



UConn administrators hold town hall, address concerns over budget cuts



UConn faculty express frustration at a protest over proposed budget cuts at the University of Connecticut. Administrators held a virtual town hall responding to concerns on Wednesday, Jan. 14 at 12 p.m.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by John Haslun
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On Wednesday, Jan. 24, at 12 p.m., University of Connecticut administrators held a virtual town hall responding to questions about planned budget cuts from anonymous students and faculty. Set against the backdrop of enduring disagreements between UConn and the Connecticut state legislature over budgeting, these cuts most notably involve a 15% across-the-board cut to the budgets of UConn's academic schools and colleges.

UConn administrators, represented most prominently in the town hall by President Radenka Maric and Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Jeffrey Geoghegan, cite the lack of funds from Governor Ned Lamont and the state legislature, a historic salary increase of 13.5% and inflationary pressures as complications which are driving the university into a deficit.

A recent reduction in funds from the state government, a decline of \$47.3 million from fiscal year 2024 to fiscal year 2025, has particularly hit the university's budget hard and has been further exacerbated by the expiration of COVID-19 relief funds

from the American Rescue Plan Act. Discussions between representatives of UConn and the state legislatures are expected to continue when the legislature reconvenes on Feb. 7.

UConn's primary aims are the reinstatement of the \$47.3 million in state support, though Geoghegan concedes that "even if we are successful in getting additional state support, we still have work to do."

"There's no guarantee next session that our requests will be covered given the state's fiscal guard rails," said Senior Director for Governmental Relations Joann Lombardo. "There are hundreds of millions of dollars of funding requests before the legislature... it's uncertain what will happen next session, but we will continue to advocate for the resources that we need."

With a projected deficit for financial year 2025 of approximately \$70 million, UConn is still in financial trouble regardless of whether or not the \$47.3 million in state support is restored.

It is under these precarious circumstances that "all-two ledger budgets, academic and non-academic, will be cut 15% over five years," in the words of Maric.

The proposed changes have been met with fierce opposi-

tion from the UConn branch of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), who held a demonstration outside the Rowe Building on Tuesday. The AAUP's concerns regarding the budget include the potential for layoffs, departure or early retirement of faculty members, the closing of graduate programs and the loss of UConn's R1 research institution classification.

A flyer that has recently appeared across campus, jointly endorsed by the AAUP, the UConn Graduate Employee & Postdoc Union and other labor groups, excoriates what they believe to be a bloated administration forcing academic departments to pay for the spending they themselves directed.

"The planned cuts of 15% to 19% will devastate UConn, resulting in mass layoffs and program closures," the "Stop the Cuts" flyer says. "Class sizes will explode, and many will need to move online... graduation rates will plummet, increasing the financial burden on students."

The flyer additionally accuses the administration of a multimillion-dollar partnership with Huron Consulting, an organization it alleges has created "disastrous impacts" for the "reputations and future

prospects" of the schools its notorious cost-cutting strategies have come into contact with.

"Faculty are being asked to do more with less," one anonymous inquirer commented at the town hall. "Having endured many cuts in the last 10 years, most departments don't have any fat to cut... this will lead to increased faculty burnout and decreasing job satisfaction, which will ultimately result in faculty retiring or leaving UConn for other academic institutions or industry."

"We are very mindful of this," noted UConn provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Anne D'Alleva, regarding faculty concerns. "We need to collaborate, we need to be efficient, we need to leverage technology when we can."

D'Alleva additionally responded to concerns from professors regarding potential increases in class sizes and the indiscriminate nature of the 15% reduction in operating support budgets, which affects all academic units equally.

It is not only academic departments that are being pressured to increase revenues. Maric attests that UConn has reduced administration costs by nearly one million, following the consolidation of high

level positions at UConn and UConn Health. UConn Athletics has also been subject to budgetary changes of its own.

"This year was our most successful year ever, with \$55.1 million," said UConn Director of Athletics David Benedict at the virtual town hall. "Next year, there's already a scheduled increase to take place [in ticket prices]... these are the types of strategies and planning we're doing well in advance to increase revenues."

According to Maric, however, UConn students should not expect any extraordinary increases in tuition outside of the university's traditional five-year tuition plans.

"It is unreasonable to assume that a tuition increase can fill a budget gap that we have of this size," she noted.

Maric also is confident the administration will avoid the layoffs that have become commonplace within similar institutions' cost-cutting programs.

"At no communications did we talk about layoffs," said Maric. "The last means is to do layoffs, because we know how much that hurts university. We are looking for all other means to address the gap, and we don't know how large the gap is going to be until the end of the [legislative] session."

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Keep him off the ballot



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Football: Current contenders, Cinderellas for March Madness

Tweet of the Day

Jared Guy Thomas
[@JaredGuyThomas](#)
What an amazing time to be a Husky.

News

A CT native and UConn faculty member is running the Boston Marathon

by **Hallie LeTendre**

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University of Connecticut faculty member and alumnus Nicholas Carpino will be running in the 2024 Boston Marathon.

Carpino graduated from UConn in 2011. In 2020, he returned to the university to receive his master's degree. Currently, Carpino is an adjunct faculty member for the UConn School of Nursing.

With career knowledge regarding health sciences and having grown up near Boston, Carpino joined the Greater Boston Food Bank's marathon team for this year's race on April 15.

"The Boston Marathon, to me, is the best race in the world," said Carpino. "Growing up a Boston sports fan and going to the Red Sox game on Patriots Day or Marathon Monday, it was always something I wanted to participate in. I was also inspired by the resilience and strength of the people of Boston after the 2013 marathon bombing."

Carpino grew up in Southbury, Connecticut and has lived in Hartford for the last decade. Aside from teaching at

UConn, he currently works at Hartford Hospital's vascular institute as an advanced practice registered nurse.

"Poor nutrition leads to so many significant health problems that I see every day," said Carpino in a press release. "I grew up helping the local food bank in Southbury on the weekends with my grandmother. It would be a dream come true to cross the finish line on Boylston, making my grandmother extra proud with the amount of money I raised for GBFB."

Carpino expressed how his connections to UConn and his experience teaching students impacted his decision to run the Boston Marathon.

"I want to set an example for my students that the human body and mind can be pushed to accomplish great things," said Carpino. "I hope I am making UConn and the state of Connecticut proud by running this iconic race."

Carpino chose to run the marathon in partnership with the Greater Boston Food Bank, a New England based hunger relief organization, to give back to his community.

"We need to give back and support those in our community who need it, because it ben-



This year's race will mark the 128th running of the Boston Marathon taking place on Monday, April 15, 2024. PHOTO BY RYAN MCBRIDE/GETTY IMAGES

efits everyone," Carpino said.

Carpino urged those who can to donate. He explained that every dollar donated to the Greater Boston Food Bank will provide two meals to a person in need.

"I am running for the Greater Boston Food Bank because I see first hand on a daily basis

what effects hunger and poor nutrition have on my patients. Simple changes can have huge health benefits," said Carpino.

With connections to the UConn community, Carpino hopes that his Husky roots will help him get through the marathon.

"I cherish my time in Storrs, it was a great all around ex-

perience. I am so thankful I chose to attend UConn as an undergrad. There was really no other choice for me when it came to graduate school, it had to be UConn," said Carpino. "The connections you make at UConn really do last a lifetime. Once a Husky, always a Husky."

Washington state reaches nearly \$150 million settlement with Johnson & Johnson over opioid crisis ↓ ↓ ↓

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — The Washington state attorney general announced a \$149.5 million settlement Wednesday with drugmaker Johnson & Johnson, more than four years after the state sued the company over its role in the opioid addiction crisis.

"They knew what the harm was. They did it anyway," Attorney General Bob Ferguson told reporters Wednesday.

