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Ukrainian Student Association ribbons vandalized across campus

by Colin Piteo
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On Monday, Feb. 19, around 20 blue and yellow ribbons hung across the University of Connecticut's Storrs campus by the Ukrainian Student Association were vandalized with anti-Ukrainian graffiti, according to the organization. The graffiti primarily featured the Z symbol, a marking associated with the Russian military and support for Russian aggression against Ukraine. The incident is currently under review by the Dean of Students Office, as a bias incident report was filed the same day as the incident.

Stephania Korenovsky, a sixth semester healthcare management, global health major and current vice president of the Ukrainian Student Association, provided further details regarding the incident.

"On Monday, a few members of the Ukrainian Student Association had noticed two to four of

the blue and yellow ribbons we had put around campus a few months ago with 'ZOV' written on them," said Korenovsky. "Zs along with O and V are Russian military symbols that have been used since the beginning of the full scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. We had submitted a bias report about this incident as these symbols are very hateful towards any Ukrainian."

When asked about the university response to the graffiti, Korenovsky expressed her initial shock, as well as her lingering concerns with the university's ability to address the situation in an adequate manner.

"We are all just in shock. At the beginning of the war, I felt very supported by UConn. However to see this happening now, two years into the war, has taken a lot of us by an unpleasant surprise. I feel as though the UConn administration has generally struggled with hearing out concerned students about very serious issues occurring in the world and on campus," said Korenovsky.

"It is extremely disheartening and frustrating. I have a hope that something genuine will be done but how other cases have been handled, I am a little apprehensive but try to maintain," continuing, "I will be honest and say that I wept in the middle of UConn when I read those words."

When asked to comment on the incident, university spokesperson Stephanie Reitz re-committed the university as a place of



Ribbons that the Ukrainian Student Association put up in support of Ukraine office are found vandalized around campus on Monday, Feb. 19. The incident is currently under review by the Dean of Students. PHOTOS COURTESY OF STEPHANIA KORENOVSKY

inclusivity and respect. "The university strives to create a community of inclusivity and respect, and condemns all acts of bias," said Reitz.

Reitz additionally gave updates on the state of the university investigation into the manner. The incident is currently being investigated through the university bias reporting protocol, which specifically states that the incident will be reviewed by the Dean of Students Office, UConn Police Department or the State Police, Community Standards Office of Institutional Equity, Office for Diversity and Inclusion and the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs (AVPSA), via other relevant staff members, according to the UConn bias reporting guidelines.

"UConn was made aware of the incident on Monday, and recorded it as part of its bias incident response protocol. That process identifying and providing support to impacted parties, and can be found in its entirety here: <https://dos.uconn.edu/bias-reporting-2/>," said Reitz. "The Dean of Students Office has invited the Ukrainian Student Organization and its mem-

bers to meet for further discussions, and extends that support to any other community members who wish to talk with us about this or other concerns."

Korenovsky said that while she appreciates the dean of students for offering an outlet to talk, she is more interested in what will be done about it.

"I can have a discussion with anyone about this horrible situation but what matters to me is if something will be done," said Korenovsky. "I really hope that the dean will take what has happened as seriously as a lot of the Ukrainian community members at UConn do. I know myself and I know Kate, we will not let this occurrence be nothing. We are set on finding a remedy for the pain this situation has caused."

Korenovsky has said that despite the graffiti, the Ukrainian Student Association has seen an outpouring of support from the UConn community, with students, alumni and even other Ukrainian Student Associations from colleges across the country offering words of support.

"We made a post on our Instagram about the incident and have gotten an overwhelming

amount of support from the UConn community, including alumni reaching out to us as well as other university Ukrainian clubs all across the country," said Korenovsky. "We provided historical context on our post to why these symbols are harmful and the meaning behind why Ukraine is still fighting. It is nice to see we are not alone."

When asked if the Ukrainian Student Association had any message for the UConn community following this incident, Korenovsky reiterated the need to support Ukraine and Ukrainian people while the war is still ongoing.

"I understand that the news have stopped reporting on the war, people in general have stopped talking about Ukraine, and now there are so many other dire issues that are rightfully on people's immediate minds, but the war in Ukraine is still happening," said Korenovsky. "People are still dying and fighting for Ukraine everyday. This occurrence is a clear example to me that the war is ongoing, and Ukrainians and those who support Ukraine should not and will not let this go unnoticed."



All students welcome at new McMahon Prayer Room

by John Haslum
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On Monday, Feb. 19, the McMahon Prayer Room, the first of its type at a University of Connecticut residence hall, officially began its opening showcase. The Prayer Room is located in Room 197 by the North side entrance of McMahon Residence Hall and will be open for "all residents and guests to view and see the space" until its official opening on Feb. 23.

After Feb. 23, the Prayer Room will be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Any students interested in using the space for silent prayer, regardless of where they live on campus, are welcome to enter through McMahon's M level and check out a key at the McMahon staff desk. Reservations will last 30 minutes and can be made by up to four students at a time.

In an interview with the Daily Campus, Hall Director Alexis

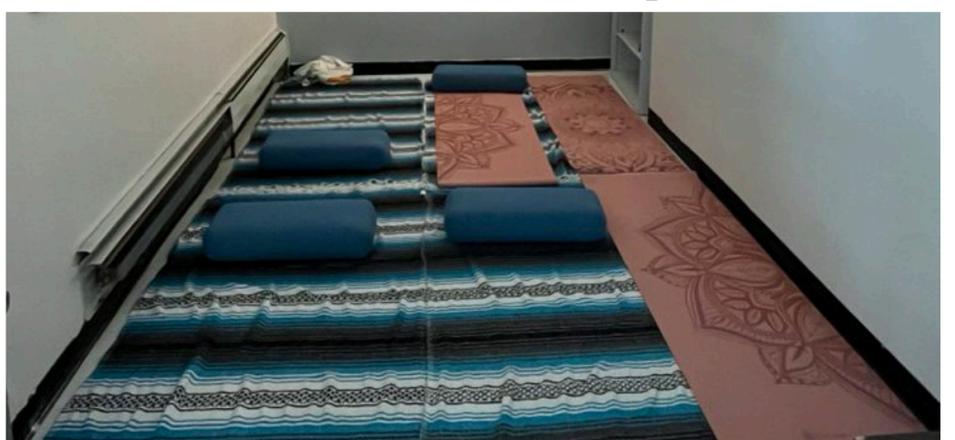
Monteiro and Senior Resident Assistant Nakya Lawson addressed potential student questions about the prayer room, its availability and its origins.

"We had a space that hadn't been used since back before the pandemic, and so we wanted to get some ideas of what to do with that space," said Monteiro, who came to McMahon from North Campus last year.

"Throughout my experience as a Hall Director, I've realized that at times there isn't much space for students to practice their faith in a safe environment," continued Monteiro.

The concept of prayer rooms — or multifaith spaces, as they are sometimes called — are nothing new, Monteiro notes.

McMahon's prayer room is only the latest in a growing trend of prayer rooms in residence halls on college campuses, both in the northeast and nationwide. Within UConn, McMahon's prayer room is the second room for multifaith worship, joining the "prayer and



A prayer room in Brien McMahon Residence Hall is available for all students at the University of Connecticut and officially opens on Feb. 23. It is located in Room 197 by the North side entrance. PHOTO BY JOHN HASLUM/THE DAILY CAMPUS

meditation space" on level B of the Homer Babbidge Library.

"The idea was to give students a space that is especially open to all faiths... that's accessible to them," stresses Monteiro.

The prayer room in Room 197 contains mats, pillows, and ample natural light. Addition-

ally, Lawson noted a whiteboard, chargers and other utilities available for any to use.

The prayer room in McMahon is open to all UConn students, both residents and non-residents, and Monteiro hopes it will inspire a "domino effect" of similar spaces across campus.

"We have a responsibility to create a safe environment on campus for our students, and that starts by giving them a space where they can practice their well-being," said Monteiro, "and well-being is not only the physical and mental, but the emotional, spiritual, and financial components as well."

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THE DAILY CAMPUS NEWSLETTER

News

An online dump of Chinese hacking documents offers a rare window into pervasive state surveillance

(AP) — Chinese police are investigating an unauthorized and highly unusual online dump of documents from a private security contractor linked to the nation's top policing agency and other parts of its government — a trove that catalogs apparent hacking activity and tools to spy on both Chinese and foreigners.

Among the apparent targets of tools provided by the impacted company, I-Soon: ethnicities and dissidents in parts of China that have seen significant anti-government protests, such as Hong Kong or the heavily Muslim region of Xinjiang in China's far west.

The dump of scores of documents late last week and subsequent investigation were confirmed by two employees of I-Soon, known as Anxun in Mandarin, which has ties to the powerful Ministry of Public Security. The dump, which analysts consider highly significant even if it does not reveal any especially novel or potent tools, includes hundreds of pages of contracts, marketing presentations, product manuals, and client and employee lists.

