



UConn announces \$678 tuition hike, increases in dining and housing rates

by John Haslun
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
john.haslun@uconn.edu

On Monday, Oct. 30, during two open town hall forums held in the Konover Auditorium at the Dodd Center for Human Rights, University of Connecticut administrators presented a plan to increase tuition, housing and dining fees for all undergraduate students to take effect in the 2024-2025 Academic Year.

The \$678 rise in tuition, consistent with the five-year tuition plan proposed by UConn in 2019, is augmented by a 2.75% rate increase in lower-demand housing and a 5.00% increase for higher-demand units, along with a separate 2.75% increase in dining rates. For an undergraduate student at Storrs who lives in the cheapest housing rate, Rate 1, and chooses the most affordable dining plan, the Value Plan, the raise in fees totals \$1,062. This figure indicates a 3.09% increase in the cost of attendance for an in-state student and a 1.86% for those living out-of-state.

Mandatory fees, the section of a student's fee bill which includes charges such as the

General University Fee, the Student Recreation Center Fee, the Infrastructure Maintenance Fee, and the Technology Fee, were not subject to any proposed changes and are projected to remain the same.

Jeffrey Geoghegan, Executive Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer at UConn, spoke at the town halls in an effort to explain the University's increase in housing and dining rates for Fiscal Year 2025. These fee increases are not part of the scheduled five-year plan outlined in 2019, which only explicitly set out projected tuition fees.

"Commodity costs continue to rise, including utilities and food costs," outlines the proposal presented at the town hall, "Rate increases are needed to partially offset these rising expenses."

Nationwide inflation has put significant pressure on the University's operating budget, especially in the domains of housing and dining. September 2023 figures put housing inflation at 5.6%, the consumer price index (CPI) at 3.7%, and food and beverage inflation at 3.7%.

UConn asserted their proposed fee increases remained "modest and in line with financial aid funding," and where

housing is concerned, were "in part, based on student demand for specific rate types."

This demand-based separation of housing fees means different housing types will see different rates come the next Academic Year. The 5.00% raise for high-demand housing will affect doubles in Werth Hall, Busby, Garrigus, and South Suites and Regular Singles, among other options for on-campus residence.

Despite the increase, Geoghegan explained, housing fees at UConn still remain comparatively inexpensive contrasted with similar institutions such as Boston University, Boston College, and the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

UConn's FY24 Housing and Dining costs of \$13,996 were cheaper than 8/10 of the "competitors" referred to in the proposal more expensive than only the University of Vermont and Pennsylvania State University. In this comparative exercise, UConn's "competitors" are defined as the ten schools that share the most cross-admits with the University.

"Revenues from housing and dining will stay in housing and dining," Geoghe-



South campus residence halls are home to suite-style living on the UConn Storrs campus. There are three residence halls, a dining hall and several common spaces.

PHOTO BY EMILY O'BANNON, ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

gan promised, "especially in capital improvement and deferred maintenance."

Following the 2024-2025 Academic Year, the five-year tuition plan implemented by the university in 2019 will elapse. Under guidance from the President, the Provost, and working in tandem with Student Life and Enrollment, the University of Connecticut continues to assess the individual cost within fee categories.

A copy of the University of Connecticut's 2024-2025 Academic Year Fee Proposal which appeared at the town hall can be found online at <https://bpir.uconn.edu/home/announcements/town-hall-meetings/>.

A virtual town hall discussion will be held Wednesday, Nov. 1 at 5:00pm via <https://ait.uconn.edu/town-hall/>. Participants are encouraged to submit questions in advance at cfo@uconn.edu.

A NEW NAME FOR THE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS (MIS) MAJOR

by Jami Pandiscio
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
jami.pandiscio@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut Management Information Systems major was officially restructured this semester to give students a competitive advantage in the workforce and stay aligned with changes in technology and business, according to the Operations and Information Management Department.

The original Management Information Systems (MIS) major was renamed to the Analytics and Information Management (AIM) major.

The new academic director, former UConn MIS student, and current UConn Professor Stephen Fitzgerald stepped up to oversee the restructuring.

"The program hadn't changed in many years," Fitzgerald said. "It was time for change."

The new name, AIM, includes the term "Analytics" because of the increasing importance of analytics in the fields of business and technology. The new name allows employers to recognize data analysis as a skill that AIM students possess, providing students with a competitive advantage that the previous name lacked.

AIM symbolizes a balance of data analysis with information management, according to the Operations and Information Management (OPIM) Department.

Four concentrations were added to the major to give students an opportunity to differentiate themselves, making it easier to apply for given positions. Two minors were also added to give opportunities to students outside of the major.

Fitzgerald said that the department had been working towards this transition for a while, implementing coursework changes along the way. He compared it to a ship of Theseus. "We've replaced a lot of boards along the way, but now it was time to re-brand it as a new major."

The transition created challenges and "a lot of advising hours," Fitzgerald said. Avenues had to be created for students already committed to an MIS plan of study to stay with their original plan or move forward with the new AIM plan. In addition, all of the course catalog numbers and names were changed to create a meaningful numbering scheme.

When asked about what motivates him, Fitzgerald said it's since he was a former MIS student.

"I'm in the unique position to develop a program I was a part of," Fitzgerald said. His goal for the new program is to build a stronger sense of community.

Fitzgerald has been working closely with former MIS Academic Director and current UConn Professor Jonathan

Moore during the program and role transition. Moore stepped down after running the program for six years.

"I was waiting for someone I could trust enough," Moore said. "I knew Stephen was the right person for the job."

Throughout his time as the academic director, Moore watched the program grow from 68 to 208 students.

"I will miss the direct contact with students," Moore said. "There was a time when I knew every single MIS major's name."

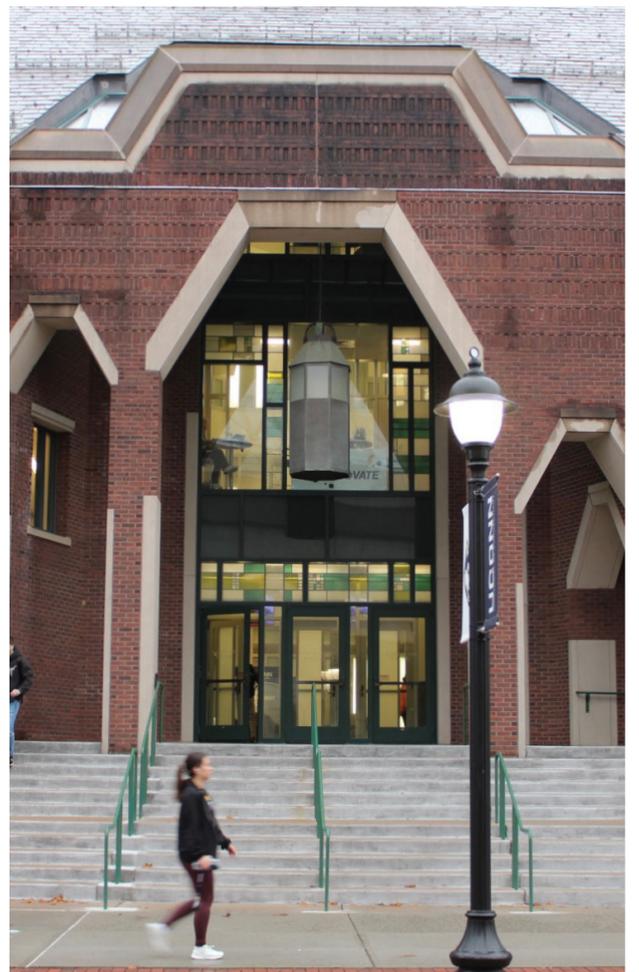
Moore is now the executive director of the Connecticut Information Technology Institute.

Amisha Aggarwal, a UConn senior already committed to an MIS plan of study, transitioned to the new AIM plan of study this semester to declare an IT Security concentration.

"A lot of students don't like their major," Aggarwal said. "But I can say for certain I love my major."

The AIM concentrations include Business Intelligence, IT Security, Application Development and Supply Chain Management. The minors include Software Design and Supply Chain.

The AIM major is housed within the OPIM Department of the School of Business. Fitzgerald and Moore are currently co-teaching OPIM 3211, which is the AIM capstone course.



Founded in 1941, UConn's School of Business is situated at the heart of campus, next to the Student Union and across the street from Gampel Pavillion. The building offers many undergraduate and graduate academic programs to educate the next generation of business professionals.

PHOTO BY OLIVIA RILEY, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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We're so back.
#BleedBlue

News

Biden administration is moving toward a narrower student loan relief targeting groups of borrowers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration is moving toward a narrower student loan relief plan that would target specific groups of borrowers — those with soaring interest, for example — rather than a sweeping plan like the one the Supreme Court rejected in June.