The attorney general's announcement came as opioid overdose deaths more than doubled from 2019 to 2022, with 2,048 deaths recorded in 2022, according to the most recent numbers from the Washington State Department of Health.

Under the deal, the state and local governments would have to spend \$123.3 million to address the opioid crisis,

including on substance abuse treatment, expanded access to overdose-reversal drugs and services that support pregnant women on substances. The rest of the money would go toward litigation costs.

The harm is "left now to policymakers to grapple with," the attorney general said, "or families and individuals who grapple in a very different way with the real tragedy of addiction."

The settlement agreement still requires approval from a judge. If approved, the deal would send over \$20 million more to respond to the opioid crisis than if the state had signed onto a national settlement in 2021 involving Johnson & Johnson, the attorney general's office said.

Since the 2000s, drugmakers, wholesalers, pharmacy

chains and consultants have agreed to pay more than \$50 billion to state and local governments to settle claims that they played a part in creating the opioid crisis.

Under the agreements, most of the money is to be used to combat the nation's addiction and overdose crisis.

Dru overdoses caused more than one million deaths in the U.S. from 1999 through 2021, and the majority of those involved opioids. At first, the crisis centered on prescription painkillers that gained more acceptance in the 1990s, and later heroin. Over the past decade, the death toll has reached an all-time high, and the biggest killers have been synthetic opioids such as fentanyl that are in the supply of many street drugs.

Washington state's Democratic attorney general sued Johnson & Johnson in 2020, alleging that it helped drive the pharmaceutical industry's expansion of prescription opioids. He also claimed that the company made a distinct mark on Washington's opioid crisis by deceiving doctors and the public about the effectiveness of opioids for chronic pain and the risk of addiction.

The attorney general's office noted that in 2015 the company was the largest supplier in the country of the active pharmaceutical ingredients that go into opioid drugs.

Johnson & Johnson said in a written statement Monday that Duragesic, its fentanyl patch, and its Nucynta opioid accounted for less than 1% of opioid prescriptions in the state and the U.S., adding that it has not sold prescription opioid medications in the country in years.

"The Company's actions relating to the marketing and promotion of important prescription opioid medications were appropriate and responsible," according to the statement.

Funds will be awarded by the

end of this fiscal year, which means that the Legislature can earmark the money during the current legislative session. Half of the money will go to a state account, while the other half will go to an account for local governments, according to the attorney general's office.

Democratic Sen. June Robinson said Wednesday that her children have lost friends to addiction and that she has known parents who have lost children in similar ways.

"The fact that these lawsuits have played out since then, they can't unfortunately bring back the lives that we lost," she said. "But they are bringing resources to our communities and to our state that we are able to invest in ways that will help people recover and hopefully help to prevent future addiction and future crises like the one that we're seeing right now."

The deal comes about two years after the nation's three largest opioid distributors agreed to pay the state \$518 million, with the vast majority being directed toward easing the addiction epidemic.

The Daily Campus

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Study Break

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Element of ecclesiastical architecture
- 5 Pave over
- 10 Business magnate
- 14 Tailless cat
- 15 "Same here," more formally
- 16 Gold element of some religious paintings
- 17 Thing that may have twists and turns
- 18 Capacitance unit
- 19 Penny-___
- 20 Add bulk to cured meat?
- 23 Pro Bowl org.
- 24 California's Big ___
- 25 Treat haricot verts to extra plant food?
- 32 Longtime "Dancing With the Stars" judge Goodman
- 33 "My bad"
- 34 Zelenskyy's country: Abbr.
- 36 Range units
- 39 Hubbub
- 40 ___ del Carmen, Mexico
- 42 Give some oomph to pot stickers?
- 45 "No time to talk!"
- 46 Half of an interrogation pair
- 47 Decryption need
- 48 Highway sign no.
- 50 WWII carrier
- 51 Dreyer's partner in ice cream
- 52 Concerns for commuters, or an apt title for this puzzle
- 55 Corn Belt state
- 58 Shiraz resident
- 59 Milton setting
- 63 Pub contest
- 64 Disciplined, in a way
- 65 Roof overhang
- 66 Place to build
- 67 Months and months
- 68 Was positive

DOWN

- 1 Band aid
- 2 Sidekick
- 3 Stuffed shirt
- 4 Length
- 5 Some drawings

- 6 Biblical birthright seller
- 7 Renovator's protective cover
- 8 Key of Beethoven's Sym. No. 7
- 9 Rolls past
- 10 Yogic spiritual center
- 11 Off-the-wall
- 12 PC key near Z
- 13 Sturgeon delicacy
- 21 Young salamander
- 22 Have regrets about
- 25 Turn into
- 26 Disorderly
- 27 Thing that may have twists and turns
- 28 Pakistani language
- 29 Dance with a queen
- 30 Fine point
- 31 Heavenly body?
- 32 Shortsighted solution?
- 35 Rough, in a way
- 37 Org. concerned with plastic pollution
- 38 Buddhist teaching
- 40 One in a buffet stack
- 41 Starbucks top
- 43 Paralyze with fear
- 44 "The Not-Too-Late Show With Elmo" aier
- 49 Strange and scary
- 50 Hard-hit baseball
- 52 Throw for a loop
- 53 Mandlíková in the International Tennis Hall of Fame
- 54 Try to find
- 55 Sharpness figs.
- 56 "Absolutment!"
- 57 One with a knack for snappy comebacks
- 60 Auerbach of the Black Keys
- 61 "House of the Dragon" actress Best
- 62 Word in four state names

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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Victor Zatsepine speaks on 1920s Eurasian expeditions

by **Desirae Sin** | STAFF WRITER | SHE/HER/HERS | desirae.sin@uconn.edu



Victor Zatsepine speaks on Eurasian borderlands at the UCHI on Wednesday, Jan. 24.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DESIRAE SIN, STAFF WRITER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Humanities Institute at the University of Connecticut hosted a Fellow's Talk with Victor Zatsepine, an associate professor in the department of history and Asian American Studies. Alexander Dieran, a professor of geography at the University of Kansas, also gave his response. Zatsepine's lecture titled "Exploration and Changing Political Landscape in the Eurasian Borderland," dived deep into three specific geographic expeditions undertaken during the 1920s.

Zatsepine began by highlighting the purposes of these expeditions into the Gobi desert, which he showed a map of to describe how it lies between Mongolia and China. He argued that, "the Gobi desert in the 1920s was an experimental site for raw resources and economic development for the neighboring states." This came into play since other nations such as Britain, the U.S., Soviet Union, Germany and Japan wanted to understand the capabilities of the location.

There were three expeditions that Zatsepine focused on, the first being Pyotr Kozlov's Mongol-Tibetan expedition, which lasted from 1923 to 1926. Kozlov

was an officer of the Russian army and was already famous for his discovery of the ruins of Khara-Khoto, a Tangut city. His expeditions reveal the Soviet state's involvement in the region, which reflected Mongolia's shift to a socialist state. "The Soviet scientists were aware of U.S. attention on the area, which brought it to the global stage," stated Zatsepine.

The second expedition that he highlighted was the Roy Chapman Andrews' Central Asiatic expeditions, which lasted from 1922 to 1930. Andrews worked for the American Museum of Natural History and focused his research on archaeology. "The hope of these expeditions was to find evidence of human evolution in the Gobi desert," according to Zatsepine. Sponsored by individuals like John D. Rockefeller, Andrews found fossil remains of dinosaurs and dinosaur eggs, including the skeleton of Protoceratops Andrews, which can be viewed at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Out of all the expeditions, Zatsepine stated that Andrews' was one of the most well documented.

