

Hartford campus student proposes mental health changes

by Mike Mavredakis
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The University of Connecticut's mental health services have come under fire the past few years. As a result, multiple student organizations have spoken up asking the university to increase them. One UConn student, in particular, wrote a proposal for change.

"Mental health affects almost every aspect of your life, your education, your productivity, your work experience, just the amount of things you get done and the way you go about life, your mental state is going to affect all of that," former USG Hartford senator Brittany Diaz said.

Diaz, a fourth-semester pre-law political science major, created the proposal as a result of her personal frustration with UConn's mental health services at the Hartford branch. She wrote it following the passing of UConn student Justin Niezrecki. She said she stayed up all night writing it, despite having an exam the next morning.

"I get to go to sleep and wake up, but Justin's never going to wake up," Diaz said on what she was thinking about following his death.

Her proposal focuses on raising the bar of student mental health services at all of UConn's campuses.

"The idea here is to focus on the services we have here at UConn, but not only just Storrs but all of the regional cam-

pus we have here at UConn as well," Diaz said. "And to have new ways for students to learn and students to strive in areas and spaces where they are capable of still getting good grades and still going to class, still doing something whether they're depressed or not."

The proposal calls for UConn CMHS to expand the size of their staff, host more frequent events, increase advertising for services, acknowledge there is a gap in services between campuses, add academic plans for students struggling with mental health and create a "rigorous" training module for on-campus faculty and staff based on mental health among other points.

She sent the document to UConn's President Thomas Katsouleas, and he responded to her email a couple of weeks ago. He also sent out a mass email to UConn students Wednesday to address widening mental health concerns.

"In response, we have hired six additional full-time clinical positions and launched a case management model for each of the regional campuses," Katsouleas said in his email. "Different students present different needs based on their individual circumstances and history. Each requires an approach that is best suited for them, whether it is individual sessions, group therapy, case management, psychiatric care or emergency assessment."

In response to Katsouleas' email, Diaz said the following to The Daily Campus:



Brittany Diaz wrote a bill proposing mental health changes at UConn. The bill was written following the passing of Justin Niezrecki. UConn Mental Health Services is located on the fourth floor of Arjona. PHOTO BY HANAISHA LEWIS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

"Many students may not feel comfortable around a male therapist or social worker etc. Some students feel socially and culturally disconnected and need someone who can potentially relate to them and understand them on certain issues. For example, religion and language can cause cultural differences and create an impact around the culture of mental health. One resource for each campus isn't enough."

Diaz said she sought out the help of Hartford's mental services but found just one

staffer available for the whole campus. She said she resigned from USG Storrs after being told mental health was "not a priority" for the branch. However, she has been working with USG Storrs on the matter, who has a committee dedicated to its improvement.

In her proposal, she cited a statistic from Active Minds, a nonprofit organization dedicated to mental health awareness and education for students, that said "39% of students in college experience a significant mental health is-

sue." Active Minds also says on their website that two-out-of-three students with anxiety and depression do not seek treatment.

In the mass email, Katsouleas also announced a merger with the JED Foundation, which is a "non-profit dedicated to promoting mental health, emotional health and suicide prevention programs among teens and young adults," to address mental health.

UConn will also be conducting a mental health study, starting Monday.

UConn student starts homemade eating and social experience



Students dine at Kunal Kataria's homemade Indian food restaurant. Kataria is running the restaurant out of his Eagle Court apartment, and sees it as a unique college experience. PHOTO COURTESY KUNAL KATARIA VIA FACEBOOK

by Samuel Katz
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Kunal Kataria, a tenth-semester entrepreneurship major at the University of Connecticut, recently began his own homemade Indian food restaurant, "Kunal's Kitchen," out of his Eagle Court apartment, combining traditional cuisine with a laid-back social setting.

"I'd like to call it a social kitchen," Kataria said. "A place where friends can come together to share my love for food and socializing... I wanted to create an environment where people could escape the mundane and experience a super fancy, homely meal with great company."

Kataria plans on becoming a teacher, but hopes the kitchen

will be a unique college experience for him and others looking for an alternative style of dining.

"Especially for freshmen and sophomores, who don't have apartments, you're dependent on the dining hall or restaurants," Kataria said. "I know a lot of people who want that home cooking kind of meal, and it's part of what I hope to achieve here."

Chloe Jihae Son, a sixth-semester finance major, visited Kunal's Kitchen on Saturday night. She described the kitchen as having excellent ambiance, combining the food with fitting music and lighting.

"I feel as though going to a restaurant is more than just eating or tasting, but about who you're sharing the meal with, how everyone's feeling and

what they're seeing and hearing," Son said, citing the group seating on the floor around the tables as making it feel more social than other times she's eaten with friends. "The hole in the wall vibe is also really special."

Kataria hopes the dining service serves as a social experience as well as a home cooked meal. The menu currently consists of rajma, a mix of rice with kidney beans, egg curry and servings of paratha, an Indian flatbread.

"My father always wanted to open a restaurant when he retired, and I guess that idea intercepted into my brain," Kunal explained.

Kunal's Kitchen is currently on UConn Buy and Sell and information about the eating experience is provided on Kataria's Instagram, @kkataria7.



PHOTO COURTESY JACQUELINE SERAS

TAMPON TIME...SEE PAGE 5



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News

Fridays For Future seeks to switch up image for the semester



Fridays for Future is moving away from their initial vision. Fridays for Future Vice President Stella Kozloski said conflicts around the groups image was one of the causes of the resignation of the executive board last semester. PHOTO BY MAGGIE CHAFOULEAS, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Grace Mcfadden
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The University of Connecticut's branch of Fridays For Future is looking to change their focus for the upcoming semester, according to fourth-semester art and art history major and Fridays For Future Vice President Stella Kozloski.

The group, which last semester concentrated on climate justice, is exploring a diverse range of issues with their future plans. Kozloski sat down with The Daily Campus to discuss the group's new direction.

"If I were to define our focus for the semester, I'd say that we're really focusing on intersectionality now," Kozloski

said. "People tend to frame the climate crisis as something that's not occurring yet, like it's something we can prevent. The truth is much more that it's already occurring and it's just disenfranchised people that are experiencing the effects."

The group began last semester with the Sept. 20 School Strike for Climate, an international movement started by Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg. At the protest, Fridays For Future made the commitment to hold sit-ins in President Katsouleas' office every Friday until their nine core demands were met. The group held true to that promise for the remainder of the semester. However, Kozloski

said that Fridays For Future is moving away from that initial vision.

"In the past, we did the sit-ins every Friday. We're not certain we're gonna continue that," Kozloski said.

Kozloski said the biggest change Fridays For Future is making this semester is surrounding their image as an organization. Conflicts around image were one of the causes for the resignation of Fridays For Future's executive board last semester.

"The issue with our E-board, that's never going to occur again, I can say safely," Kozloski said. "Our club is a lot more unified in its goals now."

Kozloski said the group is

moving away from identifying with Fridays For Future as an international organization.

"In regards to what we would like to see change as a club, in a lot of ways we're still carrying an image that's not quite what I think our members would have chosen had we started it," Kozloski said. "Like, one conflict is just our name itself, Fridays For Future. We're not exactly aligned with Greta Thunberg. We just kind of took the name, but we're not that. We're a college protest group, not like a high school group."

Kozloski said that one of the biggest issues was the perception of the age group associated with Fridays For Future. Ad-

ditionally, the group wanted to look beyond climate change into more intersectional topics.

"We're trying to stay more open to issues that might not be defined as purely climate change," Kozloski said. "We've been engaged in some other projects recently, such as trying to get the public aware of Trump's NEPA [National Environmental Policy Act] rollbacks. We've also been focusing on some other intersectional issues. We're planning for our next major event to be the 50th anniversary of Earth Day."

More information about Fridays For Future can be found on their Instagram @UConnFridaysForFuture.

Police: 1 dead, 4 wounded in Connecticut club shooting

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Gunfire erupted at a Connecticut nightclub early Sunday morning, killing a man and wounding four other people, police said.

A 28-year-old man died in the shooting at the Majestic Lounge in Hartford's South End, police Lt. Paul Cicero said. Two other males and two females were wounded, with two of them in surgery Sunday morning and two in stable condition, he said. None of their names were released.

Police officers had been stationed outside the club because of previous problems there and reported the shooting at about 1:30 a.m. Officers rushed in, but

were confronted with a large number of people running toward the exits, Cicero said.

"Everybody started pushing their way out to get away from the gunfire," he said. "It was kind of pandemonium."

Officers, however, were able to provide immediate medical care to the victims, he said.

There were no suspects in custody. Officials said there was little information to release because the investigation was in

the very early stages.

A message seeking comment was left Sunday at a phone number for the club.

Mayor Luke Bronin said Sunday that illegal handguns were involved in the shooting. He said there have been

problems at the nightclub in the past, but nothing in recent weeks.

City officials will be assessing what steps they can take to prevent violence at the club in the future, Bronin said.

"Hartford Police Officers who were at the club responded immediately, running in the direction of gunfire, and their heroic efforts may have prevented further loss of life," Bronin said in a statement.

Streets around the club were closed for hours during the emergency response and investigation. Officials left the scene around 7 a.m.

"We're not going to have anything for quite a bit of time," Cicero said, responding to a question about when more information will be released. "This is a very complex investigation."

"A 28-year-old man died in the shooting at the Majestic Lounge in Hartford's South End, police Lt. Paul Cicero said. Two other males and two females were wounded, with two of them in surgery Sunday morning and two in stable condition."

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President Trump's proposed budget to cancel student loan forgiveness programs



President Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally Monday, Feb. 10, 2020, in Manchester, N.H. Trump's proposed budget will cut popular loan forgiveness programs. PHOTO BY EVAN VUCCI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

by **Nicholas Martin**
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With a \$66.6 billion funding request for the Department of Education, which is a 7.8% decrease in current funding, President Donald Trump's proposed budget is looking to eliminate popular public service loan forgiveness programs.

The new proposals, which came last Monday, could also see the elimination of interest payment in federal student loans by the Federal Government. Among other initiatives, the budget includes several proposals which could impact student loans and student loan repayment strategy. Trump's plan, titled "A Budget for America's Future," would cut student loan spending by \$170 billion, and also place limits on borrowing, according to USA Today.

Johan Tejada, a 2015 political science University of Connecticut alumni, said paying

student loans won't end anytime soon.

"I still owe and will continue to owe for the next few years," Tejada said. "From what I heard about that program is that they've already made it so difficult to qualify and to actually receive the forgiveness that I question if that program is actually doing anything"

Scrapping a program that forgives the remaining debt of teachers, firefighters and others in public service who have made on-time loan payments for 10 years could lead to an additional \$70 billion in costs to loan borrowers over 10 years, as estimated by The Center for American Progress.

"I have a couple of friends that are planning to apply for loan forgiveness after they meet their time. To me those programs barely serve any purpose, except for being there as a buffer for when people talk about the student loan crisis that we are in today" Tejada said.

With the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) deadline passing this weekend, some UConn students have expressed that President Trump's plan could have a greater impact on some students over others.

Sixth-semester sport management major Patrick Gately expressed worry for students who are already benefiting from the program.

"I don't know much about those programs, but I bet it will hurt students from low income families that probably benefit from them."

The cancellation of the Student Loan Forgiveness Program, enacted by President George W. Bush in 2007, allows borrowers who work in certain non-profit or public sector jobs to have their federal student loan debt erased, could also have effects on those the current proposals do not affect.

Jamie Lee Chin, a UConn class of 2012 graduate, said students may think the cuts don't

apply to them, but may soon realize they do.

"I can easily think that doesn't apply to me or it's only a matter of time that it does or even the possible effects of it on me who it's not directly impacting," she said.

Chin also shared the possibility of earnings if the new proposals are not approved.

"I'm wondering if he realised how much money they could make without cancelling it. Because if people wouldn't start getting cancellations 'til 2017, it's only been two years. Only 1% of the people that applied saw the relief...in September," she said.

