



UConn's Innovation Quest will kick off Feb. 7



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INNOVATION QUEST

from ideas to prototypes to companies

The UConn Innovation Quest is an annual event that gives students the opportunity to construct a project or idea to develop into a business. The event consists of virtual workshops and a competition.

by Sara Bedigian
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The University of Connecticut will be hosting its annual Innovation Quest this semester, where students are given opportunities to develop their innovative ideas into a business.

There will be four virtual workshops that will provide participants access to mentors and give assistance and feedback in the beginning stages of their ideas. The first kickoff workshop will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 6:30 p.m. You can register for the workshop on the Innovation Quest website. The subsequent workshops will be held on Feb. 14, Feb. 28 and March 6 at 6:30 pm.

The Innovation Quest (iQ) workshops, while not required, are highly encouraged for students who are interested in applying to the competition, according to their website.

The Innovation Quest competition is open to all UConn students, undergraduates and graduates, as well as alumni who have graduated within one year. There is no major requirement, as students from over 82 majors have represented nearly all of UConn's Schools and Colleges since the first Innovation Quest in 2012, according to their website.

The competition application opens on Thursday, March 7, at midnight, and closes on Wednesday, March 20, at 11:59 p.m. There is no cost to apply.

The top 10 finalists will be given the opportunity to continue their journey into the summer with the inQbator program, a series of six intensive workshops over six weeks. These workshops will provide participants with a more in-depth crash course on how to get their businesses off the ground, according to their website. The program will run from May 8 to June 14. At the end of the program, the top plans will be funded. The first-place prize is \$15,000, the second-place prize is \$10,000 and the third-place prize is \$5,000.

According to the Innovation Quest website, all potential projects and ideas will be considered for the competition. However, there are estab-

lished criteria for students to obtain funding and go further in the quest.

The website said they prefer projects that demonstrate and validate the novel idea through prototypes, ideas with high potential for commercialization and ideas that are paradigm shifts to a broad new market.

Past finalists have gone to further their business in the real world. Raina Jain, winner of the 2021 Innovation Quest, created a "QueenBee" immune support supplement. Jain used the opportunities from iQ to propel an idea that began when she was in high school into a successful business.

Lexy Vecchio, winner of the 2022 Innovation Quest, created a video game called "Here There Be Bears" to help

humanize the experiences of PTSD in an interactive media project that is part film, part escape room, part virtual reality video game.

"I'm grateful that Innovation Quest gave me access to the financial and educational resources to turn my mental-health game concept into a growing company, Ursa Mayhem Media," Vecchio said in her testimonial, which can be found on the website. "iQ gives participants access to fantastic mentorship from business professionals willing to share their well-earned knowledge and guide participants into further business development."

More information about the 2024 Innovation Quest can be found at <https://innovationquest.uconn.edu/>.

What to know about changes to this year's FAFSA application for college students

(AP) — A new version of the federal student aid application known as the FAFSA is now available to all college applicants for the 2024-2025 school year.

The new Free Application for Federal Student Aid was designed to make it easier for students and parents to apply and to make more of them eligible for funding.

Students can usually fill out the FAFSA starting in October, but the 2024-2025 version only became available last week because the Department of Education

was still working on the new form.

Students and families experienced limited availability and glitches during a soft launch last week.

As of Monday, over a million students had successfully submitted applications, according to the Department of Education. Every year, more than 17 million students fill out the FAFSA.

The relaunch brings major changes such as fewer questions, the ability to list more colleges and availability in more languages. However,

the update means students will get their financial aid offers later than usual.

Here's what you need to know:

HOW DOES THE FAFSA WORK?

The FAFSA is a free government application that uses financial information from you and your family to determine whether you can get financial aid from the federal government to pay for college.

The FAFSA will send your financial information to the schools you say you are interested in attending. It pre-

viously only allowed you to send your information to 10 schools, but the new application allows you to send your application to up to 20. Each school that admits you will send you a financial aid package. The amount of financial aid you get depends on each institution.

The application is also used to determine eligibility for other federal student aid programs, like work-study and loans, as well as state and school aid. Sometimes, private, merit-based scholarships also require FAFSA in-

formation to determine if you qualify.

WHEN WILL THE 2024-2025 FAFSA BE AVAILABLE?

Starting Tuesday, the Department of Education said the FAFSA will be available to everyone 24 hours a day.

WHO SHOULD FILL OUT THE FAFSA?

Anyone planning to attend college next year. Both first-time college students and returning students can apply for the FAFSA. Many decide

See FAFSA, p. 2

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not to apply thinking their family's income is too high to be considered, but all students are advised to fill out the application.

Students and parents can use the federal student aid estimator to get an early approximation of their financial package.

WHAT ARE THE KEY CHANGES FOR THE NEW FAFSA?

In general, the relaunch of the application is meant to make the process smoother for students and their families. The Education Department also said the relaunch will increase eligibility for financial aid for low- and middle-income students.

"Most students and families will be able to complete the process in less time and we'll see more students qualify for need-based aid," said Justin Draeger, president of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

Here are the key changes:

— FSA IDs

Starting this year, everyone who needs to provide information for the FAFSA must create an FSA ID.

In previous years, only the student and one parent needed to have an FSA ID. For the 2024-2025 form, anyone who needs to provide information,

such as the student's spouse, biological or adoptive parent, or the parent's spouse, must have an individual FSA ID.

To create an FSA ID, contributors need their Social Security number and email address.

— Student Aid Index

The new FAFSA will replace the Expected Family Contribution with a different formula called the Student Aid Index that will help determine the amount that each student can receive in financial aid.

Both formulas consider the income and assets of the student and their parents and include both taxed and untaxed income. But unlike the old formula, the new one won't benefit families with multiple students in college. The new formula will allow students from families that are not required to file federal income taxes to automatically be considered for a high financial aid amount.

— IRS Data Retrieval Tool

The updated FAFSA will include fewer questions, which will make the application quicker to fill out. However, all contributors must give their consent for their IRS information to be directly imported into the FAFSA.

In previous years, it was optional to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool. Now, if a con-

tributor doesn't consent to having their information imported, the student will not be eligible for financial aid.

— More languages available

The FAFSA will be available in the 11 most common languages. Previously it was only available in English and Spanish.

— More eligibility for Federal Pell Grants

In the 2024-2025 award year, more students will be eligible to receive a federal Pell Grant. According to the Education Department, an estimated 610,000 new students will be eligible for a grant. It will also allow 1.5 million more students to receive the maximum Pell Grant award, which will bring the number of students who are eligible for the maximum award to over 5.2 million. The maximum federal Pell Grant award available last year was \$7,395.

DOES THE FAFSA TAKE INFLATION INTO ACCOUNT?

As part of the relaunch, the Education Department was supposed to include the most recent inflation data in the Student Aid Index. However, the department didn't update the inflation level when the FAFSA launched. During the first month of being available, the application kept the inflation level from April

of 2020 rather than April of 2023, the Washington Post first reported. This omission would've made some students qualify for a smaller financial aid award.

On Tuesday, the Education Department said it would update the numbers in time for the 2024-2025 FAFSA, NPR first reported. But this could mean more delays for students, Draeger said.

"Adjusting these inflationary numbers is the right thing to do, and should have been done from the beginning. Unfortunately, because the Department is making these updates so late in the financial aid processing cycle, students will now pay the price in the form of additional delays in financial aid offers and compressed decision-making timelines," said Draeger in a press release.

WHEN CAN I EXPECT TO KNOW MY FINANCIAL AID AWARD?

Since the process has been delayed this year, students will begin to receive their offers later than usual. If a student fills out the application as soon as it's available, their listed colleges won't receive their information until potentially the end of January, Draeger said.

"There will be a bit of a gap and potentially delay so we ask for a little bit of patience," Draeger said.

In previous years, colleges would get information about students shortly after they started submitting the FAFSA in October. That meant students would receive their financial aid awards along with their acceptance letters in January.

Draeger recommends that students regularly check their desired college's website for new relevant deadlines.



The Wilbur Cross Building overlooks the Great Lawn on the northeast side of the UConn Storrs campus. The building houses many student services, including the Office of the Bursar.

FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Daily Campus

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The Daily Campus

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Includes on an email
- 4 Quite often
- 8 Regimen for injured athletes
- 13 Infield bounce
- 14 Burn slightly
- 15 Walked proudly
- 16 *Glide around a rink
- 18 "If nothing changes ..."
- 19 Manicurist's application
- 20 Delivery vehicle
- 22 Eucalyptus, for one
- 23 Fries topping
- 24 *Angel who's a three-time AL MVP
- 26 "Now You See Me" actress Fisher
- 29 Set of beliefs
- 30 *Toll road
- 34 Filled with cargo
- 37 Boxer Muhammad
- 38 Part of a place setting
- 41 Blunder
- 42 Threatening forecast
- 44 *Radioactive decay emission
- 46 Honking flock
- 49 December number
- 50 *Ace at a poker table
- 53 Idris of "The Suicide Squad"
- 57 Thermometer type
- 58 Feel regret
- 59 Not moving
- 61 "The World Is Not Enough" actress Richards
- 63 Swerve back and forth, as a car's rear end, or a feature of the answer to each starred clue
- 65 "Coming up next ..."
- 66 Pennsylvania's Gem City
- 67 Pharmaceutical watchdog gp.
- 68 Metal for construction beams
- 69 Copier paper pack
- 70 "Of course!"

