



EXCLUSIVES

UConn administrators discuss plans to ‘retire’ spirit rocks; decide against it



“The Rock” sits with its fresh coat of paint outside North Garage on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023. For years this rock has allowed students to express themselves through art, and earlier this year was re-painted with the statement “Taco Tuesday.”

PHOTOGRAPH BY JORDYN RIVERA, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by John Haslun
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Emails obtained by The Daily Campus indicate that members of the UConn administration had planned significant revisions to rules and regulations surrounding spirit rocks on campus following student demonstrations in early October.

UConn’s three official paintable rocks, ‘the Rock’ across from North Garage, the ‘Towers Rocks’ on the bottom of the walkway to Towers and the ‘Buckley/Shippee Rock’ on the south side of the road leading to the buildings’ parking lot, have traditionally been used by the student body as a form of free expression, including that of a political nature.

Following the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas War on Oct. 7 and subsequent demonstrations across college campuses nationwide, rocks at UConn were painted over with various messages related to the conflict, often in quick suc-

cession. Student organizations mentioned in university communications as the parties responsible included Huskies for Israel, Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), and the Iranian Cultural Organization.

Initial reactions from university leadership appeared largely hostile to the prospect of a place for the rocks on campus at all moving forward. Emails reveal UConn officials’ fear over the use of the rock as a “nightly political football... which does nothing to support dialogue or mutual respect” and worries over escalating tensions.

“With everything going on between Israel and Hamas, President Maric, Nathan [Feurst, Vice President for Student Life & Enrollment] and Provost D’Alleva, believe it would be in the University’s best interest to remove the rock entirely as we do not want to initiate any further tension amongst the UConn community,” wrote an executive assistant in an email on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023.

“With everything going on between Israel and Hamas, President Maric, Nathan [Feurst, Vice President for Student Life & Enrollment] and Provost D’Alleva, believe it would be in the University’s best interest to remove the rock entirely as we do not want to initiate any further tension amongst the UConn community.”

AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

An initial rough draft of changes discussed during a meeting at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023 included the creation of an “online sign-up sheet” with “new timeslots released every two weeks” under a three-day increment.

UConn officials appeared to be divided over the future of the rock, with a number endorsing a plan that would “explore some alternate locations for the spirit rock,” others defending the current 2020 guidelines and urging caution, and some calling for the scrapping of the rocks entirely.

President Radenka Maric herself endorsed an “idea to retire our spirit rock in the Human Rights Center, student union, or maybe some of our athletic facilities.”

In the same email, she additionally directed recipients to an attached message from a UConn alum which critiqued the administration for its lack of willingness to take an unequivocal stand against anti-semitism.

After discussions with student leaders, including Undergraduate Student Government and the Arab Students Association, university leadership appeared to drop the idea of retiring the rocks.

They remained, however, committed to adjusting the rules and regulations and moved forward on plans for the potential relocation of rocks, particularly ‘the Rock’ across from North Garage.

“The spirit rock near the Jorgensen became a flash-point for competing messages last week about the conflict in Gaza and Israel,” one administrator writes. “Student leaders are strongly supportive of retaining the rock as a forum for free speech, but nothing says it

has to be placed at the entrance to campus. Could we move it to a less visible, more student-centric space?”

“Could we move it [the spirit rock] to a less visible, more student-centric space?”

AN ADMINISTRATOR

As of Dec. 4, 2023, university leaders have decided to not continue with any potential relocation of the rock.

“University leaders discussed the idea [of relocating the rock], but decided against it,” university spokesperson Stephanie Reitz said.

“University leaders discussed the idea [of relocating the rock], but decided against it.”

STEPHANIE REITZ

Future proposals discussed included a plan to install a sign next to the spirit rocks informing students of the guidelines for painting. As of Dec. 4, 2023, no signs have been installed.

The current guidelines, which came into effect Nov. 1, 2020, prohibit “partial painting of the rock” and “tagging letters, names, or symbols over an existing painting,” along with stipulating that “a rock must be completely dry before another student/group may paint over the work.”



Students view a vibrant purple rock painted to read “End Alzheimer’s” outside the Monteith Building on Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023. The rock draws attention to the struggles of Alzheimer’s Disease and the importance of finding a cure.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIANNA JOHNSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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Tweet of the Day

UConn Men’s Basketball
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Back in [@TheGarden](#) this week

MORE THAN \$950,000 RAISED FOR PALESTINIAN STUDENT PARALYZED AFTER BEING SHOT IN VERMONT

More than \$950,000 has been raised for the recovery of one of the three college students of Palestinian descent who was shot in Vermont and is currently paralyzed from the chest down, according to a GoFundMe page set up by his family.

One of the bullets that hit Hisham Awartani on Nov. 25 is lodged in his spine, his family said.

“Hisham’s first thoughts were for his friends, then for his parents who were thousands of miles away. He has demonstrated remarkable courage, resilience and fortitude - even a sense of humor - even as the reality of his paralysis sets in,” the fundraising page, which was set up on Saturday, states.

Awartani, Kinnan Abdalhamid and Tahseen Ali Ahmad are childhood friends who graduated from a private Quaker school in the West Bank and now attend colleges in the eastern U.S. The 20-year-olds were visiting Awartani’s relatives in Burlington for the Thanksgiving break. They were walking to the house of Hisham’s grandmother for dinner

when they were shot in an unprovoked attack, the family said.

The young men were speaking in a mix of English and Arabic and two of them were also wearing the black-and-white Palestinian keffiyeh scarves when they were shot, Burlington Police Chief Jon Murad said. Authorities are investigating the shooting as a possible hate crime.

“In a cruelly ironic twist, Hisham’s parents had recommended he not return home over winter break, suggesting he would be safer in the US with his grandmother,” the fundraising page states. “Burlington is a second home to Hisham, who has spent summers and happy holidays with his family there. It breaks our hearts that these young men did not find safety in his home away from home.”

All three were seriously injured. Abdalhamid was released from the hospital last week.

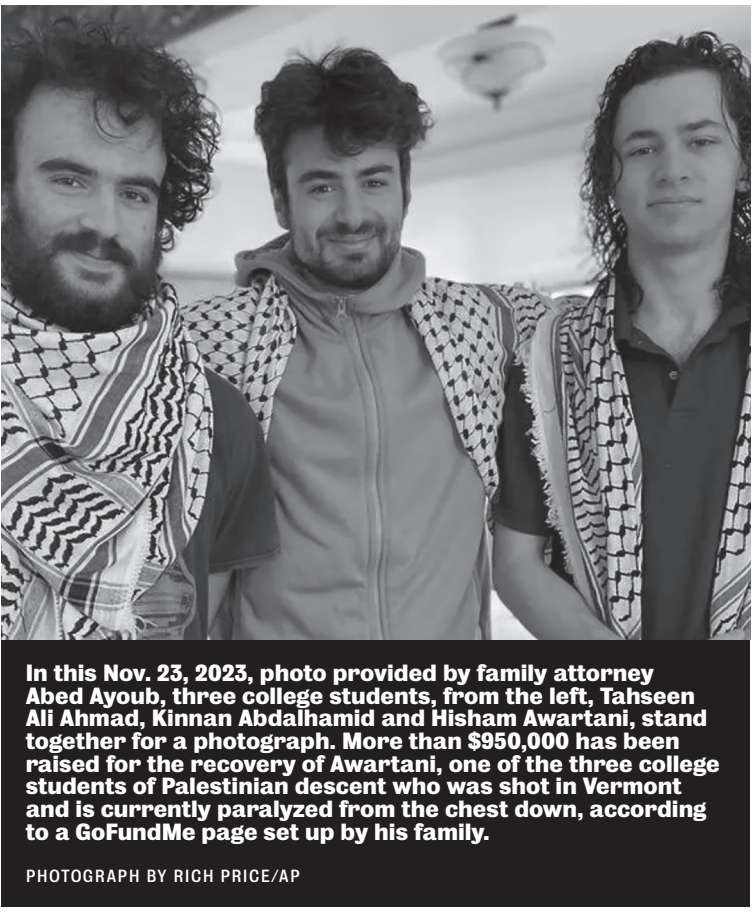
The suspected gunman, Jason J. Eaton, 48, was arrested the following day at his Burlington apartment, where he answered the door with his hands raised

and told federal agents he had been waiting for them. Eaton has pleaded not guilty to three counts of attempted murder and is currently being held without bail.

