseball again after a long winter break that lasted nearly 150 days. This opening weekend was one to remember, with competitive games all around and exciting storylines such as the Rangers leading the AL West or the Philadelphia Phillies starting the season 0-4. However, the biggest drama from this weekend came out of Boston with Red Sox center fielder Adam Duvall, who has been hitting everything in sight.

The AL Player of the Week has had a week to remember, as the 34-year-old Kentucky native owns a .588 batting average, on 10/17 hitting, two home runs and nine RBIs. While Duvall has been tearing it up all weekend, his

still trailing Baltimore by a run and they needed a miracle. It appeared as though the Sox would start the season 0-2 as Masataka Yoshida skyed a 99-mph fastball that should have been a routine catch, however, left fielder Ryan McKenna dropped it, which put Yoshida on first with two away and brought up none other than Duvall. Duvall made McKenna pay for his sins by launching a 1-0 fastball over the Green Monster to give Boston the come-from-behind win over their divisional rivals.

Before the fame and fortune, Duvall attended Butler High School in Louisville, Kentucky. As a senior, he was excellent, hitting .375. Interestingly enough, the former Cardinal played shortstop before switching to center field. He advanced to the Kentucky State Tournament at Butler and earned All-Region honors. Unfortunately for the future Red Sox, he missed part of his senior season with back surgery.

Western Kentucky but transferred to Chipola Junior College after one season. In his time with Chipola, he hit .340 with 11 home runs, 43 RBIs and 21 walks. Directly after this, Duvall transferred to the University of Louisville, where his excellence persisted. He hit over .320 in his two seasons in Louisville, including over 20 home runs, 98 RBIs and 174 hits. While many college fans know Louisville as an ACC powerhouse, they used to be a part of the Big East from 2005-2013, along with UConn. During the 2009 Big East championship game, Duvall hit a home run that helped the Cardinals beat UConn 11-3. Because of his unmatched power, the San Francisco Giants took him in the 11th round of the MLB draft.

Duvall has enjoyed a modest nine-year career so far, and has had stints with the Giants, Reds, Braves, Marlins and Red Sox. He became a premier power hitter in Cincinnati in 2016 with 33 home runs, 103 RBIs, 133 hits and a BA of .249. Duvall was such a power hitter that in 2016, he was in the Home Run Derby.

himself as one of the game's most feared at the dish. It's safe to say he is off to a good start.

Unfortunately for Red Sox fans, this year is probably not their year. Because they let Xander Bogaerts walk, they're not in a position to win the fall classic. However, they're in a great position for the future. Rafael Devers has established himself as one of the game's best, and Yoshida has looked like an All-Star. Boston is not as far off as one would think. With Duvall bringing his veteran leadership and experience, Alex Cora needs to lean on him to give his expertise to the younger guys. However, so far, Boston is better off with Duvall than without. If they look to make a Cinderella run this year, Duvall will need to be at the top of his game, which he is more than capable of doing as evident by his career and this past weekend.

star-studded performance

came Saturday night. Duvall started his night off on the right foot, catching up to a 94-mph fastball and hitting it off the centerfield wall and hustling into third with a triple. Duvall scored that inning on a wild pitch. Unfortunately for Sox fans, Chris Sale struggled, giving up a total of seven runs in three innings of work. Despite this, in the bottom of the third, Duvall hit a two-run shot over the Green Monster to cut Baltimore's lead to 7-5. Duvall's next big moment came in the seventh; down two runs, he hit a ball many believed was heading for the Pesky Pole. However, it dropped right in front of the right field fence and hopped into the stands for a ground-rule double, good enough to bring in a run. After all the drama, heading into the bottom of the ninth, Boston was

Unfortunately, teammate Todd Frazier eliminated him in the semifinals, saying, "I wasn't letting him beat me. That was one thing I'm very confident in saying. Nothing against him, but he put up a lot of home runs as well."

