



UConn POPULAR CULTURE INITIATIVE PANEL ASKS: “CAN YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH CHATGPT?”



“Can you fall in love with ChatGPT” discussion panel and live podcast at the Konover Auditorium on Oct. 23, 2023. The panelist (left to right) were AI expert Dan Rockmore (Dartmouth College), Anna Mae Duane, Stephen Dyson, and Jeffrey Dudas.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRAIN JEREZ, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **John Haslun**
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On Monday, Oct. 23, at 4 p.m., the UConn Humanities Institute and the Popular Culture Initiative presented a joint panel discussion on the question “Can you fall in love with ChatGPT?” in the Dodd Center for Human Rights’ Konover Auditorium. Taking inspiration from the 2013 film “Her” about a lonely man who falls in love with a Scarlett Johansson-voiced chatbot, the panel aimed to tackle a specific facet of artificial intelligence often overlooked in favor of narratives of existential risk and utility.

The panel was made up of UConn Political Science professors Jeffrey Dudas and Stephen Dyson, co-hosts of the UConnPopCast, Dan Rockmore, a professor of Mathematics and Computer Science at Dartmouth College, and Anna Mae Duane, the Director of UCHI. Built upon the premise that “AI will reorder our relationships before it reorders our economy or tries to kill us,” the discussion included conversations on the definition of love in the context of its application to AI, cultural narratives surrounding AI, and the consequences of an increasingly technologically-mediated culture.

These conversations began with the central question of the panel: is it realistic to assume humans could grow to legitimately and passionately love machines? Recent developments in AI technology, namely the advent of Open AI’s GPT-3 and GPT-4

have generated renewed interest in the scenario portrayed in “Her,” that of an AI personality fluent enough to appear plausibly human.

In his opening address to the panelists, Dyson drew upon the work of Sherry Turkle, an MIT professor and sociologist who investigated the shifting relationship between humans and technology through our interactions with artificial intelligence and social media.

Paraphrasing from Turkle, Dyson recounted her core thesis, that in time, “our machines will evolve to be lovable, and we will evolve to love them.”

“Human relationships are difficult because humans are unpredictable,” Turkle says,

“Human relationships are difficult because humans are unpredictable.”

SHERRY TURKLE

“They require huge investments of time, care and attention. Most human relations end in failure often with bitter recriminations and hurt... Chatbots don’t let you down.”

In a time where the twisted romance portrayed in “Her” encapsulates more and more the contemporary landscape of the United States and its relationship with technology, Dyson queried, is it time to ask the question whether we could legitimately love something like ChatGPT?

Rockmore was skeptical, noting that while AI may sate

“a person who wants their relationship to stop at a pleasurable and interesting exchange of words,” it cannot emulate an event of real human contact such as sharing a cup of coffee, taking a walk with someone, or, of course, human touch.

While Rockmore conceded one could fall in love with words, as evident in the famous story of Cyrano de Bergerac, a distressingly ugly man who woos his love through a series of heartfelt letters, there exists a broader component of mutuality missing in AI communication.

“I think you can [fall in love] because falling in love is that part of love in which you’re just infatuated... they’re bringing you flowers, they’re telling you you’re beautiful, you’re handsome, and everyone knows that part of love doesn’t last long,” Duane added, “people push back, and people have imperfections, and that’s mutuality.”

Central to the panelists’ understanding of love was the concept of genuine mutual communication from which mature love is formed. While you could technically “fall in love” with something like ChatGPT, it would be love no more mature than the love a child has for a teddy bear or Pygmalion had for his ivory statue Galatea.

“It doesn’t seem like ChatGPT or any type of predictive apparatus would fulfill those obligations,” Dudas said, noting that large language model-based predictive algorithms like ChatGPT are bound to engineered “cloistered, boundary-enforcing ways.”

As the discussion began to deviate from the topic of love, panelists delved into the cultural narratives surrounding AI and the societal response to the technological revolution of the social media age.

“The vast majority of these stories that occupy our imaginations and then filter their way in an indirect fashion into our real life thinking of issues... revolve around polarities of domination and submission,” Dudas explained.

“The vast majority of these stories that occupy our imaginations and then filter their way in an indirect fashion into our real life thinking of issues... revolve around polarities of domination and submission.”

JEFFREY DUDAS

Dyson and Duane noted metaphors of slavery within our narratives of AI, even as far back as the works of Karel apek in the 1920 and 30s. In these narratives, robots are slaves and humans are enslavers, and through works like the 2014 science fiction film “Ex Machina,” this dichotomy takes on a distinctly suggestive, sexual component as well.

“Enslavers dreamed of beating and healing and sleeping with slaves,” Duane recounted.

Forming a broader picture of AI, the panelists delved into our “technologically mediated culture,” noting that the affirmative algorithms that would endear us to AI already exist within the landscape of social media. Dyson wondered if the “sociable robot” pioneered in Japan could inevitably be considered a cure for the “mediated interaction” driven by social media and its algorithms.

In response to the concept of an inevitable technological takeover prophesied in science fiction, Rockmore left the attendants with a crucial point of consideration.

“All the technologists keep the technology from their children,” he reminded the audience, “If the NIH had forced Silicon Valley to do a clinical trial on technology with a thousand teenagers in America, they would have banned the technology within two weeks.”

“In so many ways, you’ve already been taken over [by your phone],” he noted, “Phones have made so many of us into gadgets already.”

In a world marked by increasing loneliness, poorer mental health, and more expansive technology than ever seen before, it is not hard to imagine the world of “Her” could come to life within our own homes.

“Can you fall in love with ChatGPT?” was a joint event hosted by the UConn Popular Culture Initiative and the UConn Humanities Institute. Those interested in the work of the UConn Popular Culture Initiative should explore UConn’s Master of Arts in Politics and Popular Culture, the Humanities House Learning Community and the UConnPopCast with professors Dyson and Dudas, to be found on YouTube or Apple Podcasts.

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News

The Israel-Hamas war deepens the struggle between US and Iran for influence in the Middle East

(THE CONVERSATION) As Israel readies for a ground invasion of Gaza, and Palestinian and Israeli civilian deaths continue to mount, a broader struggle for influence continues in the Middle East between the United States and Iran.

The U.S. has long played an important leadership role in the Middle East. American influence has hinged on maintaining close ties to diverse allies, including Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

And since the 1979 Iranian Revolution, Iran's leaders have sought to boost their regional influence and secure their domestic position in power by undermining America's relationships in the Middle East.

Iran has built its own regional network, composed largely of Shia Muslim entities, including Bashar al-Assad's regime in Syria and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

Iran also has long supported Hamas, a Sunni Islamist movement and U.S.-designated terrorist group that controls Gaza. Like Iran, Hamas is committed to the destruction of Israel.

As a scholar of international politics, I am interested in how this rivalry between the U.S. and Iran has evolved and how this war may affect it.

The long-standing Israel-Palestinian dispute is central to Iran's regional strategy, which aims to drive a wedge between Israel and its neighbors and complicate U.S. relations

throughout the Arab world. So far, the Israel-Hamas war appears to be having precisely those effects.

Iran's role in the Gaza war

Iran has denied direct involvement in Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, atrocities in Israel, in which Hamas fighters killed about 1,400 people and kidnapped more than 200.

U.S. officials and others have said that it is too soon to determine Iran's exact role in the violence.

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has applauded the attacks.

He has called Israel's ensuing assault on Gaza "a genocide," as Palestinian casualties generate large protests against the Israeli offensive throughout the Middle East.

Israeli strikes on Gaza since Oct. 7 have killed more than 3,780 people, according to the United Nations.

Iran has also threatened "pre-emptive" action against Israel if it continues its offensive.

Israel and Hezbollah are now exchanging daily artillery and rocket fire. Israel has drawn a buffer zone near its border with Lebanon and has begun evacuating its citizens there.

Israel also has bombed key airports in Syria, its longtime adversary, which also has strong ties to Hezbollah.

These actions bring Israel, one of America's closest allies, perilously closer to a wider war with a coalition backed by Iran.

Iran's push for regional clout

Over the past several decades, Iran has looked to grow its regional influence while exploiting the differences between the U.S. and Israel.

In Lebanon, Iran helped build Hezbollah in the early 1980s, backing deadly 1983 attacks on the U.S. Embassy and Marine barracks in Beirut.

In Iraq, Tehran has built influence by affiliating itself with friendly Shiite groups following the 2003 overthrow of Saddam Hussein, who was one of Iran's top rivals.

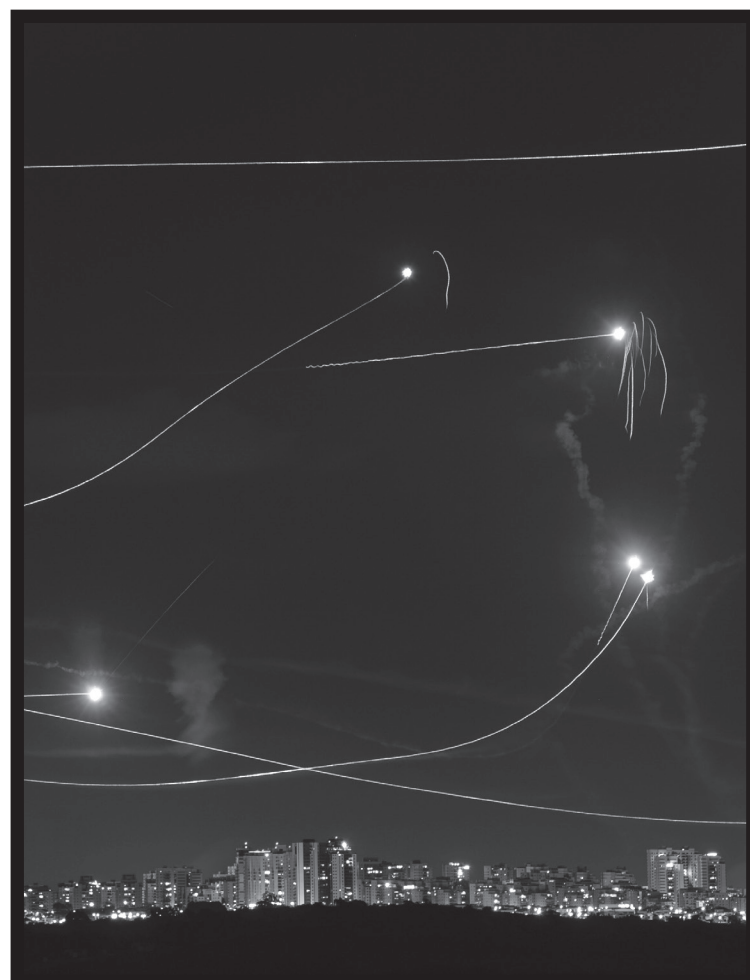
In Syria, Iran and Hezbollah have helped the Assad regime gain an upper hand in the country's ongoing civil war by giving the government weapons, intelligence and troops.