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65							66					67		
68							69					70		

By Doug Peterson

1/29/24

DOWN

- 1 Chocolate morsels
- 2 Chocolate drink
- 3 Bit of witchcraft
- 4 Poses questions
- 5 "Nancy Drew" actress Lewis
- 6 Cheerios grain
- 7 Rome's ___ Fountain
- 8 ACLU concerns
- 9 Country north of Ethiopia
- 10 One with a souped-up ride
- 11 French farewell
- 12 Under siege
- 15 More reasonable
- 17 Protest without marchers
- 21 Dog breeders' org.
- 24 "Let's ___ a Deal"
- 25 "I'm all ears!"
- 27 Froths
- 28 Held a match to
- 30 Univ. aides
- 31 Last: Abbr.
- 32 Waterway that translates to "big river"
- 33 Shakespeare's lang.
- 35 Notable time period

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

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1/29/24

- 36 Towel off
- 39 Pocketed, as a billiard ball
- 40 Brief "As I see it"
- 43 Tachometer marking
- 45 On the ball
- 47 Molelike mammal
- 48 ___ de cologne
- 50 Musical conclusions
- 51 "There ___ enough hours in the day!"
- 52 Send for a second opinion
- 54 Like kale
- 55 Back of a 45
- 56 Volume of maps
- 59 Home to seven countries whose names end in "-stan"
- 60 Not us
- 62 Fa follower
- 64 Hot reaction

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THE SMILE'S 'WALL OF EYES:' TOO MUCH 'RADIO,' MISSING THE 'HEAD'

by Henry St. Pierre
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It's been about seven and a half years since Radiohead released their last album, 2016's "A Moon Shaped Pool." The band last toured over five years ago, leaving many fans to wonder what would befall upon one of the most influential rock bands of all time. While several band mem-

bers have become involved with various side projects, The Smile emerged in 2020, fronted by Radiohead's mastermind Thom Yorke and guitarist Jonny Greenwood. Joining them is experimental jazz drummer Tom Skinner.

The band released their debut album in 2022, "A Light for Attracting Attention," to a mostly positive, albeit mixed, reception. While many praised the band for carrying the Ra-

diohead torch, others criticized the trio for its derivative sound.

The band released their sophomore album, "Wall of Eyes," on Jan. 26, once again showcasing Yorke and Greenwood's propensity for ethereal and melancholic sounds. Several cuts throughout the record feel

like B-sides from an album.

felt almost reminiscent of the Radiohead song "How to Disappear Completely," a similarity that can be felt multiple times throughout this album. The song's anxious 5/4 groove slowly fades into disjointed guitars and droning strings, leading the listener into the next song.

While the album's opener feels very familiar, "Teleharmonic" sees the band take a much different approach to their sound. Skinner's drumming shines on this cut, heavily influenced by Afro-Cuban jazz. Yorke's vocals sound much different from what many are used to, forgoing his whisper-singing style in favor of a bold and strong tone. "Read the Room" borrows heavily from Krautrock, a progressive rock style that emerged in Germany during the early 1970s. Greenwood's guitar work stands out on this track particularly, showcasing his ability to create cold, discordant melodies that are as intriguing as they are unnerving.

"Under Our Pillows" is on the longer side, clocking in at over six minutes, with a disjointed math rock feel. The 5/4 groove slowly morphs into more ethereal strings, harkening back to earlier in the album. The last two minutes of the song showcase the band's technical ability to create dissonant, spacey soundscapes. "Under Our Pillows" ends with an eerie ambient passage, complete with metallic bells and whistles and droning strings.

"Friend of a Friend" is a piano-led ballad, and while being one of the more traditional rock songs on this album, it still carries the same aesthetics present on the rest of the record. The song is heavily influenced by

the Beatles' "A Day in the Life," even containing an orchestral swell near the end of the song.

"I Quit" features reverberated and delayed acoustic guitars with an orchestral accompaniment slowly mixed in as the track continues. Admittedly, it's one of the more forgettable tracks on the album; but it's still a fun listen that many will greatly enjoy. "Bending Hectic" is one of the most eccentric cuts, being just over eight minutes long, which is a rarity for the Radiohead camp. The song feels a lot like a Radiohead song, a slow crawl through arpeggiated guitars and strings. Yorke's vocals shine through, sounding almost as good as anything off "OK Computer," released nearly 30 years ago. The song ends with another orchestral swell that explodes into distorted guitars and Yorke's distinctive wail.

The album's closer, "You Know Me!" is one of the best songs. Focusing on just vocal and piano, with some electronic drums lightly placed in the background. It's by far the most intimate song on the album, at times almost sounding like something off Black Country, New Road's "Ants From Up There."

The biggest problem with "Wall of Eyes" is also one of its strengths: It definitely separates itself from Radiohead artistically but never really goes anywhere with it. Every song has an avant-garde song structure but somehow sounds the same. When it works, it's a beautifully melancholic moment, but sometimes it comes off as just forgettable. Undoubtedly, this record will be one of the year's critical darlings that somehow gets zero Grammys.



The Smile's new album, "Wall of Eyes" is now available for streaming. The group reposted the album's cover art in celebration of its release on Friday, Jan. 26, 2024.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @THESMILETHEBAND ON INSTAGRAM

RATING:
3.5/5

Ty Segall's 'Three Bells' is a slippage in the system

by Grace Jos
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As an artist who experienced his radical breakthrough in the 2010s after his release of Slaughterhouse (2012), Ty Segall seemed to have gained fame that was driven by furious punk with an alternative twist. Later, releasing an album titled "Manipulator," his attention to such electronic harmonies only increased said fame as it became his best-known piece, hitting 51st in the top charts of 2014. Though this artist's history seems more chaotic and loud, his new release of "Three Bells" on Friday, Jan. 26, 2024, shows his style has somewhat altered. After slightly devolving from such triumphant popularity through the early 2020s, he is proving to come back into the industry with a new take on punk rock. This new album was engineered and mixed by Cooper Crain, who also co-produced the record with Segall. His sense of extremism has somewhat melted from a noisy cacophony to stellar cohesiveness.

"Three Bells" takes its listener on a progressive hour and five-minute journey consisting of a fifteen-song cycle. The album poses a somewhat promising start with "The Bell," which has a fuzzed lead and crisp drums in the background. As we swim in the eclectic water that Segall provides, he seems to have mellowed his dark funk tendencies. He seems to keep it very quiet when playing acoustic and dimmed songs. Neither difficult nor dense, there is a subtle, welcoming groove to most of these pieces. Both "Reflections" and "Wait" prove my claim exactly. A gust of tenderness, like a raw wound, is brushed across the surface of each song.

"To You" and "I Hear" seem to hold most of his original sound, somewhat of a psychedelic frenzy, with a cacophony of rings and unconventional beats. Segall seems to hold his sense of anarchistic creativity still. With distorted sounds of acoustic and electric guitars, Segall sings something that I believe his past albums have not done as thoroughly. Instead of a discordant waltz, we are taken on a pleasant journey with a soft current. More cohesive than any of his previous work, "Three Bells" is definitely a change to his typical system. Now in his late thirties, I think it is impressive that he still holds such a sense for this genre of music. After listening to "Three Bells" in its entirety, the listener does not leave bewildered but rather refreshed and pleased. This album was not near his potential based on future charts, but I definitely think it scratches the surface.

experiment is by no means the brink of musical impropriety. He swims deep into his own psyche with a very inviting tone for the listener to do so as well, which is something I believe his

past albums have not done as thoroughly. Instead of a discordant waltz, we are taken on a pleasant journey with a soft current. More cohesive than any of his previous work, "Three Bells" is definitely a change to his typical system.

Now in his late thirties, I think it is impressive that

he still holds such a sense for this genre of music. After listening to "Three Bells" in its entirety, the listener does not leave bewildered but rather refreshed and pleased. This album was not near his potential based on future charts, but I definitely think it scratches the surface.