Some borrowers may even be faced with the reality of having to rethink life goals, in the event of the program's demise.

"I feel strongly about the career I went into," said Jade Gory, a UConn graduate who works as a judicial director. Having paid 53 of the 120 qualifying payments toward forgiveness, she hopes to be granted forgiveness in Sept. 2025.

"But I would have to make serious life changes and not be able to save up for a house," she said.

The 2021 budget would also implement some positive changes, including career and technical education funding by \$900 million, and also the reinstatement of federal Pell Grant eligibility for short-term education programs and for some currently incarcerated students being released within five years.

Sixth-semester management and engineering for manufacturing major Gleimy Rodriguez said while the proposals may push students into the technology field, the negatives still outweigh this positive.

"I think that tech fields are the future, so this definitely drives people in that direction. However it does limit people who dream of careers outside of tech who may not have the money needed to fund their education without the government's help," she said.

State secures custody of nearly 200 neglected farm animals

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Connecticut officials have secured custody of nearly 200 animals that were found severely neglected on a farm last month.

State Attorney General William Tong said the state obtained custody of the animals during a court hearing in Hartford on Friday. He said the owner, Rachel Kornstein, of Manchester, agreed to relinquish custody of the animals.

"No animal should ever suffer as these animals did," Tong said. "The animals were severely malnourished, dehydrated and diseased, and there was no way the owner was going to be able to provide the intensive care and rehabilitation that is required."

State and local officials seized 18 cattle, 137 chickens, 33 ducks

and six Great Pyrenees dogs from a Suffield farm last month, as a result of an investigation into complaints that the animals were being neglected.

Authorities said one cow died shortly after giving birth. There was also evidence of several dead and decaying chickens, officials said.

Kornstein was charged with multiple counts of animal cruelty. She posted \$20,000 bail and is due back in court on March 3.

Her lawyer, Norman Pattis, said he is reviewing the charges.

"She's no criminal," Pattis said on Saturday.

Officials said most of the animals were brought to the Department of Agriculture Large Animal Rehabilitation Facility in Niantic.

"No animal should ever suffer as these animals did. The animals were severely malnourished, dehydrated and diseased, and there was no way the owner was going to be able to provide the intensive care and rehabilitation that is required."

STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM TONG

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Names for Connecticut Democratic and GOP primaries released

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Connecticut's secretary of the state announced Friday which candidates will appear on the ballot for the April 28 presidential primaries.

Unlike some states, including Nevada, South Carolina and Kansas, Connecticut plans to hold a Republican primary even though President Donald Trump is expected to easily win his nomination for a second term. Besides Trump, former Massachusetts Gov. Bill Weld and California businessman Rocky De La Fuente, whose name also appeared on Connecticut's Democratic presidential primary ballot in 2016, were selected to appear on this year's ballot, Denise Merrill announced.

J.R. Romano, chairman of the state Republican Party, criticized Merrill for holding a GOP primary, accusing her on Facebook of "forcing towns to spend money for no reason!" Romano wrote "everyone in CT see this for what it is," calling Merrill's decision "political pettiness."

Gabe Rosenberg, Merrill's communications director, said the secretary of the state was following the law.

"What J.R. calls pettiness, we call democracy," he said. "Our office followed both the letter and the spirit of the law, and let the voters decide."

Merrill said Connecticut law requires her to place on the ballot any presidential candidate whose candidacy for a party's nomination "is generally and seriously advocated or recognized according to reports in the



Connecticut Secretary of the State Denise Merrill announces the names of Democratic candidates who will appear on the state's presidential primary ballots on April 28, during a news conference in Hartford, Feb. 14, 2020.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SUE HAIGHN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

national or state news media." Merrill said her office has been collecting news articles for the past year to decide who met that requirement.

"The law is clear for us that the threshold is not who can win or viability," she said. "The threshold is whether they've been generally and seriously advocated for or recognized by the national and state news media. And I would argue that all of these people certainly have had recognition."

Much of the state's attention will be focused on the Democratic primary, however.

The list of Democratic candidates that will appear are: former Vice President Joe Biden, former Mayor Mike Bloomberg, former Mayor Pete Buttigieg, U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, businessman Tom

Steyer and U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

Candidates who were not selected by Merrill can still appear on the ballots if they file petitions with the signatures of at least 1% of the active members of their party. The petitions must be turned into town registrars by March 6. Merrill will then publicly draw names of eligible candidates on March 24 to determine the order of how they will appear on their respective primary ballots.

While it's too late for voters to switch from one party to another, unaffiliated and new voters have until April 23 to register online at www.myvote.ct.gov/register or until April 27 to register in person at their local town hall. Connecticut is one of six states that have scheduled presidential primaries for April 28.



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UConn's Mental Health Services exist for liability reasons, not for student wellbeing

by Lia Higgins
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Despite outcry from the student population of UConn's Storrs campus, the Board of Trustees continues to neglect the fiscal needs of the mental health programs offered. Since the closing of the Humphrey Mental Health Clinic in October of 2018, many students have been without vital psychiatric council due to their inability to pay or not wanting guardians to see the charges on their fee bill out of fear. Those with the ability to pay have turned to CMHS, who leave much to be desired with their services. It becomes clear to the student body that the Center for Mental Health Services exists for one purpose: To excuse the university from any harm that may come to students from their own or others' struggles with mental illness.

CMHS funding has been cut drastically, leaving too few staff to handle the volume of need at such a large university. The funding

does exist however, and has been awarded to the construction of a new \$1.25mil hockey rink instead of the protection of the lives of the students who fork over thousands of dollars to attend the school. It has been shown in the most tragic way possible that UConn is not doing enough for its students in terms of mental health, as two brilliant UConn students have ended their own lives in the last three months. CMHS seems to spit in the face of students dealing with suicidal thoughts, assuming that playing with puppies and a yoga session is enough to end the worries of the students who often find themselves depressed to the point at which they are unable to leave their bed for a shower.

According to the Suicide Prevention Research Center, suicide is the second leading cause of death for college students nationwide, and rates are on the rise. 12.6% of students report suicidal ideation during college, and it can be assumed that many more fail to report. Should these students muster

the courage to ask for help from CMHS, they are asked to endure extensive wait times, sometimes asked to wait until the next semester to be seen. Anyone who has dealt with mental illness knows that just like a malignant tumor, the earlier the illness is dealt with, the better chance the sufferer has of full recovery. College is a stressful environment, and the pressure put on students to excel may exacerbate the symptoms students face, especially with disorders such as anxiety and depression.

CMHS seems to spit in the face of students dealing with suicidal thoughts, assuming that playing with puppies and a yoga session is enough to end the worries of the students who often find themselves depressed to the point at which they are unable to leave their bed for a shower.

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ADVERTISEMENTS ARE NOT ALLIES

by Zoey Turturino
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This month's Super Bowl LIV saw an unprecedented number of commercials with LGBTQ+ inclusion, which has led many people to celebrate the supposed rainbow wave of advertisements. This pinkwashing, however, is the epitome of corporate cynicism. It exists to hide the fact that these massive corporations are not your friends, and certainly not allies of the LGBTQ+ community.

The night's most watched commercial was an advertisement for Amazon Alexa, which starred Ellen DeGeneres and her partner Portia de Rossi. Ellen is likely the most well-known lesbian woman in America, and her starring role with de Rossi puts one of the least represented groups in advertising at the center of advertising's biggest night.

While this might seem like a momentous step, it's important to remember that Amazon is a company with a history full of labor exploitation and abuse. These abuses include constant supervision and tracking of warehouse employees leading to "hellish" workdays, and lack of appropriate medical care for workplace sustained injuries. Despite representation from upper-class LGBTQ+ people like Ellen, the vast majority of queer people are working class, and have far more in common with the exploited workers of Amazon than with exuberantly wealthy talk show hosts.

Sabra Hummus also made headlines for LGBTQ+ inclusivity, with its star-studded ad featuring Drag Race contestants Kim Chi and Miz Cracker. While an advertisement for hummus may seem harmless by itself, Sabra is a subsidiary of Strauss Group, an Israeli based food manufacturer that has provided material support for the genocidal Israel Defense Force, especially the brigades that have been notorious for their abuse of human rights.

Engaging with corporations like Sabra Hummus violates Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions, a non-violent international movement that seeks to emulate the success of South African boycotts during apartheid to end the occupation of Palestine. By violating BDS, these celebrities are announcing that they very clearly do not care about the abuses faced by those in Palestine, particularly the queer Palestinians who are incredibly vulnerable to blackmail and intimidation from IDF soldiers or living undocumented in Tel Aviv. Queer liberation means supporting LGBTQ+ people across the world, not just celebrities living in the United States.

Perhaps the most talked about advertisement of the night was made by coffee megachain Starbucks. Their ad depicts a trans masculine person being repeatedly deadnamed before visiting a Starbucks and having their chosen name written on a coffee. While this ad struck a chord with many trans people, the reality of Starbucks practices towards transgender employees tells a much different story. Many Starbucks employees have spoken out about the abuse they have experienced while working at Starbucks, including being misgendered by managers and software, outed as transgender and denial of their supposedly trans-inclusive healthcare. Additionally, last December a transgender Starbucks manager was fired after a coffee cup was given to a police officer with the word "Pig" written on it by a friend of the officer, extremely ironic given the subject of their advertisement. While Starbucks may air big budget ads that pander to the LGBTQ+ community, their actions as employers reveal a lack of commitment to queer people.

It is important for us to remember that giant corporations are not our allies, and that advertisements which are designed to sell us products and take our money are not replacements for real activism or advocacy. There is a cynicism to advertising directed at LGBTQ+ people, which demonstrates that only because we are now seen as a viable market are they being acknowledged by these companies, and even then, they are often outed as hypocrites when no one is looking. Solidarity is vital to queer liberation, and we must resist these attempts for corporations to pander to us, and instead stand together with our queer and working class comrades in the working class and abroad.

Vegan terror threats are overblown

by Samantha Bertolino
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After liberating livestock from factory farms in North Carolina, Utah and California, Wayne Hsiung is facing 85 to 100 years in prison. Hsiung is the leader and co-founder of the controversial animal activist group Direct Action Everywhere. The members have been known for their extremist techniques, such as protesting meat consumption at restaurants, climbing into food cases at grocery stores, and in one particularly grotesque case, one activist covered herself in excrement at a supermarket to protest the conditions of livestock within factory farms (typically these animals live in their own waste).

Most commonly within Direct Action Everywhere, however, are their "open rescues," which involve stealing farm animals from big factory farms in order to liberate them. Although these "rescues" are criminal acts, the government response is what's truly absurd.

"Most people would be shocked to learn that animal rights and environmental activists are the number 1 domestic terrorist threat according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation," according to Will Potter, a journalist and professor at the University of Michigan.

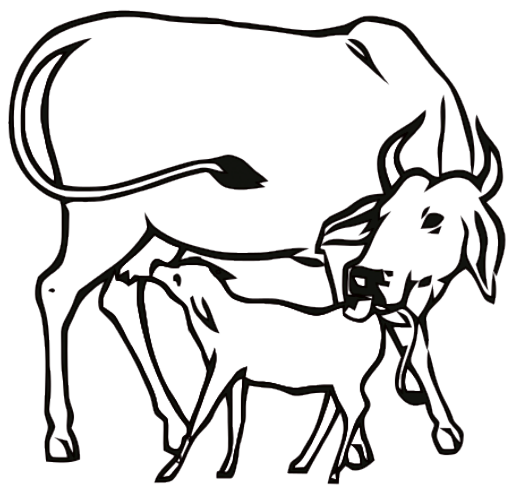
Potter himself disclosed that through the Freedom of Information Act, he was able to obtain articles from the counterterrorism unit which indicated that the FBI were monitoring his lectures, media interviews, book and website. This may come as a shock, especially given that, according to the FBI's archives, most "extremist" groups engage in activity that is "protected by constitutional guarantees of free speech."

And though these activist groups have progressively turned to "unlawful acts," it seems fundamentally strange that our nation's Justice Department sees environmental activism as the predominant threat.