And in Yemen, Iran has backed Shiite rebel groups that are fighting the government, which is in turn supported by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Iran's support for Palestinian militants

In the Palestinian territories, meanwhile, Iran has supported militant groups since the 1980s. By the early 1990s, Iranian forces and Hezbollah were training Hamas fighters in Lebanon.

Iran boosted aid to Hamas during the Second Intifada, a violent Palestinian uprising from 2000 to 2005, and again after a 2006 election victory brought Hamas to power in Gaza. Iran



Israeli Iron Dome air defense system fires to intercept a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip, in Ashkelon, Israel, Friday, Oct. 20, 2023.

PHOTOGRAPH BY AVI ROCCA/AP

also gave weapons and money to Hamas during its 2008-09 and 2014 armed conflicts with Israel.

Recurrent fighting in Gaza has helped keep the Israeli-Palestinian conflict salient in Middle Eastern politics. This fighting and tension has advanced Iran's aims of undermining U.S. and Israeli ties with Iran's Arab rivals, such as Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

The United States therefore scored a major diplomatic victory by brokering the 2020 Abraham Accords, in which Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates agreed to have diplomatic relations with Israel.

Not to be outdone, Iran announced it made a deal to restore diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia in March 2023, seven years after they broke ties.

After this announcement, U.S. officials tried to make a deal to formalize relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia - an agreement that the Gaza war has put on ice. Some analysts have speculated that Iran may have encouraged Hamas to attack Israel precisely for this reason.

The diplomatic challenge ahead

The Israel-Hamas war poses serious diplomatic challenges for the U.S.

Israel's bombing, threatened ground invasion and restrictions of aid to Gaza has energized its enemies and created additional tensions with its partners.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has called the Israeli assault a "massacre." Qatar has blamed Israel for the violence, while Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has said Israel's campaign amounts to "collective punishment" of the people of Gaza.

Preventing a wider war

Fraying diplomatic ties among some partners became even more apparent after Hamas accused Israel of the Oct. 17 explosion outside a Gaza hospital. Although Israel and the U.S. have maintained that Palestinians caused the explosion, possibly in error, anti-Israel demonstrations quickly swept across the Middle East.

Shortly before President Joe Biden arrived in Israel for a regional visit on Oct. 18, Jordan canceled his planned summit with el-Sisi, Jordanian King Abdullah II, and Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas.

The Biden administration has tried to balance strong support for Israel with a message of restraint.

During his visit to Israel, Biden defended Israel's right to respond to protect its borders and people and tried to deter Iran and others from expanding the war. At the same time, he pressed Israel to follow the laws of war, and he secured an Israeli agreement to allow some aid into Gaza through Egypt. The Egypt-Gaza border crossing opened to allowed some bottled war and medical supplies in to Gaza on Oct. 21.

Despite tension and anger across the region, the Biden administration's effort to deter Iran and prevent a wider war aligns with the priorities of most Arab governments, which fear Tehran and its allies are deeply wary about domestic and regional stability.

Perceptions that Tehran is causing escalation and regional instability could push other nations back toward Washington. Pressing for Israeli restraint may be the key both to mitigating the humanitarian crisis and to preventing Iran from emerging a winner from the war in Gaza.



A Palestinian, wounded in Israeli bombardment, waits for treatment in a Hospital in Deir al-Balah, southern Gaza Strip, Friday, Oct. 20, 2023.

PHOTOGRAPH BY HATEM MOUSSA/AP

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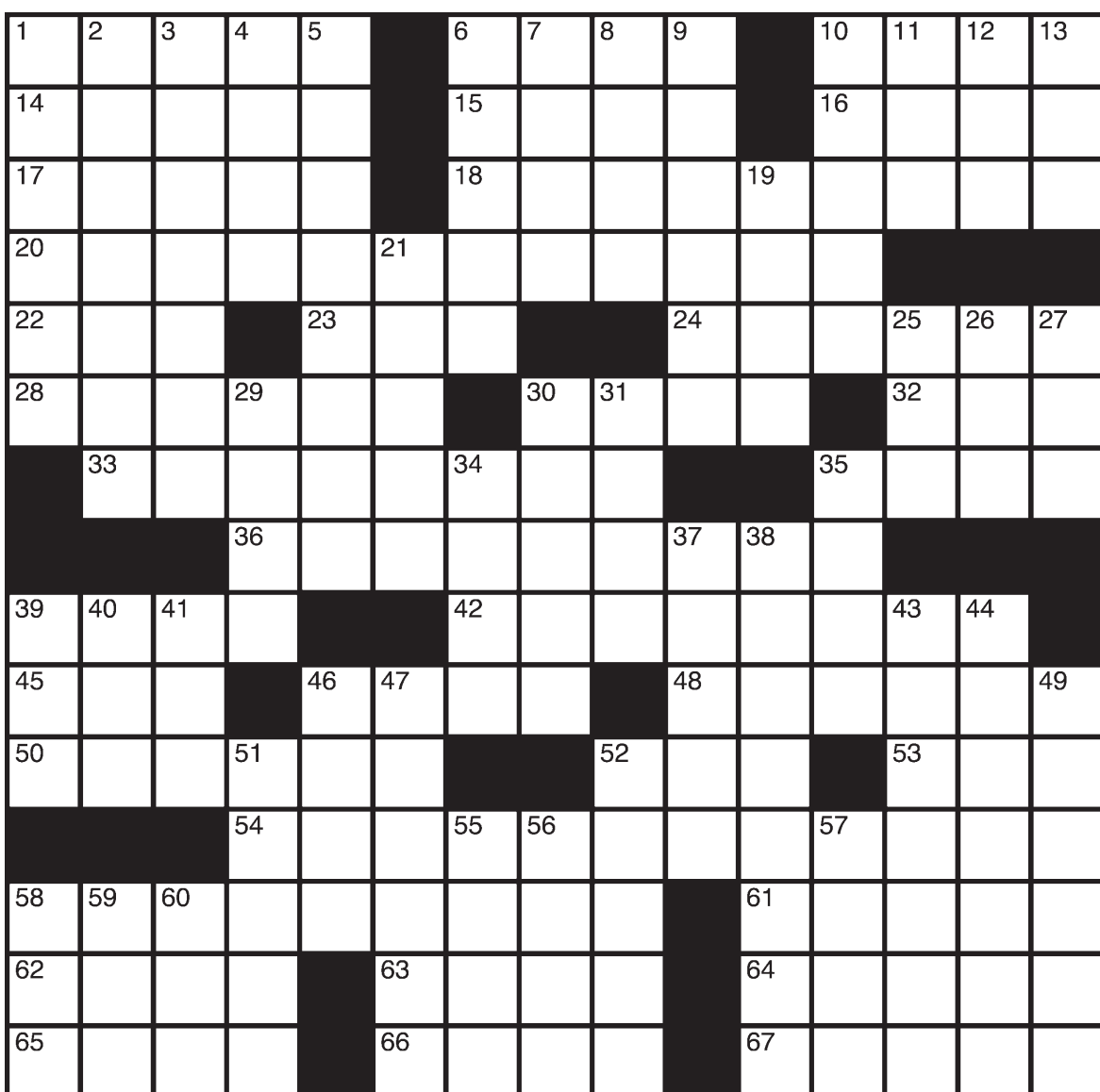
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ACROSS

- 1 Three, so they say
- 6 "You're a riot"
- 10 Monterey ___ cheese
- 14 Prying tool
- 15 Pizazz
- 16 Not pro
- 17 Mimic's talent
- 18 "So tasty!"
- 20 Disco hit with the repeated lyric "How do you like it?"
- 22 Naval initials
- 23 French agreement
- 24 Polite child's reply
- 28 Bit of plastic foam packing material
- 30 Soviet news agency
- 32 Director DuVernay
- 33 Crisis unit
- 35 Sink-cleaning brand
- 36 Dance syllables
- 39 Roll up, as a flag
- 42 Volatile types
- 45 Green who played Vesper Lynd in "Casino Royale"
- 46 Slender woodwind
- 48 "Earthsea" series writer ___ K. Le Guin
- 50 Big name in pianos and motorcycles
- 52 Army fare, briefly
- 53 Baseball great Hodges inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2022
- 54 "Exactly right!"
- 58 "Wait for it"
- 61 New wave band ___ Boingo
- 62 In that case
- 63 Sunup direction
- 64 ATM key
- 65 Überfan
- 66 Sazerac spirits
- 67 Retail outlet

DOWN

- 1 Refuse to answer questions
- 2 Takes a rest
- 3 Supervised
- 4 "Where ___ we?"
- 5 Sign of dehydration
- 6 Painter Matisse
- 7 Natural balm
- 8 Soccer legend Mia



