

HAVEN HOT CHICKEN OPENING IN DOWNTOWN STORRS ON NOV. 18

by Sara Bedigian
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Haven Hot Chicken will open its fifth location at 1206 Storrs Road on Saturday, Nov. 18.

Haven Hot Chicken has four other locations in Connecticut: New Haven, Orange, Norwalk and North Haven. Now, the new Storrs location will bring “Nashville-Hot Chicken” and “Not Chicken” within walking distance from the UConn campus.

Rob LaTronica, a University of Connecticut alumnus and Haven Hot Chicken co-founder, said they will be giving away 500 free tendie sliders on a first come, first serve basis for the grand opening on Nov. 18.

“Our openings keep getting bigger and better, so to celebrate this opening of Store #005, we will be giving away 500 tendie sliders to the first guests in line when we open at 10 a.m. on Nov. 18!” said LaTronica.

The press release said the location will have all the southern-style signature menu items, including their famous chicken and “Not Chicken” vegetarian options, ranging from not spicy to very spicy, as well as traditional southern sides and seasonal limited-time offerings.

The restaurant, one of the “first fully dedicated Nashville Hot Chicken concepts in New England”, has five levels of heat starting with “country” (no spice) all the way to “haven” (hottest spice), according to their website.

The Storrs location will be open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday, they will be open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

“We are counting down to our big grand opening, located within walking distance of the UConn campus offering a new, delicious, convenient spot for students, staff,



STORRS
Grand Opening
NOV. 18

Haven Hot Chicken will be giving away 500 sliders for their Grand Opening in Storrs, CT on Nov. 18, 2023. During that event, they will be giving away their Hot Chicken and Not Chicken sandwiches on a first come, first served basis.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @HAVENHOTCHICKEN

faculty and local area residents to grab a quick bite to eat,” said LaTronica.

In addition to in-house dining, the location will offer online ordering, curbside takeout, UberEats delivery and catering services, according to their website.

Cynthia van Zelm, executive director of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, said Haven Hot Chicken will be a great addition to Mansfield and the UConn community. Van Zelm added that the owners are UConn alumni, making it even more special to see graduates succeed and bring their business to Storrs.

“We are very excited about Haven Hot Chicken as a new part of Downtown Storrs,” said van Zelm. “They bring a unique regional product to our downtown that will appeal to a lot of audiences.”

The restaurant works to give back to the Connecticut community, and the Storrs location will also participate in the brand’s long-term partnership with Connecticut Foodshare, raising funds to help curb food insecurity in the state. The Great Banana Pudding Drive also donates one dollar for the sale of each pudding to the foodshare, according to the press release.

“Year to date, Haven Hot Chicken has donated more than \$30,000 to the organization helping to feed over 60,000 Connecticut neighbors,” the press release said.

According to the press release, the restaurant was highlighted in 2023 as one of the “8 Fast Food Chains that serve the Best Hot Chicken” around the country by Eat This, Not That!, and was the winner of The Perfect Pitch concept competition at the 2023 Fast Casual Executive Summit.

There will be two more Connecticut locations opening soon in Middletown and Newington as well.

For more information, follow @havenhotchicken on Instagram or visit havenhotchicken.com

Election results: Democrats sweep

by Colin Piteo
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Elections concluded across America on Tuesday, with voters casting their ballots for town council seats, mayoral races and ballot measures. Locally, Democrats swept Mansfield municipal elections, winning majorities on the Town Council, Board of Education, Board of Assessment Appeals, Planning and Zoning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

According to reports from the Patch.com, Sam Bruder

(D) received the most votes for town council, with 1,733. This was followed by Ben Shaiken (D) with 1,745, Antonia Moran (D) with 1,697, Carlita Cotton (D) with 1,734, David Litrico (D) with 1,675 and then UConn political science professor emeritus Ronald Schurin (D) with 1,692. The Republicans followed with Brian D. Coleman (R) with 593 votes, Charles J Ausburger (R) with 584 votes, Christopher Kuefner (R) with 584 votes and G. William Tomecko (R) with 784 votes.

Similar trends followed with all other town boards.

For the board of education, April Morin (D) received 1,759 votes, Sabrina Hosmer (D) received 1,791 votes and Martha N. Kelly (R) received 710 votes. Additionally, Gregory Cecil (R) was voted to fill a two year vacancy on the board of education, garnering 1,094 votes.

There were also multiple major elections throughout the state on Tuesday, with elections for the Bridgeport, the Hartford and the New Haven mayors being held. Hartford voters elected Democrat Arunan Arulampalam to the Mayor’s office. Similarly,

Democratic incumbent Justin Elicker won the race for New Haven mayor. Democrat incumbent Joseph Ganim seemingly won the election for Bridgeport Mayor by just 179 votes, but due to legal issues surrounding the Democratic primary for the general election and scandal surrounding absentee ballots, this race has not been called by the Associated Press and will likely be challenged in court.

On the national level, Tuesday saw major victories for Democrats and abortion rights. Incumbent Democrat Andy Beshear was reelected

as governor of Kentucky with a nearly five-point margin. Additionally, Republicans lost control of the Virginia House of Delegates, while Democrats kept their majority in the State Senate. Republican Tate Reeves won the Governor’s race in Mississippi by almost a five-point margin. Finally, advocates for abortion rights won a major victory in Ohio, where Issue 1 (Right to Make Reproductive Decisions Including Abortion Initiative) passed with a nearly 14-point margin. Ohio Issue 2 (Marijuana Legalization Initiative) also passed by a 14-point margin.

Librarians turn to civil rights agency to oppose book bans and their firings

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — She refused to ban books, many of them about racism and the experiences of LGBTQ+ people. And for that, Suzette Baker was fired as a library director in a rural county in central Texas.

“I’m kind of persona non grata around here,” said Baker, who had headed the Kingsland, Texas, library system until she refused to take down a prominent display of several books people had sought to ban over the years.

Now, Baker is fighting back. She and two other librarians who were similarly fired have filed workplace discrimination claims with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. And as culture war battles to keep certain books from children and teens put public and school libraries increasingly under pressure, their goal is redemption and, where possible, eventual reinstatement.

So far, it’s a wait-and-see whether the claims will succeed — and set new precedent — in the struggle between teachers and librarians around the country who oppose book bans and conservative activists who say some books are inappropriate for young minds.

The fight has involved a record number of book-banning efforts; some libraries cutting ties with the American Library Association, which opposes book bans; and even attempts to prosecute librarians for allowing children to access books some consider too graphic.

At least one terminated librarian has gained a measure of success.

Brooky Parks, who was fired for standing up for programs on anti-racism and LGBTQ+ stories she organized for teens at the Erie Community Library north of Denver, won a \$250,000 settlement in September. Reached through the Colorado Civil Rights Division, the settlement requires her former employer to give librarians more say in decisions involving library programs.

Parks’ settlement with the High Plains Library District capped a stressful eight-month period without work, when community donations helped her avoid losing her home. And it will likely resolve Parks’ claim with the EEOC, said her attorney, Iris Halpern, who represents the three librarians.

“I just wasn’t going to back down from it. It was just the right thing to do,” said Parks, now a librarian at the University of Denver.

After her firing in 2022, Baker filed an EEOC claim against her employer, the Llano County Library System in Kingsland, Texas. And in September 2023, Terri Lesley, executive director of the Campbell County Public Library System in Gillette, Wyoming, filed a claim over her firing last summer.

Halpern, with the Denver firm Rathod Mohamedbhai, compared the wrongful termination claims to civil rights era legal battles.

“It is honestly sad that we’ve gotten to this point. But history is a constant struggle and we have to learn from our past,” she said.

The 1964 Civil Right Act established the EEOC to enforce



Librarian Brooklyn Parks is shown outside the library on the campus of the University of Denver on Monday, Oct. 30, 2023, in Denver. Parks, who was fired for standing up for programs on anti-racism and LGBTQ+ stories she organized for teens at the Erie Community Library north of Denver, won a \$250,000 settlement in September with the assistance of the Colorado Civil Rights Division. She now works as a librarian at the University of Denver.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP PHOTO

laws against workplace discrimination. One legal expert thinks the librarians might be able to prevail on the grounds that, under those laws, employees may not be discriminated against for associating with certain classes of people.

“With any case, the devil can be in the details in terms of how the facts come out and what they can present. But these are definitely actionable claims,” said Rutgers University law professor David Lopez, a former EEOC general counsel.

