



## Students express dissatisfaction with transportation changes



Two buses outside of the student Recreation Center on Oct. 12, 2023. There are many buses and routes that run through campus during the day.

PHOTOGRAPH BY KAITIE WIHBEY, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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In recent months, students have reported that the transportation system at the University of Connecticut has experienced a decline in reliability, leaving students and staff grappling with unexpected disruptions and delays. The network of Husky Go buses and shuttles that connects various parts of the campus and surrounding areas now struggles to maintain punctuality and convenience.

The Husky Go service is operated via UConn's partnership with the Windham Region Transit District. WRTD provides bus service to the greater Mansfield and Willimantic region including Columbia, Coventry, Lebanon, Willington and Windham. The express bus service to Hartford, Springfield, Massachusetts and Providence,

Rhode Island is operated by CT Transit and its subcontractors.

One of the amenities advertised by UConn Transportation Services is the new Passio Go app, which is designed to track buses in real time. The transit monitors in the UConn Student Union and Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center also use Passio technology. While the intentions of these resources are appreciated, many students feel it is an unreliable method of anticipating bus service.

**“When I started this year, I downloaded the app. But I don’t believe what it says sometimes.”**

JACK SCOTT

“When I started this year, I downloaded the app,” said Jack Scott, a first-semester sociology major. “But I don’t believe what it says sometimes.”

UConn Transportation formerly used another tracking app, TransLoc Rider, until this year, a shift undergone at numerous other colleges.

Some service disruptions have risen noticeably. Some of these may be due to planned route alterations due to campus projects such as South Campus construction; however, some shuttles have reportedly not stopped at some of their planned route stops. UConn Transportation does not currently provide a comprehensive timetable as most transit organizations do, but rather a schedule of service times and general arrival intervals on their webpage. Some students have also reported buses “disappearing” from the Passio Go map, ren-

dered temporarily invisible on the app, and inaccurate arrival estimates.

The Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center, intended as a transit hub in Downtown Storrs, provides a multi-fold purpose for both UConn and the City of Mansfield. Connected to a large parking complex on Royce

**“I wanted to take the bus to the East Brook Mall on a day off from class. Sadly the bus skipped over the stop and I had to wait for an hour.”**

JOHN MACDONALD

Circle, the center also houses offices for the Mansfield Downtown Partnership and a branch location of the Mansfield Public Library with a large lobby providing convenient seating.

Inside, there are two large televisions with the WRTD Passio map and timetable pamphlets for regional connecting services. However, the lack of real-time communication regarding delays has also presented frustrations since the WRTD does not staff this location.

“I wanted to take the bus to the East Brook Mall [in Mansfield Center] on a day off from class,” said John MacDonald, a third-semester psychology major. “Sadly the bus skipped over the stop [at Nash-Zimmer] and I had to wait for an hour.”

As students grapple with these transportation challenges, the reliability of the system remains a pressing issue for the UConn community.



A bus stop sign outside of the student Recreation Center. This is one of many stops located around campus.

PHOTOGRAPH BY KAITIE WIHBEY, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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Husky Nation always shows out

## News

# The Israel-Hamas war has roiled US campuses. Students on each side say colleges aren't doing enough

(AP) - America's colleges aspire to be places where ideas meet and common ground surfaces. As the death toll rises in the Israel-Hamas war, they have become seats of anguish.

Many Jewish students and their allies, some with family and friends in Israel, have demanded bold reckonings and strong condemnation after the attacks by Hamas militants, who stormed the blockaded Gaza Strip into nearby Israeli towns, killing and abducting civilians and soldiers.

Meanwhile, some Muslim students have joined with allies to call for a recognition of decades of suffering by Palestinians in Gaza, plus condemnation of the response by Israel. After the Hamas attack, Israel launched a total blockade of Gaza; airstrikes have flattened buildings and homes, killing civilians and forcing hundreds of thousands to evacuate.

On many campuses, these students agree on one thing: Their colleges, which are increasingly staking out positions of neutrality, have not done enough to support them.

College officials, already under pressure to allow conservative opinions on campus, have been trying to preserve free speech and open debate. But the conflict has presented an excruciating challenge.

"This is an incredibly difficult free speech moment on campuses, where both sides have deeply passionate, entrenched, intractable views," said Alex Morey, director of campus rights advocacy at the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, which is recommending that colleges try to remain institutionally neutral.

"We want to create an ideal climate for debate and discussion on campus, and the only way we can do that is if we step out of the debate," Morey said.

Yet staying neutral is not always easy. Students for whom the conflict is intensely personal want their administrations to recognize how they are affected by traumatic events and use their stature to denounce what they see as moral wrongs.

Colleges across the country have put out statements on the war. Many have faced criticism for not going far enough in condemning Hamas' attack, or for failing to condemn civilian deaths in Gaza



**Palestinian supporters gather for a protest at Columbia University, Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023, in New York. Colleges have become seats of anguish with many Jewish students calling for strong condemnation after civilian attacks by Hamas while some Muslim students are pressing for recognition of decades of suffering by Palestinians in Gaza.**

PHOTOGRAPH BY YUKI IWAMURA, AP NEWS

or leaving out context and history from the region. As of Saturday the death toll was more than 2,200 in Gaza and over 1,300 on the Israeli side — many of those civilians — and roughly 1,500 Hamas militants killed in the fighting, according to authorities.

Stanford University, for one, has shifted more toward neutrality as events unfolded.

On Monday, officials at the California school said they were "deeply saddened and horrified by the death and human suffering" in Israel and Gaza and hoped for "thoughtful opportunities for sharing knowledge" on campus. In response, dozens of faculty signed a letter demanding "unambiguous condemnation" of the Hamas attacks.

On Wednesday, Stanford sent an "update" explaining its position on neutrality. Faculty and students "should not expect frequent commentary from us in the future," college officials said.

The letter from interim President Richard Saller and Provost Jenny Martinez did note an incident in which a lecturer reportedly singled out Jewish students in an undergraduate class, asked them to stand in a corner and told the room that was what Israel does to the Palestinians. The lecturer also reportedly called an Israeli student a colonizer.

The incident is under investigation and the lecturer has been removed, Saller and Martinez said. "Academic freedom," they said,

"does not permit identity-based targeting of students."

At Columbia University, the campus was closed Thursday as a safety measure as hundreds attended dueling pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian rallies. Some students were angry that a statement from the university president did not go far enough to acknowledge Palestinian deaths.

"Clearly we're all against violence, but we're just asking for the lives of Palestinians to be acknowledged as well," said Nadia Ali, who demonstrated alongside hundreds of peers. Many were dressed in the green, red and black of the Palestinian flag and wearing medical face masks.

Across the Manhattan campus' main lawn, demonstrators draped themselves in the blue-and-white Israeli flag and held prayer and song circles.

One demonstrator, Yola Ashkenazie, said some Jewish students feel unsafe: "The rise in anti-Semitism on our campus has been abhorrent."

A day earlier, a 19-year-old woman was charged with assaulting a student in a dispute over posters bearing the names and images of hostages being held by Hamas.

At Yale University, "Free Palestine" messages were written in chalk around campus one night. The following night, some students put up posters of Israelis taken hostage with the word "Kidnapped."

There was also controversy over social media posts by a professor

of American studies, Zareena Grewal, who wrote after the Hamas attack: "Settlers are not civilians. This is not hard." A petition circulated demanding her removal; Grewal did not respond to a request for comment.

In a statement, the university said it "is committed to freedom of expression" and Grewal's comments on personal accounts "represent her own views."

Eytan Israel, a 21-year-old sophomore, said that response fell short.

"Just seeing that, and Yale not doing anything, does feel like a betrayal, even if the statements they've been making have been supportive," said Israel, who is Jewish.

Talking politics is inevitably sensitive on campuses with diverse populations, said Hussam Ayloush, CEO of the California branch of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

But if colleges choose to issue official statements, Ayloush said, "then do it morally."

"Don't be selective about which lives are more valued than others. Every innocent life is important. Do it accurately, so we're not just commenting on actions but we're also commenting on ... the root causes of the actions," he said, pointing to Israel's treatment of Palestinians during decades of conflict.

Some of the most notable recent disputes have come at Harvard University, where the Palestine Solidarity Committee student group released a statement hold-

ing Israel "entirely responsible for all unfolding violence," co-signed by a few dozen other student organizations. At least one student had a job offer rescinded as a result of the statement.

Then Accuracy in Media, a conservative group, arranged for a billboard truck to drive around campus showing the faces of students associated with the groups. "Harvard's leading anti-Semites," it called them.

Former Harvard President Lawrence Summers, who is Jewish, was critical of university leadership for appearing "at best neutral towards acts of terror against the Jewish state of Israel."

"In nearly 50 years of @Harvard affiliation, I have never been as disillusioned and alienated as I am today," Summers said on X, formerly known as Twitter.

A day later Harvard President Clau-

line Gay condemned "terrorist atrocities perpetrated by Hamas" and said that while students have the right to speak out, "no student group — not even 30 student groups — speaks for Harvard University or its leadership."

Summers joined the university's Hillel student group later in the week in opposing efforts to "vilify," as he put it, signers of the anti-Israel statement.

"Such intimidation is counterproductive to the education that needs to take place on our campus at this difficult time," Harvard Hillel said.

The Middle East conflict has been contentious on campuses for decades, but this time it feels more volatile and polarizing, said Amy Spitalnick, leader of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, who was president of the Hillel student group at Tufts University, where she graduated in 2008.

When she was a student, "there was real disagreement but it was done constructively." Today, much like U.S. politics, the Israel-Hamas war has become a divisive, "us-versus-them" issue, she said.

"It shouldn't be hard to support Palestinian rights and dignity ... while still condemning what Hamas did to Israeli civilians," Spitalnick said. "The fact that there are some who refuse to do that has been a heartbreaking, mask-off moment for many in the Jewish community who expected more."