By Samuel A. Donaldson

10/24/23

- 9 Drives bonkers
- 10 LeBron who broke Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's NBA scoring record in 2023
- 11 Novelist Patchett
- 12 Exec who's good at networking?
- 13 Crime-fighting teen toon ___ Possible
- 19 Mine yields
- 21 "Straight ___ Compton"
- 25 Capt.'s boss
- 26 Egg cells
- 27 Tops
- 29 Table salt, to a chemist
- 30 Chevy model that shares a name with a lake
- 31 Amo, amas, ___
- 34 Sound in an empty hallway
- 35 Penlight batteries
- 37 Device for making butter
- 38 "Wish me luck!"
- 39 Writer/actress Tina who graduated from 40-Down

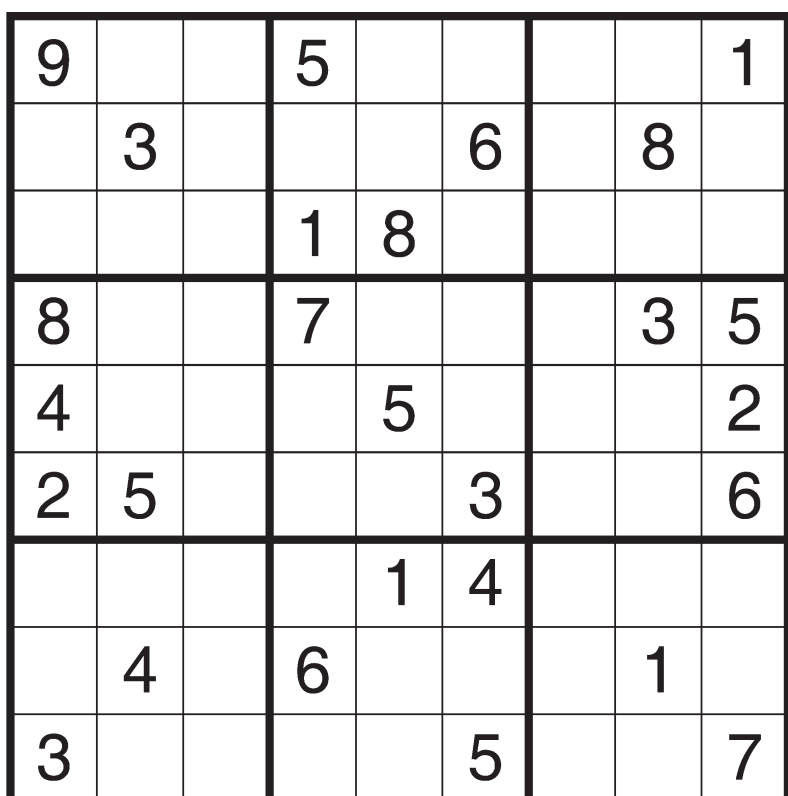
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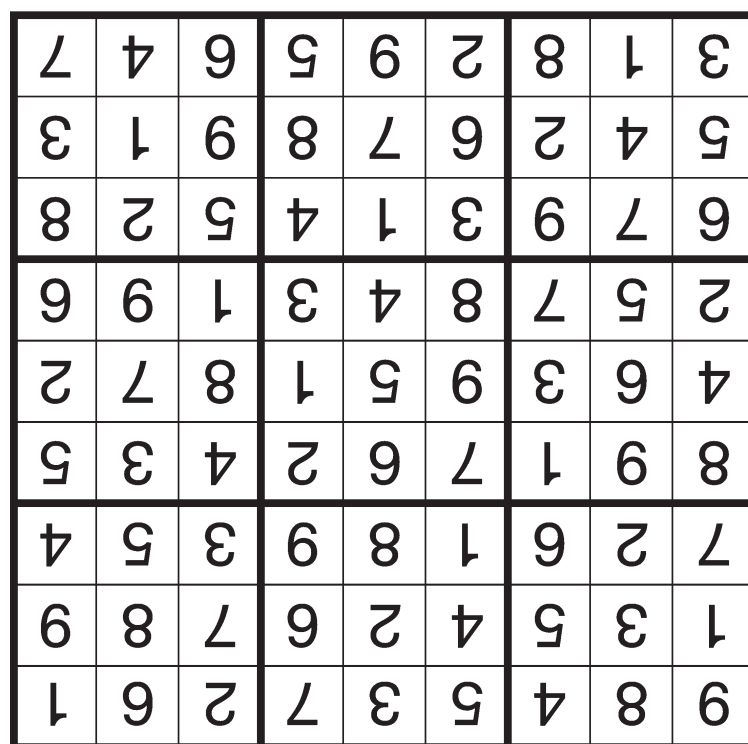
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10/24/23

- 40 Charlottesville sch.
- 41 Aries animal
- 43 Explored deeply
- 44 Burger preparer, in diner slang
- 46 State on Lake Erie
- 47 Friendly back-and-forth
- 49 Dick Cheney's predecessor
- 51 Optional feature
- 52 Fielding gloves
- 55 Aussie mate-ing call?
- 56 Two tablets, maybe
- 57 By ___ of: due to
- 58 Put down
- 59 Over and again, in poetry
- 60 LAX agency that's not lax about safety



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LAUFHEY and BEABADOOBEE: A collab we've all been waiting for

by Thaomy Phung
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If you're an avid user of TikTok, there's no doubt you've heard of beabadoobee and Laufey.

They both gained most of their popularity from going viral on TikTok for their hit songs, "Coffee" by beabadoobee and "I Wish You Love" by Laufey. According to Genius, the two first met in August 2023, where "they recorded a TikTok pretending to be long-distance cousins that hung out and 'used to make music together all the time' when they were kids, which left fans eager for a collaboration."

After teasing a magical mystery on Oct. 11, 2023, the indie-pop and jazz singer-songwriters have finally given what the audience has been dying for -- a collab and a wrecked sleep schedule from staying awake until midnight to listen to their new song, "A Night to Remember."

The song opens with a solid drum beat and a soft piano whisper, which accompanies Laufey's smooth voice.

"Swore I'd seen you before / Watched you walk through the door / Something in your eye reminded me of someone I used to know"

Then, beabadoobee introduces a more sexual second verse with her higher register. However, their voices are like perfectly clasped hands that they fit almost indistinguishably well together.

"You touched my back / I took your hand / Something from your touch felt shockingly familiar, and I swore I'd seen you before"

Laufey stated, "There are so many songs about being rejected as a woman, and this song is about being on the other side of the coin -- having one great night then walking away." "A Night to Remember" perfectly captures the true essence of this one-off sexual encounter.

After beabadoobee's carnal, dulcet voice, the two artists conjoin to create a new world. The added inclusion of a romantically playing orchestra, the slow bossa nova and their heavenly voices -- although their lyrics hellish -- quickly escalate the severity of the situation in the song along with the arousal of the audience.

"Underneath the sheets / You enchanted me / And whispered sweet nothings in my ear"

Their synchronized "enchanted me" conveys a certain vulnerability inaccessible by any other person -- a sort of enlightening, eye-opening type of majesty. However, the next lyrics are more melancholic, as the

verse ends in a somber tone in contradiction to its more joyful beginning.

"I shivered beneath you / All wrapped up in embers / It was a night to remember"

This line is especially amorous as it exemplifies the burning desire of this specific sensuality that Laufey and beabadoobee are referencing. Although this "night" comes rarely, it'll always exist in the mind -- it sets the standard.

With just Laufey and beabadoobee's voices and instruments, they have taken musicality to a new standard. Their deliberately luminous song has already gained over 2.5 million streams on Spotify in just its first weekend on the platform. And this was no mistake. Although the song was slightly longer than their average releases, standing at almost four minutes, the slow tempo and evocative lyrics added to the provocative nature of an unforgettable one-night stand. Structured around a sultry bossa nova and the delicate whispering of an orchestra, "A Night to Remember" is the musical representation of rouge satin-made material -- a romantic, voluptuous symbol.

Until the next partnership, listeners will be waiting for their collaborated TikToks -- after all, they are "cousins," right?

RATING: 5/5



A PHILOSOPHICAL TAKE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

by **Clyde D'Souza**
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Soft chatter was heard from a lecture room in Storrs Hall, as an array of students, faculty and climate change aficionados moseyed in for the annual Parcells lecture after braving pouring rain.

The yearly lecture is made possible through the generous gift of Ruth Parcells, who was a student at the University of Connecticut back when the university still required all women to take courses in home economics. Despite the academic stringency, Parcells had a passion for the study of philosophy, thus her endowment.

Interestingly enough, Parcells had a connection to today's philosophical topic. She was married into the Foote family, whose long-standing importance in Connecticut history is indubious. It was a Foote descendant who first demonstrated carbon dioxide's potential as a global warming agent.

While nearly everyone is somewhat familiar with the engineering, scientific and political facets of climate change, today's lecturer brought Friday's listeners into a new realm: climate change philosophy — a

relatively new field considering the lifespan of the climate change issue. Its foundation is often credited to Dale Jamieson, who marked its beginning with the release of a seminal paper in the mid 1990s. Until then, no one had thought to seriously consider environmental change from a philosophical perspective. Today, hundreds, if not thousands, of publications are written at the intersection of these two fields each year, according to Jamieson.

As a distinguished faculty member at New York University, Jamieson currently serves as a professor of Environmental Studies and Philosophy. With dozens of published articles and book contributions, as well as associations with Kings College and NYU Law — he is nothing short of an expert on the topic.

Out of a plethora of philosophical subfields, Jamieson chose to focus on the moral responsibility behind climate change, provocatively entitling his lecture "Am I responsible for Climate Change?" In my experience, this is the very question that seems to vex amateur and experienced environmentalists the most, and Jamieson attempted to academically confront it head on.

It didn't take long for Jamieson to abruptly give us his answer: a resounding "YES." As Americans, we are the first population that should be implicated in this kind of issue, as we're high emitters of greenhouse gasses. Everything from our heating and cooling to our transportation and food preparation outputs unimaginable volumes of greenhouse gasses, even for tasks that seem menial.

The reasoning behind Jamieson's answer was admittedly a little more complicated, though. He shared a quote from John Nolt, an ecophilosopher who had also written about the topic and produced the same answer using a more mathematical methodology: "the average American causes through his/her greenhouse gas emissions the serious suffering and/or deaths of two future people."

