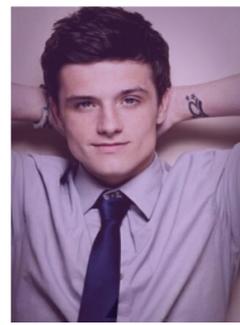


The Daily Campus



THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT SINCE 1896 • VOLUME CXXVII, NO. 69

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

“ACCESS TO FREE, 24/7 MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT IS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS”



The UConn Student Health and Wellness Center on October 8th, 2023. The Student Health and Wellness Center offers a wide range of services to ensure the health and well-being of students. PHOTO BY JORDAN ARNOLD, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Hallie LeTendre**
STAFF WRITER
SHE/HER/HERS
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Students at the University of Connecticut are able to access free, 24/7 mental health support all year round.

Through a partnership with BeWell@UConn and Christie Campus Health, UConn’s Student Health and

Wellness mental health division offers students support 365 days a year.

For the past two years, this program has been offered to students. The support includes a hotline that students may call at any time about any mental health related concern, question or advice, chief clinical officer of Christie Campus Health Kaitlin Gallo explained.

“Students can use the support line for a wide range of concerns including relationship issues, anxiety or depression,” Gallo said. “Clinicians on the 24/7 support line can also provide resources in the case of a mental health emergency.”

Students throughout UConn’s regional campus can dial (833)-308-3040 to access support and speak with a clinician.

“UConn’s Be Well Program offers students access to a 24/7 mental health support line that is staffed by licensed mental health clinicians which they can access at any time, whether they are on or off campus, or on winter, spring, or summer breaks,” Dr. Gallo said.

Insurance to get support is not needed, Gallo said. In addition to the hotline number, all UConn students have access to a Wellness Hub that provides additional resources for mental health related concerns.

“Student-specific educational content including videos on a range of behavioral health and substance use issues and a list of available campus services and resources are available,” Gallo said.

These resources are available on UConn’s mental health webpage. In addition, SHaW’s mental health division offers free nutrition consultations, substance use aid, overnight care and more. A full list of resources with details is provided on their website.

The 24/7 mental health support line is a good place to start for UConn students feeling overwhelmed or confused about how to help themselves.

“Students who use the 24/7 support line are connected to next steps, if required, to ensure they receive the mental health support they need,” Gallo said. “Students have

also had access to workshops on topics such as managing worry, sleep and organizational skills.”

“UConn’s Be Well Program offers students access to a 24/7 mental health support line that is staffed by licensed mental health clinicians which they can access at any time, whether they are on or off campus, or on winter, spring, or summer breaks.”

DR. KAITLIN GALLO

New high-density housing coming to North campus area



IMAGE COURTESY OF SITE DEVELOPERS AND ARCHITECTS

by **Colin Piteo**
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On Oct. 16, the town of Mansfield approved the purchase of land for a new high-density housing complex. The new complex will be constructed in three lots, two across the street from the new university

Science One complex, and the other in place of 134 College Square, the complex that currently houses North Campus staples such as Huskies Tavern, and formerly housed Sgt. Pepperoni, Yamato Hibachi and Poke Bowl.

“Two mixed-use group dwelling and commercial buildings (Site A and Site B)

will be located at 22 and 28-32 King Hill Road and 125 and 134 North Eagleville Road. A total of 1,165 bedrooms and 13,908 square feet of commercial/retail space with a total footprint of approximately 123,500 sq. ft. will be constructed,” reads the project description from the Mansfield Planning and Development Commission’s website.

According to UConn spokesperson, Stephanie Reitz, the University of Connecticut is not involved in the project or its development. She stated that the project is primarily being developed by Core Spaces, a developer based out of Chicago, and that the project will require the demolition of the current complex that exists there.

“Core Spaces, a developer in Chicago, is purchasing 134 College Square. The Town of Mansfield has approved the site for high-density residential housing, which will require its demolition. UConn is not involved in the project,” Reitz said.

A timeline for the project has not been released yet.

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Daily WOMEN’S BASKETBALL | PAGE 12
No.17 Huskies return home for breather

Tweet of the Day

UConn
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Merry and bright!

News

UConn alumna is awarded CT Teacher of the Year

by Sara Bedigian

STAFF WRITER
SHE/HER/HERS
sara.bedigian@uconn.edu

University of Connecticut alumna, Kiana Foster-Mauro, received the 2024 Connecticut Teacher of the Year award and recently submitted her application for National Teacher of the Year.

Foster-Mauro graduated from UConn with a bachelor of science in elementary education in 2020, and her masters in curriculum and instruc-

nalists out of nearly 100 applicants and went to Hartford for an interview with the council. Once she passed that round, she was notified that she was a finalist, which meant site visits for her classroom evaluations. A week later, she said she was notified that she had been selected and had to keep it a secret until the state officially announced the award.

"We are grateful to have a hardworking educator like Ms. Foster-Mauro teaching in our public schools," Gov. Lamont

and the magic and learning really starts for them. That's what I love about it."

She explained that she was honored to receive the award, and credits her success to her educational journey at UConn.

"The experiences I was able to have through UConn, the courses that I was able to take, the professors I learned from, and then even my peers [who] taught me some of the best lessons and working alongside them," Foster-Mauro said.

She added that the first-

making sure all students and all identities and important topics are represented within that," Foster-Mauro said.

She also said she was able to obtain a lot of knowledge and experience when she went to study abroad in Costa Rica through Neag, which allowed her to step out of her comfort zone.

