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UConn students speak at Appropriations Committee meeting

by Jenna Outcalt
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The Appropriations Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly held a public hearing at 5 p.m. on Tuesday to receive testimony from higher education representatives to inform their decision on education funding.

The meeting included testimony from 10 panels. The panels consisted of representatives of Connecticut higher education institutions such as the University of Connecticut and Connecticut State Colleges and Universities. The panelists mainly spoke about their personal experiences with higher education and the effect that lower funding could have on these institutions.

Panelists from UConn included undergraduate students, members of student government and graduate students. President of the Storrs Undergraduate Student Government Jonathan Heiden told the committee that their hope lies in young people, so higher education should be a priority for funding.

“We live in a complex world with problems far from simple. It’s now more than ever that we need an educated population. But we aren’t just talking about a diploma. We’re talking about high quality affordable education that gives people the tools to deal with today’s issues and tomorrow’s issues,” Heiden said to the committee.

First-generation and low-income students spoke about how different university programs and grants assisted them in finding their path

in higher education and alleviating financial concerns that would have put their education at risk.

Ilene Garcia, a student at UConn pursuing her bachelor’s degree in social work, told the committee about how she was awarded \$2,000 in university grants to afford her last year of college after years of hard work. She said that grants like this would cease to exist in the future if funding decreased, preventing people from graduating due to monetary concerns.

“When you cut institutions bit by bit, year after year, you take away the little extra they have to support students like myself,” Garcia said. “Regional campuses and community colleges already struggle with financial issues and have very limited resources. Imagine how we are going to deal with the

future demands if we barely are surviving now.”

Earlier in the day, the committee heard the budget presentations of higher education institutions, including UConn. The budget was presented by UConn President Radenka Maric, Chief Financial Officer Jeffrey Geoghegan and interim CEO and Executive Vice President of Health Affairs Bruce Liang. Anne D’Alleva, the provost and vice president for academic affairs, also assisted in answering questions from the committee.

By the time of the hearing, there were 113 testimonies that were sent by UConn staff, faculty, students and alumni. Lyle Scruggs, a professor of political science at UConn, explained in his testimonial how budget shortfalls were already affecting the university.

“This low level of investment is straining the university. Faculty morale is low; staffing shortages delay the already slow processing of research approvals and funding applications,” Scruggs wrote.

Tina Griffith, lead custodian at UConn, said that the budget cuts were an excuse for UConn to “privatize and outsource” jobs or not fill jobs altogether, forcing their employees to work short-staffed.

“We are the people behind the scenes caring for all our buildings and making sure students, staff and visitors have safe and clean buildings to live and work in. Staffing crises due to these deep budget cuts have been affecting us for far too long, and when you don’t have enough staff, you tend to get hurt,” Griffith wrote in her testimony.

Sony Pictures announces Four Beatles Biopics to come

NEW YORK (AP) — The Beatles are getting the big-screen biopic treatment in not just one film, but a Fab Four of movies that will give each band member their own spotlight — all of which are to be directed by Sam Mendes.

For the first time, the Beatles, long among the stingiest rights granters, are giving full life and music rights to a movie project. Sony Pictures announced Monday a deal that may dwarf all music biopics that have come before it, with the stories of Paul McCartney, John Lennon, George Harrison and Ringo Starr spread out over a quartet of films.

The films, conceived by Mendes, are expected to roll out theatrically in innovative fashion, with the movies potentially coexisting or intersecting in theaters. Precise release plans will be announced at a later date. Sony is targeting 2027 for their release.

McCartney, Starr and the families of John Lennon and George Harrison have all signed off on the project through the band’s Apple Corps. Ltd. Sony Music Publishing controls the rights to the majority of Beatles songs.

“I’m honored to be telling the story of the greatest rock band of all time, and excited to challenge the notion of what constitutes a trip to the movies,” Mendes said in a statement.

Each film will be from the perspective of a Beatle.

“We intend this to be a uniquely thrilling, and epic cinematic experience: four films, told from four different perspectives which tell a single story about the most celebrated band of all time,” said producer Pippa Harris. “To have The Beatles’ and Apple Corps’ blessing to do this is an immense privilege.”

The Beatles’ most famous forays into film were in their early years. Between 1964 and 1970, they appeared in five movies, including “A Hard Day’s Night” (1964) and the animated “Yellow Submarine” (1968). They’ve, of course, been the subject of many documentaries, most recently Peter Jackson’s 2021 “The Beatles: Get Back.”

In 2023, the Beatles reunited with the aid of artificial intelligence in the newly released song “Now and Then.” The recording was made possible by technology used by Jackson on “Get Back,” and featured a music video made by the New Zealand director.

Attempts to dramatize the Beatles’ story have been more sporadic and less impactful. A 1979 biopic, made when Lennon was still alive, called “The Birth of the Beatles” was produced with Beatles original drummer Pete Best as an adviser. The 1994 indie drama “Backbeat” chronicled Lennon’s relationship with Stuart Sutcliffe before the Beatles were famous. “Nowhere Boy”



FILE - The Beatles address the media in the press room of Kennedy International Airport on their arrival, Feb. 7, 1964 in New York. The Beatles are getting the big-screen biopic treatment in not just one but a Fab Four of movies that will give each band member their own film, all of which are to be directed by Sam Mendes.