Most of the time, in fact, animal rights activists protest without committing any criminal acts. According to the FBI's online archives, it is estimated that "the Animal Liberation Front and Earth Liberation Front (two large activist groups under investigation) have committed around 1 thousand criminal acts over the course of almost 30 years." In comparison, according to CBS News, in 2019 alone, there were "more mass shootings across the U.S. than there were days in the year." Essentially, this means that in a

year alone, we saw almost half the amount of "criminal activity" in the form of mass shootings than we saw in 30 years of environmental "rescue missions." The two shouldn't even be comparable.

But, animal rights activists were charged with creating damages at approximately \$110 million over that span of time. So, even though they don't threaten our lives the way mass shooters do, environmental activists threaten to expose the meat and dairy industries, and jeopardize corporate profits (which are known to be tied to politics and government funding). That's the real reason these activists are targeted as "domestic terrorist threats." And if you ask me, there's something fundamentally wrong with that picture.



Daily

Life

@dailycampuslife

Tampon Time: 'Seras' about providing products for periods

Hollianne Lao
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One of the most stressful experiences for a menstruating person is when their period comes and they don't have a tampon or pad with them. Half of the population menstruates, yet some do not have appropriate access to feminine hygiene products. Tampon Time is an initiative run through the Student Services Committee of the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) that provides free menstrual products to undergraduate students. In previous semesters, you might have noticed dispensers with these products in the cultural centers in the Student Union and in the bathrooms of the library. Under the guidance of task force lead Jacqueline Seras, the initiative has expanded to provide products to more locations on campus. The new locations have been offering pads and tampons since the end of November.

"The expansion [from November] is the fourteen large metal dispensers placed across campus," Seras, a fourth-semester finance major and history minor, said. "These locations include Homer Babbidge Library, the Recreation Center, McHugh, Torrey Life Sciences, Chemistry, Gant West and ITE."

By adding more locations, the

expansion seeks to broaden Tampon Time's availability and accessibility. The industrial metal dispensers are of much higher quality than the plastic ones used in the pilot program, and thus should last longer.

"This expansion includes an additional gender neutral location on top of our five gender neutral locations in the Union in each cultural center," Seras said. "This expansion means that more students can access the products more conveniently and more inclusively. Students can now get products wherever they are during their day and on whatever terms make them feel comfortable. We hope to continue to expand to address the needs of every student."

Tampon Time was started a few semesters ago, but was able to expand and more acutely address students' needs after Seras took leadership of the initiative last year.

"I became involved in my second semester here at UConn when I felt passion for the project and wanted to expand beyond our pilot program," Seras said. She discussed the meticulous work that has gone into the project since heading it. "I think the most important thing to remember with advocacy work is that it takes time and preparation. This expansion was started with writing a Statement of Position in May of last year and the dispensers weren't actually installed until Thanksgiving Break."

Seras provided some insight into

working on an initiative through USG, which offers a strong platform for student advocates.

"USG is a great way to structure advocacy work because it gives a framework and a network to something that otherwise would have been impossible to accomplish," Seras said. "The basic framework is working within your committee, moving a bill to Senate, working with administration, completing orders in compliance with funding policies and implementation."

The initiative had previously utilized USG volunteers to refill the dispensers, however facilities now refills the new dispensers with supplies funded by USG.

"For this project, we relied heavily on Facilities and Operations' Director of Building Services Aris Ristau and his team to get the products mounted and stocked," Seras said. "Tampon Time would not work without UConn's facilities team stocking the dispensers on this large of a scale."

After working on the initiative, Seras describes her work as "equally as rewarding as it is exhausting."

"When you have a project or initiative that you feel strongly about, getting it off of the ground can be all-consuming," Seras said. "But it all becomes completely worth it each time I walk past a dispenser or a friend

See TAMPON, p. 6

First annual Battle of the Bands showcases UConn talent in intimate competition



The first Battle of The Bands featured UConn student bands in the Student Union Ballroom. PHOTOS BY PETER FENTEANY



by Peter Fenteany,
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A love of local music was in the air in the Student Union Ballroom at the first annual Battle of the Bands last Friday night. UConn's talent was on full display to the audience as five groups competed to win the top title.

Each of the bands performed a 15-minute set to the crowd of about 200 students, after which the event's three judges chose two groups to move on to the second round. After another performance from the top two, the audience voted for the winner, who would get the chance to open for the WHUS Spring Concert. The event was put on by the station and organized by sixth-semester anthropology and French double major Julia Pugmire.

"This concert was an idea that I had in the fall very shortly after I was hired here as an assistant," Pugmire said. "They told me that, even though it

wasn't really my department, I could run a committee and get this thing off the ground, and it's been a really exciting process."

Five bands competed in the event: JR SPECS, Two Headed Girl, Homemade, Zebvlon and One Time Weekend. The only stipulation to compete was to have at least one current UConn student in the group, and each act was given about 15 minutes to perform a set for the audience and judges.

First up was JR SPECS, a UConn-based hip-hop artist. With him was a backing band consisting of a drummer, bassist, saxophonist and keyboard player. Throughout the set, each instrumentalist performed at least one solo. JR SPECS sang and rapped over the jazzy backing about childhood on "schoolbus," among other tracks.

Two Headed Girl followed with a much harder sound. Named after the identical twin frontwomen, their set was high-energy with math rock influences, almost start-

ing a mosh pit at one point. After performing three original songs, they finished their set with a cover of "Shake It Off" by Taylor Swift.

Homemade brought a more traditional indie rock sound with their set. They also performed a cover, opening with a take on "Watermelon Sugar" by Harry Styles. Composed entirely of UConn students, their performance featured a surprise trumpet performance by one of the guitarists.

The hardcore experimental rock ensemble Zebvlon performed next. After releasing an album in November, they came to the Battle of the Bands with two new songs to debut out of their four-song set.

Closing the first round was One Time Weekend, an alt-rock band based out of Connecticut. Fronted by a UConn student, their set featured a prolonged performance of "Dr. Funk" and a slick guitar solo.

Each band gave a great performance, but only two could move on. After a short intermission for deliberation, the

judges came back with their top two picks: Two Headed Girl and One Time Weekend. Both groups were given an encore to perform one more time each. Two Headed Girl brought their drummer out from the drumset to close their second performance, and One Time Weekend jammed out once again.

After the second performances, the audience voted with Kahoot for their favorite of the two. By then, the crowd had thinned out a bit. The 102 voters crowned One Time Weekend as the victor.

The sense of community and intimacy of the performances was key to the success of the event. By requiring each group to have a UConn student member, each set felt more personal. One Time Weekend singer, bass player and eighth-semester digital media and design major Ian D'Arcangelo reflected on his band's start after winning.

"We actually met in high school," D'Arcangelo said. "We sort of knew each other through mutual friends and

got together one summer and just started playing. We never stopped."

Each group has a history in the local circuit. One Time Weekend has played at local spots like La Boca, Art Street Tavern, the Acoustic and Pacific Standard Tavern, according to D'Arcangelo. When asked if he would continue with the group after graduation, D'Arcangelo replied, "Absolutely."

The event felt very close to the audience, as well. The audience was able to crowd up to the stage, and many felt pride for their fellow Huskies.

"[The] Connecticut scene has something special," second-semester biology major Gustavo Colon said. "It's more like a DIY type setting ... Seeing all these people I know, it boosts me to make my own band and get up there. It's a bit more intimate than other scenes. And even though a lot of people don't get famous off of Connecticut music and stuff, there's a lot of good musicians. I really appreciate all that."

Life

Brunch?

Where?

River and Rail
Café

by **Olivia Hickey**
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and **Peter Fenteany**,
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was good black, and it was good with cream. This is the most impressive coffee we've had so far in these endeavors, and it was reasonably priced at \$2 with free refills.

The kitchen was near where

The cheese was creamy and soft. It was an excellent sandwich.

Herman's waffle was a pleasant surprise. Piled on top of the crisp waffle were blueberries and whipped cream. It was as if there was an entire carton of blue-

All aboard! Next stop: River and Rail Café. Located about 15 minutes from campus, this spot was new to both of us.

River and Rail certainly lived up to its name; the parking lot was right up against a set of train tracks. Taking on the setting of a station general store, the café is filled with decorations evoking the industrial aesthetic, including an actual burning furnace, train memorabilia and signage. Although the name portrays the stop as a café, the location is a good size and could probably hold a decent amount of people. Seating ourselves around 9:45 a.m., we took a booth next to large, bright windows. The café had customers at the time but was not crowded.

Looking at the menu, a few choices stood out to us. A whole section was dedicated to various breakfast sandwiches, and the eggs benedict sounded good. Deliberating while we were getting served our coffee, we decided on the western breakfast sandwich, home fries, two eggs with hollandaise sauce and Herman's waffle. More on that soon.

we were sitting, so we could smell our food being made, which made us more hungry. Once the server brought us our food, we let the camera have a taste and quickly dug in.

The western breakfast sandwich hit the spot, to say the least. While it was marketed as

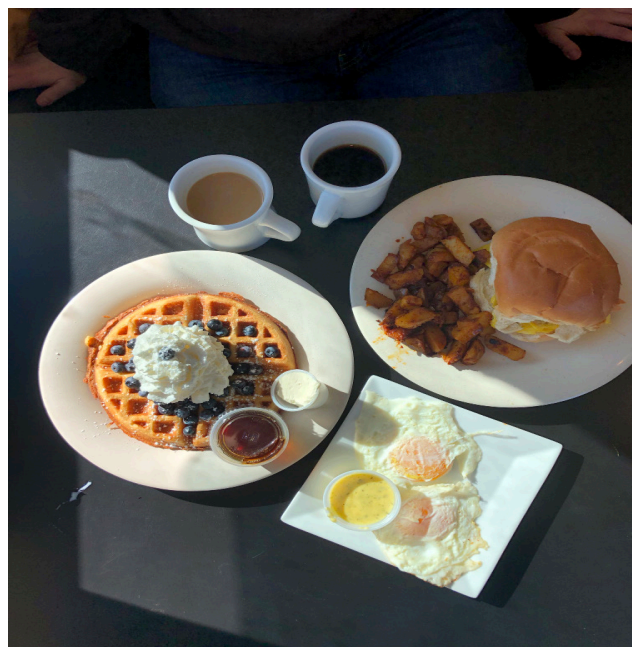
berries under the mountain of whipped cream. With whipped butter and syrup on the side, the crispy waffle and sweet blueberries made for a very sweet treat. At seven dollars, we were hesitant about ordering, but the cook was very generous with the blueberries.

The home fries were well-seasoned and well-cooked. The two eggs were just your average over-easy eggs, but the hollandaise sauce was a great pairing. In fact, combining the sauce with the potatoes and egg yolk resulted in a savory flavor trio.

The one downside to River and Rail had to be the price. For being so out-of-the-way, it wasn't some surprisingly cheap spot for food. The price for the sandwich felt very good at about five dollars; the hash browns for an additional three felt less so. It was not a deal breaker by any means, but it is important to understand the general price range going into it. For all of the food we ordered, we spent a bit below \$30.

Overall, the experience we had was good, and the food was even better. This place is certainly worth a try to anyone tired of the same old sights around Storrs. The food and the atmosphere will be a nice treat for you, especially if you're big on trains.