Rating:
2.5/5



Ty Segall's newest album "Three Bells" is now available for streaming. The record dropped on Friday, Jan. 26, 2024.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @TYSEGALL ON INSTAGRAM

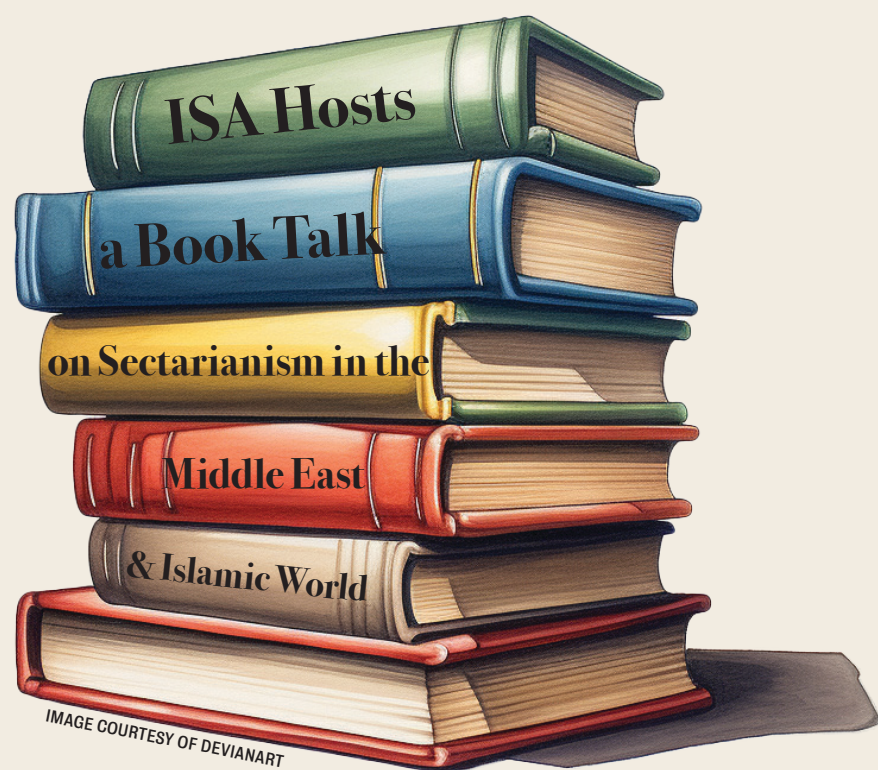


IMAGE COURTESY OF DEVIANART

by **Desirae Sin**
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On Thursday, Jan. 25, the International Studies Association at the University of Connecticut hosted a book talk on “Contextualizing Sectarianism in the Middle East and South Asia: Identity, Competition, and Conflict.” The virtual meeting was held via Zoom and joined by the authors and editors. Satgin Hamrah is a Ph.D. candidate in history at Tufts University; Frank Sobchak is the Chair of Irregular Warfare Studies at the Modern War Institute at West Point; Heidi Lane is a professor of Strategy and Policy and the Director of the Greater Middle East Research Study Group at the U.S. Naval War College and Andrea Rugh is a technical advisor for USAID development projects in the Middle East, South Asia and Africa.

The book focuses on examining how sectarianism has become so prominent in modern

times, specifically the Sunni-Shia relationship. These conflicts occurred mainly around the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century. The book also includes a good amount of research into foreign intervention. The discussion highlighted “how sectarianism is shaping the Islamic world on state and non-state levels,” according to Hamrah.

Sectarianism is the idea that one sect of a specific religion may be superior or inferior to the others. In the case of the Middle East, the sects of Islam are the Sunni and Shia. Hamrah’s research looked at two specific case studies, the Soviet-Afghan War and Iraq during Saddam Hussein’s period until after 2000.

She began by mentioning how much of a stronghold Islam had in Afghanistan. She stated, “I argue that the Soviet-Afghan War was not only significant as it was a proxy war between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, but it was significant from a sectarian perspective as well. Most fight-

ers were divided along distinct sectarian lines, Sunni fighters and Shia fighters.” It went beyond just a fight between the superpowers; it became very localized and thus very polarizing. “Both Iran and Saudi Arabia instrumentalize not only Islam for strategic purposes within the context of the Soviet-Afghan War but also strategically used their specific sect to advance their interest and level of influence among members of the respective Islamic sect within Afghanistan,” said Hamrah.

As for the condition of Iraq since 2003, Hamrah expressed her argument that “it is important to look at the modern historical root causes that contributed to the major surge in sectarian conflict and violence in the post-Saddam period.” From intervention by the U.S. and unresolved tensions, Hamrah concluded that the rise in sectarian conflict and violence “emerged from a legacy of exclusion, and an environment in which identity, both religious and ethnic, were

utilized by Saddam Hussein and his government during and after the Iran-Iraq War.”

Sobchak viewed sectarianism through an internal lens, specifically through the various elections that took place. His chapter in the book focuses on the “role of the United States and its decisions with regard to Iraqi elections.” Originally it was thought that elections could be stabilizing influences according to the U.S. military doctrine, but instead, they may have been destabilizing factors in an already tense situation. “The general premise is that elections restore legitimacy to the government and thereby remove power from the hands of the insurgent,” stated Sobchak.

Yet this wasn’t the case in Iraq, where the elections “failed to really give time for reconciliation after the fall of Saddam. They also provided new avenues for conflict and new areas for competition.” Many other factors played into why these elections didn’t pan out; Sobchak mentioned that former President George W. Bush was also running for reelection at the time. Therefore, success in the Middle East was being overly rushed without a thought for the post-conflict period.

Going off of American interests, Lane described sectarianism as a major component of the U.S. counterterrorism agenda. “Counterterrorism rather than democratization really became the primary way in which the United States expressed and pursued its interests, as well as interests of its allies and partners in the Middle East,” said Lane. Because of the money and military training that the U.S. provided, long-lasting sectarian rifts were exaggerated and became even more strained. Lane explained that “we would see an uptick in the sectarian practices after the onset of the Arab Spring.” Her main argument was that “many of these

counterterrorism practices have inadvertently solidified sectarian differences rather than reduce them.”

The last of the panelists was Rugh, who performed an anthropological study based on Egyptian advice columns during the 70s, 80s and 90s. She had collected and studied over 200 columns from newspapers written by a self-described humanist, Abdul Wahab al-Mutawa, and the religious sheikhs who studied at Al-Azhar University. These columns were responses to questions written to them by Muslim men on what would be the appropriate action for each of their situations, usually in trying to stay adherent to Islamic customs.

Some of these questions related to “Islam’s perspective on certain behaviors such as whether it’s correct to display photos of people, listen to music, the scope of male authority in the household, whether women should work and how Muslims should relate to foreigners and people of other religions,” according to Rugh. While the sheikhs would be strict with their answers, al-Mutawa would push his readers to find peaceful solutions to their problems. “The stories often were very complicated... so Abdul Wahab always tailored his answer to each of these problems. It made his solutions amazingly sensitive and practical,” stated Rugh. Yet both columnists would strongly defend the role of family and family ties.

Each speaker’s contribution to the book has further explained and elaborated on why conflicts in Iraq and the Middle East went the way they did, using sectarianism to see the issues that arose. Because of this, it’s easy to see why things are how they are, especially for those unfamiliar with the conflicts during this time.

This Week in History: Jan. 28 - Feb. 3



by **Benjamin Lassy**
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Although February is the second month of the year, it seems to be chock full of firsts in history. This Week in History, we’ll dive into the difficult advancements of Native Americans into the realm of United States politics and quickly explore the unceasing expansion of McDonald’s across the globe and a chart-topping hit that would spark an invasion. Let’s get into it!

There is an uneven bar to entry when it comes to mainstream U.S. politics; to reach the top, it seems you need an ‘in’ — which could be a connection to the political world, evident in the rise of college-educated politicians such as the Senator Robert Byrd, who served over 51 years in the legislature. Another ‘in’ could come in the form of wealth; take Donald Trump — one of three billionaire politicians in U.S. politics — for example. How, then, can anyone hope to enter politics when neither of these factors are in their favor?

In 1860s Topeka, Kansas, then still a territory, a young Charles Curtis was born to El-

len Pappan, of Kaw, Potawatomi, Osage and French origin, and Orren Curtis, of English, Scottish and Welsh ancestry. At this time, Kansas was a sparsely populated territory, with the young Curtis adding to the tally of 107,206 inhabitants, of which 90.6% were rural. To any observant historian, his upbringing certainly didn’t show any ‘in’ to U.S. politics — then mostly dominated by wealthy urban Americans.

As a descendant of several Native American tribes, Curtis grew up closely associated with the Kaw, with whom he had familial connections. However, Curtis found himself in a desperate situation as the shrinking of the Indian Territories pressured Cheyenne warriors into a raid on Kaw territory. While no lives were lost in the ensuing chaos, Curtis journeyed 60 miles to Topeka in the hopes of sending help to his tribe. While not affecting the battle’s outcome, Curtis’ effort won over the hearts of his tribe.

Curtis’ connection to Topeka did not end once the battle concluded; the young Kaw hero attended high school in the city and eventually signed on as a lawyer at a law firm to prepare for the bar exam. Using the tales of his childhood — specifically

the story of his journey during the Cheyenne raid — to muster public support, Curtis became a county attorney, then a member of the House of Representatives.

Ultimately, this week in history, on Jan. 29, 1907, Charles Curtis was elected as a Senator of Kansas. This would make him the first Senator of Native American ancestry in U.S. history. While out of the scope of this column, a little over a decade later, Curtis would become the 31st Vice President of the United States under Herbert Hoover.