FILE PHOTO/AP

(2009) starred Aaron Taylor-Johnson as a teenage Lennon.

But in the last decade, music biopics have become big business. Box-office hits like “Bohemian Rhapsody,” “Rocketman” and “Elvis” have sent Hollywood executives chasing the next jukebox blockbuster. Over Presidents Day weekend, “Bob Marley: One Love,”

produced with the Marley estate, was the No. 1 movie in theaters. A Michael Jackson biopic is in production.

“Theatrical movie events today must be culturally seismic. Sam’s daring, large-scale idea is that and then some,” said Tom Rothman, chair and chief executive of Sony Pictures’ Motion Picture Group.

The combination of Mendes’ team “with the music and the stories of four young men who changed the world, will rock audiences all over the globe,” Rothman said. “We are deeply grateful to all parties and look forward ourselves to breaking some rules with Sam’s uniquely artistic vision.”

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THE DAILY CAMPUS NEWSLETTER

8 AM BLAST

News

FIRST FEDERAL TRIAL FOR A HATE CRIME BASED ON GENDER IDENTITY STARTS OVER TRANS WOMAN'S KILLING

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — The first federal trial over a hate crime based on gender identity began Tuesday in South Carolina, where a man faces charges that he killed a Black transgender woman and then fled to New York.

The U.S. Department of Justice alleges that in August 2019, Daqua Lameek Ritter lured the woman — who is referred to as Dime Doe in court documents — into driving to a sparsely populated rural county in South Carolina. Ritter then shot her three times in the head with a .22 caliber handgun after they reached an isolated area near his uncle's home, according to Ben Garner, an assistant U.S. attorney for the district of South Carolina.

In recent years there has been a surge in attacks on the LGBTQ+ community. For decades, transgender women of color have faced disproportionately high rates of violence and hate crimes, according to the Department of Homeland Security. In 2022, the number of gender identity-based hate crimes reported by the FBI increased by 37% compared to the previous year.

And until 2009, federal hate crime laws did not account for offenses motivated by the victim's sexual orientation or gender identity. The first conviction involving a victim targeted for their gender identity came in 2017. A Mississippi man received a 49-year prison sentence as part of a plea deal after he admitted to killing a 17-year-old transgender woman.

But Tuesday marks the first time that such a case has ever been brought to trial, according to Brook Andrews, an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of South Carolina. Never before has a federal jury decided whether to convict and further punish someone for a crime based on the victim's gender identity.

During opening arguments, Garner portrayed Ritter as someone working vigilantly to avoid the ridicule he'd face if his secret relationship was exposed. They'd met during his teenage years when he traveled from his grandmother's Brooklyn home to visit family property in Allendale, South Carolina. The two had been close friends, according to the defense, and



The Matthew J. Perry, Jr. Courthouse in Columbia, S.C., is seen on Friday, Feb. 9, 2024. The first federal trial over a hate crime based on gender identity is set to begin at the courthouse Tuesday, Feb. 20, where Daqua Lameek Ritter faces charges that he killed a Black transgender woman and then fled to New York.

PHOTOGRAPH CURTOSY OF JAMES POLLARD / AP

were related through Ritter's aunt and the woman's uncle.

But Ritter became "enraged" when he learned that one of Doe's friends knew about their sexual relationship, according to Garner. Ritter threatened to beat her for sharing that information with anyone — something he had repeatedly instructed her not to do, Garner said.

The government has said that Ritter's girlfriend learned about the affair between Ritter and Doe in the month before the killing. Prosecutors believe the revelation, which they say prompted Ritter's girlfriend to hurl a homophobic slur, made Ritter "extremely upset."

Garner cited text messages purporting to show that Ritter complained to Doe about the mockery less than one week before her death.

"He killed her to silence her," Garner told the jury.

They say that Ritter lied about his whereabouts in an interview with state police later that day. A "nervous" Ritter walked to his uncle's house about half a mile away from the crime scene and asked for a ride home, according to Garner. Prosecutors say that Ritter enlisted others to help burn his clothes, hide the weapon and mislead police about his location on the day of the murder.

Ritter is said to have been splitting time between South Carolina, where he had a job and driver's license, and New York, where he lived with family and was eventually arrested.

Government lawyers plan to present witness testimony about Ritter's location and text messages with the woman, in which he allegedly persuaded her to take the ride. Evidence includes video footage taken at a traffic stop around 3 p.m. on the day of Doe's death that shows

Ritter's "distinctive" left wrist tattoo, but not his face, in the passenger seat of her car.

Other evidence includes DNA from the woman's car and testimony from multiple people who say that Ritter privately confessed to them about the fatal shooting.

Ritter's lawyers have emphasized that the trial is not about their sexual relationship, but whether Ritter killed Doe. Lindsey Vann, one of the defense attorneys, argued Tuesday that no physical evidence points to Ritter as the perpetrator. Notably, Vann said the State Law Enforcement Division never processed a gunshot residue test that Ritter voluntarily took the day of the killing.

