



An interview with USG presidential candidate Jase Valle

Last week, the Editorial Board interviewed the two candidates for the USG presidential elections, which will occur from March 3-5. Today, we share with you our interview with Jase Valle, edited for length and clarity. A full transcript can be found online at dailycampus.com.

Daily Campus: If you had to only pick one issue to focus on, what would it be and why?

Jase Valle: I think the sole issue would be a sense of well-being. Just because it encompasses so much of people's existence here at UConn. It's more than just race or sexual orientation. It goes into a lot of things — it even goes into mental health. So, as we live in a climate where mental health is vitally important, I think we also need to use sense of well-being as a sort of umbrella for all of that. I think people feeling like they belong here should be the main priority we make as a university and especially as a student government. Making sure people feel like their voices are heard — that's really what we need to start working on.

DC: How do you think your lack of experience in USG will impact your performance as president, and what would you say to people who may consider experience in USG as necessary to govern the organization?

JV: I think the fact that you're a student means you're involved in USG at the end of the day. You don't have to be involved in USG, per se, to be a person that wants to do change. I've done it within my cultural center. I even pushed



Top: Jase Valle sits down with the Editorial Board to talk about his platform for Undergraduate Student Government president. PHOTOGRAPH BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Bottom: Valle speaks at the USG presidential debates on Feb. 20. USG elections are open March 3-5. PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

out of that and tried to make relationships with various other cultural centers. As a whole, we need to stop getting in this mindset that we have to be involved in USG in order to make change in USG.

DC: Given that you and your running mate both hold leadership positions in large campus-wide cultural organizations, how might you cater to UConn's diverse student population?

JV: That has allowed us to build connections outside of our cultural group. Just being so involved, we cater to so much more. I'm the president of a culturally based fraternity right now, and that has really opened my eyes to a lot of things, and it has allowed me to connect to so many different bodies of people.

In terms of Guymara, she is very involved in the NAACP. That has been a really good coalition in terms of bringing us together as a university because a lot of people, regardless of your racial background, have really fallen behind NAACP and supported a lot of their marches, a lot of their protests — especially alongside UCCO, which I am very good friends with as well.

As a coalition, we can make the change for the grander university in how we address those issues. We obviously have to put in more work and more effort to reach out to people who may not be involved in cultural centers or Tier IIIs or Tier IIs.

See VALLE, p. 4

Former UConn soccer player suing the university awaits summary judgement

by **Luke Hajdasz**
STAFF WRITER
luke.hajdasz@uconn.edu

Former soccer player Noriana Radwan sued the University of Connecticut on Dec. 19, 2016 after her scholarship was revoked during a 2014 incident when she gave the middle finger to an ESPN camera.

A portion of the lawsuit has been submitted for summary judgement, according to court records. Summary judgement is entered by a court by one party against another without a full trial.

The incident occurred while Radwan was celebrating a team victory. The lawsuit claims Title IX violations by UConn. UConn also violated NCAA bylaw 15.3.2.3 (bylaw) by not giving Radwan a public hearing when revoking her scholarship, Radwan's attorney Greg Tarone said.

NCAA bylaw 15.3.2.3 states "The institution's regular financial aid authority shall notify the student-athlete in writing of the opportunity for a hearing when institutional financial aid based in any degree on athletics ability is to be reduced or canceled during the period of the award, or is reduced or not renewed for the following academic year or years."

Tarone said this never happened.

"They took away her scholarship in the middle of the year. They did it with total disregard," Tarone said.



Noriana Radwan is currently filing a lawsuit against the University of Connecticut. Radwan raised her middle finger at a camera, leading to the revocation of her scholarship. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HARTFORD COURANT

"They did it without any hearing which is required by the NCAA and required to be in front of the student body. That student body never got the opportunity to discuss her alleged misconduct. This wasn't serious misconduct. This was a joke."

A 2016 press release by Radwan's attorneys said this bylaw is usually reserved

for dismissal under grounds of "criminal, violent and felonious offenses."

UConn spokesperson Stephanie Reitz declined to comment, saying "UConn doesn't comment on pending litigation."

"This case is a serious case for student athletes across the United States," Tarone said. "It will undoubtedly be followed and talked about."



Former UConn athletic director Warde Manuel. Manuel is one of the co-defendants in the lawsuit served by Radwan. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Former UConn women's soccer coach Leonard Tsantiris. Tsantiris is one of the co-defendants in the lawsuit served by Noriana Radwan. PHOTO COURTESY OF THEUCONN.BLOG



Director of Student Financial Aid Services Mona Lucas. Lucas is one of the co-defendants in the lawsuit served by Radwan. PHOTO COURTESY OF EPM. UCONN.EDU

"They [revoked her scholarship] without any hearing which is required by the NCAA and required to be in front of the student body."

GREG TARONE

For more... dailycampus.com [@The_DailyCampus](#) [The_DailyCampus](#) [The Daily Campus](#)

SIGNAL BOOST | PAGE 4
Warmer winter weather will warp our world

ON THE STAGE | PAGE 5
'The Pollinators' generates buzz at the Student Union Theater

WBB | PAGE 12
Huskies travel to Cincy for last time in The American

Tweet of the Day
liz
[@malarkeyposter](#)
someone has to say it. the daily campus' tweet of the day sucks almost every single day.

Coronavirus poses tough challenge for economic policymakers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The fast-moving coronavirus isn't just confounding health officials. It's also bedeviling policymakers and central bankers who are struggling to assess the economic damage from an outbreak that's reached 37 countries and territories, infected 80,000 people and killed 2,700 worldwide.

They don't know where or how fast the virus will spread. They can't draw on clear precedents to consider what to do. And the tools they normally use to fight economic slumps — interest-rate cuts, government spending hikes and tax relief — either might not work very well, lack broad support or carry their own risks.

If they overreact, policymakers can cause self-defeating panic. Yet if they respond too slowly or timidly, they risk having the economic damage deepen and spread.

“This outbreak will have a significant effect on worldwide demand for tourism, travel, and other services.”

ESWAR PRASAD

Stock markets tumbled and bond yields sank Tuesday for a second day on rising fears that COVID-19 and the quarantines being imposed to fight it are obstructing global supply chains and could derail corporate earnings and the global economy. The Dow Jones industrial plunged 878 points — 3% — after plummeting more than 1,000 points Monday, the sharpest drop in two years.

“This outbreak will have a significant effect on worldwide demand for tourism, travel, and other services, while the supply chain disruptions and increased uncertainty will hurt current production as well as investment,” said Eswar Prasad, a Cornell University economist. “The timing of the outbreak is especially unfortunate ... Europe and Japan are flirting with recession while China and India had been losing growth momentum.”

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, suggested that the European Central Bank has little ability to counteract a recession. It has cut its benchmark rate into negative territory, to -0.5%, and is already buying government bonds to try to further lower longer-term rates.

- BUSINESS:**
MBA¹
MBA-Finance¹
MBA-Health Care Management¹
MBA-Supply Chain Management¹
JD/MBA
Accounting
Business Analytics²
Organizational Leadership²
- EDUCATION:**
MAT-Elementary
MAT-Secondary
Educational Leadership
Instructional Design²
Special Education²
Teacher Leadership²
- COMMUNICATIONS:**
Interactive Media & Communications²
Journalism
Sports Journalism
Public Relations³
- ARTS & SCIENCES:**
Molecular & Cell Biology
- HEALTH SCIENCES:**
Advanced Medical Imaging & Leadership
Biomedical Sciences
Cardiovascular Perfusion
Occupational Therapy
Pathologists' Assistant
Physician Assistant
Radiologist Assistant
Social Work
JD/MSW
- NURSING:**
Adult Gerontology or
Family Nurse Practitioner
Care of Populations²
Nurse Anesthesia
Nursing Leadership²
Operational Leadership²
- ENGINEERING:**
Cybersecurity²
- LAW:**
JD-Juris Doctor
JD/MBA
JD/MELP
JD/MSW
LLM in Health Law
- MEDICINE:**
MD-Doctor of Medicine
Anesthesiologist Assistant

¹ Program offered on campus, online and hybrid
² Program offered online only
³ Program offered on campus or online



GET MORE OUT OF YOUR CAREER

Start with the advanced degree that's right for you

Quinnipiac
UNIVERSITY

Graduate Programs

LEARN MORE
qu.edu/grad
graduate@qu.edu
800-462-1944

Mubarak, Egypt's autocrat ousted in uprising, dies at 91



In this April 2, 2008 photo, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak attends a meeting at the Presidential palace. Egypt state TV said Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020, that the country's former President Hosni Mubarak, ousted in the 2011 uprising, has died at 91.

PHOTO BY AMR NABIL/AP

CAIRO (AP) — Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian leader who was the autocratic face of stability in the Middle East for nearly 30 years before being forced from power in an Arab Spring uprising, died Tuesday, state-run TV announced. He was 91.

Mubarak was a stalwart U.S. ally, a bulwark against Islamic militancy and guardian of Egypt's peace with Israel. But to the hundreds of thousands of young Egyptians who rallied for 18 days of unprecedented street protests in Cairo's Tahrir Square and elsewhere in 2011, Mubarak was a latter-day pharaoh and a symbol of autocratic misrule.

His overthrow, however, plunged the country into years of chaos and uncertainty, and set up a power struggle between the military and the Muslim Brotherhood group that he had

long outlawed. Some two and a half years after Mubarak's ouster, Abdel Fattah el-Sissi led the military overthrow of Egypt's first freely elected president and rolled back freedoms gained in the 2011 uprising.

State TV said Mubarak died at a Cairo hospital where he had undergone an unspecified surgery. The report said he had health complications but offered no other details. One of his sons, Alaa, announced over the weekend that the former president was in an intensive care after undergoing surgery.

El-Sissi offered condolences and praised Mubarak's service during the 1973 war with Israel but made no mention of Mubarak's almost three-decade rule as president of the most populous Arab state. He announced three days of national mourning beginning Wednesday.

The Daily Campus

Printing since 1896, The Daily Campus is the oldest and largest independent student publication at the University of Connecticut. The Daily Campus circulates 5,000 newspapers daily and strives to serve the student body by delivering accurate, relevant and timely news and content, both in print and online at DailyCampus.com. Our staff is comprised entirely of students, with roughly 200 undergraduates gaining professional development while contributing to the daily production of the paper, with positions including writers, photographers, copy editors, page layout designers, graphic designers, advertisement representatives, receptionists, delivery drivers and digital producers. Thanks for reading.

Want to advertise in print or online?
Contact (860) 486-3407 for rates
advertising@dailycampus.com

Corrections and Clarifications:
Send Corrections to EIC@DailyCampus.com

Wednesday, February 26, 2020
Copy Editors: Ryan Amato, Arman Chowdhury, Anika Veeraraghav, Harry Zehner
News Designer: Lyric McVoy
Life Designer: Brandon Barzola
Sports Designer: Jorge Eckardt
Opinion Designer: Daniel Cohn
Photo Designer: Charlotte Lao

Anna Zarra Aldrich, Editor-in-Chief
Alex Houdeshell, Managing Editor
Julia DeMarkey, Business Manager
Courtney Gavitt, Digital Editor
Hollianne Lao, Outreach/Social Media Coordinator
Jacqueline Thompson, Financial Manager
Daniel Cohn, Associate Managing Editor
Kimberly Nguyen, Associate Digital Editor

Ashley Anglisano, News Editor
Taylor Harton, Associate News Editor
Andrew Morrison, Sports Editor
Kevin Arnold, Associate Sports Editor
Charlotte Lao, Photo Editor
Margaret Chafouleas, Associate Photo Editor
Eric Yang, Associate Video Editor

Julia Mancini, Life Editor
Melissa Scrivani, Associate Life Editor
Harry Zehner, Opinion Editor
Peter Fenteany, Associate Opinion Editor
David Fox, Advertising Director
Jack Hall, Circulation Manager

For more information about getting involved as an editorial, business or digital employee:
Editorial · managingeditor@dailycampus.com
Business · businessmanager@dailycampus.com
Digital · digital@dailycampus.com

Want to write or photograph for The Daily Campus ?

