



DINING HALL HOURS CHANGE DURING THANKSGIVING BREAK

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Dining services will have altered hours from Nov. 18 through Nov. 25, with all dining locations closed on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23.

Meal plans will temporarily shut down after dinner on Friday, Nov. 17, and will resume Sunday, Nov. 26, according to the dining services website.

On Friday, Nov. 17, all dining halls will be open for breakfast and lunch. However, North and South Dining Hall will only be open for dinner.

Students who have a current residential meal plan and are staying on campus during break can sign up for meals by going to the dining services website.

According to Michael White, director of dining services, students do not need to pay but must sign up for meals on the website.

Stephen Sharkis, associate director of residential dining, explained the sign-up sheet is required so dining services can account for the amount of food to order and prepare.

Sharkis added that the meal plan is limited to one swipe for each meal picked, which sometimes causes confusion.

“It is not unlimited meals. Everyone who signs up will choose the meals that they plan on attending, and we will have 1 meal swipe programmed to their card for each meal chosen. If the meal isn’t used, it does go away,” Sharkis said.

Sharkis said anyone with a community meal plan can use their plan throughout the week as normal.

On Saturday, Nov. 18, South Dining Hall will be open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. On Sunday, Nov. 19, through Friday, Nov. 25, Buckley Dining Hall will be open for all three meals, with the exception of Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23. On Sunday, Nov. 26, South Dining Hall will be open for breakfast, with all remaining dining halls, except for Buckley, open for dinner.

The hours of operation that week will remain the same, with breakfast open from 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., lunch from 11 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. and dinner from 4 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

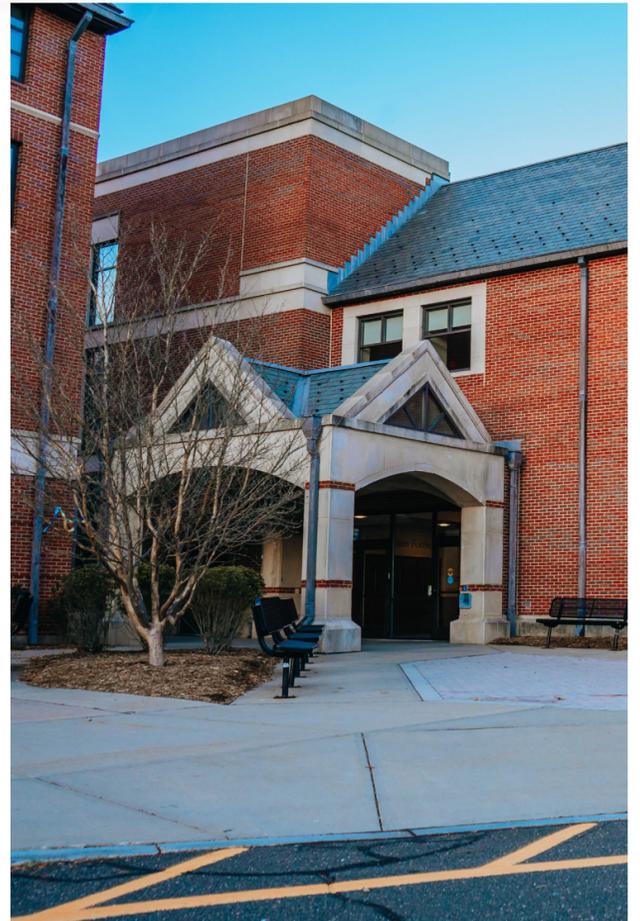
Points and flex passes associated with residential meal plans will temporarily shut down during the break and will resume on Sunday, Nov. 26.

Most retail locations will be closed throughout the week, with the exception of a few. According to the UConn retail dining hours, Market Cafe in the Student Union will be open from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 18., and 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Nov. 20. and Nov. 21. The Union Street Market will be open on Nov. 20 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The convenience store in the Student Union will also be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Nov. 20 and Nov. 21.

The Dairy Bar will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Nov. 18, 19, 21, 25, and 26. It will also be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 22.

The Husky Harvest Food Pantry will be open on Monday, Nov. 20, but will be closed on Thanksgiving Day.

For those who ordered from the UConn Bakery Thanksgiving Pie and Baked Goods Sale, orders can be picked up



South campus at UConn Storrs is home to three suite-style residence halls for Storrs students as well as Rose Commons. The commons include South Dining Hall, a game room, study spaces and various administrative offices.

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

Wednesday, Nov. 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the bakery on 30 Gurleyville Rd in Storrs, according to the dining services website.

More information about dining services during Thanksgiving break can be found at <https://dining.uconn.edu/thanksgiving-break/>.

International students have returned to U.S. colleges, fueled by a surge from India



Students walk to and from classes on the Indiana University campus, Thursday, Oct. 14, 2021, in Bloomington, Ind. A new study from the State Department and the Institute of International Education finds that international students in the U.S. grew by 12% in the 2022-23 academic year, the largest jump in more than 40 years. More than 1 million students came from abroad, the most since the 2019-20 school year.

PHOTO BY DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

WASHINGTON (AP) — International students attended U.S. universities in surging numbers last year, rebounding from a pandemic slump with the help of a 35% jump in students coming from India, according to a study released Monday.

Overall, the number of international students in the U.S. grew by 12% in the 2022-23 academic year, the largest single-year increase in more than 40 years, according to findings from the State Department and the nonprofit Institute of International Education.

More than 1 million students came from abroad, the most since the 2019-20 school year.

“This reinforces that the U.S. remains the destination of choice for international students wishing to study abroad, as it has been for more than a century,” said Allan E. Goodman, CEO of the Institute of International Education.

American colleges enrolled nearly 269,000 students from India, more than ever and second only to China. Most came for

graduate programs, often in science, technology and business.

“The U.S. maintains a strong relationship with India on education, which I think is getting even stronger and even more connected,” said Marianne Craven, the State Department’s acting deputy assistant secretary for academic exchange.

China still accounted for the most foreign students in the U.S. with 290,000, but its numbers decreased for a third consecutive year.

It reflects a gradual shift. After years of booming demand from China, interest has ebbed amid chilly international relations and increased competition from universities in the United Kingdom and Canada. Officials behind the new study also blame prolonged travel restrictions in Asia during the pandemic.

At the same time, U.S. universities have focused on recruiting in India, hoping to tap a growing population that the United Nations predicted would overtake China as the world’s largest this year. Students from India now outnumber those from China in 24 U.S. states, including Illinois, Texas and Michigan, which rank among the top destinations for international students.

For the second consecutive year, America’s graduate programs were the main attraction for international students, the study finds. Graduate enrollment grew by 21%, while undergraduate numbers ticked up 1%. It reverses a trend from the previous decade, which saw undergraduates come in larger numbers.

Much of last year’s growth is credited to math and computer science programs, which attracted more students than any other subject and saw a 20% boost in enrollment over the previous year. Engineering and business followed behind. Taken together, those three fields account for more than half of all international students in the United States.

The surge nearly brings international numbers back to their pre-pandemic highs, with a peak of almost 1.1 million students in 2018. Enrollment fell precipitously over the following two years as COVID-19 stifled academic exchange.

The rebound appears to be continuing, with an 8% increase in international enrollment this fall, according to a smaller survey meant to give a snapshot of recent trends.

Overall, international students made up just 5.6% of all college students in the 2022-23 year, but they play an outsize role in U.S. higher education. University leaders say they’re important for global exchange, and they’re also important for revenue — international students are usually charged higher tuition rates, effectively subsidizing college for U.S. students.

Behind China and India, nations sending the most students to the U.S. were South Korea, Canada, Vietnam, Taiwan and Nigeria. Last school year saw a record number of students come from Bangladesh, Colombia, Ghana, India, Italy, Nepal, Pakistan and Spain.

While more students come from abroad, many colleges are struggling to attract students at home. Total enrollment across all colleges has stayed in a slump in the wake of pandemic decreases, and freshman enrollment decreased by 3.6% in fall 2023, according to a separate study by the National Student Clearinghouse.

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News

Bestselling spiritual author Marianne Williamson presses on with against-the-odds presidential run

(AP) — Marianne Williamson has kept barnstorming for months across America — to audiences large and small, from churches and colleges to spiritual centers and soup kitchens — in a demanding schedule of appearances in her second tenacious, against-the-odds run for the presidency.

The bestselling spiritual author and one-time advisor to Oprah Winfrey didn't make it to the 2020 primaries in a wide-open Democratic field. Now she is running against a sitting president from her own party, and the Democratic establishment has closed ranks behind Joe Biden.

Even some of her most devoted followers doubt she can be elected. So why is Williamson even running? She says it's the faith she has in herself and the American people.