They reveal, in detail, methods used by Chinese authorities overseas, hack other nations and promote pro-Beijing narratives on social media.

The documents show apparent I-Soon hacking of networks across Central and Southeast Asia, as well as Hong Kong and the self-ruled island of Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its territory.

The hacking tools are used by Chinese state agents to unmask users of social media platforms outside China such as X, formerly known as Twitter, break into email and hide the online activity of overseas agents. Also described are devices disguised as power strips and batteries that can be used to compromise Wi-Fi networks.

I-Soon and Chinese police are investigating how the files were leaked, the two I-Soon employees told the AP. One of the employees said I-Soon held a meeting Wednesday about the leak and were told it wouldn't affect business too much and to "continue working as normal." The AP is not naming the employees — who did provide their surnames, per common Chinese practice — out of concern about possible retribution.

The source of the leak is not known. The Chinese Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

A HIGHLY IMPACTFUL LEAK

Jon Condra, an analyst with Recorded Future, a cybersecurity company, called it the most significant leak ever linked to a company "suspected of providing cyber

espionage and targeted intrusion services for the Chinese security services." He said organizations targeted by I-Soon — according to the leaked material — include governments, telecommunications firms abroad and online gambling companies within China.

Until the 190-megabyte leak, I-Soon's website included a page listing clients topped by the Ministry of Public Security and including 11 provincial-level security bureaus and some 40 municipal public security departments.

Another page available until early Tuesday advertised advanced persistent threat "attack and defense" capabilities, using the acronym APT — one the cybersecurity industry employs to describe the world's most sophisticated hacking groups. Internal documents in the leak describe I-Soon databases of hacked data collected from foreign networks around the world that are advertised and sold to Chinese police.

The company's website was fully offline later Tuesday. An I-Soon representative refused an interview request and said the company would issue an official statement at an unspecified future date.

I-Soon was founded in Shanghai in 2010, according to Chinese corporate records, and has subsidiaries in three other cities, including one in the southwestern city of Chengdu that is responsible for hacking, research and development, according to leaked internal slides.

I-Soon's Chengdu subsidiary was open as usual on Wednesday. Red Lunar New Year lanterns swayed in the wind in a covered alleyway leading to the five-story building housing I-Soon's Chengdu offices. Employees streamed in and out, smoking cigarettes and sipping takeout coffees outside. Inside, posters with the Communist Party hammer and sickle emblem featured slogans that read: "Safeguarding the Party and the country's secrets is every citizen's required duty."

I-Soon's tools appear to be used by Chinese police to curb dissent on overseas social media and flood them with pro-Beijing content. Authorities can surveil Chinese social media platforms directly and order them to take down anti-government posts. But they lack that ability on overseas sites like Facebook or X, where millions of Chinese users flock to in order to evade state surveillance and censorship.

"There's a huge interest in social media monitoring and commenting on the part of the Chinese government," said Mareike Ohlberg, a senior fellow in the Asia Program of the German Marshall Fund. She reviewed some of the documents.



The exterior of the I-Soon office building, also known as Anxun in Mandarin, is pictured in Chengdu in southwestern China's Sichuan Province on Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024. Chinese police are investigating an unauthorized and highly unusual online dump of documents from a private security contractor linked to China's top policing agency and other parts of its government.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DAVE KANG/AP

To control public opinion and forestall anti-government sentiment, Ohlberg said, control of critical posts domestically is pivotal. "Chinese authorities," she said, "have a big interest in tracking down users who are based in China."

The source of the leak could be "a rival intelligence service, a dissatisfied insider, or even a rival contractor," said chief threat analyst John Hultquist of Google's Mandiant cybersecurity division. The data indicates I-Soon's sponsors also include the Ministry of State Security and China's military, the People's Liberation Army, Hultquist said.

LOTS OF TARGETS, LOTS OF COUNTRIES

One leaked draft contract shows I-Soon was marketing "anti-terror" technical support to Xinjiang police to track the region's native Uyghurs in Central and Southeast Asia, claiming it had access to hacked airline, cellular and government data from countries like Mongolia, Malaysia, Afghanistan and Thailand. It is unclear whether the contact was signed.

"We see a lot of targeting of organizations that are related to ethnic minorities — Tibetans, Uyghurs. A lot of the targeting of foreign entities can be seen through the lens of domestic security priorities for the government," said Dakota Cary, a China analyst with the cybersecurity firm SentinelOne.

He said the documents appear legitimate because they align with what would be expected from a contractor hacking on behalf of China's security apparatus with domestic political priorities.

Cary found a spreadsheet with a list of data repositories collected from victims and counted 14 governments as targets, including

India, Indonesia and Nigeria. The documents indicate that I-Soon mostly supports the Ministry of Public Security, he said.

Cary was also struck by the targeting of Taiwan's Health Ministry to determine its COVID-19 caseload in early 2021 — and impressed by the low cost of some of the hacks. The documents show that I-Soon charged \$55,000 to hack Vietnam's economy ministry, he said.

Although a few chat records refer to NATO, there is no indication of a successful hack of any NATO country, an initial review of the data by The AP found. That doesn't mean state-backed Chinese hackers are not trying to hack the United States and its allies, though. If the leaker is inside China, which seems likely, Cary said that "leaking information about hacking NATO would be really, really inflammatory" — a risk apt to make Chinese authorities more determined to identify the hacker.

Mathieu Tartare, a malware researcher at the cybersecurity firm ESET, says it has linked I-Soon to a Chinese state hacking group it calls Fishmonger that it actively tracks and which it wrote about in January 2020 after the group hacked Hong Kong universities during student protests. He said it has, since 2022, seen Fishmonger target governments, NGOs and think tanks across Asia, Europe, Central America and the U.S.

French cybersecurity researcher Baptiste Robert also combed through the documents and said it seemed I-Soon had found a way to hack accounts on X, even if they have two-factor authentication, as well as another for analyzing email inboxes. He said U.S. cyber operators and

their allies are among potential suspects in the I-Soon leak because it's in their interests to expose Chinese state hacking.

A spokeswoman for U.S. Cyber Command wouldn't comment on whether the National Security Agency or Cybercom were involved in the leak. An email to the press office at X responded, "Busy now, please check back later."

Western governments, including the United States, have taken steps to block Chinese state surveillance and harassment of government critics overseas in recent years. Laura Harth, campaign director at Safeguard Defenders, an advocacy group that focuses on human rights in China, said such tactics instill fear of the Chinese government in Chinese and foreign citizens abroad, stifling criticism and leading to self-censorship. "They are a looming threat that is just constantly there and very hard to shake off."

Last year, U.S. officials charged 40 members of Chinese police units assigned to harass the family members of Chinese dissidents overseas as well as to spread pro-Beijing content online. The indictments describes tactics similar to those detailed in the I-Soon documents, Harth said. Chinese officials have accused the U.S. of similar activity. U.S. officials including FBI Director Chris Wray have recently complained about Chinese state hackers planting malware that could be used to damage civilian infrastructure.

On Monday, Mao Ning, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, said the U.S. government has long been working to compromise China's critical infrastructure. She demanded the U.S. "stop using cybersecurity issues to smear other countries."

The Daily Campus

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NAUTICAL BOWLS

OFFERS 'SUPER' SNACKS AT NEW DOWNTOWN STORRS LOCATION

by Patrick Boots | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | patrick.boots@uconn.edu

Nestled amidst the hustle and bustle of downtown Storrs, a new wave of health has arrived. Nautical Bowls, a self-proclaimed “superfood snack shop,” has opened its doors to hungry Huskies, offering a unique blend of fruit and granola bowls that are as delicious as they are nutritious. The storefront, at 34 Wilbur Cross Way, is located a stone’s throw from the Mansfield Transportation Center behind T-Mobile.

Nautical Bowls is just one of many different franchises hopping onto the smoothie bowl craze, popular across college campuses nationwide. Their menu includes a variety of pre-fab options, but customers also have the option to build their own bowl, with the choice of seven unique fruit bases (mango, acai, berry, coconut, Blue Majik, chocolate and dragon fruit) and a variety of fruit, granola, nuts and more for toppings. One of their signature offerings, the Big Island Bowl, features all seven bases layered with goji berries, strawberries and coconut flakes. According to their Instagram page, Nautical Bowls is also an official partner of the Connecticut Huskies athletic teams.

When you enter Nautical Bowls, you are greeted with a clean appearance, faux ship wheels on the wall as decor and a mural of a beach scene. The seating area features tables fashioned from surfboards with conversation-starter questions, an opportunity for welcome social interaction in the new establishment. The menu board lies above the bowl construction area and is easy to read, with clear descriptions of the options, toppings and price points. With three sizes to choose from (“Dinghy,” “Cruiser” and “Yacht” — continuing the sea-faring theme) customers can experiment with different combinations and construct their favorite bowl.