## The Daily Campus

Printing since 1896, The Daily Campus is the oldest and largest independent student publication at the University of Connecticut. The Daily Campus circulates 5,000 newspapers daily and strives to serve the student body by delivering accurate, relevant and timely news and content, both in print and online at DailyCampus.com. Our staff is comprised entirely of students, with roughly 200 undergraduates gaining professional development while contributing to the daily production of the paper, with positions including writers, photographers, copy editors, page layout designers, graphic designers, advertisement representatives, receptionists, delivery drivers and digital producers. Thanks for reading.

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Study Break

# The Daily Campus Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 Former Iranian rulers
- 6 Muscle twitch
- 11 Midwest winter hrs.
- 14 Slather with grease
- 15 "It's been said ..."
- 16 Hosp. recovery area
- 17 Move with a mouse, say
- 19 Neither's partner
- 20 Karaoke selection
- 21 Overhead trains
- 22 Like bibs and aprons, usually
- 24 Lotion additive
- 26 Sign of spiders
- 27 Farrelly brothers buddy comedy
- 31 Cockeyed
- 32 Mine find
- 33 Psychic powers
- 36 Uses an all-in-one printer feature
- 37 Role-playing game with a 20-sided die, familiarly, and a feature of this puzzle's four longest answers
- 38 Pixar title robot
- 40 BTW part
- 41 Shark feature
- 42 Luminous
- 43 Small, irregular amounts
- 48 Wandering from place to place
- 50 Lighten (up)
- 51 Assuming that
- 52 Common TV set-top box
- 53 Bigger than big
- 57 Unite
- 58 Eat without paying the bill
- 61 One more than bi-
- 62 Trojan War saga
- 63 Not merely decorative
- 64 RR stop
- 65 Two more than bi-
- 66 Doomed one

**DOWN**

- 1 Lays down the lawn
- 2 "Big Hero 6" hero
- 3 Actor Alda
- 4 Inviting cuddles

- 5 Pampering spot at a four-star hotel
- 6 Moved like a crab
- 7 Advanced degs.
- 8 Gassy prefix
- 9 \_\_\_ and Príncipe: island country in the Gulf of Guinea
- 10 Onetime Dr Pepper rival
- 11 Glass slipper wearer in a fairy tale
- 12 Shaggy's pal, to Shaggy
- 13 Chances to play
- 18 Bright light in the big city
- 23 Lamb nurser
- 25 Back muscles, for short
- 26 Morsel Miss Muffet ate with whey
- 27 Electronic music duo \_\_\_ Punk
- 28 Home of the Mighty Five national parks
- 29 Hybrid art technique
- 30 Fashion designer Karan
- 34 Neatnik's opposite
- 35 Chapel benches
- 37 Part of CD
- 38 Bunches of bucks
- 39 Shook hands on
- 41 Record that may be accessed in the electronic FOIA Library
- 44 Tried to win an election
- 45 "Yay, me!"
- 46 28-Down's western neighbor
- 47 "Shoot!"
- 48 Small salamanders
- 49 Not hidden
- 52 Much loved
- 54 Big hassle
- 55 Capri, for one
- 56 Pop diva who was the 2017 Billboard Icon Award honoree
- 59 Tiny criticism
- 60 Broke ground

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

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By Lynn K. Watson  
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# START YOUR PASSION PROJECT WITH THE UCONN IDEA GRANT PROGRAM

by **Joanna Giano**  
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Do you have an entrepreneurial, creative research project you're passionate about and want to pursue? Consider checking out the IDEA grant funded by UConn. On Friday, Oct. 13, the Office of Undergraduate Research hosted a workshop to introduce students to the UConn IDEA Grant Program.

The IDEA grant is a \$5,000 funding award designed to support student-led projects. This grant encourages students' creativity, entrepreneurship and research endeavors. Regardless of your major or campus location, you may be eligible for this college grant to help kickstart your project. The organization is committed to transparency and assisting students in achieving their endeavors. Notable projects

range from "The Swap, Don't Shop Sustainable Shop at UConn," created by IDEA Grant recipient Madeline Kizer, an eighth-semester marketing major, to psychology research on adolescents and their relationship to food scarcity and passion projects like film production.

In order to participate in the program, students are required to meet the following criteria. Firstly, they must remain in good academic standing throughout the duration of the program. Additionally, students who plan to graduate must ensure that their graduation date does not fall earlier than December 2024. They must be a registered student in order to complete a minimum of 140 hours on the IDEA Grant Project.

Before you submit your proposal, arrange a meeting with Melissa Berkey, the Assistant Director and Program Coordinator. This is a pivotal step that can help you identify

the areas where your project might need improvement. The Office of Undergraduate Research wants to ensure that your project holds personal significance and will be accessible to a broader audience. In the workshop, it was mentioned to avoid using jargon and stay away from overly technical language.

Finally, make sure you fully engage yourself in the project by actively developing skills, pursuing experience and gathering background knowledge. This is what they want to see when evaluating your proposal.

For those seeking more information, the program's website offers a breakdown of application requirements, examples of past recipients, evaluation criteria and more. The program aims for transparency and to help as many students as possible. If you require further information, please contact Melissa Berkey at [melissa.berkey@uconn.edu](mailto:melissa.berkey@uconn.edu).



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## Justin Willman brings magic to Jorgensen

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The University of Connecticut welcomed Justin Willman to perform at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts on Saturday, Oct. 14. Willman is a magician, well known for his show on Netflix called "Magic for Humans." He was originally supposed to perform at UConn in the fall semester of 2022, but his second child was born days leading up to the performance.

His performance consistently had a humorous aspect to it. Willman kickstarted the show with a box, quite literally stating "I brought you a box." He asked a member of the audience, a woman named Carolyn, to name her first crush into a microphone. Carolyn said the name "Steven B." and of course, Willman pulls out a sheet of paper with "Steven B." printed on it.

Some in the audience saw this coming, but many tried to guess how the trick was accomplished until Willman finally revealed how the act was done. Inside the box is a wireless Bluetooth printer, connected to the microphone that Carolyn spoke into. This is clever, but what made the trick even more magical was when Willman lifted the printer and crumpled it, revealing that it was a sheet of paper with the image of a printer on it.

Willman took the time to describe the kind of people he comes across in his shows. "There are people who love magic, and then there are the plus-ones." This earned a chuckle from the crowd, many of whom were excited to see the magic show and had others that they dragged along with them. Willman recounted that he was not always interested in magic. An

incident in his youth changed this, when he decided to ride a bicycle while wearing rollerblades and, as you can imagine, broke both of his arms. His doctor prescribed him card tricks in order to retrain his hands. It was from this that Willman learned to love the art of magic.

Another one of the main tricks of the evening involved taking a phone from an audience member, who was a die-hard Swiftie, and enclosing it in an envelope. Willman proceeded to place five other broken phones into identical envelopes and shuffle them. He then numbered them one to six. The audience member would then roll a die, listing off the number they saw and that number envelope would be eliminated. Once chosen for elimination, the phones were smashed with a hammer and thrown on the stage. This made everyone nervous about the fate of that person's phone. As each phone was smashed one by one, the final phone remaining turned out to be that person's phone, complete with a screen wallpaper of various Taylor Swift songs.

Willman then went on to describe his children, more specifically his son Jack. As all parents know, children ask a lot of questions that they might not be able to answer. When Jack asked him what inflation was, Willman showcased how he described the concept. He asked for a \$1 bill from the audience, folded it up, and unfolded it to reveal a \$20 bill. Then, someone in the audience gave him a \$100 bill, and Willman performed the same trick and turned it into a \$1 bill. "That's what happens in a recession," Willman jokes.

Some tricks were shorter than others, but they all were equally entertaining. For a shorter one, Willman placed

two ropes into a paper bag and revealed the inside of the bag to show the audience the ropes. The audience knew that the ropes would be tied, but we didn't expect Willman to pull the ropes out "Tide" — when he pulled out the ropes, they were connected to a box of Tide laundry detergent.

Willman also has an obsession with Susans. In "Magic for Humans," there is a recurring theme of Willman performing street magic for people named Susan. In this case, he performed a seance with an audience member named Susan. The trick involved the first row writing down names of beloved celebrities who have passed away and Susan randomly drawing those names from a box. She held a bell, which would ring when a spirit was supposedly with them. Two chalkboards were stacked on top of each other with a piece of chalk in the middle, allowing for the spirit to write their message. Willman also had a candle that he attempted to light with an extremely old lighter. Originally, it was supposed to go out once the ghost was done writing, but once it was obvious he couldn't light it, he opted to have it light once the spirit was finished. It took quite a while for the bell to ring, but once it did, the candle was lit not long after.

Susan revealed the name of the celebrity to be Bill Cosby. The entire audience laughed for a few minutes. No matter what celebrity they thought it to be, it definitely wasn't him. Willman appeared to be just as shocked as well, reiterating that he wanted the names of dead celebrities and beloved ones. Yet, the message on the chalkboards read "Jell-O Pudding," as Bill Cosby promoted Jell-O Pudding in the 1970s.



Justin Willman showcases his talents at the Wilbur Theater in Boston, Mass. His next stop and only second date of his tour would be in Storrs, Conn. at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @JUSTINWILLMAN ON INSTAGRAM

The show was a true highlight of family weekend. Both magic lovers and plus-ones were able to thoroughly enjoy Willman's tricks and unyielding humor. Those who

were entertained by the performance should watch his show on Netflix and keep an eye out for his new show titled "Magic Pranksters" that will be released soon.

# This Week In History: Oct. 15 - Oct. 21

CARTOON BY KRISTINE TRAN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



## "Don't let history get you down"

by Benjamin Lassy  
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Hello and welcome back to This Week in History! Over the last three weeks I've done a bit of a trilogy of themes, beginning with "Exploration," followed by "Uprising," and finally concluding on "Modernization." These were all loosely connected themes and while never really meant to be in a series, they all share one thing in common: sadness.

Whether it was the exploration of the Americas at the expense of natives, the Warsaw Uprising dying out alongside the last hope of a free Poland or the bloody transition of ideals in Asia at the turn of the century, history has gotten me a little down. It is hard to ignore the bloodstained pages of our history books or the sad stories that leave a lingering impression in your head, reminding you how fortunate we are to live in the modern world — even though it has its fair share of horrors.