The Daily Campus welcomes writers and photographers of all backgrounds, interests, majors and levels of experience. To get involved, attend section meetings on Sunday nights inside The Daily Campus building (between Buckley and Moe's in Storrs Center). For more information about a section, contact the editor at the e-mail address listed below:

News (Meetings at 6 p.m.)
news@dailycampus.com

Opinion (Meetings at 6 p.m.)
opinion@dailycampus.com

Life (Meetings at 7 p.m.)
life@dailycampus.com

Sports (Meetings at 8 p.m.)
sports@dailycampus.com

Photo (Meetings at 10 p.m.)
photo@dailycampus.com

Prefer to read our content online?
Check out our website at dailycampus.com and follow us on social media.
Instagram · The_DailyCampus
Facebook · The Daily Campus
Twitter · The_DailyCampus
Snapchat · the_dailycampus

Community support leads to decrease in substance abuse of LGBTQ youth

by Amanda Kilyk
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
amanda.kilyk@uconn.edu

Community support decreases the possibility of substance abuse by LGBTQ adolescents, a study by a University of Connecticut researcher found.

“The study of 2,678 sexual minority adolescents, ‘Associations Between Community-Level LGBTQ-Supportive Factors and Substance Use Among Sexual Minority Adolescents,’ was published in the journal *LGBT Health*,” a UConn news advisory said.

Ryan J. Watson, the lead researcher in the study, is an assistant professor of Human Development and Family Sciences at UConn, and also served as the principal investigator for the 2018 LGBTQ National Teen Study, which collaborated with the Human Rights Campaign that examined the lives of LGBTQ teenagers, the news advisory said.

“A lot of public discourse includes a narrative that ‘it gets better’ or it is getting better for LGBTQ young people, but our previous studies have not shown this,” Watson said of why he chose to become involved with this study. “Some previous published papers by my team show that alcohol disparities are now growing for some LGBTQ groups, such as bisexual girls. So, a lot of research now focuses on how to close these disparities, thus making better lives and experiences for LGBTQ youth.”

Watson explained that a novel



The LGBTQ Youth Report collaborates with the Human Rights Campaign to survey LGBTQ teenagers. The 2018 version of the survey has reported a downward trend in LGBTQ youth substance abuse. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

method was used to conduct this study, utilizing representative data from surveys distributed to youth in schools throughout British Columbia, Canada. They combined this data with data their own team found about the areas where these surveyed youth lived, and how supportive the surrounding communities were toward LGBTQ people.

“In this project we used questions that asked about how often youth used illegal drugs, alcohol, marijuana and cigarettes. We also asked them about their sexual orientation, how long they had lived in Canada, their age and other demographic vari-

ables,” Watson said. “In the new data we collected, we assessed whether communities had pride parades, including organizations that were supportive of LGBTQ people ... and many more attributes of communities.”

Watson said he was surprised to find how effective supportive communities were in lowering substance abuse in LGBTQ youth.

“Most of us believe the communities we live in are important, but this study showed that our communities do play a huge role in the health and well-being of LGBTQ young people,” Watson said.

Watson said he believes these findings can be replicated in New England, as well as within the UConn community.

“The UConn community can continue to be as supportive as possible to LGBTQ communities,” Watson said. “The Rainbow Center has a Safe Zone training, as many individuals as possible can utilize this to know how to be most supportive of marginalized populations. Our data show even a sticker on the door of a faculty members’ office can make LGBTQ people feel safe. In fact, even straight people feel safer in these environments, showed some of our recent projects.”



In this June 17, 2019, file photo, a cashier displays a packet of tobacco-flavored Juul pods at a store in San Francisco. Investigators from 39 states will look into the marketing and sales of vaping products by Juul Labs, including whether the company targeted youths and made misleading claims about nicotine content in its devices. PHOTO BY SAMANTHA MALDONADO/AP

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — A coalition of 39 states will look into the marketing and sales of vaping products by Juul Labs, including whether the company targeted youths and made misleading claims about nicotine content in its devices, officials announced Tuesday.

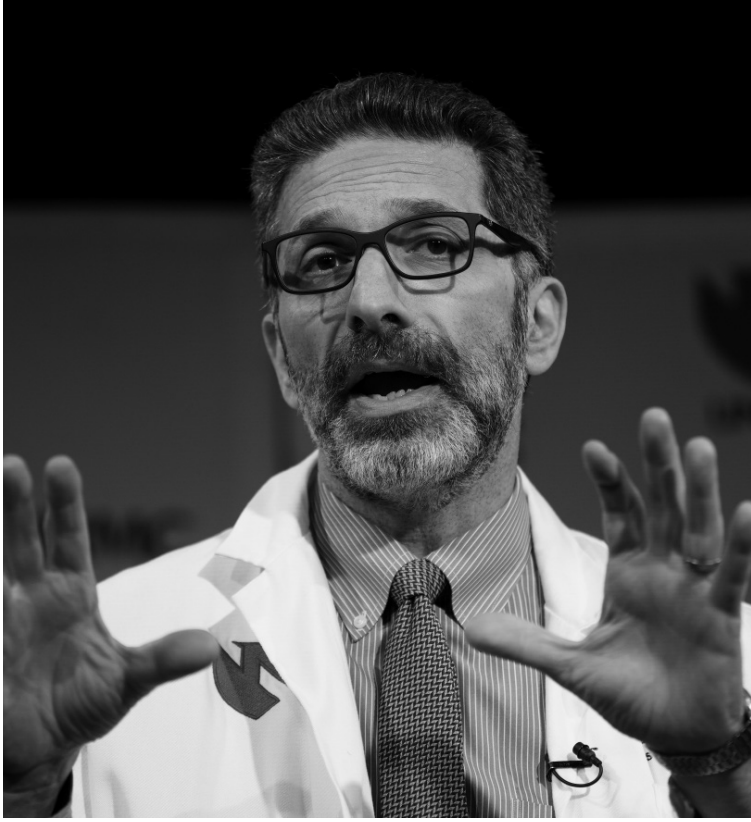
Attorneys general from Connecticut, Florida, Nevada, Oregon and Texas said they will lead the multi-state investigation into San Francisco-based Juul, which also is facing lawsuits by teenagers and others who say they became addicted

to the company’s vaping products.

The state officials said they also will investigate the company’s claims about the risk, safety and effectiveness of its vaping products as smoking cessation devices.

“I will not prejudge where this investigation will lead,” Connecticut Attorney General William Tong said in a statement, “but we will follow every fact and are prepared to take strong action in conjunction with states across the nation to protect public health.”

Study begins in U.S. to test possible coronavirus treatment



Dr. Andre Kalil, of the University of Nebraska Medical Center, speaks in Omaha, Neb., Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020. Kalil, who will oversee a clinical trial of the coronavirus at the medical center, said the study developed quickly in response to the virus outbreak that is centered in China. PHOTO BY NATI HARNIK/AP

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The first clinical trial in the U.S. of a possible coronavirus treatment is underway in Nebraska and is eventually expected to include 400 patients at 50 locations around the world, officials said Tuesday.

Half of the patients in the international study will receive the antiviral medicine remdesivir, while the other half will receive a placebo. Several

other studies, including one looking at the same drug, are already underway internationally.

Dr. Andre Kalil, who will oversee the study at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, said the clinical trial was developed quickly in response to the virus outbreak that originated in China. Patients who are hospitalized with the COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, will be eligible to join the trial if they have at least moderate symptoms.

“The goal here is to help the people that need it the most,” Kalil said.

Fourteen people who were

evacuated from a cruise ship in Japan are being treated at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Twelve of them have tested positive for COVID-19.

There are no proven treatments or vaccines for the new and mysterious virus, which has infected more than 80,000 people worldwide and killed more than 2,700, with the overwhelming majority of cases in China.

Doctors give patients fluids and pain relievers to try to ease the symptoms, which can include fever, cough and shortness of breath. In the case of those who are severely ill, doctors use ventilators to help them breathe or a machine that pumps and oxygenates their blood outside the body, easing the burden on the heart and lungs.

At least two patient studies are already underway in China, including the other study involving remdesivir, which is made by Gilead Sciences, and another that tests a combination HIV drug containing lopinavir and ritonavir.

NTSB: Tesla Autopilot, distracted driver caused fatal crash

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tesla’s partially automated driving system steered an electric SUV into a concrete barrier on a Silicon Valley freeway because it was operating under conditions it couldn’t handle and because the driver likely was distracted by playing a game on his smartphone, the National Transportation Safety Board has found.

The board made the determination Tuesday in the fatal crash and provided nine new recommendations to prevent partially automated vehicle crashes in the future. Among the recommendations is for tech companies to design smartphones and other electronic devices so they don’t operate if they are within a driver’s reach, unless it’s an emergency.

“If we don’t get on top of it, it’s going to be a coronavirus.”

CHAIRMAN ROBERT SUMWALT

Chairman Robert Sumwalt said the problem of drivers distracted by smartphones will keep spreading if nothing is done.

“If we don’t get on top of it, it’s going to be a coronavirus,” he said in calling for government regulations and company policies prohibiting driver use of smartphones.

Much of the board’s frustration was directed at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and to Tesla, which have not acted on recommendations the NTSB passed two years ago. The NTSB investigates crashes but only has authority to make recommendations. NHTSA can enforce the advice, and manufacturers also can act on it.

But Sumwalt said if they don’t, “then we are wasting our time. Safety will not be improved. We are counting on them to do their job.”

For Tesla, the board repeated previous recommendations that it install safeguards to stop its Autopilot driving system from operating in conditions it wasn’t designed to navigate. The board also wants Tesla to design a more effective system to make sure the driver is always paying attention.

“For Tesla, the board repeated previous recommendations that it install safeguards to stop its Autopilot driving system from operating in conditions it wasn’t designed to navigate.”

If Tesla doesn’t add driver monitoring safeguards, misuse of Autopilot is expected “and the risk for future crashes will remain,” the board wrote in one of its findings.

Tuesday’s hearing focused on the March 2018 crash of a Tesla Model X SUV, in which Autopilot was engaged when the vehicle swerved and slammed into a concrete barrier dividing freeway and exit lanes in Mountain View, Calif., killing Apple engineer Walter Huang.

Just before the crash, the Tesla steered to the left into a paved area between the freeway travel lanes and an exit ramp, the NTSB said. It accelerated to 71 mph and crashed into the end of the concrete barrier. The car’s forward collision avoidance system didn’t alert Huang, and its automatic emergency braking did not activate, the NTSB said.

Also, Huang did not brake, and there was no steering movement detected to avoid the crash, the board’s staff said.

Police Blotter

All individuals charged with a crime are innocent until proven guilty. All information is provided by public records released by the UConn Police Department.

Feb. 20

Zavimari Vazquez-Cambren, 28, of Willimantic, Connecticut, was charged with sixth-degree larceny and credit card theft by transfer. She turned herself in to UConn police on an active arrest warrant stemming from a 2014 incident in which she found a wallet, kept the cash and used the credit cards in the wallet to make purchases. Vazquez-Cambren used three cards from the wallet and her purchases totaled \$1,077.06. Her court date was Feb. 20.

CLASSIFIEDS

Policy: Classifieds are non-refundable. Credit will be given if an error incorrectly affects the meaning of the ad and only for a first incorrect insertion. Ads will only be printed if they are accompanied by both first and last name as well as telephone number. Names and numbers may be subject to verification. All advertising is subject to acceptance by The Daily Campus, which reserves the right to reject any ad copy at its sole discretion. The Daily Campus does not knowingly accept ads of a fraudulent nature.