The theme behind Nautical’s menu is “super food, super life”. Acai berries, pitaya (dragon fruit) and goji berries have been popularly identified with the label, not to mention the other fruity options, which are rich in antioxidants, vitamins and other healthy elements. “Super food” isn’t just a trendy name. Studies have linked berries to lower risk of heart disease, while some other fruits may help manage diabetes. Antioxidants — like those found in acai and nuts — fight free radicals, potentially slowing down aging.

When I visited Nautical Bowls for this review, I got my favorite option — a Paddle Bowl. The Paddle Bowl has a layer of Blue Majik base, coconut milk, and mango base, and is topped with granola, strawberries and drizzled with honey. On other occasions, I’ve enjoyed the Surf Bowl, which has an acai berry and chocolate base with sliced bananas, oats and peanut butter on top. The peanut and almond butter they use is churned before your eyes, and all the food has been served quickly and fresh.

Overall, I think Nautical Bowls is a welcome addition to the University of Connecticut’s food scene. Their menu offers a healthy, delicious and share-worthy alternative to the usual snack fare. Down the road, rival Playa Bowls recently opened its doors with similar menu items and other selections — one must consider if this will be a rerun of the old frozen yogurt fad, but I don’t think it will be. Plus, Nautical Bowls was a little easier on my wallet when comparing the times I’ve visited both franchises. With its friendly atmosphere, customizable options and focus on fresh ingredients, Nautical Bowls is sure to become a favorite among health-conscious Huskies and adventurous eaters alike.



ILLUSTRATION BY JASON J. SAMPSON, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

RATING:

4/5

BOWLS

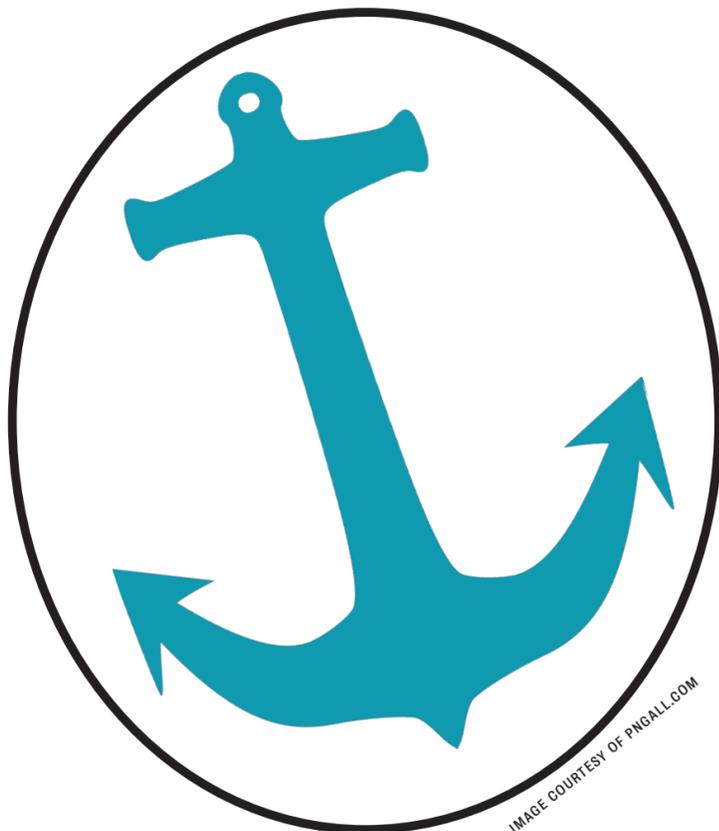


IMAGE COURTESY OF PNGALL.COM

SOUTHEAST ASIAN ORGANIZATIONS CONNECT TO CELEBRATE THEIR CULTURES

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

Various cultural organizations at the University of Connecticut held an event on Tuesday, Feb. 20. The Thai, Lao and Cambodian Student Association (TLCSA), Filipino-American Student Association (FASA) and Delta Phi Lambda (DPhiL) hosted this gathering for members and those looking to join each organization. The event was held in room 102 of the Lawrence D. McHugh Hall in the evening, meant to act

as a joint-collaboration to celebrate Asian and Southeast Asian cultures. The TLCSA “educates and brings awareness of Lao, Thai, and Cambodian culture, history and traditions to UConn,” stated the event presentation. “We strive to create a comfortable space for the Lao/Thai/Cambodian community and the students of the university by building a strong unity within us and by hosting educational and awareness events of the Lao/Thai/Cambodian culture and history.”

DPhiL was established in the spring of 2016 and introduced themselves as “an Asian inclusive, not Asian exclusive, sorority that advocates for Asian awareness, empowers women leaders and forges everlasting sisterhood.” Another organi-

zation that was involved was FASA; in their presentation, they stated that they are a “student-run organization within the Asian American Cultural Center. Our purpose is to bring together the Filipino community at the University of Connecticut and to make the university, as well as other institutions, more knowledgeable about the Filipino culture.”

The event began with an introduction to the Chinese

Riddle Challenge, where each member of the audience was given a piece of paper highlighting their random zodiac sign, and they had to find another person who was compatible with them. After that, they were given a list of riddles to solve together. The first partnership to solve all six riddles received a panda-shaped container of jelly as a prize.

The second game was based on the procession cer-

emony found in Thai, Lao and Cambodian weddings. TLCSA members explained that the procession was the beginning of the wedding ceremony, where the groom would lead a parade of family members and friends to the bride’s house. This procession was complete with music, offerings of food and gifts. The game started off by having four group members balance a Swiffer Sweeper together and complete various tasks. The balancing act is based on the Cambodian wedding tradition of the bride and groom balancing a sword

on their hands to symbolize eternal love and loyalty to one another. After the tasks, the groups were then asked a series of trivia questions to test how well they paid attention to each organization’s presentation. Following the quiz, they were tasked with collecting “Monopoly” money spread throughout the lecture hall. The collection of money was meant to reflect the wedding tradition of paying the bride’s family for her hand.

Despite coming from different cultures, members of all the organizations represented enjoyed every activity. Sean Pagsanhan, a sixth-semester student, stated that his favorite part of the event was “the brooms, because it was chaotic and fun.” Ralph Campos, a second-semester student, stated that “I liked the musical chairs where you’re on opposite sides of the room, mostly because I like springing.”



zodiac, complete with 12 creatures. Although it is called the Chinese zodiac, this tradition has spread to the vast majority of Asia. The zodiac consists of the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit (or cat in Vietnamese culture), dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog and pig. Each correlates to a specific year and follows in that order. Similar to other zodiacs, some believe that the signs represent your personality and compatibility with others — specifically when it concerns romance or success in life. The first part of the event was the Zodiac

The TLCSA, DPhiL and FASA encourage all students to join and learn more about Southeast Asian cultures. The three organizations collaborated for their Mystic Moonlight Pagoda event on Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DESIRAE SIN, STAFF WRITER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Some future events for each of the organizations were mentioned. DPhiL is holding a spam musubi and fruit tea fundraiser on Friday, March 22 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Dairy Bar Too, located inside the Student Union near the Student Theatre. FASA is also holding a fundraiser at the Dairy Bar Too on March 5 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., selling lumpia and calamansi juice. They are also hosting a 3v3 basketball tournament to raise money for their scholarship fund. It will take place at the Hawley Armory on March 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The price to play is \$10 per person.

Keep an eye out on each organization’s Instagram page or other social media handles to learn more about upcoming events and fundraisers.

The final activity was musical pairs, in which people found a partner and played a game of musical chairs. Instead of sitting in chairs when the music stopped, they would have to reach their partner and touch two body parts that the announcer states. This varied from something as simple as hand-to-hand, to some more complex combinations like calf-to-shoulder. The last partnership to complete their goal would be eliminated each round. The winners at the end received vouchers to FASA’s next fundraiser.

Keep an eye out on each organization’s Instagram page or other social media handles to learn more about upcoming events and fundraisers.



Life

@dailycampuslife

Sudoku!