A historian's duty is to recognize the good and the bad and to give equal voice to every dimension of human life, but that doesn't mean a historian has to leave out the good bits either. This week, we'll be focusing on a letter written by an 11-year-old on Oct. 15, 1860, to whom she considered to be a "great man."

Born on Nov. 4, 1848, Grace Bedell lived with her parents

in Westfield, New York, a small community south of Buffalo that's nestled closely to the border of Pennsylvania. It was there that Bedell and her family lived; a seemingly distant location, far from the tumult of the coastal cities, yet still close to major areas of trade and communication.

Bedell's father was an ardent Republican and supporter of the political movement that swept the North in the early 1860s. This fervor for presidential candidate Abraham Lincoln must have been magical to witness. Bedell absorbed her father's views and took them to heart, becoming enthralled in the campaign.

In the modern day it seems political candidates are increasingly distant and devoid of character, but in these early days of mass political campaigns, candidates relied on connections with their constituents; they toured the country on the developing railroads and made an effort to understand the populace. Nowhere can this development be seen more than in the market for photos of the candidate.

An interesting issue of the time was the disconnect between hearing someone's name and seeing their face. One could read the newspapers and see thousands of words, but not a single image. How then, could people put a face to the name?

Small prints of photos or sketches of the leading political figures would be distributed to

campaign officials, who would then distribute them to supporters such as Bedell's father.

It was through that chain that Bedell came to see a picture of Lincoln, a man with a narrow face and square chin line, who — despite his height — didn't occupy much of the paper onto which his likeness was printed. The 11-year-old Grace saw this picture and had one thing to say:

"...if you will let your whiskers grow ... you would look a great deal better for your face is so thin."

That's right, Bedell's first reaction to seeing the president had to do with his whiskers, or lack thereof. By this she means his beard. The Lincoln that appears in so many photos with a solid and dark beard was not always so. He began his career with a clean face, a look that suited him, but admittedly — and as Bedell points out — made him look rather "thin."

Bedell was not going to sit idly on this comment; she quickly got to writing a letter, carefully worded as she knew a woman had no place writing to a man of such esteem. She thought of her family, the four brothers whom she cherished and said "part of whom will vote for you," while the others would only do so if Lincoln "let [his] whiskers grow."

While the letter can't help but bring a smile to the reader's face, there is also a tinge of sadness found within it too. Grace Bedell could not contribute to electing Abraham Lincoln to the presi-

dency, even if she wanted to. Disregarding her age, she — like all women — could not vote. She writes, "All the ladies like whiskers and they would tease their husband's to vote for you and then you would be President."

Can you not feel a hint of sadness within those words? Maybe Bedell didn't explicitly think it while her hand met the page, but she knew very well that all she could do was suggest how men would vote. They were at the reins of true political power while all she had was political suggestion.

But obscuring those underlying issues is the innocence and compassion of a young girl, who declares, "...if I was a man I would vote for you too but I will try and get everyone to vote for you that I can." She didn't stay sad about her lack of a direct voice, but instead committed herself to doing whatever she could with the power that she had. After all, she was already writing to a presidential candidate. Maybe her voice could impact the man before his office demanded his entire focus.

One can only imagine the joy on Bedell's face when her voice was not only heard, but recognized by the man who she thought needed a makeover. On Oct. 19, 1860, Lincoln wrote back:

"Your very agreeable letter of the 15th is received. ... As to the whiskers, having never worn any, do you not think people would call it a piece of

silly affection if I were to begin it now? Your very sincere well-wisher, A. Lincoln"

Lincoln's words were precise, collected and clear: he recognized the young Bedell's voice. He may not have committed directly to growing his beard, but perhaps the 11-year-old stirred up something in him; he soon grew one out for the rest of his life. No photo exists of the president without a beard following 1860.

The magic of the tale doesn't end with this correspondence. In early 1861, only a few months before his inauguration as the 16th President of the United States, Lincoln's campaign journey brought him through Westfield. There, as Bedell later described, Lincoln sat by her near a station platform, and said:

"Look at my whiskers. I have been growing them for you."

Thenceforth until his assassination in 1865, the beard remained. Lincoln was true to his commitment to a letter from the young girl who had little right to influence the career of a politician, let alone the president.

History is full of these stories and tales that restore a light on humanity, but sadly they seem to be overtaken by the horrible atrocities that far too frequently drown them out. I encourage you to look at photos of the monument of their encounter in Westfield. It is a beautiful piece of history memorialized in a simple, yet powerful way. That's all for This Week in History, have a good week ahead!



# Life

@dailycampuslife

The media paints Halloween, or “Halloweekend” as it’s termed on college campuses, as a top-tier social event. Sometimes it seems like everyone’s seeking out a party where they can flaunt their elaborate costumes, but what if you just want a break from all of that? What if you’re not a big party person, but you still want to have fun at school? Don’t worry, we didn’t forget about you! Here, the Life section has outlined some ideas for a Halloween night that will fill your spooky spirits and save your social battery.



CARTOON BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

C.Barbara

**by Preethika Rao** | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | SHE/HER/HERS | preethika.rao@uconn.edu

As Halloween approaches, you might find yourself wondering how to spend the night if you don’t want to do traditional trick or treating. As a college student that might prefer a more relaxed Halloween, there are several alternatives for you.

A fantastic option is to gather with friends at one of their houses or dorms, wear costumes and immerse yourselves in various Halloween-themed activities. One classic activity is pumpkin decorating, including either painting or carving. All you need are some basic art supplies and creativity. With this, you’ll have a personalized memento to remember the night and a charming fall decoration for your dorm.

Another good option is to bake some delicious sweet treats with friends. Some good options are to have a cookie decorating competition or make your own caramel apples. The best part of this is that not only will the process of creating these treats be fun, but you and your friends can enjoy the treats afterwards.

For a more cozy and memorable Halloween night, consider watching a horror classic. It’s up to you whether the movie night is indoors or outdoors. Inside, you can snuggle up with blankets and popcorn and watch the movie on TV. Outside, you can create a wonderful movie experience with a projector and, if you have a fire pit, relish in the warmth while making s’mores. Must-see horror classics for the occasion are “The Shining,” “Halloween,” “Friday the 13th” and “Nightmare on Elm Street.” I hope you have a Happy Halloween!

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

As the crisp autumn air settles and the streets come alive with the laughter of trick-or-treaters, Halloween night becomes a magical tapestry of nostalgia. Staying in, nestled on the couch surrounded by the flickering glow of jack-o'-lanterns, offers a timeless joy in revisiting classic Halloween movies that have etched themselves into our memories.

The eerie charm of “Hocus Pocus,” the spine-tingling adventures of “Ghostbusters” or the whimsical allure of the “Halloweentown” movies are my favorites, and each is a portal to the past, where childhood fears mix with delight. Now, I’ve also taken to watching these films with my partner.

Accompanied by an array of sweet treats, the air is filled with the aroma of caramel popcorn and the rustle of candy wrappers. Sipping on warm apple cider, the nostalgic flavors mingle with the excitement of the on-screen antics. As the doorbell chimes with the arrival of costumed trick-or-treaters, I also find a special joy in handing out candies, sharing the Halloween spirit with the next generation.

Together, these traditions weave a cozy, enchanting night of Halloween memories, blending the magic of movies and the joy of community into a night in that one can’t forget!

**by Karla Perez** | ASSOCIATE LIFE EDITOR | SHE/HER/HERS | Karla.perez@uconn.edu

Most people love to watch a good horror movie to celebrate the spooky season. However, this tradition can get redundant and tired. What can never stir boredom are classics. I’m not talking about “The Shining” or “The Conjuring” or any of those horror industry icons; I’m referring to the beloved Peanuts movies.

Anyone who knows me knows I love the Peanut Gang. Their movies fill me with an irreplaceable feeling of nostalgia. You can never feel sad when watching Snoopy up to his shenanigans.

Picture it: after a who-knows-how-many-night-bender, you and your friends decide it’s time to have a night in during Halloweekend. You crowd into someone’s dorm and order pizza — or, if you have access to a kitchen, you can whip up some cute ghost-shaped pies yourselves. Once you’re all settled in, you flip on “It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown,” wrap yourselves up in your fuzzy blankets from T.J. Maxx and have a memorable night in. You could still dress-up if you want to!

If you’re not the biggest fan of scary movies, this may sound like the perfect plan to you. If you’re someone who still needs to scratch that itch for thrill, maybe you can convince your friends to watch those previously-mentioned films after watching Charlie Brown. Either way, you’ll have a fun and inexpensive night with your people.

You can find “It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown,” along with the rest of the Peanuts movies on Apple TV. Happy Halloween everybody!

**by Joanna Giano** | SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH COORDINATOR | SHE/HER/HERS | joanna.giano@uconn.edu

This Halloween, if I were to stay in, I’d begin by setting the perfect eerie atmosphere. I’d settle into a plush armchair and immerse myself into the chilling world of literary horror as the crisp night unfolds around me. Currently, I am enjoying “Frankenstein” by Mary Shelley. The cool breeze and the ground bathed in amber hues will create an ideal backdrop for exploring the gothic, horror, or thriller genres, each holding haunting stories waiting to be discovered.

Amidst the haunting tales, don’t forget that Halloween is also a great time to socialize. I’d adorn my home with spooky decorations like ghoulish cobwebs and (recyclable) plastic creepy crawlers sourced from the local arts and crafts store. Inviting friends over for a costume competition would be an additional highlight of the evening. There’s nothing like the excitement of a last-minute scramble to put together the coolest costume, all while enjoying the company of friends.

Even if all else fails, I wouldn’t forget to groove to the timeless “Monster Mash.”

**by Benjamin Lassy** | LIFE EDITOR | HE/HIM/HIS | benjamin.lassy@uconn.edu

Ah yes, the Halloween night in, something I’m all too familiar with since retiring my costumes in high school. These days, I prefer to lounge around and play Nintendo games while gorging on chocolate bars in the safety of my room. Why do I need to ask for candy from strangers when I can go to CVS with a crisp \$20 bill?

