

Concerns arise over custodial services in UConn dormitories

by Amaree Love
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
amaree.love@uconn.edu

As the semester gains momentum, students at the University of Connecticut have settled into their dormitories and transformed these spaces into their homes away from home. Dorm room walls are now adorned with posters and rugs rest on formerly bare floors, marking the culmination of weeks spent adjusting to a new routine that must balance academic demands with much-needed rest. Yet, beneath the idyllic veneer of collegiate life, concerns have emerged about the efficacy of custodial services responsible for maintaining communal spaces.

The morning rush to communal showers and bathroom stalls to compete for limited spaces has become a daily ordeal for students residing on campus. As the week unfolds, murmurs among residents about custodial cleaning practices have grown louder. Many question the thoroughness of the custodial staff in their rounds, citing recurring issues such as empty toilet paper rolls and depleted soap dispensers.

The Custodial Services Program: Unveiling Their Mission

According to the Facilities Operations page on fo.uconn.edu, UConn's custodial services program is committed to upholding a high standard of cleanliness in academic and residence halls across the sprawling Storrs campus. Their mandate promises to provide top-tier service to faculty, staff and students

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KRYSTAL ERONINI

alike. Shedding light on the intricacies of their operations, Shawn Lappen, a Housekeeping Manager within the custodial services, offered insights into the program's inner workings.

"The residential cleaning staff operates Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Our responsibilities encompass the entire public-facing areas of the buildings, with the depth and frequency of cleaning contingent upon

the time of the year," Lappen said. He emphasized the daily cleaning of bathrooms, a task that includes cleaning toilets and sinks, sweeping floors and scrubbing showers.

Lived Experiences Among Residents

Krystal Eronini, a sophomore psychology student, voiced her perspective on the cleaning habits within the dormitories. She praised the custodial staff for their consistent cleaning of floors but raised concerns about the showers and stalls. "When they do clean, they do a great job," Krystal remarked. "However, when it comes to showers and stalls, they aren't as thorough." She

"Our responsibilities encompass the entire public-facing areas of the buildings, with the depth and frequency of cleaning contingent upon the time of the year."

SHAWN LAPPEN

notes that custodial practices vary from one dormitory to another. "It's consistent in certain buildings," she says. "For instance, last year, I lived in Northwest, and I think because there were fewer dorm rooms to clean, it was done exceptionally well every day on my floor. Our janitor came daily and cleaned everything."

Channels for Addressing Concerns

Shawn Lappen suggested effective avenues for students to communicate their concerns. The "My UConn" app offers a platform to report issues or concerns related to custodial services promptly. Alternatively, students can reach out to their hall directors to voice their concerns. Two standard numbers for work orders are also available for request 24 hours a day.

Contact Information for Dormitory Cleaning Inquiries and Other Requests:

My UConn App: Available for reporting concerns and issues related to custodial services.

Hall Director: Contact your hall director to discuss concerns about dormitory cleaning.

Work Orders: Two standard numbers are available for work orders 24/7, ensuring prompt attention to cleaning and maintenance needs.

These concerns about custodial services in UConn's dormitories highlight the importance of maintaining a clean and safe living environment for students by prompting a dialogue between the custodial staff and the student body to address these issues and ensure a more comfortable campus experience.



Front view of Northwest dormitories and dining hall. Northwest Residence Hall is home to many freshmen and sophomore students. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONN ON INSTAGRAM



Students moving into the UConn dormitories at the beginning of the semester. Some students have expressed concerns with the cleanliness of their residence halls. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONN ON INSTAGRAM

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News

UConn Student Health and Wellness Fair promotes students' wellbeing

by Sarah Bedigian
STAFF WRITER
SHE/HER/HERS
sarah.bedigian@uconn.edu

University of Connecticut Student Health and Wellness hosted their annual fair on Fairfield Way on Thursday, providing information, health resources, fun activities and free giveaways to students.

UConn SHaW had a variety of tables that provided information about their medical services. Amy Dunham, registered dietitian nutritionist and coordinator of the fair, said she hopes this was an opportunity for students to get contact information for resources they may need now or in the future.

"We annually provide the Student Health and Wellness fair at the start of the school year to make known or to remind students of the many health and wellness offices, departments and organizations on campus and in the surrounding community," Dunham said.

"Some services SHaW provides but not limited to are gloveBOX, sick appointments, preventative care appointments (i.e. nutrition counseling, physical activity counseling, Know You Well nurse wellness coaching, etc.), individual and group mental health counseling, Let's Talk program, and alcohol and other drug use support services and the recovery community,"

AMY DUNHAM

Dunham encouraged students to go to the SHaW website for information on how to get involved in student groups, schedule appointments and learn about health information.

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er drug use support services and the recovery community," Dunham said.

The tables addressed a variety of health topics, including mental health, wellness coaching, preventative care and screening, nutrition and sexual and reproductive health.

SHaW student groups including UConn Sexperts and S.H.A.P.E. spoke about how students can get involved in their organizations or take advantage of their resources. UConn Sexperts is a paid peer health education program that promotes sexual health on campus. They spoke about their initiative, gloveBOX, which provides students with free condoms and other safer-sex

supplies that will get delivered to students' mailboxes. UConn S.H.A.P.E. (Student's Helping to Achieve Positive Esteem) is a peer education group that strives to promote body positivity and acceptance.

SHaW also had a table where they talked about suicide prevention in light of UConn Suicide Prevention week. Students who filled out a yellow flag with a positive message were able to receive a free T-shirt. They advertised their slogan "Be aware, show you

care" and SHaW's hotlines for mental health support, which are available 24/7.

In addition to UConn SHaW, other UConn organizations were also in attendance. The UConn Nutrition Club spoke about how students can get involved in their group while allowing students to sample healthy drinks. UConn Rec also had a table where they gave out free merchandise to students who followed them on social media.

Organizations outside of UConn also spoke about their resources, including the American Lung Association, which promoted their Lung Force Walk which is happening next spring.

"We hope students walk away knowing about many resources and services on and off campus that are available to them for their well-being," Dunham said.

More information about UConn SHaW can be found at studenthealth.uconn.edu.