The Education Department on Monday released a draft of new federal rules paving the way for a second attempt at student loan relief. The proposal targets groups that are seen as especially vulnerable, focusing on those who owe so much, or make so little income, that they otherwise may never repay their loans.

Though full details are likely months away, the department says it wants to cancel some or all student debt for: borrowers whose balances exceed what they originally owed; those who have loans that entered repayment 25 or more years ago; those who used loans to attend career-training programs that led to “unreasonable” debt loads or insufficient earnings; those who are eligible for other loan forgiveness programs but did not apply.

A fifth group is also being discussed — “those who are experiencing financial hardship that the current student loan system does not currently adequately address.”

“President Biden and I are committed to helping borrowers who’ve been failed by our coun-

try’s broken and unaffordable student loan system,” Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said in a statement. “We are fighting to ensure that student debt does not stand in the way of opportunity or prevent borrowers from realizing the benefits of their higher education.”

President Joe Biden’s initial plan was broader. It would have canceled up to \$20,000 in federal student loans for those with annual incomes below \$125,000 or couples below \$250,000. But after that was rejected by the court’s conservative majority, he called on the Education Department to try again using a different legal basis.

The new proposal aims to tackle issues that are seen as some of the biggest culprits behind skyrocketing debt.

It would help counter interest that snowballs beyond borrowers’ original balances. It would offer relief to borrowers who attended for-profit college programs with poor outcomes. It would also help older borrowers who took out loans decades ago and struggle to make payments.

The department says it will continue to refine the proposal as it goes through a federal rulemaking process. The public will be able to provide written feedback next year.

The draft proposal would give the department authority to wipe away federal student

loans entirely for borrowers in some categories.

For those who started repaying loans more than 25 years ago, the proposal says that “the secretary may waive the outstanding balance of a loan” — amounting to total cancellation. It’s the same for borrowers who are eligible for other cancellation programs but haven’t applied.

Loans used to attend low-value college programs would also be wiped away. Borrowers would fall into that category if they attended a program that fails new standards outlined in a separate federal rule known as gainful employment.

For those with snowballing interest, the proposal would reset their loans back to the original balance, effectively canceling unpaid interest.

Even a more limited plan for relief is sure to draw fierce opposition from Republicans, who see cancellation as an unfair burden on taxpayers.

The latest attempt rests on the Higher Education Act of 1965, a wide-reaching law that gives the education secretary power to “compromise, waive or release” certain debts. But the law is unclear on how the secretary can wield that authority, creating a legal gray area that has been the subject of debate since Biden took office.

The proposal aims to settle the dispute by creating new federal rules detailing cases



President Joe Biden is the 46th president of the U.S. The Biden Administration is moving toward a narrower student loan relief plan after the first was struck down.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF FLICKR

that merit cancellation. Before the rules can be enacted, they must be weighed by a committee of government outsiders in a process known as negotiated rulemaking. The new draft will be taken up when the committee meets next week.

The committee is made up of negotiators who represent a range of viewpoints on student loans. It includes students and officials from a range of colleges, along with loan servicers, state officials and advocates including the NAACP.

Meetings began earlier this month and are scheduled to continue into December.

At the end of the process, negotiators will vote on a proposed rule. If they reach consensus, the department will move forward with it. If they don’t, the agency will propose its own plan, which can be finalized after a public comment period.

Biden called for a plan to help “as many borrowers as possible,” but his administration seems to be moving away from the type of mass cancellation that he promised in August 2022.

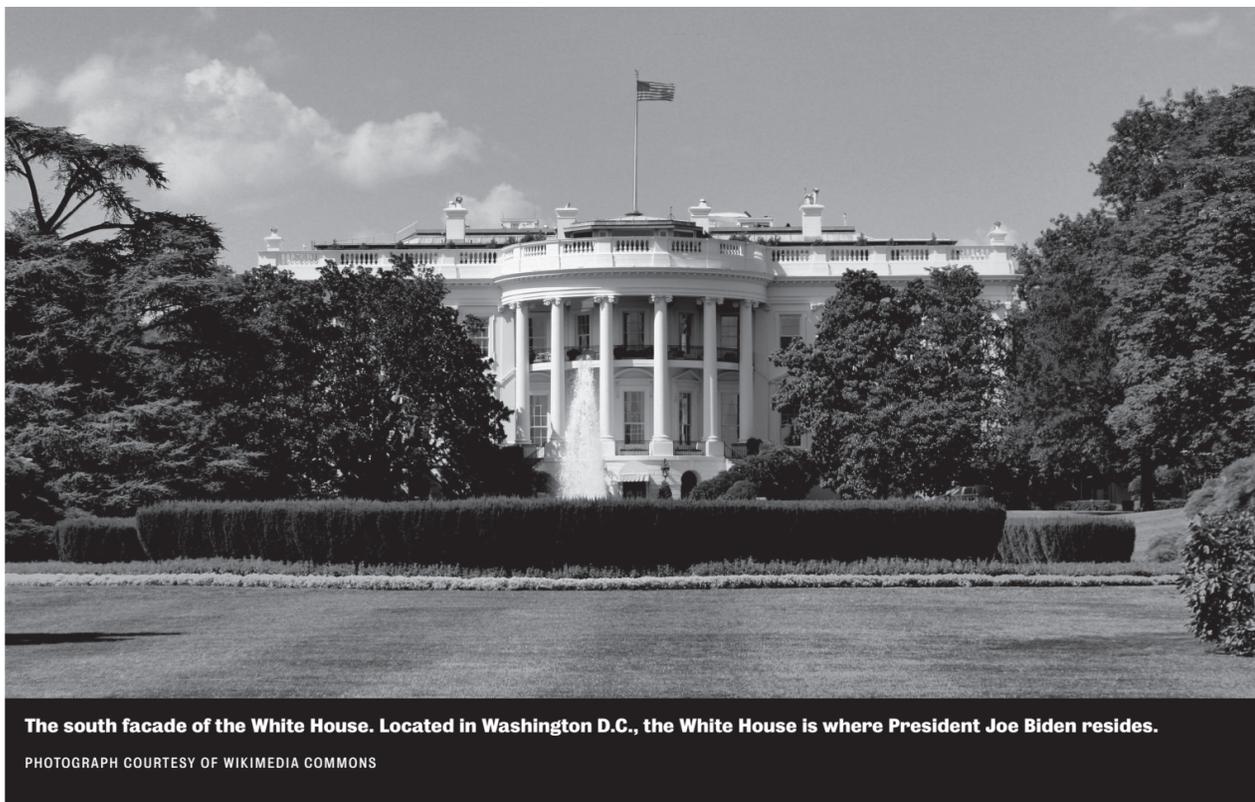
That plan was estimated to cost \$400 billion. It’s unclear how much the second proposal will cost.

In a separate action on Monday, the Education Department moved to correct errors by a student loan servicer that failed to send billing statements on time.

The department is withholding \$7.2 million in payment to the loan servicer MOHELA after finding that it failed to send timely billing statements to 2.5 million borrowers recently. In some cases, borrowers received their bills within seven days of their due date. As a result, the department said, 800,000 borrowers were delinquent on their payments.

The department ordered MOHELA to put all affected borrowers into forbearance — a temporary hold on payments — until the issue is resolved.

Federal student loan payments resumed in October for the first time since the start of the pandemic. Some in the industry have warned of potential problems as understaffed loan servicers bring millions of borrowers back into repayment at the same time.



The south facade of the White House. Located in Washington D.C., the White House is where President Joe Biden resides.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Daily Campus

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THE BACKLOG

FNAF

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

Welcome back to The Backlog, where we review spooky games for October. Today's edition is the last of the month, and we are continuing our review of several "Five Nights at Freddy's" games. Last week, we looked at the original series from the first to fourth games, and now we will dive into some of the most notable games that came since. I will not be going into detail about every single game in the franchise, but the ones I feel are the most central to the story.

Five Nights at Freddy's: Sister Location

"Sister Location" is the fifth main installment of the series but the sixth game overall. It continues the point-and-click style of gameplay but does involve the player moving around quite a bit. Unlike the previous games, it's incredibly story-driven and opens up the lore beyond just a haunted pizzeria. You play as a technician for a company that rents out animatronics for private parties instead of hosting them like before. While it marks the beginning of the franchise becoming more than just a set of indie games, the mechanics and scares are not as impressive as previous iterations. It does have its memorable moments of sneaking through Funtime Auditorium and avoiding Funtime Foxy. Having to listen carefully for Ballora's melody in Ballora Gallery is another moment where Scott Cawthon utilizes his signature sound design skills perfectly. Yet, "Sister Location" is the type of installment meant for longtime fans who want to decipher everything about the story and where each game falls in it. Beyond that, "Sister Location" is only memorable for the amount of teasers leading up to its release. However, I do have to admit that the fact that the final night brought back the familiar playstyle of the previous "Five Nights at Freddy's" games was a nostalgic and pleasant surprise. Not to mention the sheer amount of remixes made due to Andy Field's voice stating "exotic butters."