The journeyman's batting average has deteriorated over his career, as he only owns a .232 lifetime mark which has decreased every year since 2019 with a fluctuation at the beginning of his career. Despite this, the slugger has mashed 206 home runs, 487 RBIs and 647 hits. A change of scenery for Duvall could give him a career year in which he establishes

Even with the injury, he garnered the attention of Western Kentucky University. The future Giants' collegiate career has been one filled with excellence. Duvall originally played for



Baseball: Columbia rallies from 12-0 deficit to upset No. 19 Hook C in Manhattan

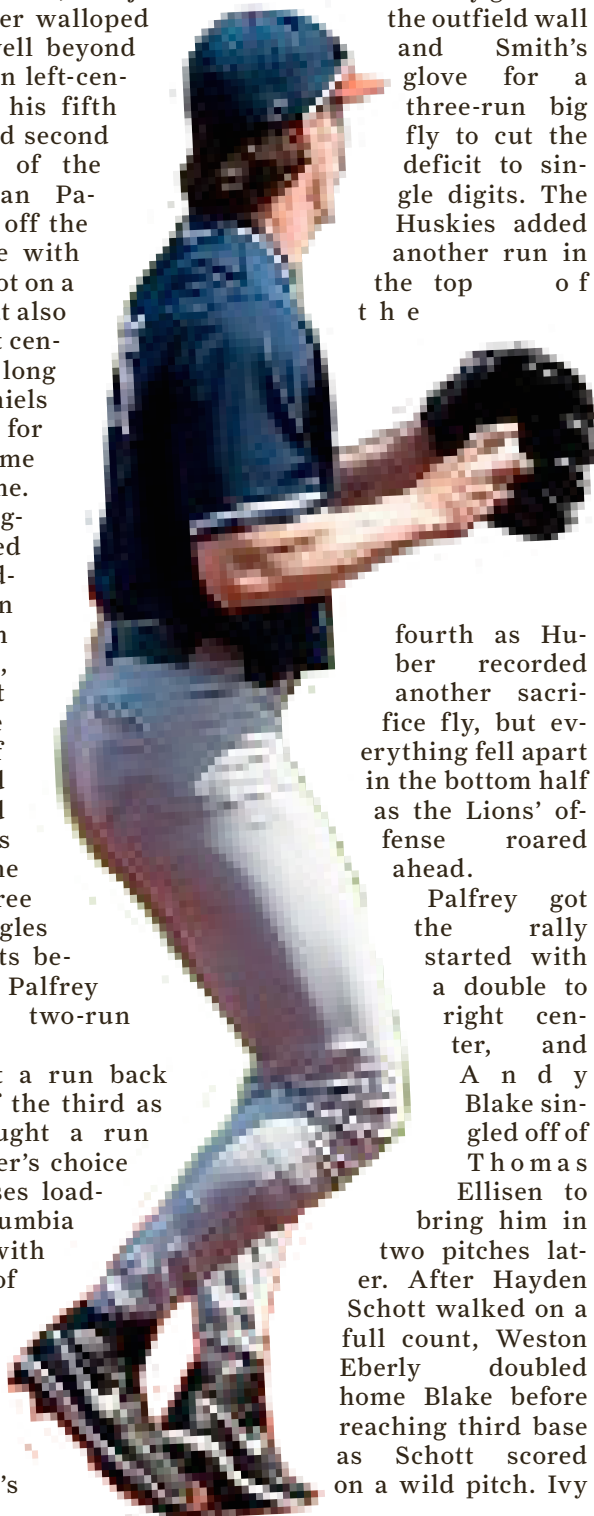
by Cole Stefan
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In a weekend series against the UMBC Retrievers, the No. 19 UConn baseball team scored 31 runs as they shut down the America East Conference's then most productive offensive team. Scoring 11 runs in each of the final two games of the three-game set, UConn's offense exceeded that number against the Columbia Lions in just two innings. Once the pitching faltered, however, the offense followed suit, scoring two runs in the final seven innings as the Huskies came up short in the midweek matchup in Manhattan 19-14.

