

win a prize! open from feb. 5th - 29th

Daily

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

[CLICK HERE](#)

UConn Dairy Bar unveils new Senior Scoop: "Basketball Capital of the Swirl'd"

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

The votes are in and student spoons are ready for this year's Senior Scoop, the custom ice cream flavor celebrating graduating Huskies. "Basketball Capital of the Swirl'd," a black raspberry

ice cream with Oreo cookie pieces and fudge ripple, was announced as the Class of 2024 winner.

Every year, the University of Connecticut Dairy Bar and senior class committee host a contest where students can submit ideas for the commemorative ice cream. After finalizing the actual flavor, another set of submissions and voting for the winning name occurs. This year, five students submitted the winning ice cream flavor and two students named the Scoop.

"As far as I know, we each came up with the combination [separately] and had the winning flavor," says Kaley McCumiskey, an eighth-semester applied and resource economics

and psychological sciences student who shared in submitting this year's delicious dessert. "Basketball Capital of the Swirl'd" was created by Anthony Barile, Madison Bigelow, Luke Bunosso, Emma Mankarios and Kaley McCumiskey and named by Jillian Barron and Dayna Hausspiegel.

Every Senior Scoop is made in smaller batches than regular menu flavors and only available while supplies last. The annual contest was initiated in 2012 by former UConn president Susan Herbst, who suggested a student-created flavor to honor that year's graduating senior class. Last year's Scoop was "Hurley's Almond Swirly" and other past flavors include "Mirror Lake Mint," "Geno Oreomma" and "Jonathan Java Crunch," among others. Each receives a plaque on the Dairy Bar's "wall of fame."

"I knew it was a tradition at UConn and wanted to be a part of it. I honestly wasn't expecting to win, I just wanted to say I participated," added McCumiskey. "I do think it's one of the best traditions we have, by far."

The UConn Dairy Bar is no stranger to student-created concoctions — all the ice cream sold in the Dairy Bar storefront and truck is produced at UConn Animal Science's Kellogg Creamery located in the George White Building on campus. The milk is sourced from local livestock

and used as part of student labs and dairy research initiatives of UConn's College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. Students also make cheese, learn about food safety and use the Dairy Bar as a learning lab in restaurant management. The Dairy Bar ice cream is also consistently award-winning and has always been great-tasting, a UConn staple since 1953.

McCumiskey describes "Basketball Capital of the Swirl'd" as a "sweet blend of berry and chocolate, with a bit of crunch from the Oreo." The official announcement adds that it is "the perfect sweet treat to enjoy while you root for the Huskies!" With the men's basketball team's fifth NCAA National Championship title last year and both teams currently ranked in the Associated Press Top 10, Huskies fans are ready for March (I like basketball, but maybe I'll like this year's Senior Scoop just a bit more).

Trying this year's Senior Scoop with an inspired name and a tasty flavor is a great way to support our teams and honor our students. "Basketball Capital of the Swirl'd" will only be available for a limited time during the spring semester at the UConn Dairy Bar, located at 17 Manner Road on the UConn main campus in Storrs Mansfield.



The yearly senior dairy bar ice cream flavor called "Basketball Capital of the Swirl'd" is finally out at the UConn Dairy Bar in Storrs, Conn. on Feb. 27, 2024. senior flavor. This years has gotten some mixed feedback because black raspberry mixed with oreo is not everyones cup of tea.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Toppled moon lander sends back more images, with only hours left until it dies

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A moon lander that ended up on its side managed to beam back more pictures, with only hours remaining before it dies.

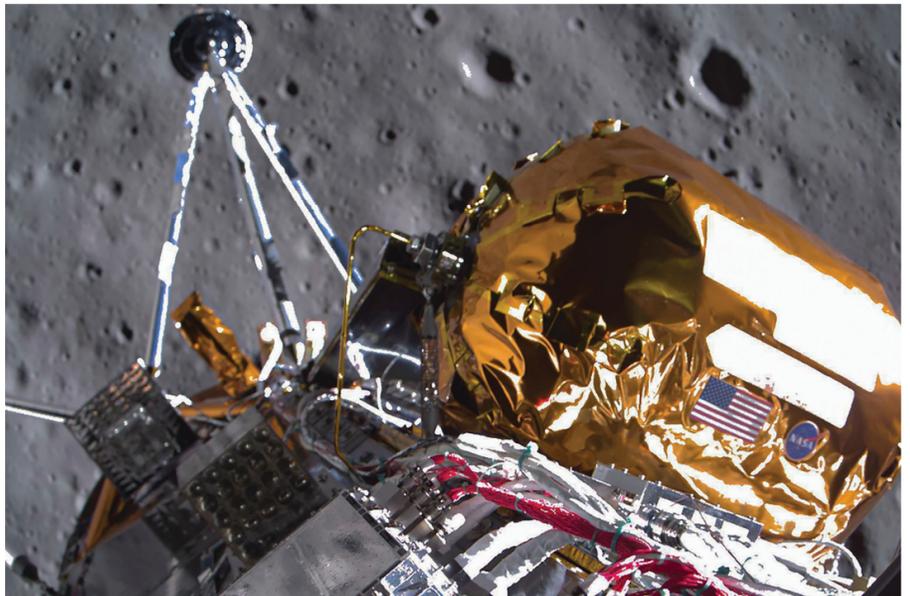
Intuitive Machines posted new photos of the moon's unexplored south polar region Tuesday.

The company's lander, Odysseus, captured the shots last Thursday shortly before making the first U.S. touchdown on the moon in more than 50 years. Odysseus landed on its side, hampering communication and power generation.

Once sunlight can no longer reach the lander's solar panels,

operations will end. Intuitive Machines expects that to happen sometime between Tuesday afternoon and early Wednesday. The mission, part of NASA's effort to boost the lunar economy, was supposed to last until at least Thursday, when lunar nighttime sets in. NASA has six experiments on board.

Intuitive Machines is the first private business to land a spacecraft on the moon without crashing. Another U.S. company launched its own lunar lander last month, but a fuel leak doomed the mission and the craft came crashing back to Earth.



This image provided by Intuitive Machines on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024 shows its Odysseus lunar lander over the south pole region of the Moon. The toppled lunar lander is still beaming back pictures of the moon, as it nears the final hours of its life. The photos were taken shortly before last Thursday's touchdown.

INTUITIVE MACHINES/AP

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

Daily MONZIL BRASS | PAGE 5
 The 'Monty Python of the music world' visits UConn

Daily THE STARK TANK | PAGE 7
 Nikki Haley's campaign is cooked

Daily WOMEN'S BBALL | PAGE 12
 No. 10 Huskies finish Big East home slate,



News

US AND UK HIT IRANIAN DEPUTY COMMANDER AND HOUTHI MEMBER WITH SANCTIONS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. and U.K. sanctioned a deputy commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and a Houthi militant member, Tuesday. The U.S. additionally sanctioned firms registered in Hong Kong and the Marshall Islands, along with two ships, including one that transported \$100 million in Iranian commodities to China.

Iranian official Mohammad Reza Falahzadeh, and Houthi group member Ibrahim al-Nashiri were hit with the U.S. and U.K. sanctions Tuesday.

Hong Kong-registered Kohana Co. Ltd. and Marshall Islands-registered Iridescent Co. Ltd. — which own the Panama-flagged Kohana — were also designated for U.S. sanctions. The U.S. says the Kohana has shipped over \$100 million in Iranian commodities to businesses in China on behalf of Iran's Ministry of Defense.

Additionally, the U.S. and U.K. sanctioned Hong Kong-based Cap Tees Shipping Co. Ltd., which owns the Artura, accused of transporting Iranian commodities for the network of previously sanctioned Houthi

and Iranian financial facilitator Sa'id al-Jamal. Treasury says the Artura obfuscated its identity by using the name of a different vessel, Sanan II, to complete some of its shipments.

U.S. State Department spokesman Matt Miller said the U.S. and its allies "remain committed to countering terrorist financing and will continue to use all available means to disrupt Houthi attacks on international shipping in the region."

U.K. Foreign Secretary David Cameron said, "The attacks by the Iran-backed Houthis are unacceptable, illegal and

a threat to innocent lives and freedom of navigation."

"As I have made clear to the Iranian Foreign Minister, the regime bears responsibility for these attacks due to the extensive military support it has provided to the Houthis. All those who seek to undermine regional stability should know that the UK, alongside our allies, will not hesitate to act."

The sanctions block access to U.S. property and bank accounts and prevent the targeted people and companies from doing business with Americans.

Escalation between the U.S., Iran and Houthi militia have increased after a series of maritime attacks in the Mideast linked to the Israel-Hamas war, as multiple vessels have found themselves in the crosshairs of a single Houthi assault for the first time in the conflict.

The White House last week promised to unveil new sanctions on Iran in retaliation for its arms sales that have bolstered Russia's invasion of Ukraine and threatened a "swift" and "severe" response if Tehran moves forward with selling ballistic missiles to Moscow.