Daily

Opinion

The Daily Campus

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Anna Zarra Aldrich EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Harry Zehner OPINION EDITOR

Peter Fenteany ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

Michael Katz

Kevin Catapano

Anika Veeraraghav WEEKLY COLUMNISTS

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed by individual writers in the opinion section do not reflect the views and opinions of The Daily Campus or other staff members. Only articles labeled “Editorial” are the official opinions of The Daily Campus.



CARTOON BY YUXIN KANG, CARTOONIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

JASE VALLE SITS DOWN WITH THE EDITORIAL BOARD



Jase Valle, one of two candidates for USG President, sits down with the Editorial Board of The Daily Campus.

PHOTO BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

VALLE, cont. from p. 1

DC: Many undergraduate students feel powerless or voiceless against the decisions of the university. What do you have to say to them?

Jase: One of the biggest things I've been advocating for is hearing people's voices. Even within my petition form, I had: "What do you think the biggest issue on our campus is?" Really hearing what students felt, one of the biggest issues was diversity and inclusion. Some people don't know what USG is, and that's a problem. We need to make that known.

DC: How specifically do you want to advocate for all undergraduate students, including those at regional campuses and of different majors?

JV: I want to be accessible for people. Something me and my running mate have been running with is the idea of doing office hours in different locations so we can really be accessible firsthand. Office hours are a really good tool that USG has not taken advantage of. I'm going to be honest, I walked in to see people during office hours four times this semester, and they were never in office hours. That's one of the things we need to communicate with students: When we're available or when things change. We need to make sure we're 100% transparent with our students in letting them know what's happening, even explaining our limits.

DC: Say, at some point during your term, the university plans to host a controversial guest speaker. How would you respond in the event that members of the student body call for that speaker to be barred from campus?

JV: That draws a really interesting perspective on how we view the First Amendment and how we view people's voices. Everyone's valid for bringing in whatever speaker they want. No one should feel like they're invalidated for doing so.

The issue comes when people feel attacked or unsafe. When people feel unsafe, that's when the student government has to step in because people should feel safe on this campus regardless of socioeconomic, religious or [other] background.

That's a conversation we need to have on the speaker. "What's the point of this? What's the learning outcome?" That's really what matters. We're coming to the university to learn, so there should be some type of clear learning outcome, not just bringing a speaker to bring a speaker.

DC: After the various racist incidents on campus last semester, there was a lot of talk about racism on campus. How would you run USG as an explicitly anti-racist organization that emphasizes diversity and inclusion?

JV: One good way to do that is teaching people what diversity and inclusion looks like. Everyone comes in here with their own perspective on what that looks like. We need to start with explaining what the university currently does. We have various cultural centers. I think explaining to our student leaders what each of them exactly do and about their cultures to begin with increases cultural competency. If we can teach all the senators and all the chairpersons exactly what each cultural center does, they will pass that down.

We have multicultural seats that go untaken. We have a few of them. That's an action that speaks louder than words. Why are multiculturalism [seats] empty when so many people advocate for it? That's the issue of people not being listened to, and that's what we need to change. That has to be our focus and our priority: Really increasing cultural competency in the student body.

DC: Considering the two recent on-campus suicides and the generally stressful nature of college life, how would you address mental health, and is there anything you would add to what President Katsouleas has proposed?

JV: We need to be proactive: When something bad happens, let's not try to fix it but avoid something bad from happening to begin with. That's what we really need to hone in on.

For right now, it's promotion of mental health and being available to students. One way we can really be available for students is being in all the social spaces. I think CMHS could have a counselor or clinician come into the various social spaces we have around campus and have an office hour.

There is a large proportion of international students coming into this university feeling unwanted and unheard. They're a large proportion of our university statistically; they shouldn't feel like that. We really need to hone in on that as well.

DC: Tier II organizations often complain funding is really difficult to receive through USG. Do you have any suggestions for improving the funding process?

JV: I'm a part of a Tier II org. too, so I definitely understand it's really complex. We need to become

more understanding of these Tier II organizations.

A lot of organizations get declined funding because their events aren't considered inclusive enough. That's a whole narrative where I don't even know if we know what inclusive really looks like or how that portrays in the world. We need to clearly define our expectations, and when I was reading the funding policy, it was very unclear. I get it, it's a governing document, but we can definitely make it more people-friendly.

We need to work with the comptroller on how we can make funding more accessible. These Tier II organizations, we're supposed to support them. If we're going to support them and help them grow, we have to work with them. They are the backbone of the university in some ways. We really need to address what helping them looks like and not just create rules to make our [USG's] lives easier.

DC: How would you measure or define success, in concrete terms, for your administration?

JV: Success in concrete terms would be increased engagement. Our student body needs to be more engaged. It's not engaged. Not to sound rude, but it's horrible to see how we hold such a large portion of this university but we're not engaged in USG. When we can really hone in on engagement, we can reach success. If I can see a senate that's full, and engagement and involvement are at their highest, that's truly when I will find success in my administration.

DC: Why should students vote for you?

JV: I'm here for the students, and I'm always going to be here for the students. I'm an outsider that wants to make a change and really shake the boat. We can fix a lot of the internal issues, and we need to make it more accessible to students. One of our biggest campaign slogans is "opening the gates for innovative thinkers and monumental change." I think that's really what our campaign is all about: Opening these gates and the power for the students to voice their opinions a lot more, making people feel like they belong.

That's really why people should vote for me. I don't fit the mold; I wasn't involved in USG for the past three years. Me not being involved is the thing USG needs at this current moment. We need a culture shock in some ways so we don't get complacent.

This interview has been edited for length. A complete version can be found online.



Warmer winter weather will warp our world

by Peter Fenteany
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR
peter.fenteany@uconn.edu

Maybe it's the weak attempt at snow last week, but this winter weather has got me down. Not because it is too cold or bleak, though, but quite the opposite. This year, we have hardly seen any snow or real wintry wonder. And this isn't just a Connecticut thing — all around the world, winters are becoming different.

Of course, this is because of climate change. It may sound tired at this point to talk about the subject, but climate change is not a problem of the future. At present, it is subtly changing the way we live and many are struggling to keep up. In particular, people who rely on the changing seasons for their business or livelihood are feeling the early effects of climate change first.

Here in Connecticut, we see the changes. The winter temperatures have been getting warmer, and any snow at all seems to appear later and later. When there is a snowstorm, though, it doesn't let up. Severe cold snaps and storms are plaguing the entire United States and Connecticut is no exception.

This has real effects. Winter-based companies in the northeast are having to change their business models to adapt. Fewer snowstorms means fewer opportunities to plow or go skiing, after all. There are also risks ecologically. Tick-borne and mosquito-borne illnesses like Lyme disease are also on the rise as the pests carrying them are not getting their populations controlled by the cold.

Moreover, it just feels wrong. It's weird not being able to sled down Horsebarn Hill. It's weird not seeing the snow-covered trees on campus around break. It's weird not knowing what to wear outside because the temperature could be in the mid-50s in February. Our lives are starting to change just a bit. This will be more and more noticeable as generations go on, and we see more clearly how different our kids or grandkids will live from us.

And we're lucky to be facing the beginnings here. Farmers who rely on the winter for their crop-growing are getting nervous in these changing times. One report by the University of Georgia found that the state's peach industry faced an 80% loss in 2017. The overwhelming majority of those losses were due to Georgia not getting cold enough for peaches to set in the winter. This is substantial and back-breaking for farmers who rely on the regularity of the seasons and it will only be getting worse.

With the lack of snow also comes a lack of water for many communities. In parts of California, snow in the winter acts as a reservoir of water that then can disperse in the spring. But with less snow and more snowmelt, the amount of stored water is diminished. This not only affects farmers there as well, but it also may cause flooding in the winter or water shortages in the summer.

In essence, we have built our society carefully in such a way that we need regular and predictable seasons. We expect certain things to happen when the weather gets cold in the winter and warm in the summer. We rely on snow to insulate, protect and store. And when the weather patterns and temperatures we have been used to for millennia fall out of habit, we cannot restore that balance artificially. We don't know how to adapt every aspect of our lifestyle to the warming planet, but we're going to need to learn fast at this point.

It is tempting when talking about climate change to focus on the catastrophes that are occurring because of it, such as the Amazon or Australian forest fires. But just as important are the ways that the incubation of our planet is slowly, unceasingly degrading our day-to-day lives. Not only will climate change kill us all if radical action is not taken, but it won't be a pretty trip there.



Life

@dailycampuslife

‘The Pollinators’ generates buzz at the Student Union Theatre



“The Pollinators” addresses issues with the current agricultural and environmental climate and how farmers try to plant more diverse crops, among other methods, to save the soil and bee population. The film, directed by Peter Nelson, screened at the Student Union Theatre on Tuesday. PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Ian Ward
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
ian.ward@uconn.edu

EcoHouse hosted a screening of “The Pollinators” last night at the Student Union Theatre. “The Pollinators” follows beekeepers around the country during pollination season of different crops. Throughout the documentary, the beekeepers and other bee experts explain to viewers why the bee population is declining, how American agriculture has evolved over time and how it affects the bee population.

“Our community is made up of first and second year students who share a common passion for the environment, sus-

tainability and a desire to find solutions to climate change,” Thomas Hayes, EcoHouse Faculty Director said to the audience before the screening.

One of the main focuses of the documentary is how the bee population is declining. During the film, different solutions are proposed to fix the problems such as using less pesticides, having beekeeping move to urban environments and having consumers eat seasonal fruits and vegetables.

“I think it’s a story that a lot of people won’t know about how dependent our food system is upon managed honeybees and how important that is to our everyday lives and I hope we can

One of the main focuses of the documentary is how the bee population is declining. During the film, different solutions are proposed to fix the problems such as using less pesticides, having beekeeping move to urban environments and having consumers eat seasonal fruits and vegetables.

change the way people look at the natural world,” Peter Nelson, director and cinematographer of “The Pollinators” said.

Nelson is a cinematographer who is best known for his work on films like “Art & Copy” and “Pipe Dream.” He has also done work for TV series such as “American Experience” and “Independent Lens.”

“Pollinators are really important and I used to have a beehive that I did in high school and I want to learn more about them and how and how bees are doing,” Lily Orr, a second-semester natural resources and environment master’s student said.

Since its premiere on Feb. 28, 2019 at the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in Missoula, Montana, the film has been screened all over the United States as well as in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Nelson has won multiple awards for “The Pollinators” including the Gala Prize for Environmental Filmmaking at the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival and the People’s Choice Award at the ReadingFilmFest which he shared with the film’s executive producer, Sally Roy.

After the movie was over, Roy and Nelson took questions from the audience. Questions ranged from what a sustainable supermarket would look like to if Roy or Nelson reached out to the Environmental Protection Agency when making the documentary.

“Since we made this film, the EPA has had a transformation.” Roy said. “This is not for the better.”

Both Roy and Nelson mentioned their goal of having “The Pollinators” screen in as many states as possible for Earth Day week since it will be the 50th anniversary of the holiday.

If you are interested in hosting a screening of “The Pollinators,” you can request your town or city to host one through Demand Film’s website. For any updates regarding the film, follow @pollinatorsfilm on Twitter or @pollinatorsfilm on Instagram.

Both Roy and Nelson mentioned their goal of having “The Pollinators” screen in as many states as possible for Earth Day week since it will be the 50th anniversary of the holiday.

If you are interested in getting involved with EcoHouse, they are currently holding a fundraiser called Ignite, a national crowdfunding resource opportunity in which different teams at the University of Connecticut compete against each other in challenges for cash prizes. The most recent challenge has been seeing which group can get the most number of student donors.