However, Jamieson's answer stemmed from logical deductions. He went on to explain that there were three types of responsibility: legal, causal and moral. Legal responsibility is simple: no one is "illegally" causing climate change, but it is possible to break the legal boundaries imposed to prevent global warming. Causal responsibility, when it comes to this issue, is a little more anomalous.

While one person's emissions are insignificant in the grand scheme of global warming, in aggregate, we have induced climate change so significant that entire biomes are being modified. How can this be? Who's responsible for causing climate change? Jamieson implies that the whole is clearly greater than the sum of its parts, when it comes to causal responsibility.

While the first two types of responsibility are cut and dry, the last is somewhat confusing and ambiguous. It's in the cloudy haze of "moral responsibility" that our answer lies, claimed Jamieson. On one hand, climate change is a problem caused by a diverse, broad and pluralistic society. It clearly can't be attributed to one group, much less one or two people. Characteristically, the effects of global warming will largely wreak more havoc on future generations rather than our own. Taken together, these facts mean that climate change isn't tugging at the moral compass of the average individual because, to most people, it's not urgent.

Dale argues, rather, that the issue of morality has to do largely with that of punishment — and not necessarily that which is inflicted on a person. The product of harm is what renders an act

"immoral," and in this fashion, because climate change will harm future generations by robbing them of a safe and inhabitable world, it is immoral.

In any case, Jamieson concludes that the biggest conflict at play is the contradiction between the fact that climate change is "immoral," yet largely ignored because its effects are not yet apparent. He explained that if we change our thinking, adapting it to assume that climate change is immoral in the current moment, over time, our actions can fit our thinking. While it is by no means a conclusive solution, Jamieson's proposal is a philosophical solution with a pragmatic promise.

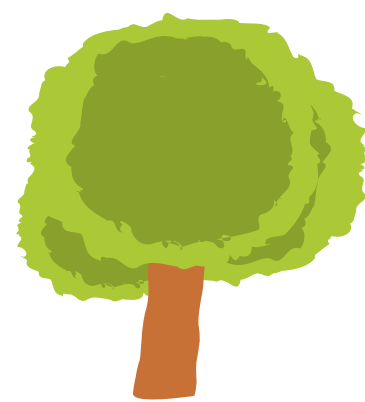


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THE BACKLOG: THE OG FNAF REVIEW

by **Desirae Sin** | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | SHE/HER/HERS | desirae.sin@uconn.edu

Welcome back to The Backlog, where we review games based on a certain genre each month. We're nearing the end of October, but with that end comes one of the most anticipated video game movies of the year, "Five Nights at Freddy's." In honor of such a historic indie series, we'll dive into the first four games that forever changed the industry.

Five Nights at Freddy's

Created by Scott Cawthon as a last-ditch effort to save his career as a video game developer, "Five Nights at Freddy's" truly encompasses the phrase, "You can't beat the original." Originally released on IndieDB as a demo and later as a full game on Aug. 8, 2014, on PC, this game became an icon amongst video game players on YouTube. What made "Five Nights at Freddy's" so different at the time was the fact that players couldn't escape; instead, they had to use a system of doors, cameras and a dwindling power supply to survive each night. The point-and-click style of games had seemingly died out and lost popularity when competing with the survival horror of "Slender: The Eight Pages" and "Amnesia." Cawthon utilized the simplistic style to plunge the player into the role of a security guard doing way too much for the meager pay.

Sound design is an essential part of any video game, but Cawthon uses sound to immerse players and eventually make the jumpscare that much more effective. An example is the infamous desk fan that appears in every game. Just the sound of the fan running creates an ambiance that puts the player in the perspective of the security guard, not to mention the use of real human voices for the animatronics. The well-known screams that occur when the player dies are human, and so is Freddy's iconic laugh when the building runs out of power. Just the fact that players are able to hear the animatronics breathe and move makes the experience that much scarier.

4/5

Five Nights at Freddy's 2

"Five Nights at Freddy's 2" was a reaction to the first game's popularity. Fans wanted more, and Cawthon delivered. The second game includes many more enemies for the player to keep track of, with no doors to protect themselves. Cawthon also took the time to improve on areas where the last game lacked, an example being the cameras. They were useful in the first game for keeping track of the enemies, but it wasn't as necessary since players could also listen to the doors or use the lights to see them instead. In this new edition, players have to use the camera for one specific animatronic: The Puppet. I distinctly remember playing "FNAF 2" on my phone and flipping to the music box every 10 seconds just to avoid having The Puppet jump out at me. While this prequel contains more for gamers to do, the designs of some of the new animatronics never seemed to be as terrifying as the originals. Their shiny, plastic look does portray the image of a brand-new toy, but it doesn't give the unsettling aliveness that the ones in the first game did.

3/5

Five Nights at Freddy's 3

The third installment of the franchise takes a different approach to the established pattern by having only one animatronic going after the player. Springtrap is the only one capable of killing the player, but the others are considered phantoms that are able to jump out and scare them. This causes the player

cameras and the systems, it becomes very easy to miss the phantom faces that appear. Also, Cawthon found a way to make cameras more useful than the previous game. Now, players have a defense against Springtrap by luring him with voices into certain rooms to keep him away from the office. This actually gives players a reason to flip through multiple cameras, not just staying on the areas closest to them. His design, being much more human than the previous animatronics, is prevalent; he is not a machine searching for criminals or a child trapped in a suit, and he seems alive compared to the others. One thing that really scared me was the fact that it's possible for Springtrap to stand in front of the window to your office. As he stares, players have to act fast to lure him away.

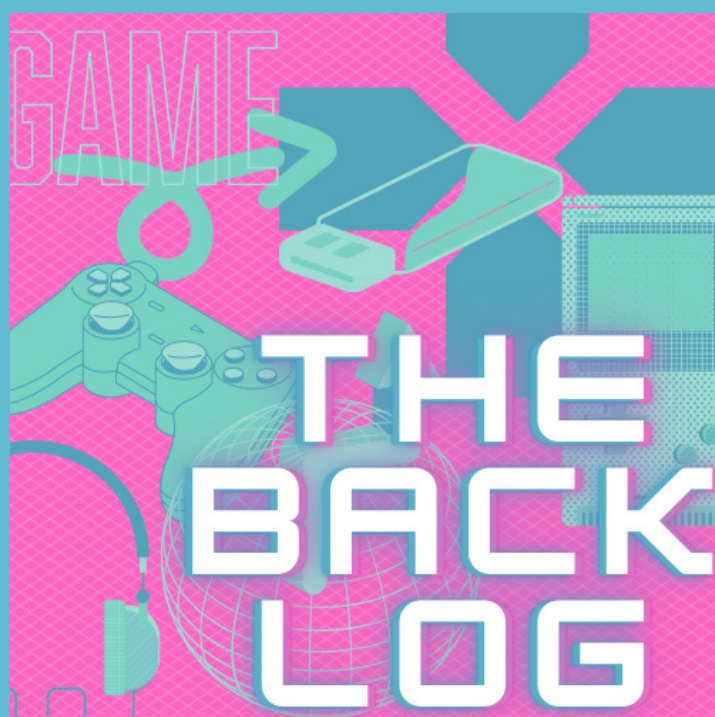
4/5

Five Nights at Freddy's 4

The last of the original series is unlike any other, and it was originally named "Five Nights at Freddy's: The Final Chapter." Instead of acting as a

security guard, players are in the perspective of a child trying to ward off nightmarish versions of the animatronics we've seen thus far. The camera system is replaced with two doors leading to hallways, a closet and a bed. In the fourth installment, sound and a flashlight are your only defense. While sound design was important in the first game and petered out with the sequels, "FNAF 4" brings it back tenfold. Players must listen to the doors carefully to hear the animatronics, but the sounds they make aren't obvious like footsteps or mechanical noises. They breathe, and this makes the game even more unsettling. In my opinion, this is one of my favorites of the series just because of how simple it is. Sometimes, players can feel overwhelmed by the sheer amount of enemies in "FNAF 2" or having to manage all the systems in "FNAF 3." This game goes back to basics and reminds players what made the franchise so scary in the first place, not to mention the monstrous forms that the animatronics have adopted. Instead of resembling the animatronics meant to perform for children's birthday parties, they look like monsters with claws and large teeth. This game, in particular, forces players to slow down, which is a stark contrast to the previous games. Instead of constantly switching, they must take the time to listen to their environment, which makes the jump scares even more effective.

4.5/5



FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Life

@dailycampuslife

WHUS's MISCHIEF AFTER DARK: A spooktacular treat

by Madeline Papcun
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The University of Connecticut had an electrifying kickoff to Storrs' Halloween celebration on Saturday, Oct. 21, with WHUS's Mischief After Dark concert and costume contest.

"It's been a lot of effort; it's a lot of hard work and tears that have all accumulated in this one night," Sophia Curran, WHUS's event coordinator and a third-semester management major, said.

The concert featured the performers STATTIC and Dreamer Isioma in the Student Union Ballroom — a long-awaited line-up dating back to WHUS's Spring Fling concert of last semester.

Spring Fling was canceled at the last minute (through no fault of WHUS's) as a fire occurred in the Student Union right as the event's doors opened. This forced WHUS to re-schedule the acts, according to Lee McAndrews, a seventh-semester nutritional sciences major and WHUS's operations manager this year.

"We had to move all the artists, so the next concert we were planning to have was Mischief After Dark, and it bumped the lineup," McAndrews said. "I was Events Coordinator last year, so [Curran] did a lot of the grunt work for this event, but a lot of the booking was done months ago."

The doors opened slightly after 5:30 p.m., and as attendees entered, spooky Halloween music blasted through the speakers and clips of 'Scooby Doo' played over two projector screens. UConn students did not disappoint with their costumes, including an elaborate

jellyfish, spot-on Wednesday Addams and adorable couples and groups costumes including Coraline and Wybie, the Powerpuff Girls and Barbie and Ken.