FILE - The Treasury Department is seen near sunset in Washington, Jan. 18, 2023. The U.S. sanctioned a deputy commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps., a Houthi militant member, firms registered in Hong Kong and the Marshall Islands and two ships, including one that transported \$100 million in Iranian commodities to China. The sanctions block access to U.S. property and bank accounts and prevent the targeted people and companies from doing business with Americans.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF JON ELSWICK/AP

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?
businessmanager@dailycampus.com

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

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

Copy Editors: Sophia Manos, Caroline Murray, Mario Boozang, and Daniel Przybysz
News Designer: Catherine Duffy
Life Designer: Renee Haddad
Sports Designer: Connor Lafferty
Opinion Designer: Raquel Montelindo
Photo Producer: Skyler Kim

Madeline Papcun, Editor-in-Chief
Raquel Montelindo, Managing Editor
Naiiya Patel, Business Manager
Charlotte Chen, Digital Editor
Emily O'Bannon, Associate Managing Editor
Shannon Hong, Associate Managing Editor
Ky'Lynn Monts, Associate Digital Editor

Colin Piteo
News Editor
Aiza Shaikh
Associate News Editor
Stratton Stave
Sports Editor
Evan Rodriguez
Associate Sports Editor
Skyler Kim
Photo Editor
Jordan Arnold
Associate Photo Editor
Benjamin Lassy
Life Editor
Karla Perez
Associate Life Editor

Nell Srinath
Opinion Editor
Dan Stark
Associate Opinion Editor
Van Nguyen
Artist Editor
Haleigh Schmidt
Associate Artist Editor
Nell Komorowski
Outreach/Social Media Coordinator
Gabriella Margolies
Associate SROC
Maddie Archambeau
Circulation Manager
The Daily Campus

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

Prefer to read our content online?

Check out our newly redesigned website at dailycampus.com and follow us on social media.

Instagram · The_DailyCampus
Facebook · The Daily Campus
Twitter · The_DailyCampus

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, it's as easy as attending section meetings on Sunday nights, all at the Daily Campus building, (1266 Storrs Road) or reaching out to an email below:

Opinion (Meetings at 5 p.m.)
opinion@dailycampus.com

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

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

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

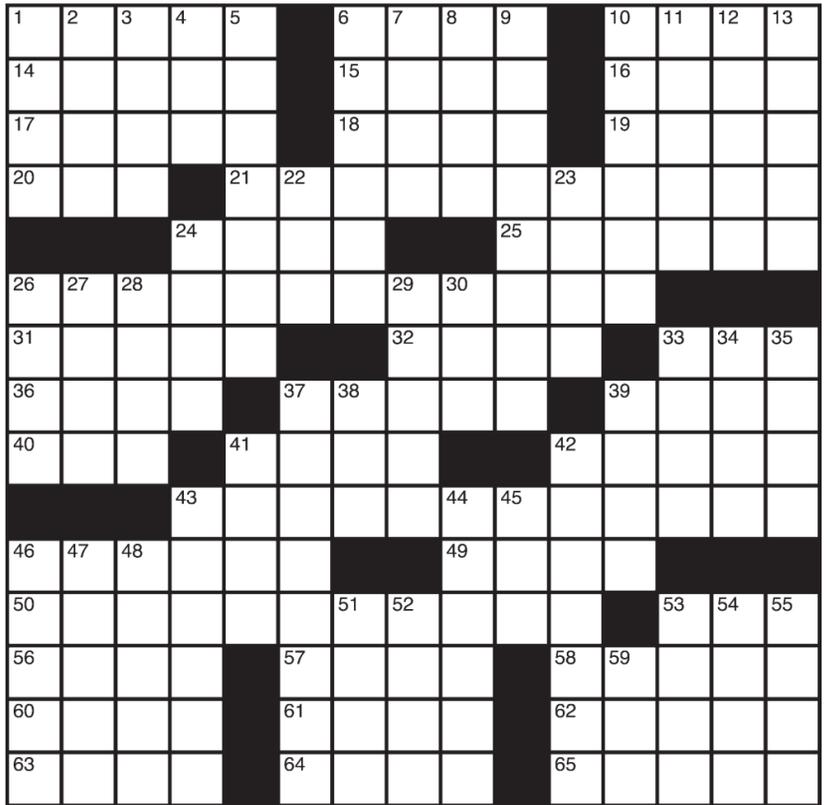
Photo (Meetings at 10 p.m.)
photo@dailycampus.com

Artists (Meetings at 10 p.m. on discord)
artists@dailycampus.com

Study Break

THE DAILY CAMPUS CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Like purchases made while playing freemium games
 - 6 Hanging on every word, say
 - 10 Golf course transport
 - 14 Storm-tracking device
 - 15 Cincinnati's state
 - 16 Taiwan-based laptop giant
 - 17 "Skyfall" singer
 - 18 ___ bene
 - 19 "Space Jam" bunny voiced by Kath Soucie
 - 20 Oldest Bobbsey daughter
 - 21 Beach community in L.A.'s South Bay
 - 24 Scottish Highlander
 - 25 Calendar entries
 - 26 Customer who buys a gadget as soon as it's available
 - 31 Woodshop grippers
 - 32 "Aw, darn!"
 - 33 Sweet potato
 - 36 "___ done the same thing!"
 - 37 "The Cider House Rules" Oscar winner Michael
 - 39 Beauty mark
 - 40 Napkin holder
 - 41 Cast a ballot
 - 42 All fired up
 - 43 Guidance at just the right moment
 - 46 "Ooh, makes sense"
 - 49 ___ and ends
 - 50 Time to do things out of order, or what appears in 21-, 26-, and 43-Across
 - 53 Enormous
 - 56 Working hard
 - 57 Verbally attacked, with "into"
 - 58 Like some breakfast tea
 - 60 "___ a Lady": Tom Jones classic
 - 61 Brunch, e.g.
 - 62 Terse denial
 - 63 Quaint "Listen!"
 - 64 Quiche base
 - 65 V-formation flyers



By Natalie Murphy

2/28/24

- DOWN**
- 1 Persia, today
 - 2 Spanish "nothing"
 - 3 Yemen's Gulf of ___
 - 4 Buddy
 - 5 Takes care of charges in advance
 - 6 2018 NL Rookie of the Year Acuña Jr.
 - 7 "Howdy, Cap'n!"
 - 8 Bread with a pocket
 - 9 Marioverse racer with pink braids
 - 10 Telemarketer
 - 11 ___ squash
 - 12 Rented again
 - 13 Cafeteria stack
 - 22 Grassy meadow
 - 23 Nights before
 - 24 Delight
 - 26 Wicked
 - 27 Verdi opera set in Egypt
 - 28 "Tell me if you're coming" letters
 - 29 Protruding window
 - 30 Skillet
 - 33 "Pic-a-nic" basket-stealing bear
 - 34 Smart ___: wiseacre

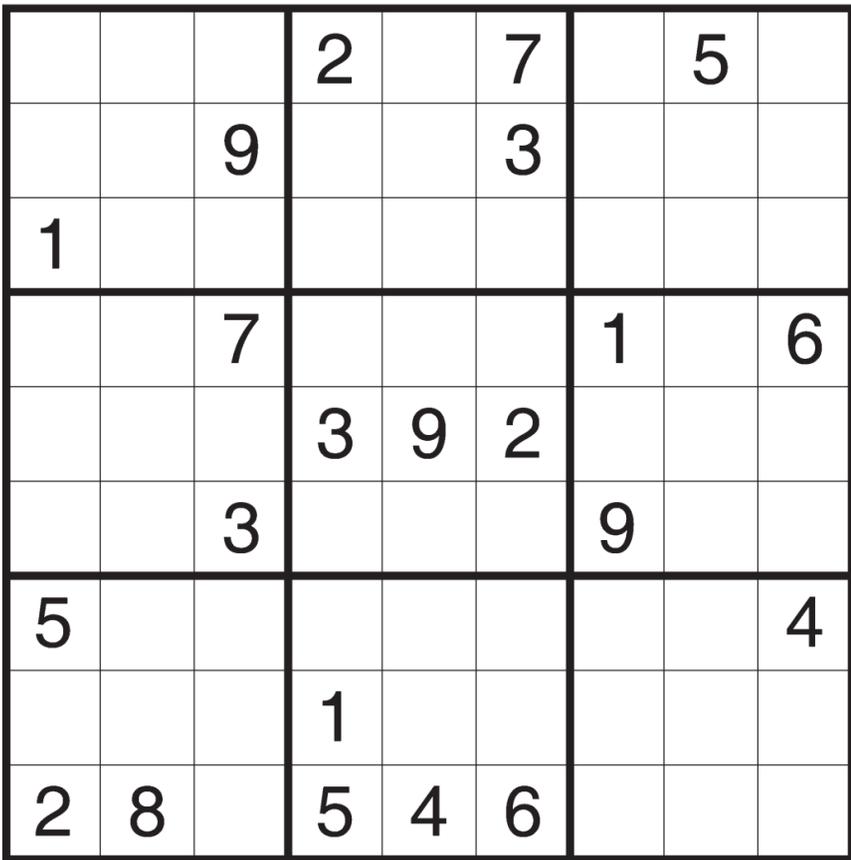
Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