An EEOC investigation can take over a year. After that, the EEOC may attempt to reach a settlement with the employer out of court, sue on the employee’s behalf or issue a letter saying the employee has grounds to sue on their own.

The librarians haven’t yet received an EEOC response and none is expected before the end of next year.

“I would love to be optimistic,” Baker said. “I know there are a lot of people in this community who are just absolutely behind the library being open and free and equal for all. And there’s a lot of people who aren’t. So it’s a hard, hard situation.”

EEOC spokesperson Victor Chen declined to comment on specific filings, adding “we can’t even confirm or deny we have these complaints.”

The county attorney offices and other representatives of the government officials who fired Parks, Baker and Lesley did not return phone and email messages seeking comment, or declined to comment.

At her Texas library, Baker displayed several books that have been targeted in recent book bans and a sign that read: “We put the ‘lit’ in literature” — a reference to a Tennessee pastor’s recent burning of books.

Baker was fired after refusing to take down the display and signs — the last straw after she resisted book banning in her own library.

In March, a federal judge ordered 17 books returned to Kingsland library shelves while a citizen lawsuit against book banning proceeded. The works ranged from children’s books to award-winning nonfiction, including “They Called Themself the K.K.K: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group,” by Susan Campbell Bartoletti; and “It’s Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex and Sexual Health,” by Robie Harris.

“Content-based restrictions on speech are presumptively unconstitutional and subject to strict scrutiny,” Texas U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman wrote in his March 30 ruling. He cited a 2015 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that barred communities from banning signs because of what they say.

The Llano County Commission considered but decided against closing the county’s three libraries in response to the ruling. Closing the libraries would have been eerily similar to the history across the U.S. of closing swimming pools rather than desegregating them, Halpern said.

Like Baker, Lesley had trouble finding work after being fired from the library system she directed in Gillette, Wyoming. Her dismissal followed two years of turmoil over challenges to the books available and library programs.

Some of the same county officials who opposed a transgender magician’s plans to perform at the library went on to join local residents in seeking to ban books, according to Lesley’s EEOC filing.

Baker and Lesley both were fired after local officials appointed new library board members willing to be more aggressive about pulling books.

“Our county commissioners appointed board members who were sympathetic to the people who wanted to remove the books. And it was a long dance to try to get it there. And in the end they had to fire me, I think, in order to be able to meet their goal,” said Lesley.

The Campbell County Commission skirted a deputy county attorney’s recommendation not to appoint past applicants for the board without re-interviewing them along with new candidates, according to Lesley’s EEOC claim.

“I saw this as a well-executed attack on the library by a group of citizens and elected officials. It was an attack on the LGBTQ+ community as well,” she said. “And it was an attack on the books.”

Men’s Basketball Championship paper sale reopening!



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Study Break

The Daily Campus
Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Less occupied
6 Taj Mahal builder
 ___ Jahan
10 Balkan native
14 Gave one’s word
15 “Citizen ___”
16 Urgent request
17 “Almost done!”
20 Homer’s neighbor
21 Good place to
 keep things on
 ice?
22 Fetch player
23 Command
 attributed to
 Captain Kirk
29 3-Down, for one
30 Image on the
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31 Goes over one’s
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34 New Haven
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35 Enjoys hot tea,
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45 Doesn’t just want
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By Alexander Liebeskind

11/9/23

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19 Athletic type
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25 Sport played on
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27 Lukewarm
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31 Grime
32 Rough, as a
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Wednesday’s Puzzle Solved

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- 33 Bring on
34 Org. concerned
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38 Dwell (on)
39 “That so?”
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59 “Criminal Minds”
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60 Nest egg letters
61 Purse
62 Train unit
63 Camping apparel
 retailer

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Escaping twin Flames

Exposes a Modern Day cult

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IMAGE COURTESY OF PNGALL.COM

by **Kaily Martinez**
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Spirituality is a belief that explores things revolving around the human spirit. The new true crime documentary series on Netflix, “Escaping Twin Flames,” released a three-episode series on Wednesday, Nov. 8. The series exposes a cult, Twin Flames Universe, and follows multiple individuals as they explain their experiences of either being involved in or knowing someone who is involved in the cult.

At the beginning of the first episode, Netflix tries to tie the concept of spirituality and twin flames together. However, the way they do it makes it feel as though the broad mean-

ing of twin flames is a cult in itself. According to a Forbes article, “Twin Flame: Definition and Signs You’ve Met Yours” by Lauren Silva, it is a modern term that defines twin flames as two individuals who have an intense connection.

As the series progresses, it is revealed that the individuals are searching for love. After looking up “twin flames” online, they stumbled upon Twin Flames Universe. The program, owned by Jeff and Shaleia Ayan, Twin Flames Universe tries to convince online users to become a part of their program.

The couple had convinced users to become a part of their program by selling the idea that they would find their twin flame and would not have to search for love anymore. Once a part of their program, the members had to

attend online meetings, take in-person classes and share information about their relationships in an open forum on Facebook.

“Jeff and Shaleia introduced this notion of a soul family at the meetup. We were told by Jeff that soul family is your real family. It’s really your only family. Just like your twin flame is your only lover,” said one of the former members, Keely.

Twin flames are an interesting concept, but the Ayan couple took it to a whole new level. In one of their classes, the couple held a ritual where everyone went around a table to “call together” a member’s twin flame, assuming that they were trying to get someone to interact with one of the members, stranger or not.

The day after this ritual, Marlee, a former member, said that she received a message from

someone she did not know, who the Ayan couple claimed was her twin flame. Marlee, who was a 19-years-old at the time, revealed in the documentary she did not like the man who messaged her as she felt that he seemed creepy. It was also revealed that she was arranged to move in with him as well.

The entire show tries to tie together unprecedented events as something that must happen to find your twin flame, especially in unhealthy relationships. By doing so, the group was creating excuses for toxic behavior. For instance, there was a situation in which a member was told that her twin flame was her ex-boyfriend, but the Ayan couple said there was only one chance for a twin flame. They gave the member the advice that she had to pretend that

they were still together, regardless of the restraining order.

If you are interested in true crime, “Escaping Twin Flames” is an interesting documentary series that explores a modern-day cult. The series provides great visuals, evidence against the Ayan couple and testimonies from former members who can finally share their experiences, without manipulating their words. While it is only a three-episode series, it is definitely worth it to watch.