Visit: studenthealth.uconn.edu

**SHaW 24/7 Hotline:
(833) 308-3040.**



UConn students holding up suicide prevention shirts with the "Be Aware. Show Your Care" slogan at the Student Health and Wellness Fair. SHaW provides mental health supports for students.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNSTUDENTHEALTH ON INSTAGRAM

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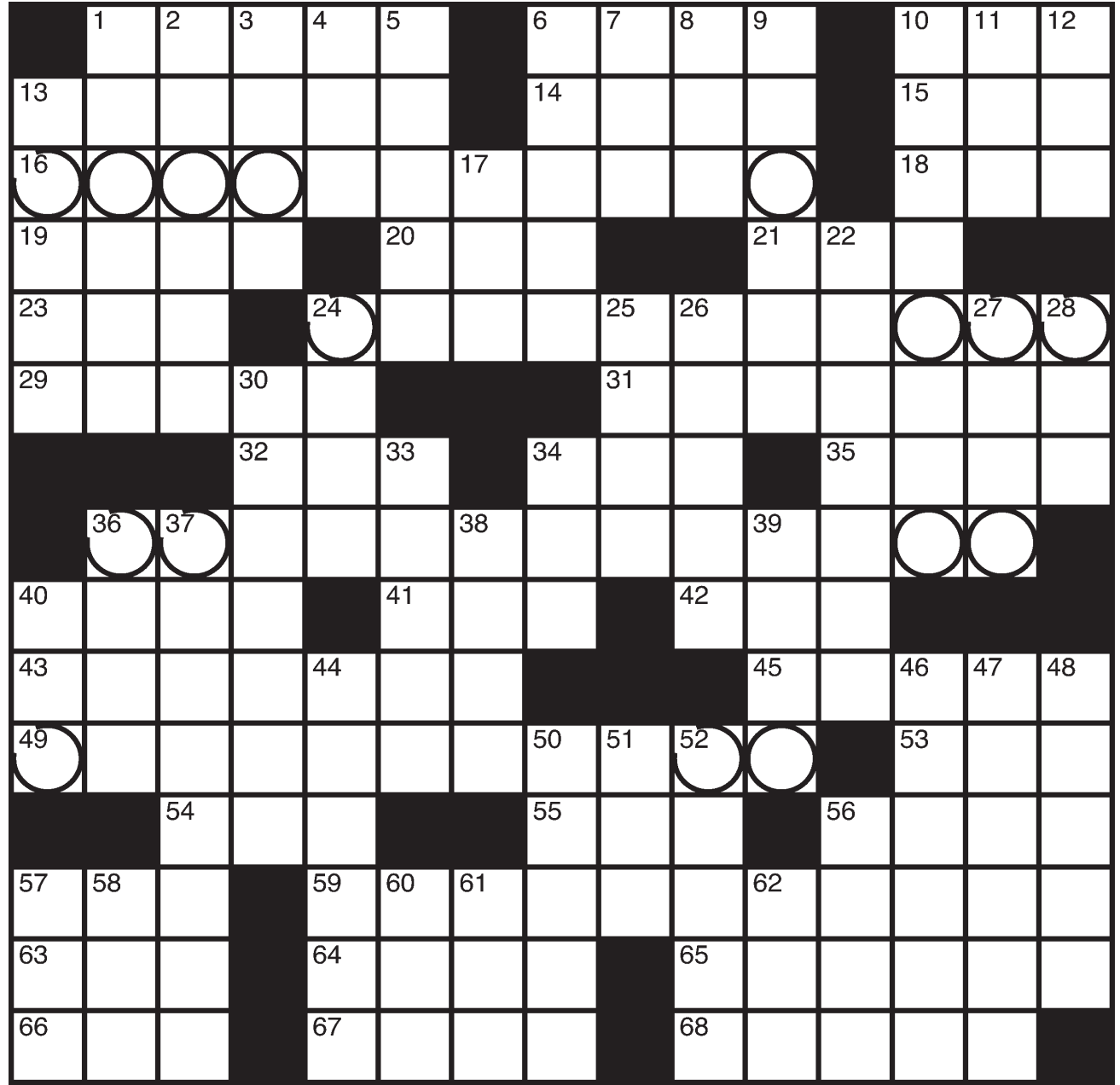
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The Daily Campus Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Cheese ___: Wisconsin snack
- 6 October birthstone
- 10 Solemn oath
- 13 Turner of "Game of Thrones"
- 14 Lymph ___: immune system part
- 15 Amazement
- 16 *LGBT+ organization founded in 1990
- 18 Bumped into
- 19 Bone parallel to the radius
- 20 ___-mo replay
- 21 Open, as a keg
- 23 Use an abacus, perhaps
- 24 *"Chin up!"
- 29 Sample size?
- 31 The North Star
- 32 Hi-___ graphics
- 34 Doja Cat genre
- 35 Mineral that adds shimmer to cosmetics
- 36 *Musical film about a convict who learns to play the guitar in prison
- 40 Glass unit
- 41 Name on a 1950s campaign button
- 42 In a funk
- 43 Part of a bedroom set
- 45 Kidney-related
- 49 *Completely unapproachable
- 53 Egg cells
- 54 MyHeritage sample
- 55 Bonfire residue
- 56 Sink annoyance
- 57 Sci-fi vehicle
- 59 Prepare a deck before dealing, and what the answers to the starred clues literally do
- 63 Clever remark
- 64 Reflex hammer's target
- 65 Literary comparison
- 66 Body spray with a Dark Temptation scent
- 67 Transgressions
- 68 Fresh



By Dan Caprera

9/18/23

DOWN

- 1 Might've
- 2 Radically changes
- 3 Actress Perlman
- 4 N, NE, or NNE
- 5 ___ of humor
- 6 Leading the pack
- 7 Finger food at luaus
- 8 "Much ___ About Nothing"
- 9 Soup legume
- 10 Like some "What We Do in the Shadows" characters
- 11 Have an open tab, say
- 12 Not just damp
- 13 Crouch down
- 17 Keg filler
- 22 Très chic
- 24 Tumble (over)
- 25 Hot springs
- 26 Sulks
- 27 "The Last of Us" actor Offerman
- 28 Agcy. managing federal real estate assets
- 30 Tests for fit
- 33 ___ away from
- 34 Actress McClanahan

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

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9/18/23

- 36 Pickle containers
- 37 Often-amusing story
- 38 Gumbo thickener
- 39 Hard to come by
- 40 Tech replaced by smartphones
- 44 Trousers
- 46 Former "All Things Considered" host Michele
- 47 With zeal
- 48 Run out, as insurance
- 50 Fills fully
- 51 "Kinda"
- 52 Game with grandmasters
- 56 River blockers
- 57 Actress Thurman
- 58 Crafty one
- 60 Mono- kin
- 61 X, at times
- 62 Spy-fi org.

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The UConn Rainbow Center hosts annual 'WELCOME BACK BASH'

by **Neil Srinath**

OPINION EDITOR
THEY/THEM/SHE/HER
neil.srinath@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut Rainbow Center hosted its annual “Welcome Back Bash” on Friday, Sept. 15 to showcase the university’s space for LGBTQIA+ community members and the services and programs it offers.

The event — organized by the student programs team — began by introducing the undergraduate, graduate and full-time employees of the Rainbow Center. Also announced was the arrival of a new assistant director, Ian Schick, who will begin Sept. 22.