3.5/5

Freddy Fazbear's Pizzeria Simulator

The sixth installment of the franchise opens as an 8-bit style minigame, where you play as Freddy Fazbear and must deliver pizza to crying children. While it seems innocent on the surface, it quickly turns into the horror genre we know and love by having a black version of your character's sprite blocking the player until it glitches. That is when the actual game begins as a, quite literal, pizzeria simulator. Players are put in charge of their own Freddy Fazbear's franchise, similar to other chain restaurants. "Pizzeria Simulator" is full of funny moments, but both build off the story introduced by "Sister Location" and wrap it up. Fields is brought back as a voice giving the player instructions and narrates the various endings that you can find. Yet, Dave Steele's role as the man in the cassette tapes is vital to the story, revealing that the pizzeria was a trap in order to lure a murderer to his final resting place. This game is huge compared to the others. There are hours of content that players can comb through to find the answers to questions they've been asking since the first game. This can understandably take away from the actual gameplay, where you have to survive each night. The survival mechanics take a backseat to the sheer amount of minigames that can be played.

3/5



IMAGE COURTESY OF @FNAFNEWS ON INSTAGRAM

from “Sister Location” to “Security Breach”

Ultimate Custom Night

Originally, gamers believed that “Ultimate Custom Night” would just be similar to the 20/20 mode features from the previous games, but on steroids. 20/20 mode is a feature in the main games where the animatronics’ difficulty level is set to max, making it the hardest challenge in each game. It definitely is far more challenging than any of its predecessors, but it concludes the main storyline of the franchise. I’d argue that 50/20 mode is one of the hardest levels to beat in all of gaming history, but it has been done. The ways in which the story is shown are clever. Players must beat a certain score or preset challenges to find snippets of the story — not to mention the vast amount of voice lines in the game, mostly when players are killed by certain animatronics. Each tiny bit of lore revealed connects to things that players have been theorizing about for ages; it’s a clever and creative way to help them along and finally end the saga. A problem that people can face with this installment is that not all of us are skilled enough to find every secret. More than once, I’ve found myself watching people on YouTube in order to see all the cutscenes or easter eggs. Of course, “Five Nights at Freddy’s” has a longstanding relationship with gaming YouTubers, so it’s not too much of an issue.

4/5

Five Nights at Freddy’s: Help Wanted

“Help Wanted” is the first time that another developer was involved in the creation of one of these games. Steel Wool Studios was essential for bringing the series out of the complex lore that gamers have struggled to piece together. While it is a virtual reality game, it can be played without a VR headset. The VR aspect is incorporated into the story of the game; it poses itself as a virtual experience created by the in-game company, Fazbear Entertainment. It tries to undo the bad reputation of missing children and mysterious fires showcased in the previous games by building off of it and turning it into an attraction. Yet, it takes a dark turn when it becomes clear that there is a malevolent being inside the game with us. Once again, there are secrets and easter eggs littered throughout the game in the form of cassette tapes. These tapes reveal that when developing the game, some old hardware used may have had something lurking in it — not to mention the fact that a previous playtester named Jeremy became influenced by the entity in the game and cut his own face off with a paper slicer. Just when players thought that the franchise lost its horror aspect, they were proven wrong.

4.5/5

Five Nights at Freddy’s: Security Breach

I cannot even begin to describe the dumpster fire that was “Security Breach.” Its release had been hinted at for quite a while and had been delayed constantly. It was finally released towards the end of 2021 when it was originally supposed to be released in 2020. Usually, when a game is delayed, it signals to players that the end result would be polished and worth the wait. This was not the case. “Security Breach” was full of bugs and crashed often. The style was still simplistic, with it being a first-person survival horror. But there is no denying that the product looks shoddy with uncreative models. Understandably, the animatronics in this game would look like robots, but even the human characters look like something out of the “My Sims” games. Usually, “FNAF” games are known for having secrets and lore buried in clever minigames or are shown when progressing the story. “Security Breach” failed this immensely with its confusing endings. Each ending is shown as a comic book strip. A YouTuber who summarized my thoughts when seeing the endings was Markiplier, who genuinely asked, “Did they run out of budget?” The gameplay was a failure as well, but this was mostly due to the buggy nature of the game and the fact that it didn’t direct players like before. It tried to embrace the free-roam aspect but instead led players to encounter more bugs or do things out of order.

1/5



FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS



IMAGE COURTESY OF @FNAFNEWS ON INSTAGRAM



Life

@dailycampuslife

Sudoku

						7		
5			9		1		2	4
		8	7	2				5
				8		1	6	
	2	6		3			5	
4				9	8	2		
6	7		5		4			3
		1						



Hey, nice costume!



Costume?



Oh yeah, costume!

Totally NOT an actual zombie...

CARTOON BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Flip upside down for solutions

9	8	1	3	7	2	5	4	6
6	7	2	5	1	4	9	8	3
4	5	3	6	9	8	2	1	7
7	2	6	1	3	9	4	5	8
8	1	4	2	5	6	3	7	9
3	9	5	4	8	7	1	6	2
1	4	8	7	2	3	6	9	5
5	3	7	9	6	1	8	2	4
2	6	9	8	4	5	7	3	1



Opinion

The Daily Campus

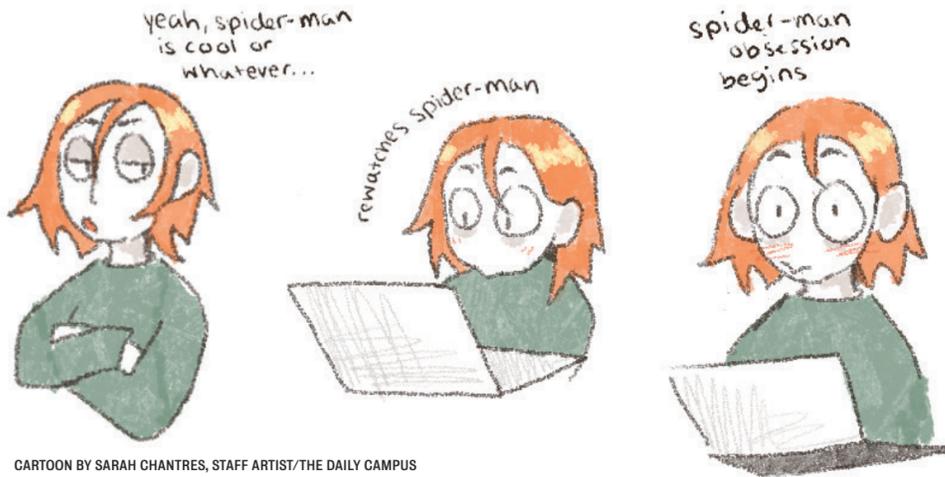
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CARTOON BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: UConn, we need to talk

by Graduate Students for Justice in Palestine
GRADUATE STUDENTS FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE IS A COLLECTIVE OF GRADUATE STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Dear President Maric, The Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute, UConn Faculty and Staff:

We are a collective of Graduate Students across the University of Connecticut Campuses, from multiple departments and programs with various social identities and lived experiences. We are writing because we stand in solidarity with the struggle of Palestinians for liberation and survival amidst occupation, apartheid, and genocide. We are deeply concerned and saddened by all harm and loss of life, Israeli and Palestinian, and insist that UConn reject violence, militarism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, racism and war in all its forms.

As a community, we have failed to create an environment that makes it possible for us to have honest, clarifying and contextualized dialogues about the urgent concerns and needs of Palestinians, even in the midst of ongoing violence. UConn, like many campuses across the country, has unfortunately become a space where students, faculty and staff face silence, reprisal, or rebuke for expressing solidarity with Palestine.

We are writing this letter to address the imbalanced narrative from UConn administration, including the silence on the ongoing genocide and humanitarian crisis in Palestine, erasing the experiences and suffering of the Pales-

tinian people. There is also a lack of space for UConn community members to engage in balanced dialogue on the ongoing crisis in Palestine.

We are sending this open letter of solidarity with the UConn Students for Justice in Palestine and associated student organizations who reached out to campus administrators on Oct. 14, 2023. Since then, the genocide and humanitarian crisis in occupied Gaza, and now the West Bank, has horrifically escalated, leaving more than 5,000 Palestinians killed, an additional 15,000 injured and over 400,000 homeless, almost all of whom are civilians.

Multiple organizations focusing on global human rights, including Amnesty International and experts from the United Nations, have acknowledged that Israel is an apartheid state, occupying Palestinian territory for over 75 years. As stated by Amnesty International, "Israel imposes a system of oppression and domination against Palestinians across all areas under its control: in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and against Palestinian refugees, in order to benefit the expansion of the settler colonial state of Israel. This amounts to apartheid as prohibited in international law." Amnesty International details more extensively the system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians.