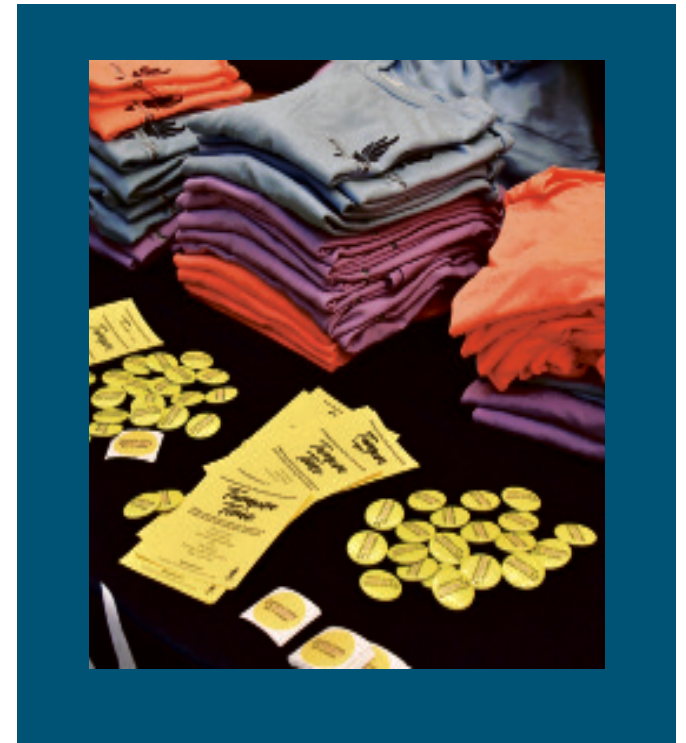
a scrambled egg sandwich, it had the texture of an omelette, with the peppers and onion giving good bits of flavor throughout.



When we got to trying our coffee, we looked at each other in pleasant surprise. The coffee was full-bodied and smooth. It

PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

'Tampon Time' provides menstrual products across campus



Students receive free t-shirts and buttons at a table in the student union as part of Tampon Tie. Tampon Time is an event held by USG offering free menstrual products in various locations around campus. PHOTO BY JULIE SPILLANE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



TAMPON, cont. from p. 5

sends me a picture of the dispenser saying that they really needed it. Knowing that USG did something to help students on a large scale is an incredible feeling."

Along with offering toxin-free products and menstrual cups in the future, Tampon Time hopes to expand to womxn's health issues in general.

"Tampon Time is going to be giving away free menstrual cups with the help of Office of Sustainability at the Womxn's Empowerment Fair," Seras mentioned the fair, which will be take place on March 2 in the Student Union Ballroom. "We acknowledge the impact that menstrual prod-

ucts have over a lifetime so we are hoping to introduce this more sustainable option. Additionally, we are working on a De-Stigmatize Periods Series for [maybe] Fall 2020."

Seras credits USG and its collaborators for contributing to and supporting Tampon Time.

"USG can't function without our partners that I mentioned above, including Facilities and Operations and Office of Sustainability," Seras said. "Additionally, the volunteers who stock the cultural centers, the people who piloted this program three years ago, those who show up every week for the task force meeting and everyone involved in between. For this large of a project, it takes a village."

'Sonic The Hedgehog' is a quick cash grab and nothing else

by **Ian Ward**
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It has become normal to bash a movie that is based on a video game. These types of films are usually made to cash in on the popularity of a particular franchise or character. That trend continues with the film "Sonic The Hedgehog."

Based on the 1991 video game of the same name, the film follows an alien hedgehog named Sonic who can run extremely fast and create electromagnetic pulses. After Sonic accidentally causes a blackout from one of his electromagnetic pulses, the government

sends out the tech-savvy Dr. Robotnik (Jim Carrey) to catch Sonic.

There is very little that can be said about the plot. There is no deconstruction of Sonic as a character nor is this film a parody of the bloated state of gaming. Instead, writers Josh Miller and Pat Casey wrote a screenplay that is a family film by the numbers. The humor is tailored to hyperactive pre-teens and the dialogue felt generated by a corporate algorithm.

First-time director Jeff Fowler tries to make "Sonic The Hedgehog" stand out from other family films through flashy visuals and fast editing, but beauty is

only skin deep. The script hijacks whatever potential the film might have had. Fowler's influence feels nonexistent for most of the runtime, leaving the actors to do the heavy lifting.

Ben Schwartz does a decent job as the voice of Sonic, capturing the hyperactive nature of the blue hedgehog. He is annoying throughout the film, but Sonic never got under my skin. His interactions with Officer Wachowski (James Marsden) felt like a child talking to a parent who wants nothing to do with their kid. Carrey is a serviceable villain who is menacing while also being cartoonish, without either side overlapping each other.

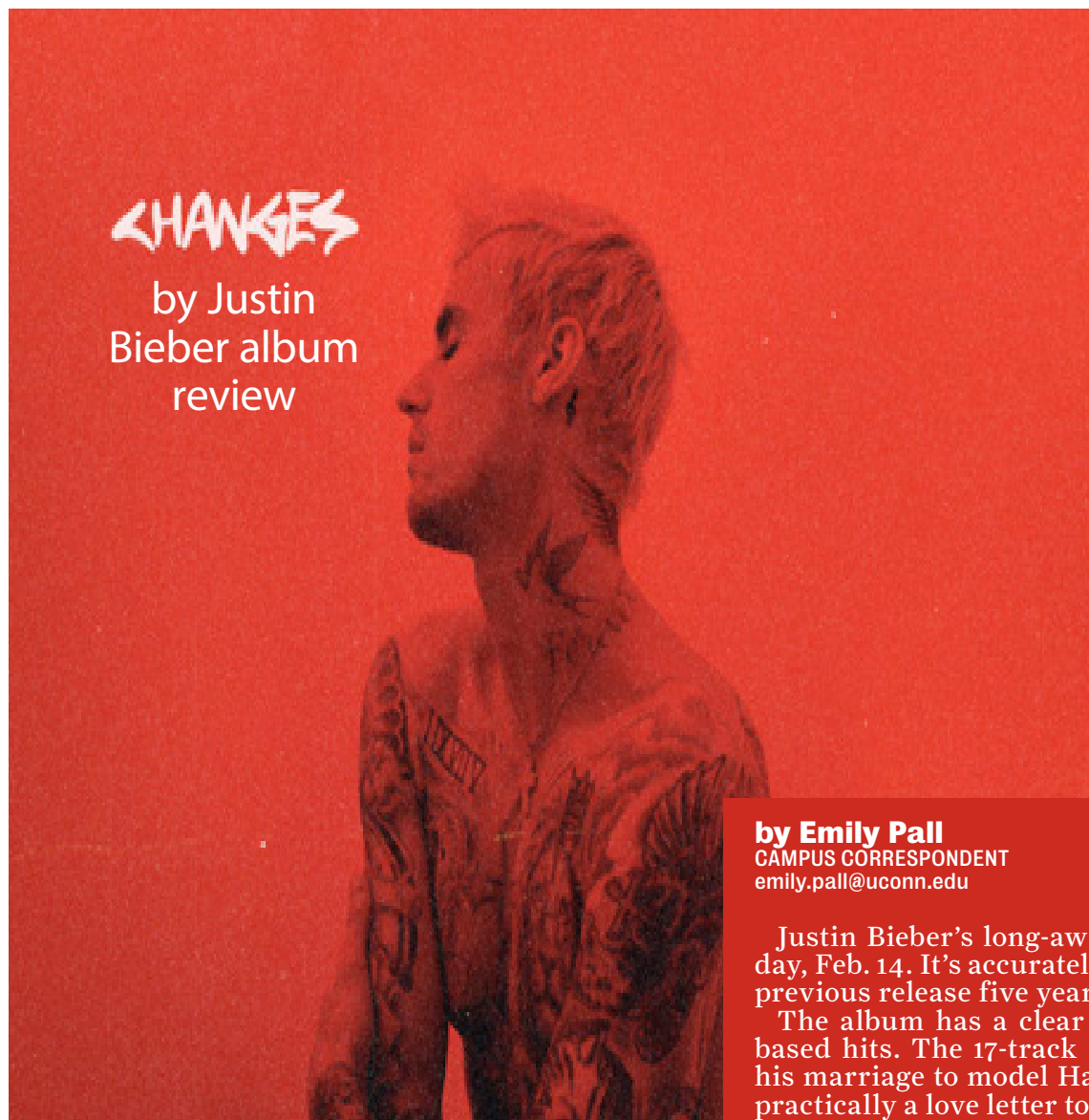
The film throws in some references to the Sonic video games that will please some fans, but aren't enough to make "Sonic The Hedgehog" feel like a movie for the fans. The movie is targeted toward a mainstream crowd that only knows the name and face of Sonic. The only parts of the movie that match the games are the moments of clunky dialogue which plagued Sonic games during the late 2000s.

What annoys me the most about "Sonic The Hedgehog" is not the corny jokes or half-baked dialogue, but how it feels like every family movie made in the past 15 years. These traits include product placements that

feel forced, talking animals that are more annoying than funny and useless plot filler used to extend simple plots. It's puzzling why a movie like "Sonic The Hedgehog" still exists in 2020.

If you are a fan of Sonic, go play some Sonic video games like "Sonic Adventure" or "Sonic The Hedgehog 2." They are more exciting and offer better storylines and characters than the movie. While comparing video games and movies is like comparing apples and oranges, at least fruit is organic and fresh, something "Sonic The Hedgehog" isn't.

Rating: 2.5/5



CHANGES

by Justin Bieber album review

PHOTO FROM BUSIESS INSIDER WEBSITE

Must listen:
"Habitual"
"Get Me"
"Forever"

skip:
"Running Over"
"Take it out on me"
"ETA"

by Emily Pall
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
emily.pall@uconn.edu

Justin Bieber's long-awaited fifth studio album "Changes" dropped on Friday, Feb. 14. It's accurately titled, reflecting on his personal evolution since his previous release five years ago.

The album has a clear R&B direction, diverging from his previous EDM-based hits. The 17-track record is an ode to the biggest change in his life — his marriage to model Hailey Bieber, formerly Hailey Baldwin. Every song is practically a love letter to his wife, which ends up being repetitive after listening to the entire album. Bieber's smooth vocals are one of the only highlights from his album. His crisp falsetto is noteworthy and his voice pairs pleasantly well with the soulful mood.

He paired the album with the release of a 10 episode docu-series called "Justin Bieber: Seasons," which debuted Jan. 27. It documented the creative process of producing his record, as well as diving into overcoming his drug problem, health issues and relationship with Hailey.

The 25-year-old singer sets the tone with the romantic yet underwhelming first track "All Around Me." The lyrics feel unorganized and unoriginal, with Bieber singing "I never thought I could ever be a spoiler/Guess anything is possible with your help/Anything's possible since you made my heart melt." The song concludes with baby noises symbolizing Bieber's desire to start a family.

The lead single "Yummy" is undeniably catchy with a pop-trap beat and a chorus that's sure to get stuck in your head. However, its repetitious, superficial lyrics demonstrate the lack of growth in his songwriting skills; it sounds more like something expected during his "Baby" era. Bieber's extreme promotion of this track on almost all social media platforms also made it quickly lose its appeal.

He teamed up with Migos rapper Quavo for the second single, titled "Intentions," which is their third collaboration together. He croons about his admiration for his wife and overloads the song with compliments. Most of the lyrics don't possess any real substance, such as the opening line "Picture perfect, you don't need no filter/Gorgeous, make 'em drop dead, you a killer." This uninspired subject matter unfortunately carries throughout the record.

Not even features from popular artists Travis Scott, Post Malone and Summer Walker could save this album. The singer fails to tap into any other emotions besides affection for his wife. He barely scrapes the surface of his feelings; it disappoints in illustrating the other challenges he experienced while taking a break from performing live. Furthermore, the shortage of variety in production left the album unexciting. Almost every song consists of the same predictable, slow beat, leaving listeners waiting for a build that never happens.

Overall, Bieber delivers consistency with his loved-up, soulful sound throughout the record. Nonetheless, his overrated comeback is disappointing due to limp lyrics and lackluster beats.

Must listen: "Habitual," "Get Me," "Forever"
Skip: "Running Over," "Take It Out On Me," "E.T.A"
Rating: 2/5

This Week in History

by Gino Giansanti Jr.
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This week in history we celebrate the anniversary of two events that embody the American culture and spirit, proving that an underdog can always come out on top.