"The most important things you do in life, not because there's guaranteed success on some external level, but because you feel in your heart it's the right thing to do," Williamson, 71, said during an interview in New York City.

She admits it has been grueling at times — not just the punishing campaign schedule, but more so the emotional bruising from a barrage of unflattering characterizations.

For her, it's "the ultimate challenge to have tough skin, but a soft and open heart," she said. But Williamson worries that negative perceptions detract from her policy positions, which include financial reparations for Black Americans and creation of a Department of Peace.

"What are the words they use? Wacky, kooky, crystal lady," she said, listing the names she's called. "People will take one line out of a book, com-

pletely out of context. That has certainly been done to me. Plus, you know, they lie."

Born in Houston to a Jewish family, Judaism remains her core belief, and she also embraces universal spiritual themes, like loving one another. Williamson came into the spotlight with her popular 1992 book, "A Return to Love." Oprah, highlighting it on her own site, wrote: "I have never been more moved by a book."

Williamson, the author of more than a dozen titles and well-known for supporting LG-BTQ people, retains a legion of dedicated fans. Millions buy her books, attend her lectures and engage with her on TikTok.

"She is extremely sincere in her beliefs, wise in many ways even," said Issac Bailey, a communications professor at Davidson College in North Carolina who has written about Williamson's faith and politics. "But she also has a streak that takes her beyond the pale."

He pointed to her wariness and sharp criticism of government vaccine mandates that came up during her last campaign. She later said she supports vaccines.

"I'm a socially middle of the road Jew who goes to the doctor," she said. "I'm not a crystal lady. I understand how important science is."

Williamson entered politics with an unsuccessful independent congressional campaign in California in 2014, then broke onto the national stage two years later as a vocal supporter of Bernie Sanders' failed presidential bid.

In 2020, she entered the race herself. She acknowledges

making what she calls "cringe-worthy" comments back then, like how she would harness love to defeat former President Donald Trump.

"Once they could be contextualized in a way that made me appear silly, there was almost no getting past the mockery," she said.

People may embrace quasi-spiritual language in their private lives, but if it's from political candidates, it typically doesn't play well on the campaign trail, said Galen Watts, a sociology and legal studies professor at the University of Waterloo in Canada.

But this is not new territory for Williamson. For years, she has been under fire from intellectuals who call her theology too shallow, from politicians who mock her ideas, and more recently from some former campaign staff who say she's irascible and is only trying to sell more books. She concedes that she probably swore more than she should have in her last campaign, but scoffs at the book-selling gibe.

"The way to sell books is by going on a book tour, not a presidential campaign," she said. "The way to sell books in my field is to never mention politics."

Some have questioned her political inexperience. But she dismisses that: "I reject the notion that only those whose careers have been ensconced in the car that drove us into this ditch are the only people we should consider qualified to drive us out of the ditch."

She announced her candidacy in February, and now is arguably the best-known Democrat still challenging Biden for the



Democratic presidential candidate Marianne Williamson addresses the crowd at The Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023, in Ann Arbor, Mich. Williamson has kept barnstorming for months across America in a demanding schedule of appearances and speeches in her second run for the presidency.

PHOTO BY JOSE JUAREZ/AP

party's 2024 presidential nomination. But recent polls show her running more than 60 percentage points behind.

She is well-liked by many young people, including Jose Serna, a 21-year-old at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Serna hopes she stays in the race "because she is illuminating the ideas that young people care about" including Medicare for all, equitable wages and affordable housing.

"While I do believe that it is unlikely that Marianne will win the nomination, it is not because of her policies," he said, citing a common complaint by Williamson and her backers about a lack of media attention.

Marie Griffith, a professor of women, gender and sexuality studies at Washington University in St. Louis, says there's a practical reason why Williamson stands no chance of winning.

"She has no connection that I know of to Democratic machine politics — meaning the people who raise all the money and make or break the political careers of those identifying as Democrats," Griffith said.

Williamson talks at times in religious and spiritual terms to describe America as a nation in need of confession and atonement. She worries about vast economic inequality and wants to declare a climate emergency.

One of her signature policy proposals would have the government pay Black citizens reparations for centuries of enslavement and discrimination. She advocated for this in her 1997 book "The Healing of America." Today, she proposes creating a council of Black academic, cultural and political leaders to disperse at least \$1 trillion to Black Americans over two decades.

Author and rabbi Jay Michaelson lauded Williamson for raising the issue before other political candidates, and for her work during the AIDS crisis, but in 2019 he wrote a scathing critique of her bid for president. He called her "selfish, deluded and dumb by denigrating science" and said she gives spiritually a bad name.

Michaelson, in a recent interview, said he agreed with Williamson "that our spiritual commitments and our religious commitments should impact our political lives." But he says she will remain a fringe candidate because some of her policy positions are too radical for many.

"To say, 'We need a politics of love' without explaining what that is," he said. "Or that we need a new paradigm, or that we need some kind of revolution — that doesn't play on Main Street."

Williamson denies denigrating science and disputes broader criticisms of her campaign.

"This idea that I am un-serious — my campaign is the one talking about one in four Americans living with medical debt. My campaign is the one talking about the fact that the majority of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck," she said.

"My campaign is the most serious campaign."



Democratic presidential candidate Marianne Williamson, center, is cheered by the crowd after finishing her talk at The Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023, in Ann Arbor, Mich. "The most important things you do in life, not because there's guaranteed success on some external level, but because you feel in your heart it's the right thing to do," Williamson, 71, said during an interview in New York City.

PHOTO BY JOSE JUAREZ/AP

The Daily Campus

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Study Break

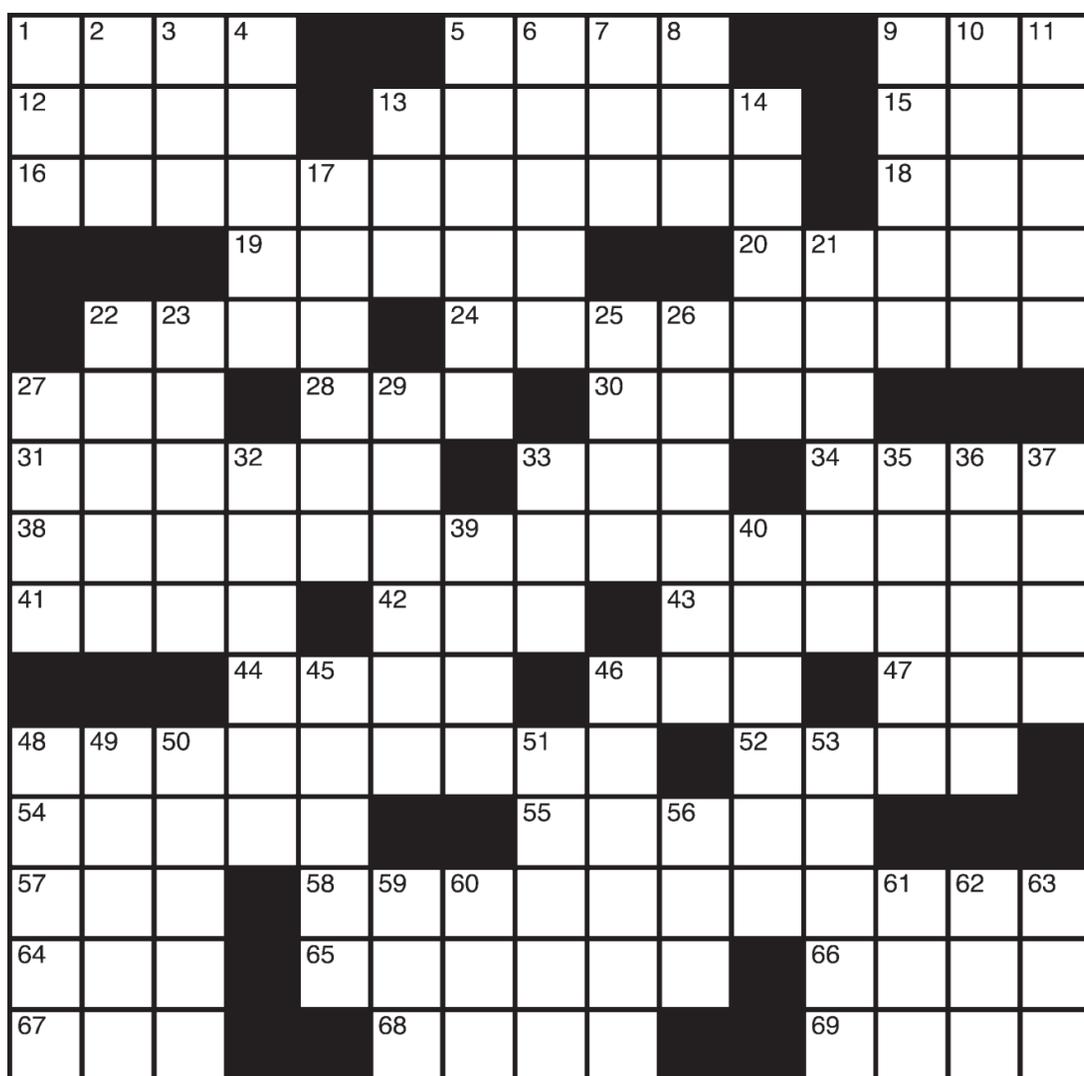
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ACROSS

