



Husky Clothing for All provides free clothing for Huskies at the Stamford Campus

by **Pierce Colfer**
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In the spring of 2018, Laura Bunyan, a UConn sociology professor at the Stamford campus, started Dress for Success, an annual event allowing students to borrow formal wear they couldn't afford. Now, almost six years later, Bunyan has grown the event. What once only offered formal wear is now Husky Clothing for All, a year-round clothing pantry that gives students who can't afford it access to all types of clothing.

Inside of the old gymnasium at the heart of UConn Stamford's campus, students will be able to find Husky Clothing For All operating Mondays through Thursdays. In its infancy, only formal clothing would have been offered, but over the years it has expanded to include sweaters, jeans, T-shirts and other types of clothing.

Bunyan's goal is to foster an environment where students are able to utilize the opportunities that are available to them.

"Students need support, and we all need access to information, and part of being successful in college is having information about resources that are available to students," said Bunyan.

In an interview, Bunyan also talked about expanding Husky Clothing for All beyond Stamford, and beyond just clothing.

Bunyan established the beginning of Husky Harvest, UConn's food pantry, years ago when it was just a single food pantry on the Stamford campus. Now, Husky Harvest has locations at every campus, and it's possible that Husky Clothing for All will reach that level one day.

On top of that, Bunyan wants to expand beyond exclusively clothing and include cooking utensils to supplement Husky Harvest. Since the Stamford campus doesn't have a dining hall, students have to choose between eating out or cooking their own food, and many students don't have access to necessary tools. "If we have canned goods, well if you don't have a can opener you don't take canned goods," said Bunyan when talking about Husky Harvest. Bunyan also mentioned the idea of a free textbook library. But, since Husky Clothing for All gets no funding from the university, this kind of expansion could be difficult.

Although Dress for Success was founded in 2018, the event began to disappear as the students who helped Bunyan found it began to graduate. Once the COVID-19 pandemic happened, Dress for Success disappeared completely. In 2021, as things began to happen in person again, Bunyan realized there was a real need for clothing to be offered to students, and more than just formal wear.

When Husky Clothing for All started again in 2021, Bunyan would post on Facebook asking for donations and wait for hours in a parking lot hoping people would come to drop clothes off. Since then, students

helping run Husky Clothing for All have partnered with UConn's Center for Career Development, and formed an official clothing drop-off point at Piper and Dune, a gift shop in Southbury, Connecticut.

If you'd like more information about Husky Clothing for All, you can email Bunyan at laura.bunyan@uconn.edu or follow Husky Clothing for All on Instagram at [@husky-clothingforall](https://www.instagram.com/husky-clothingforall).



A pile of free clothing for students to take at UConn's Stamford campus, which is provided by Husky Clothing for All. UConn's Center for Career Development has recently begun supporting the cause. PHOTO COURTESY OF @HUSKYCLOTHINGFORALL ON INSTAGRAM

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NEWSLETTER

News

Sleep Deprivation Epidemic Takes a Heavy Toll on Health

(AP) — Sleep deprivation correlates with seven of the 15 leading causes of death in the United States, including heart disease, cancer, stroke, accidents, diabetes, infection and high blood pressure. Lack of sleep also has mental health repercussions, including an increased risk of depression, anxiety and generalized symptoms like loss of motivation or focus.

Poor sleep habits are a global concern. A deeper understanding of the underlying causes is needed. Learning to prioritize and get a better night of rest provides far-reaching benefits for mental, physical, and overall quality of life.

While people may regularly sleep for less than seven hours per night, it is likely compromising their health more than they realize.

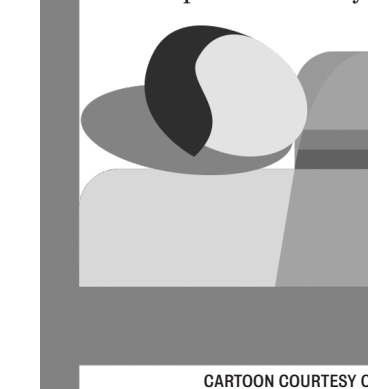
Why Sleep Deprivation Is a Growing Concern

With the rise of constant access to technology and a culture that prioritizes productivity over rest, sleep deprivation has become an epidemic. More and more people are struggling to get enough sleep each night, which is taking a heavy toll on their health.

Sleep is a basic human need. The sleep deprivation epidemic is especially concerning because it affects people of all ages, from young children to older adults, and increases the risk of early mortality.

A recent analysis from Exhale Wellness finds that Americans' most common sleep-related question Americans on Google in 2023 is, "Why Can't I Sleep?"

People are actively seeking solutions for their exhaustion.



The Adverse Effects of Sleep Deprivation on Health

Sleep has become an underrated tool for maintaining good health. During sleep, the body repairs, restores,

and regenerates itself. Sleep deprivation disrupts these critical processes and can lead to a variety of physical and mental health problems.

Health concerns range from poor cognitive function, manifesting as delayed reactions, moodiness, and easy distraction, to effects on the heart, immune system, and metabolism.

How to Prioritize Better Sleep Habits

Sleep experts agree that a good night's rest falls between

seven and nine hours, which will vary with each individual. Aside from the numerical amount, sleep quality is also a concern. Waking up feeling rested involves going through full sleep cycles, avoiding disruptive screens

before bed, and keeping a consistent sleep schedule.

While it's never too late to start prioritizing a better sleep routine, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends starting young with better sleep education. With six out of nine middle schoolers and seven out of 10 high schoolers not getting enough sleep, building a foundation emphasizing the importance of sleep for good health is critical.

Tips for establishing better sleep habits include:

Go to bed and wake up at the same time each day, even on weekends. Avoid screens before bed, as these affect the hormone production needed for restful sleep. Refrain from medicine, drinks, and food before bed that affect sleep patterns, such as sugar-dense foods, alcohol, and caffeine. Exercise daily to regulate hormone production and enhance sleep outcomes. Participate in relaxing, stress-reducing activities before bed, such as deep breathing, meditation, yoga or reading. Taking Sleep More Seriously

Getting better sleep is an underutilized tool for main-

taining good health. Better sleep equates to improved energy levels, mood, and focus and lowered risk for numerous health concerns. So why don't most people take it more seriously?

When someone is tired from an all-nighter or dealing with a sick child, societal sympathy is minimal. The same can be said for chronic sleep deprivation. Exhaustion from lack of sleep is so normalized that people rarely pay attention to the severe consequences and expect to keep persevering. It is not often a health factor discussed or considered at a doctor's appointment either.

Taking Small Steps to a Better Night's Rest

There are simple, accessible steps everyone can take to improve their sleep hygiene and prioritize better rest. It begins with educating ourselves on the importance of sleep and consciously trying to establish and maintain good sleep habits. By doing so, it's possible to combat the sleep deprivation epidemic and improve the globe's overall health and well-being.