First highlighted was the Fostering Academics, Maturity, Independence, Leadership, Empowerment & Excellence mentoring program, also known as FAMILLEE. According to the program’s website, FAMILLEE is designed to “assist students in their first and second year at UConn-Storrs (including those coming from regional campuses and transfer students) with their transition” by connecting them with continuing undergraduate mentors. Mentors are assigned according to the needs and interests of mentees, event organizers explained.

While other cultural centers offer mentor programs that require students to register in classes, event organizers explained that FAMILLEE does not include this requirement in order to preserve student confidentiality. New students at the Storrs campus can still sign up to participate as a mentee by visiting www.rainbowcenter.uconn.edu/familee and filling out the online interest form.

Next, student staff announced the second annual Rainbow Center Symposium, which is an opportunity for “students, staff, faculty and community members” to present their research findings and scholarship pertaining to the LGBTQIA+ community. This year’s symposium will take place on Oct. 13 and will feature author, filmmaker and social justice advocate Curtis Chin as the keynote speaker. The window for community members to submit research presentation proposals is still open on the Rainbow Center’s website.

The Rainbow Center also hosts numerous other regular programs. The Out to Lunch lecture series, held on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. in the center’s program room, invites scholars and community activists to discuss topics related to gender identity, gender expression and sexuality. The Lavender Resiliency Collective is a collaboration with UConn Student Health and Wellness that “offers educational support for LGBTQIA+ UConn students to interrupt internalized bias based on our unique and intersecting identities,” according to the SHaW website. The LRC

meets virtually on Tuesdays from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. to accommodate students on all campuses.

Program Manager for Mental Health and Health Equity Initiatives, Nishelli Ahmed, hosts office hours from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Rainbow Center’s main room to discuss well-being and “support connection between historically marginalized students.” Other health initiatives offered by the center in partnership with Perception Programs, Inc. include rapid HIV and Hepatitis C testing, which are available four times a month in the center’s conference room. Testing is free to all, and testing dates are available on the Rainbow Center website. In addition to free testing, the Rainbow Center also offers free safe-sex supplies.

The Gender Affirming Closet is available to patrons to access gently-used clothing items for free. Appointments to donate clothing can be made by emailing the center at rainbowcenter@uconn.edu.

Finally, student staff highlighted the cultural centers and programs at UConn, which include the African American Culture Center (AACC), the Asian American Cultural Center (AsACC), the Puerto Rican and Latin American Cultural Center (PRLACC) and the Women’s Center, as well as the Middle Eastern Cultural Programs (MECP) and Native American Cultural Programs (NACP).

Before breaking into games, presenters illustrated the Rainbow Center’s affiliated LGBTQIA+ student organizations and affinity groups such as Out in STEM (oSTEM), Between Women, the DeColores Collective, Black Queer Student Association, Queer Asians and Allies and Queer Collective; as well as Rainbow Graduate Students and Young Professionals, the Queer UConn Employees Affinity Group and an affinity group for queer, Black and Indigenous faculty and staff. The Welcome Back Bash closed out with a Kahoot! game on LGBTQIA+ history and Rainbow Center trivia and a round of “Who am I,” during which students mingled by guessing which queer and transgender icon they were randomly assigned.

Rainbow Center director Kelsey O’Neil said the purpose of the Welcome Back Bash was to bring new students into the community with continuing students, faculty and staff. They also communicated major goals and services — but those services aren’t necessarily limited to the Rainbow Center’s location in Storrs.

“The physical location at Storrs can be a challenge,” said O’Neil. “We want to be a resource and point of connection for students across all regional campuses.” In spite of the geographic obstacle, O’Neil said they want to know what LGBTQIA+ students attend-

ing any of UConn’s regional campuses at Avery Point, Waterbury, Stamford or Hartford need. The Rainbow Center has made efforts to bridge this gap, according to O’Neil, including an initiative to construct multi-stall, all-gender bathrooms at the Avery Point campus that is currently receiving its “finishing touches.” Moreover, the center is looking to collaborate further with the UConn Hartford Gender Sexuality Alliance.

“I’m very overwhelmed by how passionate everyone is and how connected students are at the Rainbow Center,” said Lene Reynolds, the center’s Higher Education and Student Affairs (HESA) graduate assistant, who started in the position this year. “I’m consistently impressed by how much students know about resources on campus,” they added. According to O’Neil, the Rainbow Center’s 19 student staff members — who are responsible for maintaining the center’s space, organizing a large portion of programs and are often “the first face a lot of students will see” at the center — are acquiring identity and professional development that they can use after their college careers.

But O’Neil and Reynolds are also cognizant of the importance of the Rainbow Center during what O’Neil called “a challenging time for LGBTQIA+ students, faculty and staff,” which includes rhetoric and legislation around the country that threaten access to healthcare and education and seek to undermine Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives.

“Here at UConn, we’re very lucky,” said O’Neil. They feel that UConn faces the task of supporting students coming from “anti-DEI” states like Texas and Florida, whose centers for marginalized communities are “crumbling and going to be non-existent.”

“It’s scary, holding space for everyone who is being shut out across the nation,” O’Neil said.

“We’re hyper-aware of how undergrads tend to be the most impacted by policies in the institution,” said Reynolds. “Cultural centers offer opportunities to build community and support retention of students who are minoritized.”

Book-ended by the sound of laughter and emo and Ballroom anthems, the Welcome Back Bash provided moments of queer joy and togetherness in a national environment that provokes anxiety and uncertainty for many in the LGBTQIA+ community.

The Rainbow Center is located in room 403 of the Student Union. Students and community members can keep track of news and events by visiting www.rainbowcenter.uconn.edu.

Names of student staff were omitted to preserve their confidentiality.



Life

@dailycampuslife

Dance like marionettes:

Swaying to

'Sleeping Beauty'

at the Ballard Institute

by Henry St. Pierre
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
henry.st_pierre@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut's puppetry program is one of the greatest in the country, a fact that most people — even UConn students — don't know. UConn is the only university in the U.S. that offers a Master of Arts degree in puppetry. Several alumni of the program went on to work on some of the largest puppet-related media in the world, such as "Sesame Street."

Right in the middle of Downtown Storrs sits the Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry, one of the largest puppet collections in the country. It keeps thousands of puppets of every variety one could think of. Felt puppets used on "Sesame Street," handmade marionettes that are almost 100 years old and even an entire exhibition on shadow puppetry are housed within the institute.

Ballard also hosts regular puppet shows, including a weekly Saturday morning show titled "The Fall Puppet Series." The fall series made its debut on Saturday, Sept. 16 with a marionette performance of the classic fairy tale "Sleeping Beauty," presented by Stevens Puppets. Walking into the theater, there were a few rows of chairs as well as some tiny benches for children. The

cloth stage at the front of the room seemed to be completely handmade, its age made apparent by the fading paint and off-white tint produced by maturing fabric.