The defense has said it is no surprise that Ritter might have been linked to Doe's car, considering their intimate ties. Further, Vann said the traffic stop footage could

have been taken as early as three hours before her death.

The defense added that witnesses' claims regarding the disposal of evidence are inconsistent. Vann said Ritter's friends have given conflicting interviews about details like the alleged burning of Ritter's clothes while facing the threat of federal prosecution if they failed to cooperate.

Any lies that Ritter told investigators were the result of his deep-seated fear of being considered a suspect and adding more fuel to the local gossip about the relationship, Vann said.

Prosecutors don't plan to seek the death penalty, but Ritter could receive multiple life sentences if convicted by a jury. In addition to the hate crimes charge, Ritter faces two other counts that he committed murder with a firearm and misled investigators.

The Daily Campus

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Study Break

The Daily Campus Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Glow of virtue
- 5 Fort Knox supply
- 9 Wet
- 14 ___ of March
- 15 57-Down for a diva
- 16 Run onstage?
- 17 Some inbox attachments
- 18 Change course suddenly
- 19 Puts together
- 20 Make a fool of
- 23 Decline, with "out"
- 24 Sounds of pain
- 25 Pencil topper
- 29 Air filter acronym
- 31 Christmas poem contraction
- 33 Smooching on the kiss cam, say
- 34 Hide-and-seek exclamation
- 37 Bae
- 38 Charged particles
- 39 Joan of ___
- 40 Harmful habit
- 41 Big name in anonymity
- 42 Determines the age of, as archaeological finds
- 46 Sounds of relief
- 47 In case that's the case
- 48 Masseur's supply
- 49 Astronaut Ellen Ochoa, for one
- 51 Sock part
- 52 Seasoned pro
- 55 Sub, and an apt description of 20-, 34-, or 42-Across
- 59 Wedding figure
- 62 Invalidate
- 63 Pasta ___ checca: trattoria dish
- 64 Animated British piglet of kid's TV
- 65 Feminine Spanish pronoun
- 66 Shutter section
- 67 Fleming subjects
- 68 In someone's business
- 69 Loved ones blessed at the Feast of St. Francis

DOWN

- 1 River-dwelling mammal related to whales and dolphins
- 2 Tally
- 3 Flew off on one's own
- 4 Bone, in Italian
- 5 Collapsed
- 6 Double Stuf treats
- 7 Actor Schreiber
- 8 Be bold enough
- 9 Guilty feeling
- 10 Kitchen appliance brand
- 11 Gressed-out reaction
- 12 Wedding page word
- 13 "Let's"
- 21 "Forget it"
- 22 Foster
- 26 Potential "destination" for a troubled relationship
- 27 Elicit
- 28 Gushes
- 30 Verbal stumbles
- 31 ___ Tax: Intuit software package
- 32 City on the Brazos

- 34 Word with pool or basin
- 35 Ruckus
- 36 Dinghy duo
- 40 Actor Kilmer
- 42 Projection places
- 43 Hardly a hop, skip, and a jump away
- 44 Time when shadows are shortest
- 45 Petered out
- 50 Optimist's words

- 51 Follows surreptitiously
- 53 Brilliance
- 54 Dean Martin's "___ Amore"
- 56 Baker
- 57 Song for one
- 58 Insect that first appeared in the Jurassic era
- 59 Family docs
- 60 Sales agt.
- 61 Brand at a nail salon

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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CONVERSATIONS WITH KARLA!

REDEFINING A "FRAT BOY"

by Karla Perez | ASSOCIATE LIFE EDITOR | SHE/HER/HERS | KARLA.PEREZ@UCONN.EDU

Hello and welcome back to Conversations with Karla! Last week, we discussed the role social media played in a student's decision to switch her major. This week, I met with Luke Semanie, a fourth-semester history pre-teaching major. In a previous issue, I met with a different student to look into how social media depicts sorority life. With Semanie, we talked about social media's depiction of fraternities.

Semanie shared that he chose not to rush in the fall of his freshman year. He said that he wanted to navigate college life on his own before allowing outside influences such as a fraternity into his life. However, he said that becoming a part of a fraternity was something he always wanted to do.

His choice to rush in the spring was influenced both by his own interest and by the experiences his father shared about being in a fraternity at Bryant University.

Semanie gave some helpful insight into the rushing process for fraternities as it is different from that of sororities. From his perspective, he views fraternity recruitment as more "personal." "You get to represent yourself in a light you want to be seen in," he said.

The recruitment process encapsulates a variety of events ranging from barbecues to complimentary hot chocolate to "Meet the Brothers" gatherings. Semanie explained how there are two main types of event categories: open-rush events and invite-only events. The open-rush events are posted on @uconnife and @uconnfsd on Instagram and details for invite-only events are shared among the fraternity members and potential new members through text. Semanie said that invite-only events pave the way for more personal connections.