On Feb. 22, 1980, 40 years ago, the U.S. hockey team defeated the Soviet Union in the legendary "Miracle on Ice." At the XIII Olympic Winter Games, the team of scrappy Americans, mostly college-aged, brought an end to the four-time gold medal streak of the Soviet hockey team in Lake Placid, New York. This victory is often regarded as one of the most dramatic moments in modern Olympic history, despite the fact that this game was not even the final match, but rather the semi-finals.

Many people thought this would be an easy victory for the Soviets, especially considering their effortless win in an earlier exhibition game.

Instead, the American team pulled through in the final period of the game with a 4-3 score. When the final horn sounded, the sold out arena of 10,000 spectators erupted in cheers as the coaching staff poured onto the ice in celebration.

While this victory may seem small in 2020, the reality was that this win was much bigger than hockey, representing an American victory over the Soviet Union in the bitter years of the Cold War. This also came at a much needed time in American history, as it gave a new sense of joy and patriotism to a country still dealing with the economic recessions of the 1970s.

Also on Feb. 22, in 1732, George Washington was born. The son of a wealthy planting family, Washington led a privileged upbringing on his family's vast Virginia plantation. Despite his noble birth, Washington would gain fame and prestige on his own merit. At the age of

17, he worked as a land surveyor and by 20, he was a lieutenant in the British Army during the French and Indian War. His previous military success garnered fame throughout the colonies, making Washington the obvious choice for the commander of the Continental Army once the U.S. had declared independence from Great Britain.

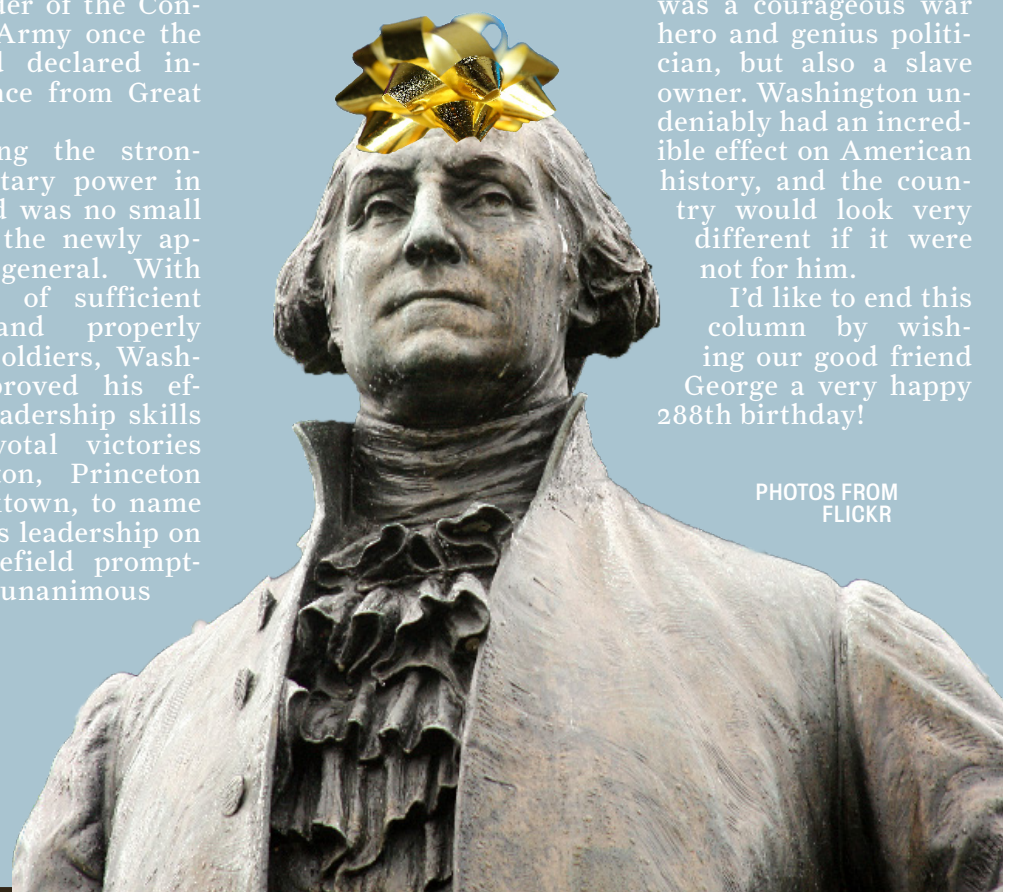
Defeating the strongest military power in the world was no small task for the newly appointed general. With the lack of sufficient funds and properly trained soldiers, Washington proved his effective leadership skills with pivotal victories at Trenton, Princeton and Yorktown, to name a few. His leadership on the battlefield prompted his unanimous

election as the first president of the United States. Washington's administration would be remembered for establishing the precedents that would be followed by every future American president.

Today, George Washington is a legendary, almost god-like figure in American history, who is commonly regarded as the father of the United States. He has come to represent both the good and the bad of the U.S., as he was a courageous war hero and genius politician, but also a slave owner. Washington undeniably had an incredible effect on American history, and the country would look very different if it were not for him.

I'd like to end this column by wishing our good friend George a very happy 288th birthday!

PHOTOS FROM FLICKR



Opinion StudyBreak

Photo of the Day | Cole



The painted rock near North Garage pays homage to Cole Montefusco. PHOTO BY MIKE MAVERDAKIS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

CMHS IS FAILING US

CMHS, cont. from p. 4

So what if students don't get the care they need and make an attempt on their life? UConn suggests that students shouldn't return after such serious problems, telling them a "voluntary" medical leave is their only option other than being forcibly "kicked" out of the university. What student already making attempts on their life would benefit from being removed from their university, housing, friends and ambitions? None. The University of Connecticut offers this ultimatum for one reason and one reason only: If a student commits suicide on their campus, it looks bad for them and opens possibilities for liability claims.

In the wake of the past two suicides, UConn has taken no responsibility for their lack of services, and instead put the responsibility of looking after students on their peers, asking them to keep an eye on their friends and offer support if a friend asks for it.

But students shouldn't be told that keeping their friends safe is their job, when they have enough to worry about. This is UConn's problem, and it must be made clear that we wait with bated breath to see a change in their relations with the mentally ill student population.

The University of Connecticut offers this ultimatum for one reason and one reason only: If a student commits suicide on their campus, it looks bad for them and opens possibilities for liability claims.

If students intend on getting the help they need, more pressure needs to be put on the board to expand CMHS's funding and services, as well as changing UConn's policies for handling students suffering from mental illness and suicidal ideation. UConn, do better. Love, everyone you've failed.

Crossword

ACROSS

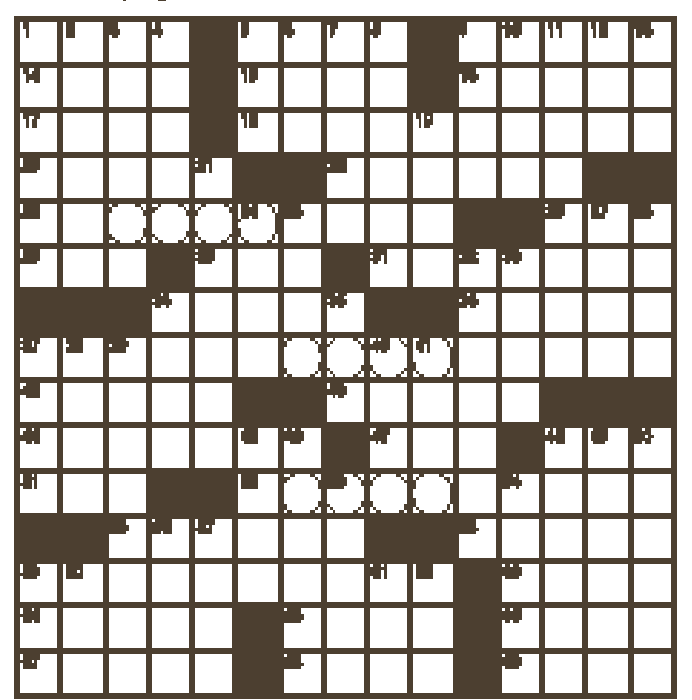
- Low-poker pair
- Met. key with three clamps
- Nigerian airport
- Great with ketchup
- Fizza Quick sauce brand
- "You've got a friend"
- First name in coat
- Region where broadband reception may be poor
- MH
- Former Soviet leader Brezhnev
- Progress at a faster rate
- Fruit with insulin
- Navigation technology, briefly
- Brooding genre
- "Spartan" Oscar winner
- Bowler's pickup
- Amtrak express
- Army park first covered in 1989
- Broadband game developer
- Pool bangles
- Sent a message, old-style
- Floki's owner
- Crash-older
- Thom ____, former Virgin Records owner
- Flot control weapon
- Arizona MLBB
- Dig find
- Automobile functions in most cars, and what can be found in this puzzle's circles
- "Clot"
- Take in eagerly
- Tule base
- Baryon's "My Name Is" __
- Collaborative 1988 Shalva album
- Looking like rain
- U. of Maryland athlete

DOWN

- Floki Dahl novel adapted as a 2018 Disney film
- Big fill
- Grady's first NFL team
- Word on the street?
- Charlie's greeting
- Tanish
- Like gymnasts
- Capital near Glacier Bay National Park
- Property claim
- Dark purple berry
- Plant outcrops
- Vain contents
- Entry expense
- Hill Country's "American __"
- Gen. of
- Latin 101 verb
- Chde dance
- Duba live show
- Flaccid shape
- Chemical carrier
- Wash, as a spin
- Drought-plagued
- Get an "Oh no!" from Alex Trebek, say
- Inevitable end
- Tabloid couple
- Stamp, as a passport
- Ten of "Tootsie"
- Vaping device, loosely
- Mark on metal
- Puck-handling skill
- Shining brightly
- Instrument for The Flamingos, a classical quartet
- Pitch term
- Flagging
- Tuned to
- Very dry, as Champagne
- His vices
- HB deposit test
- de cologne
- Score go-with
- Surplus

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

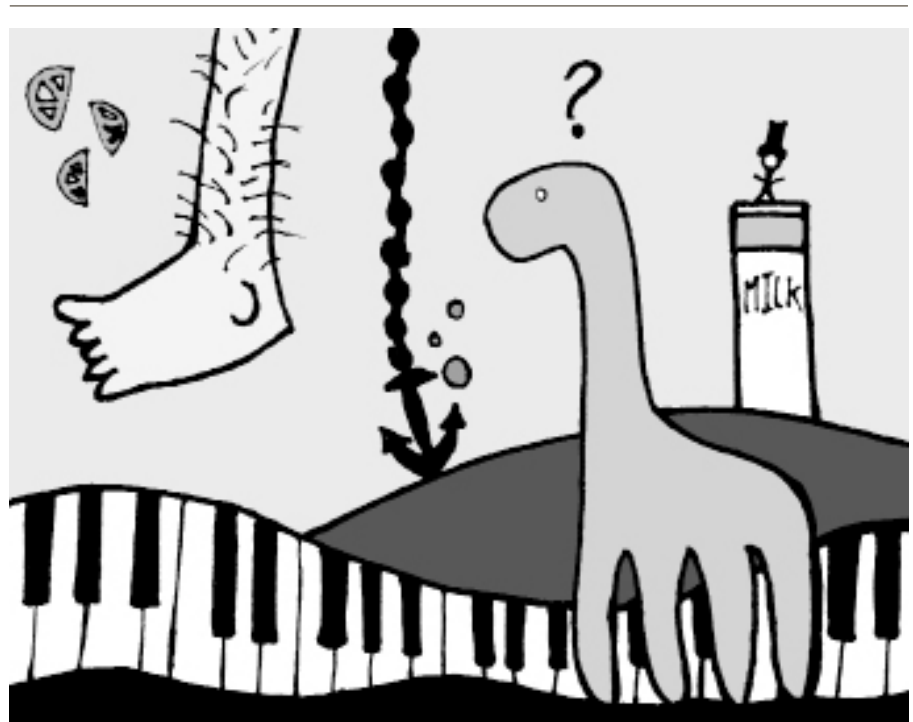
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By Roland Hingt ©2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

Sudoku

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



CARTOON BY JOSHUA ARIZMENDI, STAFF CARTOONIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Huskies overcome Akok injury in win



The Huskies defeated the Memphis Tigers 64-61 Sunday at the XL Center. In this photo, No. 1 Christian Vital gets ready to drive as No. 5 Isiah Whaley sets a pick. PHOTO BY MAGGIE CHAFOULEAS, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

AKOK, cont. from p. 12

When head coach Dan Hurley received the news on the sideline, he was visibly distraught, overcome with anguish. All season long, Hurley has raved about Akok's unwavering work ethic and dedication to the team. In the moment, he had to coach and somehow gather his team's emotions. But after the game, he admitted he's nowhere close to recovering from the sight of Akok going down.