While waiting for everyone to file in, the puppeteer and mastermind behind the show, Mack Raynor, kept the kids entertained by performing basic magic tricks and cracking goofy jokes. After some quick announcements and promotions for upcoming performances and puppetry events, Raynor walked behind the stage, furling the curtains and lowered in the first marionette. The puppet's voices were provided by a recording, complete with musical interjections for scene changes. The marionettes were hand carved and painted by Stevens Puppets' founder, Martin Stevens, almost 70 years ago.

The marionettes sauntered around the stage for 40 minutes with enthusiastic voice acting and occasional witty interjections by Raynor himself. The puppets were in fantastic condition for being over 60 years old and being used regularly at shows like these. It was a standard, classic fairy tale affair: simplistic and childlike but not without humor that adults could chuckle at with the kids.

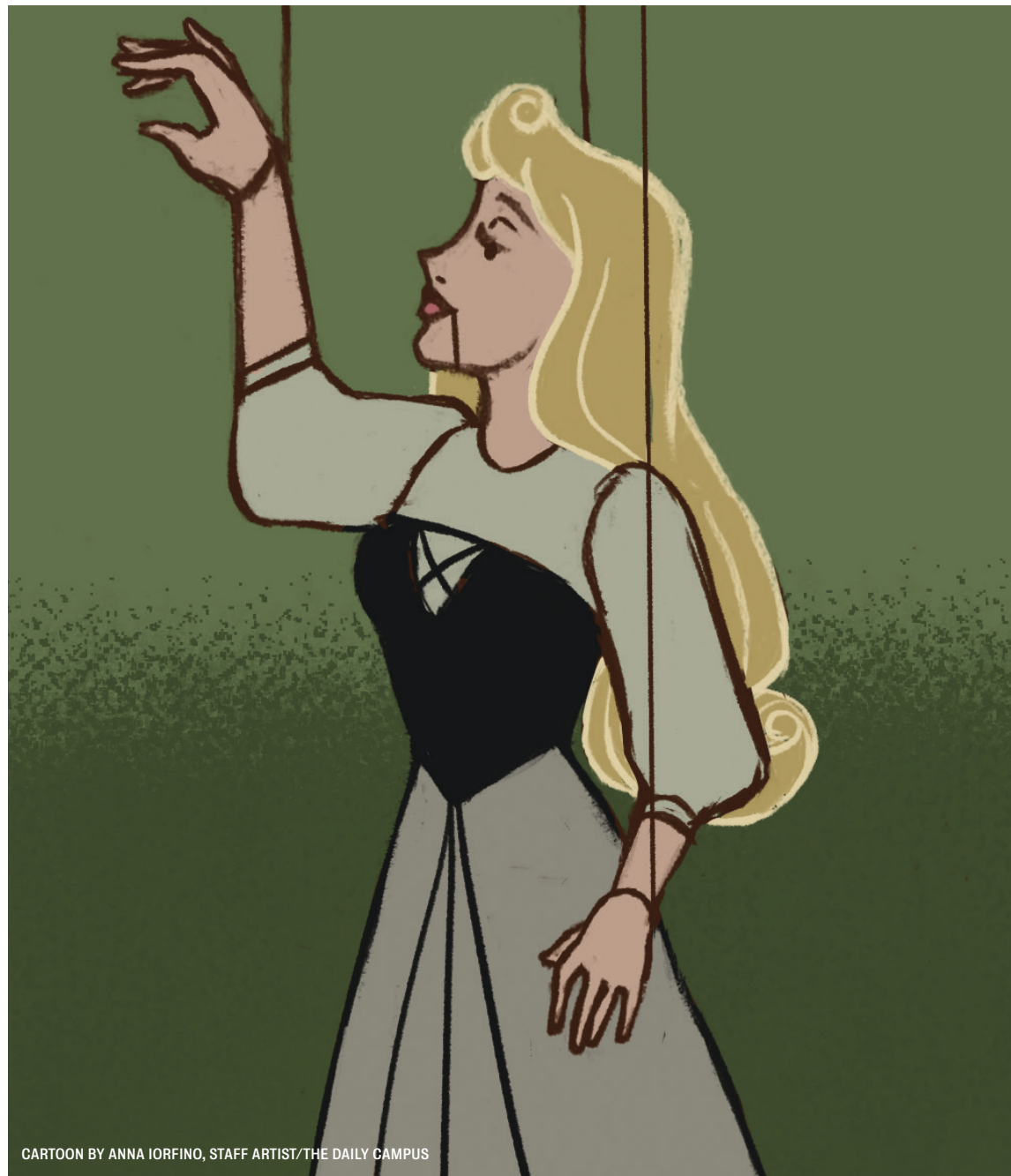
The audience was more diverse than what one would imagine, with there being a wide range in ages. "Seeing a

classic tale like 'Sleeping Beauty' from a new perspective is always such a pleasant experience," said Theo Vietzke, a first-semester business major. "This rendition was even better because I've always had an interest in classical puppetry."

The show ran for a total of about 45 minutes and afterwards, Raynor appeared in front of the stage to provide quick insight into the mechanics of a marionette. He showed the audience the layout of all the strings and the simple mechanisms that allowed the puppets to move.

Afterwards, he invited the entire audience for a quick peek behind the curtain, sending several toddlers in the audience into a fit of joy as they lined up to walk behind the fabric stage walls. After a quick look around, the whole event wrapped up in just over an hour's time.

The show was a brisk, funny and entertaining way to spend a Saturday morning. If you have kids to bring or an interest in puppetry, "It's a fun way to spend a Saturday morning, and [Stevens Puppets] puts on a great show," said Sara Shaye, a mother attending the event with her 3-year-old. The Ballard Institute holds regular events year-round and will be hosting a puppet-making event at the Celebrate Mansfield Festival in late September.



CARTOON BY ANNA IORFINO, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UConn students celebrate Rosh Hashanah in hopes of a sweet new year

by Patrick Boots
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
patrick.boots@uconn.edu

Every fall, members of the Jewish community observe the High Holidays, which start the new year of the Hebrew calendar. University of Connecticut students participated in many events to celebrate Rosh Hashanah, observed on the first two days of the Jewish New Year. This tradition has been embraced and adapted to promote inclusivity and interfaith dialogue.

UConn's two Jewish student organizations, Chabad and Hillel, host co-sponsored dinners, services and events for the holiday season. Part of the Rosh Hashanah tradition is the Tashlich ceremony, which was held at Mirror Lake this year. Rabbi Shlomo Hecht led a prayer and explained that Tashlich symbolizes an ask for forgiveness from the previous year by tossing bread-crumbs into flowing water. He emphasized the importance of reflection and renewal, irrespective of one's religious background. "Tashlich is not just about seeking forgiveness but also about embracing growth and change," he said. Historically, Jewish kings were crowned near bodies of water as a symbol of outpouring kindness.