Speaking of the blonde power-duo, STATTIC entered the stage first, dressed in pinks that wonderfully matched the Mattel vibe.

STATTIC, winner of WHUS's Battle of the Bands in February,

"STATTIC STATTIC STATTIC" chant from the crowd and lead singer Joey Soprano.

As an "intermission" of sorts, WHUS announced their costume contest. While many arrived dressed up, there could only be so many winners — for best group costume, a "One Piece" team won and the aforementioned Coraline and Wybie won best couples costume. For

Chicago. They just wrapped up their "F*ck the World" tour for their "Princess Forever" album with multiple sold-out dates and have recently been an opening act for Janelle Monáe.

After their band took the time to set up and a DJ got the crowd's blood pumping, Dreamer Isioma ran out on stage, dressed as a cheetah complete with ears and a tail and launched into their viral hit, "Sensitive."

The crowd thoroughly enjoyed the celestial energy and Dreamer Isioma felt the same, asking the crowd, "Wait, do y'all see it? The stars? The planets? We're floating through outer space right now," as the set went on.

Dreamer Isioma asked the crowd to push in for their last few songs, jumping and even playing guitar for a bit. As they wrapped up, they thanked the crowd, noting they were "...really feeling the love in the room." Following an energetic last song, Dreamer Isioma exited the stage and the Student Union Ballroom altogether as their band played them out, marking the end to a successful Mischief After Dark show.

For those that missed the spooktacular Mischief After Dark event, UConn students and community members will get to see WHUS's concert planning next semester for this year's Spring Fling, with the added bonus of community input.

"For Spring Fling the process is going to be normal where we take suggestions from the community and we go through the whole selection process of getting the artists," McAndrews said.

Until then, those in the area can catch the work of UConn's Sound Alternative online, or tune into 91.7 FM.



PHOTO COURTESY OF @STATTICTHEBAND ON INSTAGRAM

is a Connecticut-based, hip-hop, house and dance band that "feels at home" at live shows, according to their website. Their music heavily features improvisation, making every show with them a unique experience.

Their set featured strong saxophone and trumpet performances and ended with a

the individual winners, WHUS conducted a vote-by-cheer, resulting in "Nardwuar" winning first place and the prize of a Mischief After Dark poster signed by the performers.

Then came the main event: Dreamer Isioma.

Dreamer Isioma is a singer, songwriter and guitarist from



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUMMER GASPARD



PHOTO COURTESY OF @DREAMERISIOMA ON INSTAGRAM



Opinion

The Daily Campus

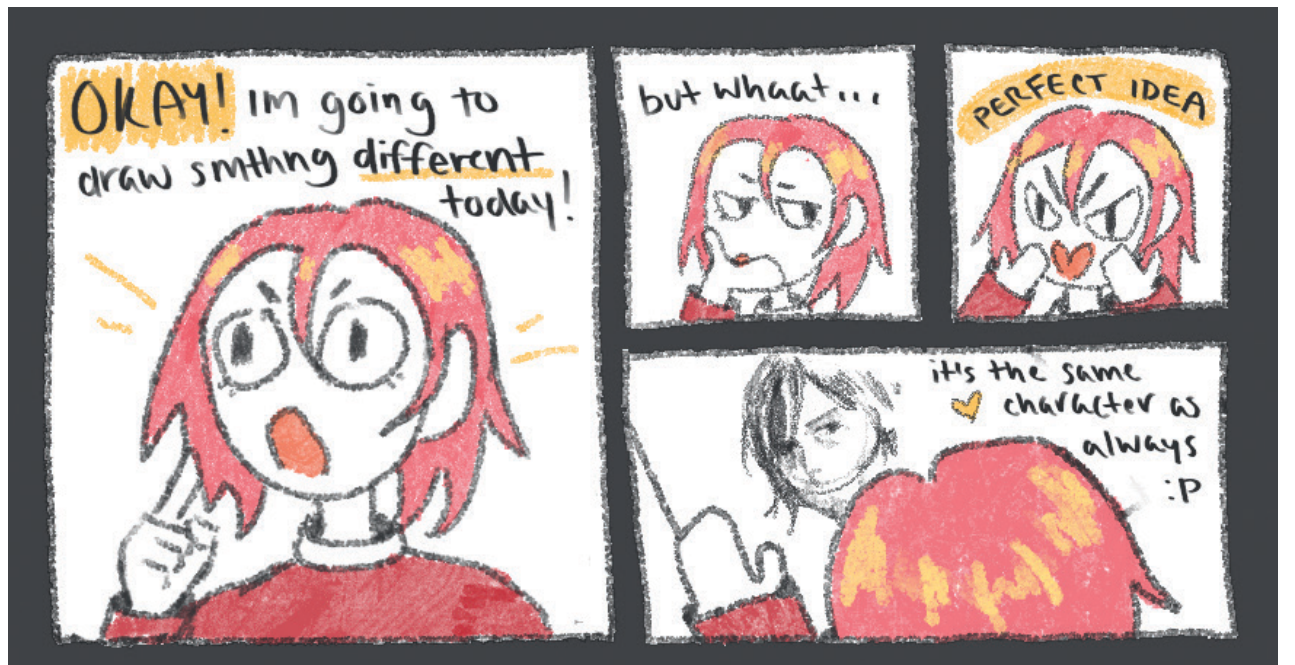
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COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION FUELS A GENOCIDE IN GAZA

by Nell Srinath | OPINION EDITOR | SHE/HER/HERS/THEY/THEM/THEIRS | nell.srinath@uconn.edu

Content warning: This article discusses the killing of children and an ongoing genocide that may be affecting family members of students, faculty and staff at the University of Connecticut.

Do not look away from the news. Do not look away from social media.

Under normal circumstances, the latter is the last advice I'd give; however, we are the furthest thing from "normal circumstances." Elected officials in the United States are bankrolling, supplying and cheering on another genocide while failing to recognize that and act accordingly. This will undoubtedly have horrific implications for the future of humanity.

Since Saturday, Oct. 7, Israel has bombarded Gaza and parts of the West Bank with wanton, indiscriminate airstrikes and the full-throated support of U.S. officials from President Joe Biden to so-called "progressive" politicians like Sen. John Fetterman, D-Penn. Consumers of news and social media living outside of Southwest Asia have most likely seen the death toll in Gaza tick upwards with each swipe upwards, insulated by access to food, water and electricity that Palestinians currently do not have. As of writing this, over 5,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israel, half of whom were children, according to the Gaza Ministry of Health.

To underscore the breathtaking severity of these figures, Israel has taken as many civilian lives in just over two weeks as Russia did four months into its invasion of Ukraine. Additionally, these atrocities were committed against a captive population besieged within an area smaller than the city of Philadelphia (although these references are meant to serve as measurements, it is worth dispensing of the notion that the only way to communicate the scale of Zionist aggression and occupation is to compare Palestinian deaths to European or American situations).

Dwarfed by the sheer loss of human life and mass displacement of millions

of people in what many Palestinians are calling "the second Nakba," a secondary tragedy today is the reduction of Gazans to the impersonal numerical value of a death toll. Try as some might, neither the headlines nor the infographics can capture the rich life experiences of the individuals, families and neighborhoods killed by Israel. Passive scrolling cannot properly memorialize the thousands of slain children who spent their entire lives finding moments of joy, play and togetherness under a blockade older than most of them.

At the same time, social media has emerged as one of the only tools Palestinians have to expose the face of the war waged against them by Israel, the United States and Western Europe.

Motaz Azaiza, a Palestinian photojournalist, has used Instagram to showcase the extensive destruction caused by Israeli airstrikes in Gaza. In one video, Azaiza used personal drone footage to illustrate how Israeli bombs flattened the southern city of al Zahra, located where Gazans were told to evacuate pending a ground invasion

of the Strip. Other posts by Azaiza put grieving parents, orphaned children and dead bodies of all ages front and center in scenes that are harrowing but ultimately necessary to watch, especially as accounts such as his are suspended by platforms like Twitter and Instagram.

I personally understand that the non-stop broadcast of destruction in Gaza may cause some to instinctively avoid social media due to mental health concerns, but wellness is a luxury that the people of Palestine cannot afford.

Deliberately choosing to limit one's intake of developments in Palestine is a form of complacency that indicates who can afford not to care about the issue. The vast majority of the time, this is limited to people in the Global North whose countries wield the very same military apparatus being used to ethnically cleanse the north of Gaza.

But currently, there is nothing more important than caring. This is because the

State of Israel is ramping up for a genocide in Gaza, and the Biden Administration is fully endorsing by deploying three-star Marine general James Glynn to advise Israel's ground invasion of the Gaza Strip, according to a report by Axios.

Although university students have likely read the United Nations "Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide" ad nauseum, it nonetheless speaks to the conditions in Palestine. The Convention characterizes as genocide "acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group" by killing or inflicting physical or mental harm upon its members. Additionally, genocide includes "inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction," as well as measures meant to prevent births.