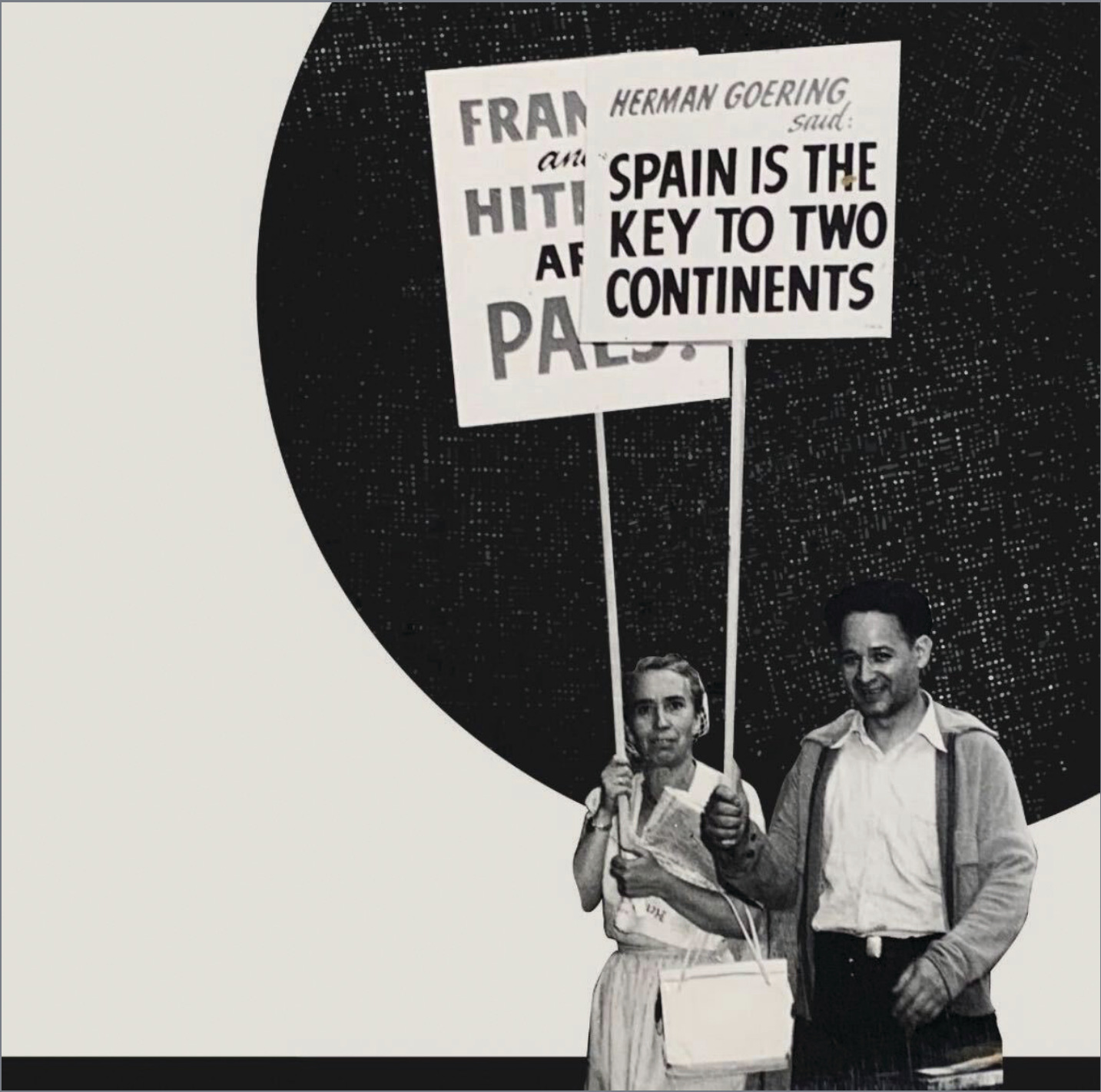
Rating
37/5



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Unveiling Ernestina G. Fleischman:

A UCHI Fellows Talk on Forgotten Legacies



Ernestina G Fleischman participates in a women’s transnational protest in the mid-1900s. On November 8, UConn Spanish professor Ana María Díaz led a talk documenting the archival research and impactful legacy of Fleischman.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @UCONNHUMANITIES ON INSTAGRAM

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

On Nov. 8, the Homer Bab-bidge Library hosted a UCHI Fellow’s Talk featuring Ana María Díaz-Marcos, a profes-sor of Spanish literature at the University of Connecticut. Díaz-Marcos dissected the in-triguing question, “Why do so many women vanish from his-tory after leading exceptional lives?” Also present at the Fel-lows’ Talk was Oscar Guerra, an Emmy award-winning di-rector, researcher and educa-tor. 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 con-versation revolved around Er-nestina González Fleischman, an example of a woman seem-ingly 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 mo-ments from her life, including significant tragic moments in the Spanish Civil War, her ac-tivism 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, anti-fascism, 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 passion-ately fought against oppression. Fleischman’s tale stands in si-lent contradiction to history’s oversight, prompting us to ask: How can we ensure that the voic-es of such remarkable women resound through time, avoid-ing the shadows of obscurity?

Prints Before Photography:



IMAGES COURTESY OF OPENCLIPART.ORG

Drawings say a thousand words about Egypt

by James Fitzpatrick
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Hosted by the William Benton Museum of Art on Wednesday, Nov. 8, Fadi Awad Elsaid, a Ph.D. candidate hailing from universities in France and Egypt, spoke about the contributions of Nicolas-Jacques Conté (1755 - 1805) on his documentation of modern Egyptian history, in light of Ancient Egypt and the French expedition of Egypt at the time. Additionally, Elsaid emphasized the similarities and differences between the two epitomes of this documentation, the “Encyclopédie” and the “Description de l’Égypte.” Conté was portrayed as a jack of all trades who is more than deserving of acclaim. Despite his artwork being the focus of his legacy for the talk, he was a revolutionary inventor. The scope of his creations is

great, considering he invented the contemporary pencil during an era that people associate with communication by ink and quill. Conté was also a proponent for the hot air balloon, and his fascination with machines made its way into his artwork. He drew people who manned machines — some of the last machines designed by craftsmen — showing why his artwork is analyzed to this day. As a French citizen, Conté played a pivotal role during Napoleon’s expedition, but not in the way one may expect. Despite setbacks, such as losing the Battle of the Nile on Aug. 2, 1798, rendering the army as “the prisoners of its own adventure” and the influence of Britain and the Ottoman Empire preventing any successes, Conté remained with the army. He developed a close relationship with Napoleon, inventing anything he could to aid them, and this synergism allowed Napoleon to keep push-

ing with a desire to triumph. Elsaid described the period during Napoleon’s expedition to Egypt, around the turn of the 18th century, as an “interesting moment of history, and an interesting moment of art.” The colloquial “Encyclopédie” was compiled as a mid-1700s written collection of works. Its main function was its inclusion of both contextual and non-contextual drawings of machines and ordinary objects, either in isolation or accompanied by a scene that provides social context for the object’s use. Transposing the contextual image above the blueprint allows for a reading of the overall piece that starts with forming the conclusion, and ending with pondering the premise. This practice was repeated almost identically in sections of a loose successor, the “Description de l’Égypte,” first published in 1809. According to Elsaid, the “omnipresence” of the “Ency-

clopédie” in the newer work is undeniable, as it documents the same things using the previous transposing method, sometimes using identical methods. Also, Conté contributes the addition of workers of various classes only within their social context, re-incorporating a layer of ambiguity lost in the “Encyclopédie.” Elsaid claims that modern Egyptians had to pay the price for the colossal nature of ancient Egypt and modern France, which can explain why Egyptians are often depicted doing mundane tasks, since the other party assumed superiority. Considering this, and its narrow scope, focusing on Egyptian history specifically instead of universal history like the “Encyclopédie,” another strength of the “Description de l’Égypte” was that people were drawn in a different light, literally, in its depictions. The use of shadow in drawings included in the

“Description de l’Égypte” brought Elsaid’s points full-circle, as they would have not been possible without pencil shading. One in particular depicts two slaves standing naked in a room, identifiable by their shaved facial hair, portraying the darkness they must’ve been feeling at the time. The slaves’ faces are also barely visible, showing a gray area between his usual use of faces to show someone focused on their work or observing the artist painting them. This is supported when an audience member asked why these drawings are in black and white; despite economic reasons that makes reproducing in monochrome more affordable, the style is used in particular scenes for a purpose. The art discussed is part of a larger exhibition currently on display at the Benton, titled “Prints and People Before Photography, 1490-1825,” available until Dec. 27, 2023.



Fadi Awad Elsaid (right) introduces his talk in the William Benton Museum of Art. This talk was hosted on Nov. 8, 2023, and centered around documentations of modern Egyptian history.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

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CARTOON BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Late Tuesday night, as Democrats across the country were celebrating election day victories, a small group of House Democrats joined House Republicans on a 234-188 vote to censure Democratic Rep. Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, the only Palestinian-American in Congress.

Tlaib has been extremely critical of President Biden's handling of the war. She has repeatedly called for a ceasefire and has accused Biden of supporting a genocide in Gaza. When looking at the numbers, it's hard to argue against that.

Since the terror attacks committed by Hamas on Oct. 7, Israeli military bombing campaigns have killed over 10,569 Palestinians in Gaza. Airstrikes have displaced nearly 70% of the population

ing me than they are on saving lives, as the death toll in Gaza surpasses 10,000. Many of them have shown me that Palestinian lives simply do not matter to them, but I still do not police their rhetoric or actions.”

Now, the most blatant charge of Jewish hatred stemmed from Tlaib posting of a video with the phrase “From the River to the Sea.” Some critics like Yehudah Mirsky, a Jerusalem-based rabbi and professor of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University, have argued that the slogan “sounds much more like a threat than a promise of liberation. It doesn't mean a future in which Jews can have full lives and be themselves.”

However, Palestinian-American writer Yousef Munayyer disagrees with this definition. Instead, Munayyer argues the slogan

on their own. One of the first members of the House to push a censure vote against Tlaib was Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga.

Since entering the American political landscape, Greene has done nothing short of engaging with the worst kinds of bigotry. Greene had the nerve to accuse another colleague of antisemitism, while she has alleged that wildfires in California were caused by “Jewish Space Lasers,” compared COVID-19 vaccination policies to the Holocaust and spoke at a rally organized by the same people who organized the 2017 “Unite the Right” march in Charlottesville, VA., where participants chanted the phrase “Jews will not replace us.”