"I was for the first time in a space where I was not speaking the dominant language," Foster-Mauro said, "And so that was another experience

said in the state press release. "She is an exemplary teacher, role-model for our students, and an integral part of the New London Public School community who ignited a passion for learning among all."

The Connecticut Teacher of the Year is decided each year by the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council, a group of former recipients and representatives from educational organizations, businesses and the community. Each



The Charles B. Gentry Building in the center of the UConn Storrs campus is home to the Neag School of Education. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

tion in 2021. Currently, she is a fourth grade teacher at Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School in New London.

In her third year of teaching, Foster-Mauro received the prestigious state award. She explained her process of applying for the award, which began in her school district when she was selected as District Teacher of the Year at the end of last school year. Over the summer, she worked on her application for State Teacher of the Year, which included additional essay questions and letters of recommendation.

In the early fall, she was named as one of the 16 semi-

finalists in a press release. "She embodies the qualities needed to prepare students for success throughout their lives."

Foster-Mauro said she always knew she wanted to be a teacher and has always loved being in environments where learning is celebrated. She added that her favorite part about teaching is the kids she is able to see everyday.

"The kids are really the best part and why I do what I do every single time, to see the joy in their faces and a determination and their care for others," Foster-Mauro said. "And their desire to learn and then seeing those moments where the lightbulb goes off

year experience course she took with advisors Dominique Battle-Lawson and Mia Hines shaped her experiences with UConn Neag School of Education, allowing her to get involved right away as a first-year. Both advisors also introduced her to Leadership in Diversity (LID), a student-led organization which she said changed the course of her career and her experiences at UConn.

"With LID I was able to really advocate for things in education that I was passionate about, specifically around diversifying in the field of education, both in terms of what we teach, the curriculum and

that kind of pushed me to be comfortable with being uncomfortable, which I think is really important in this career ... because everyday is a new challenge."

She said she has taken what she has learned at UConn, and applied it to the work she is doing in her district, such as her involvement in her district's Equity Leadership Team, and her work nationally as a member of the National Association for Multicultural Education.

"We are beyond thrilled to highlight and honor Ms. Foster-Mauro," Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, superintendent of New London Public Schools,

state is a part of the Council of Chief State School Officers, which oversees the entire program and chooses the National Teacher of the Year.

Foster-Mauro recently submitted her application for National Teacher of the Year, representing Connecticut as one of 55 applicants nationally. Looking toward the future, Foster-Mauro plans to go back to school to get her doctorate connecting education with human rights.

"I love the kids that I work with. I love my colleagues. So I am really grateful to be able to be part of this community here and doing the work that I do," she said.

The Daily Campus

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The daily campus crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Thai cuisine herb
- 6 Therefore
- 10 Surrounded by
- 14 Beyoncé venue
- 15 Stockings
- 16 Mauna Loa flow
- 17 Sure-footed circus performer
- 20 More intoxicating
- 21 Hotel patron
- 22 Pipe bend
- 23 List of spa services, e.g.
- 25 Tall instrument with strings and pedals
- 26 Gridiron position
- 30 Fiscal execs
- 32 Sole
- 33 Source of remote power?
- 34 Irrelevant
- 35 Deke
- 37 Phisher's plan
- 38 "Law & Order" spinoff, familiarly
- 39 Big pistachio exporter
- 40 Carriage
- 41 Call center worker
- 45 "It's ___ a Minute": NPR podcast hosted by Brittany Luse
- 46 Iditarod racer
- 47 Convenience store convenience
- 50 Small crown
- 52 Ultimate tool?
- 54 Web-based group, or a collective descriptor of 17-, 26-, and 41-Across?
- 58 Money drawer
- 59 Green sage of film
- 60 Familia member
- 61 Marketplace with handmade gifts
- 62 Unimprovable place
- 63 Piece of broccoli or asparagus

DOWN

- 1 Soak
- 2 Redheaded Disney princess
- 3 George of "Just Shoot Me!"
- 4 Presented with great resolution
- 5 "Discover the West Coast Perspective" pub.

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By Wendy L. Brandes & Taylor Johnson

12/6/23

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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12/6/23

- 39 "Just to clarify ... "
- 40 Ouija users
- 42 In a spooky way
- 43 Film composer Danny
- 44 Glossary entry
- 47 Tolerate
- 48 Aquarium fish
- 49 "Twilight" author Stephenie
- 50 Nature Conservancy giveaway
- 51 Still alive for the semis, say
- 53 Lose one's cool
- 55 Look at
- 56 Cape ___
- 57 O'Shaughnessy poem that begins, "We are the music makers, / And we are the dreamers of dreams"

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2023

IN MUSIC:

THE BEST

ALBUMS

OF THE

YEAR

by Henry St. Pierre | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | henry.st_pierre@uconn.edu

VOIR DIRE



I'd like to start off with a disclaimer, calling this list the "best albums of the year" might seem very definitive, but make no mistake — this is all my opinion. This title just flows better than "some random college freshman's favorite albums of the year." This isn't going to be ranked in any way, it's more of a celebration of a particularly exciting year in music, or a bunch of mini-album reviews crammed into one article.