Further, in direct defiance of international humanitarian law, such as Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the government of Israel continues to take part in war

crimes, including: "Intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population as such or against individual civilians not taking direct part in hostilities... Attacking or bombarding, by whatever means, towns, villages, dwellings, or buildings which are undefended and which are not military objectives... Intentionally directing attacks against buildings dedicated to religion, education, art, science or charitable purposes, historic monuments, hospitals and places where the sick and wounded are collected, provided they are not military objectives."

These violations have been consistently met with silence by the UConn administration.

The deliberate blocking of civilian aid, clean water, fuel and electricity to Gaza, as imposed by the State of Israel, further exacerbates the humanitarian crisis inside Gaza to disastrous proportions. This conflict continues to escalate as the lives of an untold and increasing number of thousands of innocents perish by Israeli military bombings and attacks. If we do not take action, we, as an institution, are complicit. As stated in the letter sent by the UConn Students for Justice in Palestine, "We unequivocally condemn the killing of both Israeli and Palestinian civilians." We believe in the value and sanctity of human life, human life that, for Palestinians, has been consistently denied.

We ask the University, the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute and President Maric to fulfill the demands of the letter written by Students for Justice in

Palestine, which include being consistent in their stances on human rights by denouncing the apartheid state of Israel and its repeated war crimes. While we are committed to our condemnation of the killing of both Israeli and Palestinian people, the Oct. 9 statement contained a one-sided narrative that failed to even use the word Palestinian, thereby avoiding acknowledgment of the suffering of Palestinian people altogether. We also call on UConn to divest from any initiatives that support the Israeli apartheid state. As Israel continues to perpetuate ethnic cleansing against Palestinians, we urge UConn to use its platform to speak up as they have for other human rights violations and acknowledge the humanity of a group of people who have been systematically silenced.

As Graduate Students, we call on UConn to expand course offerings to include the Palestinian perspectives. We would also add that UConn needs to create a campus-wide course on settler colonialism (similar to the model of the anti-Black racism course) with an emphasis on the history of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. We all need to be educated and informed so that we understand how to situate this present tragedy in its historical context, as this would help with mitigating the need to point fingers and instead start creating solutions.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
A Collective of UConn Graduate Students

RAPID FIRE

Skeletons, werewolves, ghosts galore. Fearsome foes scare nevermore. Cliched creepers gone so stale; fare a fright to no avail. Hallowed halls need a fresh feature; dare, put forth a brand new creature. Writers asked, this Halloween, submit a horror we've not seen.

Halloween's iconic mascots have lost their scare. In this Rapid Fire, writers gave their opinions on the question: What is the most terrifying mascot to represent Halloween?

NELL SRINATH,
OPINION EDITOR:

Lovecraft was a lot of things — most of them bad — but he had a knack for painting pictures of horrors that lie just out of reach from human comprehension. That said, there is one phenomenon very much within human comprehension that blows whatever thinly veiled racism Lovecraft was pushing out of the water: student lunch debt.

DAN STARK,
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR:

Radenka Maric. Her policies and lack of action are scarier than most Halloween horror movies you'll watch. She also has an equally terrifying group of henchmen to do her bidding: the board of trustees.

TOMAS HINCKLEY,
CONTRIBUTOR:

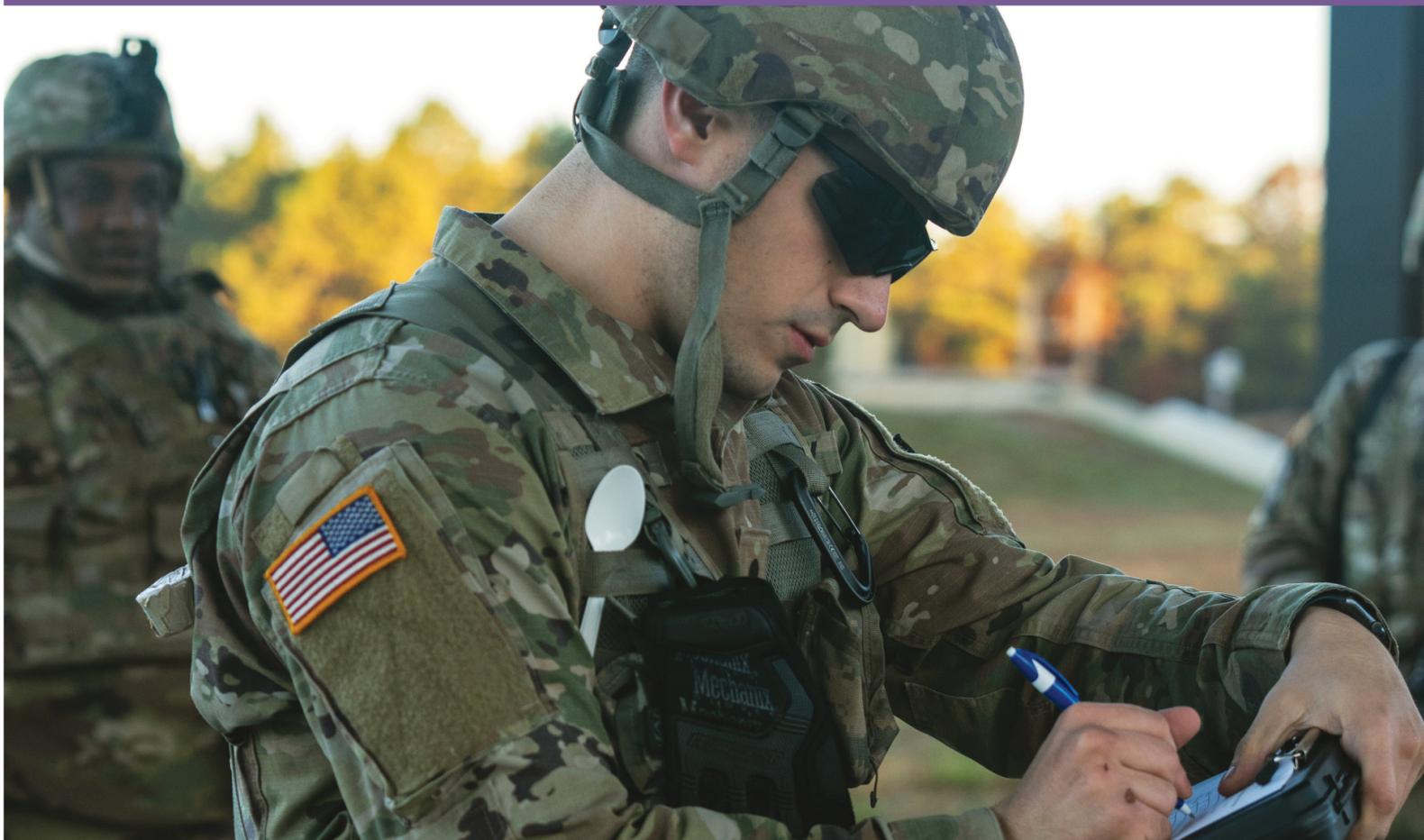
Midterms being held during Halloween week #PleaseIJustWantToGoTrickOrTreating

ATHENA BROWN,
CONTRIBUTOR:

Mirror Lake. Something's a-bubbling...

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Working hard



UConn ROTC cadet Lombardo works on the range during monthly safety drills. Founded in 1916, UConn ROTC strives to teach students how to lead others, motivate groups and conduct missions as an Officer in the Army. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

ZIONISM AND SURVEILLANCE

CREATE THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S NIGHTMARISH NEW TOOL

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

The conflation of anti-Zionism — and criticisms of the State of Israel more generally — with antisemitism has taken a dangerous new turn, this time by surveilling pro-Palestine activists on college campuses.

The Biden administration announced a new push to combat what White House officials characterized as “growing antisemitism on college campuses” on Monday, Oct. 30, following the outbreak of the latest war between Israel and Palestinian resistance groups three weeks ago. The administration’s efforts include an effort between college police departments and the Department of Homeland Security “to track hate-related rhetoric online and provide federal resources to schools,” according to NBC News.

It is paramount that universities provide institutional support for Jewish students from antisemitic violence and intimidation, to which the University of Connecticut is no stranger. In the spring of 2021, a UConn junior was arrested for painting a swastika on the side of the Austin building. This antisemitic incident was almost immediately followed by another painted swastika on the Chemistry building a few days later. Identity-based intimidation prevents students from all social minority groups from receiving an equal education by diminishing community safety and mental well-being and is exactly the kind of thing we all have a responsibility to rally against. However, this is the furthest from what the Biden administration and colleges around the country are currently trying to do.

As I write this, it is the third week of a siege and bombardment of the Gaza Strip that has killed more than 8,300 Palestinians and incapacitated the population’s public health and energy infrastructure. The simultaneous military and starvation campaign that has already ethnically cleansed 1.1 million Gazans from their homes has been decried by protests erupting around the world, including a national walkout for Palestine conducted at over 100 colleges in

the United States on Wednesday, Oct. 25. The Biden administration seeks to target the latter.