©2024 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

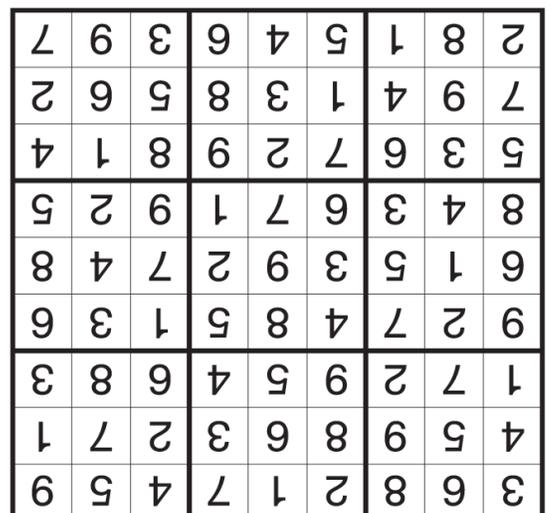
2/28/24

- 35 Little more than
- 37 "Bring it on!"
- 38 Consumed
- 39 Dallas NBA team, for short
- 41 Perspective
- 42 Going around in circles?
- 43 "Naughty!"
- 44 Alpine songs
- 45 Poet laureate Limón
- 46 Embarrass
- 47 Branch of yoga
- 48 Less welcoming
- 51 "Walkabout" director Nicolas
- 52 "RuPaul's ___ Race"
- 53 Tasting menu portion
- 54 Schools of belief
- 55 Clarified butter
- 59 Maki sushi topper



The Daily Campus Sudoku

Flip the paper upside-down for the answer!



CLASSIFIEDS

Policy: Classifieds are non-refundable. Credit will be given if an error materially affects the meaning of the ad and only for the 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.

LETTERS AND MANUSCRIPTS IN 19TH-CENTURY TIMBUKTU: 'FUSCO DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES'

by Lilith Rampertab
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
lilith.rampertab@uconn.edu

Bruce S. Hall is an associate history professor at the University of California Berkeley whose recent lecture about capitalism in 19th-century Timbuktu was sponsored by the prestigious Fusco Distinguished Lecture Series. According to the website for the Fusco Distinguished Lecture Series, "Since 1999, the Edmund J. Fusco, Sr. Fund for Excellence in History has provided generous support to bring accomplished scholars to lecture at the University of Connecticut campus." These lectures are held once a year, this year's taking place at the Dodd Center's Konover Auditorium.

According to his webpage with the University of California Berkeley, Hall published "A History of Race in Muslim West Africa, 1600-1960" in cooperation with Cambridge University Press, along with multiple other articles centered around Islamic West Africa. He is currently working on his second book, titled "The Bonds of Trade: Letters, Social hierarchy and the ethics of connectivity in Timbuktu, 1846-1918."

The formal title of the lecture is "Timbuktu, the 'End of the World' and the Work of Commercial Capitalism in 19th Century Africa" as shown on the first slide of the presentation.

Mark Healey, associate professor and history department head, gave a short speech where he went over housekeeping and what the Fusco Distinguished Lecture Series means. Fiona Vernal then introduced Hall, noting that Hall's first book won the Martin Klein Prize from the American Historical Association.

Hall began by clarifying that the lecture would not be about his upcoming book, but rather some of the additional research he did while writing it. Another talk that occurred from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 27 featured a deeper dive into the Arabic-language letters sent to

and from Timbuktu in addition to a clarification from Hall on the topics covered in the previous lecture. The goal of Hall's lecture was to use African sources to tell African history instead of relying on European sources.

"Timbuktu is a famously hard place to reach," Hall noted as he explained how there were a lack of roads to Timbuktu with a map of Mali. Timbuktu was viewed as a site of origin for West African gold, Hall remarked while

Hall stated. The manuscripts were mostly created in the 19th and 20th centuries as a result of declining paper costs and increased trade.

Hall then introduced the concept of a "land of disorder." "The so-called 'land of disorder' was an idea used by Muslim scholars and merchants to describe West Africa and the Sahara. What they meant by this term was that Islamic law was not in operation or enforced, even if most people might be Muslim,"

The first trade route examined was between Timbuktu and Taoudenni, where salt was sent south to Timbuktu in exchange for grain. Hall shared that "azalai" referred to the Sahara salt caravan which occurred twice yearly.

The second was between Timbuktu and Sansanding, where Timbuktu sent salt, textiles and more for enslaved people, gold and grain in return. Hall noted that slavery was easier to live in than to escape and how the institution of slavery was not unique to 19th-century Africa. As shown in a later document written for the enslaved Sanbu to read, enslaved people were a part of the social structure and could act and engage in trade as if they weren't enslaved.

The third was between Timbuktu and Ghadames, where enslaved people and gold were exported from Timbuktu for textiles.

The final trade analyzed was between Timbuktu and Tripoli, where Timbuktu traded ostrich feathers for textiles. Mali initiated a slaughter of ostriches where they amassed "\$57 million in today's value" worth of ostrich feather sales in 1880 that the ostrich feather industry endorsed in the name of fashion.

There was then a Q&A session during which audience members asked if there was inflation or deflation in the economy due to trading. Additionally, there was discussion on the word "modernity" in European culture and what it means for Africa and modes of African production among other topics.

I didn't know much about Timbuktu, so this lecture was extremely helpful in helping me understand more of its history. Hall was pressed for time, but I wouldn't mind taking a course on Timbuktu, West Africa or the Sahara as African history is often overlooked. If you're on the fence about attending one of these lectures, please note that there is free food provided in addition to the invaluable free knowledge.

2024 FUSCO DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

"Timbuktu, the 'End of the World' and the Work of Commercial Capitalism in 19th C Africa"



MON, FEBRUARY 26, 2024

Dodd Center,
Konover Auditorium
4:30 - 5:30 pm

(Reception 5:30 - 7:30pm)



Bruce S. Hall
(UC Berkeley)

UConn COLLEGE OF LIBERAL
ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

PHOTO COURTESY OF @UConnHISTORY ON INSTAGRAM

showing an artistic depiction of Mansa Musa and Timbuktu. Many Europeans died trying to get to and from Timbuktu, but René Caillié was the first European to reach Timbuktu and then return to Europe. During the scramble for Africa, France occupied Mali in 1894.

Hall then shifted focus onto the rich culture of Timbuktu. He explained that the city is home to many Arabic manuscripts. "Manuscripts are evidence of the importance of Timbuktu,"

he said in a later text interview. Calling the Sahara a land of disorder was used "as a framing for the institution," Hall explained. He then showed one of many Arabic-language letters translated into English.

The remainder of the lecture surrounded Timbuktu's many trading routes. Though documentation of the trades was messy, Hall pieced together some of the trade routes and elaborated on them for the audience.



IMAGE COURTESY OF @JORGENSENUCONN ON INSTAGRAM

The ‘Monty Python of the music world’ visits UConn

by **Kenneth Van Dyk** | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | kenneth.van_dyk@uconn.edu

Tonight, Mnozil Brass will be playing at the Jorgensen Center of Performing Arts as part of their 30th anniversary tour. Formed in Austria, this group makes every performance an entertaining show filled with “schmäh,” which they describe as a kind of sarcastic charm. Their routines have been performed all over the world and have amassed millions of views on YouTube, and now we have the chance to see them live right here in Storrs!

Mnozil Brass is a septet of musicians, composed of three trumpeters, three trombonists and a tubist. Sometimes, they swap one of the trombones for a bass trumpet. Together, the music the group plays has a vibrant and brassy sound that can accompany any event and fit any mood. Their top-notch technique allows their instruments to sing together like it’s nothing at all. The expressiveness of the instruments they play is also perfect for humor. Just think of sound effects made by the sliding of the trombone for example. Not only are they good musi-

cians, but they are also good comedians. Their most popular YouTube video, “MNOZIL BRASS lonley boy” (that’s not a typo, that’s the name of the video — go see for yourself) goes on a four-minute gag involving a chair and socks before a single note is played.

Regarding tonight’s performance, the group has not announced what songs from their discography they will play. They have elected to withhold that information from us, presumably to keep us on our toes. What we do know, however, is that it’s a cabaret event, meaning the space right in front of the stage will be filled with tables perfect for groups of four to enjoy the show together. Unfortunately, most of these tables are already reserved, so better luck next time! If you still want to attend the show, then the ground floor seats will also be open, though these spots are also limited in number. Before the show, Jorgensen staff will sell drinks and food, such as sandwiches and desserts to enjoy during the performance.

If any of this sounds like something you’d enjoy, come to the Jorgensen theater tonight! Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the show starts at 7:30 p.m. Reserve your seats online now at jorgensen.uconn.edu, or buy them in person before the show if you’re feeling brave. The box office to purchase tickets can be found on your left just as you enter the theater’s lobby. If you’re a University of Connecticut student, then the performance is free, but make sure to bring your student ID. Also, note that food and drinks are not included in the free ticket.