A woman having difficulty falling asleep. This sleep deprivation is correlated with seven of the 15 leading causes of death in the United States. PHOTO COURTESY OF AP

The Daily Campus

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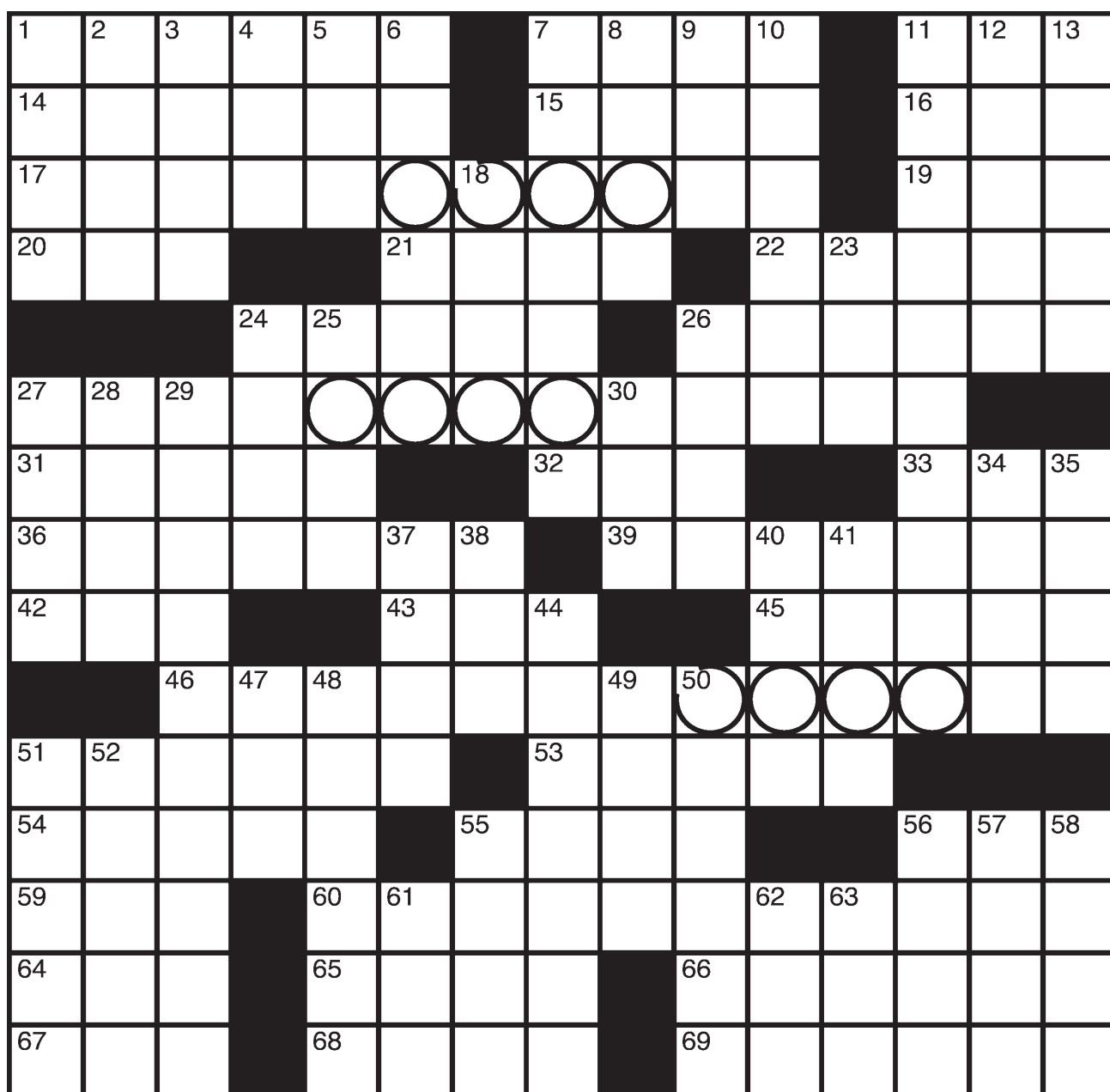
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 "I've been here before" feeling
- 7 ___ and carrots
- 11 Has been
- 14 Some dome-topped venues
- 15 Roger's rival, familiarly
- 16 ___ crossroads
- 17 Playful tune
- 19 Half a score
- 20 Low USN rank
- 21 Fires up, as an engine
- 22 Converse
- 24 Japanese art genre
- 26 Proper conduct, in Hinduism
- 27 Threw in the towel
- 31 Ooze, as charm
- 32 Addition amount
- 33 Church bench
- 36 Made readable, in a way
- 39 Based on deduction instead of experience
- 42 Two-time Super Bowl MVP Manning
- 43 Male sheep
- 45 Elba of "The Wire"
- 46 Roadside channel for water runoff
- 51 Bring on
- 53 Gave it a shot
- 54 Threshold
- 55 Kristen who was on "SNL" from 2005 to 2012
- 56 Henson who created the Muppets
- 59 Sweetie
- 60 Stage a comeback, or an apt title for this puzzle
- 64 In the style of
- 65 "That makes sense"
- 66 Immune system components
- 67 Fine stone
- 68 Sugar source
- 69 Throat-soothing beverage

DOWN

- 1 Small valley
- 2 "___ go brag!"



By Zachary David Levy

1/30/24

- 3 New York NFLers
- 4 Kitchen pest
- 5 Kilmer of "Top Gun: Maverick"
- 6 Login requirement
- 7 Flowering shrubs used as border hedges
- 8 Uses (up)
- 9 Toward the tiller
- 10 Greets, with "to"
- 11 Wakeboarding, for one
- 12 Mr. T's squad
- 13 Maxwell House decaf brand
- 18 Singer Lovato
- 23 Butter portion
- 24 Big name in footwear
- 25 Require
- 26 Hauler destination, perhaps
- 27 Give up
- 28 Figure skater's jump
- 29 Certain state of awareness while sleeping
- 30 Sine ___ non
- 34 Writer/illustrator Carle

Monday's Puzzle Solved

C	C	S		A	L	O	T			R	E	H	A	B	
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S	T	E	E	L				R	E	A	M		Y	E	S

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1/30/24

- 35 Genie's offering
- 37 Lake near the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame
- 38 Karate skill level
- 40 Attraction at a fair
- 41 "___ my best"
- 44 Afternoon show
- 47 Bit of floor decor
- 48 Like pickling liquid
- 49 Moxie
- 50 Half of a fourth
- 51 ICU hookup
- 52 Writer Zora ___ Hurston
- 55 Small songbird
- 56 Leave at the altar
- 57 Not going anywhere
- 58 City outside Phoenix
- 61 Can. neighbor
- 62 Green beginning
- 63 Vietnamese New Year

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‘Lil Nas X: Long Live Montero

by Isaac Grad
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“Lil Nas X: Long Live Montero” was released Saturday, Jan. 27 on HBO, and follows rapper and songwriter Montero Lamar Hill on his first tour. It focuses on his fast rise to fame, his family and his sexuality. Most of all, it talks about self-acceptance and self-love. The documentary was beautifully filmed and edited — and while it only shows a hint of the life of Lil Nas X, the footage reveals a lot about him and how he feels about himself.

A lot can be learned from his bravery and acceptance. His first song “Old Town Road” blew up immediately, throwing him into stardom maybe too soon. He talks about his hesitation in coming out and after the fact, addresses his hesitation in being proud and showing his true self; or as many put it, “throwing it in their face.” It’s one thing to come out to the whole world just as you’re getting big, but it’s another to keep reminding them. While the rapper may have been uncertain of doing so at the time, we see that he knows how impactful this decision has been. He has

inspired so many people to be themselves, no matter who they are. This same message is promoted in this documentary where he discusses in further detail his own struggles with his identity, but focuses more on overcoming his fears.