“The Pollinators” focuses on the declining population of bees and the proposed solutions to the issue. The film screening was hosted by EcoHouse. PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

“I think it’s a story that a lot of people won’t know about how dependent our food system is upon managed honeybees and how important that is to our everyday lives and I hope we can change the way people look at the natural world.”

PETER NELSON



Steven Osborne, a critically acclaimed pianist, plays Beethoven's final three sonatas, at Von der Mehden. Osborne will be lecturing for UConn music students later this week. PHOTO BY MIKE MCCLELLAN, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Blown away by Beethoven's sonatas

by Meghan Shaw
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
meghan.shaw@uconn.edu

Although occupied by only one piano and one musician, the stage in Von der Mehden could not have felt more alive than when Steven Osborne performed Beethoven's final three sonatas on Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Returning to UConn after twenty years, Osborne was welcomed warmly to the stage before delivering an engaging show that caused the audience to fall in love with each note of the three pieces he played. In honor of the Beethoven anniversary year, he is performing these works all around the world. It has been a privilege to hear them here at UConn.

Osborne, as an immeasurably talented British musician, has received the highest of praise for his recitals. He has won several awards, including The Royal Philharmonic Society Instrumentalist of the Year in 2013, and two Gramophone Awards. He is currently a Visiting Professor at the Royal Academy of Music.

Osborne's skill shone through in every aspect of his performance. Even the most difficult-sounding melodies appeared to be effortless for him, and the emotion he put behind each note entranced the audience. It was clear that he is passionate about his profession, and watching him play the music was equally as awe-inspiring as listening.

"I really really liked this one, because I played one of the pieces ... Hearing it live, it's different, it's kind of amazing. Some things you just can't capture in recordings ... It's just beautiful," said Tristan Wong, a second semester piano performance major.

Aside from the music itself, Osborne enhanced the audience's connection with each piece by providing insight into the meaning or history attached to them. Whether comparing Beethoven's works to those of

another era or style, drawing attention to a theme that brings new meaning to the piece, or discussing comments previous audiences made regarding his execution and interpretation.

"It was very breathtaking, and I didn't have any words to put it into, but I was very much into all of the pieces. He kind of brought me into his world, he seemed very good at that, engaging us..."

Saura Malahiagar, second semester student majoring in music education, specializing in piano, said.

"Hearing it live, it's different, it's kind of amazing. Some things you just can't capture in recordings ... It's just beautiful."

TRISTAN WONG

Upon the conclusion of the recital, Osborne received a well-deserved standing ovation. Several audience members lingered, chatting about the breathtaking performance they had the privilege of attending. It was clear that each person was in awe of Osborne's talent, regardless of their knowledge of the pieces. It was a performance anyone could enjoy.

"I came because I wanted to learn more about how to write for piano ... and this was like eating Hershey's milk chocolate all your life and discovering dark chocolate exists. This was a caliber above the rest ... I didn't know you could play piano like that," Sarah Marze, second semester vocal and composition major said.

After such an amazing and unforgettable show, UConn would be very fortunate to host Steven Osborne again, even if another 20 years goes by before he returns.

Husky on the Road *A visit to a cat cafe*

by Kate Luongo
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
kate.luongo@uconn.edu

If you've ever dreamed of sipping a cappuccino surrounded by cats, keep reading.

Yes, this magical place really does exist. Crumbs and Whiskers, located in Washington D.C., is not only a cozy cafe but also partners with rescues and houses cats and kittens from high-kill shelters. The cats remain in the cafe, where they enjoy lots of socialization and love, until they are adopted.

I got the opportunity to visit Crumbs and Whiskers, and it was everything I hoped it would be. I had made a reservation ahead of time for the

75-minute experience, as per the recommendation on their website, and waited eagerly outside the shop with several other visitors.

As soon as we were welcomed inside, out of the brisk cold and into the cafe, we were given a rundown on how our visit would go. The staff told us about each of the cats, which were particularly friendly, and they took some time warming up to new friends. They also took our drink orders. Once the coffee arrived, it became a kitty frenzy.

We were allowed to explore the two-story cafe on our own, where there were lots of places to sit, relax and meet new cats. One couple that was



Crumbs and Whiskers is a cat cafe located in Washington, D.C., and provides a home for rescues and cats from high-kill shelters. The two-story cafe allows visitors to adopt its cats during their visit. PHOTO COURTESY OF AUTHOR

Crumbs and Whiskers, located in Washington D.C., is not only a cozy cafe but also partners with rescues and houses cats and kittens from high-kill shelters.

Cozy Couture

What does fashion mean to you?

by **Caroline LeCour**
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
caroline.lecour@uconn.edu

This week, I’ve decided to roam around campus in search of one of life’s most unanswered questions: What exactly is fashion, and what does it mean for everyone? All right, I may be being a bit dramatic. However, there is always an interesting, eye-opening and unique response from everyone. For many, fashion is more than trying to appeal to others and look cool. Many use fashion as a self-confidence booster or as a way to become anyone they want to be. Others may think fashion is whatever looks clean in the laundry basket. Let’s dive deep into what fashion means for UConn:

BECCA KLETT,
SIXTH-SEMESTER
COMMUNICATIONS MAJOR

“I would say, to me, fashion is a way to express yourself and your interests, to experiment with the ways that others view you. If someone never met you and was just passing you on the street, they can create two completely different narratives of who they think you are just based on different outfits. I also think it’s a great way to build confidence!”

JAVIER VARAS,
SECOND-SEMESTER
ECONOMICS MAJOR

“Fashion means the ability to be comfortable in your own skin.”

KATELYN ARIANO,
FOURTH-SEMESTER
JOURNALISM AND SPANISH MAJOR

“Fashion is a way of speaking without saying a word. You can let your clothes do the talking and express yourself in a way that words just can’t do justice.”

ALEX LEO,
FOURTH-SEMESTER
JOURNALISM MAJOR

“Fashion for me is a part of how I come into my own. I started to dress like I do when I started truly becoming my own person. It developed along with my personality.”

CHLOE MACKO,
FOURTH-SEMESTER
ACCOUNTING MAJOR

“To me, fashion is a way for me to feel confident in myself when I put something on that I find visually appealing or just cute. Even when I put comfy clothing on, I sometimes try to make it look fashionable by adding accessories or layering things to make it stand out more.”

BRANDON BARZOLA,
FOURTH-SEMESTER
ENGLISH AND JOURNALISM MAJOR

“I would say fashion is a great way for me to express myself and is an important element in how I carry myself.”

MIKE TRECKER,
FOURTH-SEMESTER
ACES MAJOR

“Fashion is an expression of your personality and desires.”

CARRIE EPSTEIN,
SECOND-SEMESTER
PNB MAJOR

“Fashion in my opinion is a form of expression and experimentation. It’s being able to try different styles and see what resonates with you best and what makes you feel the most confident.”

SHELBY HOUGHTON,
FOURTH-SEMESTER
POLITICAL SCIENCE AND
HUMAN RIGHTS MAJOR

“Fashion isn’t just the fabric you decide to wear or the objects you put on to stay warm or cool: It’s a matter of self-expression that makes you feel more like yourself and share yourself with others.”



Mew Haven Cat Cafe is located in New Haven, Conn., and offers coffee and cat-themed beverages. The cafe also offers work and study sessions for visitors. PHOTOS COURTESY OF AUTHOR

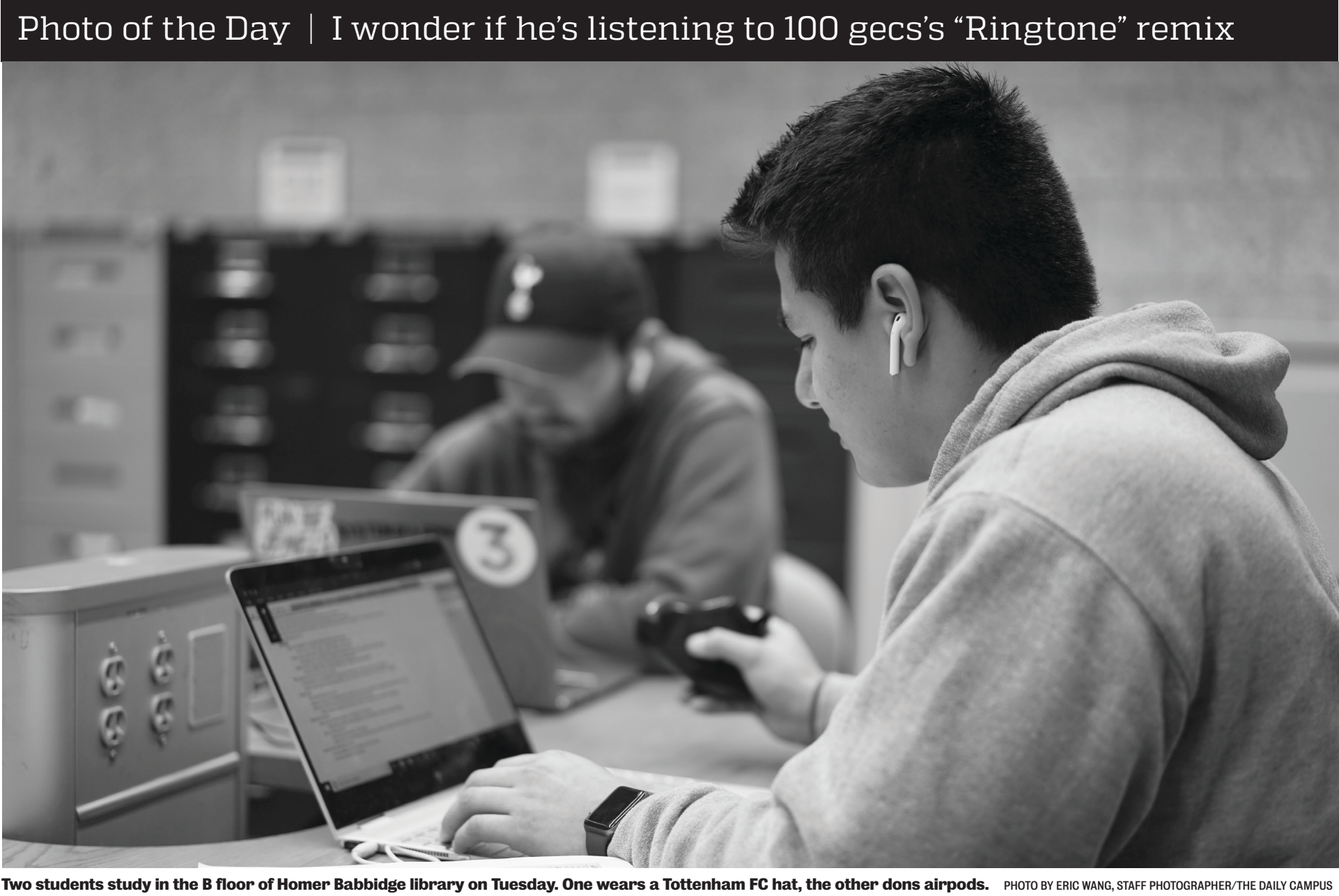
Mew Haven also offers three-hour work/study sessions perfect for us college students. What better way to study than surrounded by furry friends?



also visiting fell in love with a black cat with white markings and began to fill out the adoption paperwork. It was amazing to get to witness a cat in need going to a great home. I loved relaxing on one of the fluffy coaches with a sleepy orange kitten named Ginger. Before we left, everyone got to take a polaroid home as a memento from the experience. I didn’t want to leave, but my time was up, and it was time

for the next group of cat lovers to enter. Not only does the cafe offer visits of 15 minutes, 75 minutes or co-working with cats (all day access), but they also offer cat yoga and special events such as “Star Wars” trivia or a Valentine’s Day date night. If you aren’t going to be in the D.C. area any time soon, there is now a cat cafe in New Haven called Mew Haven Cat Cafe, offering a similar experience of cuddly cats and coffee. They also offer other beverages such as hot chocolate, tea and special cat themed drinks including “Mr. Kitty’s Pumpkin Spice” and “The Ginger Cat,” which is a spicy ginger honey tea latte. Mew Haven also offers three-hour work/study sessions perfect for us college students. What better way to study than surrounded by furry friends?