In the NBC News report, which touts exclusive action to the White House’s plan to track antisemitism on college campuses, pro-Palestine protests receive most, if not all, the emphasis when it comes to alleged antisemitic messaging. The article also cites a statistic produced by the Anti-Defamation League, a pro-Israel Jewish advocacy organization, that indicates a 388% uptick in antisemitic incidents around the country. And while most of the incidents recorded are instances of harassment and vandalism perpetuating explicitly antisemitic and white supremacist messages, many simply record use of the term “Zionist,” which refers to adherents of the settler-colonial movement and ideology that literally resulted in the creation of the State of Israel and facilitates the ongoing dispossession and slaughter of Palesti-

anians. More importantly, over one-third of recorded incidents refer to pro-Palestine protests,

It is paramount that universities provide institutional support for Jewish students from antisemitic violence and intimidation, to which the University of Connecticut is no stranger.

which the ADL credits with expressing “explicit or strong implicit support for Hamas and... violence against Jews in Israel.”

Given the ADL’s blanket characterization of all anti-Zionism as antisemitic “in effect or intent” — as well as its alleging Students for Justice in Palestine of demonizing Jewish students — these accusations of support for antisemitic violence are unreliable and flimsy at best. The Zionist aim of colonizing Palestinian land using the preferred tool of violent expulsion and annexation creates an ideological interest in defaming any and all support for Palestinian resistance and freedom, whether or not Palestinians give into the pressure of “condemning Hamas.”

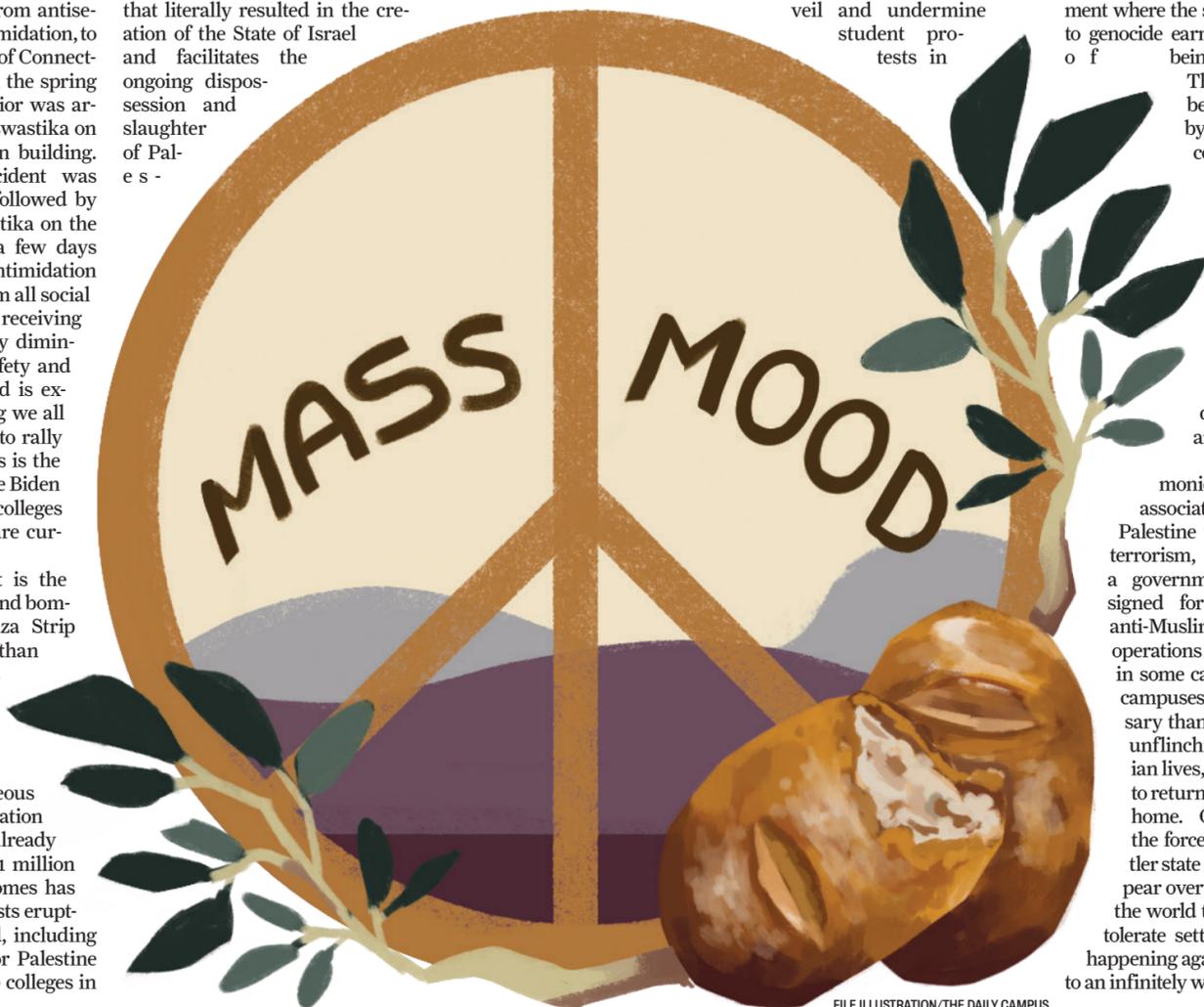
It suffices to say that with the federal government’s unwavering and enthusiastic support for genocide in Gaza, further evinced by the Biden administration’s opposition to the moderate option of a ceasefire, aiming to surveil and undermine student protests in

solidarity with Palestine is high on their to-do list. No stronger evidence of this exists than the leading role of the Department of Homeland Security, which was created in direct response to the Sept. 11 attacks and houses the militarized Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

The role of DHS as surveilling American Muslims was cemented in the post-9/11 era, when jingoistic laws such as the PATRIOT Act authorized and funded the DHS, National Security Agency and Federal Bureau of Investigation to monitor Muslim organizations, events and individuals under the auspices of “counterterrorism.” The racialization of the term “terrorism” to irreparably apply to Arab and Muslim groups in the American psyche puts Palestinian activists on college campuses at significant risk, especially in an environment where the slightest objection to genocide earns you the badge of being “pro-Hamas.”

This threat would be compounded by potential DHS cooperation with the UConn Police Department, which has previously engaged in surveillance of students’ social media to assess threats posed by student organizing and protest.

With the hegemonic view closely associating support for Palestine with support for terrorism, married with a government agency designed for anti-Arab and anti-Muslim counterterrorism operations set to be deployed in some capacity on college campuses, it is more necessary than ever to stand up unflinchingly for Palestinian lives, dignity and right to return to their ancestral home. Covering before the forces of our own settler state — even if they appear overwhelming — tells the world that students will tolerate settler-state violence happening against Palestinians to an infinitely worse degree.



FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WHY UCONN FOOTBALL SHOULD JOIN THE MAC

by Nick D'Alessio
 CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
 HE/HIM/HIS
 nicholas.d'alessio@uconn.edu

Last week, Army announced that the school will forgo its longstanding football independence and join the American Athletic Conference as a football-only member beginning in the 2024 season. As a result, UConn, UMass and Notre Dame are left as the only independent schools in FBS football. Notre Dame, however, is a partial member of the ACC, which puts them in a whole different category. Taking into account the five games they're required to play against ACC foes, along with their yearly rivalry games against USC and Stanford, the Irish essentially function as a team with a conference. Not only that, Notre Dame has a history on the gridiron, which neither UConn nor UMass can compete with, especially very recently. From 2012 through 2022, the Irish have compiled an overall 106-35 record, including a National Championship game appearance, as well as two other College Football Playoff appearances. In that same time frame, neither UConn or UMass has finished a season above .500. With that said, the schools aren't comparable.

History has shown that when a UConn football coach speaks, people should listen. Just look at Bob Diaco, who was mocked when he told reporters that the American Athletic Conference should put their games on Nickelodeon in an effort to appeal to

younger audiences. Here we are in 2023, and the NFL playoffs have been a smashing success on the channel.

Maybe people should listen when Jim Mora discusses the state of the program. He has not been shy about his desire to join a conference. This past summer, he vehemently campaigned for the Huskies to receive an invitation to join the Big 12, who had been looking to expand into new markets. In fact, talks were so serious that Commissioner Brett Yormark was spotted on the Storrs campus meeting with Athletic Director David Benedict and other members of the Athletic Department. Of course, UConn was passed over for that opportunity, as the Big 12 and Yormark chose to go a different route, grabbing Colorado, Utah, Arizona and Arizona State from a collapsing PAC-12. Even after missing the Big 12, Mora has remained steadfast in his position.

"Recruits do care about being in a conference, and that's a real deterrent to us right now," Mora noted on his radio show prior to the game against USF. "Not being in a conference is absolutely killing us."