Curtis never really supported the Native American communities he came from in a political sense, although he did support the Equal Rights Amendment — which popped up in every congress until 1972 and now has a long-debated legal dilemma surrounding its passing. Nevertheless, through the Curtis Act of 1898 — bearing Curtis’ own name as a sponsor — tribal community lands were broken up, and millions of acres of native homelands were reallocated. While the ‘in’ that got Curtis into politics may have been his tribal community, sadly, it appears that he didn’t reciprocate that support.

Curtis’ career was ultimately flawed, yet still successful —

and the same can be said for the next event occurring this week in history, a fast-food-sponsored invasion. Now, many have heard about Pepsi technically owning a navy, but one often overlooked moment that took place on Jan. 31, 1988, was McDonald’s opening its doors to Soviet citizens in Moscow.

To understand the momentous nature of this event, it’s best to convey the scale of this McDonald’s restaurant. Unlike the many McDonald’s locations in the U.S., which appear as small burger joints, maybe capable of fitting 40-50, Pushkinskaya Square in central Moscow would house the largest McDonald’s in the world — at that time. It sat almost 1,000 diners and served upwards of 30,000 visitors on its first day of operations.

These statistics are staggering, and while I would use the word ‘invasion’ lightly, this event truly feels on a scale of invasion, the ever-increasing advance of capitalist phenomena into the Eastern Bloc, ultimately leading to the end of the Soviet Union.

Since the first location’s release, McDonald’s has had a shaky — though increasing — influence in Russia, as due to conflicts in Ukraine, McDonald’s has pulled out of

the country, and restaurants are now being operated by “Vkusno & Tochka,” meaning “tasty and that’s it,” a Russian owned brand. The existence of McDonald’s in Russia is an ever-evolving history, but this week it saw its beginnings.

And on the topic of quasi-invasions, this week also marks the release of the Beatles’ single, “I Want to Hold Your Hand,” in 1963. The song, a catchy, rhythmic pop-rock tune, infatuated the U.S. population, unknowingly succumbing to a new type of invasion, one led by the British beat music of Liverpool.

The single was released in December 1963, but on Feb. 1, 1964, the song topped the Billboard charts, giving the Beatles a number-one record in the U.S. The wave of fandom and popularity would only increase, as after several months at number one, the Beatles’ success was only knocked off the charts by yet another release by the band, “She Loves You.”

So, with politicians, fast food and music, this week in history comes to a close. Maybe this is a good week to eat a Big Mac while listening to the Beatles and studying the failures of the U.S. government — see you next week!



Life

@dailycampuslife



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

SNOOP DOGG'S FILM, 'THE UNDERDOGGs,' AND ITS HEARTWARMING MESSAGE

Rating: 4/5

by **Kekoa Krautramer**
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Snoop Dogg's latest film, "The Underdoggs," follows the life of retired NFL player Jaycen "Two Js" Jennings as he looks for his next big break to stay relevant in society. He is given a second chance to disprove the egotistical accusations against him by coaching a team of young boys from his hometown of Long Beach, California. Jennings sees himself in each player, finds ways to relate to them and teaches them to believe in themselves. He stops doing work solely for publicity, allowing him to connect with the kids further. The plot was

predictable and tended to follow cliches commonly found in sports movies, but these kinds of films are almost always the most heartwarming. The ending is expected but doesn't take away from the film's moving message.

The representation of kids from impoverished communities is what makes this film so compelling. Jennings rebuilds the children's confidence and shows them that despite their backgrounds, they can still have a promising future. The lessons in the film can be applied to children and even young adults dealing with damaged self-esteem and perceptions of reality.

I was taken aback by the final screen, which explained that the inspiration for the

film was the Snoop Youth Football League. According to their objective, the league aims to "provide youth, regardless of race, color, creed or economic background, the chance to learn values through football and teamwork." The screen then states that over 85,000 kids have participated in the league, highlighting how many children continued with professions in the NFL.

From the initial disclaimer scene, I was already laughing. No, it's not a cinematic masterpiece, but it captivated me throughout its entirety and had me smiling at every scene. Sometimes, that is what brings a rating up half a star. Of course, Snoop Dogg was the star of the film, and he did his part well but, the

kids on the team were also hilarious. The children's constant use of profanity definitely added a comedic effect. The dialogue for the children felt as though the writers understood how current youth speak, which many movies fail to portray. Their roles seem authentic, and the conversations are realistic to how Gen Alpha communicates. The interactions between Snoop Dogg and the kids are outlandish in the best way possible. It's funny to reflect on how the adults in the film dismiss the vulgar language towards the children as though it's a norm. Because the film is R-rated, children probably shouldn't watch it; however, it can teach parental figures how to inspire new

generations with positive reinforcement.

Countless cameos and specific jokes tailored to the actors' previous roles adds another entertaining element. The dynamic between Snoop Dogg and the other celebrities' characters created a comical flare. The score for this film was well done, and the chosen music fits the film's aesthetic. Along with this, the graphics and the fake commentary from sports channels were engaging. Most of the editing was cheesy, and it was clear that the field Jennings played on in the NFL was as unrealistic as it gets. Product placement throughout the film was hard to miss in most scenes, but well done because now I'm craving Raising Cane's.

"EXPATS":

SHOULD YOU KEEP WATCHING, OR "X" OUT OF IT?

by **James Fitzpatrick**
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Debuting with two episodes on Friday, Jan. 26, on Prime Video, "Expats" is a miniseries filled with drama and romance, with contrasting themes of isolation. It is directed by Lulu Wang, known previously for "Posthumous" and "The Farewell." Wang is a credible source to comment on expatriatism, given she was born in Beijing while living most of her life in America. Lending to the name and Wang's personal story, most of the main characters are not native to the show's setting of Hong Kong, although the show does not detail their journey from the United States; rather, the audience is placed at a point of contention years after their move.

First presenting a minimalist collage of people who mistakenly caused life-changing accidents, the camera eventually pans to the face of the main character, Margaret Woo, although it begins facing the back of her head. Used a few times throughout the two episodes, this camera positioning provides a sense of mystique to what the character is feeling since the audience cannot initially see their face, yet a sense of tension can still be felt brewing within the character. It can quickly be assumed that Margaret is dealing with the loss of a family member and is upset by the solace her son finds in Christianity to help him cope with the loss. An emphasis is also placed on family life and how chaotic it can be, especially based on the family's relatively new surroundings. Finally, to emphasize the region's size and the droves of people inhabiting it, many transition shots film the masses walking along the bustling streets of Hong Kong. This could be an effort by Wang to proclaim how the dysfunctional lives of the characters are just a small cog in the machine of modern-day society and a foot-

note in the daily happenings of this over-populated city.

Wang has previously spoken out against the gender discrepancies in Hollywood, claiming male film directors have an immediate advantage in the industry over their female counterparts. This phenomenon pervades itself in "Expats," as Wang grounds her characters in a patriarchal society, not only painting men as the breadwinners in relationships, but also lessening the reliance the men have on their wives by way of housekeepers, a more widespread custom in China compared to the Western world. Although still a vital asset in the Woo family, Margaret feels their housekeeper is assuming too much of a maternal role in her children's lives while also feeling overwhelmed by her family to the point of her renting a nearby apartment for herself to escape the confines of her current situation.

This sentiment is also shared by Hilary Starr, a close friend of Margaret's, who is going through a rough patch in her marriage. Both women and their families live in the same apartment complex, so everyone mostly knows each other. Despite that, this dynamic is that of a clique, as the two complain to each other about their relationships and how they want to get away from it all sometimes. Nicole Kidman, who plays Margaret, and her likeness to Deborah Harry of the '70s rock band Blondie must have been recognized by someone in production, as it was quite entertaining to see Margaret and Hilary dancing to "Heart of Glass" before abruptly transitioning back to the main plot about Margaret's missing son.

In light of this tragedy, Margaret appears spaced out during her outings in public, leading to other cliques gossiping about Margaret during her husband's birthday party. This aspect of the drama is more petty and not as interesting, and it is somehow more formulaic than the spontaneous mystery of a neighbor's death at one point

in the show. I will complement that the two-episode stretch, spanning one hour and forty-five minutes, essentially ends how it starts, which shows a level of self-awareness by the directors that most people will not return for the third episode that will premiere on Friday, Feb. 2.

In a similar style to another production distributed by Amazon, the South Korean film "The Handmaiden," previous scenes are revisited with different camera angles and a newfound context for the audience. The impact of this technique on "Expats" is impressive, given the many twists and turns taken by the director. It is also a strength that this miniseries can tie most of its principal plot holes together by the end of "Mongkok," the second and most recent episode. Series such as "Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story" and "Squid Game," some of the biggest Netflix hits of the 2020s, asked a lot from the audience to watch several hour-long episodes just to reach a semblance of understanding of the plot. Even if those shows were excellent, the general public simply does not have enough time to watch the equivalent of multiple feature-length films when you can either look up spoilers, move on to another shorter show, or read Wikipedia articles to get the general premise of the show in the real-life example of Jeffrey Dahmer.