"It will take months, a long time — you have no idea how close these kids are with each other, with the coaches. It's a family," Hurley said after the game. "I've never seen someone with this kid's work ethic. He deserved better."

But there's one other thing that can silence a sold-out crowd: Free throws with the game on the line. And as senior Christian Vital stepped to the line for four free throws in the final 10 seconds, you could hear a pin drop. Vital drilled all four, a perfect 10-for-10 from the line on the day, delivering the nail in the coffin as UConn battled to an inspiring 64-61 victory over Memphis.

Hurley fought back tears for the entirety of his postgame press conference, clearly hurting more for Akok as a person than for Akok as a basketball player.

"It was a big win obviously, but there's no joy in it when something like that happens in the first minute," Hurley said, his voice breaking. "Sports are brutal sometimes, life is brutal sometimes ... Akok will come back and be the special player that he deserves to be, is destined to be."

In between those moments of silence, the XL Center was as loud as it's been in a long time. When freshman James Bouknight took a Vital feed and dunked all over Achiuwa, and-one, to give the Huskies a four-point advantage with three minutes to go, the explosion of sound probably registered on the Richter scale.

"We won the game for him," Bouknight said. "It's always going to be emotional — being around him, that's really my brother, not just my teammate at this point. So that was very upsetting, but I talk-

ed to him, and he just wanted us to win the game."

It was a season-defining victory amidst a season of bad breaks, the biggest one of all occurring in the first minute, as Akok joins Tyler Polley on the list of players' seasons cut early due to injury. It was a win that would not have been possible without some huge performances from the rest of the UConn frontcourt, stepping up for their fallen teammate.

Junior Josh Carlton was massive on the boards, pulling down a career-high 13 rebounds to help the undersized Huskies outdo the athletic Tigers in the rebound category. Junior Isiah Whaley more than filled in for the loss of Akok on the defensive end, recording a career-high six blocks, including two monumental ones in the final minutes.

"When Coach told me what happened, I was in shock. It was hard to get over," Whaley said. "When you lose a shot blocker like Akok, somebody has to pick up the slack, so that's what I tried to do."

While Whaley and Carlton came up big defensively, it was on Vital and Bouknight to carry the offense. Neither had a pretty shooting performance, but the two combined for 29 of UConn's 39 second half points. After the game, Vital said that the team will "be with him the rest of the way," but asked the media to not ask any further questions about Akok, clearly still deeply hurting over the injury.

Akok refused to go to the hospital, instead putting on a boot and watching the rest of the game from the bench. It was odd not seeing Akok's usual antics on the bench — no jumping when his teammates challenge a shot, no leaning as a UConn 3-pointer goes up, no goofy smile — but his presence was enough. When the game ended, he waved off crutches, instead asking an assistant to help him hobble down the handshake line on one leg.

"It's hard with any of these guys, even the guy that drives you nuts the most. But he's been perfect — he hadn't played perfect games, but his approach every day was perfect," Hurley said, barely holding back tears. "He will be back."

Guard play gets Huskies win over Penny and the Tigers

VITAL, cont. from p. 12

Christian Vital scored 18 of his game-high 23 points in the second half, shooting 5-for-15 overall, but made all 10 of his shots from the charity stripe. His nine boards were second to Josh Carlton's career-high 13 and Isiah Whaley, who filled in for the injured Akok, set a new PR in blocked shots with 6—all in the second half.

"Christian, Josh, Isiah in particular, the character as older players and Brendan and the freshmen, they're just helping us daily build character as a program and culture," Hurley said.

James Bouknight, who has ascended from a highly-touted recruit to a budding star, had a first half that compared to the team's holistic numbers with six points on 2-for-11 shooting. He then flipped a switch after halftime and finished with 17 points and career-high eight rebounds in 32 minutes.

"Coach Hurley is always in conference with me," the freshman guard said. "When I had a tough first half, couldn't make any shots, he was just telling me that I was the second-half king."

Akok came back to the bench, wearing a boot and on crutches, shortly after suffering his injury. It was an emotional scene when his head coach embraced him on the side, but the men on the court were going to work. The Carlton-Whaley tandem outdid the young Tigers (17-8, 6-6 The American) on the glass, winning the game's rebounding battle 45-42 and outscoring Memphis 17-11 in second-chance points. Precious Achiuwa finished with 16 points but missed 11-straight points for a stretch.

The Huskies did not lead for much of the game and entered the half knotted at 25 with the Tigers. UConn took its first lead of the second half—and since 1:48 in the first—at 8:59. Outside of a brief moment, it did not relinquish the lead the rest of the way, handing over the keys to Bouknight and Vital.

On one sequence, Vital forced a turnover, kept it in bounds by throwing it off a Tiger and tossed it ahead to a running Bouknight. The freshman finished emphatically—and overtop Achiuwa—for an and-one. UConn led by five with 3:05 to play and the sold-out XL Center crowd loved every second of it.

"I think we're starting to gel," Vital said. "I think we're figuring each other out at the right time and we're just gonna stay confident, stay confident in each other, stay in the lab and keep taking it a day at a time."

"Our fans are great, they're always loud," Bouknight added. "Sometimes they're too loud and I can't hear the play calls. I wasn't shooting my best and I can still hear people saying my name. It's a lot of love."

Vital made the final four free throws of the game, in a game where UConn went 18-20 from the line, to secure the game late.

"I think we're just learning how to win now," Bouknight said. "We're just all confident in each other. We know each other's abilities and we know what we can do as individuals so we just go out and play our hardest."

The Hurley culture of grit and toughness has shown itself in bits and pieces throughout the season, but is becoming more apparent each time UConn takes the floor. Sunday, fighting for a win after losing a teammate to injury, was a prime example.

"Everyone poo-pooos culture, but most of those people don't know s--- about how to build an organization because they've never really been in one," Hurley said. "We're building a championship-level culture with the way we're competing and how determined we are to win."

The Huskies have six contests before their conference tournament, the next being a midweek road trip to Temple, but are more than ready for the challenge.

"March is about to be here," Vital said.



UConn beat Memphis 64-61 Sunday at the XL Center, and freshman James Bouknight, No. 2, scored 17 points and brought down eight rebounds in the win. PHOTO BY MAGGIE CHAFOULEAS, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's and women's track and field competes at the Valentine Invitational

TRACK, cont. from p. 10

Finally, the 4x400 continued to improve, finishing sixth with a time of 3:42.00.

Field competitors were looking to make just as strong of an impact as they followed up distance.

Junior Kelly Ward and freshman Olivia Bowes were able to get UConn positive results in the long jump, with Ward finishing 16th at 5.50 meter, and Bowes finishing eighth and coming in at 5.55 meters.

Sophomore Mikayla Rodgers held down the weight throw for the Huskies, finishing 14th with a throw of 19.01 meters.

Sophomore Emma Chee continued to build momentum in the pole vault, finishing 20th.

Junior Julia Silverman and freshman Paricia Mroczkowski both participated in the high jump, with Silverman finishing

12th at a height of 1.62 meters, and Mroczkowski finishing seventh at 1.70 meters.

UConn's triple jump participants were freshman Akayla Leak and senior Gabriella Gavalas. Leak finished sixth at 11.68 meters, while Gavalas finished 14th, registering a jump of 11.50 meters.

For the men, qualifying for any event — or even standing a chance — would rely on them showing out and performing at their highest level, head coach Greg Roy told UConn Athletics.

The Huskies entered Saturday as the top-ranked men's program in the Northeast, according to the latest USTFCCA regional ranking.

Sophomore Myles Calhoun and junior Eric Van Der Els showed out for UConn, with Calhoun obtaining a victory in the 60-meter dash, coming in at a personal best of 6.76 seconds and marking his

second career collegiate victory. Van Der Els also clocked a second consecutive personal best, finishing the mile at 4:04.08 and taking 30th in the race.

Sophomore Wellington Ventura and freshman Joseph O'Brien also had strong performances. Ventura finished second in the 400 meter, achieving his fastest time of the season at 47.27 seconds. O'Brien set a personal best in the 200 meter, coming in at 21.32 seconds. Junior Safir Scott finished at 47.55 seconds in the 400 meter to take fourth and obtain a personal best of 47.55 seconds.

Freshman Stephen Sutton ran his first collegiate 500 meter, finishing fifth at a time of 1:04.35.

"It was a really productive meet today. You can see the movement by our guys on the conference list," Roy said.

Field also was able to make much progress on Saturday.

Sophomore Christopher Keegan led the Husky trio that finished in the top five in the weight throw with a throw of 18.35 meters, a personal best.

Freshman Tyler Hybek finished with a personal best in the pole vault with a height of 4.80 meters. Fellow freshman Travis Snyder also had a solid performance, finishing second at a height of 4.90 meters. In the shot put, junior Todd Steber took second and had a season-best throw of 16.86 meters. Junior Nile Uzzell represented the Huskies in the triple jump, finishing with a jump of 14.71 meters.

"Tyler got off the injured reserve in the pole vault and Nile had the most consistent meet of his career in the triple jump," Roy said.

Both teams now set their eyes on the AAC Conference Championship, set to take place on Feb. 28.

SOFTBALL SWEEP

SOFTBALL, cont. from p. 11

Things picked back up Saturday with a rematch against Stetson. This time the game was much closer, going to extra innings before UConn scored the walk-off run in the bottom of the ninth. Through seven innings the score was tied at 1-1 before things got interesting in the top of the eighth. The Hatters put together a two-run inning, but the Huskies were quick to respond, as steals coming from Carli Cutler and Ashley Esty put UConn one run behind with Hollis Wivell coming up. Wivell did what she was brought up to do, hitting a liner to right center, sending Cutler home and tying the game once again. After giving up another run in the ninth, Marcelino came up big again, hitting a double to right field to score James and Marcelino and seal the victory.

UConn wrapped up day two with another convincing 9-3 win against Central Michigan. The Huskies put up a combined seven runs in the first two innings, including five in the first, to create separation and never looked back.

Samantha Barnett brought home James, Cutler scored Barnett and after Olivia Sappington scored, Casazza knocked in Ashlee Dahman and Cutler to top off UConn's impressive five-run first inning. Both teams would score a few more runs on the day, but the Huskies' win was never in doubt, as Katie Koshes earned her first win of the season and they remained undefeated heading into their final test against Purdue Sunday.

The Huskies got off to a good start against the Boilermakers, as Reese Guevarra hit her first home-run of the season in the first, giving UConn the early lead. Purdue responded quickly though after Madison Douglass hit a home-run — her second of the year — to tie the game. UConn's Olson and Purdue's Sydney Bates would both hold their opponents scoreless for the next five innings, and the game was sent into extra innings, the second such game for the Huskies in three games. But as had been the case all weekend, James came up clutch when it mattered most.

After Cutler got into scoring position to start the eighth inning, James hit a single to right field, scoring the senior and giving UConn the lead, but they were not done there. On the very next at bat, Dahman hit another single to right field, sending James all the way around the diamond to extend their lead to 3-1. Olson took care of the rest, shutting down the Boilermakers offense in the bottom of the eighth, earning her fifth win of the season and handing Bates her first loss.

After this weekend, the Huskies sit at 8-2, their best start to a season since 2007, and have won their last seven games. They will now have two weeks off before they head to California to compete in the Capital Classic starting Friday, Feb. 28 and ending March 1.