As someone who loves his music and his bravery in passing, seeing this documentary really helped solidify my love for him, as I’m sure it will for his other fans. His story overall is incredibly inspiring and I imagine a documentary about him could be three times as long, as this one which clocks in at just under two hours. I really enjoyed seeing parts of his shows as someone who did not attend his tour, though I feel I’ve missed out. The documentary made it look like a blast and did a wonderful job of showing how incredible Lil Nas X’s tour performances were. Viewers see the stress involved in doing the shows he does, as well as the joy and success. Hearing his songs as well as getting to see the incredibly choreographed dances and outfits was amazing. For moments throughout the film I felt like I was really there at his show, singing and dancing along. Viewers can learn a lot about the artist, their music and their life.

I really enjoy documentaries of musicians’ tours. Not only can you hear them tell their perspective and see them behind the stage, but you also get to hear their songs that you love so much. Montero has a very inspiring story that he was more easily able to tell to his fans in film format. The great cinematography and music also made the entire documentary very enjoyable and worth watching. Montero included a lot of personal information that is relevant to him as a person, his career and his music. He also pushed the message that he tries to push through his music: love and acceptance are key, and don’t let fear stop you from doing what you love or being yourself.

While some musicians’ documentaries seem like narcissistic films about getting rich and learning nothing other than that they’re better than everyone else, this one had a clear message throughout which I liked. Montero talks about things he’s learned not as though he’s better than all of us because he’s famous, but as someone who has experienced a lot and has been forced to make hard decisions at a younger age than most.

is Moving and Motivational

Rating:



LIL NAS X: LONG LIVE MONTERO

COLUMBIA RECORDS PRESENTS A RADICALMEDIA PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH MUSEUM & CRANE "LIL NAS X: LONG LIVE MONTERO"
EDITED BY ANDREW MORROW DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY PABLO BERRON AND ZAC MANUEL EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MEREDITH BENNETT JON KAMEN FRANK SCHERMA
TOM MACKAY RON PERRY KRISTA WEGENER PRODUCED BY DAVE SIRULNICK CARYN CAPOTOSTO ADAM LEBER GEE ROBERSON
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Life

@dailycampuslife

'GANG BEASTS'

is a chaotic experience

for the

whole

family

by Desirae Sin
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Welcome back to The Backlog, where we review video games based on a certain genre or word each month. As this is the last edition of January, we are ending our "fight" theme with one that could be considered an oldie but goodie, "Gang Beasts." "Gang Beasts" was developed and published by Boneloaf, an English indie game studio. It can be bought and played on the Nintendo Switch, PS4 (and therefore PS5), Xbox One and PCs. The game is cross-platform, but the Steam version does not support this feature. If you haven't noticed with the games this month, most of these fighting games include silly elements to make the playstyle unique to them. "Gang Beasts" is no exception. Similar to "Stick Fight: The Game," the aesthetics of "Gang Beasts" centers around fluorescent, bright colors to help distinguish players and objects from each other. Each player can customize their character and must use the goofy controls. These characters can use every single aspect of their body to hurt other players, and it goes beyond just punching and kicking. Players can also headbutt, grab, lift, crawl and lay down to knock out opponents or avoid obstacles. The best way to describe the characters is "punchable meatbags." The object of the game is to be the last one left standing. I can't necessarily say that the goal is to defeat your opponents because there are countless times when play-

ers just stand still and somehow win. It's incredibly easy to accidentally eliminate yourself. Each stage has its own dangers. The trawler is a fishing boat with a serious shark problem. These sharks will stop at nothing to eat you. Seriously, they jump very high and can use stairs — which is weird because they don't have legs. My favorite stage is the trucks because as you fight on top of the containers, you must be mindful of the oncoming signs that appear very quickly. Not to mention that sometimes you can climb inside of the containers and wait for the others to duke it out. Personally, I'd say that the subway is the funniest stage. It leaves the most room for comedic value. Brawls in subways are a very real occurrence, so it makes the game seem less fictional and closer to reality. Not to mention the fact that — while dark — it's hilarious watching another player struggle to get off of the train tracks and get swept away by the oncoming train. Another stage worth mentioning is the ring, which is literally a wrestling ring. In this stage, you can easily get eliminated by being thrown out of the ring, but it leaves a lot of room for you to show-

case your W W E skills and slug it out. Despite the simple gameplay, there are issues with the online features and overall quality of "Gang Beasts." While it is not as popular now as it was a few years ago, even during its heyday the online matches experienced slow loading screens and constant glitches. Usually, there aren't any issues through local play, but the camera does have trouble keeping everyone within frame. Sometimes it only follows a specific player or a specific fight and doesn't leave enough attention to other players. This is only a problem if you don't like to see your character far away, as the camera may zoom out significantly. Another issue that arises is how limited the stages feel. Sometimes they don't have

much variety, and it becomes easy to kill opponents because you gain a good understanding of how each stage works. For some stages the panels on the ground fall out, leaving a gaping hole for players to fall into. This can sometimes take the fun out of playing since the stage does your job for you. Yet with these concerns, "Gang Beasts" deserves a spot amongst our games based around fighting.

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

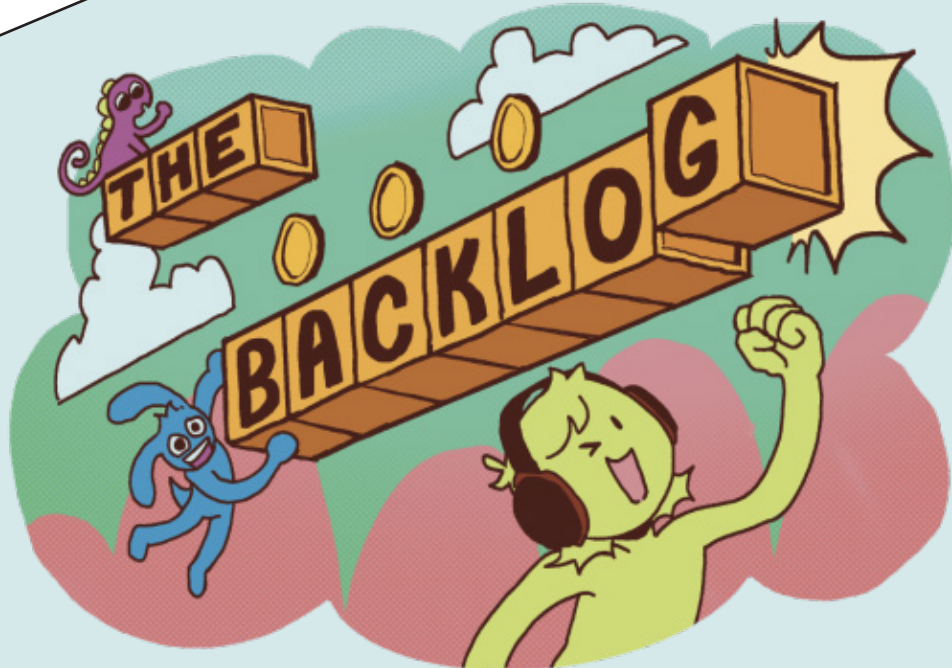
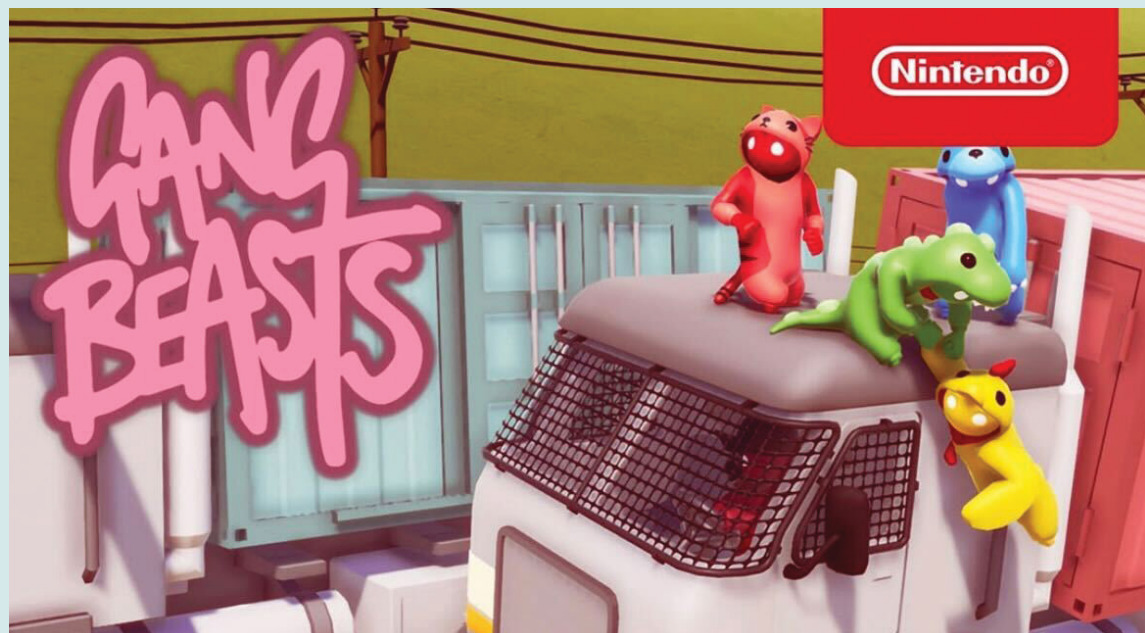


