



## UConn Community Reacts to ‘Divisive’ State of the Union Address

by Nick Smith  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
nicholas.h.smith@uconn.edu

President Donald Trump appraised the well-being of the nation Tuesday in a State of the Union address bookended by tense interactions with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

In between snubbed handshakes and torn speeches, President Trump decried the “far left” and socialism while calling for bipartisanship and cooperation between the parties.

“We can make our communities safer, our families stronger, our culture richer, our faith deeper and our middle class bigger and more prosperous than ever before,” President Trump said early in his speech. “But we must reject the politics of revenge, resistance and retribution, and embrace the boundless potential of cooperation, compromise and the common good.”

However, for a night featuring no shortage of calls for unity, Democrats and Republicans appeared far from unified.

When asked about the decision to tear up her copy of President Trump’s speech, Speaker Pelosi said in an interview with NBC News “it

was the courteous thing to do, considering the alternative,” and later referred to the address as a “manifesto of mis-truths.”

Such political maneuvers were not lost on members of the UConn community.

“I thought it was very unprofessional for the Speaker of the House to do that,” Jack Bergantino, a fourth-semester economics major said. “I didn’t agree with a lot of what President Trump said either, but I don’t think that really advances the public debate.”

Some, such as eighth-semester digital media and design major Sean Bollman, were not surprised by Speaker Pelosi’s act of defiance.

“There haven’t been a lot of kind words exchanged between the House Speaker and the President lately,” Bollman said. “There doesn’t seem to be a lot of good feelings on either side.”

Others called into question the sincerity of President Trump’s calls for bipartisan-ship.

“It seems like something he would do,” Zach Adler, an eighth-semester chemical engineering major said. “But he’s definitely hypocritical and has a lot to work on himself I think.”

“I don’t believe it’s entirely sincere,” Bergantino said. “He certainly hasn’t helped the political discourse – I mean take one look at his Twitter feed. All around I think there’s a lack of reaching across the aisle.”

Notably absent from the address was any mention of the President’s ongoing impeachment trial.

“I think Trump always knows what to say, and it would have made him seem weak if he had mentioned [the trial],” Adler said. “With the Republican majority in the Senate I don’t think he had anything to worry about anyhow, so being confident was probably smart for him.”

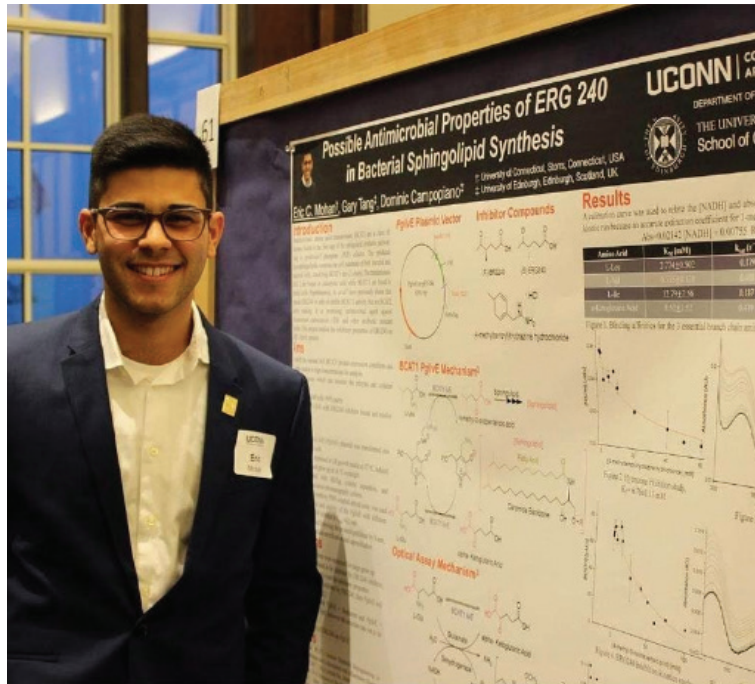
Bollman similarly saw the political advantage in not mentioning the trial.

“It doesn’t seem like it would benefit his campaign so even with his temper, and I’m sure he wanted to talk about it, he held back for his best interests,” he said.

Overall, some, like Bergantino, were left with a sour taste in their mouth.

“I think it’s pretty unfortunate how divisive both sides are,” he said. “Between the speech itself to the Speaker of the House ripping up his speech behind him, I think it’s pretty sad all around.”

## UConn senior wins Office of Undergraduate Research Award



**Eighth-semester chemistry major Eric Mohan presents his work at the Fall Frontiers Presentation 2019. Mohan was honored with the Office of Undergraduate Research Award this year.**

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ERIC MOHAN VIA LINKEDIN

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

Eighth semester chemistry major Eric Mohan was a recent recipient of the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) Award, helping him go to the University of Edinburgh to further research bacterial molecules.

“I was kind of bummed out that as a chemistry major I didn’t think I had any opportunities to go abroad,” Mohan said.

Then, he found out about the OUR Awards.

“They thought I could use the money, and I was graciously approved,” Mohan said. “This program was specific to the chemistry department.”

The OUR Awards don’t bring the student abroad; they simply help them get there financially.

“The OUR will provide up to \$500 to undergraduate students engaged in research or creative projects to cover expenses associated with those projects,” the OUR Supply Awards website said. “This award is intended to support

expenses that are specific to a student’s project and consumed through use in the student’s project.”

Specifically, Mohan worked on synthesizing a particular enzyme commonly found in diseases like tuberculosis.

“Essentially, this was a kind of continuation of work that the lab had been doing,” Mohan said. “I was charged with synthesizing a molecule commonly found in bacteria, that inhibits bacterial activity but spares human activity.”

Mohan’s specific studies showed no inhibition of the enzyme, but he said that it has been proven to work in previous tests.

“The idea is that if you can stop one of these enzymes from functioning correctly in the ... pathways, you create a very powerful, a very potent antibiotic because the cell proliferation [is hindered],” Mohan said.

Mohan said he elected to work on this project because of his future aspirations.

“I picked something that works with my future goals of being a physician,” Mohan said.



**President Donald Trump delivers his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020, as Vice President Mike Pence and Speaker Nancy Pelosi look on.**

PHOTOGRAPH BY LEAH MILLIS/AP PHOTO

## Involvement Fair ... Pg 5



## Grief counseling open to all

by Rachel Philipson  
STAFF WRITER  
rachel.philipson@uconn.edu

The Behavioral Health Center Storrs (BHCS) is offering free group grief counseling sessions to any members of the University of Connecticut and Mansfield community, Andrew Toce, senior director of the outpatient clinic, said.

After the news of the passing of two UConn students, Justin Niezrecki and Tianyin Shang, BHCS wanted to create an outlet where anyone could have a safe place to talk with mental health professionals, Toce said.

“[We want] the awareness that we are always here for the UConn community and Mansfield,” Toce said. “[We] want to help and be a helping hand no matter what the cause is.”

The grief counseling, which is run by BHCS staff, allows attendees to voice any thoughts and emotions they are feeling, Toce said. Staff members will provide support and advice throughout the session.

“It allows people to come together and recognize the feelings that they aren’t alone,” Toce said. “The more you have, the more people can relate together ... We can all learn from one other and how people handle things differently.”

The next group session is Thursday, Feb. 6 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 1244 Storrs Road. The previous session had four patients, Toce said. He said he expects there will be more at the following sessions.

“[In the first session, they] discussed how people were dealing with the news of the passing of their peers and if it brought up any trauma and a lot of self-care techniques,” Toce said.

The original plan was to only have two group sessions. In light of Cole Montefusco’s death on Feb. 1, Toce said they plan to extend the group counseling to the end of February. Dates are not official at the time of reporting.

“We send our condolences to those we lost, and we are here for the support of those who are grieving as well,” Toce said.

### Resources:

*For more information about Behavioral Health Center Storrs, call 860-420-2450.*

*The Mental Health Office at Student Health and Wellness is located on the fourth floor of Arjona (337 Mansfield Road, Storrs, CT 06269) and is open during normal business hours Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. After hours, weekends and holidays, call 860-486-4705 and stay on the line.*

*The Dean of Students office on the second floor of the Wilbur Cross Building (233 Glenbrook Road, Storrs, CT 06269) is also available to assist students in need. You can make an appointment by calling 860-486-3426 or stop in Monday-Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.*

*24/7 Suicide Hotline: 1-800-273-8255*

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**WEEKLY COLUMN | PAGE 4**  
Coronavirus is not an excuse for people to be racist

**SPRING CLUBS | PAGE 5**  
Springing into the semester with the Involvement Fair

**UConn Football | PAGE 12**  
Edsall doesn’t want transfers, Huskies sign 5 more recruits

### Tweet of the Day

**unnatural disaster**

@MarmEK19

I went to UCONN and I can tell you that they flip cars when their team loses, too



In case you missed it  
What happened this week beyond UConn

by **Taylor Harton**  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR  
taylor.harton@uconn.edu

Parkland Shooter Jail Altercation

Authorities in Broward County, Florida, are investigating after a Nov. 2018 surveillance clip surfaced depicting the Valentine’s Day shooter at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, getting into a physical altercation with a detention sergeant while in custody, according to News 9. While observing the suspect pacing around cafeteria tables, Broward Sheriff’s Sergeant Raymond Beltran reportedly told him to stop dragging his sandals on the ground, at which point the suspect gave Beltran the middle finger before rushing him. The altercation continued, and the suspect managed to take Beltran’s stun gun but did not use it on him. Beltran eventually gained the upper hand and restrained the suspect before putting him in handcuffs. The suspect’s public defender, Melissa McNeil, composed an email in the days after the attack to the Broward Sheriff’s Office, writing, “I have been reflecting on how this situation could have been different had you or the BSO taken action when I brought to your attention about Sgt. Beltran supervising [REDACTED].” The office later responded saying the attack was the fault of only the suspect regardless of the circumstances. BSO is investigating the response time of the attack given that backup did not arrive until two minutes after the altercation began.