LACROSSE LOSES TO JAMES MADISON

LAX, cont. from p. 10

Less than a minute later attacker Daria Lucchesi scored for the Dukes, making the game leveled again. In the 42nd minute, Reed scored again, followed by Lucchesi scoring again two minutes later to make the game 8-6.

UConn attacker Sam McKenna scored in the 46th minute, with Palmucci providing the assist, in an attempt to bring the match leveled again. However JMU midfielder Taylor Marchetti scored in the 48th minute, her first of the season, and maintained their two-goal lead for a short period of time.

With less than 10 minutes left in the match, Palmucci scored her second goal of the match, her third of the season, with LaPrise providing the assist. It wasn't enough for the Huskies to claim victory in the final minutes of the match as Marchetti scored once more in the 54th minute and attacker Logan Brennan secured the win for the Dukes with four and a half minutes left in the game.

The Huskies will host UMass Lowell for their third game of the season this Friday at 3 p.m. at the George J. Sherman Family Sports Complex.

Sports

Photo of the Day | 55 looking for the 5 hole



The Huskies defeat the Merrimack Warriors 6-1 Friday evening at UConn. Merrimack scored the first goal four minutes into the game, but goals from junior Savannah Bouzide and graduate student Jessie Aney were just two of the six that UConn scored following to give them a comfortable win. PHOTO BY KEVIN LINDSTROM/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women's Lacrosse: UConn face tough defeat against James Madison

by David Sandoval
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The past few years between UConn and James Madison in women's lacrosse have resulted in the Dukes' favor, and history repeated itself once more on Sunday.

The Huskies were on the road to the U.S. Lacrosse Headquarters to face JMU where they lost 11-8. This puts UConn at No. 3 in the American Athletic Conference with an overall of 1-1 while JMU are No. 2 of the Colonial Athletic Association with a 2-1 overall.

In the first half, the Huskies managed to take the lead with two goals: The first coming from midfielder Lia LaPrise in the 16th minute followed by midfielder Olivia Miles scoring the second half a minute later. It didn't take long for the Dukes to regain their momentum, 47 seconds to be exact, as attacker Kacey Knobloch scored JMU's first goal of the match. LaPrise scored again, her fourth of the season, in the 19th minute, how-

ever the Dukes quickly began to take charge before the half ended.

With 10 minutes left in the first half, attacker Isabella Peterson scored an unassisted goal, her sixth of the season. In the 23rd minute, midfielder Lizzy Fox scored the 3-3 equalizer for the Dukes. About a minute later, attacker Katie Checkosky scored and gave James Madison the lead.

JMU were quick to score again in the second half as midfielder Kelsey Reed scored in the 34th minute, however the Huskies managed to catch the Dukes by surprise within one minute.

Within the 35th minute, midfielder Madelyn George scored her second goal of the season while attacker Stephanie Palmucci scored about half a minute later for the 5-5 equalizer. Six seconds later, midfielder Olivia Troy scored her second of the season and gave UConn a momentous 6-5 lead. Game on ... or so they thought.

See LAX, p. 9



The women's lacrosse team defeated Fairfield University 19-12 in the season opener game. This weekend, the team lost to James Madison University at the US Lacrosse Headquarters 11-8. PHOTO BY ERIN KNAPP, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

HUSKIES OVERCOME ROUGH START TO CRUSH USF

WBB, cont. from p. 12

Griffin checked in for Makurat midway through the game, and her impact on defense kept her on the court for the remainder of the contest. Those three Bulls guards committed 13 turnovers by the end of the game.

"Aubrey came in and changed the game with the pressure she put on their point guard," Auriemma said. "She's become a constant source of bewilderment."

With the victory, UConn has extended their record against the American Athletic Conference to 131-0. All five of the remaining games on the schedule are against conference opponents, and I'm sure departing the conference with a perfect record before joining the Big East next season will be a goal of Geno's.

Next up for the Huskies is a home game Wednesday night against Tulane. That game will tip off at the XL Center at 7 p.m.

Women's Hockey Recap: Huskies split series versus Merrimack on Senior Weekend



The Huskies defeat the Merrimack Warriors 6-1 Friday evening at UConn. Merrimack scored the first goal four minutes into the game; junior Savannah Bouzide scored UConn's first goal on a power play. In addition, graduate student Jessie Aney scored her first UConn career goal. PHOTO BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Ben Berg
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This weekend, which was Senior Weekend at the Freitas Ice Forum, the women split a two-game series against their Hockey East rival Merrimack. They earned a 6-1 victory on Friday but dropped Saturday's game 2-1.

Friday night's contest saw the Huskies (16-14-2, 13-10-2 Hockey East) dominate the Warriors (5-22-5, 2-18-5 Hockey East) for the majority of the game. Merrimack struck first though, as Mikyla Grant-Mentis ripped a shot topshelf over UConn goalie Morgan Fisher at 4:34 of the first period to take the 1-0 lead. From there, the Huskies locked in defensively and scored six consecutive goals to win the game 6-1.

UConn graduate student Jessie Aney scored her first goal as a Husky at 6:35 of the second period after she forced a turnover

at the Merrimack blueline to put her team up 2-1. The goal ended up being the game-winner. Head coach Chris MacKenzie said that seeing Aney get rewarded for her efforts made him "very happy." "That was a huge goal for us," he said.

Late in the third period, UConn forward Natalie Snodgrass scored her second goal of the night on a pass from senior captain Briana Colangelo to put the Huskies up 6-1. The assist was Colangelo's 100th career-point, putting her fourth all-time in points at UConn. After the game, Snodgrass said she was just excited to help her teammate reach that milestone. "I was very excited for her. I really didn't care about the goal; I knew it was the 100 points that really mattered," she said.

In addition to Snodgrass and Aney, sophomore Danielle Fox, junior Savannah Bouzide and senior Catherine Crawley each

scored goals. Meanwhile, Fisher stopped 18 of the 19 shots she faced to collect her ninth win of the season.

After a compelling win on Friday, the Huskies dropped Saturday afternoon's rematch 2-1. The two clubs battled through a scoreless first period before Merrimack's Chloe Cook scored 11:18 into the second. After Merrimack scored again, Snodgrass knocked in a rebound for her 14th goal of the year to make it 2-1, but that would be the final score.

MacKenzie said his team "played a pretty solid game," but failed to solve Merrimack's goalie Lea-Kristine Demers. "We created a whole bunch of chances but you're gonna have to score. Their goalie came in big," he said.

Next Friday the Huskies travel to Massachusetts for a pair of games against Boston University in the final weekend of the regular season.

Track: Huskies have successful Valentine Invitational

by Sebastian Garay-Ortega
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UConn's men's and women's track and field teams finished up the regular season this weekend at the David Hemery Valentine Invitational in Boston.

The women's track and field team would start the two-day stay for the Huskies on Friday, looking to get off to a hot start.

Women's head coach Lindsey Crevoiserat expressed confidence in her team's ability to have a big impact and build momentum as they head into conference.

"We competed really well at New England's, both men and women, and now we go out and see what kind of shape we are in.

We know what we are here for. We should be really loose," Crevoiserat told UConn Athletics.

Distance returned to action for the Huskies and were looking to build off their performance at the New England Championship. Sophomore Shanelle Colmon finished first in the 200m, coming in at 24.75, while Kristina Cherrington finished the 500m in second with a personal best of 1:14.45. As a collective, the 4x800 teams took first place with times of 11:52.46 and 9:05.25, respectively.

Junior Kelly Ward was able to place fifth in heat five of the 60m hurdles, coming in at a time of 9.49. The 800m run saw sophomore Ayoola Gbolade finish second in the sixth heat at 2:11.65.

Encouraging results also emerged from the 400m and 200m dashes. In the 400m, senior Kristina Cherrington finished fourth in the sixth heat with a time of 57.37, while Shanelle Colmon finished first in the eleventh heat, coming in at 56.22. Furthermore, freshman Shauntae Nelson was able to make progress and come in 33rd at a time of 24.70.

Sophomore Emma Krebs participated in the 1000m run for the Huskies and finished 48th with a time of 2:58.00. Meanwhile, Junior Mia Nahom finished 24th in the mile coming in at 4:39.00, and 59th in the 3000m at 9:29.99.

See TRACK, p. 9

Men's Hockey: Huskies split weekend with No. 17 Maine

by **Danny Barletta**
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There's an old saying that if you're going to take a trip up to Orono, Maine, at least make it worth your time.

Well, maybe I just made that up on the spot, but it applies here because the Huskies did take advantage of their weekend in Orono.

The cards were certainly stacked against UConn coming in, as the Black Bears (16-10-4, 10-8-2 Hockey East) were winners of five straight games — three against ranked teams — and they hadn't lost at home all season. UConn had a streak of their own, as winners of four straight conference games, but they were idle for two weeks prior to this matchup.

The Huskies (12-13-4, 9-8-2 Hockey East) showed no signs of rust this weekend in a tough win on Friday and a near-repeat on Saturday.

In Friday's game, UConn jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first period on goals by Jake Flynn and Alexander Payusov. Then Maine answered right back with two goals in the second period by Tim Doherty and Samuel Rennaker to tie it up.

UConn captain and Falmouth, Maine, native Benjamin Freeman netted the difference-maker in the third period to give the Huskies a 3-2 advantage. Tomas Vomacka



In this file photo, UConn beats UNH 7-4 in the XL Center. The Huskies split the series with Maine this weekend, winning 3-2 on Friday and losing 1-0 in overtime on Saturday. PHOTO BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

made 14 saves in the final period to preserve the lead and hand the Black Bears their first home loss of the season. He had 24 saves overall. Carter Turnbull recorded assists on all three of the UConn goals.

Saturday's game was a more physical and defensive battle as

both teams struggled to find the back of the net. UConn dominated in shots for the majority of the game, but Jeremy Swayman refused to let anything by him, as did Vomacka.

After 57 minutes of scoreless hockey, it looked like Maine had finally broken through. Penalties

by Wyatt Newpower and Adam Karashik resulted in a 5-on-3 opportunity for the Black Bears, and it looked like they cashed in with a goal. But after review, the refs waved it off for goalie interference, and the Huskies were able to kill off the rest of the power play.

The game went into overtime still scoreless, and the goalies continued making saves. It looked like it was going to be one of those nights where nobody scored, but with 53 seconds remaining in overtime, Maine finally broke through with a goal by Mitchell Fossier to win the game 1-0 and salvage the weekend. Swayman played out of his mind with 41 saves in the shutout, while Vomacka made 25 saves.

UConn's power play unit struggled throughout the weekend by not converting on any of its five opportunities. That's an area that coach Mike Cavanaugh has repeatedly said needs to improve and it potentially cost them a win on Saturday.

The Huskies played exceptional hockey this weekend, but at the end of the day, they went just 1-1, which dropped them to eighth place in the crowded Hockey East standings. Only five points separate the top nine teams in the conference with plenty of head-to-head matchups left, so every game is an important one for every team from this point forward.

UConn's next test will come in two games against Boston University next weekend, a team that is five slots ahead of them despite having just three more points. One win or loss could be the difference in a home playoff series and not even making the playoffs. That's how big these games are.

Softball: Huskies sweep Spring Games

by **Conner Gilson**
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The UConn softball team was back in Florida this weekend to compete in the Spring Games. The Huskies came out on top in all five of their games, beating Central Michigan, Stetson and Purdue en route to winning the Spring Games in sweeping fashion. UConn allowed just eight runs over 36 innings while batting in 32 of their own, looking impressive on both sides of the field and continuing their great start to the season.

The festivities began Friday, with UConn (8-2) taking on Central Michigan (0-5) and Stetson in the Sunshine State. The Huskies got to work immediately, shutting out the Chipewas 8-0 behind great performances from Aziah James, Briana Marcelino and Mary-

beth Olson, who went 2-2 on the day while pitching the team's first no-hitter of the year.