The last of the three expeditions was Sven Hedin's Sino-Swedish expedition from 1927 to 1935. This was a collective effort between the Swedish and German governments. The expedition was different from others because Hedin was required to negotiate with the Chinese government to conduct his research. It wasn't until 1927 that China had a unified government, which meant that past expeditions had to negotiate with various groups in and around the Gobi desert. This expedition also came during a time where "there was rising nationalism in Beijing and Shanghai," said Zatsepine. "From this expedition they discovered rich deposits of iron, oil and gold." Hedin was a controversial figure however, as he was an avid monarchist and would later go on to support the Third Reich. Despite his allegiances, Zatsepine acknowledged that his work "produced volumes of scientific research and information." Unfortunately, this information was later used by the Japanese government in their invasion of China during WWII, said Zatsepine.

To conclude the talk, Zatsepine highlighted the limits and values of these expedi-

tions. He stated that all of these were "expeditions by European guys with motives for their states in mind."

Some limits he mentioned were the lack of local agency, power relations and the mindset of the researchers. Zatsepine stated that "the roles of translators, laborers and indigenous people were extremely downplayed," by all the members of the expeditions. Not to mention, there was a clear power imbalance between the scientists and laborers. Zatsepine also denounced the fact that all of these explorers had imperialist interests that identified the Gobi desert as an area to be exploited.

Yet these expeditions did have their values, as Zatsepine stated that "the attention stimulated the local governments to have an interest in their own affairs." They also led to great discoveries and advances for scientific knowledge. However, this resulted in a "huge amount of fossils, minerals and artifacts being removed," according to Zatsepine. Because of how many things were being taken from the area, the local governments would begin to regulate trade to prevent more artifacts from being taken by European powers.

Zatsepine also touched upon the lack of indigenous voices, women and others who were excluded. As he stated, "expeditions were a male enterprise."

To end the presentation, Alexander Dieran responded to Zatsepine by acknowledging how his research into the topic was "a great challenge to undertake." He also reminded the audience that various textbooks and academics will "often focus on eight regions, but they lump Northeast Asia in with the rest of Asia. Books often have a hard time separating these areas." As a geography professor, Dieran raised the issue of the "complexity of thinking about this geographic imaginary."

Dieran spoke on how the 1920s reflected the shift in power and society for these areas. Traditionally, Mongolia was thought to be this scary, warrior nation. But with the emergence of superpowers like the U.S. and the Soviet Union, Dieran stated that "they knew they were between the hammer and the anvil." Despite the invasive and exploitative nature of these expeditions, "the discovery of mineral deposits and the extraction of them put Mongolia on the global stage," said Dieran.



Alexander Dieran gives his response to Victor Zatsepine's talk.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DESIRAE SIN, STAFF WRITER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

COMICS

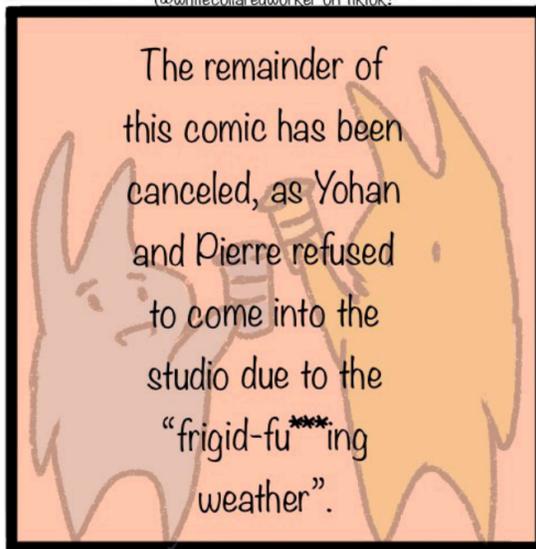


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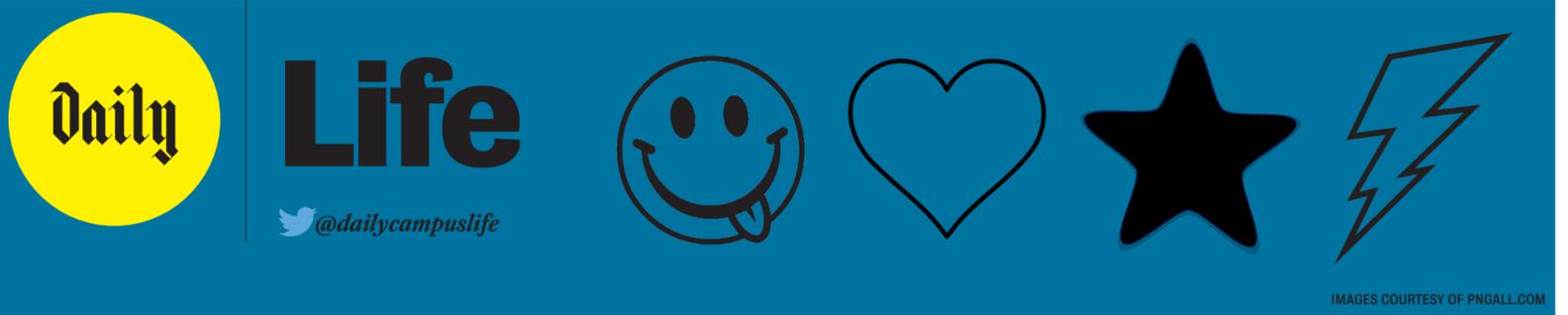


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COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

FEENEY'S FOCUS KEEP HIM OFF THE BALLOT

by Luke Feeney
WEEKLY COLUMNIST
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Much to the disappointment of my parents, I have been fairly checked out of the 2024 presidential election. My associate editor, Dan Stark, wrote a wonderful article last semester that more or less sums up my own feelings about the upcoming election. However, there is one story of the election that has caught and sustained my attention: the increasing attempts by states to remove former President Donald Trump from their election ballots.

As of right now, only two states have successfully removed him from their ballots. On Dec. 19, in a 4-3 ruling, the Colorado Supreme Court found Trump ineligible for the primary on the grounds he committed insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021. Afterwards, Maine's Supreme Court also found Trump ineligible to appear on the ballot on the grounds of insurrection.

The legal basis that both courts used was Section 3 of the 14th Amendment. Also known as the insurrection clause, it bans those who engaged in insurrection from holding office in the United States. It was created with the purpose of preventing former officers of the Confederacy from holding elected office in the post-Civil War United States. However, this is the first time in American history that it has been used to bar someone from holding office.

I believe that Trump should be removed from the 2024 ballot on the grounds of insurrection.

This case is currently on its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which will have the final say regarding Trump's ballot status. I've gone back and forth on how I feel about this. Taking into consideration the current ideological makeup of the court and the general history this country has of not prosecuting current and former presidents, I don't expect either state's ruling to be upheld by the Supreme Court. However, I believe that Trump should be removed from the 2024 ballot on the grounds of insurrection.

First, there are the findings of the year and half long Jan. 6. Committee. One of the major conclusions of the 161-page report was that "Donald Trump purposely disseminated false allegations of fraud in order to overturn the election outcome and raise money. Those lies directly provoked his supporters on Jan. 6."

It's not just through his words that Trump was spreading chaos in our electoral system; there was also his phony elector scheme. Across seven states — Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — electors signed official documents asserting that they were their state's electors. They wrote that Trump, not President Joe Biden, was the lawful winner in these states. This is a blatant violation of election procedure and administration.

This is an issue I've gone back and forth on. On the one hand, I don't love the potential precedent it could create to kick candidates off the ballots; I could see legal floodgates being opened every election cycle with attempts to get certain candidates off the ballot. In addition, Trump technically has not been convicted for insurrection. While he has been indicted on four felony charges, he has yet to be convicted on them.