The shooting came as threats against Jewish, Muslim and Arab communities have increased across the U.S. in the weeks since the the Israel-Hamas war erupted in early October.

Awartani, who speaks seven languages, is pursuing a dual degree in math and archaeology at Brown University, where he is also a teaching assistant, the fundraising page said. He told his college professors that he is determined to start the next semester on time, according to the fundraiser.

“We, his family, believe that Hisham will change the world,” the fundraising page states. “He’ll change the world through his spirit, his mind and his compassion for those much more vulnerable than himself, especially the thousands of dead in Gaza and many more struggling to survive the devastating humanitarian crisis unfolding there.”



In this Nov. 23, 2023, photo provided by family attorney Abed Ayoub, three college students, from the left, Tahseen Ali Ahmad, Kinnan Abdalhamid and Hisham Awartani, stand together for a photograph. More than \$950,000 has been raised for the recovery of Awartani, one of the three college students of Palestinian descent who was shot in Vermont and is currently paralyzed from the chest down, according to a GoFundMe page set up by his family.

PHOTOGRAPH BY RICH PRICE/AP



Speaker of the Wisconsin Assembly Robin Vos speaks during a news conference after Gov. Tony Evers delivered his state budget address at the state Capitol, Feb. 15, 2023, in Madison, Wis. Wisconsin Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu, R-Oostburg, said Monday, Dec. 4, 2023, that he wants to see pay raises approved for University of Wisconsin employees, pitting himself against Vos, who has vowed to withhold UW funding until it cuts its spending on diversity, equity and inclusion.

PHOTO BY SAMANTHA MADAR/AP

Republican leaders of Wisconsin Legislature at odds over withholding university pay raises

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — The Republican head of the Wisconsin Senate said Monday he wants to see pay raises approved for Universities of Wisconsin employees, pitting himself against the state Assembly speaker who has vowed to withhold UW funding until it cuts its spending on diversity, equity and inclusion.

Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos refused to approve pay raises for UW employees in October when the Legislature’s employment relations committee, which Vos co-chairs, okayed them for other state employees. Vos said he doesn’t believe the UW system deserves more funding until it cuts its so-called DEI programs.

Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu said Monday that he opposes withholding the money.

“I totally understand where Speaker Vos is coming from, but a lot of employees who work at the UW system have

no control over the DEI protocol and all that stuff,” LeMahieu said in an interview with WisconsinEye.

LeMahieu said he has been talking with Vos about the issue and hopes to see the raises passed “sooner rather than later.”

Earlier this year, Wisconsin Republicans rejected funding for UW’s top budget priority: a new engineering building on the flagship Madison campus. LeMahieu said Monday that he hopes to see that funding approved by the end of the current legislative session.

Vos did not immediately respond to an email requesting comment on Monday, but he has been adamant in calling for an end to DEI programs on UW campuses.

While writing the budget in June, Republicans slashed UW’s funding by \$32 million because they estimated that’s what the system’s 13 campuses put towards DEI efforts over two years. Democratic Gov. Tony Evers used his veto

power to save 188 DEI positions at the university, but the funding cut remained.

Vos said in October that he would consider approving pay raises if UW gives up its ability to create its own jobs, including DEI roles.

Evers sued the Republican-controlled Legislature later that month, accusing lawmakers of obstructing basic government functions. The governor called it “just bull s—” that Republicans didn’t okay raises for the roughly 35,000 UW employees who were expecting them.

The fight over DEI initiatives reflects a broader cultural battle playing out in states such as Florida and Texas, where Republican governors have signed laws banning the use of DEI factors in making admissions and employment decisions at public colleges and universities. Similar proposals have been made in nearly a dozen Republican-led states.

The Daily Campus

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Study Break

DAILY CAMPUS
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Mooch, as a smoke
4 Royal elephant of children’s literature
9 Functional
14 Slice of history
15 Alpaca relative
16 Inheritance from one’s parents?
17 Sherlock Holmes costume accessory
20 Marriage
21 Desert watering holes
22 Means of sticking a shower caddy to a tile wall
26 Fungus gnat, e.g.
29 Paul Anka’s “___ Beso”
30 Score more than
31 Figure on the last float in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade
32 To the left, at sea
34 Takes effect
35 Support from the bullpen
38 Bibliography list
39 Neglects to mention
40 “The Good Place” creator Michael
41 “Sunday NFL Countdown” network
42 Agcy. operating full-body scanners
45 ___ out a win: almost lost
46 Annual football game in Arizona
49 Convene again
51 Dubbed
52 Isn’t credible, or a literal description of 17-, 22-, 35-, or 46-Across?
57 Muse of poetry
58 Supreme Court justice Kagan
59 Nail polish brand
60 Luminous
61 Weather forecast aid
62 Web portal with Bing

DOWN

- 1 Perplex
2 Ice planet beyond Saturn

- 3 Realismo __: Isabel Allende genre
4 Russian pancakes
5 Melmac native of 1980s TV
6 ___ leaf: stew herb
7 Bordeaux beau
8 Expired, as time
9 Fleece-lined boots
10 Mind readers
11 Sort of
12 “___ Misérables”
13 Serpentine curve
18 “___ my cup of tea”
19 Athleta parent company
23 Orchestral reeds
24 Tank the efficacy of, in gamer slang
25 Arched-back yoga asana
27 Risotto recipe verb
28 Khaki kin
31 Splinter group
32 Mentions indirectly
33 Docking spot
34 Duration of employment
35 Novelist Riordan
36 Light and delicate
37 Little rascals

- 38 “The Waste Land” poet’s monogram
41 “Both would be fine”
42 Narrow-headed drum
43 Wins every game in a series
44 Astronaut Buzz who was the second man on the moon
46 Athletic

- 47 Peace Nobelism Sadat
48 What did ewe say?
50 Skier’s surface
52 Anti-narcotics law gp.
53 URL ending for charities
54 Suffix with pay or Cray
55 Conducted
56 Makeup of 16-Across

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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12/05/23

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By Amanda Cook
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12/05/23

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GETS
UConn
JAZZY

University jazz ensemble performs at von der Mehden

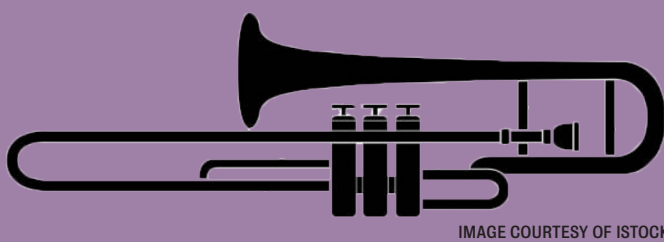


IMAGE COURTESY OF ISTOCK

by Henry St. Pierre
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Though the fall semester has been quiet for UConn’s own jazz ensemble so far, the band closed out this semester with an energetic show at von der Mehden on Sunday, Dec. 3. Kicking off at 6 p.m., the band offered a tight set of jazz tunes, covering almost a century of composers and too many genres to count.

The show began with a Thad Jones standard, “Three in One,” featuring several members of the ensemble. The band sounded professional, and the acoustic landscape provided by von der Mehden’s structure made the ensemble sound larger than life. Blisteringly fast tenor saxophone lines like in the concert closer, “Vital Frequencies,” seemed monstrous, and the trumpet’s tightly wound sound completely surrounded the audience with music.

The eclectic setlist was another highlight of the performance, with genres ranging from old-school Duke Ellington pieces like “The Mooche” to modern fusion-oriented big band charts like “Vital Frequencies.” “Banana Phone Bill” saw the band take on a funk-in-

fluenced sound, with deep and angular grooves that made for a fun listening experience. Almost every ensemble member had a solo or a feature during the concert, which kept things fresh and interesting instead of only hearing from a select handful of students. The range and diversity varied between players, with some improvising in a slower, calculated style while others shredded their instruments with brazen licks.