Semanie ended up joining the Alpha Kappa Lambda chapter, and when asked

why this was the house he decided to join, he shared, "When I was rushing, [Alpha Kappa Lambda members] told me to find somewhere I felt comfortable, whether that be with them or someone else." He continued on to say that the connections he felt with the members of Alpha Kappa Lambda differed from those he had elsewhere and felt as though he could see himself being a part of it.

Since being in a fraternity, Semanie has noted the negative and positive aspects of participating in Greek life. He said that the negative connotations associated with fraternities are highlighted more than the good things that fraternities do. He said that social media accounts such as the NELK on YouTube paint a picture that suggests all fraternities don't care about anything besides themselves and partying. "That's not the reason I joined, and it clumps me into that stereotype, and that's not something I as-

sociate myself with and it's not something that I strive to be," he said.

One of the reasons Semanie chose to join Alpha Kappa Lambda was because he felt touched by their philanthropy service project, These Hands Don't Hurt, which supports domestic violence victims. This is a cause that Semanie has advocated for his whole life. Alpha Kappa Lambda is also one of the biggest contributors to HuskyTHON — a streak that the chapter as a whole takes much pride in. Highlighting these good acts is one of the methods that Alpha Kappa Lambda uses to clear the negative stereotype away from their chapter.

As an individual, Semanie combats the stereotype during the rush process. He seeks out potential new members that he believes will positively contribute to the fraternity. "If someone seems like a genuine person, I think they should join because why wouldn't I want to surround myself with other

people who strive for greatness and want to be men of character?" he said.

Semanie said that being a member of a fraternity has made him feel like he is a part of something bigger than himself. Whether it be a wave while walking to class or always having a workout buddy, he said that being a part of a fraternity makes him feel like he belongs on campus more than he would have had he not joined.

The conversation closed out with Semanie offering advice to incoming freshmen and current University of Connecticut students who are considering rushing this fall. He urges these groups to check out the houses and meet the members for themselves despite whatever preconceptions they may have.

That's all for this week's edition of Conversations with Karla! See you next week when we'll meet a new student to discuss a new social media topic.



CARTOON BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



The UConn Alpha Kappa Lambda fraternity participate in HuskyTHON 2023, which raised money for the Connecticut Children's organization. This event involved an 18 hour dance marathon.
 ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF @UCONNKL ON INSTAGRAM

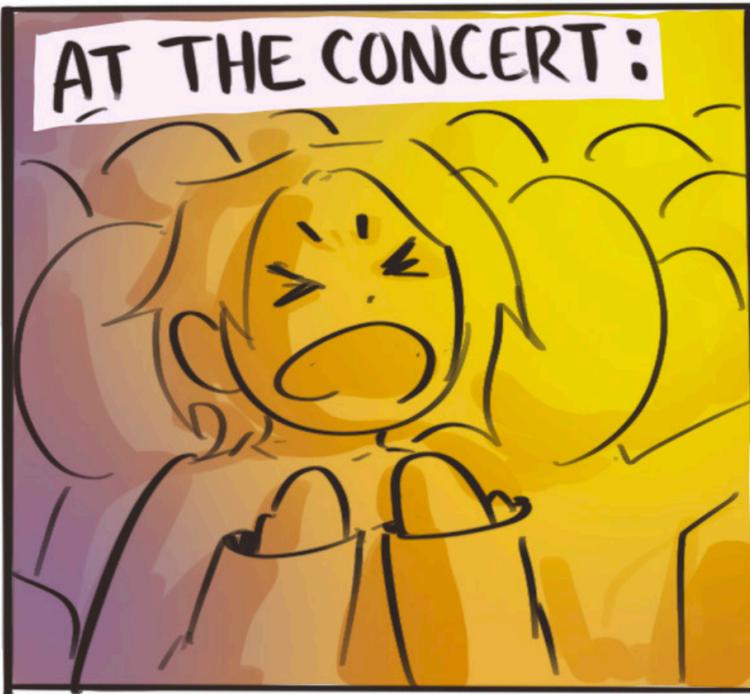




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COMICS



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CARTOON BY VAN NGUYEN, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

THE CYCLE OF SHOOTINGS

by Dan Stark
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR
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There is nothing that saddens and angers me more than mass shootings and gun violence. It's impossible to go one week without seeing headlines about a shooting happening in Anytown, USA. The latest notable shooting came last week in Kansas City during the Chiefs' Super Bowl parade that left one dead and 22 injured. But every time one of these shootings occurs, the response seems to be exactly the same and follows a clear pattern that creates a cycle of shootings.

Whenever a shooting occurs, many Americans quickly take to social media to post three dreaded words: thoughts and prayers. This is by far the most useless and meaningless phrase in the English language - and that's a lot coming from a member of Gen Z, as we're not exactly known for our ways with words. Posting this phrase gives people a sense of comfort by making them believe that they are helping the situation by offering their condolences. But saying this phrase acts as a substitute for more meaningful action. Even something as simple as reposting statistics about gun violence is better than thoughts and prayers because it at least adds to the conversation about shootings. Thoughts and prayers add nothing to the valuable discourse about gun violence and merely serves as a way for people to avoid the conversation.