Under the eyes of the law, Trump is still innocent. However, I believe that if people show you who they truly are, you should believe them, and Trump's go-to move after any electoral failure from either himself or his party is to call the entire process fraudulent.

Going as far back as when he first campaigned in 2016, Trump's go-to move to explain his and his party's electoral shortcomings is to call the entire system rigged. After he lost the Iowa caucus to Zodiac Killer look-alike Ted Cruz, he tweeted out that "Based on the fraud committed by Senator Ted Cruz during the Iowa Caucus, either a new election should take place or Cruz results nullified."

In the buildup to the 2018 mid-term election, an election where

Democrats would take a majority in the House, he tweeted: "Law Enforcement has been strongly notified to watch closely for any ILLEGAL VOTING which may take place in Tuesday's Election (or Early Voting). Anyone caught will be subject to the Maximum Criminal Penalties allowed by law."

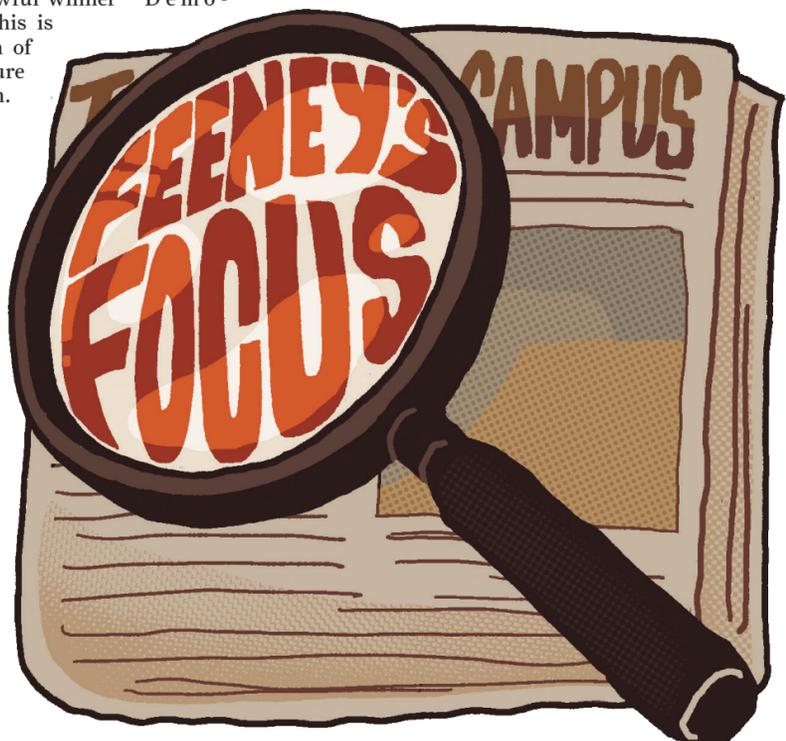
Here is the frustrating thing about this case: it never had to come to court challenges. After the attacks of Jan. 6, Trump was impeached for the second time. Had the required two-thirds majority in order to convict been met, the Senate would have had the power to prevent him from holding office again.

Trump is on the ballot due to the refusal of his own party to meaningfully hold him accountable for his actions. The only true consequence of Trump's actions has been more Republican voters wanting to vote for him than ever before. Coupled with Biden's approval rating sinking to an all-time low, another four years of Trump is a reality we are staring down.

Only in America can trying to overthrow an election make more people want to vote for you. Welcome to democalypse 2024, folks. I need a drink.

Trump's go-to move after any electoral failure from either himself or his party is to call the entire process fraudulent.

“Donald Trump purposely disseminated false allegations of fraud in order to overturn the election outcome and raise money.”



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

Opinion

Huskytalk | What is the best thing \$10 can buy you on campus?

“Insomnia Cookies.”

Madison Yi
Economics
Second Semester



“Probably like a full meal from One Plate, Two Plates.”

Joshua Fishman
Molecular and Cell Biology and Psychology
Second Semester



“Probably some cookies from one of the places downtown or Playa Bowls.”

Christina Smith
Computer Science
Second Semester



“I like a calzone from D.P. Dough, or a party, because most parties are \$10.”

John Asobayire
Computer Science
Second Semester



IMAGE COURTESY OF VECTEEZY

TIKTOK'S EFFECT ON BEAUTY STANDARDS

by Aastha Gupta
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TikTok is littered with posts about “Drunk Elephant 10-year-olds” and the damage they cause to local Sephoras. And though Sephora is likely lamenting their loss of product and money, this newly labeled group of people is indicative of a larger problem that is apparent on TikTok: its effect on how younger generations view beauty.

Across humanity’s existence, TikTok has only been around for a short time. Yet, it has colossally altered the way in which we view ourselves, interact with others and more. So it is no surprise that younger generations face different problems and challenges than those who grew up without social media. In general, social media often imparts unattainable beauty standards and unrealistic expectations upon people. Indeed, people are often showing only their best selves on social media platforms.

On TikTok, young followers of beauty influencers now study skin care routines to imitate them. However, not all these products are safe for young children, who have more delicate skin. Though starting young with a daily skin regimen certainly has benefits, these benefits can only be accessed if they are designed for an individual’s specific needs. This fine print is not often included while scrolling through TikTok videos. Filters also contribute to the construction of unrealistic beauty standards.

So what can be done? The usual, and probably the most simple response, is that we should ban TikTok. Some have argued that eliminating the platform will end all of its problems. But this would also eliminate the good. Besides, changing with the times is often much

more impactful than trying to turn back time. Perhaps creators should begin by addressing their entire audience and being wary of who that entails. Often, the audience of older teen influencers will not be composed of just those who are their peers but also those who are younger. Creators that address misconceptions and build their content around beauty education may help their more impressionable followers understand why influencers may be doing the things they do.

The solution may also lie in the algorithm. Algorithms are often used in social media; they function by taking what people seem to enjoy through how long they may view a post, details they have provided to a site and numerous other factors to show users what they may enjoy most. Though I am not incredibly tech-savvy, there may be ways to ensure that younger children get content that is suitable for their age. However, this solution is one that requires delicacy since it’s important to find the line between directing content to certain groups and restricting content.

Social media platforms have long had an effect on the way we view ourselves. I think perhaps as a community we can remind each other and ourselves that beauty is something that is not meant to be so simple; beauty does not look one certain way. Perhaps we can add seminars on how to navigate social media in a safe manner, just as we once added computer education classes to school curriculums. Social media is not something that will go away soon, and rather than trying to restrict it, we must be aware of it and all of its effects.

RAPID FIRE

POLITICIAN NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

New Year’s resolutions are a cultural staple in the United States. But as attractive as it is to use the auspicious holiday to set goals of self-improvement, resolutions can also be notoriously difficult to stick to. Thankfully, if there’s any group that is capable of making a promise and seeing it through, it’s American elected officials. This week, Opinion writers answer the question: What are the New Year’s resolutions of our politicians?

NELL SRINATH, OPINION EDITOR:
Pennsylvania Senator John Fetterman, in a crusade to alienate even more of his base, will take a firm stance against hoodies and athletic shorts.

DAN STARK, ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR:
Nikki Haley, who will soon drop out of the presidential race, wants to declare war against anybody and everybody.

LUKE FEENEY, WEEKLY COLUMNIST:
Ron DeSantis, current governor of Florida, will learn how to smile and talk to human beings.

TOMAS HINCKLEY, WEEKLY COLUMNIST:
Mitch McConnell plans to get his robot brain repaired so he can stop short-circuiting during press meetings.

ATHENA BROWN, CONTRIBUTOR:
Joe Biden wants to bulk up like the gym bro he is.