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

Answer

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



Opinion

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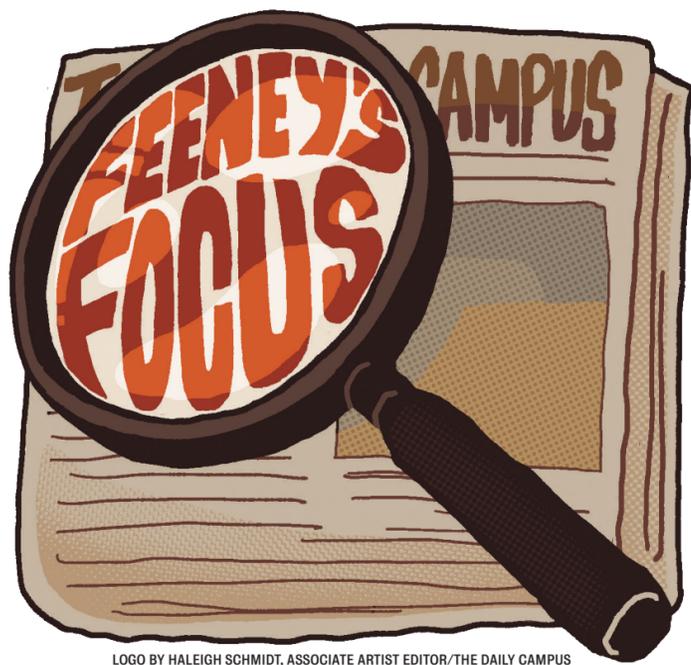
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The White Collared Worker



Jason J Sampson

COMIC BY JASON J. SAMPSON, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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

FEENEY'S FOCUS

WHAT THE TUCK

by Luke Feeney | WEEKLY COLUMNIST | HE/HIM/HIS | luke.feeney@uconn.edu

Last week I had a “dense block head,” in the words of one commentator, suggesting that, rather than talk about myself, I should expand my scope of interest and explore a topic beyond my own self. I think that’s a great idea for this week’s column. I would like to talk about an issue impacting millions of people in an area of the world that I rarely talk about. So, with that being said, this week’s column will focus on my intense and debilitating fear of dying alone while having achieved nothing!

I’m just kidding. My victim complex, while big, isn’t big enough to dedicate two whole columns to it. This week however, I do want to talk about the king of victim complexes: Tucker Carlson. Since being abruptly fired last April from Fox News with no chance to comment — a truly wonderful day might I add — Carlson has done quite a lot, none of it good.

Despite losing the No. 1-rated show across cable, Carlson has regrettably still been able to maintain his influence with leading figures on the right. He’s interviewed former President Donald Trump, current President of Argentina Javier Milei and most recently, Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Carlson portrays his journalism (I am using the term “journalism” so charitably here it should be a tax write-

off) as important and asking the tough questions. He’s a self-declared warrior for free speech who fights for us, and holds the institutions and people who would try to harm us to full account.

I fundamentally disagree with how Carlson describes and practices his journalism. To say Carlson is a journalist would be like me saying that my pancreas works and has caused no problems in my life.

Carlson has repeatedly bent the knee to his interview subjects. When he interviewed proud antisemite Kanye West in November 2022, he presented West as a misunderstood man who has been dealing with an avalanche of mental health problems. However, as reporting by Vice would show, there were a lot of subjects West spoke on that Carlson chose not to air. Antisemitism, a strange and lengthy digression about “fake children” he claimed were planted in his house to manipulate his own children and a statement that he’s vaccinated against COVID-19 were all conveniently left out of the final interview by Carlson.

It makes sense that Carlson, who made millions spewing lies about medicine, would cut out his subject saying he took the very vaccine he lied about. It also makes sense that someone with a well documented history of racism and antisemi-

tism would deliberately cut out West’s racism because he wanted to show his audience a specific version of West. While it’s logical, it’s also the direct opposite of good journalism.

You’re not supposed to present your subject how you want your audience to see them, you present your subject how they are. Carlson isn’t ignorant to this fact; he’s aware of it and just doesn’t care. Despite privately knowing that Trump’s election rhetoric was nonsense, he got up and continued to push lie after lie, night after night.

Last week, Carlson took a trip to Moscow to interview Putin. He had such a fun time in Russia, saying that the experience has “radicalized” himself against America’s leaders. Carlson marveled at the beautiful streets and subways that made up Moscow.

But, while interviewing Putin, Carlson routinely failed to challenge his points or his claims to Ukraine. At one point in the interview, Putin implied that the invasion of Poland by Nazi forces at the beginning of World War II was, in fact, Poland’s fault. Rather than push back or follow up, all Carlson did was nod his stupid head and remain silent. That is not journalism; it’s cowardice.

This kind of cowardice has consequences. Carlson didn’t go to Russia to actually hold Putin accountable for his

countless violations of international laws. Putin is an ally to the American Right, and to Carlson. His, and the Right’s, hyper-fixation on anti-woke-ness has enabled Putin to maintain power as head of state — a head of state with an appalling record on LGBTQ+ rights and protections being heralded for his “anti-woke” policies.

Look, the United States is by no means perfect. If you’ve read almost any article I’ve written, I am usually criticizing one thing or another about the state of American politics. In Russia, I would not have that right; Putin is a brutal, oppressive dictator who has no interest in any type of dissent. Carlson gave this dictator a primetime audience and about as favorable of a portrayal that a repressive regime could hope to get for from a media outlet.

If Carlson truly cared to find out the differences between Russia and the U.S., he should’ve really gone and spoken with Russian opposition leaders and their supporters. Oh wait, that’s right; Putin regularly jails, exiles or just kills his opposition. Which is exactly what happened to Alexei Navalny.

Carlson is not a journalist. He’s a tool that autocrats and racists use to make themselves look better to a national audience. Carlson knows this and gladly participates, and we are all worse for it.



I do want to talk about the king of victim complexes: Tucker Carlson. Since being abruptly fired last April from Fox News with no chance to comment — a truly wonderful day might I add — Carlson has done quite a lot, none of it good.”

Opinion

Huskytalk | How much do you respect the forecasts of Punxsutawney Phil? Why?

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRIAN JEREZ, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

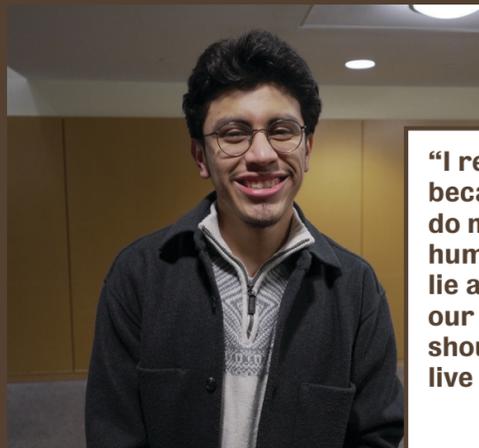
"I respect it because it's like a little mascot and it's some fun people can participate in when changing seasons."

Jorge Shuan
Mechanical Engineering
Second-semester



"I respect it a lot because animals do more good than humans and people lie a lot. He is part of our society and we should continue to live in his ways."

Nahum Valiente
Political Science
Eighth-semester



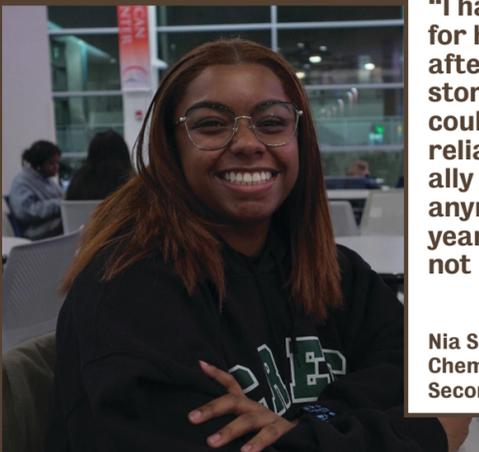
"I don't respect the forecast of the groundhog at all, I haven't been paying attention to it my whole life and I think it's a myth in general."

Taso Panagiotidis
Business
Second-semester



"I have no respect for him anymore after this snow-storm, I feel like he could be a lot more reliable. I personally don't trust him anymore and next year I will probably not listen to him."

Nia Shields
Chemistry
Second-semester



'SALTBURN' WAS TOO WEIRD TO WIN THIS SEASON'S AWARDS

by Evelyn Pazan
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After being persuaded by TikTok hysteria, I watched Emerald Fennell's "Saltburn" in December. I am not sure what I was expecting, but my presumptions were definitely off. "Saltburn" started out as a simple college drama that follows Oliver Quick, a painfully awkward scholarship student. Seemingly by accident, Quick befriends Felix Catton, the rich, charming "cool" guy. The viewer sees the heartwarming beginnings of Quick and Catton's friendship. They were an unlikely match, but brought each other joy.

At its release, "Saltburn" held up on the charts, reaching eighth on the North American charts and maintaining the majority of its popularity into its third week. On TikTok, "Saltburn" took many by storm. People were posting about the most shocking scenes from the movie and giving their take on what the movie might mean. Often-

The public perception of "Saltburn" was absolutely puzzling; some people loved it and other people hated it.

times, people would get into debates, arguing over which interpretation of the film is correct. The public perception of "Saltburn" was absolutely puzzling; some people loved it and other people hated it. All of these signs pointed to a movie that was hugely popular, artistic and thought-provoking, so why didn't "Saltburn" win any

major awards this season?