- 1 Yahtzee cubes
- 5 Load to bear
- 9 Includes on an email
- 12 Milky white gem
- 13 Exactly right
- 15 Barrister's field
- 16 *Device that crushes pungent cloves
- 18 Unlock, in verse
- 19 Shared values
- 20 "Tag, ___ it!"
- 22 Puts on
- 24 *Go swimming in one's birthday suit
- 27 Domino dimple
- 28 Flexible blackjack card
- 30 Letters accompanying college apps
- 31 Maker of Calm + Restore skin care products
- 33 Sheep sound
- 34 Threesome
- 38 Come to a satisfying conclusion, and what the answer to each starred clue literally has
- 41 Wild guess
- 42 P-like Greek letter
- 43 Apple AirPods, e.g.
- 44 Qatari leader
- 46 ___ deco
- 47 Some coll. degrees
- 48 *Perm style popular in the 1980s and early 1990s
- 52 Olympic sword
- 54 Vampire teeth
- 55 Video game pioneer
- 57 Tot
- 58 *Very little, informally
- 64 "World of Dance" judge, to fans
- 65 Make a minister
- 66 Constellation bear
- 67 << on a remote: Abbr.
- 68 Rapper Lil Uzi ___
- 69 Yellowstone grazers

DOWN

- 1 "Best in Show" animal



By Margi Stevenson

11/14/23

- 2 Hoppy brew letters
- 3 Sedan, e.g.
- 4 Astronaut Ochoa who was the first Latina in space
- 5 Stand against
- 6 Scandinavian language, to its speakers
- 7 Native people of Colorado
- 8 Distress call
- 9 Sun block?
- 10 ___ pants: warm-weather wear
- 11 Use a broom
- 13 PTA meeting place
- 14 "Bye Bye Bye" boy band
- 17 "Hard pass"
- 21 Bivalve in a bed
- 22 Golfer's gouge
- 23 Rossini composition
- 25 Tehran's land
- 26 Less of a mess
- 27 Bear hands
- 29 Journalist Katie who guest-hosted "Jeopardy!" in 2021
- 32 Actress Anita of "La Dolce Vita"

Monday's Puzzle Solved



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11/14/23

- 33 Sci. course
- 35 Yeshiva leader
- 36 Occupied
- 37 Betting numbers
- 39 Drive-___ window
- 40 Trash-talking types
- 45 Bungle
- 46 Writing movement rooted in internet culture
- 48 Jackie O's son
- 49 Selassie of Ethiopia
- 50 Fund
- 51 Storm-tracking aid
- 53 Arouse, as interest
- 56 Author Rand
- 59 Hip-hop producer Gotti
- 60 1950s political monogram
- 61 Bookmarked link
- 62 Invite (to)
- 63 Prof's assistants

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

effie trinket

catching fire

cornucopia

mockingjay

rebellion

primrose

capitol

tribute

district

archery

katniss

reaping

arena

panem

cannon

peeta

snow





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AT HOME AND ABROAD

by **Clyde D'Souza**
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On Monday morning, I was happy to learn that the Office of Experiential and Global Learning, which oversees all study abroad programs and international scholarships, was hosting a “personalized” information session. The session catered to the specific questions that students may have regarding eligibility and the application timeline or process.

Though I had anticipated a general group information session, I gladly took the opportunity to engage in a conversation with Valerie Jenkelunas, an advisor within EGL and Dr. Vin Moscardelli, the head of the Office of National Scholarships and Fellowships. As you can imagine, EGL and ONSF are inextricably intertwined in regard to international scholarships.

Many of these competitive awards are offered nationally and are federally funded. Concurrently, many involve a learning component, project or study abroad experience that occurs overseas.

Perhaps one of the most crucial messages of the experience was the importance of preparation as the cornerstone to a successful application and experience. From the time you decide to apply to UConn to the

time that you board a plane to begin learning Turkish on behalf of America’s foreign interests, being vigilant of deadlines and knowing what to have ready is critical.

“... getting involved early, knowing your options and beginning dialogue is foundational.”

For this reason, getting involved early, knowing your options and beginning dialogue is foundational. While you may not feel ready to apply until your junior year, it’s easy to underestimate how much planning is involved in the process.

For one, if the scholarship involves a study abroad experience — such as the Gilman scholarship — learning how this will factor into your major requirements and plan of study will likely require the help of your major advisor. Planning out your finances and applying for a visa are also important steps that can be time-consuming and often forgotten by the wayside.

Fortunately for Huskies, there are advisors in EGL who make student applications their priority and help students interested in the awards with every step of the application. All that’s required is a little bit of motivation and personal initiative.

Because most of these programs are funded by American taxpayers — and are possible as a result of America’s bilateral and diplomatic relations — most awards are restricted to citizens, though a select few are available to permanent residents. If you’re not yet a citizen but plan on becoming naturalized, fear not, as eligibility is just around the corner.

Perhaps one of the most sought-after international scholarships that everyone should be aware of is the Fulbright scholarship. This hypercompetitive national scholarship funds an awardee’s experience abroad as they engage in a project uniquely beneficial to their chosen country. One myth is that there’s only one type of Fulbright; in reality, there are different awards that are targeted at undergraduates, graduate students, professionals and researchers.

One type of Fulbright, the English Teaching Assistant Award, supports those willing to aid local English teachers in the classroom. Another, known as the Fulbright-Fogarty Fellowship, sponsors individuals in the healthcare field to conduct field and clinical public health research while abroad, typically in areas known for compromised public health.

A category of lesser-known but equally prestigious awards support the recipient’s acquisition of foreign language skills. Awards such as the Boren Awards and Critical Language Scholarship seek to expose and immerse recipients in a culture and language of choice.

“At the end of the day, no matter what your background is or how competitive you’re feeling, these programs are a great way to boost a resume, experience a new culture and give back to the world around you.”

At the end of the day, no matter what your background is or how competitive you’re feeling, these programs are a great way to boost a resume, experience a new culture and give back to the world around you. While your academic career as an undergraduate or graduate student may be busy, simply beginning a conversation with an advisor from EGL may open up possibilities that you have never considered before. EGL can be found on their website: egl.uconn.edu.

UNVEILING ERNESTINA: A UCHI FELLOWS TALK ON FORGOTTEN LEGACIES

by **Joanna Giano**
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On Nov. 8, the Homer Babbidge Library hosted a UCHI Fellows Talk featuring Ana María Díaz-Marcos, a professor of Spanish literature at the University of Connecticut. Díaz-Marcos dissected the intriguing question, “Why do so many women vanish from history after leading exceptional lives?” Also present at the Fellows Talk was Oscar Guerra, an Emmy award-winning director, researcher and educator. Guerra holds the

position of Associate Professor of Film and Video at UConn while also serving as a producer at PBS.

The central theme of the conversation revolved around Ernestina G. Fleischman, an example of a woman seemingly erased from historical records. The talk delved into archival research surrounding the recovery of her legacy and writings. They also examined her biography and pivotal moments from her life, including significant tragic moments in the Spanish Civil War, her activism in the civil rights sphere of New York and much more.

Fleischman’s life forms a captivating tapestry woven

with the threads of political activism, global acclaim and intellectual brilliance. As a writer, librarian, Spanish teacher and prominent advocate for anti-fascism, she became the voice for New York’s Spanish-speaking community, enchanting audiences through her nightly radio program, “Voice of Fighting Spain,” in the 1940s. She also wrote for three prominent Spanish newspapers in New York and gave multiple public speeches. Fleischman consistently directed her efforts toward advocating for human rights, antifascism,

feminism, anti-imperialism and peace.

However, the puzzling erasure of this influential figure remains an enigma. Unraveling her story goes beyond the exploration of an extraordinary woman’s life; it forces us to confront the broader challenges of preserving the legacies of those who passionately fought against oppression. Fleischman’s tale stands in silent contradiction to history’s oversight, prompting us to ask: How can we ensure that the voices of such remarkable women resound through time, avoiding the shadows of obscurity?