"Expats" is a fictional yet realistic portrayal of adapting to a foreign culture and the sacrifices that must be made along the way. If you have watched the first two episodes, the majority of interesting plot points have likely already occurred, but if it is on your radar, it may be worth the watch, especially while it is on Prime Video's front page, and it could be a plot worth investing in for the remaining four episodes. I just doubt it will be.



RATING:
 2.75/5



Opinion

The Daily Campus

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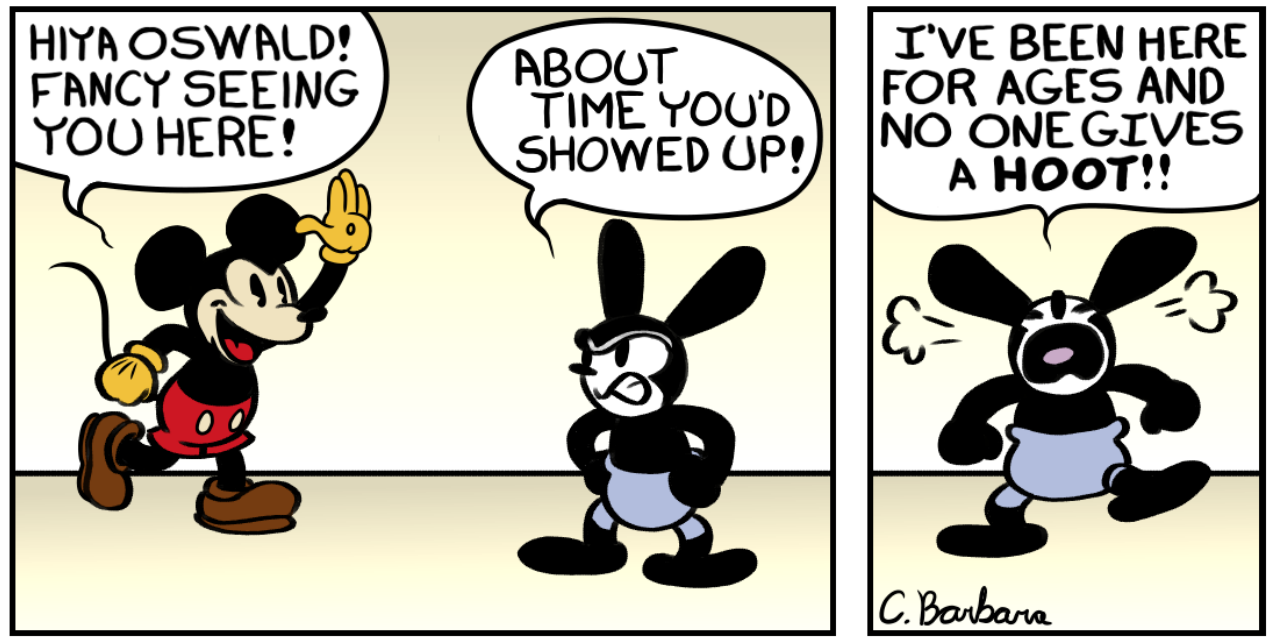
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COMIC BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

► Editorial | STUDENTS, MAKE YOUR VOICES HEARD AT THE BUDGET TOWN HALLS

The University of Connecticut is hosting three town halls regarding the university's budget for the next five years, during which all community members are invited to attend or submit questions beforehand or during the meeting. The next town hall will be a virtual meeting on Feb. 21 at noon as the UConn administration attempts to give community voices a chance to speak out on an important issue.

UConn is undoubtedly an undemocratic organization. As The Daily Campus Editorial Board has written before, many aspects of this university's financial and decision-making powers lie completely insulated and often hidden away from student and community voices. In this past school year alone, there have been some very drastic examples of how UConn's policy is often uninformed of or undeterred by the will of its students. In the past, they have attempted to provide opportunities for students to speak out, as with UConn President Radenka Maric's Sustainability Town Hall this past fall semester, but completely failed to listen to what their students were saying. In this case, that is very literal, considering how Maric left her own event after the entire event was padded with superfluous presentations from other university administrators.

The Editorial Board hopes that this time, administrators will not run from those who took the time out of their day to advocate for a better UConn and will be prepared to talk about the hard issues of funding and potential budget cuts. We also urge administrators to hold more opportunities to hear student voices, as these town halls and 15-minute sign-ups for "office hours" with Maric — that were announced via email and The Daily Digest on Jan. 25, 2024 — are grossly inadequate in truly listening to the community.

Since opportunities to speak directly to university officials are rare, The Editorial Board urges all students to attend these town halls. Although they are all placed very inconveniently on Wednesdays at noon, when many students are stuck in classes or working, it is of utmost importance that students try to attend to advocate for the future of their school. Students have demonstrated in the past that with enough force, their voices cannot be ignored. The symptoms that they face, like housing problems, rising tuition, food insecurity and sustainability failures are best addressed at the source in meetings like these.

"Saving UConn" is not just a one-time occasion; the process of creating an equitable community is continual and requires vigilance and consistent effort every time there is a new threat. Despite of the hardships and systemic barriers to making UConn a better place, students must do what they can and speak out as loudly as possible; this Feb. 21, and all ensuing opportunities, continue to make your voices heard even if this administration does not want to listen.

DANCERS DON'T NEED THE MIRROR

by Karla Perez | ASSOCIATE LIFE EDITOR | SHE/HER/HERS | karla.perez@uconn.edu

I've been a dancer for 17 years, but my relationship with dancing has been anything but consistent. Throughout my dance career, I've doubted my skills, questioned relationships and gone back and forth on how I feel about my physique. The only constant I experienced was a lack of confidence.

Growing up dancing, my favorite part was always the performances. I thought it was because of the high I got from the audience's praise or the adrenaline rush. While both are true, there is one more reason: I have no idea what I look like on stage.

When you think of a dance studio, the first element that likely comes to mind is a giant mirror that covers an entire wall. In group dances, the mirror is a dancer's biggest tool as it allows them to ensure that their movements match those around them. Not only does the mirror help dancers achieve synchronicity, but it also helps dancers pick up on details in choreography. Without the mirror, the instructor would constantly have to turn around to demonstrate arm or other upper-body movements; they can't teach an entire dance while facing the dancers because of the confusing direction changes. While I can't discount the mirror's help with these minor annoyances, I can't ignore the psychological damage it causes in of the dance community.

Those like myself who have committed themselves to dance their entire lives have also committed to growing up in front of a mirror. They start to notice differences between themselves and the dancer next to them when they hit puberty. At this point, the mirror no longer becomes a tool but instead makes a dancer think, "Why is this person's body developing one way and mine another?" Once this seed is planted, it only grows and worsens over time.

Despite this, dancers can find it difficult to part with something they've participated in their whole lives. In my case, I joined the University of Connecticut Dance Company and experienced a whole new relationship with dance. I can attribute this change to the fact that it's an entirely student-run organization or that I don't have as rigorous a training schedule as I grew up with. But the primary reason I think my relationship with dance has improved is that I haven't had a mirror in front of me while dancing in almost two years.

Dancers are told to focus more on feeling the best rather than looking the best, but with a mirror, it's easy to succumb to the latter. Dancers are told to aim for clean movements, which is really just another word for "perfect." This unattainable standard puts unnecessary pressure on dancers from a very young age, bar-

ring them from actually enjoying the movements. People go into dance because they hear of how fun it is, but that quickly fades when they're told they need to look perfect to be acceptable.

In addition to the mental benefits of dancing without a mirror, there are some benefits to learning and retention. Some dancers who typically have more trouble picking up steps find they learn choreography more quickly when they don't use a mirror. This is because, without a mirror, dancers are forced to pay more attention to their instructor and their own bodies. It also encourages the instructor to connect more with their dancers. Because there is no mirror, the teacher needs to constantly check for questions and ask the dancers what they need. This discourse allows the teacher and students to learn from each other and find the most efficient process.

Ironically, I have never felt more comfortable with my reflection or my dance skills than I have since stepping away from the dance studio mirror. Dancing without a mirror allows personal connection to build between fellow dancers because there is not a constant reminder to compare starting back at them. If the dance community retires the mirror, it is likely to see greater numbers of returning members because they won't be overwhelmed by the mental and emotional toll it takes.



ILLUSTRATION BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Downtown Storrs After Dark



Playa Bowls is one of the new hot places in Storrs Center this year, continuing the rejuvenated excitement brought to this area of town by Square Peg Pizzeria. Aside from these two businesses, a Haven Hot Chicken has also opened where Wing Stop used to be.

PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Tim Burton's 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' is the best of the three films

by Isaac Grad | CONTRIBUTOR | HE/HIM | isaac.grad@uconn.edu

With the recent release of "Wonka," the newest adaptation of Roald Dahl's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," we have one more film to compare to the other two when deciding which is best. I find it hard to believe that anyone would vote for the recent "Wonka" as the best of the three, but I will include it anyway. The general consensus is that a third adaptation was unnecessary, which I will also address. Tim Burton's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" is the best of the three versions. Its main competition is the original adaptation, "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory." While the original is good in terms of set design and effects, especially for being made in the 70s, it isn't as good as the second, which has a better lesson, as well as better dialogue, Oompa Loompa dance scenes and pacing.