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Rating:





Opinion

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COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



JOURNALISM IS IN CRISIS

DOES IT REALLY NEED SAVING?

by Nell Srinath | OPINION EDITOR | THEY/THEM/SHE/HER | nell.srinath@uconn.edu

It only takes a few days in the University of Connecticut Department of Journalism to hear with unambiguous clarity that the journalism industry is in trouble. Most introductory courses prominently display statistics and graphics detailing the precipitous decline in the availability of local newspapers, or mourning the dwindling readership of legacy media publications. Presented with a somewhat gloomy state of the industry today, journalism students are advised to steel themselves for a future in a field facing significant challenges in the turbulent age of social media and political polarization.

Without a doubt, the terrain ahead is rough for aspiring reporters, analysts and those few lucky columnists who get paid for having opinions. It's enough to make journalism students such as myself who are nearing the end of their undergraduate degree doubt the economic viability of their desired career path. What's the point, after all, of staking your livelihood on an industry that is apparently on the ropes?

Journalists who care about holding the powerful to account and exposing anti-democratic, violently bigoted and imperialistic tendencies in our government should not have to ask this question.

By way of vanishing revenue streams, decreased circulation and even the interplay between social media and polarization, journalism is certainly in jeopardy from without; but even moreso, it is in crisis from within. In 2022, Gallup estimated that 38% of Americans — over one-third — had no trust at all in print, television or radio news, with Republicans and right-leaning independents comprising the bulk of those skeptics and naysayers.

Of course, right-wing media outlets such as Fox News have hinged much of their brand on platforming blatantly false or irrelevant conspiracy theories surrounding the 2020 election and Hunter Biden, respectively, in order to appeal to their base of Trump loyalists; the upshot of this, among other things, has been promoting skepticism of legacy media outlets with what they see as liberal bends. As Perry Bacon Jr. writes for the Washington Post, "a news

outlet being honest about Republicans is both solid journalism and good business." In other words, publications have no obligation nor need to kowtow to the fictitious narratives of the GOP.

However, the numbers game of publishing the most grandiose political theater for audiences willing to pay for it creates a contradiction. The influential papers and networks doing high-level reporting could not be more out of touch with potential readers whose immediate experiences with wages and the cost of living, under-resourcing of public health and social services and other everyday material issues are far more relevant than a trial of a former president or another speaker fight in Congress.

When major media outlets do cover international issues of interest, their reporting tends to warrant distrust as well. The systematic bias in reporting on Israel's genocidal bombing campaign of Gaza, and continued casual framing of the U.S.-backed slaughter of more than 26,000 Palestinians as "Israel's war with Hamas," are reason enough to look elsewhere for coverage that treats Palestinian death with the same gravity as anyone else's. Such tepid language about ongoing genocide and mass slaughter from an organization like the New York Times, which is quick to rightly charge former President Trump in its reporting with being a liar with authoritarian tendencies, contributes to the crisis that the press finds itself in.

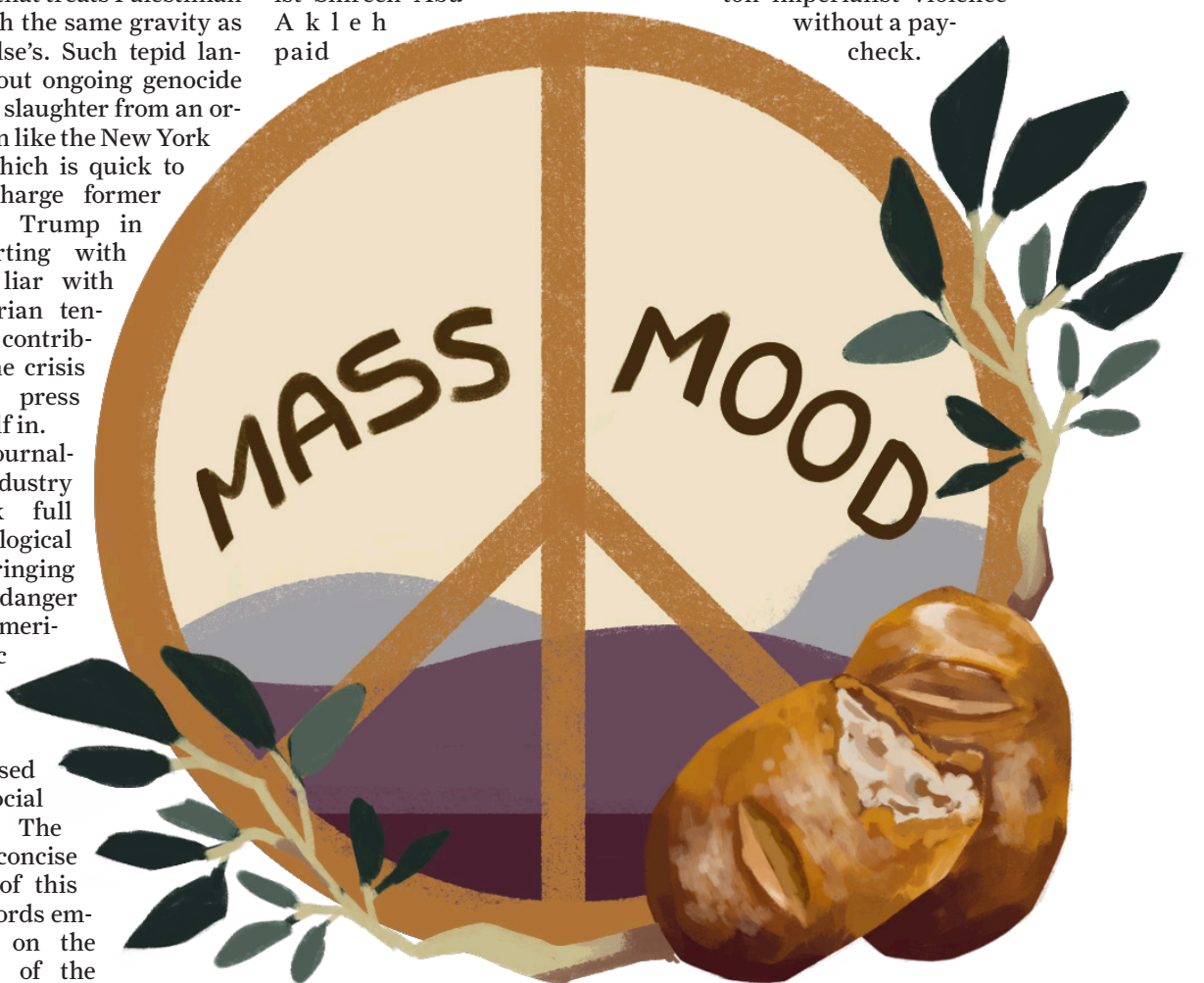
The journalism industry is chock full of ideological hand wringing about the danger to the American public should journalism be eclipsed by social media. The most concise example of this are the words emblazoned on the masthead of the Washington Post:

"Democracy dies in darkness." The Post's slogan, adopted in 2017 after — but allegedly not in response to — the election of President Donald Trump, upholds journalism as the light that prevents the crumbling of America's democratic institutions. The corporatization of journalism has allowed upwardly mobile careerists to view themselves as hard-scrabbled defenders of American values. Thus, the stakes of journalism's decline are simultaneously democracy and a gig.

But if the stakes truly are allowing the U.S. to succumb to the depraved political whims of demagogues and tyrants, the economic erosion of the industry should not be of a concern. In the Philippines, journalists like Maria Ressa, founder of the news organization Rappler, continue their reporting in the face of legal and political repression. In India, activists and authors like Arundhati Roy continue to level criticisms of India's occupation of Kashmir despite prosecution. Palestinian journalists like Wael Dahdouh report on the Israeli occupation even after airstrikes killed his immediate family. Palestinian American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh paid

the greatest sacrifice for her reporting in the occupied West Bank when she was shot in the head by a member of the Israeli military during a raid.

Just because journalists enjoy nominal freedom of press in the United States does not make it any less perverse that speaking truth to power is an enterprise. The very question of journalism's institutional frailty is a testament to the fact that, when the cost of honest, relevant reporting becomes high enough, this critical service will fold. Journalism is indeed in crisis — one that disaffected readers should feel no obligation to solve unless those of us who value reporting can remold the vocation into something that will eschew profit in favor of socially necessary coverage. If the press is truly as critical as its appraisals in lecture halls and professional conventions make it out to be, it will persist without its traditional funding mechanisms. Furthermore, we should welcome, not fear, a sea change where independent journalists — who can prove their own ethical fortitude — are able to shine a light on fraud, exploitation and wanton imperialist violence without a paycheck.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Opinion

Photo of the Day | There's snow place like Storrs



Students walk by the fairy lights hung on the trees along the bookstore in Storrs, Conn. on Jan. 29, 2024. As the snow started to fall on a Monday night, the students of the University of Connecticut were not stopped in their travels around campus.
 PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



THE DAILY CAMPUS COMICS



COMICS BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

BIG EAST BALLER UPDATE NO. 7: PROVIDENCE WELCOMES HOME ED COOLEY



The Providence Friars posing after playing a close game against the Georgetown Hoyas at Dunkin' Donuts Center on Jan. 27, 2024. The final score of the game was 84-76, with the win going to the Friars.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @PCFRIARSMBB ON TWITTER

by Sam Calhoun
HE/HIM/HIS
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Former Providence head coach Ed Cooley made his return to the Amica Mutual Pavilion, a building he called home for 12 years. It was a battle between two of the top scorers in the Big East as Georgetown's Jayden Epps faced Providence guard Devin Carter.

No. 1 UConn dominated in its only game of the week, destroying Xavier by over 40 points in front of the 2004 national championship team.

Overall, there is a lot to unfold in this week's edition of Big East Baller Update.

Player of the Week: Devin Carter, G, Providence (21.5 PPG, 5 RPG, 4 APG, 3 SPG in two games)

The Big East announced Creighton guard Trey Alexander as the Big East Player of the Week in Monday's press release. However, that was not the case in my eyes. Carter showed how crucial he is to the Friars on Saturday, scoring 29 points in the win over Georgetown, including 11 points in the final two minutes to pull away.

Freshman of the Week: Stephon Castle, G, UConn (vs. Xavier: 12 pts 5 ast, 3 reb, 2 stl)

Castle is racking up Big East Freshman of the Week honors this season, as he contributed to UConn's dominant win over Xavier, being one of the many Huskies in double figures.

Top Games
Providence stuns Pirates in Newark, 67-63

No. 18 Creighton and Providence have handed Seton Hall back-to-back losses at home after the Pirates began Big East play with a 3-0 record against Big East opponents at the Prudential Center. Senior guard Ticket Gaines led the way for the Friars with 17 points, six assists, five 3-pointers, three steals and two blocks. Needless to say, the George Mason transfer was all over the court in Providence's win on Wednesday night. Josh Oduro also helped the Friars, finishing with 16 points, eight rebounds and four blocks. He has 12 second-half points and helped Providence go on a

14-2 run in the final 20 minutes. Al-Amir Dawes had 26 points and three steals, but that was not enough to hold off the Friars.

Providence gets revenge against Cooley's Hoyas, 84-76

Saturday's bout between Providence and Georgetown was highly anticipated, with most of the attention for college basketball focused on the atmosphere in Rhode Island's capital. We talked about how incredible Carter was in the win, but the Friars would not have won without Oduro's performance, scoring 22 points and leaving the floor to a standing ovation. Epps scored 26 for the Hoyas but did not make a 3-pointer until late in the game. Providence is currently on a three-game winning streak.

Davis leads Bulldogs to double-overtime victory over Villanova, 88-81

DJ Davis exploded coming out of halftime, scoring 28 points on 50% shooting, including five 3-pointers. Butler trailed by four following back-to-back layups from Villanova's Hakim Hart and Tyler Burton with just under three minutes remaining in double overtime. Davis helped the Bulldogs burst out to an 8-0 run, but that ended with Eric Dixon drilling a 3-pointer with 23 seconds to go. Butler came out on top thanks to six free throws made at the end to seal a big win at Hinkle Fieldhouse.

Upcoming Games (excluding two massive games for UConn this week. Keep an eye out for the previews this week!)