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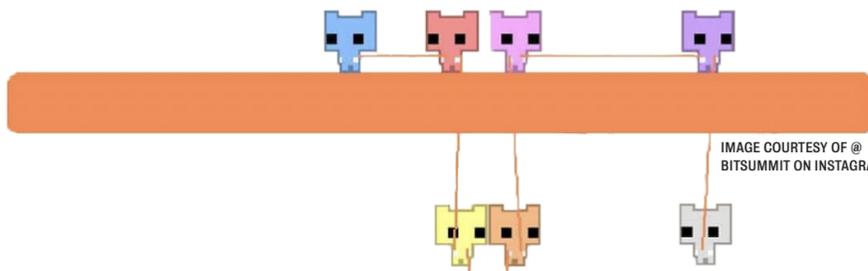


IMAGE COURTESY OF @BITSUMMIT ON INSTAGRAM

THE BACKLOG: Destroy your friendships with 'PICO PARK'

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. Last week, we started November with “cooperative” games, and we will dive into a game that makes both casual and YouTube gamers rage: “Pico Park.”

“Pico Park” was originally released in 2016 on Steam and was later ported to the Nintendo Switch in 2019. The game is a co-op multiplayer experience that can be played both locally or online and supports two to eight players at a time. The style is a simplistic 2D platforming experience with puzzles you have to solve. I first played it on PC with my little sister — luckily, she is the more cooperative of my two siblings.

The mechanics vary throughout the levels with very simple features. In some levels, the players are attached by rope and must rely on each other to get through to the end. Of course, this leads to many instances where you want to strangle your friends due to the craziness of the gameplay. Another feature is the ghost, which is present in some levels, and at least one person must be looking at the ghost in order to stop it from eliminating you.

Many YouTubers have played the game and uploaded some of the funniest videos on the platform. Rico The Giant and Smii7Y have videos showcasing the hilarious and chaotic mess that “Pico Park” and other co-op games provide. There is always that one player who either doesn’t understand the mechanics of the level, and it has to be spelled out for them, or the player who purposely sabotages the rest of the team because they like to watch the world burn.

The more players at a time, the more hijinx that will ensue. There are 12 groups of levels, with each having unique mechanics. In my playthrough with my sister, we struggled immensely with the Retro Game and Ball Park levels. The “Tetris” level wasn’t too difficult for us, but once we arrived on level 8-2, we wanted to throw out the entire PC. In this level, players are given hard hats and four balls. You have to use the balls to hit blocks at the top of the level and prevent the balls from hitting the ground, or else they are lost forever. I kid you not; this one took us a few days because players can easily block each other or prevent the other from jumping by standing on top of them.

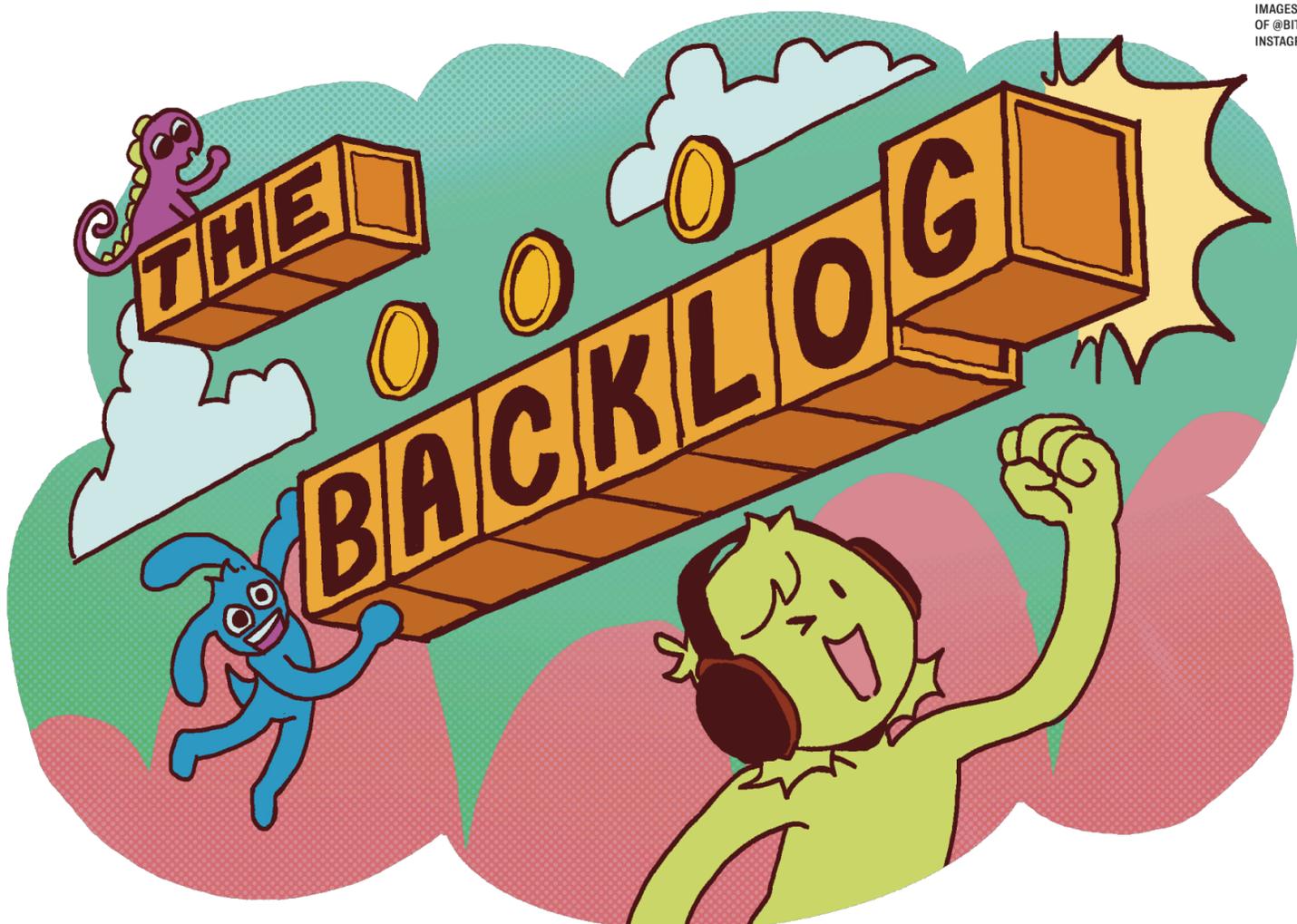
As for the Ball Park levels, it was here that truly tested a gamer’s sense of timing and reflexes. While they start easy by teaching you that you need to jump in order to let the ball hit and break a vase, it quickly becomes tougher. We had barely made it through level 9-3, which felt like a harder version of 8-2. Instead of the blocks being at the top of the level, they are put in front of you as obstacles and must be destroyed, not to mention the fact that you have to release a key to the door at the end as well. If you are quick to anger and lack communication skills, then I wouldn’t recommend this game for you. But rage can make the experience funnier to look back on.

Overall, “Pico Park” does not impress through stunning visuals or innovative features. Where it excels, however, is in its compatibility for all players, no matter how much experience they have with video games. It’s a game that you could play as a family with a wide age range. I could play this with my 11-year-old sister or my mom who only plays “Candy Crush.” I appreciate how family-friendly it is, but be warned that it may end up destroying your friend group and your faith in humanity.



RATING: 3/5

IMAGES COURTESY OF @BITSUMMIT ON INSTAGRAM



LOGO BY HALEIGH SCHMIDT, ASSOCIATE ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Opinion

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COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Husky Market, an initiative at the University of Connecticut that provided students experiencing food insecurity with a \$300 grocery store gift card, is being cut due to Connecticut state policy changes, according to reporting from The Daily Campus.

The program was created in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic as a collaborative effort between the now-defunct UConn Praxis and the Undergraduate Student Government. At the time, Connecticut state financial policy allowed for USG to provide gift cards to students to offset grocery costs. However, the policy has since been rolled back, taking Husky Market's closure out of USG's hands. Without the policy that originally allowed them, providing gift cards had the potential to negatively impact a student's eligibility for financial aid.

The Daily Campus Editorial Board has previously highlighted the concern that comes along with the need for Husky Market and similar programs. Of course, any initiative meant to alleviate the pressures of food insecurity at UConn is worth having. However, there is still a need to question why there is food insecurity on UConn's campuses and what more could be done to combat the issue.

The cheapest meal plan at UConn's Storrs campus is \$3,013 per semester, which

is a significant sum that students living on campus in dorm or suite-style housing are required to spend in addition to their housing. On-campus housing itself is also pricey, with the cheapest dorm rate going for \$3,820 per semester. To spend a minimum of \$6,833 to live on campus and eat in the dining halls for a singular semester is a tall ask for most college students.

With such a financial burden, it makes sense that students might choose to live off campus. However, students doing so are not required to purchase a meal plan and must rely on other means to find meals. Realistically, if an off-campus student applied for and was eligible for Husky Market, the solution to their food insecurity would be to not purchase an expensive meal plan. Inherently, the ending of Husky Market removes a food resource from students who may not have had many other options.