Right off the bat, my pick for album of the year is McKinley Dixon's seminal work of conscious rap, "Beloved! Paradise! Jazz?!" Though it clocks in at a brisk 28 minutes, Dixon flexes his excellent songwriting, as well as infectious jazz rap instrumentals that are reminiscent of old-school hip-hop à la A Tribe Called Quest or Digable Planets. Highlights on the album include "Run, Run, Run," which features one of the most infectious grooves and choruses of the year, and the title track, with its lush and dense vocal harmonies. While I'm confident in "Beloved! Paradise! Jazz?!" as my pick for album of the year, I must give kudos to "Scaring the Hoes" by JPEGMAFIA and Danny Brown. The pair



Scaring the Hoes
by JPEGMAFIA and Danny Brown

crafted a magnificent record with a tightly-wound industrial sound that begs to be turned up all the way.

Another album that came quickly to my mind as one of the year's best is Jeff Rosenstock's "Hellmode." To punk fans, Rosenstock is a musician that needs no introduction. He's a veteran of the



Hellmode
Jeff Rosenstock

scene, with solo albums like 2016's "Worry" cementing him as a towering figure in the genre. "Hellmode" sports a more pop-punk-oriented sound adjusted for the modern age. The album's lead single "Liked U Better" was a mainstay on my playlists throughout the year and "Hellmode" is certainly a record I'll be coming back to in the future.

Staying in the rock world for a little longer, I'd like to highlight two albums that I espe-

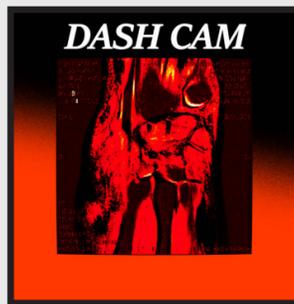


Calm Ya Farm
The Murlocs

cially enjoyed this year. Out of Melbourne, Australia, The Murlocs' "Calm Ya Farm" is an energetic mix of folk, blues and psychedelic rock. Led by harmonica player and vocalist Ambrose Kenny-Smith (of King Gizzard & the Lizard Wizard fame), "Calm Ya Farm" is a delightfully fun and groovy record, which is quite a far cry from the weirdo-rock King Gizzard has been putting out as of late. This record is laden with electric piano, sultry vocals and distorted harmonica. "Initiative" and "Undone and Unashamed" are two standout tracks.

It's been quite a year for bands with strange names. From King Gizzard & the Lizard Wizard dropping one of the best metal releases of the 2020s, to Slaughter Beach, Dog releasing a fantastic indie-folk record. The album I'd like to highlight here is Iguana Death Cult's "Echo Palace." I had never heard of these Dutch musicians until I saw them open for Frankie and the Witch Fingers at the Space Ballroom in Hamden, Connecticut. Their stage presence was captivating and demanding, playing their own brand of garage rock mixed with post-punk reminiscent of Parquet Courts. Standout tracks include "Paper Straws," "Echo Palace," "Pushermen" and "I Just Want a House."

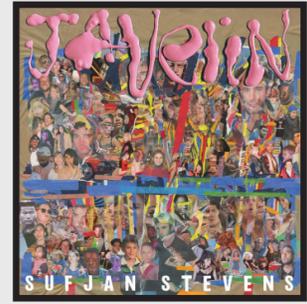
Before we get to our last album of the year, I'd like to take a moment and shout out local music. The University of Connecticut's very own Dash Cam released their debut self-titled EP back in April, and it's one of my favorite punk releases of the year. One of the greatest things about UConn is its thriving music community, and supporting local musicians and bands is heavily encouraged, even if it's something as small as buying their releases off Bandcamp or going to see them at a local show.



Dash Cam - EP
Dash Cam

The last album I'll be talking about in depth is Sufjan Stevens' beautifully crafted "Javelin." Made in a period of intense personal turmoil, "Javelin" feels like somewhat of a therapy session for the singer. The album is intensely visceral, often leaving me and many other listeners in tears by the end. Almost all of

the cuts from this record are close and intimate, often expanding with lustrous backing vocals and orchestral accompaniments. "Javelin" is one of the most intensely emotional musical experiences of the 2020s so far and will be remembered as one of the best albums of the decade.



Javelin
Sufjan Stevens

Unfortunately, I can't talk in depth about every single album I enjoyed this year, but here's a short list of albums I heavily recommend:

Sampha - "Lahai"

Earl Sweatshirt, The Alchemist - "VoiR Dire"

King Gizzard & the Lizard Wizard - "PetroDragonic Apocalypse: or, Dawn of Eternal Night: An Annihilation of Planet Earth and the Beginning of Merciless Damnation"

Slaughter Beach, Dog - "Crying, Laughing, Waving, Smiling"

Altin Gün - "Aşk"

Swans - "The Beggar"

Geese - "3D Country"

Adam Savage - "Several Songs About Fire"

Olivia Rodrigo - "Guts"

One thing is for certain: 2023 was a fantastic year for music of all kinds, and this article just scratches the surface of what this year had to offer. One can only have high hopes that 2024 will see just as many excellent music.

"Dixon flexes his excellent songwriting, as well as infectious jazz rap instrumentals that are reminiscent of old-school hip-hop à la A Tribe Called Quest or Digable Planets."

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

Beloved! Paradise! Jazz!?

McKinley Dixon



ALBUM COVER FROM @FREEMCKINLEY/INSTAGRAM
ALBUM COVERS (ARTICLE) COURTESY OF SPOTIFY



Life

@dailycampuslife



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



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COMIC BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

IMAGE COURTESY OF EMILY O'BANNON, ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

LOWER THE VOTING AGE

PART 2

by Youssef Macary | STAFF WRITER | HE/HIM/HIS | youssef.macary@uconn.edu

Several weeks ago, I wrote an article titled "Lower the Voting Age" where I advocated for the federal government to lower the minimum voting age from 18 to 16. While such a change may seem like an abstract idea, there is in fact a real effort that is being made for it both locally and nationally. These are efforts that should be applauded and supported. A push for increased youth participation in the electoral process quite simply helps to strengthen democracy.