Iowa Caucus

A glitch in an app used by precincts to report Iowa’s presidential primary results caused chaos throughout the week for voters, candidates and organizers alike, according to CBS News. The Democratic party stressed the delay has not impacted the accuracy of the results, nor is there any evidence of hacking in the votes. As of Wednesday afternoon, the party had provided results from 71% of precincts from all 99 counties. The results show Pete Buttigieg maintaining a slight lead over Bernie Sanders, with 26.8% going to Buttigieg and 25.2% going to Sanders. Elizabeth Warren is in third with 18.4%, followed by Joe Biden in fourth with 15.5%. Final results are still pending, and it is unclear when these votes will come in.

Trump Acquitted

President Donald Trump was acquitted in the Senate on Wednesday of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress charges, according to the New York Times. Forty-eight of 100 Senators, all Democrats except Republican Mitt Romney, voted to convict Trump of abuse of power. Forty-seven of 100 Senators, all Democrats, voted to convict Trump of obstruction of Congress. Both of these vote counts fell short of the 67 votes necessary to convict the president. As predicted, senators voted along party lines.

Border Death

The U.S. government announced Wednesday a 32-year-old citizen died while in custody at the border in Texas, according to NBC News. The man was a suspect in a human smuggling incident, and he was arrested on Tuesday afternoon and sent to Bracketville for processing. During his tenure, he began “exhibiting signs of distress” and was treated by emergency medical technicians before being sent to the hospital where he later died around 9 p.m. The agency has not released the man’s name or the nature of his illness/death.

Walmart Suspects

Authorities are searching for two men who allegedly walked into an Illinois Walmart with an “I have the coronavirus” sign and sprayed a mystery substance on produce and other products as they moved, according to Fox News. The substance was later identified as Lysol, and the man spraying it wore a medical mask and a sign on the back of his shirt warning those around him he was infected with coronavirus. Walmart said an estimated \$7,300 worth of produce was lost and cleanup will cost an upwards of \$2,000. No charges have yet been filed.

Facebook, YouTube: Firm must stop scraping faces from sites

(AP) — Facebook joined YouTube, Twitter and payment service Venmo on Wednesday in demanding that a facial recognition company stop harvesting user images to identify the people in them, which the start-up does as part of its work with police.

Facebook said it has demanded New York-based Clearview AI stop accessing or using information from its flagship site and Instagram.

“Scraping people’s information violates our policies,” a company spokesman said.

Clearview has drawn scrutiny following investigative reports in January by the New York Times and BuzzFeed detailing its work with law enforcement agencies and its practice of scraping social media and other internet platforms for images.

Venmo on Wednesday said it is sending Clearview a cease and desist letter.

“Scraping Venmo is a violation of our terms of service and we actively work to limit and block activity that violates these policies,” said Venmo spokes-

man Justin Higgs, who said the Paypal-owned mobile payment service is in the process of sending the letter.

Google-owned video service YouTube sent a similar letter to Clearview on Tuesday.

“YouTube’s Terms of Service explicitly forbid collecting data that can be used to identify a person,” YouTube spokesman Alex Joseph said in a statement Wednesday. “Clearview has publicly admitted to doing exactly that, and in response we sent them a cease and desist letter.”

Clearview CEO Hoan Ton-That told CBS in an interview that it has a First Amendment right to the roughly 3 billion images it has collected.

“The way we have built our system is to only take publicly

available information and index it that way,” he told CBS.

He also said the technology is only used by law enforcement to identify potential criminals.

CBS was first to report the YouTube letter Wednesday. Twitter sent a similar letter in January and ordered Clearview to delete all the data it has collected from Twitter, including anything already shared with third parties. Microsoft-owned LinkedIn said Wednesday it is also looking into it and will take “appropriate action” if Clearview violated its terms.

Clearview attorney Tor Ekland said in a statement Wednesday that the company’s technology “operates much in the same way as Google’s search engine.”

Clearview CEO Hoan TonThat told CBS in an interview that it has a First Amendment right to the roughly 3 billion images it has collected.



FBI Director Christopher Wray listens to a question as he testifies during an oversight hearing of the House Judiciary Committee, on Capitol Hill, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020 in Washington.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALEX BRANDON/AP

FBI director warns of ongoing Russian ‘information warfare’

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI Director Chris Wray said Wednesday that Russia is engaged in “information warfare” heading into the 2020 presidential election, though he said law enforcement has not seen ongoing efforts by Russia to target America’s election infrastructure.

Wray told the House Judiciary Committee that Russia, just as it did in 2016, is relying on a covert social media campaign aimed at dividing American public opinion and sowing discord. That effort, which in-

volves fictional personas, bots, social media postings and disinformation, may have an election-year uptick but is also a round-the-clock threat that is in some ways harder to combat than an election system hack, Wray said.

“Unlike a cyberattack on an election infrastructure, that kind of effort — disinformation — in a world where we have a First Amendment and believe strongly in freedom of expression, the FBI is not going to be in the business of being the truth police and moni-

toring disinformation online,” Wray said.

The FBI and Department of Homeland Security are on alert for election-related cyberactivity like what occurred in 2016, when Russians hacked emails belonging to the Democratic campaign of nominee Hillary Clinton and probed local election systems for vulnerabilities.

But, Wray said Wednesday, “I don’t think we’ve seen any ongoing efforts to target election infrastructure like we did in 2016.”

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El Salvador says it’s not ready to receive asylum seekers

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — El Salvador is not ready to receive asylum seekers from the United States and will not accept them until it can offer them the necessary protections and support, Foreign Minister Alexandra Hill Tinoco said Wednesday.

El Salvador is one of three Central American governments that signed bilateral agreements with the U.S. government last year that would allow the U.S. to send asylum seekers from its Southwest border to instead apply for asylum in Guatemala, Honduras or El Salvador.

Guatemala started receiving asylum seekers in November, and Honduras and El Salvador are expected to follow.

“We are not going to admit anyone seeking asylum until we as a country have the conditions and technical, financial and human capacity to be able to give these people who are seeking asylum and sent to another country the best treatment,” Hill Tinoco said.

The so-called Asylum Cooperation Agreements are among the measures the U.S. government has taken to close the door to asylum seekers arriving at its border with Mexico.

Hill Tinoco said her government is at the point of determining the technical team that will meet with their U.S. counterparts to develop a plan of how it could work.

“We are not going to admit anyone seeking asylum until we as a country have the conditions ... to give these people who are seeking asylum ... the best treatment.”

ALEXANDRA HILL TINOCO

Police Blotter

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

Jan. 29

Kelly Norris, 40, of Stamford, Connecticut, was charged with operating a motor vehicle under a suspended license and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol. Police received a walk-up complaint of a female driver who had passed out behind the wheel at the intersection between Hillside Road and North Eagleville Road. Upon arrival, officers discovered a white female slumped over the wheel, and she was unresponsive to officer commands. Once Norris became coherent she was subjected to standardized field sobriety tests which she failed. She later admitted to inhaling “Dust Off” to become intoxicated. Her bond was set at \$2,000 and her court date is Feb. 12.

Feb. 1

David Lassy, 19, of Southington, Connecticut, was charged with delivery of alcohol to a minor, possession of alcohol by a minor and interfering with an officer. Police responded to the Monteith Building for a complaint of a loud party and discovered

open containers of alcoholic beverages throughout the room. Police asked the four students inside of the room for their names and date of birth and were given false information by three of the four students, including Lassy. His bond was set at \$1,500 and his court date is Feb. 10.

Feb. 1

Dionel De Borja, 18, of Newtown, Connecticut and Skyelyn Bernier, 18, of North Haven, Connecticut, were each charged with possession of alcohol by a minor and interfering with an officer. De Borja and Bernier were present at the party with Lassy and both failed to give officers correct information about their names and dates of birth. During the investigation, Bernier ran away from officers and was subsequently apprehended. De Borja’s bond was set at \$500, and Bernier’s bond was set at \$1,000. Their court dates are both Feb. 10.

Feb. 1

Eric Duhl, 21, of Woodbridge, Connecticut was charged with second-degree breach of peace, third-degree assault and third-degree conspiracy to assault. Police observed two males walking near Hillel House and learned they had recently been involved in an altercation in which they were

assaulted and sustained serious physical injuries. Duhl was identified as a suspect in the assault and turned himself in to the UConn Police Department after providing a sworn written statement detailing his involvement in the incident. His bond was set at \$5,000 and his court date is Feb. 10.

Feb. 1

Thomas Fetta, 18, of Hebron, Connecticut was charged with second-degree breach of peace, second-degree assault and second-degree conspiracy to assault. He was identified as another suspect in the physical altercation Duhl and other males were involved in. He turned himself in to the UConn Police Department after providing a sworn written statement detailing his involvement in the incident. His bond was set at \$10,000 and his court date is Feb. 11.

Feb. 2

Connor Sendzik, 20, of Fairfield, Connecticut was charged with second-degree breach of peace, conspiracy and third-degree assault. He was identified as another suspect in the physical altercation Duhl and Fetta were involved in. He turned himself in to the UConn Police Department after providing a sworn written statement detailing his involvement

in the incident. His bond was set at \$2,500 and his court date is Feb. 13.

Feb. 4

Clayton Fischman, 19, of Orange, Connecticut was charged with second-degree breach of peace, second-degree assault and second-degree conspiracy to assault. He was identified as another suspect in the physical altercation Duhl, Fetta and Sendzik were involved in. He turned himself in to the UConn Police Department after providing a sworn written statement detailing his involvement in the incident. His bond was set at \$10,000 and his court date is Feb. 18.

Feb. 4

Zhengliang Tian, 19, and Zihan Wang, 19, both of Storrs, Connecticut were each charged with disorderly conduct. Officers were dispatched to Belden Hall on a report that two individuals may have been in a physical altercation but were currently separated. Upon arrival, officers observed blood all over the floor and on the two individuals, Tian and Wang. The two had gotten into a physical altercation after one was playing a video game while the other wanted to go to sleep. Their bonds were set at \$500 each and their court date is Feb. 18.

Disconnect? Stocks rise despite fears over virus from China

NEW YORK (AP) — The virus outbreak out of China has exposed a seeming disconnect between the financial markets and science.