“Dance of the Stargazer” opened with an ethereal bass feature, evolving into a laid-back yet intriguing brass melody and solos. The Ellington chart “The Mooche” saw three saxophone players switch to clarinet and guitar, switching to banjo. The centennial piece sported a smaller cast of performers while still maintaining a bright and full sound.

“One for the Maestro,” arranged by Pete McGuinness, held a special place in many performers’ hearts. McGuinness was an alumnus of Hall High School in West Hartford, where ensemble director and Professor John Mastroianni taught for several years. Several students of the band were West Hartford High School alumni as well.

One ensemble member, first-semester material sciences student and trombone player Reid Morrow, had high praises for the band, saying, “The concert went extraordinarily well; we sounded like a coherent professional band.” Morrow showed clear pride and excitement for the ensemble, as well as its future. Going forward into next semester, many more performances are in the works, including a high school jazz festival hosted on campus.

“I’m looking forward to next semester; we’ll be hosting high school jazz bands and have even more concerts,” added Morrow. While he certainly showed a great deal of enthusiasm for the program, the whole band had an excitable aura, clearly demonstrating their passion for the arts. Sitting closer to the stage, ear-to-ear grins were clearly visible on students before, during and after each song. Professor Mastroianni cracked jokes between songs and enthusiastically introduced each song.

While the band will be on sabbatical for winter break, things will ramp up next semester. Tickets for next semester’s performances can be found on von der Mehden’s official website, as well as the university’s music department website.



IMAGE COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL

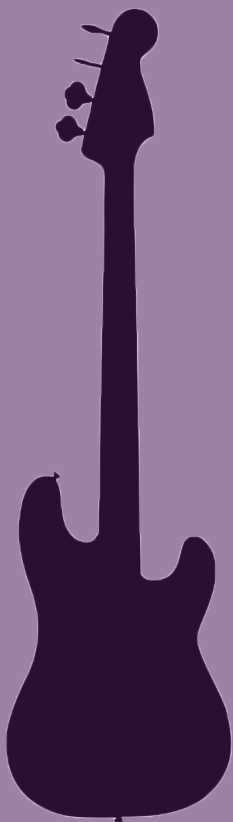


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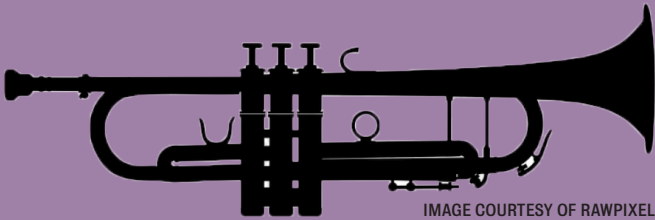


IMAGE COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL



The University of Connecticut Jazz Ensemble performs in von der Mehden Recital Hall. This group covered almost a century of jazz music, a fact that is highlighted by their renditions of classic-era jazz, like Duke Ellington, and snappy modern-fusion pieces.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNMUSICDEPT ON INSTAGRAM



1998

25 Years
Goes Quickly

*"Life moves pretty fast.
If you don't stop and look
around once in a while,
you could miss it."*

*Ferris Bueller
(John Hughes)*



2023



Life

@dailycampuslife

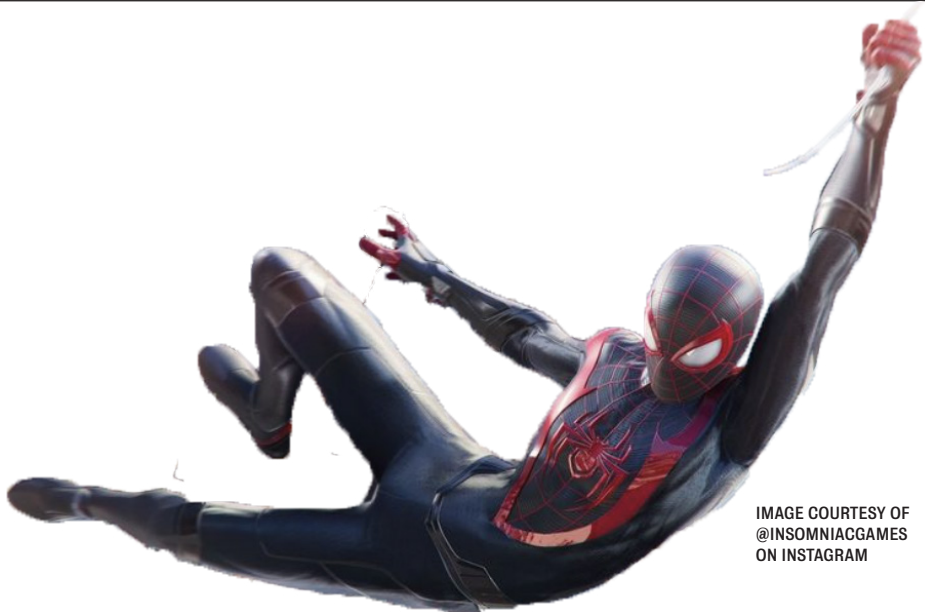


IMAGE COURTESY OF @INSOMNIACGAMES ON INSTAGRAM

THE BACKLOG:

My nomination for Game of the Year, —“MARVEL’S SPIDER-MAN 2”

by Desirae Sin
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Welcome back to The Backlog for the last time this semester. It’s been a wonderful year for gamers, as they have certainly been spoiled. From “The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom” to “Mortal Kombat 1,” players have found much joy this year. With so many big-hitters lined up, who will take the Game of the Year title? Since this will be the only edition for December and the final for the semester, I will look at my nominee for Game of the Year. My choice is one that I’ve been waiting for since its announcement in 2021: “Marvel’s Spider-Man 2.”

Insomniac Games cemented itself in the gaming industry with the first installment, “Marvel’s Spider-Man,” in 2018. After that success, they released a sequel titled “Marvel’s Spider-Man: Miles Morales.” Each iteration created a sense of excitement for players waiting for “Spider-Man 2” to be released. Unfortunately, it can only be played on the PlayStation 5, but that does not mean it will not be ported to other platforms.

The power that the PS5 provides allowed Insomniac Games to expand the world by nearly twice its size, adding Brooklyn and Queens. This expansion opened the doors for – what I argue is the most fun part of the game – the traversal. In both the original game and “Miles Morales,” the players used web swinging or systems of fast travel to get from point A to point B. The fast travel system was ingrained in the subways of New York, where players would see a cinematic

cutscene of either Peter Parker or Miles Morales riding the subways. In “Spider-Man 2,” players are given a new piece of suit technology: the web wings. Now, they can glide through the air and utilize air currents or giant fans to traverse New York. Anybody who has played the “Spider-Man” franchise knows how fun it is to perform tricks in the air and genuinely feel like they are swinging past skyscrapers.

A departure from the previous games is that players can now play as both Spider-Man and Miles Morales instead of being

consigned to one or the other. This opens up even more quests and side stories for them to follow, apart from the main storyline. The fighting system is just as fun as the previous games, where players can perform combos, air combos and finishers on enemies. Not to mention the various skills that are specific to Peter or Miles. My favorite parts are the stealth missions. I adore how satisfying yet challenging it can be to sneak around buildings

and pick off enemies one by one. Insomniac Games has also improved where players complained, specifically how long it could take to complete these missions. They added a double-stealth takedown mechanic, where players can now eliminate two enemies at the same time if they are in close enough proximity to one another.

Spoilers for the story of “Marvel’s Spider-Man 2” beyond this point!

lains, searching for a quarry worthy enough to kill him. This perfectly coincides with the introduction of Peter’s best friend, Harry Osborn.

It comes as no surprise that Harry turns out to be Venom and needs the alien symbiote to survive due to a deadly disease. At about the half-way point in the game, Peter bonds with the symbiote to survive a lethal injury, leading to what

Peter is not the only hero in New York. While it seems confusing to have two Spider-Men, Miles’ journey emphasizes that even though they have the same role, they are their own unique characters. Throughout the story, Miles must battle his internal conflict when faced with his father’s killer, Martin Li. He must decide whether he wants to succumb to vengeance or save everyone, including enemies. Miles’ story arc brings back the familiar plotlines that every fan knows about Spider-Man; he loses someone he loves, and to make up for it, he saves everyone he can. Even though Peter and Miles have a mentor-mentee relationship, Miles finds himself to be the only thing standing between the people of New York and the black-suited Peter in a spectacularly challenging boss battle.