SUBMIT TO CULTURE SHOCK

Culture Shock is a column for underrepresented and marginalized UConn students to anonymously discuss their stories and experiences as members of those groups at UConn.

<https://dailycampus.com/culture-shock/>

The Rod Wave: Divine Providence

by **Evan Rodriguez**
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For college basketball fans everywhere, the Jan. 27 matchup between the Providence and Georgetown men's basketball programs represents more than just a simple, hard-nosed Big East matchup.

It is expected to be an all-out war.

Everything, from the passionate anger of Providence fans to the setting of the matchup at Amica Mutual Pavilion, all adds up to one of the most exciting matchups of not just a stacked conference schedule, but the entire college basketball season. In fact, this game has so much buzz behind it that an entire documentary that was released on Monday outlines the source of Friars fans' frustration.

That anger has been connected to the departure of Providence's longtime head coach Ed Cooley. Although one could go on and on with their thoughts of the "Divine Providence" documentary, the bottom line is fairly simple. Fans of the team felt incredibly betrayed by the 2022 Big East Coach of the Year for taking the Hoyas job following the dismissal of the legendary Patrick Ewing. Just when Friars fans felt that things were heating up in the wake of an impressive 2021-22 season that saw Providence finish as Big East regular season champions, Cooley left.



Providence Friars take a team picture after winning against Seton Hall on the road 67-63 on Jan. 24, 2024. The Friars currently have a record of 13-6. PHOTO COURTESY OF @PCFRIARSMBB ON X

While fans of the program certainly had reason to worry following the departure of their former leader, the hiring of current coach Kim English has looked like a fantastic acquisition for Providence. Although the program currently sits at the bottom of a loaded Big East with a conference record of 3-4, they've had to battle without the talented Bryce Hopkins, who went down with an ACL tear in the team's 61-47 loss to Seton Hall on Jan. 3. With the way that English has looked in both his time coaching and competing on the recruiting trail, there should be plenty of

hope for what this franchise can become down the line.

But for now, there's Jan. 27. Following Georgetown's blowout loss to Butler, Cooley was asked for his thoughts on returning to the venue that he once called home.



FILE LOGO/
THE DAILY CAMPUS

"Let's call it what it is. It's going to be an emotional time for all of us, my family. But, it's going to be an opportunity for us," said Cooley. "I'll appreciate the opportunity I had there for 12 years. Incredible school. Incredible leadership there. They have a great team. But time passes. You

move on. It'll be a little emotional until the ball goes up and then once the ball goes up, it'll be another Big East game."

While the current Georgetown coach is certainly used to how intense the AMP environment can be, I personally find it tough to believe how it can be just another Big East game. The negative feelings towards Cooley still sting, and Saturday is the opportunity for fans to let their anger out. It won't be just another conference battle with tough basketball and loud taunts. This game is personal for many Friars fans, and they're certainly going to let themselves be known from tipoff to the final buzzer.

Items may be thrown. Insults will be shouted. The bottom line? It's the AMP at its peak.

However, Cooley was right about one thing. His guys are

going to give this matchup everything they've got, even if they are the heavy underdogs in one of the toughest places to play in all of college basketball. While they have gotten pulverized by top teams like UConn and Marquette during conference play, they have also kept it close against both Seton Hall and Xavier this month. That, combined with the reality that the Hoyas are just 2.5 games back from the Friars in the standings (this article was published before Wednesday's Providence game versus Seton Hall), and you've got the makings for a super entertaining matchup.

Long story short, whether you're a Big East fan or a college basketball fan, everyone should be tuned in at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday. It's going to be incredible.

Huskies in the Pros:

JONES READY FOR AFC CHAMPIONSHIP, MARTIN LOGS DOUBLE-DOUBLE IN THE G-LEAGUE, VITAL LEADING LEGIA WARSZAWA DOWN THE STRETCH

by **CJ Dexter**
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Travis Jones, Ravens set for clash against Kansas City in American Football Conference Championship

Baltimore Ravens defensive lineman Travis Jones is the most recent Husky to be drafted into the NFL, with the franchise selecting him in the third round of last year's draft. The run-stuffing nose tackle finished the regular season with 20 tackles and 1.5 sacks as he and the first-place Ravens get ready for a clash

against Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs on Sunday.

Ex-UConn forward Tyrese Martin scores 19, corrals 14 rebounds in loss to Rio Grande Valley

Former Connecticut forward Tyrese Martin continues to compete for a consistent stint on an NBA roster following his second-round NBA Draft selection in 2022. The Allentown, Pennsylvania native spent the majority of his rookie season on the Atlanta Hawks G-League roster before being signed by the Minnesota Timberwolves this season. Martin has produced solid numbers

in the G-League with the Iowa Wolves this season, averaging 19.2 points and eight rebounds on 47% shooting from the field. On Tuesday, Martin scored 19 points alongside 14 rebounds in the Wolves' 124-120 loss to Rio Grande Valley.

Former UConn guard Christian Vital puts up impressive numbers in the Poland-OBL league

As the state of Connecticut, basketball has risen from the brink of irrelevancy in the American Athletic Conference back to the top of the NCAA mountain in the Big East. Naturally, it can be easy

to forget some of the players that produced but never got a chance to compete in March during the Huskies' rebuilding period. One of those players was 6-foot-1 combo guard Christian Vital.

As a native of Queens Village, New York, he was the lowest touted recruit in Kevin Ollie's 2016 recruiting class, one that included McDonald's All-American Alterique Gilbert, Juwan Durham (No. 53 in ESPN100), Vance Jackson (No. 79 in ESPN100) and Mamadou Diarra (No. 94 in ESPN100). Yet, Vital scored over 700 points, more than the rest of

the recruiting class combined, in his time with the Huskies.

While he certainly wasn't here for the prettiest days in program history, Vital continued to improve every season and finished his time at UConn with 13.7 points and 5.2 rebounds across 127 career games before pursuing a professional career overseas. In his first season with Legia Warszawa in the Poland-OBL league, the former Connecticut guard leads his team in scoring with 18 points per game. Vital previously bounced around the G-League before heading to Poland to continue his career.



Travis Jones checks into a game against the Cincinnati Bengals where the Baltimore Ravens would go on to win this game 34-20 on Sunday, Nov. 16, 2023. Travis Jones is the most recent Husky to be drafted to the NFL. PHOTO COURTESY OF @PFF_RAVENS ON X

Sports

Photo of the Day | Locked in.



the UConn women's hockey team won their game against Maine 3-1 on Jan. 21, 2024. Their record is now 16-6-2.
PHOTOGRAPH BY MERCER FERGUSON/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sargeant's Orders: Exploring the Knicks' trade deadline options

by Connor Sargeant

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The New York Knicks played exceptional basketball this season, owning a 27-17 record and looking to win their first championship in over 50 years. However, before we can get to the excitement of playoff basketball, NBA teams have one major event coming up: the NBA trade deadline. The Feb. 8 deadline is quickly approaching, and this is an opportunity for teams out of contention to dump players in an attempt to rebuild. It also serves an essential role for contenders to add important depth or get that "one player" who can put all the pieces together. The Knicks have numerous options to consider before the deadline, and we will talk about a player that puts them in the best position to win: Malcolm Brogdon.