There also is a visual art exhibit in the Jorgensen Gallery (down the stairs from the main entrance). It is titled, “Everyday Extraordinary — Researching, Collecting And Living With Indian Art.” The exhibit is curated by Kathryn Myers, a professor of art at UConn. Jorgensen keeps the gallery open before performances and during most intermissions; it is also open during the week. Take a moment to visit the gallery before or after the show. Hope to see you there!

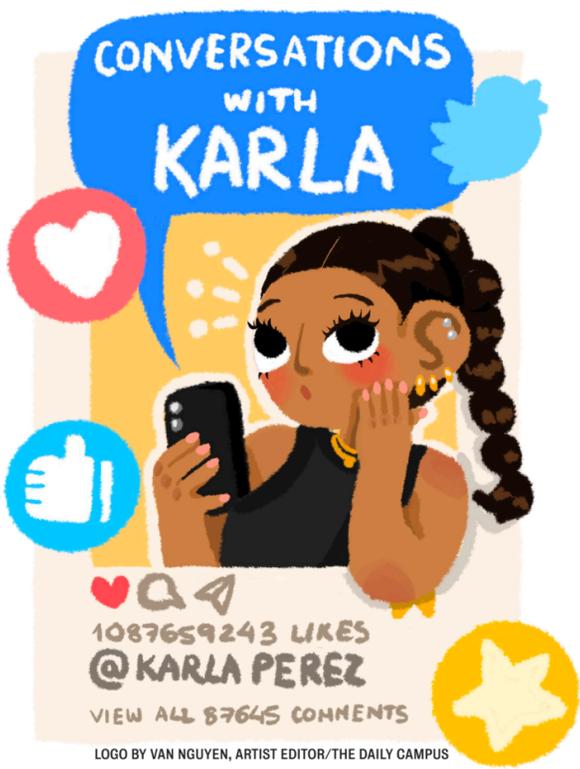


PHOTO COURTESY OF @MNOZIL_BRASS ON INSTAGRAM



Life

@dailycampuslife



CONVERSATIONS WITH KARLA:

FOMO IN HIGH SCHOOL VERSUS COLLEGE

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

Hello, and welcome back to Conversations with Karla! In case you missed it, last week, we met a member of the Alpha Kappa Lambda chapter here at UConn and heard his thoughts on how social media depicts fraternities. This week I met with Jamie Gugliotti, a sixth-semester speech, language and hearing sciences major, to talk about the “right” way to do college.

Gugliotti spent her first year of college at a small school in Massachusetts. She explained how she couldn’t properly decide what college to attend because of the pandemic and the limited campus tours at the time. Initially, she was unsure what to study, so she became an elementary education major. She said that her mom followed this track, so it was familiar to her. However, by the end of that September, she knew that being a teacher was not in the cards for her.

Gugliotti quickly realized that she wanted to be a speech therapist. Unfortunately, the school she was attending did not offer a speech program, and ultimately, she was not happy there. “When I was initially applying to colleges, I didn’t think as much into things that would bother me... It was a small school, I’m not a small school

person,” Gugliotti said.

Gugliotti didn’t apply to many schools when she decided to transfer. She said that after touring UConn for the first time, she understood what people meant by “you just kind of know.” She enjoyed the close proximity to home, the number of opportunities to be involved on campus and knowing people from her hometown to ease the transition.

Another factor that contributed to Gugliotti’s decision to transfer was that she felt as if social media painted a picture of what college life should be like that she wasn’t experiencing herself. She said that she thought transferring would completely eliminate this feeling of missing out, and although she doesn’t feel it as strongly, it hasn’t totally disappeared. She compared the way she approaches being a UConn student to how other people approach it, which made her feel like she was still missing out on the college experience. “I feel like a lot of people talk about it in high school — comparing yourself to other people on social media. But people don’t talk about it as much in college,” Gugliotti said.

Gugliotti said that she feels the difference between experiencing a fear of missing out on

social media in high school versus college is that in high school, people show off one night or one event, whereas in college, people show off their lifestyle. “It feels more competitive,” she said. She also explained how this feeling is intensified by the fact that college students live where they go to school, so they feel like they can’t escape reminders of all they’re missing out on.

One of the methods Gugliotti says she uses whenever she finds she’s comparing herself is reminding herself of how big UConn is. “Every person at UConn gets to experience it in a completely different way. Just because I’m not experiencing it in the same way as other people doesn’t mean I’m doing it wrong,” she said.

Gugliotti noted how on social media, people create an image of the “right” way to do college by showing how you have to be everywhere all at once in order to enjoy it. She explained how UConn is such a big school with so many different things going on that people should feel free to individualize their experience here.

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



Opinion

The Daily Campus

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Madeline Papcun..... EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Nell Srinath..... OPINION EDITOR

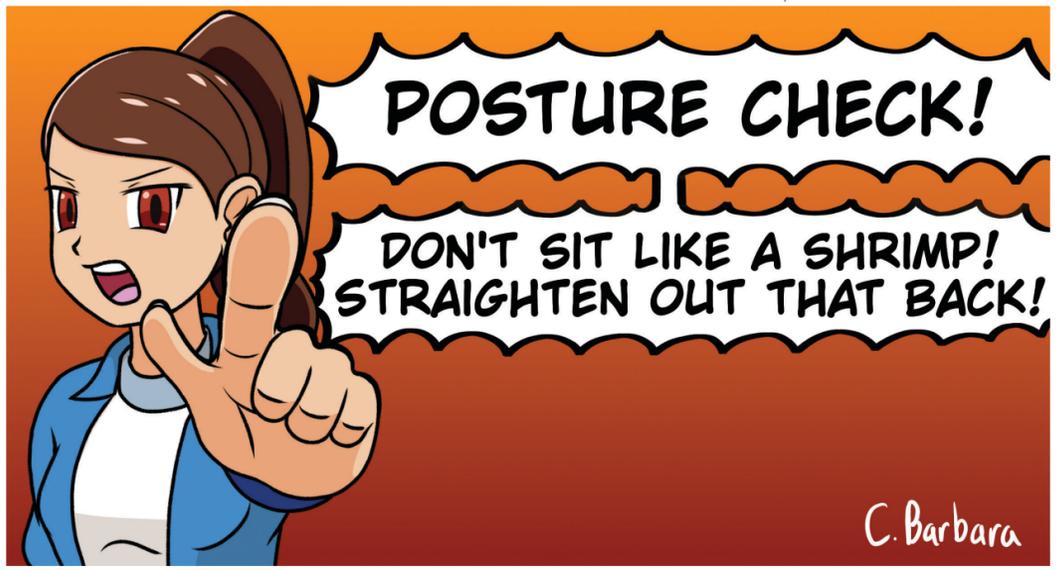
Dan Stark ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

Luke Feeney

Tomas Hinckley 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 CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



C. Barbara

FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Nikki Haley's campaign is cooked

by Dan Stark | ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR | HE/HIM | daniel.stark@uconn.edu

About a year ago, I wrote an article right after Nikki Haley announced her 2024 presidential campaign in which I declared that she had no chance of winning the Republican nomination and would drop out before the Iowa caucuses. She ended up proving my second point wrong, as she's one of two major Republican candidates left in the race, the other being former president-turned-sneaker salesman Donald Trump. But after a disastrous February, her campaign is on life support and "skyrocketing downward" as Trump would say. Though she has refused to drop out, it's abundantly clear that her campaign is cooked.

Haley's struggles this month began on Feb. 6, in Nevada's state-run presidential primary, a symbolic contest which awarded no delegates due to the Nevada Republican Party hosting its own presidential caucus to protest the switch from a caucus to a primary. Despite Trump's absence from the ballot, Haley lost the primary to an option called "none of these candidates." It's not like she lost by a slim margin, either; she got absolutely bodied. She only received a laughable 30.6% of the vote, while "none of these candidates" received 63.3%. Essentially, she lost to nobody. Despite the contest having no implications, having a supermajority of voters who would rather vote for vote for her was damning for Haley. What makes her defeat even more embarrassing is that her loss cemented her as the first presidential candidate in the history of Nevada to lose to "none of these candidates" since the option was implemented in 1975. To be the first person in nearly 50 years to accomplish this feat shows how badly Haley has failed to connect with Republican voters.

However, the result in Nevada didn't deter Haley, who vowed to stay in the race and focus on winning the pivotal South Car-

olina primary. She spent millions in advertisements to score a much-needed victory in her home state and give her campaign the boost it needed. What happened instead was equally if not more embarrassing than the Nevada result, as Trump steamrolled her by nearly 20 points. Haley didn't even manage to break 40%, her total clocking in at 39.5% while only winning a meager three counties. To not even finish with a close margin or get 40% of the vote was the worst case scenario for Haley, and South Carolina voters made sure to make that happen. Unfortunately for Haley, in presidential primaries, losing your home state by a double-digit margin is more often than not the death knell to a campaign. The most relevant example here would be in 2016 when Sen. Marco Rubio suspended his presidential campaign after losing his home state of Florida (though his campaign was finished after Chris Christie destroyed him in the New Hampshire debate).