Every aspect of the story that I’ve described was an incredible experience. Still, nothing had prepared me for when players are given the opportunity to play as a fully-fledged Venom who has fully bonded with Harry. We were given a glimpse of the power and brutality that the symbiote provided Peter, but with Harry, players can smash through the Oscorp building, leaving many bodies behind. The moment I saw the health bar and HUD appear, I knew that it was going to be the best part of the game.

Even if “Marvel’s Spider-Man 2” did not win Game of the Year on Thursday, it definitely was one of the best experiences of the year. Competing against “Baldur’s Gate 3” and “Tears of the Kingdom” is no easy feat, and Insomniac Games should be proud of their creation.



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

The story begins with an incredible tutorial where you have to battle against Sandman in a sequence reminiscent of “God of War 3.” It’s an epic battle for both Spider-Man and allows players to jump right in with the web-wings. Yet something more sinister is at play since Sandman would not have started to destroy New York unless provoked. Over time, we find out that Kraven the Hunter has been hunting supervil-

many fans call “Bully Lowenthal.” This is a funny reference to the voice actor for Peter in the game, Yuri Lowenthal, and Tobey Maguire’s portrayal of Spider-Man using the symbiote in 2007’s “Spider-Man 3.” Lowenthal gives it his all in this performance as the web-slinger, showcasing his range and how he can switch from a “friendly neighborhood Spider-Man” to the edgy, black-suited Spider-Man.



IMAGE COURTESY OF @INSOMNIACGAMES ON INSTAGRAM

RATING:

5/5



IMAGE COURTESY OF @INSOMNIACGAMES ON INSTAGRAM



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CARTOON BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WE DIDN'T JUST

Sudan’s crisis of imperialism

by Nell Srinath
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THEY/THEM/SHE/HERS
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Author’s note: This article is the second part of a two-part series on modern instances of imperialism that are receiving attention on social media.

Since Oct. 7, the international attention paid to the struggle of Palestinians against Zionist settler-colonialism and an internationally-armed ethnic cleansing campaign has effused to other nations. As I argued last week, the discursive value of the term “genocide,” which has received so much emotional and political weight in the global conversation about Gaza, gives activists and concerned global citizens currency to highlight crises that would otherwise receive little attention by mainstream media. On social media platforms like TikTok, the historic slogan of “Free Palestine” has joined a hashtag tripartite with two other nations: #FreePalestine, #FreeCongo and #FreeSudan.

As viral explainers circulate on social media to promote awareness and action in solidarity with the people of these three groups, the tie that binds them in the public discourse has been that each is currently experiencing a genocide. But is this really the case?

I have no intention of discussing genocide curtly or dismissing the very real concern over the overlapping crises enveloping Palestine, Congo and Sudan. The over 15,200 Gazans who have been killed by Israeli airstrikes since Oct. 7 weighs as heavily as the 9,000 Sudanese killed and 6.2 million displaced since the eruption of a civil war in April of 2023. I don’t believe that “gatekeeping” accusations of genocide is necessary to preserve its potency and evocativeness as a term — in other words, you can’t water it down. Moreover, in this specific moment, I think it is very important that social media users and people discussing politics in their everyday lives are charging genocide as a way of expanding awareness about today’s most vicious manifestations of imperialism.

However, my concern is over people missing the forest for the trees — that our popular consciousness will focus entirely on the heinous crime of genocide and not the imperialist conditions that often precede and exacerbate it. The desire for capital accumulation on a global scale is the world’s greatest purveyor of violence and suffering (See “Late Victorian Holocausts” by Mike Davis). While Palestine and Congo each exemplify this in their own way, the most recent civil war in Sudan is yet another tragic, but fitting, case study to examine this.

Politics on the African continent have been flattened to “instability”

as much as African economics are to “poverty”; media scholarship suggests that this is in large part due to the utter decontextualization of African stories and histories from their root causes (pardon the progressive buzzword) by journalists and academics. What this narrative-without-a-narrative produces is a political anomaly at best — where African countries’ problems appear from a vacuum — or a racist stereotype that asserts Africans simply lack the governmental wherewithal of “civilized” Western liberal democracies at worst. The most perverse impact of this flattening of African political dynamics is the erasure

HOWEVER, MY CONCERN IS OVER PEOPLE MISSING THE FOREST FOR THE TREES — THAT OUR POPULAR CONSCIOUSNESS WILL FOCUS ENTIRELY ON THE HEINOUS CRIME OF GENOCIDE AND NOT THE IMPERIALIST CONDITIONS THAT OFTEN PRECEDE AND EXACERBATE IT.

of the role of international powers in the stoking of instability.

Sudan’s current civil war is a clash between the country’s de facto leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and General Mohamad Hamdan Dagalo, also known as Hemedti. After al-Burhan led a coup in 2022 against the country’s first civilian leader in decades, Abdullah Hamdok, he set up a Transitional Sovereignty Council that included Hemedti as a deputy. Each commanding, powerful militias with their hands deep in Sudan’s economy, al-Burhan and Hemedti’s partnership unraveled in April. But even before today’s violence, both have storied (and genocidal) histories, which Horace Campbell and Mahder Serekberhan recap in their essay, “Sudan’s counter-revolution.”

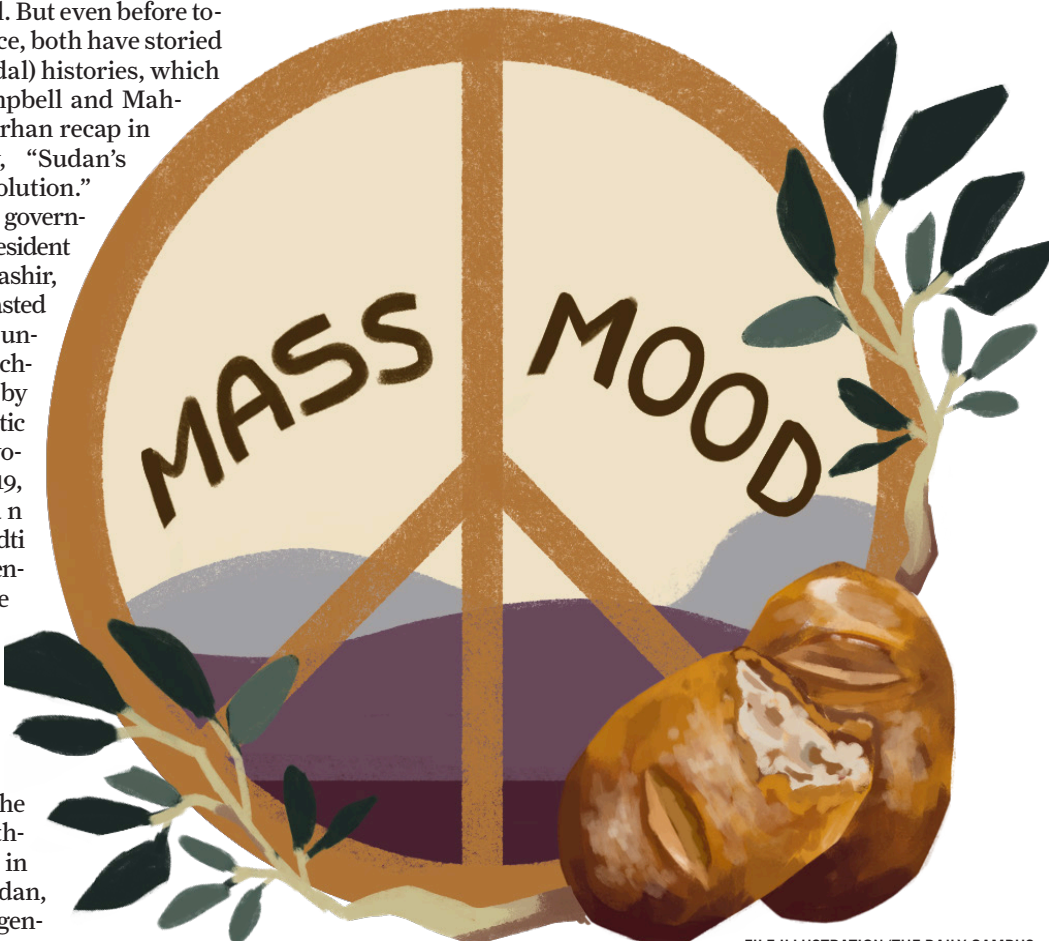
Under the government of President Omar al-Bashir, which lasted from 1989 until its much-awaited end by a democratic popular revolution in 2019, al-Burhan and Hemedti served as generals in the 2003 Darfur genocide. Waging a war for oil resources against the Darfuri ethnic group in western Sudan, al-Bashir’s gen-

erals were responsible for over 300,000 deaths from 2003 to the present. Hemedti’s Janjaweed, a paramilitary group also known as the Rapid Support Forces or RSF served as al-Bashir’s “shock troops” during the genocide. Recent atrocities against the African Masalit ethnic group in resource-rich Darfur attributed to the RSF only add credence to today’s charge of genocide.