On the local level, some areas inside the United States have already made the decision to lower the voting age. In Brattleboro, Vermont for example, there was tremendous support for the issue, and they "pass[ed] the charter change locally in 2019 with almost 70% of voters in favor," according to Grace Sherwood at the University of Vermont's Community News Service. The legislature in Vermont approved the charter change on two separate occasions, but the governor vetoed the bill both times before being overridden. Sherwood says "[p]roponents of the bills argue that it's simply about democracy," and Brattle-

boro was clearly in favor of such a change. Rio Daims, a climate activist from Brattleboro, argues that "we are a country built on the foundation of 'no taxation without representation.' When I was 16 I started working, so this felt really close to home in that way." What Brattleboro shows is that there is support for such a change, and it is not out of the realm of possibility.

This possibility is seen on the national level. Representative Grace Meng of New York introduced House Joint Resolution 16 which is "proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States extending the right to vote to citizens sixteen years of age or older." What this resolution does is quite simple, it repeals the 26th Amendment and replaces it with a lower voting age. As it stands, the 26th Amendment states that "[t]he right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age," and that "[t]he Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation." This resolution would replace the existing amendment

with one that gives 16-year-olds the right to vote. With this as a part of the Constitution, it would guarantee such a right at the federal level.

Unfortunately, making a change to the Constitution is a complex process that is difficult to achieve. To start the amendment process, "[a]n amendment may be proposed by a two-thirds vote of both Houses of Congress, or, if two-thirds of the States request one, by a convention called for that purpose," as stated on the official White House website. In this case, the resolution would need to be passed by two-thirds of both the Senate and the House of Representatives, something that is not an easy feat. After that "[t]he amendment must then be ratified by three-fourths of the State legislatures, or three-fourths of conventions called in each State for ratification." This is a long and difficult process, which is why in the hundreds of years of the U.S.'s existence, there have not been many amendments to the Constitution. However, this effort is worth the time and effort to ensure that this right is protected by making

itself a part of the Constitution.

This is a worthy effort, and there are many organizations who are proponents of this change. These include the National Youth Rights Association and Vote 16 USA. Local success for such a change indicates that national change is possible, it just takes time and the support of people who understand how lowering the voting age can be beneficial for democracy. Not only could many more Americans vote, but as I mentioned in my last article, it would allow people to vote before they experience major life changes such as going to college. Furthermore, having students start voting while they are still in high school would allow the curriculum to support the process and educate these younger voters. Not to mention the fact that 16 and 17-year-olds have a lot longer to live, and are going to be more impacted by the decisions that our country makes. They are stakeholders in our country too, and deserve to have their voices heard. That is something that can only be made possible by a push to change the voting age.

Opinion StudyBreak

Photo of the Day | UConn Hartford

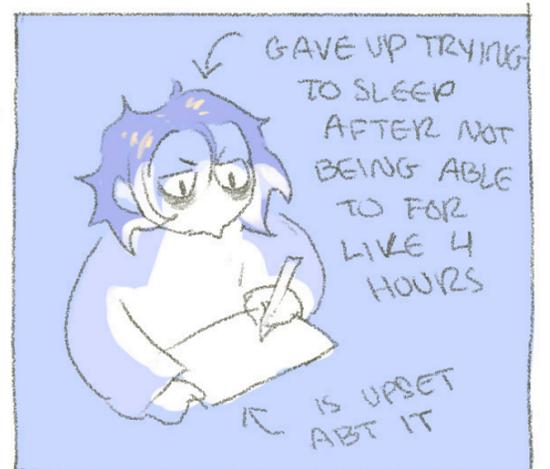


UConn Hartford students host a Free Palestine event for students to speak about the ongoing conflict. Students spoke and created information boards to spread awareness and their opinion on the Israel-Palestine conflict.
PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



THE DAILY CAMPUS COMICS

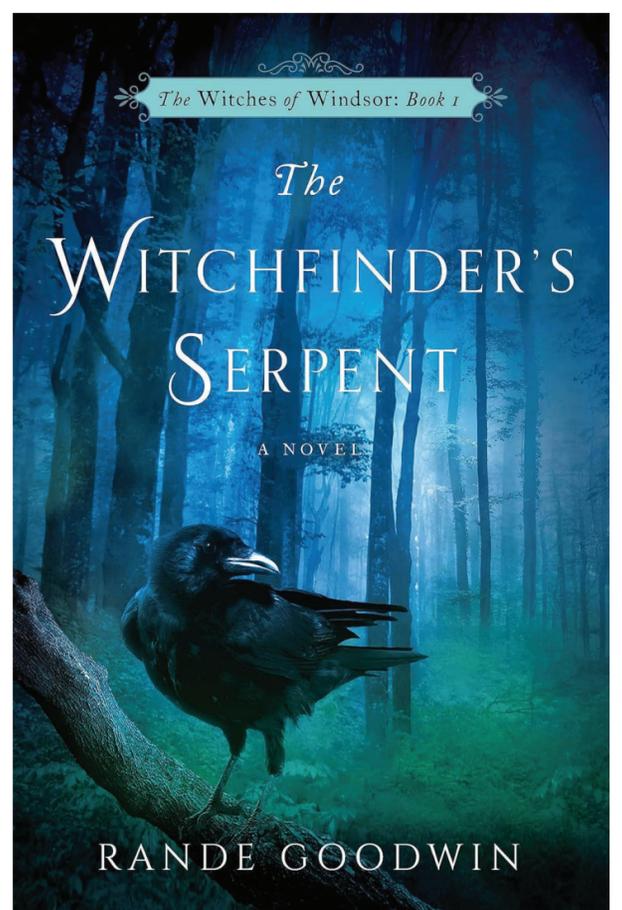
COMICS BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Author Signing at the Downtown Storrs Barnes & Noble

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

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!