You see, the ideal Halloween night is one free of any scares, one that’s as comfortable as — dare I say — a cozy Christmas eve. Luckily the weather is on our side; it has been windy and chilly out, so bundle up and get warm. Boil some water for tea, or even hot chocolate; the key is to set the mood nicely.

Now, a nice night of gaming and blankets isn’t very Halloweeneey, so to spice things up I recommend the worthwhile purchase of candy corn decorative lights. These are orange, yellow and white string lights — just like the candy! Put these around your room and presto, it’s guaranteed to be a spooky time!

Still, something is missing. You could sit around with lights at any point, so what makes this a truly festive evening? I’d say if you’re one for horror, the other writers have mentioned some fantastic spooky movies, but if you’re seeking something more terrifying than ghosts and goblins, try playing Mario Kart 8 Deluxe with only blue shells enabled. It’s painful, horrifying and will get your heart racing faster than Jason Voorhees could ever imagine. So, grab a friend, sit together under the candy corn lights, and I think you’ll have a fantastic Halloween night in!

**by Henry St. Pierre** | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | henry.st\_pierre@uconn.edu

Halloween is the spooky season. If you’re not getting spooked, what’s even the point? Now, obviously I appreciate a good scare-free night filled with classic children’s films like “The Nightmare Before Christmas” or “Hocus Pocus,” but I’m here in defense of horror films.

After a beautiful autumn day full of fall activities, there’s no better way to end it than with a good movie. Personally, nothing gets me in the fall mood more than a horror film. I don’t enjoy being scared all that much, you’d be hard pressed to ever find me going to a haunted house, but horror movies really engross me in the Halloween season like nothing else can. Combined with a brisk fall night and an assortment of candy, I can’t think of any other way I’d like to spend my October nights.

I completely understand why some have strong reservations against horror. In a movie theater, it’s loud, very immersive and can be very overwhelming if the movie is scary enough. However, during a night in, the host has total control over the environment to allow for the most comfortable viewing experience.

Some of my favorite horror movies to watch around this time are classic slasher films, like “Friday the 13th,” “Halloween” and “A Nightmare on Elm Street.” Stock up on snacks, gather a group of friends and indulge in the scariest time of the year.

## Darien Hsu Gee: Writing with honesty

**by James Fitzpatrick**  
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Award-winning author Darien Hsu Gee read select works last Thursday, Oct. 12, at the UConn Bookstore in Storrs Center, thanks to UConn’s Creative Writing Program. She is now the third recipient of the Mark Twain Distinguished Writer-in-Residence Program, following Alexander Chee in 2021 and Justin Torres in 2019.

This is a biennial event, where recognized prose authors are brought to UConn to read their work to those in attendance. Later, both undergraduate and graduate students are granted the opportunity to have 45-minute tutorial sessions with said author; Gee held six of these tutorials last Friday.

Gee commands a wide audience, having penned five novels published by Penguin Random House, which have been translated into eleven languages. She obtained her undergraduate degree from Rice University and her M.F.A. from Pacific Lutheran University. She is now based in

Hawaii where she has received many accolades, including the 2015 Hawaii Book Publishers’ Ka Palapala Po’okela Award of Excellence. She also holds a position on the Hawaii Island Leadership Council for the Hawaii Community Foundation, according to her website. Point being, she is a trailblazer wherever she goes.

The director of UConn’s creative writing program, Sean Forbes, notes how the Writer-in-Residence Program allows for students to interact with “some of today’s most exciting authors,” and Gee certainly lives up to that hype. The tenacity of her readings is exemplified no better than in “Platitudes,” an essay of flash nonfiction included in the anthology “Fast Fallen Women,” edited by Gina Barreca. A Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of English, she also gave an introduction during the reading.

“Platitudes” was not intended to be read out loud based on its inclusion of slashes to indicate opposite phrases, but the adaptation worked to its benefit during the reading. In this piece, Gee lists both the justifi-

able and absurd ways in which people judge others and themselves. For example, Gee asked rather seriously, “Has she cheated/was she cheated on?” but balances this with absurd expectations: “She has/has not met Michelle Obama.” Gee writes these lines from a first-person perspective, like she does in virtually all of her stories. “Platitudes” incites laughter from the audience the whole way through, paired with moments of reflection. Gee does so by attracting the audience with relatable thoughts about vanity only to dig deeper into her personal beliefs of motherhood and her career trajectory.

At first, her efforts were to simply have the stories of her family written down, but this journey has taken a new meaning following her success. Gina Barreca said “Darien finds not only the stories from herself, but from... everybody’s heartbreak, and sanctity, and insecurity,” emphasizing “the need to make the stories that are the deepest... inside of us, public.” Gee herself implied if she knew these stories would be told outside of an in-

ner circle like they are now, she would have been reluctant to write them with such honesty.

There is an archival focus within these works. She notes that her mother is now 85 years old, so she views her writing as a way to combat the mortality of her family, for their stories must live on.

This includes stories that her family may not want to hear; nevertheless, their complexity must be recorded. Both “Courtyard” and “Afterlife” are based on Gee’s grandfather’s scandalous relationships, ones that members of her family fail to acknowledge to this day. However, she has come to peace with them for the sake of confronting their reality, no matter how controversial.

Gee’s reading of “Artifact” touched on her own complicated relationships in an even greater sense. This is part of a collection of her micro-memoirs, “Allegiance,” that won the 2021 Bronze IPPY Award. In this piece, she discusses her estranged relationship with her only sibling, a younger brother,

through the metaphors of fissions, faults and fractures. These were based on one of their commonalities: their father was a geophysicist.

Contrasting descriptions of geophysics with examples of their broken relationship, Gee provides a resolution after the read: she and her brother have been mending their relationship so much that, as of late, he flew out to Hawaii two weeks ago to celebrate her 55th birthday. The framework of the story did not signal a happy ending for the two, despite their undying siblinghood, but it appears that a new narrative has been forged.

The reading concluded with questions from the audience and a signing of copies of the anthology she edited, titled: “Non-white and Woman: 131 Micro Essays on Being in the World.”

In addition to the Creative Writing Program, these readings are also made possible by the generosity of Lynn and the late Martin Bloom, former UConn faculty members who created the Bloom Endowment Fund, another sponsor for this program.



# Opinion

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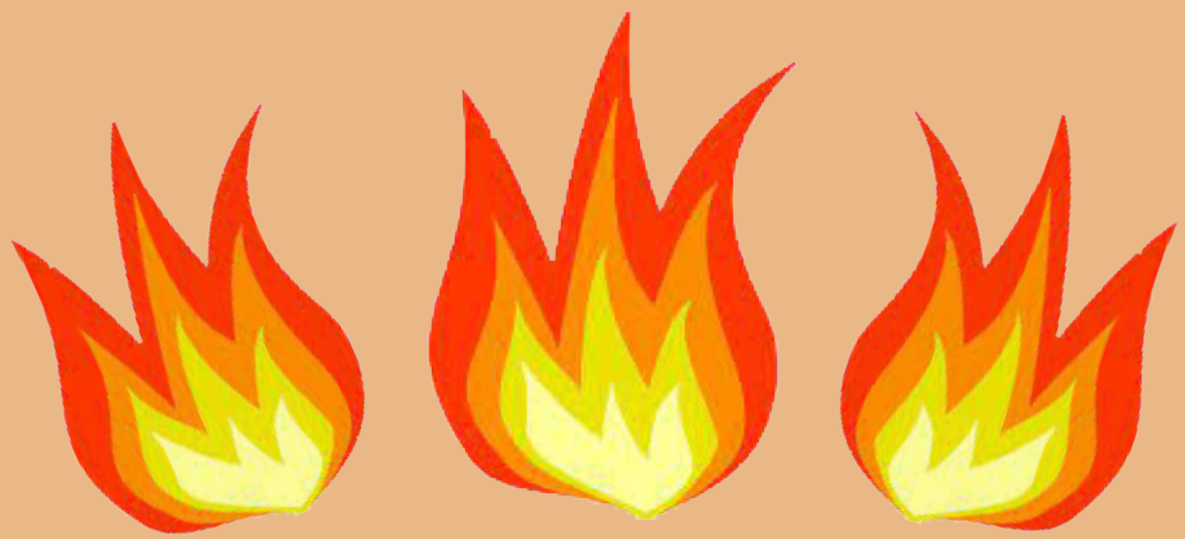
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COMIC BY SAMANTHA HASS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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 justification needed. In this Rapid Fire, writers gave their opinions on the question:

**To celebrate the advent of "Love is Blind" season five, pitch a terrible concept for a reality TV show... that you would still watch.**

### Nell Srinath, Opinion Editor:

I always thought it was funny that "Too Hot to Handle" gathers contestants under the pretense that they're on a raunchy, original TV show, only to be shocked when a talking plastic button enters the set announcing the show's real premise: several weeks of televised celibacy. I don't think the game should just change once. As soon as participants get comfortable with one game, I want that cursed button to pop up out of nowhere and throw the entire cast for a loop. As the episodes pile up, it's slowly revealed that the contestants are in purgatory for eternity. Peak television.

### Dan Stark, Associate Opinion Editor:

"Jersey Shore: President's Edition." In this, Biden, Trump, Obama, Bush and Clinton would spend their summer on the Jersey Shore as they annoy the sh\*\* out of each other like they do in those AI videos on YouTube. I would pay to see Trump start an argument with Bush about whether he did 9/11 or not.

### Grace Sim, Staff Writer:

How about a music show where singers compete against AI versions of themselves by singing songs that are completely out of their comfort zones? The audience would have to guess who the real singer is and who is AI. It may sound like an uncreative concept, but it would be hilarious to see a heavy metal rock band singer belting out a Taylor Swift classic, and the reactions of the singers would be priceless.

### Emma Mattingly, Contributor:

"Survivor," but with commentators — political and otherwise. It would group together names like Candace Owens, Ben Shapiro, Joe Rogan, Jordan Klepper, John Oliver and so many more and require them to remain civil whilst surviving on some remote tropical island. Just think of all the conspiracy theories that would be thrown around and the arguments that would occur.