Ben Huber got the scoring started for the Hook C in the first inning, scoring on a sacrifice fly with two runners in scoring position before Dominic Freeberger touched home plate on a wild pitch two batters later. Once Ryan Daniels knocked Thomas Santana out of the game by walking on four straight pitches in the top of the second, the wheels started to come off for Columbia as Connecticut's offense erupted. After zipping around the basepaths via a stolen base and a wild pitch, Daniels scored when David Smith worked a bases-loaded walk and Freeberger followed suit with a two-run single. Huber knocked reliever Jagger Edwards out of the game with a four-pitch walk and Jake Studley brought in a run on the sacrifice fly for a six-run advantage, but Korey Morton cracked the game wide open.

On a 2-0 count, the junior outfielder walloped a baseball well beyond the bullpen in left-center field for his fifth home run and second grand slam of the season. Bryan Padilla capped off the 10-run frame with a two-run shot on a 0-2 count that also landed in left centerfield not long after Daniels got on base for the second time in the frame. Stephen Quigley worked around a lead-off double in the bottom of the first, but did not escape the bottom of the second unscathed as the Lions loaded the bases on three straight singles with two outs before Griffin Palfrey whacked a two-run single.

UConn got a run back in the top of the third as Morton brought a run in on a fielder's choice with the bases loaded, but Columbia answered with one swing of the bat. Facing a 2-2 count with two down in the frame, Cole Hage's



hit barely got over the outfield wall and Smith's glove for a three-run big fly to cut the deficit to single digits. The Huskies added another run in the top of the

fourth as Huber recorded another sacrifice fly, but everything fell apart in the bottom half as the Lions' offense roared ahead.

Palfrey got the rally started with a double to right center, and Andy Blake singled off of Thomas Ellisen to bring him in two pitches later. After Hayden Schott walked on a full count, Weston Eberly doubled home Blake before reaching third base as Schott scored on a wild pitch. Ivy

League Player of the Week Seth Dardar knocked Ellisen out of the game, and although Garrett Coe got Anton Lazits to fly out to Morton, Hage did further damage at the plate. Facing an 0-1 count, the junior leftfielder took the junior southpaw deep to cut the lead in half with his second three-run homer of the game.

Columbia did not stop there, as a single and a hit by pitch took Coe out of the contest. Palfrey singled in a run on Devin Kirby's first pitch, and Blake gave the Lions their first lead of the day as the senior shortstop sent the payoff pitch to dead center for the team's third three-run jack of the afternoon. Kirby recorded the last two outs of the frame on five pitches, but the damage had been done as Columbia scored 10 runs for their second double-digit run inning of the season. The Hook C threatened in the top of the fifth with two runners in scoring position, but after Smith grounded into an inning-ending double play, the Lions made them pay twice as Skye Selinsky laced an RBI triple to deep right field and Jack Kail singled him home.

The Huskies kept threatening, getting runners on third in the sixth and eighth innings, but they did not score a run either time as Columbia's bullpen shut down the chance with a lineout and two strikeouts. Sandwiched between those opportunities, Dardar smacked his sixth homer of the season well beyond

the batting eye to extend the Lions' lead to four. Blake went yard for the sixth time himself the following inning, taking Brady Afthim deep on the first pitch of the frame before Zach Fogell recorded two strikeouts in relief. Senior Justin Tucker closed the door in the ninth as Columbia garnered their third ranked win of the year, their first since taking two of three against the then No. 18 Alabama Crimson Tide in Tuscaloosa in early March.

With no pitcher throwing more than two innings for the Lions, whose last four relievers surrendered a combined three hits and recorded three of the team's four strikeouts, James Vaughn earned his second win of the year while allowing one run on one hit with two walks. In his start, Santana allowed three runs on two hits against seven batters in over an inning of work. Kirby took his first loss of the season after allowing five runs on seven hits in three innings despite throwing four strikeouts. Quigley went 2.2 innings, allowing five runs on seven hits with a walk and a punchout.