Health experts don’t know how far the virus will spread and how bad the crisis will get, yet stocks are rallying as if investors are expecting no more than a modest hit to the global economy.

On Wall Street, the S&P 500 erased all its losses from the past few weeks and hit a record on Wednesday, while markets in Japan and Hong Kong, closer to the center of the crisis, rose as well. The gains came even as the number of people infected globally surged to more than 28,000 and the death toll climbed to 563, with the overwhelming majority of

cases in China.

Investors aren’t pretending to know any more than the scientists. But after an initial, mini-freakout over worries about a big blow to China, the world’s second-largest economy with 1.4 billion people, and the potential ripple effects, investors are taking into account better-than-expected earnings from some of the globe’s biggest companies and other

couraging economic indicators from outside China.

Perhaps most important, investors are looking at more than just the public health measures that are being taken against the virus; they are taking into account the financial tools available to counter the economic damage.

They are hoping that even if the virus spreads further, central banks can once again come to the rescue and prop up the global economy by cutting interest rates and offering other stimulus, much as they have done since the 2008 financial crisis. Early this week, in fact, China’s central bank announced plans to pump \$173 billion into the economy to help calm markets.

“We listen to health care experts,” said Nate Thooft, global head of asset allocation at Manulife Asset Management. “We are reading research from epidemiologists. But as with anything with the market, there’s a level of faith and hope and underlying sentiment that keeps people in the market. People are still willing to hang onto equities because they haven’t been scared enough.”

Such faith perhaps shouldn’t come as a surprise. The U.S. stock market has been running higher since the spring of 2009, its longest bull run on record, and has repeatedly beaten back worries about impending recessions, global trade wars and the threat of real war — for example,

after the U.S. drone strike last month that killed a top Iranian general.

“Everybody knows that it’s going to have an impact on the global economy and specifically China,” said Scott Ladner, chief investment officer for Horizon Investments. “It’s not that there’s going to be zero impact. It’s that we don’t think the impact is going to be long-lasting or so severe that there can’t be governmental policies to help blunt the impact.”

While stock analysts might feel confident that the economic impact can be contained, public health experts don’t know yet what course the outbreak will take. In fact, they are still trying to answer basic questions about the virus, including just how easily it spreads and how deadly it is.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organization, said Wednesday that there is still a “window of opportunity” to contain the outbreak and that the U.N. agency is focusing its efforts on helping Chinese authorities stem the spread of the virus from the city of Wuhan, where it first emerged over a month ago.

At the same time, Tedros said that in the preceding 24 hours, the WHO had seen the biggest jump in cases since the start of the epidemic.

U.S. health officials said it would be premature to comment on when the outbreak might peak or whether strategies to contain it are working.

“We’re preparing as if this is a pandemic,” said Dr. Nancy Messonnier of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A pandemic is defined as outbreaks of a disease on at least two continents.

Researchers around the world are scrambling to develop a vaccine for the virus, which is a member of the coronavirus family and a close cousin to the SARS and MERS viruses that

“We are reading research from epidemiologists. But as with anything with the market, there’s a level of faith and hope and underlying sentiment that keeps people in the market.”

NATE THOOFT

have caused outbreaks in the past. But even if testing and manufacturing go perfectly, it may take at least a year before one is ready for widespread use. Similarly, it is too early to tell if some promising potential treatments work any better than standard ones.

In other developments Wednesday:

— The WHO asked for \$675 million to help countries deal with the expected spread of the virus. Tedros acknowledged that is a lot, but “it’s much less than the bill we will face if we do not invest in preparedness now.”

— Two planes carrying about 350 Americans evacuated from Wuhan landed in California. They will be quarantined for 14 days at two military bases.

— Nearly 3,700 people face a two-week quarantine in their cabins on a cruise ship in the port city of Yokohama, Japan, while in Hong Kong, more than 3,600 people on another ship awaited screening after it was banned by Taiwan.

— As thousands of hospital workers in Hong Kong went on strike for a third day to demand the border with mainland China be closed completely, the city announced that all people entering from the mainland, including Hong Kong residents, must be quarantined for 14 days.

This illustration provided by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in January 2020 shows the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). PHOTO COURTESY OF CDC

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► Editorial

We stand with the Mental Health Coalition

Tragedy has struck the UConn community far too many times this year. In particular, two suicides have rocked campus and brought about a much needed discussion of UConn’s culture and the lack of mental health resources on campus. The most recent round of uproar and organizing follows in a long tradition of students calling for increased funding to Counseling and Mental Health Services (CMHS).

Students across the country are being crushed by mountains of debt. The college environment is isolating and forces us to compete for awards, internships, research grants and grades with our classmates. Mental health services, including at UConn, are chronically underfunded. As a consequence, mental illness has reached epidemic proportions in colleges across the country.

Our university, like all universities, exists to expose us to new ideas, sharpen our critical thinking skills and prepare us for our careers.

How can we be expected to learn skills, be active participants in classes and sharpen our thinking if we are depressed and anxious? The university only functions when our basic needs are met. We aren’t expected to succeed if we don’t have adequate food or housing (although many students struggle to afford these basic human needs), so why should we expect to succeed if our basic mental health needs are not met?

On campus, campus leaders are once again attempting to build an organized movement. Last week, three leaders, representing student government, regional campuses and international students, announced the creation of a new Mental Health Coalition, with broad goals of expanding mental health services to all students — whether they are on regional campuses or come from different countries and cultures.

The Daily Campus Editorial Board stands behind this coalition in their efforts. UConn has many competing priorities, but it must find space and resources for the mental health of its students. Beyond funding CMHS, UConn must take a long, hard look at the culture of isolation and hyper-competition that our current model of education fosters.

We implore the university to take the Mental Health Coalition’s thoughtful demands seriously.



Coronavirus is not an excuse for people to be racist

by Anika Veeraraghav  
WEEKLY COLUMNIST  
anika.veeraraghav@uconn.edu

Just about everyone has heard about coronavirus. Originating in Wuhan, China, this virus has taken the lives of about 500 people. With this, it has also incited panic among many all around the world. Unfortunately, in many places, this panic has also taken a dark turn and given rise to racism and xenophobia, especially targeting people of East Asian descent.

Due to the fact that the disease originated in China, many people have taken to the internet posting racist comments about people of East Asian descent — some of whom aren’t even Chinese — as well as making comments against restaurants. There was even a case in Sydney, Australia where a 60-year-old Chinese man collapsed and died because onlookers did not give him CPR due to fears of contracting coronavirus. This racial profiling cost a man his life, and if it continues, it is very possible that this will happen to more people.

Coronavirus is not an excuse for people to be racist. There have been other outbreaks all over the world, but only some of them caused this amount of racism.

Take the H1N1 influenza, which is commonly known as “swine flu.” It originated in the U.S. in 2009, but it did not incite racism targeting people living in the U.S. The same is true for Mad Cow Disease, which originated in the U.K.; people did not have such despicable reactions towards certain groups of people just because of their race.

For some people, the coronavi-

rout outbreak is just an excuse for their racism and xenophobia to become clear. This is similar to when the Ebola outbreak occurred. This virus originated in sub-Saharan Africa, so after it began spreading, many people’s racist sentiments towards anyone of African descent became very clear. It is also similar to the racism and xenophobia that emerged during the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak that originated in China in 2003.

When people are called out online for their racism, many of them claim that they are just joking. In fact, much of this racism has come in the form of “jokes” online. People do not realize that these “jokes” are actually racial microaggressions — a more subtle form of racism — which, yes,

is still racist.

According to an article from The Verge, one tweet that went viral read, “When you eat bats and bamboo rats and s--- and call it a ‘Chinese delicacy,’ why y’all be acting surprised when diseases like #coronavirus appear?”

This is just one of numerous racist tweets and posts targeting Chinese people or people of East Asian descent in general. People often target East Asian food for using “strange” animals, but the truth is that food is different within every culture. French delicacies include frog legs as well as snails, and crocodile meat is sold in many places across the U.S. These are items that certain people would not even think of eating, but it is a normal thing in other places. Yet East Asian food is often criticized more than others, and is often generalized to the whole population even if only a select group of people eat it.

The coronavirus outbreak — or any other viral outbreak for that matter — should not be the reason for people’s racism to be released. People are dying and falling severely sick, and racism of any kind is not the answer.

It is easy to blame certain groups of people for outbreaks, but it is not what people should do. Instead of throwing blame, people should treat others well if they exhibit any symptoms and not fly into a wild panic. People need to change their attitudes and behaviors before more people get harmed due to racism and xenophobia.

In Sydney, Australia a 60-year-old Chinese man collapsed and died because onlookers did not give him CPR due to fears of contracting coronavirus.

Blocking Coverage: Policy and Healthcare

by Kate Lee,  
STAFF COLUMNIST,  
katherine.lee@uconn.edu  
and Anika Veeraraghav,  
WEEKLY COLUMNIST  
anika.veeraraghav.com

President Donald Trump and other conservatives have been after the healthcare system for years, enacting policy that subtly lowers the number of citizens provided health insurance by the government due to disabilities, poverty, or age. Medicaid, which is funded both by states and the federal government, provides health coverage to 64.7 million Americans such as “eligible low-income adults, children, pregnant women, elderly adults and people with disabilities.” While this program was broadened by the Affordable Care Act, Trump has been trying to lower its burden to the federal government and influence in the states. Proposed policy introduced last year has the potential to lower the poverty line used for healthcare coverage, intimidate immigrants seeking citizenship from using Medicaid and make it harder for states to fund their Medicaid programs. However, the ultimate blow to Medicaid was delivered on Jan. 30 when Seema Verma, the administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, announced a new method for states to receive the federal funding portion of their Medicaid programs. This new pathway will drastically reduce the amount of citizens with healthcare coverage, creating catastrophic results for individuals and communities.