Despite recent precedent, Haley dug in her heels and declared that she would continue the campaign despite the home state loss. However, she will be continuing her campaign without a key ally: the wallet of the Koch brothers. It was reported on Sunday that Americans for Prosperity Action, a group affiliated with the influential GOP donors Charles and David Koch, would no longer provide financial support to her campaign and would instead focus on key congressional races after her crushing defeat in the Palmetto state. Losing the support of the richest and most powerful donors in the Republican Party is perhaps the most damning blow Haley suffered this month, as her campaign now needs every dollar it can get to have even a chance at the nomination.

With two humiliating defeats and the loss of a key financial ally, Haley's campaign stands on the verge of collapse as February ends. Trump has the nomination locked up, and at this point, the only way he won't become the Republican nominee is if he dies. So while Haley has stayed in the presidential race longer than I ever thought she would, my prediction from last year that she won't come anywhere near winning the nomination stands, and I fully expect her to drop out by Super Tuesday at the absolute latest.



Republican Presidential candidate Nikki Haley speaks to guests at a campaign stop in Council Bluffs, Iowa on Dec. 18, 2023. Haley, a former UN ambassador and South Carolina's former governor, lost the election race in her home state in 2024.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Study Break

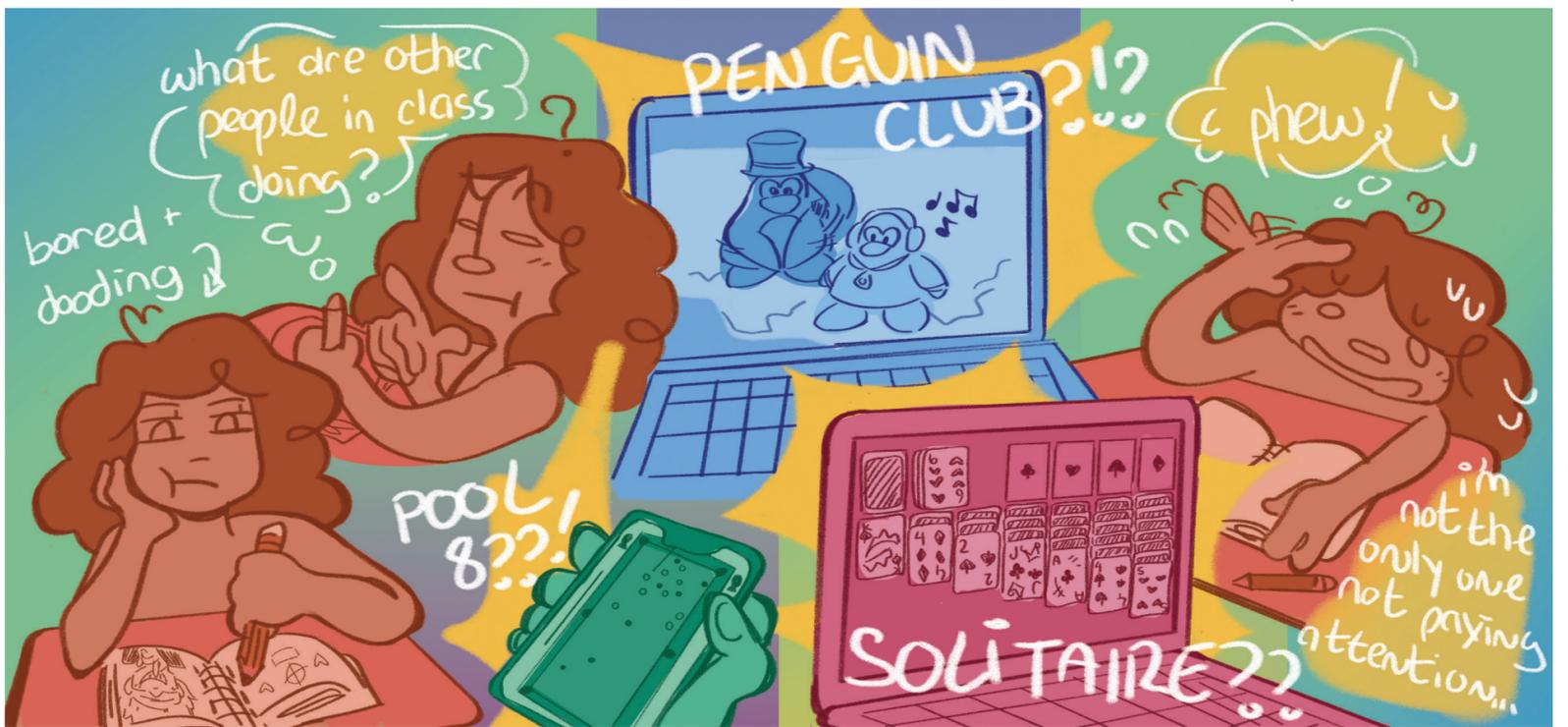
Photo of the Day | Study time in Towers



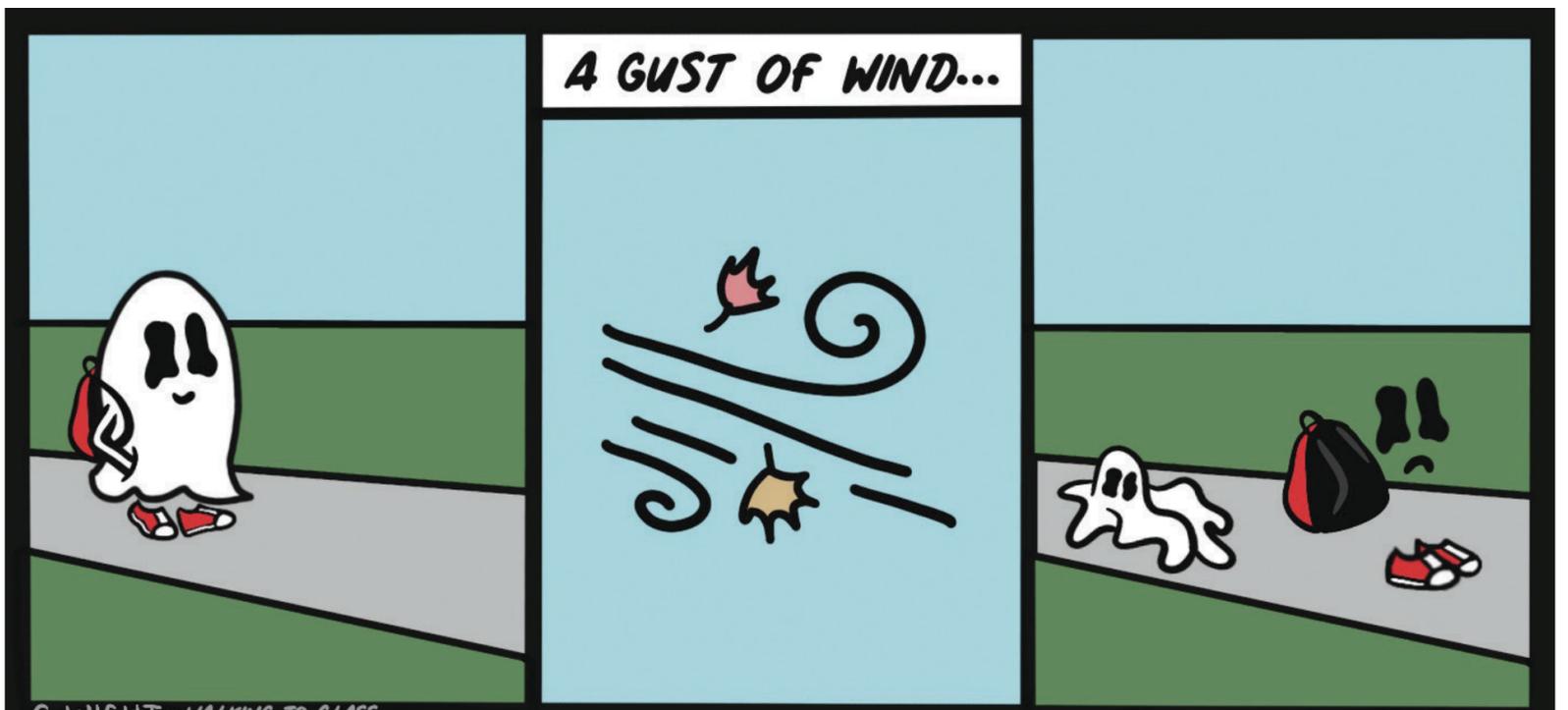
Students gather in the Gelfenbien Dining Commons, more commonly known as Towers Dining Hall, to sit and study. Gelfenbien is located across from Horsebarn Hill and near Husky Village.