### Aastha Gupta, Staff Writer:

"Love is Blind" but with a twist. The people are already engaged and they're meant to find their fiancée among strangers using the 30 questions to ask to fall in love (their voices are distorted). But oh no? What if they fall in love with someone else? Or worse, what if they can't figure out who their fiancée is?

### Shannon Hong, Associate Managing Editor:

Take it from your local "Survivor" superfan — replace all the contestants with babies. Shows like "MasterChef Junior" and "Chopped Junior" exist, but imagine a bunch of babies in the Big Brother house. No strategy, no backstabbing, no drama — just eating and sleeping.



## Opinion

## Photo of the Day | Ride or die



SUBOG held its Homecoming Carnival on the Founder's Green on Oct. 15, 2023. The event attracted many families, who were in the area for Family Weekend at UConn. PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

As many may know, Kevin McCarthy was recently removed from his position as the Speaker of the House.

According to CBS News, "McCarthy is the first to be ousted through a vote of the full House in the middle of a congressional term." This is not only representative of an increasingly polarized Washington, but also demonstrates how politicians' focus is on politics rather than people. The process of removing McCarthy and finding a replacement is a time consuming process, one that quite frankly very few Americans care about.

The Speaker of the House is undoubtedly an important figure. They wield a lot

of their own lives, Congress is clearly more concerned with who holds the Speaker's position and is less worried about the people they represent. The fight for Speaker continues to prove this very point. Even when McCarthy was originally elected, he was "elected

on the 15th ballot." That alone is more than enough time to spend on one Speaker's election cycle, but the House of Representatives is taking even more time on the issue. The clear disconnect between

approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?" and as of the September poll, only 17% approved.

It's now been 2 weeks since McCarthy has been removed from office. The time that this process has taken has also been an enormous waste of taxpayer money. To estimate, assuming that 2 weeks have been dedicated to finding a new Speaker, we can multiply 2/52 by 435 members of the House of Representatives by \$174,000, "the compensation for most... Representatives." This equates to \$2,911,153.85. Granted, this figure is highly speculative. For example, there are likely some vacan-

*"The fact that this is happening says a lot about the worth of Congress and its ability to connect with the people it was created to serve."*

*"This entire stunt wastes Congress' time and taxpayers' money."*

## The decline of the

## SHOPPING MALL

by Aastha Gupta | STAFF WRITER | SHE/HER/HERS | [aastha.gupta@uconn.edu](mailto:aastha.gupta@uconn.edu)

I still remember my first trip to the mall without my parents. It was a unique step toward adulthood — using the small amount of money I had accumulated from holidays and what not, I went off to the mall to buy clothes that I didn't need my mom to buy. Malls at that time were not just places to shop. They were another branch of the community: a place to hang and maybe even accidentally run into your crush. In so many movies set in their heyday, malls were also a location for critical plot points, like in "Mean Girls" when Cady first goes shopping with the Plastics in pink. In the more recent movie, "Holiday," the mall is where the two main characters meet and then — spoiler alert — end up declaring their love for each other. Unfortunately, that is no longer what malls represent.

The prevalence of malls has been declining sharply after a rise in popularity in the 1950s and 1960s. In the 1980s, there were nearly 2,500 malls in the United States. Now, there are only about 700, with the number surely dropping further in the next couple of years. While the reason for this decline is multifaceted, it is likely that the largest contributor is the online shopping trend and the ease with which online stores bring goods right to your home. This has likely contributed to a decrease in footwork traffic in department stores, making it harder for malls to stay afloat.

Perhaps this is part of the economics of our new lifestyle. Malls historically took clientele away from small businesses; now online storefronts and an apathetic societal attitude towards malls is forcing them to either change their business models or fail.

I think it's important to understand the larger roles such places have in society. For malls, that is the role they played in fostering community, in providing a space where teenagers could hang out after school in a relatively safe space and learn certain skills that they may not learn in schools. Losing those places is something local policymakers and community members should take note of and keep in mind when making decisions about public spaces within their town.

However, they must also look at the sociological effects of this trend; otherwise, some of the key needs of the community will be left unaddressed. They must ask themselves: What does the community need more of? An office space? A parking lot? Or a place where younger adults can interact and hang? But I think the more difficult question — and the one that has to be answered by all of us — is what does this communal space even look like as we move toward a future of fewer malls and more technology?

It is a challenge that needs to be mounted or else brick-and-mortar stores might find new ways to generate income and create jobs, leaving society with fewer and fewer places dedicated to community gathering.

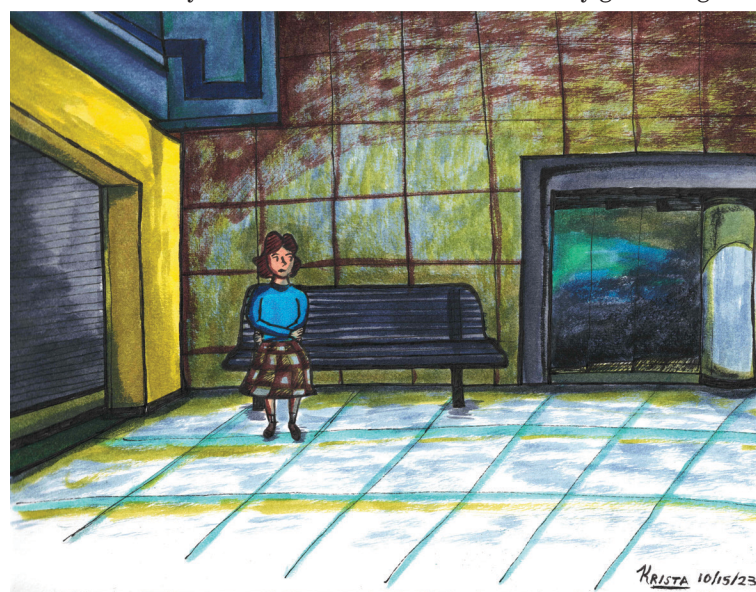


ILLUSTRATION BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WASTE OF TIME...  
WASTE OF MONEY

by Youssef Macary | STAFF WRITER | HE/HIM/HIS | [youssef.macary@uconn.edu](mailto:youssef.macary@uconn.edu)

of power in Congress and are high up in the presidential line of succession. That being said, as important as the Speaker of the House is, the average person cares very little about who holds the role. While these statistics are admittedly dated, the Washington Post reported that "In June 2008, people were ... asked to name the speaker without a list of options. 39% said Pelosi. 58% couldn't name anyone." This goes to show that the average American doesn't even know who the Speaker of the House is — they're simply too busy worrying about their own problems to care.

Congress' mindset clearly differs from that of the American people. While many Americans don't even know who the Speaker is and are more worried about

Congress and the needs of the American people is probably why Congress' approval ratings are



IMAGE COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL

so laughable. Gallup regularly asks people "Do you

cies in the House of Representatives, and members of the house are hopefully focused on more than the search for a new Speaker for this two week period. Nevertheless, while not entirely accurate, this number still reflects the fact that we're wasting almost \$3 million of taxpayer dollars so Congress can play politics instead of caring about the American people.

Almost \$3 million wasted on a political fight in Washington isn't what anyone in the U.S. wants. People want actual action to address real issues and help real people. This entire stunt wastes Congress' time and taxpayers' money. The fact that this is happening says a lot about the worth of Congress and its ability to connect with the people it was created to serve.

# MEN'S ICE HOCKEY: NO. 20 HUSKIES SWEEP IN HOME-HOME V. HOLY CROSS

by **Nick Spinali**  
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After starting the season with a win and a tie in two matches against Colgate last week, the No. 20 University of Connecticut men's ice hockey team returned for a home-and-home and was swept by Holy Cross this weekend.

**"You can't score one goal in a weekend and expect to win."**

MIKE CAVANAUGH

UConn's first game versus the Crusaders came Friday evening in Worcester, Massachusetts. After finishing two periods tied

1-1, Holy Cross took the lead on a Jack Ricketts goal early in the third to win the game.

The two teams played with high intensity from puck drop. Holy Cross had a number of opportunities in the period, but they were halted by Connecticut's stout defense. Sophomore goalkeeper Arsenii Sergeev played well in the goal for the Huskies. In the first, UConn had two power play chances but was scoreless in both.

A hooking penalty put Connecticut on another power play in the second. Freshman Jake Richard won the faceoff and was in position to drive in a rebound for the first score of the match. Holy Cross was quick to respond in the 8th minute of the period when Matt Guerra tied the game at one with a goal. The Crusaders' Tyler Ghirardosi received a five-minute major and game misconduct for a hit to UConn's Jake Flynn, but the Huskies

couldn't take advantage of the power play.

The Ricketts goal put Holy Cross on top for good in the third period. The Crusaders' defense iced UConn's offense for the remainder of the period, securing a one-goal victory.

The Huskies outshot Holy Cross 23-22 that evening. UConn committed five penalties in the game, resulting in 10 penalty minutes. The Crusaders committed six penalties for 23 penalty minutes. Sergeev made 20 saves in the contest, all during the first two periods. Meanwhile, goaltender Jason Grande had 22 saves over the match for Holy Cross.

Connecticut returned to action for their home opener at Toscano Family Ice Forum to host the Crusaders on Saturday. Once again, the Huskies' offense was stifled as they were shut out 2-0.

UConn's offense looked explosive early in the game but

was unable to connect with the net. It appeared that the Huskies scored a goal in the first when Grande's glove crossed the plane into the Holy Cross goal after capturing the puck, but the officials ruled that Grande made the save on the play.

Jack Stockfish scored the Crusaders' first goal early in the second following a UConn turnover. Connecticut couldn't muster any goals in response and was held scoreless through the remainder of the period.

The Huskies had their third power play of the contest during the third period but still could not find points on the ice. Ricketts scored a second goal for the Crusaders on an empty net with just one minute of action remaining.

Connecticut outshot Holy Cross 28-17 on the night but could not capitalize on any of their chances. The Huskies committed four penalties for eight penalty minutes while

Holy Cross committed three penalties for six penalty minutes. Ethan Haider made the start in goal for UConn and made 15 saves over the course of the contest. Meanwhile, Grande made 28 saves for Holy Cross.