It's even worse when politicians use the phrase, especially those in the formerly-respected Republican Party. Republicans are quick to offer thoughts and prayers, but then swiftly pivot to protecting Second Amendment rights. A prime example of this occurred in 2018 when in the wake of a shooting in Thousand Oaks, California, then-Senator-elect Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee made sure to emphasize the importance of protecting gun rights. While I do agree that a balance should be struck between preventing shootings and protecting gun rights of law-abiding Americans, to immediately begin talking about protecting gun rights right after a shooting has occurred is inappropriate and disrespectful to victims of gun violence.

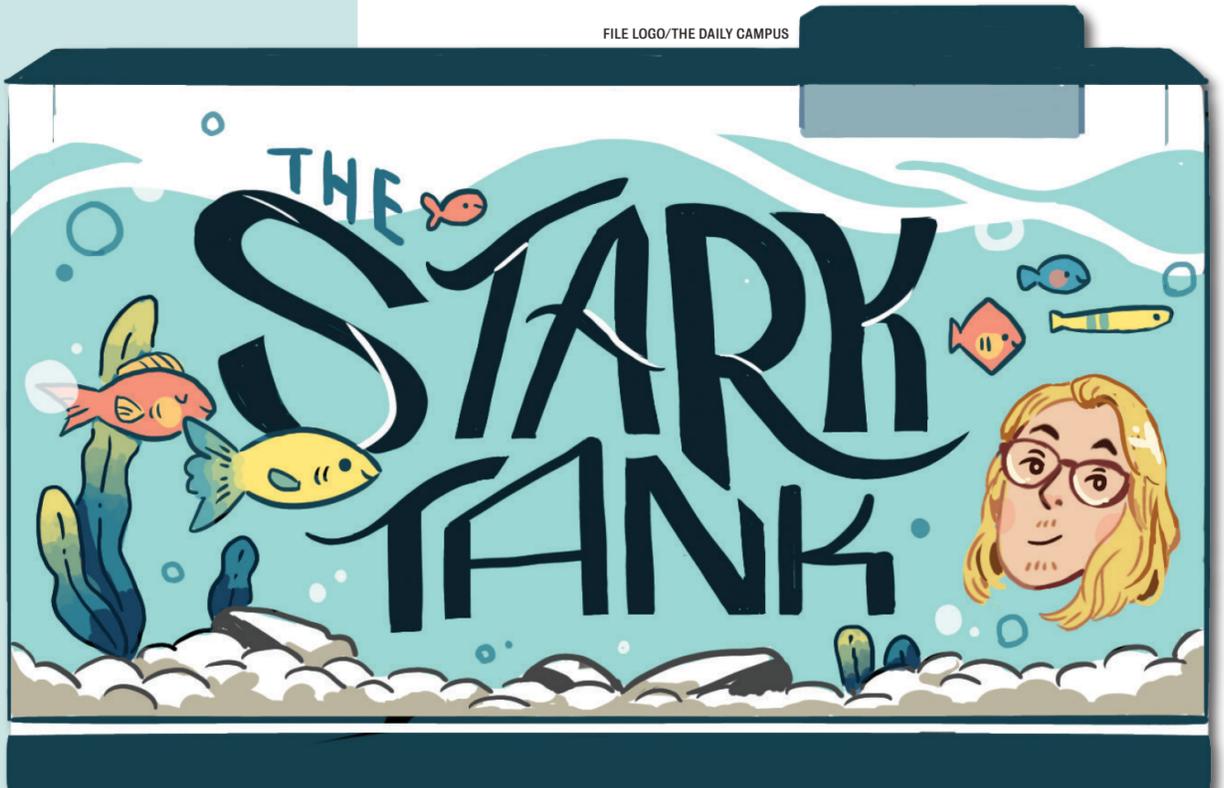
Once the immediate reactions to the shooting subside, the national conversation always turns to this question: What can we do to prevent this from

happening again? Democrats and other Americans with common sense often rally for more gun control, specifically related to semi-automatic assault weapons that are frequently used in shootings. On the other hand, Republicans are always quick to jump into action to shut down any attempts to revoke their precious gun rights. It's not shocking at all that this occurs given that the National Rifle Association funnels millions of dollars to GOP politicians and candidates every year, especially during election years, to push their agenda of absolutely no regulations on guns. They smear proposals like calls for more background checks and banning assault weapons as extreme, un-American threats to liberty. Republicans often pivot by arguing that the focus should be on improving mental health to prevent shootings from occurring. While I won't deny that mental health is important to talk about with regard to shootings, this shouldn't be used to shut down legitimate calls for gun control. It's also worth noting that congressional Republicans don't exactly have the best track record in supporting youth mental health initiatives.

As a result of Republicans standing as a united front against gun control, little has been accomplished at the congressional level to resolve the issue of gun violence. The most notable legislation passed was the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which became law in June 2022 after the horrific shooting in Uvalde, Texas the month prior. Provisions of the law included more background checks and increased mental health support spending. The law's passage was a rarity, given that Congress hadn't passed a gun control bill in 28 years. Not even the Sandy Hook shooting in 2012 led to any legislation, despite the strong push for action. Aside from this recent law, little has been accomplished on the legislative level to combat shootings.