Just six days prior, Rep. George Santos (R-NY) sur-

LETTER
TO THE
EDITOR

IS UCONN COMPLICIT IN
CLIMATE CHANGE?

by Steven Matile

On Oct. 25, 40 or so University of Connecticut students walked out of classes to address the board of trustees. Several students gave impassioned speeches on why climate change was so important to our generation and made three demands to the board: To phase out the Central Utility Plant co-generation facility, to collaborate with students and other stakeholders to create a comprehensive sustainability plan with actionable changes and goals and to commit to divesting UConn and the Foundation from fossil fuels both directly and indirectly. The effort was led by Fossil Fuel Free UConn, a student organization which has been pressuring the administration regularly.

Do UConn students really want a cleaner environment? Is it worth skipping class or making a statement in public? Is it worth demanding more from those who govern our school? The gutters on campus are littered with empty beer cans and food takeout containers. Campaigns to ban single-use plastics have been faltering for years. No more than 40 students show up to demand accountability from their own institution. UConn students can do better as a whole.

The Central Utility Plant is modern, efficient and will likely be here until this year's graduating class's children graduate. Directly next to the brand-new \$220 million Science 1 building, absent of any solar panels, is the equally new Supplemental Utility Plant. If anything, UConn appears to be leaning into natural gas, not out. Ever-source and UConn collaborate on power supply, research, public outreach and more. This relationship and the research we perform here on sustainable energy has benefited the public in many ways. Providing adequate and sustainable power is important for us to keep healthcare facilities and winter shelters open to protect vulnerable people from the dangerous New England winters. Solving these issues with renewable energy in the face of climate change is no small task, and the board is not likely to take up this charge without serious pressure.

After the climate speeches wrapped up, the chair of the board issued a short response in which a town hall meeting would be scheduled for Nov. 2. Following the meeting they also released an official statement in

support of sustainability. This is the second time in the last two board meetings where students gathered to make public statements. The board has been accused of greenwashing and lack of transparency for years regarding sustainability and environmental impacts. Even in the institutionally controlled news organization, UConn Today, they say, “Board Chairman Daniel Toscano said Wednesday that while the action of adopting the statement does not accomplish specific objectives on its own, it serves the broader purpose of underscoring that climate neutrality, sustainability, and clean energy are a significant board priority.” The only broader purpose it serves is to continue to kick the can down the road, hoping the current student leaders will graduate, like those before them.

Is UConn complicit in climate change? Less than 50 students out of more than 30,000 showed up: that's less than 1%. Certainly, lower than the 30% of the undergraduate student body that responded to the university president's strategic planning poll, presented immediately after the climate statements. The first question was what tuition from students should be spent on in order of importance to each student. Weighted averages were collected, and climate change came in at number six, just behind student activities and well behind number one — academic support. There may have only been 40 or so students out there who had climate change at number one, and they were in this room.

Some students demand change and accountability on a system-wide level. Some demand plans and timelines. Some demand hot water in their dorms and electricity to charge their iPhones. Some demand UConn use wind power, the fledgling industry off the coast of Connecticut. Some demand to dispose of beer cans and Coca-Cola bottles in the gutters. Some demand solar generation, which the administration seems to have no interest in. Some demand more tutoring and better activities. Oh, and don't forget, some demand we do something about climate change. It may be that UConn is complicit in climate change, but is UConn just the board of trustees?

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Feeney's
Focus:

THE HOUSE WITH NO SHAME

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in what the United Nations has described as a “crisis of humanity.”

Proponents of her censure argued that Tlaib's rhetoric was antisemitic. Tlaib, someone who has family in the West Bank, has had to sit back and watch her people be bombed day in and day out. She has been a vocal critic of the Israeli government, military and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. I am not sure what people expected her to say in response to such brutality.

I want to be clear: Antisemitism has risen sharply in the wake of the Israel-Hamas war. It is evil, disgusting and I am against it. That being true should not prevent us from being able to talk about the violence that is being committed by the Israeli government in Gaza, which is what Tlaib has repeatedly been doing.

In a statement, Tlaib said “It's a shame my colleagues are more focused on silenc-

envisions a future in which “Palestinians can live in their homeland as free and equal citizens, neither dominated by others nor dominating them.”

With that being said, two things can be true. We can acknowledge that the phrase is anti-zionist, but that does not mean the phrase is antisemitic. Zionism is a nationalist political ideology that calls for the creation of a Jewish state. “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” is a direct rebuke of that political belief; that does not mean it represents a greater call for violence against an entire religious group. According to the Anne Frank House, “Although many Jews identify with Zionism, there are still many different points of view. That is reason enough not to mix up the words ‘Jew’, ‘Israelis’ and ‘Zionists.’”

The glaring irony of the entire situation is that some of the loudest voices advocating for the censure of Tlaib have spread plenty of antisemitism

vived an expulsion vote. Of the countless things he lied about, one of the most offensive lies stemmed from his ethnicity. He not only lied about being Jewish, but he also pushed a lie that his grandparents were Ukrainian Jews fleeing the Holocaust.

New Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson (R-LA), has a long history of fanning the flames of hate by pushing “great replacement” and “great invasion” conspiracies. As Johnson sends the Israeli government more American tax dollars to contribute to their destruction of Gaza, remember that these are the same people telling us a ceasefire is unattainable.

We have reached a point where condemning bombing campaigns that have killed over 4,000 children will get you censured by the same people rubber-stamping the bombs that kill those same children. What a sick joke.

Comics

Photo of the Day | Baby Jonathan!



Jonathan XV poses on the field of a UConn sporting event with his predecessor, Jonathan XIV. Jonathan XV is in training and will eventually take over mascot duties from Jonathan XIV. PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

COMIC BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WHEN THE STRESS, BURNOUT, SADNESS, ANGER, INSANITY, ANXIETY, HOME SICKNESS, FRUSTRATION, ANNOYANCE, RESENTMENT. HURT,

.. DESPAIR, SEASONAL DEPRESSION, JEALOUSY, SELF-HATRED, FEAR FOR THE FUTURE, LONELINESS, SELF-DOUBT, STOCKHOLM SYNDROME, ETC.

FINALLY ERUPTED.

COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

COMIC BY JASON J SAMPSON, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The White Collared Worker

Jason J. Sampson

Spin Cycle: MLB's top free agents

by Nick Spinalli

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The 2023 Major League Baseball season is now in the rear-view mirror. Baseball won't be played for just under five months, with the 2024 season scheduled to begin in late March. Teams will have between now and then to make adjustments to their rosters to prepare for the upcoming campaign. Here's a look at the top names that teams will have their bid at when they hit the free agency market this winter.

Shohei Ohtani, RHP/DH

A torn UCL may be the reason why Ohtani won't be receiving a \$500 million contract this offseason, but even when not considering his pitching abilities, he is the best batter available in this year's free agent class. We may not see Ohtani take the mound in 2024, but whatever team adds his bat is sure to benefit drastically. The 29-year-old phenom slashed a career-best .304/.412/.654 and was valued at 6.0 wins above replacement last season as a batter alone. He slugged 44 homers and drove in 95 runs for an Angels team that couldn't get over the hump last year. In his career, Ohtani has been stellar on the bump: he owns a career 3.01 earned run average to go with a 1.08 WHIP. He's struck out 608 batters over 481.2 career innings. He's a generational talent and all eyes will be on which team he lands with this offseason.

Yoshinobu Yamamoto, RHP

Yamamoto is set to become available to MLB teams once the Orix Buffaloes of the Nippon Professional Baseball post him in the upcoming weeks. The Japanese phenom was remarkable for Orix this season,

going 17-6 with a 1.16 ERA. He struck out 176 batters over 171.0 innings, walking just 28. In his professional career, Yamamoto is 75-30 with a remarkable 1.72 ERA. In his final performance last season, Yamamoto struck out 14 batters over a complete game to help Orix force a decisive game seven of the Japan Series. The 14 K's set the record for the most in the Series. He's perhaps the big-

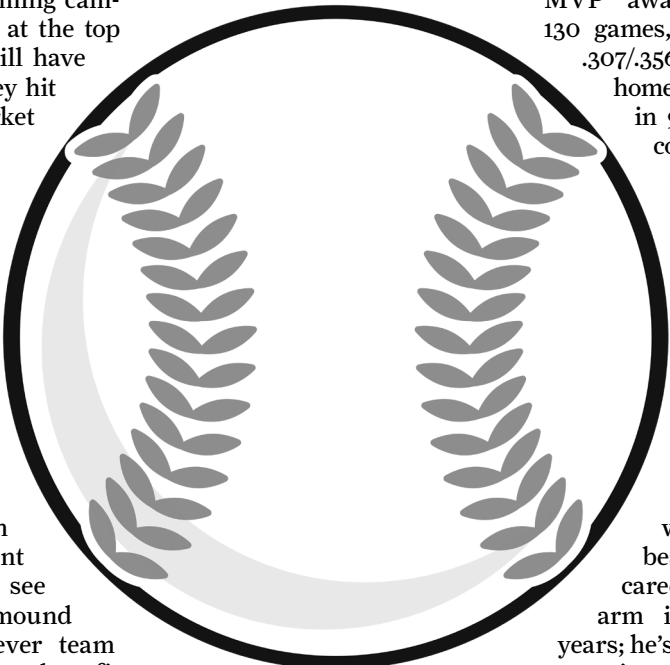
of his professional career.