Simply put, "Saltburn" was just too weird for awards. While it did receive nods at the BAFTAs and the Golden Globes, "Saltburn" left all of the award shows empty-handed due to the fact that it was unconventional and like-

cated nature made it open to interpretation, and therefore very polarizing.

As the movie progressed and new characters were added, "Saltburn" morphed into an eclectic maze of oddities that caught me off guard. I was thrown into a colorful, fe-

extremely artistic cinematography were a lot to take in.

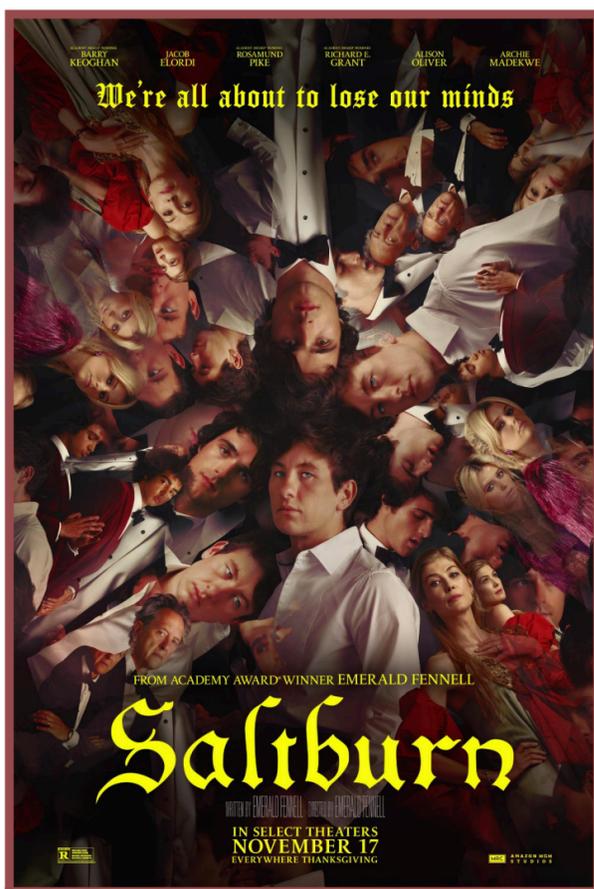
While summering at Saltburn, Catton's family mansion, Quick begins to exhibit odd and obsessive behavior toward each of the family members. He slinks around their mansion, watching

featuring the highest-grossing and impactful "Barbie" and the historical drama "Oppenheimer." Both of these films featured fan-favorite actors. Particularly, "Oppenheimer" swept the shows this award season; the film won seven BAFTAs, five Golden Globes and has an incredible 13 Oscar nominations.

Though popular and societally important, "Oppenheimer" and "Barbie" lack the artistry and unique beauty that "Saltburn" possesses. They are rather straightforward with their messages and feature familiar actors who have already been type-cast and stereotyped by viewers. "Saltburn" provides viewers with fresh and generally unrecognized actors and a profoundly different kind of cinematography. These features that differentiate "Saltburn" deserved to be recognized during the award shows.

While "Saltburn" might not have shared this triumph at the award shows this season, it sure made an impact on society and was extremely controversial.

The general feel of "Saltburn" is pretty much summed up in the last few minutes of the movie; alone in Saltburn, Quick strips naked and dances through the estate, disturbingly triumphant after all he's done. While "Saltburn" might not have shared this triumph at the award shows this season, it sure made an impact on society and was extremely controversial. And after all, what is good art if not polarizing?



'Saltburn' is available for streaming on Amazon Prime Video. The film was directed by Emerald Fennell and was released on Nov. 17, 2023.

IMAGE COURTESY OF IMDB

ly too complicated for many people to enjoy. Most of the characters in the movie are morally ambiguous, and the lack of a good guy and bad guy can make many viewers uneasy. The film's compli-

ver dream-chic murder mystery party full of angel wings, masks and copious amounts of drugs. Movie fanatics can draw similarities to Baz Luhrmann's "Romeo + Juliet." The extravagant colors and

them in their most intimate moments to drink their bathwater and instigate fights between his housemates. At this point in the movie, the viewer knows something is wrong, but can't begin to decipher the motives behind Quick's behavior. His strange behavior invokes eerie and disconcerting feelings in viewers, immersing them in the mystery, history and shiny allure of Saltburn.

The story of "Saltburn" is multifaceted and makes the viewer's head spin and jaw drop. It is a deeply complicated movie with a relevant message that selfish desires can become dangerous if they aren't controlled. Not to mention, "Saltburn" has an electric, catchy and familiar soundtrack featuring "Time to Pretend" by MGMT, "Mr. Brightside" by The Killers and 2001 dance hit "Murder on the Dancefloor" by Sophie Ellis-Bextor.

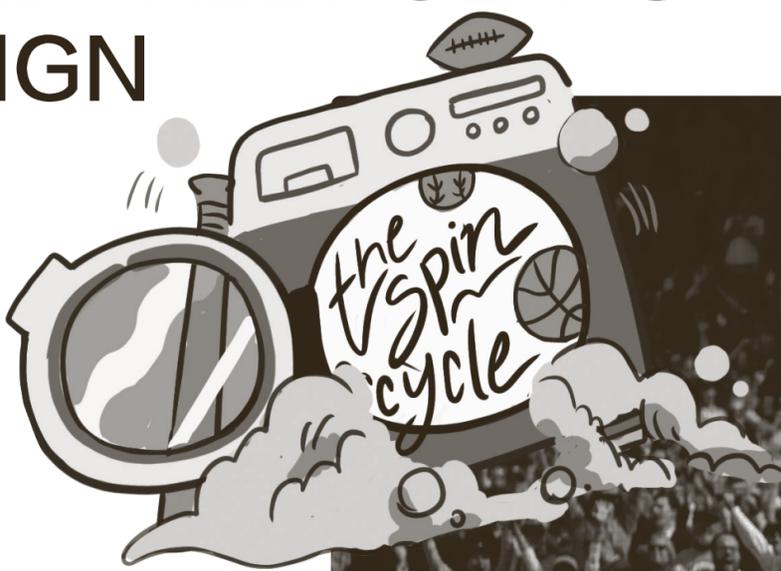
This year, "Saltburn" was up against some tough competition in the wake of the Barbenheimer phenomenon,

PREDICTING WHERE TOP MLB FREE AGENTS WILL SIGN

by Nick Spinali
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As of Tuesday evening, all players currently signed to one of the 30 Major League Baseball clubs have reported to their respective facilities to get spring training 2024 underway. Yet, as players are supposed to be ramping up their baseball activity to get ready for the new season, a handful of notable free agents from this offseason's class remain unsigned.

This is nothing new; we've seen it become a trend over recent years to have big name free agents hold out until spring training has already begun before putting pen to paper. It seems that MLB front office executives have had enough of players holding out when MLB commissioner Rob Manfred made headlines after suggesting that a free agency deadline by which players must have signed with a team may be implement-



FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS

ed in the future, indicating that it may be placed in January. There is no deadline now though, and a few gamechangers have been left on the pipeline as they wait for teams to bid for their services. Here are some of the most notable free agents remaining as well as where I predict they will sign:



Cody Bellinger waves to his fans thanking them for an unforgettable season. He previously played for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @CODY_BELLINGER ON INSTAGRAM

CODY BELLINGER

Cody Bellinger gambled on himself after multiple down years with the Los Angeles Dodgers when he signed with the Chicago Cubs on a one-year deal last offseason. The decision paid off big-time, as the outfielder batted .307 with 26 home runs and 97 runs batted in over 130 games, generating 4.4 wins above replacement. It seems that despite teammates calling for him to return, Bellinger's stay in Chicago was for that one year and he'll move on to his third MLB team.

PREDICTION:

Minnesota Twins, a team that can use outfield insurance given the presence of the often-injured Byron Buxton and that lacks outfielders who can hit for both power and average.

JORDAN MONTGOMERY

Like Blake Snell, Jordan Montgomery couldn't be hitting free agency at a better time, having come off of a career-best season in 2023. Over 32 starts, the lefty was 10-11 (mainly because the team he started the season with, the St. Louis Cardinals, forgot how to play baseball) with a 3.20 ERA and an ERA+ that was 60 points higher than league average. A mid-season trade to the eventual World Series champion Texas Rangers gave Monty his first career ring.

PREDICTION:

Philadelphia Phillies, where Montgomery could round out a rotation already consisting of Zack Wheeler, Aaron Nola, Ranger Suárez and Taijuan Walker. He'd look sick in red pinstripes,

MATT CHAPMAN

After an incredibly hot start at the plate last season, Matt Chapman's production took a stumble at the midway point but he still proved to be a solid contributor, batting .240 with 17 homers and 54 RBIs. His 4.4 WAR reflects his ability to be a solid presence at the plate as well as a brick wall at third base as he continues to be one of the best fielders at the position. The four-time Gold Glove Award winner is a free agent for the first time in his career.