The first adaptation is 1971's "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory," starring Gene Wilder as Wonka. This has been argued as the most whimsical of the three. It features beautiful songs as well as a feel-good message that if you are a good person and do good things, good things will come. Gene Wilder was incredible as Willy Wonka, as he balanced his charisma and weird eccentricity. I found the Oompa Loompa performances to be less entertaining, as well as the songs to be less fun, which is a very important factor for me. Of course, having been filmed in the early 70s, the effects are not as advanced as Burton's, but the effects and set design are more impressive in the second film. I found the original's pacing a bit off, and the story felt more

bland to me than the second version. The side characters' dialogue felt more forced and less interesting than in Burton's version.

Tim Burton's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" is the second and the best adaptation, which stars Johnny Depp as Wonka. Burton's unique style fit perfectly with the odd story. His version focuses more on Wonka than on Charlie, but I find that Wonka to be a far more interesting character in this film. The songs in this version are much more entertaining, and the set design is beautiful, eerie and impressive. Johnny Depp was great as Wonka, and I prefer his portrayal, as his version depicted the character as awkward and odd and generally didn't like children. I found this much more realistic of someone isolated in a candy factory for years. I also think it's a funny concept of someone loving to make candy and chocolate, which children generally love most, but they don't like children and find them annoying. I found the pacing and dialogue were best in this version. I also think it was the funniest, though the original also had some funny lines. Additionally, I like the added lesson in this version, so it wasn't just about a boy getting incredibly lucky and inheriting a million-dollar business, but about the importance of family more than anything.

"Wonka" is practically incomparable to the original two films, as it is worse in every way. The music is horrible in comparison to the originals. Of course, the songs in Burton's version were generally creepier and more upbeat than the original, which was more positive and melodic.

The plot was uninspired, and the dialogue was bland. Most importantly, I found that they didn't capture the essence of Wonka. What I like so much about the character is how odd he is, while also being relatable, funny and interesting. In this film, however, you can tell they are aware that people like him for being a weird guy, but they fail to recognize that if you put him in a world where everyone else is even weirder, he seems like one of the more normal people. The plot was unrealistic, and I didn't find much of a takeaway other than not signing contracts that you haven't read or not signing contracts alone if you can't read. Based on the trailer alone, I thought the film's main issue was going to be Timothee Chalamet. But he was one of the better aspects of this film, as his acting wasn't terrible despite me feeling like it isn't a great role for him specifically. It also wasn't advertised as a musical. Still, it was ultimately one, which is never a good idea because many people will be disappointed if they show up to a movie not expecting a musical.

While the original version is wonderful in its way, and is the favorite of the three for many people, Tim Burton's version takes the cake as the best adaptation. It takes the original story, adds to the original lesson, and focuses on one of the more interesting characters, and in my opinion, the true star of the story: Willy Wonka. Burton does this while also maintaining Charlie's original lessons.

There is an unsettling disconnect if you look at the issues the American people support and want implemented versus the policies Congress enacts. For example, take a look at gun regulation. In 2019, a Quinnipiac poll found that Americans overwhelmingly support a universal background check system, with 86% overall support, 80% among Republicans and 76% among gun owners. However, no such law exists today. Additionally, a 2023 study by the Program for Public Consultation at the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy found that "two-thirds of American voters favor raising the federal minimum wage to \$15, including a majority of Democrats but less than half of Republicans". In 2022, Pew Research found that 88% of adults "say either that marijuana should be legal for medical and recreational use," with a similar partisan divide in the minimum wage study.

How is it that in a supposedly "representative democracy," Congress does not enact the policies the American people support? Simple: we have a broken and unjust campaign finance system.

You have probably heard of the Supreme Court case Citizens United v. FEC decided in 2010. This is arguably the most egregious campaign finance-related court decision in modern American history. It essentially allowed corporations and labor unions to spend unlimited sums of money because limitations would be unconstitutional via the freedom of speech clause in the First Amendment. The 5-4 decision took a hatchet to the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002's (a.k.a the McCain-Feingold Act) section on limits of "independent expenditures." This created the rise of Super PACs, "committees that receive unlimited contributions from individuals, corporations, labor unions and other PACs to finance independent expenditures and other independent political activity," but a Super PAC couldn't coordinate with any specific candidate's campaign.

According to this case, limiting spending money is unconstitutional. Therefore, money equals speech, and hence, those with the most money have the most speech. This presents an

other problem. OpenSecrets reported in 2022 that "96% of U.S. House races [were] won by the biggest spender". It's no secret that candidates want to win, but to gain an advantage, they need money. Lots of it. They often turn to corporations, billionaires and those with lots of money to finance their campaigns, fund opposition research, attack ads and smear their opponents. Essentially, political races aren't about the issues; they're purely about who has money and who doesn't.

Who is unlikely to have oodles and oodles of cash? The working class. Candidates then sell out to those who can give them the most money, forget about the working men and women they are supposed to represent and vote for legislation that would favor the organization or corporation that got them elected. STATNews reported in 2021 that "more than two-thirds of Congress cashed a pharma campaign check in 2020". You don't think that influences their voting records? The top recipient of pharma cash was Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC), who voted against the Inflation Reduction Act, which capped insulin prices at \$35 for seniors on Medicare.

Two other court cases impacted campaign finance laws: First National Bank of Boston v. Bellotti in 1978 and Buckley v. Valeo in 1976. In Bellotti, "the court struck down a Massachusetts statute which restricted the participation of banks and corporations in state ballot measures based on the first amendment of free speech." In Valeo, the court ruled that a limitation on independent expenditures was unconstitutional, citing the First Amendment of free speech.

There are things we can do to stop the flow of corporate cash to candidates. You can support candidates who vow not to take any corporate money, like the Justice Democrats. You can call your member of Congress to support the Democracy for All Amendment introduced last year to rein in unrestricted campaign spending. Lastly, you can research who funds your members' reelection campaigns via OpenSecrets or other campaign tracking websites. Together, we can take back our democracy from corporate spending and have a country that actually represents us all, not just the billionaires and their monetary interests.

DEMOCRACY IS NOT FOR SALE: END BIG MONEY IN POLITICS

by James Shiang | CONTRIBUTOR | HE/HIM | james.shiang@uconn.edu



CARTOON BY SAMANTHA HASS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women's Hockey:

Huskies narrowly skate by in Vermont shootout

by **Bridget Bronsdon**
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This past weekend, the Huskies welcomed their northern Hockey East counterpart for a two-game series at Toscano. While Vermont is 7-11-1 in the conference, they made sure to put up a fight.

Friday's contest was a quick victory for the Huskies. Standing tall as the first seed in Hockey East, UConn quickly lived up to their ranking by attempting seven shots on goal 10 minutes into the match. Just one minute later, senior Jada Habisch was quick to capitalize on the first power play of the day and found the back of the net with the help of Claire Peterson and Tia Chan.

With only seven conference wins compared to UConn's 14, it quickly became clear Vermont would have their work cut out for them. The Huskies went on to fire off shot after shot, but Vermont was silent.

As the first period ended, UConn was visibly dominant, whereas Vermont had trouble finding a groove.

The start of the second period brought more technicalities to the ice. Despite three UConn penalties throughout the period, the Catamounts still could not take advantage of the edge. While the Catamounts demonstrated a bit more of a presence on the ice with over 10 shots in the first 10 minutes, they were no match for UConn goaltender Chan. The junior goalkeeper earned a .935 save percentage last season and has continued her dominance in the net with little getting past her.

A tripping penalty from Vermont granted UConn the upper hand they'd been looking for. In a skillful demonstration of passing expertise, sophomore Kylie Josifovic sent the puck to Ava Rinker, who nailed a second power-play goal for the Huskies. The final few moments of the period landed Habisch in the box, but the Huskies maintained their composure and were successfully able to kill the penalty.

The third period was the nail in the coffin for the Catamounts as the Huskies' offensive line whizzed by for a third goal just over a minute in.

Habisch, with her second goal of the game, is currently leading the Huskies for the second year in a row in scoring.

While the last period was characterized by several shots on goals and a call-and-response dynamic between the duo, the Catamounts could not keep up with the Huskies' spunk and all-around strength on the ice. From the defensive line up to offense, UConn proved to be dominant and expertly skilled through and through.

The tide turned as Saturday's matchup challenged UConn in a way they hadn't seen before. The match was relatively clean, with only three penalties in total, but UConn struggled to find the groove they had sustained the day prior.

Instead of being in the driver's seat, UConn had to work much harder for a leading position. The match began with three missed shots by the Huskies frontrunners Habisch and Ashley Allard. In a sharp contrast from Friday, the Catamounts were prepared to answer and broke through the

Huskies' defense to respond with four shots of their own.