Cody Bellinger, CF/1B

Bellinger bet on himself last offseason by signing a one-year "prove-it" deal with the Cubs in hopes of rebuilding his value with a strong showing last season. To say that he was correct would be a severe understatement, as Bellinger responded from two bad years with the Dodgers with his best season since he won the National League MVP award in 2019. Over 130 games, the OF/1B slashed .307/.356/.525, swatting 26 home runs and driving in 97 runs. He also recorded 29 doubles and stole a career-high 20 bases. It seems that Bellinger is in line to receive a substantial multi-year deal after a special rebound campaign in Chicago.

Aaron Nola, RHP

Although 2023 was by no means the best season in Nola's career, he's been a stable arm in Philadelphia for years; he's recorded 32 or more starts in every full-length season since 2018. Though his 4.46 ERA last season won't amaze anyone, he is just one season removed from a year in which he tallied a 3.25 ERA and supported a 3.72 ERA over his entire career. Nola still ranked amongst the best strikeout arms in the game with the fifth 200+ K season of his career and the Phillies went 19-13 in games in which he started. It's tough to imagine him in a uniform other than the Phillies', but we've seen crazier things unravel during free agency.



CLIPART COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL

Japanese free agent since Ohtani himself and will be a major asset for whichever team is able to acquire his services.

Blake Snell, LHP

Snell is set to cash in with a major payday after posting his best season since joining the San Diego Padres. After recording a 3.38 ERA in 2022, "Snellzilla" one-upped himself with a 2.25 ERA last season, the second-best ERA in a season of his career. He also managed to go 14-9 last campaign, marking his best win percentage in a 162-game season since 2018. Though he allowed a Major League-high 99 walks, he was among the best strikeout arms in baseball with 234 K's during the season. It'll be interesting to see which franchise Snell lands with as he enters the latter-half



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sargeant's Orders: The English Premier League has a crisis on its hands that needs solving

by Connor Sargeant

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In life, nothing is certain except death, taxes and, in the case of professional sports, poor officiating. Missed calls happen every night; referees are human and making mistakes is a part of the game. However, with how much revenue professional sports generate and the goal to promote fairness, video reviews have become the norm in almost every major sports league across the globe. The English Premier League (EPL) takes no exception to this notion, utilizing a Video Assistant Referee (VAR) for every match.

In the 2019-2020 campaign, the EPL debuted the VAR and its primary function was to look at calls

subject to human error, such as offside or handballs. The thought was that VAR would preserve the integrity of the game and clubs wouldn't feel "robbed" if they fell victim to a touchy call. One of the most famous examples of the need for video replay occurred in the 1986 FIFA World Cup Quarter-Final match between Argentina and England. In that iconic fixture, Diego Maradona had one of the most famous, yet illegal, goals in the history of soccer. Six minutes into the second half, Maradona received a ball in the box deflected off an England defender. England's goalkeeper, Peter Shilton, jumped forward with his hand outstretched to try and deny a possible header. Maradona launched forward, with his hand balled up into a fist next to his head, and hit the ball

with his hand, giving Argentina the 1-0 advantage. England protested the score. However, none of the officials had a clear view of the handball and since there was no video replay in 1986, the "Hand of God" goal stood.

In today's game, video replay checks everything from offsides to season-ending scores, and it has worked eloquently worldwide. Conversely, the EPL's take on this issue has been a disaster. The VAR added to its long list of blunders in Monday's match between Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea.

The first half of this match was a complete mess. It saw four disallowed goals due to either offside or a foul. There was also a free-for-all scuffle between Chelsea's Levi Colwill and Tottenham's Pape Matar Sarr, which saw nearly two minutes wasted for review after the referee made the call.

Four goals disallowed isn't the issue; they were the right decisions. However, it took longer than it should have to confirm the on-field call, killing any momentum built and making it difficult to watch as a fan. The VAR checks took so long that the officials determined that 12 minutes of stoppage time needed to be added to the first half. For a league that generates over \$5.5 billion a year in revenue, it should not take anywhere near three minutes to determine something as clear-cut as offsides. What's the point of having a referee on the pitch if every call is going to be checked?

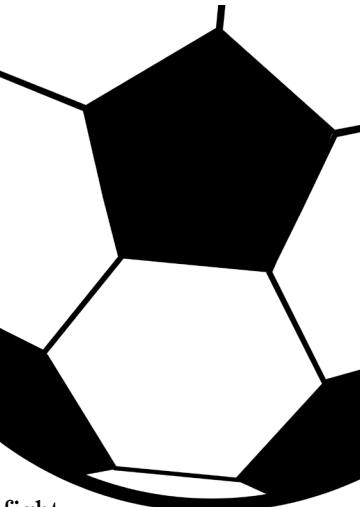
"All we've come here for is to see a decent game of football, not peo-

ple playing around with video machines," noted NBC Sports commentator Jon Champion on air during Monday's fixture, "This first half has been as scarred by VAR intervention as any I can remember."

The EPL needs to give the VAR less responsibility and follow in the shadows of other soccer bodies. The UEFA Champions League, Europa League and Serie A all implement semi-automated offside technology. This technology is fast and accurate, as it takes only a few seconds to determine if a player timed his run correctly. Another side benefit is that it eliminates any human error.

It doesn't just take an eternity to get these obvious calls, but the human error associated with the VAR has been atrocious. Former VAR official Lee Mason forgot to draw the computerized offside lines on the screen during a matchup between Arsenal and Brentford last February. Mason's error wrongly awarded the Bees a game-tying goal, a mistake that changed the outcome from a Gunners' victory to a draw. This incident wouldn't have occurred had the EPL implemented semi-automated offside technology.

No other soccer league in the world is as exciting as the EPL. Not only is the talent the highest, but there are different clubs at the top of the table every season, with weekly upsets. For instance, in 2016, Leicester City, a club with 5000-1 pre-season odds, won the league outright, despite being significantly outpanted by the pre-season title favorites. They were a team in the relegation



CLIPART COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL

fight just a year prior. Five different clubs have been the kings of England in the past 10 years. In this season, it's anyone's guess which teams will be the last one standing come May 19.

Despite boasting the highest viewership of any soccer body in the world, the officiating is as poor as a Sunday league match. Every week, there seems to be a new VAR controversy, with last Monday being another drop in the bucket. The fact of the matter is that these errors are preventable. The EPL must radically change officials' roles because fans are tired of the theatrics. If the EPL continues to do nothing, they risk gaining a reputation of sloppiness and incompetence instead of drama and talent.

SARGEANT'S



ORDER

LOGO BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Kevan Miller (#86) with the Boston Bruins during pre-game warm-ups before a game against the New Jersey Devils on March 29, 2016. The Bruins took a tough loss, scoring one point against the Devils' two.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Chris's Column: Matt Poitras impact on the Bruins

by Chris Charbonneau

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Last year, the Boston Bruins set NHL records with 65 wins and 135 points to win the Presidents' Trophy, but shockingly lost in the first round of the playoffs. This past summer, former captain Patrice Bergeron and forward David Krejčí retired, opening spots for new young talent.

Enter 19-year-old forward Matt Poitras. Poitras has earned the right to be on the team, after helping the Bruins win games and stay on top of the Atlantic Division early in the year.

The emergence of Poitras has been one of the biggest storylines for the Bruins. Poitras was one of two rookies on the team to start the season on opening night, an impressive feat. Other notable first years are forward Johnny Beecher, 2019 first round pick who played three seasons in college at Michigan and 2020 second-round pick Mason Lohrei, defenseman who played at Ohio State.