WHY NATIONAL EATING DISORDER AWARENESS WEEK SHOULD BE EVERY WEEK

by Clara Gomes
CONTRIBUTOR
clara.gomes@uconn.edu

Growing up and seeing centimeter-wide Disney princess waists, successful anorexic models and tons of retouched women on magazine covers, many people develop eating disorders out of unmet and overwhelming beauty expectations. Because less has been more in our society for a long time, people are encouraged to starve themselves. Sacrificing a healthy lifestyle is often seen as the secret to someone's personal happiness, and that scares me.

The National Eating Disorders Association, commonly referred to as NEDA, has been fighting the stigma and getting others involved for 33 years now. Since my first "NEDA Feeding Hope" walk in NYC back in 2012, I have found the organization to be inspiring and worth getting involved with.

It was eye-opening for me as an insecure seventh grader to see that I was not the only one dealing with my own body-hate issues. At these annual NEDA walks, it's amazing how many people you can see who are there for each other. These events instilled in me a sense of hope, and I bet we would all feel that way if we recognized how evil this sickness can be.

Through their walks, I've learned some shocking statistics. According to the NEDA, 5.2% of girls from a group of 496 girls they've followed for eight years until they were 20 "met the criteria for DSMS anorexia, bulimia, or binge eating disorder." I thought these statistics were especially alarming because of how many times there may have been people with eating disorders around me that have gone unnoticed. Many times, people will even be unaware that they are dealing with one because of little to no education about the symptoms. This is why NEDA

is passionate about the cause.

On a more personal note, I think it's worth discussing how girls would bring up negative comments about their bodies in casual conversations growing up. As early as middle school, I would hear the skinniest girls around me talking about how "fat" they were, and I would roll my eyes. Looking back at it today, I wish I would've recognized that these were cases of body dysmorphia around me, and that we were in serious trouble if many people thought this way.

Though it may appear that the media has romanticized eating disorders in the past with films like "To The Bone" with Lily Collins, there are many media-famous role-models today that we should continue to look up to, such as body-image activist Ashley Graham and NEDA ambassador Iskra Lawrence.

Elite Daily delves into an Instagram post back in 2016, when Graham captioned "Someone once told me my

thighs were 'cellulite city.' But now I realize these thighs tell a story of victory and courage. I will not let others dictate what they think my body should look like for their own comfort, and neither should you."

We should all be living by this point of view because, though there are many important issues out there that have yet to be resolved, we cannot take much care of what is around us if we don't have ourselves and our health in check. Eating Disorders Awareness Week is about an issue that isn't temporary, so it shouldn't only be a week long. People are still putting their health at stake all year round, and treatment for this is something we should be advocating for more than seven days a year. In the meantime, we should be celebrating successful people of all different body types so that younger folks out there aren't getting the wrong idea.

There is still much to do.

Bernie Sanders is right about Cuba

by Liz Collins
CONTRIBUTOR
elizabeth.collins@uconn.edu

Vermont Senator and Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders recently came under fire for comments he made about Cuba and Fidel Castro in the 1980s. In a "60 Minutes" interview on Monday, Sanders stated that despite Cuba's "authoritarian nature", it would be unfair to write off everything else about Cuba as bad. Unsurprisingly, he's completely right.

The U.S. has a long history of imperialist action in multiple countries south of the border. The motivation behind the action, of course, is something left over from the earliest days of colonization: the racist belief that non-white people were inferior and incapable of governing themselves. The remnants of these sentiments in American history education combined with McCarthyism in the 1940s and '50s creates the perfect storm of reasons for America to absolutely despise Cuba, a country that has been run by a Marxist-Leninist party for decades. But as much as Americans and capitalists want to revise history, it remains true that Cuba has thrived in many ways that America has not, despite decades of American embargos.

Cuba's education system is one that Americans are only starting to fight for. From pre-school to doctorate programs, education is free and open to all and literacy rates are nearly at 100%, thanks to the Cuban Revolution which overthrew President Fulgencio Batista. Under the direction of the

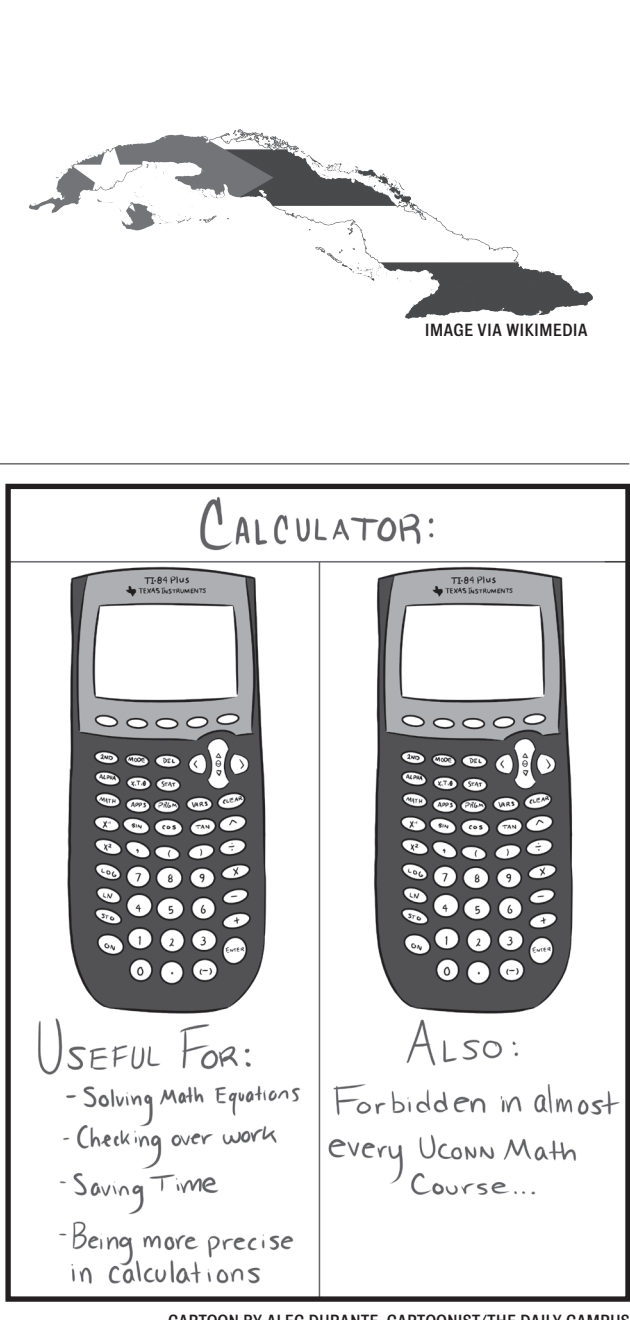
new communist leader Fidel Castro, public education became a top priority. Class sizes are restricted to 25 in primary schools and 15 in secondary schools in order to give students more attention and a better quality education. The school day was revolutionized: it starts with breakfast and free play then continues with classes and ends with enrichment activities like art, gym, music, sports and more. Schools also provide free food, before and after-school care and mobile teachers that teach sick or disabled children at their own home. Cuban children have thrived in this environment, with indiscipline, truancy and dropouts being rare.

Cuba also has a revolutionary healthcare system that Sanders is now championing in the U.S.: Medicare for All. Families in Cuba aren't permanently destroyed or burdened by medical debt because appointments are free, whether it be with a nutritionist, psychologist or dentist. Doctors are localized in neighborhoods, making them easily accessible and convenient, but also well-known community figures who aren't complete strangers. Cuba has three times as many doctors per capita as the United States, making care for its 11 million inhabitants much more personal and speedy. Doctors in Cuba have also created a successful lung cancer vaccine, have vaccinated almost all of their children and have been providing free gender reaffirming surgery and hormone therapy since 2008: innovation beyond what the U.S. has today.

Fidel Castro was just as bold and unashamed a leader as Cuba is a

country. In addition to surviving several hundred assassination attempts by the C.I.A., Castro has been championed as a solid ally to Black people worldwide. Castro gave amnesty to Assata Shakur, a leader of the radical Black Liberation Army accused of killing a police officer in 1973. He broke down the barrier of strong racial segregation after the Cuban Revolution. He expressed disgust about gentrification in 1960s Harlem. He militantly opposed South African apartheid, and supported liberation efforts in Algeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea Bissau, Angola, Namibia and Cape Verde. He led international aid efforts to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea when Ebola broke out, and set a precedent for training African doctors. And when Castro died in 2016, countries worldwide mourned for days.

Had Castro been President of the United States, he would've been celebrated for eternity as a champion of the people. But because of lingering Cold War propaganda and misconceptions about socialism and communism, he's made up to be a dictator by Western leaders and media. Though he was not a perfect leader, he was arguably one of the most progressive and popular heads of state the world has seen, fighting against the inherent inequalities of capitalism, American interventionism and European imperialism for decades. Bernie Sanders is absolutely correct in praising such a powerful activist and radical whose name won't ever be forgotten. And if the 2020 election goes well, maybe Bernie can join those ranks.



Tristan Thompson buyout possibilities

BUYOUT, cont. from p. 11

Houston Rockets

The Rockets are taking the small-ball era to the next level, inventing “micro-ball.” They traded away Clint Capela and added Robert Covington, Green and Carroll to their stock of wings that already consisted of P.J. Tucker, Danuel House and Thabo Sefolosha. They’ve been hoarding wings with incredible size that can stretch the floor to throw out into lineups with James Harden and Russell Westbrook in lieu of a traditional center. They still have Tyson Chandler, but at this stage in his career, he can’t be relied on to play many quality play-off minutes.

So why would a team that just traded away a traditional center want to add another one? Well, they’d do it to simply hedge their bet on their unconventional system. If the standings stay the way that they are through March and the first half of April, the Rockets will draw a first round play-off matchup with the Jazz and a potential second round matchup with the Lakers. Both teams have All-Star big men in Rudy Gobert and Anthony Davis, with the Lakers also able to pair Davis with titans Dwight Howard, Ja-Vale McGee, Kyle Kuzma, Markieff Morris and, oh yeah, LeBron James.

If the Rockets get absolutely bodied by these colossus teams when their perimeter centric, drive-and-kick system fails, Thompson will allow them to change their strategy mid-series back to a more traditional style. Is Gobert effortlessly rolling to the rim? Davis doing whatever he wants to Covington and Tucker? LeBron throwing lob after lob to Howard and McGee? Thompson provides a big body with good instincts near the basket that can prevent these things from happening.

He wouldn’t have the large sal-



Cleveland Cavaliers’ Tristan Thompson (13) and Kevin Love (0) celebrate after they defeated the Miami Heat in overtime in an NBA basketball game, Monday, Feb. 24, 2020, in Cleveland. PHOTO BY TONY DEJAK/AP

ary against the cap that Capela had, so there won’t be pressure to give him minutes if their 3-pointers are falling. But he’ll give Houston the flexibility to adjust if they aren’t.

Los Angeles Clippers

The Clippers have two players on their roster over 6-foot-8-inches. They have the 22-year-old 7-footer Ivica Zubac, who plays 17.9 minutes per game, and Mfiondu Kabengele, who bounces back and forth from the G-League. Like the Rockets, the Clippers are in desperate need of some height.