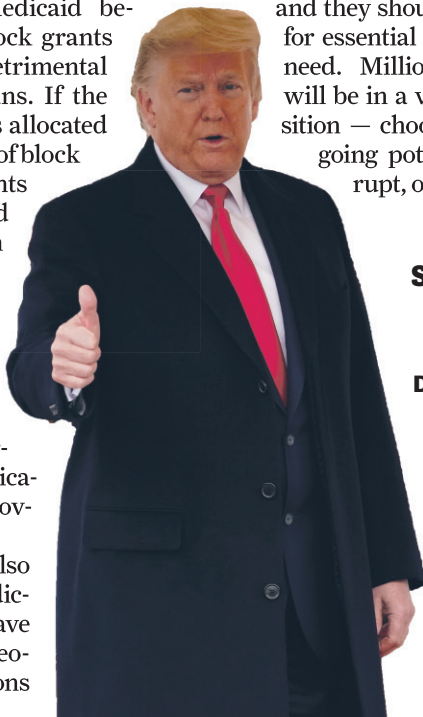
Overall, 60% of funding for Medicaid comes from the federal government, with the remaining costs covered by the state. Currently, there is no cap to the amount of money the federal government can provide: the exact value is based off of how much the state contributes and the level of poverty of the state. Trump’s plan would ensure that there could be a financial cap, as the money allocated to states would be in the form of a block grant, which is a form of governmental funding that is given to states. The main problem with the block grant is that the funding would be capped for many medical and pharmaceutical services, meaning that millions of Americans would suffer.

Trump’s idea of Medicaid being funded through block grants would be extremely detrimental to millions of Americans. If the funding for Medicaid is allocated to the states in the form of block grants, certain ailments would not be covered and states would even have the discretion to allocate it for what they want. This would be potentially harmful for everyone receiving benefits from Medicaid because certain ailments and medications that have been covered won’t be.

Since the funding is also within the state’s jurisdiction, the state would have the right to disqualify people in need. The millions

of people who currently benefit from Medicaid do actually need it — suddenly saying that they do not qualify would be harmful to them at both a financial level and a healthcare level. If someone could not afford to go to the doctor and no longer qualifies for Medicaid, chances are, they would not go to the doctor at all and their health would be put at an unnecessary risk.

Not only would it affect healthcare in the form of doctor’s visits, but it would also affect the price of pharmaceuticals. In the past few years, the prices of insulin, Epi Pens and many other vital pharmaceuticals have already increased. People cannot afford to pay these exorbitant prices and they should not have to for essential care that they need. Millions of people will be in a very tough position — choosing between going potentially bankrupt, or their life.



See TRUMP, p. 8

President Donald Trump welcomes a guest to the White House on Feb. 5. Opinion writers argue Trump’s Medicaid plan will not benefit its users. EVAN VUCCI/AP



SPRINGING INTO THE SEMESTER WITH THE INVOLVEMENT FAIR

**by Hollianne Lao**  
STAFF WRITER  
hollianne.lao@uconn.edu

With such a large and diverse student body, UConn is bound to have an equally large and diverse group of organizations and clubs to cater to the community. Along with the extensive Involvement Fair in the fall, the spring semester Involvement Fair is a great way to quite literally see all that the university has to offer. Yesterday afternoon, Gampel Pavilion was bustling with students tabling for their respective clubs and organizations.

“I usually come to the Involvement Fair to help out with the clubs I’m part of,” Dylan Demoura, a sixth-semester political science and history major, said. “I definitely think the fall one is better because it’s outside and there’s more room ... but it’s cool it’s in Gampel. I always try to walk around, see what’s new, even as a junior.”

As students entered Gampel, they were able to pick up a map and directory of all the student organizations and programs that they could check out. The different categories include religion and spirituality; political interest; tech building and design; academic business; academic healthcare; activism and advocacy; academic STEM; club sports teams; creating and crafting; culture and community; dance, vocal and music performance; environment and agriculture; Greek fraternities and sororities; Honors; health and wellness; university programs; service; student government and campus media and sports and gaming.

“It’s not very often that all, or close to all, of the groups at UConn come to one spot to advertise so if you’re really looking to get involved, this is a phenomenal place to kind of see what’s available,” Nandan Tumu, an eighth-semester computer science major, said. He was at the fair to represent the UConn Consulting Group.

From more visible groups on campus that you’ve probably seen before, like the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) and the Women’s Center, to smaller groups like the Nintendo Club and Paint Club, organizations big and small encouraged students to join them.

“We’re looking for new members that are really excited and engaged,” Will Schad, a fourth-semester political major, said. He was at the fair to represent Travel Model United Nations. “We go to a few conferences every semester [where] we send usually 8 people and they debate, come to solutions about modern and historical issues with people all over the country. The Involvement Fair is always a really great opportunity to spread the club around.”

There were a little close quarters for clubs and their tables, but students volunteering took it all in stride, calling out to students walking by and engaging interested passersby.

“I think the involvement fair is a great way to see all the clubs at UConn,” Megan Russell, a fourth-semester statistics major, said. “Even if it’s not something you’re interested in, you get to see what UConn has to offer.”



The Involvement Fair is an event where almost every club on campus sets up a station where students can inquire about joining their club.  
PHOTO BY JULIE SPILLANE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/  
THE DAILY CAMPUS

NETFLIX

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Added in the last week

SNUGGLE UP WITH WHAT’S COMING AND LEAVING NETFLIX IN FEBRUARY

**by Brandon Barzola**  
STAFF WRITER  
brandon.barzola@uconn.edu

Although Netflix doesn’t add as many titles to its catalog during February because the month is shorter than others, there are still a handful of titles worth seeking out. For example, the sequel to the hit 2018 rom-com “To All The Boys I’ve Loved Before” will be released on Feb. 12 under the name “P.S. I Still Love You.” Meanwhile, the current five “Jeopardy!” collections will be removed from Netflix at the end of the month; however, three new collections will be added in their place.

Beginning with what’s being added to the streaming service, classics like “Back to the Future Part

III,” “Blade Runner: The Final Cut” and “Purple Rain,” the 1984 film about Prince finding his way in the world, will be added at the beginning of the month. For superhero fans, “Hancock,” starring Will Smith, will also be added at the beginning of the month, while the final season of The CW’s “Arrow” will be added to Netflix on Feb. 5.

On Feb. 7, Season 1 of the Netflix Original “Locke and Key” will premiere. Based on Joe Hill’s dark comic book series of the same name, “Locke and Key” follows the story of three siblings who move into their late father’s childhood home and discover a set of keys that grant them magical powers. What re-

ally makes the plot interesting is figuring out how the siblings are going to protect the keys from the evil force after them.

On Feb. 9, season four of “Better Call Saul” will be added to the streaming site, while Feb. 13 will see the addition of Season 2 of “Narcos: Mexico.” Fans of the “Shaun the Sheep” movies and shows may be pleasantly surprised that on Feb. 14 the Netflix Original “A Shaun The Sheep Movie: Farmageddon” will premiere. Volume 3 of “The Chef Show” will premiere on Feb. 19 and will star Jon Favreau and Roy Choi as they continue to cook more incredible dishes with celebrities.

Keep an eye out for a

couple interesting Netflix Original documentaries or docuseries like “Restaurants on the Edge” that sees a group of experts turn failing waterfront restaurants into beautiful dining experiences, and “Babies,” a documentary exploring the beginning of a baby’s life and the rapid learning and growth that occur over a short period of time.

Sci-fi fans may be interested in “Starship Troopers,” which will be added on Feb. 15, while the long-awaited second season of “Altered Carbon” will premiere on Feb. 27 with Anthony Mackie among its cast. Season 1 of “Followers” will also be added on Feb. 27; the Japanese show is described as being similar

to “Black Mirror.”

As for what’s leaving Netflix: From Feb. 14-21, notable entries like “District 9,” “Peter Rabbit,” “Charlotte’s Web,” “Lincoln” and “The Texas Chainsaw Massacre” will be removed. On Feb. 29, comedies “50/50,” “Stripes” and “Up in the Air” will leave while children’s movies “Igor” and “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” will be removed as well. Also, “The Matrix” trilogy and dramas “American Beauty” and “Rachel Getting Married” will say goodbye to the streaming site for the time being.

For a full list of what’s coming and leaving Netflix in February, check out bgr.com.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NETFLIX



# Connecticut local Chelsea Cutler gains traction with sophomore album

**by Julia Mancini**  
LIFE EDITOR  
julia.mancini@uconn.edu

Chelsea Cutler, a singer-songwriter from Westport, Connecticut, came onto the music scene in 2015 with the release of a song called “Anything for You.” At that point she was only 18 years old. Now at 22, Cutler has released a number of pop singles, countless collaborations and a two-part full length album in 2018, “Sleeping with Roses.” Her sophomore album, “How to Be Human” came out in January and is Cutler's first solo project since signing to Republic Records last year, according to an interview with Billboard.

Cutler has one of the most distinct voices on the charts today and beautiful lyricism to boot. Her genre falls somewhere between pop and dance music, but “How to Be Human” reveals a raw, vulnerable artist. The album, written and recorded by Chelsea herself, is about self-discovery in your 20s and the heartbreak and joy that come with it.

The first track, “Sad Tonight,” is one of the strongest on the album. It turns a traditional breakup song into an upbeat dance anthem. The song is about friends trying to help you heal from heartbreak but wanting to “stay in and indulging in your sadness during a break-up,” according to Cutler’s Billboard interview.

“You’re all over my mind / I try to find a new muse / Can’t believe what you did, no / And I don’t

really want to / I got thoughts in my mind / And they feel so loud / Could pretend that I’m fine but / I don’t really know how,” Cutler sings honestly.

“I Was In Heaven” is a meaningful, raw ballad. This song is beautiful, but a little haunting. Cutler revealed to Billboard that she included all of the original demo recordings on the track, and that it is one of the most emotional songs on the album.

I want your head on my shoulder / Wanna fight and fuck it up, I wanna sing you to sleep / Wanna smile when you kiss your favorite spot on my cheek / I wanna tell you I’m sorry for the mistakes I’ve made,” Cutler sings on the track.