After legislation fails to come to light and a shooting loses its relevance in the national mindset, the next shooting occurs and the process repeats itself all over again. Unless meaningful change is made to gun laws in this country, Americans will be stuck in a cycle of meaningless words, Republican denial of the gun issue and a constant barrage of shootings that occur so frequently that we become numb to it. At this rate, I highly doubt that we're going to break out of this cycle any time soon.

FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Study Break

Photo of the Day | Storrs shining bright



A lit-up downtown Storrs, Conn. on a cold Feb. 20, 2024. UConn students enjoy a quiet gameday as they gear up morale for the long-awaited Villanova game. PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

THE DAILY CAMPUS

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FLIP PAPER OVER FOR ANSWERS

8	9	3	1	5	7	4	2	6
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2	6	7	4	9	8	1	3	5
1	2	4	7	8	5	3	6	9
9	3	8	6	1	2	5	4	7
6	7	5	3	4	9	2	8	1
3	8	6	5	7	4	9	1	2
7	4	9	8	1	2	6	5	3
5	1	2	9	6	3	8	7	4

USL Super League set to become US' second professional women's soccer league

On Feb. 9, 2024, at their annual general body meeting, the U.S. Soccer Federation granted sanction to the USL Super League as a Division I league, making them the second professional women's soccer league in the U.S. alongside the NWSL.

"The USL Super League is looking to grow the women's game and to expand the opportunities at the highest professional level," Cindy Parlow Cone, the president of U.S. Soccer, noted on the sanction. "We look forward to collaborating with the USL Super League and extend our best wishes to the clubs as they gear up for the upcoming season."

After the news was announced, the NWSL congratulated the USL Super League and welcomed the new opportunities they will provide for women's soccer at the professional level.

"As we have seen from our record attendance, viewership, sponsorship revenue and expansion fees, the NWSL is growing at an exceptional pace, and we're excited about our future," said the NWSL in a statement. "As the most competitive women's league in the world, there are limited roster spots available in the NWSL. More opportunities to compete professionally is a good thing, and we're interested to see how a new league might contribute to the continued growth of our game."

The USL Super League was

first announced as a potential league in 2021 with plans to obtain a Division II sanction. However, they decided to pursue a Division I status last year, which was granted.

Amanda Vandervort, the current president of the league, revealed their plan to become a global leader in women's soccer on and off the field and to provide more opportunities for women looking to pursue soccer as a career.

"This is a tremendous moment for the USL Super League and for women's sports," she remarked in a statement. "Receiving Division I sanctioning further showcases the work that our ownership groups, our clubs, and the league are doing to create a professional environment for top-level talent to compete. This is a crucial step toward realizing our vision to be a global leader in women's soccer on and off the field. We cannot wait to see our clubs take the field when we kick off in August 2024."

The inaugural season kicks in August with eight teams: USL Brooklyn, USL Carolina, USL Dallas/Fort Worth, USL Fort Lauderdale, USL Lexington, Spokane Zephyr FC and Tampa Bay Sun FC, with more to be added in future seasons. The USL Super League has already laid a foundation with the W League, an amateur league that provides opportunities for collegiate women's soccer players and girls in the USL's academy, and they hope to build on it. The Super League will not be conducting a college draft. Instead, each team can negotiate with potential



players who can sign contracts of various lengths. The season's schedule, to be released soon along with media rights and commercial partners, will follow a "fall-to-summer" schedule from August to June with international breaks and a mid-season winter break.

USL'S INAUGURAL SEASON
KICKING OFF AUGUST 2024

- BROOKLYN
- CAROLINA
- DALLAS/FORT WORTH
- FORT LAUDERDALE
- LEXINGTON
- SPOKANE
- TAMPA BAY
- WASHINGTON, D.C.

The USL Super League is a Division I women's soccer league with the goal of bringing women's professional soccer closer to home. The 2024-25 inaugural season begins this August.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF USL SUPER LEAGUE/FACEBOOK

"This is a tremendous moment for the USL Super League and for women's sports"

CINDY PARLOW CONE,
U.S. SOCCER PRESIDENT

Sports

Photo of the Day | In the zone



No. 1 UConn Huskies host No. 4 Marquette Golden Eagles on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024 at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. The top two teams of the Big East Conference had an evenly-matched start, but the Huskies pulled ahead and finished with a blowout score of 81-53.

PHOTO BY MERCER FERGUSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

TYLER POLLEY (WHEN HE'S TRAILING ON THE FASTBREAK)

by **Stratton Stave**
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When you think about the best shooters in program history, you may be drawn to some big names like Rashad Anderson or more recently, Jordan Hawkins. There are plenty more, but I'll save those for our other writers. While Tyler Polley isn't a name that would come to mind for most people, I'll put his name in the hat under one condition: he gets to take every shot in a game situation while

trailing on the fastbreak. Polley was a solid shooter from deep in the halfcourt, but he really showed his value when UConn was running in transition. No matter how contested he was in those situations, when he was in rhythm, I'd trust him to knock a three down. I actually have no recollection of him missing a shot like that, which is why this version of the 6-foot-9 sniper feels like a clear choice.