PREDICTION:

Milwaukee Brewers, whose current third baseman, Andruw Monasterio, posted an on-base slugging that was 13 points below

J.D. MARTINEZ

J.D. Martinez turned in yet another all-star caliber season last year as the Los Angeles Dodgers' primary designated hitter, batting .271 with 33 home runs and 103 RBIs. It was his fifth season of both 30 or more homers and 100 or more RBIs. Although he's not expected to be a contributor on the defensive side of the ball, his offensive production as he enters his late-30s remains too explosive for teams to ignore.

PREDICTION:

San Diego Padres, who could use a surefire designated hitter to shore up what is already a star-studded offense.

BLAKE SNELL

Probably the most coveted free agent in this year's class does not have a home for next season yet. Snell was excellent in 2023 en route to his second career Cy Young Award, having posted a 14-9 record and a 2.25 earned run average in 32 starts. He struck out 234 batters in over 80.0 innings of work. He hit the free agency market just in time to cash in on that huge production, though so far no team has taken the bait.

PREDICTION:

New York Yankees, who will continue to add to their roster only to come up just short in the postseason—as they always seem to do.

Social Media's role in the Super Bowl

by Ava Inesta
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It is common knowledge that the Super Bowl is the most watched American television broadcast of the year. Last year, in Super Bowl LVII between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Philadelphia Eagles, 115.1 million viewers tuned in on Feb. 12, 2023.

The Super Bowl is an event where many celebrities, influencers and athletes come together to support the National Football League and various sponsors that make the entire matchup happen. Social media also plays a huge role in the biggest sports event of the year.

Over the past decade, the relationship between Super Bowl advertising and social media has grown immensely, having become a strategy for brands wanting to make a significant impact. It has become a valuable way for brands to maximize and maintain their social engagement.

In past years, brands would invest large amounts of their budget just for a 30-second commercial slot during the game. They would rely on a small moment of airtime to carry the brand's name to the public. Nowadays, the pregame to the Super Bowl is just as important for advertisers.

The continued conversations and content being pumped out is key to maintaining their audience. Keeping the audience engaged before, during and even after the game is what makes the difference.

Multi-channel marketing strategy and social media has shaped the pregame show in recent years. This happens through trailers, teasing company commercials, getting celebrity or influencer sponsors and being creative, of course. All of this interaction usually occurs on social media platforms like Instagram, X and TikTok to build excitement. One of the most popular pregame advertisements for Starry, featured Ice Spice.

However, this also concerns athletes. For instance, consider the Kelce brothers and their podcast called "New Heights." Launched in September of 2022, "New Heights with Jason & Travis Kelce" has quickly grown to become phenomena in sports and pop culture, becoming a top sports podcast on Apple and Spotify. The "New Heights" fan community has grown rapidly. The Kelce brothers have accumulated 2.3 million Instagram followers, 2.18 million YouTube subscribers and 3.9 million TikTok followers with 140.9 million likes on TikTok alone. With

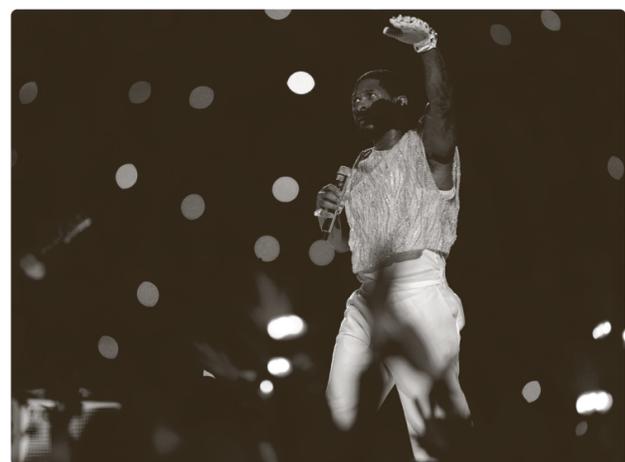
Jason and Travis Kelce building themselves a brand on the field, it builds an even bigger brand for them on the field. So when Travis Kelce and the Chiefs defeated the Baltimore Ravens to make the Super Bowl, the marketing aspect became that much bigger. Plus, Kelce being in a public relationship with worldwide popstar Taylor Swift has also grown their popularity.

The halftime show also plays a role in Super Bowl marketing. Last year, Rihanna's halftime show generated a record 121 million views. Usher is likely looking at a similar viewership this year which will translate to increased streams. Usher's role as the halftime show performer could also boost the sales of his new album that was released on Friday. Usher will follow his album release with a tour starting in August.

Other artists who have performed in past halftime shows like Justin Timberlake, Katy Perry, Shakira and Bruno Mars have seen boosts in either their music streams or sales as a whole. The way they are advertised on social media is another way for them to gain more exposure, as the Super Bowl Halftime show is one of the most hyped-up and anticipated performances of the year. It will be talked



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



Usher performs during halftime of the NFL Super Bowl LVIII football game between the San Francisco 49ers and the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024, in Las Vegas.

PHOTO BY BRYNN ANDERSON/AP

about long after the event and will be compared to past performances by some of the biggest names in music.

Another factor to Super Bowl marketing is real-time analytics. Brands get to measure the impact of their Super Bowl campaign on social media, which quickly provides them feedback and insights on their audience engagement and outreach. Analytical tools allow brands to refine their strategies and ad-

just their content on real-time data. There are a lot of factors that allow brands to adopt the best approach possible for the maximum impact.

The Super Bowl is so much more than just a football game. Social media has become an enormous part of the event where brands can also score big by engaging with their audiences. As a result, Super Bowl marketing strategies will only grow larger in coming years.

Sports

Photo of the Day | Making moves



UConn beats Creighton at the XL Center on Feb. 19 with a score of 73-53. UConn will next face off against DePaul on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024.

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



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

Kylian Mbappé expected to sign with Real Madrid



Monaco's Kylian Mbappe celebrates after scoring his first goal during their French League One soccer match against Caen, in Caen, north western France, Sunday, March 19, 2017. Mbappe has told Paris Saint-Germain he will leave the club at the end of the season, it was reported on Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024.

PHOTO BY DAVID VINCENT/AP

by Chris Charbonneau
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During the senior night ceremony, international soccer superstar Kylian Mbappé is expected to join Real Madrid in the summer after his contract with Paris Saint-Germain expires. While the French footballer hasn't officially left Paris Saint-Germain, the deal will pay him 15 million euros annually for the next five years with a signing bonus of 150 million euros.

Madrid attempted to sign him in the Summer of 2022, but he decided to renew his deal with PSG instead. Liverpool and Arsenal in the Barclays Premier League were also in the mix for Mbappé.

PLAYER BACKGROUND

Mbappé, 25, has established himself as one of the most prolific soccer players of our generation. He's the all-time leading scorer for PSG with 244 goals, 93 assists in 291 appearances and a World Cup win in 2018. He broke the individual club record in goals over PSG legends Zlatan Ibrahimović, Edinson Cavani and

Pedro Miguel Pauleta. In 2022, France finished runner-up to Argentina, but Mbappé took home the Golden Boot and Silver Ball Award.

He spent seven seasons at PSG, which brought them to the 2020 Champions League Final against Bayern Munich. However, despite his relationship with the team, Mbappé met with PSG club president Nasser Al-Khelaifi to inform him that he wants to leave PSG.

CONFLICTS WITH PSG

PSG attempted to keep Mbappé by offering him a raise atop his 72-million-euro salary. On Saturday, he was left out of the starting lineup in a match against Nantes in the Champions League tournament. He came off the bench later in the game and scored in a 2-0 win over Nantes.

This wasn't the only team to make an offer. Last year, the Saudi Pro League made him an offer of 259 million euros, which at the time was a world record offer. He refused to meet with representatives from team Al Hilal. His move to Real Madrid is considered a "free transfer," which is when "players

are free to negotiate with other clubs without their old club receiving a transfer fee when there are six months left on their contract." Mbappé is the highest-paid player in the history of European soccer.

Since the preseason tour, it has been a rocky ride for PSG and Mbappé. He was left out of the preseason tour in Japan due to talks with the club on why he would not extend his contract.

OWNERSHIP PERSPECTIVE

"It's entirely possible to win [the Champion's League] without him."

DIRECTOR LEONARDO

Former PSG sporting director Leonardo said in a 2023 interview that, "it's entirely possible to win [the Champions League] without him."

Al-Khelaifi added to the discussion about Mbappé, "I don't want to repeat it every time: if Kylian wants to stay, we want him to stay. But he needs to sign a new contract ... We don't want to lose the best player in

the world for free -- we can't do that. This is a French club."