One of my favorite songs from the album is “New Recording 28 - Lions.” When I first heard it, I thought it might have been a Spotify live acoustic recording, so it’s aptly named. “New Recording” feels extremely vulnerable and intimate, as if you’re looking in on Cutler during a private, personal moment that was never meant to be seen. The lyrics are poetry, and Cutler sings them slowly and with raw emotion. The only sound accompanying her is a soft strum on her guitar. She sings about missing someone but still wanting the best for them, and it’s bittersweet heartbreak encompassed in four minutes and 24 seconds.

This album is an excellent representation of Cutler’s talent. Each song showcases another genre and style she has mastered. For a young, new artist, Chelsea Cutler shows a promising future. I think she offers a great pop alternative to the Halsey’s and the Dua Lipa’s on the scene. Her collaborations with other young, 20-something artists, like Jeremy Zucker and Quinn XCII, are great examples of the potential she holds in her musical career. If you haven’t heard of her yet, take the time to learn Chelsea Cutler’s name.

**Rating: 5/5**

“And I swore that I couldn’t breathe / When you walked away from me / And I’m so scared to watch you grow / Without my hand for you to hold / ‘Cause I swore I would be your soul,” she sings.

Another brutally honest, intimate song is “NJ.” A slow, dreamy ballad, “NJ” feels rich with emotion. She sings directly to a past love with those initials, recalling memories, dreams and experiences they shared together.

“Is it over? Does it have to be over? / Wanna share a cigarette,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF INSTAGRAM

**by Rebecca Maher**  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER  
rebecca.l.maher@uconn.edu

Being that classes abroad aren’t exactly challenging, there’s no school on Fridays and plane tickets cost less than a bus ticket from Storrs to Boston, pretty much every student at ISI Florence leaves town each weekend. Some go partying in Amsterdam, others go shopping in Milan, but then there are the really cool people, like me, who make a beeline for the “Sound of Music” tour in Salzburg, Austria, the first chance they get.

For those who understand the romance, beauty and mastery of “The Sound of Music,” you probably know that the majority of the film was filmed in and around Salzburg. That means if you go to Salzburg, almost any place you step could have been the very same place a young Julie Andrews ran around singing. It also means that for the low price of 50 euros, you can be carted from movie scene to movie scene via a tour bus full of singing, excited tourists like yourself.

In a word, the tour was magical. Nothing could have prepared me and my fellow passengers for the emotional experience that was seeing the famous glass gazebo in person. Not only was it the location of the iconic “Sixteen Going On Seventeen” scene, with Liesel jumping from bench to bench while her soon-to-be-Nazi boyfriend patronized her. But it’s also the location for Maria and the Captain’s first kiss, where the pair’s silhouettes fused into one in the doorway of the gazebo. If they hadn’t passed around spiced hot wine after that particular stop, it would have been a teary trip to the cathedral where Maria and the Captain got married.

Although my love for “The Sound of Music” is strong and I could talk about the tour for hours, there is so much more to say about Salzburg. The food, for one, was life-changing. I ate traditional beef goulash, pork schnitzel, spinach dumplings, warm cheesy pretzels and a hot dog that opened my eyes to how food should taste. And yet, Salzburg is actually more well-known for its desserts than its savory food. I ate crisp apple strudel in a warm vanilla sauce that brought Maria’s “My Favorite Things” to life in my mouth. I had an incredible creation called s’nockerl, that consisted of three giant piles of caramelized meringue in a pool of fresh raspberry sauce, and a chocolate cake with thin layers of apricot called a sacher torte. It almost made me regret choosing Florence as my home abroad.

Beyond the delicious food and film locations, the city is strikingly beautiful, and its historic center is something to marvel at. Surrounded at all sides by snow-capped mountains bedecked in ancient fortresses, with the Salzburg River running down its middle and pastel buildings making up its center, Salzburg is a sight to behold. Everywhere you look is a sign dedicating a store or bridge to some long-ago historical event, most of which involving the city’s golden boy, Mozart. Quaint cafes, bars, markets and shops line the streets and line the sloping roads clinging to nearby mountains. Hiking trails welcome visitors and residents to look down from the mountains onto the rooftops, squares and beautiful cathedrals that decorate the town.

On a whole, Salzburg is a must-visit for anyone going abroad. And if you’re lucky enough to study there, expect to gain the most fabulous 30 pounds of your life.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMOS





thirsty thursday



# OSCARS DRINKING GAME

by Daily Campus Life Section

The 92nd Academy Awards are upon us. The show airs this Sunday, Feb. 9 at 8 p.m. EST on ABC. Coming off the high of Super Bowl Sunday and right before Valentine’s Day, the Oscars offer the perfect excuse to drink (not that most of us need one). Here, we offer an Academy Awards drinking game for your viewing party pleasure. You’ll also find a few Oscars-themed drink recipes below if you really want to get into the spirit. Please drink responsibly!

## The Rules

- Sip when someone goes over their allotted time giving a repetitive speech about a social issue
- Sip every time they mention “The Irishman”
- Drink every time they mention the fact that there’s no host (we GET it)
- Drink when a minority actor or director gets snubbed
- Drink when you correctly predict a winner
- Drink when you incorrectly predict a winner
- Take a shot if a white man is praised for wearing a colorful suit on the red carpet
- Take a shot if all the nominees for a category are men
- Take a shot if “Hair Love” wins Best Short Film (animated)
- Chug if a Florence Pugh movie loses
- Chug if “Parasite” loses
- Chug if “Marriage Story” wins ANYTHING
- Finish your drink if Leonardo DiCaprio loses to Adam Driver for Best Actor in a Leading Role
- Finish your drink if “Joker” wins Best Picture (get another drink if you forgot “Joker” came out this year)

If you want to spice things up with your friends during your viewing party, place bets (a number of drinks) at the beginning of the show for who will win Best Picture, Best Actor/Actress in a Leading Role, Best Actor/Actress in a Supporting Role and Best Cinematography (the biggest awards of the night). Whoever voted on losing actors or movies will have to take the predetermined amount of drinks.

## Themed Drinks

### THE GOLDEN ONE:

A raspberry lemon rose sparkling vodka drink. Muddle four raspberries in the bottom of mixing glass. Add ice, 1 3/4 ounces of vodka, 3/4 ounce of fresh lemon sour and 1/4 ounce of rose liqueur. Cap, shake and strain into a chilled glass, then pour in 1 ounce of sparkling wine and 2 ounces of club soda. Garnish with a raspberry and gold flakes.

### GOLDEN TICKET:

A honey lemon tequila cocktail. Combine 1/2 ounce of tequila, 1/2 ounce of mezcal, 1 ounce of honey syrup and 1 ounce of lemon juice. Shake and strain over ice cubes into highball glass. Add 2 dashes of bitters on top and garnish with a lemon wedge.

### GOLDEN HOLIDAY:

A simple gin and tonic. Add ice to a glass, pour in 2 ounces of gin then 4 ounces of tonic water. Garnish with golden-dusted cranberry balls (make with gold flakes).






# Opinion Study Break

## Huskytalk | What was your favorite movie of 2019?



“Captain Marvel.”

Renee Semple  
Junior




“Avengers: Endgame.”

Mark Jeune  
Sophomore

“The Lion King.”

John Perez  
Junior



“Little Women.”

Silvanna Moran-Vargas  
Senior



## Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Diamond problem

5 Plush carpet

9 Test versions

14 Feminist poet Adrienne

15 It's partially submerged

16 Valuable violin

17 Italian wine region

18 Founder of Edom

19 R2-D2 or BB-8, e.g.

20 Parvenu's business venture?

23 Beantown NHL nickname

24 “\_\_ whiz!”

25 Quarterback's nonchalant move?

32 Vague time period

33 Spots for AirPods

34 One may be decorated for the holidays

35 Sprightly

36 Marmalade bits

38 \_\_ Ren, “Star Wars” villain

39 Trig. function

40 Aloha State bird

41 Plumlike fruit

42 Down Under withdrawal?

46 Disney doe

47 It's just over a foot

48 TSA agent's perfected search technique?

55 Tropical porch

56 Murdoch who received the 1978 Booker Prize for “The Sea, the Sea”

57 “What's the big \_\_?”

58 Habituate

59 Retail outlet

60 Mattress option

61 Zaps

62 Neverland pirate

63 What this puzzle does here

**DOWN**

1 German spouse

2 Speech therapy target

3 Tries to look

4 Plant leaf pest

5 Himalayan guide

6 “Prizzi's Honor” director or actress

7 Word of regret

8 Excess

9 Scrubby wastelands

10 Chewed the scenery

11 Perfume that sounds forbidden

12 Surmounting

13 “Pull up a chair”

21 Arthur in the International Tennis Hall of Fame

22 Seaweed-based thickeners

25 Buckeye State sch.

26 Leading

27 Brightest star in Cygnus

28 Taken in

29 “All Because \_\_”: 2005 U2 song

30 Steakhouse order

31 Picked dos

32 Dr Pepper Museum city

36 Postgame postmortem

37 Skin pics

38 Yukon gold rush region

40 Au pairs

41 Burlesque bit

43 “\_\_ the Jabberwock, my son!”: Carroll

44 Have great plans

45 Pure

48 Mike's “Wayne's World” co-star

49 Obligation

50 Gets in the crosshairs, with “at”

51 Disneyland transport

52 Norse god

53 Make (one's way)

54 Old horses

55 Put a match to

By Robert Wemischner

2/6/20

**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**

T	E	A	S		A	L	P	H	A		W	H	O	M
A	N	N	E		S	A	R	I	S		H	O	Y	A
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S	O	P	S		T	R	A	M	P		R	E	E	D
T	R	E	E		A	N	T	E	S		A	D	D	S

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2/6/20



CARTOON BY JOSHUA ARIZMENDI, STAFF CARTOONIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Trump’s plan would affect prescription drugs

**TRUMP, cont. from p. 4**

Prescription drugs would also be greatly affected. Usually, when people buy prescription drugs, they only have to pay a very small amount, called a co-pay. However, states that agree to Trump's plan would be able to make cuts to this funding making the prices for co-pays much higher.

This would especially be detrimental to those benefiting from Medicaid who also have cancer, as cancer medication is very expensive.