No. 9 Marquette at Villanova (7 p.m., FS1)
Villanova

hasn't had the year they anticipated, with an 11-9 record coming into a massive game against No. 9 Marquette. With a 6-3 record at home, it will be up to Eric Dixon, who scored 28 points against Butler, and the rebounding on the defensive end that helps the Wildcats in tonight's game. Speaking of a 6-3 record, that is Marquette's record against Big East opponents this season. The battle inside the paint between Dixon and Oso Ighodaro will be fun to watch tonight.

Butler at No. 13 Creighton (Friday, 9 p.m., FS1)

Creighton has been red-hot lately, winning four of its last five games. Butler is coming off a double-overtime victory over Villanova and is currently on a three-game winning streak. On Friday, these two teams will face off in Omaha for the first of two meetings between the two programs. Trey Alexander, who averaged 25 PPG performance this past week, looks to continue his All-Big East-caliber season as he leads the Bluejays against a guard-heavy Butler team.

Providence at Villanova (Sunday, 6 p.m., FS1)

Two teams in the middle of the pack in the Big East will face off against each other on Sunday night as Villanova looks to get out of its ice-cold four-game losing streak. They will have two chances to do that, but if the Wildcats fall to Marquette tonight, Sunday's battle against the Friars becomes much more vital as Villanova looks to avoid sitting at 11-11 at the end of this week.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sports

Photo of the Day | Men's basketball



UConn beats Xavier on Sunday afternoon at the XL Center with 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

Bridget's Bulletin:

by **Bridget Brondson**
SHE/HER/HERS
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The young women dominating the sports world have been powerhouses across the board. From the track, to the tennis court and even to the coaching staff, the next generation of female athletes are already smashing records and making names as the best of the best.

Coco Gauff

The 19-year-old out of Delray Beach, FL has been a powerhouse on the court for the better half of six years. With seven WTA Tour singles titles, eight doubles titles and a No. 1 world ranking in doubles by the WTA, this teenager is a force to be reckoned with. Now, as the first women's teenager to secure back-to-back semifinal appearances at majors since 2007, Gauff is arguably the most successful female athlete in the tennis sphere right now. Despite recently getting eliminated from the Australian Open by reigning champion Aryna Sabalenka, Gauff is still a straight shot to success. Not even in her 20s, this young athlete is going straight to the top.

Chloe Kim

At the mere age of 17, Kim became the youngest woman to win an Olympic gold medal in snowboarding, but her career began long before then. Back in 2014, Kim became the X Games' youngest gold medal winner of

all time. From there, Kim's career only took off. Now at 23, Kim has recently become the first to land the 1260 in the women's halfpipe at the X Games. She is now tied with Kelly Clark for the leading number of X Games titles with seven under her belt. With records and gold medals piled high, Kim's resume is arguably one of the most impressive on the market right now. Undoubtedly, the young star will make several more Olympic appearances. On top of her impressive athleticism, Kim has also dabbled in the entertainment industry and has some experience in modeling and acting.

Sha'Carri Richardson

Heading into the 2024 Summer Olympics, Richardson will be holding the title of the fastest woman in the world. With impeccable speed and a natural talent on the track, Richardson had a ticket to the top from the beginning. After just one year at LSU, she earned the NCAA title and the LSU record of 10.75 in the 100m. From there, Richardson had her foot in the door with the greats and left her college career to pursue her dream as a professional. While the success wasn't immediate due to a suspension from the 2020 Tokyo Olympic games, Richardson came back faster and stronger. In 2023 at just 21 years old, Richardson earned her unbeatable title in the U.S. Track and Field Championship. A 10.65 time in the 100m

sent Richardson straight to the top and she hasn't looked back since. As the 2024 Olympic trials grow near, the young track star will be preparing for her moment back on the track. All eyes will be on Richardson as she will be the one to watch this summer.

Erin Matson

As the youngest Division 1 coach in history, Matson took the career step of a lifetime upon her graduation in 2022. After leading UNC Field Hockey to win four NCAA championships and being named the most decorated field hockey athlete in Tar Heel history, Matson was offered the head coaching position for the team she played for just a year prior. Now guiding the team she once starred on, Matson demonstrated stardom in the coaching arena with an 18-3 season record. Although Matson followed in the footsteps of Karen Shelton, the winningest coach in sports history, she proved herself to be a powerhouse at the helm of the group. With a historic legacy as a player and one season under her belt as a coach, Matson has already put herself on an outstanding trajectory to success.

Suni Lee

With the 2024 gymnastic Olympic trials on the horizon, Lee is gearing up for another year of gold. At just 18-years-old, the Auburn student made her Olympic debut and smashed the records. Earning all-around gold, a team silver medal and bronze in the uneven bars, Lee was the topic of conversation in Tokyo. In her college career, Lee has been the frontrunner. With eight all-American honors, a national championship and an SEC title after just her freshman year, Lee has been and will continue to be one of the most talked about athletes in the gymnastics circle. At just 20 years old, Lee maintains the status of one of the most impressive young athletes of her generation.

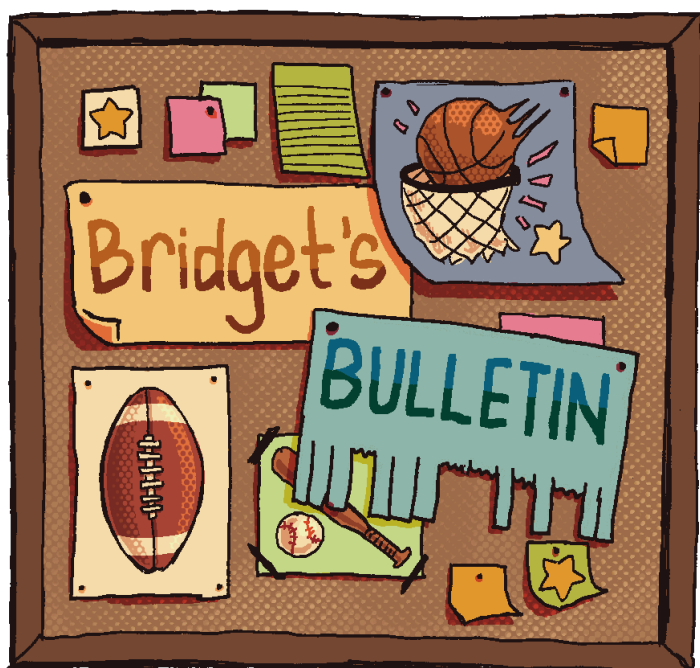
The next generation of female athletes has already proven the future is female. Whether it's on the track, the tennis court or the halfpipe, these young ladies have made record-breaking feats all before the age of 25. With resumes stacked high and countless titles in the record books, the future is already incredibly bright for these young women.

The future is female



Suni Lee, a member of the United States women's gymnastics team, wins the all-around gold medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. She also won a silver medal after Simone Biles withdrew from the team and a bronze medal for the uneven bars event.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @SUNISALEE_ ON TWITTER



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

BEHIND THE BALLOT: RISING FROM THE ASHES

by **Stratton Stave**

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It's been a while. In April of 2022, nearly 22 months ago, I published my most recent "Behind the Ballot" column, explaining the reasoning behind my votes for the Student Media Poll. That was on the women's side, following UConn's loss to South Carolina in the national championship. Writing that column feels like a lifetime ago. Now, I'm back as a voter, this time for men's basketball. Yes, I'm joining midsea-

son. It's been a wild few weeks of college basketball, so let's get into what the SMP is and why I voted the way I did.