REAL MADRID'S POTENTIAL PLANS

Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti must decide where to place Mbappé, either in the center or left side of the attack. PSG used Mbappé on the left wing and centre-forward this season. He could play up front alongside Vinícius Júnior and Rodrygo. In the last decade, Madrid had to replace Cristiano Ronaldo, Gareth Bale, Karim Benzema, Raphaël Varane and Casemiro.

It will be a tough loss for Madrid with Toni Kroos and Luka Modri set to become free agents this summer. Madrid's starting lineup could be: Júnior, Mbappé, Rodrygo, Eduardo Camavinga, Jude Bellingham, Federico Valverde, Alphonso Davies (from Bayern Munich, should they sign him), David Alaba, Éder Militão, Dani Carvajal and Thibaut Courtois.

POST-MBAPPÉ ERA

Mbappé came close to winning the Balloon d'Or in 2023, finishing third behind Lionel

Messi and Erling Haaland. Replacing Mbappé will be a struggle for PSG. With looming decisions to make in the summer when the transfer market window opens, it should be interesting to see how things shake up for PSG. From July to Sept. 1, PSG should consider signing Napoli's Victor Osimhen, Manchester City's Bernardo Silva and Newcastle United's Bruno Guimarães. The franchise's budget could be as high as 300 million euros following Mbappé's exit. It will be a tough pill to swallow for PSG fans to see him move on, but there are things to be excited about with young rising talent.

AC Milan forward Rafael Leão could make a move to PSG. The French club had interest in Leão last season following the departures of Lionel Messi and Neymar from the team. 24-year-old Leão only scored three goals in Serie A, but last year he scored 16 goals and 15 assists.

Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford could be Mbappé's potential replacement. Rashford offers similar versatility to Mbappé, but he's only scored five goals this season for Manchester United.

INTERNATIONAL SOCCER: USWNT STEAMROLLS THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AT INAUGURAL W GOLD CUP

by Nahum Valiente
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
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The United States Women's National Team started their W Gold Cup Campaign with a dominant showing against the Dominican Republic, ending with a 5-0 victory for the Stars and Stripes.

It is the start of the calendar year for the USWNT, with this year marking much anticipation for the U.S. With the hiring of a new head coach and the Summer Olympics around the corner, the inaugural edition of this competition is a great opportunity for the country to show its potential. This tournament is one to not be overlooked; it will include many nations that will put the Stars and Stripes squad to the test. From long-time rival Canada to South American heavyweight Brazil, the W Gold Cup will set the stage for not just the U.S., but women's soccer as a whole for the world to watch.

Heading into the tournament, Alex Morgan's absence made headlines. However, on matchday, it was revealed that Morgan would join the U.S. squad after Mia Fishel had to depart the competition early due to an ACL injury she suffered during training.

The Stars and Stripes began the match with an onslaught of offensive attacks. Just two minutes into the game, Lynn Williams scored against the Dominican side during a corner kick but was ruled offside due to obstructing the goalkeeper's view. However, it did not take long for the U.S. to get on the board after Olivia Moultrie tapped it in with her left foot. This goal marked her first for the U.S. at just 18 years old. The U.S. was able to continue to suffocate the Dominican defense, which allowed them to double their lead in the 30th minute. Williams scored from the center of the box – and this one was not over-

turned. While the rest of the half remained to be 2-0, there was no question of the team's dominance. For the better part of the period, it felt like the game was only being played on DR's side, which makes sense considering the U.S. had possession nearly 80% of the time. In a game where goals scored matters, it was key for the U.S. to net as many as possible in the event of a tiebreaker.

The Dominican Republic looked to try to stop the U.S. offense, and even though they were down by two, their spirit and young talent fought valiantly to try to level the game. This became evident as the Dominican side recorded 19 steals. However, the Stars and Stripes were able to continue to increase the lead in the 58th minute when Moultrie tapped in yet another goal from the center of the box, which was assisted by Midge Purce. In the 66th minute, the subs for the Americans came on, which in-

cluded big names such as Trintity Rodman and Morgan, hoping to lock down this match.

The Dominican Republic goalkeeper had much work to do deep into the second half. In total, Paloma Peña recorded five saves. Peña kept this game away from a total blowout like the one they experienced in 2012, which was a 14-0 loss to the U.S. However, this cause was not helped, as two late-game penalties were called in favor of the American side. The first one came in the 86th minute, which was converted by Jenna Nighswonger. The second penalty was in stoppage time and Morgan stepped up and drilled it to extend the American lead to 5-0. This was a crucial goal for Morgan as she has not scored for the U.S. in nearly a year, silencing doubters and critics.

The end result was a showing by the U.S. that had not been seen in a while. In total, 31 shots were attempted by the U.S.

with 10 on target. The Dominican Republic, however, only recorded one shot attempted, and it was not on target. But, there is still much to be proud of with this Dominican side. Coming off a playoff win to qualify for the tournament, the team is in high spirits with their young talent. The squad also boasts UConn alumni Gabriella Cuevas and current Husky forward Giovanna Dionicio. Qualifying for this tournament and managing to keep off the U.S. offense as much as they did today was an impressive showing.

The U.S. ends matchday one with a victory that will send them to first place in Group A. Mexico and Argentina are tied in second after their game resulted in a 0-0 draw, while the Dominican Republic will sit at the bottom. The U.S. will seek to secure a spot in the quarterfinals with a matchup against Argentina on Friday that is set to kickoff at 10:15 p.m.

HUSKIES IN THE PROS: OLLIE PROMOTED TO NETS HEAD COACH, HAWKINS IN RISING STARS CHALLENGE, THOMPSON WITH THREE POINTS OVER LAST TWO GAMES

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NBA: Former UConn player and coach Kevin Ollie promoted to Nets head coach

Six years after his tenure in Storrs came to an end, former UConn head coach Kevin Ollie was promoted to interim head coach of the Brooklyn Nets after the team relieved Jacque Vaughn of his duties. Ollie, who played for four seasons at UConn ('91-'94), takes over after two seasons as the head of basketball de-

velopment at Overtime Elite and six seasons as the Huskies' head coach.

A promotion to interim head coach is nothing new for Ollie, as he succeeded the legendary Jim Calhoun following his retirement in 2012. The interim tag was quickly removed as Ollie saw early success in his tenure, leading the Huskies to a National Championship in 2014 as a seven seed. However, the early success would not be maintained, as Connecticut would only make it back to the tournament one time in the final four years of Ollie's ten-

ure. The former 13-year pro is now tasked with leading a young Nets team in the right direction as they sit 21-33 coming out of the all-star break.

NBA: Hawkins scores seven points in NBA Rising Stars Challenge

Playing as a reserve for Team Jalen during the All-Star Weekend's Rising Stars Challenge, Pelicans rookie Jordan Hawkins put forth a solid effort in limited minutes. Upon checking in, the Maryland native made an immediate impact, draining a three-pointer and scoring

a layup. Team Jalen quickly erased the early deficit, with Hawkins scoring seven points and grabbing five rebounds in the 40-35 victory. The UConn product and 2023 NCAA champion finished the night as plus 12 in just 10 minutes on the court. The former lottery pick shooting guard is averaging 9.6 points on the season and returns to action with the Pelicans on Thursday night against the Rockets.

NHL: Thompson scores goal vs Ducks, records two assists against Wild

On Monday, Buffalo Sabres

right wing Tage Thompson ended his goalless five-game drought in the team's 4-3 loss to the Anaheim Ducks. Two days prior, the former Connecticut standout facilitated two key goals in the team's 4-3 win over the Minnesota Wild. The 26-year-old from Phoenix, Arizona seems to be finding his footing upon his return from a left hand injury. Thompson, who broke out last season with 94 points, will look to continue this stretch to play as the Sabres sit 12 points outside of the wild card.

SAM'S SECTION: WHO SHOULD GET THEIR JERSEY NUMBER RETIRED NEXT

by Sam Calhoun
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On Saturday, UConn legend Richard "Rip" Hamilton will get his jersey number retired, becoming the second player in the history of the men's basketball program to receive this honor, the other being Ray Allen in 2019.

Hamilton's jersey retirement is one of many things UConn basketball fans are looking forward to for Saturday night's matchup against Villanova.

With the Huskies solidifying their blue-blood status by winning the national championship last season, there are a lot of legends in the program's history that deserve to have their numbers retired.

While the Huskies of Honor is a meaningful way to honor these legends, I like having jersey numbers retired for those inducted into the Naismith Memorial and/or the College Basketball Hall of Fame. Allen was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in 2018, while Hamilton was inducted into the College Basketball Hall of Fame in 2022.

So, who will soon find their jersey numbers hanging from the rafters of Gampel Pavilion? Here are a few that come to mind.