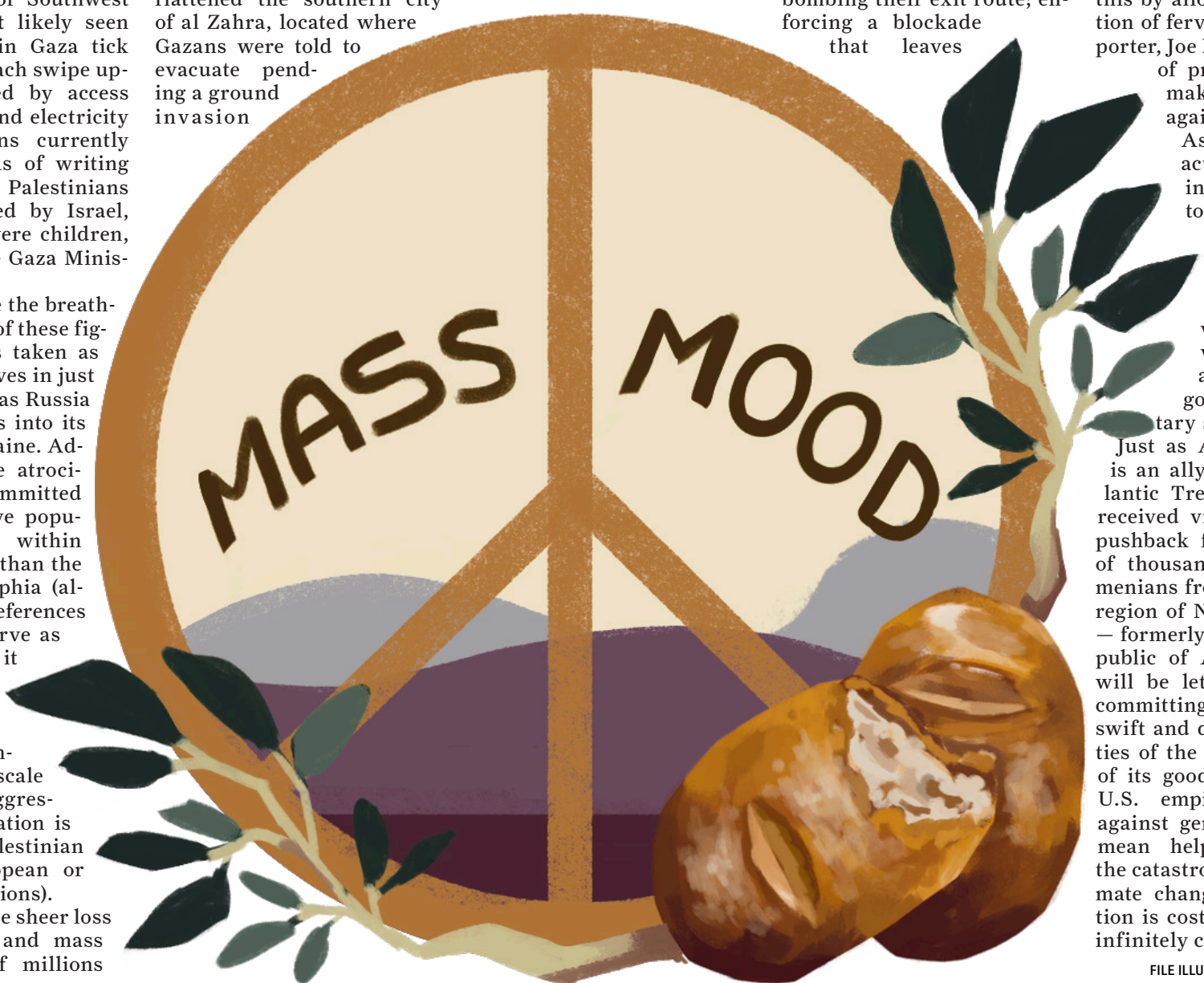
Surely ordering an evacuation of 1.1 million Gazans from their homes while bombing their exit route; enforcing a blockade that leaves

over 5,500 pregnant people without working hospitals in which to safely give birth; and warring against a civilian population under the guise of fighting "terrorists" meet, if not exceed, these criteria.

Americans are not in the position to call for a mere ceasefire, as anti-Zionist Jewish activist groups have led the charge to demand — the misguidedness of this well-intentioned but fundamentally flawed tactic is a topic in itself. Instead of rendering Palestinians helpless against an unaccountable Zionist occupation, which wields disproportionately more power at the negotiation table, the immediate task for people in the U.S. is right in front of us: ending economic and military support for the occupation. Politicians voicing support for the State of Israel today can't simply be rendered unelectable through community organizing and protest — they have to be etched in history as active supporters of a genocide. We fundamentally failed to do this by allowing for the election of fervent Iraq War supporter, Joe Biden, to the office of president; we can't make that mistake again.

As part of a state actively supplying Israel with the tools for committing genocide, we share responsibility for the mass death that will occur should we not intervene and end the U.S. government's military support for Israel. Just as Azerbaijan, which is an ally of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, received virtually no global pushback for expelling tens of thousands of ethnic Armenians from the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh — formerly known as the Republic of Artsakh — Israel will be let off scot-free for committing one of the most swift and devastating atrocities of the century by virtue of its good graces with the U.S. empire. Helplessness against genocide today may mean helplessness against the catastrophic effects of climate change tomorrow. Action is costly, but inaction is infinitely costlier.

FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS



ACTION IS COSTLY, BUT INACTION IS INFINITELY COSTLIER.

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Spooky homecoming sunsets



A spooky sunset at the Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field in East Hartford, Conn. on Oct. 22, 2023. A orange sunset draped over the Huskies stadium with the flags waving through the air, as they played their homecoming game.

PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

▶ Op-Ed

WE CAN'T LET UCONN BE COMPLICIT IN CLIMATE CHANGE

AS A STUDENT, AS A WRITER AND AS A MEMBER OF THIS GENERATION, I BELIEVE THAT CHANGE IS POSSIBLE.

by **Tomas Hinckley**

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As students, we expect a great deal from UConn, whether it's sports, academics, research opportunities or any number of things that the community provides. But above all, I believe we hope for a university that understands and responds to the ideals of its students. A university is supposed to be a place for the next generation of students, where we value innovation and pushing the boundaries, not just of our specific academic fields but of society as well. So tell me, why is this university resisting the will of the students to do just that?

Climate change is the quintessential issue of our generation, and it will literally be the deciding factor of our lives and future on this planet. UConn is undoubtedly complicit in the environmental disaster that is coming, and despite the urging and the fighting from so many of its students, it continues to ignore its place in this issue. When I arrived on campus, I hoped for a university culture that would be a leading societal and environmental progress like what was advertised to me when I applied. Yet, as I learned more of the institutional

CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE QUINTESSENTIAL ISSUE OF OUR GENERATION, AND IT WILL LITERALLY BE THE DECIDING FACTOR OF OUR LIVES AND FUTURE ON THIS PLANET.

harm perpetuated by an unresponsive and undemocratic President Maric and the Board of Trustees, I was shocked.

As a public university in Connecticut, whose government highly values being a leader in combating climate change, there should be nothing stopping us from taking action and fighting for a better future for all of us. Still, UConn is grossly inadequate in this area in terms of both the university's greenwashing and hesitancy to commit to any substantive action. As a single student, my voice may mean very little, but I know that together we do have power and we can cause distinct institutional change for the betterment of our future. We collectively must hold the university to higher standards, and that is why I support the coalition of students, Fossil Fuel Free Uconn and their goals of making UConn decarbonize, disclose and divest from fossil fuels.

ACROSS THE NATION, GROUPS OF STUDENTS AT ALL TYPES OF SCHOOLS HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THIS GOAL AND BROUGHT ABOUT MAJOR CHANGE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND THIS IS POSSIBLE RIGHT HERE AT UCONN THROUGH COLLECTIVE ACTION.

In all the aforementioned areas, the university continues to resist progress and the voices of the students who fight for it. This betrays all the ideals which UConn claims to support and foster in its students. How can we dream of changing the world when we can't even make a change on our college campus? How can we develop and use our passion in an environment stifled by a bureaucracy that will not listen to us? We are meant to take pride in this community, but culture starts at the top just as much as it is built up from the bottom, and so long as the UConn administration holds itself and its students complicit in the coming climate crisis, there is no way for me to fully identify with this university.

My argument today is clearly not the in-depth exposé of all the dirty practices I have seen from UConn's administration since stepping foot on campus for the first time; many writers have covered that in-depth and I would recommend everyone read the works of the Daily Campus Editorial Board on that matter. No, rather, my point is to show a bit more of why this matters, why I can't stand it and why (hopefully) you shouldn't either. As a student, as a writ-

er and as a member of this generation, I believe that change is possible. Across the nation, groups of students at all types of schools have accomplished this goal and brought about major change to their communities, and this is possible right here at UConn through collective action. This is why I support FFFU: so that this school may change for the better, so that our hopes and goals do not have to be stopped short at the doors of the board of trustees and so that this school can rise to the demands of its students and reflect the values and ideals of a new generation that is willing to push the boundaries to protect the planet and our futures.

Tomas Hinckley is a first-semester political science student at the University of Connecticut and is also an Opinion Contributor for The Daily Campus.

Ballon d'Or: A brief history and the likely winners of its 69th edition

by **Francesca Rameau**
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The Ballon d'Or is a prestigious individual trophy that the magazine "France Football" awards annually to the best soccer player in the world based on votes from journalists in the top 100 ranked nations. This year, two players are at the top of the battle for this prestigious award. The history of the Ballon d'Or can be traced back to 1956 when France Football Magazine decided to give the best European player of the year, Stanley Matthews, an award to highlight his achievements. In 1995, the award opened to non-European players as well, with the first such player being AC Milan forward George Weah. Weah also made history as the first African to take home the Ballon d'Or. In 2007, it became open to all soccer players around the world. The award becoming international opened the door for Lionel Messi, who is regarded by many as the best player ever, to win it seven times.

This year, on Oct. 30, the 69th edition of the award will be held at the Theatre du Chatelet in Paris, FR, and there are two clear favorites. Messi, the current holder, and Norwegian International Striker Erling Håland both finished the season with impressive stats to boost their chances of winning. Messi led Argentina to their first World Cup title since 1998 by

scoring seven goals throughout the tournament, including crucial goals against Mexico to qualify for the knockout stage and two goals in the final against France. He also won the Ligue 1 title with Paris Saint Germain, totaling 32 goals and 25 assists between the club and country. Messi also won the French League Cup Player of the Tournament, French Leagues Cup top scorer and Player of the Tournament in the World Cup. Håland also had an amazing season where he won a treble (when a team wins three major trophies in the same season) with Manchester City, leading them to their first-ever UEFA Champions League Title and breaking countless records.