As part of the ceremony, a shofar horn is blown to indicate a "wake-up call" to the New Year. The specific patterns of shofar blasts are meticulously regulated and include tekiyah (a long blast), shevarim (three shorter blasts) and teruah (nine rapid, staccato blasts), followed by another tekiyah. Once the prayer has concluded, apples and honey are enjoyed to signal a sweet year to come. "When I was at home I was really connected, but in moving to college, I knew it would be more

difficult," Leo Gold, a fourth-year computer science major remarked. "But getting together shows that it's really valuable to have on campus."

"It's nice to have because we're a family, it's really important to have that connection," said Michah Fleischman, president of the Chabad student board. Many students find fellowship with UConn's two Jewish student organizations. "Chabad at UConn was founded in order to build a Jewish community by promoting Jewish pride, study and celebration for all," said Rabbi Hecht. "We've been trying to do that for 18 years now." Social mixers, Shabbat and holiday dinners, lectures and personal classes are just a few examples of the diverse programming UConn students can enjoy.

UConn Hillel, the center for Jewish Students, located at the Trachten-Zachs House on North Eagleville Road, is also sponsoring a variety of events this fall, like a Jewish Life on Campus Expo next Wednesday, Sept. 20 at 4 p.m. and a variety of services and events in collaboration with Chabad. "I am proud to help support and inspire these students at UConn and look forward to our future," said Jared White, assistant director of UConn Hillel. Part of the initiatives being promoted are Judaic Studies through UConn Global and Kosher Dining, which allows Jewish students to eat kosher as part of their regular dining plan at NOSH within Gelfenbien Refectory.

In the tranquil setting by Mirror Lake, the UConn community proved that traditions can be bridges, connecting individuals from all walks of life in a collective pursuit of spiritual growth and understanding. For more information about the events sponsored by Chabad and Hillel, visit jewishuconn.com and uconnhillel.org

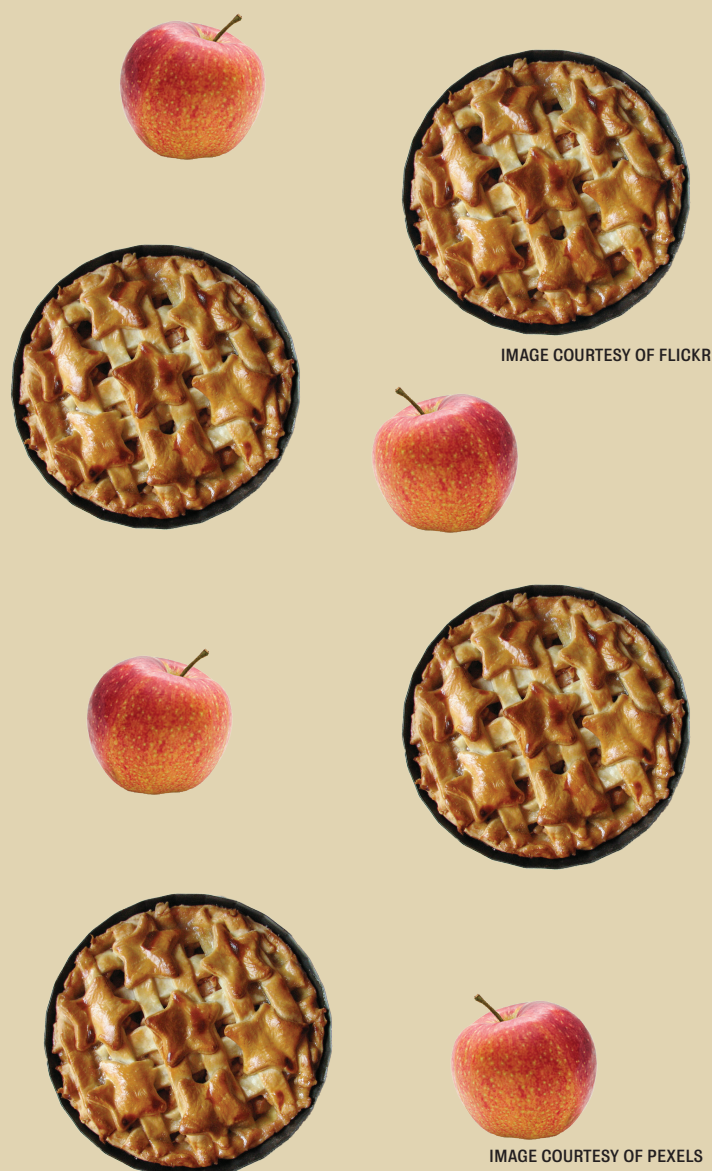


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Dejected Avians



CARTOON BY ANNA IORFINO, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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: Which music fandom could overthrow the government, and why?

MADELINE PAPCUN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It's definitely the Directioners. For a band that went on hiatus in 2015, they still have a devoted fanbase, including this Wiki-How titled "How to be a Directioner: 10 Steps" to keep their numbers strong as they await a reunion tour.

CHARLOTTE CHEN, DIGITAL EDITOR

If anything was to be learned from the great 2022 Ticketmaster controversy, it's that Swifties are a force to be reckoned with. If 14 million fans can crash a website designed to handle 1.5 million, there's no telling what they could do to the U.S. government.

RAPID FIRE

WHICH MUSIC FANDOM COULD OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT?



CARTOON BY ANNA IORFINO, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

DAN STARK, ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR:

It would easily be the Juggalos, the devout fanbase of Insane Clown Posse. The sheer lunacy and intensity of this group would make January 6 look like nothing. However, I highly doubt their ability to govern effectively.

RAQUEL MONTELINDO, MANAGING EDITOR

The clear winner is the Swifties — who else has the influence to get whole cities renamed and manage to collect the key to cities, like Tampa? The Swifties have successfully staged coups in multiple cities including Tampa and Santa Clara — where Taylor Swift was named mayor. Furthermore, Swifties sold out her Eras Tour — an event which boosted the economy, according to the Federal Reserve, and generated \$5 billion in consumer spending.

NELL SRINATH, OPINION EDITOR:

As a reformed BTS ARMY, I've personally witnessed an organizational capacity that makes the U.S. Constitution look as sophisticated as a square of Charmin Ultra Soft. ARMY — which, by the way, is now a 501(c)3 non-profit in the states — has a remarkable ability to organize for the singular goal of promoting the BTS brand through tactically brilliant, aboveground and clandestine operations — at any cost. Suffice it to say, they have the wherewithal.

FIELD HOCKEY:

HUSKIES RETURN TO WINNING WAYS AFTER SPLITTING A PAIR OF TOUGH CONTESTS

by **Connor Sargeant**
 CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
 HE/HIM/HIS
 connor.sargeant@uconn.edu

The UConn women's field hockey team's weekend did not start off hot as they dropped their first Big East matchup against Temple University. Despite dropping their fifth straight matchup, the women looked forward and put together their best performance so far, handing Princeton University their fourth loss this season, a contest that was expected to be a close one.