Additionally, UConn's dining halls have a massive amount of food waste to reckon with. In 2021, it was reported by The Daily Campus that employees of Union Street Market in the Student Union are instructed to throw away excess food at the end of the day and are not allowed to take any extra food home. While Dining Services has food waste initiatives meant to curb food waste at the university, the disparity between wasted food and students facing food insecurity is drastic.

Despite the closure of Husky Market, it is still important to note the other efforts left to combat food insecurity. Husky Harvest, a food pantry located in the Charter Oak Apartments Community Center on the Storrs campus, is a more recent initiative. Open on Mondays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., anyone with a UConn ID can swipe in and utilize the pantry as a source of nonperishable food items, as well as some options for produce and toiletries. There are also local pantries and a swipe-donation program that students can use through the Dean of Students Office.

Ultimately, Husky Market is not an insignificant loss in regards to combating food insecurity at UConn. University administrators must take a closer look at how their policies contribute to food insecurity and, therefore, impact students' ability to learn while in college. Husky Market's closure proves to students that they must pressure their administrators to provide more. It goes without saying that all students at UConn deserve to be sufficiently fed, and the loss of Husky Market is yet another step in the wrong direction against this human right.

PICKING DAISIES IN A BURNING MEADOW

by Nell Srinath
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Writing a weekly column for a campus newspaper recently has felt like replacing the little slip of cardstock displaying the unit price in the supermarket. Instead of updating the cost for that brand of bread featuring the mustachioed dude playing a guitar, I'm overwriting the toll of last week's atrocities with this week's. The process of watching the numbers tick

settler-colonialism and American imperialism. As I've argued in previous columns, UConn students and Connecticut residents are in close proximity to the production of weapons used to devastate Gaza. We have every reason to feel the weight of this tragedy on our shoulders like an iron anchor. In a compassionate world, every day would be marked by another vigil and heart-wrenching cries of solidarity with the parents who lost children under the rubble of the Jabalia refugee camp

events that I can't go to — genuinely provokes tinges of guilt despite knowing how irrational that is. I find it genuinely disturbing that the incredibly taxing work of rallying for Palestine has fallen almost entirely on the backs of Palestinian American youth, who deserve as much leisure and joy for its own sake as anyone else. Personal fulfillment has come to feel like gardening in an active volcano, playing Tetris in an avalanche, picking flowers in a meadow that was set on fire. If you share this utterly human sensation with me, lean into it.

“As of writing this, the amount of Palestinians killed by the U.S-backed Israeli bombardment of Gaza has exceeded 11,000, per the Gaza Health Ministry.”

around me are just living their lives, business as usual.

As of writing this, the amount of Palestinians killed by the U.S-backed Israeli bombardment of Gaza has exceeded 11,000, per the Gaza Health Ministry. Missiles are closing in around hospitals such as the Al-Quds and Al-Shifa medical centers, on which tens of thousands of people are dependent for urgent and intensive medical care or shelter from the storm of the occupation's bombings.

Those same hospitals cannot operate their neonatal intensive care units due to the military siege depriving healthcare facilities of fuel, putting dozens of premature babies at risk. Some do not survive long enough for a birth certificate to be issued in their name. Infants who do survive aren't guaranteed the warmth and familiarity of their ancestral home, the boundlessly loving embrace of their parents, siblings and extended family members or a future full of clear skies and hot meals. If there was a word to describe the resilience needed to live with the omnipresent risk of death, it would be “Gaza.”

Connecticut is some 5,600 miles from the Gaza Strip. Despite our geographic distance, we are not separate from the ongoing carnage waged by a wicked alliance between Zionists

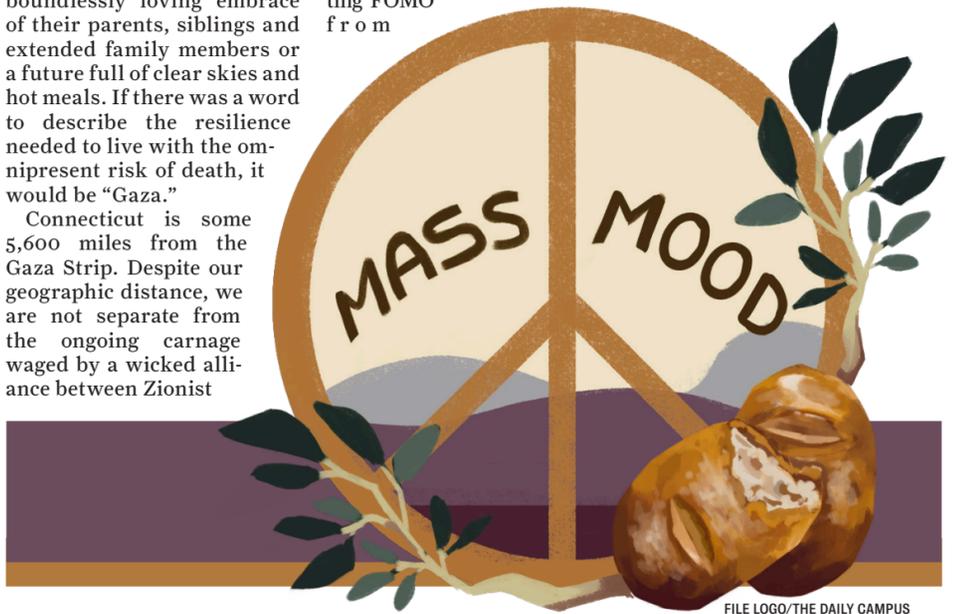
or children who lost parents in Khan Yunis. There would be displays of mourning for Palestinians over the age of 75 who survived one Nakba only to face another today. And most importantly, the elected officials who continue to tacitly endorse the bombardment of Gaza wouldn't know a moment of peace.

And yet business as usual persists. I'm sure I'm not alone when I say that seeing videos of parties, concerts and ostentatious celebrity gatherings leaves a horrible taste in my mouth and that the everyday demands of completing assignments and updating my resume have all but lost their significance. Ruminating on my not-quite-teenager, not-quite-grown-up problems — not having enough free time, navigating relationships, getting FOMO

“We have an obligation to sit with the sadness, anger and rage brewing inside all of us and redirect it into action — action such as protesting weapons manufacturers sending shipments to Israel.”

weapons manufacturers sending shipments to Israel. The most effective antidote to discomfort over the “state of the world” is being one of the people to do something about it.

Editorial HUSKY MARKET CLOSED, BUT FOOD INSECURITY REMAINS



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Rowing facilities



The UConn boat house on Coventry Lake sits vacant in the off season. Renovations are scheduled to upgrade the facility for the women's rowing team.
PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

THE DAILY CAMPUS SUDOKU

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FLIP THE PAPER UPSIDE DOWN FOR THE ANSWERS!

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Are neutral site games ruining college basketball?

by Nick D'Alessio
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Last week, college basketball officially started. For most high-major teams, such as UConn, that meant a buy game against a mid-major opponent and trying to avoid being the subject of an “Epitome of Brutality” tweet from Jon Rothstein. For the Auburn Tigers, however, that meant a date with the Bears of Baylor. The most interesting aspect about this matchup wasn't the fact that two high-major programs were opening the season against each other or five-star freshmen Aden Holloway and Ja'Kobe Walker squaring off in their college debuts. The most interesting storyline surrounding this game was its location in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, over 900 miles from Baylor and 1,200 from Auburn.

Neutral site games have always been a major part of the college basketball landscape. Many of the greatest moments in college basketball history have come at neutral sites between early-season tournaments, charity events, conference tournaments, and the NCAA Tournament itself. But for games such as Auburn/Baylor, regular events played at sites far away from campuses and fanbases have become a growing trend. Auburn's Bruce Pearl has even gone as far as to say that the Tigers had to play that game “to stay relevant in the world of college basketball.” Of course, he isn't necessarily talking about media coverage. Traveling to South Dakota to play the Bears did not make Pearl's program any more or less relevant in the

public eye than if they played in Waco, Alabama or even if they played a team like Northern Arizona. What it did have an impact on, though, was Auburn's NET rankings, which is the main ranking used by the committee that selects and seeds the teams for the NCAA Tournament.

While the NET rankings themselves can be based on a tricky algorithm used to determine which teams are better than one another, they are also used to determine the strength of schedules and which games mean more than others. Matchups are broken down into four quadrants based on the opponents' NET ranking and the game's location. Quadrant one games are the toughest games a team can play. A win could provide teams, especially smaller programs, with an ultimate resume booster, while a loss won't severely damage their ranking. Conversely, for high-major teams, a quadrant four loss could be deadly for their season, while a win won't mean much in the long run. Because of this, high-major programs are trying to avoid scheduling more games that would fall into the Quad Four category, and instead opting for more Quad One games.