Trump's plan for Medicaid would clearly do much more harm than good. It is a problem when people have to choose between buying food and buying medication that they need to survive. While some politicians believe the new policy will ensure the government is able to fund the states in the future, protecting a service that is no longer serving its people is a dead cause.

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# Sports

## Football: Edsall doesn't want transfers, Huskies sign 5 more recruits

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

Randy Edsall opened up his Wednesday morning press conference calling the day uneventful; however, his comments over the next 25 minutes would turn it into anything but that as he once again sent UConn Twitter into a firestorm.

"I'd rather go with high school kids or junior college guys," Edsall said. "Guys going into the portal to me, they got issues. They got issues, that's why they're going into the portal ... sometimes these guys from the portal think that they're enabled and entitled to something."

Edsall said that the team will most likely not be pursuing any transfers for the 2020 season unless they find a good reason to make an exception.

"Unless I know the guy or our coaches know the guy or we were involved with recruitment, I don't know if you can get enough information that you need to make the proper evaluation," Edsall said. "We did it a year ago because it was something that I thought that we had to have a need. But after experiencing for a year, I think that's the whole thing: In life, you always take a look at things and evaluate things after you do it, I just think it's best for us in our situation that we go with the junior college route and we go the high school route, unless, there is somebody in the portal that we were involved with and we can feel comfortable to say, 'Hey, these guys could fit in here.'"

UConn had five transfers on their roster last season: running back Art Thompkins, quarter-

back Mike Beaudry, quarterback Micah Leon, linebacker D.J. Morgan and wide receiver Ardell Brown.

Brown and Thompkins both graduated after the 2019 season. Beaudry transferred out of the program and is now at the University of Idaho. Morgan and Leon are still in the program.

This winter saw over 20 players from the 2019 roster enter the transfer portal, including two captains, Tyler Coyle and Donovan Williams.

"At the end of the day, if they wanted to do it, I was all for 'em," Morgan said on Tuesday. "Whether they wanted to stay or leave, I'm all for it. Especially being that I left, so I definitely understand."

The Huskies also locked up five more recruits to complete their 2020 class: linebacker Tui Faumina-Brown, running back Devontae Houston, defensive back Durante Jones, defensive back Tre Wortham and offensive lineman Remon Young. Here's a little bit of what Edsall had to say about each of them.

Tui Faumina-Brown: "Tremendous athlete. Played both sides of the ball, tight end, linebacker, basketball player. Gonna play linebacker for us. Very athletic, very productive, guy that's very versatile. The kind of guy that you like, who's got that versatility, who's got that athleticism, who's made plays on both sides of the ball, but like I said is gonna be a defensive guy. Great family, had a chance to watch him play basketball last week, you just see the athleticism, not a basketball player, but he moves well and does things that you like."

See FOOTBALL, p. 11



UConn football added five more scholarship athletes to the roster, but Randy Edsall says he is done with adding players via the transfer portal.  
PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Men's Basketball: Huskies look for revenge against Tulsa

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

On Jan. 26 at the XL Center, the UConn men's basketball team suffered yet another devastating defeat, forcing overtime in miraculous fashion only to lose to visiting Tulsa, 79-75. Now, just 11 days later, the Huskies get a chance at vengeance against the same Golden Hurricane squad — but this time in Tulsa's house.

Tulsa (15-6, 7-1 The American) currently sits atop the American Athletic Conference standings, their lone conference defeat being a 31-point loss at Cincinnati on Jan. 8. Since then, the Golden Hurricane have won six straight, including an 80-40 embarrassment for then-No. 20 Memphis — the same Memphis team which just beat UConn last time out.

Thursday's game is being billed by Tulsa as "Farewell Night," as UConn (11-10, 2-6 The American) plays for the final time in the Reynolds Center as a member of the AAC. It's a black-out and will likely be more of a loud, hostile environment than a pleasant good-bye to the departing Huskies. UConn is winless in five true road games this season and has never won on Tulsa's home court.

While Tulsa continues its run of dominance as the surprise team in the conference, the Huskies are heading in the opposite direction. In the aftermath of a comfortable 15-point victory over Temple, it seemed things had finally turned



The men's basketball team makes a midweek trip to Tulsa to take on the Golden Hurricane, the conference's top team.  
PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

a corner for UConn. But it was followed by another late collapse against Memphis, UConn's seventh loss by seven points or less.

Senior Christian Vital leads the team in points (14.3) and rebounds (6.6) per game, while freshman James Bouknight is now the only other Husky in double-digit scoring. Redshirt junior Alterique Gilbert, who leads the team in assists per game (4.5) came off the bench

against Memphis after missing the Temple game due to personal reasons. Head coach Dan Hurley said things are day-to-day with the starting lineup and minutes allotment at this point in the season.

Tulsa is one of the most efficient scoring teams in the conference, shooting 45% from the field as a team this season. Although the Hurricane are a middling defensive unit, they guard the 3-point

line better than any team in the AAC, holding opponents to just 28% from beyond the arc.

Three players have averaged double figures for Tulsa, led by junior Brandon Rachal at 14.1 points per night. In the previous meeting with the Golden Hurricane, the Huskies had absolutely no answer for senior forward Martins Igbanu, who went off for 28 points on 14 shots along with 10 boards. UConn

center Josh Carlton had a brutal afternoon, playing just 15 ineffective minutes before being benched for most of the second half.

"I can't tolerate that," Hurley said after that loss regarding Carlton's uninspired play. "We got our ass kicked at center today, you can't lose a battle at a position like that. Josh is better than this."


Carlton may very well be what separates a win from a loss on Thursday. To say Carlton, the conference's Most Improved Player from a year ago, has had a disappointing junior season is an understatement. With just 12 points in his last four games combined, Carlton's production has fallen off, ceding increasing minutes to Isaiah Whaley and small-ball lineups. UConn can't afford to surrender another huge game to Tulsa's frontcourt, and Carlton is the biggest key to preventing that.

But the freshman trio of Bouknight, Akok Akok and Jalen Gaffney will be equally important. Akok had seven blocks in the first meeting with Tulsa, but has struggled on the offensive end as of late. Gaffney has shown flashes of brilliance, but has shot 2-of-16 in the last two games combined. Bouknight continues to be UConn's best pure scorer, but still hasn't looked as explosive or as consistent as he's capable of being.

If everything comes together, UConn could pick up a huge win against the current kings of the conference. Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m., and the game can be viewed on ESPN2.


THIS WEEKEND IN UCONN SPORTS

Men's basketball




@ Tulsa

**Tonight**  
7 p.m.  
Tulsa, OK



vs.



Women's Basketball  
Friday @ 7 p.m.  
Gampel Pavilion



vs.

Softball  
Friday @ 9:00 a.m.  
Fort Meyers, FL

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@caseywheelerct  
lowkey just an ad for @the\_dailycampus

TWEETS OF THE DAY



Noel Thomas Jr.  
@NoelThomas05  
Lol I wonder if he realizes he "went into the portal" too when he bounced to Maryland

Russell Steinberg  
@Russ\_Steinberg  
If Big East fans think watching water drip onto the court is fun, wait until they see the cool tricks the XL Center can do

Follow The Daily Campus @dcsportsdept



Photo of the Day | Mamba Mentality



Though his Huskies eventually fell to the No. 3 Oregon Ducks, Geno Auriema honored the late Kobe Bryant by wearing his shirt under his suit jacket. PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE LAO, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Roundtable: Favorite Super Bowl Commercial

by DC Sports Staff  
sports@dailycampus.com

The Super Bowl is an event that captivates the entire nation for one reason or another. For the football fans, it's the pinnacle of a long, 17-week regular season with the champion crowned by the game's end. For others, the halftime show may be the main appeal. But what we can all agree on is that the commercials are worth the watch. The DC Sports staff discusses which company best spent its millions and millions of dollars on a 30-second time slot.

Danny Barletta  
Staff Writer

Is this even a question? Hyundai's "Smaht Pahk" commercial was far and away the best commercial of the Super Bowl (although Tom Brady's Hulu one was great too). Look at the star power in this commercial: John Krasinski from "The Office," "Saturday Night Live's" Rachel Dratch, future Baseball Hall of Famer David Ortiz and Captain America himself, Chris Evans. As someone who is a Boston area native, I have a special appreciation for this commercial. My home town of Saugus even gets a shoutout when they're naming all the places Krasinski has

"pahked his cah." I think the fake Boston accent can be a bit overdone at times, but for comedic purposes, this commercial absolutely killed it. Even when the Patriots aren't in the Super Bowl, Boston is still well represented. Love to see it.

Ben Berg  
Campus Correspondent

If you're going to have an ad in the Super Bowl, you better make it funny. That being said, the Rocket Mortgage/Jason Mamoa collaboration was absolutely top-notch. Seeing the former "Game of Thrones" and "Aquaman" star rip off his muscles to reveal a scrawny average joe so he could let his guard down and relax was hilarious and unexpected. To top it off, they showed the "real" Mamoa struggling to bench press an empty bar as he called for help. There were a number of great ads from Sunday night's contest (Hyundai's "Smaht Pahk" and Jeep's Groundhog Day come to mind), but Rocket Mortgage won the night for me.

Sean Janos  
Staff Writer

I absolutely loved the TurboTax commercial with the super catchy song and hilarious dance. It had all of the ingredients of a Super Bowl com-

mercial that gets stuck in your head for weeks to come. The lyrics to the song include super easy instructions on how to do your taxes using their mobile app. The most genius part of it is that TurboTax knows we all just got mailed our W-2 forms, so now they're trying to make "all people tax people" from now until April 15.

Kevin Arnold  
Associate Sports Editor

There were plenty of great commercials this year, more than in recent years, but my favorite was targeted for the 21-plus crowd. Post Malone, a known Bud Light enthusiast, partnered with the company for a pretty funny ad for their new seltzers. He stands in a convenience store debating if he should get regular Bud Light or the seltzers, and it zooms to inside his brain where his left and right brain battle it out. They fling Post back and forth, flying into the shelves, making a huge mess before they remember just how rich the rapper is and decide to get both. The best part was the ending line. Standing amidst a mess of chips and pretzel bags, Post asks, "Got any pretzels?" I'm not sure the ad will convince me to try the seltzers (haven't heard great things), but it was definitely my favorite this year.