Since 2003, these generals have deployed troops to Libya to aid the U.S. and NATO overthrow of President Muammar Ghaddafi in 2011; Yemen, to fight in the Saudi-coalition against Houthi rebels; and Chad, al-Burhan, who was a

Wagner Group, have “built a formidable alliance with the RSF forces to the point where the capital resources of the RSF placed them in a position to challenge the established military that was involved in accumulation through the state.” In other words, Hemedti’s turn to Russia and its imperialist economic ambitions has placed him in a position to forcibly compete for state power. Early into the conflict, Russia’s Wagner Group was alleged to have been supplying the RSF with missiles, displaying the interests of Russian capitalists post-conflict. To punctuate this, Moscow and Wagner Group alike have had significant investments in Sudanese gold long before the civil war.

Of course, it is all too convenient for Western powers only to emphasize the exploitive interests of their economic adversaries, namely Russia. Having rushed to normalize American relations with Sudan in the wake of the 2022 coup — and having invested \$11 billion in aid into South Sudan after the country’s inception in 2005 — Washington capital investments won’t be far behind Moscow’s once Sudan exhibits adequate stability for foreign direct investment to come in again. It doesn’t matter at whose expense that political stability comes, namely thousands more civilians. The exploitation of Sudanese national resources, much like the Congo, continues to be the alpha-and-omega of international interest in the country.



FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Photo of the Day | Biking around!



A pair of bikers cycle past the Willis Nichols Hawley Armory on the UConn Storrs campus. The armory is a location where many clubs and organizations meet and is a health and fitness facility open to the UConn population.

PHOTO BY CRISTIAN WELCOME, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMICS BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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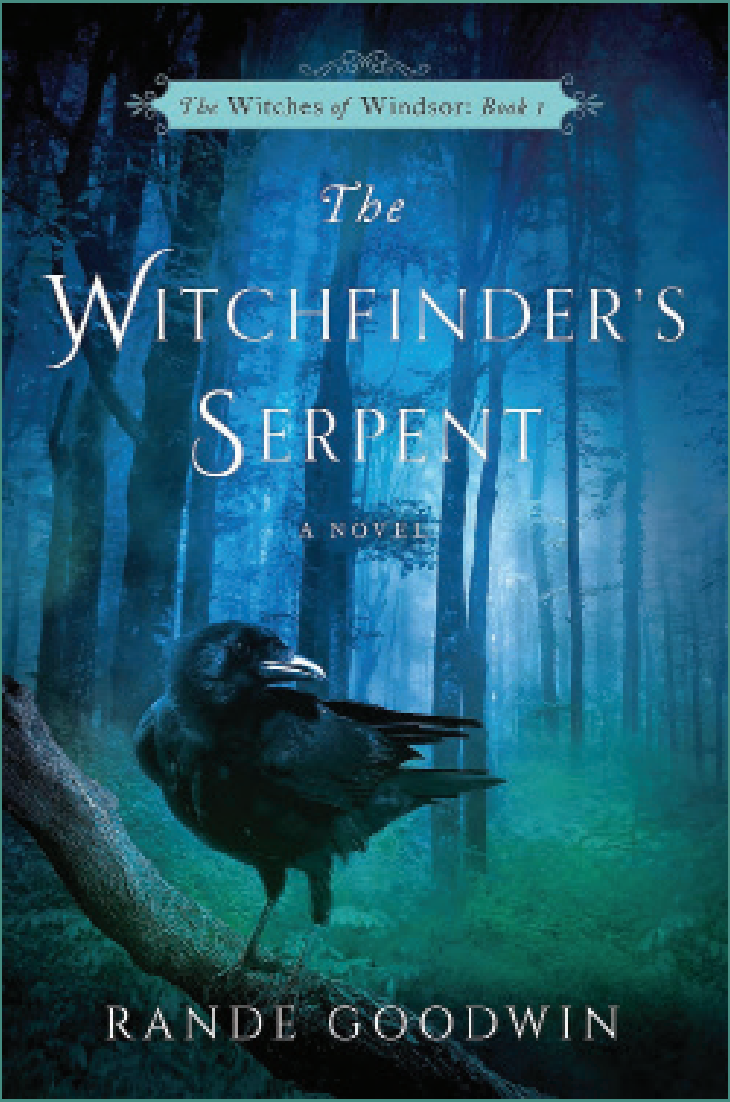
Author Signing at the Downtown

THURSDAY,

DECEMBER 7

Storrs Barnes & Noble

Author Rande Goodwin will be signing copies of his award winning fantasy novel, 'The Witchfinder's Serpent,' at the Royce Circle Barnes & Noble from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Visit www.randegoodwin.com for more information on this exciting new book series!



Big East Baller Update No. 4: Villanova disappoints in Big 5, Big East trails 4-3 in battle with Big 12

by Sam Calhoun
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As we enter the month of December, the members of the Big East have had to go up against opponents from one of the best conferences as the Big East-Big 12 Battle began on Thursday. With big wins over West Virginia and Texas Tech, the Big East thrived and struggled this past week as Kansas and Houston picked up wins over UConn and Xavier.

Player of the Week: Tristen Newton, G, UConn (24 PPG, 8 RPG, 4.5 APG, 1 SPG, 46.8 FG%, 42.8 3P% in 2 games)

“Despite the loss to Kansas on Friday night, Newton has gotten the nation’s attention as a potential All-American guard”

Despite the loss to Kansas on Friday night, Newton has gotten the nation’s attention as a potential All-American guard, being the star of the past three games for the Huskies. On last Monday’s 84-64 win, the Texas native nearly had his second consecutive triple-double with 17 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists. When UConn’s offense needed someone to step up against Kansas, Newton had a career game with 31 points and six 3-pointers made.

Freshman of the Week: Isaiah Coleman, G, Seton

Hall (vs. Northeastern: 11 pts, 3 reb, 3 stl, 66.7 FG%)
Coleman is back as the Big East Freshman of the Week after his second-career game in double figures, the other being against UAlbany. The Fredericksburg, Va. native shoots 50% from the floor on just over five attempts per game. Coleman hasn’t started for Seton Hall yet, but he continues to help the Pirates off the bench.

Top Games (doesn’t include the blockbuster showdown of UConn-Kansas. Click here to view the recap!)

Butler takes down Texas Tech in overtime, 103-95
Thanks to guards Jahmyl Telfort, DJ Davis and Posh Alexander, Butler held off Texas Tech at Hinkle Fieldhouse on Thursday night. Telfort came up clutch with 28.6 seconds remaining in regulation, drilling a 3-pointer from the top of the key to go up 83-81. The senior guard finished with a game-high 26 points and seven assists. Davis also had a prolific night on offense, scoring 25 points on 6-12 shooting. For the first time since Roosevelt Jones in 2016, Butler had a player with a triple-double. Alexander, a transfer from St. John’s, had 10 points, 11 assists

“For the first time since Roosevelt Jones in 2016, Butler had a player with a triple-double.”

and 10 rebounds.
Soriano, St. John’s get past West Virginia in first round test, 79-73
It was a battle between two

teams in the Big East before the 2013 conference realignment, facing off for the second

“Alleyne, a transfer from UConn, had 14 points, with 12 coming in the second half”

time since 2012. Joel Soriano, named to the Big East Weekly Honor Roll on Monday, scored a career-high 24 points. Transfers Chris Ledlum, Nahiem Alleyne and Jordan Dingle each put up double figures to support Soriano’s stellar performance. Ledlum, a transfer from Harvard, had a double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds on 8-16 shooting. Alleyne, a transfer from UConn, had 14 points, with 12 coming in the second half. West Virginia forward Quinn Slazinski, who played under St. John’s head coach Rick Pitino at Iona, scored 19 points. Syracuse transfer Jesse Edwards added 15 points, along with Kobe Johnson’s 14 points, as the Mountaineers had four of their five scorers score at least 10 points.