The Hook C (20-7) stays in the Big Apple to kick off Big East play as they visit the St. John's Red Storm in Queens. UConn begins their three-game set on Thursday, April 6, at 6 p.m. and wraps up the series two days later with a doubleheader starting at 1 p.m. All three games will be broadcast via MIXLR.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF @UCONN-BASEBALL ON INSTAGRAM

Big East Baller Update No. 18: More national champions in the Space City

by Cole Stefan
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Houston, Texas, has hosted four Final Fours in the NCAA Tournament's 84-year history. Three of them have been since 2010, and each one ended in the same result for the Big East Conference. In 2011, the UConn men's basketball team capped off an 11-game winning streak with their third national title behind "Cardiac" Kemba Walker. Five years later, Kris Jenkins' buzzer-beater against the North Carolina Tar Heels gave the Villanova Wildcats their first national championship in 31 years.

In 2023, Connecticut made the Final Four for the sixth time in program history, winning the national championship and proving why the Big East remains the best college basketball conference.

Writer's Note: It still does not feel real that UConn now has five national titles and is 5-0 in championship games.

Writer's Note II: "Five-Time, Five-Time, Five-Time, Five-Time, Five-Time." - Booker T.

UConn 72, Miami 59 (April 1) and UConn 76, San Diego State 59 (April 3): Five-Time Champs

Head coach Daniel S. Hurley is a national champion. The NCAA Tournament's Most Outstanding Player, Adama Sanogo, is a national champion. Richie Springs, the longest-tenured player on the team, is a national champion. All-Big East First Team selection Jordan Hawkins is a national champion. Andre Jackson Jr. is a national champion. The remaining 12 players I have not yet mentioned are all national champions.

The Huskies are the top dogs for the fifth time. They beat their opponents by a combined 120

points, averaging 20 points per victory, and went 17-0 in non-conference play. UConn trailed for 4.5 minutes across both Final Four games, all of which came against the San Diego State Aztecs. Three years ago, after a loss to Villanova, Hurley said that "it's coming." I have said that it has been here in the past, but 1,171 days after he uttered those words, it has officially arrived.

The past three years: A personal reflection of the Big East Baller Update

The recap you just read about Connecticut winning their fifth title is 167 words. I could have written more about UConn's dominant tournament run, but I am not the one in charge of doing so. If you have followed along over the years, that is the one thing I have to keep constant in writing these weekly articles; I cannot write much about the Huskies because the beat writers already handle that duty.

While it is nice to see them win a national championship, I doubted this team all season long. With Tyrese Martin and R.J. Cole going pro and both Isaiah Whaley and Tyler Polley out of eligibility, I felt like this would be a down year for Connecticut. They proved me wrong time and time again.

With that out of the way, I can reflect on one of my signature weekly articles as a UConn student. This is not a goodbye letter to The Daily Campus sports section; I still have one more year as an undergraduate student. This is just a reflection of the "Big East Baller Update."

The "Big East Baller Update" replaced its predecessor, "Around the American," when the Huskies returned to the Big East in 2020. I first signed up to write the article during my freshman year of college, when there was not much to write



NRG Stadium in Houston, Tex. was packed to the brim during the UConn vs. Miami Final Four game on Saturday, April 1. The Huskies beat the Hurricanes 72-59 and advanced to the Championship game on Monday, April 3. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNHUSKIES ON INSTAGRAM

about at the collegiate level as the Big East canceled all fall sports. Even though it was not my first article for the organization, I had so much fun writing that article that I almost immediately took the next one the following week.

"Around the American" summarized some of the biggest storylines that took place in the American Athletic Conference over a seven-day window, referencing every game while highlighting the leading scorer, but the "Big East Baller Update" shies away from that. What I was told when I first took on the article was to summarize the three most important non-UConn games that took place over the past week. Over the past three years, I have written all but two editions of the "Big East Baller Update," and I have not looked back.

If you have followed along, you know that I craft a cre-

ative game recap title that is a play on words of some sort. The thought process behind that all started back in the second edition, when the Kansas Jayhawks took on the Creighton Bluejays in the Big East-Big 12 Battle. It is a bird-themed adaptation of the Broadway musical "Rock of Ages," and that motivated me to come up with even more creative game titles as the seasons passed. This is different from the creative titles I developed for each weekly edition, which started when I wrote my first Big East Tournament preview in 2021. I knew that I wanted to title this article "Tourney Time," but after writing that preview and watching every tournament game, I realized that those titles could stick. During the summer of 2021, I came up with so many ideas that I listed them all down in a Google Doc.