NCAA: Florida State Seminoles wins third National Championship title in the last 6 years, fourth in team's history

by Francesca Rameau
SHE/HER/HERS
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
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On Dec. 4, at WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary, North Carolina, the Florida State Seminoles beat the Stanford Cardinal 5-1 to clinch their third National Championship in the past six years. The game marked the first time in history that two undefeated teams met in the women's College Cup final. Over recent years, the two teams have dominated women's college soccer, having won five of the last seven National Championships. They have also produced countless talents who currently play professionally in the National Women's Soccer League, as well seven current players in the U.S. Women's National Team.

The Seminoles dominated the first half where they scored two goals; one by Jordynn Dudley in the 28th minute via a penalty kick and Jody Brown in the 29th minute. Six minutes into the second half, Maya Doms, the Cardinal's leading goal scorer notched her 12th goal of the season. This was the first conceded by the Seminoles throughout the tournament, to put the Cardinals back in the game at 2-1. Shortly after, the Seminoles netted three unanswered goals by Beata Olsson, Brown and Onyi Echegini. The

game ended 5-1, making Florida State the first team to score four plus goals against Stanford since UNC on Sept. 11, 2005.

Dudley, the scorer of the first goal for Florida State, earned College Cup Most Outstanding Offensive Player honors, and Lauren Flynn, a senior, was named the Most Outstanding Defensive Player. The Seminoles came into the game with an undefeated record of 21-0-1 and having only conceded 11 goals throughout the regular season. Throughout the tournament, they outscored their opponents 21-1, while showing strong offensive and defensive performances.

Brian Pensky, the current coach of the Seminoles since April 2022, won the first National Championship of his career. He credited his player's relentlessness, hard work and beliefs for the championship win. In an interview on air with ESPN after the game, he stated, "You win with phenomenal players and determined players, and kids who have strong beliefs."

This victory allowed the Seminoles to win their fourth National Championship title, the second most behind only UNC with 21. Florida State also became the first undefeated champion since Stanford in 2011 who finished the season 23-0, according to AP News.



Florida State Seminoles celebrate their National Championship win against Stanford on Monday, Dec. 4, 2023. Florida State won this game 5-1. PHOTO COURTESY OF @HENDRIXSLANCE ON X

From Croatia to Connecticut, Mühl sisters will face each other on the court for the first time



UConn's Nika Mühl reacts to the second half of an NCAA college basketball game against North Carolina State on Sunday, Nov. 12. UConn lost the game 81-92. PHOTO COURTESY OF @VANESSAEUNV ON X

STORRS, Conn. (AP) — UConn point guard Nika Mühl says she and Ball State guard Hana Mühl used to fight about almost everything while growing up together in Croatia.

But the sisters from Zagreb, now living on the other side of the Atlantic and more than 800 miles apart, have become so close as adults that they have each other's first initial tattooed behind their left ears.

Nika, 22 and the older of the pair by just over two years, has another tattoo with Hana's nickname "Baby M" on her left hand.

The pair text or video chat with each other almost every day.

"I feel like that distance made us so much closer, which is just kind of like a weird thing to say, you know," Nika said. "I felt like that would have distanced us, but it definitely brought us so much closer."

The two, who played together for years on the same club team and national teams in their home country, will face each other Wednesday when Hana's Cardinals (6-1) visit Nika's No. 17 Huskies (4-3) in Storrs.

"We have never played against each other, except like, one on one, you know, in the driveway," Nika said. "This is going to be the first

ever official time we're going to play against each other."

Their parents, Darko and Roberta Mühl, are flying in from Croatia. Darko said it will tough to be in the stands because he is usually too nervous and waits at least a day to view their games over the Internet.

The father said his two girls could not have had more different personalities growing up. Nika was messy, aggressive, emotional, always taking charge. Hana was much more organized, easy going and analytical, he said.

But both are driven, competitive and love basketball, he said.

"Both of them, as they are over there, are independent," he said. "And both of them have grown up a lot over the last couple of years."

He said he and his wife, fearing injuries, tried to steer his daughters away from basketball and into other sports. Hana said she was going to be a swimmer until she watched her big sister playing basketball.

"Honestly, since growing up, she has always been my role model," Hana said. "I've never said that to her because, not that I didn't want admit it, but you know, it's just like something I kept for myself all this time. But it's true. I told her that recently. It

was after one of her games when they lost, but I just was so proud of her the way she played and like, kept her head up and everything."

UConn coach Geno Auriemma said he can't remember ever coaching a sister against sister. The closest he came was when he tried to schedule a game for former Husky star Katie Lou Samuelson against sister Karlie and Stanford. But that didn't work out.

"Nika pushed for this game," Auriemma said.

Hana said Nika has consistently helped her with the struggles of living overseas and playing DI college basketball, assuring her she had the skills, even when she thought she couldn't play at this level.

But both Mühl sisters said they will try their hardest to get the better of the other on Wednesday, reverting to the relationship they had as children.