TCU controversially beats Georgetown at the buzzer, 84-83

There are a lot of news stories each year that originate from the nation’s capital that create controversy, but TCU’s win over Georgetown is one of the few this year that have to do with sports. Forward Emanuel Miller had a terrific performance on Saturday, finishing with 29 points and the game-winning buzzer-beating 3-point shot that gave the Horned Frogs a one-point win. However, the replay showed that Miller’s left foot stepped on the right sideline,

but the officials missed it live. By rule, they could not overturn the basket because the officials missed it in real time. Georgetown guard Jayden Epps has not slowed down his scoring, finishing the game with 24 points and five assists on 9-14 shooting. Guard Dontrez Styles added 18 points on 5-14 shooting.

Best Games this Week (doesn’t include UConn-North Carolina. Check out our preview for tonight’s game!)

Providence at No. 19

“The Sooners will need to find a way to contain Bryce Hopkins, who had 20 points or more in the past three games”

Oklahoma (7 p.m., ESPN)

Both teams come into their Big East-Big 12 Battle game with a winning streak. Providence beat Georgia after a loss to Kansas State and just picked up a convincing win over in-state rival Rhode Island. Oklahoma is undefeated, with recent wins over Iowa and USC. Guard Otega Oweh will most likely have one of the Big East’s best defensive players, Devin Carter, guarding him. The Sooners will need to find a way to contain Bryce Hopkins, who had 20 points or more in the past three games, including a 25-point, 14-rebound performance against Lehigh.

No. 12 Texas at No. 8 Marquette (Wednesday, 8 p.m., FS1)
Following a tough road loss

“The matchup will feature two of the best guards in the country: Texas’s Max Abmas and Marquette’s Tyler Kolek”

to in-state rival Wisconsin, Marquette looks to get back in the win column in the final game of this season’s Big East-Big 12 Battle. The matchup will feature two of the best guards in the country: Texas’s Max Abmas and Marquette’s Tyler Kolek. The story to follow on Wednesday’s top-12 matchup is the coaching history of Marquette head coach Shaka Smart. The reigning AP Coach of the Year was the head coach at Texas from 2015 to 2021, where he helped the Longhorns win the 2019 NIT and the 2021 Big 12 Tournament Championship. After being fired following a first-round exit in 2021, Smart has not faced his former school since.

UCLA at Villanova (Saturday, 7 p.m., FOX)

Villanova has struggled lately. With losses to Penn, Saint Joseph’s and Drexel, the Wildcats finished last place in the Big 5, an annual tournament that includes the five Philadelphia schools. On the other hand, they won the Battle 4 Atlantis, including a win over North Carolina. It’s a familiar school for UCLA head coach Mick Cronin, who spent part of his tenure as Cincinnati’s head coach when the Bearcats belonged in the Big East. I’m excited to see the matchup of Villanova’s Eric Dixon and UCLA’s Adem Bona.

Women’s Swim and Dive: HUSKIES ROLL TO FIRST-PLACE FINISH IN BUCKNELL

by CJ Dexter
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LEWISBURG, PA- Coming off their recent victory over Rhode Island, the UConn women’s swim and dive team competed alongside six other schools over the weekend in the Bucknell Invitational.

The Huskies took early wins in the 500y freestyle and 400y medley relay on day one and never looked back, coasting to a first-place finish with a team score of 1572.5.

Senior Niamh Hofland captured the first of Connecticut’s three day-one victories with her first-place finish in the 500y freestyle event. The Newport, Great Britain native was able to edge out Davidson’s Sylvia Stewart-Bates by less than two seconds to give the Huskies 32 early points.

Following Hofland’s victory, Kayla Mendonca, Angela Gambardella, Ella Epes and Maggie Donlevy were victorious in the 400y medley with a time of 3:43.86. For Mendonca, her time of 2:06.80 in the event set a new personal record.

In the three-meter dive, three Huskies represented first, second, and third place as Ana Laura Faoro finished first, with Julia Pioso and Kate Cooper following, re-

spectively. Cooper’s time of 274.85 was a new personal record in the event.

Momentum from day one carried over into Saturday as Epes also set a program

record in the 100y butterfly event, stamping a 53.91 and coming in second place by three-hundredths of a second to Fordham’s Monan Compagner. In the one-meter dive,

Pioso continued her impressive weekend with a first-place score of 260.4.

On the final day of the event, UConn wrapped up their convincing victory with a first-place win by Olivia Herbert in the 200y butterfly and personal bests from Maggie Donlevy (100y backstroke), Haley Schmitt (100y butterfly), Bella Hoffman (100y backstroke), and Meghan Byrne (400y individual medley).

The Huskies finished nearly 300 points higher than the second-place-finishing Bucknell Bison (1281) and over 500 points better than their total from last season in this event. Fordham finished in third place with 1246.5, and Davidson and John Hopkins rounded out the rest of the top five with scores of 1137.5 and 737, respectively. University of Maryland Baltimore County (560.5) and Bloomsburg University (225) filled in the rest of the standings.

The Huskies will return home to prepare for the spring portion of their schedule, with a current 4-2 record on the season.



UConn women’s swimming and diving goes against the University of New Hampshire at the Wolff-Zackin Natatorium on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023. The Huskies defeat the Wildcats 186 - 114 in a well fought match.
PHOTO BY JORDYN RIVERA, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Photo of the Day | Skating through finals



The UConn women’s ice hockey team defeated the Merrimack College Crusades in overtime on Friday, Dec. 1, at the Toscano Family Ice Forum. The Huskies tied up the game in the second period and clinched the game-winning goal in overtime.
PHOTO BY SYDNEY HAYWOOD, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Weekly Reed:

My top four Red Sox trade targets

by Noah Reed
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As the offseason starts, many around the league keep their eyes on the Boston Red Sox. After two last-place finishes, the team moved on from CBO Chaim Bloom and hired Craig Breslow, a former player, as his replacement. Breslow and the rest of the front office are under pressure from the Boston fans to fix a team with plenty of areas of need. That said, there are plenty of ways the Red Sox can improve their roster, but numerous reports make it seem like Boston will try to make trades over signings to bolster their roster. Here are some players I think Boston might go after this offseason to fill out their team.

The Needs

Anyone who watched the Red Sox last season knows that the Red Sox need to improve their starting rotation and defense if they want to improve in 2024. In 2022

the Boston Red Sox starters finished the year with a combined 4.68 ERA, the ninth worst in the MLB. Plagued with injuries and poor performances, the team could never get consistent production for the rotation until the end of the year, when it was already too late. This led to a very taxed bullpen and was used often, leading to games like the infamous Kyle Barraclough game on Aug. 28. The starters had been struggling, leading to the bullpen having to be used so much that they needed a day off. Against the Houston Astros when the Red Sox were still in the playoff race, manager Alex Cora had just Barraclough in the bullpen. He gave up 10 earned runs in a close game, practically killing any momentum for the team headed into September.

The team also needs consistency at second base and a right-handed bat. As Jon Morosi has pointed out, Dustin Pedroia in 2016 was the last time someone had started

over 100 games at second for the team. With Trevor Story at shortstop, this leaves a gap at the other middle infield position. Acquiring a player that fills both their needs can be a way that the Red Sox go at this, but they need to get it done. A right-handed outfield bat might be important too, as, at the moment, the outfield is comprised of four left-handed bats (Yoshida, Duran, Verdugo, Abreu) with Rob Refsnyder as the outman. Here are some players that I think the Red Sox could realistically acquire for 2024 via trade.