Mora's position is understandable. It's hard to build a consistent program when there is no consistency around the program itself. Going from playing some of the elite programs of the sport (think the game against No. 19 Tennessee this weekend) to mid-major opponents (FIU, UMass and many more) and bouncing back and forth between the two over a 12-week season is

really hard, especially for a program trying to make the jump from rock bottom to regular bowl contenders.

So, what are the options for UConn and Mora? Well, there isn't a whole lot. It feels relatively safe to say that the Power Conferences, Big 12, Big 10, SEC and ACC are done with expansion for now and won't be pursuing new members

"Recruits do care about being in a conference, and that's a real deterrent to us right now"

JIM MORA

for the time being. This leaves the 'Group of Five' conferences, which, if UConn were to join in a football-only capacity would almost certainly mean that UMass would have to tag along as well. Even within these less-prestigious conferences, the market for UConn isn't huge, especially without basketball. With the Mountain West based on the

Pacific Coast, it's hard to envision UConn being fit when the school is located almost 3,000 miles away from its constituents. UConn would face similar problems in Conference USA or the Sun Belt, both based in the south. UConn's former conference, the American, has a little northeastern niche with Army and Temple, which UConn could add to. However, Commissioner Mike Aresco refused to let the Huskies stay on as a football-only member when they left the conference in 2020, and odds are he has not changed his stance.

That leaves one option left for the Huskies, and it happens to be a near-perfect fit. That's the Mid-American Conference, the lovable cohort of lesser-known schools situated in the heart of the Midwest and known for their Tuesday and Wednesday night show-downs on ESPN. If UConn and Mora want to take a step to be a consistent winner, getting in on some MACtion is how they should start. Joining a conference like the MAC would give the Huskies geographically relevant opponents like Buffalo, along with other Ohio, Michigan and Illinois opponents, a comparable distance or shorter than the games they've scheduled in Tennessee, Texas and Georgia. UConn would also have a chance to compete for conference championships right away. In 2022, only four of the 12 MAC teams were ranked inside of the FBS Top 100, per ESPN's Football Power Index. They did this while having some of

the weakest schedules in the sport. UConn came in at 120th last season (probably a bit low) while playing the 69th-hardest schedule in the country, which would be good for the second-toughest schedule in the MAC.

Another major advantage UConn would have is the facilities and resources for their athletes that other schools can't match. The Burton Family Football Complex is touted by many as a Power Conference-level facility and is better than most schools in the MAC have to offer. When it comes to recruiting battles within the conference, it would be hard to imagine recruits picking against the facilities and resources the Huskies have to offer.

To close, take a moment and think about Gonzaga Basketball. Think about their program as a whole, which has not missed the postseason since 1998. Although they are in the WCC, a conference filled with small schools along the West Coast, the school invests in them like they're a team playing in a Power Conference. The facilities and resources are top-notch, and none of the other schools in the WCC are able to consistently compete with them. The vision for UConn Football should be that of Gonzaga Basketball. Join a conference like the MAC, where UConn can use its expanded resources to rise above the competition and turn into a consistent winner. Mora and the fans want to see wins. There's no better way to get there than joining the MAC.

Women's Hockey: UConn Huskies skate circles around Providence in 6-1 victory

by Bridget Bronsdon
 STAFF WRITER
 SHE/HER/HERS
 bridget.bronsdon@uconn.edu

The UConn women's hockey team is feeling electric after skating circles around Providence in a 6-1 victory on Friday. With 10 goals in their back pocket in just two games, the Huskies are beginning their steady climb up the conference ladder just a little over a month into the season.

Coming off of a massive comeback against New Hampshire in last weekend's series, the Huskies were ready to find the back of the net once again, and they made sure not to disappoint. From the puck drop, the Huskies rushed the ice and immediately outpaced the Friars. Just three minutes into the game, graduate student Coryn Tormala found the back of the net with an assist by Kyla Josifovic and Brooke Campbell. Tormala has been the player to watch as she earned a seat at the table of team leaders. Last season, Tormala led the team with 11 assists and recorded 10 goals. Just seven games into this season, she already leads the team with six goals and appears to be on track to set a new personal record.

Back on the ice, the Huskies were energized by an early goal and maintained puck possession. Just four minutes later, Campbell nailed the puck into the net on a power play to advance the Huskies to 2-0 just under 10 minutes into the match. Josifovic was there once again to assist the shot alongside Ainsley Svetek.



UConn women's hockey took on University of New Hampshire on Saturday, Oct. 21 at the Toscano Family Ice Forum. The Huskies won with a final score of 4-0. PHOTO BY SYDNEY HAYWOOD, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Although the Huskies were already up two and the contest was just beginning, the crew did not let up their offensive movement. Just after a UConn power play, Josifovic had her turn at finding the back of the net and nailed another point for the Huskies. By the end of the first, the Huskies were already sweeping the Friars in a shutout.

The second period upheld

the same momentum for the Huskies while the Friars were unable to respond. Just six minutes in, Alexa Pongo secured her first goal of the season off an assist from Christina Walker. Then, 45 seconds later, Tormala sent her second shot of the game flying in an unassisted goal to bring the Huskies 5-0.

With a substantial lead, the end result was looking unfa-

vorable for the Huskies. UConn dominated the majority of the second period as they were enjoying an upper hand while still maintaining composure and intensity.

As the second was coming to a close, Grace Shirley of Providence was able to fire off the only successful shot of the evening for the Friars to bring their score up to one. Although the Friars now had their name

on the board, they did not pose a threat to the Huskies' lead.

Skating into the third, the Huskies were 20 minutes away from victory. For the better half of the period, the group was able to call the shots as they left the Friars defenseless. In the final two minutes of gameplay, junior Riley Grimley fired off one last shot of the evening to round out the Huskies in a 6-1 win.

While the Friars were left unsuccessful, the Huskies were triumphant in their second consecutive win at Toscano. Throughout the matchup, Providence struggled to make effective progress on power plays, whereas UConn was able to capitalize. Building off of this momentum, the Huskies also won over double the faceoffs as the Friars and made a point to be first to the puck. Consequently, Providence is no stranger to Storrs, so the Huskies knew where to make capitalizing plays on the ice.

Last season, the duo faced off three times and the Huskies walked away victorious from two contests and one tied match. Comparatively, the Huskies are on a similar track this season, as they already have one win under their belt.

Looking ahead, the Huskies will be both traveling to and welcoming a familiar Boston opponent, Northeastern. Historically, UConn has struggled against the group as they haven't seen a win since 2018. The Huskies will be looking to change that narrative this season while they make progress in Hockey East gameplay.

Sports

Photo of the Day | Trick or cleat



UConn women's soccer plays against Xavier at the Morrone stadium in Storrs, Conn. on Oct. 8, 2023. The Huskies put up a good fight but lost 0-1, therefore ending their five-game winning streak. PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women's Soccer:

UConn advances to Big East Semifinals with win over Butler



UConn playing Villanova in their final home game of the season. UConn won the game 4-0. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Sean Ahern
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
sean.ahern@uconn.edu

The UConn women's soccer team (10-3-5, 6-1-3 Big East) advances to the Big East semifinals after the 3-2 win over Butler (6-8-6, 2-3-5 Big East) on Sunday.

The Huskies remain nearly unstoppable at home, grab-

bing their seventh win at Morrone this season. The victory extends their overall winning streak to four games, all coming against Big East opponents.

The game produced the dramatic playoff tournament atmosphere fans love to see. UConn went into the second half with a 2-1 lead and maintained it up until Butler fresh-

man Norah Jacomen knotted the score at 2-2 in the 70th minute. It was Jacomen's ninth goal of the season and she finished first for the team after today's loss.

Getting the scoring started for UConn in the first half was graduate student Jessica Mazo. The Bridgeport, Conn. native netted her fourth goal of the season from a pass off fellow graduate student Cara Jordan in the opening minutes.

UConn would not let off the gas after the quick first-half goal. In the 25th minute, sophomore Chioma Okafor softly chipped over a shot into the goal for her fifth goal of the season. Okafor used her speed to get ahead of Butler defenders with a pass from UConn goalkeeper Kaitlyn Mahoney. Mahoney is now one of nine Huskies to collect an assist this season.

Butler would answer with 11 seconds to go in the first half when sophomore Talia Sommer took advantage of the UConn defense not setting up before a free kick. Sommer found a gap and put the ball

past Mahoney for her sixth goal of the season.

With UConn holding on to a one-point lead, both defenses would not allow a goal in the second half for almost 25 minutes until Jacomen's goal. The Huskies looked as though they would not have an answer until Okafor's final-minute heroics.

In the 89th minute, Okafor put in her team-leading sixth goal of the season off a pass from junior Sophie McCarthy. Similar to her first goal earlier in the game, Okafor would utilize her speed and quick-thinking to chip a shot over Butler goalkeeper Anna Pierce.