First, let's break down exactly what qualifies as a Quad one game. As mentioned, quadrants are separated based on opponent NET ranking and game location. If UConn plays a team ranked 1-30 in the NET at home, it qualifies as a Quad one game. For a neutral site game to fall into the same category, the opponent's NET ranking has to be 1-50, which opens the field to another 20 potential matchups for UConn that would count



Gampel Pavilion opened in January of 1990, and is home to the five time national champion men's basketball and 11 time national champion women's basketball. It was also the home to volleyball until this year when they moved to what used to be Frieta's Ice Forum.
 PHOTO BY SHELAGH LAVERTY, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

as a Quad One matchup. With rankings fluctuating throughout the season and matchups played early in the season shifting between quadrants, coaches would rather play at a neutral site. This would keep the game in the Quad one category if their opponent falters late in the season and drops in the NET rankings. For true road games, that number balloons to 75. However, with teams still trying to find their footing early in the season, coaches are skeptical about traveling into hostile environments. Therefore, the number of true road and home games between high-major teams dissipates. Because of this, more “Neutral Home and Home” series, such as UConn's matchup with Gonzaga, are making their way into existence. This December, Connecticut will travel to Washington to take on the Bulldogs. But

instead of this game being played in Spokane, Gonzaga will take the relatively short trip to Seattle so the game can qualify as a neutral site game. In response, Gonzaga will travel to the East Coast to face the Huskies next year, but rather than playing at Gampel Pavilion or the XL Center, the teams will meet at Madison Square Garden.

Are more events like this better for the game? It's hard to argue that the product on the court is not more entertaining. Two high-major teams competing, especially early in the season while so much is unknown, is almost always bound to be a better game than one between an elite program and a non-competitive opponent. What's unfortunate is how this affects the atmosphere, mainly from a student perspective. When games are at home, students have the ability to make

the contest feel like a true college basketball game. When two teams play a game hundreds of miles away from their campuses, especially during school, most students can't make the trip. Similarly, everyday fans also face a similar dilemma. It creates a below-average atmosphere where the arena is mainly filled with casual goers. While the experience from a fan perspective isn't all that great, it can be just as bad, if not worse, for the players. Instead of playing in front of a raucous home crowd pulling for them or a hostile road environment, players are subjected to playing in front of half-empty, quiet arenas, sometimes in completely different time zones. It's disappointing that this is how college basketball has evolved, but if you want to beat the NET, you will have to miss out on the energy of your students and fans.

NWSL Playoffs: Underdogs Gotham FC defeats OL Reign in an improbable run to the championship

by Nahum Valiente
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The NWSL Season has had an exciting run, with only six points separating the first-place and sixth-place teams in the regular season standings. It was fitting the playoffs followed suit with the excitement as NJ/NY Gotham FC ended the postseason with a stunning 2-1 victory against OL Reign to lift the NWSL Championship Trophy for the first time.

Going into this match, there were many narratives that defined the importance of this final. Both teams both had a star player that wanted to end their career with one last trophy. In the case of Gotham, it was U.S. national Ali Krieger, and for OL Reign, it was another U.S. national, Megan Rapinoe. Both players have achieved much in their careers, both winning the 2015 and 2019 World Cup. However, one trophy missing in their respective collections of awards was the NWSL Playoffs.

The history of both teams also had much to fuel the importance of this match. After their relocation in 2019, Seattle Reign FC changed to OL Reign. Alongside the change in venue and managerial structure, the team entered a new era. But more change came with Gotham. Originally known as Sky Blue FC, the team completely rebranded itself in hopes of expanding its fan base to New York, not just New Jersey, as was the

case for the previous version of the program. While OL Reign has had much success, earning multiple first-place finishes in the regular season in the past, Gotham has not been so fortunate. Last season, they finished last, which caused the firing of their head coach and the subsequent hiring of Juan Carlos Amorós. Soon after, the team's fate changed.

The match officially kicked off with a crowd of over 25,000 set to watch a historic final. Drama struck, however, when Rapinoe suffered an injury that resulted in her having to exit the match in the sixth minute. This was a major blow to not just Rapinoe but to the Reign team, as they lost a key figure from their starting lineup. The Hollywood ending for Rapinoe was already in jeopardy. Trouble continued for the Reign side as Gotham constantly tested their defense through attempted shots. All of Gotham's efforts soon saw results when Midge Purce dribbled the ball past OL's defense. After passing the ball to Lynn Williams, Williams took advantage of being left unmarked and put the Gotham side in the lead. The lead was short-lived, when a play was set up that left Rose Lavelle and Gotham goalkeeper Mandy Haught in a one-on-one duel. But it was no trouble for Lavelle, as her left-footed kick equalized the game in the 29th minute. After an exchange of shots from both sides, Gotham

was able to break the stalemate through a stoppage time header from Esther González.

The second half was do-or-die for the Reign. Their attacks in the opening minutes put Gotham's defense on alert. The 50th minute saw a shot by Reign's Bethany Balcer, but it was too wide. Later on in the half, another close call by Gotham came with a shot by Veronica Latsko, but Haught blocked it. Reign was desperate for an equalizer, but their chances at one started slipping away with Gotham taking control of the game. With the contest in stoppage time, drama ensued when Haught grabbed the ball outside the penalty area, resulting in her being sent off from the match. That left OL Reign with one final opportunity to equalize through a free kick. Lavelle stepped up, with hopes to tie it and send the game to extra time. However, the Gotham defense deflected the ball and ensured their victory as the 2023 Champions of the NWSL Playoffs.

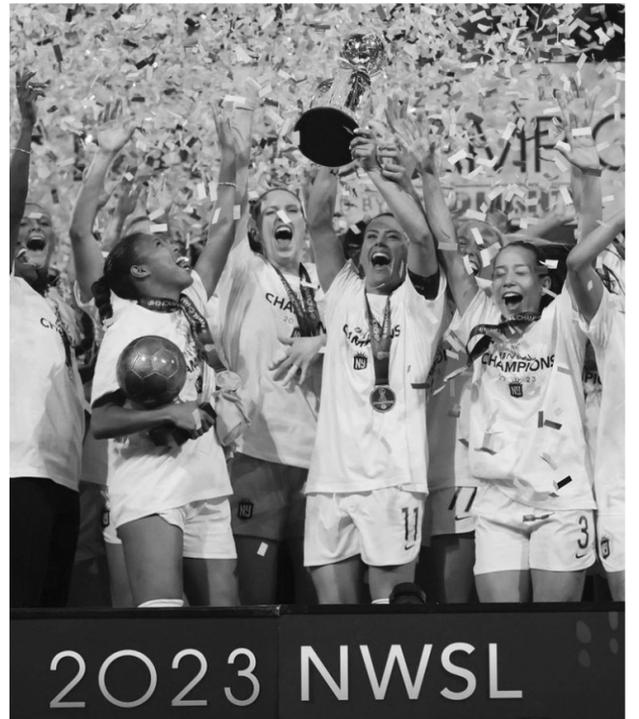
Gotham entered this tournament as the lowest-seeded team. With a late-season push, they narrowly made the playoffs. However, this was a team that always fought and had real hope they could win it all, evidently with good reason. The team's new head coach was able to produce great improvement since the last season. Gotham also saw the signing of Spain International and 2023 World Cup winner Esther González. No matter the circumstances, the

team always believed in itself and relied on each other to accomplish the improbable, and that was enough to win it all.

While Rapinoe did not end her professional career with one last trophy, there is no question of how accomplished she is, along with the impact she has left behind for girls around the world who seek to play soccer. Rapinoe ends her run with multiple Olympic Gold Medals, World Cup trophies, many awards and honors with her clubs,

Ballon d'Or and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Gotham celebrates their win, rightfully so. However, another winner from this game is the fight for equal rights for the sport. This season saw attendance records being broken multiple times, which resulted in NWSL seeking to expand to new markets around the country. With the Women's World Cup potentially coming to the States in 2027, this truly is just the start of the rise for women in soccer.



Gotham FC celebrating after their win in the 2023 NWSL championship. The team defeated OL Reign 2-1 in regular time.
 PHOTO COURTESY OF @NWSL ON INSTAGRAM

Sports

Photo of the Day | Bumping our way to Thanksgiving break



Ayva Cebollero, #5 on the UConn women's volleyball team setting the ball into the air for a spike to finish off the point. UConn went on to lose this game on Nov. 4, 2023 against St. John's University 0-3. PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Big East Baller Update

by Samuel Calhoun
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Big East Baller Update is back in business. We are over a week into the college basketball season. It feels like college basketball has picked up where it left off in April with some surprises around the country, especially in the Big East.