"She will definitely trash talk, that's the way she is," Hana said. "I'm expecting it. I'm ready for it. I have some words that I will give her back."

Nika said all that chatter will be in Croatian. And what words should fans be listening for?

"I'm not sure if I'm allowed to say," Hana said.



Nika Mühl smiles when asked about the opportunity to play against her sister, Hana Mühl, in her game against Ball State on Wednesday. The UConn Women's team will enter with a record of 4-3. PHOTO COURTESY OF @VICKIEATTHEDAY ON X

Sports

Photo of the Day | Diving in head first



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

Roundtable:

WHO IS THE BEST RAPPER FROM THE NBA?

by Sean Ahern

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Lonzo "Zo" Ball

The best rapper from the NBA is a current player who could use some love after all his injuries, and that is Lonzo Ball. It seems like just yesterday he was playing for Chino Hills High School and recording short, funny freestyle clips with his brothers, but his music career really has seen success as a professional. He has released three albums since 2018 with a handful of singles that reached millions of plays on Spotify, including "ZO2" which has 9,467,232 plays. His debut album, Born 2 Ball, ended up peaking at No. 42 on Billboard's Independent Albums chart in March of 2018. His last release was the single "Die Young" in February of this year, so it has been quite a wait since new content. His 39,677 monthly listeners remain optimistic to hear new music soon.

by Evan Rodriguez

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Marvin Bagley III

In the grand scheme of the history of the NBA, few may remember the 2019 rap battle between Damian Lillard and Marvin Bagley III, where the former Duke graduate said on First Take that he could go toe-to-toe in a rap battle with Lillard. But, if you were to go listen to the song "Checkmate" and some of the other tracks in that heated matchup, you'd see the talent that he possesses. While Lillard did win the battle in the end and is still known by many as the GOAT of the NBA rap world, Bagley held his own and spit some incredible bars on those songs. Basketball fans shouldn't forget about his talent in the hip-hop world and he should still be mentioned as one of the greatest NBA rappers of all time.

by Stratton Stave

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Andre Drummond

Although he's not the biggest name in the NBA rap scene, it's hard to ignore Drummond - known in the rap world as Dre Drumm or Drummxnd - as a key figure. The UConn standout has a good flow and is versatile in his style. His lyrics are solid and often relate to his time playing in the league, something that has to give him brownie points in the conversation. Though he isn't the most popular or listened to, it's not for a lack of talent. When he does produce, it's great, but he hasn't done so very frequently and has often avoided sticking to one platform. With more dedication Drummond could be exceptional, but for now he remains under the radar.

by Cole Stefan

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Metta Sandiford-Artest

Generally, if this roundtable had been about athletes who were musical artists, like staff writer Nick Spinali wrote about last week, I would not hesitate to put down guitarists Henrik Lundqvist, Barry Zito or Bernie Williams. Since this roundtable focuses on the rap genre (happy belated birthday, Jay-Z, a former part-owner of the Brooklyn Nets), I want to highlight Metta Sandiford-Artest. Changing his name from Ron Artest to Metta World Peace during his 17-year NBA career, Artest's single "Champions" earned a spot on the NBA 2K11 playlist. Sharing a spot in an NBA 2K game's playlist that features elite rappers such as Snoop Dogg, flute master Kid Cudi and Drak is its own honor within itself, but having a track on top of his own avatar in a game revolving around Michael Jordan's career is special. Despite a relatively underrated rap career that has not resulted in a track on Apple Music since 2011, Artest clears the field because EA Sports decided that his music was worthy of a spot on a 2K playlist 13 years ago.



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

The Puck Drop: THE POWER OF A HUG

by Avery Becker
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If you've ever seen the Boston Bruins win live on television, it's a tradition for goaltenders Linus Ullmark and Jeremy Swayman to extend their arms and wrap each other up in a warm embrace. Fans across the NHL have deemed this the famous "goalie hug."

It all started in the 2021-2022 NHL season during the first regular season game featuring the Bruins versus the Dallas Stars. It was Swayman's first season with Boston after ending his collegiate career at the University of Maine. It was also Ullmark's first season with the team after signing as a free agent from the Buffalo Sabres.

"It was an emotional game, it was super exciting. [My] first Opening Night," Swayman said in an interview with Sportsnet. Since the 2021-2022 season, both Swayman and Ullmark have flourished in their roles with the Bruins. They have made the Stanley Cup playoffs every single season since playing together and won the Presidents' Trophy last year in a historic season. Along with that, Ullmark received the Vezina Trophy for the NHL's best goaltender at the 2023 NHL Awards.

In their 2023-2024 campaign, they both have a combined save percentage of 0.925%. For these friends, though, the journey to these accolades has not exactly been sunshine and rainbows.

Ullmark grew up just like any other young boy obsessed with hockey and dreaming of playing in the NHL. He often touches on how big of a figure his father was in his early years, always making him and his friends a fresh sheet of ice to play hockey on in the winter.

Realizing that goaltender was the right position for him, Ullmark began playing with MODO Hockey, a professional club in the second-tier league based out of Örnsköldsvik, Sweden, during the 2009-10 season. He started at the bottom of the depth charts but gradually made his way up. He was rewarded with his efforts by being drafted 163rd overall by the Buffalo Sabres in the 2012 NHL entry draft.



Charlie Coyle practices before his game against the Columbus Blue Jackets on Dec. 3, 2023. The Boston Bruins won this game 3-1.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @NHLBRUINS ON X

You would think that any player would be ecstatic to have a chance to play professionally, but that wasn't necessarily true for Ullmark. In his first few seasons with the Buffalo Sabres, his father's struggles with alcoholism suddenly came to light.