As a brief reminder, the SMP is a weekly basketball poll, voted on by student journalists from around the country from a variety of different college newspapers. I took a lot of time to put together my initial rankings and looked at games from the past week to determine this ballot. With that being said, let's jump into this week's rankings!

As I began to comb through the available teams, I realized

how much of a trick creating these rankings was going to be. Once you get past the top handful of teams, the number of attractive options dwindle. Most squads have four to six losses and it really comes down to who has looked the best recently. There were few easy decisions and there are any number of not-wrong ways one could draw up a top 25. With that being said, let's take a look at the rankings and the five most interesting teams from this week's action: two high achievers, two low and one wild card team of note.

1. UCONN	2. PURDUE	3. UNC	4. TENNESSEE	5. HOUSTON
6. WISCONSIN	7. ARIZONA	8. KANSAS	9. KENTUCKY	10. ILLINOIS
11. MARQUETTE	12. CREIGHTON	13. IOWA STATE	14. AUBURN	15. DUKE
16. ALABAMA	17. TCU	18. BAYLOR	19. BYU	20. SAN DIEGO STATE
21. UTAH STATE	22. OKLAHOMA	23. DAYTON	24. TEXAS TECH	25. NEW MEXICO

HIGH ACHIEVERS

No. 13 Iowa State: Out of seemingly nowhere, the Cyclones have forced themselves into the conversation, now near the upper half of the rankings. Looking at their resume holistically, they appear to be as good as any other team outside the top five. And they have been really peaking lately. ISU is now 5-2 in conference play, picking up big wins over current No. 5 Houston and No. 8 Kansas. They had a lack of signature wins and lost a few against KenPom ~50 teams. They'll have a pair of important away games this week—against No. 18 Baylor and Texas—that will give them the chance to skyrocket past comparable squads.

No. 16 Alabama: The Crimson Tide have had one of the more odd seasons among top 25 teams, gaming the system for an excellent ranking in many metrics. Despite losing six times, they sit at No. 8 in KenPom thanks to their tremendous wins over poor teams. Before they played No. 14 Auburn Wednesday, Alabama's best win was over Indiana State, who is just outside the top 25. They beat Auburn in a great performance, though the Tigers have been questioned due to the lack of competition they've faced. More on them later. Alabama did secure the victory nonetheless and are trending in the right direction.

DISAPPOINTMENTS

No. 14 Auburn: And we're back to the Tigers. They still stand without a great win, with their top victory coming against 12-8 Texas A&M. Not super impressive. The thread holding their argument for a top 10 spot together was the fact that they lost just two times in their first 18 games. Auburn doubled the figure this week. They picked up losses to Alabama and Mississippi State on the road. Neither defeat is bad, but dropping chances to pick up signature wins just doesn't provide a convincing argument for a top 10 spot. As a result, they fall to the bottom of the 6-15 cluster.

No. 8 Kansas: The Jayhawks, one of two teams to defeat top-ranked UConn, has been falter-

ing in Big 12 play. We're not far removed from their legitimate argument to be the No. 1, but Kansas has lost three of their last six and are 4-3 in conference for the first time in the Bill Self era. The recent away loss to a surging ISU squad is understandable, but losses to UCF and West Virginia, a pair that could end up in quad two by the end of the season, is just not great. Their three top 10 wins, including two against the current top four, are keeping the Jayhawks in the top 10. That, along with the fact that everyone else keeps losing alongside them.

WILD CARD

The top five: In some strange and unusual continuity this season, the top five in these rankings

didn't lose this week. No. 1 UConn absolutely shellacked KenPom top-35 Xavier by 43, while No. 2 Purdue picked up decent wins over Rutgers and Michigan. No. 3 UNC is red-hot, riding a 10-game win streak. This week, they beat Wake Forest and Florida State, both of which are quad two at the moment, but could become quad one. No. 4 Tennessee convincingly beat a poor Vanderbilt team, while No. 5 Houston survived No. 19 BYU on the road and took care of business against Kansas State. Not having questions in the top five is refreshing, though it's hard to count on it staying this way. Houston and Kansas line up for a huge matchup this Saturday in a game that could shake things up.



The UConn Huskies take home the win against the Xavier Musketeers on Jan. 28, 2024. Huskies guard Cam Spencer scored 19 of the team's total points.

PHOTO BY JORDAN ARNOLD, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sports

The Weekly Reed:

The Kansas City Astros and the Houston Chiefs

by Noah Reed
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If you opened any social media platforms this past week, you saw the hate that was going towards the Kansas City Chiefs. Fans were calling on Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson to save fans from having to watch Mahomes and the Chiefs in yet another Super Bowl. This trend will most likely continue in the coming weeks as well, but now focusing on San Francisco's quarterback Brock Purdy. What might seem like a light-hearted joke is filled with a lot of truths; NFL fans are done seeing Mahomes and the Chiefs succeed.

When a team is successful for a long time, viewers are more likely to want them to fail. That pretty much goes without saying unless your team is the one that is consistently winning. We don't even need to think back to not so long ago to the Patriots.

ed a shortened season with empty stadiums and allowed the below .500 Astros to sneak into the post-season and reach the ALCS again.

The cheating scandal elevated hatred towards the team, and even with years passed and minimal players left from those rosters, the Astros are still hated for their success.

The Chiefs are in a similar situation. In Mahomes' first playoff action he was pitted against Brady and the Patriots in the AFC Championship. Fans rallied behind him and the Chiefs, hoping someone could stop Brady from yet another super bowl appearance. While the Chiefs failed to get the win, the very next season they got past the hump, taking down the 49ers for their first Super Bowl since 1969.

This is where things get a little weird.

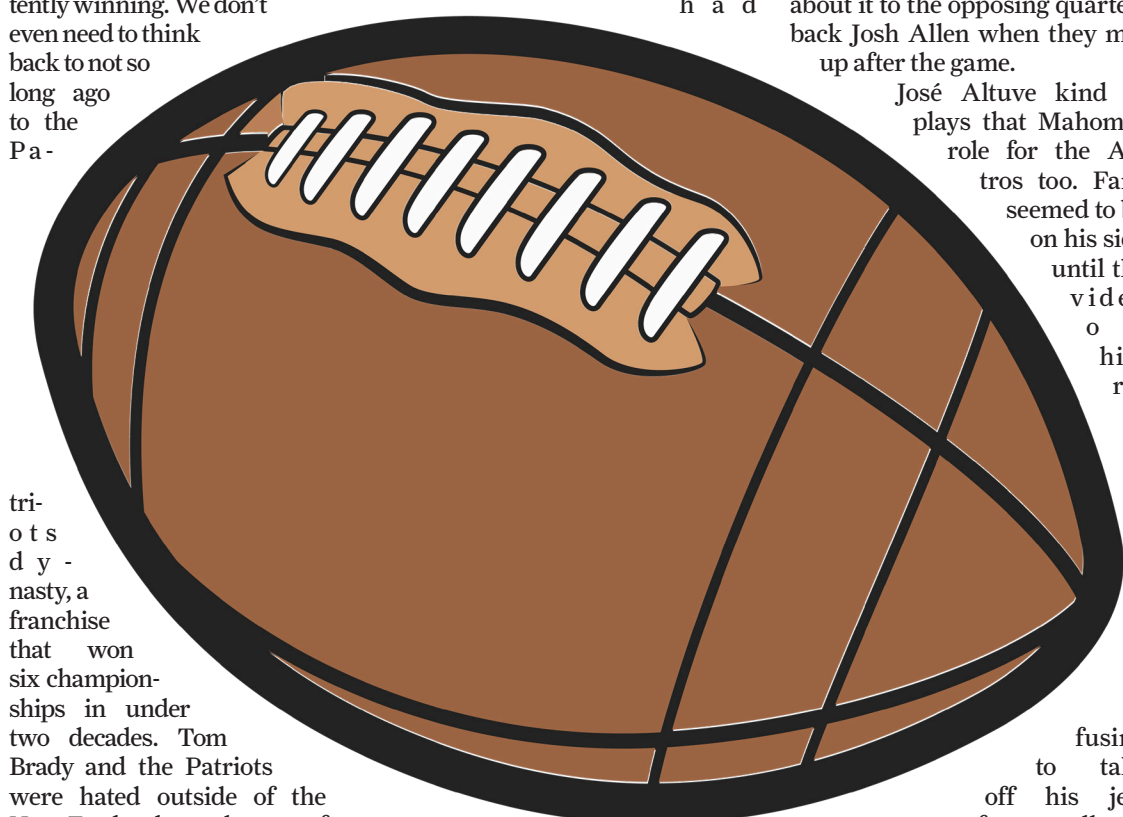
Every AFC championship game since 2018 has had

