



GOFUNDME FOR HUSKIES TAVERN EMPLOYEE'S CANCER TREATMENTS NEARLY COMPLETE

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A GoFundMe page has been created for a longtime employee of Huskies Tavern who has been diagnosed with multiple myeloma.

Kevin Lavallee, who has worked at Huskies Tavern for over 30 years, was diagnosed with a cancer that forms in blood plasma cells, in May 2023. He is currently undergoing stem cell transplant therapy at Dana-Farber Brigham Cancer Center.

Michael Garceau, who has been friends with Lavallee since childhood, began a GoFundMe on Jan. 20 to help pay for the out-of-pocket treatment expenses.

The fundraiser started with an initial goal of \$15,000, though Garceau said in the description that he would "revise this as the full picture of his medical bills becomes clearer." The goal is currently set at \$30,000, and \$29,461 has been raised as of the writing of this piece.

Garceau credited the success of the fundraiser to the relationships Lavallee has been able to build over his long career at Huskies Tavern and around the University of Connecticut.

"Not everybody gets to make that number of relationships over time, and then if you just think about all the people who have cycled through UConn in 30 years, and how many of them at some point have ended up at Huskies Tavern, it's a lot. So, it's really kind of paying huge dividends to him now," Garceau said. "I don't think most GoFundMe's get the kind of response that we're getting, and I think it's largely because he's part of that UConn community that he's built up over that last 30 years."

Lavallee said that he was moved by the fast positive response to the fundraiser.

"I can give you all the superlatives there are. It just blows me away, and it just made me feel so good," Lavallee said.

The fundraiser was originally only posted on personal social media accounts, but Lavallee and Garceau said it took off when it was posted to the Huskies Tavern Facebook page and eventually to its website.

"It was absolutely amazing when we turned the GoFundMe on and it was almost a flood. Once the link got posted on the Huskies Tavern website and got out to UConn folks en masse, I mean, the thing just went crazy, so I



Huskies Tavern is located on North Eagleville Road in Storrs, Connecticut. The bar have been a part of the community since 1993 and a popular weekend spot for UConn students.
PHOTO BY JORDAN ARNOLD, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

guess I would just like to say thank you to everybody in the UConn community for stepping up to help Kevin with this," Garceau said.

Lavallee said that he was "very humbled" by the outpouring of support from the fundraiser.

"It gave me such strength

while I was in the hospital," he said.

Garceau said that throughout the entire experience, Lavallee has been resilient and continually concerned for the well-being of those around him.

"When he first got diagnosed, we were super wor-

ried about the toll that just the treatment would take on him, but he's been super resilient physically as well," Garceau said. "That's probably the word that comes to mind for him in the last couple years, just how resilient he's been and how caring he continues to be about everybody else

despite the challenges that he's got going on."

Lavallee said that one of his priorities is still to ensure that the people around him and the patrons of Huskies Tavern are enjoying themselves.

"I've been doing my job for 30 years, so it's hard for me to walk away right now and not be part of it, you know?" Lavallee said. "So I'm still doing a little bit, helping out where I can and whatnot."

Lavallee also said he wanted to help ease the mind of anyone in a similar situation.

"I would love to share my journey with anybody that's going forward with it as well, you know, put their mind at ease," Lavallee said.

There is currently no cure for multiple myeloma. Although the cancer will come back in a different place since it is a blood cancer, Lavallee said that the stem cell treatments could lead to remission until new drugs that are currently being developed and tested are ready for use.

Lavallee credited the medical staff at Dana-Farber for helping him through the treatments, especially when it came to minimizing side effects. He said that the doctors and nurses at the facilities were "on top of their game" and "accommodating."

"I went through the whole thing with minimum side effects because they prepared me for it," Lavallee said. "I got high-grade chemo for two days in a row, and it had a lot of bad side effects, but they managed it, so I came out with nothing."

Garceau explained that if there were any leftover donations after covering Lavallee's medical bills, they would go to Lea's Foundation for Leukemia Research, for which Garceau sits on a management committee. The foundation donates to research for leukemia and other blood-related diseases.

Lavallee said it was amazing looking through the names and reconnecting with people. According to himself and Garceau, he has individually thanked as many donors as possible.

"I try to reach out to each and every one of them to thank them, you know, but there's a lot of anonymous ones in there, so I don't know who they are, but I would love to thank them as well," Lavallee said.

Fundraiser for Kevin Lavallee by Michael Garceau : Kevin Lavallee (aka Buzz) Cancer Treatment Bills (go-fundme.com)



Huskies Tavern is located on North Eagleville Road in Storrs, Connecticut. Kevin (Buzz) Lavallee has been an integral part of Huskies Tavern for several years.
PHOTO BY JORDAN ARNOLD, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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NEWSLETTER

News

PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL PREDICTS AN EARLY SPRING AT GROUNDHOG DAY FESTIVITIES

(AP) — Punxsutawney Phil predicted an early spring on an overcast Friday morning at Gobbler's Knob in Pennsylvania, the scene of the largest and best-known Groundhog Day celebration in the United States.

The annual event is a tongue-in-cheek ritual in which Phil's handlers, members of a club with roots in the late 19th century, reveal whether the groundhog has seen his shadow.

Just after sunrise Friday, the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club announced Phil did not see his shadow, which will usher in early springlike weather. The groundhog seeing his shadow presages six more weeks of winter, according to the group.

Before the announcement, President Tom Dunkel, in the traditional top hat and tuxedo worn by the club's inner circle, explained that his cane, handed down from previous presidents, including his father, gave him the power to speak "Groundhog-ese" and that Phil would tell him which of two scrolls to use. At Dunkel's direction, the crowd helped fire-up the groundhog with repeated chants of "Phil!" before a club member pulled the groundhog from a door in a stump on the stage and held



Groundhog Club handler A.J. Dereume holds Punxsutawney Phil, the weather prognosticating groundhog, during the 138th celebration of Groundhog Day on Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pa., Friday, Feb. 2, 2024. Phil's handlers said that the groundhog has forecast an early spring. BARRY REEGER/AP

it aloft.

Dunkel and other club members leaned over the stump where the groundhog sat before Dunkel pointed to one of two scrolls with the cane and announced that they had a decision.

Vice President Dan McGinley read the decision, written

in verse and filled with quips about the groundhog's envy for humans' opposable thumbs and hopes to garner some Punxsutawney Phil write-in votes in 2024, from the chosen scroll and announced, "Glad tidings on this Groundhog Day, an early spring is on the way!"

About 10,000 people have made their way in recent years to Punxsutawney, where festivities begin in the dead of night and culminate in the midwinter forecast. A bundled-up crowd, some wearing groundhog-themed hats, watched musical performances and fireworks as they waited for sunrise and the appearance of Punxsutawney Phil.

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh

Shapiro took the stage before Phil to urge people around the world watching the festivities to come to Punxsutawney next year. Shapiro also announced the famed groundhog is the new official meteorologist for Pennsylvania.

"Punxsutawney is the center of the universe right now and I love that you're all here," Shapiro said.

Phil predicts more winter far more often than he sees an early spring, not a bad bet for February and March in western Pennsylvania. A federal agency took a look at his record last year and put his accuracy rate at about 40%.

As the morning progressed, something like a groundhog consensus emerged, backing

Punxsutawney Phil's prognostication of an early spring. Among more than a dozen reports of weather predicting groundhogs in the U.S. and Canada early Friday, 10 were on Phil's side and just three warned of six more weeks of winter.

Octoraro Orphie in Quarryville, Pennsylvania, a rival of the Punxsutawney groundhog for more than a century, says the cold will be around for awhile. But groundhogs in Staten Island, New York; Nova Scotia and Quebec in Canada; Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois and Ohio were all on Phil's side — an early spring.

The tradition of celebrating the midpoint between the shortest day of the year on the winter solstice and the spring equinox goes back many centuries in European farm life.

There are more than a dozen active groundhog clubs in Pennsylvania, some dating back to the 1930s, and weather-predicting groundhogs have appeared in at least 28 U.S. states and Canadian provinces.

The 1993 blockbuster film "Groundhog Day," starring Bill Murray, fueled interest in Punxsutawney Phil and inspired informal observations far and wide.

When he's not making his annual prognostication, Phil lives in a customized space beside the Punxsutawney Memorial Library, with a window where library patrons can check out his burrow. Back in 2009, library workers said Phil had somehow managed to escape three times, climbing into the library ceiling and dropping into offices about 50 feet (15 meters) away. He wasn't injured.

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Study Break

THE DAILY CAMPUS CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Reduce to a paste
- 5 Self-confident and then some
- 9 City in "Aeneid" and "Iliad"
- 13 Field of expertise
- 14 ___ Grey tea
- 15 Philosopher Descartes
- 16 Elements of a PG-rated outburst
- 19 Computer capacity
- 20 ___-purpose flour
- 21 Yoga pose
- 22 Groups of groupies
- 27 Oodles
- 29 Still contending
- 30 Vehicle for a large family, perhaps
- 33 Jazz legend Fitzgerald
- 34 ___-toity
- 35 Dessert served in a goblet
- 38 Former Iranian rulers
- 39 Ferris wheel locale
- 40 NBA tiebreakers, for short
- 41 Speck
- 42 Covers for outdoor wedding receptions
- 43 Common accessory at a construction site
- 45 Larceny
- 50 Charged particle
- 51 Baby's foot warmer
- 52 Allergy warning, and a description of 16-, 22-, 35-, and 43-Across?
- 57 Color associated with the L.A. Dodgers
- 58 "Checkmate!"
- 59 Adjust for space limitations, say
- 60 Long-term goals
- 61 Addendum to a real estate sign
- 62 Strong urges

DOWN

- 1 "___ Mia!": Meryl Streep film with ABBA music

- 2 Zodiac ram
- 3 2014 civil rights drama set in Alabama
- 4 Was dressed in
- 5 Hot
- 6 Weather report backdrop
- 7 Cybersquatter's target, for short
- 8 Gathers bit by bit
- 9 Enormous number
- 10 Fire up, as an engine
- 11 Dollar bill
- 12 "That's correct"
- 17 Whiteboard wipers
- 18 "90 Day Fiancé" channel
- 22 Vegetarian pita filler
- 23 Insistent
- 24 Reino ___: England's country, in Spanish
- 25 Tried to chomp on
- 26 Eyelid woes
- 28 The NBA's Cavs, on scoreboards
- 30 Sojourn

- 31 "Bless you!" trigger
- 32 "Peachy keen!"
- 34 "Their Eyes Were Watching God" author Zora Neale ___
- 36 Goblets
- 37 Take a load off
- 42 Sport played on a variety of surfaces
- 44 "Get off the stage!"

- 46 Mead need
- 47 Many a Chopin piece
- 48 Feel at home
- 49 Class challenges
- 51 Tie
- 52 Deg. for a CFO or a CEO
- 53 "Rumble in the Jungle" boxer
- 54 "Tastes great!"
- 55 Early afternoon
- 56 Feel poorly

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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Life

Disney+ short 'Self' conveys the message of individuality and self-love

Rating: 5/5

by **Kaily Martinez**
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The popularity of short films is rising as streaming platforms set out to create more. The new Disney+ six-minute short film, "Self," was released on Friday, Feb. 2. The short focuses on a young girl's challenges through self-discovery as she appears to be different than those surrounding her.

Before the frame pans over to the young girl, hearing the intricate sounds of her wrist turning sets a theme for the rest of the film. Viewers know the short film will rely heavily on sounds and visuals rather than speech. After walking up the escalator, she steps into a world with beautiful chiming tunes. These tunes come from the gold people; they communicate with one another by tapping on their skin to create different tunes.

Immediately, it's noticeable that she is different from the rest. The others have gold skin and slicked-back hair, while the young girl is made of wood with curly hair. Excitedly, she attempts to talk to the gold people, but they ignore her. Noticing this, she tries to communicate with them by tapping on her chest. While she does make a sound when she taps on her chest, it doesn't come off as

soft and chimeful but instead hollow. She realizes she is not like the others and starts feeling left out.

After multiple attempts to communicate, viewers see the anxiety begin to build as the young girl fiddles more with her wrist. Not too soon after, she begins to hyperventilate, bumping into someone and then falling on the floor, breaking her wrist. This scene is incredibly interesting; without words and relying on sound effects, it displays what it is like to feel the overwhelming, impending doom of anxiety.

During her multiple attempts to fix her wrist, she sees a shooting star.



Pixar's brand new short is available for streaming on Disney+ as of Friday, Feb. 2. The short film is the company's first hybrid stop-motion animation that tells the story of a girl learning about individuality and self-love.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @DISNEYPLUS ON INSTAGRAM

It is assumed that she wishes to be like the gold people because shortly after, a gold figure falls from the sky, and a loud shimmering bell sounds as it falls to the floor. Without spoiling the rest of the short, with each passing day, the young girl begins to divert from her true self and tries to become more like the gold people.

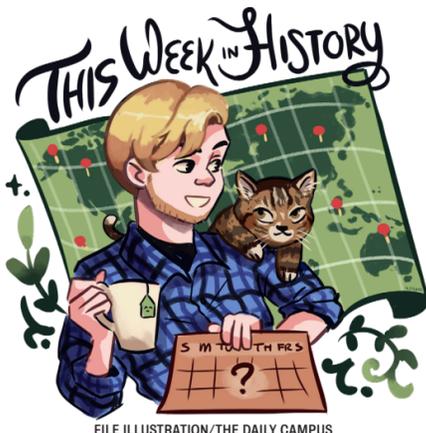
By the end of the short, the young girl realizes she was never meant to be exactly like the others; she was always meant to be a wooden girl. As she became more like the gold

people, she was given the choice to have a gold face. Switching out her old mask for a gold one, the young girl finally went to communicate with the gold people. But in the process, she stepped on the old mask and broke it. From a viewer's perspective, it appears the gold people begin to truly see her for who she is after seeing her broken mask on the floor.

Within Pixar Animation Studio, "Self" was created through the SparkShorts Program. A YouTube video titled "Introducing Pixar SparkShorts" by Pixar explains how the program creates indie films within six months. Bobby Rubio, a writer and director of the short "Float," said in the YouTube video, "I see it as a wonderful opportunity to tell a story." If there were different visuals and mediums used to create "Self," the impact and meaning of the story would be drastically different from what it is now.

With the message of self-discovery and uncovering what it means to love yourself, the six-minute "Self" short is perfect for all audiences. It is also great for when you want to watch something fun but have a small gap between classes. Sometimes, we all need reminders of the importance of self-love and acceptance, and "Self" will do exactly that.

This Week In History: Feb. 4 - Feb. 10



FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS



CLIPART COURTESY OF ISTOCK

by **Benjamin Lassy**
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Hello, and welcome back to This Week in History! Perhaps the most enjoyable part of writing this column each week is the process of sifting through historical databases and texts to narrow down a few events worth covering. If you have ever attempted to browse the internet with the search "this week in history," you'll find yourself at my frequent starting point — countless websites listing hundreds of events, births, deaths, anniversaries and battles happening every day of the year.

While the unending lists of events appear to be helpful — after all, it would basically be impossible to run out of events to cover — it raises an unavoidable question: How can one determine the most important events to cover each week?

In history, heroic battles have been fought incessantly, atrocities committed constantly, innovations coming to fruition weekly, and future genius babies being born daily; there is too much to cover for any writer. While stumbling down this rabbit hole of research questions, I realized that my goal for this column isn't to cover the biggest battles or the most popular history; it's

to show events that put history into perspective. This week, we'll venture into the not-so-deep depths of the ocean and the limits of the sun's light; let's dive in!

Connecticut is a bastion of peace and yet at the forefront of military innovations. It appears to be an inevitable dichotomy in the state's history as a naval hub for the United States. By the 1950s, seemingly nothing out of the ordinary was taking place in Connecticut — besides, perhaps, the earliest games of Wiffle Ball (having been developed in Fairfield in 1953).

Nevertheless, while life carried on as usual in the residential neighborhoods of the state, the same could not be said for the bustling naval production companies along Connecticut's shorelines. In the early months of 1954, First Lady of the United States Mamie Eisenhower shattered a champagne bottle on the bow of a submarine, which would forever change how humans traverse the ocean. Its name was the USS Nautilus (SSN-571).

Although the submarine's development may have sparked a swift Soviet reaction and the amassing of a large Russian submarine fleet, the ship had a much more remarkable impact.

The name "Nautilus" may jump off the page of anyone fascinated by early fiction writers, as it shares its

name with a vessel in Jules Verne's "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea," the mythical sodium-powered submarine "Nautilus" piloted by the daring Captain Nemo.

While this connection may seem unrelated to the novel's premise — in which the team of sailors go off in search of a giant whale and encounter fearsome monsters in the process — the submarine did accomplish something equally as impressive as Nemo's adventure.

This week in history, on Feb. 4, 1957, the USS Nautilus recorded a total of 60,000 nautical miles traveled. One league is equivalent to three miles; the once-considered fictitious "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea" had finally been matched by a real-world equivalent.

If you read the above point like I first did, you may wonder how the submarine could submerge 20,000 leagues deep into the ocean; in fact, the deepest point reached in the Mariana Trench — by Chinese vessel Fendouzhe in 2020 — is only about five nautical miles. The USS Nautilus could only dive about 700 feet, so how could thousands of leagues be remotely possible? That's where a common misconception about Verne's title comes in: "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea" does not mention the depth

of the Nautilus underwater; instead, it refers to the total distance the craft traveled along its journey. In that respect, the USS Nautilus actually surpasses the Nautilus, with "over half a million miles steamed," which is the statistic cited by ussnautilus.org, the organization responsible for the historical preservation of the vessel.

While 1957 was the pinnacle of the vessel's career, the USS Nautilus would go on to have a major restoration process in 1975, costing 58.2 million dollars. It now resides decommissioned as part of the Submarine Force Library & Museum in Groton, Connecticut.

The next event of the week transports us to the far reaches of Russia, where, for a moment, a flash of light proved to be the final success of a failed experiment.

Politicians and observers gathered one night to observe the sky as a small metallic sheet dotted it. For a moment, as the sun reflected off the device and — though conflicting reports exist — nearly three miles of land lightened to the brightness of two to three moons. The Russians had figured out how to extend daylight.

This is all took place this week in history on Feb. 4, 1993, as Vladimir Syromyatnikov and a team of highly skilled Russian scientists developed the Znamya, a 65-foot mirror made out of metallic materials that was

sent into space and then angled to brighten the Russian countryside.

Syromyatnikov had a long history as a Soviet scientist and researcher, helping to design many successful satellite experiments and coupling mechanisms used extensively in the 20th space race and even today. His designs reached a peak with the Znamya 2, the second iteration of his solar mirror; unfortunately, his later works met issues such as damage to the mirror upon decoupling and rotating towards the Earth. Ultimately, the final experiment, Znamya 2.5, would be scrapped by Russian investors.

Although nothing came of the technology that Syromyatnikov worked on until his death in 2006, the efforts of the Russians to harness daylight still stand as a remarkable feat and one that they accomplished even if it was only for a moment.

And that covers this week in history! I hope you enjoyed this diversion into some remarkable events that, to me at least, have an importance of their own, even if they aren't battles or great tales of heroism. Sometimes, these simple historical stories that remind us that history is always there is always being made, sometimes in the sky, sometimes in the depths of the ocean. See you next week!

Imani Winds: Jazz and classical worlds blend together

by **Kenneth van Dyk**
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On Tuesday night, the Imani Winds, a group regarded as one of the most successful wind quintets of our time, will perform at the Jorgensen Center. Established in 1997, they have been the Curtis Institute's Faculty Wind Quintet since 2021. The group — whose name, "Imani," is the Swahili word for "faith" — plays music inspired by many sources, namely the worlds of jazz and classical music. Imani Winds won a Grammy just last night for their work in the album "Passion for Bach and Coltrane," a mix of baroque and jazz music. On the album, the Imani Winds plays with a string quartet, jazz pianist, drummer and double bass player, accompanied by the words of A. B. Spellman. This Tuesday evening, they will be playing works written for them through their Legacy Commissioning Project by Carlos Simon, Wayne Shorter, Andy Akiho and others.

The wind quintet is not the most well-known music ensemble, which is a shame. Its flute, oboe, clarinet, French horn and bassoon composition is an unusual mix of instruments providing unique tones and quality contracts. In the classical tradition, composers such as Beethoven or Mozart never wrote for the ensemble, perhaps because

more homogenous blends of sounds were in vogue. Fortunately for us, the modern scene of wind quintet music is less reliant on just one tradition of music than other chamber ensembles. This fits well with Imani Winds, which was made to bring different people together. The group focuses on numerous themes of diversity embodied by the various backgrounds of musicians in the group. The Imani Winds show that this group of instruments and performers is the perfect ground for eclectic mixes of styles to be heard together.

The first piece of the concert is Carlos Simon's "Giants." Carlos Simon is a multi-talented composer from Atlanta, Georgia. His works include film scores and concert music written for various chamber ensembles, orchestras, band, choirs and more. His music also ranges in style, with his stated musical influences being jazz, gospel and neoromanticism. "Giants" was written for the Imani Winds and is dedicated to five people who have profoundly influenced Simon. Each inspiration is honored with a full movement. In order, they are: Bessie Smith, Maya Angelou, Ronald E. McNair, Cornel West and Herbie Hancock.

After that, the Imani Winds will play Wayne Shorter's "Terra Incognita." Wayne Shorter was a giant in the jazz world, winning 12 Grammys, five honorary doctorate degrees and many, many other

awards throughout his life. His musical experience ranges from working with Miles Davis to being a founding member of the band Weather Report and touring with Carlos Santana. "Terra Incognita," Latin for "unknown land," was another work written for and premiered by the Imani Winds. The piece was inspired by Shorter's philosophical ponderings on how to approach the unknown and unexpected. As such, the music w a n d e r s b e t w e e n themes and characters throughout.

A m o n g other works they will play on Tuesday is Andy Akiho's "BeLoud, BeLoved, BeLonging." Akiho is a c o m p o s e r with five G r a m m y n o m i n a t i o n s, three of which are for this year's a w a r d s . Aside from G r a m m y s, Akiho has won awards

from the Yale School of Music, was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize and has many other accomplishments. Commissioned by the Imani Winds, "BeLoud, BeLoved, BeLonging" is a piece based on protests over the detainment of immigrants in Brooklyn's Metropolitan Detention Center in 2019. Akiho used the ensemble to pay

tribute to the protests and unite people through music.

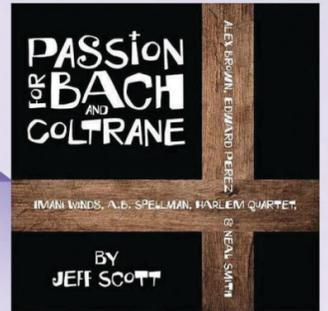
If any of this sounds enticing to you, come down to the Jorgensen Center for 7:30 p.m. tomorrow to hear this eclectic mix of music for yourself. Thanks to the Lenard Chamber Series Endowment Fund, all students can go to this concert free of charge. Don't miss out!

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The quintet, Imani Winds is nominated for a Grammy in Best Classical Compendium. Read more on our website on dailycampus.com to learn about the results. IMAGE COURTESY OF @IMANIWINDS ON INSTAGRAM

APPLY FOR A HUMANITIES INSTITUTE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

by **Desirae Sin**
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The Humanities Institute at the University of Connecticut held an information session over Zoom regarding their 2024-2025 Humanities Research Fellowships on Friday, Feb. 2. Elizabeth Della Zazzera, the head of communications for UCHI and a history professor, outlined the application for fellowships and answered student's questions.

Zazzera described the fellowship as a "chance for students to spend a whole year researching something they're passionate about." For these projects, students must find a professor to act as their advisor to help them along in their research and keep them on track. Fellowships are worth six credits for the entire academic year, earn a desk at the Humanities Institute located at the Homer Babbidge Library and a \$2,000 scholarship.

While the types of projects undergraduates decide to pursue can vary greatly, they mainly have to adhere to some form of humanities, Zazzera stated. Current research fellows are listed on the UCHI's website. Some current fellows include Breanna Bonner, who is researching "The Space Between Black and Liberation Analyzing Black Women's Experiences of Intersectional Invisibility Within Liberation Movements," and Nathan Howard, a philoso-

phy major researching "Homofascism: The Queering of Hate." These projects can focus on vastly different topics. "Some are creative projects, and some are scientific research; there's a huge variety and a number of potential avenues," Zazzera said.

In response to questions by students wondering which faculty or professors they should ask to work with, Zazzera replied that any faculty member can be a supervisor. Still, an effective one would be someone familiar with your research — they don't necessarily have to be a professor who students have had in their classes. Still, it is important to establish a relationship with them beforehand. Students should also be aware that some professors may turn them down as some cannot handle supervising a student project on top of their classes and their own research. Zazzera emphasized, "The more closely tied the advisor is to the research, the more effective they'll be."

While these projects vary, the application process is the same. "The goal [of the application] is to explain not just why you want to do your project but why it matters," according to Zazzera. Undergraduate students to understand why they want to pursue their research and be able to bring their thoughts concisely to the Humanities Institute. Zazzera mentioned that the application process requires a Word document answering a few questions, a writing sample to showcase

your skill, one letter of recommendation from a UConn faculty member willing to supervise your project, and your unofficial transcript.

An effective application would be "mostly about how well-thought-out the project is, how good of a sense you have in proposals, and a clear understanding of your own research," Zazzera stated. While your application and proposal should stay centered, Zazzera acknowledged the fact that for many fellowship researchers, the end of their projects looks different from how they first envisioned it. "It's normal for projects to change slightly over time; it won't look exactly like what you thought it would," Zazzera commented. To keep your project from straying too far from your original proposals, Zazzera mentioned that "advisors will have good feedback on keeping you on track."

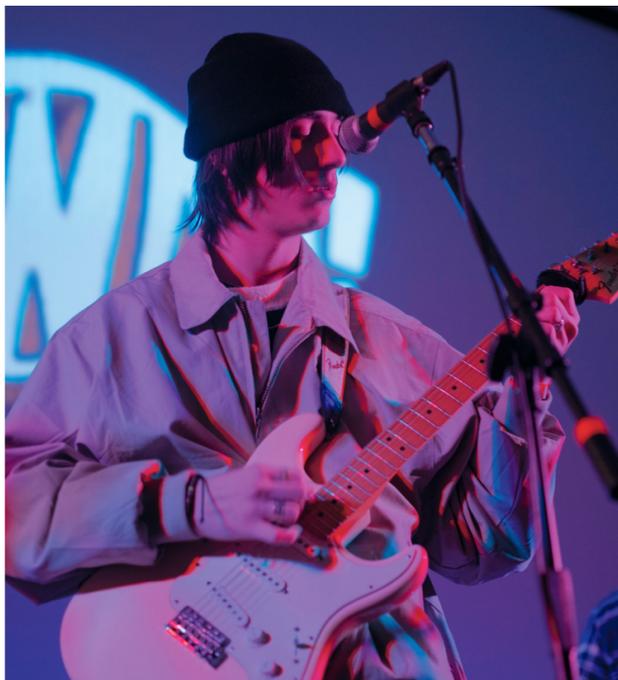
For how to frame your projects, students have to "make sure you're talking to a broad audience for your project; if you are a political scientist you have to make sure you are not just writing for political science students," Zazzera stated. "Describe it in a way that makes everyone care about it, not just a select few." The deadline for the Undergraduate Humanities Research Fellowship is March 1, 2024. Students with questions about the process should contact Zazzera through her email, elizabethdz@uconn.edu, or the UCHI email, uchi@uconn.edu.



Life

@dailycampuslife

WHUS' BATTLE OF THE BANDS: A HIGH-ENERGY EVENING OF UNFORGETTABLE MUSIC



WHUS Radio hosts their annual event called Battle of the Bands at the Student Union Ballroom in Storrs, Conn. on Feb. 3, 2024. The event featured local bands from the area, not just limited to students of the university.

PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Pictured is a guitarist from Basement Camp. The group, among five others, performed at WHUS Radio's Battle of the Bands on Saturday, Feb. 3.

PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Preethika Rao**
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This past Saturday, WHUS Radio hosted its iconic Battle of the Bands competition with a stellar lineup that appealed to fans of various genres. The event, a tradition since the 1970s, continues to be a highlight for many UConn students, often leading them to discover new favorite genres or artists. The event also gives local Connecticut bands more exposure and publicity that helps attract new fans. This year's competition featured the most bands in recent years, contributing to a sold-out show. The six participating bands were Basement Camp, The Jawns, DUI (Dying Under the Influence), The Sauce, Overloded, and Ruby Leftstep.

As a first-time attendee of Battle of the Bands this year, I didn't know what to expect, but the overall atmosphere immediately caught my attention. Students in the Union Ballroom sported glow stick bracelets, necklaces and headbands, which created a vibrant contrast against the dark room. Dimly lit balloons circulated throughout the crowd while merchandise of the bands performing was displayed at the back of the room, surrounded by fairy lights. Before the show began, a relaxed atmosphere was present, making the event

feel like a gathering of friends bonding over their shared love of music.

The first round featured Basement Camp against the Jawns. Family members came out to support both groups. Basement Camp delivered a more traditional old-school rock performance, which you might hear at a bar or pub, while the Jawns slowed things down with their alternative indie rock sound. During the Jawns' performance, I witnessed a mosh pit for the first time, which definitely surprised me at first. During these mosh pits, attendees kicked their legs and lightly bumped into each other, creating a unique bonding experience over the music. The crowd's energy remained high throughout the event, with the Jawns ultimately advancing to the next round.

In the following round, it was time for the hard-hitting metal bands to take the stage. The heavy metal band, DUI, delivered a high-energy set that resonated with the crowd. Their songs, centered around past relationships and heartbreak, connected with many attendees, and throughout their set they had an amazing stage presence. Melana, a second-semester psychology and sociology major and first-time Battle of the Bands attendee, described DUI's energy as "fierce and strong." Because of them and other performers, "she would definitely go again" to Battle of the Bands. Going against DUI was The Sauce, another metal band whose songs revolved around themes of in-

spiration and motivation. They absolutely knew how to get the audience excited about their music with high-energy performances throughout their set. Ultimately, DUI won and moved on to the next round.

In the third round, Overloded and Ruby Leftstep faced off. Overloded is a punk-rock Storrs-based band whose name is inspired by the iconic band in the Diary of the Wimpy Kid books. Because of this they even met the book's author Jeff Kinney, at the Diary of a Wimpy Kid studio. Unlike Overloded, Ruby Leftstep is a rock band, similar to the Jawns, has an alternative sound and calms the crowd down to close the night. They especially stuck out to me since they got the crowd extremely involved with their performance and had everyone singing along to their lyrics. Ruby Leftstep advanced to the final round.

In the final showdown, the top three bands — The Jawns, DUI and Ruby Leftstep — each performed an encore, after which the audience's cheers determined the winner. In the end, Ruby Leftstep emerged victorious as the final winner.

After experiencing Battle of the Bands for the first time, I highly recommend other UConn students attend as well. The competition offers a unique and energetic atmosphere, creating an opportunity to discover new artists and bond with fellow students. I look forward to what future Battle of the Bands competitions have in store.



Members from The Jawns observe the other groups performing at WHUS Radio's Battle of the Bands. The event highlighted talent from both UConn students and locals.

PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Ruby Leftstep has a new single titled "Remaining" available for streaming now. The group performed in WHUS Radio's Battle of the Bands event on Saturday, Feb. 3.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR



Opinion

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COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WHAT IS WRONG WITH FASHION IN POLITICS?

by Grace Sim | STAFF WRITER | SHE/HER/HERS | grace.sim@uconn.edu

As social groups and classes emerged throughout human history, the power of clothing began to be realized. The type of fabric, pattern, color and accessories a person wore could determine their status and symbolize everything their subordinates look up to but could never have. Today, this is still a status strategy that countries with monarchies use to show off their countries' riches and past glory. Articles about royal family members highlight their jewelry collections, passed down over centuries or "gifted" by other nations. When else is the perfect time to dazzle the media with their incredible wealth other than during diplomatic events or royal weddings? However, it has caught my attention that the old customs of using fashion as a weapon can also be found in democratic countries worldwide. Although most democratic leaders do not get a hand-me-

down diamond collection, there are many examples of presidents using fashion to make political statements. For instance, since many political parties are associated with certain colors, politicians will often use those colors in their attire to represent their party. One thing that comes to mind is the famous red baseball cap with the words "Make America Great Again," which was used in former president Donald Trump's campaign. The red symbolizes the U.S. Republican Party, whereas the Democratic Party claims blue. This has been settled since the 1980s. As the political colors were established, each party's identity solidified with the general public. However, political colors have sparked many meaningless controversies, especially when politicians wear colors of the wrong party or clothes not on the usual color palettes. In 2014, former President Obama

wore a tan-colored suit at a White House press conference, causing a lot of backlash from the media, especially from supporters of the opposite party. Who would have thought that the color of a suit could be controversial? To most people like myself, a suit is a suit, and unless Obama wore neon pink to meet the president of France, I wouldn't think twice about it. Apparently, politicians' fashion choices can cause more drama than their actual message. As we are talking about fashion and politics, we cannot forget about the sexism that is common in discussions about it. The media loves to praise fashionably dressed female politicians and wives of world leaders, known worldwide as First Ladies in particular. Many have been well-known for being fashion icons, like Jackie Kennedy, who was an American women's fashion icon in the 1960s. Every

country's media likes to point out which designer brand the First Lady is wearing, where their handbag came from and whether they support designers from their home country. At the same time, many women in politics have been bashed for wearing unconventional clothing, like four Italian female cabinet members who were heavily criticized for their fashion choices. Ever since the first female senator, Hattie Caraway, was elected in 1932, the media and public were more obsessed with clothing than politics. Because women in the past were ridiculed for wearing skirts and high heels, the first alternative was to wear pantsuits like the male politicians. Many female politicians and businesswomen choose to wear blazers, an article of clothing that creates a more masculine silhouette with wider shoulders that cover the natural body contour. While such (rel-

atively) masculine attire conveys a more confident and professional image, it often creates the perception that femininity is the opposite of confidence and professionalism. Clothing can easily create a first impression on others. Because we are human, we can sometimes be more guided by emotion and senses than our logic and reason alone. Colors, textures, brand names and silhouettes can unconsciously and consciously evoke various perceptions of someone. And in a country that protects free speech, we may feel especially eager to criticize the appearances of our leaders. However, we must remind ourselves that while fashion in politics can be a strategic tool, it can also negatively overshadow the true nature of one's deeds and politics. As fashion designer Vera Wang once said, "I want people to see the dress but focus on the woman."

THE MOB WIFE AESTHETIC MAKES CRIME LOOK PRETTY

by Evelyn Pazan
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Gone are the days of the TikTok "clean girl aesthetic" with glowy makeup and minimalist clothes. Instead, beauty gurus and fashion icons are now adopting the "mob wife aesthetic," which screams quiet luxury with fur coats, red lipstick and sunglasses that say "I know a secret that you don't." The trend exploded on TikTok at the beginning of January and has expanded as popular brands begin to make something that was once expensive into just another affordable look. But why are people suddenly so enthusiastic about embracing the glamorous look of a criminal? I think that the investigation begins when you turn on the news or open a newspaper. Over the past few years, the media has been having a field day with various cases of fraud that have come into the limelight. In 2019, Anna Sorokin was convicted of grand larceny and other related charges. You might not recognize this name, though, because she used an alias, Anna Delvey, to pretend to be a German heiress. Using this name, she conned wealthy New Yorkers and banks with forged bank statements and "forgotten" payments. All the while, Delvey was living out of her car. We could also turn to crypto-lord Sam Bankman-Fried, who was found guilty of seven counts of fraud in November and faces sentencing on March 28. Bankman-Fried was behind the \$8 billion scheme that defrauded FTX customers and investors. He used the money to buy real estate and fund political campaigns. Fraud in the media does not stop with the news. Stories of fraud have begun to seep into

our Netflix and Hulu watch lists. Conveniently, Anna Sorokin's scam was quickly turned into a TV dramatization featuring Emmy winner Julia Gardner. The show features the all-too-familiar furry coat and big glasses that we now call the "mob wife aesthetic." Perhaps the most familiar crime drama is "The Sopranos," the highly acclaimed HBO show that pumped out fraud-filled episodes from 1999 to 2007. Viewers looked forward to seeing their favorite Jersey Italian, Tony Soprano, come up with his latest scheme. The people killed along the way were just collateral damage. "The Sopranos" managed to make a grimy and bloody lifestyle seem fun, alluring, and glamorous. Even the characters fall victim to this facade in "The Sopranos." For example, Adriana La Cerva, girlfriend and fiancée of mobster Christopher, was drawn to the expensive lifestyle Christopher could buy her. He woos her with expensive jewelry and promises of marriage, but blinded by the luxury, Adriana is subject to violent abuse by Christopher. Her hopes and dreams are crushed by the mob wife lifestyle she falls into. I think the development of the "mob wife aesthetic" is simply a reflection of American culture. The sad fact is that fraud and violent crime

are all around us in the media, both fictional and real. You can barely go a day without running into a new scam. This fact is tough for Americans to deal with, especially as our political system continues to devolve. This leaves Americans with the need to develop a way to combat their disappointment and anxiety. Glamorizing that which makes us uncomfortable is no new trend. For years, true crime shows like "Dahmer" have been turning the most terrifying serial killers into TV show characters. Another example is the reaction that TikTok had to the Menendez brothers, a pair of Beverly Hills brothers who murdered their parents

experiencing years of alleged abuse. Rather than confronting the horrors in their home, people on TikTok thirsted over their jawlines and hair. We have started doing the same things with fraudulent crime. By glorifying the spoils of violent crime with big floppy hats and faux fur coats, Americans have protected themselves from facing the real problem: that people are getting rich by hurting other people. The implications of this trend are unknown. No one knows if it will be a short-lived event or linger for a year as the "clean girl aesthetic" did. We do know, though, that until we start confronting the problem and condemning these kinds of actions, criminals will continue to get rich, just like Al Capone did in the 1920s.



ILLUSTRATION BY KRISTA MITCHELL, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Tails of joy



One of UConn's many pet therapy dogs attends the women's swim meet at the Natatorium in Storrs, CT. Many people stopped by to pet and greet the dog on their way into the meet.

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

THE FAMILY BUSINESS

THE ETHICAL ISSUES OF FAMILY VLOGGING

by Emma Mattingly

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We can all remember when family videos existed only as a means to remember. They documented our first steps, prom and holiday memories, immortalizing them on a screen. Even with the advent of social media, families could share pictures and clips online with their loved ones to expand upon the joy of seeing little Johnny score a goal or the kids going to Disney for the first time. It was endearing, and more importantly, it was harmless.

That is until some parents discovered the power of monetization.

Family vlogging, as it's commonly known, has grown exponentially in popularity, views and infamy. While most of the content appears harmless and age-appropriate, there are deeper layers to the troubles that exist with this genre. Amid all the troubles of cruel pranks, clickbait

and fabricating a perfect life, exists the issue of child exploitation and abuse for profit.

It was in August 2023 that this issue found its way into major headlines with the arrest of former YouTube mom Ruby Franke following accusations of child abuse. Franke had led the now-deleted channel, 8Passengers, to massive fame, amassing over 2 million subscribers prior to its deletion. While she documented the day-to-day affairs of her six children with her husband, Franke became notorious for her overly strict parenting style. Fans questioned the safety of her children when she openly spoke about situations such as threatening to take away the privilege of eating dinner and forcing her eldest son to sleep on a bean bag for months after taking away his bed.

Behind the scenes, Franke was engaging in severe forms of child abuse with her business partner, Jodi Hildebrandt, which led her six-year-old son to escape from a home

he was staying at and run to a neighbor's house for help. It was finally in December that Franke pled guilty to four of six counts of child abuse.

The Franke dilemma is one of the more severe situations for children part of the family vlogging scheme, but this matter does not stand alone regarding the controversy it creates. Often these parents realize that content creation has limitations when filming daily life and look for other methods to keep their content fresh and different. This results in taking advantage of their kids on numerous occasions and for various reasons, whether it's their age, their emotional reactions or even their labor within the family.

Another example comes from 2021 when YouTube mom Jordan Cheyenne posted a now-deleted video showing her and her eight-year-old son's response to their puppy contracting a deadly illness. What Cheyenne didn't realize was that the video showed her coaching her son, instructing

him to "act like you're crying" to optimize the emotions for views. Not only is this an invasion of privacy of a child who is hearing devastating news for the first time, but it's also a moment where his own mother is taking advantage of his emotional state for monetary gain.

Consider also the popular mommy-daughter duo on TikTok, Wren and Jaquelyn. The mother, Jaquelyn, has found success for her daughter on the app, as they've recently gained over 17 million followers. The issue is that all of the content is focused on her daughter, who is just four. Beyond the matter of consent for having her entire life online, there appears to be no consideration for Wren's safety. Many videos display her in clothing not meant for kids her age, and what many people have found an issue with are videos that go too far and have inappropriate undertones.

While these videos have appeared to die down over time, they will never leave the internet. Though Jaquelyn has

discussed the purpose for the account's existence (which includes saving money for Wren) and her desire to keep her daughter safe online, posting videos like this will harm her regardless. With hundreds of thousands of people saving these videos of her daughter and sharing them, it is impossible to protect her from any harmful repercussions from this account.

What lies in the way of preventing exploitation is a lack of legal repercussions. So far, Indiana is the only state to have a law that protects child influencers, but only to ensure they are properly compensated. This is a good start, but stricter laws must be implemented. As social media companies and the federal government are currently working to protect kids and teens from online dangers, the same should be done for kids whose lives are stuck in family content. Since these parents won't stop putting a price tag on their children, someone must prevent it.

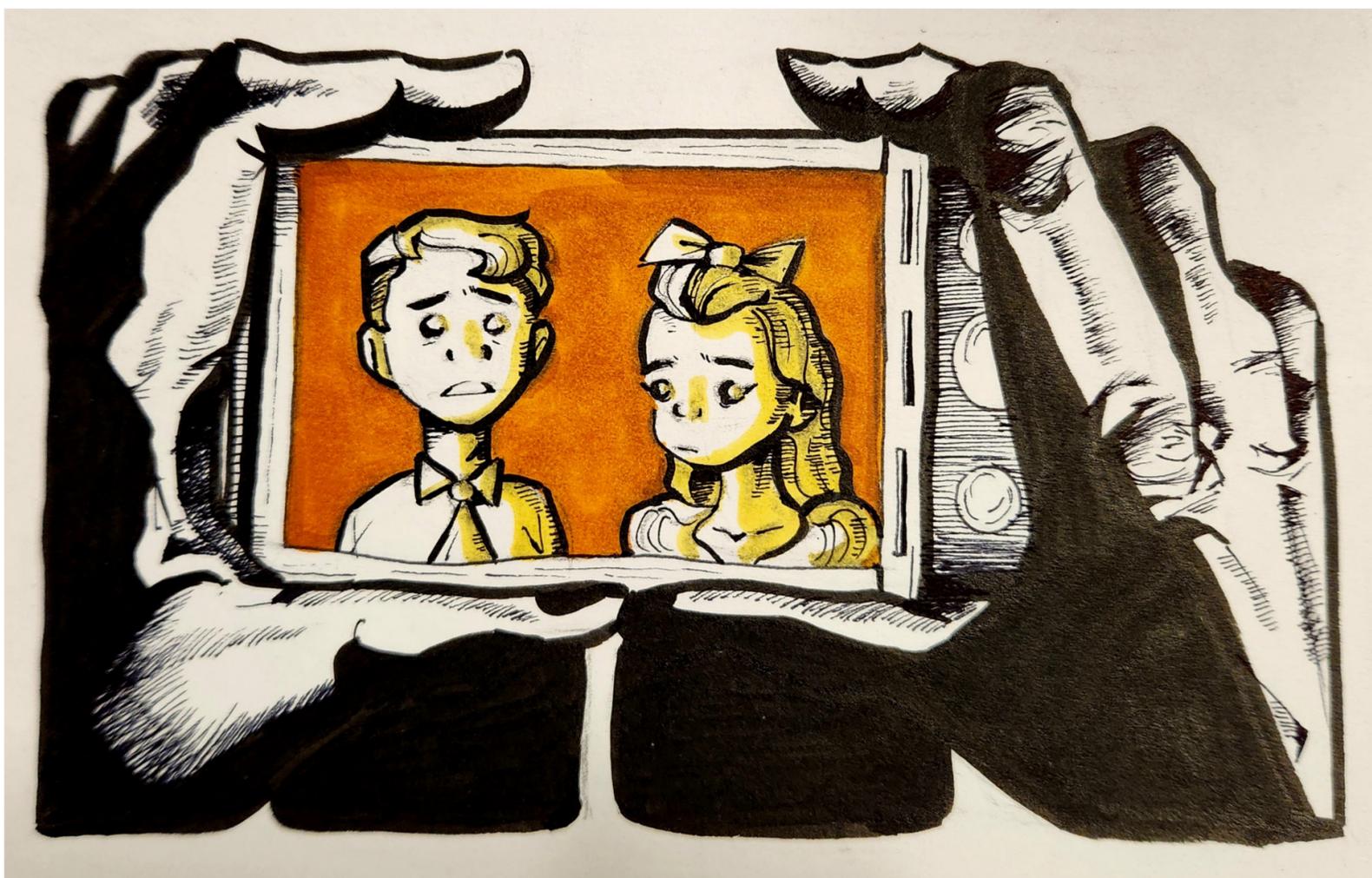


ILLUSTRATION BY SAMANTHA HASS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women's Ice Hockey:

No. 11 Huskies need extra time in split with Providence

by Sam Calhoun

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Following a scoreless tie against the University of Vermont, where the No. 11 UConn women's ice hockey team (18-6-4, 15-3-3 Hockey East) won in a shootout, the Huskies found themselves needing at least overtime in both games against Providence College (11-15-3, 10-9-3 Hockey East).

The Huskies traveled to the Ocean State for the first time this season on Friday, facing off against the Friars for the first time since a 6-1 win on Oct. 27 in Storrs, Conn.

In the second period, sophomore forward Reichen Kirchmair helped Providence come out of intermission swinging, scoring her 11th goal of the season, one behind freshman Audrey Knapp for the team-high this season.

With Kirchmair's goal, Connecticut allowed a goal in regulation for the first time since Jan. 19, when the Huskies won 3-1 over the University of Maine.

UConn had a two-man advantage following a double penalty on the Friars for

streak to seven games.

On National Girls and Women in Sports Day, UConn looked to bounce back from a tough outing at Schneider Arena. It was a battle of unbeaten streaks, as the Huskies had not been beaten in their last 17 Hockey East games.

With under nine minutes to go in the second period, Connecticut got on the board first, with forward Brianna Ware connecting with Woodworth for a shot on goal. Senior Kathryn Stockdale rebounded Woodworth's shot and punched one past Walinski to give the Huskies a 1-0 lead. Despite an interference call against UConn near the end of the period, the Huskies held onto a 1-0 lead going into the final frame.

With under 10 minutes remaining, Knapp scored a game-tying goal with the help of Weiss and defenseman Cristina Cavaliere.

The Huskies found the puck in the net in the final seconds, but the shot did not come before the buzzer sounded, meaning overtime at Toscano Family Ice Forum.

With 1:14 remaining in overtime, forward Jada Habisch found Ashley Al-

Men's Hockey:

Huskies split weekend with No. 10 Providence

by Ava Inesta

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The UConn men's hockey team was set for a tall task heading into this weekend to face ranked No. 10 Providence. It was a home-and-home series that started in Storrs, Conn. at the Toscano Family Ice Forum on Friday for a white-out game.

From the puck drop, the Huskies did not get off to the best start in the first period as sophomore Samu Salminen was issued with a five-minute major penalty and a game misconduct for contact to the head. Following these penalty calls in the opening period, Providence scored two goals and took the 2-0 lead over the Huskies going into the break. It is important to note that Hockey East also announced on Saturday morning the supplemental discipline of Salminen and his one-game suspension, which would leave him unable to play in

the Friars scored a goal late in the first period, but the official blew the play dead, issuing a goaltender interference penalty on Providence. On a power play of their own, UConn found the back of the net after freshman Jack Richard beat out Svedeback for the goal as time ran out in the game's first frame. The Huskies went into the period break with a 1-0 lead.

The Huskies added consistent pressure to the Friars' defense in the second period. So much so that Providence turned over the puck, and junior Chase Bradley handled the rest and fired the puck to extend UConn's lead to 2-0. However, the Huskies faced adversity late in the second period after sophomore Matthew Wood issued a five-minute major penalty and game misconduct for boarding. Additionally, this was followed by a holding penalty by senior John Spetz, which put the Hus-



UConn takes the win over Providence two to one after going into overtime on Saturday Feb. 3. UConn Women's hockey is currently ranked number 11.

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

UConn men's hockey suffer their 13th loss of the season against Providence College at the Toscano Family Ice Forum on Feb. 2. Despite losing Friday's match with a score of zero to five, the Huskies won the rematch the very next day at Providence.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

holding but were unsuccessful in finding the back of the net.

In the first eight minutes of the third period, the Huskies came out aggressive on offense with seven shots on goal.

Despite the difference in shots on goal between the two teams, Providence extended its lead thanks to senior forward Lindsey Bochna, who ended up with three goals in the past two games following Friday's game.

Forward Rachel Weiss and defenseman Lily Martinson stood out, assisting with both of the Friars' goals.

Not only did the Huskies allow their first goal in regulation since Jan. 19, they allowed multiple for the first time since a 5-2 victory over Boston University on Jan. 13.

Connecticut executed on a man advantage following a tripping penalty on Providence. Defenseman Camryn Wong sent the puck across the ice to forward Riley Grimley, who helped cut the deficit to one goal by getting the puck in a position for forward Megan Woodworth to punch it past Providence goaltender Hope Walinski.

Moments later, the Huskies tied the score late in the game on an even-strength goal by defenseman Ava Rinker.

Goaltender Tia Chan continued to help the Huskies in the crease, recording 18 saves. That included a breakaway in overtime that would help the team salvage one point at the end of overtime.

Despite their efforts, the Huskies lost in a shootout 2-0, giving the Friars an extra point in the Hockey East standings. Walinski had a career-high 34 saves that led Providence to extend its unbeaten

lard for a senior-to-forward connection, as the Ottawa, Ontario native scored the game-winning goal to end the weekend on a high note.

Junior Megan Warrenner tied her season-high in saves with 26 on Saturday. The Stoney Creek, Ontario native stayed unbeaten, improving her record to 11-0-1.

Despite the win, Connecticut still trails in the overall series against Providence. The Friars have a 40-26-12 record.

UConn remains in first place in the Hockey East standings with 48 points. Boston College is behind them, trailing by five points. Providence has a one-point edge over the University of New Hampshire, sitting in fourth place with 35 points.

Connecticut's record in games that needed at least overtime now sits at 1-0-3, while Providence's record is now 1-2-3 in said games.

The Huskies, now on an 18-game Hockey East unbeaten streak, begin a five-game road trip that includes the first three in Massachusetts. The first test will be No. 13 Northeastern in a massive top-15 matchup on Friday. That will feature two of the top three teams in the conference standings. On Saturday, they will travel halfway across the commonwealth to Worcester to take on the College of Holy Cross, sitting in last place.

The final time the Huskies will be home this season will not come until Feb. 24, when they host Boston University for Senior Day.

Providence will give the Crusaders a test first, with the Friars visiting Holy Cross on Friday before heading home to host the seventh-place University of Vermont on Saturday.

UConn's series finale game against Providence.

In the second period, the Huskies had multiple opportunities to cut the Friars' lead as they outshot Providence 14-8, however they had difficulties finding the back of the net. Providence goaltender Philip Svedeback played tough defense against UConn and kept them scoreless in the second frame. The Friars were able to net another goal before the period ended and went into the break with a 3-0 lead over the Huskies.

The Huskies generated power play opportunities in the third period, but continued to struggle on the offense and finished 0-2 on the night. Providence did not let up for the rest of the period, outshooting UConn 13-5 and finding the net two more times to seal the 5-0 victory. This loss made for the second straight game the Huskies dropped against a ranked opponent after losing to Quinnipiac last weekend in the championship round of the annual CT Ice Tournament.

The Ice Bus went to Providence, R.I., to wrap up the last game of the home and home series with the Friars at Schneider Arena.

After a tough match with the Friars in Storrs, the Huskies turned it around and bounced back on Saturday night. The first period was filled with penalties, and both sides' special teams were hard at work. UConn saw success early as they held Providence scoreless on their three power plays. However,

kies in a tough position as the time expired in the second period.

In the midst of killing off the five-minute-major and two-minute-minor in the third period, Providence was able to find the back of the net and cut UConn's lead to one goal. The Huskies penalty kill did the job and was able to survive the remaining time of the five-minute major. From that point on, it was all goaltender Ethan Haider for the Huskies. Haider and the rest of the UConn defense were able to prevent the Friars from scoring the equalizer goal. Providence outshot UConn 44-19. However, the Huskies persevered and completed the upset of the No. 10 Friars 2-1 on the road. UConn's penalty kill was one of their biggest strengths in the victory, holding Providence one-for-nine on the power play. Haider finished with 42 saves, and the win improved the Huskies record to 12-13-2 overall and 7-9-1 in conference action. UConn is fifth in the Hockey East Standings, with Massachusetts right below at number six.

The Huskies will be back in action on Friday to host No. 11 UMass at the Toscano Family Ice Forum. They will then complete the home-and-home series by traveling to Massachusetts on Saturday. Puck drop for both games will be at 7:00 p.m.

Sports

Photo of the Day | Dunking on week 4



Samson Johnson dunking away two points in a game against the Providence Friars on Jan. 31, 2024 at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn. The Huskies won the game with Stephon Castle (not pictured) leading the scoring with 20 points total.

PHOTO BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Ava's Angle: Stephon Castle shines for UConn Men's Basketball

by Ava Inesta

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Coming into UConn as the No. 12 recruit, according to ESPN, Stephon Castle was expected to be an impactful player for the UConn men's basketball team. Despite a minor knee injury in late November to early December, Castle has been helping the Huskies win games all season long in his starting lineup spot. However, the freshman star shined with a statement performance in the Big East rivalry matchup between UConn and Providence last Wednesday. Castle dominated with a career-high 20 points, five rebounds (three offensive), and hard-nosed defense throughout the whole game, especially on Providence junior Devin Carter.

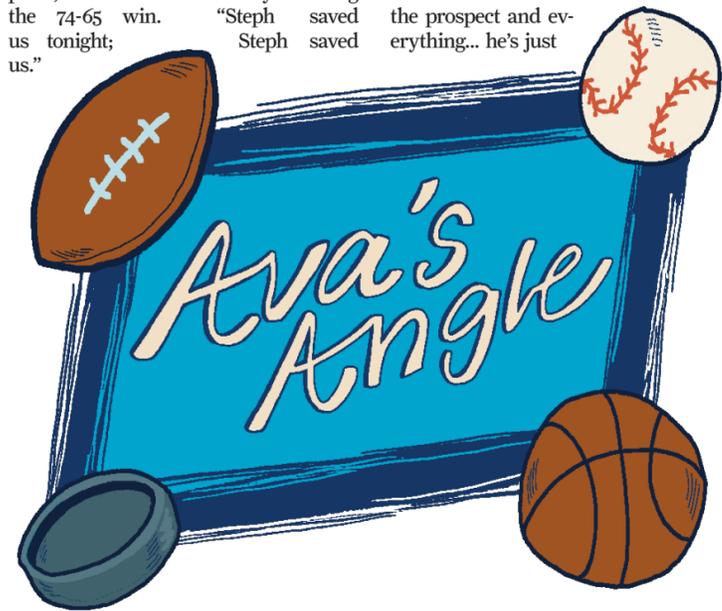
"Coming out party for him from an offensive standpoint and a defensive standpoint," said Coach Dan Hurley following the 74-65 win. "Steph saved us tonight; Steph saved us."

ars, and credit is due to Castle.

"Steph came out in the early second half and helped us get that six- or seven-point lead, which we were able to keep for the rest of the second half," said Huskies guard Cam Spencer. "That was our breakaway point. Steph was great on both sides of the ball tonight."

Castle has star qualities beyond his basketball tassets, which, after the win over Providence, Coach Hurley was able to elaborate on in his press conference.

"The thing about this kid is, he's not reading mock (NBA) drafts, he's not huddling up with his agent, or NIL, or whatever that whole thing is," Hurley explained. "He's just got parents at home who tell him, 'If your coaches tell you to screen, screen...if your coaches tell you to play the five, play the five...or play the four.' For a kid of his stature and pedigree coming in and the position that he's in in terms of the prospect and everything... he's just



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

Castle was assigned to guard Carter for the night. By comparison, Castle is freshly 19 years old as of November of 2023 and has only played 15 games of college basketball. On the other end, Carter will be 22 next month and has played 83 collegiate games at two different high-level Division I programs. The ability of Castle to find an answer on both sides of the ball while defending one of Providence's most effective players is impressive in itself.

"Steph Castle, he looked like, I'm not sure there's a freshman in the country, both ends of the court, on the glass, that's played as well as he's played in this game tonight, in a man's game," Hurley said.

Castle's offensive work in the paint has stood out. He can create lanes to the basket for hard drives of pull-up short jumpers. His long-range shooting has not been his strong suit this season, but early in the second half against Providence, Castle hit back-to-back three-point shots to take UConn from a 34-31 deficit to a 37-34 lead. Not to mention, Gampel Pavilion absolutely exploded with Castle's offensive breakout. Castle's three-point shot starts to heat up after he's made three out of his last five attempts. The Huskies never again lost the lead against the Fri-

ars, and credit is due to Castle."

Castle has been named Big East Freshman of the Week five times this season. If he can create a more effective three-point shot, he can make himself more of a threat to opposing teams and make the Huskies harder to defend as a whole. Castle has been a starter for UConn since the early parts of this season, but the spotlight is now fully on him. The Huskies have stars all around as the No. 1 team in the country for the third consecutive week, and there is no denying the fact of the matter. UConn has nine games left to play in the regular season, with postseason games to follow, and there is so much in store for the team and Castle individually. The more Castle shines, the more the Huskies will shine.

"As he's learned more about how to play college basketball, get used to the physicality, understand the terminology, understand the different nuances of defense, offense ... it's like he's still an emerging player, but he's not acting like an entitled, five-star recruit who thinks the world revolves around him," said Coach Hurley. "He wants to please UConn, and I think that's beautiful."

Women's Tennis: Army hands the Huskies their first defeat of the season

by Caleb Cook | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | CALEB.COOK@UCONN.EDU

After a 3-0 start to the Spring 2024 season, the UConn women's tennis team suffered their first defeat at the hands of Army. The Huskies traveled to West Point, N.Y., for a match that ended 4-1 in favor of the Black Knights. That makes it three straight losses for UConn against Army, but the Huskies looked much better in this matchup than their last matchup, which ended 7-0 last February.

Results

In singles play, the Black Knights got the best of Connecticut, winning four of the six straight-set matches. UConn junior Olivia Wright had her undefeated singles run come to an end as she was defeated by junior Cooper Jackson by a score of 7-5, 6-2. Although unfinished, one singles match made its way into a tiebreaker set. UConn junior Isabel Petri Bere faced off against junior Julia Kelly in a match that started out with a 4-6 win for Petri Bere. Kelly got the next set back with a resounding 6-2 win, and the tiebreaker set was incomplete but ended with Petri Bere winning the only game played. A notable performance came from UConn freshman Caroline Hinshaw. While she lost in straight sets,

both were tightly contested. She came up just short of Army sophomore Ylan Duong with a final score of 7-5, 7-5 in a heartbreaking loss.

All three doubles matches played in this one came down to the wire. First, Wright and freshman Victoria Matos went toe-to-toe with Jackson and junior Paige Herremans. Wright and Matos came up just short, losing 7-6 (7-1). However, UConn bounced back after that loss thanks to a gritty win from junior Maria Constantinou and senior Nansi Toskova. They knocked off Kelly and Sabile in a 7-6 (7-4) win. Last but not least, Petri Bere and Hinshaw secured the doubles point for the Huskies with another 7-6 (7-4) win against sophomore Isabella Brilliant and junior Paulina Feoli.

Although UConn secured their doubles point, they could not keep up with Army when it came to singles play. That being said, 4-1 is a better final result than the 7-0 that occurred the last time these two teams met. With the loss, the Huskies drop to 3-10 all-time vs. the Black Knights.

What's Next

UConn will be back in action against Quinnipiac on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 1:00 p.m. at the Magic Lincer Tennis Academy.

Track and Field: Huskies show out at Crimson Elite and Scarlet & White Invitational

by Avery Becker | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | SHE/HER/HERS | avery.becker@uconn.edu

After a split squad weekend, Connecticut track and field put on quite a performance. They boasted seven first-place finishes, 16 top-five performances and six personal bests at the Crimson Elite in Cambridge and the Scarlet and White Invitational at Boston University.

It was a record-breaking weekend on the women's side, as senior Jasmine Barrow had her third first-place finish of the indoor season, notching 12.76m in the triple jump. In the Crimson Elite, junior Natalia Surdej dominated with a first-place finish in the weight throw with a personal record of 19.25m. Junior Jailya Ash also had a great performance in the Crimson Elite with the 60-meter hurdles, finishing in fourth place with a time of 8.26 seconds.

On the men's side of things, it was equally impressive.

In the Crimson Elite, Terrel Williams put on a show with a commanding personal best. The senior posted a first-place finish in the

60-meter hurdles with a time of 7.70 seconds. Junior Travis Roux also showed out at the Crimson Elite, finishing in first place in the weight throw with a distance of 20.54m, a new personal best for the Northport, N.Y. native. Senior Marc Morrison had a first-place finish in the long jump with a length of 7.59m, and graduate student Travis Snyder had a triumph in pole vault with a 5.27m, his third first-place finish for the indoor season.

At the Scarlet Invitational, senior Kasey Savage had a first-place finish in triple jump with a leap of 15.10m. Senior Joron Hardwell had a personal best in second place in the triple jump with a finish of 15.03m.

Connecticut has another big weekend coming up for them on Friday, Feb. 9 and Saturday, Feb. 10. It's another split-squad weekend as they will compete in four meets, including the Tyson Invite in Fayetteville, Arkansas, the BC Invitational, the Yale Invite and the Valentine Invite, hosted by Boston University.

Men's Basketball:

Huskies ride fiery second half to 77-64 win over Red Storm

by **Evan Rodriguez**
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When the UConn men's basketball team took the commute to Madison Square Garden to face the St. John's Red Storm, they knew it would be a tough task. If they thought that the effort from Rick Pitino and Co. was impressive in the first matchup between these two squads, this would be even more difficult.

Yet even with a 37-36 deficit at the half, this Connecticut roster showed why they are the reigning national champions and took care of business at the Mecca of basketball. In their dominating 77-64 showing over the Johnnies, the No. 1 team in the nation took their game to a whole new level, even if things initially didn't seem fit to go that way.

Before tipoff even began, UConn would be without Alex Karaban, the "rain setter" of the team, as Dan Hurley would call him. With the size matchups that St. John's provides on the defensive side of the ball and the Huskies opting to include Hassan Diarra in the starting lineup, this would make the toughness meter rise to a whole new standard.

With all those circumstances, it was no surprise that the game was close for the first few minutes. But, following a jumper by Tristen Newton at 17:08, things started to change. Balls started to fly into the net as two quick buckets in the paint from Donovan Clingan, including a thunderous two-hand jam, would help give the program a 14-7 lead going into the first media timeout at the 15:02 mark.

But whatever Pitino said to his guys certainly resonated with them, especially Daniss Jenkins. The Iona transfer was the real table-setter for the Johnnies in the first half as he caught fire from beyond the arc and led the team with 13 points in 20 minutes. The Huskies were still keeping it close, but Jenkins and the depth of this roster proved to be a massive test for the No. 1 team in the nation.

Following a late bucket by former Connecticut guard Nahiem Alleyne, the Red Storm took a one-point lead into halftime.

Of course, that's not the end of the world for the Huskies with a whole 20 minutes left to play in this matchup, but if they were going to walk out of this building with a win, they would need to play stronger.

That's where the trio of Stephon Castle, Cam Spencer and Tristen Newton enter the picture. While all three players were important parts of this game, being close in the first half, Newton and Castle had a fire under them that St. John's simply could not extinguish.

Riding behind a crowd of thousands of Huskies fans in attendance, Connecticut played their brand of basketball in the second half. Castle played like the highly touted prospect many have revered him as, even getting the first bucket of the half for his guys. Spencer was right behind him, hitting a three-point bomb to answer back from an electrifying slam dunk by Chris Ledlum.

For the fans in the building, things were looking like it would come down to the wire. But a quote from Hurley perfectly exemplified the mindset that would catapult his guys to what would eventually be a double-digit victory.

"I think when you're not where our program is at right now. You have a big player out of the game. You kind of like start making excuses. It's ok if we lose. We're missing something. Hell no. We came here to win," said Hurley.

At the 12:55 mark, that attitude began to show itself as Spencer drained a triple to give his team a two-point lead. But, instead of the game continuing to be a back-and-forth affair, this would be the final time that Connecticut would surrender their edge on the scoreboard during the entire game.

Just like that, the Huskies went on a tear. It would be Newton who started off the run with a tough and-one bucket, but Castle would add to that as he viciously attacked the paint. That would prove to be too much for the Red Storm as he'd either grab

some easy points at the stripe or some crafty buckets in the lane.

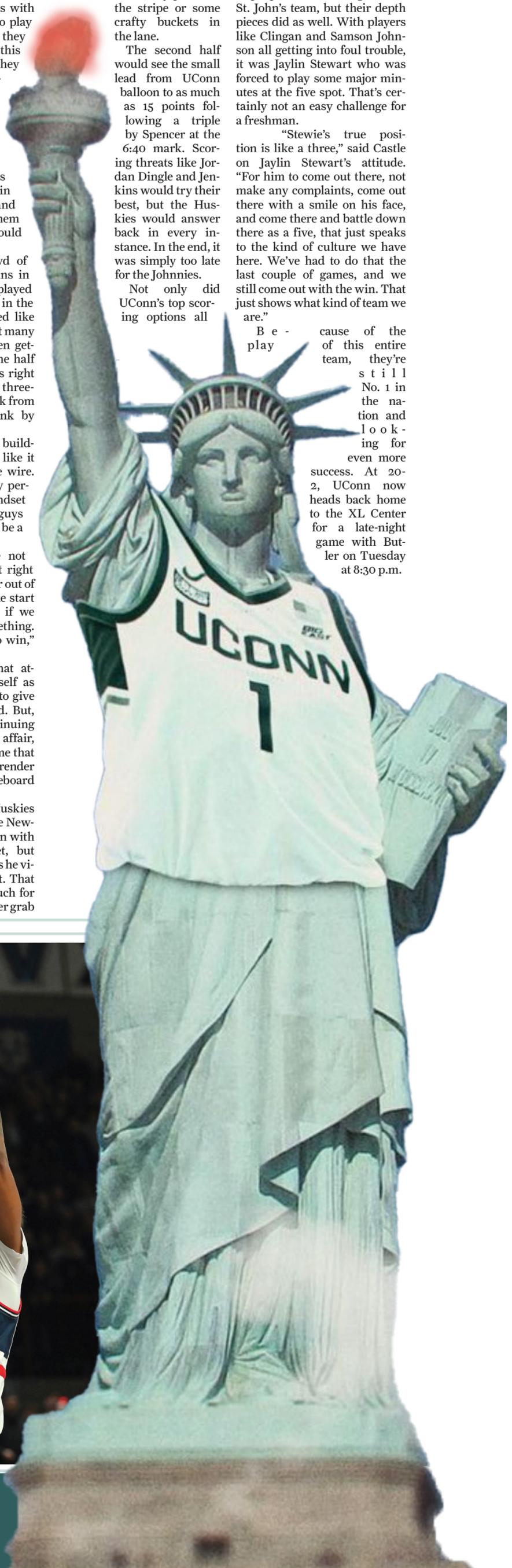
The second half would see the small lead from UConn balloon to as much as 15 points following a triple by Spencer at the 6:40 mark. Scoring threats like Jordan Dingle and Jenkins would try their best, but the Huskies would answer back in every instance. In the end, it was simply too late for the Johnnies.

Not only did UConn's top scoring options all

step up to the challenge of the St. John's team, but their depth pieces did as well. With players like Clingan and Samson Johnson all getting into foul trouble, it was Jaylin Stewart who was forced to play some major minutes at the five spot. That's certainly not an easy challenge for a freshman.

"Stewie's true position is like a three," said Castle on Jaylin Stewart's attitude. "For him to come out there, not make any complaints, come out there with a smile on his face, and come there and battle down there as a five, that just speaks to the kind of culture we have here. We've had to do that the last couple of games, and we still come out with the win. That just shows what kind of team we are."

Because of the play of this entire team, they're still No. 1 in the nation and looking for even more success. At 20-2, UConn now heads back home to the XL Center for a late-night game with Butler on Tuesday at 8:30 p.m.



UConn men's basketball played against the Providence Friars on Jan. 31, 2024 at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs Conn. The Huskies came out victors after a long game, ending with a nine point advantage.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sports

Women's Basketball: Edwards, No. 11 Huskies best Johnnies on Play4Kay Pink Game



by **Stratton Stave**
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Not every game goes as expected. Sometimes, you beat a mediocre conference opponent by 43 on the road. Other times, that same opponent is a tough out in the return game on campus. That was the case in UConn's game against St. John's on Sunday, which was not the most pleasant to watch. They largely struggled to get past the Red Storm after demolishing them on Long Island in a game that had little rhythm.

"There's a reason St. John's record is what it is," UConn coach Geno Auriemma noted. "They're not an easy team to play against. When we got up 20, there was a little lull. We missed a couple layups; we must lead the country in opponents banking threes in on us. Once we got Aaliyah [Edwards] and Paige [Bueckers] working together again, [it was okay]. It would have been nice to get everyone involved, but Paige and Aaliyah stepped up."

The theme for the contest was Play4Kay, honoring those who are and have been in the battle against cancer, particularly breast cancer. Kay Yow was a legendary coach at NC State but lost her life to breast cancer and was a big advocate for the cause. To spread awareness, St. John's jerseys were bright pink, and

UConn's home whites had a pink trim.

While spreading awareness was a focus, the star of the show was Edwards. The All-American forward went for a career-high 33 points to go along with 13 boards and four steals. She often goes through aggressive spurts but keeps her foot on the pedal throughout the contest.

"She's having an All-American season," Auriemma said. "In the world we live in, you have to score a [expletive] ton to get attention. How much does scoring points really matter? How you score them, when you score them, what they mean to the team. She doesn't have other post players we're rotating her with. What she's doing is impressive."

Edwards sees this part of the campaign as a time when she needs to step up as a senior.

"It's that time of the season when you have to lock in and hone in on what you execute," Edwards noted. "My teammates helped me out. It was a team effort today since we had to play all 40 minutes."

Bueckers also impressed, even though she looked frustrated at times. The former POTY had a few shots that she'd normally make rim out, but still reached 26 points and three assists. Her five giveaways were another

demonstration of her frustrations, but a 26-point night is just that at the end of the day.

"In a slow game like that, there's not enough shots to go around," Auriemma mentioned. "But if you have two players [Bueckers and Edwards] taking 36 of your 56 shots, that's a lot. I'd like to see them spread around more, but that's what we needed tonight."

As for the rest of the team, there wasn't much going on. The 78-63 win featured no other scorers who surpassed six points, with very little activity from the bench. The starters played over 32 minutes each, and there were bright spots here and there within the back end of that set. KK Arnold had six points and six assists, while Nika Mühl dished out nine assists and played some stellar defense.

"Nika takes tremendous pride in that," Auriemma noted of her defense. "It's something she values: getting stops. Unlike other players, she likes playing defense."

The Red Storm did their best to hold an early lead with a pair of buckets from Jillian Archer. But it was short-lived. Bueckers snatched Unique Drake's shot in mid-air then hit Edwards in stride for a thunderous and-one.

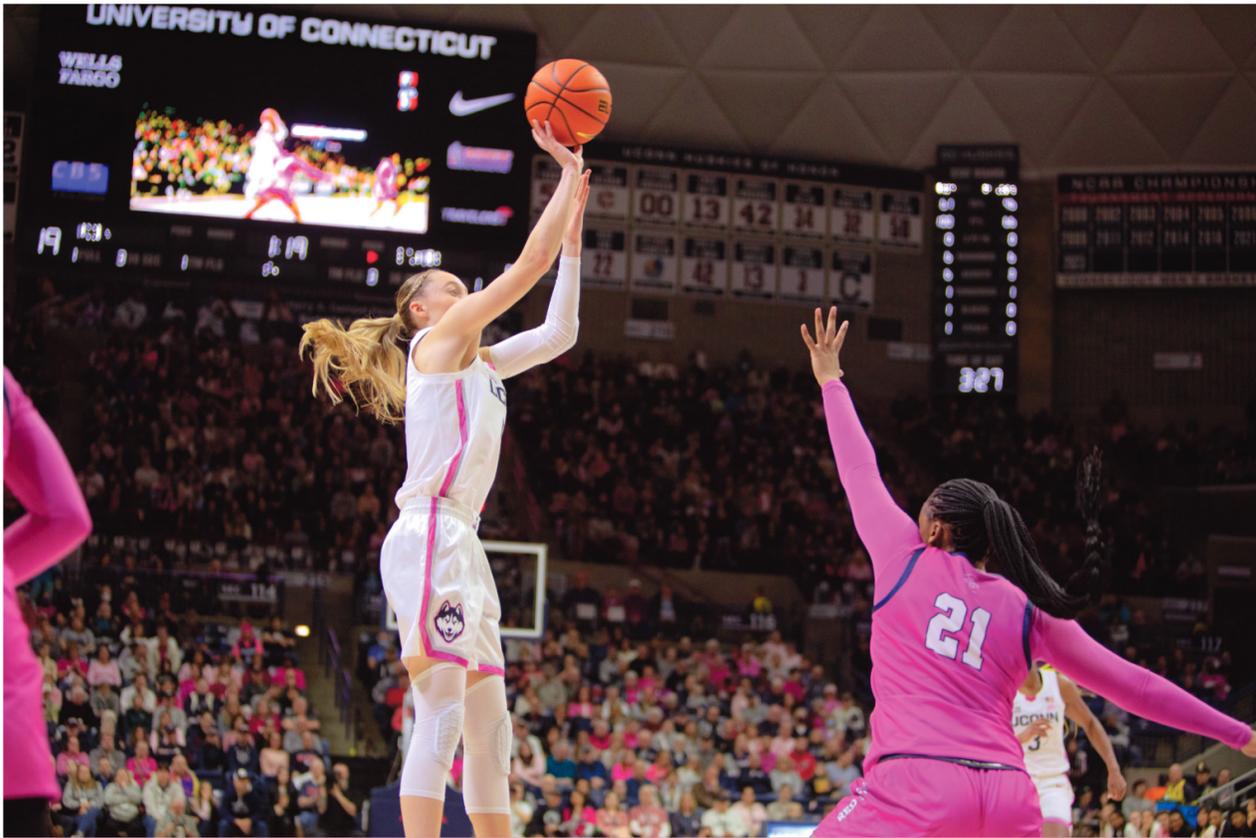
St. John's again closed the gap to three, as Bueckers used a jumper and a layup to get the Huskies back up to five. Every time the Huskies tried to create a cushion, the Johnnies answered, coming as close as one early in the second quarter.

Perhaps the Red Storm made it a little too close. That woke the Huskies up, as they went on a 14-1 run, with nine from Bueckers and Edwards. Even though they couldn't stop turning the ball over, Connecticut led by 13 at the half, with Edwards' point total already up to 19.

It was hard for either side to find much of a flow in the third, with a committed seemingly every possession. UConn ballooned their lead to 20 thanks to more excellence from Edwards, but it was right back down to 12 after a St. John's 8-0 run.

The Johnnies continued to pour it on into the final frame with two layups, narrowing their deficit to seven. Bueckers tacked on seven straight points, putting the Huskies out of reach for good as they escaped with a 15-point win.

Connecticut will next suit up in Hartford, Conn., this Wednesday against Seton Hall. It's another return game against a squad they beat convincingly and will be coach Geno Auriemma's chance to pick up his 1200th win.



UConn women's basketball defended its home court against St. John's at Gampel Pavilion on Feb. 4, 2024, winning the match with a score of 78 to 63. The Huskies stay undefeated in the Big East with a conference record of 10-0.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

CARTOONS COURTESY OF FREEPIK

WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

UConn SCOREBOARD



vs.



78 **63**

Women's Basketball
Sunday

Upcoming Games



vs.



Tennis, 1 p.m. Wednesday
Manchester, Conn.



vs.



Men's Basketball,
8:30 p.m. Tuesday
Hartford, Conn.

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



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TWEETS OF THE DAY

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Michael Invernale of @UConnTechComm recently received @AUTM's prestigious Howard Bremer Scholarship in recognition of their creativity and innovation in technology transfer.

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