JOEY CALCATERRA

by **Sean Ahern**
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Despite only playing one season in Storrs in a bench role, Joey Calcaterra was unarguably a fan-favorite for his 3-point shooting abilities. After Calcaterra transferred from San Diego where he shot just under 36% from three in four seasons, Coach Dan Hurley knew he was getting a big-time shot maker that could be a threat from behind the arc in the Big East. No matter the situation, his confidence never wavered, which is the perfect characteristic to have in a 3-point contest. In 38 games as a Husky, Calcaterra shot 44.6% from three on an average of 2.9 attempts per game. With his quick trigger, there were several stretches throughout the 2022-2023 season where it seemed every 3-pointer he chucked up would cash in. It's safe to say in a larger role he would have found himself high up on some program leaderboards in 3-point shooting categories, but his efficiency speaks for itself. There are several great UConn shooters, but I'd be willing to back this national champion in a 3-point contest.



(Above) Azzi Fudd prepares to make a free throw in Gampel Pavilion on Monday, Mar. 20, 2023. The UConn women's basketball team triumphed over Baylor University 77-58 in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

FILE PHOTO/ THE DAILY CAMPUS

AZZI FUDD

by **Cole Stefan**
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Because of all the injuries she has suffered in her three-year career, there are some people who may forget how good Fudd really is. In 42 career games, the No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2021 has buried 96 triples and averaged 2.29 treys per contest. That rate is higher than everyone but Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis (2.80) and Katie Lou Samuelson (2.73) on the UConn women's basketball team's top-ten career 3-pointers list. At full strength, Fudd will not hesitate to let it fly from beyond the arc. It is one reason the

junior guard has an NIL deal with Stephen Curry's brand, SC30 Inc. Fudd could also be a very dangerous participant in any 3-point contest hosted in the Basketball Capital of the World. During First Night, she and redshirt sophomore Alex Karaban clinched the White Team's second-straight trophy with a strong performance in the 3-point contest. Translate that to one featuring the university's all-time great 3-point threats, and the Virginia native could be a surprise winner amidst a tough field.

BLOWN AWAY

RASHAD ANDERSON

by CJ Dexter
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The program's all-time leader in 3-pointers undoubtedly grants candidacy for the all-time UConn 3-point contest. With an all-time clip of 38.6% from beyond the arc, the former national champion has the stroke to go toe-to-toe with elite shooters in the history of this program. Anderson, who shot 41% from downtown during UConn's 2004 championship run, sank 21 of 43 attempts during the '04 run which set a program record for made threes in a tournament. Established as one of the best shooters in program history, adding his name to the ring to compete alongside Hawkins, Allen and many great shooters would only heighten the competitiveness of the contest.



Jordan Hawkins attempts a three-pointer at the T-Mobile Arena. UConn beats Gonzaga 82 to 54 in the West regional Championship game. UConn moves on into the semifinals in the NCAA March Madness Tournament.

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

JORDAN HAWKINS

by Evan Rodriguez
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During last year's championship run, Huskies fans saw that when Jordan Hawkins gets hot, he is unstoppable from beyond the arc. After some impressive flashes during his freshman season at Storrs, Hawk exceeded expectations, and his elite jumper was a key ingredient for that production. He's continued to improve his shooting as he's made his jump to the NBA with the New Orleans Pelicans. Even if we were to take away the impressive performances that he's had from beyond the arc at the next level, I think that it would be enough to win a UConn 3-point competition. After shooting 39% with a very high accumulation of shots in his sophomore season, it would be idiotic to think that the former lottery pick won't give fans another show in a high-stakes contest like this.

WHO WOULD WIN IN AN ALL-TIME UCONN 3-POINT CONTEST?