Though the lumbering big man Zubac is the starter, the Clippers play Montrezl Harrell 28.2 minutes per game and opt to close out games with the 6-foot-7 center. They take pride in their ability to put totally switchable lineups on the court, with defensive specialist Patrick Beverley, lockdown superstar wings Kawhi Leonard and Paul George and other 6-foot-8 forwards like Maurice Harkless, Marcus Morris and JaMychal Green. But for all of the great defenders that they can have on the court at once, how many of them are big enough to

man-up Davis?

Aside from AD, who is the the scariest matchup nightmare for the Clippers, the Western Conference playoffs will also feature Gobert (7-foot-1), Nikola Jokic (7-foot), Steven Adams (7-foot) and Kristaps Porzingis (7-foot-3). Thompson is only 6-foot-9, but he plays much bigger. If signed by the Clippers, he’d already lead the team in rebounds per game by over 2.5.

The Clippers have been sliding lately, losing four of their last six. Though they have a slew of talent with Leonard, George, Harrell, Beverley and Lou Williams, they still seem a piece away. That piece is a player like Thompson.

Boston Celtics

The Celtics have needed a better center all season long. At the trade deadline, people saw it as a likely destination for Drummond and Capela, but they were dealt elsewhere. It is currently unclear whether Brad Stevens and Danny Ainge are content rolling with Daniel Theis, Enes Kanter and Robert Williams (when healthy). Aside from the backup point guard spot with Kemba Walker missing time with a sore knee, center is clearly their biggest positional need.

Like the Clippers, it feels like the Celtics are just a piece away. Jayson Tatum is playing his best basketball ever, Walker has slid into Kyrie Irving’s spot and fixed the chemistry issues with equal-or-better production, Jaylen Brown has shaken off the label of “overpaid,” Gordon Hayward has proven to remain valuable post-compound fracture and Marcus Smart has developed his offensive game enough to be a threat on that end of the floor. Theis and Kanter have been fine at best in the center role, and Robert Williams hasn’t been healthy enough to establish himself minutes. Thompson could be the missing piece for a team lacking a quality five.

Rookie of the Year: Zion or Ja?

ZION, cont. from p. 11

No. Ja is one of the only reasons this team has been able to win as many games as they have thus far, and should they make the playoffs, he will be the sole reason for that as well. The intangibles paired up with his stats and knack for winning when he has no right should be enough to earn him that Rookie of the Year award.

Now let me now tell you why Zion should not get it to really drill home my point.

What Zion’s been able to do thus far is impressive. In the 12 games he has played he is averaging 23 points and seven rebounds en route to a 7-5 record. He’s been able to use his body incredibly well to bully smaller players in the paint while also showing off a very respectable 3-point shot.

Zion’s downfall for me, however, is that small sample size of 12 games and what it means for the rest of his season. Not only is the 37 games max he can play too small to truly be considered for the award, but it will not allow



Memphis Grizzlies guard Ja Morant, right, shoots as Los Angeles Clippers center Ivica Zubac defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Feb. 24, 2020, in Los Angeles. PHOTO BY MARK J. TERRILL/AP

the whole story to be told.

There were moments in Ja’s first couple seasons in the league where he looked downright unstoppable. But after those couple months, Morant got a little tired, and more significantly, teams

started to figure him out a little bit more. That is what should and most likely will happen to Zion over the rest of the season: teams mixing up their game plan a little bit to focus on shutting down one of the team’s hottest

players. It’s only a matter of time before defenses will find a way to manipulate Zion’s tendencies to force him into much tougher offensive situations while they continue to exploit his defensive shortcomings on the other end. The only reason teams haven’t already begun to do that is because the Pelicans have a very complete roster, another reason Zion sits behind Ja in my book.

Lonzo Ball, Jrue Holiday, J.J. Reddick, Brandon Ingram and Derrick Favors. That is the Pelicans starting five if you take Zion out of the picture. Not too shabby if you ask me. So, the only real way I can see Zion overtaking Ja is if by some miracle the Grizzlies lose out and drop out of the playoffs while Zion leads the Pelicans to the No. 8 seed past the Blazers and Grizzlies. But in all honesty, even as a Pelicans fan, I don’t necessarily see that happening.

Are both players having excellent seasons in their own right? Yes. Could there be MVP debates in the future? Hopefully. But are there Rookie of the Year conversations now? Not in my book. Chalk Ja’s name up for me.

LEAGUE OF LEGENDS RECAP

ESPORTS, cont. from p. 10

Despite loss, hopes high for Team Liquid

The start of the season has not been kind to North America’s four-time-in-a-row champions, Team Liquid. An abysmal start to the season was made worse by visa issues that kept the team’s new jungler Broxah out of the country for the first four games. And while their Week 5 started poorly, finishing out the first half of the split with a loss to Evil Geniuses, the team did manage to put on a performance against Dignitas that was very impressive. Dignitas drafted an aggressive team composition with Pantheon for toplaner Huni, but Team Liquid’s coordination finally showed through as they won a few fights early that secured all the momentum they’d need to win the game.

Europe’s standings close headed into the second half

As the second half of Europe’s split begins, the standings are far closer than in North America. Currently, Fnatic, Misfits, G2, and Origen are all tied at 7-3, while MAD Lions and Rogue are just behind them at 6-4. Even the team below them, Excel Esports, is 5-5. This means that the playoff race is still incredibly close as teams head into the last four weeks. This week, G2 once again lost, this time in a bloody game to MAD Lions that saw top laner Wunder end up at 0-5-3. Fnatic’s 2-0 week has brought them into the tie, as Misfits lost a game to Rogue and Rogue lost a game to Fnatic. These games against other top teams could end up being critical, as the tiebreaker for playoffs is their record against each other. Were Rogue to tie with Misfits in the end, their 2-0 record might make all the difference.

KYRIE: YES OR NO?

KYRIE, cont. from p. 11

Arnold:

Alright, c’mon. It’s a bit over-the-top to blame everything that went wrong on one player. Yes, he was the most talented player on the roster and deserved to be the center of attention, but there’s more to it than him being a “prima donna.” You mentioned Jaylen Brown. He came right to Irving’s defense at the beginning of this season. “Kyrie, a lot of the blame was undeserving,” Brown told Brandon Robinson, reported by NY Daily News. “It wasn’t his fault that certain guys couldn’t take a step back. It wasn’t his fault. That was the front office and coaches’ fault.” Marcus Smart was another to quickly defend Irving and said, from the same article, “To come into a situation knowing this is a group of guys that had something going before I come here. How will I fit in? He didn’t want to disrupt that. That says a lot. This is Kyrie Irving we’re talking about, and he’s talking about coming in and not disrupting us.” Irving’s former teammates obviously hold no grudge against him for his time in Boston and even wished him the best in Brooklyn. Irving also has a history of some mental health issues, issues that were blown out of proportion when he had an “episode” on a team trip to China. The NBA is full of acceptance toward Demar DeRozan and Kevin Love when they share their battle stories with mental health problems, but Irving is automatically relegated to the villain. He’s human like the rest of us and isn’t even 28 yet. He’s going through growing pains and may have finally started to figure things out when he signed with the Nets. “I don’t have to be perfect for anyone here, nor do I have to be perfect for the public,” Irving said, as quoted in the article. “So I’m not here to dispel any perception, I’m just here to be myself.”

UConn baseball alumni starting seasons up

LAMB, cont. from p. 12

Lamb was having a solid year with the Pacers, averaging 12.5 points, 4.3 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 1.2 steals, while shooting 33.5% from the 3. As a key player in the Pacers push for homecourt advantage in the playoffs, he will be missed.

Meanwhile, in the MLB, spring training has started up, meaning that many of our favorite former Huskies take the field for the first time this year. Nick Ahmed, the two-time gold glove fresh off a four-year contract extension, took the field as a shortstop for the Arizona Diamondbacks on Sunday, and in three at-bats, recorded two hits and an RBI. In addition to MLB players, spring training al-

lows us a glimpse at the minor leaguers who went to UConn, and how they are making their way up the baseball ranks. Anthony Kay, drafted by the Mets in 2016, was traded to the Blue Jays this past year, and debuted for them in Spring Training, with an era of nine over two innings. John Andreoli, drafted in 2011 by the Chicago Cubs, played for the Red Sox this year in spring training, recording six at-bats with a two base hit and one run. Notable Huskies in the MLB, such as George Springer, Matt Barnes and Scott Boerg, have not played in spring training so far this year, but being important members of professional teams, we will surely see more of them come the regular season.



Toronto Blue Jays pitchers Hyun-Jin Ryu, left, and Anthony Kay get ready to throw to live batters during full squad workouts at the team’s spring training baseball complex in Dunedin, Fla., Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020. PHOTO BY STEVE NESIUS/THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA AP

Photo of the Day | Group hug!



For their final game at Gampel Pavilion this season, the UConn women's basketball team celebrated senior day by defeating UCF 66-53. PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE LAO, PHOTO EDITOR/ THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Basketball to take on UCF

UCF, cont. from p. 12

Redshirt junior forward Collin Smith is the only Knight in double-figure scoring this season, but four other players average seven points or more per game. UCF is middle of the pack in basically every offensive metric this season, but have been quite vulnerable on the defensive glass at times this season, averaging the second-worst rebound margin (-.8) in the conference.

As UCF comes off an embarrassing loss, UConn enters on the heels of a nice bounce-back victory over USF on Sunday. Senior Christian Vital had a game-high 24 points and became The American's all-time leader in 3-pointers made.

"It just shows the nights I was in Gampel and Werth shooting when no one was there. So to know the work is paying off, I know I got a lot more work to do, but that's definitely a nice accomplishment," Vital said after the win. "That's a nice accomplishment, but I'd rather win more games."

Since Akok Akok went down for the season with an Achilles rupture, head coach Dan Hurley has rolled out the same starting lineup in both games, with junior Isaiah Whaley taking Akok's place alongside Jalen Gaffney, James Bouknight, Josh Carlton and Vital. But with Bouknight and Carl-



UConn guard Alterique Gilbert handles the ball in a game versus the USF Bulls on Sunday, Feb. 23. Wednesday, the Huskies will take on the other Florida School, UCF. PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/ THE DAILY CAMPUS

ton both in foul trouble on Sunday, Brendan Adams and Alterique Gilbert each were impressive in starter-like minutes, leaving the door open for a change to the starting five on Wednesday.

Whaley has been fantastic since Akok's injury, averaging 10.3 points, 8.7 rebounds and, most impressively, four blocks

over the last three games.

"He deserves everything he's getting right now," Vital said about Whaley on Sunday. "He's been big time. We're not in these games without him."

For all the talk in recent years about playing half the home games in Hartford hurting the Huskies, the XL Center has been kind to UConn

CLOUD9'S IMPECCABLE SEASON CONTINUES

by Ashton Stansel
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
ashton.stansel@uconn.edu

Cloud9 finishes the first half of the season 10-0

Cloud9's historically dominant undefeated season is still going. The No. 1 North American League of Legends team closed out the fifth week of play with another 2-0 record, convincingly beating both CLG and Immortals en route to a 10-0 record. Their first five weeks have been a period of absolute dominance; the team has yet to lose a mid-lane tier-one turret. Zven, the team's Attack Damage Carry or ADC, has died three times in 10 games, and every player on the team has looked like the best in their position in North America. While questions still remain, there is no doubt that Cloud9 has had the best half-split in the history of North American League. If they keep this dominance up, there's no question that they will be without question the best North American team in the history of League of Legends.

LCK closes to media after coronavirus fears

Ashley Kang, a freelance reporter for ESPN who covers the LCK, reported on Tuesday that the media room would be indefinitely closed. This followed a coronavirus concern early last week after host Kim Min-ah was found to have a fever. Despite her later being cleared, officials seem to be taking no chances after Korea's recent outbreaks, which caused the National Threat Alert Level to be raised to the highest it can be.