Connecticut's fixture against Princeton also appeared to be an offensive awakening for the Huskies as they created many opportunities and found the back of the cage three times. This offensive explosion for Connecticut on Sunday has seldom been seen as their loss against Temple and struggles throughout the season illustrate this very point.

Huskies fans were disappointed with their team's performance on Friday when they opened conference play with a heartbreaking 1-0 defeat. It was a contest where their defense shined but offense was nowhere to be found as not only did they fail to score, but they didn't even put up a shot in the fourth quarter. While it may be easy to look at the final score and call Connecticut's



After adding to their losing streak in a game against Temple University, the UConn women's field hockey team managed an impressive victory against Princeton. The team now has the opportunity to aim for a spot in the Big East championship.
 PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK CASE ON PEXELS



The UConn women's field hockey team had an up-and down weekend which started off with a close loss. However, they are now looking to continue the momentum gained by their subsequent victory.
 FILE PHOTO/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

offense dormant, that was not the case on Friday. However, one could argue that Temple's offense was just as inactive.

The Owls only managed to get five shots past the Husky defense. Connecticut's defense was playing their Big East rivals so tough that in two quarters, the Owls failed to get a shot off at all — a testament to the high-level of defense UConn plays at. The Huskies' best opportunities to find the back of the cage came in the second and third periods, where they outran, outthrusted and most importantly outshot Temple by a massive 9-2 deficit.

The Huskies had a whopping 8-0 advantage in penalty

corners for the two middle quarters. Despite Connecticut's many opportunities, the Temple defense and goalkeeper Molly Frey kept the Huskies at bay, not allowing a goal or shot in the fourth quarter either. The only goal conceded by UConn that proved to be the decider came in the fourth quarter off of a rebound on a penalty corner.

Despite the close loss, the tides are turning for this young team as their defense continues to play well time and time again. Goalkeeper Natalie McKenna continues to look great, and while the scoreboard might not reflect it, the Connecticut offense is

playing better field hockey than we have been accustomed to at this point.

Sunday's showdown against Princeton was the highlight of the season for the women as their 3-1 victory showcased that they can compete with any team on any given day. Connecticut outperformed their Ivy League opponent for the first three quarters, outshooting them 5-1. However, they failed to find the back of the net.

The fourth quarter was shaping up to be yet another 0-0 gridlock as both of these teams are familiar with overtime battles. However, it never came to that as forward Sophia

Ugo started the scoring barrage in the 46th minute. Forward Julia Bressler and midfielder Sol Simone added to the lead as all three athletes scored within 10 minutes of each other. This ultimately gave the Tigers no chance to come back, although Sam Davidson scored a consolation goal on a penalty for Princeton.

The UConn women will next compete at home this Friday against Georgetown. After, they will play in a 12 p.m. Sunday showdown against the University of Delaware.

Connecticut very well can win out this weekend and put themselves back into contention as the Hoyas come in 0-7

and similarly have struggled to mount significant offense. Delaware comes in as the favorites with a 4-4 record and the No. 19 nationally ranked squad, though Connecticut is more than capable of pulling off the upset. Earlier in the season, the Blue Hens fell to Princeton 2-1. Don't forget that coming into the season, Connecticut was a nationally ranked team. This weekend will have big implications for this young team as they face a Big East opponent. If they pull off the upset against Delaware, they will build momentum and find themselves back on track to make a push for the Big East championship.

Sports

Photo of the Day |



A cheerleader smiles during a UConn football game. The team had a tough weekend, adding to their losing streak in their game against the Florida International Panthers. PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women's Soccer

Huskies complete non-conference schedule with a draw

by Sean Ahern
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
sean.ahern@uconn.edu

The UConn women's soccer team (3-2-2) pulled out a draw against Buffalo (3-1-3) on Saturday night.

Both teams showcased a defensive battle that ended the game in a 1-1 tie. A total of 1,805 spectators watched the Huskies and Bulls go head-to-head.

Similar to UConn's win over Marist, the Huskies utilized their depth from the bench, using eight substitutes compared to Buffalo's four. Sophomore Abbey Merchant led the way off the bench for UConn with 34 minutes on the field.

The Huskies' offense took control in the first half, taking eight shots to Buffalo's three.

UConn got the scoring started at 27:31. Sophomore Chioma Okafor headed the ball into the bottom right corner of the goal off a corner kick from junior Abbey Jones.

The goal by Okafor was her fourth of the season, which leads the team. The assist from Jones was her first of the season.

Only two other Huskies made shots on goal. The first



UConn Women's soccer takes on Buffalo at Joseph J. Marrone Stadium on September 16, 2023. The Huskies tied with Buffalo 1-1 after Chioma Okafor scored a header off a corner kick in the first half. PHOTO BY ZACK MOLLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



After a tie game with Buffalo, the Huskies now move on to Big East opponents. The first match of this kind will be this Thursday against Creighton University. PHOTO BY ZACK MOLLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

came just under the 19-minute mark from graduate student Emma Zaccagnini and the second from junior Kelly Monaco late in the second half.

Okafor's goal was all the UConn offense had to offer, going scoreless the rest of the game despite making drives down the field—which came up empty.

Buffalo was getting shut down by the UConn defense before they got on the scoreboard in the second half. In the 60th minute, fifth-year senior Leah

Wengender rebounded a shot from sophomore Katie Krohn to knot the game at 1-1. The timely goal was Wengender's third of the season.

The offensive pressure evened out from the first half to the second half. Both UConn and Buffalo tallied six shots, but UConn could not capitalize on any to take the lead.

Since starting the season out with a loss against then No. 14 Pittsburgh, the Bulls have yet to lose a game, going 3-0-3 in six games. They head into Mid-Atlantic Conference play against Akron on Thursday, Sept. 21.

UConn senior goalkeeper Kaitlyn Mahoney served as the necessary stopgap to prevent the Bulls from taking a lead. Mahoney tallied four saves in the game, the second highest total of the season behind the five she collected against Harvard.

The second half kept the UConn goalkeeper on her toes. Mahoney collected three saves with one coming at the 87:08 mark off a shot from Buffalo's Sarah Woods. The save helped close the game in a tie.

Buffalo goalkeeper Lexie Thompson made an equal impact in the net. After letting in

the first half goal from Okafor, the freshman shut down the Huskies with two saves.

UConn gave it one last push late in the game at the 84:38 mark with a shot from Monaco that went over the goal.

Buffalo proved to be a formidable opponent for the Huskies at the end of non-conference play. The Bulls played in the NCAA championships in the 2022 season, losing in the first round 1-0 against Pittsburgh.

After the game, forward Arianna Zumpano was named Player of the Game by the Buffalo coaching staff "for her relentless efforts on both sides of the ball tonight." The award was announced by the team's Twitter account following the game.

Buffalo remains undefeated against UConn, moving to 1-1-0 all time, the last match having taken place on Sept. 18, 2021. The Bulls won 2-0 in Storrs for the first contest.