As the Gavitt Tipoff Games will have started already by the time this is published, this article will focus on some of the key results of the first week, along with my picks for Big East Player of the Week and Freshman of the Week.

Player of the Week: Trey Alexander, G, Creighton (20.5 PPG, 4.5 APG, 71.4 FG%, 3 SPG in two games)



Trey Alexander, a guard for Creighton, finishing a layup. Alexander has averaged 20.5 points in his past 2 matches. PHOTO COURTESY OF @THETRAYALEXANDER ON INSTAGRAM

Alexander dropped 20 points in Creighton's season-opener against Florida A&M, with high percentages from the floor (87.5%) and behind the arc (66.7%). The more impressive performance to me was Saturday's dominant win over North Dakota State, where the junior from Oklahoma City finished with 21 points, seven rebounds, four assists and a whopping five steals.

Freshman of the Week: Stephon Castle, G, UConn (14.5 PPG, 6.5 RPG, 66.7 FG%, 2 SPG in two games)

The five-star freshman guard from Covington, Ga., won the first Freshman of the Week award by a landslide. Castle put up 12 points, five rebounds and two steals in his collegiate debut. However, the more impressive outing was



Stephon Castle, guard for the UConn Huskies men's basketball team, putting shots up at practice. This photo was taken at a camp he was participating in. PHOTO COURTESY OF @STEPHCASTLE ON INSTAGRAM

on Saturday against Stonehill, where the preseason Big East Freshman of the Year dropped 17 points, collected eight rebounds and picked Stonehill's pocket twice in a 107-67 rout.

TOP GAMES

Purdue Fort Wayne shocks DePaul in front of a massive crowd, 82-74

Ever since DePaul joined the Big East, they have been the bottom feeders of the conference. They have not even made the NCAA Tournament since 2004. In head coach Tony Stubblefield's first season in the Windy City, DePaul went 15-16, which was a massive improvement considering how low their expectations have become. The Blue Demons were 11.5-point favorites against Purdue Fort Wayne. Not only did they not cover that spread, but they lost by eight to the second-best team with Purdue in its school's name. In front of a Wintrust Arena crowd of 931 people, Purdue Fort Wayne guard Quinton Morton-Robertson led all scorers with 24 points as the Blue Demons lost its first season-opener since 2017 and for the first time against a non-power conference opponent since losing at Bradley in 2006.

Georgetown falls to Holy Cross, 68-67

There was a lot of hype in the nation's capital heading into this season despite a 7-25 record last year. Despite his success as a player for the program, Patrick Ewing ended a dismal coaching career in the Hilltop. With 2022 Naismith

College Coach of the Year Ed Cooley taking over after a successful 12-season-long tenure at Providence, many thought he would immediately bring the program back to national relevance. However, Holy Cross guard Joe Octave and the Crusaders show that there will be growing pains. It was a phenomenal, back-and-forth game, with Octave putting the Hoyas away with a go-ahead three-pointer with 57 seconds remaining. He finished with 33 points, shooting 12-for-21 from the field. On the bright side for Georgetown, Jayden Epps finished with 22 points and looked like he will be a promising player in the Hoyas' backcourt this season. Providence fans rejoiced with that win, reacting to Cooley leaving in a way similar to Oklahoma fans reacting to Lincoln Riley leaving for USC in football.

Long Beach State keeps Blue Demons winless, 77-73

What a time to be alive, except if you are a DePaul men's basketball fan. I feel bad that there has not been much to cheer for, but I hope better days are near for the program. In front of 2651 fans at Wintrust Arena (Yes, their attendance somehow increased following a home-opener loss).

Long Beach State guard Marcus Tsohonis led the way with 22 points, shooting 50% from the floor. However, keeping the Blue Demons alive in the game was guard Elijah Fisher, who scored 25 points on 10-for-14 shooting. Despite that, Long Beach State made free throws late in the game and out-rebounded DePaul to hand the Blue Demons its first 0-2 start since the 2006-07 season.

Best Games This Week Wisconsin at Providence (6 p.m., FS1)

Wisconsin will come into the intimidating Amica Mutual Pavilion on Tuesday night searching for a bounce-back win after losing to Tennessee on Friday night. Standing in their way, however, is Providence. The guard battle between Wisconsin's Chucky Hepburn (16.5 PPG) and Providence's Devin Carter (13 PPG) will be exciting, but it will be All-Big East forward Bryce Hopkins who the Friars will rely on to make the difference in new head coach Kim English's first big test.

No. 4 Marquette at No. 23 Illinois (8 p.m., FS1)

Marquette guard Kam Jones was named the Big East Player of the Week by the

conference, averaging 21.5 points per game through the first two games of the Golden Eagles' season. The key story is the health of star guard Tyler Kolek, looking to continue his campaign for a second consecutive Big East Player of the Year season. Marquette has won three straight and four of the last five games against the Fighting Illini. It is a rematch from Marquette's top-10 upset win over Illinois in 2021, which included an abysmal performance from former Illinois guard Andre Curbelo that still burns in the minds of Illinois fans.

UCLA vs. No. 4 Marquette (Monday, 11:30 p.m., ESPN2)

The final game of the quarterfinal round in the Maui Invitational is a big battle as the Golden Eagles take on UCLA. There's some familiarity in this matchup, as UCLA head coach Mick Cronin was the head coach at Cincinnati when they shared the Big East with Marquette. The Bruins' backcourt will look weaker than in years past now that Jaime Jaquez Jr. is gone. It has been forward Adem Bona (17 PPG) leading the way. That may be UCLA's advantage on Monday.



The UConn men's basketball team shows everyone why they are the national champions in a game against Stonehill College at the XL Center in Hartford Conn. on Nov. 11, 2023. The Huskies started off strong and finished off strong making it into the triple digits and winning 107-67. PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Weekly Reed

A TALE OF TWO TEAMS:

Houston Texans vs. Carolina Panthers

by Noah Reed
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Heading into the NFL draft this past year, I remember one of my family members who, as a Panthers fan, wanted nothing to do with Bryce Young. He wasn't impressed with his combine or his performance at Alabama; he wanted the Panthers to draft C.J. Stroud. As someone who doesn't follow college football, I told him they should be fine with whoever

team to take down the Panthers with a win this week on Thursday Night Football, and doing so improved their chances for that first overall pick. It was a win-win for Chicago and just piled on the disappointment for Panthers fans. Not only was it their eighth loss of the year, but it also came at the hands of an undrafted free-agent quarterback who played at the Division II level in college.

To add insult to injury, the quarterback they could've drafted instead, C.J. Stroud, led the Texans to an impressive win over the Cincinnati Bengals on the road. Houston has loved Stroud, especially as of late. Following Sunday,

interception ratio and people are even wanting to involve him in the MVP conversations. Meanwhile, in Carolina, there are rumblings that fans want to stage a protest to send a message to ownership that they want a better product on the field.

It'd be unfair to say that these players are

Saunders and D.J. Chark Jr., it didn't really seem like moves that would aid in Young's development. Drafting Jonathan Mingo seemed like a step in the right direction and Thielen has been Young's favorite target so far, but I think the Texans' roster construction fits Stroud better.

The Texans acquired veterans in Dalton Schultz, Noah Brown and Robert Woods, who, at times, have seemed to elevate Stroud's play. One of the biggest stories from the draft was that the Texans drafted Tank Dell out of Houston because Stroud told them to. As a thanks, he's given the team 510 receiving yards and five touchdowns in eight games. Dameon Pierce's struggles have been

10 times more than Stroud (29 to 19). Young's 29 on the year is fourth highest in all of the NFL, behind just Sam Howell (47), Zach Wilson (33) and Daniel Jones (30).

Even looking at team defense plays a role in how ready these teams were ready to win in 2023. Throughout their nine games so far, Houston is +4 in turnover differential, while Carolina sits at -4. The Panther's defense has allowed 26.9 points per game, third worst in the NFL, while Houston sits in the middle of the pack at 21.3.

Many people have ragged on the Panthers for drafting Young over



they pick.

Well, currently, the Panthers, who took Young first overall, sit at 1-8 while Stroud and the Houston Texans are at 5-4. Funnily enough, the Panthers' lone win of the year did come against Stroud and the Texans, but it's not looking too great for Carolina right now. To go and get Young in the draft, they traded their first-round pick for this year, which looks like it'll be another first overall that the Bears will have. Chicago was the latest

Stroud sits second atop the entire NFL in passing yards (2,626) and sixth in RTG (101.0). Last week against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Stroud threw for 470 yards and achieved an RTG of 147.8; both set the highest

marks for a rookie in NFL history. He has a 15 to two touchdown-to-

and that Young is just underperforming because that's not exactly the case. While the Panthers brought in a bunch of veteran presence at the skill positions with Adam Thielen, Miles

well publicized, but the team as a whole only has one rush this year over 20 yards, a 22-yard rush by Devin Singletary. All this has led to a top-six team in yards per game (372.6) despite averaging under 100 yards rushing per game.