Gen.G, T1 claim top of standings as DragonX falters

Last week, T1 once again showed why their struggling start was a fluke. They beat both Kingzone DragonX and APK Prince. While APK has had a difficult start to the season, currently sitting at 1-5 after a shaky win over the other bottom team, Kt Rolster. Somewhat ironically, KT's one win of the season is over Afreeca Freecs, who are currently tied with DragonX at 4-2 and No. 3. DragonX's fantastic start to the season was damaged last week when they lost two close 2-1 series to T1 and Gen.G. While these losses are understandable given those teams' positions at the top of the standings, it was still a disappointing series of losses that mean DragonX will be looking to bounce back this week.

Bearcats up next for Women's Basketball

CINCY, cont. from p. 12

The Huskies got 20-plus point, 50-plus percent performances from both Megan Walker and Crystal Dangerfield and got a very solid 12-point, nine-rebound game from Olivia Nelson-Ododa. However, Christyn Williams and Anna Makurat struggled, going 4-for-16 and 0-for-5 from the field, respectively.

As for Cincinnati, Antionette Miller led the Bearcats with 19 points but did so on just 7-for-22 shooting, dropping off after going 6-for-10 from the field in the first half. Ilmar'i Thomas, the team's leading scorer who is averaging 19.2 points per game on nearly 60% shooting, was held to just 12 points going 4-for-11 from the field.

Perhaps the biggest let-down game for the Bearcats was from senior guard Sam Rodgers, who despite playing all 40 minutes of the game scored just three points on 1-for-6 shooting, had three assists, three rebounds, three turnovers and four fouls.

Cincinnati runs a very heavy starter rotation, similar to



UConn guard Christyn Williams holds the ball while being guarded during a game versus the UCF knights on Saturday, Feb. 22. Williams and the Huskies will play in Cincinnati Wednesday for the last time as a member of the American Athletic Conference. PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/ THE DAILY CAMPUS

UConn, with four players averaging over 30 minutes per game. The Huskies, who have had just six players play in every game this season when fully healthy, still just have three

court for over five minutes.

All-time, the Huskies are 21-0 versus the Bearcats, dating back to their first matchup in January of 2006, Cincinnati's first year in the Big East Conference. They didn't play each other in the 2006-'07 season but have played at least once every year since, sometimes up to three times per year.

In the short term outlook, these last three games really don't mean much, seeing as the Huskies have already clinched the regular-season conference championship. However, in the big picture, UConn has a chance to go undefeated all-time in the American Athletic Conference because of their move to the Big East next season. With just a handful of games remaining between the regular season and the conference tournament, a loss would not only cause them to fall just short of that historic accomplishment, but could also impact their NCAA tournament seeding as well.

Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m. and can be watched on SNY or ESPN3.

See ESPORTS, p. 9

Kyrie?

POINT/COUNTERPOINT: IS KYRIE IRVING WORTH HAVING ON YOUR TEAM?

by Kevin Arnold,
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR,
kevin.arnold@uconn.edu
and Danny Barletta
STAFF WRITER
daniel.barletta@uconn.edu

Kyrie Irving is back in the news this week for some unfortunate reasons. He is getting surgery on his shoulder that caused him to miss extended time early in the season and now the rest of the year playing just 20 games. Irving has immense talent, but given his history with both injuries and some questionable character flaws, we are debating whether having Irving on your team is beneficial or not.

Danny Barletta:

This one is too easy for me, because I've had Kyrie Irving on my favorite team, and it was not beneficial whatsoever. However, I am going to try to be as objective as a Celtics fan can be about Mr. Irving. He has the talent to be one of the top five — if not the top three — point guards in basketball, but he has one fatal flaw: He thinks he can lead a team, and he's proven time and time again that he cannot. Let's look at his track record. In his first three years in Cleveland, he played some great individual basketball, but the team was terrible, finishing far under .500 in every season. Once LeBron James and Kevin Love came to town, Irving was able to become a secondary guy on the team, and the Cavaliers went to three straight NBA Finals. They won one in 2016, coming back from down 3-1 to beat the 73-9 Golden State Warriors. Irving was terrific in those games, even hitting the game-winning shot in Game 7, but that was clearly LeBron's team. After losing in the Finals in 2017, Irving demanded a trade, basically saying he was tired of being



Kyrie Irving drives against Steph Curry while Carmelo Anthony during the 2014 NBA All-Star Game. Since, Irving has been traded from the Cleveland Cavaliers to the Boston Celtics and then signed with the Brooklyn Nets in free agency. PHOTO COURTESY OF CAVS HISTORY VIA FLICKR

in LeBron's shadow and wanted to be the main guy on his own team. He got his wish and went to the Boston Celtics, a team oozing with young talent. So Irving, being the great player he is, must have been able to lead that team to glory right? Nope. What if I told you that the Celtics went further with Terry Rozier as their point guard than they did with Irving? It's true. Irving got hurt before the 2018 playoffs, and the Celtics, led by a rookie Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown and Rozier, came one game away from the NBA Finals. The next year with Irving healthy, the Celtics fell way short of high expectations. Irving stunted the growth of Tatum and Brown, became a distraction throughout the season with his comments about the team and completely folded in the play-

offs against the Milwaukee Bucks. Irving is not a leader. He's a gifted basketball player but a bad teammate. I'll pass on that.

Kevin Arnold:

For me, Kyrie is one of my favorite players in the league to watch. He's an All-NBA caliber player, with the accolades to match, who finds ways to routinely drop jaws. It boggles my mind that anyone wouldn't want him on their team. And that's the thing here, it's still a team. If you look at Irving's first all-star season in 2012-2013 he was the youngest player on the roster and averaged 22 points, five assists and shot 42% from the floor. Sure Cleveland was a sub-.500 team, but that will happen when your next best player is rookie Dion Waiters. His talent was finally put to use when LeBron came back and

they were able to play meaningful basketball games. I'll never forget seeing the two of them each drop 41 points and combine for nine made 3-pointers and 13 dimes in a Finals game. Then he got tired of playing behind LeBron and wanted a trade. I can think of someone else who demanded a trade away from a very successful team (RIP Mamba) that, instead, could've ended in more rings. Boston, while it still stings for fans, was ultimately a failed experiment. Irving has the talents to elevate a team, but not on LeBron's level. The leadership skills are lacking in some regards, even in Brooklyn, but he's not "the guy" there. He has Kevin Durant and even then Irving has dropped 50 points, not once, but twice in his limited time on the floor. If I'm the Nets, I cannot wait to see the two

of them share the court and am excited for where they can take the franchise that has long been in the gutter.

Barletta:

I'm with you; I feel Brooklyn will ultimately be a solid fit for Irving because he can reprise the role he thrived in with Cleveland. He'll be a secondary player on KD's team, which is fine as long as he accepts that role, which I think he will now that he realizes it takes more than talent to lead a team. But the fact that Kyrie has to be in that exact situation in order for a team of his to have any success is precisely the reason I don't want him on my team. He's a prima donna who whines and lashes out when things don't go his way. He couldn't accept that guys like Brown and Tatum were potential stars if they could be utilized correctly and instead threw them under the bus for being immature. Fast forward a year later and Tatum has emerged into one of the best players in the East and Brown has been playing at an all-star level. Now who looks immature? Replacing Irving with Kemba Walker was a perfect move for the Celtics because even though he's not as talented as Irving, he is such a great teammate who is letting Tatum, Brown or even Gordon Hayward be the focal point of the offense on any given night (all while still averaging 22 points). The Celtics are miles ahead of where they were last year with a worse roster on paper. The reason is chemistry, something that Irving ruined last year while Kemba is embracing it this season. Kemba wants to win by any means possible, while Kyrie only wanted to win on his terms. That's a toxic mentality that breaks a team down instead of bringing it together.

See KYRIE, p. 9

Gilson's Sports Guide: Is the Rookie of the Year race closer than you think?

by Conner Gilson
STAFF WRITER
conner.gilson@uconn.edu

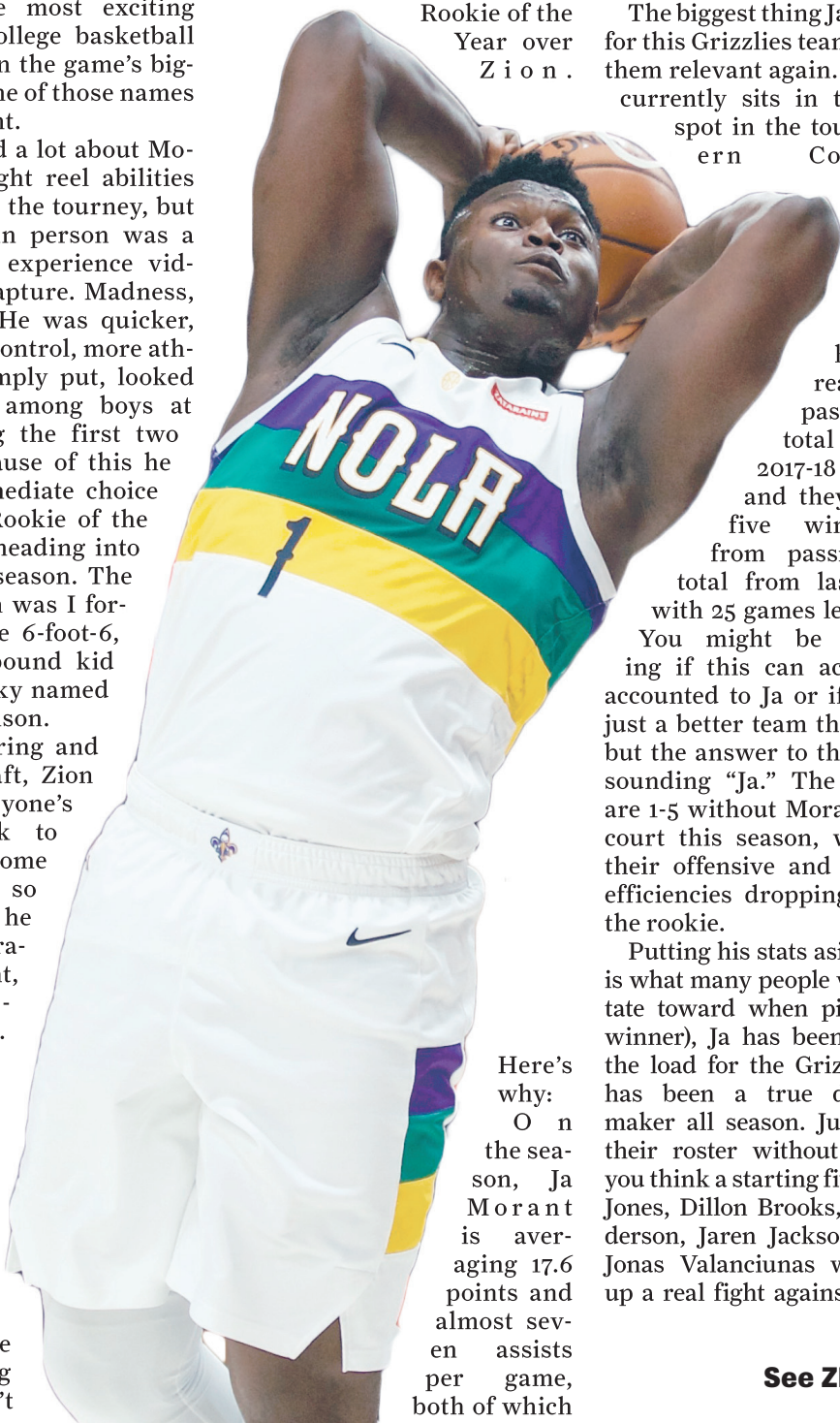
Eleven months ago to the day, I was working the opening round of the NCAA tournament as a disc runner for The Associated Press. What that means is I basically got to sit courtside for free to watch some of the most exciting players in college basketball duke it out on the game's biggest stage. One of those names was Ja Morant.