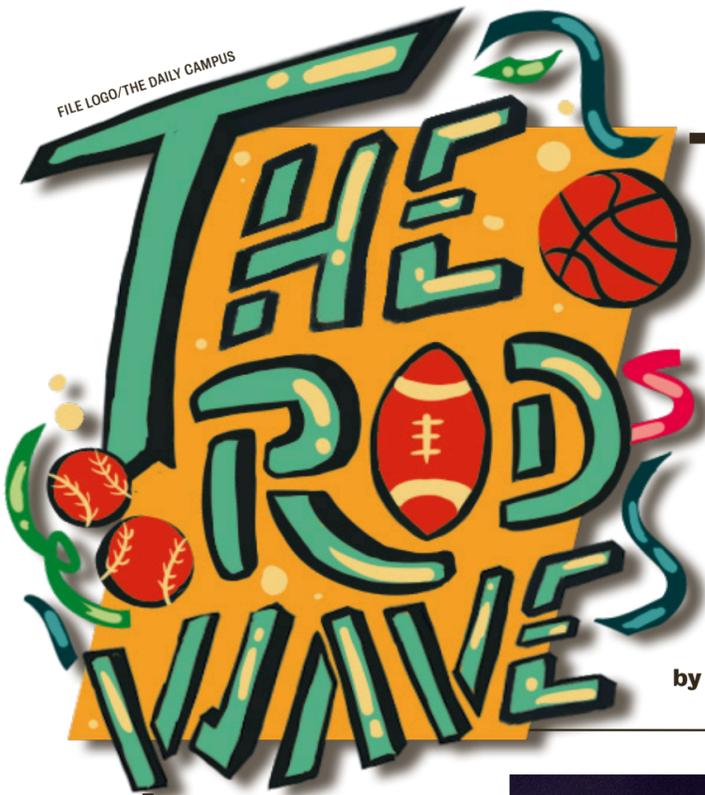
With the number of talented shooters that have donned the blue and white UConn Huskies uniform, an interesting question pops up after last Saturday's NBA All-Star Weekend competition. If you had your choice of selecting anyone to participate in an all-time UConn 3-point contest, who would be your pick? While many would easily go with the surefire choice of Ray Allen, there are certainly plenty of options, especially if you include the UConn women's basketball team. Factoring in players like Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis, Ben Gordon or Diana Taurasi, there are plenty of directions to go in for answering a question of this magnitude. Our team of writers will look to give their picks in this week's edition of The Daily Campus sports roundtable.



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



Sports



WHY THE YANKEES STILL NEED BLAKE SNELL IN 2024

by Evan Rodriguez | ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR | HE/HIM/HIS | evanrodriguez@uconn.edu

The New York Yankees enter the 2024 season with some highs and lows when it comes to their pitching staff. Gerrit Cole is still one of the best pitchers in baseball. Marcus Stroman comes to the team after an impressive first half last season. Nestor Cortes and Carlos Rodón are looking for massive bounce-back seasons after struggling with injuries in 2023.

So, why does that mean that the Bronx Bombers need Blake Snell in 2024?

This past season's NL Cy Young award winner remains a free agent and the Yankees also remain the only team to offer the left-hander a deal during the offseason. The expensive pitching market, as well as having Scott Boras as representation, has certainly affected why Snell is still on the market. While he's still on the right side of 30, teams may be unwilling to bite on a long-term offer. That remains especially true for a team like New York, who have certainly been on the wrong side of plenty of poor long-term contracts. That's another reason why the club is reportedly hoping that Snell is willing to sign for a shorter deal over \$35 million a year.

Let's get back to why this team still needs a talent like Snell. Aside from the fact that this is a player who is coming off of an award-winning 2023 season, the Yankees have been no stranger to the injury bug throughout the years. Two of the biggest names that were affected by injury last season were Rodón and Cortes, and manager Aaron Boone hopes that the duo can remain healthy this season.

Yet, that is a massive gamble, especially for a team that is incredibly thin for pitching depth. If the franchise wants to make the most of a potentially short tenure for superstar slugger Juan Soto (depending on what the three-time All-Star decides to do over the upcoming offseason), they're going to need as much talent as they can get. When there are teams like the Los Angeles Dodgers that are ripe with pitching talent and have the potential to face off against New York in the World Series, that makes this move even more important.

However, I'll put the importance of Snell further into perspective. After dealing



BLAKE SNELL
2X CY YOUNG
AWARD WINNER

Blake Snell is this past season's NL Cy Young award winner. The Cy Young award is voted on annually and given to the best pitcher in the MLB.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BLAKE SNELL @SNELLZILLA4/INSTAGRAM

Michael King in the trade for Soto, the team's top two options for starters are Luis Gil and Clayton Beeter, with the latter having no experience pitching in the majors. On the other hand, Gil hasn't pitched since 2022 after undergoing Tommy John surgery. Unless they want to go the route of utilizing the bullpen significantly more than they should, it's not worth having to depend on Gil or Beeter as starting choices.

Additionally, adding Snell to the equation gives this team a lot more flexibility in what this team can do. Say the unfortunate happens and any of the current starters have to miss an extended period of time with an injury. With the team utilizing Snell

as one of the top pitchers in the rotation, they could push either Schmidt or Cortes from the bullpen to that additional starter position. Both pitchers have already shown that they can operate well in a long reliever role and a move like that would make this team a lot more dangerous in terms of their depth.

As for who is most likely the odd man out between the two, I feel as though the Yankees would lean toward leaving Cortes in the rotation. Although he's coming off of a poor, injury-afflicted season, he's had the biggest peak between the two, and a return to form would be huge for this ball club. Schmidt is still a solid starter, don't get me wrong, but he's certainly

never reached the All-Star level of Cortes, and while you most likely know what you're getting with the former Yankees first-round pick, they should roll with Cortes to start 2024. The worst-case scenario would be to move the two if the 2022 All-Star struggles greatly.

General manager Brian Cashman has already answered the call to improve many of the holes in this roster with acquisitions like Soto, Verdugo, Stroman and more. At such an early point in the season with the current outlook of a potentially competitive season, it is simply not the time to play the lottery with the pitching rotation. The answer is obvious. Time to open the checkbook.