With the two losses, UConn drops to 1-2-1 in the early weeks of their season. Holy Cross propels to a perfect 3-0-0 with the two wins.

"You can't score one goal in a weekend and expect to win," Huskies head coach Mike Cavanaugh said after Saturday's loss. "I thought that we played really well defensively and was happy with the [intensity] that we played, we just need to find a way to finish our chances."

The Ice Bus will return to action for two away games in Schenectady, New York against Union College next weekend. Game one is scheduled for Friday at 7 p.m., and the second is set for Saturday at 4 p.m.

# Cross Country: Huskies take fifth place in impressive showing at Arturo Barrios Invitational

by **Christopher Dexter**  
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On Friday, the UConn cross country team joined 41 other schools in the Arturo Barrios Invitational in College Station, Texas to wrap up the regular season. Connecticut had placed in the top five of every race they competed in and looked to make a statement in their final race before the Big East Championship.

Out of the 400 runners that lined up for the 6k event, four Huskies placed in the top 60 to propel the team to an im-

posing fifth-place finish out of 42 schools. UConn tallied 215 points and finished behind Ohio State (214), Boston College (206), UCLA (188) and the event winner, Utah Valley (97).

Junior superstar Chloe Thomas continues to lead the Huskies and emerge as one of the best runners in the Big East after delivering another impressive showing. Thomas ran a 19:49 6k and was the first UConn runner to cross the finish line, placing seventh overall.

Coming in just behind Thomas was senior Jenna Zydanowicz, who was the eleventh runner to cross the finish

line with her 19:57 race time. Top-15 finishes have been no surprise for the dynamic duo of Thomas and Zydanowicz, as this was the third occurrence where both runners placed in the top 15 in a race.

Senior Caroline Towle contributed significantly for the Huskies with her best race of the season, setting a personal record and finishing 34th overall with a time of 20:25. Malin Rahm had the seventh-best time among freshmen and was the fourth Husky to cross the finish line with a time of 20:47.

Taking first place across the

entire field of 400 was freshman phenom Juliet Cherubet of Texas Tech, finishing with a time of 19:20. Last year's event winner, Ohio State, had their dangerous junior tandem of Addie Engel and Daniela Santos place second and third with times of 19:34 and 19:43 respectively. Rounding out the rest of the top-five was Anastasia Chepkorir of Texas Tech (19:45) and UT-Arlington's Matro Jepkemoi (19:49).

UConn finished the regular season with top-five finishes in all four of their races. The Huskies opened the season with a first-place finish in the

Suffolk Short Classic and followed that up with a second-place effort in the Providence Friar Invitational. In their previous race, Connecticut placed fifth in the Battle in Beantown before concluding the season with another top-five placement in their biggest race of the season.

Next up for the program is the Big East Championship on Saturday, Oct. 28 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. After finishing third in the event last year, Connecticut will be amongst the favorites to win the event after an outstanding regular season.

# Field Hockey: HUSKIES OVERWHELMED IN TOUGH WEEKEND SERIES

by **Connor Sargeant**  
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It's no secret that the UConn field hockey team's season has been less than ideal. Coming into the weekend, Connecticut owned a 5-8 record, with five of their losses coming within one goal and two coming in overtime. The campaign has been full of close finishes ending in defeat, and their fixture against Providence was no different.

Up until this point, we have typically seen either a two-game homestand or a two-game road trip. On Friday, however, Connecticut hosted their Big East rivals Providence and on Sunday, traveled out to Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts to face Boston College.

In UConn's Friday afternoon showing, it was immediately apparent that this match was set to be a defensive clinic. Both sides had stretches this year where they failed to generate significant scoring, and neither side managed to get more than five shots off in any quarter on Friday. As expected, due to the lack of offense, most of the game was played at midfield.

Despite the game's snail pace, Connecticut entered the second quarter with new life. It took Sol Simone only one minute to draw first blood on a nice shot that Providence's goalkeeper had no chance of saving. Simone's scoring

seemed to awaken the Friars' offense, though, as they began to push the pace and put pressure on the Huskies' defense. Their efforts were rewarded with three penalty corners. One bright spot for Connecticut in this contest and all season long has been the defense and goalkeeping of Natalie McKenna. McKenna and the defense held on, thwarting all three of Providence's attempts in the second. The half ended 1-0.

While the Friars' first-half offensive barrage yielded no scores, it was evident that one was coming, as it took less than 10 minutes into the third for Eléonore de Keyser to find the back of the cage, assisted by Florencia Talarico. The rest of the third and fourth quarters remained scoreless and the game went to overtime. The Huskies primarily dominated the overtime period, accumulating four penalty corners and outshooting Providence 6-2. None of the Huskies' tries were good enough, and the Friars forced a second overtime period, winning after a fast break goal by Talarico.

After Friday's heartbreaking defeat, UConn traveled to Beantown to face No. 12 Boston College with hopes for better luck. The Huskies started their Sunday afternoon well, shutting out the Eagles in the first quarter, though their offense was nowhere to be found. Connecticut also held Boston College out of their of-



The UConn field hockey team faced off against Providence on Oct. 13 at the Sherman Sports Complex. After a double overtime game, UConn lost to Providence with a final score of 1-2. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

fensive zone during the opening frame, dictating this game at midfield.

The second quarter was just as close as the first, leaving both teams deadlocked. However, Boston College forward Margo Carlin took over the game. Carlin scored early in the second quarter and notched her second goal in the third. Carlin's day was far from over, as less than five minutes later, she found Elisa Brauel-Jahnke to give Boston College the 3-0 lead in a deficit the Huskies had no chance of overcoming. Despite losing

big, Connecticut didn't stop fighting, as Simone scored her second goal of the weekend to put her team on the board. Boston College scored one more goal in the fourth for good measure, and UConn lost 4-1.

This has been a season to forget for Connecticut field hockey fans, as their poor performance this weekend eliminates them from a Big East title. Despite their tough season, this team has continued to fight no matter the score, made evident by Simone's goal on Sunday. While

their 5-10 record doesn't indicate it, the UConn women have played competitive field hockey all season long. Unfortunately for UConn, their most brutal stretch is coming up, as they face No. 7 Liberty and No. 2 Duke in two of their final three games. If the Huskies can pull out a win here, this would not only be a massive confidence booster as they look into next season, but it would undoubtedly serve as a reminder to all teams in the conference that UConn could be dangerous come Big East tournament time.

## Sports

Photo of the Day | 'College Basketball's Worst Nightmare'



The Huskies women's and men's basketball teams kick off their season with the annual First Night event at Gampel Pavilion on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023. In spirit of the date, UConn became college basketball's worst nightmare with its Friday the 13 theme.

PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Women's Swimming:

## HUSKIES DOMINATE SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE IN SEASON OPENER

by Stratton Steve

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This past Thursday at Wolff-Zackin Natatorium in Storrs, Connecticut, the UConn swimming and diving team got their feet wet in their season opener. The meeting was between Connecticut and in-state rivals Southern Connecticut State, a squad that already participated in four meets, yet has only a single win to their name.

The teams fought it out and UConn ultimately came out on top, though the score is listed as 163-90 by the Huskies and 163-114 by the Owls.

"Always good to get a home victory, for the girls to shed their skin a bit and enjoy the process," head coach Chris Mafiello noted after the dual meet. "This is what we do and why we do it...just excited overall about our ability to continue to train. We have some things to clean up in our races strategy-wise and things like that, but for the most part [we're] pretty happy with where we're at."

Connecticut began their strong outing in the 200-yard medley relay, with the Hus-

kies coming in the top three and establishing an early 15-2 advantage. The Huskies kept pouring it on in the 1,000-yard freestyle as Norah Rome narrowly took gold and Bridget Davis grabbed bronze, while SCSU's Jasmine Uricchio missed the top spot by a mere two seconds.

The 200-yard freestyle was no kinder to the Owls. Meghan Byrne, Claire Lippert and Niamh Hofland all finished within a tick of one another to secure a full-Husky podium, leaving SCSU even further in the dust. Another podium sweep in the 100-yard breaststroke and three of the top four slots in the 100-yard backstroke ensured the Huskies remained comfortable.

The 200-yard butterfly and the 50-yard freestyle kept the upper hand on the home side, with UConn grabbing each of the top two slots. It wasn't until Nicholle Denault concluded her 1-meter dive that the Owls grabbed gold in anything. Top three sweeps in both the 200-yard backstroke and the 100-yard freestyle was just what the doctor ordered to help the Huskies bounce back in a big way.

Third, fourth and fifth place finishes for the Owls



The UConn Huskies face the SCSU Owls on Thursday night at the Nat on Oct. 12, 2023. UConn ended up on top with a final score of 163-90.

PHOTO BY SHELAGH LAVERTY, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

combined for six points in the 200-yard backstroke, but didn't compare to the 13 points Huskies Kiera Liesinger and Emma May tallied for finishing the race on top.

The 500-yard freestyle proved to be SCSU's bread and

butter, as they brought out the brooms for a top three sweep. The 100-yard butterfly, the 400-yard freestyle relay and the 400-yard individual medley were more of the same as the Owls began to rack up points.

It was a mere consolation

though as the Huskies wrapped up with a strong 3-meter dive and secured the victory.

Connecticut won't get much of a break, suiting up again this Friday for a home series against Big East foes Georgetown and Villanova.

# WOMEN'S HOCKEY:

## EAGLES RESILIENCY PROVES STRONG AGAINST HUSKIES, TAKE WEEKEND SWEEP

by Noah Reed

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Following a great series against the ranked Penn State Nittany Lions, the UConn Huskies made their return to Hockey East play with a series against Boston College this weekend.

The Huskies started the weekend on the road, visiting the Eagles in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.