In a recent Sportsnet interview, he touched on a specific morning skate where he completely broke down. "I just hit the spot where everything just crumbled," stating how he didn't know throughout his childhood that his father was an alcoholic. He "wasn't prepared" for dealing with that, after realizing the magnitude of this issue.

At that morning's skate with his goalie coach, he considered quitting hockey altogether. This was because he felt that he needed to move back to Sweden and take care of his dad.

The peak of those struggles occurred throughout the 2014-15 season as his statis-

tics declined tremendously and his father's condition got worse, often with him ending up hospitalized.

To cope with this, Ullmark began seeing a psychologist. He stressed how the phrase "it's okay to not be okay" was the first lesson he had to learn. He also learned how to be more open about his feelings and how to stop bottling his feelings up to the point where they would explode.

With this new philosophy on his life, he remarked that his positive moments felt stronger, while his darker moments carried less weight.

In 2015, he left MODO to finally play for the Buffalo Sabres and realized that his father's problems weren't his to take on. Although he had to switch between the Sabres and their AHL affiliate, he was still achieving his dream of becoming a goalie in the NHL.

His father passed away in his sleep in January of 2021 at

the age of 63. Ullmark mentions that his son, Harry (5), and daughter, Lily (3), helped him cope with the loss.

"When they came to the world, it certainly felt that I became whole. That strength that comes through family is so powerful," said Ullmark.

The Bruins veteran said how "losing a loved one is the worst thing to happen in the world," but his father's death is a "relief" to him now because the uncertainties lasting for multiple years are no longer a burden on his family. But with this loss, he felt alone and that there was "no more hug."

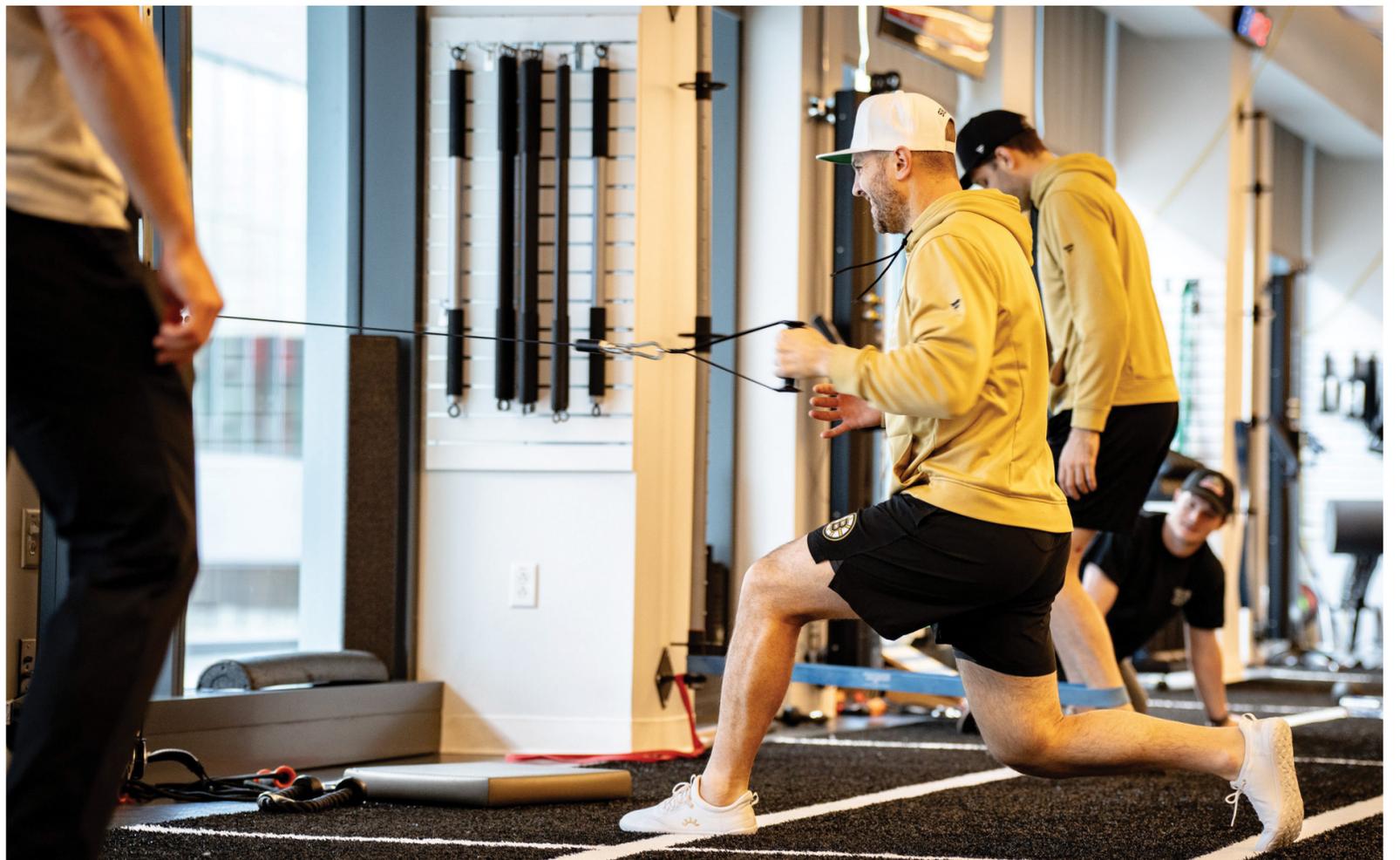
With the loss of a loved one, he also gained a new friend. That brings us to Swayman, who continues to be the hug he never knew he needed.