I first got invested in Big East basketball in 2016, when I attended the Big East Tournament Championship game between the Wildcats and the Seton Hall Pirates with my dad. Since I started writing the "Big East Baller Update," I have become more and more interested in the Big East, which has included reading a book on the conference from 1979 to 2013. It is through these experiences that I can conclude that the Big East is the best conference in college basketball.

Let me conclude this article in a manner similar to how I started my first update. Basketball fans, thank you so much for reading these weekly updates over the last three years. I know that this season was chaotic and competitive but consider how conference play will be just as exciting next year. This has been a Big East Baller Update. Stay balling.



Sports

MEN'S BASKETBALL:

UConn becomes top dog of college basketball; wins National Championship over SDSU 76-59



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To win the NCAA Tournament, you need a special kind of roster: a lineup that is capable of withstanding the many grueling tests of a tournament that turns men into boys.

For the UConn men's basketball team, when they faced adversity in the January portion of their Big East schedule, it only showed the dog that was in all of them. Losses that other teams would have crumbled to instead pushed this UConn team to grow both in their game and spirit. As Andre Jackson best put it, that's the UConn standard.

"You walk into practice everyday and you see four national championships hanging. You see 15 trophies as soon as you walk into the door. That's big shoes to fill," said Jackson.

The National Championship is a prime example of what Connecticut can do on the hardwood. Of course, there's immense pressure around who will take the illustrious NCAA Tournament trophy, but it was also the opportunity for one last time on the court together that really set this game apart from the rest. From gifted shotmaker Jordan Hawkins to two-way guard Nahiem Alleyne, each person played their part and as a result, it was something special.

That was a huge reason why they entered Monday night's blockbuster matchup at NRG Stadium in front of thousands of fans as the heavy favorites to take home the trophy: the same prize that stared at them every day of practice as they worked towards their primary goal of that season. Of course, it goes without saying that it would be no walk in the park. Over 72,000 screaming San Diego State fans made for a brutal environment. There would be

Husky fans and legends alike in the house as well, from Kemba Walker to Shabazz Napier's mom. The Huskies would have the support they needed and it was time to complete the mission ahead.

Tipoff would come and go with UConn setting the tone early via a Hawkins mid-range jumper. From there, a defensive battle took place, and it was hard for either team to grab points, even for the third most efficient offense in the nation according to KenPom. The Huskies struggled early against an Aztecs roster that was hitting from beyond the arc and while Connecticut would hit their fair share of shots in the first few minutes, it remained a single digit affair. That's where Adama Sanogo comes in. It was time for a boost and the junior big man was ready to give everything he had on the court — It may have only been six first-half points at that moment, but it was exactly what the Huskies needed to go on an 8-0 run. From there, highlights from Donovan Clingan's alley-oop throwdown to a pair of knockdown shots from Alleyne would give UConn even more of an edge as they headed toward halftime.

There were certainly some negatives like inefficient shooting from the three-point line and getting beat on the offensive boards. However, the Aztecs also made crucial mistakes with some poor shooting from the field at 28%, nine turnovers in the first half and getting no production from their bench. It resulted in a 36-24 game in favor of the Huskies as both teams headed to halftime to regroup. Only one team would come out of this one and live in basketball immortality while the other would head home falling just short.

Coming out of the half, Connecticut's offense continued to

look like a well-oiled machine with Sanogo showing his dominance in the paint. On the other hand, Tristen Newton was just getting started with a fantastic half, contributing 10 points in the second half of his own. It was fitting for the Texas native, who grew up in El Paso. In the end for him, it would be a night worth talking about as he dropped a double-double with 10 rebounds to secure one of the best performances of the night.

"Before the game started, my coaches told me I need to be aggressive and look to this quarter to win the game. First bucket, the spin move, take advantage of the mismatch because he was a smaller guard. The second one was somebody stole the ball, so credit to them, Andre found me on a three. Really credit to my teammates and the spac-

ing we had and the coaches for believing in me and telling me to be aggressive today," said the UConn point guard.