EMEKA OKAFOR

Emeka Okafor is one of the greatest players in UConn men's basketball history, winning a national championship in 2004 while being named the NABC Co-Player of the Year. He is a two-time recipient of the NABC Defensive Player of the Year award and was named the Most Outstanding Player in the Final Four. Okafor ranks fourth in UConn history in total rebounds, behind Art Quimby, Toby Kimball and Jeff Adrien. He is the all-time program leader in blocked shots with 441. Only Hasheem Thabeet had over 400 blocks in his college career outside of Okafor. He is one of six Huskies to average a double-double throughout their career, being the only player to do so since the NCAA Tournament field expanded to 64.

He holds the program's single-season record for double-doubles with 24 during the 2003-04 season, and led the nation in blocks in his last two seasons in Storrs, including a program-record 156 during the 2002-03 season. He is one of three players in UConn basketball history to record 10 blocks in a single game. The two-time first-team All-Big East center deserves to have his number 50 hanging from the rafters.

KEMBA WALKER

Kemba Walker is one of the most iconic players, not only in UConn basketball, but in college basketball history. His stepback shot against Gary McGhee and Pittsburgh in the quarterfinal round of the 2011 Big East Tournament alone should have a spot in Kansas City's College Basketball Hall of Fame. He led Connecticut to the national championship in 2011, winning the Final Four Most Outstanding Player award and receiving the Bob Cousy Award, given to the nation's best point guard. He was a finalist for many national Player of the Year awards and could have received those honors if it weren't for BYU legend Jimmer Fredette.

Walker holds the program record for most 30-point games in a season with 11 during the magical 2010-11 season. He had 11 consecutive games with at least 20 points, which ranks third in UConn history. Walker had the most points as a junior out of any UConn men's basketball player in program history, with 965 in 41 games. That is 110 more points than the next player. He holds the record for most field goals made in a single season with 316 during his final season in Storrs. He made 258 free throws during that season, the most in a single season in program history. He is one of 12 players with a 40-point game, recording 42 in a win

against Vermont. He recorded one of UConn's 12 triple-doubles in a win over UMBC with 24 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists. No one should be known for wearing the number 15 other than Walker.

SHABAZZ NAPIER

Shabazz Napier is well known for leading Connecticut to its fourth national title in 2014 in an improbable run as a No. 7 seed. He's a two-time national champion and was named the Final Four Most Outstanding Player in 2014. He won the Bob Cousy Award that season and was named the American Athletic Conference Player of the Year in the conference's inaugural season. No one has played in more games or made as many free throws in their career as Napier. Fourth in all-time scoring, Napier is known for iconic game-winning shots against Villanova and Florida. He holds the program record for most points as a senior with 720. His career-high 34 points came against Memphis in 2014. Napier held the program record for most career triple-doubles before being passed by Tristen Newton earlier this season. His number 13 should forever be remembered by being retired.

ADAMA SANOGO

Adama Sanogo just ended his

college career last season, but his number 21 could be hanging not only from the Huskies of Honor board, but also from the top of Gampel Pavilion. He led the Huskies to a national championship last season and was named Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four. He's a two-time All-Big East first-team player, and was named to the Big East All-Freshman team in 2021. While other iconic players wore number 21, including the late Stanley "Sticks" Robinson, Sanogo left a legacy that will last a lifetime.

DONYELL MARSHALL

While he was not a national champion, Donyell Marshall is one of the greatest UConn basketball players ever. In his time in Storrs, the Reading, Pennsylvania native was named the Big East Player of the Year in 1994, while also receiving a spot on the consensus All-American first team. He was named the Big East's Defensive Player of the Year that season and was a first-team All-Big East forward in 1993 and 1994. During the 1993-94 season, Marshall dropped 42 points in both games against St. John's, the most points any Husky has scored in a Big East game. He recorded the program's first triple-double in 1994. When you think of players who wore number 42 for Connecticut, Marshall should always come to mind.



Sports



LOGO BY ANNA IORFINO, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WHAT PAIGE BUECKERS' RETURN MEANS FOR THE UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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During the senior night ceremonies at Gampel Pavilion last Friday, redshirt junior Paige Bueckers shared some important news with the crowd.

"Unfortunately, this will not be my last senior night here at UConn."

The fans who stayed after the No. 15 UConn women's basketball team's 85-44 victory over the Georgetown Hoyas nearly blew the roof off in jubilation. Their star guard would be returning for a fifth season.

Despite not finding out what her decision was until she announced it, head coach Geno Auriemma knows that an announcement like this is massive in many ways.

"It changes the whole nature of things," the 39th-year head coach expressed.

What does it mean for the Huskies, though?

For starters, Connecticut will be bringing back their most effective scorer from the floor. Bueckers ranks second in the Big East Conference and 21st in the nation with 20.1 points per game. She leads the team with 57 triples and her 53.1% clip from the field is second behind senior forward Aaliyah Edwards among players who have attempted at least 100 shots.

Her impact offensively is undeniable, and it is not just at an individual level.

Without the Minnesota native on the court last season, the

Huskies averaged 75.9 points a night and won 18 conference contests by nearly 25 points on average. This year, UConn scores close to 82 points per game and has averaged an almost 32-point margin of victory in Big East action. The level of competition in conference play has slightly adjusted with the departures of superstars such as Maddy Siegrist and Aneesah Morrow, but that is still a significant improvement.

Should senior guard Nika Mühl go pro after this season, the 2021 National Player of the Year can possibly step into a true point guard role and command the court. Mühl holds the single-game assists record with 15, but before she tied and broke it last season, Bueckers held the mark with 14. The Minnesota native is the only player besides the two-time Big East Defensive Player of the Year with at least 100 dimes this season.

"She controls the game just by being out on the floor," said Auriemma about Bueckers following the Huskies' 20-point win over the No. 21 Creighton Bluejays on Monday.

Bueckers does not have the speed that five-time Big East Freshman of the Week KK Arnold does, but she can still create problems for opposing offenses. Connecticut forces 17.2 turnovers on 10.1 steals per contest; the redshirt junior plays a huge role in that department with 62 swipes. Her return will take some of the pressure off Arnold next season, but it will also allow Bueckers to remain a major challenge for any guard,

especially in transition.

That tenacious defense also applies on the boards, where she could collect a double-double. Her 4.6 rebounds a night should not fool anyone; the redshirt junior has had six games with 7+ boards this season and has the second most on the team defensively. Beyond collecting missed shots, Bueckers currently leads the team with 31 blocks and is one of three players with at least 10 on the year. Her 1.1 rejections per game is a major improvement from what she averaged during her freshman campaign, and based on this trend, expect the Minnesota native to be swatting shots often next season.

With her experience (alongside that of graduate forward Aubrey Griffin), Bueckers can be a major mentor for the Huskies' two incoming freshmen next season. Current freshmen Ashlynn Shade, Qadence Samuels and Arnold have all benefited from the redshirt junior's expertise playing at the collegiate level. With junior guard Azzi Fudd out for the season with a torn ACL, Shade has become one of the team's major three-point threats. Arnold, meanwhile, has added several key intangibles to go with her quickness. Samuels can be an X-factor when she gets significant minutes.

Guards Morgan Cheli and Allie Ziebell, both top-20 recruits in ESPN's Class of 2024, will also benefit from Bueckers' knowledge of the game. Cheli is one of five finalists for the Naismith Girls High School Player



Redshirt junior Paige Bueckers plays against Creighton on Feb. 19, 2024. PHOTO BY JORDAN ARNOLD, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

of the Year award and plays unselfishly. Ziebell is the nation's No. 4 recruit, a big-time scorer and an aggressive rebounder.

The Minnesota native possesses the qualities of both high school seniors. As Cheli and Ziebell acclimate themselves to the collegiate game, Bueckers can share tips and tricks to succeed at a high level. The results might not come as quickly as they did with the redshirt junior, but the development will pay dividends down the line.

As of right now, adding those two will give UConn 14 players next season, with one scholarship spot still open. Knock on wood, there is a possibility that college basketball fans may finally witness what the Huskies look like with a fully healthy squad around Bueckers.

Look no further than the anticipated dynamic duo of Bueckers and Fudd for a glimpse at the team's extensive injury woes. Over the past three seasons, the two former No. 1 recruits have appeared in just 17 out of 101 possible con-

tests together. The entire team has currently missed 120 combined games due to a plethora of injuries this year.

Bueckers' return for a fifth season is huge for women's basketball; the sport will receive even more publicity when the redshirt junior participates in the inaugural Women's Champions Classic in December. As has been the case all season, fans will continue to wait after the game to get either a picture with or an autograph from the 2021 National Player of the Year. It is a tradition she will never stop.

While making this decision when she did takes "a burden off her shoulders," it allows Bueckers and the team to channel their energy toward one mission.

"Focus on the rest of the season at hand"

PAIGE BUECKERS

"Focus on the rest of the season at hand," the redshirt junior noted.



UConn beats Creighton at the XL Center on Feb. 19 with a score of 73-53. UConn will next face off against DePaul on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024.

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