PHOTO BY LUISA MASSASSO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

CARTOON BY LEE ERNEST, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



The Daily Campus Comics



C. WIGHT - WALKING TO CLASS

CARTOON BY CHARLOTTE WIGHT, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women's Lacrosse:

HUSKIES WILL FIGHT AGAINST NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR FIRST WIN OF THE SEASON AGAINST NEW HAMPSHIRE

by **Bridget Bronsdon**
STAFF WRITER
SHE/HER/HERS
bridget.bronsdon@uconn.edu

After falling just short in a nail-biting loss to Saint Joseph's, the UConn women's lacrosse squad is gearing up for their next opponent, New Hampshire.

The 10-11 loss to Saint Joseph's had the Huskies toeing victory for a majority of the matchup and despite falling short, the contest allowed UConn to practice their scor-

ing capabilities.

For a majority of the contest, the Huskies outshot the Hawks and demonstrated improvement in their offensive aggression. The most notable performance came in the fourth quarter as the Huskies outshot the Hawks 14-2.

While their efforts do not go unnoticed, the Huskies must put their nose to the grindstone for Wednesday's matchup, as New Hampshire is currently 2-2 whereas UConn is 0-3.

The last time the Huskies and Wildcats went head-to-head was last March. In a thrilling 17-6 victory, UConn dominated New Hampshire in a seamless triumph. With nine scorers from UConn and an 11-point scoring margin, the Huskies were unbeatable. Graduate student Kate Shaffer and senior Susan Lafountain were dominant in the 2023 showing, as they both stormed past the New Hampshire defense time and time again.

Interestingly enough, the majority of UConn's goals were unassisted. However, the group's cohesion was well established and although it was only the fourth contest of the season, the team played with an established level of expertise.

This time around, the Huskies must flex their defensive muscles to guard goalkeeper Landyn White from any New Hampshire shots. The Wildcats have demonstrated relatively strong offensive

gameplay with a .486 shot percentage. Comparatively, the Huskies' is .295. White has firmly established herself in the net this season and already has 27 saves in just three games.

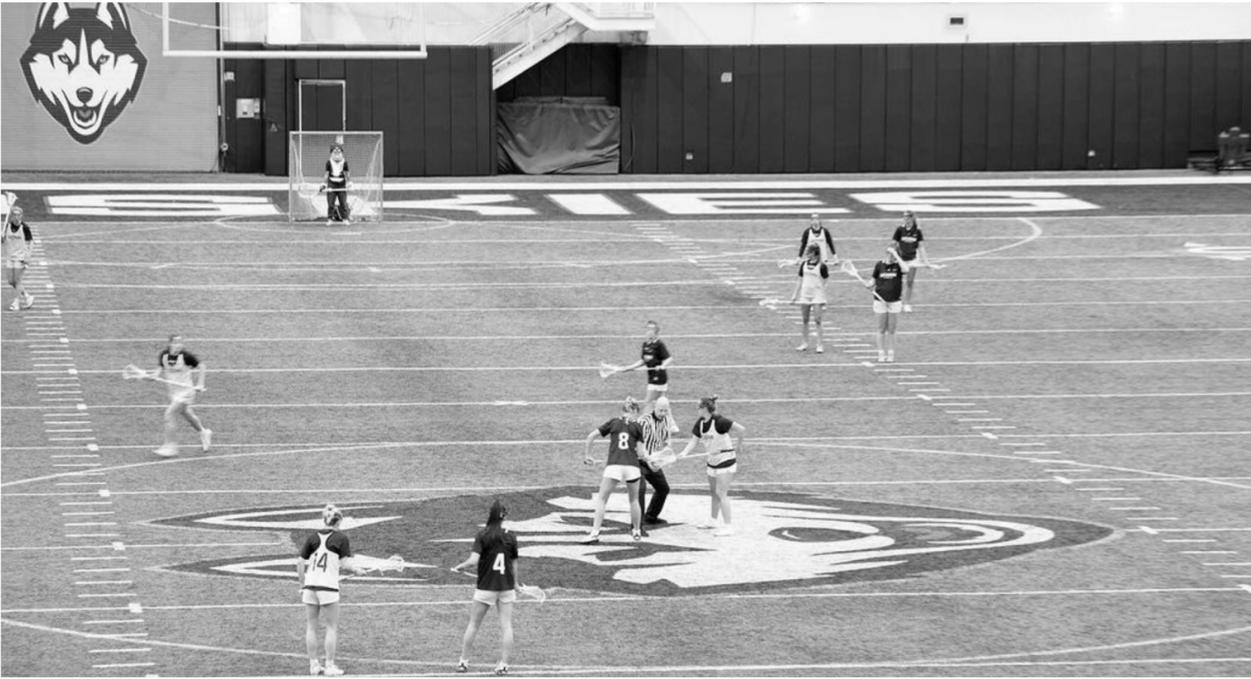
Although the Huskies may be battling a 0-3 record, a win this week is nowhere near out of the question, as dominance has been shown across the board. Lafountain has 10 goals in three games and red-shirt sophomore Rayea Davis has demonstrated significant promise.

As for the standout performances, the team has proven to be a well-rounded group as several athletes have already put their names on the board. In last week's contest, Lafountain had 12 shots on goal with Shaffer following right behind at nine.

From New Hampshire, UConn may need to watch out for graduate student Katie Taranto, who has been a powerhouse on the field this season. So far, Taranto has already scored 10 goals and will be a team leader the Huskies must strongly defend. Last year, Taranto scored one goal against the Huskies.

Overall, UConn must remain on their toes to maintain intensity and authority on the field. While the contest may be tough, victory is not too far out of reach for the Huskies.

The contest on Wednesday is set for a 2 p.m. start in Durham, New Hampshire.



UConn women's lacrosse team practicing for the first time this season on Jan. 21, 2024. The Huskies are currently 0-3 this season. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNWLAX ON INSTAGRAM

The Rod Wave:

Why Cody Morris might be a diamond in the rough for the Yankees

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

If you watched the New York Yankees play the Minnesota Twins on Monday, it might have been surprising to see a 6-foot-4 right-hander looking sharp, albeit in just 2.1 innings. That man was Cody Morris, picked up in a small trade from the Cleveland Guardians for Estevan Florial.

At first glance, Morris doesn't seem to be the most attractive

acquisition of New York's off-season, and rightfully so. This is a player who comes into the Bronx with a 6.75 ERA after struggling with injury following his rookie campaign. Yet this is what makes him a diamond in the rough.

While the former Guardian did make five starts in that rookie season in 2022, I'm almost certain that he'll be better utilized out of the bullpen when considering his recent injury history. If you read my previ-

ous article on Blake Snell, you'd know that I'm not very high on New York's current starting pitching depth. Through the grind of a long MLB season, injuries are bound to happen, and if the Yankees aim to ride it out with this current pitching staff, they're going to need as much bullpen firepower as they can bring. Of course, that's if options like Clayton Beeter, Luis Gil or even Cody Poteet don't pan out at all and Morris is then called upon for longer innings.

That's where the tutelage of Matt Blake becomes even more important. New York fans have become well aware that the pitching coach is famous for turning less into more on a consistent basis. From Wandy Peralta to Clay Holmes, the former Holy Cross graduate is known

for his ability to get career seasons out of players that may have been mid-tier to below-average options. While Morris has shown in the past that he does have some impressive skills, I believe that Blake can get even more out of him.

One of the things I'm a big fan of with the former Guardian is his pitching arsenal. Morris boasts a fastball, cutter, curveball and changeup, with that fastball headlining those options. His No. 1 pitch sits at an average speed of 95 mph, and the velocity of his fastball sat in the 71st percentile of MLB pitchers in 2023, even in a small sample size. Additionally, Morris' cutter sat at an average of 88.9 last season.

Notably, as SNY writer Ben Krimmel brilliantly pointed out, Morris also has a 38.6% ground ball rate, something that the organization typically values out of its bullpen arms, another aspect that Blake can look to improve on with the Maryland native.

Lastly, while the Yankees certainly have a talented bullpen, they have lost some important pieces like Michael King and Peralta. That means that the franchise will need some new players to step up in their absence and I'm inclined to believe that Morris could be one of those options. With the small sample size that he's displayed throughout his brief time in the league, I would not be surprised if this ends up being another



FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Cody Morris (left), pitcher for the Cleveland Guardians is being traded for Estevan Florial (right), outfielder for the Yankees. Morris has had fairly unremarkable stats throughout his career, but performed well in his first two innings for the Yankees. PHOTO COURTESY OF @YESNETWORK ON INSTAGRAM

Sports

Photo of the Day | Trouble? Make it double!



No. 1 UConn regains its dominant posture with a 78-54 win against Villanova in front of an ecstatic home crowd at Gampel Pavilion on Feb. 24, 2024. The win was an important turning point after the tough loss against Creighton on the road earlier in the week.

PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sam's Section:

PREVIEWING THE BEST MID-MAJOR CONFERENCE

by Sam Calhoun | STAFF WRITER | HE/HIM/HIS | samuel.calhoun@uconn.edu

There are only two days left before we can flip the calendar to March, which means conference tournaments are on the horizon. The major tournaments are held during the second full week of March, but the others begin on March 4. In this edition of Sam's Section, we will look at the best mid-major conference tournaments featuring some of the best teams in college basketball.