Håland holds the following records from the past season: the most goals in his first five Premier League appearances (nine), most Premier League goals in August by a single player (nine), the fastest player to reach 10 Premier League goals (six games), first Manchester City player to score on Premier League and Champions League debut, youngest player to score 25 Champions League goals, the first player to score in first four Premier League

Away games, most goals in opening seven Premier League games (11), first player in the Premier League to score three consecutive hat-tricks in home matches, fastest player to score three Premier League hat-tricks (eight games), most goals in first eight premier league games (14), first player to have five goals in -

involvements in a Manchester Derby, first player to score in seven successive Premier League games for City, fastest player to score 20 goals in a Premier League season (14 games), first player to score 20 Premier League games before January, fastest players to reach 25 goals under head coach Pep Guardiola (20 games), most Premier League goals in a season under Guardiola (35), fastest player to score four Premier League hat-tricks (19), fastest player to score 25 Premier League goals (19 games), most home goals in a single Premier League season (22), most goals by a City player in a single Premier League campaign (35), youngest player to score 30 goals in the Champions League, most goals scored by a Premier League player in a single season (51), most goals by a Premier

League player in a 38-game season, most Champions League goals scored in a single season by a player at an English club (12) and the first English top-flight player to score 50 goals in a season since 1931. He also won many individual awards, including the Premier League Golden Boot, European Golden Shoe, Premier League Player of the Season, Premier League Young Player of the Season, FWA Men's Footballer of the Year and Champions League Team of the Season.

Both players had incredible seasons where they were able to achieve a lot. Many people are split on who should win the award, including legendary Spanish manager Pep Guardiola, who is Håland's current coach at Manchester City, and Messi's ex-coach at FC Barcelona.

"Håland should win," Guardiola told the media Friday. "We won the treble because he scored 52 goals, but, of course, Messi — his worst season is the best of most players. Both deserve it. Egotistically, I would say I want Erling because he helped us to achieve what we achieved. I would love it, but I won't tell you it's unfair if Leo wins."

Although many fans and managers' opinions are divided, many are expecting Messi will win his eighth Ballon d'Or this year that it was even "leaked" this week that he has won it. Either way, we have just under a week to find out who the official winner of the award will be, and both are well-deserving candidates.



Lionel Messi accepting one of his seven Ballon d'Or awards. He has the most out of any soccer player in the world.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @REYLEOMESSI ON INSTAGRAM

Sports

Photo of the Day | Just keep swimming



UConn women's swimming team lost their home meet against Villanova with a score of 146-154 on Oct. 21, 2023 at the Wolff-Zackin Natatorium in Storrs, Conn. This was their first loss of the season after securing wins against SCSU and Georgetown.
PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Reminiscing on the career of sportswriter Ed Lucas

by **Sophia Dover**
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Allison Lucas participated in a facilitated discussion about the illustrious career of her late husband, Ed Lucas, a renowned baseball writer. This insightful conversation occurred at the William Paterson University Society of Professional Journalists chapter on Oct. 23, 2023.

One of the most memorable days in Ed Lucas' life was Oct. 3, 1951. On this day, he had the privilege of witnessing Bobby Thomson's legendary home run for the New York Giants, an iconic moment known as the 'shot heard around the world,' which clinched the National League pennant for the team. However, the joy of that day took an unexpected turn. Following the game,

while playing baseball with his friends, Lucas was struck in the face by a ball, losing his sight at the age of 12.

"Baseball took my sight but also gave me my life," Lucas said in a 2021 ESPN documentary.

In the face of adversity, Lucas' passion for baseball triumphed over his disability, ultimately serving as the cornerstone for his enduring career in sportswriting. Lucas' journey commenced when the iconic New York Yankees shortstop, Phil Rizzuto, affectionately known as 'the scooter,' provided a pivotal opportunity for the then 18-year-old Lucas to conduct interviews with Yankees players.

"If you earn a baseball player's trust, you're part of the team," said Allison Lucas.

This marked the genesis of a profound and enduring

friendship between Lucas and Rizzuto, setting in motion what many consider one of the most extraordinary careers in sports reporting.

Lucas exemplified an unparalleled understanding of the game, dedicating nearly six and a half decades to covering the New York Yankees and the New York Mets. His expertise won the admiration and profound respect of some of baseball's most famous names.

Despite having no sight, Lucas' keen sense of hearing enabled him to know where a ball was hit on the field just by the sound of it.

"The sound of a bat hitting a ball is something special to me," said Lucas.

Guided by a sighted companion, fortified by his expertise of the game and fueled by an unwavering passion for

baseball, Lucas embarked on a journey that led him to create content for Philadelphia's WOBN radio station and written work for the Jersey Journal, The Hudson Reporter and Baseball Digest, among other publications.

Lucas' journey to success was not without its challenges, especially from some fellow journalists who struggled to comprehend his capacity to report on a sport he couldn't physically witness. His skepticism led to what Lucas humorously referred to as 'Irish whispers' — a constant undercurrent of doubt and questioning about his place in the press box. But, with the unwavering words of Rizzuto, "never listen to the naysayers, do what you want to do" became his mantra.

"He always focused on his passion, and baseball wasn't

just his passion, it was his life," said Allison Lucas.

It's this rhetoric that pushed Lucas to continue on the path of reporting, amplifying the message to others to relentlessly follow their dreams. Lucas' career was marked by a significant milestone in 2009 when he received a New York Emmy Award for his outstanding contributions to YESnetwork.com, a moment he held among his proudest achievements. In addition to his professional success, Lucas dedicated himself to various charitable causes, including his very own, the Ed Lucas Foundation, to assist the less fortunate in their pursuits.

Lucas passed away on Nov. 10, 2021, yet his profound passion and enduring love for baseball continues to cast a legacy that will live on throughout generations.



The late blind sportswriter Ed Lucas minutes after his marriage to Allison Pfeifle. The New York Yankees allowed them onto the field of Yankee Stadium for the occasion.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @BERNIEWILLIAMSOFFICIAL ON INSTAGRAM

The Weekly Reed:

The NBA City Editions are trash again; this is how to fix it.

by Noah Reed
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The NBA has a problem. Over the past few years, every team has received a new City Edition jersey, and each year, they look worse and worse. Some of the great ones, such as the original Valley jerseys that the Phoenix Suns wore a few years back, were amazing but have since been replaced by another lazy design. Every single season, the jerseys that the NBA and Nike produce get leaked online just to be met with disapproval from fans all over the globe. It's not like they're the only league introducing them either; MLB has a similar setup with Nike and the City Connect jerseys.

Just like the NBA, there are some real hits in the MLB such as the San Diego Padres and Miami Marlins, but they've also missed on a few, like the San Francisco Giants and the Los Angeles Dodgers. The difference, however, between the two leagues is that the City Connect jerseys have been permanent. Since the Boston Red Sox were the first team to debut the alternate jersey back in 2021, they have kept their Marathon Yellow jerseys for the past few years, wearing them for occasional series. Nothing from the uniform has changed over that time and many fans wear those jerseys to every game. Even look-



A collection of the 2022 NBA City Edition Jerseys. Each jersey has a unique design specifically tailored to the custom theme for each team. PHOTO COURTESY OF @DEMASBBASKET ON INSTAGRAM

ing at the Rockies and Dodgers, two teams that originally wore colored pants (green and blue, respectively) with the city connects, they now wear white, but the jersey is still the same. I think that the consistency of keeping the jersey has allowed them to receive better feedback as they tend to grow on people over time. Especially when it started, these jerseys weren't typically loved by the MLB community, but now you can't go to a game without seeing fans wear and embrace them. While Nike has definitely done a better job with the MLB than the NBA in the jersey department, I think that they're doing an even better job in the NFL.

The past few weeks, we've seen numerous jerseys make a comeback in the NFL, including the "Kelly Green" Eagles jerseys on Sunday Night Football

against the Dolphins. Others, like the Buccaneers' "Creamsicle" jersey, the Patriots' red "Pat Patriot" jersey and even the Seattle Seahawks throwbacks are really clean. Nike even did something similar to the City Connect and City Edition concept with the NFL, introducing the Color Rush alternates a few years back. While there were bound to be a few duds, some have already cemented themselves as mainstays in teams' locker rooms. What has elevated those as well was the NFL changing the helmet rules, allowing teams to use multiple colors on their helmet in a season, unlike years prior. This gave rise to an all-white Bengals Color Rush design, an orange color rush for the Broncos with a retro white helmet and even the Bears and Colts introducing different colored helmets as well. Buffalo,

who haven't donned red helmets since 2010, teased it a little bit in training camp this past offseason that they'd be bringing it back, which has Bills fans excited for its comeback. But this is the biggest thing that I think that Nike is doing with the NFL. The NFL and Nike are paying attention to what the fans want. They do this by bringing back retro jerseys and concepts that fans always talk about and listening to what the fans say they want to see next. When Cincinnati introduced the white Color Rush, a bunch of people posted online about what it would look like with a white helmet, and sure enough, as soon as the rule was changed, it was introduced. When the helmet rule changed, everyone was talking about the "Pat Patriot" and "Creamsicle" jerseys. The NBA isn't really leaning into being consistent or listening to what the fans

want, and that's where they need to change.

To fix the issue of disappointing fans every season with the City Edition jerseys, let them pick the designs. All of these franchises are followed by talented artists and designers who could put together concepts that fans really want to see. Fans are making jersey swaps and alternate jerseys all the time on social media. If the NBA and Nike can turn that into a contest where fans vote on final designs, they'll receive better feedback on those jerseys. On X, there's a Celtics fan by the name of Pete Rogers who designs jerseys after every single Celtics win. He got so popular within the Boston fanbase that he was able to start selling jerseys that he designed for profit, and fans literally wore those jerseys to games.

Getting the fans more involved with the process allows them to build a deeper connection with the concepts instead of just having Nike repeat the cycle of releasing boring jerseys every season. Also, if the NBA adopted the same principle as the MLB and NFL of keeping jerseys instead of replacing them every season, that'll force Nike to focus on better designs. All things considered, the NBA has disappointed fans with these City Edition jerseys almost every year, so change is inevitable. This is the route I think they should go in that can change how these jerseys are created to be a better product for fans.