Boston was the light at the end of the tunnel for the Ullmark family. When he speaks out about Swayman or "Uncle Sway," as deemed by his kids, he has nothing but high praise. He

describes the relationship between the two of them as "pure love" and how he's "family." Getting emotional, Swayman talked about their relationship, saying, "It wouldn't be possible without him and his wife, Moa Wikman, just accepting me and allowing me to be a big part of their family and I truly feel that way too." The Alaskan native also talked about how every time he calls his father, he asks, "How is Linus doing?" and how Ullmark is like a second brother to him.

A famous quote from Albus Dumbledore, the famous fictional character from the "Harry Potter" series, reads "Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light."

Now, every time at the end of a Bruins win, you won't see it as just a normal goalie hug. It is a symbol of brotherhood and love. Even in the darkest of times, you will eventually find someone to turn on the light.



Players for the Boston Bruins work out on gym day before their game against the Buffalo Sabres on Thursday, Dec. 7. The Boston Bruins will be going into that game with a record of 17-4 on the season.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @NHLBRUINS ON X



Sports

Women's Basketball NO. 17 HUSKIES RETURN HOME FOR BREATHER

by **Stratton Stave**
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Nothing has been easy this season for the UConn women's basketball team. It seems that every game they're reaching lows that haven't been seen from the program in decades. Whether it's the quickest they've reached three losses in a season since 1986 or their worst AP Poll ranking in 30 years, these aren't positive markers of success.

It's no mystery why these issues have arisen. Azzi Fudd, once tabbed as a generational prospect, has again lost her season to injury. Caroline Ducharme, who was a standout first-year in 2021-22, hasn't been able to recreate her magic either, also to a series of injuries. Sophomore Ayanna Patterson has yet to play and redshirt freshman Jana El Ally's season ended before it began. As a result, the Huskies are playing tired and from behind – and they're less than a quarter through the year.

Granted, their losses have all come at the hands of top-five opposition, but they haven't looked great – or close to victory – in any of those defeats. Their wins don't include any team that has votes in the latest AP Poll. Thankfully for the Huskies, this game should give them a chance to reorganize.

Their opponent Wednesday is Ball State, ranked No. 114 in the latest NET rankings. To Connecticut, the Cardinals are more than just an out-of-conference opponent. They're the team that Hana Mühl plays for, none other than the sister of Nika Mühl. Hana isn't a stand-out for Ball State like Nika is for the Huskies, but she's still a solid player. Through seven games of her sophomore campaign, she's averaging four points and 1.4 as-



UConn women's basketball hosts their first game of the season, facing off against Southern Connecticut State University on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 in Gampel Pavilion at 1 p.m. The Huskies easily took the win with a score of 97-38.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

sists in 12 minutes per night. She stood out in the team's bout against Chicago State with 10 points on perfect shooting to go along with two steals. Hana may get more run than usual Wednesday given the circumstances, as a special game for the two programs that their parents will be in attendance for.

On the other side of the court is Nika, who has struggled to find her role with star Paige Bueckers back in the fold. Before the former National-POTY came back, Nika was excellent. She broke the school record for assists in a season and was the defensive anchor of the backcourt. But now that Bueckers has returned, Nika is needed less as a facilitator.

Her assist totals have dipped from 7.9 to 4.3 thanks to Bueckers' role as a do-it-all guard. Nika would benefit from a more confident shooting stroke, but she's taking one fewer three-pointer per game this season. Regardless of any complexities or outside noise, it will be a moment both sisters – and their family – cherish for the rest of their lives.

Looking at the other Cardinals, Ally Becki has taken the reins as the team's leader. The local junior has been the key cog in the team's 6-1 start, doing everything on the court. She's averaging 12 points, 5.6 assists, 4.1 boards and 1.9 steals, stuffing the statsheet on a nightly basis. Becki has had some

issues with ball control, turning it over four times per game and eight in the loss to No. 14 Notre Dame. The Huskies will look to put similar pressure on her to generate fastbreak opportunities.

Aside from the blemish against the Fighting Irish, the Cardinals are undefeated. They opened with four straight double-digit victories, but their past two wins have been closer. Ball State's most recent game was against NET No. 239 Saint Louis, who is 3-5. The drubbing they sustained against Notre Dame is a likely indication that the Huskies will do the same.

For Connecticut, the key will be to put together a dom-

inant and convincing performance, however that may come about. It's been a while since they've had a feel-good game and this will be a lower-pressure opportunity to get the first-years more confident. If the team is going to be so injured and still have high aspirations, the freshmen need to be a key part of the effort. Solid and encouraging outings from Ashlynn Shade, KK Arnold and Qadence Samuels could go a long way, especially with the pair of ranked games ahead.

Action will tip off at 7 p.m. at Gampel Pavilion and can be viewed on SNY.



UConn women's basketball hosts their first game of the season, facing off against Southern Connecticut State University on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 in Gampel Pavilion at 1 p.m. Redshirt junior Paige Bueckers makes her return after being out for the 22-23 season with a torn ACL.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

UConn SCOREBOARD

vs.
65 vs. **69**
Men's Basketball
Friday

Upcoming Games

vs.
Men's Basketball, 6 p.m.
Saturday
Storrs, Conn.

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

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



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TWEET OF THE DAY



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