After a hot start to the season, Okafor scored her first goal since Sept. 16 against Buffalo. Okafor had been held scoreless by Big East opponents in ten straight games leading up to Sunday's game.

Okafor's second goal would prove to be all the Huskies needed offensively to put away the Bulldogs. Along with her two goals, she would finish with four points, tying a season-high.

The game was just the second time all season that Mahoney let in more than one goal. She tallied six saves for the game, one of them being an incredible move to block a shot from Jacomen in the second half to keep the score 2-1.

After letting in the second Butler goal, Mahoney locked up the net the rest of the game, saving one final shot attempt from the Bulldogs. That's all UConn needed to secure the victory.

UConn finally earned its first win over Butler in six tries. The offense has not come easy against the Bulldogs since 2020, as the Huskies have been shutout in four straight games up until Sunday. The win could not have come at a better time, catapulting UConn to the Big East semifinals.

Sunday's win is UConn's first Big East Tournament victory since they rejoined the conference in 2020.

With the win, the Huskies move on to face Georgetown on Thursday for a chance to play in the Big East Championship game.



UConn women's soccer team takes on Villanova for the final home game of the season on Oct. 19.

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women's Basketball: Arnold ready to contribute, involve her teammates on and off court

by Stratton Stave
SPORTS EDITOR
HE/HIM/HIS
stratton@uconn.edu

When freshmen join the 11x champion UConn women's basketball team, it's not often that they make a considerable impact from day one. It takes a certain type of player to change the structure and attitude of a team from the moment they set foot on campus. But KK Arnold, the most energetic person at the media tables at Big East Media Day in Madison Square Garden, is clearly not a normal freshman.

She changes the way the Huskies function in a number of ways, starting with her persona and energy. With the amount of laudation she's received from those around the program, it should

surprise nobody if she makes a considerable impact this year.

For her work so far on the court, Arnold has garnered high praise from head coach Geno Auriemma, something that's rare.

"KK gives us an element in the backcourt that we haven't had these past couple of years," Auriemma continued. "That changes our dynamic... We haven't had that kind of quickness and that kind of electricity in our backcourt. Nika [Mühl] has it, but when the two of them are in there together, it's double. She speeds things up, offensively and defensively. She doesn't have the experience that Nika does, but if you can believe it, she's more aggressive than Nika, which is hard to do. That's what I love about that kid."

It may be hard to believe that anyone can deliver more aggression than Mühl, widely regarded as one of the top effort players in the nation. But Mühl sees a lot of herself in Arnold and has even played a larger role in mentoring the freshman.

"She's amazing," Mühl said of Arnold. "She reminds me of me when I came here so much. I try to take her under my wing and try to tell her advice that I've been hearing every day since I came here. She's honestly a little burst of energy, a little social butterfly and she brings such a great, positive energy."

Mühl's praise for the Germantown, Wisconsin-native stretches onto the court too.

"She definitely adds a lot of energy," the senior noted. "She's an amazing defensive player. But

offensively, too, she's so smart, reads the floor so well, asks questions and is curious. Ever since day one, she's been improving herself and bringing the same things every single day."

Also sharing Mühl's sentiment is 2021 National POTY Paige Bueckers, who has been impressed with Arnold.

"KK is a joy to play with," Bueckers mentioned. "The energetic person you see up on this stage [at MSG] is who she is as a basketball player as well. [She's] extremely fast, extremely quick, extremely aggressive, offensively and defensively. She creates a lot of havoc... and is really fun to play with."

Part of what has helped Arnold make such a splash is how welcoming her teammates were from the get-go.

"When I first came in, they were super open, which made me feel a sense of comfortability around them," Arnold said of the team. "It makes me feel more comfortable to do stuff and be myself."

As for getting up to speed to the college level, a tall task for any freshman, it certainly helps to have such seasoned veterans to look up to.

"It's been a pretty good adjustment," noted Arnold. "Having upperclassmen to learn from, it's a relief for me that I can step back and learn the game of college basketball."

A person in particular who has helped Arnold has been Mühl, her mentor. Perhaps more than anything, there's the excitement of sharing the floor with a player who matches her passion and fire.

"We [Arnold and Mühl] bring a lot of energy, and it's very exciting to be on the court at the same time as her," said Arnold. "It's the defensive energy, knowing we can maybe get a steal or help our team get on offense faster."

Another key part of being a freshman is overcoming making mistakes and understanding

that dwelling on them isn't beneficial in the short term. Arnold evidently has the mindset to not let this issue impact her.

"Of course [mistakes] bother me, but I don't let that affect my next plays," she noted. "We all make mistakes, we're all going to make mistakes, especially with me being a freshman this year, but I can't let that affect me or affect the next play."

Along with the contributions Arnold has provided on the court, she's been doing her part in contributing to championship-level chemistry.

"It's been pretty good," Arnold said of the team's chemistry so far. "I'm a goofy person off the court, so I do a lot of tiktoking and everything; I open them up a bit. It's been super fun on and off the court."

Among those that she's helped open up are a few of her fellow freshmen.

"Definitely Ashlynn [Shade] or Qadence [Samuels]," Arnold noted on those with who she's gotten involved. "Qadence got out of her shell - we do a lot of tiktoks that help us, but Ashlynn's way more out of her shell."

In culmination, her early efforts on and off the floor have set her apart from the pack in a big way.

"There are certain freshmen who come in, and they set themselves apart immediately," Auriemma posed. "For different reasons, it could be competitiveness, energy level, high level of talent, maturity level. We've had our share of them over the years. I do think she's capable of being one of those freshmen."

With the season just a few days away, the world will get the chance to see just how much Arnold brings to this Husky squad that is hungry for their first championship in nearly a decade. If they're going to accomplish their goals, Arnold will need to be a key figure in some capacity, a role she is more than capable of filling.



'KK' Arnold in a photoshoot for UConn posted to her Instagram. Arnold has taken jersey number 2 in her first year. PHOTO COURTESY OF @KAMOREARNOLD ON INSTAGRAM

Women's Tennis: Huskies wrap up fall season at Elon Invite

by Caleb Cook
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
caleb.cook@uconn.edu

The UConn Women's Tennis team traveled to Elon, N.C. this past weekend for the Jimmy Powell Invitational hosted by Elon University. They squared off against Coastal Carolina, Elon and UNC Asheville over the course of the two-day event. While they started out slow, the Huskies were able to im-

prove with each match and end on a high note.

DAY 1: vs. Coastal Carolina

The Huskies started things off against a tough Coastal Carolina team. Out of 11 singles matches, eight wins went the Chanticleers' way. The three victors from UConn were freshman Caroline Hinshaw, sophomore Cameron Didion and freshman Isabella Asenov. All three won in straight sets, showing some

promise for the Huskies moving forward.

Doubles play was more of the same, as out of four matches, UConn only managed one win. That win came at the courtesy of the parking of Didion and senior Aleksandra Karamyshev, who defeated redshirt senior Katya Hersh and senior Isabella Weatherhead 6-3.

vs. Elon (Singles)

For the last matches of day one, UConn played against the

hosts and didn't fare any better than the previous matches. The schools faced off in seven singles matches, which finished 6-1 in Elon's favor. The lone win for the Huskies came thanks to Hinshaw, who continues to get big wins in tough spots. She outlasted fellow freshman Ella Suk in three sets, narrowly winning the tiebreaker set 15-13.

DAY 2: vs. Elon (Doubles)

Resuming their matchup against the Phoenix, UConn and Elon played four doubles matches. Connecticut showed some improvement here, splitting the matches two apiece. Junior Olivia Wright and freshman Victoria Matos just edged out a win against the star pairing of seniors Sibel Tanik and Lizette Reding by a score of 6-4. The other win for UConn came from Hinshaw and junior Isabel Petri Bere, who were victorious against freshman Simone Bergeron and sophomore Helen Sarikulaya 6-3.

vs. UNC Asheville

In singles play against the Bulldogs, UConn had their highest win total of the invite. The Huskies finished with a 3-4 record, headlined by wins from Wright, Karamyshev and Petri Bere. Wright won convincingly in straight sets against senior Linge Steenkamp and Petri Bere won in straight sets against freshman Louise Booker.

Karamyshev's match made it to a tiebreaker set, which she handled expertly, winning the final set 10-5.

In doubles, UConn once again went 50% with victories from the Wright/Matos pairing and the pairing of senior Nansi Toskova and Asenov. Wright and Matos won 6-4 in a tightly contested match against Steenkamp and junior Ari Siegel, while Toskova and Asenov didn't lose a game, winning their match 6-0 against freshman Alexis Nyborg and Booker. With their victory, Wright and Matos would be the doubles co-champions along with junior Anna Babayan and senior Jesse Hollins of Coastal Carolina.