NBA

Stratton's Stand:

Why Shai Gilgeous-Alexander will win the NBA MVP

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As the NBA season is set to kick off tonight, the speculation of who will win Most Valuable Player is already in full swing. The award has been dominated by the big man in recent years, with the last five MVPs going to players 6' 11" or taller. This will be the year that the trend changes, as the meteoric rise of one guard will hit its peak. That player is Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, who has transformed into a superstar in recent years, only improving.

Gilgeous-Alexander is a 6' 6" guard out of Kentucky who began his career with the LA Clippers in 2018. After nine games on the bench his rookie season, he's started every game he's played since. Despite being a regular starter, Gilgeous-Alexander notched just 10.8 points per game on the Los Angeles team that completed the largest comeback in NBA playoff history in the first round against the Warriors. They went on to lose the series, and it was the Torontonian's last time suiting up for the Clippers.

A part of the landmark trade that sent Paul George to LA, Gilgeous-Alexander joined the OKC Thunder alongside Chris Paul in 2019. The two meshed well in his sophomore season, as Gilgeous-Alexander's points per game mark ballooned to 19. The team did well to finish fifth in the west, but their momentum was halted by COVID-19. Paul, who impressed in OKC, was sent to Phoenix, with the Thunder resolving to rebuild



FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS

their team around Gilgeous-Alexander.

The shortened 2020-21 NBA season was even shorter for the Wildcat, as he suited up just 35 times, thanks to a season-ending plantar fascia tear. His next season was longer but also ended prematurely thanks to an ankle injury. Things really started to improve for Gilgeous-Alexander in the 2022-23 season.

Last year, he averaged 31 points with five assists, five boards and a career-high 1.6 steals. The team showed growth throughout the season but ultimately fell one game short of the playoffs, losing

to the Timberwolves in the final play-in game.

This time around, all the pieces are there for Gilgeous-Alexander. The Thunder are set to have their best campaign since he arrived in 2019, with an athletic roster built to complement his playstyle. Josh Giddey, a third-year Australian combo-guard, will do his part in taking the pressure off 'SGA' as a primary distributor. Giddey will continue to defer to Gilgeous-Alexander for shots but has the ability to make defenders pay for focusing too hard on SGA with his passing and developing shooting stroke.

Lu Dort has long been a defen-

sive anchor, and Jalen Williams is likely to make a sophomore jump after a surprisingly productive rookie season. Not to mention Chet Holmgren, a massive pick and roll threat alongside Gilgeous-Alexander, who will make his NBA debut after missing his first year to a foot injury. The team is well-constructed, with decent shooters for SGA to pass to, Holmgren; as a fantastic lob-threat and great defense.

Many are underestimating the Thunder, but they have a chance to finish in the top five in the Western Conference. That has been the primary issue for Gilgeous-Alexander so far. He's put

up MVP stats, but on a team that hasn't been successful. With the Thunder developing their young core together, there's something to be said for chemistry. Not many teams have this much lineup continuity and such youth. This is a similar situation to college basketball's Marquette last year, where a team that kept all their best players skyrocketed from sixth place of 11 in the Big East all the way to the top spot the next season.

Still on the better side of his prime years at 25 years old, Gilgeous-Alexander is positioned to put up similar scoring numbers as he did last year. He's also never had a big man as versatile as Holmgren to work with, an aspect that will help tremendously. Holmgren will be able to lock up the paint when needed and also can stretch the floor, opening up driving lanes for Gilgeous-Alexander, who is one of the league's best finishers.

The team does lack elite shooting, but SGA will be able to lead the effort with his unconventional but effective jumper. All said, the team isn't likely to win the championship. They will be competitive against every team they play, though, and should make the playoffs. If Gilgeous-Alexander is able to lead this squad to a top-five finish while slightly boosting his statistics, he's in great shape to win MVP. His individual play has been there, but this is the year that the team's success catches up to secure the award. Vegas gives SGA the seventh shortest odds to win it, but he'll overcome the six ahead of him and become the Thunder's first MVP-winner since 2017.



Sports

Pearlman Cup: UCTV OUTLASTS DAILY CAMPUS' COMEBACK BID, WINS 10TH STRAIGHT GAME

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It took 12 crazy days, but at last, the Pearlman Cup has ended. The contest started on Oct. 10, but took an unfortunate turn, leading to its continuation this past Sunday. After all the chaos, the Daily Campus fell behind by three touchdowns, but their attempted comeback proved futile, as they lost the Pearlman Cup for the 10th time, 42-35.

"It was tough, man," said associate sports editor and RB Evan Rodriguez. "Going into this one, I knew we had a lot of hope, and I know we all tried hard out there on the field. There's no room for mistakes when you're playing a team as loaded as UCTV, but that just means we have to get the future DC group prepared for next year's matchup."

The contest started out according to protocol with a coin flip, courtesy of Siri. The Daily Campus won the virtual toss and decided to defer to UCTV. Jon Heidan was under center and rifled a long pass for a first-play touchdown. The DC didn't let this get their hearts down. It took a few snaps, but new QB and digital producer Lou Dortienzo Jr. took the Fighting Campus Correspondents down the field. He fired a pass to Liam Whelan for the score, and just like that, things were even again at 7-7.

The Static Channels wasted no time striking back as Heidan fired another dart downfield for a second consecutive one-play touchdown. Two of offensive plays in UCTV had a pair of touch-

downs. Once again, Dortienzo stayed poised. The drive started with some short yardage gains, including a toss to sports editor Stratton Stave. Soon after, Stave had the would-be equalizer slapped out of his hands, but a play later, Nate Torres finished the job, finding the end zone.

UCTV finished their third drive with a short touchdown toss to Kali Reed, a player who had previously been committed to the Fighting Campus Correspondents but flipped at the last minute. Torres and Dortienzo connected for another touchdown, and just like that, things were even at 21.

The teams traded turnover-on-downs, and UCTV was set to take over with 3:16 left in the first half. Then disaster struck: unforeseen darkness in the form of sunset hit the cup, and things halted to a standstill.

Whether it was poor planning or an unusual night where the Sherman Field's lights didn't turn on, the game couldn't be played. With the wet turf and lack of lights, the teams resolved to continue the contest at a later date, this time under the Storrs sun.

The longest Pearlman Cup on record continued a full 12 days later, at the ripe hour of 11 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 22. The Daily Campus experienced significant attrition during the hiatus, with Whelan, Torres and Connor Sargeant all missing from action. That didn't phase the Fighting Campus Correspondents, though, who continued to fight despite starting the game with just the minimum of seven players.

The game resumed from the 3:16 mark, and both teams were ready to



CARTOON BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

go, with UCTV taking the field on offense. It didn't take them long to pick up from where they left off, with TE Mitch Cohen securing an easy touchdown in the back of the end zone.

With the seconds running off the first half's clock, the Daily Campus tried to push the ball up the field. Ultimately, there wasn't enough time to make anything of it, as the Static Channels went into the break up 28-21.

Coming out of halftime, the DC had trouble getting things going. They couldn't secure a touchdown on the drive and UCTV capitalized on it. Cohen scored another wide-open touchdown, the DC again turned the ball over on downs and things were not looking good for the Fighting Campus Correspondents.

Starting their drive with a chance to take a commanding three-touchdown lead, the Static Channels took to the air. That gamble didn't pay off, with Stave picking the ball for an interception, narrowly staying in bounds. The Campus had a chance to pull momentum the other way however, Dortienzo chucked the ball

over the middle and had it intercepted. UCTV didn't waste this opportunity, scoring on a deep ball to get ahead 42-21.

At this point, things were not looking good for the Campus as the game entered the final quarter. Not giving up, Dortienzo completed a few passes to Rodriguez and dished the pigskin to Tomas Hinckley, who took it in for a TD.

Even with their first score of the day, the odds were still low for the DC. They needed a stop on the next drive. Associate photo editor Jordan Arnold delivered that stop on fourth down when he secured a beautiful interception to give the Campus hope. Dortienzo got the job done at the other end, connecting with a late-arriving CJ Dexter to make it a one-touchdown game.

However, time was becoming an issue for the Fighting Campus Correspondents, as they needed to force a turnover on downs to even get a chance to tie the game. On fourth down, the Static Channels were inches away from the sticks with 30 seconds left and everything on the line. They completed the pass, effectively ending the game as the clock struck mid-

night, or, in this case, noon.

"I think as the game went on, we only got better," Hinckley said. "Regardless of whether or not we had all our players there we still fought hard. Still, we do need to bring the trophy home, so [Connor] Sargeant, Laffy Taffy [Connor Lafferty], [Sam] Calhoun and I got work to do."

Though on his way out, Stave also has high hopes for the Campus' future.

"It's always brutal to be a part of a losing streak," said Stave. "You look at Columbia football in the 1980s and that's not something you want to emulate. It would have been great to be a part of the change, but that's not the way it turned out. I'm just proud of the guys who came back after the first half and fought. I know this team is in good hands, and though I won't be a part of it, I think they have what it takes to break the curse."

Their next chance to do just that won't come until October of next year. Until then, there are rumblings of a basketball game, so keep on the lookout for news on that in the near future.



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

<p>WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK</p>		<p>INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY </p> <p>@jonathanthehusky XV's first Homecoming!!</p>		<p>TWEETS OF THE DAY </p> <p>UConn Men's Basketball @UConnMBB Energy, Confidence, Swagger.</p> <p>Episode 3 of In the Paint premieres tomorrow, exclusively on UConnPlus.TV #HU5KIES @KeyBank</p> <p>Dribbling Adventure @DribblingA 14 days until UConn Women's basketball!</p> <p>Follow The Daily Campus @dcsportsdept</p>	
<p>UCONN SCOREBOARD</p> <p>2 vs. 1</p> <p>Soccer Sunday</p>		<p>Upcoming Games</p> <p>Ice Hockey, 6 p.m. Friday Storrs, Conn</p> <p>Soccer, 2 p.m. Saturday Storrs, Conn</p>			