LOGO COURTESY OF @WCCSPORTS ON INSTAGRAM

West Coast Conference (March 7-9, Orleans Arena, Paradise, Nev., ESPN/ESPN2/ESPN+)

The WCC normally includes Gonzaga as the top seed and a national championship contender. However, the Bulldogs have not been the best team in the conference. Saint Mary's has already clinched the regular season title.

The Gaels are currently undefeated in conference play with two games to go. Led by guard Aidan Mahaney and center Mitchell Saxen, they are a top-15 team in adjusted defensive efficiency on KenPom, being one of the best teams at defending shots inside the arc. They have the nation's longest active winning streak with 15 victories in a row. Saint Mary's looks to be a No. 6 seed on Bracket Matrix.

The Zags are a bubble team for the first time since the 2015-16 season, projected as a No. 11 seed on Bracket Matrix. Without forward Drew Timme, who finished his college career last season as one of the greatest players in Gonzaga basketball history, head coach Mark Few turned his attention toward forwards Graham Ike and Anton Watson, who are a part of the WCC all-KenPom team as of writing. They have not yet clinched the No. 2 seed in the WCC Tournament, but that could be determined on Thursday as the Bulldogs face third place San Francisco.



LOGO COURTESY OF @MOUNTAINWESTCONFERENCE ON INSTAGRAM

Mountain West (March 13-16, Thomas & Mack Center, Las Vegas, Nev., CBS/CBS Sports Network/Stadium/MWN)

The Mountain West has been incredible to watch this season, with the potential to be a six-bid league.

San Diego State, projected as a No. 4 seed, won the tournament last season over Utah State and has made the championship game in the past six years. The defending national runners-up will look to come out on top again this year, with forward Jaedon LeDee leading the way as one of the best players in college basketball.

In four of the last five tournaments, Utah State has made the championship game, winning back-to-back titles in 2019 and 2020. The Aggies, projected as a No. 7 seed in the NCAA Tournament, recently swept Boise State to break the tie and claim first place. They're one of the best teams at defending 3-point shots and have been strong in the paint thanks to all-Mountain West-caliber junior Great Osobor.

Isaiah Stevens is one of the best mid-major players as he leads Colorado State to what should be their second NCAA Tournament appearance in the past three seasons. Projected as a No. 7 seed in the NCAA Tournament, they have been bounced in the semifinal round and have not appeared in the championship since losing to Nevada in 2017. The Rams will look for their first tournament title since 2003.

Other contenders include Boise State, New Mexico and Nevada. All three teams are considered on the right side of the bubble, with Boise State projected as a No. 9 seed while the latter two are No. 10 seeds on Bracket Matrix.

Atlantic 10 (March 12-17, Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y., CBS/CBS Sports Network/USA Network/ESPN+)

The Atlantic 10 has three NCAA Tournament-caliber teams, with a three-way race for the top seed in the conference tournament between Dayton, Loyola Chicago and Richmond.

Dayton is having the program's best season since the 2019-20 season. However, the Flyers won't be one of the No. 1 seeds in the NCAA Tournament like many projected them to be before the COVID-19 pandemic canceled the 2020 NCAA Tournament. They are led by forward DaRon Holmes II, one of the best players in college basketball. Despite the program's success in the past decade, Dayton, projected to be a No. 5 seed in the NCAA Tournament, has not come out on top of the Atlantic 10 Tournament since 2003. There may be a chip on Holmes's shoulder because while he received the tournament's Most Outstanding Player honor, his team lost to VCU by 12.

Richmond is on the outside looking in on Bracket Matrix, but ESPN and CBS Sports have considered the Spiders as a No. 12 seed in the NCAA Tournament. Senior guard Jordan King leads the way as his team looks for the program's second conference tournament title in the past three seasons. They sit in first place in the Atlantic 10 standings as of writing, defeating Loyola Chicago in January to break the tie.

Sister Jean hopes that her Ramblers can win their first Atlantic 10 championship. Loyola Chicago joined the Atlantic 10 last year after spending seven years in the Missouri Valley Conference. They currently have the nation's sixth-longest active winning streak with seven in a row. According to KenPom, they have the best adjusted defensive efficiency in the conference. Head coach Drew Valentine looks to bring Loyola Chicago to the second weekend of the NCAA Tournament for the first time since being hired. However, they need to improve their resumé or win the Atlantic 10 Tournament to be included in the field of 68.

LOGO COURTESY OF @A10CONFERENCE ON INSTAGRAM



Women's Swim and Dive:

HUSKIES HEAD TO INDIANAPOLIS FOR BIG EAST CHAMPIONSHIP

by CJ Dexter
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
christopher.dexter@uconn.edu

In the 41-year history of the Big East swim and dive championships, only four schools have taken home the crown on the women's side: Villanova, Louisville, Pittsburgh and Notre Dame. This UConn program, which has been trending upward in recent years under the direction of head coach Chris Maiello, will head to Indianapolis looking to change that statistic and take home the Big East prize for the first time in program history.

The Huskies come into this meet following their senior day exhibition against the Providence Friars. The program opened the season with two dominant wins over Southern Connecticut State and Georgetown to start 2-0. A mini two-match skid at the hands of Villanova and Northeastern dropped them to 2-2 before they rebounded with five wins over their last six meets. A four-game win streak that spanned from Nov. 11 to Jan. 13 saw head-to-head victories over Rhode Island, Bucknell, Vermont and Seton Hall before a loss to New Hampshire on Jan. 20.

All four of the swimmers who won gold medals for Connecticut in last season's championship are back for this year's event, looking to deliver similar results in the biggest meet of the season. Senior Niamh Hofland won a gold medal and three silver medals with a team-high 88 points in last year's event. Junior Maggie Donlevy tallied gold, silver and bronze with 78 points, while Julia Pioso and Ana Laura Faoro each claimed gold.

Villanova enters this meet as the favorite after wrapping up their decade of dominance in 2023 with their 10th consecutive Big East championship. Connecticut came up just short of snapping the Wildcats' nine-peat last season, finishing second with 1,316 points, but impressive skill down the stretch have them looking like they can be one of the top teams once again. Georgetown is also among the favorites coming in as they lead the conference in the 200 medley, 400 free and 800 free relays.

The Big East Swimming and Diving Championships will take place Wednesday, Feb. 28 through Saturday, March 2 at IUPUI Natatorium in Indianapolis. More information on the meet including a full schedule of events can be found at the Championship Central page. Fans can also follow the team on X and Instagram at @uconnswimdive for all of the latest up-to-the-minute updates throughout the week.



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

ROUNDTABLE: WHAT'S YOUR BOLD MLB PREDICTION FOR THE 2024 SEASON?

With another exciting MLB season set to kick off in 2024, the amount of possibilities for each franchise in the league is as fruitful as ever. Are the Los Angeles Dodgers going to live up to the hype? What can Juan Soto do as a New York Yankee? For this week's Daily Campus sports roundtable, our team of writers aimed to give one bold prediction ahead of the start of the 2024 season.



IMAGE COURTESY OF @JUANSOTO_25 ON INSTAGRAM

Boston Red Sox will set the record for most wins by a last place team

by Brayden Gorski
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
brayden.gorski@uconn.edu

Coming off back-to-back 78-84 last-place finishes in the AL East, Red Sox fans were excited for former reliever Craig Breslow to replace Chaim Bloom as Chief Baseball Officer. After promising a "full throttle" offseason, the Red Sox missed out on massive free agents such as Shohei Ohtani, Yoshinobu Yamamoto and Shota Imanaga. On top of that, the franchise also let fan-favorite Justin Turner walk to their division rival, the Toronto Blue Jays, after a productive 2023 campaign. To fans' dismay, Breslow brought in starting pitcher Lucas

Giolito and outfielder Tyler O'Neill and traded pitcher Chris Sale to the Atlanta Braves for second baseman Vaughn Grissom. This leaves Boston at pretty much the same place they ended the 2023 season in. However, with a full offseason for Trevor Story and the pitching staff, it is possible they can break the 81-81 last-place record for a division held by both the 2005 Washington Nationals and 1991 California Angels. Signing free agent pitcher Jordan Montgomery and re-signing outfielder Adam Duvall would play a huge part in Boston finishing 82-80 or better.



IMAGE COURTESY OF @ONEILCRUZ_04 ON INSTAGRAM

by Nicholas D'Alessio
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
nicholas.d'alessio@uconn.edu

This may be as bold of a prediction as one can make, but this year, Juan Soto has the best chance in recent memory to take home a Triple Crown, something that has not been done since Miguel Cabrera in 2012, and only 17 times overall in MLB history. Why? Soto has led the Major Leagues in walks in each of the last three seasons, and has still managed to put up MVP-caliber numbers

in all statistical categories. Moving him into a lineup with the likes of Aaron Judge, Anthony Rizzo and Gleyber Torres will only give him more opportunities to swing away and add to those numbers. Combine this with his move to Yankee Stadium, an extremely friendly park to left-handed hitters, and Soto has a chance to put up an unreal season before he hits free agency in the winter.