The UConn women find themselves in seventh place in the Big East soccer standings.

The match was UConn's final non-conference game before moving on to face Big East opponents, beginning with Creighton on Thursday, Sept. 21.

Women's Volleyball: UConn falls to Michigan State and Brown in Dog Pound Challenge

by **Bridget Bronsdon**
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
bridget.bronsdon@uconn.edu

The UConn women's volleyball team was in for another jam-packed weekend with a three-game series in the Dog Pound Challenge. Michigan State, Binghamton and Brown University would all make their way to Storrs to challenge the Huskies on their home turf.

The first of the weekend matchups was Michigan State. In the first set, MSU separated themselves with a 3-point run off the bat. From there, Connecticut closed the gap to 7-5, but that lead would not last for long. The Spartans took off to a 12-5 margin while UConn was unable to score. MSU ultimately made it a game of scoring runs that Connecticut was unable to match.

In the second set, the Huskies started strong and made a 3-point run from the jump. The Spartans trailed behind for the first half of the set, but the tide eventually turned once the score tied at 12-12. From there, UConn trailed closely behind MSU to tie the game again at 18-18. Ultimately, Connecticut couldn't hold on as MSU finished 25-20.

The third set was the longest battle between the two. Each team took turns leading and despite UConn's fierce offensive plays, MSU finished

25-23. Although UConn was unable to lock down a set win, the scoring margin remained small and the Huskies made several attacking plays.

The second matchup put UConn back in the running as they were able to lock down a 3-2 win against Binghamton University in a five-set battle. The first set proved that the two were an even match as each team traded leads. Midway through the game, the Huskies were able to tie it up with an 11-11 score. Binghamton went on to score several runs in the second half to gain some separation from UConn and by the end of the set, the score remained at 26-26. Both teams had to battle it out but the Bearcats ultimately pulled away at the end to finish 28-26.

The second set proved to be another fight to the finish as the teams bounced back and forth with scoring and Connecticut was able to secure a run at the end of the set to bring home a 25-23 win. By the third set, Binghamton was ready to retaliate and gained the biggest scoring gap of the series to secure a 25-15 set win as they headed into the fourth.

The Huskies answered the Bearcats' call and were ready to get even. The Huskies' fourth-set win pushed the teams into a fifth and final battle. UConn demonstrated some outstanding attacking plays and finished 15-5.



UConn beats Sacred Heart University 3 sets to 0. UConn was down by 5 in the 3rd set and came back to win it all.

PHOTO BY JORDAN ARNOLD, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The last of the weekend competitors was Brown, a team currently undefeated and ranked No. 1 in the Ivy League conference. The first set started with domination from the Bears to challenge their counterpart. Brown was able to hold off a major scoring drive from the Huskies and maintained a 10-point lead for a good portion of the set, which led the Ivy team to hold off the Huskies as they finished the set 25-17.

The second and third sets followed a similar pattern. Throughout the second, UConn trailed behind the Bears and had difficulty countering kills, ending 25-16. The final set of the day resulted in a loss. Even after meeting a challenging competitor for the final game of the weekend, UConn finished the set 25-18 and slightly closed the scoring margin.

Despite this, UConn was still able to demonstrate sev-

eral strong offensive plays and executed defensive progress. Throughout the weekend Emma Werkmeister, Mya Ayro, Taylor Pannell and Cera Powell continued to dominate the court.

Looking ahead, the Huskies will be heading into the Big East series. The first of the matchups will feature St. John's University next Friday. St. John's is currently ranked No. 4 in the Big East while UConn is ranked No. 10.

Men's Soccer: Testori leads UConn to first Big East win of 2023

by **Noah Reed**
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
noah.reed@uconn.edu

UConn welcomed St. John's this past Friday for their first Big East game of the 2023 season. Following a season where the Huskies finished in the middle of the pack, UConn looked to start this year off on the right foot, and that's exactly what they did.

The Huskies and the Red Storm traded chances to start the game, but neither side was able to capitalize until the 27th

"It's like we're kind of on the same page at all times, we got a telepathic connection in a way. Every time we're up top together there's danger to the defense and I love it."

SCOTT TESTORI

minute. Led by UConn's Eli Conway, the Huskies looked to score early as he wound up to shoot but was tackled by a Red Storm defender, who kicked the ball loose between several players. Husky Scott Testori got to the ball first, firing a bullet into the lower left corner of the goal to give the Huskies the lead.

This wasn't the only time Testori would get the Huskies into the scoring column. In the 49th minute, Pierce Bateson passed to Testori who sent it right back to a now open Bateson. The sophomore fired a shot past a diving Alec McLachlan to bring the UConn lead up to two and to score his second goal of the season. Bateson finished the match with three total shots, all of which were on goal.

The Red Storm responded with a goal of their own in the 61st minute of the game. Sophomore Connor Mucchetti sent a

lead pass across the pitch to create just enough time for Nicolas Fleuriiau Chateau to gain separation from his defender. Chateau then dribbled past a diving Jayden Hibbert and scored on the open net for St. John's lone goal. After missing all of last season with an injury, the red-shirt junior has made the most of his opportunity this season. He secured his fifth goal in seven games against the Huskies to become the team's leading scorer.

Though the Red Storm continued their offensive attack throughout the remainder of the second half, UConn was able to prevent another goal to secure their first Big East win and fourth overall win of the season. This also marked the Huskies' first win against St. John's since 2012 after rejoining the Big East Conference in 2020.

UConn won despite the fact that St. John's doubled their shot attempts with 14; however, the Huskies ended up with three more shots on goal — five to the Red Storm's two.

Junior Testori's fingerprints are all over this game for UConn. With the goal on Friday, the Connecticut native tied freshman Lucas Almeida for most goals for the Huskies at three each so far.

Head coach Chris Gbandi gave high praise to his leading scorer, saying, "I'm just happy for Scott, he works hard, he's a guy that never complains. For him to come out here and score against a great team, I think it says a lot about his work ethic."

As for Testori, here's what he had to say about the game: "I'd say we were ready [for the physicality]. I think we matched their intensity; we matched their physicality in almost every way."

Throughout the season, Coach Gbandi has switched up his lineup depending on his opponents. This was the first time this season that Conway and Testori started the same game, and it paid off for UConn.

When asked about his relationship with Eli Conway, Testori said, "It's like we're kind of on the same page at all times, we got a telepathic connection in a sort of way. Every time we're up top together there's danger to the defense and I love it."



UConn men's soccer wins a hard-fought conference match against St. John's with a score of 2-1 at the Morrone Stadium on Sept. 15, 2023. The Huskies improve their record to 4-2.

PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



The Huskies were on a roll in their game against St. John's thanks in part to teamwork from Scott Testori and Eli Conway. Their next match is against CCSU on Tuesday, Sept. 19.

PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UConn wraps up their three-game homestand on Tuesday with a match against in-state rival Central Connecticut back at Morrone Stadium. CCSU is heading into Tuesday's game

following their worst loss of the season so far, a 5-0 shutout against UMass Lowell. The Blue Devils are 2-4 with wins against St. Bonaventure and Quinnipiac.

For those who can't attend, Tuesday's game can be streamed on UConn+. The theme for the game is Homegrown Huskies with a scheduled start of 7 p.m. at Joesph Morrone Stadium.



Sports

FOOTBALL:

SECOND-HALF RALLY FALLS SHORT AS PANTHERS DEFEAT CONNECTICUT

by Cole Stefan
SENIOR COLUMNIST
HE/HIM/HIS
cole.stefan@uconn.edu

Down 24-3 at the half and having recently conceded a 64-yard touchdown, a lack of energy spread across the UConn football team, at least in defensive lineman Jelani Stafford's eyes.

"It was not pretty," Stafford said. "It was really disappointing."

Right out of the gate in the second half, however, the atmosphere on the sidelines changed. Benefitting from two roughing the passer calls and burning 3:23 off the clock, UConn stormed down the field for their first touchdown of the night. Although wide receiver Brett Buckman almost broke free on a 40-yard reception and tight end Justin Joly's lunge left his team at the one-yard line, Stafford stood center stage when he hit paydirt for the first time.

"I liked it," the junior defensive tackle commented. "It is great, always, to score a touchdown as a big guy."

Reinforcements also came from the Huskies' defense, which forced six pass break-ups and surrendered just 70 yards in the second half. In the end, however, the multifaceted spark could not overcome a 21-point deficit as the Florida International Panthers escaped Pratt and Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field with a 24-17 victory over the Huskies.

Even though Connecticut garnered 224 yards and out-scored FIU 14-0 in the second half, head coach Jim Mora did not see many positives from his team.

"You are not going to win football games in college scoring 17 points," Mora sternly stated. "The defense played great in the second half, but the offense had field position. They had three-and-outs; they had time and they scored 14 points. That is not good enough."

Before that all happened, the Panthers played like the same team that hung 46 points on the North Texas Mean Green on Sept. 9, scoring just 153 seconds into the contest while running four plays on first down. UConn followed suit to earn their only points of the half on Joe McFadden's 26-yard field goal, but even without collecting a turnover, FIU's defense suffocated the opposing attack. From that drive until halftime, the Panthers conceded just two first downs and kept their defense on the field for 83 seconds per possession.

FIU's Keyone Jenkins, meanwhile, had 240 yards through the air, over half of which came on three connections of 40+ yards. Eric Rivers had the only non-touchdown catch among those three, which went 48 yards, but FIU still kicked a field goal on that drive after the Huskies' defense stood their ground in the red zone.



UConn suffers a shocking loss to Florida International University with a score of 17-24 on Sept. 16, 2023 at the Rentschler Field in East Hartford, Conn. The Huskies have returned to a losing streak seen many times before in recent years, aside from the success they achieved last season. PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The other two, a 45-yard dart to Jalen Bracey and a 64-yard rocket to Kris Mitchell, seemingly put the game out of reach.

Fast forward to the final frame, and Connecticut quickly spliced a 14-point deficit when running back Devon-tae Houston dusted the defense following quarterback Ta'Quan Roberson's flicker for a 37-yard score. Two rough penalties, one being a targeting call on Mumu Bin-Wahad, nearly knocked the wind out of UConn's sails as the Panthers reached the 15-yard line on the ensuing drive, but Chase Gabriel's 32-yard field goal kick hooked left and kept the comeback bid alive. Even with the miss, the Huskies could not regain their mojo as Houston's 10-yard rush marked the longest play across their next two offensive possessions.

Punting rather than going for it on fourth down did not seem like the popular move from the fans' perspective at the time, but Coach Mora defended the decision while highlighting the team's inability to move the ball, defensive momentum and having three timeouts left.

"That is what a smart football person does," Mora explained.

It worked out for Connecticut, who got the ball back despite burning through all of their timeouts with over two minutes remaining. Although a defensive pass interference moved them 15 yards closer, UConn only mustered six total yards on their first three red zone snaps, unexpectedly setting the stage for a dramatic final two plays.

Floating across the left end zone sideline, Joly snatched Roberson's desperate heave out of thin air seconds after the referees chucked their penalty markers. Replay review confirmed the catch, but



The UConn Football team has had a rough season so far, and added to it this past weekend. Their next opportunity for a win will come this Saturday, Sept. 23. PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

now facing a 4th and 14 following a holding call, wide receiver Cameron Ross went down just short of the marker and ended the Huskies' chances of forcing overtime.

"These are the games that you want to win," Stafford noted. "Unfortunately, we did not get it done."

Starting and completing a game for the first time in his five-year collegiate career, Roberson experienced major regression in the first half when he went 4-14 for 33 yards, but somewhat recovered with a mediocre 170 yards and a touchdown on 15 completions. For the second straight Saturday, Buckman became the redshirt junior's favorite target with 62 yards on five receptions while

Ross and Joly combined for 70.

Houston took most of the snaps in the run game while running back Victor Rosa fought back spasms, sprinting for 126 yards and recording a 37-yard touchdown reception. No player had more than 10 total tackles defensively, ending an eight-game streak dating back to last year's meeting against FIU, with Jackson Mitchell's eight leading the way.

Things could not be looking bleaker for Connecticut at this point in the season. The loss marked the second straight week where an opponent ranked lower on USA Today's NCAA re-rank pulled off the upset, and more challenging foes loom in the distance. While the contest itself had

more negatives than positives, one piece of optimism is that Mora laid the foundation for a potential rebound in UConn's nine remaining games and for the team's long-term goals.

"I will not let this program descend to what it was," Mora proclaimed. "We are going to get this thing figured out. We will fight back."

The Huskies (0-3) do not have an easy first step toward turning things around, however, as the No. 18 Duke Blue Devils (3-0) will enter East Hartford on Saturday. Kickoff in that contest, Connecticut's first against a ranked opponent since the bowl-clinching upset of the then-No. 19 Liberty Flames last November, commences at 3:30 p.m. on CBSSN.

WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

UConn SCOREBOARD



vs.



1

1

Women's Soccer
Saturday

Upcoming Games



vs.



Field Hockey 1 p.m. Friday
Storrs, Conn



vs.



WSOC, 7 p.m. Thursday
Storrs, Conn

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@whusradio new gallery posted on the website (whus.org)! relish in the event that was Sounds of Summer! link in bio!

TWEETS OF THE DAY



Jared Kotler

@JaredKotler

No matter what, I'll always stay on the UConn Football rollercoaster ride. See you all at the rent next week

BC Volleyball

@BCramsvball

Great team bonding time at uconn vs. Michigan state tonight!

LORENZO

@CantBanLo

I dont want to watch any more uconn football

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