Amid his eighth season in the Association, the Trail Blazers guard is a longtime NBA veteran and no stranger to big-time games, seeing the postseason in five different seasons. While Brogdon isn't the superstar scorer that would put New York over the top, he would fit in immediately. Since the Dec. 30 trade that shipped Immanuel Quickley to the Raptors, the Knicks need a veteran backup at the one for Jalen Brunson. While Miles McBride has performed well in the interim, he is only 23 years old. This could be a pressing issue in the mind of head coach Tom Thibodeau because he



Julius Randle celebrates his win as the New York Knicks defeat the Brooklyn Nets with a score of 108-103. The New York Knicks are currently the fifth seed in the Eastern conference with a record of 27-17.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @KNICKSBEAST ON X

tends to rely on veterans significantly more than younger, less experienced players. Experience is important, and Brogdon has that. The veteran guard is a proven bench piece come playoff time, and we do not know how McBride will respond to such a massive situation. After all, in New York's last postseason appearance, the only guy who seemed to do anything suitable was Brunson, with everyone else's efficiency numbers falling off a cliff. The Knicks need proven postseason scorers to fill in for Brunson, and Brogdon gives that stability.

The next player we will discuss is Bruce Brown Jr., whom the Knicks will most likely land.

Brown was a part of the trade that saw Pascal Siakam join the Indiana Pacers, as Toronto is heading towards a complete rebuild. The consensus is that the Raptors will try to flip Brown for more

draft capital, and New York has emerged as a likely suitor. The 27-year-old is a small forward but acquiring him would be huge. The price to get him would comprise something similar to Quentin Grimes, Evan Fournier and a first-round pick. This trade benefits them in both the short and long term. Brown increases the amount of playmaking possible when Brunson is out of the game, not to mention he plays exceptionally well on the defensive end. His \$23 million team option next summer opens up many options if the Knicks want to trade for a star in the offseason. Brown was a member of last year's Denver Nuggets squad that won its first championship in franchise history. This is a green flag for New York, as the 27-year-old has experience playing in big games and was a valuable contributor off Denver's bench. Grimes is an extremely streaky shooter. His efficiency was much lower in the playoffs. He has failed to find his mark offensively this year, and getting an upgrade in Brown makes sense. The Knicks

would finally get some value out of Fournier, who has sat on the bench for most of the year.

Their third and final option is to do nothing. Contrary to popular belief, the Knicks doing this is not the end of the world, as they are in a position to compete with anyone else in the Eastern Conference. The front office must look at themselves in the mirror and ask, "Is this an NBA championship-contending team?" While some fans think this team is, the playoff gameplan of Brunson playing 40 minutes a night could come back to bite them. As great as Brunson is, that takes a toll on the body. You need someone serviceable to come in when he needs a breather. Someone who can play decently on the ball and play solid defense is what who New York needs.

If they think McBride is that guy, then doing nothing is their best option. His lack of experience is a significant question. You know what you're getting with Brogdon as a postseason performer, but you will need to burn draft capital to acquire him.

A repercussion of that trade is that it may hinder the future development of McBride. He has never seen extended time, and if New York refuses to use him, they should play him to try and increase his future trade value instead of letting a good player go for a fraction of his actual value.

There is much time from now to Feb. 8. What the Knicks cannot do is give up multiple first-round picks. Not only can they monitor the draft for prospective talent, but they can bundle them in a future trade to land a big-name player. However, priority one should be to make a deep run this year. New York is in a solid position to do so; Brunson is putting together yet another all-star season. Not to mention, since the acquisition of OG Anunoby, they have been on a tear with a 10-2 record following the move. They are a different team in a good position to win it all. However, the only thing we can do is sit and watch to see what Knicks President of Basketball Operations, Leon Rose, decides is best for the franchise's future.



LOGO BY VAN NGUYEN/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Spin Cycle: Jones, Ravens look to advance to Super Bowl

by Nick Spinalli

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One former member of the UConn football team will have his chance to play in this year's Super Bowl if his team is able to win on Saturday.

Defensive tackle Travis Jones and the Baltimore Ravens have achieved success all season. After clinching the American Football Conference's No. 1 seed ahead of the playoffs, they gained a convincing victory over the Houston Texans that advanced them to the AFC Championship game. Before Jones had a chance to show his

skills on a national stage, he was a young man from the town of New Haven, Connecticut. Jones played football at Wilbur Cross High School, where he garnered the attention of college programs. Eventually, Jones decided to commit to UConn on a football scholarship.

Jones played three seasons as a Husky from 2018-2021, having missed the 2020 season due to COVID-19. In his three seasons, the lineman was effective, appearing in 35 games and tallying 133 tackles, 47 solo and 86 assisted. He had 8.5 sacks to erase 56 yards from opponents. In addition, he had 19 tackles for a loss, which resulted in oppo-

nents losing 85 total yards, and recovered one fumble. Jones' performance at the 2022 Reese's senior bowl garnered the attention of NFL scouts and earned him an invite to the 2022 NFL Draft combine.

A solid combine performance led to Jones' selection in the third round, 76th overall by Baltimore, making him the 43rd Connecticut Husky to be drafted into the NFL.

Jones has grown into a solid contributor early in his professional career. He played in 15 games for Baltimore during his rookie campaign before appearing in all 17 games this season. As a rookie, Jones recorded 36

tackles, 20 solo and 16 assisted, while also recording 1.5 sacks, two passes defended and 8.5 stuffed. This season, Jones tallied 24 tackles, 14 solo and 10 assisted, alongside one sack and one pass defended. The 24-year-old has appeared in two playoff games at this point in his career, recording two total tackles in those games.

The only obstacle standing between the Ravens and a potential Super Bowl appearance is the Patrick Mahomes-led Kansas City Chiefs. The game is expected to be a shootout as both quarterbacks will attempt to outplay the other.

Despite the notable headlines entering the contest and the fact that UConn does not have the same notoriety as other collegiate football programs, it's fun to see a former Husky have a chance to achieve every little kid's dream on the nation's biggest stage.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Column: Ryan Tverberg is the Maple Leafs' next offensive weapon

by Cole Stefan
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Auston Matthews, Mitch Marner, John Tavares and William Nylander. With those four high-scoring forwards and over 200 points between them, there is no way the Toronto Maple Leafs can get any better offensively, right?

Maybe not in the short term.

Both Tavares and Marner have one more season under contract before they hit free agency. If neither of them returns, Toronto needs a plan for building their offense and complementing their stars. Matthews and Nylander both signed extensions that will keep them with the Maple Leafs until at least 2028, but those two alone will not be enough. Sure, they can grab star forwards in free agency over the next few off-seasons, but Toronto has a wealth of talent in its own backyard.

That is where the Maple Leafs' young stars come into play, with one in particular who could be a long-term asset. No, I am not talking about former Minnesota Golden Gopher Matthew Knies or Dallas Stars forward Jason Robertson's younger brother, Nicholas. I am talking about 21-year-old forward Ryan Tverberg.

Before beginning his collegiate career in Storrs, Tverberg spent time with the Toronto Jr. Canadiens organization, advancing from their U16 team to the Ontario Junior Hockey League. The Ontario native scored 26 goals and 51 points in 47 games with the junior A team during the 2019-20 season. 38 of Tverberg's points and 20 of his goals that season came before he committed to Harvard University in December of 2019.

Six months after the COVID-19 pandemic cancelled the 2020 OJHL playoffs, Toronto drafted the 5-foot-11 forward with the 213th pick in the National Hockey League Entry



Ryan Tverberg sits in the Toronto Marlies locker room after scoring four goals in a 8-0 win against the Belleville Senators on Friday, Jan. 12. Tverberg led the team in goals this game. PHOTO COURTESY OF @TORONTOMARLIES ON X

Draft. Before he started his professional career, the 12th-round pick in the seventh-round selection flipped from the Crismon to head coach Mike Cavanaugh and the UConn men's hockey team. Whether the Ivy League's cancellation of all sports in the 2020-21 academic year impacted his decision or not remains uncertain, but the Ice Bus got a superstar.

Tverberg hit the ground running from his arrival a semester early the following spring with seven points in 14 games. Following that rookie campaign, the seventh-round pick took a major leap forward as a scoring machine. His 32 points in 36 games as a sophomore earned Tverberg a Second Team All-American selection and a Hobey Baker Award nomination as college hockey's best player. Following his junior season, where he led the Huskies with 16 goals, the Ontario native signed a three-year entry-level contract with the team that drafted him.

It brought Tverberg to the Maple Leafs' American Hockey League affiliate, the Toronto Marlies. He did not score once in the seven games he appeared in last season, but the seventh-round draft pick made up for his slow start at the

professional level with 20 points in 20 contests as of yesterday. Despite missing almost two months with a leg injury, the Ontario native is tied for seventh on the Marlies in scoring with University of Denver alum Dylan Gambrell.

Against the Belleville Senators nearly two weeks ago, Tverberg became the first player in team history (and ninth in the AHL's history) to score four goals in one period. He scored three times on the power play and all four times from around the same spot on the ice where Washington Capitals' left-winger Alexander Ovechkin routinely buries the puck. While it might be a stretch to compare a 21-year-old center to a left winger who ranks second in NHL history with 830 career goals, the two-time Hockey East All-Star Team selection could become a major scoring threat.

Getting to the Leafs' first line, let alone their top six, will not be easy for Tverberg, even with the skillset that he has. Matthews and Nylander reign supreme as the team's top scorers, but the Ontario native could get a jumpstart to his NHL career as a valuable bottom-six forward piece.

Currently, Toronto's bottom six, as projected by the Daily Faceoff, includes veterans Max Domi and Calle Järnkrok on the third line.

The entire fourth line has as many points combined as Domi does (24) as of yesterday. Tverberg spent most of his UConn career as a center, but Elite Prospects acknowledges that he could also play on the right wing. Both David Kämpf and Noah Gregor are listed as centers on the NHL's website, so having the point-per-game forward play to either of their rights could be massive for Toronto's forward depth.

Should he go on a noticeable tear early on with the fourth line, Tverberg could see significant playing time on the Maple Leafs'

third line. A spot on the second powerplay unit might also be in the cards; the Huskies' former assistant captain had nine in three years in Storrs. It would provide a huge boost for a Toronto offense averaging 3.49 goals on 33.2 shots.

Knies' playoff performance last year is Tverberg's potential ceiling when he gets promoted. The former Golden Gopher went from playing in a national championship game to assisting Tavares' overtime winner that broke Toronto's 20-year playoff series drought in the same building within three weeks. Recording exactly one point (coincidentally in Tampa against the Lightning) in three regular-season games, Knies became an impactful left winger in the playoffs and contributed to the Leafs' success until he got injured. It might be hard to replicate what the 2021 second-round pick did, but with his energy and offensive skillset, the Ontario native could come close.

Calgary Flames defenseman Yan Kuznetsov (who was also drafted in 2020) was the most recent UConn alum to make their NHL debut on Jan. 9. While no one knows specifically when it could happen, Tverberg will be the next former Ice Bus star in the pros. Once he is in the big leagues, the Ontario native will have as much of an impact with his team as Tage Thompson currently does with the Buffalo Sabres.



LOGO BY ANNA IORFINO, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Husky History: Dan Orlovsky

by Sean Ahern
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Hello reader, and welcome to another edition of Husky History, the column that highlights a former UConn athlete and their accomplishments at the professional level.

This week's edition will focus on Dan Orlovsky, a current American football analyst who is regarded as one of the most successful UConn football players in program history.

It is known that UConn fans pull for homegrown talent, and Orlovsky is no exception. Born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, he attended Shelton High School where he led the football team to great success. He completed 341 of 559 passes for 5,265 yards and 51 touchdowns in three seasons.

In 2000, Orlovsky led the Gaels to an undefeated record and a Class LL state championship. For his efforts, the quarterback was named Connecticut's 2000 Gatorade Player of the Year. In 2017, the state champion returned to his hometown for his induction into the Shelton High School Hall of Fame.

At the end of his high school career, Orlovsky received offers from Purdue and Michigan State, but turned them down to help lead the Huskies to a success that was not common within the program at the time. It was his first step to win the hearts of Husky Nation.

As a freshman, he emerged as the starting quarterback after an injury to former starter Keron Henry. It was an underwhelming season for the 2-9 Huskies, but Orlovsky threw for 1,379 yards and nine touchdowns. While it was a lost season, his potential for leading the team was evident.

Orlovsky returned for his

sophomore season to take full reign of the starting quarterback position. Almost coincidentally, it was UConn's first full season as a Division 1-A school and their last season playing on campus in the former Memorial Stadium. It demonstrated the new age UConn football entered as Orlovsky matured into a dynamic team leader.

As a sophomore, he threw 19 touchdowns and compiled 2,488 yards. Despite the team starting out 2-6, the Huskies ended the season 6-6 behind Orlovsky's electric offensive output. Most notably, UConn scored 61 and 63 points in back-to-back wins to jumpstart a four-game win streak to end the season.

The following season featured Orlovsky at his most dominant form. The Husky threw a career high 33 touchdowns in 12 games for 3,485, ranking seventh in the entire country. One of his highlights came during a loss when UConn traveled to NC State, facing off against future first round pick Philip Rivers. Orlovsky threw for 299 yards to River's 234, showcasing that he could perform when the lights were the brightest.

“He truly brought life to the program and gives hope that one day the team can return victory.”

As a senior in 2004, Orlovsky did something no other UConn quarterback did at the time: leading UConn to its first bowl win over Toledo in the Motor City Bowl. He was named MVP of the game for his two touchdowns and 239 yards.

The former Husky still

ranks first in program history in pass completions, pass attempts, passing yards and passing touchdowns. He truly brought new life to the program and gives hope that one day the team can return victory.

After college, Orlovsky was drafted in the fifth round of the 2005 NFL Draft by the Detroit Lions. He spent the majority of his career as a backup, starting only 12 games in 12 seasons, totaling 3,132 yards and 15 touchdowns in 26 games.

Orlovsky also spent time with the Houston Texans, Indianapolis Colts and Tampa Bay Buccaneers before retiring from the professional game in 2017.

He couldn't stay away though, and joined ESPN in 2018 as an analyst. He started appearing on ESPN's "NFL Live" in 2019 and took on a full-time role in 2020 to become one of the most recognizable faces on the channel.

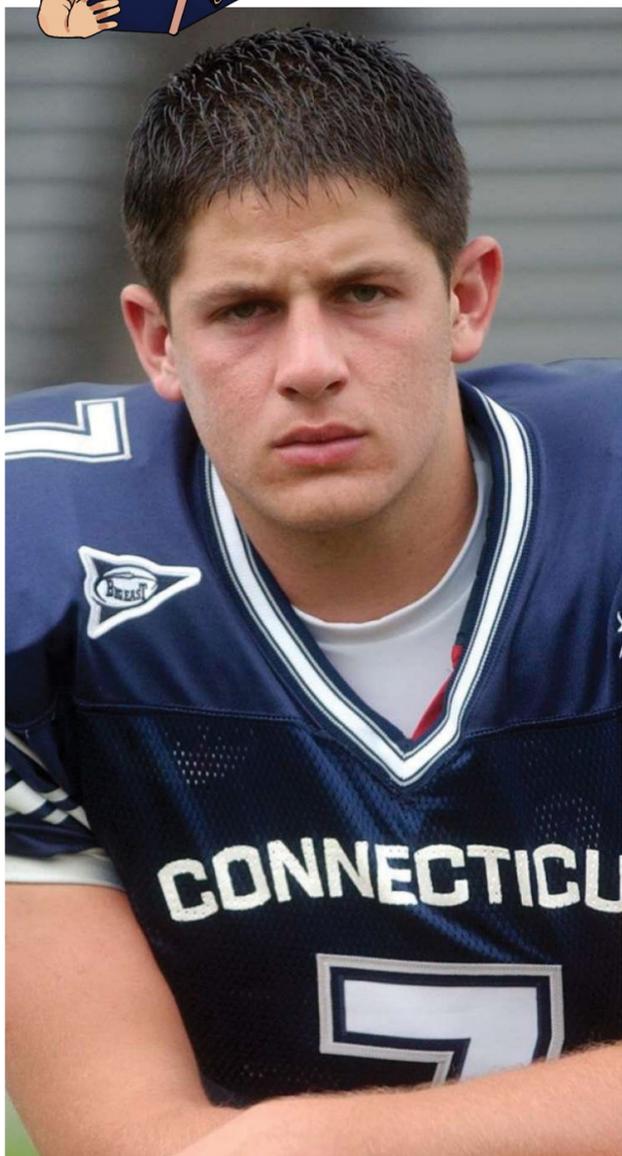
His analyst career has only recently begun, but those around him recognize his knowledge and passion for the game. He has been a great addition to the program.

It is always refreshing to see a former UConn athlete in the spotlight after their playing careers end. It's been two decades since Orlovsky last roamed Rentschler Field, but Husky fans are grateful for the impact he left on the program.

“It is always refreshing to see a former UConn athlete in the spotlight after their playing careers end.”



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



Bridgeport native Dan Orlovsky poses in his UConn uniform. Dan is now an analyst for ESPN. PHOTO COURTESY OF @DANORLOVSKY ON X



Sports

Chris's Column: Men's college basketball contenders, Cinderellas and more for March Madness

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We are now entering the half-way point of the 2023-24 men's college basketball season and conference play is underway. Every year, people fill out their brackets, read up on team analytics and tell their friends what dark horse team they have to win the national championship. While correctly guessing the March Madness tournament is virtually impossible, let's look at which teams currently appear to be favored to win the 2024 NCAA March Madness tournament and others that could make surprise runs.

Heavy Favorites
UConn Huskies - Adama Sanogo, Jordan Hawkins and Andre Jackson Jr., all part of UConn's 2023 championship campaign, departed for the NBA Draft in the offseason. Dan Hurley's Huskies won the tournament last year with an impressive offense, beating opponents by an average of 20 points. Their only losses this year are to Kansas and Seton Hall, and they have seven Quad 1 wins, tied for the most in the country. The Huskies limit teams to 43.1% shooting and have one of the highest block rates in college basketball. With the help of point guard Tristen Newton and what looks to be the transfer portal addition of the year Cam Spencer, the Huskies could be the first team to win back-to-back titles since the 2007 Florida Gators. Sophomore center Donovan Clingan is slowly getting back to speed after missing some time with a nagging foot injury. Clingan is widely known for his exceptional rim protection, and if he can stay healthy and have other starters like Alex Karaban, Stephon Castle, Hassan Diarra and Samson Johnson continue their strong play, they will be a difficult team to beat in the tournament.

Purdue Boilermakers - Massive center Zach Edey is having another exceptional season and has improved his efficiency. The Boilermakers have defeat-

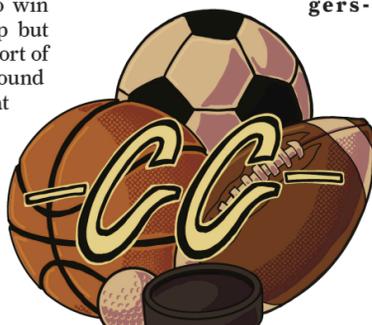


UConn secures victory over Creighton with a final score of 62-48. The Huskies dominated the court in a thrilling matchup, showcasing their prowess and skill in tonight's basketball game.
 PHOTO BY JORDAN ARNOLD, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

ed five top-25 teams. Purdue choked and lost to the 16-seeded Fairleigh Dickinson in the first round last year. Game planning for the 7-foot-4 center will be challenging enough for teams, and when you add that they're one of the best three-point shooting teams in the country, Purdue will be a tough out. In the last few years, the Boilermakers have been good enough to win the national championship but faltered early. Anything short of the Final Four this time around will be another year of "what could have been" and disappointment for head coach Matt Painter.

North Carolina Tar Heels - Following a disappointing season that saw UNC miss the tournament, the Tar Heels are back on track to enter this week as the No. 3 ranked team in the country. They are 8-0 in Atlantic Coast Conference play and have an overall record of 16-3. Head coach Hubert Davis is getting his team back to their Carolina winning basketball formula. The Heels lost in the national championship two years ago and are making a case for why they could get back to that stage. This team is constantly improving, has an impressive resume and hasn't played their "best basketball"

yet. Senior guard RJ Davis leads the ACC, averaging 20.4 points per game with a three-point percentage of 41.9%. With the help of senior forward Armando Bacot, who averages 10.3 rebounds per game, and freshman guard Elliot Cadeau's passing prowess, the Tar Heels will be a tough team to beat in the bracket.



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Princeton Tigers - Princeton shocked the college basketball world last year, making it to the Sweet 16 as a 15-seed. We could see the Tigers shake up the tournament and make some noise again, averaging 78.7 points per game with an effective field goal percentage of 56.7%. Keep an eye out for sophomore guard Xaivian Lee and forward Caden Pierce, who lead their team in scoring and rebounding.

McNeese State Cowboys - A

one Final Four appearance in the last five seasons. The Tigers are in search of their first Quad 1 win despite leading the SEC. Dominant big Johni Broome and point guard Aden Holloway's biggest tests will be in February when the Tigers face two tough SEC juggernauts in the No. 6 Kentucky Wildcats and No. 5 Tennessee Volunteers.

Cinderella Teams
Indiana State - Led by former Division II coach Josh Schertz, the Sycamores are a sleeper team that may pave their way into the tournament. After a tough loss to MVC conference team Drake, their offense remains one of the most slept on in Division I basketball. Helping towards a KenPom ranking at 43, Southern Indiana transfer Isaiah Swope and South Florida transfer Ryan Conwell have been excellent and efficient.

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McNeese State Cowboys - A

college basketball fan's dream is a no-name team that could disrupt the bracket. Led by former LSU head coach Will Wade, the Cowboys have a 15-2 record and have collected huge wins over VCU and Michigan. TCU transfer Shahada Wells leads the team with 19.7 points per game, and UTSA transfer DJ Richard, alongside other transfers, have chipped in for what could be a well-rounded 12-seed. With a KenPom ranking at No. 87, the Cowboys could wreck brackets.

More on March Madness
 There are other teams that could make a surprise run in winning it all. If Arizona can overcome struggles against centers and maintain their top-10 offense and defense, they have the potential to make a run. Duke hasn't reached their full potential and could challenge rival North Carolina for the ACC title. Kansas has a lack of depth, but with freshman Johnny Furphy and Michigan transfer Hunter Dickinson, they should be considered too.

The 2024 March Madness tournament will be an unpredictable one with top contenders and potential Cinderella stories. Last year was one of the most exciting tournaments with a ton of upsets. Expect this year to be even more exciting.



Braden Smith, a player for the Purdue Boilermakers, is celebrating his 700th win in Mackey Arena in their win against Michigan, 99-67 on Tuesday, Jan. 23. Purdue's record is currently 18-2.
 PHOTO COURTESY OF @BOILERBALL ON X

WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

UConn SCOREBOARD

vs. **89** vs. **65**
Women's Basketball Tuesday

Upcoming Games

vs.
Men's Ice Hockey, 4 p.m. Friday | Hartford, Conn.

vs.
Women's Basketball, 6 p.m. Friday Storrs, Conn.

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