This undated image provided by Bud Light shows Post Malone in a scene from the company's 2020 Super Bowl NFL football spot. Anheuser-Busch is having fans choose between two ads that feature singer Post Malone sipping a fruity new Bud Light Seltzer. PHOTO BUD LIGHT/AP

Huskies round out 2020 Roster



The Huskies' roster is all but set ahead of their first season as an independent program. PHOTO BY ERIC WANG, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

FOOTBALL, cont. from p. 12

Devontae Houston: "You just look at the productivity that he had this past year. I mean 2,800 all-purpose yards, 33 touchdowns, very, very fast, quick. ... very productive, great kid, like I said can really run. Can not only carry the ball but also is a good receiver coming out of the backfield. Very fortunate to be able to land him."

Durante Jones: "Very versatile, could be a corner, could be safety, probably going to look at him more as a safety. Tough, physical, a leader, is a guy that has a mindset that he knows what he wants to accomplish and he's gonna go about doing it. Really liked the way he played physically, liked his length, so we're very happy that he decided to join the family."

Tre Wortham: "I was very impressed with him, I don't know if I've seen a guy in a long, long time get up and play with the fundamentals and techniques that a young man coming out of high school or junior college plays with. He gets up and plays press coverage, plays physical, just his fundamentals and techniques were really things that stood out. His ability to make plays and be physical in the run. He was very, very impressive on film, very impressive as a person."

Remon Young: "He'll be a center for us ... this is all part of the recruiting process, is that he's a guy that you watch on tape, just about 6-foot-2, but he doesn't have the length to be a tackle. So you take a look at his skill set, and you take a look at how he moves, and there was a guy that I just felt, hey, he can go inside and be an outstanding center. You bring him here, you redshirt him and you teach him. You watch him on tape, and he's got all the things you want in an offensive lineman. And it's hard to find centers, cause most of the time in high school, coaches, if they're the best athlete up front they're gonna play him at tackle. So he's a guy that has the abilities that we were looking for to play as an offensive center."

These five signees completed a 25-man class for the Huskies, with 14 on the offensive side of the ball and 11 on the defensive side. The Huskies will now have 79 athletes on scholarship for the 2020 season, and Edsall said they are looking for 26 total walk-ons to round out the roster as they go into camp.

"From a roster management standpoint, we're gonna continue to work on that, but feel good about where we are," Edsall said. "Feel really good about all these guys."

They're just not going to work on it using the transfer portal.

The automaker pokes fun at Boston accents with a 60-second ad in the second quarter that uses Boston-affiliated celebrities including actor Chris Evans, John Krasinski, Saturday Night Live alum Rachel Dratch and Boston Red Sox David Ortiz. PHOTO HYUNDAI/MOTOR AMERICA/AP





# Column: This is what a rebuild looks like in Storrs. Be grateful.

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

An 18-point defeat to the No. 3 team in the country — the worst loss ever at Gampel Pavilion — and suddenly the sky is falling in Storrs.

But here’s the thing: It’s not. First of all, Oregon is really, really good. As in, I would bet on them to win the national championship good. Sabrina Ionescu is the best player in the country, but the Ducks are way more than a single star.

Secondly, every team has off nights, and the Huskies certainly had one of those on Monday. Megan Walker won’t shoot 3-of-16 very often, and Christyn Williams is far better than her 2-of-9 would indicate. Some of those struggles have to be attributed to the Oregon defensive scheme, but UConn also missed countless shots that usually go down.

And thirdly, let’s just be honest: It’s a down year for UConn women’s basketball. We knew that coming into the year, with the losses of Katie Lou Samuelson and Napheesa Collier and not much in the way of star potential of their caliber to replace them. We knew it after a couple of close games which usually aren’t so close, and we certainly knew it after the loss to Baylor.

Though they entered the Oregon game at No. 4 in the country, the Huskies probably aren’t one of the four best teams in the country. The name and the head coach carry a lot of weight, and perhaps the slightly-inflated national ranking contributed to the fanbase’s harsh reaction to the blow-out to the Ducks. But if you’ve been listening to what Geno and others around the program have been saying all season, expectations should be tempered.

“We can all be honest, they’re not as deep as typical UConn teams, maybe they’re not as talented as typical UConn teams,” Sue Bird said after the UConn-



Ranked fourth in the country at the moment, the women’s basketball team will likely fall further in the AP Top 25 after Monday’s loss in what some consider to be a “rebuild year”. PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE LAO, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Team USA battle. “But you saw glimpses, and if they can find a way to make those glimpses even longer throughout a game ... then you got a team you don’t want to see in the NCAA tournament.”

The current team would probably like a word about being less talented, but there’s no denying that, on paper at least, this UConn team has more weaknesses than past teams. Although these words rarely apply to UConn women’s hoops, it’s a rebuilding year.

But if this is what a rebuild looks like in Storrs — a top 10 team in the country with a legitimate, albeit unlikely, shot at a na-

tional title, we should be thankful. It’s a moment for UConn fans to step back and appreciate what Auriemma has created.

After the Oregon game, Ionescu had this to say in response to what a win over UConn, a long-time measuring stick for other programs, means to her team: “I think we should be the barometer.”

This year, she has a point. But there’s no doubt that UConn remains the national standard for excellence in not just women’s hoops, but in collegiate athletics as a whole. There’s a reason why an 18-point blowout over UConn is an immediate national head-

line. Ionescu’s head coach, likely pulling from a longer memory of women’s basketball than his senior guard, put the victory in perspective after the game.

“This is hallowed ground, so to speak,” Oregon head coach Kelly Graves said. “They’ve been so good for so long, it means a great deal ... This was one personally I’ll remember for a long time. I mean, who doesn’t look up to Geno? He’s an icon and a great coach, I think he’s the best coach in our business, so personally, that’s gratifying.”

As long as Auriemma is leading the program, there’s no need for long-term concern. This year

probably won’t end with cutting down the nets, but just looking ahead to the next two recruiting classes, featuring some of the best high school athletes in the country, proves that the 2019-2020 season may very well be looked back as the lowest point (and that’s relative) in many years.

So yes, UConn hasn’t won a national championship since 2016 — and I mean, being frustrated about that sentence alone is absurd. But the worth and excellence of a program is more than just trophies — it’s the best fan base in the country, the unwavering national spotlight on a sport which rarely gets it, the synonymy of UConn and women’s basketball.

Here’s my advice for this year’s embattled UConn team: Do what the Patriots find a way to do every year, and embrace the underdog narrative. With so much recent success, the Patriots have no right to act like underdogs, but seemingly each year, they use whatever few doubts there are as fuel. UConn should do the same, by accepting that this isn’t the typical Geno team, and that it’s that very reason why this team will do what the last three teams could not.

“My kids are sick of answering questions about why we’re not what we used to be, why we don’t win like we used to, why things don’t look like they used to,” Auriemma said in January. “They are really kind of sick of listening to it. Sick of answering those questions.”

Turn that sickness into motivation.

As for the passionate fanbase, rather than linger on past successes, embrace what the Huskies are now: a good, but not unbeatable, presence in women’s basketball. Be grateful that a 19-2 season is a down year. UConn remains the program which every other — Oregon including — aspires to be, and that’s not changing anytime soon.

# Mav’s Musings: What’s next for Boston

by Mike Mavredakis  
STAFF WRITER  
michael-quinn.mavredakis@uconn.edu

Yes, Mookie Betts is gone and that’s incredibly frustrating, but honestly it was inevitable and there’s no use yelling into the void about it. If you want an angry rant, read someone else’s column.

What matters from here — now that the Red Sox have traded Betts and David Price for about seven peanuts and a couple ice cold beers — is what now?

As we sit, the Red Sox have no manager, no leadoff hitter and are possibly about to get smothered by MLB sanctions. This is likely a lost season anyway, so from that standpoint I understand trading them in order to shore up the future. It’s fairly obvious this team is in a tailspin, and it’s Chaim Bloom’s job to get control of the wheel.

There are two paths forward: blow it up and go full rebuild, like the team did in 2014, or make small impact moves to create better depth.

At this point I think a full rebuild might just be the best path from here on out. Trade Jackie Bradley Jr. Trade J.D. Martinez. Trade Eduardo Rodriguez. They are all potentially gone after this season or next, so just tear it down. Stockpile assets for the future.

The Texas Rangers need a center fielder and some semblance of an offense, the Red Sox have Bradley and Martinez, figure it out from there. The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim need pitching, the Red Sox have Rodriguez, just a thought.

Keep Sale, simply because no one is taking him and his contract at this point. Keep Benintendi if you want. Only Xander Bogaerts and Rafael Devers should be untouchable at this point. That’s your captain and your cleanup hitter for your next window. Ev-

eryone else should be on the block.

Even with the addition of Brusdar Graterol, who seems to either be a shutdown starter or reliever or the next Anderson Espinosa, this team has almost no farm system.

Verdugo seems to be a good player, but he has a questionable past character-wise from his time in the minor leagues. He is no Mookie Betts.

As constructed, this team is probably an 81-win team, plus or minus five wins. That being said, they are not winning anything this year. The AL East has the New York Yankees, who are going to be flat-out scary this season, and the rest of the AL has the Minnesota Twins, Cleveland Indians, Rangers and Angels. All of them should be somewhere around the Wild Card spots.

Go out and raid your competitors of their young assets while they’re focused on winning. The Twins just agreed to send their top pitching prospect to Boston for a decent starter, exploit that. There are teams out there looking for impact pieces.

There are opportunities to make this team into the next Chicago White Sox. Wow, I never thought I would have to say that.

If you are not going to invest in the now, John Henry, you better throw all of your time and money at the future. You can’t sit back and hike ticket prices for fans and turn around and give them 600 at-bats from Marco Hernandez and the like.