Considering all this, it makes it harder to compare the two. Houston seemed like a roster more fit to win, while the Panthers have some rebuilding to do. Nothing emphasizes that more than that Young has also been sacked

Stroud, and while some of the blame should go on Young for his performance, I do feel that if the Texans were more poised to perform in 2023. That being said, the Carolina front office easily could've done something similar to what the Texans did with Stroud and chose to kind of piece a random roster together. We've all seen this story before, and it never ends in success. It's not going to be an easy fix, but it is possible to change the fortunes around in Carolina using what Houston has done with Stroud as an example.

Men's Basketball:

HUSKIES TO DANCE WITH DELTA DEVILS IN HARTFORD

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It's difficult to expect anything less than a massive blowout when you're the new No. 5 team in the nation that's taking on the worst team in college basketball, according to Ken-Pom. But that will be a reality as UConn heads back to Hartford on Tuesday for an evening matchup with Mississippi Valley State at 7 p.m.

To say the Huskies would be off to a strong start to the season would be the truth. Both of Connecticut's blowout victories to begin the 2023-24 campaign have given fans plenty to be intrigued about with this roster. Donovan Clingan looks ready to be one of the top big men in the nation. Samson Johnson looks to be a key piece off the bench for the program. The team's young core possesses plenty of potential as they continue developing throughout a long college bas-

ketball season. Those results have given the team a jump to the No. 5 spot in the A.P. Top 25 men's basketball rankings.

“It's difficult to expect anything less than a massive blowout when you're the new No. 5 team in the nation”

That being said, things certainly haven't been perfect through these early

games, and ironing out as many kinks as possible will be the goals of these games. If you know how Dan Hurley operates, he's going to value as much experience on the court as possible, regardless of the opponent.

This game against the Delta Devils is especially important when you consider who lies ahead for the Huskies after this game. After Tuesday's showdown at the XL Center, the program heads to the bright lights of New York City and Madison Square Garden for the Empire Classic. There, they will take on foes like Indiana and either Louisville or Texas. That's a major upgrade in competition compared to foes like Northern Arizona, Stonehill and Mississippi Valley State. Teams like Texas are not going to give the Huskies many breaks, especially considering that they're the 11th most efficient defense in college basketball as of this article's publication. The road ahead will be nowhere near easy.

As for focusing on the present, the team focuses on the Mississippi Valley State roster and has some players to look out for. Averaging 15.5 points per game, Rayquan Brown leads this team in scoring,

“But the fact is that George Ivory's squad won't be able to compete against the Huskies.”

and while he hasn't shot great from beyond the arc, he'll still be a player to look out for, especially with how he attacks the paint. At 10.5 points and 5.0 rebounds, Arecko Gipson is another double-digit scorer

for the Delta Devils who will have an impact in the scoring column on Tuesday.

But the fact is that George Ivory's squad won't be able to compete against the Huskies. Mississippi Valley State has already struggled greatly against LSU and Oklahoma. Connecticut is easily the toughest opponent they've faced thus far, and the best thing that the Delta Devils can get from this matchup is preparing them for their upcoming conference schedule. The odds are certainly not in their favor.

Meanwhile, UConn will continue to build up the experience of its young core and gain even more chemistry with this roster. While it certainly won't be the most entertaining game on the Huskies schedule, fans will certainly look forward to more Connecticut basketball. Tipoff will be at 7 p.m. and can be watched on either the Fox Sports app or via wraparound coverage on Fox Sports One.



Sports

Stratton's Stand: UCONN WBB'S SUPPORTING CAST NEEDS TO DO MORE

by **Stratton Stave**
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This past weekend, the No. 8 UConn women's basketball team traveled to Raleigh, N.C. for their second contest of the season. Given the Huskies' typical track record against unranked teams, it wasn't expected to be much of a game, even if State was better than anticipated. After all, last year when the teams played, Connecticut won by a whopping 22 points, when the Wolfpack was ranked No. 10.

Instead, Sunday, UConn gave up an early lead, and things fell apart in the third quarter when Paige Bueckers picked up her third foul. They ultimately put themselves too far behind to come back. This year's roster was supposed to resemble all-time great Husky teams coming into the season. On paper, they still do. But their struggles against N.C. State resembled another squad instead: the 2021-2022 Huskies.

Many remember that team as the one that went to the national championship game, but they were also one that was mired by early struggles. Those hitches weren't for a lack of talent; the team had three No. 1 overall recruits on the roster. They were a result of Bueckers. Bueckers is not the problem, though. She has—and will almost always be—fantastic. Nobody wearing a

Connecticut jersey had a more positive impact on the team.

However, Bueckers' greatness leads to an entirely different issue: her teammates get too comfortable with her on the floor. Players with the capability of being aggressive, as many were last year, don't do as much as is needed for the win.

“Sometimes, one or two players will come close to Beckers' production, but not as many as the team needs.”

Sometimes, one or two players will come close to Bueckers' production, but not as many as the team needs. None of this is an issue when playing poor in competition like Dayton or the bottom half of the Big East, but when a team like N.C. State comes around, problems arise, hence why Bueckers needed to score 27 points.

Think back to the team's 2021 opener against Arkansas when Bueckers scored 34, 16 more than the next best on the team. Only two others had more than nine points. Or against South Florida when Bueckers had 21, Azzi Fudd had 18, Christyn Williams had 10 and nobody else scored more than five. Perhaps more notable was the loss to South Carolina when Bueckers scored 19, Evina Westbrook had 14 and nobody else broke 10.

Then came Bueckers' injury that forced her off the floor for the next few months. While she was gone, others were forced to step up, though the team did have considerable growing pains. When Bueckers did return, the others knew how to contribute better alongside their star. It shouldn't take something so extreme for the Huskies to succeed, but they need to find a similar revelation.

Aaliyah Edwards had 21 points, and freshman Qadence Samuels had 14 Sunday. That should be Edwards' production on a nightly basis as a returning All-American, but Samuels shouldn't need 14. She's in her second game and is supposed to be the least talented of the freshmen. It wouldn't be crazy to expect that total from KK Arnold or Ice Brady, both ranked in the top five coming out of high school, but early production needs to flow better from returners.

That's why it's concerning when those returners do so little. Fudd scored nine points on 13 shots, which can potentially be chalked up to an off-day shooting. She missed six of her seven threes, which tends to be her bread and butter. Caroline Ducharme, who has had a career plagued by injuries, also played poorly. She

“The junior hasn't looked like herself since sustaining a number of head injuries last season, but the Huskies need her...”

scored just two points and took three shots. The junior hasn't looked like herself since sustaining a number of head injuries last season, but the Huskies need her to return to form if they want to make it back to glory land.

Aubrey Griffin and Nika Mühl, two seniors known for their abilities to impact the game without scoring, weren't amazing either.



FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Mühl had six assists, which is solid, but Griffin didn't pull down boards like she often does and wasn't as effective on defense. The pair combined for six points in 46 minutes, which is not enough, regardless of their role.

With all of this said, the match against the Pack could have been a fluke. It could have been a one-in-100 game where everything goes wrong. But it needs to not become a trend. If this team gets caught up in these old habits over and over again, this could be a rough season.

The Huskies have so many talented players. Five out of their nine players in the rotation finished as top 10 recruits in their class. One of the other four is an All-American, and another is a two-time Big East defensive POTY. There's no shortage of ability. However, those who aren't Bueckers need to step up throughout the game and make plays as they would if she wasn't there. They can do it; it's just all about keeping the foot on the gas so that things don't fall apart the second Bueckers needs a moment of rest.



UConn womens basketball plays their first Hartford game of the season against Dayton. UConn sweeps Dayton with a final score of 102- 58.

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

<p>WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK</p>		<p>INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY </p> <p>@jonathanthehusky Halfway through the weekend. #paceyourself</p>		<p>TWEETS OF THE DAY </p>	
<p>UCONN SCOREBOARD</p> <p>107 67</p> <p>Men's Basketball Saturday</p>		<p>Upcoming Games</p> <p>Men's Basketball, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Hartford, Conn</p> <p>Women's Ice Hockey, 6 p.m. Friday, Storrs, Conn</p>		<p>UConn Men's Basketball @UConnMBB Stephen Castle is your @BIGEAST Freshman of the Week!!</p> <p>UConn Women's Basketball @UConnWBB Qadance Samuels is the BIG EAST Freshman of the Week!</p> <p>Q averaged 12.5 points on 56.3 FG% in her first two games as a Husky.</p>	
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