I had heard a lot about Morant's highlight reel abilities leading up to the tourney, but seeing him in person was a whole other experience videos cannot capture. Madness, if you will. He was quicker, more under control, more athletic and, simply put, looked like a man among boys at times during the first two rounds. Because of this he was my immediate choice to win the Rookie of the Year award heading into the 2019-20 season. The only problem was I forgot about the 6-foot-6, nearly 300-pound kid from Kentucky named Zion Williamson.

Before, during and after the draft, Zion was everyone's favorite pick to win ROTY, some even going so far as to say he was a generational talent, the next LeBron James. And sure, I also had high expectations for the teenager, but something about his style of play rubbed me the wrong way. I wasn't

quite sure a big athletic body would be enough for him to fulfill the immense shoes people had already put out for him. Ja on the other hand, was different. He was ready in college, he has proven he was ready in the NBA, and now well past the halfway point of the season, he is still my favorite to be chosen as

Rookie of the Year over Zion.



lead all qualifying rookies by decent margins as well as his team. Beyond just the stats, he has already made several game-clinching plays on both sides of the floor, while also showing flashes of that insane athleticism and efficiency he displayed at Murray State. But that's the easy stuff.

The biggest thing Ja has done for this Grizzlies team, is make them relevant again. Memphis currently sits in the No. 8 spot in the tough Western Conference

with a record of 28-29. Those 28 wins have already surpassed their total from the 2017-18 season, and they are just five wins away from passing their total from last season with 25 games left to play. You might be questioning if this can actually be accounted to Ja or if they are just a better team this season, but the answer to that is a resounding "Ja." The Grizzlies are 1-5 without Morant on the court this season, with both their offensive and defensive efficiencies dropping without the rookie.

Putting his stats aside (which is what many people will gravitate toward when picking the winner), Ja has been carrying the load for the Grizzlies, and has been a true difference-maker all season. Just look at their roster without him. Do you think a starting five of Tyus Jones, Dillon Brooks, Kyle Anderson, Jaren Jackson, Jr. and Jonas Valanciunas would put up a real fight against anyone?

Here's why:

On the season, Ja Morant is averaging 17.6 points and almost seven assists per game, both of which

Hey Seanny J: Who's left in the NBA buyout market?



Cleveland Cavaliers center Tristan Thompson (13) reacts during the second half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Washington Wizards, Friday, Feb. 21, 2020, in Washington. The Cavaliers won 113-108. PHOTO BY NICK WASS/AP

by Sean Janos
STAFF WRITER
sean.janos@uconn.edu

In the wake of the trade deadline, the NBA's buyout market has been active. The Rockets doubled down on their no-center system and signed big veteran wings Jeff Green and DeMarre Carroll. Markieff Morris went to the Lakers just days after Los Angeles' twin team traded for his twin brother. Speaking of outspoken wildcards going to the Clippers, they added needed depth at point guard with Reggie Jackson. Forwards Marvin Williams and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist hit the lottery, going from the rags of the Charlotte Hornets to the riches of the Bucks and Mavericks, respectively.

The March 1 buyout deadline is coming up, but who's left on the market that could actually find minutes on a contender? There's really just one guy; I'll give you a few hints. He's a big man, he's 28 years old and he has a championship ring. Does that sound too good to be true? Well, don't get too excited, because it's Tristan Thompson.

The Cavaliers traded

for Andre Drummond at the trade deadline, edging Thompson out of his primary position and making him available. Though he isn't the most glamorous player in the league, Thompson can add a lot to a championship contender. He has proven to be healthy after a couple of injury-plagued seasons. He's averaging over 30 minutes per game, missing just four of the Cavaliers' games this season.

The Cavs have been in turmoil with the whole firing their head coach in his first season. They are anchored at the very bottom of the Eastern Conference standings, but Thompson is posting career-highs in points (12.2), rebounds (10.2) and assists (2.1) per game. Plus, he has plenty of playoff experience from his years with LeBron James. Any team with playoff aspirations in need of a quality, big-bodied, traditional center would be happy to add Thompson. So, who is out there hoping to see the Cavaliers pull the trigger and buy Thompson out?

See BUYOUT, p. 9

See ZION, p. 9
Photo courtesy of AP



Sports

Wednesday Night Basketball



UConn guard Christian Vital dunks after a steal in a game versus the USF Bulls on Sunday, Feb 23. Wednesday, Vital and the Huskies are in Hartford to host the UCF Knights. PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

MEN'S BASKETBALL: HUSKIES HOPE TO SAY NIGHT, NIGHT TO KNIGHTS

by Andrew Morrison
SPORTS EDITOR
andrew.morrison@uconn.edu

Playing at the XL Center for the final time with the American Athletic Conference logo painted on the floor, the UConn men's basketball team takes on UCF for the first and only time this season on Wednesday.

It's been over a year since the Huskies (15-12, 6-8 The American) and Knights (14-12, 5-9) last squared off, a six-point UConn de-

feat in Orlando last January. Then-senior Jalen Adams had 22 points in the second half alone as UConn climbed back from a 12-point half-time deficit but couldn't complete the comeback.

Although UConn leads the all-time series 10-4, UCF has owned the matchup as of late, having won each of the last three meetings. The Knights have won three of their last five but are still reeling from a stunning 75-74 loss to last-place Tulane at home on Saturday.

See UCF, p. 10

MEN'S



7 P.M.
XL CENTER
TV: ESPN2/ESPNU
RADIO: UCONN IMG
RADIO NETWORK
SPREAD: UCONN -8



UConn guard Crystal Dangerfield handles the ball in a game versus the UCF Knights on Saturday, Feb. 22 in her last regular season game at Gampel Pavilion. The Huskies travel to Cincinnati Wednesday to take on the Bearcats. PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE LAO, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: HUSKIES TRAVEL TO CINCINY FOR LAST TIME IN THE AMERICAN

by Jorge Eckardt
STAFF WRITER
jorge.eckardt@uconn.edu

There are three more games left in the regular season for the Huskies, and before they get their final home game of the season, they have to play their last two American Athletic Conference away games ever.

Up first is Cincinnati, who record-wise (18-8, 9-4 the American), is the team to beat in the conference — aside from

UConn of course. However, it didn't look like that when the two teams met on Jan. 30, when the Huskies beat the Bearcats 80-50.

A 30 point victory is already a blowout, but if you look at the second quarter where Cincinnati outscored UConn 22-9 as an outlier, UConn's dominance is emphasized even more. In the other three quarters, UConn outscored Cincy 71-28, as it wasn't even really a competition.

See CINCINY, p. 10

Huskies in the Pros: A star returns to CT, injuries in the NBA, Huskies in spring

by Ben Field
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
benjamin.field@uconn.edu

Former Husky and WNBA star Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis is returning to Connecticut. Mosqueda-Lewis, who graduated from the University of Connecticut in 2015 after winning three straight championships with the Huskies, was traded from the Seattle Storm to the Connecticut Sun in exchange for a second-round draft pick.

"I'm really excited to start a new journey in Connecticut," she said, via a statement released by the Sun on Monday. "It was a second home for me for four years and I'm looking forward to being back!" In a league chock-full of former UConn stars, it is exciting for Husky fans to see a UConn Alumni come and play for the state of Connecticut.

Over in the NBA, Kemba Walker has been having a great year in his debut season for the Celtics. After being traded in the middle of 2019 from the Hornets, the point guard has had a great performance with the Celtics, averaging 21.8 points, 4.1 rebounds and 5.0 assists, and shooting 42.9% on field goals. His play earned him a spot in the All-Star game, where he played for 29 minutes and 10 seconds. While his play this year has been good, he has missed three consecutive games after the All-Star game with a lingering knee injury. It is unclear when he will return, but the Celtics surely miss his help, having lost a



Boston Celtics' Kemba Walker (8) goes up for a shot as Houston Rockets' P.J. Tucker, right, defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020, in Houston. PHOTO BY DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

close game to the Lakers in his absence.

Unfortunately, injuries have impacted another UConn alumni in the NBA: Jeremy Lamb, a key guard for the Indiana Pacers and a member of the 2011 UConn championship team,

was taken out of a game versus the Raptors Monday with a torn ACL, torn meniscus and lateral femoral condylar fracture.

See LAMB, p. 9

GOLF: HUSKIES SLOW OUT OF THE GATE AT LOYOLA UNIVERSITY INTERCOLLEGIATE

by Ashton Stansel
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
ashton.stansel@uconn.edu

Over the weekend, the UConn men's golf team began their spring competition at the Loyola Intercollegiate tournament at the Palm Valley Golf Club in Arizona. The tournament was a three-round event, going from Saturday to Monday, and had 19 teams competing, including Hartford, Air Force and South Dakota. After three days of intense competition, the Huskies ended the tournament tied for No. 3 with Missouri State. UConn's five-man team consisted of Drake Hull, Jared Nelson, Chandler Morris, Jack Boulger and Finn Boynton. Another UConn golfer, Rodrigo Sanchez, attended the tournament as well and competed as an individual.

After Day 1, the Huskies were tied for No. 12 after shooting 11-over-par for 299. This would be the Huskies' worst day, as their scores would drop on both Sunday and Monday. But on Saturday, the team was led by Morris and Boynton, who both shot two-over-par.

After the first two days of competition, the Huskies were No. 14 with a plus 14. Drake University led the field with an impressive eight-under-par after two days of competition. The Huskies were led by Boynton, who was tied for No. 36 at two-over-par; and Morris, who was tied for No. 45 at three-over-par.

After the final round of competition on Monday, the Huskies ended up tied for No. 13 place out of 19 teams and shot 877, which was 13 over the par of 864. Leading the way was redshirt junior Chandler Morris, who ended up tied for No. 34 at two-over-par, after shooting one-under-par on the final day. Morris's 218 was his lowest total for the season and included another below-par 71, his fourth of the season. Behind him was redshirt senior Drake Hull at tied for No. 46 at three-over-par. He shot par and one-under on the final two days, marking his seventh and eighth par or below rounds this season.

Behind them was Finn Boynton, a junior who struggled on the final day after a decent first two days, ending the tournament at three-over-par and tied for No. 56, 20 places further back than after Day 2. However, at a total of 220, it was still Boynton's best performance this season, and his 72 on Sunday was his first time hitting par this season. Then there were Jack Boulger and Jared Nelson, who finished tied for No. 71 and No. 90, respectively, at six and 11 over par. Boulger got par or better for the second time this season with his 72 on Monday, while Nelson's 70 on Monday was his fifth under par of the season. Finally, there was Rodrigo Sanchez, who tied for No. 106 at plus 16.

The Huskies will be back in action next weekend when they'll play at the Fort Lauderdale Intercollegiate tournament.

THIS WEEKEND IN UCONN SPORTS

Men's Hockey

Friday
7:05 p.m.
XL Center

Women's Hockey
Friday, 6 p.m.
Chestnut Hill, MA

Baseball
Friday, 7:30 p.m.
New Orleans, LA

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY

@fitzthefuzz
The wonderful ladies at the @uconn
#guidepuppy #fidelco

TWEETS OF THE DAY

Daniel Connolly
@DanielVConnolly
Hockey East playoff scenarios: UConn will be the No. 2 seed if it wins out over its final four games. The Huskies haven't officially clinched a playoff spot, but just need two points to do so.

UConn is home
@NoEscalators
not enough people are talking about how uconn was the clear #1 team in the country in 2009 until jerome dyson got hurt

Follow The Daily Campus @dcsportsdept