UConn started the scoring in the first period. Senior Jada Habisch notched her first goal of the season, assisted by Riley Grimley and Ainsley Svetek. The puck bounced off the pads of Eagles goalkeeper Grace Campbell, allowing Habisch to take the puck out and set up a shot to give the Huskies a 1-0 advantage just five minutes in. Habisch was the team's leading scorer a season ago when she scored 13 goals, and UConn is hoping for a similar output from her again this season.

Just a few minutes later, UConn doubled their lead with a chip-in score. Freshman Ashley Allard, positioned in front of the net, deflected a high pass from Emma Eryou that landed perfectly in the top right corner. It was Allard's first goal of her college career, and it put the Huskies up two just under 10 minutes into the game.

A goal by Boston College's Katie Pyne put the Eagles on the board and the first period ended 2-1.

While things had been looking in favor of the Huskies during the first period, penalties came back to haunt them.

The first was a too many players on the ice team assessed penalty in the second period. Boston College's Gaby Roy scored on the power play, leaving the Eagles and Huskies tied at two.

In the third period, Grimley got called for tripping, and Julia Pellerin made the Huskies pay. With time winding down on the power play, Pellerin took the

puck from center ice and came down the side, setting herself up with a shot and firing the go-ahead score. This left the Huskies with just over 10 minutes to find the equalizer. Luckily enough, they did.

On the fifth and final power play opportunity for the Huskies, they finally found the back of the net. Christina Walker took a cross-ice pass and fired it into the empty corner of the net, tying the game at three with around seven minutes to go.

Neither team was able to score in the last few minutes, ultimately sending the game into overtime.

Boston College secured the victory on a goal by Abby Newhook. Boston College went on a two-on-one break with Newhook and Pellerin on the attack, but Newhook took the shot herself, smacking it into the top right corner of the net to send the Eagles fans home happy.

Boston College's ability to take advantage of power play oppor-

tunities kept them in this game and eventually led them to a win. The Eagles converted three power plays into two goals, while the Huskies scored once in five chances. Despite having two fewer chances, the Eagles put up seven shots during the power play to UConn's five. Both of Boston College's power play goals also were scored in the final 10 seconds of the penalty time assessed.

Following that high scoring affair came a different game on Saturday. With the Huskies hosting their home opener, Boston College would yet again prove resilient.

Much like the first game, UConn took the lead early in the first period. Freshman Livvy Dewar took a pass from Kathryn Stockdale in front of the goal, skating by two defenders to sweep the puck underneath Campbell for her first college score.

In the second consecutive game against UConn, Boston College found themselves down early and needed to battle back.

Unlike the first game where the Eagles were able to capitalize on UConn penalties, Boston College actually scored on a UConn power play. Pellerin found herself on a breakaway against UConn goalie Tia Chan and tied the game up with a shorthanded goal.

Pyne got her second goal of the weekend later in the second period, and that was all the Eagles needed to secure the weekend sweep.

The overtime loss in game one gives UConn a point in the Hockey East standings, but they still fall to 0-2 in conference play to start the year.

UConn has the chance next weekend to turn it around against New Hampshire, another Hockey East opponent. Both games will be played at the Toscano Family Ice Forum here in Storrs. Friday night's game has a start time of 6 p.m. while Saturday's game is scheduled for 3 p.m. Both games will be available to watch on ESPN+.

# WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL: UCONN TOPPLES BUTLER IN FIRST CONFERENCE WIN

by **Bridget Bronsdon**

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The UConn volleyball squad finally broke their eight-game losing streak in an explosive first conference win. In a dramatic battle against Butler, Connecticut earned an overdue mid-season confidence booster.

UConn started off the weekend with Xavier, a 6-2 Big East team with an exceptional record at their backs. The contest followed a similar pattern of the Huskies trailing behind their opponent. In the first set, Xavier made an opening scoring drive to set the Huskies back from the get-go. From there, UConn struggled to keep up while Xavier made kill after kill. The first point from the Huskies was earned by Taylor Pannell, one of the team's leaders in scoring. As the set continued, the Musketeers were able to lock down a scoring margin of over 10 points. While the set closed out with a 25-19 outcome, the Huskies remained unphased.

The second set allowed the Huskies to toe the line of victory but ultimately resulted in another defeat. The power dynamic shifted as the Huskies led the match in segments. The duo remained tied as the score reached 22-22, but Xavier pulled away with the win.

The third and final set was UConn's most significant loss as they fell 25-15. The Musketeers were once again able to knock out the Huskies early on in the set with an opening scoring drive, dispelling

any momentum UConn had. From there, Xavier took off with kill after kill. Despite a long-fought sequence, UConn was unable to hold on and fell to the Musketeers.

Undeterred by a long season of challenges and an unfavorable conference record, the tide changed for UConn as they faced Butler. For the first time, UConn was leading the charge rather than following their opponents. This dynamic match will certainly elevate the morale and reinstate some confidence in the squad moving forward.

The first run of the match, secured by UConn, foreshadowed the Huskies' imminent success. Although the Huskies were determined to sweep their opponents, Butler did not go down without a fight. The Bulldogs were persistent in their efforts and kept UConn alert and ready. The pair bounced back and forth to lead and were constantly trying the score to challenge their counterpart. The duo was at a stalemate as the score reached 23-23. For the first time this season, UConn was finally able to lock in the last two points for the win, leaving the Bulldogs defeated. One of the squad's biggest challenges this season has been holding onto the game for the final points, like in the matchup against Xavier when they again fell to their opponent in the final points of the game. This time, the crew was able to change the narrative.

The second set allowed for back-to-back victory for the Huskies. The first kill of the game by Cera Powell once again put the group



UConn's women's volleyball team defeats Butler University 3-1 at The UConn Volleyball Center on Oct. 14, 2023. This game also featured an event to show support for those affected by breast cancer. PHOTO BY BRIAN JEREZ, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

on the path to success. The second set followed a similar pattern as the Huskies were put to the test by Butler's challenges. However, UConn was determined to finish off the group. For a second time, the Huskies corrected their previous mistakes by taking control of the final points of the match. UConn left Butler in the dust with a 25-22 score.

With two wins at their backs, the Huskies could feel confident in a favorable outcome for one of the first times

this season. However, the crew was met with a shift in the third as Butler took their first set win of the day. In an extremely close fight, the Bulldogs pulled away with a 25-22 win and switched places with the victorious team.

The Huskies could not be counted out. In the fourth and final set, the group earned the win they've been waiting for all season. As always, the battle between the groups was long and hard fought, but in the end UConn accomplished

the victory they've been fighting for.

Undoubtedly, the group has had its fair share of challenges this season, but it only made the win sweeter as an unfavorable streak has finally been broken. If the Huskies continue with this momentum, they have a fantastic chance at knocking out their conference opponents in the second round of matchups.

Next week, the Huskies will face Providence on Wednesday and Creighton on Friday.

# International Soccer:

## U.S. HOPES ARE SHATTERED AS THEY ARE OUTPLAYED BY GERMANY AT RENTSCHLER FIELD

by **Nahum Valiente**

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The United States men's soccer team was tasked with their biggest challenge since their round of 16 fixture against the Netherlands at the 2022 World Cup. Their efforts were not enough, though, as they fell 3-1 to Germany.

**“Little moments could have made a big difference at the World Cup and it's kind of like the same story.”**

MATT TURNER

When it comes to U.S. soccer, they're something of a stranger to the East Coast, especially New England. The last time the U.S. played in New England was in 2018 for a friendly matchup against Peru. The region hosts an event once every two World Cup cycles, so the anticipation began to build when it was an-

nounced they would return to Connecticut to play Germany. While local excitement was fueled by the prospect of seeing star players like Christian Pulisic or Matt Turner take the field, the whole nation waited as the Stars and Stripes were set to have their biggest challenge yet on their road to the 2026 World Cup. Furthermore, American hope grew from the promised performances of key figures like Pulisic, Folarin Balogun and Gio Reyna. Many consider this as the first real test of the U.S. team and a critical game if they want to be competitive in the upcoming World Cup, which will be hosted right here in the States.

The first half of the match delivered on the expected hype. The intensity and pace of both sides kept each other on their toes as both teams pressured to secure an early lead. In just the fourth minute, a key pass from Weston McKennie to Pulisic would have resulted in an early lead, but was immediately ruled as offside. Minutes later, in the 11th minute, the German team almost scored after Pascal Groß's right-footed shot hit the goal post and rebounded off of Turner's body, a moment that shook the

Stars and Stripes. The game continued with the U.S. playing more offense than typically seen in contests against such tough opposition. Because of the talent on the frontline, the U.S. was able to go for a more offensive strategy. Rather than holding the ball and attempting to retain possession as much as they could, the U.S. grabbed opportunities to attack as soon as they controlled possession of the ball. This strategy worked out when Pulisic gained control, took the ball up the pitch and buried an absolutely stunning goal into the top right region of the goal in the 27th minute. The stadium, filled with a record 37,743 spectators, erupted as the U.S. took the lead.

However, celebrations were muted in the 39th minute, when Ilkay Gündogan managed to take control of the lost ball after an attempted deflection by Turner and booted it in. In the final moments of the half, the Stars and Stripes attempted to regain the lead, but their efforts were not enough as the half ended with a scoreline of 1-1.

In the first half of the match, the game had the same intensity and feel of a competitive match, not an international friendly. A

more inspired and fast-paced U.S. team was on full display; however, all of that fell apart in the second half. During the break, Reyna was substituted and replaced by Luca de la Torre. Not only did the lineup change, but so did the Stars and Stripes' approach. Similar to the U.S. performance in the World Cup, the team retook the strategy of defending the ball and attempted to keep possession as much as they could with fewer attacks.

The second half was dominated by the German side as they comfortably seized control. Germany took advantage of every ball that came to them. This is reflected in the shots attempted by the visiting team, as they recorded 19 to the Americans' six. It was only a matter of time before the Germans took the lead. The inevitable happened in the 58th minute, when the U.S. defense left an opening for Niclas Füllkrug to easily put the ball away and give Germany the lead. Just minutes later in the 61st minute, as the Stars and Stripes defense struggled to clear the ball from the box, Jamal Mu-

siala found an opening and scored past the U.S. defense. There were few opportunities seen in the second half as the American side failed to produce any valuable plays. The only significant moves came from free kicks and corners, which were sparsely seen and easily stopped by the German defense. The final whistle blew in East Hartford as the Americans failed to defeat the European giant.