After serving a quick 1-2-3 inning, Olson found herself at the plate with two runners in scoring position. The junior ace hit a single up the middle, bringing in both runs to open the scoring for the Huskies. UConn struck again in the third after Marcelino hit her first homerun of the year, extending UConn's lead to four. After another score in the bottom of the fourth and RBIs from James, Kiwi McDaniel and Devon Casazza, the Huskies enforced the mercy rule, ending the game after just five innings. This was Olson's third win of the season and first no-hitter, picking up right where she left off with her strong season last year.

Next up for UConn was a matchup against Stetson University (5-4). The Huskies kept

in rhythm, completing their second shutout in as many games, this time beating the Hatters 7-0, once again spearheaded by strong performances from James and Marcelino along with Meghan O'Neil's third win of the season.

Just like in its earlier game, UConn got off to an early lead in this one, with Marcelino and McDaniel each knocking in a run. They added two more in the second with a two-RBI single from Marcelino, extending their lead to four, and through three innings held a 4-0 lead while O'Neil kept the Hatters hitless. O'Neil's no-hitter came to a halt after four innings, but UConn kept rolling, as three more runs in the seventh sealed the game and the second win of the day for the Huskies.



In this file photo, UConn Softball takes home a 2-1 win against Quinnipiac University. The Huskies went 5-0 this weekend and only allowed a total of eight runs. PHOTO BY BRANDON BARZOLA, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

See **SOFTBALL**, p. 9

Baseball: UConn leaves Arizona with a win over No. 8 Michigan

by **Mike Mavredakis**
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In their first appearance in the three-game MLB4 tournament, the UConn baseball team struggled at the plate over the weekend but didn't leave Arizona empty-handed as they stole a win from No. 8 Michigan on Sunday.

"I thought the pitchers overall were good, we've gotta get more than five hits in two days," head coach Jim Penders said post-game Saturday following the 6-1 loss to Vanderbilt. "I think we struck out, what, [24] times in the first two games, that's way too much. We've got to get the ball in play and our middle of the order guys have to hit."

The UConn (1-2) offense was stymied by Cal Poly and No. 1 Vanderbilt's pitching staff in the first two games, collecting just five hits and one run in the first two contests. Sunday is when they turned things around, however, grabbing seven runs on nine hits in a huge win over Michigan.

In their first game of the year, UConn left their bats back in Storrs. Other than a Kyler Fedko single in the first and a Ben Maycock single in the fifth, the Huskies drummed up very little noise in their opener. Cal Poly's pitching staff retired the last 13 batters they faced, striking out in five of those plate appearances.

Overall the Huskies struck out 12 times on the day, and they would finish the weekend having struck out 34 times in three games.

UConn was faced with a tall task in game two, as they took on No. 1 Vanderbilt and starter Kumar Rocker. Last season, in

his freshman campaign, Rocker threw a 19-strikeout no-hitter against Duke in the Super Regionals.

The result, a 6 inning, 9-strikeout performance from the potential No. 1 draft pick in the 2021 MLB draft. He gave up just one run in the second inning, after walking third baseman Conor Moriarty with the bases loaded. It was UConn's opportunity to break the game open, but Rocker shut it down with a strikeout and a flyout to end the inning.

"There's your opportunity, you're not going to get too many against one of the best programs in the country, and defending national champs," Penders said post-game Saturday. "You have an opportunity like that where you have the bases loaded and nobody out,

you have to cash in with more than one. I'd have loved to have seen a single from anybody or hard contact there."

The Vanderbilt bats were quieted by starter Colby Dunlop until the fifth inning, when catcher CJ Rodriguez flied to right and drove in Cooper Davis from third base. Dunlop was lifted from the game after five, with a solid final line of six hits allowed, four strikeouts, one walk and one earned in 79 pitches.

"Colby was a really good bright spot, he took a comebacker and jammed his right finger," Penders said post-game Saturday. "We thought it was on his glove hand and it was on his throwing hand, and he didn't say a word, he was fine...He was enjoying competing tonight."

The sixth is when things got away from UConn, as reliever Erik Stock allowed four runs, three earned, in just .1 innings pitched. Rodriguez came up with the bases loaded and one out in the sixth before roping a single to the wall in left, driving in two. He finished the day with four hits and three RBIs.

"When we made mistakes, Vanderbilt cashed in every time," Penders said post-game Saturday.

The score finished 6-1 Saturday, after reliever Max Nielson gave up an unearned run in the ninth.

After two five-run losses to start the weekend, UConn's bats finally arrived in Arizona as they picked up a convincing 7-1 win over No. 8 Michigan Sunday afternoon. Coming into the day, Michigan had taken it to Cal Poly, Vanderbilt and No. 9 Arizona State.



In this file photo the Huskies beat the Boston College Eagles 3-1. The Huskies went 1-2 at the MLB4 Tournament this weekend in Arizona PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UConn took a first inning lead on a Christian Fedko single to center, which was answered by a Michigan run in the fourth. UConn grabbed the lead right back on a Maycock dinger to right field off of pitcher Isaiah Page, who was lifted after the next hitter.

With two outs in the sixth, UConn rallied again to increase their lead to 4-1, as Kyler Fedko drew a walk and Paul Gozzo followed it up with a double to left field. Then UConn's top recruit Reggie Crawford singled them both home off amidst a lefty-lefty battle with Keaton Carattini.

Crawford came up big again in the eighth, slashing a double to the left-center gap and clearing the bases in another lefty-lefty battle win over Ben Keizer to make it 7-1.

Starter Nick Krauth had a solid game for the Huskies, throwing 5.2 innings and giving up just one unearned run. He struck out five and walked two in 86 pitches on the afternoon.

Overall there were some things UConn needs to clean up to be successful, defense especially. They made a total of 10 errors on the weekend, with three Friday and Sunday and four on Saturday.

"We gotta play better catch, we're not playing good catch in the infield," Penders said post-game Saturday. "We've been especially bad in the last two games, balls just off gloves. We're just not catching the ball, it's popping out, and when we do get a glove on it, it seems to go 30 feet in the wrong direction and the guy gets another base."

UConn walked away from the weekend with an important win over a ranked team, who they have to face in a three-game set next weekend.



Sports

UConn Beats Memphis



No. 1 Christian Vital and No. 15 Sid Wilson high-five as the Huskies win 64-61 after a close and suspenseful game against Memphis on Sunday, Feb. 16. PHOTO BY MAGGIE CHAFOULEAS, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Basketball Notebook: Despite devastating loss, Huskies pull off emotional win

by Andrew Morrison
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There aren't many things that can bring a sold-out crowd to deafening silence. A devastating injury to one of the most beloved and integral players on the team is, unfortunately, one of those things.

In front of the first sold out XL Center in two years, red-shirt freshman Akok Akok made what should've been a highlight reel play: A block on Memphis freshman Precious Achiuwa, one of the

most highly regarded prospects in college hoops who for a while seemed headed to a UConn uniform.

But on the landing, Akok's left leg buckled. He turned around as if someone had hit him from behind, then collapsed in pain and, because this is Akok we're talking about, did everything in his power to get up and carry on playing. But he fell once again, unable to put any weight on the leg, and this time could only lie there as his teammates and coaches surrounded him.

The tears began flowing as Akok was carried to the locker room, probably due to a mix of pain and the dread of the news to come. Soon after, that news turned out to be as awful as feared: A likely Achilles tear, to be confirmed by an MRI on Monday. Not even a minute into the game, and UConn had lost one of its bright stars for not only the remainder of the season, but likely a good chunk of next year as well.

See AKOK, p. 9

Men's Basketball: Vital, Bouknight lift Huskies in win over Memphis

by Kevin Arnold
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It was a refined combination of youth and veteran leadership that guided the UConn men in a gritty and emotional 64-61 win over Memphis.

Sunday's contest was yet another revenge game of sorts for the Huskies (14-11, 5-7 The American), who have beaten the likes of Cincinnati, Tulsa and now Memphis, after previously suffering losses. UConn did not escape completely unscathed, however, losing starting big man Akok Akok to a torn Achilles tendon

just 58 seconds into the game. "It was a big win, obviously, but it doesn't feel like it," head coach Dan Hurlley said through tears afterwards. "There's no joy in it when something like that happens in the first minute. Sports are brutal sometimes, life is brutal sometimes."

The team was hurt, but not totally lost, in the moments after. Shots were tough to come by in the first half with UConn shooting 28% and 31 overall, but the vets did what they're supposed to do: Lead.

See VITAL, p. 9

Women's Basketball: Huskies shake rough first quarter to beat USF

by Sean Janos
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UConn went on the road Sunday afternoon and beat USF 67-47, but despite the 20-point win, the Huskies didn't dominate all 40 minutes.

UConn (21-3) got off to a slow start, losing the first quarter 19-13. By halftime, they clawed back to cut the deficit to just four. The score was 29-25, which remarkably was the halftime score last season when these two teams played on the very same court.

What changed for UConn in the second half was they were able to effectively run their offense and control the ball. They turned the ball over 10 times in the first half, then just once in each of the following two quarters.

"It's amazing how when you get into something that looks like offense and you cut, screen, pass and shoot when you're supposed to, you end up winning games," Geno Aureimma said.

UConn took their time in the locker room at halftime, coming out just a minute before the second half was set to start. Whatever they went over in there, it worked.

The Huskies' offense was

carried by forwards Megan Walker and Olivia Nelson-Ododa. Walker scored a game-high 21 points shooting 8-for-12, also grabbing four rebounds and two steals. Nelson-Ododa had 20 points, eight rebounds, two steals and four blocks, going a great 9-for-12 from the field.

"We saw how hard she [Nelson-Ododa] was working defensively and offensively in the post," Auriemma said. "On a couple of the shots that she made, there was a lot of traffic and bodies on her. She played a really solid game."

"Coming out of halftime, we were able to turn things around and turn up the intensity defensively," Nelson-Ododa said.

As much as UConn turned the ball over in the first half, they were able to get more of those possessions back on the other end with their aggressive defense. The Huskies forced 22 turnovers, coming away with 17 steals. Five of those steals were from freshman Aubrey Griffin.

"Aubrey was amazing defensively; she changed the complexion of the game," Auriemma said.

Griffin also scored eight points and grabbed seven rebounds.

"Aubrey and Olivia were the two that really impacted the game today," Auriemma said.

UConn played six players all game. Three of UConn's taller, longer players, Walker, Nelson-Ododa and Griffin, combined to shoot 21-for-31. Guards Crystal Dangerfield, Christyn Williams and Anna Makurat shot 7-for-27. This serves as a testament to how challenging playing against USF's guards can be.

Rolling with a three-guard lineup for the majority of the game, USF got a lot of their offense from the perimeter.

Elisa Pinzan led the team in points with 15, adding four assists and hitting three 3-pointers. Sydney Harvey and Elena Tsineke each scored nine points, both also hitting a shot from beyond the arc.

After shooting 5-of-6 from deep in the first quarter, USF was held to just 1-for-12 for the rest of the game.

"They'll change sides of the floor three or four times and the second you make a mistake, they can get in the lane and find open 3-point shooters," Auriemma said. "We did a great job of not letting them break us down individually and staying connected to shooters. Our on-ball defense was way better."

See WBB, p. 10



In this file photo, UConn beat Memphis 94-55 last Friday night in Gampel Pavilion. Sunday, the Huskies took down the USF Bulls 67-47 in Florida. PHOTO BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

THIS WEEKEND IN UCONN SPORTS

Men's Basketball

UConn Huskies vs. Memphis Tigers

64 vs. 61

Women's Basketball

UConn Huskies vs. Wake Forest Demon Deacons

Wednesday, 7 p.m. XL Center

Men's Basketball

UConn Huskies vs. Temple Owls

Thursday, 7 p.m. Philadelphia, PA

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY

@uconnmbb HUSKIES WIN

TWEETS OF THE DAY

Andrew Morrison @asmor24 find someone who looks at you like CV looks at Jalen Adams

Boneyardigans @UConnFanDotCom Before anyone shits on Memphis and Penny Hardaway, just remember how hard it is for a community college to even play at this level.

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