played four series against each other. Houston has won all four meetings. This includes one wild card game during the 2015 season and three ALCS matchups in 2017, 2019 and 2022.

The last thing is that these teams have players that fans used to at the very least tolerate, but cannot stand anymore.

Expanding what I opened with, it's clear to see that NFL fans are done with seeing Patrick Mahomes in yet another Super Bowl. Mahomes hasn't helped his cause either. Even just looking back at Sunday's game, there's footage of him knocking over Raven's kicker Justin Tucker's stand so he could warm up, something Tucker didn't really appreciate. A little further back in Week 14, Mahomes had to be held back from the refs after an offside call on Kadarius Toney, and even went and complained about it to the opposing quarterback Josh Allen when they met up after the game.

José Altuve kind of plays that Mahomes role for the Astros too. Fans seemed to be on his side until the video of him re-



trios dynasty, a franchise that won six championships in under two decades. Tom Brady and the Patriots were hated outside of the New England area because fans were tired of seeing the same team in the Super Bowl repeatedly. I'm hesitant to compare the Patriots and the Chiefs because of the longevity but something more interesting was being talked about this weekend as well.

The thing that's been pointed out that really stuck to me is the similarity between the Chiefs and the Houston Astros of the MLB.

Being a big fan of baseball, I know how seeing a team dominate consistently can get kind of old. When the Astros made the World Series back in 2017, MLB fans seemed to be rooting for them against the Dodgers and it was an exciting series, taking all seven games. In 2019, they made their third straight ALCS appearance and made it back to the fall classic, eventually losing to the Washington Nationals.

Weeks after the final out, a cheating scandal came to light. Then came the pandemic, which creat-

the CLIPART COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL

Chiefs and every ALCS game since 2017 has featured the Astros.

Since 2017, the Astros have appeared in four World Series (2017, 2019, 2021 and 2022), and have won two (2017* and 2022). With the win on Sunday, the Chiefs will be playing in their fourth Super Bowl (2019, 2020, 2022 and 2023), and have won two as well (2019 and 2022).

Another eerily similar situation that has come up is the dominance over a particular New York sports team during both teams' runs. Kansas City has the Buffalo Bills number, beating them as recently as this year in the playoffs while owning a 3-0 record against them in the postseason with Mahomes at quarterback. Houston, on the other hand, has a similar foe in the New York Yankees, a team they've met in the playoffs. Dating back to 2015, the Astros and Yankees have

which fans believe means he was wearing a wire that told him what pitch was coming. He receives the most backlash from fans—mostly due to his involvement with the cheating scandal—but he's also been there since the beginning, just like Mahomes has been there for all the Chiefs' success. Both have also won the regular season MVP award in their respective sport.

I don't think this is a perfect comparison, but I can at least see where fans are coming from. Nevertheless, Mahomes and the Chiefs will look to win their third ring since 2019 against the very same team they beat to get it, the 49ers. Houston, on the other hand, continues to build upon a strong roster, adding reliever Josh Hader to a multi-year deal as they try to stay competitive against their division rival the Texas Rangers, who just won their first World Series.



The Edmonton Oilers face off against the Nashville Predators on Jan. 27, 2024. The Oilers came out on top in the end, scoring three more points than the Predators.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @EDMONTONOILERS ON TWITTER

The Puck Drop: NHL All-Star weekend is upon us

by Avery Becker
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With the NHL bye week upon us, fans are sad that they won't be able to see their favorite teams play, but never fear, an exciting weekend will soon be upon us.

That exciting weekend is the annual NHL All-Star game.

Every year, the NHL brings players all across the league to compete in a series of competitions and games.

This year, the event will occur in Toronto, Ontario at Scotiabank Arena from Thursday, Feb. 1 to Saturday, Feb. 2.

On Thursday, they will begin at 6 p.m. by announcing the NHL Alumni Man of the Year, commencing the Tim Hortons NHL All-Star Player Draft, honoring the 1967 Toronto Maple Leafs and concluding with the PWHL 3-on-3 showcase.

On Friday, the skills competition will begin at 7 p.m. with eight events. It will consist of twelve stars that will compete for the most points, with the winner going home with \$1 million.

This year, the skills competition will have three rounds. The first round will have preliminary contests such as the hardest shot, the fastest skater, stick handling, one timers, a passing challenge and accuracy shooting. Those who win each of these competitions will

move on to the next NHL One-on-One round. Each player will get to select the player they want to go up against. After this shootout, the top six will make it to the third round, where points are doubled. The player who notches the most points after all these events will be crowned the winner!

On Saturday, it's the NHL All-Star game, the game that most NHL fans look forward to besides the Stanley Cup final. It will begin at 3 p.m. and there will be four teams with 11 players (nine skaters and two goaltenders). Each team will have one captain and one celebrity captain.

Some of these players and celebrities include Auston Matthews, Justin Bieber, Quinn Hughes, Jack Hughes, Michael Buble, Nathan Mackinnon, Tate McRae, Connor McDavid and Will Arnett. During the All-Star Draft on Thursday, each team will get to draft which players they want.

The jerseys for this game were also designed after Ontario native Bieber's "Drew brand," since the events will be taking place in his home province.

All in all, fans should not be disappointed that we can't watch hockey for a week. Fans should be excited for this weekend, where we get three days to see the best players in the NHL compete.

WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

UConn SCOREBOARD

vs.

99 **56**

Men's Basketball
Sunday

Upcoming Games

vs.

Men's Basketball
8:30 p.m. Wednesday
Storrs, Conn.

vs.

Women's Basketball
6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Villanova, Pa.

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconnmbb
What's coach thinking here?

TWEETS OF THE DAY

TorresonUConn
@TorresOnUConn
Not at all surprising, BUT for a third straight week, YOUR UConn Huskies are the No. 1 TEAM IN COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Mad Max
@PinstripeSZN99
People you should not bet against: LeBron James, Tom Brady, Nick Saban, Lionel Messi, The UConn Huskies, Patrick Mahomes. It's the cold-blooded truth atp

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