Poitras, a 2022 second-round NHL draft pick, has exceeded all expectations. The Bruins let him play in the first nine games of the 2023-24 season, the most one can play before exceeding the limit of an entry-level contract. Head coach Jim Montgomery and general manager Don Sweeney had a decision to make to determine if they wanted to keep Poitras in the NHL full-time and burn his entry-level contract. They also had to weigh the option of returning him to the OHL ju-

nior team Guelph Storm.

After careful consideration, Montgomery announced Poitras is staying with the Bruins for the remainder of the season. In the first 12 games of the season, the center has four goals and three assists.

Poitras's role on the team started off as bottom-six player. He's had the opportunity to play alongside David Pastrňák and Pavel Zacha. With exceptional puck protection habits, high IQ and vision of the ice, his coaches and teammates have recognized how quickly he's adapted in the NHL.

Even after the surprise exit early in the playoffs last season, the Bruins are trying to win now. After losing Bergeron and Krejčí, they are still Stanley Cup contenders. Keeping Poitras in the lineup isn't so much to develop the kid. They like what he has brought to the team and how he's helping them win games now.

Poitras had two goals against the Anaheim Ducks on Oct. 22 and scored on a breakaway against the Chicago Blackhawks on Oct. 24. Listed at 5-foot-11-inches and 177 pounds, Poitras has had no issues so far against bigger and stronger competition in the corners of the ice. The weakest part of his game is faceoffs, but he has shown enough to establish why he can be in the top-six role for offense. With all this in mind, Poitras could be the key to avoiding another upset early in the playoffs and has potential to be a key piece on Boston's seventh ever Stanley Cup team.

Newcastle and Arsenal played a close game at St. James Park, London, on May 7, 2023. It took place on Gameweek 35 of the Premier League season, with Newcastle losing by two points.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Photo of the Day | Another victory



On Saturday, Nov 4 2023, the UConn women's basketball team wins against Southern Connecticut at Gampel Pavillion in Storrs, CT. The exhibition game ended with the Huskies winning by 59 points and featured the return of Paige Bueckers.
PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Coleumn:

Resiliency the key to UConn men's soccer's success in 2023

by Cole Stefan
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Across four regular seasons with the UConn men's soccer team, senior goalkeeper Kyle Briere appeared in three matches and recorded two saves. The North Attleboro, Massachusetts, native did not take the net once in his first two years in Storrs, and when he did see game action as an upperclassman, the contest had already been decided.

Such was the case on Oct. 28 at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium, when graduate goalkeeper Clayton Knibbs allowed four goals in 55 minutes against the Xavier Musketeers. Regular starter Jayden Hibbert did not suffer an injury during the Huskies' regular-season finale; he got a red card after interfering with a Musketeers fast break opportunity at the 23-minute mark. In accordance with NCAA rules, the two-time Big East Goalkeeper of the Week had to sit out Connecticut's next game, which coincidentally was the quarterfinal round of the Big East Tournament.

Finishing fifth in Big East Conference play at 4-4-0, the Huskies traveled to Queens for another bout with the St. John's Red Storm, a team they bested 2-1 in Storrs in early September. At the helm of UConn's first postseason match since 2019, head coach Chris Gbandi gave Briere the nod for his first career start. How the Huskies reached this position requires looking at the entire season.

It started as the calendar flipped from September to October. Connecticut captured a 1-0 home win over the Villanova Wildcats on Sept. 29, but the offense suddenly stopped clicking. Battling two ranked opponents and a Division II program, the Huskies were outscored 6-1 despite outshooting their foes 59-19. Their lone goal in that seven-day stretch came from a penalty kick graduate forward Adil Iggoute converted in the 80th minute against the Assumption Greyhounds.

Tying against Assumption in their last nonconference match

of the season, set UConn up for disaster early in their battle with the Marquette Golden Eagles four days later. Senior defender Jai Hsieh-Bailey stunned the Goal Patrol and the Morrone Stadium crowd five minutes into the game with his first career goal; senior forward Beto Soto followed suit 25 minutes later.

The Huskies had rallied down one and come out victorious multiple times in Gbandi's two-season tenure, but had not completed a multi-goal comeback since before they returned to the Big East in 2020. Like they had done twice before, UConn pulled within one when Big East Co-Freshman of the Year Kieran Chandler buried his second career goal from outside the box with two minutes left until halftime. Running out of time the last two instances they cut a deficit in half, the Huskies had an entire half at their disposal to at least even up the match.

Forward Scott Testori did just that, knotting the game at two at the 71-minute mark with a header in front of the net. By the 75th minute, UConn played with just nine men when Chandler got sent off from the bench. Already with a goal and an assist, Testori chipped a shot past Golden Eagles goalkeeper Ludvig Målberg in the 81st minute that capped the comeback and gave the Huskies their first lead in two weeks. Hibbert got the final word with a save eight minutes later, securing UConn's 3-2 comeback victory.

"Not the start we would have liked, but I thought the guys fought back," stated Gbandi after that dramatic match over three weeks ago. "Both teams got a red card, so we had to deal with it. I thought, for whatever reason, we dealt with it a little bit better."

The Huskies went 1-2-0 in their last three games, with a road win against the Creighton Bluejays earning them a spot in the postseason. Facing the Red Storm in the Big East Tournament for the first time since a 1-0 extra-time defeat in the championship match in 2011, UConn struck first when Testori buried his eighth goal of the year on a header in the 21st minute. St. John's answered less than two minutes into the second half to tie the match at one, but the Huskies kept pushing.

Both teams stared down

their opponent's goalie over the next 55 minutes, but sophomore Eli Conway made the Red Storm blink first. Sprinting past several Johnnies, Conway got out in front of goalkeeper Alec McLachlan and finished off the

"Going on the road, scoring a goal and then having them come back to tie it right in the second half, there is a tendency for a team to put their head down," Gbandi said afterward. "This group just would not give up and they just kept pushing."

wide-open chance with his first goal since the third game of the season. Connecticut held on for a 2-1 victory, marking the only upset in the Big East Tournament that Saturday evening.

For all of the grit the Huskies showed in their quarterfinal fight, Briere's efforts made the difference in the team's first postseason win since 2018.

"I am so proud of Kyle [Briere]," noted Gbandi. "For him to get this opportunity and make the most of it says a lot about him as a player and the character that he has."

UConn now has their sights set on doing what the women's team could not: upset the Hoyas in the Big East Tournament semifinals. Georgetown has had the edge in the conference rivalry since the Huskies left the Big East in 2013 with a 6-0-1 record, four shutouts and three goals allowed. Even though Hibbert will most likely get the start in the conference semifinals, the senior goalkeeper made the most of an unexpected opportunity with the season on the line. One thing became clear in the moment: resiliency reigned supreme.

"When you are on a team and when you are in this family, you cannot stop working," commented Briere. "These guys are worth fighting for. I finally got my chance and those guys helped me through it."



The UConn men's soccer team plays against Xavier on Oct 28, 2023 at Morrone Stadium in Storrs, CT. The Huskies ended the game with a loss, the final score being 0-4.
PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Huskies in the Pros:

Hawkins gets hot for 31 points, Jackson scores first NBA points, Drummond tallies 12 points off the bench vs the Jazz

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NBA: Jordan Hawkins scores career-high 31 points vs Denver

It's been quite the week for former UConn shooting guard Jordan Hawkins, who erupted for a career-high 31 points on Monday. The 6'5" rookie from Gaithersburg, Maryland is off to an impressive start to his NBA career, averaging 12.6 points and leading the '23 rookie class in three-pointers made per game (2.9). Hawkins' usage continues to go up under head coach Willie Green, as the rookie sharpshooter has made four starts after coming off the bench to start the season. As a starter, Hawkins is averaging 15.3 points, 4.8 rebounds and three three-pointers made per game. With all-star shooting guard C.J. McCollum expected to miss time with an injury, the former UConn guard will certainly see his usage increase as the season continues.

Andre Jackson Jr. scores first NBA basket

Drafted in the second round to a Bucks team that is very deep with talent, rookie forward Andre Jackson Jr. hasn't seen the floor as much as his national champion counterpart Hawkins has in his rookie season. With that being said, in Milwaukee's 130-111 loss to the Toronto Raptors on Nov. 11, Jackson came in

during the final minutes of the game to score his first career NBA basket, and it went exactly how UConn fans would expect. After a pick-pocket on the defensive end, Jackson scored a breakaway dunk on the other end of the floor. The 6'6" rookie from Amsterdam, New York has seen the floor for 13 minutes this season, totaling two points, seven rebounds and two steals.