Juan Soto wins the Triple Crown

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

It's no secret that Oneil Cruz is one of the most exciting players in baseball, but with his absence last season due to injury, it might have been easy to forget about the young Pirates shortstop. Fans have to remember that this is a guy who is a stat-cast machine, throwing missiles from the shortstop position and smacking baseballs out of PNC Park. On top of all of these fac-

tors, it's no secret that Pittsburgh has truly struggled for the past several seasons, failing to make an appearance in the postseason since 2015, when Cruz had just signed as an international free agent with the Los Angeles Dodgers just a few months earlier. All of those factors should light a fire for the Dominican native and push him to have a career year in the yellow and black.

Oneil Cruz wins NL Comeback Player of the Year



IMAGE COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL

by CJ Dexter
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
christopher.dexter@uconn.edu

After a historic start to his major league career, former No. 2 overall pick Kris Bryant looked like he was on his way to being one of the best third basemen the game of baseball has ever seen. Bryant made one of the most anticipated debuts in recent memory and lived up to the hype with Rookie of the Year honors in 2015, followed by a 2016 season in which he won Most Valuable Player and a World Series ring. Unfortunately, his production never took the leap

that he or Cubs fans hoped for over the next five seasons, leading to a mid-season trade in 2021 as the Cubs cleaned house. That following offseason, Bryant inked a \$182 million contract for seven years with the Colorado Rockies, but injuries have kept him off the field for the first two seasons of his tenure. The former MVP is healthy ahead of this season, with plenty of pop that I expect to come to life in a Coors Field where balls leave the yard easier than any other.

Kris Bryant hits 30 home runs, drives in 100 in bounce-back season

by Cole Stefan
SENIOR COLUMNIST
HE/HIM/HIS
cole.stefan@uconn.edu

In 2023, the Washington Nationals went 71-91 and finished dead last in the National League East for the fourth straight season. With the talent that they have, the Nationals may climb out of the division basement in 2024. CJ Abrams is on the verge of blossoming into an All-Star-caliber shortstop and has become one of the game's top leadoff hitters. Beyond the 2019 first-round pick, catcher Keibert Ruiz and right fielder Lane Thomas have cemented themselves as franchise cornerstones. All-Star Josiah Gray and southpaw MacKenzie

Gore are undoubtedly Washington's two aces, and with their skills, could both finish 2024 with almost 200 strikeouts. The Nationals hit 151 home runs last year, but picking up Joey Gallo in free agency during the offseason should help with the team's power. For Washington to exceed their expectations in a competitive National League, they need everything to go in their favor. Should the Nationals' top two arms make significant strides and the offense hit with consistency, meaningful October baseball for the first time since 2019 is a possibility.

The Washington Nationals return to the postseason



Sports

Women's Basketball:

NO. 10 HUSKIES FINISH BIG EAST HOME SLATE, PREP FOR BATTLE WITH VILLANOVA

by Stratton Stave
SPORTS EDITOR
HE/HIM/HIS
stratton@uconn.edu

The No. 10 Connecticut women's basketball team clinched the Big East regular season title against DePaul on Sunday, meaning their last two games won't impact their conference race. However, if the Huskies want to lock up a spot as a host in the first weekend of March Madness, these contests are absolutely essential.

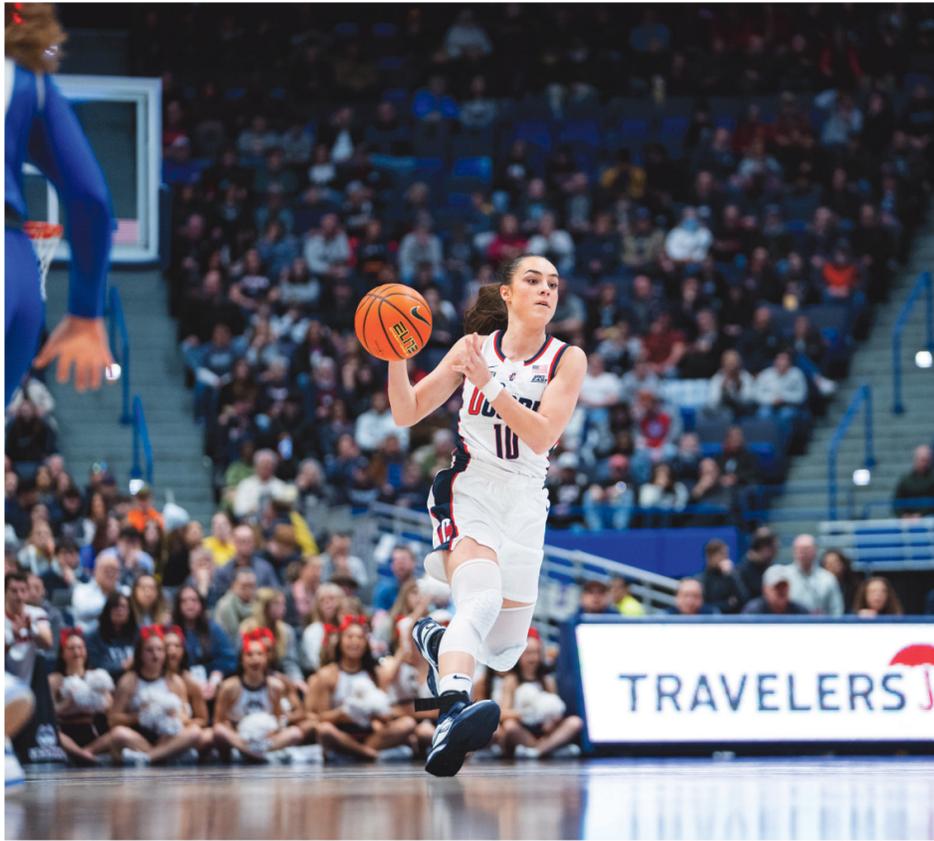
The first of the pair is at home against Villanova, a squad tied for third in the Big East. This will be UConn's final home game of the season, but the Huskies could return to campus for the NCAA tournament if all goes well these next few weeks.

The Wildcats have had a decent campaign one year removed from the tenure of Maddy Siegrist, who is arguably the best player to put on a Villanova women's uniform. They're 17-10 on the season and currently sit on the wrong side of the bubble, but a win at UConn would definitely change things. Their best win at the moment is against Richmond, the best team in the Atlantic 10, while they also swept Marquette, a team that has taken a swift decline from their 12-0 start.

One of Villanova's biggest weaknesses is their lack of 3-point shooting ability. None of their major contributors are efficient from beyond the arc, but one could also argue that they really only have one major contributor.

That would be Lucy Olsen, who muscles the team through nearly every game they play. She averages 23.6 points per night, which is roughly equal to the combined totals of the second, third and fourth-highest scorers. Olsen has been the team's leader in points in each of the last eight games. Simply put, if you can stop Olsen, it's game over for the Wildcats. She dishes out a team-high four assists, but doesn't have very many options to pass it to.

The best option of the bunch is Christina Dalce, who has been excellent on the boards. Dalce has showed some similarities to UConn's Aaliyah Edwards as the only person there to grab rebounds when a shot misses. Of those in the rotation, she is the



only true forward — and she's still only 6-foot-2. She averages nine points and 10 boards per game on an inefficient 43% from the field. Along with the guards needing to stop Olsen, Edwards will need to contain Dalce, just as she did last time the two teams faced off.

When the teams played last at the Finn in Philadelphia, Connecticut succeeded in both dimensions. Olsen was not afraid to shoot, taking 17 shots, but she only hit six on her way to 15 points. Dalce was similarly stifled, managing seven points and three rebounds. It wasn't a tremendous win for the Huskies, however, as they didn't truly pull away until the fourth quarter.

It seems like a definite that UConn is going to get something exceptional out of Edwards and Paige Bueckers. Edwards just continued her insane run against the DePaul Blue Demons, scoring 23 points and grabbing 17 rebounds. Bueckers had a comparably incredible outing, scoring 30 points essentially without using her deep shooting ability. The former National Player of the Year made a single three and either finished inside or drew a foul throughout the night. The question is who else will step up.

Ashlynn Shade has been the team's most effective freshman this year — and it's come out of necessity. Her strong shooting stroke has been essential for the team, though it has cooled off a bit more lately. Even with Shade owning a 36% mark on the season, she's hit on 30% in her past five games. Not terrible by any stretch, but now would be a great time to improve on the confidence in her stroke ahead of the postseason.

KK Arnold would benefit even more heavily from confidence and by extension a willingness to shoot. She's shot 34% from beyond the arc on the year, but has looked uncharacteristically unwilling to take open looks lately. Arnold is just one for nine across the past three games, which likely hasn't helped. The freshman has always seemed to have a preference for driving, but taking and knocking down shots would go a long way in opening up her game.

The contest can be viewed on SNY and will tip off at 7 p.m.



UConn beats Creighton 75 to 53 at the XL Center on Feb. 19, 2024. UConn is currently 24-5 this season. PHOTOS BY JORDAN ARNOLD, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS