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## INVOLVEMENT FAIR BRINGS STUDENTS TO GAMPEL PAVILION



The University of Connecticut holds its annual Spring Involvement Fair on Wednesday, Feb. 7 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Gampel Pavilion. The Daily Campus, as well as many other clubs and organizations, gathered to inform students how they can get involved on campus.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANGELINA LARRACUENTE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Sara Bedigian

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The Involvement Fair occurred yesterday, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Gampel Pavilion, bringing students from all years, majors and interests together to promote various clubs and organizations.

The Involvement Fair happens twice a year, once per semester, allowing students to learn about ways they can get involved at the University of Connecticut. Yesterday, there were over 400 clubs and organizations at the fair, giving students the chance to explore their interests. Clubs ranged from all topics, including sports, music, video games, literature, food, culture, media and more. Academic and service organizations, greek life, club sports and tier-three organizations all had tables to promote their groups.

Abbey Lonergan, an eighth-semester chemistry major, is the president of Coffee and Tea Club, a group that gathers to talk about, and drink different kinds of tea and coffee.

Lonergan said the Coffee and Tea Club meets twice a month

to talk about the history, agriculture and science of coffee and tea, as well as the communities that drink it.

Lonergan said she was excited to be at the Involvement Fair and have good conversations with people.

**“I am not really worried about people joining, I just like talking about it personally.”**

ABBEY LONGERGAN

“We have had a lot of nice conversations mostly. I am not really worried about people joining, I just like talking about it personally. Just even having a conversation with someone who might pique their interest and join, that’s fine with me,” said Lonergan.

There were a variety of clubs dedicated to niche types of media, whether that be romance novels or horror movies.

Allison McSally, an eighth-semester nursing major, is the vice president of Husky Horror

Club, a group of students that meet once a week to watch horror movies together.

“We talk about horror media, whether it is video games or movies, and it’s just a nice place to hang out at the end of the week and meet like minded people,” McSally said.

McSally, who has been a part of the club since her sophomore year, said joining the club was a great way for her to grow out of her shell and meet new people.

McSally said she encourages anyone who is even slightly interested in horror to join the club on Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Gant 002.

Amayah Algarin, a fourth-semester allied health science major, is the president of a new club called Romance Goodreads and Gossip, a group dedicated toward reading romance novels.

“When I came to UConn, I knew that I loved [romance novels] but I didn’t really have that many friends who also read them,” said Algarin. “So I decided to start a club, to meet some new girls who love to read romance novels so that we have all our rant sessions.”

Algarin said she was excited

to be at the involvement fair and received a lot of interest. The club meets on Thursday from 7:15 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Student Union.

There was also a variety of STEM-related clubs, dedicated for students to bring their studies into various forms of involvement.

Ian Pichs, a mechanical engineering major, was at the fair tabling for a new Electric Boat Club that just began this year.

Pichs said they work with a senior design team, and the goal is to compete against other schools. Pichs said they are looking for anyone to join the Electric Boat Club, whether that be to work on the actual boats, or other components such as graphic design or marketing.

**“We are looking for any discipline, any engineering discipline, any major can help. Anyone can help if they want to help.”**

IAN PICHS

“We are looking for any discipline, any engineering discipline, any major can help. Anyone can help if they want to help,” said Pichs.

There were also clubs that focused on community service.

Josie Simon, a sixth-semester business management major, is a part of Love for Our Elders Club, which is part of a larger organization that is dedicated to spreading joy to elders in nursing homes.

Simon said the club meets twice a month to write letters to elders who want to receive the letters.

“We send about 20 cards each time, but then this is happening all around the U.S. So this one person gets like all these cards filled with love and support,” said Simon.

Simon, who has been a part of the club since her freshman year, said it is a great way to do community service and meet new people.

All of the organizations at the fair can be found on UConncontact, a university-wide engagement website that all students can access. Students can go to the website and log in with their NetID and password.

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THE DAILY CAMPUS  
8 AM BLAST  
NEWSLETTER

## News

# Trump's presidential bid hangs in the balance in a Supreme Court case that's broken new legal ground

\* \* \*

WASHINGTON (AP) — The fate of former President Donald Trump's attempt to return to the White House is in the hands of the U.S. Supreme Court.

On Thursday, the justices will hear arguments in Trump's appeal of a Colorado Supreme Court ruling that he is not eligible to run again for president because he violated a provision in the 14th Amendment, preventing those who "engaged in insurrection" from holding office.

Many legal observers expect the nation's highest court will reverse the Colorado ruling rather than remove the leading contender for the Republican presidential nomination from the ballot. But it's always tricky to try to predict a Supreme Court ruling, and the case against Trump has already broken new legal ground.

Some of the main issues involved in the 14th Amendment cases:

## WHAT DID TRUMP POTENTIALLY VIOLATE?

It's called Section 3 and it's pretty brief. It reads:

"No Person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two thirds of each House, remove such disability."

Nice and simple, right?

Not so fast, Trump's lawyers say.

## TRUMP'S DEFENSE:

Trump's lawyers say this part of the Constitution wasn't meant to apply to the president. Notice how it specifically mentions electors, senators and representatives, but not the presidency.

It also says those who take an oath to "support" the U.S., but the presidential oath doesn't use that word. Instead, the Constitution requires presidents to say they will "preserve, protect and defend" the Constitution. And finally, Section 3 talks about any other "officer" of the U.S., but Trump's lawyers argue that language is meant to apply to presidential appointees, not the president.



Trump supporters participate in a rally in Washington D.C. on Jan. 6, 2021, which some blame for fueling the attack on the U.S. Capitol. PHOTO BY JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

That was enough to convince the Colorado district court judge who initially heard the case. She found that Trump had engaged in insurrection, but also agreed that it wasn't clear that Section 3 applied to the president. That part of her decision was reversed by the Colorado Supreme Court.

The majority of the state's highest court wrote: "President Trump asks us to hold that Section 3 disqualifies every oath-breaking insurrectionist except the most powerful one and that it bars oath-breakers from virtually every office, both state and federal, except the highest one in the land."

## OTHER TRUMP ARGUMENTS:

Trump's lawyers contend that the question of who is covered by a rarely used, once obscure clause should be decided by Congress, not unelected judges. They contend that the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol wasn't an insurrection. They say the attack wasn't widespread, didn't involve large amounts of firearms or include other markers of sedition. They say Trump didn't "engage" in anything that day other than in exercising his protected free speech rights.

Others who have been skeptical of applying Section 3 to Trump have made an argument that the dissenting Colorado Supreme Court justices also found persuasive: The way the court went about finding that Trump violated Section 3

violated the former president's due process rights. They contend he was entitled to a structured legal process rather than a court in Colorado trying to figure out if the Constitution applied to him.

That gets at the unprecedented nature of the cases. Section 3 has rarely been used after an 1872 congressional amnesty excluded most former Confederates from it. The U.S. Supreme Court has never heard such a case.

Arguments about legal precedents go back to a lone 1869 opinion from Chief Justice Salmon Chase, who was hearing an appeal as a circuit judge rather than for the high court.

The Trump case is historic and is expected to create new law.

## ISN'T THIS JUST A PARTISAN CASE?

Not really. A lot of Democrats are rooting for Trump to get kicked off the ballot and a lot of Republicans are angry about the campaign against him. The case was filed by Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a left-leaning group.

But some of the most vocal proponents of removing Trump from the ballot are conservative legal scholars who believe in following the strict words of the Constitution. There's no way around the insurrection disqualification for Trump, they argue, adding it's there in the plain text and was intended by the

authors. The plaintiffs in Colorado are all Republicans or unaffiliated voters.

All seven of the justices on Colorado's Supreme Court were appointed by Democrats. But they split 4-3 on the decision, a stark demonstration that this case doesn't divide neatly along partisan lines.

The majority quoted a ruling from Neil Gorsuch, one of Trump's conservative Supreme Court nominees, from when he was a federal judge in Colorado. He ruled then that the state properly kept a naturalized citizen born in Guyana off the presidential ballot because he didn't meet the constitutional qualifications.

In Maine, the Democratic secretary of state also removed Trump from the ballot. But in Illinois, a Republican retired judge serving as a hearing officer for the state Board of Election suggested keeping Trump on, but only because he thought courts should decide on eligibility. The retired judge found it was likely Trump was disqualified due to Section 3, making him a notable Republican to side with those trying to remove the former president.

The U.S. Supreme Court is comprised of six justices nominating by Republican presidents, including three by Trump. Partly because this is completely new legal ground, it's hard to predict how individual justices will rule based on their ideology.

## WHAT COULD THE COURT DO?

Several outcomes are possible but they generally fall into three areas.

The first is the court could uphold Colorado's ruling. That would require wins for the plaintiffs on the whole array of Trump's defenses.

The second is the court could rule that Trump cannot be disqualified under Section 3, period. There are a lot of ways the court could do this, but the result would be to end the case against him, as well as dozens of similar challenges filed across the country.

The third possibility unnerves a lot of legal experts. The court could effectively punt and not make a final decision on whether Trump is qualified to serve as president. That could kick the question down the road to Jan. 6, 2025, if he wins the election and Congress has to decide whether to certify his victory.

It also would keep alive many of the challenges across the country. A number of them are on hold because state courts are waiting to see what the U.S. Supreme Court will do. Places where a Trump challenge could be rekindled if the high court doesn't squelch it include Illinois, Minnesota and Oregon. It could add further pressure to challenge Trump's position on the ballot in other Democratic strongholds such as California and New York, where there have been pushes to invalidate his candidacy that have been comparatively muted.

While the Trump campaign says more than 60 Section 3 cases have been filed nationally, most are by low-profile figures and have generally been dismissed for procedural issues. Uncertainty from the nation's highest court could encourage a new wave of cases in those states, too.

The lack of a clear ruling also could create counter-challenges. Republicans have warned that Section 3 also can be applied to Democrats.

Some already have proposed filing against Biden under the theory that his inability to stem the flow of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border amounts to providing "aid and comfort" to the country's enemies. Vice President Kamala Harris also could be targeted under the theory that her raising bail money for people arrested during the protests over George Floyd's 2020 murder by Minneapolis police amounts to "engaging in insurrection."

Unless the high court shuts this down, they warn, Trump's case might only be the start.

# 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.

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# DAILY CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**

- 1 Maze runners
- 5 Formal decrees
- 10 Help the chef
- 14 Driver of Hollywood
- 15 “American Fiction” actress Tracee \_\_\_ Ross
- 16 Stray
- 17 Sadness that sets in after missing a flight?
- 19 Jon Arbuckle’s dog
- 20 F1 neighbor
- 21 Friction reducer
- 22 Paint, toddler-style
- 23 Countries listed on a flight board?
- 27 Minimally
- 29 Spring bloom
- 30 Grilled sausages, for short
- 31 Out in the open
- 35 Fun, as a party
- 36 Jewelry retailer
- 38 Paddle kin
- 39 Hit the gym
- 42 Church donation
- 44 Tennis Court \_\_\_: French Revolution event
- 45 Some patches
- 47 Rural areas serviced by just one airline?
- 51 Filmmaker George who won five Hugo Awards for Best Dramatic Presentation
- 52 \_\_\_-Free: contact lens solution
- 53 Honor society letter
- 56 Second son
- 57 Flight that lasts seven days?
- 60 Covered
- 61 Eagle claw
- 62 Fabled napper
- 63 Numbers game
- 64 Mantegna’s “Criminal Minds” role
- 65 Pod in Creole cuisine

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17				18							19			
20				21						22				
		23	24					25	26					
27	28							29						
30							31					32	33	34
35					36	37						38		
39			40	41					42	43				
			44					45	46					
47	48	49					50							
51							52					53	54	55
56					57	58					59			
60					61						62			
63					64						65			

By Jon Daly

2/8/24

**DOWN**

- 1 Took home
- 2 Midmonth time
- 3 Do the math
- 4 CPR expert
- 5 Opens
- 6 “Suuure”
- 7 Like crosswords
- 8 Twist-\_\_\_
- 9 Saddlebag carrier
- 10 Potential
- 11 Wyoming’s state sport
- 12 S.Pellegrino rival
- 13 Coevals
- 18 Misleading handle
- 22 To-do
- 24 Clear
- 25 African river to the Mediterranean
- 26 Pound sounds
- 27 Qualified
- 28 Lucky Charms shelfmate
- 31 Pour choice
- 32 Figuratively
- 33 Four-time Oscar-winning lyricist Sammy
- 34 Smelter input
- 36 Tubular pasta

**Wednesday’s Puzzle Solved**

Y	E	L	P		E	L	S	E		O	S	A	K	A		
O	V	E	R		D	O	H	A		T	U	D	O	R		
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E	X	E	C	S			I	A	M	B		L	I	L	O	

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2/8/24

- 37 Tennis great Arthur
- 40 Portuguese soccer great who now plays in Saudi Arabia
- 41 Musical based on Eliot poems
- 42 Specifically
- 43 Overnight stop
- 45 PC problem solvers
- 46 Corkscrew pasta
- 47 “Killing Me Softly With His Song” singer
- 48 Moscow money
- 49 \_\_\_ Spray
- 50 Foments
- 54 Münster mister
- 55 KALLAX shelf seller
- 57 Viola’s sect.
- 58 Kung \_\_\_ shrimp
- 59 Seuss villager

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# Tracy Llanera explains how extremist groups abuse women



Tracy Llanera speaks at the UCHI's Fellow's Talk on the role of women in extremist organizations and hate groups on Wednesday, Feb. 7.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DESIRAE SIN, STAFF WRITER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Desirae Sin**  
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The University of Connecticut's Humanities Institute held a fellows talk on Wednesday featuring Dr. Tracy Llanera, an assistant professor of philosophy, along with a response by Dr. Jordan Camp, an associate professor of American Studies at Trinity College. Llanera's presentation was titled: "The Misfits of Extremism: Brides, Moms, and Daughters."

As an introduction to her presentation, Llanera started by quoting the premise of her book. "This book interrogates the role, value and agency of marginal actors in white supremacist and Islamic terror movements," stated Llanera. "While becoming extremists may temporarily enhance their agency as well as feelings of importance and belonging, I argue that the empowerment of marginal actors is conditional, pernicious and often lethal." The actors that Llanera studies are women involved in these extremist hate groups. Their ethnicities and nationalities vary.

Usually, women are not typically associated with terrorism and hate groups, Llanera mentioned. The groups that she focuses on are connected through patriarchal ideals and the use of violence. Yet there are a number of cases where these patriarchal causes will employ women to pursue their agendas, even though their group philosophy assigns women to the domestic sphere of life. "Any nuanced understanding must account for gender dynamics and patriarchal ideals," said Llanera.

She highlighted three enabling conditions that indoctrinate women into these causes: Their agency becomes inspired by the narratives of these groups, these groups license women into defying gender norms to have effective politi-

cal actions and the women are praised for their actions.

The narratives that these groups create are based on resentment. Llanera mentioned that this is a collective form of resentment coupled with a "self-reinforcing, self-perpetuating narrative." What makes these narratives so effective is that they have six aspects tied to them. They provide goals, clear the group of any wrongdoing or guilt, fixate on a rejected group, are all-encompassing, present individuals as weak alone but strongly united and offer compensation to their members. These narratives often are "a response to a crisis," said Llanera.

What is interesting about these extremist narratives and patriarchal ideals is that they clash. "The forces of extremism and the patriarchy are generally in friction with each other," commented Llanera. Extremism often invokes action on the part of all members, while patriarchy sets up a hierarchical system where women are relegated to their homes, not in public life. To explain why the two concepts work in reality, Llanera posits that "patriarchal extremist groups license women to defy gender norms for expedient political action." To pursue their goals and commit acts of violence, these groups will encourage their women to get involved and help because of their societal role as women. From this, Llanera brings up three major archetypes for these women: the goddess/victim, the wife/mother and the female activist. The first two are centered around the general gender norms assigned to women. It emphasizes their inability to protect themselves and their need for help, paired with their roles as nurturers and caregivers. The last archetype is different in that it puts women in a position of power, somewhat. The female activists are the type of women in these groups who become martyrs by

sacrificing themselves or casting aside their gender norms for the group's agenda.

Two real-life examples that Llanera mentions are the white-power Barbie and the trad wife. The former refers to how white women use their reputations as white, upper-middle-class women to push their extremist views onto others, usually through social media. The trad wife is an online trend where white women will display how they fulfill their roles as "traditional wives" and please their husbands and families.

The next aspect that Llanera touches upon is the carrots for extremist women, or how they are compensated for their work. This varies but she splits it into two main categories — being celebrated as a hero or martyr and compensation through money and social reputation. An example of a martyr is Wafa Idris, the first female suicide bomber in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Yet the other form of compensation usually concerns white women. One who was mentioned by Llanera is Lauren Southern, a Canadian alt-right YouTuber.

Yet the bigger question is: Why are these women involved with these groups? What pushes them to accept these ideologies? Llanera stated that "the restricted agency or impotence of women in ordinary conditions is replaced by the feeling, expression, and enjoyment of power in extraordinary conditions." This means that because of women's marginalized identities in normative society, these extremist groups are a way for them to feel like they have a sense of power.

But she warns that these false impressions of power do not last, once these extremist groups fulfill their goals, the women they've employed will be relegated back to their ordinary existence. "Extremist groups exploit their devotion," warned Llanera.

# “Art Encounters: Sewing for Resistance:”

## Ambitious and anonymous arpilleras

by James Fitzpatrick | STAFF WRITER | HE/HIM/HIS | james.fitzpatrick@uconn.edu

Currently displayed in the exhibition at The William Benton Museum, “Museum as Classroom: Teaching and Learning with Art” features various artworks made in a patchwork medium during a period of oppression in Chilean history. Known as arpilleras, select works were analyzed throughout a virtual meeting on Feb. 6, which was followed by instructions on how to craft a piece reminiscent of an arpillerera in the space of a notecard.

The aptly named workshop “Sewing for Resistance” is part of a larger series of exhibitions titled: “Art Encounters.” The next installment will revolve around climate change, accompanied by a similar Zoom workshop on March 26.

The present workshop was led by Amanda Douberley, curator and academic liaison at The Benton, and Mollie Sixsmith, curator of education. It chronicles the lives of Chilean women distressed by totalitarianism, which was imposed by General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte in the 1970s and 1980s, that managed to take away the women’s freedoms, and sometimes, their husbands. Arpilleras were often produced in workshops of 20 women with similar goals yet different ideas for designs, so each member was tasked with creating one per week to conserve resources. The artists were compensated, although they still lived in squalor.

According to The Benton’s website, their education department bought 50 arpilleras

in 1988 from a relief organization in Chile. Now preserved in time and space, the arpilleras also serve the purpose of representing the appearance of Chile to outsiders via depictions of brightly-colored architecture and jagged mountain ranges. Differences include the scale of minuscule cars and massive dogs that vary in each piece. The overall absence of offensive material in the arpilleras was partially out of their control based on guidelines regarding their global distribution, but this may be a strong suit considering the powerful impact these works create when combined with their historical context.

The artists, who are anonymous due to the threats posed on their lives at the time, are consistently able to spin their misfortunes into glimmers of hope through their arpilleras, honing in on the bright and pretty details of their lives. These often include the scenery they were surrounded by, as the sun is present in nearly every portrayal, along with lively shrubbery and bustling citizens. Other commonalities of Chilean life include a large pot of stew that a community would share in times of hardship and bread ovens. These cooking appliances were used for necessity at the time, and now they stand as symbols of a tight-knit community whose members were only as strong as their unit.

One striking example juxtaposes realistic-looking bushes, given the medium, with a banner that reads (translated to English): “They took them

alive. We want them alive,” a slogan referring to the men that vanished without a trace, seemingly by way of Pinochet’s regime. Another interesting component is a fourth-wall break in which women are seen creating arpilleras while everyone else is completing daily tasks. In a sense, this scene gives some personality not gleaned from the other pieces by identifying the faces of the artists and the conditions these arpilleras were produced in.

Believe it or not, the figures in an arpillerera are complex dolls composed of a head and limbs despite their sizes. The entire canvas is small, measuring around 14 x 18 on average, yet the artists can cram an abundance of details using everyday materials. The Benton notes how plastic and paper were attached using glue, and the backdrop uses sewn fabric to tie the patchwork together. Regardless of their unassuming appearance, the arpilleras were considered to be contraband and many may have been hidden from the public eye by government confiscation.

Drawing inspiration from these women’s efforts, The Benton provided instructions to attendees of the workshop on how to create a makeshift arpillerera on a notecard, encouraging the employment of cloth and yarn provided by The Benton in a material kit handed out at the Museum or mailed upon request. The “Seeing Climate Change” virtual workshop will supply material kits in these ways, as well.



This arpillerera reads (top to bottom): “Election registry,” “All together” and “Yes to full democracy.” It was created by an unknown/unidentified Chilean woman.

IMAGE COURTESY OF WILLIAM BENTON MUSEUM OF ART



**Life**

@dailycampuslife



# ROUND TABLE

## HOW RELIABLE IS THE GROUNDHOG?

IMAGE COURTESY OF PNGPLAY.COM

Groundhog Day is the one day of the year when groundhogs make the national headlines. Punxsutawney Phil and his colleagues either see their shadows and proclaim a longer winter, or they see nothing and spring comes sooner. While many love to see the furry animals get picked up during the countless ceremonies across the nation, others deem them foolish. Let's see what the Life Section thinks about Phil and his companions:

**by Benjamin Lassy** | LIFE EDITOR | HE/HIM/HIS | benjamin.lassy@uconn.edu

This Groundhog Day, on Feb. 2, 2024, Punxsutawney Phil predicted that we would be seeing an early spring. Now, before you scoff at the accuracy of Punxsutawney Phil — I acknowledge he's got nonexistent credentials — I'd rely on him over any weather forecast.

Phil acts with decisive certainty, there is no "60% chance of an early spring" or "possibly expected long winter." No, there is no room for chance with Phil; it either is or isn't going to be a long winter. Such certainty, even if supporting incorrect predictions, is admirable and a useful lesson for anyone. Be confident, even if you're hiding the fact that you have no idea what you're doing. Punxsutawney Phil, if you're reading this, keep up the good work.

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

Based on how unruly and unpredictable the weather has been, I wouldn't doubt the groundhog's prediction. Because of global warming and the impacts of climate change, it's likely we'll have shorter and shorter winters. I generally believe animals have better instincts than humans, especially when it comes to the environment. If a dog can sense when a woman is pregnant, then I don't see how a groundhog couldn't predict the weather. But I would say we shouldn't only rely on one groundhog. We should have a fleet of groundhogs to predict the coming of spring, and by averaging their responses we can deduce what the season is going to look like. We cannot solely rely on Phil, and while I salute him for his service, it's time for more of his family and friends to carry the burden.

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

No matter what people say, I will trust groundhogs for my general winter-spring weather outlook. Why? I'd raise the question of "why not?" — groundhogs, being animals who need to survive in outdoor environments, have a vested interest in determining the weather.

I will agree in some ways that we can't rely on a singular groundhog for our nationwide weather prediction. Punxsutawney Phil may get all of the fame down in Pennsylvania, but I trust Connecticut's own Chuckles. According to a CT Mirror article released recently, Chuckles has historically been correct 60% of the time compared to Phil's 39%. Our climate differs from other parts of the country, a fact UConn students know all too well, so I put my faith in a local groundhog.

Now, at the same time, it's important to stay informed with trusted meteorologists and hands-on prediction methods. Maybe Mark Dixon can put in a word to have Chuckles become AMS certified, and UConn students can tune in to the forecast.



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# Opinion

## The Daily Campus

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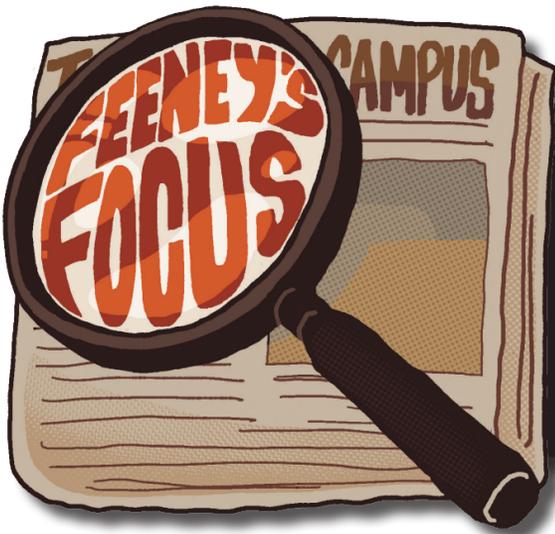
Luke Feeney

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.



COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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

## JOE BIDEN AND DEMOCRACY

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

Two weeks ago, I told you all that I was not really tuned into the 2024 presidential election only to write an entire article about it. Well, since it's the beginning of February, I figured I might as well properly celebrate Groundhog Day and do the same thing again. So here we go.

Much to the disappointment of my parents, I have been fairly checked out of the 2024 presidential election. I already discussed one story regarding the first of the two out-of-touch white guys I find

interesting. Now I want to cross the aisle and talk about the other old out-of-touch white guy we are considering re-electing to the most powerful position in the world.

During his campaign, former President Donald Trump was adamant that, if elected, Americans would win so much with him they would get sick of it.

After four years of tweets, name-calling, casual attacks of institutional norms and an overall culture of chaos, Trump went into 2020 as one of the most un-

popular incumbents in American history. A lowly approval rating of 43% on election day made something clear: The majority of Americans wanted a change.

In the 2020 campaign, current President Joe Biden presented himself as the antithesis to Trump in every way. Where Trump was chaotic, Biden was calm. Trump had never served in public office prior to the presidency, meanwhile Biden was an experienced senator and a two-term vice president. Where Trump spewed election denial, Biden called for faith in the electoral process.

Of what I mentioned above, the final point specifically became one of Biden's go-to rhetorical tools. The attacks of Jan. 6, combined with lawmakers and political candidates throughout the Republican Party embracing election denial, set the stage perfectly for Biden to uplift himself as a "defender of democracy."

However, throughout his presidency, Biden's actions

have contradicted his rhetoric regarding democracy frequently.

In 2018, during Trump's presidency, Washington Post journalist and columnist Jamal Khashoggi was murdered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. In response to the murder of one of his citizens by a foreign state, Trump did what international relations experts like to call "absolutely nothing."

Not only did he refuse to condemn, sanction or punish the Saudi government, but he actually questioned the American intelligence agencies who were telling him that Khashoggi was killed by the kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In his 2020 campaign, Biden vowed to hold Saudi Arabia accountable for their crimes and turn them into a pariah state. After assuming office, however, Biden decided not to sanction Saudi Arabia for fear of how it could impact the diplomatic relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia.

In fact, the U.S. sells more military equipment to Saudi Arabia than any other country today. In addition, the Biden administration continues to turn a blind eye to the suffering inflicted on the Saudi population by their government and the abuses committed in Yemen.

But it's not just Saudi Arabia. I've talked before about many of the horrors that Israel

and the Israeli Defense Forces have brought onto Palestinians both prior to the attacks of Oct. 7 and after. Yet, Biden has stood lock and step with Israel.

He has given them the guns, money and international protection for this assault. Not only has Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ignored the recent provisional measures announced by the International Court of Justice, but he's also stated that, in Gaza, "there is no other solution but a complete and final victory." Given the current death toll, it's clear that Netanyahu's victory will come with a lot more dead Palestinians.

Even domestically, Biden endorsed contradictory policies about democracy. Despite professing a love for immigration and disdain toward Trump's immigration policies, deportations have increased year after year in the Biden administration.

I agree with Biden when he classifies Trump as a threat to democracy. I think Trump is a fundamentally unserious person who I would not trust to walk my own dog, much less be leader of the free world. However, that does not mean Biden is some champion of democracy. He has shown time and again that, if push comes to shove, he will throw his words by the wayside if it serves his administration's interests.

## RAPID FIRE

University of Connecticut President Radenka Maric held office hours Wednesday, Feb. 7 to provide a direct line of communication between the community and the administration, according to The Daily Campus. However, the limited, 15-minute time slots offered from 8-10 a.m. filled up before many students even learned of this opportunity.

At The Daily Campus, we pride ourselves in giving students a platform to voice their thoughts and concerns to the entire UConn community, administration included. That said, what better way to circumvent those pesky time slots than using our weekly Rapid Fire? This week, the Opinion section answers the question:

### WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO RADENKA DURING HER OFFICE HOURS?

Nell Srinath, Opinion Editor

President Maric, you're doing a terrific job. I understand how much it must weigh on you that UConn is strapped for cash in the upcoming fiscal year and can imagine how much you need a vacation. In fact, I think I've found a way to kill two birds with one stone. Why don't you take another trip, such as your 2022 visit to Israel, to find another "innovation ecosystem" to tap into? I hear Saudi Arabia, Hungary, Turkey, Egypt, Sudan and El Salvador are eager to diversify their portfolios.

Dan Stark, Associate Opinion Editor

I would take the time to read some of our wonderful editorials we've written about administration and the board of trustees.

Tomas Hinckley, Weekly Columnist

I would bring out the biggest speaker I could find and play Weezer's Blue Album for her to see if she'd explode.

Luke Feeney, Weekly Columnist

I would walk in, then bring my pig wearing a Richard Nixon mask (to of course call her a liar and a thief) and then hope that for at least 50 seconds President Maric believes that there are monsters in this world.

## THE DAILY CAMPUS IS SELLING VALENTINE'S DAY ADS!

Buy a \$20 3x2 inch ad to celebrate your love! You can reserve a spot in our special Valentine's Day edition paper.

Submissions are due by Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 5 p.m.

Contact [businessmanager@dailycampus.com](mailto:businessmanager@dailycampus.com) to purchase!

CLIPART COURTESY OF MYCUTEGRAPHICS

# Comics

## Huskytalk

### How do you feel about the budget cuts and UConn's plans for the coming years?

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SYDNEY HAYWOOD, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



"I believe that budget cuts have significantly impacted negatively impacted lots of organizations on campus."

Madison Faulkner  
Exercise Science  
Fourth Semester

"I am surprised to hear about the budget cuts at UConn. It's scary to think about the effects this will have on tuition."

Bailey Brake  
Political Science and  
Human Rights  
Fourth Semester

"I don't think it's a good thing. I think classes are big enough as they are."

Olivia Olak  
Marketing  
Second Semester

"One of the reasons I transferred to UConn was the smaller classes and the relationships I can build."

Carmen Rebert  
Biology  
Fourth Semester

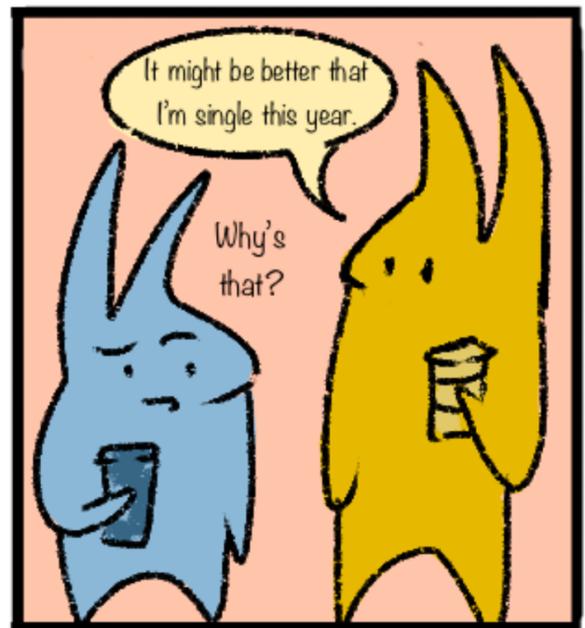


COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## The White Collared Worker



### Jason J Sampson

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

# Men's Golf: Huskies win Big East Match for the third straight season

by Connor Sargeant  
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It's hard to script a better start to the season than the way the UConn men's golf team did. The Huskies took Bear Links Country Club by storm for two days, beating out the entire Big East conference, including the Seton Hall Pirates, in the championship match.

As the tournament's name indicates, this was a Big East Match Play tournament. This competition style means that one player from each program plays against a randomly selected player from another team to win the most holes possible. Whoever comes out ahead wins their head-to-head matchup and gives their team a point in the team matchup. This is not the same as stroke play, where the objective is to shoot the overall lowest score. Connecticut's weekend started off with them pitted against Butler. Similar to the men's basketball team, the UConn golf team demolished the Bulldogs 6-1-0. After that, the Huskies faced a tall task in No. 1 seed Creighton and shined again, taking that matchup 4-1-2. Finally, in the championship round, UConn clashed with Seton Hall and pulled off an impressive 4-2-1 victory.



UConn men's golf hosts their invitational at Greathorse Country Club in Hampton, Mass. on Oct. 1, 2023. The invitational will play out for the next two days. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Jimmy Paradise led the way for the Huskies all weekend long, going 3-0-0 after battling an injury last fall. Alex Heard matched Paradise's performance with a clean sweep of the competition. Heard's outing is encouraging for the program, considering he is only a freshman. The first-year led all UConn golfers with 15 total birdies for the two-day event, only two shy of tying tournament leader Peicheng Chen of

St. John's. Tommy Dallahan also matched his teammate's undefeated weekend, although he finished on level terms with Creighton's Grant Feldman in Connecticut's semifinal match. Other notable performances for the program came from Eric Boulger and Connor Goode, who each won a pair of matchups for the Huskies.

If you go hole by hole, there was a common trend among the Husky golfers and the rest of the

competition. The par four holes gave the whole field trouble, as everyone finished above par in that respect. Hole No. 13, in particular, threw everyone for a loop. While the 482-yard par four seemed straightforward, it was anything but. Hole No. 13 saw the least number of birdies this weekend, along with the most bogeys of any hole. There were also 15 double bogeys. Four of the athletes finished it three or more strokes over par.

This was a solid start to kick off the Huskies' 2024 campaign. They will look to improve upon last year's disappointing in-conference tournament finish, where they placed ninth out of the 10 Big East teams competing. UConn will return to action this weekend for the Palmas Del Mar Intercollegiate in Humacao, Puerto Rico. Connecticut will be one of 15 programs competing.

# Softball: UConn ready to kick off season with Black & Gold Classic

by Noah Reed  
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UConn softball is set to start their season this afternoon as they head to Orlando, Florida to compete in the Black & Gold Classic. Hosted by UCF, the Huskies join them along with Howard, Georgia State and Settle for this four-day event.

The Huskies are coming off a solid season in which they dominated regular season play but struggled when it mattered most. Entering the Big East Tournament as the No. 1 overall seed, UConn came in having lost the last two championship games to Villanova. After beating St. John's in their first game, UConn went on to lose to the two teams who played each other in the final, Villanova and eventual champion Seton Hall.

While not the ending the team wanted, the results keep showing that the program is on the upswing. Connecticut comes off their second straight season of winning 30+ games (38 in 2022 and 34 in 2023). It also marked back-to-back seasons with the Huskies winning the Big East regular season title.

A big contributor to UConn's success was their ability to swipe bags on the base path. As a unit, the team finished seventh



UConn softball players wear pink ribbons in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month during their game against Franklin Pierce University on Oct. 7, 2023. This was one of the team's eight exhibition games that they will play this season.

PHOTOGRAPH BY EMMA MEIDINGER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

in stolen bases per game (2.43) in Division I, with Lexi Hastings finishing 10th in the NCAA with 40 and Aziah James tied in 16th with 34 of her own.

James is the biggest loss for Connecticut as they head into 2024. A season ago, James finished top-three in at-bats, RBIs, hits and stolen bases for the Huskies, having a hand in many key moments for the team. Now that James has graduated, UConn needs someone to step up into the role she had in 2023.

Good news for UConn is they returned the rest of their

core from 2023, including all their pitchers.

Payton Kinney was one of the staples for this UConn team, earning a solid 2.99 ERA over 105.1 innings. The Huskies' work horse Hope Jenkins returns for her sophomore campaign after leading the team with 34 appearances. Meghan O'Neil, tied third in the NCAA for saves (nine), comes back to provide a great bullpen option for head coach Laura Valentino.

Hastings and Grace Jenkins highlight the positional talent that is coming back to Storrs

hoping to build upon their performances from last year. Hastings was arguably the team MVP, leading the team in SLG% (.597), OB% (.509), home runs (six), steals (40), runs (51) and hits (59). Jenkins provided pop in a lineup that needed it, leading the team in doubles (17) and RBIs (44).

UConn also welcomes in five freshmen along with transfer Hallie Siems (pitcher) from Memphis. The freshman class this year includes Sarah Blaskiewicz (catcher), Kaitlyn Breslin (outfielder),

Caylee De Meo (infielder), Rayah Snyder (infielder) and Sydnee Koosh (pitcher).

As for how this weekend shapes up, UConn is scheduled to play six games with doubleheaders on Thursday and Friday. The schedule goes like this: Howard (Thursday 2 p.m.), UCF (Thursday 7 p.m. and Saturday 5:30 p.m.), Georgia State (Friday 12:30 p.m.) and Seattle (Friday 3 p.m. and Sunday 9:30 a.m.).

For streaming, both games against UCF are available to watch on ESPN+.

# Huskies in the Pros: Drummond's big night leads Bulls, Thompson finds back of the net, WNBA Huskies on the move

by CJ Dexter  
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**NBA: Andre Drummond returns to starting lineup in win vs. Minnesota**

On Tuesday, former UConn glass king Andre Drummond returned to the starting lineup for the first time since Jan. 8 in the Bulls' contest against the Timberwolves. In the 35 minutes played, the 12-year veteran tallied 16 points, 16 rebounds and four blocked shots in Chicago's 129-123 overtime win. On the season, Drummond is averaging 7.9 points and 8.5 rebounds per game while shooting at a 55% clip.

**NHL: Tage Thompson scores first goal since Jan. 11 in loss vs. Dallas**

After being held without a goal for the last seven games, Sabres

right-winger Tage Thompson scored the lone goal for Buffalo in Tuesday night's loss to the Dallas Stars. The 26-year-old from Phoenix, Arizona broke out last season with 94 points, but a slow start and an injury to his left hand has him at 29 points through 40 games this time around.

**WNBA: Tina Charles signs with Atlanta, Katie Lou Samuelson heads to Indiana to play with the Fever**

As the WNBA off-season intensifies, a pair of former UConn legends who did not play in 2023 have found new homes for the 2024 season.

On Feb. 1, 2012 WNBA MVP Tina Charles signed with the Atlanta Dream after opting to sit out the 2023 season. The former No. 1 overall draft selection in the 2010 WNBA draft has compiled eight all-star team selections across her impressive career and

will be looking for a fresh start after a tense end to her tenure in Phoenix. Charles left her mark at UConn as one of the best players in program history, winning the Wooden Award in 2009 and exiting the program with two national championship rings.

After missing last season due to maternity leave, former UConn sharpshooter Katie Lou Samuelson will return to the court in new threads for the 2024 campaign. Earlier this week, the Indiana Fever agreed to a multi-year contract with the 2019 fourth-overall pick, as the team looks to improve off their forgettable 13-27 season. Samuelson, a native of Huntington Beach, California has played on four teams in four years to start her WNBA career. In 2022, the former national champion averaged a career-high 9.7 points per game, shooting 35% from beyond the arc.



Andre Drummond walks to the bench with Bulls teammate Nikola Vucevic during a timeout in their game against the Minnesota Timberwolves on Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024. The Bulls won the game 129-123.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @CHICAGOBUZZ ON X

# Sports

### Photo of the Day | Swing and a hit!



UConn wins against Quinnipiac on Wednesday, Feb. 7 in Manchester, Conn. After hard fought matches, the final score was 5-4. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Chris's Column: Immaculate Grid should be on sports fans' radar

by **Chris Charbonneau**  
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Whether it's in a lecture hall, dining hall or classroom, students enjoy playing on-line games. The latest trends have been games like Wordle, where you guess a five-letter word and send screenshots to your family members to show how few tries it took you to guess the word. Or, you make it a competition, timing each other to see how long it takes you. For avid sports fans, who want to test their knowledge, Immaculate Grid is a must-try, with thousands of grid combinations for sports.

Brian Minter, a software developer from Atlanta, designed a grid of nine blank squares, with each row and column assigned a category. It's currently run by Sports Reference, featuring grids for baseball, soccer, women's and men's basketball, football and hockey.

Sports Reference launched its website in 2000 with baseball-reference.com. President Sean Forman created the company in

2004. After six years working for Saint Joseph's University, Forman left to work on Sports Reference full-time in May of 2006. In 2007, he loosely affiliated Sports Reference with Pro-Football-Reference and Basketball-Reference.

Adam Darowski, director of product for Sports Reference, said "people are playing this game in so many ways and, quite frankly, I think that's one of the reasons it's been so successful."

All you do is select a player for each of the nine spaces that match the criteria listed on the top three rows and left side. Whether or not you are correct, your choice still counts as a guess and you can't use any player twice. The goal of the game is to get the lowest score possible.

There are multiple ways a new player can play the grid. The first one is to not worry about your score and just put down popular players that come to mind. You'll get instant satisfaction filling out the grid and your job is done. For intermediate players, if you have some level of sports knowledge, you can replace famous

players with a couple of uncommon players. For the advanced, well, it's simply a gamble, and you try and think of players who played for both teams that people have never heard of.

Once you name a player with a low percentage, you get this instant euphoric feeling or you kick yourself for selecting the wrong person. It's entirely up to the player if they want to complete the game for fun or really challenge themselves. Whether you are killing time waiting for a doctor's appointment or waiting for class to start, "Immaculate Grid" is what you make of it.

In July, the grid started with just baseball. Forman said in New York Times article: "It's incredibly rare to have a product that fits with our audience so well, so quickly. We want to build it out on our other sites — basketball

**"In the 'show summary' section, all the stats for the app are shown for this particular grid."**

and football are no-brainers — and we're trying to launch those as soon as possible."

"Immaculate Grid" reveals a new three-by-three grid every day. Three teams or accomplishments are listed. You click on one of the boxes and enter a player's name that matches the criteria. For example: On Feb. 7, the football grid top listings were the Baltimore Ravens, Los Angeles Rams and first Team AP All-Pro. On the left side, listings were the Cincinnati Bengals, Los Angeles Chargers and Atlanta Falcons. I had to enter a player who has played at least one game for both teams (Ravens/Bengals, Rams/Chargers and Falcons/Rams). For the First Team AP All-Pro, I had to select a player who was a First Team AP All-Pro in a season that they appeared on the Bengals, Chargers and Falcons.

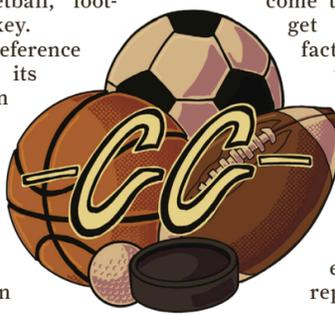
Under the show summary section, the nerds calculate your rarity score. In this grid,

my rarity score was 357. According to "Immaculate Grid", "rarity score is calculated as the sum of the percentages for each cell you get correct plus 100 for each empty cell. A lower score means your answers are more rare. This score will change throughout the day as more games are completed."

In the "show summary" section, all the stats for the app are shown for this particular grid. They have in-depth answers on other players I could have selected and what the most popular answers were. The other section on accuracy detailed how accurate my picks were compared to other players for any of the spaces.

The "Immaculate Grid" is a great way to show your passion for sports and to challenge yourself and your friends to see who can create the best grid.

**"The 'Immaculate Grid' is a great way to show your passion for sports and to challenge yourself and your friends to see who can create the best grid."**



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

## FINAL RESULTS

PRO FOOTBALL GRID #203 • Previous Grids

1ST TEAM AP ALL-PRO

			22%	62%	29%
			Orlando Brown Jr.	Andrew Whitworth	Anthony Munoz
			31%	3%	48%
			Eric Weddle	Deacon Jones	LaDainian Tomlinson
			5%	59%	
			Devin Hester	Todd Gurley	

GUESSES LEFT: 0

Show Summary

GUESSES LEFT

0

Show Summary

Tap on a logo or category for help.

### ACCURACY

	35%	40%	70%
	42%	36%	79%
	45%	46%	84%

### PLAYER SCORES

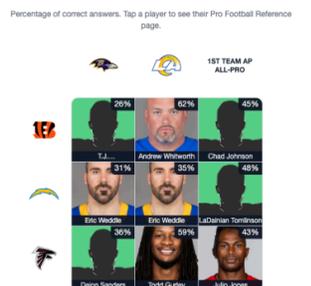


### POSSIBLE ANSWERS

Tap "Show" to see a list of answers on Pro Football Reference or Stathead.

33	28	19
43	109	38
30	80	19

### MOST POPULAR



PHOTOS COURTESY OF IMMACULATEGRID.COM

# Husky History: Richard ‘Rip’ Hamilton

by Sean Ahern  
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Welcome back to another edition of Husky History, the column that highlights a former UConn athlete and their accomplishments in Storrs and their professional careers.

In response to the news that Richard Hamilton will have his jersey number retired later this month, it's appropriate to highlight one of the greatest Huskies to ever lace up the shoes.

Born on Feb. 14, 1978, in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, Hamilton attended Coatesville Area High School where he was a star. In his senior year, he was ranked as one of the best high school players in the country and was named to the McDonald's All-American Team.

Garnering attention from several big-time programs, Hamilton ultimately decided to take his talents to play for Hall of Famer Coach Jim Calhoun and the UConn Huskies. The team began to gain national recognition with the help of Ray Allen and Doron Sheffer, so it was the perfect fit for a combo guard with immense potential.

His first season in 1996 was on a roster with five other freshmen, so Hamilton had a starting role from the beginning. Making the most of the opportunity, he was named to the Big East All-Freshman Team after he averaged 15.9 points, 4.3 boards and 2.8 assists for the 18-15 Huskies. The team went on to finish third in the National Invitation Tournament.

Hamilton clearly had star potential, which he proved when he returned for his sophomore season. He improved in most statistical categories by averaging 21.5 points, 4.4 rebounds

and 1.5 steals per game. For his efforts, he received many accolades like Big East Player of the Year and Second Team All-American honors.

Hamilton helped lead the Huskies to a Big East Tournament and Regular Season Title in the 1997-98 season. While Hamilton had a poor shooting night against North Carolina in the Elite Eight matchup, the team was noticeably improving each year.

After the heartbreaking loss in the tournament, there was consideration to leave for the NBA, but Hamilton decided to return in the quest for a championship. He repeated as the Big East Player of the Year and earned First Team All-American status for the 34-2 Huskies.

Hamilton cemented his legacy in the 1998-99 season. He finished second in the country with 732 points, but his most memorable performance came when the lights shined the brightest: the National Championship game.

Despite their stellar resume, the Huskies were considered underdogs against Duke, who had four future first round NBA Draft choices on the roster. That didn't deter Hamilton, who would go on to score 27 to deliver UConn its first national title.

Following the historic run, Hamilton opted to forgo his final year of collegiate eligibility and entered the NBA Draft. He remains second all-time in program history in points (2036) and points per game (19.8).

Hamilton was later selected seventh overall by the Washington Wizards, who were consistently turning in disappointing seasons. The front office hoped he would provide the spark necessary to bring the franchise back to relevancy.

After spending three im-

pactful seasons in Washington where he averaged 15.6 points per game, he was traded to the Detroit Pistons, who were establishing themselves as a dominant defensive force. Only a season after Hamilton arrived, the Pistons ended the Los Angeles Lakers dynasty with Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal. Hamilton scored a team-high 21 points in a clinching game five.

Trading for the young Hamilton had paid off well early for the Pistons. Shortly after the championship, from 2005-08 he would make three straight All-Star Games for his suffocating defensive play and incredible efficiency.

After nine seasons with Detroit, Hamilton signed as a free agent with the Chicago Bulls. As a valuable veteran presence, he still averaged 10.5 points on 43.8 percent shooting in two seasons. Following the 2012-13 season, he was waived, bringing his illustrious career to a close.

In early 2017, Hamilton's No. 32 was hung in the Little Caesars Arena rafters forever for his accomplishments in the Motor City. Leaving behind an everlasting impact wherever he plays seems to be the norm for The Man in the Mask.

Hamilton was present for the 2023 National Championship game and made appearances in practice to offer words of wisdom as the team marched to their fifth title in school history. Having a legend offer advice certainly contributed to the men bringing home the big trophy.

UConn fans look back on Rip's three years in Storrs feeling nothing short of appreciation. For those interested, No. 32 will rise to the rafters of Gampel Pavilion on Feb. 24 in the matchup against Villanova. It's highly encouraged to attend and give praise to the Husky great.



Richard "RIP" Hamilton attacks the basket for the UConn Huskies in the 1999 National Championship game against the Duke Blue Devils on March 29, 1999 at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, Florida. UConn would win its first championship 77-74. PHOTO COURTESY OF @19NINE\_THREADS ON X



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

# Spin Cycle: Betting on the craziest Super Bowl props

by Nick Spinali  
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America's most wagered-on annual sporting event returns this Sunday when the San Francisco 49ers take on the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl LVIII. This gives bettors one more chance to hit big before the 2023-24 NFL season concludes.

Sure, bettors can stand stout and wager on typical prop bets: Who will win Super Bowl MVP? How many touchdowns will Christian McCaffrey have? Who will be the victor? These types of bets are good to keep bettors engaged throughout the contest, though not nearly as much as many of the other outrageous wagers people have been placing. Gridiron Experts and The Sports Geek have compiled their own respective lists of wild Super Bowl bets. Here, we'll have a crack at some of the craziest ones.

### 1. Will any player or coach cry during the national anthem?

Maybe I'm just a casual fan who is not paying close enough attention, but it seems that this season, when the broadcast camera pans across the line of players during the national anthem, players are holding their emotions in better than in past years. Still, considering the weight of the moment and the obvious motivation that will be present, a player or coach may break down. If it does happen, hopefully we get a shot similar to the one that made Eagles head coach Nick Sirianni a meme.

### 2. Who will be shown first during "America the Beautiful"?

There are so many stars between both teams that the camera can pan to during the performance. It could be any of the game's more marketable stars in guys like Patrick

Mahomes, Travis Kelce or Christian McCaffrey. Or, we could see other top performers such as Chris Jones, Brock Purdy, Deebo Samuel or George Kittle. The odds weigh more in favor of the two faces of Kansas City's offense, but this bet could be a dart throw.

### Prediction: Christian McCaffrey

### 3. First TV Advertisement - BMW vs. Coors Light

Is it just me, or has the quality of commercials aired during the Super Bowl declined in recent years? Anyways, fans this season have once again extended their Super Bowl bets to include the commercials and one popular question has been what commercial will air first. Both BMW and Coors Light have high odds to be among the early advertisements, and while no one knows for sure what commercials will air and when, these two are among the most-best on. You have your pick.

### Prediction: BMW

### 4. Who will the Super Bowl MVP mention first in their speech?

The sentence "I'd like to thank my..." can end in so many ways. Is it your parents? Maybe God or a religious being? Teammates? Coaches? Spouse? As the two quarterbacks participating in the game, Mahomes and Pur-



Travis Kelce poses for a Kansas City Chiefs photo booth before Super Bowl LVIII. This is the Kansas Chiefs sixth Super Bowl appearance in their franchise's history

PHOTO COURTESY OF @CHIEFS ON X

dy likely stand the highest chance of winning the award. If it's either of them who claims the hardware, teammates would be a solid answer. Again, this one could go a number of different ways.

### Prediction: Teammates

### 5. How many times will Taylor Swift be shown?

Not to try to annoy anyone, but it's no secret that Swift has taken the spotlight ever since her relationship with Kelce became public. She deserves media attention, but in a game of such high stakes, the attention will likely need to stay on the field. Both websites list a current over/under on times Swift will be shown

of around five. That's quite a lot of airtime for someone not

even involved in the game. Prediction: Under five



FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Women's Basketball: Auriemma wins 1,200th game as No. 11 Huskies trudge past Pirates

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UConn women's basketball takes on Seton Hall at the XL Center on Wednesday, Feb 7, 2024. The Huskies went on to win the game 67-34.  
PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Only two coaches had done what Basketball Hall of Fame head coach Geno Auriemma did heading into last night at the XL Center: win 1,200 games in their coaching career.

Auriemma's milestone victory came by the largest margin at 33 points, but it required the most amount of work.

For an extended period of time, the No. 11 UConn women's basketball team shot under 35% from the field. They scored 33 points in over 25 minutes of action, and reaching the 60-point mark seemed like a far cry. Once the U-5 media timeout hit in the third quarter, the Huskies were off and running.

UConn got into a groove they never snapped out of until their starters hit the bench. When that happened, the Huskies had dropped 34 points in the final 15 minutes of the game as they outdueled the Seton Hall Pirates, 67-34.

With the win, Auriemma becomes the fastest player to reach 1,200 in his career in college basketball history. Because of how low scoring it was, the 39th-year head coach's most recent victory reminded him of what needed to be done to win games back in the 1980s.

"Some games, the ball does not find the basket, and you have to find other ways to win," commented Auriemma after the contest. "You have to do some other things until it turns."

First-year guard Ashlynn Shade shined as Connecticut's main source of offense throughout the first half. Held to just one three-pointer in her last three contests, Shade let it fly from

downtown for all 12 of her first-half points and most of her 17 on the evening. While the rest of the team's offensive efficiency varied throughout the first 10 minutes, the five-time Big East Freshman of the Week was consistent.

The Huskies had their struggles for portions of the frame, but Shade made sure that they possessed a double-digit lead after one quarter with each three-pointer she buried. Seton Hall's offense still struggled through the early portions of the second, but that is where the action came to a crawl.

A stifling defense that forced turnovers or a dominant offense had nothing to do with the slower pace of play. Both teams combined for nine fouls in the period's first four minutes, with UConn committing five of them before the Pirates were called for one. By halftime, seven different players had at least two fouls.

It almost looked like fatigue had finally caught up to the Huskies when they opened the second half with a 1-6 clip from the field. While they led by as much as 19, the overall atmosphere in Hart-

ford made it feel like Connecticut was playing from behind.

Enter Paige Bueckers.

The redshirt junior guard had two points in the first half, but once her shots started falling, the Huskies turned a corner. Beyond her improved offensive efficiency, Bueckers made sure her teammates got in on the offensive action. The redshirt junior scored or assisted on each of UConn's last five field shots that they made in the frame. It set the tone for the rest of the evening.

That stretch hit six before Aaliyah Edwards' floater off a block snapped it. As one might expect, the redshirt junior recorded the swat that set up the eventual bucket. Bueckers took her seat on the bench following Seton Hall's second timeout; she finished with 13 on the night to go with four rebounds and five assists.

Once she checked out, her absence provided enough of an opening for the senior forward to take control like she had the past two games. Edwards added six more points to her totals in her final four minutes, getting it done defensively to make sure the Pirates could

not rally. Sophomore guard Inès Bettencourt and redshirt freshman Ice Brady each scored once the senior forward sat down as the Huskies maintained their undefeated record in Big East play.

Edwards picked up where she left off in the post, but it was not just the scoresheet where she thrived. With almost every miss that Seton Hall had, especially in the first half, Edwards was right there on the glass. The senior forward had nine boards in the first quarter and 13 by the intermission; she picked up her second straight double-double with an efficient second half.

Connecticut strung together their strongest defensive performance of the season, but part of that had to do with the Pirates' offensive inefficiencies. As a team, Seton Hall shot just 22.2% from the field and 2-23 from beyond the arc while turning the ball over 15 times.

No Pirate crossed double figures on the night but I'yanne Lops came the closest with nine points and a third of the team's 12 shots. Savannah Catalon finished not far behind with six, while three other

Pirates had four apiece with 10 combined rebounds.

Associate head coach Chris Dailey also hit 1,200 career victories with the Huskies' 20th win of the season. She has been by Auriemma's side on the sidelines the entire way.

"If she was not a part of this, it probably would not have happened," said Auriemma.

UConn's biggest game of the regular season comes on a very big day for sports: Super Bowl Sunday. The Huskies head down to Columbia, South Carolina, for a chance at handing the undefeated No. 1 South Carolina Gamecocks their first loss of the season. It is a tall task for a Connecticut team with just nine healthy players to usurp the Gamecocks in their house, but that does not mean it cannot be done.

"It is more about making a statement within ourselves," explained Edwards. "Whatever the outside noise is, we are going to cancel that out and make sure that we execute the things that we want to get done."

Tip-off Sunday is slated for 2 p.m. EST on ESPN.

# The Column: Auriemma's storied legacy goes beyond his 1,200 career wins

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regular season title in program history despite their 11-0 conference record. Most teams yearn for what Auriemma has accomplished the same way professional sports fans marvel at a Hall of Famer's career accolades.

"It is like LeBron [James]," Bueckers commented. "It is so hard to stay that great for that long, and it is a testament to the culture he has built here."

The key ingredient behind Auriemma's long-term success is recruiting the nation's top players. It involves more than just recruiting them, however. Building a successful program and having four high school classes of the nation's best recruits gel together requires chemistry and a winning attitude. It starts individually with each relationship that he develops.

Remove NIL and COVID-19 eligibility from the picture, and you may notice that the way college basketball recruits is now is much different than 20, even 10, years ago. That has not stopped the Hall of Fame head coach.

"It is refreshing to see [that today's college basketball players] respond the exact same way that those other guys responded, and you find out that they need the exact same thing those other guys needed," noted Auriemma during a media availability Saturday. "Their reaction when they get something right and they are learning something they did not know is worth it."

There are some years when Auriemma knows he has the pieces to win a national title. Other times, the bar is set a little lower. No matter who the Huskies have on their

roster, he prepares his team for the big moments every single day. Having been with the program for four years, Bueckers knows what that entails.

"You win the national championship in April, but you win it throughout the whole entire season with the habits you build, the way that you practice, the way that you compete," added Bueckers during that media availability. "Any way we can get better [at] playing basketball and continue to build championship habits, that happens every day in practice."

With time, what the players learn from Auriemma outside of the game turns into becoming some of the nation's best athletes. Take Aaliyah Edwards for example. The senior forward was the 23rd-ranked recruit in ESPN HoopGuriz' Class of 2020 rankings. Edwards went from making six starts as a first-year student to an All-American junior season. The reigning Big East Player of the Week put it best while referencing her own development.

"As you grow as a player, he appreciates you and appreciates all of the work that he helps you put into your game," explained Edwards after scoring a career-high 33 points on Sunday. "He is all about the dubs, but at the same time, it is about the memories and what he has built along the way that really means the most."

Those memories, amongst other things, have made him calmer than he has been in years past, but it has not shifted his spirit.

"He is just as enthusiastic and just as energetic as he was," expressed Bueckers. "What you give



UConn head coach Geno Auriemma smiles after gaining his 1,200th career win, following the team's NCAA college basketball game against Seton Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024, in Hartford, Connecticut. PHOTO BY JESSICA HILL/AP

to the game, it gives back, and that is what he has done. He has never changed who he is as a coach or as a person."

Basketball Hall of Fame coaches John Calipari, 64, and Bill Self, 61, are the active wins leaders amongst Division I head coaches in men's basketball. They each have over 800 career victories in 30+ seasons. After Tara VanDerveer and Auriemma, four different head coaches currently at Division I schools have won over 800 games in women's basketball. Each one of them won over 100 contests at a non-Division I school.

Regardless, reaching 1,200 career victories, let alone 1,100, may become as rare as a pitcher winning 300 games in Major League Baseball.

"You look at the way the [college basketball] world is today, I do not think you will see this happening much going forward," commented Auriemma. "It is

certainly something to be proud of."

Beyond the wins and the lifelong connections that he makes with his players, Auriemma believes his own legacy and that of the team can currently be defined by one number.

"The 11 championships for us is what separates Connecticut from every other basketball program in the country."

With UConn's 2023-24 regular season hitting the home stretch, however, the 39th-year head coach has one trophy on his mind.

"I am coaching right now to win the Big East Championship," stated Auriemma.

At a perfect 12-0, the Huskies are well on their way.

## WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

**UConn SCOREBOARD**

**71 vs. 62**

**Men's Basketball**

**Sunday**

**Upcoming Games**

**Women's Basketball**

**1 p.m. Wednesday**

**Hartford, Conn.**

**Softball**

**2:00 p.m. Thursday**

**Orlando, Fl.**

## INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY

@uconn  
Three very good boys. No additional noise.

## TWEETS OF THE DAY

**UConn Men's Basketball**  
@UConnMBB  
DC with the big double-double!

**UConn Women's Basketball**  
@UConnWBB  
Just the third to 1,200 wins and he did it the fastest.  
There's only one Geno Auriemma.

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