Goaltender Chan maintained her composure but was already challenged much more than the day prior.

Vermont returned to the ice eager for a leg up and pushed UConn to an edge. From front to back, the Huskies were aggressive to protect their goaltender and find the back of the net of their own.

The Huskies had to prove they were just as hungry as the Catamounts; with the score 0-0 heading into the third period, it was anyone's game.

In a surprising twist from the Friday contest, neither UConn nor the Catamounts could pull away for the final period. While both teams fired off several shots on goal, all were unsuccessful.

With a palpable energy on the ice, the Huskies were headed into overtime.

By this point, the ice was buzzing with energy as both groups demonstrated a hunger unlike before. As the puck danced around the ice, the Huskies and the Catamounts were finding a groove as both

groups fired off four shots in the five-minute period.

For the first time this season, the Huskies were forced into an overtime shootout. Luckily enough, the odds were in UConn's favor.

After a missed shot from the Catamounts and UConn's Habisch, Vermont stepped up to a 1-0 lead with the first successful shootout attempt. However, sophomore Peterson was prepared to tie the score 1-1.

Following another missed attempt from Vermont, Allard scored the game's final point and put the Huskies' hard work into perspective. After a long-fought contest, the Huskies enjoyed a well-deserved 2-1 win.

With two more victories under their belt, the Huskies lived up to their No. 1 seed, but not without a challenge. This weekend, each player proved to be an important piece in the group's greater efforts.

Looking ahead to next weekend, the Huskies will be headed to Providence to take on the No. 4 conference seed. With a 10-8-2 Hockey East record, the Friars will be prepared to put up a fight.



The UConn women's ice hockey team kept up the aggression for a solid win Friday night against UVM. The final score was UConn 3-0 UVM on Jan. 26 2024.
PHOTO BY MERCER FERGUSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Track & Field:

Huskies have strong weekend at Dr. Sander Invite Columbia Challenge

by **Jackson Crainich**
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The Huskies traveled to New York, NY this past weekend to participate in the Dr. Sander Invite Columbia Challenge, a two-day event on Friday and Saturday. The men placed first in the meet, scoring 125 points, and Columbia was behind them with 80.5. The women placed second in their meet, finishing with a score of 87 points, trailing behind Princeton, who had a dominant 133 points.

The Huskies put forth many strong performances. UConn totaled 24 top-five finishes with four athletes placing first in their event.

Freshman Dar Jankovic placed first in the high jump with a score of 2.03 meters. Travis Martin finished first in his event as well. The junior recorded a dominant time of 8:02.04 seconds in the 3000 meter, coming in first by a five-second margin.

Freshman Joshua Mooney was nothing short of incredible during the event. Mooney finished second in the heptathlon 60-meter dash with a time



Dar Jankovic, a freshman on the UConn Track and Field team, participates in the high jump event at the first day of the Dr. Sanders Invitational Columbia Challenge. Jankovic placed first in the high jump with a score of 2.03 meters. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNFXC ON INSTAGRAM.

of 7.04 seconds, then placed second in the heptathlon long jump with a distance of 6.64 meters. If you thought Mooney was done there, you'd be mistaken. He then placed second in the heptathlon shot put with a score of 12.19 meters, third in the heptathlon high jump (1.88m) and first in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.28 seconds. Overall, Mooney finished first in the men's heptathlon with an eye-popping score of 5101.

Sophomore Max Ringwall placed third in the heptathlon, recording a score of 4571, second in the heptathlon pole vault and third in the shot put and 1000-meter.

For the women, freshman Anna Connors, sophomore Jessica Starr, junior Raquel Rosa and senior Jalah Cooper placed first in the 4x400 relay and recorded a season-best time of 3:44.54 seconds.

In the meet, Huskies continued their impressive start to the 2023-24 season and look to continue their string of strong performances this upcoming weekend when they travel to Massachusetts to participate in the Crimson Elite.

Sports

Photo of the Day | UConn runs on dunkin'



UConn beats Xavier on Jan. 28 at the XL Center by a score of 99 - 56. UConn's next big matchup comes on Wednesday night against Providence.
PHOTO BY JORDAN ARNOLD, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Ice Hockey:

Huskies finish 2nd in CT Ice Tournament

by Nick Spinali

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The University of Connecticut men's ice hockey team claimed second place in the annual CT Ice Tournament, defeating Sacred Heart 6-2 in the opening round before yielding in a tight 4-3 affair against No. 7 Quinnipiac in the Championship round.

Taking place at the XL Center in Hartford, the CT Ice Forum invites UConn, SHU, Quinnipiac and Yale to participate in a head-to-head bracket to crown a victor for the state. The tournament is single elimination and is formatted so that two of the four teams face each other in the opening round, with the winners advancing to the Championship round.

"Having an event like this, these four teams can certainly be a marquee sporting event in the state of Connecticut," Sacred Heart coach C.J. Marrotto told CTInsider.

The Huskies were tasked with the Pioneers for their opening-round matchup on

Friday. The Ice Bus got on the board first via an electric Michigan-style goal from sophomore Samu Salmann two minutes into the contest. Sacred Heart netted an equalizer one minute later off Kevin Lombardi's stick to knot the score at one-all. Connecticut captain Hudson Schandor regained the lead for his team in the ninth minute after he crashed the SHU goal, netting the score as he was fell to the ice. The play cracked the SportsCenter Top 10 list, coming in at No. 4 that night. Schandor was not done, scoring his second goal of the night three minutes later to give the Ice Bus a convincing 3-1 lead heading into the period break.

The Pioneers made the contest a one-score affair following a Liam Izyk score two minutes into the second period. However, the Huskies were swiftly responded with another goal three minutes later, this time coming from senior Nick Capone. The Ice Bus netted their fifth goal in the ninth minute of the second when freshman Jake Richard swept all the way around the

net to ring home the score. UConn goalkeeper Arsenii Sergeev had 14 saves in the period to keep SHU from closing the gap and help the Huskies to a 5-2 advantage heading into the third.

SHU made a late effort by pulling their goalie in favor of an extra skater, but sophomore Ryan Tattle capitalized on the empty net by sinking UConn's sixth goal of the match. Sergeev maintained a steady defensive presence as he tallied 15 more saves in the third period, keeping the Pioneers off the board for the entirety of the frame. Sergeev finished the game with 34 total saves. The final buzzer sounded to cement the 6-2 victory and advance the team to face Quinnipiac in the tournament's Championship round.

The Huskies and the Bobcats met on Saturday to determine a tournament victor. Connecticut was the first to get on the board after a score from graduate student Harrison Rees six minutes following puck drop. UConn goalie Ethan Haider led a strong defensive effort with nine saves

in the first period to keep the highly-powered Bobcats off of the board. At the period's conclusion, the Huskies were holding a 1-0 lead.

Quinnipiac scored in the seventh minute of the second period to tie the game at one. On the play, Haider misplayed the puck behind the line, allowing Mason Marcellus to knock home the goal. Not 30 seconds later, after a penalty by the Huskies put them on the penalty kill, junior Chase Bradley recovered the puck and led a fast break. The play ended in him converting a second score and regaining the lead for UConn. In the ninth minute of the second, sophomore Tabor Heaslip intercepted the puck and found a crashing Matthew Wood, who converted the tip-in from close range and extended Connecticut's lead to 3-1.

The Bobcats showed why they are such a highly-coveted program by storming right back to re-tie the game in the second period. In the 13th minute, Victor Czerneckianair netted a score to cut the Huskies' lead down to

one. Less than a minute later, Travis Treloar also scored to bring the score to three-all. The second period ended with the score still tied, but the Bobcats continued their momentum with an early score in the third period, this one coming from Zach Tupker. Quinnipiac goalie Vinny Duplessis recorded 11 saves in the third to blank the Huskies and secure the hard-fought 4-3 win. With the win, Quinnipiac was crowned the champion of the 2024 CT Ice Tournament.

Bradley (one goal, three assists) and Schandor (two goals) were named to the CT Ice All-Tournament team following their performance over the weekend.

The Ice Bus will return to conference play when they take on Providence for two games this weekend. Game one is set for Friday at 7 p.m. at the Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Connecticut. The two teams will return on Saturday at 7 p.m. from a match at the Schneider Arena in Providence, Rhode Island. Fans can watch both games live on ESPN+.



UConn Men's Hockey loses 3-4 to Quinnipiac in the CT Ice Championship at the XL Center on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024. The Huskies were up 3-1 but allowed Quinnipiac two goals in the second period and the final goal in the third period, failing to tie the game on Quinnipiac's goaltender Vinny Duplessis, despite multiple chances.
PHOTO BY ZACHARY MOLLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women's Basketball: Hidalgo explodes for 34 as No. 15 Irish outclass

by **Stratton Stave**
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There are several signature rivalries in the world of women's college basketball. Among—or at, depending on who you ask—the top of the list is UConn versus Notre Dame. The teams have met 52 times going into Saturday night, many times in the Final Four and National Championship, and the Huskies have emerged victorious 38 times.

In recent years, though, this game has been marred with injuries for Connecticut. In 2021, the contest saw Paige Bueckers suffer a knee ailment that forced her out for half the season. Last year, Azzi Fudd hurt her leg in South Bend. Both were poised for All-American seasons. Whether they wanted to win or just make it out unscathed, they at least succeeded on the latter.

On a night that saw the 2013 and 2014 championship teams honored and inducted into the Huskies of Honor, it was Hannah Hidalgo who stole the spotlight. The freshman guard went ballistic, scoring 34 points, grabbing 10 boards and dishing out six assists en route to an 82-67 win. Unquestionably, it is one of the better performances Gampel Pavilion has seen.

"Hannah is a relentless player," Notre Dame coach Niele Ivey said. "What I love about her most is her confidence. She wants to win. Her energy is contagious. She gives it her all every night. You don't see that too often with freshmen."

UConn's Geno Auriemma shared Ivey's sentiment on Hidalgo's outing but also cited the team's unusually off defense.

"I thought she was able to get to the basket way more times than we could [handle]," Auriemma noted of Hidalgo. "For someone to get to the basket that frequently, there's something wrong with the defense. But

give [Hidalgo] credit; she attacked it every time. She's playing with a tremendous amount of confidence. It took a lot of guts to come in here and do what she did. She's damn good."

Notre Dame's Maddy Westbeld also had a great game in her own right, notching 23 points to go along with five rebounds. Though she didn't have quite the night Hidalgo enjoyed, her inside presence was impactful.

Her efforts helped the Fight-

up throughout the contest, unable to get anything going. She managed 17 points on 17 shots, but six of those points came from the stripe. Bueckers was forced into bad shots and looked uncomfortable throughout. Postgame, Auriemma indicated that the guard getting poked in the eye impacted her performance and that the team was overly reliant on her.

"She's their engine, but they have so many scorers

It wasn't until Ashlynn Shade hit a pair of jumpers that UConn came to life. The usual characters helped out, but the bank was open for Ice Brady, who buried her fourth triple of the year as a part of the team's 13-2 run.

As the Huskies looked poised to run away with the game, they opened up a 12-point lead to kick off the second frame. But out of nowhere, the Fighting Irish came roaring back. Hidalgo and Citron drilled

there to deliver several pretty assists, but Edwards had no trouble finishing.

She had 10 points in the frame, allowing Arnold to take the lead with a big shot from downtown. However, Westbeld swished a pair of her own, helping her Irish inch ahead 60-57.

Even with Nika Mühl serving as a nonfactor in the scoring department, the team needed her defense to be strong in the final quarter. A mere 31 ticks in, she picked up her fifth foul. Just like that, the Croatian guard was done for the night. Her plus/minus was +13. Without her on the floor, the Huskies were outscored by 28.

"I thought we had it all figured out, but it almost broke down when Nika wasn't in the game," Auriemma noted. "It hurt us on both ends. Today, we didn't do a great job with [defense]. There was a lot of miscommunication between our big men and guards."

And it took all the air of UConn's sails. Notre Dame ripped off eight straight, and the Huskies never got closer than six. Edwards also didn't take a shot in the quarter, which was curious, given how well she did early in the half.

Edwards' excellent third and overall performance were both fantastic and excruciating. For everything she did well in the first three quarters, it was all the more painful for the Huskies when her aggression was absent late.

"We should have gone to it more," Auriemma said of Edwards' halted production. "Her and Paige had a really good two-man game going at the start of the third quarter... That was a bad decision by me."

It was a pair of old-fashioned three-point plays—one from Hidalgo and another from Citron, along with a Westbeld three, that put the final knife in the coffin.

The Huskies next will take the floor in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, hoping to bounce back against Villanova.



No. 8 UConn women's basketball sees their 13-game winning streak end with an 82-67 loss against No. 15 Notre Dame at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn. on Jan. 27, 2024. This was their first loss at home this season. PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

ing Irish to a +10 advantage on the glass and +20 points in the paint. Talk about dominance on the interior. How the Huskies handled Notre Dame's potent frontcourt was a major factor going in. And given how much the Irish thrived in that department, it's not a shock that they won in the fashion they did.

Notre Dame also helped themselves with the way they defended Bueckers. The former POTY was bottled

around her," noted Ivey. "I thought Sonia [Citron] did a great job guarding her. She got help from her teammates, and the team executed the scouting report well."

Connecticut started the contest on the wrong foot, with Hidalgo taking the lead on a deuce. Early, it seemed that every time the Huskies tried to get something to go, Hidalgo or Westbeld, who was donning a facemask, would answer.

back-to-back threes as Notre Dame poured it on. Over and over again. This culminated in a 26-5 streak to end the half, turning Connecticut's 12-point lead into a nine-point deficit.

Bueckers, who wasn't having a loud game, drilled one from deep to start the half. But it was Aaliyah Edwards who owned the quarter. As the Huskies clawed their way back into the contest, the star forward was there at every step. Granted, her teammates were



Paige Bueckers taking the ball up the court for UConn in their game against Notre Dame on Jan. 27, 2024. The Huskies went on to lose 82-67. PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sports

Men's Basketball: Huskies erupt for 17 triples in dismantling win over Musketeers

by **Evan Rodriguez**
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In one of the most complete performances by the team this season, the UConn men's basketball team gave the packed XL Center crowd plenty to cheer for in their 99-56 dismantling of the Xavier Musketeers on Sunday.

While the Muskies had given this Connecticut squad plenty of trouble when the reigning national champions traveled to Ohio for a battle at the Cintas Center on Jan. 10, it was complete domination in the second showcase between these two programs. From the tip, UConn scored the first 10 points of the game. Highlighted by an alley-oop slam from Donovan Clingan, who didn't suit up in the first matchup against Xavier, the Musketeers simply couldn't keep up with what coach Dan Hurley drew up.

"We were really overwhelmed today from the opening tip to the final buzzer," said coach Sean Miller following the loss.

From that 10-point run on, the Huskies continued to pour on in the scoring column. A Tristen Newton triple with 12:52 to go gave his squad an 18-5 lead.

On top of an energized offense, fans got to see an incredible defensive performance from this team. For the entirety of the first half, the Muskies shot just

27.6% from the field and just 22 points in total to Connecticut's 48. It took Sean Miller and Co. over 16 minutes to break into the double-digit scoring column, and you can certainly credit a brilliant defensive effort from this UConn squad for that trouble.

In front of a crowd that featured current New Orleans Pelicans guard Jordan Hawkins and the UConn 2004 National Championship team, the current-day Huskies gave a championship-level effort. Following a small ceremony to induct the 2004 squad into the illustrious Huskies of Honor, it was time for the No. 1 team in the nation to finish the job.

Led by their lead guard in

Newton, the program picked up exactly where they left off and didn't miss a beat. Yet, while there were plenty of dunks, three-pointers and more, the highlight of the day had yet to come.

With 15:46 to go, Connecticut dribbled up the court for another offensive opportunity. As guard Cam Spencer dribbled to the right, he found an open Clingan at the three-point line, and his defender, Sasa Ciani, gave the Huskies big man plenty of room to shoot. Naturally, the Bristol native let it fly, and as the ball soared through the net, the noise levels at the XL Center proceeded to increase dramatically. With the UConn 5's first three-point

of his college career, it was now a 61-26 game with everything going the way of the home team.

While Xavier did shoot better in the second half than their woeful 27.6% in the first, it was nowhere near enough to make a dent in Connecticut's sizable lead. To add a cherry on top of a legendary night, Hurley could play more of his young talent, like Jaylin Stewart and Jayden Ross for additional minutes, a goal he's strived to achieve.

While the blowout win was a huge plus for a UConn squad that's been on fire the past few weeks, it was impossible to miss the 2004 Championship roster that was in attendance, a group that consisted of Emeka Okafor, Charlie Villanueva and even Ben Gordon.

"You just couldn't lose in front of that group," said Hurley. "They all addressed the team in the locker room. That was obviously a special group of guys."

In their win, UConn set a program for threes made in a contest with 17 after Andrew Hurley connected on a triple with under two minutes left. They also achieved their second widest margin of victory in a Big East contest, with the most being a 45-point win over Cincinnati in 2008.

Following this historic victory, the reigning national champions will stay home for a matchup at Gampel Pavilion on Wednesday.



THRONE CARTOON COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

UConn SCOREBOARD

vs.

99 **56**

Men's Basketball

Sunday

Upcoming Games

vs.

Women's Tennis,

1 p.m. Wednesday,

Manchester, Conn.

vs.

Men's Basketball,

8:30 p.m. Wednesday

Storrs, Conn.

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconnhuskies
A perfect Sunday in Hartford

TWEETS OF THE DAY

UConn

@UConn

 Kimberly Rosado '24 (@UConnNursing) has never taken a filmmaking class, but that didn't stop her from traveling more than 3,000 miles from home to make a feature-length documentary film, in two languages, in a different country.

UConn Men's Basketball

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 DC with his first career 3 !!

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