12-year veteran Andre Drummond coming off the bench for Chicago

Former two-time All-Star Andre Drummond is currently the longest-tenured Husky in the NBA and continues to find playing time in his 12th NBA season. After making 630 starts in his first 10 seasons, the veteran center has settled into a bench role with the Bulls since last season. In eight games this season, Drummond is averaging 6.6 points and five rebounds in 14 minutes per game for Chicago. The former 2012 lottery pick has had a very impressive career, averaging an absurd 12.6 rebounds per game and earning an All-NBA Third Team selection after the 2015-2016 season. The 6'10" center from Mount Vernon, New York spent his first eight seasons in the league with the Detroit Pistons and has since suited up for the Cavaliers, Lakers, 76ers, Nets and Bulls. Drummond's career 12.6 rebounds per game is good for the 13th-highest in NBA history.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men’s Soccer: UConn takes on No. 5 Georgetown for spot in Big East final

by Noah Reed
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The UConn Huskies are set to face off with No. 5 Georgetown Hoyas for the second time this year, with a spot in the Big East Championship game on the line. After outlasting St. John’s in double overtime Saturday night, UConn advanced to the semi-finals of the Big East tournament. Scott Testori’s eighth score of the year pushed the Huskies in front, but the Red Storm answered with a 47th minute goal of their own. It would take two overtime periods for either team to break ahead, and UConn did just that, with a break-away goal by Eli Conway. The 2-1 victory marked their second win over the Johnnies this year, and earned them a spot in the next round. On the other side of the bracket stands the Georgetown Hoyas. The overall No. 1 seed in the tournament, Georgetown comes in with a conference record of 6-1-1, with their lone loss coming against Providence. Similar to UConn, Georgetown opened the first round with Kyle Linhares’ fifth goal of the year to put them up on Seton Hall in the 12th minute. The Pirates responded with a quick second half goal, but the Hoyas secured the victory on a bullet by Mat-

thew Van Horn, his first collegiate score. The Huskies and the Hoyas previously met on Oct. 7 when three second half goals lifted the Hoyas to a 3-0 victory at home. UConn was able to keep the Hoyas silent for the first 45 minutes, but the flood gates opened coming out of the break. Maximus Jennings got the scoring started in just the first five minutes and Marlon Tabora tacked on two goals of his own to bring Georgetown the victory. Georgetown has had UConn’s number in years past, owning a 6-0-1 record against the Huskies since 2016. UConn’s last win against the program came back in 2012, but overall, the teams have been pretty even against each other historically. Looking ahead, the winner of this matchup will play the winner of Xavier/Providence for the Big East Championship and an automatic bid into the NCAA Men’s Soccer Championship. Last year’s winner, Creighton, was knocked out by Providence in the first round. Seton Hall, St. John’s and Akron met a similar fate and were all first round exits in this year’s tournament. Thursday’s match is set for a 6:30 p.m. kickoff at the Maryland SoccerPlex in Boyds, Md. Fans can follow all the action from home on the Big East Digital Network.



UConn men’s soccer takes on Xavier at Morrone Stadium on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023. The Huskies’ last regular season game ended in a loss of 0-4 to Xavier after goalkeeper Jayden Hibbert recieved a red card in the 22nd minute.

PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women’s Basketball: Bueckers officially returns as No. 2 Connecticut clips Flyers in season opener

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During her four years with the UConn women’s basketball team, Dayton Flyers head coach Tamika Williams-Jeter went 136-9 with 10.6 career points, 5.8 career rebounds and two national titles. Senior forward Aaliyah Edwards exceeded Williams-Jeter’s career marks in one game as the Huskies opened the 2023-24 season with a 102-58 victory over the Flyers at the XL Center. In 23 minutes, Edwards scored 23 points and hauled in nine rebounds, finishing one shy of her first double-double since the 2023 Big East Championship game in early March. With Dorca Juhasz in the WNBA, head coach Geno Auriemma expects

consistency from the senior forward in the frontcourt throughout the 2023-24 season. “I want that to be somewhat of an average game for her going forward,” said Auriemma after the game. “I thought she was aggressive the entire time she was out there.” Edwards attracted most of the attention on the final scoresheet, but most of the hype heading into the season opener revolved around redshirt junior Paige Bueckers, who received the loudest applause from the Hartford crowd out of anyone in the starting lineup. Bueckers finished with eight points, seven rebounds and four assists in her first official contest since the 2022 national championship game, enjoying every second of the 20:37 that she spent on the court in the XL Center.



Paige Bueckers returns to the court against the University of Dayton Flyers. This is her first time playing in a game since the 2022 national championship game.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNWB ON INSTAGRAM

“Super excited and grateful to be back out on the court with my girls,” said the red-shirt junior guard. Basketball contests typically begin with the opening tip-off, but junior guard Azzi Fudd gave the Huskies a 2-0 lead before that even happened because of an administrative technical foul on the Dayton side. Still winning the opening tip-off, Connecticut took the momentum from that sequence and opened the game on a 16-5 run behind junior guard Caroline Ducharme’s two three-pointers. The Flyers pulled within seven out of the first media timeout behind two triples, but with freshman KK Arnold making her collegiate debut and displaying the energy that her teammates talked so much about before the season, the Huskies started widening the gap. Junior guard Ivy Wolf threw up a one-handed prayer that went in from near the three-point line with 2:20 left in the first, but Bueckers answered right back with one from almost the exact same spot on the other end of the court. That started a 13-2 Connecticut run, leading to

Dayton’s first timeout five minutes into both teams’ seasons. The Huskies kept their momentum — scoring not once, but twice on the fast break within the span of a minute as the margin reached the 20-point mark. More Flyers points started getting on the scoreboard at the free throw line, yet UConn kept increasing their lead with each bucket in the perimeter, going ahead by as much as 29 and taking a 28-point advantage into the locker rooms at halftime. While the second half began with misses, the Huskies started accumulating points as they buried three triples in a four-minute window and put the game well out of reach. Amidst the flurry of treys, graduate forward Aubrey Griffin highlighted her contributions on both ends of the floor by rejecting sophomore guard Nayo Lear’s shot as she got it out of her hands. UConn emptied their bench by the halfway point of the fourth quarter, solidifying the winning narrative they showed at the season opener where they scored more points than their exhibition game at Harry A. Gampel Pavilion four days earlier. Each of the four Huskies who made their collegiate debut impressed the fans in their own way. Arnold’s speed made her a contributor in all facets of UConn’s game with eight points, seven assists and four steals. Blocking one shot, Qadence Samuels crossed double figures with 11 points and three buckets from beyond the arc. Ashlynn Shade made two field goals with two assists to boot. Ice Brady only collected three points and three rebounds, but her contributions went beyond getting involved with the ball. “She was engaged,” Auriemma explained about Brady. “She ran the floor really well. She is good with the ball in her hands.”

Lost in the mix of the freshmen playing collegiate basketball for the first time, Bueckers’ long-awaited return and Edwards’ near double-double was the Huskies’ overall depth. Out of the 11 players who checked into the contest, six scored in double figures and all but two played 10+ minutes. “We have a lot of different personnel that can be a threat and be to our advantage on different areas of the floor,” noted Edwards. “In the second quarter, we did pretty well pushing the pace. We got a lot of points off turnovers and off defensive rebounds.” Making her Dayton debut, Wolf made four of the team’s six three-pointers and finished with a team-leading 16 points, while sophomore guard Anyssa Jones dropped 11. Graduate forward Mariah Perez finished just shy of a double-double with eight points and nine rebounds. As Auriemma and Williams-Jeter shook hands after the final buzzer, the 39-year veteran coach provided his thoughts on Dayton’s road ahead. “We talked about how different the team looks and how hard they compete,” stated Auriemma. “She is in a pretty good place.” UConn’s nonconference slate ramps up significantly from here on out, starting with a bout in Raleigh against the North Carolina State Wolfpack (1-0) on Sunday. Despite the Wolfpack not being ranked in the pre-season Top 25, the Huskies expect a tougher battle from them. “They have got guards that are athletic and aggressive,” explained Auriemma. “The trick for us, like in any other game we are going to play at that level, is to handle the physicality of the game.” Tip-off for the game against NC State will be at the Williams Neal Reynolds Coliseum at 3 p.m. EST.