Newton's play was, of course, only one piece of the pie as the Huskies would have to do much more before securing victory. While they had continued to control the game throughout the second half, the real test of the game came with five minutes to go after two Keshad Johnson free throws sunk through the net. Five point game. Time for someone to step up.

That's where UConn's sophomore shooting guard Hawkins, fresh off a battle with flu-like symptoms, drilled the biggest shot of his career as well as the game. The 3-point bomb from the hands of the Maryland native swished through the Houston nets to the dismay of the many San Diego State fans in attendance. It was the exact momentum booster that UConn needed.

"We needed a shot. We needed a basket. Coach drew something up for me so I knew he trusted me to hit the shot, so I hit it," said Hawkins. "Ice in my veins. Kobe Bean Bryant. Got it tatted on me."

From there, it was virtually no contest as the Connecticut offense exploded for 13 more points compared to a measly four point response from the Aztecs. Most of the work done to seal the game would be done comfortably from the stripe, a spot that players like Newton and Hawkins thrive in. The clock ticked down and the celebration was only just beginning.

As the final buzzer sounded on the college basketball season and the confetti rained down from the NRG Stadium rooftops, pandemonium began for a UConn team that

worked so hard for this moment. From dark nights in the gym to heartbreaking losses during the Big East season, it's been a long road to get to this point. It was certainly a road that many couldn't have envisioned for this roster, but just like the motto that Philadelphia 76ers fans once lived by, you had to trust the process envisioned by Hurley.

It felt appropriate that one of the main beneficiaries of that process, Sanogo, the same man who worked hours in the gym to perfect his craft and would end the night with 17 points on 5-9 shooting, would receive the Final Four's Most Outstanding Player. He'd taken the time to learn from some of the best UConn big men and now with a ring in his collection, he too can enter that conversation.

His tournament run has helped to reflect a phenomenal UConn season and achieve the true cherry on top of an excellent season of Huskies basketball. With the season that will not only live in the minds of fans and players alike, it will be a season that coach Hurley may cherish the most of all.

"Obviously, a dream come true for all of us. It was a part of the program — we sold the vision. I sold the vision to David Benedict and President Herbst and President Radenka and the university that I could put together a special group of people, coaching staff, unbelievable players like this. So it feels great to come through on promises made by me to all the great people of Connecticut and then with these guys. This was our vision. This was our dream. This is what we talked about when we recruited these guys, that we could get together and do something big like this," said Hurley.



Freshman center, Donovan Clingan (Top Left), and graduate student and point guard, Joey Calcaterra (Bottom Right), pose with their NCAA National Championship trophy after their big win against San Diego State late Monday night. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNMBB ON INSTAGRAM

WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

UConn SCOREBOARD

vs.
76 vs. **59**

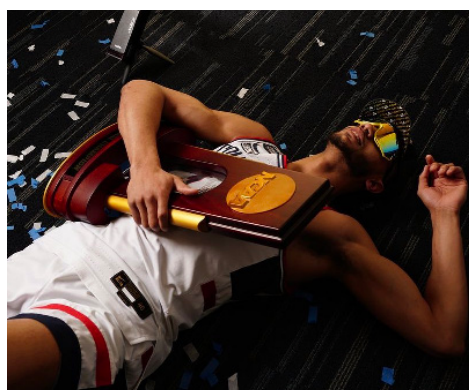
Men's Basketball Championship
Monday

Upcoming Games

vs.
 Women's Lacrosse, 2 p.m.
 Wednesday, Villanova, PA

vs.
 Softball, 6 p.m.
 Wednesday
 Storrs, Conn

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconnmbb
Rumor has it, Dre is still laying there
@andrejackson5 #HUSKIES

TWEETS OF THE DAY

SportsCenter
 @SportsCenter
 UConn won every game of the tournament by DOUBLE DIGITS

Luis T
 @LuisT5553
 Chaotic scenes broke out on the University of Connecticut campus following the UConn Huskies' NCAA championship win on Monday night, resulting in 15 people being arrested and charged with various crimes while 16 others were hospitalized...

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