OVERALL

While the invite as a whole didn't go as well as the Huskies would've hoped, there was clear improvement shown from day one to day two. They went 7-18 in singles and 5-8 in doubles, leaving them with a total record of 12-26. For playing in this invite for the first time and facing off against some seriously tough competition, UConn can't be too disappointed in their performance. They ended the season off with Wright and Matos' doubles championship and can go into their break with their heads held high.

UConn will be back in action on Saturday, Jan. 27 when they play Merrimack in Manchester, Conn.



UConn women's tennis team competes at home during the UConn invite on Friday, Sept. 15-17, 2023 against Sacred Heart, Wesleyan, Bryant, Stony Brook and Army. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sports

The Weekly Reed: UNDERSTANDING THE BRESLOW HIRE AND THE RED SOX'S NEXT STEPS.

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

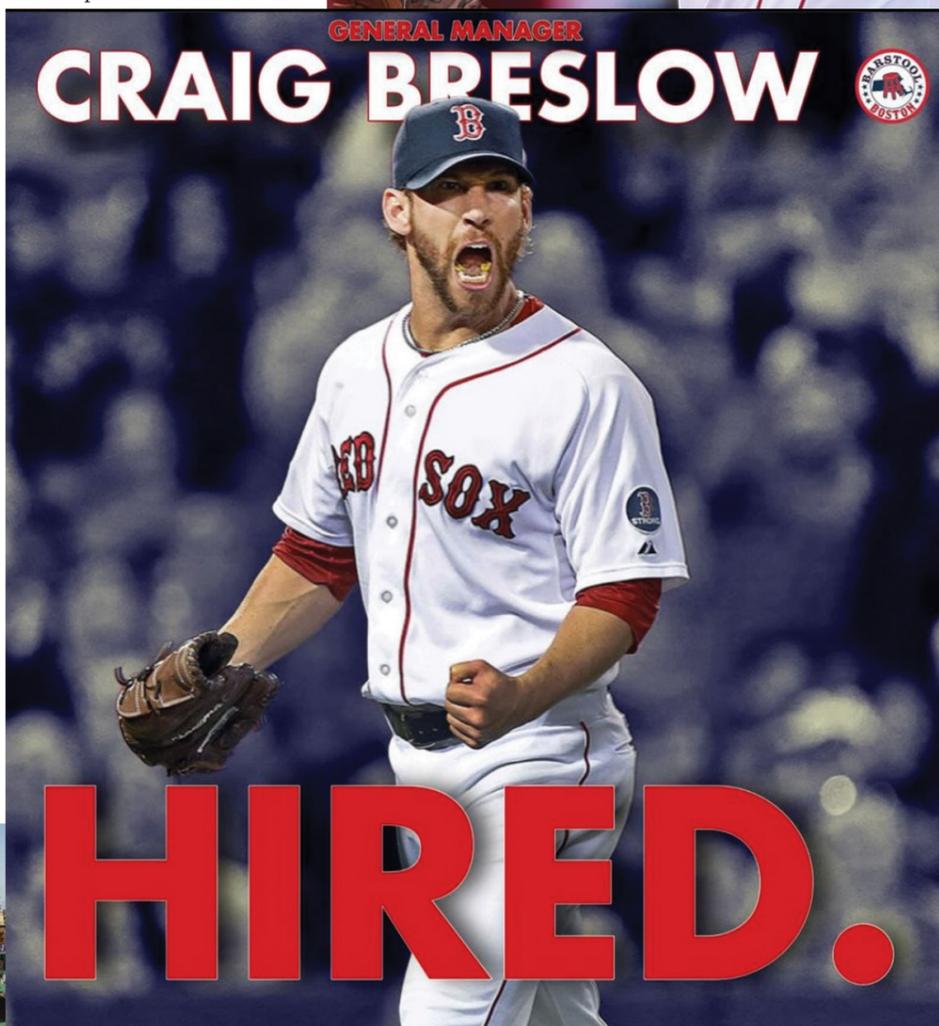
Those following baseball heard the announcement from the Boston Red Sox this week when they named Craig Breslow as the team's next Chief Baseball Officer. It was an interesting search, with many notable candidates declining the position, ultimately leading to Breslow getting hired. A Yale graduate, Breslow was named the sport's smartest player during his playing career, even being named one of the smartest athletes in general as well. He won a ring with Boston back in 2013 and joined the Chicago Cubs front office after he was done playing. Now, he'll be in charge of the organization's moves going forward.

While many have complained about the amount of people who turned down the job, I think Breslow can flourish and was the right decision. Pitching has been this team's Achilles heel during the Chaim Bloom era of Red Sox baseball, finishing 28th or lower in team ERA three out of four seasons under Bloom. With the Cubs, Breslow specialized in pitching. He led an organization-wide change in pitching philosophy that turned Justin Steele into a Cy Young candidate in 2023, brought out the best in Marcus Stroman and led to a top-30 ranked pitching prospect in Cade Horton (ranked 29th on MLB.com).

Something that has flown a little under the radar is that Theo Epstein recruited him

Massachusetts and a former Red Sox player. Chaim Bloom, who deserves the credit, built up the farm system basically from the bottom, leaving Breslow with plenty of assets for trade and development.

That being said, this team still has plenty of holes. Boston finished last in the division three out of the last four years, with their last division title coming in 2018. As mentioned earlier, pitching has been pretty abysmal over the last couple of seasons for the



Top right: Craig Breslow throwing a pitch during his time as a pitcher for the Red Sox. Breslow retired from playing but hasn't left the game entirely and has re-joined the Red Sox staff. PHOTO COURTESY OF @DIASPORAMASS ON INSTAGRAM

Middle: Craig Breslow, former player for the Boston Red Sox, celebrating on-field after a play. After Breslow's professional retirement, he's now looking for management positions. PHOTO COURTESY OF @BARSTOOL-BOSTON ON INSTAGRAM

Bottom left: Boston Red Sox stadium Fenway park on a sunny day. PHOTO COURTESY OF @REDSOX ON INSTAGRAM

receive an offer from the Sox. Shohei Ohtani finally hits free agency after the Angels failed to extend him, and he'll be a player teams open up the pocketbook for, including Boston. Players like Sonny Gray, Aaron Nola and Jorge Soler all have the potential to be linked to the Red Sox at some point, but the trade market is open too. Names like Shane Bieber have been talked about recently and could be a potential fit for Boston. With an abundance of left-handed outfield bats, Breslow and the front office could look to move one of those to solidify areas of need. That means someone like Alex Verdugo could be on his way out, with rumblings of trade talks already going down.

As for what needs to change with actual leadership under Breslow, it is the ability to make impact moves. Under Bloom, not many flashy big-market moves were made, which upset not only the fans but the players as well. That's why I feel that Boston will be more aggressive this offseason; they need to be. If the Red Sox continued to settle for conservative transactions, there was no use in firing Chaim Bloom. Now that Bloom's gone, it should mean that they will go out and field a competitive MLB team and not just try and build up the system. However, they need to find a way to do both simultaneously to find continued success, and they're looking for Breslow to be that guy.

Can Breslow do that is going to be what we find out. The lack of experience leaves a lot to be questioned about what type of guy he'll be, but I think Red Sox fans will find out quickly what his ideas are. At the end of the day, winning is what matters in Boston. Hopefully, for the first time since Dave Dombrowski was general manager, the Boston Red Sox will actively be putting together a roster to win now, with Craig Breslow leading the way.

himself for a position. Epstein, especially in Boston, is highly regarded as one of the brightest minds in the sport and saw the potential in Breslow. While he might lack experience at the head of a front office, he's still been in the room and seen how it's been done. He's also entering a Boston market that he's familiar with as a resident of

team, and the defense hasn't been much better.

The change will start with whoever Breslow decides to hire as Boston's next pitching and fielding coach positions. Dave Bush and Carlos Febles held those positions previously, and the team struggled in those categories under them. With Bush and Febles out, Breslow

will get to pick who he wants to bring in. A name being floated around is another former Red Sox player and current Giants pitching coach, Andrew Bailey. The former rookie of the year has ties with Breslow and has done relatively well in San Francisco, helping the team finish top-15 in team ERA in each of the last three seasons, includ-

ing a second-best ERA in 2021.

As for actual moves, the team has plenty of decisions to make. Soon-to-be Cy Young winner Blake Snell is set to hit the open market and is a great rotational piece the Red Sox could use. Yoshinobu Yamamoto has impressed MLB fans and teams with his spectacular performances in the NPB and should

WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

UCONN SCOREBOARD



3 vs. 2

Women's Soccer
Sunday

Upcoming Games



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



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

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@jonathanthehusky
Some things (and pups) will never go out of style. #1989taylorsversion

Ryan Cassidy

@ryancassidyebb

Highlights of UConn alum Jordan Hawkins with the New Orleans Pelicans last night

Hawkins finished with 9 points, 4 rebounds & an assist in 18 minutes of action. Hawkins has shot 4/8 on 3-point attempts through his first two NBA games.

Big things to come

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