2B/UTL Brandon Drury, Los Angeles Angels

Drury is a very valuable asset, in my opinion. He’s primarily a second baseman but has played first, third and the outfield in years prior. He can play the role that Alex Cora wanted Justin Turner to play last year, having him at second against righties and at first against tough lefties to get Triston Casas some rest. He finished in the 89th percentile in outs above average (OAA), meaning he’s a solid defender. All this while providing an above-average bat. In every season since 2021, Drury has had an OPS+ over 107, including a 123 in 2022, which earned him a silver slugger. He’s even on a team-friendly contract, earning just \$8.5 million in 2024, but because he only has one year left, that can help lower the cost of getting him.



2B Jorge Polanco, Minnesota Twins

One thing that the 2023 Red Sox lacked is a switch-hitter. Twins second baseman Jorge Polanco would be able to change that. Like Drury, he has some defensive versatility, having played shortstop and third base, but Polanco isn’t the best defender. He finished 2023 in the sixth percentile in OAA, but injuries held back his playing time, only appearing in 80 games. Polanco’s strongest asset is

his bat. In those 80 games, Polanco hit 14 home runs and drove in 48 RBIs, good for a 115 OPS+. Being a switch hitter keeps him in the lineup against both a righty and a lefty, and as long as he stays healthy, he can rake. As for a contract, the Twins exercised their club option for 2024, meaning he is under contract for at least next season with another club option for 2025.

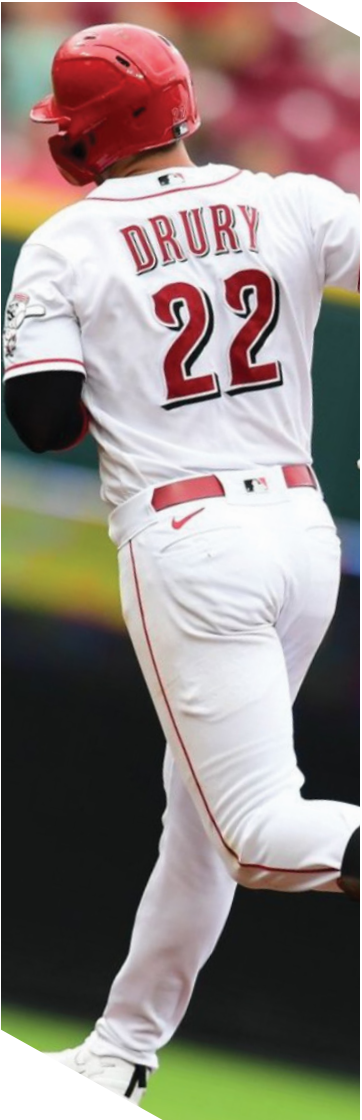
SP Edward Cabrera, Miami Marlins

Cabrera is a name that the Red Sox have been involved with for the past year as they tried to trade for him last off-season. A young, controllable arm is something that Boston should be all over, especially after his 2022 campaign. In 14 games, Cabrera pitched 71.2 innings and achieved a 137 ERA+ for the Marlins, adding some star power behind eventual Cy Young winner Sandy Alcantara. As for 2023, Cabrera was injured and was sent down to Triple A afterwards but finished making 20 starts and appearing in 22

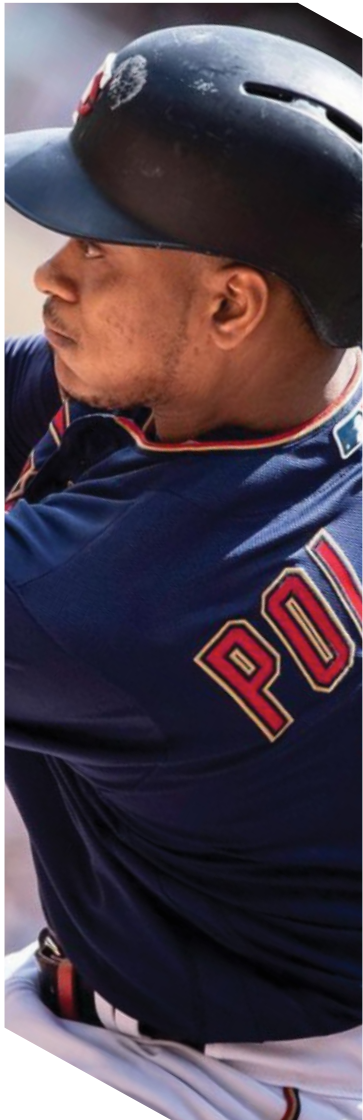
games. This would be a piece that you get for development. Pairing up a developing ace in Brayan Bello with Edward Cabrera for the next few seasons can benefit the Sox.

SP Freddy Peralta, Milwaukee Brewers

While Corbin Burnes is a name that has been thrown out in trade rumors, it would be interesting to see if the Red Sox can pull Peralta from the Brewers. Unlike Burnes, Peralta has three years of control left on his contract. In 2023, he made 30 starts and pitched in 165.2 innings, both of which are higher than any individual player in Boston last season. As a baseball savant, Peralta finished in the 92nd percentile of Whiff % and K % and in the 89th percentile of Fastball Run-Value. Another valuable piece of information is that Peralta has playoff experience. With the Brewers, he’s pitched in four different post-seasons, including two starts. I think he’ll be the most expensive option but if there’s a deal in place, I’d take it.



Brandon Drury running the bases after slamming a home run. He’s number 22 and an infielder on the Los Angeles Angels. PHOTO COURTESY OF @REDS ON INSTAGRAM



Jorge Polanco reaching wide for an outside pitch at bat. Polanco plays second base as number 11 on the Minnesota Twins. PHOTO COURTESY OF @ANDYWITCHGER ON INSTAGRAM



Edward Cabrera walking off the field after pitching a shut-out inning. Cabrera pitches as number 27 on the Miami Marlins. PHOTO COURTESY OF @ECABRERA30 ON INSTAGRAM



Freddy Peralta on the mound for the Milwaukee Brewers. Peralta finished this game with 13 strikeouts. PHOTO COURTESY OF @PITCHERSNATION ON INSTAGRAM

Men's Basketball:

No. 5 Huskies slated to take on No. 9 Tar Heels in the Jimmy V Classic

by Connor Sargeant
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Fresh off their first loss of the season to No. 5 Kansas, the UConn men's basketball team looks to etch their names back into the win column. To do so, Connecticut faces a tall task against the No. 9 University of North Carolina Tar Heels in the Jimmy V Classic, a matchup that all college bas-

ketball fans should be excited about. There are many questions heading into this one, and perhaps the biggest of all: How will UConn bounce back from their first loss?

In case you don't know, The Classic is an annual game held by ESPN to raise money for cancer research. It is in honor of former coach and player Jim Valvano, who passed away from adenocarcinoma, a form of cancer.

appointment. With a 7-1 record thus far, their 2023-2024 campaign is off to a better start for them, and the program wants nothing more than to show the college basketball community that they are back. What better way to do so than knocking off the defending national champions at the "World's Most Famous Arena."

A major storyline in this matchup surrounds the status of Stephon Castle as the

UNC veteran is in the midst of an excellent offensive season, averaging 16 points and 12 rebounds in 28 minutes of work. Unlike Kansas center Hunter Dickinson, Bacot is not a threat to stretch the floor for the Tar Heels with a 2-18 career mark from downtown. Due to Clingan's toe injury, it will be interesting to see what role he is given, along with the role that Samson Johnson plays.

There are many ways in which the Huskies can find themselves on the right side of this one. They need to play the fundamentals of the game better. The program tends to find itself in foul trouble; their 3-point shooting up to this point has been less than ideal, and their free-throw shooting has been beyond poor. Despite these red flags, you can't deny Connecticut's talent. Despite shooting 8-15 from the charity



The UConn men's basketball team goes up against the UNH Wildcats at Gampel Pavillon in Storrs, Conn., on Nov. 27, 2023. With this win, the Huskies, who hold the National Championship title, created a new NCAA record of 24 straight non-conference double-digit victories.

PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



The Tar Heels are perhaps the most interesting team in all of college basketball this season. Two seasons ago, UNC made it to the National Championship, falling short 72-69 to the Jayhawks. The Tar Heels reloaded and expected to make a run for the ages in their 2022-2023 campaign, but they didn't even come close. In fact, they made history in the wrong way as they were the first team in nearly 50 years to miss the March Madness tournament despite being the preseason No. 1 team, a monumental dis-

19-year-old guard looks to make his return to the hardwood on Tuesday. The Georgia native is available to suit up tomorrow, barring any setbacks. However, he will be limited in whatever capacity he participates. To say the Huskies have missed him would be an understatement. Many UConn fans believe that if he played against Kansas, the outcome would have been different, and it's easy to see why. Outside of Newton, no Connecticut player stood out. Castle being back could have given Dan Hurley the option to sit Cam Spencer, as his foot injury played a major role in his poor shooting performance.

A player that could give the Huskies trouble is big man Armando Bacot. The 6-foot-11 center could prove to be a significant challenge for Donovan Clingan down low. The

While Bacot is a very talented center, he alone can not deliver the knockout blow to the Huskies. How the Huskies defend and contain the talented RJ Davis will be critical in which side comes out on top. The Tar Heels guard is a lethal scorer, averaging 20 points a game on 44% shooting. The New Yorker is not afraid to let it fly from deep and has shown the ability to hit tough shots at a high clip with a 35% three-point percentage. Davis is arguably the biggest reason why UNC has climbed 10 spots in the AP poll since the preseason rankings.

"He's so quick and dynamic," noted Hurley of Davis. "I think with [Harrison] Ingram and [Cormac] Ryan and a big-time player at center and a quarterback in [Elliot] Cadeau getting [Davis] the ball in great spots, and you can't help any one of those guys... ." "We have got to make sure we keep [Davis] away from the front of the rim, and when he's there, we have got to challenge him."

stripe, their tug-of-war fight against the preseason No. 1 team came down to the last possession, with Spencer narrowly missing the game-winning three. The UConn men's ability to score in the paint, defend as well as any team in the country and rebound their opponents has and will continue to keep them competitive. Hurley and the rest of the team believe that the shots will eventually fall, as they are too talented to keep shooting at this poor clip. If they can make threes at an efficient rate, don't be surprised if they win their Jimmy V Classic matchup in runaway fashion.

While this game is slotted for 9 p.m., there is much to look forward to with two great opponents pitted against each other and a game for a good cause. This year's Jimmy V Classic should prove to be nothing short of a winter classic.

#5

#6

#7

#8



#9



Sports

UConn Basketball Student Tickets: A broken system

by Stratton Stave
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College basketball. It's a sport that attracts millions of fans daily and generates loads of money for successful schools. Even with all of the worldwide attention it brings, at its core, the sport is for the students. Students play the game. Students attend the games. Students cover the games. Students cover the games. One of the perks of being a student is having access to see their school's team on campus, often for free or at a manageable price. That is, until it isn't man-

come, first serve, which wasn't an issue the last two years. You could go a day late, unless it was like Villanova, where people are keyed in."

The process Hanson describes doesn't seem problematic on the surface, but as UConn basketball regains popularity among the student body, claiming a ticket is becoming more and more difficult.

"It's awesome that people want to go to the games and the tickets are going like this," Hanson said. "If you're not on at night or even the next morning, you can't get your tickets. But a big problem with this is that

undergrads – and I see it on Snapchat as well – there's a lot of reselling of tickets going on all the time. The [men's game versus] UNH is a perfect example of that. I was unable to get a student ticket for that one, but I

problem didn't exist back then," he recalls. "People would get their tickets for \$120, and they'd be selling them for \$300, and people got mad about that then. But at least with the lottery system, you had a shot."

When comparing UConn's current system to Kansas's, Hanson actually sees the merit in the way the Jayhawks do things.

"The Kansas thing looks insane because it's three days out," he said. "But I think that tells us where the state of our program is right now. It's the reigning national champs versus the previous national

can't work and you can't give them to people. Then you have a pool of people who didn't get them who go into a waiting list. If you don't want your ticket, you can put it back into the pool, maybe 12, 24 hours before [tipoff] and it can go to someone on the waiting list. The goal here is to give the tickets to people who want them. You could also have a strike rule. If you have a ticket in your account and it doesn't get scanned, you get a strike. After three strikes, you can't get tickets anymore for the season."

With the current system in place, it puts people who can't



FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS



UConn men's basketball playing a home match at Gampel Pavilion. UConn is 2-0 at Gampel so far this year.
PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN ATHLETICS

ageable anymore, thanks to the resale of tickets.

Russell Hanson, a UConn alum and current Molecular and Cell Biology PhD student, spoke about this issue on Twitter Thursday. The conversation began with UConn fans' disapproval of Kansas' intricate student ticket process, which involves camping out in Allen Fieldhouse for 16 hours for three straight days. Then Hanson shined a light on UConn's imperfect system.

"There's a master list that comes out at the beginning of the season when you go into your student tickets that tells you when they go on sale," Hanson explained to the Daily Campus. "I always have an alarm set on my phone. The student tickets go on the website, and you log in and grab your ticket. You get one ticket and it's first

people know that people want to go. I think athletics here is one of the most fun things you can do, and people realize that. That's where we run into some issues."

Students who are aware of the system can make a considerable profit if they claim tickets and resell them. A note on the ticket website says that "student tickets are for personal use only and are ineligible for transfer. Ticket claim privileges may be revoked if tickets are found listed on a secondary market site," but nothing enforces it. Hanson knows one reseller personally who has consistently benefited from the system.

"They just know to get these tickets," Hanson noted of the reseller. "They sold their NAU ticket for \$40, they sold the first women's game for \$40. And I know, talking to some of the

showed up and I was able to sit front row [on the upper student section opposite the main one]. I was saying, 'How was I not able to get a student ticket for this? There's no one here.' And I think it's because people are reselling tickets."

Hanson doesn't see this issue stopping at empty seats against New Hampshire.

"It's UNH now for \$30, but I know how this goes," Hanson said. "It's going to be Villanova for \$100, Providence for \$150. I could be crazy here, and it may not be that way, but I think we're going to see some pretty insane resale and pricing to get into games that should be free for students who want to go."

This isn't a new issue either. Hanson remembers comparable situations back when he was an undergraduate in Storrs.

"I'm not saying the resale

champs, and we have kids coming out three days in advance to see it. I don't quite understand their system, but it seems like the people who want to be there are going to be in the building. That's what's important. We need a system that rewards people who want to be there."

There are ways to solve UConn's issue. Taking inspiration from some musical artists he follows, Hanson laid out a system that he thinks will remedy the problem.

"When you go to [Madison Square Garden], you can't take a screenshot of your ticket," Hanson explains. "I think for something that's free, and for the students, you could have an online system like this. First come, first serve, and if you miss out on that, you miss out – it happens. But the ticket can't be transferable, screenshots

claim tickets in a tough situation.



"I'm seeing these people tweeting that their kids want to go to these games," Hanson said. "Everyone who comes here should get to see UConn basketball. It's a bummer if you want to go see it, and you can't."

And from the perspective of those selling the tickets? They weren't so excited to discuss. After contacting a handful of resellers, many were eager to sell me tickets, but none stuck around to discuss why they did so.

This is a broken system in Hanson's and many other UConn fans' eyes. It may be time for the university to take up some of Hanson's ideas to return college basketball to the students who really want to see it. Until then, there are going to be many profiting and others on the outside of Gampel Pavilion looking in.

WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK



UConn SCOREBOARD



21



Women's Ice Hockey Friday

Upcoming Games



vs.



Men's Basketball, 9 p.m. Tuesday, N.Y., N.Y.



vs.


Women's Basketball, 7 p.m. Wednesday Storrs, Conn

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@jonathanthehusky
A friend and former handler painted this for me and our host family!

TWEETS OF THE DAY



UConn Men's Basketball
[@UConnMBB](#)
Top 5 heading into a big week.

UConn Women's Basketball
[@UConnWBB](#)
A legend on and off the court

Maya Moore will be inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in the Class of 2024!

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