The Red Sox have a hoard of attractive pieces they can flip for bluer skies down the road. It’s not the perfect option, but it’s better than hovering around the 80-win mark with no clear direction.

Bloom is a smart guy, and I trust he will make solid moves to make the team better. I don’t think that the Betts trade was his favorite op-



Los Angeles Dodgers’ Alex Verdugo, left, gets ready to have his picture taken with Desirae Cortez, right, along with her children Emma, second from left, and Julianna during Dodger Stadium FanFest Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020, in Los Angeles. PHOTO BY MARK J. TERRILL/AP

tion at this point, but it was his best one with the instructions he was given.

The Red Sox have more than enough room to play with at this point. There is no reason why they can’t compete within a few seasons should they make the right moves.

In the last decade, the Red Sox have had multiple horrible, fifth-place seasons between championships. It’s ok to lose as long as you do it with a purpose. As long as your intent is to grow. That wasn’t the motivation for this move, though. This was about

money and for a team that essentially has money spilling out of the seats at Fenway Park, that’s fairly reprehensible.

I guess all that’s left to say is good luck in LA, Mookie and Price. I’m sure you’ll love it there. For now, Mookie out.



# Gilson’s Sports Guide: The real winners of the Clint Capela trade

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

With the NBA trade deadline looming this week, there have been plenty of rumors circulating around the league, with several players sitting on their team’s respective hot seats. Some of these bigger names include Andre Drummond, Derrick Rose, D’Angelo Russell and Houston Rockets’ big man Clint Capela. While a lot of the time these rumors stay rumors, the Rockets broke that trend, sending Capela to the Atlanta Hawks in a four-team trade, the largest since the Knicks sent Ewing to the Seattle Supersonics in 2000. While I could go on a rant breaking down the trade from all sides, I don’t want this column to be a whopping 3,000+ words, so we’re just going to focus on the teams that I think came out on top after the trade. But first, here are the details to know.

**Houston Rockets receive:**  
Robert Covington, Jordan Bell and a second-round pick

**Atlanta Hawks receive:**  
Clint Capela and Nene

**Denver Nuggets receive:**  
Gerald Green, Keita-Bates Diop, Shabazz Napier, Noah Vonleh and a first-round pick from Houston

**Minnesota Timberwolves receive:**  
Malik Beasley, Juan Hernangomez, Jarred Vanderbilt, Evan Turner and a first-round pick from Brooklyn (Via ATL)

**WINNER:** Houston Rockets

in Capela that will be tough to replace, and now they truly lack a center, seeing as they already have 6-foot-5-inch P.J. Tucker playing power forward. But in all honesty (you might want to sit down for this one) Capela isn’t super special. He rebounds very well — he currently sits at No. 4 in the league with 13.8 per game and No. 2 in offensive rebounds — but otherwise he does not provide much for the team. His 1.8 blocks per game is average, and he has no shooting range but is able to catch the countless lobs Harden throws his way to boost his scoring numbers a bit. Don’t get me wrong, he is a very good center and has plenty of talent and room to grow, but he was not essential to the team — his height was. So basically, the Rockets can now look to the free agent market and find a guy that has good hands and good hops, and you’ll have similar (while obviously not equal) production to what Capela did.

What makes them the real winners here, though, is what they got from the Timberwolves. The Rockets sent Capela to Atlanta and in return got one of the top perimeter players in the league in Robert Covington, as well as some much-needed energy off the bench with Jordan Bell. Covington’s 13 points and six rebounds per game may not jump off the page, but Covington is an excellent 3-point shooter and an even better perimeter defender, something Houston was in desperate search for given their back court consists of James Harden and Russell Westbrook, who aren’t exactly known for their defensive prowess. So not only will Covington be able to cover stars like Giannis, Kawhi and LeBron, but he can also effectively shut down four positions, making the Rockets much less susceptible to be taken over by players like Dame, Kyrie, Steph or Trae. To continue my unintentional slander against Capela, they

may have already found a decent replacement for him in Bell. The ex-Timberwolf stands at 6-foot-8-inch, two inches shorter than Capela, but he has the bounce and effort to make up for it. We saw a small sample size of what he could do on both ends of the floor with the Warriors, but if he is given consistent minutes in Houston, I honestly think they are just one more pure big man away from almost replacing Capela entirely. Sure, his size will be missed, but overall this trade has drastically improved their defense — their biggest issue — while only slightly impacting their offensive game plan. Now we just have to see if it works out.

**Grade:** B+

**WINNER:** Atlanta Hawks

This is gonna sound crazy after I just lowkey tore Clint Capela apart, but he is going to help the Hawks exponentially right from the start. In return for an aging Evan Turner and a first-round pick from the Brooklyn Nets, Atlanta was able to walk away with an incredible rebounder and steady finisher around the rim. Like I said in my Rockets bit, Capela isn’t insanely special, but that does not mean he is bad by any means. In fact, I still think he is one of the top pure centers in the league, which is exactly what the Hawks needed. Just hear me out for a second.

The Hawks have one of the most exciting young duos in the game in Trae Young and John Collins. They have improved each year Young and Collins have been a part of the team and always seemed just a couple pieces away from making a huge leap in the league. Well, Capela is one of those pieces. Ranked No. 24 in the NBA in both defensive and offensive rebounds per game, Atlanta gets overpowered down low just about every night with John Collins as their only functioning big man. But add in Capela, who’s ranked top five in both rebound categories, and that problem should be easily resolved. Furthermore, with offensive rebounds come second chance points, something the



Houston Rockets center Clint Capela yells after dunking the ball against the Minnesota Timberwolves during the second half of an NBA basketball game Friday, Jan. 24, 2020, in Minneapolis. PHOTO BY CRAIG LASSIG/AP

Hawks have also struggled with most of the season, ranking No. 15 in the league. So that’s two issues they solve with the addition of Capela. But how will the big man actually fit into his new system? All signs point to flawlessly.

The Hawks run a pretty similar system to that of the Rockets in the sense that Trae Young controls the floor much like Harden does. He runs the offense, and his combination of incredible range and finishing ability will leave plenty of pick and roll opportunities for Capela, meaning he can basically do the same thing he did in Houston, now simply with the passes coming from a different player. I wouldn’t expect his numbers to rise too much from what he

averaged with the Rockets, nor should his role really change at all, but his contributions will be much appreciated by the Hawks organization.

Defense is where Atlanta has struggled the most all season, though, and while I previously said he is an average defender in terms of statistics, sometimes all it takes is an intimidating body in front of you to alter a shot. So, pairing the big-bodied Capela with Collins could be just what that team needs to improve upon their bottom-three ranking in points allowed in the paint. They will undoubtedly still struggle, but hey, improvement is improvement.

**For more of the story visit DAILYCAMPUS.COM**

# When will undefeated San Diego State get the respect they deserve?

**by Tamir March**  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
tamir.march@uconn.edu

We’re 14 weeks into the college basketball season and the San Diego State Aztecs are still undefeated. Oh, so of course they are unanimously ranked No. 1 in the country. Nope. The AP and Coaches poll both have them ranked at 4, despite everybody else in the country having a loss.

There is a clear and somewhat understandable reason for this and that is strength of schedule.

The narrative whenever these mid-majors, most notably Gonzaga every year, are really good is “But who have they played?” In a year where the playing field is more level than ever, I find what San Diego State is doing exceptionally impressive (yes, impressive enough to be ranked No.1).

The critics do have a valid point in the “who have they played” question. The Aztecs, for better or for worse, find themselves in the Mountain West, which not being a power five conference hurts their resume. There could be an argument in past years about how weak of a conference the Mountain West is, but this year it is among the best “mid-major” conferences in the country. The conference is littered with talent, experience and major resume wins against quality, big name opponents.

San Diego State has beaten No. 21 ranked, heavily underrated Creighton by thirty-one. Beating anyone by that margin is impressive, let alone holding the eighth best offense (in terms of adjusted offensive efficiency) to 52 points. That standout win is complemented by double digit wins against Iowa and Utah.



San Diego State’s Matt Mitchell, right, and Aguek Arop celebrate a basket during the second half of the team’s NCAA college basketball game against Utah State, Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020, in San Diego. PHOTO BY GREGORY BULL/AP

They had a decently challenging non-conference slate and they dominated every team in their way. It’s not their fault that their schedule is the way it is and they did everything in their control perfectly. I can now point to a 12-0 start to the Mountain West, but to the casuals (who are apparently the AP),

that won’t mean anything. Because that is the case, I’m going to explain why the Mountain West is so underrated. The second best team (record wise) in the conference is Utah State.

The Aggies boast wins over LSU (undefeated in the SEC) and more recently against a Florida team who by March

could be a Final Four contender. So, we know that Utah State is legitimately good. What did San Diego State do against them then? Two wins by a combined 21 points and, frankly, neither were even that close. In between those wins they beat a New Mexico team at one of the toughest venues in the country by 28.

This is a Lobos team that has transfers who previously started at Texas A&M, Kansas, Ohio State and even UConn (we miss you Vance Jackson). The Mountain West is going to shock some people come tournament time with potentially four or five teams making the dance. San Diego State is wiping the floor with all of them.

How are they doing it? They don’t have a Kawhi Leonard or a first round pick in their team. Instead, they have six guys shooting over 37% from three, unselfish guys happy to just “do their job” and a top 10 defense anchored by 6-foot-10-inch Nathan Mensah. Third year head coach Brian Dutcher has an eight-man rotation that he’s comfortable can match up against anyone in the country, and I believe him.

People are still going to say that the Mountain West is weak and that the Aztecs haven’t played anybody. They have six games left in the conference and all they can really do is hurt their perception. If they have not gotten the respect they deserve now, wins against Air Force, Boise State and Nevada aren’t going to do anything to change that (although they should). Without even bringing strength of schedule into the conversation, 18-22 year olds winning and performing this consistently is something to marvel at.

San Diego State may very well go the entire regular season undefeated and they won’t be ranked No.1 at any point. In March the Aztecs will be a very popular pick in brackets everywhere to be upset early in the tournament. I have feeling they don’t care about either of those things. San Diego State is just going to continue doing what they’ve done all year: win.