Sports

Ava's Angle: How basketball season changes the student culture at UConn

by **Ava Inesta**
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It's finally that time of the year: the weather is starting to get cold, which means that basketball season is officially back in Storrs. But in the Basketball Capital of the World, the season openers do not just mark the start of the season, they mark the start of the peak of the student culture at UConn. From selling out student ticket claims within minutes of release to fans waiting in lines at Gampel Pavilion for hours before the doors, students live and breathe UConn basketball.

At the beginning of September, USA Today released their 10 Best Readers Choice 2023 of "The Best College for Sports Fans" and UConn was ranked No. 1. The other top schools included Florida State, Alabama, Florida, Indiana and LSU, but UConn stood alone on the top.

"[The basketball season] brings a lot of energy to

the students, all the excitement, especially when this place gets packed," said Kyle Bergstrom, a UConn student who was in line at Gampel Pavilion at 8 a.m. for the men's basketball season opener against NAU. "The energy that Gampel brings, the whole campus atmosphere changes when basketball comes back. UConn is a basketball school at the end of the day, that's what we're here for."

"Basketball gets me so excited and it feels like we're actually a community," said a student in the line for the men's basketball game against NAU.

"I don't even know how to put it into words, just being there makes me so happy. Especially after we won the National Championship, that was so exciting."

Another huge factor for basketball this year in Storrs is that star guard Paige Bueckers is back after missing the entirety of last season from an ACL tear. Bueckers is one of the big faces of college bas-

ketball and to see her on the sideline in her temporary role of "Coach P" was heartbreaking for fans who love watching her on the court.

"It's definitely going to draw more people to the women's games 100%," said Bergstrom. "I think it's good for the whole school to bring the publicity back to UConn a little more and get more attention on our basketball programs, they deserve it."

"That is very exciting," said a student in the line for the men's basketball game against NAU. "That makes it a lot more possible that we will win a National Championship since she hasn't been able to help us out recently. I feel like she's the face of basketball at UConn so it's going to be exciting to watch her."

In the UConn men's basketball season opener on Monday, the entire arena was sold out to see the defending national champions get back in action. There was also a ceremony to unveil the 2023 national championship banner prior to the start of the game. Right as the doors opened a little before 5 p.m., student fans stormed in to get their front row seats after waiting for hours in line. From there, the sections were packed to the max by around 5:15 p.m., and students filled out throughout the whole arena. Later in the game, UConn announced on the big screen that there were 10,299 people in attendance, which marked a new record for the all-time Gampel Pavilion attendance. The UConn basketball fanbase stems from students to people of all ages and there is no stopping the passion and dedication they have throughout the season.

UConn fans are not just limited to people living in Connecticut. UConn men's and women's basketball are



UConn men's basketball takes on NAU at Gampel Pavilion on Monday, Nov 6, 2023. The Huskies took an easy win with a final score of 95-52.

PHOTO BY ZACH MOLLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

programs known worldwide for their success in bringing championships to Connecticut. They have consistent players playing in the NBA and WNBA, bring in some of the most prestigious coaches, now having Geno Auriemma and Dan Hurley, as well as having some of the most iconic moments in college sports history. The UConn women's basketball team holds the record for the most NCAA Women's Division I Basketball Championships won with 11, which includes four straight titles through 2013-2016. On the men's side, UConn stands alone at the top of men's college basketball in the past quarter century, winning NCAA Men's Division I

Basketball Championships in the past 25 years; 1999, 2004, 2011, 2014 and this past season 2023. No other program in college men's basketball has five national titles in that span of time. As a result, UConn stands out and their fanbases backs it up across the country and around the world.

Men's and women's basketball creates a community at UConn, whether they're celebrating national championships or just going to a regular game in the middle of February at the infamous Gampel Pavilion or XL Center. That excitement all starts now and student fans are so ready to bring all the energy into the 2023-24 college basketball season in Storrs.



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

Stratton's Stand: Jordan Hawkins' NBA success is critical for Dan Hurley

by **Stratton Stave**
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On Monday, Jordan Hawkins of the New Orleans Pelicans filled in for injured veteran C.J. McCollum in the starting lineup. During a year where the Pels are already being hit by the injury bug, this was the rookie's fourth chance to start.

Even in a game where Nikola Jokic was the headliner with a 35-14-12 statline, Hawkins was a close second.

ond-best. In 38 minutes of action, he scored 31 points and grabbed seven boards on excellent efficiency. The guard only needed 19 shots to achieve his total, thanks to hitting seven of his 14 threes.

Only two rookies in the league have posted such a high scoring output: Hawkins and Victor Wembanyama, the No. 1 pick in the 2023 draft and the runaway favorite for Rookie of the Year. That's exceptional company to keep. He's also tied for the most threes in a player's first seven games in NBA history with 20.

Having such a strong start is great – and is something that no player from the Dan Hurley era has really done. Since Hurley has taken over as the UConn head coach, he's had four players drafted to the league.

The first was James Bouknight, who was taken in the late lottery in 2021. Due to a number of on and off court issues, he

hasn't panned out the way anyone would have hoped. Bouknight has shown flashes here and there with three career 20+ point games, but not much else.

Tyrese Martin was picked in the late second round in 2022, so there weren't many expectations for his NBA career. He averaged 1.3 points in 16 games with the Atlanta Hawks in what was a near-nonexistent role. Now he plays for the Timberwolves' G-League team. Andre Jackson Jr. was drafted in 2023 and is still in the infancy of his career, playing just two games and scoring as many points. Neither of these two are really fair to judge, since the expectations haven't been there.

With the lack of NBA presence and NCAA tournament success in Hurley's first four years, he needed at least one of those to go his way soon. Recruits want to see results. Some prefer it at the college level in the form of March Madness wins, while others prefer lottery picks and great players in the league. Most are fond of both.

The National Championship solved the former issue. Most coaches go their whole career without a ring, so Hurley's already more than checked that

box. The NBA issue also seems to be solving itself, slowly but surely. Pointing at lottery picks is nice; but if Hawkins were to make an All-Rookie team or collect further accolades, that would really put Hurley in a great position.

Using Bouknight as a talking point was likely helpful in recruiting someone like current freshman and former five-star recruit Stephon Castle, who committed to the Huskies in mid-November of 2021. That was at a time when Bouknight was in his first month of the league and there was more potential than tangible results. After debacles involving a bag of doritos, a gun and a DWI, along with a separate altercation with former coach James Borrego, advertising Bouknight as a model of where a top 50 recruit could be three years after committing became considerably less powerful.

Things happen that are out of coaches' control though. Some players don't pan out and that's okay. Kentucky has no shortage of NBA talent, but less frequently discussed is their plethora of NBA busts. Skal Labissiere, James Young and Archie Goodwin were all Wildcats picked in the first round over the last decade, yet none have been impressive. You don't hear about them though. Instead Tyrese Maxey, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, De'Aaron Fox, Karl-Anthony Towns and many more are discussed.

No school is going to have a perfect hit rate. If you have one Fox for every Labissiere, that's fantastic. Having players like Bouknight is fine, but you can't

exclusively have players like him. It reduces a coach's credibility in a number of ways to NBA teams who are looking to get a real sense of a player from their coach – and also to recruits who want to believe that the school can make them an NBA star.

If Hawkins is as good as he seems to be through seven games, that is massive for Hurley. Not that he's had any issues recruiting, but it moves the needle in a very positive direction. Even if Hawkins doesn't pan out, Castle and Donovan Clingan, both widely projected to be selected in the top 10 of this year's draft, still provide opportunities for NBA success.

This all should be taken with a grain of salt. Winning at the NCAA level will always be the most important thing. If you can bring home championships, that'll recruit itself. The championship this past spring was nearly enough to lure generational talent Cooper Flagg from his dream school, Duke. But having players that are developed into NBA talent is another critical aspect that can't be overlooked. Hurley has several chances to do this in the next few years, something that will be helpful for the program and for his legacy as a whole if all goes to plan.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS



CLIPART COURTESY OF WANNAPIK

WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

Big East Championship

Men's Soccer Today, 6:30 PM

Boyds, Maryland

Upcoming Games

Volleyball, 12 PM Friday

Indianapolis, IN

Men's Basketball 12 PM Saturday

Hartford, Conn

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY

@pelicansnba and @uconnmbb
From one national champion to another

TWEETS OF THE DAY

UConn Huskies
@UConnHuskies
SHE'S BAAAAACK!! #BleedBlue | @paigebueckers1

road to #12 | #bleedblue
@bueckersbuckets
UConn scoring 0 seconds into the game, who's doing it like them

3:5:35
@probablyatypo
the big east isn't even a weak conference. uconn is just that much better than everyone else in it.

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