“Our shape was broken, sagging, keeping guys on-side, it's frustrating because it's just little moments,” said Turner. “Little moments could have made a big difference at the World Cup and it's kind of like the same story.”

There were plenty of “little moments” in this match - ones that have to be fixed if the U.S. wants to be competitive against highly ranked teams like Germany. Corrections can make a difference in any game, so those mistakes will have to be addressed by head coach Gregg Berhalter. The next opportunity for the U.S. to work on these challenges will come on Tuesday against Ghana at 8:30 p.m. in Nashville.

# Men's Soccer: Testori leads Huskies to thrilling comeback win

by **Nick Spinalli**

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On Saturday, the University of Connecticut men's soccer team came back from a 2-0 deficit to stun the Marquette Golden Eagles in a thrilling 3-2 victory at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium.

Marquette was the first team to strike and they did so in quick fashion, getting ahead 1-0 just five minutes into the action. It was Jai Hsieh-Bailey who headed home the first score for the Golden Eagles with Edrey Caceres and Ryan Amond assisting on the play.

The away team struck again later in the first half, this time in the 31st minute. Marquette entered a fast break on the Huskies' side of the field and penetrated the goal box. A few quick passes allowed the Golden Eagles to

find the open man, Beto Soto, who kicked in the shot from close range for the score. Abdoul Karim Pare and Noah Madrigal were both credited with assists on the goal.

However, Connecticut went into halftime with regained momentum. Nicolas Tomerius poked a pass into the Marquette goalbox, where Scott Testori received it and crossed the ball into open grass on the other side of the box. Somehow, the ball landed at the feet of a wide open Kieran Chandler, who rifled in the close shot for a score. By the 45th minute, the Huskies had cut the two-score deficit down to one.

The two teams increased the intensity as the second half ensued. According to the UConn webpage, a scuffle broke out by the UConn bench in the 67th minute that resulted in two red cards being shown to each team. For

the Huskies, Ayoub Lajhar received a red while on the bench and Brooklyn Merl got a red on the field for Marquette, the latter of which forced the Golden Eagles to play a man down for the remainder of the contest.

The Huskies were quick to capitalize on the player advantage. In the 71st minute, Chandler volleyed a pass into the Marquette goal box for Testori, who came across to head home the equalizing score. It was a huge momentum switch for UConn, who had engaged in the heated exchange with the Eagles just minutes before. Chandler and Guillaume Vacter were credited with assists on the Testori score. In the 73rd minute, Chandler received a red card for denying a Golden Eagles scoring opportunity.

Connecticut took the lead for good in the 81st minute

thanks to a Testori game-winner. On the play, Pierce Bateson crossed a pass into the Marquette goalbox, where Testori stepped up to receive the ball and tap in the score off the short hop. For Testori, this was the first multi-score match of his career. The two goals were a much needed breakout for the junior, who had gone pointless in his previous six contests.

Jayden Hibbert made a sprawling save in the UConn goal with just 30 seconds left to cement the single-point win for the home team.

“Scott's had his opportunity and he's made the most of it,” Huskies head coach Chris Gbandi said following the win. “The Connecticut kid, on a night that we needed him, stepped up in a big way for us.”

The victory moves the Huskies to 7-5-1 on the campaign,

including a 3-2 mark against Big East opponents. Marquette, meanwhile, drops to 7-5-1, now having lost four straight matches. They are 1-4 in the Big East this season.

During the match, UConn outshot the Golden Eagles 29-12, putting seven on goal to the away team's two. Hibbert made three saves in goal, while Marquette goalie Ludvig Målberg made four saves on the opposite side of the field. Both teams attempted five corner kicks, and the Huskies committed nine fouls to the Eagles' six.

Up next for Connecticut is an away match against the Providence Friars, another Big East opponent. The two will meet on Wednesday at Chapey Field at Anderson Stadium in Providence, Rhode Island. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. Fans can watch the match live with a subscription to FloSports.



# Sports

# FIRST NIGHT

## HALF-COURT SHOTS AND TRIPLES GALORE GRACE NEW GAMPEL COURT

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15 hours after they went live on Oct. 3, tickets for First Night at the Harry A. Gampel Pavilion officially sold out. If thousands of individuals ordering tickets at the speed of sound did not display the fans' excitement, then First Night itself highlighted the hype around both UConn basketball programs.

Friday's festivities marked the first time since 2016 that the landmark pre-season event featured a defending national champion, when the women's team won their fourth consecutive title. In what he considers a necessary exercise, head coach Geno Auriemma wanted to admire the silliness of his serious team ahead of their chase for national title No. 12.

"They get a kick out of performing, and this is just a performance for them," Auriemma explained prior to First Night. "They get to act silly and they get to experience the adulation of the crowd."

Each of the 28 players between both programs exerted their pent-up energy, displaying their prowess on a new basketball court. After it was replaced over the summer, the new hardwood floor features the campus' distinction as the "Basketball Capital of the World," donning the sideline closest to the team benches. With First Night occurring on Friday the 13th, it made perfect sense to roll out another nickname: "College Basketball's Worst Nightmare."

"I am creative," national champion head coach Dan Hurley commented about the horror-based moniker. "I suggested to the market a Halloween theme on some of the social stuff."

As the clock inched toward 7 p.m., hype man Conor Geary familiarized new students with the chants shouted during every basketball game. Once the UConn Drumline finished their fiery opening act, both basketball programs took center stage.

### Introductions

Instead of climbing stairs, the players and the coaching staff strolled up a ramp to a stage that allowed them to see a sea of fans from three different sides. While the men's coaching staff trotted

to Bruce Springsteen's "Born to Run" and the women's staff got numerous tunes, the players chose what beats blasted on the speakers during their on-stage appearances.

Caroline Ducharme walked out to Neil Diamond's Sweet Caroline again; Hassan Diarra made everyone lose their mind to "SkeeYee" by Sexy Red; Rutgers transfer Cam Spencer nabbed Meek

and the squads drafted by the captains off the court, both teams went right into a series of thrilling skills challenges.

### Hot shot challenge

The first of three evening events, two duos from both teams had one minute to earn a varying number of points from four different areas. Just like any spot shot challenge during a UConn basketball game, the most points came from half-court shots.

Diarra did just that, burying a buzzer-beating heave that gave his and White Team captain Aaliyah Edwards' duo 50

points.

Only fellow team captain Alex Karaban, who also drained a half-court shot, and Nika Mühl exceeded that number with 63. Snatching a convincing 105-65 win, the White Team earned the first point in the best-of-three series.

### Impromptu dunk challenge

Unlike past editions, this year's First Night did not feature the popular dunk contest. With the second event getting set up, Virginia natives Solo Ball and Jayden Ross introduced themselves to UConn Nation in an unofficial dunk duel. Ball tossed a lob off the board and threw down the one-handed hammer while Ross spun around in the air and finished the slam.

### Skills challenge relay

In this new competition, five players from each team clashed in a three-part skills course where the first team to have all five of their athletes complete every skill would earn a point. Tasks included sinking a corner three, dribbling around a series of cones, catching a pass off a pass back assist net and making a basket with their non-dominant hand.

Mill's "Dreams and Nightmares," a fit for the event's spooky theme. But between the electric dance moves and the enticing song choices, no player received a louder roar of applause than redshirt junior Paige Bueckers.

With no special guest emcee in attendance

Diarra's struggles from beyond the arc as the first leg did the White Team in from the beginning. By the time the senior guard converted his opposite-hand shot, the Blue Team stood one step ahead, completing the relay before the White Team's fifth player started.

### Three-point contest

Tied at one after two competitions, the winner of the three-point contest would determine which squad earned bragging rights. Spencer's nine triples on 12 shots highlighted the Blue Teams' performance as his and Ducharme's 17 total buckets stood strong against Tristen Newton and Ice Brady's 14. Ross and Qadence Samuels matched that number for the White Team, but the lethal combination of Karaban and Azzi Fudd made 15 treys to punch their ticket to the finals.

Spencer complemented Ducharme's start in the winner-takes-all round, but Fudd and Karaban saw the Blue Team duo's 14 points as a minor obstacle. The two sharpshooters wrapped up the activities with 18 points, with the latter making his last two deep shots, and clinched the White Team's second straight First Night victory 2-1.

All 14 team members touched a silver trophy and posed for a picture afterward, but while most fans departed, two players expressed closing remarks. Bueckers went first, expressing her eagerness to step back on the court after missing last season with a torn ACL.

"I missed you tremendously," said Bueckers.

Seconds later, Donovan Clingan plainly stated the men's team's goals for the season.

"We are back in the mix to go get No. 6.," said Clingan.

Both basketball programs begin their 2023-24 campaigns in early November. The men's team's title defense starts against the Northern Arizona Lumberjacks on Nov. 6, when their fifth national championship banner ascends to the Gampel Pavilion rafters. Two days later, on Nov. 8, the women's team hosts the Dayton Flyers at the XL Center in Hartford.

Fans who did not attend First Night can watch it on demand via UConn Athletics' YouTube page.

Both the UConn men and women's basketball team came together for a Friday the 13 themed First night at Gampel Pavilion. As the Blue team faced the White team in various challenges, the White team won 2-1.

PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

### WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

#### UConn SCOREBOARD



vs.



3

2

Men's Soccer  
Sunday

#### Upcoming Games



vs.



Volleyball, 6 p.m. Wed.  
Storrs, Conn



vs.



Volleyball, 7 p.m. Thursday  
Storrs, Conn

### INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconnhuskies  
Thank you, UConn Nation!  
#UConnFirstNight

### TWEETS OF THE DAY



UConn Women's Basketball

@UConnWBB

We're so lucky to play in the Basketball Capital of the World ❤️

The IRRESISITIBLE FORCE

@te\_moonchild4

A healthy UConn is a dangerous team!

UConn Men's Basketball

@UConnMBB

Counting down the days.

#HU5KIES

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